

TEACHING/RESEARCH/SERVICE  
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University of Idaho

College of Forestry,  
Wildlife and Range Sciences  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

27 December 1979

TO: Wilderness Research Center, Technical Board  
Paul Dalke  
Mike Falter  
Wini Kessler  
Ed Krumpke  
Leon Neuenschwander  
Ken Sowles

FROM: Ernest D. Ables

SUBJECT: Meeting

*Personalized*  
PLOVER BOND

Now that the Wilderness Research Center has a new Director, we need to push forward. The persons listed above are who I perceive to be on the Technical Board. If you do not wish to serve, or if I have made a mistake, please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, please send me a list of hours and days that you can meet during the Spring Semester.

The first meeting will be devoted to a plan of action for the Center. Attached are two documents: 1) a 1976 statement of the Center, and 2) a proposed text for a brochure. Please read both documents carefully and be prepared to offer suggestions for the brochure.

As soon as I have your schedule, a meeting will be called.

Sincerely,

Ernest D. Ables  
Director ~~Dean~~  
Wilderness Research Center

EDA/crh  
Attach.



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER - 1976

I. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Wilderness Research Center is to foster research and educational activities which will lead to a broader understanding of the structure and function of natural ecosystems, man's relationship to them, and their perpetual protection in the wilderness <sup>1/</sup> context.

II. General Objectives

Research

Interdisciplinary research concerning the wilderness resource, and wilderness users, will be encouraged.

Examples of biophysical research encouraged by the Center include:

- a. research that promotes insight into longterm natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics
- b. inventory and descriptive studies, including those of a "baseline" or "benchmark" nature
- c. innovative approaches to comparative and experimental investigation that allow these studies to be conducted within the confines of wilderness

Examples of social research encouraged by the Center include:

- a. research to measure impacts and define limits of man's use of wilderness
- b. methodology for the reduction of human impact through effective management practices
- c. studies to further understand man's psychological relationship to nature, including the areas of morality and esthetics

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<sup>1/</sup> The Center's working definition of "wilderness" is taken from The Wilderness Act of 1964 but is not limited to areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System. In addition, both federal and non-federal areas that have characteristics satisfying the Act's definition are considered appropriate for Center activities.



## Education

Educational objectives of the Center include promoting understanding of:

- a. the phenomena and dynamic processes associated with natural ecosystems
- b. man's ecological and social role as a member of the natural world
- c. the proper use and management of wilderness
- d. the many social and psychological values of the wilderness resource

Undergraduate and graduate students, on-site users, agency personnel and the general public are considered appropriate audiences for the Center's educational activities.

### III. Specific Activities of the Center

1. Coordinate wilderness-related research projects at the University of Idaho and compile annual report of activities and findings.
2. Sponsor undergraduate summer research projects and review written reports which will be incorporated into a special section of the annual report.
3. Sponsor at least one annual graduate assistantship for wilderness-related research or other scholarly activity.
4. Conduct an annual Wilderness Seminar Series.
5. Inform potential financial contributors of Center goals and activities through publication of a high quality brochure.
6. Inform present and potential contributors and other interested individuals of current Center activities through publication of an illustrated, quarterly newsletter.
7. As requested, assist the mass media, organizations or individuals, and units of the university with wilderness-related projects of an educational nature.

### IV. Organization

Administration of the Wilderness Research Center is ultimately the responsibility of the Director. He is assisted in the daily administration of



the Center's programs and activities by an Assistant Director. Policy formulation is the joint responsibility of the Director, Assistant Director and Technical Board.

Responsibilities of the Technical Board are limited to:

- a. recommendations of research needs and the review of completed projects
- b. review wilderness-related research and educational projects to assure conformity with The Wilderness Act and similar legislation or policies
- c. assistance with the preparation of proposals for outside funding
- d. as requested, assist the Director with liaison between the university and various agencies in wilderness-related matters
- e. review and select successful proposals from university students and faculty for Center-sponsored activities
- f. assist with administration of the Center when requested by the Director or Assistant Director
- g. advising the director on management policies for the Taylor Ranch Field Station

*h.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER

Introduction and Background

In the last one-half of the Twentieth Century this nation has matured to the extent that its undeveloped lands are treasured with the same fervor that our founders viewed the first cleared patches of New England. Today scientists, government agencies, recreationists and entrepreneurs are focusing unprecedented attention on the vestiges of primitive America. The lay public, too, has been caught up in the concern for wilderness and other wild lands. Wilderness -- both the concept and the resource -- has emerged in the last one quarter of this century with meaning and importance undreamed of even a decade ago.

Outside of Alaska, Idaho contains more wilderness than any state in the nation. Idaho is also surrounded by other major wilderness areas of the West. Accordingly, The Wilderness Research Center of the University of Idaho offers a unique opportunity to contribute national and international leadership in wilderness research and education.

Founded in 1972 and coordinated by the University's College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, the Center is unique among institutions of higher learning. Its facilities extend far beyond the campus in Moscow to include a field station (Taylor Ranch) on Big Creek, a tributary of the famed Middle Fork of the Salmon River in the Central Idaho Wilderness Area; a field station on Payette Lake at McCall, Idaho (forestry summer camp). Moreover, the Center has obtained cooperation from both state and federal land management agencies for use of various administrative and research facilities in Idaho and surrounding states. It has also been offered the use of private wilderness inholdings for the purpose of facilitating its scientific and educational objectives.

*Unorganized*  
BLOWER BONE



In addition to the physical resources at its disposal, The Wilderness Research Center is supported by the faculty in all disciplines of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences. Excellent cooperation from other units and disciplines within the University of Idaho, and from different universities lends the multi-disciplinary breadth and depth essential for comprehensive studies of wilderness. The expertise available to the Center is unrivaled by an institution in the West.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of The Wilderness Research Center is to foster research and educational activities which will lead to a broader understanding of the structure and function of natural ecosystems, and of man's relationship to them. The role of the Center is not one of advocacy, but rather one of gathering and disseminating knowledge of the wilderness resource and its values.

#### General Research Objectives

Implicit within the wilderness concept is a permanent absence of artificial disturbance; therefore research which promotes insight into long-term natural phenomena and ecosystem dynamics is a guiding principle. It is recognized that inventory and descriptive studies are also important. However, emphasis will be placed on comparative and experimental investigations that will yield information useful and valuable to the management of man-altered environments. Such studies require innovation and imagination in order to be augmented within the confines of wilderness.

At the same time, specific criteria defining the limits of man's multiple activities compatible with wilderness are urgently needed: accordingly, research to define impacts and limits of man's use of wilderness is encouraged. Wilderness also involves aesthetical concepts associated with man's



desire for solitude and communion with the natural world, and studies designed to further our understanding of man's aesthetical and moral commitments to nature will be promoted. Interdisciplinary research concerning the wilderness resources, and the wilderness users, will be encouraged.

Specific Research Directions

- Wildlife: natural population regulation, competitive relationships, ecology of rare and endangered species.
- Fire: chronological history, impacts, plant successional responses, animal responses.
- Mountain Lakes and Streams: natural dynamics including limnology and aquatic life.
- Forests: dynamics of natural forest stands including role of natural disturbances, insects and disease relationships.
- Grasslands: ecology of mountain meadows, ecological succession and concept of steady state.
- Genetic Resources: comparative studies of genetic diversity in unmanaged and managed populations of plants and animals.
- Social Research:
  - a. Research to measure impacts and to define limits of man's use of wilderness.
  - b. Development of methods for reducing human impact through effective management practices.
  - c. Studies to further understand man's psychological relationship to nature, including the areas of morality and aesthetics.



### Educational Objectives

Educational objectives involve promoting an understanding of: (1) the dynamic processes associated with natural ecosystems, (2) the value of natural systems to conservation and management of manipulated environments, (3) the proper use of wilderness commensurate with its continued existence in an unaltered state, and (4) man's ecological and social role as a member of the natural world. Educational opportunities associated with wilderness are best attained in the field classroom. Consequently, emphasis is placed on undergraduate and graduate education in wilderness environments, and on communicating with on-site users and the general public. Short courses and seminars conducted in wilderness areas are appropriate mechanisms for achieving some of these objectives.

### Some Activities of the Center

1. Sponsors undergraduate wilderness internships.
2. Awards graduate wilderness assistantships.
3. Sponsors an annual Distinguished Wilderness Lecture series.
4. Publishes research results in a "Wilderness Series" in cooperation with the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station.
5. Maintains a "Wilderness Library" in cooperation with the University of Idaho main library.
6. Sponsors short courses, seminars, and workshops and other continuing education activities.
7. Teaches a regular academic course in "Wilderness Management".
8. Assists faculty and graduate students in obtaining funds for wilderness research.
9. Acts as recipient of funds derived from The Wilderness Research Foundation.