MR. Jim Akenson, Manager
Taylor Ranch Field Station
Air Star Route
Cascade, ID 83611

February 17, 1986

Dr. William Ripple
Environmental Remote Sensing
    Applications Laboratory
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Bill:

How are you enduring this sloppy weather? Here all our
snow is turning to rain and it looks like the airstrip will be
out of commission soon; who knows when this letter will get
mailed! As you may have heard, Don Leckenby was unable to
come see us about remote sensing matters due to unflyable
weather. He sat two days at Arnold's hanger waiting for better
weather, then he went home and a couple days later fell and broke
his shoulder, some luck! Holly was able to swing over to
La Grande a couple weeks ago and visit with him on the project.

Since we wrote the original Remote Sensing Land Cover I
Inventory proposal last fall there have been several changes at
the University of Idaho which have forced us to reanalyze the
study design and budget. Between the transition delays of a new
dean for the College of Forestry and hold-backs for higher
education in Idaho, there has been quite a reduction in the avail-
ability of research funding. Therefore, the proposal budget
needs to be altered to minimize expenses.

At our Taylor Ranch steering committee meeting in January
we distributed the proposal among the members and discussed its
merits. The idea was well received and as expected the big
concern and question was if it could be done "in house". The
University just got a Comarc computer system and Data General
computer; there is a big push for faculty and staff to utilize it.
Because of this, the steering committee has urged us to use a
U of I based GIS. The committee asked us to look into all
options available at ERSAL, WSU, and U of I to reduce costs and
increase the availability of the Taylor Ranch GIS to the entire
university.

We still feel that it is essential to use a proven system
like ERSAL's for deliniating spectral classes from MSS tapes and
grouping these classes for land cover types. We also recognize
the need for a GIS which has easy input access by U of I computers.
One cost cutting measure is for Taylor Ranch to do the air photo
interpretation and ground truthing. Is it possible for us to get
a reformatted copy of the MARSYS program ssodatta could be grouped
on a U of I computer?

We still want to work with you through ERSAL, but will have
to modify the approach to reduce costs. Could you please send
us a revised budget including the options mentioned above, and
taking into consideration our funding difficulties. Next month
we will get together with the steering committee again. It would
be advantageous of we could present a revised budget at that time.
Thank you for sending your vitae, we will share it with our
supervisor before the next meeting.

We will be anxious to hear from you, if this weather ever
breaks long enough for the mail plane to fly in!

Sincerely,

Jim Akenson, Manager