The University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch

and its relationship to the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness

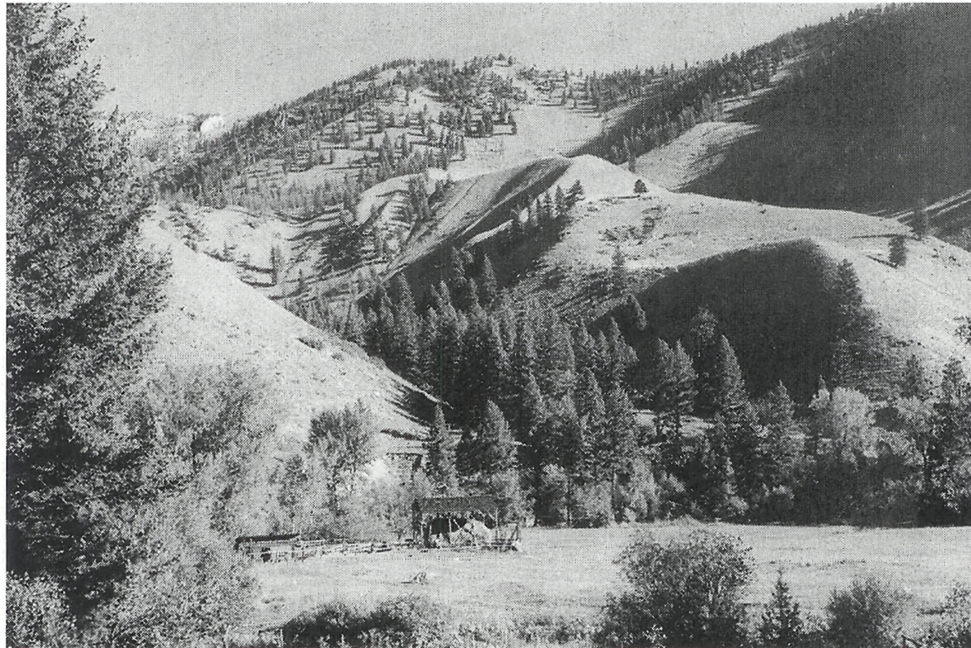

Photo credit: Dr. Ed Krumpe

AnneMarie Lankard
February 13, 1999
American Environmental History HIST 524
Swagerty and Baird

Introduction

As the twenty-first century approaches, we may find it difficult to believe that there are still parts of the United States which are not accessible by automobile or train. In fact, Taylor Ranch is one such place. Located along the Big Creek drainage in central Idaho's Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness **(Figure 1)**, the Ranch is one of several private in-holdings in the area. Situated at an elevation of 3,835 feet, the land that is now known as Taylor Ranch has had a long and continual history of human use and occupation. The land in and around Taylor Ranch was once home to aboriginal peoples, known as the Tukudeka or Sheepeater Indians, a northern band of the Shoshonis. When white settlers entered the region in the late nineteenth century to seek their fortune in gold, two hopeful miners chose the Taylor Ranch site as a homestead claim. Since that time, land use on the Ranch has evolved from a homestead, to an outfitting and guest ranch, and eventually as it exists today, a wilderness research field station for the University of Idaho. While not the most accessible spot, (a trip into Taylor Ranch involves either a flight on small aircraft or a 37 mile hike!) this area has been home to a small number of individuals - people whose stories enliven and enhance the historical review of land use in the area.

Land Use: Aboriginal Habitation

The history of human occupation in the Big Creek drainage has been documented most accurately post-white settlement, or since the beginning of the twentieth century. Many of the inhabitants of the region during this time have either written about their experience first-hand or their stories have been recorded by others: researchers, historians, or other interested parties. While there is not a lot known about those who lived in this area prior to 1900, there are a few studies that have helped to shed light on the people who called this area home.

The Sheepeater Indians: an Archaeological Study

Hartung (1978) suggests that "the first evidences of human population in the primitive area are thought to date back 8,000 years" (p. 19). These were the forefathers of the Northern Shoshoni who were living in the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century. These Indians were called "Tukudeka" which meant "the mountain-sheep eaters," and operated in small groups, usually consisting of two or three families (Carrey, 1977). Archaeologist Dr. Frank Leonhardy, operating out of Taylor Ranch, conducted a study of the Sheepeater peoples in 1983. One of the members of his crew, Robbin Johnston, discussed some of his observations with me in a recent interview.

One of the more interesting findings made by the researchers studying the Indian group in the Big Creek drainage was the discovery of year-round habitations used by the Sheepeaters. Johnston (personal communication, August 1, 1998) noted two basic housing structures. He described the first type as a "Navajo hogan-style" dwelling which measured 15 x 20 feet and was large enough to house a nuclear family. The researchers concluded that this served as the Indian's summer home. In addition, the archaeologists found deep depressions indicating the existence of pit houses. Pit houses were common among the Plateau Indians and because they were situated partially underground, they provided ample insulation for the cold winters (ibid.). The excavations of the pit house sites occurred half a mile downstream from the present-day Taylor Ranch.

Another indication that the Indians were able to live in the Big Creek drainage year-round was the discovery of stone structures that the archaeologists believed were used by the Sheepeaters to store food for the winter. The availability of food sources was also indicative that a year-round habitation was feasible for the native groups. In addition to bighorn sheep, the Indians hunted other game such as deer and elk. In the wintertime, it is assumed that the animals would come down to within 500 yards of the water, providing relatively easy hunting opportunities for the Indians.

While the presence of the housing structures located by the research team indicates that people did indeed live in the Taylor Ranch vicinity, how long they lived there is uncertain. Johnston believes these homes may have been used for only one or two years before the Indians would move to another site (ibid.). His hypothesis was based on the availability of the Indians' main food source. Because they comprised roughly 80% of the Sheepeaters' diet,

the bighorn sheep had a great impact on the Indians' use of the area. Johnston asserts that bighorn sheep live in family groups that tend to stay in isolated geographical regions (ibid.). Presumably the Indians knew that if they continued to hunt the same family group every year, they would eventually destroy their main food source. For this reason, it is believed that the Indians moved up- or downstream each year to hunt different herds. Within 10 years, the Sheepeaters may have moved 30 miles along Big Creek. Johnston believes that the excavated pit houses near Taylor Ranch may have only been home to the small band of Sheepeaters for a short time.

Other items found during the excavations indicated that these "mountain folks" did not have a lot of wealth. Every item had a functional use and there appeared to be few trade items such as beads or other coastal items. Horses were not a part of the Sheepeaters lifestyle, mainly because it may have been easier and faster for the Indians to travel in these rugged mountains by foot than on horseback. (They also would have had to feed the animals.) This evidence might indicate that in spite of the harsh terrain and cold winters, the Sheepeaters were able to establish a comfortable existence for themselves (R. Johnston, personal communication, August 1, 1998).

The Sheepeater Indians: White Settlement and the Sheepeater War

As with many native peoples of America, the Sheepeaters' way of life became threatened with the arrival of the white man into their region. As prospectors moved into the area and rumors of gold rushes spread through the latter part of the nineteenth century, white settlers moved into the Idaho Primitive Area in numbers that soon encroached upon the traditional lands of the Indian tribes. Even Indians living in remote and mountainous areas like the Big Creek drainage were not excluded from the growing conflicts. Carrey (1977) quotes Dr. Merle Wells, historian and archivist of the Idaho State Historical Society: "But after the Bannock war, not even the Sheepeaters could stay clear of trouble with the whites. Friction from beyond their borders invaded even the unexplored recesses of the Salmon River wilderness, and the Sheepeater campaign of 1879 came as the final episode in Idaho's Indian wars" (p. 107). The Sheepeater War of 1878-79 marked the first recorded intrusion and exploration of white men into the Taylor Ranch area.

It is important to note here that the Sheepeater Indians of this war campaign "were most likely not the aboriginal Shoshoni Sheepeaters" (cited in Hartung, 1978, p. 25). "The small band of Indians who eventually surrendered were a polyglot mixture of Bannock, Paiute, Shoshoni, Nez Perce and half breeds who had retreated to the mountain vastness of the Idaho Primitive Area for refuge after the Nez Perce War of 1877, the Bannock War of 1878 and the ongoing campaign by the Army to put all western Indians on reservations" (ibid.). During the war, the U.S. Army had difficulty locating the band of mountain Indians and employed the use of Umatilla scouts to find the elusive Sheepeaters. Eventually, the Army defeated the Sheepeaters and the captives were turned over to General O.O. Howard at Fort Vancouver. There do not appear to be records as to what happened to the captives after this. While the Sheepeaters never returned to the area as a group, it is believed that individuals returned to their traditional homelands on occasion to hunt and fish, among other activities (R. Johnston, personal communication, 1998).

It is interesting to note that during these early years of white settlement in the Pacific Northwest, while battles were being fought between the U.S. government and Native American tribes in an effort to establish U.S. territories and encourage homesteading by Euro-Americans, the rest of the country was beginning to hear the first chords of an environmental land ethic. It was in 1864 that George Perkins Marsh wrote and published Man and Nature, a book, which showed incredible foresight into the destructive nature of man towards his environment. "But man is everywhere a disturbing agent," stated Marsh. "Wherever he plants his foot, the harmonies of nature are turned to discords" (Marsh, 1864/1907, p. 33). While the majority of the new Americans believed they were living in a land with an endless supply of resources, Man and Nature gave an alternative and foreboding perspective. The book came at a time when the country was just beginning to think that perhaps the resources of the "new" country were not inexhaustible as originally believed. Marsh's writings were to have a great impact on the future environmentalists of the Progressive Era, most notably, John Wesley Powell and Gifford Pinchot.

It is also somewhat ironic that the very year the Sheepeater Campaign began in Idaho, Powell published his Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States that recognized the "West's unique environmental

character, advocating irrigation and conservation efforts in it, and calling for this distribution of Western lands to settlers on a democratic and environmentally realistic basis" (American Memory, 1999a). The Sheepeater campaign, like so many battles before it, had paved the way for white settlement into the remaining wild lands of the United States.

Land Use: White Settlement in Taylor Ranch

1900-1910: Gold Mining

Outside the boundaries of the present-day Ranch, momentum was building for natural resource conservation in this country. "During the mid-1890s, a new reform began to sweep the country in response to the evils and problems created by American industrialization, urbanization, and immigration. Progressives accepted the soundness of American democracy and capitalism, but they also saw the necessity of controlling the excesses created by the rapid industrialization if the American system was to continue" (American Memory, 1999a).

This national fervor was perhaps lost on the early white settlers to the Big Creek drainage. Gold mining was the impetus behind a great migration West, and Idaho was no exception to the states that saw an influx of immigrants for such purposes. The present-day Taylor Ranch site soon became home to two such hopeful miners, Elix and Billy Bull. The Bull brothers, who were also the first white residents of the Ranch, had arrived in Idaho in 1900 anxious to find their fortune in gold. Within three years, however, the Bulls abandoned the site and moved on to Thunder Mountain where they hoped to meet with better prospects. During their tenure at the Ranch, the brothers built a "sod-roofed cabin between present day Arlow's cabin and the duplex" (Akenson, 1991). Upon the brothers' departure, Taylor Ranch was unoccupied from 1902-1910.

As previously mentioned, Man and Nature greatly influenced leaders of the Progressive Era. Because this Era stressed politics of natural resource conservation through government regulation, it is perhaps not surprising that the United States Forest Service (USFS) was created during this time. In 1905, Forest Reserves were transferred to the Department of Agriculture under the new organization. Gifford Pinchot, considered the father of the "wise use" movement was named the Chief of the United States Forest Service. This same year, Taylor Ranch became part of the Payette National Forest.

1910-1918: Early Ranching

Becoming part of the National Forest system had little, if any, immediate management implications for the Taylor Ranch area. And the new designation certainly didn't seem to impact the everyday lives of the area residents. Miners were still exploring the Idaho backcountry ever hopeful about striking gold and making their fortune. About the time that the Bull brothers left their homestead at the Taylor Ranch site for Thunder Mountain, so too did other hopeful miners living in the area. The Caswell brothers were among them. They struck gold on Thunder Mountain in 1899 and sold what is now known as Cabin Creek Ranch (just seven miles upstream from Taylor Ranch) to John and Mary Conyer.

Almost one decade later (in 1910), the Conyers sold the old Caswell place (to John Routson, whose daughter Adelia Parke wrote a book about her father's life in the Idaho backcountry) and moved onto the Taylor Ranch site. They resided in the sod-roofed cabin until they were able to build a new cabin, which is now used as the field laboratory (Akenson, 1991). The Conyers spent the next eight years raising cattle to sell as beef to the nearby gold miners.

There is no record as to what these early residents of Taylor Ranch and the Big Creek drainage thought about the conservation and preservation movements going on around them. Elsewhere in the country, the infamous Hetch Hetchy Valley battle was underway with John Muir leading the cause to prevent the damming of the valley

as a reservoir for San Francisco. This campaign signaled the ideological split of the "conservation movement between advocates of preservationist conservationism (those who seek to retain natural areas in their "natural" state) and advocates of utilitarian conservationism (those who seek to manage the sustainable harvesting of natural resources for human benefit)" (American Memory, 1999b). Whereas Muir (the former) and Pinchot (the latter) had initially seemed to have similar views on conservation, the Hetch Hetchy issue forever solidified their opposite positions in the environmental movement. It should be recognized that Pinchot, however, had the ear of then President Theodore Roosevelt and thus was able to influence many of the land-use policy issues that arose during this time. While seemingly unrelated, the decisions being made by the powerful forces in Washington, DC would eventually affect the Big Creek drainage and its residents. The next era would signify this movement of the Ranch into the limelight of conservation efforts – largely due to the next owner of the Taylor Ranch site: Dave Lewis. Lewis purchased the Ranch in 1918 and the Conyers returned upstream to Cabin Creek.

1918-1935: Multiple Use – Hunting/Outfitting

Taylor Ranch changed to a combined use when Dave Lewis moved onto it in 1918. Lewis was in his seventies at the time and was quite familiar with the Big Creek drainage. A veteran of the Civil War, Lewis had also taken part in the Sheepeater Indian campaign, making him one of the first white men to enter the area. Lewis was influential in erecting a monument to the one U.S. casualty of the Sheepeater War, Harry Egen. Egen was killed near what is today the Soldier Bar landing field. In 1925, Lewis was assisted by his friend Harry Shellworth and another Big Creek rancher, Joe Elliott, in building the monument, which still stands today at Soldier Bar. The influence of Lewis in getting this monument built is illustrated in a letter written by Shellworth:

> "Sometime later I [Shellworth] was a guest in the Army-Navy Club in Washington, D.C., and was introduced to Col. W.W. Brown (retired U.S. Army) who was a second lieutenant with the army at Vinegar Hill near the old Caswell ranch. I told him of my being with Elliott and helping him put up the monument. Col. Brown said that he was instrumental in having the army send the stone as a result of a letter received from Dave. He was very pleased. He, also, told me that Uncle Dave was of great assistance in the Sheepeater campaign and should have been rewarded for his service, and asked me to say so to Dave the next time I saw him, which I did. Col. Brown said Dave was, primarily, a scout but did help with the pack-strings" (Parke, 1955, p. 44).

Lewis continued to run the cattle ranch to some degree and also did some blacksmithing. He built a blacksmith forge on the ranch and often helped out neighbors in need of that service. Adelia Parke (1954) who spent her childhood at Cabin Creek remembers Lewis well, "One of the most colorful figures it was our privilege to know in this country was "Uncle" Dave Lewis. We called him "Uncle" not because he was related to us, but because it pleased him, and it just seemed the natural term of address since we all regarded him with affection" (p. 42).

Although he spent time in livestock caretaking and blacksmithing, Lewis was primarily a hunting outfitter. Lewis was the first of the game hunters and guides in the area (Taylor to Loveland, 1971) and specialized in the bounty hunting of cougar. He had earned the nickname, "Cougar" Dave Lewis, over the years most likely due to the fact that he killed over 1,000 in his lifetime. Operating a hunting outfit in such a remote area had obvious benefits – good opportunities for successful hunting and almost guaranteed solitude – but presented some challenges as well. Parke (1954) recalls that "ranches on Big Creek, accessible only by trails for foot travel or pack string, were isolated indeed. We had no telephones at that time, or regular mail service, and rarely did we visit our neighbors for the miles that separated us were long and tedious" (pp. 30-31). Unable to drive or fly into the ranch, guests would meet Lewis at Warren, Idaho and hike into the ranch. Lewis would travel the roughly 100 miles to meet his clients and then hike back in with them. Because the journey would take at least 4 days (one-way), hunting trips would often last 30 days or more (Taylor to Loveland, 1971). Lewis' celebrity as an outfitter, as well as his "well-connected" clientele list, would lead to his association with the establishment of the Idaho Primitive Area.

As mentioned previously, the country had begun its efforts at natural resource conservation and protection. With the advent of the National Park Service Act in 1916, areas across the country were being set aside

in order to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (American Memory, 1999c). However, no land in the state of Idaho was under such consideration (and to date, there are no National Parks in the state of Idaho). That is not to imply, however, that there was not concern for environmental protection within the state. Tiefenbacher (1986) and Baird (1987) bring a relatively unknown figure to light in the history of Idaho wilderness preservation. Frederick G. Ransom, an orchard farmer on the border of Idaho and Washington (1910-1930), had the idea early on to protect the resources of central Idaho. Ransom advocated creating the Tukuarika Primitive Area (named after the Sheepeater Indians- Tukuarika is possibly a variation on Tukudeka). Although he did share his ideas with Senator Borah and then Idaho Governor H. Clarence Baldridge, Ransom was not successful in his endeavor. However, this does indicate that concerns about wilderness conservation in central Idaho were on the minds of the public as well as the Forest Service in the first few decades of the twentieth century. In fact, in 1926, the Forest Service had begun an inventory of the "lands that still exhibited primitive or wilderness character" (Tiefenbacher, 1986, p. 39). "Three were located in Idaho: the Selway area, the Sawtooth area and the Middle Fork country. Concurrently, the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation met in 1924 and 1926 to report on 'Recreation Resources on Federal Lands.' Their findings were published in 1928 and also included areas suitable for wilderness preservation. Again, three areas were located in Idaho: the Selway, the Middle Fork and the Owyhee" (ibid.).

Meanwhile, back at the Ranch, Dave Lewis was operating his outfitting business. In what is now known as the hunting expedition in which the seed was planted for the establishment of the Idaho Primitive Area, Lewis hosted a particularly powerful group in the fall of 1927. Among the members of the expedition was one of Lewis' long-time clients and good friends, Harry Shellworth. Shellworth greatly enjoyed hunting and had a particular fondness for the wilderness area of Big Creek, having made a number of trips to that area over the years. Shellworth was also an executive with the Boise Payette Lumber Company (predecessor of Boise Cascade) and had rather powerful political connections and influence. Through his association with Shellworth, Lewis found himself hosting many influential guests at the Ranch. On this fall trip, Shellworth had invited a number of men who would later become advocates for the establishment of the primitive area, including Governor Baldridge and District (later Regional) Forester Richard H. Rutledge (Baird, 1987). These men were all staunch Republicans, which surely was a factor in establishing a bond of friendship among them. Adelia Parke (1955), a woman who spent her childhood in the Big Creek wilderness and was a neighbor of Lewis' fondly remembers "Uncle" Dave Lewis as being an incredibly patriotic man. "His [Lewis'] guiding principles were the Republican Party and the American flag" (p. 44). She goes on to tell a story about Lewis where he literally threw a man out of his cabin into the desolate winter wilderness after the man threatened to "trample" the American flag.

"Writing three years later, Shellworth remembered nights during the trip: 'Many times during this trip the topic of our evening's talk around the camp fire was the question of whether or not this Middle Fork Salmon River country, or at least that portion which is the natural winter range of the game, should or should not become either a game preserve or a primitive area'" (cited in Baird, 1987).

Coincidentally, the same year as the hunting expedition (1927), Lewis managed to get an official patent on his homestead claim with help from his friends, Shellworth and Governor Baldridge. While seemingly a minor point, this homestead claim would allow Taylor Ranch to remain as a private in-holding when the land around it was designated as a primitive area. To date, Taylor Ranch is one of several private in-holdings in the area.

Within the next two years, Shellworth would be asked to counsel Senator Borah on how to respond to a letter from a constituent, Augustine Davis who wanted to know what was being done to protect the wilderness area. Shellworth advocated forming a "committee of foresters, scientists, sportsmen and politicians to consider the primitive area and potential boundaries" (Tiefenbacher, 1986, p. 41). Shellworth was asked to chair the all Republican committee which would eventually draft a proposal for the primitive area which Regional Forester Rutledge would send to the Chief of the Forest Service, R.Y. Stuart. After some modifications, the final report was signed by Stuart on March 17, 1931 and the Idaho Primitive Area was formed. Including mainly Forest Service land in the Boise, Challis, Idaho (Payette) and Salmon National Forests, it was the largest to have been established under the L-20 regulation with a final acreage of 1,087,744 (ibid.). In addition to conserving primitive conditions of the area, the Idaho Primitive Area was created "To make it possible for people

to detach themselves, at least temporarily, from the strain and turmoil of modern existence and to revert to simple types of existence in conditions of relatively unmodified nature," and "to afford unique opportunities for physical, mental and spiritual recreation or regeneration" (ibid., p. 45). "The L-20 Regulation authorized the Chief of the Forest Service to establish 'primitive areas,' defined as areas managed to maintain primitive conditions of "environment, transportation, habitation, and subsistence, with a view to conserving the value of such areas for purposes of public education and recreation" (ibid., p. 61). It is important to note that "... the primitive area proposal did not ban mining or prospecting or any other commercial enterprise which might be developed at a future time. The proposal did call for the area to be maintained in as wild and unspoiled a state as possible" (Hartung, 1978, p. 134). In spite of these attempts to protect wilderness areas, the 1930s – a decade dominated by the Great Depression - was a period in which many compromises were made on these areas to promote the economic recovery of the country. At this time, Taylor Ranch was but one of many in-holdings in the Idaho Primitive Area; however, many miners and subsequently ranchers and trappers moved out of this area during these hard economic times allowing the USFS to reclaim jurisdiction over abandoned claims and ranches.

Dave Lewis' outfitting business certainly seemed to fit within the parameters of the L-20 legislation. Lewis continued his hunting expeditions and would soon come in contact with Jess Taylor, who was hunting in the area in 1933. Taylor "saw the potential for the place as a guest ranch" (Akenson, 1991) and approached Lewis about purchasing the ranch. In the fall of 1934, Lewis, who was in his nineties at the time, decided to sell the ranch to Taylor. The selling price was $1,200 (ibid.). Months after the official sale, Lewis died from pneumonia which he contracting after getting caught in a spring storm on his way to Cascade, Idaho. In recognition of Lewis' contribution to the Big Creek area, a 9,300-ft. mountain peak was named after him, "Dave Lewis Peak."

1935-1969: Outfitting and Guest Ranch

Jess Taylor had truly taken the first step in realizing his dream of owning his own outfitting and guest ranch. And if the fact that his land was surrounded by the Idaho Primitive Area was cause for celebration, a man named Bob Marshall gave Taylor cause for even more joy. Marshall, a well-known figure in forestry and conservation, championed the cause to enlarge the primitive area and in 1937, he succeeded. An additional 145,000 acres was added to the Idaho Primitive Area. Marshall did not want to stop there, however. He put forth a great effort to include an additional 400,000 acres to the Primitive Area but died tragically at the young age of 38 before he could realize this dream.

With the new designations, one might wonder what, if any, subsequent management implications might threaten an outfitting operation. Hendee et al. (1978) assert that prior to the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, there was a "laissez-faire" attitude towards wilderness management in the Forest Service. The L-20 Regulation in 1929 and the U-Regulations which replaced it in 1939 were early attempts at managing wilderness areas. Marshall was named Chief of the Division of Recreation and Lands in the USFS in 1937 and was a driving force behind the creation of the U-Regulations (U-1, U-2, and U-3a). The U-Regulations replaced the L-20 Regulation and attempted to better classify wilderness areas by establishing three land use designations: wilderness areas, wild areas and roadless areas (Hendee et al., 1978). World War II put the reclassification of the L-20 areas on hold. After the war, there was pressure to develop an even better method of wilderness designations which eventually culminated in the formation of the Wilderness Act in 1964 (Hendee et al., 1978).

The advent of World War II put Taylor's dream on hold as well. Taylor became involved in the war effort and had to postpone plans for his guest ranch. The use of the Ranch during this time is not well documented but it was supposedly a popular stop for Forest Service and outfitting packers. This may have been due to the speculation that Tex Martin, one of the caretakers on the ranch, operated a liquor still on the land. Taylor confirmed this when he found seven hardwood barrels in a section of the creek when clearing it out (Taylor to Loveland, 1971).

Upon Taylor's return to the ranch in 1948 with his second wife, Dorothy, the couple began developing their vision for the guest ranch. They lived in wall tents while erecting two log buildings: the Taylor cabin and a duplex to house their guests. They were even able to bring a Monarch cookstove into the Ranch, which was no

small undertaking. At that time, the nearest airstrip was at Soldier Bar, a 2-1/2 mile hike from the ranch (Akenson, 1991).

Taylor felt that in order to develop his outfitting business, he would need to improve access to the ranch. For this purpose, he quickly began the construction of an airstrip for cargo and small passenger planes. "For equipment they used a big draft team, an old slip-scoop scraper, and a garden plow. The Taylors fashioned a drag device from a birch tree to help level the surface and they successfully converted a timbered, brushy flat into an airstrip, with two way approach and take off" (Akenson, 1991, p. 11). Taylor lobbied for mail service in the '50s. Up to that point, they had to hike 7 miles to Cabin Creek to get their mail. Johnson Air Service in McCall was the first mail carrier to the Ranch.

In addition to mail service, phone service also came to the Ranch in the 1950s. The reason for this requires a brief digression into the U.S. Forest Service's management philosophy in the early to mid 1900s. During this time period, fire control and prevention had become a primary management focus for the agency. One incident that seemed to direct this focus was a 1910 wildfire that swept across 3 million acres of forestland in Northern Idaho and Montana. Subsequently, the USFS became extremely aware of the need to protect timber resources from destruction by fire (J. Fazio, personal communication, February 10, 1999). So pervasive was this "fire is the enemy" philosophy that even Bob Marshall, one of the fathers of wilderness, advocated fire control for the USFS. In a 1930 essay, Marshall states, "... having discussed the benefits of the wilderness, it is now proper to ponder upon the disadvantages which uninhabited territory entails. In the first place, there is the immoderate danger that a wilderness without developments for fire protection will sooner or later go up in smoke and down in ashes" (Nash, 1990, p. 163). Marshall goes on to state that "Trails, telephone lines and lookout cabins will have to be constructed, for without such precaution most forests in the west would be gutted" (ibid.). The possibility for uncontrolled fires to cause seemingly senseless destruction of timber resources resulted in a systematic and organized effort on the part of the USFS to prevent and control forest fires (J. Fazio, personal communication, February 10, 1999).

With the Forest Service's management emphasis on fire control, there was concern over communication between the backcountry residents and the Forest Service personnel. "Phone lines connected Big Creek residents and Forest Service lookouts with each other and with the outside world through switchboards at Big Creek, Landmark, McCall, and Cascade" (Akenson, 1991, p. 12). Hendee et al. (1993) comment that "phone insulators are still visible along the Big Creek trail, but the advent of radio communication and the hassle of continual phone line repair ended the back-country phone network in the early 1960s" (p. 4). Trail work was another focus of the Forest Service. Many Big Creek residents worked for the agency, Taylor included, in building trails and bridges in the area. Many of the old swinging bridges were replaced with steel-span bridges during this time.

During their tenure, Jess and Dorothy Taylor ran a prime outfitting business out of Taylor Ranch. As Taylor (1971) described it, each outfitter in the Big Creek drainage was allotted a hunting "territory." Taylor noted that his territory, if flattened out, would be the size of Texas. He noted, however, that "if it was flattened out, it wouldn't be any fun either" (Taylor to Loveland, 1971). The Taylors spent their winters in Boise, Idaho, returning to the ranch in early spring to prepare for their guests. They hosted fishing clients in spring and summer, and hunting clients in the fall. "The Taylors ran one of the most comfortable hunting camps in the country. They developed an exclusive hunting clientele including the Mayo brothers of the Mayo Clinic" (Hartung, 1978, p.103).

While Taylor's outfitting business was seemingly not impacted by the wilderness classifications of the surrounding area, further designations were to continue for the Primitive Area. The passage of the National Wilderness Act in 1964 provided for a system of federally managed wilderness areas and the Idaho Primitive Area had to wait for legislative reclassification either as multiple land use or as a Federal Wilderness Area (Hartung, 1978). This reclassification would not occur until 1980.

At about the same time that the Wilderness Act was passed, the transition of Taylor Ranch from outfitting ranch to University research station began. In 1964, Maurice Hornocker, then a graduate student in the department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia, chose the Idaho Primitive Area as the location in which to conduct the first study ever done using radio telemetry on mountain lions. He was also under contract with the Idaho Fish and Game Department through the US Fish and Wildlife Service Cooperative Unit at the University of

Idaho. Hornocker rented the Taylor Ranch facility from Jess and Dorothy Taylor as a base out of which to operate. The research project lasted for three years during which time a pen was built along Pioneer Creek to house the captive mountain lions being studied (Akenson, 1991). During these years, Hornocker also became a part-time caretaker at the ranch. He managed the ranch during the winter months, when the Taylors returned to Boise, as well as during a few weeks in the summer when the Taylors vacationed in Alaska.

Hornocker's mountain lion study was highly visible and became the feature of a National Geographic film documentary in 1973. Hornocker (1970) concluded that "elk and deer populations were limited by the winter food supply, and that predation by lions was inconsequential in determining ultimate numbers of elk and deer" (p. 37). As a result, mountain lions were removed from the state list as a bounty animal and placed in the "big game" category. The mountain lion, which had earned "Cougar" Dave Lewis his outfitting business, was now becoming the center of the next phase for Taylor Ranch: a research field station.

By the end of the 60s, Jess Taylor was looking to sell the ranch. Hornocker (personal communication, August 5, 1998) reported that Taylor was a hard worker who demanded a lot of himself and his associates and that the outfitting business was getting to be too much for him. Taylor, unfortunately, was unable to sell the Ranch. He did, however, sell his outfitting business to Stan and Joy Potts who leased Taylor Ranch to house their hunting clientele. Taylor offered to sell the ranch to Hornocker, but the cost made the offer unfeasible for the young researcher at the time. However, Hornocker saw great potential for using Taylor Ranch as a place to conduct wilderness research. His initial vision was to establish the Ranch as a field station out of which an overall wilderness research program could be conducted. What Hornocker envisioned 30 years ago shows incredible foresight. He had a holistic approach to studying wilderness – long before the movement towards "ecosystem management" was recognized. He visualized a research program that would include studies on soils, vegetation, water quality, insect, birds... (ibid.). Hornocker cited Leopold's idea that "Wilderness is a perfect laboratory" and he saw Taylor Ranch as the ideal location in which to study wilderness. He saw the potential for Taylor Ranch to become a "Woods Hole" research facility for the University of Idaho (ibid.). [Note: When Hornocker referred to "Woods Hole," he was referring to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) in Massachusetts. The WHOI houses arguably the most prestigious group of researchers focused on one primary goal, "to be a world leader in advancing and communicating a basic understanding of the oceans and their decisive role in addressing global questions" (WHOI, 1999). What perhaps Hornocker saw for Taylor Ranch was the potential to model a program like Woods Hole that brought together the "diverse expertise of professionals in many disciplines" to create a world-renowned institution (ibid.).]

To achieve this end, Hornocker put a great deal of effort into selling his idea – both to the University of Idaho and to Jess Taylor. He spoke with Kenneth Dick, then Vice President of the University in charge of financial affairs, about purchasing the ranch. Recognizing the potential of the ranch, Dick brought the idea to then President Ernest Hartung who liked the idea and wanted to hear more about Hornocker's vision. (It is interesting to note that Hartung's son was to later write his Mater's thesis on the historical resources in the Idaho Primitive Area, a work that is cited throughout this paper.) Eventually, Hornocker was successful in his efforts and Taylor agreed to sell the ranch to the University of Idaho for research and educational purposes. In 1969, the 65-acre ranch located in the middle of the Idaho Primitive Area was sold to the University for $100,000.

1969-present: University of Idaho – Research Field Station

On the following page is a tabular representation of the history of Taylor Ranch management after its purchase by the University of Idaho **(Figure 2)**. While this history can be confusing at times, the responsibility for the Ranch usually fell to one of two people: the Dean of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences (CFWR) or the Director of the Wilderness Research Center (WRC). I have attempted to document the Deans, Directors and Managers of the Taylor Ranch in the following table. Please note that on one occasion the Dean played the dual role of Dean of the CFWR and the Director of the WRC. Taylor Ranch's transition from an outfitting site into an educational facility has taken some time in part because of this "checkerboard" of managers and thus, management style and philosophy. While Hornocker's vision guided the formation of the entity, the

vision for the Ranch and the wilderness research program and the strategy for achieving the vision seemed to change with subsequent leaders.

Please see Figure 2 on the following page.

Dean **College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences (CFWR)**	**Director** **Wilderness Research Center (WRC)**	**Supervisor/Manager of Taylor Ranch (TR)**
Dean Ernest Wohletz 1953 –1971		Taylor Ranch purchased in 1969 and Maurice Hornocker supervised the Ranch: 1969-1972
Dean John Ehrenreich 1971-1984	WRC created in 1972 and Dr. Al Erickson was hired as the first director of the WRC, 1972-1974 Dr. Floyd Newby, 1974-1975 Ken Sowles served as assistant director of the WRC, 1975-1979 Dr. Ernie Ables, (interim director) 1979-1982 Dr. Ed Krumpe, 1982-1988	Taylor Ranch was "housed" in the WRC and Dr. Al Erickson, was manager, 1972-1974 Dr. Floyd Newby, 1974-1975 Ken Sowles served as the manager of Taylor Ranch, 1975-1979. Dr. Ernie Ables, (interim director) 1979-1982 Jim & Holly Akenson, *first resident co-managers, 1982-1990
Dean Ernie Ables: acting Dean: 1984-1985	Dr. Ed Krumpe, 1982-1988	Jim & Holly Akenson, *first resident co-managers, 1982-1990
Dean John Hendee 1985-1994	Dr. Ed Krumpe, 1982-1988 Dr. Oz Garton, 1989 Dean John Hendee, 1989 – 1994 July 1, 1994 – Center director position restored to full-time and Hendee appointed as director.	Jim & Holly Akenson, *first resident co-managers, 1982-1990 Dr. Jeff Yeo, *first Ph.D. (partial-year) resident manager, 1990-1994 David Duncan, resident manager, 1994-1996 (wife, Stephanie also resided at Taylor Ranch)
Dean Chuck Hatch 1994-present	Dr. John Hendee, 1989– present	Jim & Holly Akenson, 1996-present

Figure 2: The history of the CFWR, WRC and Taylor Ranch leadership since the University of Idaho purchased the Ranch.

The transition from outfitting ranch to university research station was an evolutionary one. Hornocker was asked to manage the Ranch until the University was able to formulate plans for the facility. It was in 1972 that "the University of Idaho established the Wilderness Research Center to coordinate and focus interdisciplinary wilderness-related research by UI and cooperating organizations, including efforts at the Taylor Ranch facility" (University of Idaho, 1996, p. 2).

Hornocker agreed to chair a University-wide committee made up of a well-represented group across campus including members from the Colleges of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences; Life Sciences; Agriculture; Engineering; and Geology. Their main goal was to hire a director not just for Taylor Ranch but the whole wilderness research program. The committee hired Dr. Al Erickson from the University of Michigan. There is not much documented about Erickson's tenure as Director; however, one faculty member described him as a "square peg" who just did not fit in well with his new position and the University. Comments from other faculty members support this depiction of Erickson. Arlow Lewis (no relation to Dave Lewis) was also hired at this time as full-time caretaker at the Ranch. Lewis had worked for Stan and Joy Potts, who still operated an outfitting business out of Taylor Ranch through a lease arrangement with the University of Idaho. Lewis continued his position as caretaker until his death in the early 80s. He is remembered fondly by past directors for his hard work and dedication to the Ranch (E. Ables, personal communication, August 3, 1998). After a brief period as director, Erickson left the position and the management responsibility for the Ranch and the newly formed Wilderness Research Center was assigned to the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences.

While then Dean of the CFWR, Dr. John Ehrenreich, was not directly responsible for the Ranch at this time, he nonetheless maintained his own ideas on the strategy for the Taylor Ranch facility. One of the big concerns for the Ranch was its need to be self-sufficient. To this end, Ehrenreich felt he had an answer for the funding issue that was then, and continues to be, a major concern for the Ranch. His approach focused on developing endowments for the Ranch and he understood that building relationships with potential contributors was an important step in reaching this goal (J. Ehrenreich, personal communication, August 4, 1998). Ehrenreich attempted to establish a file of possible donors who could be recruited to contribute substantial funds for the development of a research program at the Ranch. He felt that the best way to accomplish this was to bring these individuals into Taylor Ranch and have them experience the wilderness from this unique setting. Only then, Ehrenreich felt, could they understand the importance and value in contributing to the Ranch and the Ranch's mission. Due to this, and walking an admittedly delicate line, Ehrenreich felt that flying in potential donors to Taylor Ranch was a very legitimate use of the facility. Of course, things like visits by prominent (and wealthy) figures do not go unnoticed in the wilderness backcountry and because these trips were not always supported by faculty and others, Ehrenreich frequently found himself "defending" this use of the Ranch. One influential figure whose visits caused others to take notice was then Governor of Idaho, Cecil Andrus. There are conflicting reports as to how often Andrus, and other prominent politicians such as Senator Frank Church, visited the ranch. Although I could only find one documented trip by Andrus into the Ranch (found in Akenson, 1991), Ehrenreich asserts that Andrus made numerous trips into the ranch, often with his family and friends.

Ehrenreich's management philosophy did not complement the views and style of Dr. Floyd Newby who became the Director of the WRC (and thus manager of Taylor Ranch) after Erickson's departure in 1974. Newby was also the Program Director for the newly formed Wildland Recreation Management Program - predecessor to the current Resource Recreation and Tourism Department in the CFWR. Newby held strong beliefs as to the use of the Ranch as a field station for wilderness research. He did not like the idea of using the Ranch as a place to "entertain" or "court" potential donors – the idea that Ehrenreich believed was crucial for establishing an economic base for the Ranch. A pair of graduate students in the Wildland Recreation Management program agreed with and strongly backed Newby's stance. For some time, it was a tense and contentious situation for all involved. Newby only maintained the management of Taylor Ranch for a brief period; within one year he left the position. While circumstances are unclear as to his departure, it was most likely due to this "conflict of philosophies" in managing the Ranch. Upon Newby's departure in 1975, the management of the WRC came back under the jurisdiction of the Dean's office. Regardless of the controversy surrounding his fundraising strategy, Ehrenreich was not to realize his funding goals for the Ranch during his deanship. He still believes in the endowment strategy and thinks it offers an untapped resource for funding (J. Ehrenreich, personal communication, August 4, 1998)

As previously stated, in 1975, with Newby no longer managing the Ranch, jurisdiction for the research facility came back to the Dean's office. Ehrenreich appointed his "right-hand man," Ken Sowles as the assistant director of the WRC and unofficial manager of Taylor Ranch. Sowles got the job by default - primarily because he was a backcountry pilot and could fly into the ranch at his convenience. Ehrenreich admits that early on he saw the need for the creation of a permanent, full-time position for the Taylor Ranch manager. In the meantime, he relied on Sowles to bring research projects and subsequent funding to the ranch. Consensus among faculty members indicates that Sowles really did not meet the challenges of this post. Although it had a manager in name, the Ranch (and the research program) seemed to continue through a period of having "no one" in charge.

Interestingly, it was during this period that Hornocker said he felt the administration lost a great opportunity. "At this time," reminds Hornocker, "the 'environmental wave' had not crested" (personal communication, August 5, 1998). But funding opportunities were possible, even encouraged, by some of the big contributors at the time – foundations such as The Ford Foundation and the John D. Rockefeller Foundation. Hornocker lamented that the current management of the WRC did not seem to embrace the concept of Taylor Ranch housing an all-encompassing wilderness research program with long-term research projects focused on the diverse aspects of natural resources. Ford and Rockefeller, Hornocker noted, didn't want to fund "ABC, 123" type projects. Rather, they were interested in programs that had a vision and a strategic plan for obtaining this vision. Hornocker believed that without this vision, the WRC lost out on these early funding opportunities. And without the infusion of money, the potential of the Ranch was never realized. With proper program funding, the University would have been able to attract the best researchers in the world. And of course, subsequent to these high-profile research projects, "professionals, legislators, administrators... they all would take notice of Taylor Ranch" (ibid.). "We could have had a world-class research facility in Taylor Ranch," lamented Hornocker. In his opinion, it never became the entity he had once envisioned (ibid.).

Although it was perhaps not part of a strategic research program, the Ranch did host a number of research projects during the 1970s. Graduate research projects included studies on mountain lions (Seidensticker, 1973); big game winter range conditions and utilization (Claar, 1973); aquatic biology (Buettner, 1987), and the historic resources in the Big Creek drainage (Hartung, 1978). In addition, undergraduate research projects included studies on rattlesnakes, raptors, grouse and other wildlife in the Primitive Area (Hendee et al., 1993).

Up to this point, the management of the ranch had taken a back seat to the political turmoil within the College. Ehrenreich (personal communication, August 4, 1998) indicates that during these early years, the transition from one director to the next was not a fluid one and thus, the continuity of leadership was seriously jeopardized. It seemed that future management would not prove much different.

In 1979, with no clear management direction under Sowles, Dr. Ernie Ables, then Assistant Dean of the CFWR, stepped in as interim director of the WRC and manager of Taylor Ranch. In taking over this position, Ables soon found himself embroiled in a political battle, the result of which would change the way Taylor Ranch would operate. It may be helpful to recall that Stan and Joy Potts, the hunting outfitters, were leasing the Ranch from the University as a guest facility for their clients. In 1977, the Potts sold their business to Con and Tina Hourihan who also maintained the lease on Taylor Ranch. Soon after, the University asked the couple to act as caretakers for the ranch. "You can guess what happened," commented Ables (personal communication, August 3, 1998). With the Hourihans operating as outfitters *and* caretakers of the ranch, asserted Ables, they basically "moved in on the place" (ibid.). The University soon found that hunting guests were taking the place of University business. Ables noted, "It was as if we didn't even own our own facility!" (ibid.).

In addition to the occupancy issue, the relationship between the outfitters and the University became increasingly strained after one particular hunting "incident." While never officially documented, there was speculation that one of the bobcats radio-collared by UI graduate student researcher, Gary Koehler, was killed by a hunter staying at Taylor Ranch. While this particular hunter was not a client of the Hourihans, the couple had allowed the hunting party to stay at the Ranch and some believe that the hunter gained critical details on the whereabouts of the bobcats under study. Regardless of the speculation, a bobcat had been killed, its torn radio collar buried in the snow and a trail of blood lead back to the Ranch. The tension had reached a climax.

It was time to get Taylor Ranch back on the "right track," Ables stated (personal communication, August 3, 1998). Upon the advice of the advisory committee (established by the WRC), and two University of Idaho vice presidents, Ables did not renew the lease when the contract came up for renewal. At this move, "All hell broke loose," remembers Ables (ibid.). He reported the situation became quite a political mess, with intense pressure put on him to renew the lease. Ables felt tremendous pressure and was concerned for his job. He credits Hornocker with coming to his defense and backing his position on the matter. The University administration eventually agreed with Ables and the outfitter's lease was terminated (ibid.).

It was about this time that the Idaho Primitive Area became a part of a larger Wilderness area – actually the largest contiguous Wilderness area in the lower 48 states. On July 23, 1980, the River of No Return Wilderness was created by Congress with the passage of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (P.L.96-312). This Act established the 2.3 million acre Wilderness that contained parts of six national forests: the Challis, Salmon, Nez Perce, Payette (home to Taylor Ranch) and Boise National Forests in Idaho and the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana (GORP, 1999). "Frank Church's name was added to the Wilderness in 1983, one month before his death. Church was the Idaho Senator [1956-1980] who was a key figure in the creation of the Wilderness, enactment of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the enactment of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968" (ibid., p.1). Because the airstrip at the Ranch was on private property and predated the Act, it was allowed to remain in operation. When the University wrote its first management plan for the Ranch in 1988, it specified that the only use of the airfield should be research or education-related (University of Idaho, 1988).

Increasing the number of research projects at the Ranch became a main focus for Ables and to that end, he believed, it was imperative that caretakers be hired for the ranch who were scientists by trade. Jim and Holly Akenson were subsequently hired as co-managers of the Ranch in 1982 (Hendee et al., 1993). In this same year, Ables stepped down as interim director and Dr. Ed Krumpe, professor in Wildland Recreation Management (predecessor to present-day RRT), assumed leadership of the WRC and the Ranch. Recognizing the value and potential contribution of the Akensons, Krumpe upgraded their positions from caretakers to co-managers. Krumpe and the Akensons have been credited with "turning the Ranch around" over the next few years. In addition to attracting multiple research projects, the management team at the Ranch also initiated a student internship program in 1986 that was supervised by Krumpe. The program "provided summer learning opportunities for undergraduate students who assisted on research projects and did ranch work" (Hendee et al., 1993, p. 8). The late 80s also saw a national focus settle on the Ranch. The University field station and its co-managers were the focus of a national public broadcasting documentary as well as various articles. During the latter part of 1987, Hornocker's research was featured on *Good Morning America* (ibid.).

During the 80s, numerous research projects were conducted at the Ranch. Hendee et al., (1993) note that graduate research projects included multiple year studies on forest owls (Hayward 1983, 1989; Hayward and Garton 1983, 1984, 1988; Garton, Hayward and Hayward 1989; Hayward, Hayward and Garton 1987, 1991; Hayward et al., 1987). Other studies included: bobcats (Koehler, 1987; 1989), passerines (Tank, 1983; Tank and Sidle, 1986), mountain lions (Quigley, Koehler and Hornocker, 1987), and bighorn sheep. In addition, Dr. Frank Leonhardy conducted a major archaeological study of the Sheepeater Indians (Leonhardy, 1985). In the late 80s, further studies were done on vegetation (Peek, 1988) and aquatic invertebrates.

In 1989, Dr. John Hendee left his post as Dean of the CFWR and became the director of the WRC with management responsibilities over Taylor Ranch. Krumpe was named the Chief Scientist for the WRC. The Akensons, who had been co-managers of the ranch since 1982, left their posts in 1990 to pursue other interests. Over the next 6 years, Hendee decided to try a new approach to combine the Taylor Ranch manager position with that of a professional research scientist. To this end he employed Jeff Yeo, who had a Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology, to live at the Ranch and serve as the manager approximately six-months per year and spend approximately six months at the University where he could pursue additional scientific research. During his tenure (1990 to 1993) Yeo worked on establishing biological monitoring sites and protocols, and built research ties with scientists in the Stream Ecology Center at Idaho State University who were studying the effects of wildfire on steam recovery in the Big Creek drainage. Although this split arrangement had some advantages for pursuing research, it was discovered that Taylor Ranch suffered from the lack of a full-time resident manager. Yeo recognized that the challenges and inefficiencies of

dividing his time between two such very demanding pursuits would preclude attaining excellence in either. He subsequently left his position to pursue a full-time career in wildlife research. After Yeo's departure, the management of the Ranch was eventually taken over by David Duncan who lived at the Ranch with his wife, Stephanie from 1994 until 1996.

Hendee continued to oversee the Ranch until 1996 when the University assigned responsibility for the Ranch back to the Dean's office. While Dean Chuck Hatch is responsible for the Taylor Ranch facility, Hendee still maintains leadership of the WRC. Krumpe has been given the responsibility of serving as the University liaison to coordinate the use and development of the Ranch as a research and educational facility. The Akensons returned to Taylor Ranch as resident co-managers once again in 1996. Having spent six years conducting wildlife research with the Oregon Department of Fish and Game, the Akensons have initiated research studies on the health of bighorn sheep, monitoring of the reintroduced wolf population in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe, and the competition of large predator/prey populations in the remote wilderness.

Also in 1996, the University of Idaho drafted a revised strategic plan for the WRC and the Taylor Ranch field station. This document defines a "dual focus for future WRC research: (1) Wilderness Ecosystem Research and Monitoring – including studies of all kinds of flora, fauna and physical resource studies that describe and measure wilderness conditions, processes and interactions. That is, 'Wilderness as a Land Laboratory,' in the words of Aldo Leopold (1941); and (2) Wilderness Use for Recreation, Personal Growth, Therapy and Education" (University of Idaho, 1996, p. 4).

In a recent interview, Hatch touched on a real dilemma in managing Taylor Ranch. As mentioned previously, the Ranch is one of several in-holdings in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, and it is owned by a public institution at that. He stated that in the past, the Ranch was kept isolated, perhaps out of a concern over causing too great of an impact on the natural surroundings. When asked how the Central Idaho Wilderness Act (1980) affected the management of Taylor Ranch, Ehrenreich (1998) stated that he did not feel that the establish-ment of the Act had any impacts on the management of Taylor Ranch. After all, as a private in-holding, the Ranch was not subject to the same guidelines as the surrounding wilderness. However, as a public institution whose mission for Taylor Ranch was to "provide a location, staging area and facilities to support wilderness research and education programs" (University of Idaho, 1996), the Ranch included the wilderness management objectives into its operations. Subsequent directors of the WRC and Ranch, however, had differing viewpoints on what type of guidelines the Ranch should follow to operate in the wilderness area. While past directors, such as Hendee, interpreted the Act to mean Taylor Ranch should operate within strict guidelines of the Wilderness Act, other, such as Hatch used a more utilitarian interpretation believing the Ranch should have the same privileges as any other private in-holding. Hatch asserts that keeping Taylor Ranch isolated has led to low interest in the facility as a research station. In the past, Hatch claims, rather than seeing the Ranch as a base out of which to study wilderness, the Ranch was itself seen as "wilderness," which included the definition of "where man does not remain... ". To this end, mechanical equipment was not allowed on the Ranch; rather, only hand tools were considered appropriate given the guidelines of the 1980 Act. Hatch feels it makes more sense to utilize modern tools to foster the mission of Taylor Ranch: education and research. Whatever point of view one takes on interpreting the role of the University's in-holding, the management decisions that must be made for the Ranch will never be taken lightly. The concern over the impact the University will have on the wilderness is a great one and is foremost in the minds of the Directors.

Hatch articulated his current vision for Taylor Ranch: to build a world-class biological field station for research and educational purposes (C. Hatch, personal communication, August 4, 1998). While Hatch admits that this has been the vision since its purchase, he also agreed that there has not been, to date, a systematic approach to attaining this goal. The strategy being used by the current administration will hopefully address this systematic approach. Part of the strategic plan for the Ranch involves an attempt to move away from "project-oriented" research. Instead of going to agencies and organizations for funding, the current strategy is to find a funding source that will make an investment in Taylor Ranch. Agencies and other organizations have historically funded specific projects, leaving a somewhat haphazard research program and sporadic funding opportunities. The University is currently trying to build partnerships with organizations that will help them realize the "program-oriented" research originally envisioned for the Ranch.

Hatch asserts that the Ranch provided for spectacular and unequaled opportunities in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. He explained the importance of promoting Taylor Ranch as a unique setting where scientific hypotheses could be tested that couldn't be tested anywhere else. While surrounding National Forests, such as the Clearwater and the Nez Perce, offer less expensive and more convenient settings for researchers, they do not offer the unique aspect of being part of an undisturbed Wilderness area.

Another part of the strategic approach to reaching Hornocker's "Woods Hole" vision is to attract a high caliber of researchers to the Ranch. Hatch stated that this pursuit would focus on local as well as national researchers. One tactic to address the national audience is developing a partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). A strategy first introduced by Hendee, working with the NSF would give Taylor Ranch the exposure it needs. The Foundation has three programs of special interest to Taylor Ranch. One is a Grants and Contracts Program which funds undergraduate research projects. Hatch explained that a proposal was submitted to that program in 1998 but was rejected. He was very confident that with a little fine-tuning, another proposal can be turned in this year which has a higher probability of being accepted.

In a second opportunity, the NSF also has 18 sites that are listed as Long-Term Ecological Research sites. Most of the 18 sites are within the continental United States with others in the Arctic, Antarctica and Hawaii. Hatch is working to see if the NSF can open competition to add more sites. A proposal must be submitted to add a site and Hatch feels Taylor Ranch is an ideal candidate. The University would also look to surrounding universities (such as Idaho State University) and other research organizations with which to form a partnership in becoming one of the NSF research sites. Hatch feels being listed as the nineteenth site will give the Ranch the base funding it so desperately needs as well as increase its research visibility which will hopefully attract scientists and therefore, more funding sources and subsequent research exposure.

A third approach to securing research funding from the NSF involves cooperation between the UI Department of Microbiology, Molecular Biology, and Biochemistry and Ed Krumpe to secure a grant to establish a Microbial Observatory. The Taylor Ranch would become one of a series of NSF funded environmental research sites dedicated to monitoring, sampling and characterizing the diversity and behavior of microbes and microbial communities over time and across environmental gradients of pristine systems. Professor Ron Crawford, Co-Director of the Center for Hazardous Waste Remediation Research and Director of the Institute for Molecular and Agricultural Genetic Engineering at the University of Idaho is submitting a proposal to NSF to establish a Microbial Observatory for a Wilderness Old-Growth Forest and Grassland Ecosystem at the Taylor Ranch field station (E. Krumpe, personal communication, February 9, 1999).

When Hornocker began his discussions with Jess Taylor about the possibilities for Taylor Ranch, he planted the seed for a world-class research facility. As the new millennium approaches, the Woods Hole vision for Taylor Ranch is poised to become a reality.

Conclusion

In this paper, I have sought to document a land use history for the University of Idaho's Taylor Ranch that covers a period of time primarily focused on post-white settlement (or the twentieth century). In addition, I have explored the relationship between the Ranch and the changing national environmental land ethic. This juxtaposition of the national environmental philosophies with the land use of Taylor Ranch provides one of the most interesting aspects of this paper.

From the earliest inhabitants to those of the late nineteenth century, the people who called this area home probably did not have a separate word to define such a thing as "wilderness." On the contrary, "wilderness" could not be designated as a place with boundaries or a place that held limitations for man's presence. However, by the end of the next century, as the world is poised to move into a new millennium, the Taylor Ranch area has been through a series of wilderness classifications, each one aimed at protecting the environmental well-being of the land by ridding it of human habitation.

While books such as Man and Nature identified and documented the growing environmental ideology, there is little to no documentation as to how the residents of the Big Creek drainage viewed these concepts at that time. We can only speculate that there was probably little appreciation for ideas such as, "But man is everywhere a disturbing agent" (Marsh, 1864/1907, p. 33). After all, for the inhabitants of this region, man would probably not have been considered any more a destructive force than a herd of elk or a pack of wolves.

As the national movement to encourage settlement of the western states began in the late nineteenth century, people began moving into these regions in greater and greater numbers. As civilization spread, it seems the value of those places where "humans did not remain" increased dramatically. Looking back on this progression, it became evident that the land around Taylor Ranch came to be viewed differently by the succession of people that resided there.

Initially, the land was valued as a "homeland" by the indigenous peoples of the area. After the Indian wars displaced the native inhabitants and a new group of people entered the area, the land was valued as a potential source of immediate wealth – primarily because of the mining opportunities it provided. Subsequent to this, one could assert that a number of people valued the land for its ruggedness and ability to provide for an adequate living through ranching or outfitting. As the number of wildland areas began to diminish, other qualities of this land came to be valued as well. As mentioned earlier, the famous Lewis hunting expedition of 1927 played a major role in the creation of the Idaho Primitive Area. Looking back on this trip and understanding not only the national environmental ideology of the time, but also the mindset of trip members helps to explain just how this designation came to be. In these years, the area around the Ranch was valued for beauty, its abundance of wildlife (and therefore hunting opportunities), and its ability to inspire a sense of personal attachment and meaning. It seems apparent to me that this area came to be protected in order to maintain a way of life and the decision to create the primitive area was based on a set of values held by those in the position to influence the legislature.

As time moved forward, the land around the present-day Taylor Ranch came to be valued for many of the same ideas; the value of the land seemed to increase as the remaining wild areas in our country grew smaller and smaller. The Taylor Ranch today is being touted as one of the most unique areas in which to conduct research – it being the only research facility of its kind in the US. And if "Wilderness is the perfect laboratory", as Leopold suggests, one must ask, is Taylor Ranch one of the few places left with the potential to provide such an opportunity? As the University of Idaho moves into the twenty-first century, it will face many decisions on how to manage the Taylor Ranch field station. The questions will range from the types of funding sources needed to the types of equipment appropriate for the Ranch given its wilderness location. These questions will not always be easy, nor will the answers come readily. While certainly the answers will reflect the national scope of concern over environmental protection, they will more importantly reflect the personal land ethic of the people responsible for the Ranch.

Akenson, J. (1991). A century of Taylor Ranch History. Unpubl. Mss. On file, Wilderness Research Center, University of Idaho, Moscow.

American Memory (1999a) – Library of Congress, "The Evolution of the Conservation Movement: 1850-1920". http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/cnchron1.html (February 7, 1999).

American Memory (1999b) – Library of Congress, "The Evolution of the Conservation Movement: 1850-1920". http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/cnchron6.html (February 7, 1999).

American Memory (1999c) – Library of Congress, "The Evolution of the Conservation Movement: 1850-1920".http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mdbquery.html (February 7, 1999).

Baird, D. and L. Baird. (1987) "A Campfire Vision: Establishing the Idaho Primitive Area" in Journal of the West 26 (3). 50-58pp.

Baird, D. (1993). "The Early Days of the Idaho Primitive Area" in Visions of the Future prepared for Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness symposium.

Browning, J.A., Hendee, J.C., Roggenbuck, J.W. (1988). "103 Wilderness Laws: Milestones and Management Directions in Wilderness Legislation." Bulletin Number 51. Idaho Forest Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, Moscow.

Carrey, J. and C. Conley. (1977a). The Middle Fork and the Sheepeater War. Backeddy Books. Cambridge, Idaho.

Carrey, J. and C. Conley (1977b). A Guide o the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Sheepeater War. Riggins, Idaho.

GORP – Great Outdoor Recreation Pages (1999). "Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness," http://www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/US_Wilderness_Area/id_frank.htm

Hartung, J. W. (1978). "Documentation of Historical Resources in the Idaho Primitive Area, Big Creek Drainage." M.S. Thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow.

Hendee, J., J. Yeo, V. LaSalle, and J. Akenson. (1993). The University of Idaho Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. Miscellaneous Publication Number 15 of the Idaho Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station. College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Hendee, J., G. Stankey and R. Lucas. (1978). Wilderness Management. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C..

Hornocker, M. (1970). An Analysis of Mountain Lion Predation Upon Mule Deer and Elk in the Idaho Primitive Area. The Wildlife Society. USA

Lewis, D. Papers, 1879-1984. University of Idaho, special collections. MG 190

Marsh, G.P. (1907). The Earth as Modified by Human Action: A Last Revision of "Man and Nature," 3rd ed. Charles Scribner's Sons: New York, New York. (Original work published in 1864).

Nash, R. (1990). American Environmentalism: Readings in conservation history, third edition. McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. United States of America.

Parke, Adelia. (1955). Memories of an Old Timer. Signal-American Printers. Weiser, Idaho.

Taylor, Jess as interviewed by Robert M. Loveland. August 25, August 29, 1971.

Tiefenbacher, J. P. (1986). "The Evolution of a Wilderness Boundary: History and Politics of the River of No Return." PhD Dissertation, University of Idaho, Moscow.

University of Idaho. (1988). Management Plan for the UI Wilderness Research Center and Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station.

University of Idaho. (1996). Strategic Plan and Policies for the University of Idaho Wilderness Research Center and the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station.

WHOI (1999). Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. http://www.whoi.edu/info/what-is.html (February 10, 1999).

Although personal interviews are not usually included in APA format, I thought it might be helpful to show the oral history sources that I have utilized in creating this paper.

Oral Histories

James Akenson, February and March, 1998; February, 1999
Dr. Ed Krumpe, Febrary, 1998; August 5, 1998 and February 9-12, 1999
Dr. Jim Peek (with James Akenson), February, 1998
Dr. Jim Fazio, July 31, 1998 and February 10, 1999
Robbin Johnston, August 1, 1998.
Dr. Ernie Ables, August 3, 1998
Dean Chuck Hatch, August 4, 1998
Dr. John Ehrenreich, August 4, 1998
Dr. Maurice Hornocker, August 5, 1998

Overview: Taylor Ranch Land Use Matrix

Year	Owners/ Residents	Main Use	Land Developments	Important National Events in Environmental Conservation
1933-1969	Jess and Dorothy Taylor	Outfitting and guest ranch	‣ Air strip (first plane landed in 1950). ‣ Log house-1948 ‣ Duplex to house hunting guests-1954 (both structures had indoor plumbing and concrete foundations) ‣ Added a tack shed to the ranch buildings ‣ Rebuilt both of the older cabins, adding concrete foundations, concrete chinking and metal roofs. ‣ Brought in 500 lb. Monarch stove	1935 – Wilderness Society founded by Bob Marshall 1935-40 Dust Bowl Era on Plains 1937 – Idaho Primitive Area is enlarged by 145,000 acres thanks largely to the efforts of Bob Marshall 1939 – U Regulations 1940 – US Fish and Wildlife Serive established 1941-45 US involved in WWII 1946 – Bureau of Land Management established in Interior as a consolidation of the General Land Office (1812) and Grazing Service (1934). 1949 – Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac is published posthumously calling for a "land ethic" 1955 – Clean Air Act passed 1956 – Congress to authorize dams for "recreational purposes" 1960 – Multiple-Use Act for U.S. National Forests 1962 – Rachel Carson publishes Silent Spring alerting the world to harmful effects of pesticides, especially DDT

Overview: Taylor Ranch Land Use Matrix

Year	Owners/ Residents	Main Use	Land Developments	Important National Events in Environmental Conservation
c. 1900	Bull Brothers	Mineral exploitation	‣ One small sod-roofed cabin	1905 – United States Forest Service created with Gifford Pinchot named as Chief. Forest Reserves are transferred to the Department of Agriculture 1905 - Taylor Ranch becomes part of the Payette National Forest
1910-1918	John and Mary Conyers	Small cattle operation	One larger cabin to the south of the Bull brothers' cabin ‣ Fences and a Corral ‣ Pasture hayfield	1913 – Hetch Hetchy Valley fight in Yosemite with John Muir leading the cause 1916 – National Park Service Act
1918-1935	Dave Lewis	Big game outfitting	‣ Blacksmith forge "Did not do much improving on the ranch after he patented it [1927]" (Hartung, 1978, p. 101)	1929 – Land-use regulation L-20 authorizing protection of "wilderness areas" within USNF System, the result of Arthur Carhart's recommendations for Trappers' Lake area of Colorado's San Isabel National Forest 1931 - Idaho Primitive Area is formed. Taylor Ranch included in protected area. 1920s: National Conference on Outdoor Recreation 1925 – First Appalachian Trail Conference 1929 – Stock market Crash 1930s – The Great Depression 1934 – Taylor Grazing Act opens public lands to cattle/sheep under a per animal-unit pay permit system

Overview: Taylor Ranch Land Use Matrix

Year	Owners/ Residents	Main Use	Land Developments	Important National Events in Environmental Conservation
1969-present	University of Idaho	Wilderness research station	1970-1982 ▪ Cook house ▪ Pack shed Storage shed ▪ Bunk house adjacent to the cook house 1980-1990 Mules and a string of horses were acquired National Weather Service recording station re-established Pole barn constructed to store hay for the mules and horses Conyer's cabin converted into a field laboratory ▪ 1986: the Lanham cabin at Cabin Creek was disassembled and airlifted to Taylor Ranch where it was reconstructed 1997: a micro hydroelectric generating system installed at the Ranch	1964 – Wilderness Act creates "wilderness system" 1968 – Wild and Scenic River Act passed 1968 - Edward Abbey publishes Desert Solitaire 1970 – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA creates council on Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 1970 - First Earth Day – April 22 1980 – Idaho Senator Frank Church, Governor John Evans and Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus in attendance when President Jimmy Carter signed the Central Idaho Wilderness Act establishing 2.23 million acres of wilderness in central Idaho. 1984 - Renamed the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. President Ronald Reagan signs.