

**Taylor Ranch**

---

**From:** "Taylor Ranch" <tayranch@direcpc.com>  
**To:** "Jeff Braatne" <braatne@uidaho.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 26, 2004 4:38 PM  
**Attach:** UI-ISU Agenda.doc  
**Subject:** UI-ISU agenda

Hi Jeff,

Attached is a copy of the original agenda I wrote up last month. We had intended it for a full meeting of both universities at TRFS, so some items are not relevant for the Saturday meeting. It's too bad Wayne will not be able to attend. Jim and I will plan a 1/2 hour PPT presentation on TR facilities, research/education, and the environment.

Here is a framework for a revised agenda. Please add or suggest subtractions to/from the list. I divided up the topics for you, Chuck, Jim, and me to lead discussion on. Do we need a conclusion or product? Are we expecting idea interchange and additions throughout the meeting?

- How did the collaboration idea come about (Wayne, Chuck, Jeff, Jim, Holly core group who have done research from TR) <Jeff>
- Why do we want to collaborate? -enhance and develop programs of mutual interest, increase value of research and educational activities at TRFS, seek research funding, provide opportunities for research or courses that wouldn't be done without collaboration (i.e. 302 class) <Chuck>
- What outcome do we want from this meeting? -generate interest and knowledge about TRFS, encourage broader faculty interest in developing collaborative activities, promote discussion of topics or programs faculty and staff are interested in being involved in <Jeff>
- Taylor Ranch Field Station PowerPoint of facilities, natural history of area, past research & use of TRFS. <Jim>
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on at Taylor Ranch? <Holly>
  - Research topics (long term ecological monitoring, aquatic systems, fire ecology, large mammal community, ...)
  - Educational offerings (Wildland Ecology 302 class, workshops/seminars?)
  - Obtaining funding (NSF NEON, NSF Facilities Grant, NSF Research, Private foundations, collaborative funding,...)
  - Networking with other entities (other field stations, utilizing/developing standardized monitoring protocols,...)
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on campuses? <Chuck or Jeff>
  - Faculty exchange
  - Guest lectures
  - Research collaboration

Holly

Jim & Holly Akenson  
 Managers/Scientists  
 Taylor Ranch Field Station  
 University of Idaho  
 HC 83 Box 8070  
 Cascade, ID 83611

3/2/2004



Brief Summary of UI/ISU Collaborative Research Mtg (March 6, 2004)

ISU/UI Faculty Present: Jim/Holly Atkinson, Jeff Braatne, Dave Delahanty, Penny Morgan, Chuck Peterson, Janet Rachlow, Jim Reed, Kerry Reese & Dean Daly-Larsen.  
Lewis

Following intros and the collective expression of interest among participants in working towards collaborative UI/ISU long-term ecological studies at Taylor Ranch (& other locales), JA gave a pictorial overview of Taylor Ranch facilities, past/current research with highlights on studies by M. Hornaker, J. Peek & Wayne Minshall, and educational activities (WLF 302 Field Ecology, Summer Internship Program, etc). JA/HA explained that work towards assembling/documenting research & educational activities is ongoing as well as updates to the Taylor Ranch Webpage. Serious interest was expressed in getting a Taylor Ranch webcam to add to both CNR & UI webpage.

Then group explored venues for increased funding and course offerings at Taylor Ranch. Several funding mechanisms were discussed, including NSF Facilities Grants, NSF – NEON Program, Private Foundations Inc. In pursuing these grants, the need for documentation of past/current research, course offerings, listing of existing facilities, climatic data, equipment, etc was discussed. JA/HA stated that they needed more assistance in this effort. It was also agreed that HA should seek funds to attend upcoming NSF-NEON program mtg in Colorado. A grant/funding subcommittee of J. Rachlow, D. Delahanty & J. Braatne was formed to work w/JA/HA and Mark Hermanson in seeking better funding for Taylor Ranch Facilities, etc.

Options for offering WLF 302 Field Ecology this coming summer were also explored. In this venue, an educational subcommittee of J. Rachlow, C. Peterson and D. Delahanty was formed to work w/JA/HA on developing an educational program for Taylor Ranch.

Given the varied interests and demands of UI/ISU faculty, it was agreed that JA/HA will serve to coordinate these varied activities. At this time, additional activities are pending the UI/ISU springbreak trip to Taylor Ranch....



UI – ISU Collaboration Meeting  
At Taylor Ranch Field Station  
March 2004 Draft Agenda

- Introductions
- Tour of facilities
- Collaboration meeting
- Tour of local research sites
- All day hike to Cabin Creek
- Draft a collaborative agreement

Meeting Agenda

- Why do we want to collaborate?
- What outcome do we want from this meeting?
- Taylor Ranch Field Station mission
- Review of past research activities at Taylor Ranch
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on at Taylor Ranch?
  - Research topics
  - Educational offerings
  - Obtaining funding
  - Networking with other entities
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on campuses?
  - Faculty exchange
  - Guest lectures
  - Research collaboration



## Taylor Ranch

---

**From:** "Taylor Ranch" <tayranch@direcpc.com>  
**To:** <dholick@uidaho.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2003 3:24 PM  
**Subject:** Re: DeVlieg Draft Proposal or topics: Jan. 16

Thanks Diane for getting that information out to students. Also appreciate you sending the announcements through Co-op Ed, so nonCNR majors can hear about Taylor Ranch opportunities.

Here are some possible undergraduate research topics that could be done from Taylor Ranch. Students will have to find a faculty advisor willing to oversee these or other topics.

Fire regeneration of vegetation (riparian, grasslands, or forest)  
Fire history - tree core sampling  
Fire and wildlife topics  
White bark pine and blister rust genetics (Lauren Fins)  
Woodpeckers in burn - species and distribution/abundance  
Use of hyperspectral photography data along Big Creek to assess specific plant associations or animal habitat distribution (cottonwoods & woodpeckers, wet meadows, resprouting shrubs post fire, and shallow stream segments have been identified in previous research projects)  
Additional bat surveys using Anabat detector (from previous bat research)  
Additional Lewis' woodpecker research (building on previous Lewis' research)  
Marmots - colonizers and genetics (Janet Rachlow)  
Pollinating insects  
Reptiles - lizard survey  
Black bear genetic sampling with hair snags  
Cutthroat trout size/distribution/abundance  
Small mammals & fire  
Historical interpretation  
Fish & fishermen

Holly

Jim & Holly Akenson  
Managers/Scientists  
Taylor Ranch Field Station  
University of Idaho  
HC 83 Box 8070  
Cascade, ID 83611  
[tayranch@direcpc.com](mailto:tayranch@direcpc.com)



UI – ISU Collaboration Meeting  
At Taylor Ranch Field Station  
March 2004 Draft Agenda

- Introductions
- Tour of facilities
- Collaboration meeting
- Tour of local research sites
- All day hike to Cabin Creek
- Draft a collaborative agreement

Meeting Agenda

- Why do we want to collaborate?
- What outcome do we want from this meeting?
- Taylor Ranch Field Station mission
- Review of past research activities at Taylor Ranch
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on at Taylor Ranch?
  - Research topics
  - Educational offerings
  - Obtaining funding
  - Networking with other entities
- What areas are we interested in collaborating on campuses?
  - Faculty exchange
  - Guest lectures
  - Research collaboration



## Taylor Ranch

---

**From:** "G. Wayne Minshall" <minswayn@isu.edu>  
**To:** "jeff braatne" <braatne@uidaho.edu>; "Peterson, Chuck" <petechar@isu.edu>; "Glenn, Nancy" <glennanc@isu.ed,Akenson, Jim & Holly" <tayranch@uidaho.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2004 11:40 AM  
**Subject:** Re: ISU-UI meeting

Hi Jeff:

This is disappointing. It suggests to me a lack of willingness to be accomodating on several fronts. I believe that we are no more likely to get this group together next fall semester (and on and on). Realistically the only time to get a group of busy academicians together for several days at Taylor Ranch may be the summer but this is generally a difficult time to provide for the accomodations of relatively large numbers at one time.

It seems to me that there are three challenges: (1) **Getting/developing a commitment on the part of UI faculty to conduct research and other activities at Taylor Ranch.** This hasn't happened (except for Jim Peak and students and Reed Lewis) over the 15+ years I have been working there. The hope is that, with the new cohort of young faculty, the situation will change. This will require meetings with and enticements/encouragements for promising UI faculty. It could be done through a series of realtively short meetings or a workshop on the UI campus, with arrangements to get any of those who have not seen the ranch an opportunity to visit at their convenience. (2) **Informing ISU faculty of the opportunities/facilities for research at Taylor Ranch (and getting their commitment).** This eventually may mean getting those faculty unfamiliar with the ranch there for a visit. In which case, it seems to me that a better use of the UI travel funds being proffered by your dean to bring UI faculty to Taylor this spring (many of whom have already been there) would be to use it as an enticement to get potential new ISU colloborators to visit. However, I think the first step should be to have Holly and Jim come to ISU and present a couple seminars on research and opportunities at Taylor Ranch. We may be able to get funds for this from our Departmental seminar fund. Chuck and I could then arrange a meeting with interested faculty and graduate students around that. Of course, this begs the question of the availability of research and travel funds once an interest has been stimulated. Some of this should come directly through TR possibly through the DeFlieg (sp?) Foundation or some other long-term underwriting source. (3) **Facilitating colloborative studies between the two universities, whether at Taylor Ranch or elsewhere.** Those of us at ISU (Chuck Peterson, Nancy Glenn, and myself) already conducting research out of TR already appreciate the advantages of such collaborations at multiple levels. But this will be a big hurdle for many others although, as you (Jeff) have said, it ultimately may be essential for our mutual survival. Such a collaboration to be productive and on-going needs a reason. TR and the Frank Church wilderness may well provide that reason but I think that steps 1 and 2 will need to be accomplished first before it will succeed. It will also need adequate funding to get started and sustain. This might be through EPSCOR or a large cooperative grant (the preparation of either of which would be a reason for a meeting fairly soon and for working together) or might be through a series of smaller groupings and grants, in which case this could develop over an extended time but still needs the initial connecting up of faculty and easy (expense-covered) movement between the two faculty. These issues eventually could profit from one or more joint meetings but they would not require meeting at Taylor Ranch and might well benefit from alternating between universities or meeting at some central location.

These comments are meant to stimulate your thinking and discussion.

Let me know what you think,

Wayne

jeff braatne wrote:

1/12/2004