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## *Memorandum*

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**DATE:** February 18, 1993

**TO:** John

**FROM:** Jeff

**SUBJECT:** proposal by River Odysseys West, Inc.

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ROW is proposing that as part of their walking trips down the Middle Fork that their last day(s) include an educational session for their clients at Taylor Ranch (see attached letter, brochure). I have a mixed response. On the plus side, we would disseminate information on our program, research findings, and wilderness ecology (part of WRC's objectives). We would also get some much needed monies for field station operations and students (possibly \$1000 to \$2000 per year). The proposed timing of ROW's trips (late August and early September) shouldn't interfere much with field station activities. Also, these trips might provide an opportunity for graduate research similar to Randy's.

But the minus side is significant. We'd get ourselves tied into an outfitter and the consequences could be negative, e.g. other outfitters would demand the same access, pressure for outfitter use of our airstrip, and the perception that we're catering to commercial interests rather than research and education. I'm sure you can think of many more problems. I suppose this is something we should discuss with WRC advisors. Please let me know your thoughts and whether this type of activity is something we can consider or if it's best that we stay out of it.