

TAYLOR RANCH FIELD STATION

The past year has seen more research activities at the Taylor Ranch *in the Idaho Primitive area* than any time since the University acquired it in 1969.

Presently there is a study on to gather baseline behavioral information on bighorn sheep, ~~This study is being~~ conducted by James Bennett under the direction of Dr. Jerran Flinders. ~~The objectives are:~~ 1) population structures, 2) social organization, 3) reproductive behavior, 4) productivity of the herd, 5) migratory patterns, and 6) daily activity patterns. Jim and his wife Carole will live at the ranch for two years to enable year-round observation of

During the last summer, four undergraduate students worked on individual/y planned and conducted projects at the Taylor Ranch and surrounding area, which were selected on a competitive basis from approximately fifteen applicants. These students were paid expenses and an honorarium by the College. The students and projects ~~were:~~ ^{included:} 1) Steven Anderson, Ecology of pocket gophers in a wilderness environment; 2) Charles Elliott, Evaluation of small mammal populations along an elevational gradient in the Idaho Primitive Area; 3) John LeVesque, Meristic characteristics and spotting patterns of cutthroat trout in the Idaho Primitive Area; ^{and} 4) Allen Steuter, Brood ecology of the blue grouse.

These types of undergraduate honorarium projects will be an annual practice each year giving the undergraduate student an opportunity to become familiar with practical aspects of his chosen profession.

Improvements of the ranch have included a new workshop and storage structure for more efficient and year-round maintenance and study.

Running water and a bath facility have been put in the large log cabin to better facilitate those research personnel having to maintain year-round residence.

Letters to the Editor

Support Lauded on Wilds Classification

Editor, The Statesman:

Thank you for your editorial support for classification of the Idaho and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas as wilderness.

It is my personal belief that in a very short time our wilderness will be one of our greatest public economic assets simply because there will be so very little of it. With increasing population and the demands it will place on our society the desire for solitude and the chance "to get away from it all" will be coveted even more than it is now.

In reading the "Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Act" I was unable to find any reference to "Controlled," "Average," "Low," "High," "Medium" or "Multiple" Multiple Use. What I did read and take particular interest in was the following:

"National Forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes."

"The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act."

"That some land will be used for less than all of the resources, and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output."

In the case of the Idaho Primitive and Salmon River Breaks Primitive

Areas, a land so fragile that even trails will be a challenge to manage, the watershed is by far the most valuable and greatest resource. One million, four hundred thousand acre-feet of almost silt free water coming annually from this area to provide water for irrigation of crops, recreation, power and recharge of the aquifers in the valleys below make this area one of our greatest reservoirs. The trees that are there act like thermostats protecting the snow blanket from the direct rays of the sun, holding it in place and allowing it to melt gradually and evenly to maintain runoff through most of the summer.

The way is clear. The decision should be easy because the watershed and the values associated with it give the greatest dollar return. Wilderness is in harmony and consistent with this use. Lumber and mineral values by comparison are low and are uses that conflict with watershed protection. In addition the equivalent volume of timber in the total area could be produced on only 130,000 acres of good quality land in Western Oregon in 60 years. Mineral quality is low.

Influences have been made that roading this area would allow sanitary facilities to be built. I should like to point out that there are many sanitary facilities in the area already. On August 26 of this year we shared our camp with 31 other people eight miles inside the primitive boundary. In view of my personal experience I can hardly believe that we need roads for any more access than we already have. — FRED A. CHRISTENSEN, Nampa.

Daylight Saving Proposal Denounced

Editor, The Statesman:

Who is kidding who? If you stop to think you'll find out. They tell us that daylight saving time will conserve fuel and power. How? They want us to start our day an hour early. Fine! When is the coldest part of the day? As a rule it's the early morning. Now I ask you, where will there be any saving of fuel or power?

grader standing out in the dark, cold morning waiting for the bus . . . with the coyotes howling nearby? Of course our congressmen don't think of that.

What they are thinking of is the fact that they've been trying for a number of years to get us on daylight saving time year round. Now, they see a chance to do it and persuade the public that they are doing something "for the people."

Reader Applauds B-Cascade Stand

Editor, The Statesman:

Even though we often find ourselves on the opposite end of the table when it comes to purchasing timber, we want to commend president John B. Fery of Boise-Cascade Corp. for the strong and courageous stand his company has taken on the classification of the Idaho Primitive Areas.

As a small sawmill operating on federal timber we have felt the pinch of a steadily decreasing timber supply. After successfully operating for over 27 years in Mountain Home we now find our company with a little over one year's supply of timber ahead of us. The timber base in our area and throughout the West is now facing a constant reduction in available commercial timberlands because of withdrawals of timberland for study as Primitive, Roadless or Wilderness areas, withdrawals for travel influence zones, withdrawals for recreation use and many other administrative reasons for withdrawals.

Locally we have seen the Boise National Forest drop its allowable cut from 180 million feet to 110 million board feet in the past two years with further reductions contemplated in the future. Similar reductions have been made in the Payette and Sawtooth forests and will continue as more land is withdrawn for special usages. Not only our company but all but one company in the area find themselves suddenly with only one or at the most two years of timber ahead of them. Sawmill capacities now far exceed the allowable

timber cut in the area and many sawmills and their communities face a bleak future.

The present wilderness and primitive areas under reclassification are not the real issue. The bone of contention is the much more extensive area under study. Congress has before it hundreds of proposals for wilderness expansion. Aside from present wilderness and primitive areas, more than 80 million acres of federal land are being studied to determine wilderness potential. A wilderness experience has undeniable appeal for a comparatively small but consequential sector of society. But against this must be balanced the fact that the number of Americans who visit National Parks and National Forest outnumber wilderness users by an overwhelming majority. Idaho, with 2,932,000 acres, makes Idaho the largest contributor to the wilderness and primitive areas. Idaho's potential wilderness contribution, 5,717,000 acres, is only slightly smaller than the acreage of New Hampshire. This should be more than sufficient wilderness for even the most ardent wilderness enthusiasts.

We strongly support the B-C proposal that not all the Idaho Primitive area should be locked up for wilderness only. We agree that man cannot live by bread alone but certainly unless he has some bread for his lunch box he cannot exist on beauty and solitude alone. — E. M. STODDARD, president, sawtooth Lumber Co., Mountain Home.

New Curtis Campaign Seen Lacking in Data

Editor, The Statesman:

The Citizens Advisory Committee has started a campaign to get the so-called Curtis Road Extension started again. I feel this group, like most of the citizens and many of the officials of Boise, are sadly lacking in adequate background knowledge on present status of this project. In the past four months of involvement in this project confrontation, I have learned a great deal of the ways and means this project has evolved and the apparent spe-

challenged. The apparent feeling that everyone coming from the north side wants to go to I-80 is ridiculous. Orchard, Fairview, I-80 and numerous side streets are also points of destination for the southbound traffic.

Total compliance with Federal regulations in order to get Federal funds is the whole reason for putting a temporary halt to the proposed north-side connector. Full compliance with these regulations regarding all alternate approaches to the bench are demanded