

One of the DeVlieg Foundation's greatest

- > accomplishments at Taylor Ranch and University of Idaho
- > (well besides the outstanding Undergrad Scholar program!)
- > has been to encourage the creation of a core group of long
- > term researchers at Taylor Ranch by providing financial
- > incentives for activities at the field station. You helped
- > Jim and me engage 4 passionate new faculty within months of
- > their hires, Brian Kennedy - UI Fisheries, Jeff Braatne - UI
- > Riparian Ecology, Colden Baxter - ISU Stream Ecology, and
- > Ben Crosby - ISU Geomorphology, in hopes that they would
- > select Taylor Ranch as the base for their long term research
- > focus. Initially, the DeVlieg Foundation provided travel
- > funding so they and others could conduct workshops and class
- > field trips at Taylor Ranch and explore the area for
- > possible research ideas. The four of us (Janet & Jim,
- > Holly & Jim) saw the commitment and interest in Taylor
- > Ranch grow as each young professor began envisioning and
- > enthusiastically articulating creative ideas for research
- > opportunities from the field station. It was an exciting
- > time and the 4 of us knew we had to make things happen. The
- > DeVlieg Foundation stepped forward and offered competitive
- > 2-year Masters student research stipends to faculty, and
- > over a 3-year period each of these young professors was
- > awarded one of the stipends and put a graduate student in
- > the field at Taylor Ranch. Unfortunately Jeff Braatne passed
- > away before he could initiate a research program at Taylor
- > Ranch. Brian Kennedy, Colden Baxter, and Ben Crosby have
- > each connected with the field station and are developing
- > long term research programs from Taylor Ranch that involve
- > graduate and undergraduate students. More recently, these
- > faculty have joined with other researchers and each other to
- > create multidisciplinary research collaborations involving
- > Taylor Ranch. The recently awarded EPSCoR grant is a
- > primary example.

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- > The research reputation of Taylor Wilderness Research
- > Station is tied to multidisciplinary long term researchers
- > and their publications. To enlist and retain long term
- > researchers at Taylor Ranch the University of Idaho must
- > clearly demonstrate to researchers that the University is
- > committed to providing stable support to Taylor Wilderness
- > Research Station for the long term. Otherwise, we risk
- > losing these committed scientists and their research
- > legacies. If the University gets a reputation for not
- > continuously supporting Taylor Wilderness Research Station,
- > potential new researchers will be hesitant to initiate long

- > term research at Taylor Ranch. The damage from inconsistent
- > support of Taylor Wilderness Research Station would be
- > long-lasting; it would inhibit future interest by
- > researchers and cancel the tremendous gains Jim and I have
- > leveraged over the last 10 years through the thoughtful and
- > generous DeVlieg Foundation financial incentives for
- > Taylor Ranch programs.
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- > Increased research activity and transformational education
- > programs at Taylor Ranch have spotlighted "Taylor
- > Ranch" as one of the University's "areas of
- > distinction", a unique program that elevates University
- > of Idaho's stature above other universities. This
- > distinctive program needs thoughtful nurturing and a
- > consistent commitment of long term investment and support by
- > the University to ensure a secure future for long term
- > researchers, to allow this outstanding Idaho asset to grow
- > to its full potential, and to bring recognition to
- > University of Idaho.
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- > Whew!
- > Thanks Janet for so much that you do for us,
- > Holly