

To R. Stark, Dean, Graduate School

From Albert W. Erickson, Wilderness Research Center

Subject Research Project Resumé

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
Inter-Office Memorandum

Date October 12, 1971

The following summarizes the research projects currently in progress by personnel of the Wilderness Research Center and associates as per your request relative to developing publicity on University research projects.

1. Population Dynamics of Antarctic Seals

Participants: Albert W. Erickson and James R. Gilbert

Support: National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs

This project concerns investigations into the numbers, distribution, population composition and population genetics of Antarctic seals. Field investigations are conducted with the assistance of U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers and helicopters and Navy aerial photographic planes. The purpose of the investigations is to provide information for the management of Antarctic seals.

2. The Population Status of the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Herd

Participants: Albert W. Erickson and David Freddy

Support: U.S. Forest Service, Idaho and Washington, Department of Fish and Game, British Columbia Department of Game, The Inland Empire Sportsman's Council and The National Wildlife Federation

This project is an assessment of the status of the relic caribou herd located in Northeast Washington, Northwest Idaho and in neighboring British Columbia. The herd, believed to number less than 100 animals, is the sole remaining caribou population in the contiguous United States. Aspects of the study include determination of its size, distribution, population makeup and of the factors affecting its welfare. The ultimate goal of the study is to provide such data as is necessary to assure perpetuation of the population.

3. Criteria for Classifying Wilderness Areas

Participants: Albert W. Erickson and Gary Koehler

Support: Wilderness Research Center

This project is designed to evaluate criteria for classifying wilderness areas for management. At present a plethora of attitudes exist among the various agencies responsible for management of wilderness and also among individuals and groups interested in wilderness. The current study is intended to assess the various attitudes and to propose unifying criteria for the classification of wilderness.

4. Cellular Localization of Pelage and Pigment Control Systems in the Mule Deer

Participants: F.A. Spurrel, Vet. College, University of Minnesota, R.C. Knight and Albert W. Erickson, University of Idaho and R. Thieson, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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Support: U.S.P.H.S. Grant from the University of Minnesota Graduate School and National Science Foundation

The principal objective of this research is delineation of fluctuations in cellular production and release of the melanocyte stimulating hormone inhibition factor (MSH-IF). A further objective is evaluation of possible inter-relationships of growth or somatotrophic (STH) and melanocyte stimulating hormones (MSH) whose cycles have not been extensively pursued relative to another growth in the Cervidal.

5. The Ecology of the Wolf in Northeast Minnesota

Participants: Albert W. Erickson, Victor Van Ballenberghe and David Byman

Support: Minneapolis Big Game Special Projects Foundation

This project is intended to provide precise population data on the only significant wolf population remaining in the contiguous United States. The studies entail both an analysis of the population dynamics of this wolf population but i.e. also seeks to evaluate the influence of the wolf on the game stocks supporting the population.