

14 April '86

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PS: in spite of interruptions,
meeting with citizen appealing
proposed research environmental
assessment (EA), & tour of Starkey
from 1300 - 1800 got this written.
Will go out in mail 15 April (pm).

Dear Jim & Holly,

Gosh you guys I just have continued to get interrupted every time I've read your letter & tried to sit down & write a reply. February to April is a long time. As you can see my right (ing) arm is getting pretty good -- there's some simple things I can't do (like get a handkerchief out of my right hip pocket) yet.

Even though it wasn't much of a get together in Reno, at least I knew you. Would have been good to talk some more. March and April are/have not been good -- at least not calm. $C = \sqrt{m/E}$, is an understatement because I've gained too much mass and don't have enough energy for the job.

Now you asked for a review of your "mini-proposal on the GIS project. That follows here, but I fear that the one you sent ^(undated) is probably way out of date because of the tardiness of this reply. But here are my comments for whatever they are worth to you (see details on returned copy).

1. page 1 item 7 -- some environmental conditions are not assessable with GIS (e.g. microclimate, though if known then the microclimate isohyets (sp?) could be digitized into GIS).

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2. There are more references (some that are in Manual of Remote Sensing vol. II. -- not connected with our elk habitat work).
3. Section IV needs expansion and more specifics, eg. p4 item 5: probably you mean to use ~~an~~ unsupervised classification procedures out of PIXSYS at OSU to generate the spectral classes for your study area/"window". Could name the programs, criteria for separation/identification of spectral classes, etc. Item p4 #7 name program (eg. BTOPOG). Item #8 p4 is confusing with 6. By the time #8 is scheduled you should have ~75% of the land-cover types identified (with >85-90% accuracy) through stereo viewing and interpretation of aerial photographs^(item #6). Then item #8 is a matter of resolving those remaining spectral class descriptions for which a definitive description could not be developed in item #6 (i.e. ground-truthing of problem spectral classes & spot-checking of described classes when in the vicinity -- as long as you are there then check some samples to verify your descriptions derived from stereo-interpretation of good aerial photos.
4. Section V page 4 is really in need of focus, detail, and clarification. Items 1 & 2 should be already done under IV 6, 8, 9 (or have I missed the point?). Item 4 can be part of the steps in section IV (eg. step IV 9b) with program "BDISTO". In section V one could

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check/analyze for elk/bighorn/moose(?) selection of habitat (frequency/intensity of use) relative to available acres/ha in distances (distance bands) from edge. Items V4 & V6 are strongly related -- Hypothesis that all acres of a type are not equally available to animals because of their preference for bands near edges.

April & much of May are not good for me to be away from the project. Perhaps if everything goes very well we might be able to get away a few days in June or July. Too bad that when it was easier for us the weather wouldn't cooperate -- that cost us an out-of-state trip too which aren't easy to come by. Now I've got at least 2 more (between now and 30 June) that are must-go's! From what you've described, the trip into your holdings would be good for all of our perceptions & educations. But we do all have some scheduling problems since there's work/plannings/designs/reportings to be done before 30 June deadlines.

Meeting with you & Uof T people would be a little easier because a min. of 3 days is easier to schedule than a week (or more) at the ranch! We are now, (this week) Lynn, Frank, & Norm are mounting the GIS software on our Data General MV4000 at the lab. So I'll have a lot more to discuss with all of you in the near future -- hope some dates in May-June are soon enough for your needs in planning. (not suks of: 4 May, 18 May, 25 May nor 22 & 29 June so far.)
Hope this helps & that we can get together to plan. Donavin