

Holly and Jim Akenson
Taylor Ranch Field Station
Cascade, ID 83611
February 17, 1986

Don Leckenby
Forestry & Range sciences Lab
Rt. 2 Box 2315
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Don:

Thank you for arranging a special Saturday meeting with me on February 1 to discuss remote sensing applications for Taylor Ranch Field Station. Since meeting with you I have read some information about the U of I Comarc system, which is a landscape architecture oriented GIS. I have also obtained specifications on the Data General computer at U of I. We are in the process of determining what GIS features are available at ERSAL, WSU, and U of I, along with information about costs, compatibility, and ease of using some of the programs ourselves. I am enclosing a mini proposal Jim and I wrote with Bill Ripple~~ERSAL~~ last fall. We recently wrote Bill to tell him we would need the spectral class information and land cover types reformatted so a GIS could be developed and integrated on a U of I computer. Due to funding difficulties for the project - particularly the issue of paying another university, we asked Bill to modify the ERSAL budget. Jim and I can take on the aerial photo interp. and the Landsat scene and aerial photos can be purchased directly through U of I.

We would like to reschedule your trip to Taylor Ranch for later this spring. Would April be a good time for you and Leonard? We would like to show you the study area - location, terrain, vegetation, and animals so you can advise us on study area size, whether there is a need to stratify, and so you can better assist us with our questions.

We would also like to meet with you and several U of I faculty who are interested in working with a Taylor Ranch GIS. The university can provide travel expenses for you, if you can spare the time. It would be helpful to us if you could briefly talk about things like: why and how you started using Landsat data; discuss alternative data collection methods (GIS without remote sensing) aerial photo interp., field inventory); relate problems encountered and highlights of working with remote sensing. Overall, we would like your expertise while designing a GIS for Taylor Ranch (how to's, choices, options, programs, cost/benefit).

We want to develop a GIS with the following properties:

1. It can be accessed and manipulated at U of I, preferably on a U of I computer; eventually, accessed and manipulated at Taylor from a PC
2. It can be utilized by several projects
3. It will have a base map from Landsat imagery
4. It can integrate areas, lines, and point locations in a 7.5' topographic quadrangle format
5. It has a reasonable cost for programming and manipulating

We appreciate your advice and comments about the new GIS for Taylor Ranch Field Station.

Sincerely,

Holly Akenson, Jim Akenson

Holly And Jim Akenson