

Holly and Jim Akenson  
Taylor Ranch  
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November 10, 2009



DeVlieg Foundation Board  
P.O. Box 54  
Clarkston, WA 99403

Dear Janet, Jim, Julie, Curt, Gypsy, Gary, Jerry, and Dick,

You and the support from the DeVlieg Foundation have been an inspiration for the 2 of us as we envisioned Taylor Ranch as an active research station filled with students eager to gain hands-on experiences doing science in the wilderness. Your support allowed us to create that environment and grow Taylor Wilderness Research Station programs and use 6-fold over the last 10 years. The DeVlieg Undergraduate Research Scholar program has been recognized as a "program of distinction" by University of Idaho and is used in marketing to recruit quality students to the University of Idaho. With your seed money funding, we have attracted new faculty researchers who are establishing career-long research programs and collaborations at Taylor Ranch. The reputation and profile of Taylor Wilderness Research Station continues to be elevated. We are proud of these accomplishments and appreciate your significant role in the success of Taylor Ranch.

We are now looking for new professional leadership opportunities beyond University of Idaho. Thank you for the many years of encouragement and program support. We look forward to continuing a relationship with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Holly Akenson

Jim Akenson