

July 3, 1975

SUBJECT: Wilderness Research Center - Progress Report

Due to the difficulty of developing a viable program for the Wilderness Research Center by the two previous directors, Dean John Ehrenreich assumed the directorship in February 1975.

At the same time Dean Ehrenreich named a Technical Advisory Board consisting of four individuals who have a strong desire to see the Center succeed and each having successful backgrounds in developing, funding and administering new and varied programs which lend breadth and depth to the wilderness concept. These board members are:

Dr. James Peek, Wildlife Management. Experienced in wildlife habitat in primitive and wilderness areas.

Dr. James Fazio, Wildland Recreation. Experienced in the recreational impacts of wilderness areas.

Dr. Paul Dalke, Wildlife Management Emeritus. The originator of the Wilderness Research Center concept for Idaho.

Prof. Kenneth Sowles, Services and Special Programs. Past acting director and experienced in funding and establishing new programs.

The original concept, prepared by Dr. Paul Dalke in May of 1966 (attached), has not been changed but the objectives and thrust have been modernized to better meet the needs of the University, State and country. The administration of the Center is on campus in the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences. The original plan for having the headquarters in the heart of the Idaho Primitive Area

is impracticable due mainly to inaccessibility. The Taylor Ranch is being more fully utilized as a field station where the research effort is no longer limited to only wilderness, but includes all research involving pristine conditions of the natural resources.

Since the Dean and Technical Board have assumed responsibility for, and direction of, the Wilderness Research Center, the research activities have gone from zero to more than \$ 75,000.00 in research projects with much more in the offing.

The present funded and on-going projects include:

1. Behavioral Modification of Bighorn Sheep
Dr. James Peek, James Bennett (grad student)
2. Communication Patterns in Recreation
Dr. James Fazio, Dawna Chapman (Technician)
3. Timber Values of the Idaho Primitive Area
Prof. Kenneth Sowles, Gerald Allen and Charles Hatch (faculty)
4 undergraduate students doing field work under the direction of the above
4. Aquatics of Highland Streams.
Dr. Michael Falter (faculty), Roger Sarazan and Edwin Buettner (grad students)
5. There are five undergraduate honoraria research projects which were selected through competition:
 - a. Ecology of Pocket Gophers
Steven Anderson, advised by Dr. Kenneth Hungerford
 - b. Evaluation of Small Mammal Populations.
Charles Elliott, advised by Dr. James Peek
 - c. Mesiteric Characteristics and Spotting Patterns of the Cutthroat Trout
John LeVesque, advised by Dr. Richard Wallace

In the near future an advisory committee representing all factions interested in wilderness research and education, on and off campus, will be activated to bring total input of ideas and concerns into the Center.

The Dean and Technical Board are also preparing publicity materials for the