

Excerpts from:

**STRATEGIC PLAN AND POLICIES FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER  
AND  
THE TAYLOR RANCH WILDERNESS FIELD  
STATION**

**JUNE 1996**

By

**John C. Hendee, Director  
University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center  
Room 18A, CFWR Building  
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1144  
Telephone: 208-885-2267  
Fax: 208-885-2268  
E-Mail: [hendeejo@uidaho.edu](mailto:hendeejo@uidaho.edu)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>STRATEGIC OVERVIEW:</b>	1
Organization of the Plan	1
<b>PURPOSES OF THE WILDERNESS RESEARCH CENTER (WRC)</b>	
Research	3
Education	4
Service	5
Taylor Ranch	6
<b>PLANNING DIRECTION</b>	7
<b>RESEARCH PROGRAM</b>	7
Current Situation (1994)	7
Assumptions About the Future	9
Policy Guidelines	10
<b>EDUCATION PROGRAM</b>	
Current Situation (1994)	12
Assumptions About the Future	12
Policy Guidelines	13
<b>SERVICE PROGRAM</b>	
Current Situation (1994)	13
Assumptions About the Future	13
Policy Guidelines	14
<b>TAYLOR RANCH WILDERNESS FIELD STATION PROGRAM</b>	
Current Situation (1994)	14
Assumptions About the Future	16
Policy Guidelines	17
<b>ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE</b>	17
Responsibilities of the Director	18
Responsibilities of the Taylor Ranch Field Station Resident Manager	18
Responsibilities of Other Staff	19
Wilderness Research Center Campus Advisory Committee	19
Committee Membership	19
External Organizations	20
Committee Organization and Function	20
<b>LITERATURE CITED</b>	21



### Policy Guidelines

1. Develop and offer through appropriate departments, wilderness short course(s) for professionals, educators, and the lay public, provide consultation to external organizations relative to their wilderness research, management, and education.
2. The Wilderness Research Center will continue to sponsor workshops, conferences, and lectures which draw together wilderness scientists, educators, managers, and the public.
3. Provide leadership in wilderness scholarship and education including: providing leadership for regional, national, and international task forces and conferences, the Wilderness Management textbook authored by the WRC Director and the new International Journal of Wilderness for which WRC Director Hendee is Managing Editor and RRT Professor Fazio is Book Review Editor.

### TAYLOR RANCH WILDERNESS FIELD STATION

The goals of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station are to facilitate wilderness ecosystem research, monitoring, and related field classes in the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness.

**Objectives: Provide a location, staging area and facilities at Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station in the Frank Church -- River of No Return Wilderness to support wilderness-dependent research, monitoring, and education programs of the UI Wilderness Research Center and cooperators.**

### Current Situation (1995)

1. **Description of the Facility:** Taylor Ranch is remote and must be accessed by bush plane or a 37 mile trail that is only open seasonally. Most supplies and people arrive by plane from Cascade, McCall, Moscow, or Challis. Regular flights bring mail and supplies weekly from June to November and bi-monthly during December to May. A radio cooperative located in Cascade, Idaho, provides radio phone communication on an intermittent schedule. Access, transportation, and communication are major expenses which are steadily increasing.

2. A full-time resident manager, Dr. Dave Duncan and his wife, Stefanie, live year round at Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station providing for operation and maintenance of the facility and coordination and assistance for research and education.
3. Wilderness interns (2-3) are competitively selected each year to spend the summer at Taylor Ranch working under direction of the resident manager to help with maintenance and operation of the Field Station, and  
  
to assist with research, as assigned by the resident manager to principal investigators.
4. Six buildings provide sleeping capacity for seventeen persons. Some cabins have running water eight months of the year (April - November). Limited solar electricity is available and there is a gasoline generator for emergency use. Lighting is provided by propane lights or Coleman lanterns and limited propane refrigeration is available. Kitchens are outfitted with propane stoves, dishes and cooking utensils. Bunk bed frames and mattresses are available. Buildings are heated with wood stoves, but the Arlow cabin has propane heat.
5. A field laboratory includes basic labware and wet lab facilities, portable computers, microscopes, species lists, reference animal collections and herbarium, map and aerial photo collection, and a library collection of research publications pertinent to the area, as well as agency publications and reference books.
6. Four head of pack stock are seasonally available for transporting equipment and personnel to wilderness locations away from Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. Some camp gear is available at the station. Arrangements can be made for special services, including: long-term data collection, packing services, and organizing for groups, and other services to facilitate research. (See Fee Schedule in Appendix C). The Taylor Ranch has provided facility support for employees of the Idaho Fish and Game and Forest Service working in the area.
7. WRC and Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station personnel make it a priority to maintain a good working relationship with agencies, organizations, and private outfitters and guides operating in the surrounding area.
8. Several research projects are currently being conducted from the Taylor Ranch Field Station. During the past decade public relations efforts have included two award-winning video tapes about Taylor Ranch Field Station

which were shown nationwide by approximately 154 public and commercial broadcasting stations. The *Mister Wizard Science Show* aired a Taylor Ranch video tape over approximately 132 stations. ABC *Good Morning America* showed a five-minute video tape on the mountain lion research at Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. A feature length (28 min.) television program entitled, "Taylor Ranch -- America's Wildest Classroom" has been prepared by the University of Idaho News Bureau for broadcast over Idaho's Public Television Broadcasting network. "Idaho the University" magazine produced feature article on Taylor Ranch in the Winter of 1986 issue and the UI Alumni News featured an article in spring 1994. American Forests featured research at Taylor Ranch in an article in 1995. The Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station has also been featured in several local newspaper and magazine articles. Several public presentations on Taylor Ranch, including slide shows at national and regional scientific and professional meetings, have been made by WRC staff.

#### Assumptions About the Future

1. The demand to use Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station for research and education purposes will steadily increase.
2. Operating expenses for maintenance, flights, horse feed, equipment and supplies, building repairs and materials, and labor costs will continue to increase both from inflation and as a result of increased use and aging of the facilities, e.g., stream bank stabilization; repair of roofs, water lines and septic systems; replacement of inefficient wood stoves and fire prevention, solar system, irrigation, fire prevention, and limited solar electricity development.
3. As demand for use of the field station increases, more detailed guidelines will be needed to prioritize research and educational projects to be conducted from Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station.
4. Income from fees assessed for use of Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station facilities must increase and must support more of the cost of operations and maintenance and begin to provide seed money to help support worthy studies.
5. The WRC will need to work with the US Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game guidelines to ensure that research and monitoring methods will respect limitations of wilderness and be carried out with the most sensitive and unobtrusive methods possible to acquire essential data.

## Policy Guidelines

1. (a) The Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station shall only be used for research and educational activities within the general objectives of the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center (WRC) or seeking to further those objectives.  
  
(b) Taylor Ranch will only be used for educational activities that utilize a wilderness-dependent field setting, emphasize hands-on learning, and normally offer university credit. Research and educational activities not dependent upon natural, undisturbed ecosystems or related to their use will be conducted elsewhere.  
  
(c) Use of the facilities for non-wilderness related activities or conferences, commercial activities, recreation, personal or non-official business is specifically prohibited.
2. Management and operation of the field station will be sensitive to its unique location surrounded by classified wilderness. Activities at Taylor Ranch, along with associated research and travel to and from the Ranch, will respect the spirit of wilderness and will be conducted in such a manner as to have minimal impact on the wilderness.
3. (a) All use of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station facilities will be approved by the director of the Wilderness Research Center or the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station resident manager.  
  
(b) The airstrip will remain private and may only be used for purposes related to programs of the Wilderness Research Center. (Taylor Ranch Visitor Policies are outline in Appendix D.)  
  
(c) The Wilderness Research Center will seek to accommodate scientists in appropriate use of Taylor Ranch subject to WRC research policies and commitments and Taylor Ranch policies and use fees.
4. Fees will be charged for all use of Taylor Ranch. All use will be accounted for within the fee structure by either collection, waiver of fees or payments in kind. Waiver of fees may be approved by the director of the Wilderness Research Center or the Taylor Ranch resident manager in support of WRC objectives. A fee schedule is included in Appendix C. Fees will be re-evaluated periodically and adjusted as necessary.
5. Research activities will be given first priority at Taylor Ranch, followed by educational programs.

## ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE WRC

The Wilderness Research Center, is a unit of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, and was expanded July 1, 1994 to re-emphasize a campus-wide focus. The WRC director (Hendee) is a tenured professor of Resource, Recreation and Tourism but reports to the CFWR dean. The WRC is housed in the CFWR building in offices adjacent to the Resource, Recreation and Tourism Department. CFWR provides administrative services and support, and provides a college link for plans, proposals, budget, personnel, policy and other matters of importance.

The director seeks advice and guidance concerning policies and programs from a Wilderness Research Center—Campus Advisory Committee made up of UI faculty and administrative leaders. The resident manager of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station (Duncan) reports to the WRC director. Dr. Ed Krumpke, Professor of Resource, Recreation and Tourism is principal scientist for wilderness management in the WRC, with two-thirds of his salary paid by the WRC. Programs requiring additional staff (e.g., project technicians, research associates, interns, irregular help) are supervised by either the director, resident manager or principal scientist depending upon assigned tasks. An administrative secretary provides clerical and administrative support.

### Responsibilities of the Director

The director is the WRC chief executive with responsibility for administration and management of the Center and implementation of its policies, programs, budgets, and facilities. Policies for the Center are contained in the Center's Strategic Plan which is prepared by the director with counsel from the Campus Advisory Committee and CFWR dean.

The director is responsible for development and implementation of Center programs and management of WRC facilities. Major responsibilities of the director include: (1) preparing and implementing annual budgets and action plans for research, education and service programs; (2) pursuing cooperative research projects; (3) soliciting funding for center programs; (4) supervising and evaluating center personnel; (5) maintaining working relationships with the WRC Campus Advisory Committee, pertinent external organizations and cooperators.

### Responsibilities of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station Resident Manager

The resident manager reports to the WRC director and is delegated day-to-day responsibility for management of the field station facilities and coordination of research and education activities conducted at Taylor Ranch. The scientist/manager serves as the principle field station contact representing

the Taylor Ranch and its programs to the public, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness management personnel, Idaho Fish and Game personnel, WRC researchers and visitors, outfitters and guides, commercial and private pilots, media representatives, and local residents. He also has research and education responsibilities for coordinating field research, assisting researchers in collecting field data, and hosting potential researchers and representatives of potential funding institutions in coordination with the director. The resident manager's duties are: (1) operate and maintain Taylor Ranch facilities; (2) facilitate and coordinate the research and education activities of other faculty

and cooperators working from the field station, and (3) assist faculty and cooperators in their research and education activities. The resident manager submits an annual report of activities at the Taylor Ranch Field Station for the annual report of the Wilderness Research Center and Focus -- Report of the FWR Experiment Station, and may write periodic reports of research at TR for other publications.

#### Responsibilities of Other Staff

Responsibility of additional staff (e.g., principal scientist, project technicians, research associates, scientists, interns, irregular help) will be defined in job descriptions. These will be developed as needed by the director. The WRC director, resident manager, and advisory committee work toward creating opportunities for other faculty, scientists, post doctoral fellows and research associates to affiliate and work with the WRC.

#### Wilderness Research Center Campus Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Wilderness Research Center Campus Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the WRC on the functions of the center and the operation of its Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. Members will assist the center in attaining balance by helping develop policy, insuring that all aspects of the wilderness resource are considered in its programs and that there is campus-wide participation in WRC programs and activities. The committee also helps identify sources of funding and assists in the preparation, evaluation, and support of proposals. One valuable function of the committee is as a sounding board and source of advise and wisdom toward establishing and maintaining high standards of excellence to which the Wilderness Research Center aspires.

#### Committee Membership

The Wilderness Research Center Campus Advisory Committee will consist of campus executive leaders and scholars representing pertinent



**Policies for Use of  
Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station  
University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center  
5/1/96**

C-1

Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station is a facility of the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center (WRC). The mission of Taylor Ranch Field Station is to host and facilitate wilderness ecosystem research and monitoring and wilderness user studies, to offer wilderness-dependent educational courses emphasizing hands-on learning experiences and to provide service to federal and state natural resource agencies in support of their wilderness data gathering efforts. The field station maintains a simple laboratory, research library, animal and herbarium reference collection, and research data base.

Taylor Ranch is located in the heart of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (FCRNRW) and can be accessed by trail, or by air for official business. The closest trail head is about 37 miles to the west at Big Creek. Other trailheads are at Meyer's Cove (about 50 trail miles to the east) or Bighorn Crags campground (about 40- trail miles). Air access is by small "bush" plan from Cascade, McCall, and Challis. The private field station airstrip is rugged, requiring experienced pilots. Use of the airstrip is limited to that supporting WRC programs and requires approval by the WRC Director or Taylor Ranch Field Station Resident Manager.

**Policies**

**Space at Taylor Ranch is limited and teaching, research, and other activities must be coordinated. Use of the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station requires approval by the Director of the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center or Taylor Ranch Resident Manager at least one month prior to proposed use. Users conducting on-going research must provide a schedule of their planned field station use; once the schedule is approved, the director or resident manager must be given prior notice of any changes (e.g., dates and numbers of personnel using the facility).**

- All users are subject to established Field Station user fees (see attached).
- Permission to use the field station airstrip must be obtained from the director or resident manager.
- Users are responsible for cleaning the facilities they used and flying or packing out their trash.
- A radio-phone is available for **emergency** or **business** purposes only, but fees must be paid by the caller.
- Users may fish (catch and release) during their free time, but may not hunt from Taylor Ranch. No game may be flown from Taylor Ranch. All Idaho fish and game regulations must be obeyed.
- Users in residence must obtain permission from the director or resident manager to have personal guests.
- Users may not bring **pets, riding, or pack stock** except with prior permission of the resident manager.
- Users should exhibit "backcountry hospitality," including accommodating emergency requests, giving directions, and explaining on-going projects and respecting the spirit of the surrounding wilderness.

All fees are payable to the University of Idaho Taylor Ranch Field Station. Any adjustment in fees and payment schedules must be negotiated and agreed to in writing with the WRC director, Taylor Ranch Resident Manager, prior to initiation of projects. Arrangements may include exchange of services to the Field Station to offset fees, e.g. putting up firewood, mowing airstrip, special field station projects.

- **Lodging:** lodging fees are \$12.00 per day per person during May through September. From October through April lodging is \$14.00 per day per person to cover costs of firewood and additional propane use. Users must provide their own bedding. Special bio-degradable bath soap, shampoo, dish soap, and laundry soap will be provided to limit impacts to the wilderness environment.
- **Food:** Taylor Ranch users must bring their own food and prepare their own meals. Kitchens are available with refrigerators, stoves, ovens, pots and pans, and utensils. Provisions for meals for large groups will be negotiated separately with the resident manager.
- **Research Support:** Field Station staff can provide horse-packing services to transport research equipment, camp supplies, and personnel to remote study sites. A daily fee of \$10.00 per horse per day and \$60.00 per Field Station staff per day to handle stock will be charged. Arrangements can be made for Field Station personnel to collect data in the absence of the researcher. A data collection fee will be negotiated based upon the frequency of data collection, and the amount of time and effort required. If studies require significant use of the Field Station laboratory, a laboratory fee may be negotiated.
- **Clean-up:** Users are responsible for keeping living quarters, kitchens, and laboratory clean and in good repair. All garbage not composed or burned must be flown or packed out. Cleaning supplies are available for use in each building. If additional clean-up or repairs by station personnel are necessary after the premises are evacuated, a \$25.00 per hour cleaning fee plus costs of supplies will be levied.

Dr. John C. Hendee, Director  
Wilderness Research Center  
FWR Room 18A  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1144  
(208) 885-2267  
Telefax: (208) 885-2268  
E-Mail: hendeejo@uidaho.edu

Mr. David Duncan, Resident Manager  
Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station  
HC 83  
Cascade, Idaho 83611  
208-382-4336 radio phone