

TAYLOR LOG BOOK
BY
Jim & Hally AKENSON

Taylor Log Book
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July 1997

This is the start of the Taylor Ranch log for Jim & Holly Akenson. We accepted a joint appointment as Taylor Ranch Managers for University of Idaho. We were the Taylor Ranch Managers from 1982 to 1990. We are returning to Taylor Ranch after living 7 years in LaGrande, Oregon working as wildlife biologists.

July 12-25, 1997

Jim & Dale Borum brought our driving mules Rocky, Cricket, and Daisy in to Taylor Ranch via Meyers Cove trailhead (42 miles). They met up with Jim Porter who rode in from Big Cr. and Tara Verenna and Loren Powell, student interns. They oiled & fixed up the old haying equipment. Jim mowed hay on the airstrip & main pasture. Ray Guse, Christine Hunter and I (Wolly) flew in for a week to help with haying. A few days of rain slowed the haying, so we cut firewood ~~with~~ with the crosscut and skid logs with the mules.

Everyone took turns driving the mules. We visited with ^{wildlife pros} George LaBar and Mike Scott, plus ^{Forestry Dean} Chuck Hatch, ^{UI} pres. Bob Hoover, and group who were at the ranch at the time, Wayne Minshall (ISU) & crew-in for aquatic invertebrate sampling - took the interns for a day & helped a day on hay. A memorable event for the hay crew was when Loren made us mint juleps - Jim & I looked at the "mint" and declared the drink "Catnip Julep".

July 28-29

Jim flew back into Taylor Ranch to install a ^{solar} electric fence system, as the fences are all broken down and the mules kept wandering off the ranch. Doc Johnson & son Dan were in fishing & visited with Jim.

August 15, Friday

Today is officially my first day of work for U of T. I'll be Manager full time til December when Jim & I share the position. Jim will be in LaGrande until October, finishing writing up his bear research for Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife.

I flew in with Andy Leckie, my 10 year old brother. We spent the afternoon cleaning, unpacking, and organizing the Taylor Cabin. Tara showed us how they have been blowing air into the water box inlet daily to keep water pressure in the cabins.

I am amazed at the abundance of grouse on the ranch - many large tame broods - mostly blue grouse. Some have leg bands from a past study by Kerry Reese.

August 16, Saturday

I started on the daily chores - weather, changing irrigation ditches, working the waterbox, Continued to unpack. The Taylor Cabin has several bad smells ① bathroom sewage ② basement moisture ③ kitchen sink water damage. I opened vents in the basement & left trap door open to air out.

I checked toilet & saw that it has been leaking
Tara, her friend Greg, Andy, and I played
Cribbage in the evening. Newt from Yellowpine
Bar called on the radio to welcome us back.

August 17, Sunday

Andy & I rode the mules to the Middle Fork.
We swam in the big hole above the Gorge, looked
at pictographs, and went in the cave at the
mouth of Big Cr. The smell of fall is in
the air, the ninebark is orange... it
doesn't feel like I've been gone from Big Cr.
for years. We saw a bear (1 1/2 yr old) below
Bighorn bridge eating hawthorne berries.
Tent caterpillars are on most chokecherry trees.
I was disappointed & surprised to see that
the small patch of knapweed at Goat Creek
now covers the entire flat. Dan Adams of
Taylor Rch Outfitters returned 250mg of new
Pennicillin for horses/mules. The gnats are
bad (biting) on mules. Dan said wasps are
agressive on the trail.

Rattlesnake in the trail to the waterbox.

Tomy Wright called from Running Cr to say hi.
Bob Gillihan called from Big Cr. - he & Cathy Gillihan
will come visit us this fall. Cathy is a Lanham
- lived at Cabin Creek as a child. She & Jim A.
are both working on histories of Big Creek.

August 18, Monday

Awoke to blue grouse calling outside the window. I removed the Taylor toilet & replaced the beeswax seal. The floor has rotted along the back edge from long term leaking. Expanded irrigation ditches in main pasture & dug out part of airstrip ditch with Andy, but the main ditch needs major work. Watered Taylor lawn. Tara & Greg spent the day putting the trim on the low head hydro building & staining it.

August 19, Tuesday

Cleaned the log walls in the Taylor Cabin; caulked (silicone) behind the kitchen sink as a temporary fix for the water damage behind the counter; continued airing out basement. Andy & I repaired the leaning footbridge between the cabins by jacking up the bridge and rebuilding the rock foundation. Replaced a 2x4 stringer at the lower footbridge. Andy trimmed shrubs & I piled dead brush along Pioneer Cr. bridges. Tara & Greg hauled the fire hose & pump to the west side water intake box. Tara showed us how to run the pump and we flushed out the perforated

pipe & the water line (medium pressure). Dug more irrigation spur lines. → Our water pressure did improve - this morning the pressure was too low for a shower; yesterday the water quit. We had a barbeque and cribbage tournament with Tara & Greg. It's their last night at Taylor Ranch. Tara spent most of the day cleaning Arlow's & the upper cabin.

August 20, Wednesday.

Tara, Greg and Andy flew out to Cascade. Steve of Middle Fork Aviation flew in food for TROutfitters. Dan & Jake came up to the cabin for zucchini chocolate cake then packed up their food to CabinCreek. I checked on supplies & cookware at the cabins. Continued the Taylor Cabin cleaning & unpacking. I got a new short wave - AM radio - mail order.

I put together the antenna kit & modified the existing antenna set up at the Taylor Cabin. The kit didn't include the plugin, so I still don't have reception, ~20 sheep (~14E, 4L, 2 III-III) showed up at the lick by the BigCr bridge - probably from the alpine lambing areas. Still 3 sheep (1E, 1L, 1 III) above 3rd bench.

Sushan & Andy Allen rode from Coxe to the ranch to look around. Sushan was a 1993 student intern at Taylor Ranch & did some of the grouse banding. I invited them to spend the night. We traded Taylor Ranch stories. Shut off gas to upper cabin - smells like leaking propane. I read correspondence and the Taylor log book from 1996 - 1997.

August 21 Thursday

I spent the entire day cleaning junk out of the Taylor Cabin and reorganizing. I moved a box of junky kitchen ware from the 1950's to the old lab and boxed up 3 loads of garbage-junk from the Taylor Cabin. There are many plane loads of garbage - mostly old equipment & containers - at Taylor Ranch. Fixed 2 Coleman lanterns. Organized our personal horse first aid kit & took it to the tackshed. I finally have enough water pressure to water the lawn.

August 22 Friday

Checked problem appliances at the Lanham Lab ① stove ② water heater. Read manuals.

Discovered the cooking stove has the wrong gas regulator - its for natural gas not LP (propane), so the flames are too big & soot up the pans.

Chuck Hatch's July group had problems keeping instant hot water heater pilot lit - I'll try some recommended adjustments.

I continued my multipage lists of Taylor Ranch jobs which need to be done and supplies to be purchased. Kitchenware & shop handtools & supplies are particularly lacking. Set up computer & printer to solar power system & wrote up my lists.

Troy Rohweder, a friend & past employee showed up at Taylor Ranch to see this place I had told him about years ago. He was surprised to see me here. Troy is surveying the Bighorn Crags this summer/fall for long toed salamanders and assisting on spotted frog telemetry in the Crags. He backpacked to Big Creek for his weekend off.

August 23, Saturday

Troy & I rode the mules to Cabin Creek. We watched a moose cow in the cottonwoods along Big Cr., at Cabin Creek. The meadow is flooded - beaver dams on Cabin Creek? The airstrip looked bad: ~ 3 feet deep erosion 2/3 of the length of the strip from flooding of Cow Creek. We picked a bag of transparent apples at Cabin Creek for applesauce. Bighorn group at Ram Canyon. Daily weather, irrigation.

August 24 Sunday

The water pressure dropped again - it's time for a permanent fix! The pipes sound like water is always running; the intake is sucking air - not getting enough water, altho the box is full.

Troy & I spent most of the day working on the west side water line. We replaced the tight screen on the perforated pipe with a 6" dia. screen tube sewn with wire. The pressure improved to the Taylor Cabin, but not the Duplex. The wood box around the valves in Pioneer Cr that go to the Duplex is no longer present. We found that a valve connector must have broken last spring when the line was hit by

rocks during high water. We replaced the connections and now have incredible (excessive?) pressure in all of the buildings! The sprinklers really spray now.

Checked the hot water heater in the lab - the water is scalding hot on most settings - maybe why the pilot shuts off. Troy & I adjusted the thermostat down.

We hiked to Lobauer in the evening looking for the sheep. Saw a bear in Mule Basin - running down the trail.

August 25 Monday

Moved 3 propane tanks - attached 2 ~~new~~ full ones at the Lanham Lab. Discovered a water leak in the lab in a valve under the kitchen sink - the new floor was wet. Tightened loose connections. Hauled the apartment model Hoover washing machine from the chicken coop & cleaned it up. Did laundry with Hoover, generator, and hand washer - eventually figured out a system. The Hoover is missing a drive belt for the drain. Troy returned to the Crags. I made applesauce & banana bread. MATCO flew in Tom Crawford Dean, & Ben (hydrology, soils, engineering). They →
USFS →

will administer the airstrip rebuild contract. They had coffee then hiked to Cabin Cr. to look at the site.

A bear (lg. boar) on the ^{north} west side of the Big Cr bridge along the trail; same 7 sheep above the 3rd bench.

August 26 Tuesday

Lots of odd jobs done today. Got crosscutsaws out to fly to Cascade for Jim Porter to sharpen. Reorganized the shop, so the door could be used. Replaced broken tiles on top of our wood heat stove. Scrubbed & reassembled heating shelf on Taylor cook stove. Finished removing junk from main floor of Taylor Cabin - it's starting to feel like home.

August 27, Wednesday

Mail day & FS flew out. Talked to Tom C. about possible tie in with summer students & FS restoration of Cow Cr. (at Cabin Cr). They plan to change the stream channel & revegetate with locally collected seed.

Today I had a very unpleasant job. I finally found the source of the hideous smell in the Taylor Cabin ^{bathroom} (replacing the toilet seal

didn't solve the problem). I pulled the trim from around the bathtub & elevated the tub. There were 15+ dead & decaying mice, a big mouse nest, and years? of moldy poison laced mouse droppings. The cleanup was awkward since I couldn't disconnect the sewer line with the largest pipe wrench. I burned everything & scrubbed with PineSol. Left the trim off since I hope to refinish the floor this fall.

In the evening Mica & I walked over to Rush Creek to see the blown out fish weir and look at the sagebrush flat. The trail is washed away at the weir - detoured up & around. Elk had been along Rush Cr. riparian. Saw Queenie's bone pile - she sure had bad arthritis. Played with my new shortwave-AM radio - got BBC, a Swiss Channel, + ~ 12 decent AM stations.

August 28 Thursday

Spent most of the day on the computer. Wrote up the purchase list & jobs list & possible research & education programs. Played with both printers til I got a good printout with my personal computer. Haven't tried the Taylor Ranch computer yet. Computer

printer were both hooked to solar power — worked great.

The yard is greening up from daily watering. Changed pasture irrigation. Checked buildings again for purchases, maintenance needs, and to list amount of kitchenware & furniture per building. Mainly we need cookware and tools. Arlow's bathroom needs professional help/evaluation — it doesn't look good.

Jim is signing me up for a Field Stations Conference in Sept. That will be an enjoyable change from the endless maintenance. I haven't seen the bighorns for several days. The mules are adapting to having the run of the ranch, but they slip thru the fence somewhere at the end of the airstrip & graze the sagebrush flat & hill above the strip. Pulled 10 Knapweed plants at W end of airstrip.

August 29, measured for curtains & stovepipe. Small jobs — checked cookhouse supplies/furnishings & discovered there is at least one extra kitchen counter which could be moved to the Lanham Lab kitchen. Sharpened a hatchet & made a little kindling. Worked on computer. Mica's tired of the days spent mostly indoors. Read the 1991-1992 journals this evening — fun to read.

August 30 Saturday

I spent most of the morning working on my Hells Canyon Peregrine Falcon Plan - a Forest Service contract. Tim Hull from South Fork Ranch called on the radio to say hello. Talked to Jim. I read the feasibility study for Electric Power Generation at Taylor Ranch - on construction & maintenance of the low head hydro system being installed this fall. Sent a letter requesting a new catalog from Backwoods Cabin Electric Systems in Sandpoint. Trimmed mule manes & fly wiped. They are ready for new shoes soon. Fished across from Rush Cr - mostly tried to keep Mica from swimming in my fishing spots. The knapweed patch by the big rocks has expanded. In 1988 it covered ~75 square feet. Jim & I and interns Stewart, Tami, and Sarah pulled all that we could find. It now covers 500 square feet in 3 patches & some single plants. I found an old aluminum FS sign in the bushes: BIG CREEK TRAIL
 5 CABIN CREEK LANDING FIELD →, 18 MOUTH CROOKED CREEK →,
 32 BIG CREEK RANGER STATION →, ← SOLDIER BAR LANDING
 FIELD 4, ← MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER 9,
 13 Sheep above 3rd bench (8E, 3L, I, II, III)

Aug 31
Sunday

Mica (golden retriever), Cricket (mule), and I (Holly) did a big expedition up & over Horse Mtn. We went up Cliff Cr then to Con's old Cliff Cr. camp, bushwacked to the N side of Horse Mtn, then down Spring Cr trail to Cabin Creek → Big Creek & Home. A long day in & out of the saddle. The trails are much less used than they were in the 1980's, partly due to the burns (Cliff Cr.), a major washout in the Spring Cr trail, and change in outfitter base camps. On top of the Cliff Cr face - Cougar Cr side I was surprised to see the dominant ceanothus (shiny leaf) and willow growth with Ponderosa pine seedlings in a previously Douglas fir - ninebark plant community. More details in the "1997 wildlife sightings diary". Con's outfitter camp in Cliff Cr was burned in the 1988 fire & doesn't look like it's had much use lately - altho Dan & Jake had cut out part of the Horse Mtn side of the "trail". I pulled 200+ spotted knapweed plants at the camp - all I could find. Bumped into a nice bull moose feeding in Cliff Creek. Cricket enjoyed picking the route thru downed trees in the burn. Mica

Kept us on course by tracking the outfitter stock. Spring Cr trail was dangerous for stock (leg breaking holes) & I won't use it again. We had a close encounter with a young bull moose at Cabin Creek in the spring/wallows along the main trail. He posed in the meadow, unconcerned; too bad I didn't have a camera! I still haven't seen any salmon redds in Big Creek. Bob Weisner, visiting Tony W. at Running Cr called on the radio to say hi. It's nice to be in contact with old friends. Picked 8 knapweed plants at Lobaur Basin - seedheads starting to mature.

Sept 1
Monday Wrote up & mailed monthly NWS weather summary. I planned to take the day off - Labor Day, so I could work on my Peregrine Falcon contract. But... one small task led to the next - Laundry including Taylor Ranch linen, full cabin floor mopping, installed a replacement gas light in the kitchen (the old one Jim & I put in in 1984 & it was well worn, but still a decent spare), cleaned ashes from both stoves, cleaned both chimneys, cleaned leaves out of plugged gutter, hosed porches, did yardwork, and the day was over. Oh, RC brought 2 propane & 20 gal. gasoline. Mica & I played with her retriever dummy launcher.

Sept 2
Tuesday

I wanted to download the meteorological station monthly data today. I read the datalogger software manual, & storage module manual. I fired up the IBM PS/2 laptop computer and after many tries finally got into the "SMCOM" program on a diskette. I didn't have time to hike to the lower pasture to retrieve the "storage module" - I'll do it next week. Spend the evening working on my Peregrine Falcon Plan. I should be done this week - only minor edits left. I can't believe how bright the new kitchen light is - I could work on my computer in the kitchen after dark - a first. Took the 2 chainsaws + weed eater to fuel shed to fly out for service.

Sept. 3
Wednesday

Entry being made by Clyde Smith and Glen Ward - Both retirees of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. We are friends of Jim & Holly Atkinson. We were flown in to the Ranch this morning by Arnold's Flying Service of Cascade - A good flight! We are to be caretakers of the ranch for a week while Holly goes home to LaGrande, OR. Holly gave us a quick orientation of the station and a list of

instructions & things to do and see. We are very impressed with the station — buildings are well kept and supplied. It seems to be an ideal setup for a remote research station.

Sept. 4, Thursday — Beautiful morning — Clear.

There was a little ground fog on the runway early this morning, but it burned off before 8:00 A.M. —

About 9:30 A.M. a low flying helicopter went by flying up Big Creek. Possibly they were doing a salmon Redd Count. Glen and I fixed the yard gate so it latches. We replaced a

screen in one of the duplex screen doors.

Ed Krumpe and a Computer expert were flown in by a pilot from Moscow. They arrived about 1 P.M. and left about 6:00 P.M. — They were checking for feasibility of putting a base station in here for a satellite phone. They found there to be a good strong signal. Ed Krumpe was very pleased with the finding.

Glen and I put fly spray on mules and then moved irrigation water and dug some more laterals in the pasture. We then put in a new screen in one of the screen doors of upper cabin. While Ed Krumpe was here, a young bear 100 lb. + — came down to the

Weather station. The mules walked up to investigate and the bear trotted off. There were 13 big horn sheep across ~~Big~~ creek and on east side of Cliffs Creek - 9 ♀, 2 ♂ & 2 small Rams.

Sept. 5 - Friday - mild temp. in the morning - warm and Sultry in afternoon - Three elk - 2 cows & 1 calf - on third bench across big creek. We took the three mules and rode to USFS cabins on Cabin Creek. Yellow transparent apples overripe - lots of them on the ground - was surprised the bear have not eaten them. We saw a cow moose and calf in bottom near the mouth of Cabin Creek. Showed no fear of us. Observed 13 Bighorn down Big Creek about a mile below Cabin Creek - 2 lambs, 9 Ewes & 2 small Rams - two even had collars. Got back to Ranch about 7:00. Hot & Sultry.

Sept 6 Saturday - WARM this morning - we had a thunder shower last night before midnight. Just a trace in the rain gauge this A.M. When we took the temperatures to call in, the maximum thermometer indicated it got

To 97° yesterday. Hard to believe: We knew it was WARM, but didn't think it was that WARM. We spent considerable time today cleaning the irrigation ditches and make additional laterals in an effort to get water on some dry areas. We put new screen in two screen doors in upper cabin. Has all new screen in doors now. We put new screen in one screen door in duplex. We set rat traps around several cabins — No rats caught — caught one mouse. Only game observed today was one doe deer above the Taylor cabin.

Sept-7 Sunday. Clean this morning. Temperature up to 84° yesterday. Jim called from La Grande this A.M. via patched phone — Radio. Told him everything going OK. We are running 7 Rat TRAPS in and around cabins. Have caught two mice — no rats. There is definite fresh Rat sign at upper cabin. We spend time moving irrigation water. We seem to be getting water on some of the drier spots. We intended to walk up Rush creek, but after fighting brush in the bottom a couple of hours, we turned back. Wish I had ask Jim about the trail. We cleaned and put Lexol on the hobbles. Put fly repellent on mules — we fished for an hour or so.

Glen caught and released a Rb $\frac{1}{2}$ Cutthroat.
Too windy for a decent cast. No game
observed today on slope across Big Creek.

Sept 8 - Monday -

The day dawned with a partial, high thin
cloudiness. That cleared soon. Glen did
a little irrigation switching on upper
pasture. The rat traps did not produce
a rat. We know there is one active
on the back porch of the upper cabin.
We took three mules and rode to the
middle fork of Salmon River. The only
game observed going down was one
Chukar Partridge and several grouse.
Coming back, just $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below Cliff Creek,
there were 8 Big horns - 6 ewes, 1 lamb &
1 Ram. When we got back to the ranch,
there was an airplane tied down near the
tack shed. A sack of fresh pears left on
the door step of Taylor Cabin indicated
Pat Armstrong, Cabin Creek Contractor
came in by plane. He apparently went on
to Cabin Creek. Received a message from
Arnold Aviation that two people from Id.
Fish and Game will arrive here tomorrow

Morning. Six Big horns grazed on hillside above the 2nd bench in evening.

Sept. 9 - Tuesday

Still Warm Weather - Clear this morning - a rain is badly needed. Checked Rat traps - one at upper Cabin (outside) was sprung - think traps too small to hold a rat. Changed some pasture water settings. A Fish & game employe (Toby?) was flown in by Arnold's Aviation about 10:30. The plane came in from the east and unloaded Toby and equipment at upper end of Runway. He is with Fish Research and was sent in to cut up and dismantle the weir on Rush Creek. He said two other men were to accompany him but they called in sick. We took Rocky and packed some of his gear in. The first trip went fine. The second trip a slick air mattress on top slipped out and over Rocky's hump - He said, "That's it!" and jumped ahead a few yards. Toby's groceries came out of a cooler - 12 eggs suddenly became 7 whole & 5 scrambled. We reloaded more securely and all went well. Toby's boss said he should be able to dismantle it enough in two days to be flown out. We'd be surprised if he can do it alone in a week or two.

About 3:30 a pack string went down the creek. I presume they are hunters & not an outfitter. Had a white pack mule in their string.

Tomorrow Glen & I (Clyde) fly out and Holly returns. We have certainly enjoyed our stay here. We are amazed at how much work the managers have to keep this place in Tip-Top shape and functional to serve its purpose. Good Luck, Holly & Jim!

Sept 10

I, Holly, flew in with a full load of Taylor Ranch purchases & laundry, my pots & pan & pictures & houseplants, Mica & 2 cats Yap & Maui. I spent the week in LaGrande working on my wildlife contracts with Forest Service, preparing for our final move to Taylor Ranch next month, and doing Taylor Ranch purchases, repairs and phone calls. Got propane mantles etc in McCall (Amerigas) & learned the lab stove problem can be fixed by inverting the valve in the stove regulator. Bought bedding & shower curtains, tools & supplies. Dick Bottger & I discussed the "Projects" and "Purchases" lists. I decided not to attend the Organization of Biological Field Stations meeting, since I already have so much to do here + settling in during hunting season. — maybe next year. Ed^K called from the ranch to LaGrande on the portable satellite phone — it worked fine. He'll get the bid request sent out on a phone for Taylor Ranch.

* KNAPWEED ALERT *

I learned that pulling knapweed with bare hands can cause cancer in the tendon sheaths of fingers if the skin is broken. This info came from Jerry Niehoff, a soil scientist from the Idaho Panhandle N. Forest who had 2 fingers removed for cancer caused by knapweed pulling! A copy of his incident will be filed in the Taylor Ranch "first aid" file. No more knapweed pulling without gloves!

I spent the evening unpacking. Mica chased a large bear out of the orchard. The apples are almost ripe - perfect timing. Russ Thurow IDF&G + another + Jim Pope, pilot are doing helicopter - salmon redd counts on Big Cr & trips. They stopped to say hi & check the status (empty) of gas barrels at Taylor Ranch. Jim ^{told us to} use the old av-gas for generator/saws, ~ 10 gallons.

Sept 11 We had .52" rain last night - good for green up on the hillsides & at the ranch. I discovered the Taylor Cabin roof leaks where screws for the solar panels had been put in the depressions on the aluminum roofing. Water ran into the attic, behind the aluminum kitchen

cupboard backing, dripped onto the window ledge then seeped behind the sink. Maybe that is the source of the bad (metallic / chemical) smell in the under sink cabinet. I also found that the sediment trap / filter under the lab is leaking. I fixed the Duplex toilets — adjusted ball in 1 toilet & replaced valve assembly & ball in the other to stop constant overflow in tank drains. Changed stove regulator in lab, but the flames are still too high & fluctuate as other burners are turned on.

Regulator needs to be replaced. Put new shower curtains in Lab & Duplex. Checked Lab & Old Dave Lewis Cabin for mouse holes in foundations & attics. Saw a young bear at Rush Cr. mouth when I went to get Toby for a phone call. Pat Armstrong, F.S. Airstrip contractor hiked from Cabin Cr. to fly his plane out from Taylor, but it was raining hard & fogged in when he got here. We pooled food, had dinner together (Pat, Toby, Holly), visited all evening, & Pat & Toby spent the night in the Duplex.

The IDF & G helicopter redd survey crew stopped here, but left before I got to the airstrip.

An osprey was perched along Big Cr across from Rush Cr then flew up Big Cr — a rare sighting on Big Cr.

Sept 12
Friday

I cooked my first "Dutch Baby" in the big frying pan since I've been back to Taylor. The Dutch Baby has always been our standard breakfast at Taylor Ranch for company. It was foggy in AM so we (all 3) saddled 2 pack mules & a riding mule & took down & packed Toby's camp from Rush Cr to the airstrip. We also brought back Taylor Ranch shovels & pry bars which had been left at the weir long ago. After lunch I planned to silicone the roof leak in the Taylor Cabin, but it turned out like the old song, "There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza". I never did get the roof patched, but found & fixed several other problems 1st - burned boxes & debris from the attic, tried to fix the loose bung in the gas drum, found that the solar panel support was broken, cleaned needles & pinecones from under solar panels. Then it started raining again & I couldn't drill the new support bar, install it, and remove the old screws that were causing the leak! Toby flew out w/ Arnolds & Doug Nemith - his supervisor. Pat flew his plane out. Ray Arnold flew in a prescription for me + gear on a back haul. I had sent out a urine sample in a jam jar this

morning, so I could get antibiotics. The Arnolds really come through on emergency issues like urinary tract infections. The medicine was much appreciated, Carol had even called my Dr. in LaGrande for me. I had my first fire in the woodstove tonight - the cookstove. We've had over 1" of rain in the last 3 days & no more 95° temps. - it's suddenly Fall. I shut off the upper pasture irrigation & got the east side waterbox filling again for water to the old cabin. Dean Martens, ^{Payette}~~Arassal~~^{N For.} soil scientist sent in some local histories done by the Forest Service.

Sept 13
Saturday

A quiet day. I spent the afternoon & evening on my Hells Canyon Peregrine plan. I haven't seen the sheep on the benches for days. No bears around either, altho the apples (Romes) are almost ready to pick. Mica did some water retrieving, then we looked for salmon redds by Rush Cr - none seen. The gabion wall & barbs have changed Big Cr stream flow somewhat - a deeper channel along the gabions, but no more erosion. I noticed a lot of browsed willows on the gravel bar along the airstrip.

Sept 14
 Sunday Worked on my peregrine plan in the morning. Trimmed & piled brush from around the Taylor Cabin. Checked the Taylor basement for mouse holes along the foundation - only a few. I plugged them with steel wool. Not much mouse activity downstairs, but the attic fiberglass insulation has been ruined by mouse nests & tunnelling. The cats spent last night in the attic - very willingly. Read "The Journal of Wilderness." Noticed more wood boring insect activity in the Taylor, Duplex, Arlow, & old Dave Lewis Cabins. Cleared orifices in Taylor Cabin gas lights, but they still are not as bright as they should be. Finished scrubbing the log walls in the kitchen & front room. I was interested to read in past Taylor Log entries that several other women felt the need to clean the logs as part of establishing a home - must be a female thing! I noticed ant activity in the wall between cookstove & bathroom - no live ants, but this is the same wall with ants 10 years ago.

I walked out on the porch to feed the cat and saw a yearling bear sitting in the yard eating berries from the Mtn. ash tree. Mica & I watched it for awhile then I shoed it away twice before it wandered up past the orchard - no fear, but not aggressive.

Sept 15
Monday

Wrote a letter to Dick Bottger - receipts, purchases, Carley trip, user fees, exterminator. I rebuilt one of the solar panel supports at the Taylor Cabin. Removed all solar supports at Taylor C., siliconed screw holes & replaced supports on roof. Reangled panels, $\sim 60^\circ$ for winter sun angle. Hammered down loose nails on roof & replaced as needed, caulked a few cracks in tin. Roof should be waterproof now. Still changing pasture irrigation daily. Worked on my peregrine plan on my computer in the evening.

Sept 16
Tuesday

Wrote a letter to Chuck Hatch - Carley trip. Cleaned bathrooms @ Lanham Lab + new shower curtains. Turned on gas to Lab refrigerator & installed new gas light mantles. Adjusted Lab hot water heater temp. up - it still comes out scalding hot at first, but both sinks run hot water. Tried to print out letters, but StarJet printer was uncooperative. Worked on peregrine plan in the afternoon. Fired up the wood heat store tonight - wow, 80° with a small fire!

Wednesday
 Sept 17 I read the printer manual again & tinkered with the printer. Reverse adjustment doesn't work, but it did print the letters & envelopes — just as the mail plane circled overhead. Rod flew in Forest Service: Andy Anderson, backcountry airstrips spec. & and Bob St. Marie. R-4 aviation coordinator. They will come back next week to hike to Cabin Cr. to ok the strip for use by Pat Armstrong, contractor. The airstrip rebuild project has a 60 day "stop work order" due to an injunction filed by Wilderness Watch? That will put Pat out of work until Spring. I took the wall tent down & swept out storage building & burned boxes & styrofoam cooler. ^{pkged up} Shoed Cricket. Read up on my Valic retirement plan and Backwoods Solar Electric Catalog — a good mail day haul. Rod & group came up for coffee & cookies after a look at the low head hydro system. Fly sprayed mules.

Thursday
 Sept 18 Tidied up the Lanham Lab. Cleaned out both lab woodstoves, adjusted handles. Put steel wool in cracks around each roof support at Taylor Cabin for mouseproofing. Boxed up more garbage to fly out. Black bear behind L. Lab. I had seen where it rolled boulders off a yellowjacket nest.

Ed Krumpe, Jim Peterson (ag engineering), and Ben Seitz (ag eng. student) flew in w/ Doug Godwa - Interstate Av. in the evening to work on the low head hydro system construction. We had a good discussion about what the system can/will do & how it will tie into our existing power use.

Friday
Sept 19

Ed, Jim, & Ben spent the day finishing the 4" waterline ditch between the orchard and hydro shed, installed some of the panels in the shed, and put together pipe fittings. We had to have Arnolds get a fitting in McCall & fly it in - shared flight expense. I cut up the big log in the orchard for firewood - the one the mules skidded down in July. Its good cookstove wood. Measured for curtains & cabinets. Odd jobs & helped with hydro project. We had dinner together & talked more about the hydro system & its maintenance. Wrote letters to the Krassel R. Distr USFS to Clem Pope & Mike McMannon.

Saturday
Sept 20

Cleaned Lab chimneys, split firewood / kindling, mowed ^{Taylor} lawn, replaced axe handle & sharpened axes & hatchets, hauled propane to Taylor Cabin. Sent receipts to D. Böttger.

Ed & crew dug more waterline ditch, installed pipe & generator - hard work in rocky soil. We all had breakfast & dinner together.

Sept 21
Sunday We all finished the ditch & pipe just before the plane came in. Put water into the line & Ben turned on the nozzles, but there wasn't enough water volume to keep the hydro running. We will need more 4" pipe through the orchard. The battery bank (24v) works great with the inverter - AC power to a light & sabre saw.

John Sidensticker (PhD on Mt Lions at Taylor Ranch 1970-1972) flew in to see the ranch. We did the tour, talked about projects, he told us some stories, I encouraged him to come back & work on a research project (as did ~~the~~ Dean Hatch in Moscow). John is the large mammal museum curator for the Smithsonian.

I replaced gasket on Lab water filter; cleaned out & adjusted 2 toilet tank valves; turned down cold water pressure in lab sinks to improve hot water heater performance - it's still overly sensitive - scalding or cold!
Bear by the lab; 14 bighorns (~ 11E, 2L, 1I) below 1B

Sept 22
Monday

Larry Holt & Mary Messer of National Weather Service flew in with Gene Mussler of Sawtooth Flying Svc. to check the weather station. Larry replaced the minimum thermometer & gave me spare min & max thermometers, also new rain measurer and snow depth measurer. We had coffee & cookies. Don Pape, pilot, flew in to check out the airstrip. He will be flying the John Carley group in tomorrow.

I had planned to catch up on a day off today, but it didn't happen. I cleaned up the hydro site & shop, put away tools. Fixed a section of broken down fence the mules had escaped through. I started to do laundry, til the Hoover apartment model had a loose belt. Upon further inspection it looks like several parts will need to be replaced or this 1970's model flown out.

It draws 1200 watts of power vs the new full sized energy efficient models @ 200 watts! Trimmed shrubs around Taylor Cabin roof to prevent woodrats from running around on the roof like they have lately. Made banana bread for all of the visitors I'm expecting tomorrow. This is not "remote wilderness"!

Sept 23
Tuesday

Larry Jindrich DCO and Matt McConnell Yellowpine CO for Idaho Fish & Game flew in for the day - hiked to Cave Cr to investigate a poached cow moose. Jim (Akenson) talked to them about helping with enforcement. John Carley, past pres. of Albertson's and Don Pape, pilot flew in. I gave them the grand tour of the ranch. Don gave us a copy of Emma & Lafe Cox' new book "Idaho Mountains, Our Home". Jim Akenson, husband and Robin West our friend from Alaska brought our horse Bo & mule Penny in to the ranch from Big Cr.

Last night a bear pulled all of my laundry off the clothes line and rolled on it. I washed it again, plus other laundry. While I was at the tack shed with Jim the bear rolled on the laundry once more. I washed it a third time then the bear returned to the yard to sniff the washing machine. I picked the 3 Rome apple trees - the bear had been in the tree in our yard last night.

Restored pressure to Dave Lewis cabin water line by draining valve in Arlows basement after blowing on pipe @ intake. Turned on gas appliances for IDF&G.

Sept 24
Wednesday

Today was a very busy day for air traffic. First the Forest Service flew in - Tom Crawford & Jenny Blake head Wilderness Ranger & Andy Anderson. They hiked to Cabin Cr to check the airstrip for use by Pat Armstrong & collect native shrub seeds for revegetation. Pat Armstrong flew in & hiked to Cabin Cr to pack back his camp, since he won't do any more work on the strip this fall with the injunction - stop^{work} order. Fish & Game weir removal crew flew in - Toby & Mark. They are staying in the old cabin. My friend Tara Wertz flew in on the mail plane - we thought she could keep me company at this "remote" site by myself. Suddenly it's a very social place. Bill Messer, the state safety inspector also flew in on the mail plane & spent the day checking the facilities. He didn't find any major discrepancies but said we needed landings on the lab door ways & more ventilation in the hydro shed.

Tom & Jenny spent the night here & so did Pat.

Jim & I shod Rocky & Daisy + doctored Penny's cut chin. The bear returned to our yard to sit several times - we treed it in the yard & made it stay up in the tree to discourage it from coming back.

Sept 25
Thursday

Tom & Jenny measured & photographed our water intakes on Pioneer Cr. for the Forest Service. Jim, Holly, Tara, Robin and the mule team spent the day skidding firewood logs down Pioneer Cr, cutting, splitting, and packing it with the cart to our woodshed. We handled about a cord of wood. The bear was in the pear tree in the yard when we got up in the morning. We got 4 propane tanks + my rocking chair from Cascade.

Sept 26
Friday

Packed the rest of the wood with cart & wagon & trimmed brush around Taylor Cabin - Tara W., Holly, Robin, & Jim. Jim & Robin flew out in PM to Big Cr. Holly & Tara rode Bo & Cricket to the Gorge - 1 rattlesnake @ Goat Cr. The bear walked behind the house in the morning.

Sept 27
Saturday

Five marketing students from the loft I business school flew in: Ben, Lisa, Chris, Mitch, Breyer. I showed them the facilities & we talked for several hours about educational classes at Taylor Ranch - marketing & types of courses. They will write & present to Hatch & Campbell a marketing plan for ① undergrad classes ② continuing ed at

(Prof. Duane Gremler, Marketing)

Taylor Ranch as part of their class assignment. They went hiking in the PM. My friend Tara spent all day trimming shrubs at the head of the airstrip for airplane safety. They had not been pruned for 7 years - when we were last here in 1990! We removed the barbwire fence at the head of the airstrip, too. Tara finished cutting out lilac suckers behind the cabin which were obstructing light to the kitchen windows and the solar panels. The bear returned to the orchard $\frac{1}{2}$ around buildings several times today. He's getting bolder $\frac{1}{2}$ hard to scare very far away. I mostly finished picking pears $\frac{1}{2}$ apples from the trees - what was left after bear feeding. This bear should leave soon, since our food source is almost gone. Tara saw the osprey get a 14" fish from Big Cr and fly up (E) the airstrip with it. George Dorris flew his Islander in to pick up a load of weir metal. Toby $\frac{1}{2}$ Mark had cut up for IDF $\frac{1}{2}$ G. The Islander barely cleared the fence jack at the head of the airstrip when turning $\frac{1}{2}$ hit brush on the left side with a wing. Impressive to watch on this airstrip!

Sept 28
Sunday

Toby & I cleared the brush on **S** side of airstrip for the Islander + moved the fencejack. George Dorris got a second load of scrap metal from the fish weir & flew it out for IOF & G. Tara cut out the old Tams - juniper shrubs in front of the Taylor Cabin. I met with marketing students in the morning for more discussions. They flew out late afternoon with MATCO - Rod & Gene. We got in the last of the 4" water line pipe. Tara & I rode mules up the Cliff Cr trail late afternoon then had a barbeque with Toby & Mark. The bear was the first "guest" at the B-B-a pit. Toby & Mark got pictures, then chased him off.

Sept 29
Monday

Took today off - mostly. Toby & Mark flew out with Arnolds - RC. Tara & I trimmed out more brush below the Taylor cabin in the morning. We rode up to Cabin Cr in the afternoon & packed salt & molasses to Steve Zettle's base camp. Met Lance & Hailey on the trail - they were packing hunters & gear to Soldier Bar. Saw 11 bighorns (7E, 3L, 1YR) at Lobaur Basin.

Sept 30
Tuesday

Tara & I spent all day pruning syringa and removing the rest of the brush from the rock terraces below the Taylor Cabin. It looks good! And a good view of the airstrip & bridge across Big Creek. Still doctoring Penny's cut chin from her trip in to Taylor Ranch. Mica & Teka retrieved in Big Cr. Saw 11 bighorns (8E, 1L, 2II) above the third bench. The bear is still here - eating mountain ash.

October 1
Wednesday

Tara & I drained the Cookhouse waterline and winterized the pipes - antifreeze. Put a gallon of distilled water in 10 batteries for hydro and solar system. Put the new stove regulator in the Magic Chef range in the lab - it didn't significantly improve flames. Replaced main regulator for lab gas line - still not much improvement. Repaired 1 copper tubing kink, 1 remaining. No change. I had to take apart Arlow's + Cookhouse regulators to scab together the set up for Lab since there are no gas line parts on hand at Taylor Ranch! A lot of extra work. The bighorns (11) came off the 1st bench to lower pasture just as the plane arrived for Tara. We missed our best opportunity to watch bighorns up close. Radio reception poor all day.

Oct 2
Thursday Ed Krumpke & 3 students Chris, Bart, & Dennis flew in to extend the waterline ditch through the orchard for the 4" pipe. Doug Gadwa landed East to West due to swirling winds - he was happy to see the barbwire fence and brush had been removed from the head of the airstrip - the mules ran with the plane & almost got "haircuts". I wrote a letter to Sue Reisenauer, CFWR Accting. Wrote a list of caretaker duties + a letter for Troy Rohweder - Caretaker for next week. Printed out my purchase lists & got ready to leave for 10 days. Checked water boxes. Ed & crew started on ditches.

Oct 3
Friday I, Holly, flew out today. Ed's in charge. ED - HOLLY FORGOT TO MENTION THAT AT 8:00 AM ALL 4 MULES JUMPED THE FENCE BY THE LEWIS CABIN AND RAN UP THE RIDGE TO THE EAST OF THE NEW LAB. HOLLY & DENNIS & I FOUND THEM AT THE TOP OF THE RIDGE AND HOLLY & ED USED THEIR BELTS FOR "HALTERS." ED LOST HIS SUPER LEATHERMAN KNIFE BUT WENT BACK AND FOUND IT IN THE AFTERNOON. WE STRUNG MORE ELECTRIC FENCE (POLY CORD WIRE) ALL THE WAY AROUND TO THE LAB GATE. THAT OUGHT TO HOLD 'EM! CHRIS HOFFMAN, DENNIS BECKER (MS + PHD RRT STUDENTS) AND BART DEARBURN (MGR OF WAWAWAI PARK IN WHITMAN COUNTY AND RATA ALUM '96) DUG DITCH FROM TAYLOR CABIN TO ~~WEST~~

WATER BLEED OFF VALVE IN THE ORCHARD (40 FT.) ON THURSDAY. THEY HIT THE WATERLINE ONCE AND HAD TO SPLICE IT. TODAY THEY DUG 120 FT UP TO THE FENCE IN THE ORCHARD. WENT FISHING AT 6 PM. THE FISHING WAS GREAT BUT THE CATCHING WAS TERRIBLE (1 CUTTHROAT).

OCT. 4 SATURDAY THE MULES WERE STILL IN BUT THE DITCH DIGGING SATURDAY TURNED ROCKY AND SLOW GOING AS WE WENT BEYOND THE ORCHARD. THE OLD LINE IS BRITTLE AND SPRINGS A LEAK IF YOU TOUCH IT. IT CURVES BACK AND FORTH AROUND ROCKS AND OUR DITCH FOR THE 4" PIPE HAS TO GO STRAIGHT. TODAY WE DID 110 FT. AND THE GUYS WERE BEAT. AFTER RESTING FROM 5 TO 6 PM ED TOOK THEM ON A HIKE DOWN TO THE FIRST CREEK ABOUT 3 MILES DOWN (GOAT CREEK?). TURNED CLOUDY & RAINY. I TURNED THE WATER ON AT THE GENERATOR AND IT SEEMED TO BE MAKING POWER OK. HOWEVER, AFTER ABOUT 3+ HOURS IT SEEMS TO DE-WATER THE LINE AND THE TAYLOR CABIN LOSES WATER. IF YOU SHUT DOWN THE GENERATOR YOU THEN BLOW A LOT OF AIR OUT OF THE BLEED-OFF VALVE OUTSIDE THE TAYLOR CABIN.

OCT. 5 SUNDAY THE MULES WERE OUT AGAIN BUT THE DITCH DIGGING SUNDAY WENT GREAT. THEY WERE FOLLOWING THE OLD LINE AND THE DIRT WAS LESS ROCKY. BY NOON THEY HAD DUG 70 FT! THAT MAKES A TOTAL OF 300 FEET SINCE THURSDAY. THEY HAVE REALLY EARNED THEIR PAY! (THAT'S A LITTLE JOKE BECAUSE THEY VOLUNTEERED TO DIG IT FOR FREE JUST TO GET TO SEE TAYLOR RANCH. THEY ALL AGREED TOO THAT IT WAS WORTH IT!

ARNOLD AVIATION FLEW IN 300 POUNDS OF HAY CUBES AND MISC. TOOLS.

OCT 6
MONDAY

THE ELECTRICIANS ARRIVED: RAY & MARGE LIENHARD WITH FULL INTENTION OF HAVING POWER IN ALL BLOCS BEFORE WE DEPART. WE GOT A GOOD START TODAY. THE RUMBLE NOSE MULE WAS SO MUCH BETTER WE COULDN'T TELL WHICH ONE HE WAS. SINK IN LAB LEAKED SOME I'LL LOOK IT OVER MORE.

NICE RAIN DURING THE NIGHT - SNOW ON THE MOUNTAIN ABOVE SALT LICK - ^{MORNING} OF 7TH

RAY-

OCT 7
TUESDAY

ANOTHER GOOD DAY WIRING - TESTED ALL CIRCUITS TODAY - SOME PROBLEMS IN CARETAKER HOUSE - GROUNDED WIRE IN KITCHEN CIRCUIT - OK NOW. SNOW STUCK ON HILLS AROUND NORTH OF HERE. NO WILDLIFE A FEW STUMP & ROCK CRITTERS IS ALL, THE RUMBLE NOSE MULE HAS THE PROBLEM SOON AFTER THE ALFALFA PELLETS. I WAS WONDERING ABOUT COMPACTION AS THEY SOMETIMES ~~APPEAR~~ TO HAVE STOMACH DISCOMFORT SOON AFTER HOGGING OUT. STARTED SPREADING DAILY RATION FROM ONE END OF PASTURE TO OTHER - IN HOPES THE WALK WOULD DO THEM SOME GOOD.

PACK STRING WENT DOWN BIG CREEK ABOUT

5PM - MULES SURE ARE GOOD WATCH DOGS -
 YELLOW CAT STAYED IN LAST NITE - DON'T SEE
 EITHER TONITE. WILL FEED OUTSIDE.

RAY-

OCT 8th
 Wednesday

Troy - I flew in today - Talked to Ray and got
 the low down as to whats going on. Checked the
 spring boxes - cleaned out leaves. Rebuilt the wooden
 gate down by the air field. Changed a propane
 tank on the Taylor Cabin. Nice day - snow at
 4000 feet - melted off on North side of the canyon.
 Wildlife: 3 ruffed grouse and a western toad.

Mikes seem to be doing fine. Puckering passed by
 going up stream around 15:30 hrs. Ray explained electrical
 system to me - we checked connections in the Taylor
 cabin - everything is working. Note: Found Marks letters
 and sent them out w/ the Mail Plane

OCT 9th

Thurs

Rained last night - cloudy skies this morning.
 Intermittent rain/wind/clouds through out the day.
 Ray and Marge apparently waited for their flight
 from Moscow - Doug finally managed to make it in
 around 16:00 hrs - he dropped off more foam
 insulation and two 1x8 boards for the turbine shed.

I/we spent much of the day indoors waiting
 for a break in the weather. I dug out
 the spring box for the cookhouse and
 repaired a gate down by the chicken house.

Some horses and riders passed by this evening - headed downstream at 1800 hrs.

Wildlife: Robins in The Non Ash tree and the toad.

Oct 10th
Friday

Kind of a lazy day - clouds never broke - No Rain. Radio at Arnolds was down this morning, I didn't report the weather till 10:30 AM. Worked on the gates some more - replaced a log on the bridge to the Duplex.

About 1600 hrs. I saw 10 Bighorns down by the Creek - it looked like 6 ewes, 3 lambs, and a yearling.

The white cat has been around the cabin off and on - runs away every time it sees me.

The black cat has spent the last two nights inside - I was able to catch it yesterday and throw it out for the day. Today... I couldn't catch it!

I chased it into the bathroom twice today and shut the door, and I couldn't find the cat?

I looked around pretty well w/ the flashlight?

I don't know what's going on... This cat is getting the best of me. Fined up the sauce

this evening - pretty nice. The wood for the steps still hasn't shown up? I guess I'll just keep working on other projects.

OCT 11th
Saturday

Overcast dreary day - rain, hail, sleet. Listening to the radio - it sounds like there's quite a bit of snow up in the high country. A pack string walked off the ridge above Cliff Cr this morning. It looked like the snow level was around 4500 ft. There's a few flakes falling now (1800hrs). I cleaned up the shop and was going to work on the gates when Arnolds circled and landed with the lumber ((24) 2x6's (6) 4x4's + 1x6 clear fir?) and 4 sacks of Alfalfa cubes. I hauled the cubes down to the tack shed and the lumber over to the lab. Spent the afternoon digging out an area for the foundations for the landings. I concluded that the existing steps are going to stay - too heavy to move. I've figured out a way to build over and around them if I can modify the (4) 2x8 joist hangers I found in the shop. Things are never as easy as they look - w/ the hardware store so far away... it takes a lot of lookin'. The safety report is a little vague... The first two doors w/ the 9" steps definitely need landings - what about the third? There's plenty of lumber - I'll get the first two finished and check w/ Holly if there's time and I can get a call then. Also. A pack string cut across the air strip and headed up Rush Cr.? Replaced the torn mantle on the gas lamp in the Taylor living room.

Oct 12th
Sunday

$\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of snow blanketed Taylor this morning. This added a new twist to collecting the weather report (ran out of pencil lead) - I measured the liquid ppr in the collection ~~for~~ tube - then I melted the snow in the funnel and added the two measurements together. I discovered that the black cat is living in the attic (explains noises at 2AM). The cat wouldn't let me catch her, so I moved food and water and litter up to the attic. Holly called this morning to see how things are going and if I needed any additional supplies. She answered my questions about the landings (3 landings at door level). I probably need some 2x12's and joist hangers for the steps on the bedroom doorway - of course.. I didn't think of that while I was on the phone. Spent the day working on the landings - finished the middle one and worked on foundations for the other two - also tore out the old steps off the bedroom door. Packstrom walked up the air field and headed downstream this evening.

Oct 13th
Monday

Spent the morning digging the holes for the footings on the third landing - poured them in the A.M., set the piers in the afternoon. They should be cured by next Monday. Finished up the substructure on the first doorway. I sighted two different groups of Bighorns this evening. The first group had 14 sheep

(11 ewes, 2 lambs, and a yearling) The second group had six sheep - They were way up on the ridge east of cliff CR - I couldn't identify individuals. The mules are acting pretty funny this evening - lots of vocalizations, charging each other, The horse was really protective (wouldn't let any of the others approach me), and after I returned to the house I watched Penny walk backwards across the pasture? Twice! I looked thru the horse books - couldn't find anything about walking backwards.... Full moon?

Oct 14th
Tuesday

Nice morning - I got extra early to check on the equines and... Rocky and Cricket were gone? The propane for the fridge in the Taylor cabin ran out during the night - I switched tanks and figured out how to reset the pilot. I went back to work on the landings, around 10 AM the two wanderers wandered into the lower pasture on the north side of the creek - I grabbed the havers and a few alfalfa cubes and managed to get them back in the pasture w/ little trouble till Penny slipped out while I was bringing the others in. I didn't want to hater her w/ the wound on her chin - she had no interest in alfalfa cubes. I slipped a loose hater on her and managed to get them all back in the pasture.

Went back to work on the landings - The horse and ~~the~~ a mule managed to get inside the lab enclosure? Then I realized the electric fence wasn't on? Turned it back on - The horse still managed to duck under the wire and get inside. I worked all dark this evening - finished up all three landings - two of them still need steps. I put all the tools up and hauled another bag of feed up from the tack shed - Then I collapsed on the front lawn and watched the stars come out. Nice evening - full moon - nice silence after running the generator and power tools for most of the afternoon. Tomorrow I'm flying out - I've really enjoyed my stay here this past week and hope to visit again sometime. Welcome home Holly and Jim. Thanks again -
-Troy

Oct 15 Wednesday Jim & I finished packing up our household in LaGrande this past week. Made loft purchases in Cascade & LaGrande. Set up a meeting in Moscow Oct 28 to discuss Taylor Ranch education + research program development. We flew in to the ranch with a full plane load of personal belongings. When we

circled Taylor Ranch to land. R.C. found that the flaps on the 206 would not work. We rerouted to Big Cr Airstrip and made a good flap-less landing. Spent several hours there & visited with Rob & Jackie of Big Cr. Lodge. til John & Mike Arnold flew in to repair the plane and Ray A. flew in to shuttle us and our full load of gear in the other A.A. 206. Also visited with Clem Pope & Mike Dorris while stranded.

Arrived at Taylor Ranch & convinced Troy to stay a few more days & work. Jim & I spent the rest of the afternoon putting gear away. Troy worked on landings. Gas replaced for Lab hot water. Beautiful full moon.

Oct 16

Harnessed Rocky & Cricket for firewood log skidding. Hitched them to the stoneboat for hauling split firewood to the Lab & Duplex. Seven UofI students flew in from Moscow for ditch digging - to continue laying 4" pipe for the low head hydro plant: Tara V. & Greg, Sherry & Keith, Dave, Rob, Dave. They settled in at the Lab, Duplex, Arlows, then we got together for a quick meeting. The Moscow crew helped X-cut saw & move remaining (7) firewood logs

onto the Pioneer Cr trail for the mules to skid, before the crew started digging. Mules skidded wood to the orchard where Jim & Troy bucked & split the wood. The ditch diggers dug 70'. I cleaned Penny's chin wound - looks really good. R.C. flew in with another plane load of our personal gear + some Taylor Ranch laundry. I had the laundromat do in Cascade. ^{I hauled & put away gear.} Jim, Troy, & I checked the electric fence to determine the problem - maybe the angle of the solar panel is bad. Cricket, Rocky & Bo are in the corral til the fence is working again. Started feeding off the haystack today.

Potluck taco feed at the Lab for dinner with the UofI ditch crew then they went to the sauna.

Oct 17
Friday The ditch crew spent all day "in the trench." They battled with some very large boulders. Jim & Troy cut, down, split, & hauled firewood from the airstrip to the Lab. I replaced the Taylor Cabin shower head, ^{the} faucet, and toilet seat. I put away more personal gear that came in when Troy flew out at noon.

Oct 18
Saturday

The ditch crew took the morning off to hike to the Big Cr Gorge then worked the waterline in the afternoon. I spent all day in the Taylor Cabin attic - sweeping, moused dropping & removing batt insulation destroyed by mice; putting down & taping Thermax insulation & 1/4" plywood that had been stored in the attic. I found the shop-vac in the feed shed - woodrats were using it to store mushrooms & had chewed holes in some essential parts! Jim cleaned woodrat debris & trash from the feed shed by the corral and organized our grainy hay cubes, & horse supplies. He helped out on the ditch too. We all got together for blueberry cobbler in the evening.

October 19
Sunday

The College of Forestry ditch digging crew flew out this morning. Doug Gadwa shuttled 3 groups to Chamberlain, then to Moscow. We really appreciated the volunteer efforts of the students that have come in to dig the waterline this fall. What a chore! There is 120' of ditch to be dug before it's completed. The crew moved the 4" pipe up to the ditch

this morning. Ray flew in with 2 propane. Jim worked on his bear abstract while I moved boxes of our belongings to the attic - mouseproof or hanging containers. Keith visited with us about the summer course he was going to ~~put~~^{put on} at Taylor Ranch last summer. We talked about ways to offer it successfully next year. In the afternoon sheep hunter Bob Beal & partner Martin Moon ^{from Godly} stopped by. Jim had given them some hunting advice several days ago & they have been watching several rams up Cliff Cr. We talked about the low head hydro & showed them the system - Bob's a retired aerospace engineer so was very interested in the design. Mike McMannon stopped in again also - Forest Service Wilderness Ranger. He had dinner & spent the night with us. Lots of philosophical talk about wilderness, policies, the affect of living ^{working} in wilderness, and careers. Talked to Janet Halman at Running Cr on the radio this Am. A very social day!

Oct 20

Monday

Another crisp blue sky day, with frost in the morning. The mules are eating half rations of hay 2 times/day. I drained the east waterline for the winter. Winterized the Dave Lewis Cabin and Arlows; turned gas appliances & propane tanks off, drained water systems & hot water heaters, put antifreeze in drains, toilets & Dave Lewis water inlet under the kitchen sink. Jim worked on his bear research. I finished putting away canned goods in the basement & moved dishes & silverware from Taylor Cabin to the Lanham Lab. Cleaned leaves from the west side water intake above the waterbox and increased the height of the diversion dam; also breeched the east side dam to prevent problems with spring run-off.

Oct 21

Tuesday

Finished winterizing Arlow's & Dave Lewis. Shut off water to Lanham Lab & drained & antifreezed system, shut off gas. Took notes on winterizing procedure so I can write up winterizing instructions for Taylor Ranch.

Shut off solar system at the Lab & removed 2 fluorescent lights. Rewired fluorescents at Taylor Cabin - 1 bedroom and 1 over the desk. Jim & I replaced front shoes on Cricket & Bo. We set up our new 6 person dome tent in the yard - it will be good for late season or bad weather camping. Carol Spain called about the Smithsonian summer course she is putting together for 1999.

Oct 22
Wednesday Sent thank you notes to Doc Johnson for the iris tubers for Taylor Ranch, and Susan & Andy Allen for package of goodies. Jim replaced footbridge over irrigation ditch by Duplex. I shut off the last of pasture irrigation ditches. Mail day - Ray stayed to visit awhile. Jim & I rode up to the Timbered Bench with 3 pack mules & packed down firewood cut by Dave Duncan & interns last summer - a long trip for a few rounds of wood, but good to get out with the mules. Rocky hurt a back leg - ~~pad~~ fetlock swelling - on the way down. Treated him with Bute for 3 days.

Steve Zettes crew: Lance, Adam, Michelle, and 7mo old Steven stopped by to visit & warm up. ↗

Oct 23
Thursday

A rainy stormy day. Jim spent the day on his computer working on the black bear abstract. I finished unpacking the last of our boxes, cooking & baking, and taking the day off.

Oct 24
Friday

Snow on the ground this morning. I went to the weather station as usual this morning - Mica ran up Pioneer Cr. then was barking & tail wagging in the orchard. I went over to see what she was doing and saw a mountain lion ♀ 10 feet away & snarling at us. The lion ran & Mica pursued. Later I searched the brushy flat near the water line ditch and found a fawn killed by the lion. Tara & Greg and Don & Josh & BJ & Ed Krumpke flew in from Moscow to work on the ditch. I took down electric fencing in the main pasture; rebuilt gate to haystack & put a quick-open chain on the gate. Jim & Ed worked on pipe fittings. We all had pot luck dinner at our house, since the water is off in the lab. Ed hooked up the batteries & inverter, so we had electric lights in the evening. Nice & bright!

Saturday
Oct 25

The ditch crew completed the 1000' of ditch to the waterbox at noon. Jim & Ed glued pipe in the orchard. I drained the waterbox & dug it out. We installed 3 3" inlet pipes where there had been 1. Greg cut out the waterbox hole for the 4" line. We all worked at the waterbox til after dark gluing pipe & plugging leaks in the box. The big valve we installed in the box is faulty & almost impossible to open & close. Our 1 1/4" waterline seemed to be frozen when we turned it back on, but started flowing in an hour. We had another potluck dinner. Josh & Don reported seeing a black wolf on the Big Cr Trail 1/2 mi W of Rush Cr.

Sunday
Oct 26

Jim had the ditch crew split & haul wood at the Taylor Cabins. Some helped make an anvil stand, some put drip strips & roofing on the hydro shed, some helped me dam Pioneer Cr. for winter water source & to cover waterline to Duplex. We rebuilt the dam/diversion at the waterbox intake so the intake pipes are underwater; reduced inlet to 1 of the 3 pipes. Ed & crew flew to

Moscow in the ^{afternoon.} evening. I covered in ditch at trail & cleaned the shop. We both put away tools. Spent the evening packing for our trip to Moscow tomorrow. Wrote a response letter to the state safety inspector on what actions we had taken. Wrote a caretaking list for Vi Webb.

MON. 27

Arrived at Taylor Ranch 10:30 A.M. - IM So happy to be back here again. A PACK string came through ranch 2:30 P.M. - 4 rider & 8 PACK MULES ^{they} went down air strip - Jim saw a moose walk past the haystack.

Tues 28 This morning turned in weather report:

Check water box for LEAFs ONLY
A Few -

Looked AROUND for horses didn't see them

Some house work - went for a nice walk. Really like being here at Taylor Ranch - Light Clouds

Wed. 29 Usual weather report - heavy clouds
Check water box this A.M.

Tried to locate horses - no luck.
 Have house hold chores done.
 So nice & peaceful here

Thur. 30

Check weather ~~and~~ AND call it in - Had
 light rain - Cloudy this morning.
 Looked again for horses (no luck)
 Baked few cookies - House work
 Also check water box for leaves
 Had lots on screen today.
 Jim called home (Taylor Ranch) They
 will be in if weather o.k. - Tomorrow

Fri 31

Called in weather report - Is not
 raining this A.M. Look more like
 flying today

Oct 27-

31

Jim & Holly spent the week in Moscow. We
 met ^{with} Alton, Chuck, & Dick about facilities issues.
 Then met with Alton, Chuck, Ed K., and Jim P.
 about developing courses / education programs
 for Taylor Ranch in 1998 & 1999 (Smithsonian).
 We planned a summer field course for ~~Fore~~ CFWR
 students, primitive skills class, a spring break
 wilderness winter wildlife class, and a weekend
 short course. We met with Howard Q - Hornocker

Institute & Dennis Murray about initiating a predator study based from Taylor Ranch. Met with Tom Ellison, Payette N. Forest to discuss F.S. concerns about using our existing water intake on F.S. land for the low head hydro. As Dick expected, we will have to have the hydro water source on Taylor Ranch property. So, we won't have electricity til next year! In the mean time we have to finish the 4" line as our replacement domestic water line - and get the ditch filled in before the water lines freeze for the winter. Flew in \$600 of tools, housewares, cleaning supplies.

Friday

Ed Krumpke + Matt & Gabe flew in from Moscow to work on gluing & covering the waterline. Ed took some measurements for the engineers to design our new water intake, then flew out. Vi & Betty waxed our floors & walls and left the cabin gleaming & cookie filled!

Saturday
Nov 1

Matt, Gabe, Jim & I spent the day gluing 4" waterline - we finished the line! We also made valve boxes & dug out a bleedout - drain ditch at the hydro shed. 4 sheep on E Knob. Had Gabe & Matt over for dinner.

Nov 2
Sunday The 4 of us reconstructed the fence & gate on the west end of the property. Also put up a piece of electric tape (not connected) near Rush Cr. to prevent the stock from fording Big Cr above Rush Cr. Took down the last of the solar electric fencing & fencer for the winter. Gabe, Matt & I hiked to Cabin Cr. to retrieve the mules now that the fence will hold them. We rode home bareback, saw 14 sheep at Lobauer. Dinner at our place again.

Nov 3
Monday Gabe, Matt, & I cut insulation & started filling in the ditch. That was after we tested the 4" waterline: we discovered one pipe joint had not been glued! All the glued joints were fine. Drained the line, glued the joint, broke the faulty valve (handles) in the waterbox trying to shut it off. Jim had us help him replace the footings on the lower heavy lumber bridge to prevent problems during high water. Darrell flew in with Interstate Av. late afternoon to fill in the ditch. Matt & Gabe flew to Moscow. Darrell & I filled in ditch for a few hours. Fresh Moose droppings at Pioneer Cr. water line & Sagebrush Flat.

- Nov 4
Tuesday Darrell & I filled in ditch & I finished ^{making} valve boxes out of 10" pipe. Turned the 4" waterline on with 2" spilling into Pioneer Cr. at the Hydro shed. Connected out domestic waterline to the 4" line - works fine.
- Nov 5
Wednesday Darrell spent all day filling in the ditch. I ~~replaced~~ inserted a valve in the 1 1/4" water line at the orchard 4" connection, repaired the orchard bleedout line and drained the 1 1/4" waterline - for the winter or until needed during repairs to the 4" line in the future. Wrote Ed K. Jim went to Soldier Bar to meet friends Ray G. & Mark P. who he will bowhunt with. They set up their camp on Rush Cr - Sagebrush Flat. Bighorns on the 1st Bench.
- Nov 6 Thurs Darrell & I filled in ditch, finished valve boxes in orchard. Ray & Mark came over for dinner + Darrell.
- Nov 7
Friday No flight from Interstate Av. - fog & rain in Moscow. Arnolds flew in 2 plane loads (1 ton) of grain. Darrell & I worked the ditch. Changed 2 prepares at Taylor Cabin.

Nov 8
Saturday Rained yesterday afternoon & night. Not flyable all day due to low clouds. Jim Peterson cancelled his flight in this weekend. Darrell went for a hike & worked ditch. I planted daffodils & grape hyacinths and reworked terraced gardens at Taylor Cabin; dug out roots to shrub that was cut down last month. Replaced saw blades, sharpened axes, repaired cart tire and rubber gloves. Jim et al took 3 mules & went bowhunting.

Nov 9
Sunday The first evening of hydroelectric powered lighting at Taylor Ranch — and no one here to enjoy it with me (Holly). It feels the same as the first time water flows from the shower head after the spring thaw of the waterline — amazing & exciting. Little comforts (water or lighting) have significant importance here in the backcountry when they finally become available.

Ed K. flew in with Doug this morning, since the weather broke. We turned on the hydroelectric system and it ran great! Closed the drain outlet & opened hydro valve $\frac{2}{3}$ open. Water pressure still strong at the house and waterbox inlet overflow still working. Set RPM's at 700 with 2 of 4 jets open which produces 8 Amps; batteries are charging. Darrell

‡ I filled ditch in the AM, then I installed more of the 2" polystyrene insulation in the ditch in the afternoon (Ed brought polystyrene + batts + 4" pipe). Darrell flew out with Ed & Doug.

Nov 10

Monday

I took today off - the 1st day in a month. Spent the day working on my LaGrande peregrine falcon plan and cooking & baking. I celebrated having electricity by making sourdough bread using my big mixer - yummy. Checked the hydropower system - 700RPM, 9amps, batteries fully charged (28.2) and energy dissipator warm.

Nov 11

Tuesday

Piled more rocks on water inlet dam & increased water height over inlet pipes 3-4". Cleaned leaves from inlet screen - water box level was just below overflow outlet before leaf removal. Electric running great - we would have a hard time giving it up now that we experience how much the extra lighting improves our ability to work/play in the evening on these long nights. Jim & I rode to Soldier Bar to take Ray & Mark to fly out.

Nov 12
Wednesday A plane from Moscow brought Liza Fox & Jim Peterson for the day and Tom & Troy for 5 days of work. Liza, GIS specialist at CFWR, tried out a GPS unit for elevation data along Pioneer Cr for hydro system. She could only get 2-3 satellites (not 6+) when in riparian, so couldn't determine elevational changes. Jim showed her the Taylor Ranch while I lined out Tom & Troy on work. Tom is the water line ditch filler; Troy will complete his carpentry work on the stairs & landings. They will stay at the Duplex (sleep + showers) and the Lab (cooking). Jim P. checked the hydro system & wired in amp meter. He is happy with the system. I flew out to Cascade then drove to Boise to make some U of I purchases. Ordered more lumber for mule feeding. Saw a mtn goat at Burnt Cr when I flew out.

Nov 13
Thursday I bought a washing machine + hardware supplies + ^{wood} fenceposts. Called John Beecham about Mtn Lion work & Dave Hunter about bighorn work. Jim supervised workers & cut up dead aspens at Pioneer Cr. for firewood. Tom's digging was inhibited by frozen ground (15° at night). Anchor ice had to be removed from waterbox screens 4 times today. Troy worked on stairs risers. Ray Arnold flew in 3 propane.

Nov 14
Friday

I made more research + administration calls at Arnolds, another trip to the hardware store, and got applications for Valley County Search & Rescue membership. ^{before flying} Jim called out to say the water & electric was off - frozen up. We all worked on the water system & got it going again. The anchor ice is the main problem - blocking screens & plugging the pipe. The new "valve opener" worked to fully open the broken valve in the waterbox. We lost the water again in the evening, cleaned ice from screens, gained water again.

2 plane loads - lumber & fence posts + washing machine

Nov 15
Saturday

The water was off again this morning - same problem as before - low flow in waterbox & out the generator outlet due to iced inlet screens. Restored water & power easily, but one jet on the generator is frozen (on). Power is 7amps & 500RPM, with all jets open. Tom & Troy moved firewood from the airstrip until the sun could thaw out the ground for digging (12° last night and pry bar & pick barely work. I tried Polly Bemis' technique of building a fire to thaw the ground for digging ^{it was} - still not much help.). I spent the afternoon installing the washing machine at the Taylor Cabin, and mopping the floor when

the first laundry load drained inside the cabin on the floor while I was modifying the drain system. I did wash two loads of laundry — a much better alternative than standing in the yard @ 15°F and working the arm powered wringer! Troy finished the stairs today. Jim spent the day bowhunting.

Nov 16
Sunday Jim had all of us help replace a crossback and rails on the corral fence. We used birch for rails and Douglas fir bucks. Temporarily anchored the wobbly corral gate. Dennis Murray, Wildlife Dept faculty flew in to see Taylor Ranch. After a tour of facilities he & Jim flew lower Big Cr with Doug Gadwa, pilot. Dennis, Jim, and Howard Quigley are planning some mtn. lion/^{predator} work from Taylor Ranch. Troy & Tom flew out to Pullman. Temperatures were too cold for Tom to be able to cover much of the styrofoam covered waterline with dirt. We are hoping for a good thaw. More laundry done this evening — hanging to dry on a clothesline around the woodstove.

Bighorns on the benches: 24 sheep with a big IV ram above the 3rd bench, 8 sheep east of the 1st bench. I haven't heard a headbutt yet.

Nov 17

Monday

I took most of the day off, altho I was busy with the regular chores - weather, mule feeding, wood splitting & keeping the fire going, and cleaning the intake screens 2 times / day. It warmed up to 40° today: no ice in the screens and the generator jet(s) thawed out so the hydro plant is producing 22 amps, 1000RPM with 4 jets open. Baked apple cake & oatmeal cookies and made a big pot of clam chowder. American Adrenalin (Steve Zettel) guides came thru from Soldier Bar to Rush Pt. - they have started pulling their hunting camps. (Goat Cr.). I "picked" at the ditch in the afternoon and did laundry in the evening. The washing machine causes the lights to go off when it starts, due to the heavy electric load - we need a capacitor. Also need a better draining system - the water goes into the yard since there is no sewer/gray water hookup. The frozen ground has resulted in an ice skating rink on the trail to the airstrip.

Nov 18

Tuesday

We got 1 ton (2 plane loads) of hay cubes. and ~~a load of lumber~~ That's the last of the 2 1/2 T hay cubes and 1 T grain for winter mule feed.

We trickle charged the solar batteries in the house all night, but they didn't recharge much. Worked on ^{the} computer & sent letters to UofI, → Steve's guides stopped by on their way trailing stock out to Challis. First Lance stopped for cake & coffee, then Dan, Adam, and Jake stayed for dinner & visiting. They have 24 head of stock. Lance left us 5 boxes of campfood!

Master card receipts
to Steve.

Nov 19
Wednesday The mail plane never made it in today. We had 1" of snow. Jim built new corral rails at the tack shed. I wrote up last month's weather summary, insulated the exposed walls of the water box, cleaned intake screens and picked at the ditch a little. Electric is doing great — batteries are fully charged, power diversion is creating extra heat in the hydro shed. Although Jim & I weren't that excited about the electrification of Taylor Ranch, initially, we now feel that it would be hard to go back to the dim Humphrey propane lights in the evening!

Nov 20
Thursday "Rocked all afternoon," as the Caswell's would say. Jim & I pried & scraped the frozen ditch edge for soil to cover the waterline. Despite 3 days of above freezing temperatures, the ground is

still mostly frozen. We made some progress. Unloaded 2^{plane} loads of Haycubes for Travis Bullock, Mile Hi Outfitters. He & crew will spend the night here on Saturday during their trail-out. We moved the solar batteries to the cellar to keep them from freezing; rewired them & hooked up the trickle charger. No mail day today - Cascade is fogged in. Wrote more letters. Put away boxes of camp food. Cleaned leaves off intake screens.

Nov 21
Friday

Wrote up a list of cabins, # beds, showers etc and interim fees for Carol Spain for Wisconsin class planning next summer. Faxed info to her & sent a letter to Dick Bottger. Mail came in today. "Rocked all afternoon". We got the styrofoam insulation in the ditch completely covered all along the ditch, but the soil layer is very thin in places.

Bighorns: 27 above 3B, 5 E of Lamb Cliffs, 13 Lobauer.

Nov 22
Saturday

Spent the day cooking & getting ready for Travis' Mile Hi Outfitters crew to arrive. They sent a big roast down a few days ago. Travis, Brenda, Trent, Craig, Dan, Phil, Kevin, and Steve plus 34 mules & horses arrived in the afternoon.

+ 4 dogs & 2 cats

We had a big dinner & visited. The crew stayed in the Duplex & Lanham Lab. Travis said 5 wolves were at Mile Hi & Bismark Mtn this fall & Steve Z. saw wolves at Rush Pt this fall.

Nov 23
Sunday

Sent the Mile Hi Outfitters crew off with a big breakfast. They will spend tonight at The Flying B then spend a long day on the trail & road to Morgan Cr. where the stock will winter at Tina's (Hourihan). We always enjoy seeing the long pack strings trail out in the fall. By this afternoon we ~~are~~ are the only people in the Big Cr drainage besides Rob & Jackie at Big Cr. Lodge.

Cleaned up ~~the~~ from the big visit. We have 2 hounds & 2 housecats to care for til the planes fly in for gear tomorrow. Water intake still looks good - some leaves, no icing. Hydro batteries are fully charged, solar batteries are slowly trickle charging - still low. Jim set up hay filled dog houses for hounds.

Nov 24
Monday

Middle Fork Aviation (Steve Cope) made 3 trips from Chall's to pick up Mile Hi gear. Jim cut deciduous firewood along Pioneer Cr. I worked on my peregrine plan & "went shopping" in the catalogs.

Nov 25
Tuesday

Heavy rain last night and snow this morning. Drained the Duplex water line and winterized the cabin. Wrote up a Thanksgiving caretaker list - the weather & reports are not good for flying tomorrow. Bighorns have moved down below Timbered Bench and on Second Bench. No headbutting heard ^{this year by me} - maybe because there are fewer big rams now than 10 years ago.

Nov 26
Wednesday

Jim & I worked on bear & peregrine reports and got ready for the plane. Weather finally broke in the afternoon. The bighorns moved to the lick across from the corral: 9 sheep (5 ewes, 2 lambs, 1 II, 1 III)

Nov 27
Thursday
Turkey-day
(orham)

Dennis and Krista (that's me) flew in yesterday to cartake while Jim and Helly visited family/friends in Oregon for the holiday. - we were more than happy to relieve them for a "wilderness" thanksgiving. This AM we did the normal chores - all was well with the horse, mules, cats, and hydro system (full power) - oh - and the weather. After calling in the weather and listening to all the turkey day well-wishing we journey downstream towards the Big Creek Canyon.

lots of wildlife along the way - or at least signs of it. We followed a pair of day old cat tracks (we're not sure what kind - ok - dennis is - he says they were hobcat!) almost the entire length of the trail. Only 1/2 mile down trail we spotted a group of bighorn sheep ~11 (3 ♂, ~~at~~ the rest females or lambs). Just before Cougar Creek, we spotted another group high on the sunny part of the slopes^(~13) - and witnessed some head-butting action. By the sound reverberating down to the stream where we stood, it was obvious there was a disagreement about who was in charge. Continued down to Big Creek Canyon, found a possible fishing hole to try along the way. Found the petroglyphs and 2 more bighorns. - and in the canyon heard more echoes of bighorn head-butting. We returned back to the cabin on this beautiful, cloudless day, around 3pm and began our T-day cooking extravaganza - ham, mashed taters, gravy, green bean casserole, pumpkin pie. After a nice big meal, we now look forward to pie, champagne, and then bed.

Nov. 28
Friday

Another nice day. The temperature approached 40°, but the ground was still too hard to shovel dirt into the line. Krista + I worked on studies and went for a hike after lunch. Saw ≈ 10 sheep

across the airstrip on Horse mtn. (2 yearlings, I, II, III).
 Hiked up to the top bench across from the corral.
 Found some more sheep up the drainage from the
 1st salt lick (I, III, II, 1 yearling, 7 ewes).

Nov. 29
 Saturday Relatively uneventful day today... the usual morning
 chores and then up to cut some of the smaller wood for
 use in the wood stove. Dennis and I read in the
 behavior/ecology book about some of the behaviors that
 we had observed with the highhorn sheep... interesting.
 We worked most of the afternoon and didn't see nor
 hear any of their activities today. Late afternoon we went
 for a short walk down the runway and saw some old
 cougar and perhaps otter? tracks. Dennis pointed out
 the good summer/fall fishing hole where Rush Cr.
 meets Trig Cr. Though the fish were nowhere to be found,
 I tried out casting with my new fly rod and reel.
 Not as much sun today, but we hope for decent
 weather tomorrow for a trip to the Middle Fork.

Nov. 30
 Sunday Did the chores early and headed out towards the Middle
 Fork w/ Krista. Arrived around 11:30 + stayed for a
 few hours while Krista tried her luck w/ her new
 fly rod - she looked good, but that doesn't count much
 in fishing (Fish 1, Krista 0). Got back around 5 w/
 sore legs and physical exhaustion as we traveled

around 3 miles per hour. Arrived back to find that the mules & horse never showed up for their morning feeding. After searching until dark, we gave up - we'll head out early in the morning to check the local drainages.

Dec. 1
Monday

Already December! This AM - the usual chores and still no signs of the mules/horse. Dennis and I set out to find them - he up the ridge between Pioneer and Rush Cr. and I up the trail along Pioneer. No signs - but later that AM found tracks on the way to Cabin Cr. - confirmed by the dispatcher and Holly that they often take off for the upstream pasture. We were mindful that they were probably OK and would return when hungry, but still pushed Holly - who assured us that indeed - it is a normal occurrence - This was a relief to our tired feet after a long hike yesterday! Worked inside today - in efforts to actually read/write the mounds of work that we lugged in here. As for wildlife - Dennis heard the sheep across the way while climbing the ridge. I discovered fresh cougar tracks in last night's snowcover along the trail to Cabin Cr. Tomorrow we leave and Holly flies in - the week really flew by!

Dec. 2
Tuesday

Woke up to find 3 cow elk in the stable licking the mineral block. Mules & horse still gone - tracked them up towards Cabin Creek. Cleaned the house & got ready to fly out this afternoon. I can't believe we're leaving already - wish we could stay longer (maybe we'll get lucky & have a ~~change~~ chance to come back in). Other than the mules, everything is normal. The hydro system is a little low this morning - found a lot of leaves on the screen, so maybe some ice formed overnight to restrict the flow?

I, Holly, flew in with my sister Val, Dennis & Krista flew out. With only 1" of snow here Ray is still using the Cessna 200. Received a message that Krista thought she saw our 5 animals on Mile Hi when they flew out. I hope not. That's a 2 day wrangling trip - if they can be found. Bo has not been the stay-at-home horse we thought we were buying this fall - he may have to be replaced. Could the stock have tracked^{back} the 34 Mile Hi Outfitter horses & mules to their basecamp? Dennis & Krista left things in good order - including a loaf of banana bread. Water system looked good (but lower power) - until 10 pm when I found we had no running

water. The screens (in & out of box) were covered with a thick layer of anchor ice & the box was almost empty. Restored water in the box by flashlight. Slight pressure by 10:45pm.

Dec 3
Wednesday It's my birthday! Started the day without running water again. Cleaned out the anchor ice & shut down to 3 hydro jets to restore water pressure. Hydro system is only producing 3 amps. Cleaned screens again in afternoon. Temperatures were 14° low & 29° high. Cougar (sub-adult) tracks in day old snow; from orchard to weather station (via bridge) to Dave Lewis Cabin. I disconnected the trickle charger from Solar batteries (after 14 days) - the Hydrometer still only reads 1200 which indicates it still needs charging.

Val and I did an extensive necropsy on the cougar that Neot (Yellowline Bar) shot when it attacked his dog outside the cabin at night. It was a very thin subadult female with hair (raccoon ^{hide of} or coyote) in the stomach and little else in the intestine. Saved the hide & head.

Val made me a chocolate fudge cake with divinity frosting. We put up Christmas lights in the front window - a first for Taylor Ranch.

Dec 4 Val & I hiked on the benches to watch bighorns. We saw 30 bighorns (19 ewes, 4 lambs, I II, 5 III, 1 IV) and watched ram displays & attempted breedings. 3 cow elk showed up to lick salt while the mules were gone (in the corral), We baked & made Christmas candy - fudge, almond roca, chex mix. Packed gear for our overnight mule wrangling trip.

Dec 5 Today was the start of our "incredible Friday journey" week. When the mules & Bs disappeared last Sunday they were reenacting the horse version of the story. Val & I left with heavy daypacks and plans to camp out if we didn't find the mules early enough. We ended up hiking 16 miles in light snow and realized we were still several days behind the mules when we got to Acorn Creek. We camped at Hard Boil Bar, 8° at night.

Our trip up Big Creek was very interesting. As usual, I kept track of animal sightings & tracks. Few ungulates, but tracks of 3 cougars, 2 bobcats and several coyotes.

* More detailed wildlife accounts are recorded in the wildlife sightings diary.

The most surprising activity was the abundant wolf tracks for 10 miles of the trail. A large wolf pack (or 2?) had trampled the 4 day old snow in the trail from Mule Basin (2 mi above Taylor) to Garden Creek - repeatedly. It appeared they had moved down Cave Creek, and maybe Garden Cr (Miletti). Their tracks followed mule tracks and obliterated them in places. We found a ^{wolf} kill on an island in Big Cr above Doe Cr. - it was several days old - no meat left from this elk. The kill site was a 20' x 30' bloody smear with lots of urine marking. It looked like 5 wolves ran the elk into the ice on Big Cr. before swimming out to kill it.

After investigating the kill site & thinking about the heavy use of the trail by a big wolf pack we were wishing we had brought a pistol. Mica was the most vulnerable - we kept her at a heel all day. We also wondered if the wolves might be partly responsible for the mules leaving lower Big Creek.

Snowmobile at Profile Summit.

Dec 6
Saturday

Had a hot breakfast then packed up our ^{camp} gear & headed home. We saw a bald eagle, kingfisher, ravens, winter wren, dippers, an otter slide, and had lunch in the Cave Creek Cave with a canyon wren. There were no new wolf tracks on the trail today, altho we expected an encounter at every corner. Two mtn. lions had been on the trail since yesterday - in non wolf areas. We noticed at the kill yesterday coyotes had been along the river bank, but did not go where wolf tracks were on the bank. I finished collecting wolf scats - at least 10. Val & I arrived back at the ranch just in time to check in on the radio. Carol Arnold gave us the news that Dave McClintock spotted the mules on Profile Summit headed to Yellowpine. That's ~ 50 miles from Taylor Ranch! What is ^{"the horse"} Bo thinking? - If he died I know the mules would return to Taylor Ranch. I called Jim in Oregon for reinforcements. The lowhead hydro is freezing up - 2 jets immobile. I used the lamp heat to thaw them. Val & I are exhausted & sore.

Jack & Rob & Big Gr
tried to find the mules
near Big Gr after Dave
M. turned them back by

Dec 7 Sunday Val & I recuperated from our winter "backpacking" trip, did laundry, cooked more goodies. Jim drove over from LaGrande to capture the mules. He had Mike Arnold drive him to Yellowpine then they snowmobiled ^{with a saddle in to us} to Big Creek with Dave McClintock, deputy. He ^(Jim) located the mules at a corral near Gillihan's Lodge & got them to Big Cr. ^{Lodge} Corral. Jim stayed with Rob & Jackie at Big Creek Lodge.

We counted 43 bighorns (25 ewes, 5 lambs, 1 Y ram, 1 I, 1 II, 6 III, 4 unknown) on the benches, and saw a III ram breed a ewe in the talus. I packed my camping gear for meeting up with Jim for the ride in. ^{Talked to Neel and Heinz on the radio about the cougar necropsy.}

Dec 8 Monday

Snowing hard and not flyable. We cancelled my flight to Big Cr, so Jim borrowed feed & a packsaddle from Big Creek Lodge and rode down the trail alone. He was surprised by the wolf activity like Val & I were. He encountered tracks from a wolf pack near Ramey Cabin, 5-7 wolves including 2 pups, that appeared to come from Monumental Creek.

Jim encountered a lone wolf on the trail 20 yards away at Doe Creek; then the wolf left the trail. Jim had planned to camp - fed the stock and was getting cooking water from Big Creek. Suddenly the water level rose to knee high and the ice broke loose & went out. Jim jumped out of the way. He loaded up the stock and arrived at the ranch well after dark, exhausted after an 11 hour ride/hike.

We locked the animals in the corral with hay & water.

Val & I had spent the day putting together Christmas gift tins. Made decorative cookies. I put away camp gear for the second time. A bald eagle flew by the ranch twice today - along Big Creek. Lesser Canada geese around. The low head hydro jets are thawed - full power (21 amps) & 50° in shed. Pioneer Cr is frozen over.

Dec 9
 Tuesday Wrote up the necropsy report (cougar) on the computer & printed out copies for Jim for IDF & G. We shot Jim's .357 pistol which he left for me. Val & I finished gift packages. I sent out the monthly weather summary. Jim put away gear & checked the hydro intake. It's our mail day - Ray A. picked up Jim & Val & flew them to Cascade. It's just me and the animals at Taylor Ranch now. I wish I'd checked the propane tanks before everyone left - 2 of the 3 tanks are empty. With the snow & ice on the trail I cannot haul a full tank up to the cabin - so I hauled a partially full tank from the Duplex so I can restart the refrigerator.

Dec 10
 Wednesday Cleaned the woodstove chimney. Split firewood. Check water & hydro system - fully charged & producing 22 amps, 45° in hydro shed, all jets clear of ice. The mules are staying around for twice daily hay + grain in evening. The kitchen still smells like propane/gas exhaust/rehydrated refrigerator goo from under the refrigerator. Spent most of the day inside Christmas shopping ^{the} catalogs.

- Dec 11 Worked on my 2nd peregrine nest management plan - LaGrande R.D. Usual daily jobs. 1st elk I have seen on the benches this winter - a spike bedded E of the 1st bench, maybe others.
- Dec 12 Continued work on the peregrine plan. Finished reading my new Wildlife Society Bulletin. Elk (17) and bighorns (27) on the benches - details reported in the animal sightings diary.
- Dec 13 More peregrine writing + some reading.
- Saturday I searched out the source of propane leak in the kitchen with soapy water on all gas joints to stove & refrigerator. Found a significant leak where gas goes into the refrigerator. Taped the joint temporarily til I have tools & fittings to repair it. I cleaned under the stove & in the broiler area so the broiler door can be opened. Sheep & Elk herds still on upper benches. One cow has a lame rear right leg. Cottontail rabbit tracks at the shop. Water line & hydroelectric system running fine with no daily maintenance - inlets & outlet are under ice.

Dec 14
Sunday More peregrine plan editing on my computer. Usual chores; 1/2 hr Am for weather & mule feeding, 1 hr pm for mule feeding + grain and woodsplitting/hauling. I've been burning 1 1/2 "propane cart" loads of wood / 24 hours. Retailed the insulation on the front door way to stop a draft - the floor has been cold. Ruffed grouse in the yard daily. Still not a single bird has found my bird feeders of sunflower seeds and thistle. They have been up since September. I forgot that I didn't get many birds at my feeder in past years either. Maybe the grouse (or cottontail) will like birdseed - 30 lbs. of it!

Dec 15 More peregrine plan edits, Cant contact Arlene by radiophone - too difficult to leave a long message on an answering machine. Gas + refrigerator odors still a concern.

Dec 16 The "maintenance free" days of running water ended today when I awoke to no running water. Surprisingly, the low head hydro is running at full power (22 amps).

The water box is full with a moderate flow into the box. Looked ok, but I brushed the box screen & cleaned the inlet screen. Flow increased. We are in a warming spell - temp was 30° yesterday up from a daily high of 20° in the last 2 weeks. Bobcat tracks from above the orchard to the shop & Duplex. Mica found the wings & sternum plus legs & pelvis of a ruffed grouse that had been killed along the waterline path. Probably bobcat kill; a weasel had scavenged at the "kill site". Saw grouse roosts & lots of tracks along Pioneer Cr. The water never came on today. It appears to be frozen or blocked somewhere between the 4" pipe junction and the house. I tried bleedout valves, hot water jug over the 2" valve area, and left the (nonflowing) valve in Pioneer Cr. open. Its above freezing - how could it freeze now! Hauled buckets of water, chopped 4" ice crust from the new "water hole". I repaired the propane leak at the refrigerator and replaced the propane tank valve/hose assembly with one that can be hand tightened. Installed the

carbon monoxide detector in the bedroom. I heard a cougar chirping outside - 1st west of the cabin and later (1hr) near the lab, then the bridge. The mules spooked off their hay when it first started calling. I "talked cougar" to it.

I finally talked to Arlene today, but the radio patch was so bad I couldn't understand most of the conversation. Shawna said someone had reported the patch wasn't working right.

Dec 17 I found the fresh cougar tracks this morning. A female & kitten had spent a lot of time around the cougar pen area. They had gone to the cougar carcass (we had necropsied 2 weeks ago) on 2 occasions - it had not been eaten on by anything. The ♀ crossed the bridge, likely hunted up Cliff Cr., then returned to the kitten. The mules had ~~left~~ their hay last night and escaped (from the cougar?) to the lower pasture. I brought them home. Still no running water. It's almost 40° today. I thawed out the yard bleedout valve with hot water in tupperware, but no flow. This valve is

probably the cause/origin of the freeze-up.
I wrote & printed out our Christmas letter
- about the Incredible Journey. Put away
paperwork. Hydro at 22 amps, no water
inlet problems.

Dec 18 & 19

More of the same. Worked on Christmas
cards all day. Fed stock, hauled water & wood.
Warmed bleedout again. The valve under the
cabin "acts like" the pipes have drained out (?)
- disconnected line? plugged line? A lot of
ground moisture at the valve under the cabin
- probably from drainspout & warm wet weather.
Snowed off & on today. Poured boiling water into
yard bleedout - no effect.

Dec 20

Finished Christmas cards and printed
out my LaGrande peregrine plan draft
& mailed it. Sent letters to CFWR - Sue R;
mastercard, Nancy M.; administrative questions.
Ordered capacitor for washing machine from
Backwoods Solar. Jim flew in today.
He had been in Moscow a few days -
Kerry Murphy's dissertation defense, job sign up
and sport visits with Alton C., Jim P., Chuck H.,
Ed K., Howard Q., Dennis M. Sent
out 2 boxes of laundry! Thawed one hydrojet
with a lamp.

Dec 21
Sun We found a nice (25 years old & suppressed growth) Douglas fir Christmas tree on the slope above the airstrip. We strung lights on it and decorated it - the 1st lighted Christmas tree at Taylor Ranch! 2 bald eagles calling & flying Big Creek below the corral; we looked for a kill since I had seen ravens in that area 2 days before - none found. Elk on 1st bench.

Dec 22
-23 We found a coyote killed mule deer on the airstrip - 1 bald, 2 golden eagles, many ravens & magpies on the remaining hide. I worked on peregrine reports. Jim wrote a few Christmas cards. We tried thawing the yard valve / waterline with boiling water - no success. Put the heat lamp on hydro valve to thaw it - otherwise the intake & box are fine.

Dec 24 Hanley & Kristine flew in for Christmas. Jim & Hanley hauled fire wood poles (birch) up to the woodshed & cut it up with chainsaw. We are still hauling water; hydro system running fine.

Dec 25
Christmas

We went hiking on the benches. Jim got me/us a camcorder for Christmas, so we were in search of some wildlife filming. The elk (19) and bighorns (36) were on the second bench again, but very spooky. We didn't get close. Saw bobcat and grouse tracks along Cliff Cr at trail. We cooked up a big turkey dinner and enjoyed a relaxing Christmas. 5°F.

Dec 26
Friday

Hanley, Kristine, Jim, and I cut and split firewood trees along the North pasture. It looks like well seasoned wood. Cougar tracks on Big Creek trail above North Pasture. Ice developing under lowhead hydro building - overflow/leak from outlet. Power at 18 amps, but all valves seem to be thawed. ~1hr spent working minor ice removal at intake box system and hydro outlet. Temperature 2°F this AM, only 4 inches of snow. Mules don't seem to notice the cold. Heinz from 5-Mile Bar called & talked to Jim ~20 minutes about mountain lions, wolves, and bighorns - lots of questions and personal observations. We'll have to get together.

Dec 27
Saturday Packed 3 loads of wood on the mules - for Lab and Taylor Cabin. Worked on lowhead hydro to thaw 3" line for 1 valve. Elk (5) to the haystack/corral - Rocky chased them off.

Dec 28
Sunday Jim, Hanley, Kristine, & I rode mules + packed Rocky to Cabin Creek for a picnic. We saw a young mt. lion on the trail, across from the airstrip. Bald eagle perched at Lobauer, 9 elk and an otter at Cabin Creek, old wolf tracks. ^{when we were} We were surprised how few elk & deer we saw upstream. Nine elk were at the corral & around haystack when we arrived home - 5 were there in the AM - chased off by Jim & Hanley with rubber blunts. Elk above 3B, sheep on east knob.

Dec 29
Monday Jim & Hanley went on a grouse hunt with Mica to Cougar Creek - 1 ruffed grouse. I wrote my peregrine survey report for Hells Canyon 1997. Kristine made cookies & read in the sun by the bridge. ^{Big Creek} A mountain lion female had bedded and scraped along the fence line between the Lanham Lab and Dave Lewis Cabin - last night or this morning then to D.L. Cabin - orchard - hillside above Taylor Cabin.

Dec 30
Tuesday

Jim wrote up summer student internship flier & sent it to Alton C. I sent receipts to Sue R and printed out envelopes addressed to U of I correspondents. Finished my peregrine report & mailed it. Jim, Hanley, & Kristine rode mules to the Timbered bench to look for deer and packed 2 mule loads of Dave D's firewood. We use grain bags to pack loads of split wood on the packsaddles - with basket hitch. We finished eating the turkey (enchiladas) and played a final Cribbage match tonight.

Dec 31

Wrote up / mailed monthly weather summary. Jim repaired the generator (Honda). Letter to D. Bottger. Received washing machine capacitor from Backwoods Solar. Friends Hanley & Kristine flew out on the mail plane. 2 otters across from Rush Cr. - 1 eating a trout. Read more Christmas cards.

Jan 1
1998

Happy New Year! We took down the Christmas tree & lights in the window. Took the day off. Played more cribbage. Hand washed laundry.

JAN 2
Friday Jim worked on / finished progress report for his ODFW bear study. I wrote a letter to Tim Kaminski, wolf biologist for NezPerce Tribe - about our sightings & interest in contract or research work on wolves. 45° today, rained all night.

Jan 3
Saturday Got the lab ready for Tara & Greg. Mailed WI receipt. Wrote letters while waiting for T & G to arrive in Cascade & fly in. We cancelled the flight as they were taxiing from Cascade - weather was changing & daylight time was marginal. Baked sourdough cinnamon rolls. Canada geese near the bridge in Am - they flew in during a snowstorm last night.

Jan 4
Sunday Low fog, but blue sky. We expected the plane in, but snow in Cascade, then snow in late pm here → no flying. Jim cleaned the chimney. We rolled the airstrip (^{snow} ~ 3", but John said snow slowed his landing last time & it would be better rolled). Rocky & Cricket enjoyed the walk & trot light pulling of the roller. Jim & Hanley had checked over & set up the roller last week. Jim went

across Big Cr to split firewood we cut last week; while waiting for the plane, I stayed by the radio fixing up a big dinner with hopes that we would share it with Greg & Tara. Sent out more letters. Sent one of my rubber bottom boots out for Arnolds to find ~~someone~~ to sew it up. Hydro's running great, leaf cleaning at the intake every 2 days, water hauling (2-4 buckets/day) has become routine. Mild temperatures have made the trails around the cabin slick with ice. Greg and Tara did get in to Taylor Ranch with John. The Middle Fork had some snow showers & fog; blue patches here for John to get out.

Jims first day of work on our "jobshare".

Jan 5
Monday A big firewood day. We spent the morning splitting the rest of the firewood at the North pasture. Rocky was lame in the morning - ^(left front) an abscess above his heel. The abscess broke & we soaked & treated it - there is a puncture in the frog between heel bulbs. We packed 19 mule loads (38 grain bags full of wood) in the afternoon with all 5 ^{mi-}mules. Tara & Greg cooked chicken lime cilantro soup!

Jan 6
Tuesday All 4 of us ^{split &} packed wood all day -
5 trips = 40 grain bags of wood.
Trail was very icy, so we quit with only
1 trip left in the N pasture. Treated
Rocky's abscess with a penicillin shot.
Bald eagle overhead while we worked.

Jan 7
Wednesday We cut down 3 trees with the cross-
cut saw on Cliff Creek. Limbed
& bucked up segments for the mules
to skid. Pruned N side pear tree
& pruned out the trail for skidding.
Fixed a gate latch, cleaned intake,
hydro's fine. No mail plane -
snow in Cascade.

Jan 8
Thursday Skidded the logs down to the flat on Taylor
Ranch property using Rocky & Cricket. Some
difficult pulling & connecting due to the narrow
rocky trail. We used chain and cable for
getting logs into position on the trail. Tara
& Greg used ropes to hold the log on the
trail & maneuver it around obstacles during
skidding. Cut up the logs with chainsaws
& split some. Mail plane in.

January 9, 1998
Friday

We finished splitting & stacking the firewood - about 2 cords. Trail is too icy for packing, so we tarped the stack. Bo has been disrespectful of dogs (chased Boone - Greg's dog) and kicking out at people, so I worked him in the corral with some Parelli training for respect. He did a lot of lip licking & figuring out who was boss. We all had our usual dinner together + cribbage match. Jim, Greg, and Tara hiked up behind the ~~each~~ ranch to look for wildlife. They saw a lion track + ♀ & kitten track, 1 elk, and the sheep on the benches. Cold, clear beautiful day → 6° last night.

Jan 10

Greg & Tara hiked upstream. Jim worked on his bear writeup. I did some cooking, cleaning & reading at home. Semi frozen hydro jet thawed with 100 watt bulb. Snow started, not flyable.

Jan 11
Sunday

Heavy snow all night & today. Nine inches deep in AM. Greg & Tara were to fly out today - it was never flyable. We hitched Rocky & Cricket to the snow roller and all took turns driving the team; reset fir boughs for markers.

The bighorns came down off the benches today. They fed around our new woodstack then went to the lick on Big Cr. across from the corral. Tara & I got some good photos & video.
Last cribbage match.

Jan 12
Monday Another 5 inches of snow. We rolled the airstrip with the mules again. Ray flew in with the ski plane (Cessna 185) at noon to pick up Tara & Greg. 1st time on skis here this winter. Got 3 propane, sent out trash. This is our "mail day" this week.

Jim & I spent the afternoon fastening all the miscellaneous fittings & faucets ^{& hoses} we had collected & glued together so we could connect from the hydro bleedout by the yard to the faucet on the house - for running water. It worked! We buried the garden hoses under a foot of snow and wrapped faucets & metal connectors with silver bubble wrap insulation. A Y at the house faucet allowed continuous water flow over the bank when water is off in the house. Did 3 loads of laundry, we both took long hot showers. Thoroughly enjoyed running hot & cold water. Have to stop & remember - no need to heat water in the basin for handwashing, forget about using the outhouse.

We don't know how long this will last - we are keeping our water buckets and basins full for now.

Jan 13

Water's still on - 3 more loads of laundry. In the afternoon we rode Daisy & Penny to Goat Basin looking for wildlife activity. The bighorns were on the (newer) lick on the flat below (east of) Taylor Ranch; 3 elk above Goat Basin, 14 Canada geese, 10 mallards, 1 downy woodpecker, and lots of dippers along Big Cr. Fewer ungulates than we expected. Bald eagle over the

Jan 14

Hiked to sagebrush flat / mouth of Rush Cr. - no elk or deer seen up Rush Cr. Worked on the hose line water system - thawed & replaced the continuous flow hose.

Jan 15
Thursday

We rolled the airstrip again today to pack it better. Temp is ~32° and 4" of new snow since last packing. Used Rocky & Daisy - a fast pair. One of us stood on the back frame of the roller & balanced with ropes to make it pack better, the other person drove the team from the seat. I started on maintenance

summary, Jim worked on bear reports.
 Bighorns have moved to west side of Cliff Cr;
 the bald eagle flew by at least 3 times today;
 elk & deer high on Cliff Cr.; one elk watched
 mules getting fed hay on knob above lab;
 geese & ducks near Rush Cr.

Jan 16
 Friday
 Water was off again this morning. We spent
 ~ 3 hours revamping the system & getting ice
 out of garden hoses. We put the 3' heat
 cable on the house spigot, - along "Y" (black rubber), and
 part of 5' black rubber hose. Covered that with
 fiberglass pipe wrap and plastic. Running water
 again. Refrigerator propane ran out. We used
 Cricket with singletree & harness to drag (3)
 propane tanks to the cabin. Got the
 storage module from the meteorological station
 in the lower pasture, connected to PS/2
 computer and downloaded data (FALL971.dat)
 from Aug-Jan in the MET STA program.
 Reconnected storage module to Met station.
 Looked over other programs on the computer.
 Bald eagle flyby along Big Creek. Starling in
 corral. Winter ticks on mules & Bo
 - some have developed into adult stage. Mica
 had engorged tick on her chest.

Jan 17 Saddled up all the animals (5) and moved the last of the wood from the N pasture - 7 bags. Took the wood to the Duplex. In the afternoon we rode upstream to check the trail & look for wildlife. No ungulates, ^{only} dippers & ^{winter + golden eagle} wrens. We were stopped at Brown's Basin by a tree too large for our saw. Trail is slick under 12" of snow. Hot chocolate & cookies at Lobaur Basin. Packed grain on Rocky to the corral shed.

Jan 18 Worked Bo in the corral with halter rope
 Sunday & Parelli halter. He's following me & moving from me now without the halter. Laundry, letter writing, baking, woodrat trapping in the corral shed (large snap traps).

Jan 19 Jim spent most of the day building an
 Martin Luther exterior platform on the back of the snow
 King Day roller - to add weight to the roller - a person or lumber/grain bags. We had planned to go to Cave Creek with 3 pack mules of gear for a camp up there, but it was raining/snowing & we decided to do an overnight trip later this week. I worked Bo & read horse training books (Lyons, Porrance).

J.A.
 Jan. 20 My first entry in the Taylor Book since 1990!
 Today we rolled the airstrip with Rocky & Daisy.
 The platform extension worked well - Holly rode.
 We then hooked the mules to the stone boat,
 hauled lumber to the corral shed - 2 loads (for
 feed bin construction) Then we took a propane
 up to the Conyer Cabin - put an EZ connector
 on the propane fitting. Sanded up the 3 branches
 broken by snow from the Duplex & Shop fir trees.
 Holly worked Bo more on "good manners" training etc.
 Wrote Jim Peck a letter, plus many personal. Holly
 and Mica watched 27 elk move/feed out of the
 lower pasture... they are fond of the Mullen plant.
 Several ± 15 sheep visible on the House Mtn. side of
 Cliff CR. - browsing in the mountain mahogany bluffs.
 Warmest day in quite awhile, definitely above freezing.

Jan 21 Mail day. Wrote more letters, sent health
 insurance application to Pam Bell CFWR. Received
 materials from CFWR - Internship, trip meeting
 schedule, Carol Spain's continuing ed. & field
 station information.

Jan 22
Thurs. Jim put aluminum shoes on Bo with borium & traction nails. I trimmed hooves on the 4 mules. The mules were so mellow that I didn't even put halters on them for hoof trimming. Trimmed manes on Rocky & Cricket - the snow roller team.

Travis Bullock (Miletti Outfitters) flew in with Pete of Middle Fork Aviation. Travis hiked/snow shooed up to Miletti to repair a broken tent frame (due to deep snow) and snow blower the Miletti airstrip, so it can be used by his lion hunters next month. He left at 3:15 - a long slow trip in deep snow - we left our radio on for him to check in, but he must have camped along the way. Visited with Pete; he came in with his Cub (PA12) with oversized wheels - no problems on the packed airstrip.

Jan 23 Travis arrived at Miletti @ 11:30 AM today. I worked on a 6 month report for Taylor Ranch. Jim worked on his bear report. We saw 2 otters in a riffle of Big Creek near the Tack Shed. They were eating mussels? maybe or small fish - one every minute. We finished packing for trip tomorrow.

Jan 24 Rode Cricket & Bo & packed camp + hay
 Sat. cubes on Daisy, Rocky, and Penny. We set up a lean-to shelter with woodstove & spent the night in our dome tent. We hope to use this camp on Cave Creek while monitoring predator activity this winter & spring. On the trail to Cave Creek we saw a bald eagle land in a snag 50 m. from ² fishing otters at Mule Basin. ^{Beaver activity.} Elk (37) were feeding & bedded in Cabin Creek Flat, deer (2) at Browns Basin. We spent 3 hours crosscut sawing the ^{big} twisted tree out of the trail at Brown's Basin. Jim tied the root wad back with rope while we sawed thru the tree; when he cut the rope the roots lodged in the trail rather than bouncing free. We cut off root stumps & built a trail detour around the root for now.

Jan 25 A warm night for camping out. We
 Sunday dried the frost & condensation off the tent with the woodstove. Rode up Cave Creek to the forks - a beautiful blue sky day - the first in weeks. Saw 4 groups of elk, totalling

~ 25 in Cave Creek, 1 deer, old lion tracks, chickadees Σ , juncos, magpies. No mtn goats at the forks cliffs. Packed up camp $\frac{1}{2}$ returned home - elk at Cabin Cr, 2 Clark's nutcrackers at Gooseneck, new lion tracks Gooseneck to Lobauer... (^{most likely} yng ad. ♂). We did not see any wolf tracks or activity anywhere along this trip... they must be upstream further or?, we definitely need the fed. frequencies on these wolves if we are to do wolf/lion interaction work.

Jan 26
Monday

Holly did laundry while Jim worked on bear study writing. Very warm today, above 40°. Holly worked the horse "Bo" today on basic halter commands - while tiding. Rocky's eye is doing better after yesterday's treatment. Airstrip feels a bit soft and will need another rolling prior to the mail plane Hydro hit 23 amps - the highest we've seen it... this occurred after the wash machine ran all day and was recharging the batteries. Bobcat? appeared to run from Taylor gardens... after dark.

Jan 27

Packed 18 bags of firewood - 3 trips with mules - to Duplex and Taylor Cabin. I worked on TR maintenance plan. Jim worked on bearden ecology writeup. Cougar tracks at mouth of Cliff Cr.

Jan 28 - Wednesday.

Wrote up maintenance plan Feb → Aug. We hitched up the team to roll the airstrip - pack down the bumps. The roller was frozen in place & the tongue broke when the mules turned to start. We couldn't find a spare tongue or sound pole for a replacement - our only option is a live Doug fir tree.

Jim flew out on the mail plane & will return after our Moscow trip in mid Feb.

I set up Mica's new shock collar - a variety of modes for different kinds of training. We got our replacement camcorder from Kits Camera - read up on it too.

Jan 29

No time to start on the new roller tongue.

Thursday

The water was off this morning. Spent most of the day clearing ice from buried yard hoses with 9 gauge wire, boiling water and/or hoses in a bucket of hot water. It appears the hose may have frozen from laundry drain water which spread under the snow in the yard and encased the hose to house. Reinsulated & buried line again. Elk barked behind the cabin. The South aspect slopes have really melted off in last few days.

13° min

Jan 30
Friday

Worked on the new roller tongue - cut down a 6" fir tree behind the orchard, skinned it with draw knife and smoothed off knots.

Sharpened draw knives. Changed propane tank for stove & lights at Taylor Cabin.

Wrote up the monthly weather report.

Answered a 16 page survey for wildlife biologists. Water system is running fine; no maintenance for weeks on low head hydro system - fully charged batteries, ~50° in shed due to heat diversion load. Turned on the solar battery trickle charger in basement. 17 bighorns above 3B.

Jan 31
Saturday

Read the 2 student marketing plans for courses at Taylor Ranch. They provided some nice comparisons with other educational programs (Teton Science School, Smithsonian Study Tours, Flathead Lake Biol. Sta.). Dissassembled part of the roller tongue then decided to get some sunshine & take time off on this bright blue sunny weekend. Caught up Bo to ride up on the benches. We got to the 2nd Bench when we were joined by the galloping herd of loose mules. Cricket, the bloodhound

mule had tracked us down after they crossed Big Creek and broke a rotten gate rail on the trail. So we all went up to the 3RD bench to capture some late afternoon Vitamin D (sunshine). Saw 2 coyotes that retreated above the bench then watched the mules wander around & feed; 4 deer, 6+ elk, magpies, raven, nutcrackers, Stellars jay, 250 rosy finches(?). Snow has melted from steep S aspects below 3B and TB; its >12" on 3B. Coyotes walking on top of crusted snow. Greenup sparse & ^{growth} 2-3" max below 3B.

Feb 1 Rode down to Burnt Creek in the afternoon: 16 elk bedded along trail West of Cougar Cr, bobcat track E of Gorge, 2 golden eagles @ Dunce Cr, 1 Deer @ Snake Cr. Took some video of the lower Big Cr Canyon & Gorge. I remind myself I want to explore Snake Cr and Burnt/Breeching Cr's. this year. Read Small Farmers Journal in the evening.

Feb 2 Fix, fix, fix! The water is off again. The intake box screen needed cleaning - small bark & organic particles plugged water flow to the box. Many particles lodged in the frozen

drain valve below the yard. I spent all day redoing the garden hose line. As before, the upper hose could still pass water flow, but the lower hose & drain hose were frozen. The problem was likely due to particles clogging the drain valve, plus I forgot to let the bathtub faucet run last night. I wrapped the 30' heat (tape) cable from the house uphill on the lower hose. Wrapped it with bubble pipe wrap or fiberglass wrapped in visqueen. Connected a new drain hose & laid it on the surface of the snow - opened the valve for good water flow.

Sheep on the 1st bench, Mules bed on the airstrip in the sun. I finished reading the student marketing plans in the evening.

Feb 3

Tuesday

The water is off again - all hoses are frozen except heater segment. Got the water running in pm - took a shower, did laundry & disconnected & drained hoses. I am really frustrated with the daily maintenance to restore running water.

I had a busy week planned getting ready for Moscow trip - slide show, maintenance, education planning.

Feb 4
Wednesday Reestablished the original snow buried water hose line, replaced soggy insulation from holes in hose, attached new connectors that came on the mail plane. Ordered parts to totally overhaul the ^v waterline, so it works ^{hose} until spring thaw.

Feb 5
Thursday The water is still on!! Spent the day rebuilding the snow roller tongue. It was a beautiful sunny day to be outdoors working with wood. Fifteen elk grazed along Big Cr trail across from the cookhouse, undisturbed by my noise at the roller & calling to Mica. I got some close video footage of them - its the usual herd with the red spike with corriente bull curved horns. Snow has melted off the south aspect slopes.

Feb 6 The miracle of indoor running water prevails. I finished the roller tongue replacement & cleaned up. Did odd jobs - packed grain on Bo to corral shed, moved firewood to the front of the cabin, split kindling for the Duplex. In the evening I went through our Taylor Ranch slide books and selected potential slides for the Internship presentation. Kopper tox the mules soles, & frogs.

February 7
Saturday

Finished selecting slides, wrote up caretaker list for Clyde Smith & Ken Spidell, packed my clothes and Taylor Ranch files. Rolloed the airstrip with R&C. The new tongue worked great, but the snow didn't compact much. 40°+. Dave Williams, houndsman for Mile Hi Outfitters mtn lion hunts stopped by on his way upstream. He had dinner & spent the night here (3 hounds, 4 horses/mules). I read his book ^(he authored) "The Middle Fork Maneater" - a fictional account of a man eating cougar pen raised at Taylor Ranch - interesting, gruesome, thankfully pure fantasy! He wrote the book while wintering at Cabin Creek in between mountain lion hunts.

Feb 8

Dave left for Mile Hi. I finished up packing. Clyde & Ken will be in soon. and I will fly out for a wedding & bear den activities in Oregon and a week in Moscow - student internship slide show plus reasearch, education, and maintenance planning for Taylor Ranch. Cleaned leaves off inlet & waterbox screens. The plane never came. I finished Clyde's book "Meet Mr. Grizzly."

Feb 9 The bloodhound mules escaped to Cliff Cr. again last night. Apparently they tracked the elk from a few days ago and found a spot where the fence was down. Clyde & Ken will have to fix it. They are flying in now. Elk & sheep on the benches.

Entry being made by Clyde Smith - Ken Spidell and I were flown in by Ray Arnold in Cessna 182^W Skis. We arrived AT Ranch about 11:30. Holly was ready with her stuff to be flown out. She took time to show us the hydro-electric set-up and the water system that might freeze if temp drops too low. She had prepared two pages of information to aid us in looking after the place while she and Jim are away.

Feb 10. The temperature dropped to 11° last night but water system did not freeze. Ken slept in the duplex last night. There was a beautiful and bright moon. We repaired the fence where mules have been going through to get to Cliff Creek. We put a new "stick" latch on gate by grain shed. We walked down the creek below the lower pasture in an endeavor to locate some Big Horns.

Feb 11- Not so cold last night - Water Works operating fine. We walked up to the intake - OK. We crossed Big Creek and walked up Cliff Creek - (Just for exercise) - We went up bottom to where Cougar had crossed Cr. on a log - probably same tracks Holly had seen earlier - We climbed up to 2nd bench - Observed 26 elk - 1 spike - Rest cows & OR yrlgs - No calves - Not good for maintaining a herd - obs. 14 big horns - 2 Rams - 1 lamb - Rest ewes & or yrlgs. Jim & Holly called us to request we send a box of slides out by Ray Arnold. Slides needed for presentation in Moscow. We cleaned chimney for heating stove in Taylor cabin. Chipped ice on trail up to cabin - Ray landed about 4pm - stopped long enough to pick up the slide box.

Feb 12. Ken repaired cellar door - put some backing boards on underside and put epoxy glue in cracked boards - Also put two new hinges on door. Clyde chipped ice on trail going down to hydro plant - Trail very slick - Chipped ice on back door steps and approach to front

DOB - Elk came down to lower pasture today. There were 29 total - 1 spike bull, 27 Antlerless and 1 calf - we must have missed seeing the calf yesterday. Snow settled & melted some today -

Feb 13 A brief snow flurry about 8:00 AM - No sticking - Ken and I were going to walk to Rush Creek on trail across Big Creek - when we got that far, the weather turned nice - so we walked on up Big Cr. 3 miles or more - we wishing we had ridden BO & Cricket. Some icy spots but in general good. Observed 3 elk - Antlerless across creek. Fresh bobcat tracks in trail above Rush Cr. Cougar tracks - several days old - about a mile above Rush Creek - Observed 2 Ruffed grouse. Stock doing fine - Rocky's eye looks pretty good.

Six or seven elk came into CORRAL and used the salt block. The Red bull was among them. When he arrived, he hogged the salt.

Feb 14 Had the challenge of just a trickle of water in the cabin this morning. Since temperature got down to 13° last night, we thought possibly the line was frozen some place. We went up to the intake and cleaned the screen outside

The box. That didn't solve the problem so went
 went to intake again and cut off most of the
 intake flow and cleaned the screen inside the
 box. Ice crystals seemed to be the problem.

The AMP output had dropped to 13. After
 cleaning the screens it slowly built back up.

We had intended to ride to Goat CR. but
 the water system took until 1pm. We will
 wait for another nice day.

Did some cleaning in the cabin. Ken
 fix the gate at the lab.

Looked like it was really going to snow
 but just a small flurry.

Ken saw a male Red Wing blackbird at
 horse corral this morning - a harbinger
 of Spring.

Feb 15.

Rode down to Goat Creek - Ken Rode Bo
 & I rode Cricket. Just as we got started
 up the Goat Creek Trail, the three mules
 we had left at the ranch caught up with us.
 Rather than take them up Goat Creek,
 we returned to the ranch. We observed
 really fresh Cougar tracks just west of Goat
 Creek. We were surprised we didn't see
 any game - lots of old elk tracks - some deer

Tracks. Saw two ruffed grouse at cliff creek crossing. Observed two Turkey Vultures soaring above 3rd bench.

Hydro plant putting out 22 amps today.

Feb. 16 We fixed the place in the fence where the three mules got out to follow us to Cougar Creek. It was the place that we fixed several days ago. Elk had knocked down the pole & brush we put up the other day. In afternoon we walked to end of air strip near Rush Creek. There were the tracks of a subadult cougar at far end of air strip. Tracks appeared to be one or two days old. We went up Rush Cr. a short distance and then climbed up to Sagebrush flat. Across Rush Cr. we counted 15 elk (1 bull) above sagebrush flat there were 6 adult cow elk. We returned to cabin on the trail above the airstrip. On trail there were tracks of a bobcat - one or two days old. We counted 15 elk on the 3rd bench - All adult antlerless. Total elk today 36 - 1 bull & remainder adult antlerless - Not good! There were 21 bighorn sheep above 3rd bench - unclassified. One adult bald eagle flew down the creek. One Turkey vulture over Housewtr. A small flock of Redpolls at Cabin. Holly called this morning to check on conditions at Ranch - we reported OK.

Feb 17- a challenging day in getting water into the cabin. Right after breakfast we suddenly had only a trickle of water in the faucets - Ken checked for ice crystals in the intake screen - not bad - we found that the line had ice in hose above cabin - Took it up and thawed ice out. Also there was ice in the Junction hose by the house - drain line $\frac{1}{2}$ into the cabin - got that out. It all took until after 1 Pm - While we were working on the water line was when we noticed the big horns licking soil just across from hay shed. We didn't see where they came from - There were 6 rams in the group. The full curl Ram was above the trail - we didn't actually see him licking the soil. In fact, he was never actually in among the group. He went on up the trail while the others went down the trail. There were 6 rams in all - a couple $\frac{1}{2}$ curls and 3 smaller. There were 10 ewes (one collared) and 3 lambs. Today we also observed on cliff creek side 15 elk - 1 spike, 12 cows $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 calves. We observed 6 deer among the elk - all does. Also, among this same group was 11 big horns - 1 medium ram. 6 big horns were farther up cliff creek on horse mt. slope - these were unclassified.

Feb 18. A loafing day - Read old Journals and other interesting material about the area - Ken caught a mouse ^{in TRAP} he had set for a rat in the shed at CORRAL. 8 deer & 8 elk were high on the 3rd bench - we can't understand why there are not more deer in the area. The snow in the pasture sure does not melt ~~or~~ settle in the pasture. Lion hunter with saddle horse, 3 pack horses and two dogs went down the creek about 11:00 This morning - didn't stop.

Feb-19 Put 3 mules in CORRAL and then Rode Cricket and BO to Cabin Cr. Trail had numerous icy spots but didn't have any trouble - on the way to Cabin Creek we saw 5 ewes & 1 lamb a 1/2 mi above Rush Cr. We saw a lone Ram high on Ridge 1 1/2 mi above Rush Cr. - Ram appeared to be 3/4 Curly. At mouth of Cabin Cr. we saw 2 Coyotes - when we got back to Ranch at 5 pm, there were 19 big horns just above trail across from Cook house. Also, there were 9 adult cow elk at streamside by the CORRAL. The entered the creek and waded down stream and went under the bridge.

Feb 20. This was cleanup day - Trying to get things in order so Holly & Jim won't think we are a couple of slobs - Ken caught a male Bushy-tailed

Woodrat in shed by the Council. He was beginning to think the cat was too educated. We checked the Tack shed but could not find any evidence of woodrat was. Observed a male Redwing blackbird in birch tree near Cabin. 4 deer and 9 elk feeding together above 3rd bench. 10 bighorn sheep came down to natural lick across creek above the bridge — 5 others stayed above on the trail. I called Carol at Arnold Aviation about 4:45 — she said Jim said they plan to be flown in tomorrow morning. They will have to use a wheel plane as they are working on the ski plane. She wanted to know the condition of the strips. I told her it is packed hard snow & is same as when Ray came in the 10th. He would know if wheel plane can land.

Feb 21

A waiting day — waiting to see if Jim's Holly would be flown in. The weather was flyable until about 2 pm when it rained some with snow at higher elevation. Took some pictures of the cabins and area.

Feb. 22 J. & H. return after what seemed like half the winter out, actually I was almost out for a month - ODFW and UofI business. We had a productive Moscow visit, gave the internship presentation (28-30 attended) and had meetings on maintenance, research, and education topics. We flew in w/ the 206, although the strip wasn't really firm enough - we'll have ruts to fill in before the next plane. Clyde & Ken left everything in good order. 26⁺ elk and 15⁺ bighorns on the 1st bench. Spent most of pm putting things away, we brought in a full load and there's still a plane load out!

Feb. 23 Squally day. Stayed in and attacked our respective paper work. I wrote the job description for the TR maintenance person to be hired in early May. Had to work on water line - ran out of water. Holly skinned ice from the intake screen. Walked the airstrip and kicked snow into ruts from yesterday's landing.

Feb 9- We met with ^{Dr.} Al Ward to discuss proposed grad
Feb 13 student (Becky Bigelow) Bighorn project at Taylor Ranch.
I made UI calls, purchases, worked on meeting agendas.
Took 1 day off to search for a bear den with Jim in Oregon.

- Caine Vet Center, UofI, Caldwell

Feb. 24

Had 2 computers going this am in attempts to get paper work out in case Tony Wright is flown in - weather does not look favorable, (and wasn't). Harnessed Rocky & Cricket and rolled the airstrip. The snow was too sticky, think it did some good though, in smoothing out the ruts. Put pack saddles on R. & C. and packed feed to the corral shed 3 grain, 2 cubes (wind & snow). 17 elk made an assault on the corral salt just before dark, but Penny led a "mule attack" to repulse the "intruders."

Feb. 25

Mail day preparation in am, personal and business

Wednesday

mail attended to. Tony Wright flew in \pm 3:00 pm. He brought the ranch a couple boxes of reference material - journals: Wildlife Society Bulletin, J. Range Management, etc. We spent the afternoon talking about monitoring. Tony had developed a monitoring direction at Running Creek Ranch for the Hornocker Wildlife Institute. Now that the program at Running Cr. is being discontinued (sale of ranch) Tony wanted to share info with us. His orientation has been post ice age (Holocene) changes with emphasis on noxious weeds & cowbirds also interests in changes in ungulate numbers, barred owl expansion, anadromous fish.

Sheep & elk have been feeding together on E side of Cliff Cr & below 1st bench all week.

Feb 26
Thursday Tony, Jim & I walked to sagebrush flat then below lower pasture to look at fish weir site on Rush Creek & look for a potential site for the IOF&G anadromous fish screw trap at Running Cr - which we could possibly get for use on Big Creek.

26 elk to the corral - Jim spooked them off. Tony flew to Running Cr. in the pm. Trimmed mule manes. Siskins are really using the bird feeders now.

Feb 27
Friday Jim went to Cougar Cr - mt. lion & sheep tracks. I finished going thru our mail of 2 weeks and worked around the house. The elk were on the airstrip in Am then to the salt lick in the corral in pm. I chased them off (walked to the corral) so they wouldn't discover the haystacks. The mules barely glanced up from their hay as 17 elk milled around. Sheep & deer on the benches. The days have been sunny, but we are not losing snow depth on this side of Big Creek (11 inches). No snow on the benches.

Feb 28
Sat. Temp. 7° last night and the water is off again due to ice crystals in the inlet screens. Spent the day replacing the old hose line with a new 75' hose,

3 30' segments of electric heat cable spiraled around the hose, then covered with foam pipe insulation tubes. We suspended the water line on wood blocks and covered electric connections with plastic. We are very optimistic that these days of water line hose maintenance are over for the winter ... only time will tell. Mica practiced "tracking" - she tracked Jim 600 m from the cabin to up Cliff Creek - great job after a year without practice. Jim shot his longbow on the airstrip. We started mules on "Northwest Supplement" for extra selenium & other trace minerals. I read up on mutual fund performances - for UofI retirement and Roth IRA investment decisions.

March 1
Sunday

It was one of those days - we planned several simple projects that took more time than expected & yielded mixed results. Jim reworked the AM/shortwave antenna - we did get better reception with a ground, but still poor daytime reception. I poured a bucket of water down the septic system stack, but the bathtub drain still gurgles when the toilet is flushed - not enough water pressure to put a garden hose down the stack. Jim cleaned creosote from the chimney.

1998

March 2
Monday Jim worked on ODFW paperwork. I reviewed past bighorn reports and disease data from Taylor Ranch & Hells Canyon. Read bighorn literature. We walked down to the salt lick on the trail to see if there was a kill - nothing dead, but lick being used by 13 elk, 2 deer, 5 bighorns. 21 more bighorns above the lower pasture. We planned the location for a drift fence at the edge of Taylor Ranch property. Wrote up monthly weather summary.

Mar 3
Tuesday Wrote an abstract of a bighorn paper I plan to present at N. Wild Sheep & Goat Conference. Sent it to organizers + it & outline of presentation to Craig & Vic, ODFW to ask for travel funds. Jim wrote up a job description for the 8 month maintenance position we will fill next month; mailed & faxed it to Dick B. on Thursday.

Mar 4
Wed. We discussed maintenance & course planning for summer. Reviewed Yellowstone Inst, Glacier Inst and Teton Sci School catalogs for ideas, costs, and course contents. Read WRC literature + old plan. We hiked on the benches in pm to comp. wildlife herds: 30 bighorns (22E, 1YE, 5L, 1I, 1II) and 9 deer (7D, 2F) in swale; 5 deer (2D, 1F, 2B) Cliff Cr; elk herd in lower pasture; greenup slow-poor; magpies pick bighorn ticks

March 5

Thurs.

Phone calls to Dave Hunter IDFG State Vet about spring bighorn capture and to Nancy M. CFWR about intern applications and maintenance hire. Finished tests on electric clock plugged into hydroelectric system (Clock runs 30-60 seconds per "minute" displayed. Clock speed changed by use of microwave and/or washing machine. Other electric clocks work fine.). Sent a letter with clock-test results to Dr. Jim Peterson, Elect. Eng. Dept. as he suggested.

Ed Bottum flew in to visit us a week, a friend from Oregon, we met when he was the IDFG Conservation Officer in Cascade, ID. Ray A. stayed for lunch while waiting 2 hours before picking up a passenger at Big Creek. After much discussion about the problem with our "top-of-the-line" sine wave inverter (hydroelectric), we sent him off with the plans for the Taylor Ranch system and the Backwoods Solar catalog - some good bedtime reading for Ray. We hiked to the second bench with Ed & saw 5 bighorns at the bridge lick (+ digging cymopterus roots); 11 elk bedded on 1B lick; 17 bighorns & 11 deer bedded in the 2B^{ench} swale. I collected fecals + roots from the cymopterus site, also collected droppings ^{sheep} yesterday.

—Jim, Ed, Holly

March 6
Friday We saddled up the mules & horse and made 4 trips with firewood from Cliff Cr - 1 load to lab, 3 to Taylor Cabin (24 bags). Trail is still icy in spots. A bald eagle circled low overhead 6 times as we loaded the mules. Elk (4) to the corral again - scared them off. Jim reviewed & ranked the student internship applications (11). Received fax (via radio) from Dick B.

March 7
Saturday Shod front feet of 4 mules with sharp shoes. We rode downstream to meet up with Ed who had hiked to the Dunce Cr. Cave. 7 sheep at trail lick, 7 sheep east of the Gorge. 16 sheep below east knob, 8 elk + 3 deer + 2 sheep in a mixed group west of 2 bench, 5 sheep above west knob. Sheep are digging roots again.

March 8
Sunday I reviewed & evaluated student internship applications with similar results as Jim. We packed our gear for setting up the wall tent at Cabin Creek. Checked the tent for a stove jack - there isn't one - we'll have to make one. Cleaned waterbox screen. Mica did a practice "search" for Jim & Ed & found them in the trees on the hill above the airstrip. A cold snowy day, 31° max temp. Ed saw 2 varied thrushes @ Cliff Cr.

March 9

Called Nancy M. with our selections for student intern interviews. We loaded up riding & pack animals and headed upstream. Across from the airstrip Rocky slipped on the icy trail & fell down & off the trail with his load. We cancelled the trip for the day & returned to the ranch. Jim & I shod the back feet of all 5 animals with traction (borium tipped) nails and caulks - to help them in these icy conditions. Ed back-packed to the Cave Creek camp. We will meet up with him tomorrow. Noticed propane leaking from a rotted rubber line outside the lab - replaced it & will order a new spare. Mica did a search. Checked waterbox again. Left message for Dave Hunter. Heard a plane - radiotracking wolves? - up Cliff Cr / Horse Mtn.

March 10
Tuesday

We finally headed upstream with the camp - got an early start after calling weather in to Arnolds. We unloaded gear on the knob just W. of Cabin Creek then rode on up to Cave Cr to meet Ed and take down & pack up our Cave Cr. Camp. We skidded tent poles from Cabin Cr flat up to our campsite. While loading the

5:30pm

mules with poles we heard a wolf howl on the ridge/hillside on the E side of Cabin Cr area, (Horse Mtn. side). Set up the wall tent on the point overlooking Cave Cr, Cabin Cr Flat Spring Cr, Cow Cr, upper Cabin Cr.

The wolf howled again - very low pitch & drawn out - louder than before - 20 minutes, @ 9:00 pm from our camp & the mules.

March 11
Wed.

We weather proofed the wall tent camp (to be used when Jim Peek's class comes in next week). Lit a fire in the new stove; All 3 of us + 5 mules/horse went up Cabin Cr, to the airstrip washout and the big pine trees. Rode back home in the pm.

We saw a fresh wolf track below Cabin Cr. Cabins to Spring Cr ridge, then at Brown's Basins travelling upstream over our tracks from yesterday. Must be the howler.

8 bighorns at Goosneck - same as yesterday - both times they approached Mica (< 10 yards), and paid no attention to the rest of the pack string. Pileated woodpecker, varied thrush, killdeer, robins at Cabin Cr. We looked for a kill at Brown's

Basin - golden eagle & 5 magpies - couldn't find kill, but it was near 8 elk of yesterday and a wolf track. Arrived home & found the airstrip was a soupy mess. It was 57° today (up from 31° on Sunday).

March 12
Thursday

Mail day. Ed Bottom flew out. We did a few odd jobs: replaced propane at Dave Lewis cabin refrigerator with one from Arlow's cabin; fixed drift fence gate the mules had knocked askew and cut a new pole & repaired that fence line. Buttercups blooming near the gate, ^{bunch} grass is starting to grow. Another warm day - the airstrip is a sloppy icy mess by afternoon. Read Tony Wright's monitoring plan for Running Cr.

March 13
Friday

Full moon last night & warm sunny day. 40 elk, 37 bighorns, and 20 mule deer observed on the benches this morning. Called Jim Peek about class arrangements & condition of the airstrip. We spent the afternoon breaking up ice on the airstrip and used the fire pump to pump out puddles (>4" deep) on the airstrip. Saw Dave Williams pass by with stock & hounds on his way to Miletti for a cougar hunt.

Saturday
March 14

I worked on my peregrine plan edits and Jim worked on his hound transect paper for the Intn. Bear Meeting in the AM. We pumped out puddles on the airstrip with the firepump again and broke up big ice chunks. Another warm sunny day - 58°. Jim cleaned intake screens.

March 15
Sunday

We each spent ~5 hours getting ready for Jim Peek's class - cleaning, supplies, starting fires to warm up cabins. We planned to get water to the Duplex plumbing from our hose line, but when we connected up we found that the faucet water line had been cut and plugged under the cabin, so couldn't be used. The airstrip is drying out, still ~50% snow/ice chunks. I hosed the trails & our yard to melt the ice - its still very slick.

Mar 16

Pumped out puddles on the airstrip again before the planes arrived. 3 flights with McCall Air Taxi - soggy landings, but safe. Jim Peek's class got settled in at the lab and Duplex. We discussed the history of

Taylor Ranch & toured buildings. Jim P. led the group on a hike / discussion of value of wilderness to wildlife mgmt. We all had dinner @ the Lab. Elk & ~~do~~ bighorns on the benches. Crows at T.R. Bald eagle circled the class while on the trail.

March 17
Tuesday

Peek's class hiked to Cabin Cr. Jim & I loaded camp food & duffel on the mules and packed it to our wall tent camp at Cabin Creek. We set up dome tents & glassed for wildlife - saw 130+ elk in 5 groups. Mtn bluebirds are here. Cooked elk & horse steaks over the campfire for dinner. At night we hiked up toward Vinegar Hill to listen for wolves howling - Stu & Jim did some howling. Several of us thought we heard faint howling toward Doe Creek, but nothing distinctive. Videored bighorns at Gooseneck 10-30 yards away.

March 18
Wednesday

The whole class + J & H hiked up Vinegar Hill & glassed for animals in Cabin & Cave Creek. Saw several branched antler bull elk with cow herds, plus a few old shed-antlered bulls. Most elk were high. Golden eagles, Clank's nutcrackers, mtn bluebirds, robins. Returned to Taylor Ranch. The bighorns are still along the trail near the Gooseneck - tame.

March 19 Thursday Jim & I cooked sourdough pancakes for the class. Jim Peek & class hiked up the Cliff Cr benches to the top. Jim & I put the satellite phone system together. We made some test calls (mostly answering machines as we forgot it was spring break at UofT). Yes, it works! A new era in Taylor Ranch communication - it should really enhance research & education development, plus benefit keeping in touch with family & friends.

March 20 Friday The wilderness wildlife class flew out in the morning - the airstrip was bare of snow and frozen hard. Dave Williams stopped by for coffee on his way from Mile Hi to Flying B. His 2 lion hunters flew out early - they both took older toms. Jim saw the one they took up Cow Cr. when they went up Cabin Creek on Wednesday. Dave gave us the book he wrote Poisoned Progress, and left us several boxes of ^{eggs} bacon, ham, sausage, elk meat, bread, apples, etc. Dave saw a wolf track in the mud at Cave Creek today that wasn't there Wednesday. Maybe we did hear wolves up there. Jim & I finished the installation of the satellite phone in the afternoon.

March 21
Saturday

I set up the new computer - a Prostar laptop with "all the bells & whistles." Jim Peek brought it in with the satellite phone; Ed Krumpe had already run the set up program for us and installed programs. We will be able to run ARCVIEW, GIS program on it. Jim flew out today to go to Moscow & interview student interns. Cheryl Borum flew in to visit me. We watched wildlife on the benches, looked at the buildings, & cleaned water intake.

6 rams joined bighorns below IB.

March 22
Sunday

Cheryl & I rode & packed the mules to the Cabin Creek wall tent camp. We stopped along the way to photograph the usual 8 bighorns - they cooperated by staying bedded as we approached to 40 yards. Mica is definitely "broke" on animal chasing / scent following. The female lamb had droopy ears, but otherwise appeared normal. Cheryl brought "home grown" T-bone steaks for BBQ grilling. At dark I howled for wolves, as we had not heard any. 2 then 3 responded from east of Canyon Creek. It was fainter than the lone wolf last week, but similar in style to what we thought we heard a few days ago → a constant howl from 2 wolves alternating the howl (2 pitches). The 3rd wolf was high pitched like a pup.

March 23
Monday

Cheryl & I leisurely packed up the camp and fed the last of the hay cubes to the mules & Bo. Last night ^(5 AM) I heard many elk running across Cabin Creek or Big Creek, but couldn't see them. We rode up Cabin Creek then saddled & loaded the wall tent + camp gear on the stock - 2 riding mules, 3 pack animals. Naturalized the camp & mule high line area. We stopped at a coyote carcass to collect a skull we saw on the Cabin Creek flat yesterday. The skull was gone. Near the fur and bones was a big fresh wolf scat - from last night (same direction of the howls we heard from camp, but closer than we expected). Collected the scat - mostly deer hair. Pair of snow geese at Cabin Creek, 2 RS Towhees. Dippers singing along Big Creek. One bighorn ewe was bedded just E of the ridgeline between Cabin Cr & Brown's Basin.

March 24
Tuesday

We put away camp gear and rearranged the tack shed. The mules broke out of the drift fence again, so we did a temporary repair job until Jim & I build new crossbucks and cut some new rails. Julie M. called

about Dave Hunter coming in to capture/sample and radio bighorns with us. I guess we will be tracking sheep this year. Good!

Jim flew out & went to Moscow Saturday. He spent all of Monday interviewing student intern applicants with Ed Krumpe. They felt it was a good group - selected Matt and Jennifer. ^{Tuesday:} Jim discussed updating his Taylor Ranch History and combining it with Peek's monitoring plan for a CFWR Exper. Sta. Publication - Chuck Hatch OKayed the plan. Jim called then visited Curt Mack, Wolf Project Leader for NezPerce Tribe. He & Curt set up a co-op plan for us to monitor the local (Big Creek - Chamberlain) wolves - for expenses - this spring/summer, and write up a longer term research/monitoring proposal for funding.

March 25
Wed.

It's rainy for the 3rd day and it's mail day. I spent the morning finishing final edits on my LaGrande peregrine falcon nest plan, printed it out, copied the file to disk, and sent off my bill to the Forest Service. Ray finally flew in after 6 pm & picked up Cheryl. Weather was still squally. I received notice of acceptance of my bighorn lamb mortality paper for the Bien. Symp. Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council next month.

(ISW)

Wayne Minshall, sent a reprint of his work on Big Creek: Macroinvertebrate Community Structure in relation to measures of lotic habitat heterogeneity. 1998 ^{by} G. Wayne Minshall and Christopher T. Robinson in Arch. Hydrobiol. 141:129-151.

March 26
Thursday

Caught up on 10 days of Taylor Log and Animal Sightings Diary. It has turned into spring during that time - snow has melted, greenup of pasture barely started, songbirds have arrived, 4 days of rain, Bo is really shedding, and Big Creek is up and off color slightly. Washed 6 loads of laundry - I really appreciate the modern electric washing machine (vs. the hand powered wringer that still sits in the yard!). I've received several calls on the satellite phone - very convenient communication, altho it has to be turned on each day. Duncan Leonhardy (Frank's son) wants to bring in some Latah Co. juvenile delinquents to help us with manual labor at TR, ~ 1 week. Jim has hired Troy Rohweder as our maintenance person ^{for} this year. We are really glad he was interested. He'll help us get this place in shape. Now we have to get the caretaker cabin - Arlow's, ready for him. Wormed mules, doctored Rocky's eye again. Sprayed Rocky's back w/insecticide to kill ticks.

March 27
Friday

Rolled up hose & put the pump away - no longer needed on the airstrip. I found the telemetry equipment & sorted out what we have & what we need for bighorn monitoring. Will contact Peek or IDFG for antennas, coax, etc. Read info sent in last week by Alton C. and Nancy M. Found a dead deer from last summer (not scavenged) along the airstrip. Elk & bighorns together below 3rd bench. I worked on our income taxes & my contract accounting in the evening.

March 28
Saturday

I decided to take off the first sunny day & go toward Rush Pt. Headed off with Cricket & the snow squalls followed. The rest of the herd escaped the Rush Cr. fences & came along. Saw 9 deer, 1 dead cow elk, mt. bluebirds & robins, + 30 elk at Cabin Cr. Snow > 8" near the top, 50 elk, 22 bighorns, 5 deer in one herd below 3rd bench. Cleaned the chimney pipe & did taxes in the evening.

March 29
Sunday

Spent the day on our income taxes plus my Wildlife & Farming business accounting. Replaced shelf below woodstove door (from cookhouse stove)

March 30
Monday Checked the underground waterline to the Taylor Cabin - it's thawed & full flow. Disconnected and disassembled our hose/heat cable/insulation yard waterline. Cleaned screens at the waterbox intake. Finished taxes. A beautiful sunny day - the first in awhile. Hiked downstream in the evening to pick *Stipa* grass sample for Jim Peek - phenology is too early - no sample. Found a great horned owl skull, woodrat skull and lots of young mtn mahogany along the archaeology flat below TR. First marmots of the year whistled in the lower pasture. Siskins, song sparrow, towhees, crows, flickers, ^{chipmunk} around Taylor Cabin yard.

Mar 31
Tuesday The first day I have worn shoes rather than insulated boots since fall. I cleaned out some of the old flower beds and found daylilies, columbine, iris, and rhubarb just emerging. No sign of the daffodils & tulips I planted last fall, and no asparagus yet. Put the primroses Cheryl gave me in a big planter on the porch. Raked the yard, put out grass seed in bare patches and used the little hand tiller to cover seed. Still lots of

wildlife on the benches: 31 elk, 31 bighorns, 21 mule deer. The deer & elk use the corral salt lick, bighorns on Big Cr cutbank licks.

Jim met ^{3 hrs} with Curt Mack, NezPerce Wolf Biol. to set up a coop monitoring agreement. Mules didn't come home for grain & hay today.

April 1

Wed

Wrote personal letters, odd jobs sprucing up cabins, Jim made purchases in Cascade before flying in. ^{He} Called Dave H. about bighorn capture. We put away gear & discussed Taylor Ranch business - student interns, maintenance position, Hendee letter, Duncan's letter, wolf monitoring, bighorn capture, meeting w/ Chuck Hatch...

April 2

We worked on wildlife projects - Jim on bears; I wrote up info for slides for my upcoming bighorn talk.

April 3

Spent the day on airstrip & pasture improvement. Spread 20 lbs. of seed on the airstrip & main pasture. Rehabilitated/repared the riding harrow and used Rocky & Daisy on the harrow to cover grass seed and break up manure in the main pasture. Tied a drag bar on the harrow for smoothing. Put harness on Penny and

ground drove her on the airstrip. We may train her to work in harness this spring. 9 elk feeding on airstrip & N pasture in the morning, then went to the new satt block in the corral and fed in the greenest pasture around the barn.

April 4
Saturday Worked on projects at home: Jim on Black Bear Hound Transect paper, me reading Small Farmers Journal & baking. Lots of rain.

April 5
Sunday More rain. More projects indoors. The mules have left home. Mica did search & rescue practice on Jim.

April 6
Monday Turned on the water system in the Duplex and did light cleaning in the cabin. We were expecting Dave Hunter IDFG state vet et al to fly in Wednesday for sheep capture, but they have postponed until next week. Pruned the yard pear tree & other shrubs; sharpened & repaired shears. We gathered electric fencing supplies to build fence in the NW pasture, but decided the mules should pack the gear. More rain. I hiked to Lobauer Basin tracking mules - they are further upstream, 4 Am. Widgeons. 74 elk on benches.

April 7
Tuesday

I Worked with the new computer trying to install printer drivers, so I could write some letters. No luck. Called EdK, then couldn't call Jory S. because the satellite phone was "no service". We heard other people on the backcountry radio say their satellite phones were down today also. Wrote a response to John Hendee's letter on our own computer. Jim worked on his bear paper. Bow shooting & search dog practice to the Sagebrush Flat. Found a 1st piece of Taylor Ranch linoleum near the Sagebrush Flat - don't know how it got there!?

April 8
Wednesday

Printed letter to J. Hendee + copies. Started a letter to Jim Peek - too late for mail plane. Coordinated sheep capture ^{dates} via satellite phone. Jim worked on his bear writeup in AM. We hiked to Cabin Creek to collect the mules - they were feeding with 17 elk. Saw 2 groups of bighorns, 1 grp of elk, otter, 10 mallards, robins, gray jay... 25 elk above our cabin when we returned home. We got mail & groceries on the mail plane, then John returned with our rototiller and 4 propane tanks. We had hoped to see more bighorn groups toward Cabin Cr. if we are going to capture sheep next week.

April 9
Thursday

We are still seeing record numbers of elk on the benches (lower pasture to first bench and below 3rd bench) 75+ animals. It has rained daily for a week. We spent the afternoon packing supplies & setting up the solar powered electric fence in the north pasture. Kept the mules in the corral again since we didn't finish the fence. In the Am I talked to Jeff Rohlman^{IDFG} about bighorns + the low elk calf numbers we are seeing.

April 10
Friday

We finished the electric fence. Solar fencer battery was not charged, so we used our own portable camping charger. Put 3 mules in & 2 out - fenced area is $\sim \frac{1}{2}$ of pasture + watering spot on Big Creek. It looks really good! I wanted to rototill & plant strawberry plants Cheryl sent me, but the grass thatch in the old garden spot was excessive. We got out some kerosene & burned the gardens, & rock walls. It worked well & makes the area look more tidy. We tried the weedburner Jim's dad gave us, but the old fuel line leaks & needs replacing. Jim worked on Duplex toilet - still needs work to stop the constant running. Called Jeff R. again + tried Jory for computer help.

April 11
 Saturday I looked over our slide collection for some bighorn lamb / summer range slides for my talk. Set up Jim's ODFW computer & TR printer. Jim printed out a draft of his bear transects with hounds paper. Two mules got out of the new electric fence - a branch over the fence. Jim set up the fence again. In the evening we rode downstream to the hillside east of Cougar Cr. to look for bighorns. No bighorns, but saw 46+ elk above the House Pit (Cougar Cr) Flat - including 4 spikes & 3 branched bulls (still with antlers!), but only 1 calf. Saw a beaver in Big Cr. 18 bighorns showed up on 3rd bench again.

April 12
 Easter Took today off. It's Easter. Snow squalls & windy. We planned to ride up Rush Cr, but weather wasn't nice. Called Dave Hunter then took salt & hay cubes to the 1st bench to bait the bighorns. There are 3 groups of bighorns on the benches (>30 total). Rode Penny & Cricket to the 3rd bench looking for sheep & looking at green up vegetation. New grass & forbs are short / sparse above the 1st bench. Put new shoes on Penny's front feet. Packed a load of firewood to the house in Daisy's empty pannier bags after moving salt/hay. Silent meadow bank above second bench.

April 13
Monday

Yardwork - raked, Roundup a few spots, cleaned out garden debris. The first sunny day in over a week turned to snow showers again. Jim worked on his bear paper in pm. I called Jory & found out how to install the Star Printer on the new Prostar computer - it worked finally! Record numbers of bighorns all of the sudden: 39 sheep (27 ewes, 7 lambs, 2 I, 3 II) on the 1st Bench - to our salt & cubes, and 9 sheep (8 ewes ^{1 lamb}) above the 3rd bench; 6 deer (2 does, 2 bucks, 2 fawns) on 1st bench.

April 14
Tuesday

We found out plans to capture & immobilize sheep were finally cancelled. The weather has been marginal for flying. Dave H., Julie M., and Jeff R. all have tight schedules - as do Jim & I. The sheep are inconsistent in availability, and much spookier than earlier years. So, probably better to wait til fall when we have a more detailed study plan. Animal Science grad student Becky Bigelow is flying in tomorrow anyway, to see the bighorns & country. Blood & disease samples from capture will be part of her thesis. Fencer

is still not working. Brought the battery home to trickle charge overnight. Brought the mules to the corral. Mica did a search dog find on Jim under the bridge. I reviewed Jim's bear paper. He printed it out & worked on his slide show. Raining again, snow to the second bench in the evening. A big herd of elk in Cliff Cr again, 25+ including the branched bulls. ~40 bighorns above 3B.

Apr 15

Sent a response to a student about Taylor Ranch activities. Becky Bigelow, Animal Science grad student under Alton Ward flew in to look at the sheep & area. We hiked up on the benches. Wildlife - ungulates everywhere: 10 herds of 5 elk, 41 bighorns, 29 mule deer. We discussed possible project direction, methods & logistics for her thesis. Jim finished his slide presentation.

April 16

I worked on the computer. Jim & I discussed possible field activities with Becky and looked at maps with her. She hiked to Gooseneck and Goat Cr. Invited Becky up for spaghetti dinner.

April 17
Friday Jim & Becky flew out to Cascade. Jim spent the day on Taylor Ranch errands & phone calls. I looked at my Wenaha & Big Creek bighorn reports and expanded the outline for my lamb mortality paper.

April 18 A perfect day to be outside - 60° and the first clear day in weeks. I hauled manure to the garden below the yard and rototilled the garden. Planted strawberry plants Cheryl B. had sent, plus transplanted those in the grass choked garden. Tilled up 2 ^{new} flower beds - rock lined the one along the E side of the house. Planted iris tubers from Doc J. - they didn't over winter well. Dug up / replaced rocks in the footpath in front of the cabin. Rototilled & compacted a wide swath along the trail to the cabin so the cart can be easily brought up the trail. Reseeded bare spots in the yard + trail & footpath. One asparagus tip just emerging from the ground. Still waiting for my hyacinths to bloom.
I worked on my sheep paper in the evening.

April 19
Sunday

Spent most of the day working on my lamb mortality paper for the N Wild Sheep & Goat Council presentation next week. I'm learning Windows 97 & Word 95 - can't resist fiddling with all the settings, changing toolbars, spending an hour undoing what I inadvertently "did". Lots of wildlife activity out the window to distract me, too — deer, bighorns, a new group of elk with 3 calves (25 of 100 cows!), Coyote in the pasture, bumblebees, swifts, bats...

April 20
Monday

Worked on bighorn paper; reviewed my reports/publications & others in N. Wild S. & G. Proc.; learned more about the new computer. Yesterday evening Kurt Becker stopped by (landed his Cessna 170B) to say hi. He was a local IDF & G Cons. Officer in the early 1980's & now USFS leader in FCRNR Wilderness Planning. An old friend we haven't seen in years. 1st buck observed with new antler growth today - 1 1/2". Elk have been eating down the airstrip - high density of droppings at the W end. Elk behind the house daily, plus sometimes feed in the main pasture. 70° today! a 10-25° jump this week.

April 21
 Tuesday Bighorns headed upstream - staging for migration?
 Bright sunny day. Pat Armstrong flew in & hiked up to Cabin Creek to begin work on Cabin Cr. Airstrip. He'll hand fill the eroded trail so he can land his plane there next time in. He'll bring his mule team in from Meyers Cove in early May. I pruned the yard apple tree & young fruit trees in the orchard. Discovered mites in a tuft of elk neck hair from the airstrip. I suspect scabies - probably the cause of rubbed off neck hair on many elk, and maybe the cause of low calf numbers. Tried to call Jeff Rohlman IDF & G WLF Mgr in McCall to discuss it. Worked on sheep paper & looked at slides for presentation.

April 22 81° F today! Spring is here. Big Creek is up & milky from Monumental Cr. Cleaned up pruning debris and sprayed gnats on mule ears & bellies. Worked on my slide talk most of the day / evening. Checked electric fence & saw 1st cowbird with the mules.

April 24

Arrived around 3:30pm talked briefly w/Holly. Outfitters were here. Stored their stock in the Corral, borrowed some canned goods and headed up to Cabin Creek, Will be back in the a.m.. I dismantled the dam Holly and I built for winter water supply. Observed some wildlife in the late evening and hit the sack. Pat Armstrong arrived from Cabin Creek and departed. Greg

April 25
Saturday

Expecting to sleep in, was awake to a plane from Middle Fork Aviation bringing Steve Zettel and another with supplies for pack trip. They loaded their stock and waited for the others from Cabin Creek.

April 26
Sunday

Went for my first hike this morning around 10:30 a.m. Headed up to the ridge beyond the benches. It was nice and sunny today and not too hot. Great weather for a hike. Just over the rise of the second bench I saw a group of magpies under a stand of fir. They were cleaning up the remainder of a relatively fresh lion killed sheep (radio collared). I proceeded up and as I came over the third bench I saw a group of a mule deer bedded and feeding on the slope. I watched for a while and then headed up. The deer went up in the trees and watched me struggle to the top. The elk were also in the trees, I'm sure they were laughing. As I reached the top the elk were

Just 50 yds above on the ridge. I saw sheep all along the top part of the hike. I had lunch up on top gassed the hillside awhile and headed back down. By 2:00pm. I was slumped on the couch.

April 28
Tuesday

After I walked over and fed the mules some cubes I came back over, had breakfast, called in the weather and went for a hike up Pioneer Creek towards Dave Lewis Peak. It was very warm today. I did not see wildlife but had a great view of the snow capped peak. I hiked up for about 2 hours then headed back toward the ranch. As I got up to the T. Cabin I saw a mule deer sneaking across the pasture and into the trees by the hay barn. He went for a drink and then bedded down. Shortly after I had visitors. One of the outfitters, Adam, and a client from Florida came up to beat the heat and wait for the others to pass by on their way to Soldier's Bar. We talked, they drank water and I gave them a tour of the ranch facilities. As we headed down by the cookhouse Boone had his first pursuit of game, the mule deer that was bedded down in the trees. Boone came back all wet so I assume he chased the deer into the creek. Adam claims he and a client heard Sasquatch screaming the other night. I have my doubts.

April 29
Wed.

It was warm today 78° so I decided to hang around the ranch. I fed and flywiped the mules in the morning and then I took a walk down the airstrip and played with Boone. He enjoys playing fetch in the water as long as the stick floats close enough to shore so he does not have to swim. I will have to work with him on that. I am flying out tomorrow so this will be my last entry. I have enjoyed my time and wish I could stay longer. The outfitters stopped by last night and we cooked up some rib-eye that they brought. steak sure beats Top Ramen anyday. We visited for awhile and then they headed up to their camp at Cabin Creek. Thanks to Jim & Holly for the many opportunities they have given me. I had a great time.

Greg

April 30
Thursday

Made several business calls/purchases before flying in. Called Jack Hogg w/ Craig head Inst. about their vegetation mapping and summer field plans. Called Terri Wood w/ USFWS regarding lynx surveys... to coordinate w/ wolf observations next winter. Flew in early pm, first attempt was aborted near Cascade due to oil on the windshield... oil cap didn't get back on engine after oil change. Put things away into evening. Let 3 mules out of electric fence. 26+ sheep visible above 3rd bench. Good to be back, finally!

May 1
Friday Rode Cricket to timbered bench, saw 26 sheep above 3rd bench - ewes/yulgs. Also this am saw 3 rams at out bank across from barn 2 - class II⁺, 1 cl. II⁻. Worked on electric fence (i solar fence). Jim Stubblefield hiked up from the Middle FK., showed him around a bit, he was interested in Dave Lewis history. Said he picked up 24 ticks on the Middle FK., not as bad coming up Big CR. He was doing a "slow float" with side canyon detours. Did some tack repairs, was going to burn brush piles but pm wind came up. Mules (Cricket & Rocky) crossed Big CR. with hobbles on (water is high too), they can't resist grazing on the airstrip.

May 2
Saturday Rotated stock and "babysit them," tested Bo on a picket - he got better with time. e leaved places to tie around pasture and picked up old wire, ^(cut down many rose stems too) Got water flowing into east water box, built a new screen for intake pipe in box. Modified water flow into our box, inside & outside screens were plugged. Deer(6) elk(4) and sheep (12+) on 3rd bench, also saw a lg. cl. III ram bedded atop the Main Cliff - up Cliff CR.

• Observed a little buck get zapped by the electric fence, which it proceeded to hang up in and then knock down.

May 3
Sunday

Awoke to air in the water pipes, and hydro plant not running. Found plenty of water in the box but the internal sp screen was covered w/ debris. Cleaned both screens and began air bleeding down the line. I was surprised at the gunk that came out of the hill-bleedout. Finally resumed flow. Discovered elect. fence washed out at drinking spot. Waded out in Big Cr. and arranged a makeshift set up. Sawn up broken hitch rail, sharpened chainsaw and rusty pruners. Packstring (zettels) went downstream mid-afternoon. Wind/thunder/some rain late afternoon.

May 4
Monday

Burned brush piles in a.m. Holly and Troy Rehweider flew in \pm noon. Put things away, Troy moved things into Arlows. Began on-demand H₂O heater hook up. Pat Armstrong and daughter Sarah came in from Meyers Cove with 4 head. Put up ² them and their stock. All got together for dinner. Steve Zettel and crew bear hunting in area, said Soldier Bar Ford very marginal - had one (short) mule in string floating.

Holly: I was in Whitefish, MT at the Northern Wild Sheep & Goat Council symposium - gave a presentation on locating sick & dead bighorn lambs by watching the behavior of the ewe - a method we first used on the Big Creek bighorns.

May 5
Tuesday
Cleared brush and burned around fuel shed area. Worked on Arlows plumbing - for water heater. Found many breaks in line, began repairs. Did N. pasture fence expansion. Wrote business/personal letters for mail day. Began shop reorganizing (mostly Troy did). Tended stock, Pat's and ours. Pat flew out early this am - to McCall. Send gear list to student interns; responded to a student inquiry about TR.

May 6
Wednesday
Mail day letters (writing), several planes in and out. McCall Air in on 2 FS flights w/ people and gear. AA came in late am with the mail. Did editing on coop agreement with N.P. tribe. Finished shop clean up. Jeff came in late pm with 6 head FS stock. He had problems with a paint horse, apparent colic so we treated with banamine. Horse also oddly foot sore with bleeding from sole and coronet?? We had FS stock stay in corral - fed hay, and put up Jeff in the bunk house.

May 17
Thurs.

This was an odd day with the paint FS horse's condition going from bad to worse. We determined that the coffin bone was protruding through both soles. After visiting ^{on the radio} with Dr. Curtis in McCall we (reluctantly) put the horse down via .308 rifle. Jeff was pretty upset over the ordeal. We harnessed the mules and dragged the carcass to the far end of the airstrip. Took 3 of our mules and went with Jeff back to Snake Cr. to retrieve his tack & gear which he ^{packed} _{yes, yesterday} to ease the burden with the horse.

May 8
Fri

Turned water on to the lab. We had to tighten a few nuts on the hot water heater, but no pipe repairs. Extended the bleedout valve & pipe to the outside of the lab - still haven't found the connector to the fire hose. 2 propane tanks to the lab. Thorough cleaning of the lab - bathrooms especially + new mirrors & towel holder. We turned the water on to Arlow's - the newly soldered joints worked, but the repaired hot water heater leaks in several places. We'll get a new heater & repair this as a spare. Troy put a post in for the hitch rail, hit a big rock at the 2nd post. Dan & Adam headed up Pioneer Cr w/ a bear hunter.

They returned with a small bear $\frac{1}{2}$ said they heard a wolf howl up Pioneer Cr. when headed up $\frac{1}{2}$ then headed down the switchbacks. Steve Z. stopped to visit Jim $\frac{1}{2}$ gave us 2 boxes of food in exchange for hay cubes ^{+ food} last week. Jeff $\frac{1}{2}$ Jenni returned from Cabin Cr and flew out in the evening (Fs). Jim told Jeff what our vet Mark Omann said about the horse illness: "Road Founder" from multiple causes - light colored feed, ^{? ~~was~~} soft out-of-shape horse, hot weather, overexertion, hard rocky trail, cold water, colic... It's rare that it acts so quickly $\frac{1}{2}$ dramatically. We hauled manure to the garden $\frac{1}{2}$ rototilled. I planted my raspberries, Troy planted veggies. Swallows ⁽⁴⁰⁾ overhead in the evening; Lazuli bubbling at the birdfeeder. Jim put up my nuthatch box.

May 9
Saturday

Took day off and hiked up Pioneer cr. to the heliport. Did some howling at the meadow and up the switchbacks, no return calls. Saw very little, looked for migrating sheep in Rush cr. Hiked back the ridgeline.

May 10
Sunday

Mothers Day, called Mom. Jon Horn from the FS came to the ranch from Cabin Cr. to pick up supplies and mail letters. He reported that the trail crew saw and heard a wolf in the Cabin Cr. flat. Pat, ^{Arrowsmith} flew in with McCall Air Taxi and took his 4 head back up to Cabin Cr. (3 bags of cubes final tally on feed). Rode our animals onto the 3rd bench late pm to give them some exercise. Also reshod the fronts of Bo and Daisy. Electrical storm from 9:30-11 pm, lots of rain & lightning.

May 11
Monday

Craig Miller UT Wildlife Dept, Post Doc. flew in with Chouhan and "Letam", refuge / park managers from India. Jim took them to Big Cr. Gorge to show them the area & Sheepeater Indian housepits & pictographs - they saw 4 species of snakes. Troy worked on Arlows hot water heater system, irrigation & fence post hds. I gathered up reimbursable receipts & bills to UI.

We invited the India group over for beer, brownies & visiting in the evening. FS flight in Am.

May 12

Craig, Chouhan, Letam and I (Holly) rode the mules/horse up Cliff Creek to the top of the lambing cliffs. Two FS flights in and out. ^{JEFF H.} ^{BEN W}
Troy and I reassaulted Arlows plumbing, having difficulties with the solder/flux combo. Dug another hole for hitch rail. Troy continued main pasture irrigation ditch expansion. Heavy afternoon rain. Had a somewhat soggy barbeque with the India group.

May 13
Wed.

Rain in am, waiting for weather to break for today's flying. Continued hole digging. Mike Darris made it in by noon, coming from Salmon, and picked up Craig, Chouhan, Letam. Mail plane came and went. Hitched up mules (stone boat) and hauled lumber, wire, wood to shop / duplex. Jeff brought ^{PAK} string down from Cabin Cr. and picked up supplies for the trail crew. Before leaving Jeff helped us pry a big rock around... made a few pulls with the mules too - no buck. Duplex waterline appears plugged, Troy up for dinner. Just another day on "This old ranch." Also, this am Jimmy Pope stopped by with Terry Holubetz and Paul? (in helicopter), they were doing Redd counts for Steelhead.

May 14
Thurs.

Another wet night/morning. Dug up waterline (area) where duplex line connects to ours. Never found connection, but did solve problem (plug) by using the fire pump and back pressure to blow dirt/debris back out yard bleed out. ^{Troy built new box (treated wood) for yard bleed out.} Harnessed Rocky/Daisey and resumed assault on the big rock. With wood block and pry bars we elevated the rock to being flush with the surface. Finally, we succeeded in yarding the rock from the hole and out of the way. Howard Quigley / Ed Krumpf called on business. Holly continued scheduling, week by week, for the summer.

May 15
Fri.

Ignited the big brush pile at the woodshed landing - a challenge to keep under control even with a garden hose. Ripped a 20' segment of fir tree into bridge planks, hauled to duplex crossing. Set three posts for hitch rail and drilled the peg-in-hole fittings. Holly wrote letter to Nancy Matthews, a revision of the summer schedule. She also wrote a student on summer course(s).

May 16
5th Sunday

Holly hiked to Cabin Cr. to check on cougar kill (doc w/ 2 fawns) and survey for Harlequin ducks. Jeff from the trail crew had observed a lion near these carcasses, but the dismantlement looked like wolf-work. Troy and I made a metal bracket plate to attach the satellite phone. We also continued witch rail project - put in 4th post, back filled the huge holes from the boulders, re-hung the gate, and Troy routed (edges) and trimmed the posts. Kind of wet in p.m., invited trail crew to spend the night w/5 head stock. Four of 7 did stay, the other 3 crew members proceeded downstream. Trail crew saw 6 kayakers headed by ranch midday. Holly baked peanut butter cookies for a 11 this p.m. Matt + ? From Root Ranch headed upstream from Flying B, invited them to stop & visit next time - or at fall trail out.

May 17
Sunday

Troy and I hiked to Horse Mtn burn to look at Cliff Cr. lambing cliffs. The cliffs were unoccupied but we did see 3 ewes high on the Horse Mtn. side. Coming down the ridge we saw 5 people playing hacky-sack in the pasture, soon determined them to be a group of Kayakers. Holly did laundry and generally prepared to go out tomorrow. Holly worked on bighorn paper for NWS & GC.

MAY 18 Jim, Holly, and Mica flew out this morning.

Monday I (Troy) gathered up supplies for the sleeping porch at The Conyer Cabin.

Hurt my leg, sort of limped around the whole day. John from the F.S. Trail crew hiked up from Bighorn Bridge to borrow some wire and a couple of bolts. They're having some problems w/ the trail grader.

Framed the sleeping porch and put up the siding. Daisy + Rocky came over to inspect the new hitching rail - not sure how they crossed Big Creek? They were dry and the gate on the rail was closed? haltered Rocky and put him in the pasture (electroc). I think Pat flew over this evening headed towards the Middle Fork.

MAY 19

Tues Continued working on the sleeping porch @ The Conyer Cabin. Installed screen windows. Hopefully I will be mostly finished w/ the project by tomorrow. Two Jells and a Jen from the FS. stopped by at noon to drop off some gear (including broken trail grader) on their way up to Cabin 61.

Worked on the ditch same this evening. Flywiped the mules... and that's pretty much all for today.

MAY 20 Mail day - John made it in around 10:30 AM

Wed

w/ The mail bag, groceries, and some boxes of food for the F.S. Trail crew. I went back to work on the Conyer Annex - an hour later the plane circled and landed again w/ a load of lumber? 2x10x10's. Finished framing, sheathing, and screening the Annex. I guess it just needs a couple of doors now.

The creeks have dropped quite a bit - I had to re-work the intake for the main pasome, ^{dirch} cleaned the screens on the hydro intake still at 16 Amps? Things (electricity wise) seem to be working? Walked Daisy back over to the north side of Big Creek this evening after an afternoon of grazing the air strip. John, Jim + two others from trail crew stopped by to pick up some sheets. John said the wood might be replacement planking for the Bighorn Bridge? I'll talk to Jeff in the morning

May 21

Thurs

Talked to Jeff from F.S. - ITS NOT THEIR LUMBER, Talked to Jim - ITS NOT OURS? I put a tarp over it. Rained All day till around 8:30 PM

when it started to break up. The two Jeffs weren't able to fly out - staying in the bunk house.

I pulled out the bathroom floor in Arlow's - a little tricky since the walls were built over the subflooring. Lots of moldy particle board and mouse droppings. ~~Asus~~ ~~Had~~ Had to make a decision on the plumbing... I was all ready to jerk it all out and start over w/ PVC. Then I read a little about plumbing and realized that PVC pipe is carcinogenic and NOT recommended for potable water supplies. Hmmm.... Guess I'll stick w/ the copper. Completely re-soldered / replaced the hot water lines, moved pipes up against the wall to accommodate a point-source hot water heater. I'm crossing my fingers... hoping it doesn't leak. There's always duct-tape.

MAY 22

Another cloudy, rainy day at Taylor.

Fri

No planes. The Jeffs are still here we've been sharing meals (they ran out of food yesterday). 3 elk walked off the top bench down to Big Creek. I'm still working on Arlow's cabin.

MAY 23

Paring down rain and clouds as low as

SAT

The first bench... NOT real good flying weather. The two Jeffs + I filled the hydro ditch up through the orchards, worked on Arlow's

some more. checked the mules. Jim + Colleen hiked down from Cabin Cr w/ food for the two Jeffs. Jack made it in from McCall around 4:30 pm.

No mail. Jim + Colleen headed back to Cabin Cr.

Sand's like there's going to be some unscheduled F.S. flights. I asked Jeff to let me know what's going on. Saw three bohemian waxwings in the yard and a golden eagle on the cliffs downstream. Broken shies this evening... and even a little sun poking through.

MAY 24 Spent the morning building another chair.

Sunday Roy Arnold kuded around 10:30 AM dropping off a plane load of cubes and a woman that was going up to visit the trail crew at Cabin Cr. Thought I was finished w/ plumbing at Arlows. pressure tested it and found two leaks. Needed to take a little break from Arlows... hiked up to the first bench and looked all over for that piece of metal that reflects in the sun? Hiked down stream about a mile (with tracks). Did some cleaning up around the covey cabin, bagged up some trash, split some wood, ate some dinner, read a book. Pretty decent weather today.

MAY 25

Memorial Day. In memory of Lou, Don, and Ben... I

Monday

Took a hike up to Cabin Cr. On the way up - there were two W. tanagers and a Warbling Vireo. There were two moose in the meadow/flat @ Cabin Cr. one 2 year old cow and an older Bull. This is prime time for calving. 14 elk in the west end of the flat. 13 elk up Spring Cr. Stopped and talked to Pat & his son for awhile. Looks like good progress on the landing strip. Talked to the trail crew - sounds like they've headed back down to Bighorn Bridge this week. Hiked up Cave Cr. One young (2yr?) bull moose downstream from the cabin. Quite a bit of wolf sign above the cabin (tracks + scat). Crossed main cave and headed up the west fork 1/4 mile or so... realized that it might be wise to turn around. Clouds moved in, thunder - the skies let loose as I ducked under the gate at Rush Cr. It's pouring out there now. (8pm).

MAY 26

Tues

Another rainy, stormy day! serious gusts of wind blowing limbs out of trees. Spent the morning working on Arlows and cutting some Gre Wood. Tried to get the cashhouse bridge running. missing the burner and the bracket that holds it. Looked everywhere?

Spent most of the afternoon working on the ditch to the lower pasture. I walked down to the horse carcass at dusk - something has really been working on it since Sunday evening. Crushed skull, the whole skeleton had been moved. I assume it was a bear - too dark to see any tracks.

MAY 27
WED

Overcast day for the most part - high winds. Pressure checked Arlows - no pressure/clogged water line. Fixed it. No leaks in the plumbing at Arlows! Hooked up sinks and finished subflooring. Todd Gross Trail crew hiked down to fly out w/ McCall Air Taxi. They never made it in - he stayed in the bunkhouse. Mail plane finally made it in around 3:30pm - Ray dropped off groceries for Trail crew and Bechy Bigelow (grad student working on sheep disease research). Todd and I took the peony, axe, and saw and removed the last of the major obstacles in the ditch for the lower pasture. RL flew in and took the 2x10's to Pistol Cr.

Bechy and I hiked to the 3rd bench in the evening to glass for sheep - didn't see any. Lost pressure and hot water in the lab. Screen had silted in at the intake! w/ the high water I guess it will need to be checked 2-3 times a day.

MAY 28

Blue skies... Sunny... Summer?

Thurs

changed propane tank on the Taylor Cabin first off. bled water lines and cleaned intake screens. Hydro soil around 12-14 Amps w/ 3 jets. Worked on Arlow's. Becky hiked up above Cliff Cr (spent the whole day looking) - No sheep. Did some yard work. Returned the irrigation water back to the ditch - it was all over the place running down the trail etc. Two F.S. flights in - everyone is headed up to Big Creek G.S. Peas are coming up - onions well on their way. Mules are bored - seem to have lost their sense of humor.

May 29
Friday

Troy burned old flooring & debris at Arlow's, worked on hydro-system to increase amps, cleaned off Duplex roof, and did more plumbing & yardwork at Taylor Cabin & Cookhouse. Jim & I flew in at 6pm. We were out for a wolf immobilization & handling class & wolf monitoring orientation for our work this summer with interns for the Nez Perce. We also went to Oregon and made many Taylor Ranch phone calls & purchases (large gas range, lindeum, lumber, plumbing). Becky found 2 ewes & a new lamb in the Cliff Cr lambing area.

May 30
Sat. (p)

* Pat Armstrong flew in to borrow Bute's phone for lame ^{mule}
Continued putting things away. Discontinued use of the N. pasture - grazed down. Brought stock over for flywipe, saddling, exercise. Packed Becky B. a camp to the timbered bench, saw 2 rattlesnakes on 1st bench, otherwise uneventful. Troy continued his assault on Arlows plumbing - repositioning the water heater and connecting gas etc. We tested the system with fairly good results for low H₂O pressure. Holly up very late filing away paperwork and baking Troy a birthday cake for tomorrow.

May 31
Sunday

Took all the stock to Cabin Cr. (H₁, T₁, J₁), we will loan Pat A. Rocky until his mule is recovered from hock injury (hog spavin?) Rock went right to work pulling the Fresno alongside an unfamiliar mule (Monty). Rode up Cave Cr. to the forks in search of wolf sign. Saw 6 rattlesnakes, mostly up Cave Cr. Also saw 2 mountain goats on rocky pt. ^{south-} west of the forks... visible from the meadow camp. All the stock and us were tired after the 20 mile outing.

June 1
Monday

Awoke to clear skies, finally. Interns Matt Jones and Jenny Rogers flew in early. John also flew in the new range for the Lanham cabin. We all worked on getting the Conyer ^{-Lewis} cabin suitable for habitation-- cleaning, plumbing, finishing the sleeping porch - for Matt. Created temporary pasture between Lanham and Lewis cabins with an electric span. Troy continued assault on Lanham and Arlows cabins - range installations, and painting Arlows bathroom. Put new shoes on rear of Bo and Paisey. Becky returned from timbered bench.

June 2
Tuesday

Holly processed receipts and UofI business in the am. Troy, Matt, Jenny, and I moved delapidated fence to fill gap in front of Lanham cabin and to fill hole in fence line in ^{old} Lower garden brush strip. Troy repaired Conyer shower plumbing. Finished corral hitch rail fence right as afternoon rain deluge hit. Holly, Matt, and Jenny prepared food for their outing to Cold News/Root Ranch. Becky collecting plants, for her bighorn research.

June 3
Wednesday

Today we were able to bring the satellite phone back into use, thanks to Ed Krumpe providing some reprogramming information. Once again we had to bleed large quantities of air out of the water line... we can't figure out where it comes from each day. Holly and interns continued getting camp equipment together. Folks (Bill Zader & Gary ^(pilot)) called from the Craighead Institute to discuss a visit to the ranch tomorrow. Vaccinated our stock, other than Rocky who is still working for Pat A. at Cabin Cr.

June 4
Thurs.

Holly and Matt & Jenny made final preparations for their Cold Mtns. trip. The Craighead Inst. pilot circled the strip but did not land in his 182, he later called from Salmon to say the strip looked "a little scary." Replaced Crickets front shoes, pulled / trimmed rear on her and Penny. Troy and I tested the cookhouse waterline, found section of smashed line (presumed) in streambed build up area. Rod N. shuttled Holly & interns to Cold Mtns. Troy continued Arlows renovation... painting, shelf construction etc. We still are battling air in the waterline. Today we shut off the Lanham line with hopes of locating the point of "airation"

June 5
Friday

FS Flight came in the am bringing in 3 people, Ben, Tom, Danny. They stayed for coffee. Also, Jack M. was checking out new pilot (Bob) with McCall Air Taxi. Put shovs on rear of Cricket & Punny. We put shower stall back in Arlow's after Troy glued down new linoleum. Water system stayed functional through the day.

June 6
Saturday

Troy & I awoke to dry pipes and met at the accustomed job site - mid water line. We overhauled the intake (decreased velocity and dug out sediment) - built rock check dam. Troy spent most of the am. bleeding the bleedouts of air. Tom, Ben, ^{FS} Danny returned from Cabin CR. - very wet, as we had heavy rain all night. They inspected the main Big CR. bridge and foot trail - cliff bridge. Troy continued his assault on Arlow's refurbishment. I hand-seeded the N. pasture, particularly areas of bare ground. Received word from Carol that Holly's interns were ready for stock pick up at Cold Meadows on Monday. Began outlining last of bear study papers for ODFW.

June 7th
Sunday Jim headed out w/ the stock around 10 AM - bound for Cold Meadows. Mica stayed w/ me (Troy) - lots of barking - she didn't try to follow. I worked on Arlows during the morning. Read and baked some brownies in the afternoon. Rained off and on all day. The biggest highlight of this day was the water system - 'It worked!' I didn't visit the spring box once! The Amps held at 22 all day long! A momentous day indeed... 2 bighorn ewes between 1st + 2nd bench.

June 8th
Monday Early start on the plumbing problems at The Conyer Cabin (Mica slept in till 10 AM!) Closer examination revealed many leaks replaced Tank on toilet, pipes, hoses, washers, etc and lots of Teflon Tape. Rained off and on through the morning. Installed toilet in Arlows - more epoxy and silicon - will be a miracle if the thing doesn't leak. Hydro held at 22amps all day - looks like we've fixed the problem w/ air in the pipes. Jim & Holly, and Matt & Jenny returned from Cold Mdw. at 7:30 pm, somewhat wet and tired. The stock was pretty beat too - 45 miles in 2 days. Saw fresh wolf tracks in Cave Cr. & Blackburn Saddle.

June 9
Tuesday

Visited with Maurice Hornocker in the am. regarding mule business. Dried and put away camp gear. Did yard work around Conyer, Lanham, and Taylor cabins. Gathered poles & materials (made 4 cross bucks) for the lower pasture drift fence. Jen, "Cricket", and I moved poles while Matt & Troy built the cross bucks and pecked poles. Holly worked on wolf observation field notes and visited w/ Cart Mack regarding logistics and data collected.

June 10
Wednesday

This was a busy flying morning at TR - 5 planes in and out. First came the Craighead Inst. crew via Salmon Air bringing 3 people (Monica, Scott, Seth), they came in an Islander. Mike Dorris brought in the tribal wolf folks - Kent & Brad. Doug Badwa came in with Ed Krump. RC brought in the mail. Visiting and orienting the Craighead group comprised a lot of the day. Worked on lower pasture irrigation ditch and new drift fence. Evening barbeque with all.

June 11
Thurs.

Most of the day was devoted to drift fence building (Troy, Matt, Jen). Ed K. and I skidded poles from N. pasture "wood lot." Holly and Ed worked on computer set up. Heavy afternoon rain. Set 7 traps for woodrats at Conyer Cabin. Moved cupboards from cookhouse to Lanham cabin.

June 12
Friday

Went over watersystem with Ed. Doug G. came in mid-morning and took Ed back to Moscow. Everybody worked on L. pasture irrigation, used the ditcher plow behind Rocky & Daisy to cut new ditches, although most of ditch work was done manually by Troy, Matt, Jen. Also used the team to move some boulders (on stoneboat) and to move bridge-tread material from far end of the airstrip.

June 13
Saturday

Shoed Rocky and gave him his shots, which he took "like a mule". Mowed yard. Holly worked on her wolf notes from last week and she visited with Curt Mack on monitoring activities. Holly made a lentil soup and biscuits for dinner, had Troy, Matt and Jen over. The Craighead crew pulled in \pm 6:00 pm after spending the last 2 days doing transects-plots up Goat CR. and along Big CR.

June 14
Sunday

Packed up Craighead crew and went up to Cave CR - old cabin site, and set up camp. I looked for wolf sign while the crew did a couple plots on Cave CR. Holly planted the garden. Troy & Matt hiked to Rush Pt.

June 15
Monday

Rainy day off & on, just like the last several weeks! This am I packed up the Craighead Inst. gear and moved it around to Cabin Cr. where they will be tonight. Visited with Pat A. & Andrew who were working on the airstrip. Holly downloaded the weather station data and wrote letters. Troy worked on the cookhouse water system - broke out a clam above the foot bridge. A torrential down pour hit in the late afternoon. I saw 4 ♂ moose in the Cabin Cr. flat today... and 1 up Cave Cr. yesterday pm. 2 bighorn rams in Cliff Creek cliffs.

June 16

Troy & Matt built a cabinet/shelves for the lab. Jen painted the Conyer bathroom / removed old wallpaper - it's much brighter now! Jen & I installed a gas light in the Conyer bathroom bedroom. I worked on Conyer gas stove oven - still won't light. I worked on my bighorn paper in the Am, Jim worked on his Bear write up. Matt checked the irrigation ditches. We had almost an inch of rain last night! Craighead group returned in the evening. Everyone came over for peach pie in the PM.

June 17
Wed.

Today was mail day so spent the am on letter writing. Pete from Middle Fork Aviation stopped in, looking for Travis Bullock. The "on-demand" water heater came in on the mail plane so Troy installed it. Matt, Jen did yard & fence work and filled in a large share of the waterline. I wrote on bear paper for ODFW. Holly prepared for the next wolf monitoring trip - along with Jen & Matt in the pm. Craighead crew took the day off.

June 18
Thurs.

Holly, Matt, Jen finished packing their gear and getting ready for a 4 day trip. Troy and I repaired the leak in the irrigation ditch. Troy overhauled the cookhouse plumbing, replacing all pipe/tube material. Late morning McCall Air (Rod) flew in bringing Curt Mack, who had been radio-tracking wolves. Holly, Matt, Jen had to change destinations and were flown to Chamberlain rather than Cold Mtns. Gave Curt a tour of the place, he hadn't been here since the mid-70's. The mules/Bo escaped around L. pasture drift fence. They forded Big Cr. and end up at Cougar Pen Pasture. Fly wiped them all, treated a gash on Bo's forehead, and put them back into electric fence in N. pasture. Saw 3 mature bucks N. of barn this am. Craigheads working locally - stayed here pm.

June 19
Fri.

Still having water line problems, bled air out as usual but pressure still too low. Helped Troy mount the new cabinet in Lanham cabin. Worked on bear study, writing most of day. Troy finished doing what he could at the cook house. Craighead crew here tonight.

June 20
Sat.

Awoke to ~~no~~ water, did the usual clean out up above. Made plans to build a check dam ^(head gate) to more closely regulate flow. Got the mowing machine functional and mowed the airstrip swath using Rocky and Cricket. Put the stock in Cougar Pen pasture, where they broke out. Craighead crew had us ^(Troy & I) over for dinner. Finally, a day without rain!

June 21
Sun.

Got up early to get stock ready... in fact they had broke into the yard at 5:15 am. Packed up Craighead gear and crew for haul to Rush Pt. We got going well but ran into problems with the Rush Cr. ford. Ended up creating a new trail ^{2 1/2 hrs. worth} at the only "shallow spot". Of course a thunder shower caught up with us enroute back. Got home @ 6:45 to find no running water, oh isn't life at Taylor Ranch one big party! Worked on air jam until dark, still not much pressure but at least a dribble for a coffee. Cow moose walked by the barn this evening.

June 22
Monday

Troy and I moved electric fence from N. pasture to lower pasture. Also repaired rail fence behind Lanham cabin - Cougar Pen pasture. Ray flew in with Holly, Jen, Matt before noon. Doctored Bo after a 45 min. respect training session, also fly wiped all others.

June 23
Tuesday

We built 2 bridges today - aluminum foot bridge at wagon ford and a wood plank (ripped) bridge crossing to the duplex. Burned slash. Water box is functioning better since we blocked the air pipe upright, still have to clean debris 2x a day. Craighead drove back from Big Cr. Ridge. Everyone except Matt & Jen getting ready to go out tomorrow

June 24
Wednesday

Jen and Matt greeted 5 planes. Arnold Aviation arrived with mail and took Jim, Holly and Troy away to the wonders of civilization. The Craigheads also departed on Salmon Airways. Ed + David then came in with Inter-State Aviation. We thought that was it except for the second trip for the Craigheads but then, out of the sky, came the great green bird. The Forest Service Trail Crew arrived to work on the blow-out on Big Creek.

After that excitement oh yah! Hallie and Katherine, ^{strickland} grad students, also arrived. Hallie came in with Arnold Aviation and Catherine hiked up from the Middle fork

After all the planes, Jen toured groups around and showed them their quarters. Matt escaped to a life of trench digging and mouse trap setting. He also managed to do some hedge trimming before Jen and he ventured off with Ed + David to access ecomposites for impacts on Salmon, and Reds. Matt and Jen checked mules and horse.

* Katherine Strickler, PhD student in wildlife study dippers on 10 tributaries of Middlefork and Big Creek. with Hallie Henderson, wildlife BS '98 from UI.

June 25

More rain in the morning. Matt + Ed helped Katherine with trails and accessibility. Hopefully their limited knowledge didn't make matters worse. Katherine + Hallie went up Pioneer Creek + Rush Creek.

From there, Matt packed salt to the lower meadow for mules + horse. They were still there. He then checked mouse traps, spent an hour or so looking for a suitable fence post. Decided that he should wait because all the good post were still respirating. Then worked on trail above bridge over cliff creek, and finished by brushing up to the intake. He also did normal stuff (screens, hydro, etc)

Jen spent morning working on coffee table

and afternoon baking. Both Matt and Jen had Big Cr trail crew over for dinner and Outdoor Trivia.

June 26

More rain but turned out nice. Matt started day talking with Ed. Moved salt. Attempted to repair runner on rock sled but couldn't bend the runner. Didn't want to fix up the flog. Katherine + Hallie hiked to Cory ^{Ed} and Dave Jen had the day off. → ^{Ed} & went fishing (4 cutthroat ^{water}). Katherine + Hallie's conductance tester was repaired by Ed and Dave. Matt carried / escorted tester to Katherine + Hallie. ^{Matt} Caught them at Cabin Creek ^{Matt} & walked with them to Fawn Creek (So. Side of Big Creek). He then returned home. Jen flywiped the mules in the morning.

ED KRUMPE AND DAVID DORMAN, RRT GRAD STUDENT, HIKE TO CABIN CREEK TO SURVEY CAMPSITE IMPACTS. THEY WENT UP TO THE AIRSTRIP TO LOOK AT RECONSTRUCTION WORK AND TALKED TO PAT'S WIFE WHO SAID IT WAS GOING WELL AND THAT THEY REALLY APPRECIATED THE BRIEF LOAN OF A WORKING MULE FROM JIM & HOLLY. ED AND

DAVE FIXED KATHERINE STRICKLER'S CONDUCTIVITY METER AGAIN.

fed cats + cleaned screens in the evening as well as checking on the mules.

June 27

Matt + I (Jen) took the day off today. Ed + Dave flew out this morning + then we were alone until about noon when Jack Hogg + Jonathan (?) came in from the Craighead Institute. The pilot landed East → West, I think he may have never landed here before, but it was quite a lot of excitement to see the plane

come so low over the pasture! Jack + Jonathan got themselves ready to head out to look for Bighorns + Matt + I visited with them. After they left, we were alone + spent the day reading + enjoying the clear blue skies + warm sunny temperatures outside. Pat + Peek flew in with Arnold's this afternoon along with some stuff from Jim + Holly. She got settled in the Duplex + moved food into the lab. We visited with her for a while + then she went for a walk + I went to check the mules. Rocky, Daisy + Penny were on the downstream side of the new drift fence so I went over rubbed Penny's forehead + went to get the halter to bring one back through. Penny followed me + the other 2 followed her. Much easier than I thought it was going to be. Fed cats + Matt cleaned screens. Saw 2 (maybe 3) sheep on the first bench while we were visiting with Pat.

- June 28
Sunday We flew back in this afternoon with a full plane load of items purchased in Boise last week. Remainder of day spent putting our things away, typical of a trip out. Pat Peck hiked to top of ^{Cliff Cr. ridge.}
- June 29
Monday Holly talked to Katherine & Hallie about dippers, wildlife & trails ^{around Taylor Ranch,} Packed up our 5 head and went upstream to meet J. Peck, J. Porter and 3 students at Coxy Cr. Jen & Matt did the packing for training, all went well and we arrived at the old cabin camp up Coxy Cr. late afternoon. Holly did business mail and had to restart the ^{satellite} water line. We got a new phone number, since CBS news had inadvertently distributed our number as theirs (\$1 per wrong number!). Holly had Pat over for dinner.
- June 30
Tuesday Packed up all our gear and headed for T.R. We did a detour to Cabin Cr. and checked on Pat Armstrong's useless airstrip repair. We saw him at noon and he had just completed his 50th Fresno load of dirt, so he stopped and had lunch with us. Unpacked gear and got the 3 stock bunches resituated. Holly worked on TR business mail. Pat Peck went for hikes. Peck's class in the lab. Everyone had Pat P.'s carrot cake in the evening.

July 1 Katherine & Hallie flew out on the mail plane. Forest Service Cultural Res. Spec. Larry Kingsbury

and Ben flew in. We visited about the Sheepeater Indian Campaign's lost cannon. Larry thought it may be at or near Taylor Ranch 1? We don't think so. Did he think we knew of its whereabouts? There has been recent interest by public to find or retrieve the cannon. There is a photo of the cannon - someone ~~is~~ claims they know where it is. FS headed to Cabin Cr. Jim Peek + students Brad, Dave, Jim, + Jen & Matt + Jim Porter did rangeland veg plots on the benches & hiked to Cliff Cr top. Jim & I looked at the Sheepeater Campaign's histories & thought about the cannon location in AM. Worked on yard & maintenance in PM, & cooked for BBQ. We all got together for a BBQ and Jim A talked about the history of Taylor Ranch. Pat A, couldn't fly down from Cabin Cr. for dinner, because of winds.

July 2

FS flew out. I talked to Dave Wenger, Salmon-Challis NF weed person - they have RM&F partnership funding for noxious weed control/treatment & asked if we want to be involved. We'll do something on Big Cr. if we can squeeze it in this summer, otherwise next year - yes. Jim Peek's group

worked range transects on the sagebrush flat in Am. Jim & Jim Porter worked on equipment in the shop, then interns & us put the black plastic vapor barrier down under the lab; replaced the water filter. Lab hot water heater pilot has gone off frequently this week - don't know why. Change lab & Conyer Propanes. Both propane tanks were missing gaskets in valve connector - hope the new gaskets take care of the gas smell in the Conyer Cabin. Jen had soaped all the gas line connections, but found no leaks.

July 3 J&H shoed Penny then rode with Jim Porter up Pioneer Cr. to the stove camp. Jim & Jim sawed & chopped trees & shrubs, while I nipped branches while muleback w/pruners. A hailstorm brought down 2 18" trees over the trail while we were upstream, so we did more trailclearing to get home. .51" precip. my tomato plants were broken down by hail. Jim Peek's class counted ninebark twigs on transects up Pioneer Cr. then Jen & Matt raked, seeded, & fertilized the Conyer yard. I figured out all of the billings for the satellite phone bill & sent it to Sue with Wolf Project receipts for reimbursement.

July 4

Peek & students + Jim & Jim rode horses/mule to the Middle Fork Salmon. Jim A showed them the Indian cave on Durrence Cr. Jen & Matt linseed oiled the Taylor Cabin & pole barn. Water was off at Conyer Cabin - M & J built a new dam for their waterbox, since yesterday's rainfall had washed out the old dam. I wrote Ed Krump & made some ranch calls & arrangements for Peeks (flying & Gillihans). I worked on my bighorn paper again ^{moved L. pasture} _{electrified fence.}

July 5
Sunday

The Peck/Porter crew got going early - gear packing and stock saddling. Holly and Jim will go to Mile High with the crew. Pat Peck stayed at TR., as did Matt & I. M. & J. spent most of day sawing wood, either clearing view to Rush Cr. wind sock or felling 2 firewood trees up Pioneer Cr., one tree we bucked into short logs. Overhauled water box intake - repaired internal screening inside box. 2 elk w/ 2 calves come to 2nd bench this pm., 1st nice evening in ages! M & J had to discontinue the Rush Cr. wind sock clearing due to a sandpiper nest at the job site... the parents were irrate!

July 6 Technically a holiday! Troy flew back in with Ray A. We all evaluated servicing the hydro unit, Ray is going to get us a different coupler. Matt repaired and sharpened axes and 2 axes for mower. Holly and Jen returned from Mile High via Blackburn Saddle. Jim Peck, J. Porter & crew headed to Moose Mdw - Big Cr. Pat Peck will stay here until tomorrow. Jonathon still looking around for sheep. Getting hot, about time to mow hay. Matt waterbanned Cliff Cr. trail.

July 7 Had Pat Peck over for breakfast. Her plane came in mid morning, taking her and a plane load of gear to Big Cr. Holly did many laundry loads and cleaned out water heater tank. Troy worked on Cookhouse waterline assembly. Matt & Jen cleared more trees at end of airstrip for wind sock view, they also modified L. pasture intake dam. Wrote letters to J. Beecham (IDFEG) and H. Quigley (Hornocker Inst.). Prepared to mow airstrip but pan thunder shower curtailed that idea.

July 8 Today marks our 20th anniversary, almost half of that time spent here. Had 3 planes in early. First came the FS with Tom, Ben, & , to check on Cabin Cr. job. Then "Mo" from Stevensville flew out ^{Craighead Inst.} Jonathon, and last came the mail plane with friends Dale and Cheryl Borum. Mowed hay on the airstrip

(^{examples})
 but were interrupted by pm shower. Troy cleaned out Jets in the hydro., had mishap with one of the plastic pipe fittings, other than that the jet cleaning and "coupler" installation went well. Our pm mowing was curtailed by a smoking fly-wheel, so tomorrow ~~will~~ try an grease-pack the fitting. Jen & Matt did extensive weedeater work.

July 9/
 Thursday

Harnessed mules and continued mowed airstrip. Ran into problems with an over heating pitman connection - joint enlarged from sloppy f.t. Ended up building a variety of spacer sleeves to "bandaid" the problem, none of which worked very long. Ray A. came in with the 185 with 3 propuses, an oxygen tank, and a reducer joint for the hydro. pipe line. Troy repaired break in hydro-line. Matt & Jen & Troy linseed oiled the barn roof and repainted the Taylor Ranch sign, Troy also had to make some new letters. Holly, Cheryl, Jen reorganized hay stack for a better foundation. Could not mow hay this pm due to rain/wind and chronic breakdown. Replaced Daisy's front shoes.

July 10 Mary Farrot, and her kids flew in and headed up Big Cr → Cabin Cr. to do fish work (w/FS). We waited for hay to dry and went fishing downstream - caught the usual 6-8 cutthroat. Began hand turning hay on airstrip. Had a barbeque in pm. Troy encountered leak with hydro. repair so reglued a fitting... which over-melted the plastic. We put it back together and it did seal, so will leave it for now. Had to go through waterline air cleaning procedure again. Heavy pm shower brought haying to a halt.

July 11 Waiting for hay to dry after intense shower. Went fishing a bit. Finished mowing strip and once again had mower problems - we ^(Troy) located several spare pitman assemblies upstairs in the shop. Dad had acquired these for us a decade ago. Found a perfect fit on one and put on the mower, it should now great now. Weather looking good.

July 12 Finished mowing main pasture, mower worked great. All indications are for good weather. Raked the airstrip. Troy overhauled the hay fork. Hauled-unloaded 1 wagonload of hay.

July 13

Shocked the airstrip and lower flat of main pasture. Pickup 4 wagon loads - 3 from airstrip, 1 sm. one from lower flat. This am Travis Bullock stopped by with a group of women on a wolf tour. Visited with them for a couple hours - about wolf monitoring, area wildlife etc. Worked on haying until dark. Hot and a bit humid this pm. Worked on lab hot water heater - pilot light goes out.

July 14

Hauled and unloaded 5 wagon loads of hay, 4 from the airstrip and 1 from main pasture. Noticed Cricket limping a bit - front left, and Daisey has some hock swelling from her mowing duty. Mary F. and her kids came in pm. Holly worked on some business mail in heat of day. Had a steak barbeque at the pit this pm... then hauled another couple loads.

July 15

This am. Cheryl and Mary's kids flew out on the mail plane. Continued hauling hay - 5^{10:30} today bringing the total to 15. The last load was actually 1½ worth... making up for a light one on 7/13. Matt took off this pm for the Mid-Fk. - Camas Cr. - Meyers Cove. Over 95° today; tough hay pickup conditions.

July 16

Unloaded last load from the wagon, before sweltering heat set in, thus completing the '98 haying season. Worked on business and personal letters. Troy and Jen built an outdoor table. Put away haying equipment. Shod Daisy's rear feet. Holly spent 3 hrs on TR business: FS calls, letters, purchases

July 17

AA came in mid-morning w/ Craigheads (3) to get their gear and shuttle to Monumental Ranch. RC took Dale back to Cascade. Packed up some camp gear and went upstream to Coxy Cr. to meet friends coming in with stock. Visited Pat A. enroute. Extremely hot today (103° @ T.R.)
Saw 50+ elk at Cabin Cr. - 6 calves, 2 bulls, the rest cows.
Saw 2 moose 1 bull, 1 cow

July 18

After camping at Coxy we headed up to Acorn Cr. in hopes of meeting our friends, which we did. ^{6 people - 12 mules/horses}
We all headed back to TR with a midday break at Cabin Cr. to visit the Armstrong family and assess the job progress. Troy and Jen did many things at the ranch while we were gone - weedeater around the Lawham Cabin, built more furniture, ^{-rocking chair} cleaned cookhouse and bunkhouse. Saw 3 moose in C.C. flat - 1 cow w/bull / 2 yr. old bull. Only 99° today - cool compared to yesterday. Friends Howard & Vickie Bailey, Bill Neilson, and George Garoutte unknowingly camped at the top of Dewey Moore airstrip. They were surprised in the Am when a supercub landed behind

their grazing horses & mules. The plane stopped mid airstrip & the pilot got out to visit — his plane rolled down the airstrip in reverse until it came to a stop — with the pilot (Fairaday) hanging onto the strut. Mike Dorris then flew in with a fisherman & guide. Acorn Cr. had lots of activity before we arrived at 9AM to see why our friends hadn't met us at Coxeys Hole. Everyone had dinner together at the lab.

July 19

Water's off — screens ^{are} plugged with debris and the hydro is down to 1 jet. Restored water, replaced screens & modified inlet, hydro still plugged. Troy worked on cookhouse waterline & set up gas line. No leaks. The rest of us took the day off. I spent the afternoon cooking. We all got together for a steak BBQ — steaks packed in from LaGrande. The Armstrongs flew down from Cabin Creek to join us for dinner & spend the night.

July 20

~~Armstrongs~~ flew out after a big pancake feed at the lab. Jim shod Howard's horse then Jim, Jen, & I plus Oregon friends rode to Soldier Bar & the Big Creek Gorge. Troy stayed at TR. to finish rebuilding the cookhouse water system. The →
 ↑
 & Troy cleared jets in hydro.

Craigheads - Monica, Scott, & Seth arrived here a day early - backpacked from Monumental. Everyone (11) had dinner at the lab, then we watched the evening movement of elk down to the lower pasture (15 cows, 3 calves, 14 pt.). I am still trying to reach the Krassel Ranger by phone. Jim did yardwork & stock management.

July 21 The Craighead crew flew out for the last time this summer with Mo to Stevensville, MT. A.A. flew in with gear for Minshall's & Haney's groups. Howard, Vickie, Bill & George saddled up their 9 horses & mules & headed toward Big Creek. Jim, Jen, & I spent the day developing (digging out) irrigation ditches and sprinkling lawns & pastures to combat the extreme drying from all of the hot weather. Jim & Tray cleaned the shop; Jen & I cemented holes in Conyer Cabin foundation and set a trap to catch the woodrats that have invaded the basement & attic. We washed horse blankets in the wringer washers. Minshall arrived with 10 people & 3 horses from Big Creek direction. We visited in the evening after they got settled in the lab & Duplex.

July 22 Mail plane came in early, bringing Shelley Bishop and Dave Koenig, who will be doing geology research up Cave Cr. (Shelley's M.S.). Troy wacked down L. pasture thistles and increased irrig. ditch flow. Troy repaired propane in cookhouse where Shelley and Dave are staying. Did main pasture's airstrip irrigation. Minshall's (ISU) and crew ^{surveyed Rush, Pioneer, and Cliff} ~~of~~ ~~came in late afternoon~~ ~~checked~~. Had a barbeque picnic in the pm. Jen & Holly washed horse blankets. more

July 23 Lamed firewood on Big Cr. bank, behind Cookhouse and at windsock - Rush Cr. Used the mule team to skid 3 log segments from stream bank to bank and hauled 2^{3/4} stoneboat loads to our woodshed. Shelley & Dave helped to compensate for upcoming time spent packing them to Cave Cr. Jen & Matt went to Cougar & Goat Cr. to do aquatic invertebrate sampling with the ISU crew of graduate students. I made phone calls to Randy Swick, Payette NF acting Ranger and to J. Hendee's office to arrange trips to Taylor Ranch, and Curt Mack regarding further monitoring on wolves.

July 24 Worked most of day on Pioneer Cr. firewood, used Rocky & Daisy^{-TEAM-} to skid 12+ logs to the orchard landing. Troy rebuilt stoneboat and cleaned up hydro-area. The Minshells^{& Shelley and Dave} helped us move firewood logs into skidding position, then they packed up their gear and started heading to Big Cr.

July 25 Packed up Dave and Shelley's equipment & camp gear and took them to the forks of Cave Cr. (5 head used) where they will base for 3 weeks while doing geology study. Encountered Ed and Blaine Krumpe enroute (Cabin Cr.) and brought them back to TR via mules. Also encountered John Wallace and Bob Dury (Azusa Pacific^{Univ.}) @ mouth of Cave Cr. They were backpacking from Big Cr. to TR to check the place & area out for class potential. Matt & Jen & Holly worked on splitting firewood. Sally and Peter Preston flew in, all got together for cookies and tour. Troy did various carpentry projects. Holly & Peter discussed Taylor Ranch facilities and maintenance needs. Yesterday I checked on & ordered propane tanks & parts from V-1 Propane. Watched elk come off the benches with Prestons. in pm.

July 26

Spent the morning visiting with Peter and Sally Preston about Taylor Ranch operations and use potential. M.E.J. finished splitting and stacking firewood.

Basically a day off, Troy, Ed, Blaine went down to the gorge fishing. We had an all Taylor Ranch potluck at the Lanham Lab. Kerry flew out to Cascade with the rest of the Minshall gear in the pm. We got 2 propane tanks in. John & Bob from Azusa Pacific U. hiked up Cliff Creek in Am. We discussed class possibilities during the potluck.

July 27
Monday

Chuck Hatch flew in from Big Creek; Ed & Blaine flew to Big Creek; John & Bob flew to Boise.

Jim gave Chuck a facilities tour then we discussed Taylor Ranch issues & projects with Chuck. Interns worked on irrigation & grounds work. I sent purchasing info to Sue R.

Troy, Matt, & Jen cut (fence) poles 1/2 mi upstream of Taylor Ranch along Big Creek - for rafting down. They dislodged 1 large tree/log in Big Creek & enjoyed "riding" it downstream. Rush Creek running silty. We had an all ranch BBQ dinner at the Conyer Cabin pit. A doe with fawn fed above the yard, then a buck ran (spooked) past the BBQ pit while we were eating!

July 28
Tuesday

Jim, Chuck, Peter, & I rode mules to Cabin Cr. We had lunch with Pat & Andrew Armstrong & watched them work the team on airstrip repair. Andrew (age 8) was driving the team while Pat worked the harrow. Saw 3 groups of Bighorns, 2 moose, 4 rattlesnakes, 1 deer; 1 thunderstorm. Jen & Matt cut the 30" tree out of the trail at Goat Creek - with crosscut saw. Troy tried another unsuccessful attempt at repairing the lab hot water heater - changing thermocouple distance did not stop pilot from going out daily. I decreased water flow to kitchen hot water. Sally P. made dinner for Jim & I and Chuck + Peter. Big Creek running milky in AM - ^{from} Monumental?

July 29
Wednesday

Chuck, Peter, & Sally flew to Big Creek for the historical designation celebration for the F.S. barn, previously Headquarters. Peter obtained national historic status for the building and coordinated the ceremony. Peter has researched the history of Big Cr / Warren residents, by interviewing old timers in the area - several are Sally's (Carrey) relatives. Jim & Troy flew to Chamberlain for 4 days of wolf monitoring - pup count. Jen, Matt, & I mule packed firewood from last winter's Cliff Cr. site. We got our

8 cord wood permit from FS today. I sent monthly precipitation data to Jim Peek for his range monitoring report and talked to Becky Bigalow about another bighorn sheep trip to TR for her thesis research (Animal Sci). I shod Bo's hind feet.

July 30
Thurs

Jen & I spent the day on wallpapering the Conyer Cabin front room. We had to do some prep work on the plywood walls. Matt hiked to Goat Creek to winch the big log they sawed on Tuesday out of the trail with the come-along. He packed 1 load of Cliff Cr firewood with the mules. We all had elk (Jim Porter's) stew for dinner. Jim & Troy are monitoring a wolf rendezvous site at Moose Jaw Meadow.

July 31
Friday

Jen & I worked on the wallpaper all day & til 10 pm - not quite done, but it looks great - much brighter. Matt cut down the goofy looking 10' tall stump along their fence line. He found a bullet which had been shot into the tree 50 years ago (cut it with the chainsaw). Matt mowed 2 yards. He cleaned the Duplex, too. We had deep dish pizza with Jen's sourdough crust & italian sausage from Sally.

August 1
Saturday

Yard work done + VI laundry. John Hendece, Marilyn Riley, and Mike Kinzinger (VI Recreation Dept Faculty) flew in from Moscow. We visited over coffee then got them settled. Jim & Troy flew in from Chamberlain with AA. We did wallpaper, mule packing lessons (basket, barrel, crossfoot, diamond, box hitches), and finished Bo's shoeing in the pm. Wrote up the monthly weather report 2.06" of July precipitation. Hendecees provided a BBQ for the crew.

August 2
Sun.

Back to hot weather. Holly, Jan, Matt rode up Pioneer Cr. to 9000' elev. Penny mule got sick (heat exhaustion), so they had to give her some breaks. Troy finished another sapling couch. I worked on my editing assignment - bear paper. George Fisher - Cascade C.O., came to the ranch to fly out. He checked on the suspicious dead mouse at the Monumental Bridge and contacted 12 fishermen along Big Cr., 2 of which did not have licenses. Got cabin's/grounds ready for tomorrow's group of 18.

Aug. 3
Monday

At 8:00 am the Univ. of Wisc. class arrived here, they had been camped at Cougar cr. We gave the group an orientation talk - programs, projects, history etc. They attended group gatherings most of the day. We ratted poles down Big cr, which worked fairly well inspite of lower water for the activity. Moved \pm 26-30 poles and 1 firewood log. In the pm a yng. bull moose ran through the pasture, and was chased by Bo over the electric tape.

Aug. 4
Tuesday

The "group" spent the day meeting around the barbeque pit. The "Taylor 5" used the mule team to move firewood from end of airstrip to Taylor's Cabin ^{5 or 6 loads} wood pile. Also moved all the poles either to the conyer fence or alongside the barn. Very warm this pm. Visited with the Hender's & Wisconsin group in the evening. They also fed us Birthday cake. Tomorrow we are planning to pack the Wisconsin group (via mule) to a top Goat Ridge, or possibly Golden Mdw. if all goes well. They have a lot of stuff! ^{Richard came to fly out (Fish & Game) and Shelly & Dave are back - also to fly out - early!}

Aug 5.
Wed.

Got going early getting stock and loads ready. Holly was tied up with "air traffic control"... first Doug from Pullman came in to get the Hender's. Then the mail plane came in and

took out Richard, Shelly and Dave, plus gear. We got going w/ 5 head packed with close to 800# of cargo. The trip started well, then Bo was overcome with "heat exhaustion." Punny also seemed overheated (it was 99° today). It turned into a very long day as Matt & I had to shuttle gear from Goat Basin to the Ridge top using Rocky, Daisy, & Cricket to bear the burden... and they were totally spent by the 2nd trip (so was I!). We all rested on the ridge top until 6:00 pm and a slight cooling. The trip home went OK. Matt & I saw a largish male black bear this side of Cougar Cr. - across Big Cr. enroute home, plus the usual supply of rattlesnakes (4+). Troy built new fence in front of the Conyer yard and Holly and Jen cleaned building and restarted the irrigation system. Matt & I got in @ 8:30 - too pooped to eat, at first anyway - a long day!

Aug 6
Thursday

A quiet day @ T.R. - finally! Troy finished the Conyer fence and sawed up the 2 firewood logs at end of airstrip. Jen worked on interp. displays and Matt worked on his forestry project. Holly sorted through phone billings and did other TR business mail. I

gave the tack shed an overhaul and began outlining our winter research proposal. Very hot and humid in the afternoon which led to an active electrical storm in the evening. Had a departure barbeque for the interns, then we all watched the "light show" from our yard.

Aug. 17
Friday

Matt's girlfriend Kate came in late last night. She said the storm was spectacular over the Crags. Troy overhauled the gas line in the Cook house in the am, then we began rebuilding corral gate & fence in the afternoon. ^{into evening} Holly worked with Jen on the interp. stuff, plus she made many business calls. Jen ran the weed eater around duplex & Taylor yard. Matt & ~~Jen~~ ^{Kate} headed off for the Crags in the early evening, so we all had to say bye to Matt.

Aug. 8
Sat.

Finished corral gate/fence w/ Troy. Pulled shoes off Daisey and Rocky, replaced shoes on fronts... we'll leave Cricket, Daisey, Rocky 'e shod for a while. Holly mortared/cemented holes @ Conyer Cabin... there wasn't mortar around new window frame. Set up more sprinklers. Jen Rogers' parents flew in on plane to take her out. Jen showed them around, then flew out to Cascade. Becky Bigelow came in on the flight to do sheep work.

Aug. 9
Sunday

Becky headed upstream early to find the sheep. We spent the morning getting things ready for trip out and Holly did laundry. Troy made a floatation device (out of an old archery target), and floated Big Cr. from Brown's Basin on down. Wrote up "To do," "To get," and "calls" list. Lynn McEachern and Janet Pope (Devlieg) hiked in late afternoon. We spent the evening visiting, all ate at the Lanham Cabin.

AUG. 10, 1988
MONDAY

JIM & HOLLY FLEW OUT IN THE MORNING TO VISIT PARENTS ETC IN OREGON. ED KRUMPE AND CHARLENE AND BLAINE (13) AND JESSIE (11) FLEW IN AT 9:30^{am} TO BE "SUBSTITUTE CARETAKERS" FOR THE WEEK. ED GAVE JANET POPE AND LYNN A WALKING TOUR/DISCUSSION OF THE RANCH FACILITIES. MATT O'CONNELL, YELLOW PINE CONSERVATION OFFICER, HIKED IN AND WILL FLY OUT TOMORROW AT 10:30^{am}. HE ONLY SAW 2 FISHERMEN UPSTREAM AND THEN HE HIKED DOWN TO SOLDIER BAR AND SAW A PARTY OF SIX LATER IN THE AFTERNOON. WE HAD A GREAT POTLUCK DINNER AT THE LAB AND BECKY HIKED IN JUST IN TIME TO EAT. SHE HAD GONE UP TO CABIN CREEK AND SAW NO SHEEP AND HIKED BACK IN 94°F HEAT. WE ALL VISITED AND TALKED ABOUT TAYLOR RANCH UNTIL DARK AND HAD A GREAT TIME. TROY WORKED ON FENCE AROUND THE HAY BARN & ED "HELPED" SOME. JANET WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE MICRO HYDRO POWER PROJECT WITH UI ENGINEERING STUDENTS AND ED WILL SEND HER SOME PHOTOS AND A BRIEF WRITE-UP. THE EXCITEMENT FOR THE DAY HAPPENED WHEN LYNN AND JANET SAW A BIG RATTLESNAKE BY THE FRONT DECK STEPS OF THE LAB AT 6:30^{pm}. JANET PHOTOGRAPHED IT AND IT CRAWLED UNDER THE STEPS OF BUILDING. Ed

AUG. 11 ANOTHER VERY HOT DAY (94°F IN THE SHADE) WITH NO BREEZE. TROY
 TUESDAY FINISHED FENCE ALONG THE BARN. RAY PICKED UP MATT O'CONNELL AT 11:30^{am}
 AND TOLD US HE JUST DROPPED OFF AN OLDER MAN (70) FROM MAILEY (BING
 OLBUM) AT THE FLYING B AND HE WAS BACKPACKING THROUGH CHAMBERLAIN
 BASIN ON HIS WAY TO MACKAY BAR. HE IS SUPPOSED TO CHECK IN VIA
 RADIO PHONE WITH ARNOLD AVIATION AND LET THEM KNOW EVERYTHING IS OK.
 JACK MAGEE (MCCALL AIR) BROUGHT IN TOM CRAWFORD AND DENNIS GORDON,
 USFS HYDROLOGISTS, WHO BACKPACKED UP TO INSPECT CABIN CREEK AIRSTRIP
 RESTORATION PROJECT. BEN HIPPLE, USFS, CALLED TO SAY HE AND LARRY KINGSBERRY,
 USFS (ARCHAEOLOGIST) WERE COMING IN NEXT TUES. & WED (AUG. 18-19th) AND HOPED
 JIM COULD GO WITH THEM DOWN TO THE MIDDLEFORK. TROY AND BECKY AND
 THE KRUMPES GRILLED CHEESE BURGERS AT THE FIRE PIT AND WATCHED
 A BIG LIGHTNING STORM MOVE IN TOWARDS DARK ALONG WITH SOME
 LIGHT RAIN. THE COOLNES WAS A WELCOME RELIEF. ED HAD SWEET
 DREAMS OF SOME MIGHTY FINE STREAM SAMPLING HE DID ON BIG
 CREEK TODAY. BECKY DIDN'T FARE AS WELL -- HAVING SEEN NO SHEEP ALL DAY.

AUG. 12 BECKY BIGELOW FLEW OUT AFTER SEEING 4 EWES AND A LAMB ACCROSS
 FROM TR ON THE RIDGE ABOVE THE TRAIL (ONE APPEARED TO BE WAVING WITH
 A BIG GRIN :). ED SPLIT 20+ ROUNDS OF FIRE WOOD AT THE END OF
 THE AIRSTRIP IN 95° WEATHER. TWO FISHERMEN WERE CAMPED AT THE
 BIG BOULDERS OPPOSITE THE MOUTH OF RUSH CREEK. FISHING FROM THE
 NORTH SIDE OF BIG CREEK THEY DIDN'T DO TOO WELL AND SOON WADED OFF
 UP STREAM FOR THE DAY. ED SMILED. TROY WALKED DOWN THE AIRSTRIP
 WITH 2 FISHERMEN FROM SOLDIER BAR. ONE WAS A HATCHERY MANAGER
 FOR IDFG AND HAD WORKED ON THE RUSH CREEK FISH WEIR. ED TOLD THEM

THAT THE TWO FISHERMEN CAMPED ACROSS THE STREAM HAD REALLY FISHED THAT HOLE HARD ALL MORNING, THUS CONFIRMING THE CULTURAL MYTH THAT FISHERMEN ARE LIARS. OF COURSE HE TOLD THIS LITTLE WHITE LIE SOLEY IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING THE FISH FROM TOO MUCH FISHING PRESSURE! TROY WORKED ON IRRIGATION, FURNISHER REPAIR, WASHING MACHINE DRAIN PIPE INSTALLATION (UNSUCCESSFULLY). TROY JOINED US FOR SPAGHETTI THEN THE KRUMPES HIRED UP AND CLEANED THE WATER BOX INTAKE SCREENS. THE HOT DAY ENDED WITH BLAINE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRYING TO SHOOT A WOODRAT AT A PEANUTBUTTER BAIT, IT WAS JUST TOO DARK WHEN IT FINALLY APPEARED. PS WE SENT THE NOISY SAW OUT ON THE MAIL PLANE TO GET TUNED UP AND A NEW CHAIN. WILDLIFE SIGHTING - AT NOON WE WATCHED THE 4 EWES AND LAMB COME DOWN TO THE TRAIL OPPOSITE THE WOOD PILE AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY.

AUG. 13
THURSDAY

IN THE MORNING TOM AND DENNIS FLEW OUT. WE HAD A GREAT DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THEY ARE TRYING TO USE BIOENGINEERING TECHNIQUES TO MIMIC NATURAL STREAM CHANNELS AND FLOOD ZONES, HOPEFULLY ON COW CREEK. THEY HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT HOW THE PRESENT GABION BASKETS ALONG TAYLOR RANCH WERE TOO FEW AND SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PLACED AT 90° ANGLES TO THE STREAM BANK. BY ANGLING THEM UPSTREAM AND PLACING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER (BASED UPON CALCULATIONS OF FLOW) THEY CAN ACTUALLY WORK TO SHOOT THE WATER BACK OUT INTO THE CENTER OF THE STREAM AND CAUSE SAND & GRAVEL DEPOSITS TO FILL IN IN FRONT OF THEM. OF COURSE THEY SAID OTHER THINGS SHOULD BE USED LIKE BIO LOGS AND WILLOW MATS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "HARD" ENGINEERING. TOM SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEND SOME TIME STUDYING OUR PROBLEM AND WE SHOULD PROBABLY FOLLOW UP ON HIS OFFER. FOR SEVERAL HOURS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY ED AND CHARLENE WENT DOWNSTREAM AND

TRIED TO USE THE TRIMBLE GEO EXPLORER GPS (CFWR) TO RECORD LOCATIONS OF CAMPSITES AND THE EASTERN PROPERTY CORNER ABOVE THE LOWER PASTURE. ED WAS VERY FRUSTRATED WITH THE POOR SATELLITE RECEPTION OBTAINED EVEN AFTER WAITING 20-25 MINUTES. AT MANY PLACES THE PDOP (POSITION DILUTION OF PRECISION) WAS 8 OR 12 OR 14, WHICH IS FAR TOO HIGH (5-8 IS ACCEPTABLE, 1-4 IS VERY GOOD) TO PREDICT THE ACCURACY OF POSITIONS OBTAINED WITH THOSE PARTICULAR SATELLITES IN VIEW AT THAT TIME. HE HAD CHECKED THE SOFTWARE FOR A "GOOD" TIME TO USE THE GPS BUT THE CANYON WALLS, PARTICULARLY TO THE SOUTH) SEEMED TO PLAY HAVOC WITH THE SIGNAL. HE ALSO FOUND OUT THAT YOU HAVE TO USE THE EXTERNAL ANTENNA TO EVEN GET 4 SATELLITES WHICH HAD A STRONG ENOUGH PDOP TO CALCULATE A POSITION. IT WAS 98°F IN THE SHADE AND WELL OVER 100°F IN THE SUN WHERE HE WAS WORKING -- EVEN TROY SEEMED BUSHED BY THE HEAT. THREE BACKPACKERS WHO WERE DOING A LITTLE FISHING TO WALKED THROUGH THE RANCH WITH A DOG. THEY WERE CAMPED 1/2 WAY DOWN TO SOLDIER BAR. AT THE FIRST CAMPSITE DOWNSTREAM FROM THE LOWER PASTURE ON THE SAGE BRUSH BENCH ED FOUND A BIG PILE OF DRY DOG FOOD BUT IT WASN'T FROM THE 3 GUYS (HE ASKED THEM). LOOKED LIKE POTENTIAL BEAR BAIT. IT WAS NICE TO HAVE NO MORE PLANES LANDING AND TROY DIRECTED IRRIGATION WATER TO THE AIRSTRIP. AT 5:50pm A LARGE GOLDEN EAGLE FLEW UP THE CANYON RIGHT OVER THE AIRSTRIP AT ONLY ABOUT 60-70 FT HIGH. EARLIER, TROY SAW A COSHAWK. IN THE EVENING ED LOADED THE TRIMBLE PATHFINDER OFFICE SOFTWARE ON THE LAPTOP COMPUTER. HE ALSO UPGRADED THE OFFICE 97 PRO SOFTWARE WHICH ALL TOOK UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

AUG. 14
FRIDAY

ED GOT THE FAMILY UP EARLY (6:30 am) AND THEY ALL HIKE DOWN TO SEE THE PICTOGRAPHS AT BIG CREEK GORGE. THEY WENT A MILE FURTHER THEN TURNED BACK BECAUSE IT GOT SO HOT SO QUICKLY. THEY RETURNED BY 2 pm AND IT WAS 96°. TROY HAD JUST LET TWO MEN FROM

GEORGIA AND ALABAMA CHECK IN WITH ARNOLD AVIATION. THEY WERE GOING FROM BIG CREEK TO SULPHUR CREEK AND BEYOND IN TWO WEEKS. THE OLDER MAN (55+) HAD HIRED THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. TROY MOVED THE OLD 12 VOLT DC SOLAR SYSTEM FROM THE LANAHAM LAB TO THE TACKSHED. I GOT THE WHEEL BARROW AND STARTED MOVING THE PILE OF WOOD IN THE ORCHARD TO THE WOODSHED BEHIND THE TAYLOR CABIN. BLAINE AND JESSIE CAME AND LOADED THE WHEEL BARROW AND I RAN IT UP TO THE WOODSHED. WE MOVED HALF THE PILE IN A FEW HOURS (SEEMED LIKE A COUPLE OF CORDS) THEN STOPPED WHEN I RAN OUT OF STEAM FROM THE HEAT, ABOUT 100°F IN THE SUN. TO RELAX I WHITTLED A WOOD CROSS PIECE FOR THE GATE LATCH AT THE CONYER CABIN. TROY JOINED US FOR BEEF STRAGANOFF AND THEN IN THE EVENING HE AND BLAINE AND JESSIE AND I FINETUNED AND CLEANED UP AND SET SEVERAL LEHOLD TRAPS. TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING THESE STINKING WOODRATS! IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON TROY KILLED A RATTLE SNAKE THAT HAS BEEN HANGING OUT AT THE MICRO HYDRO POWER SHED. AFTERNOON CLOUDS MOVED IN FOR A LITTLE WHILE BUT IT HASN'T COOLED OFF MUCH THIS EVENING. IT SURE WAS PEACEFUL IN HERE TODAY. WE ONLY SAW 2 GROUPS OF BACKPACKERS (w/ 3+2) AND ONLY HEARD 3 PLANES FLY OVER PRETTY HIGH UP.

AUG. 15 ANOTHER EXCITING DAY AT TAYLOR RANCH -- BLAINE CAUGHT HIS SATURDAY FIRST WOOD RAT UNDER THE SLEEPING PORCH AT THE CONYER CABIN IN A BIG LEG HOLD TRAP. HE DISPATCHED IT QUICKLY WITH A SHOT IN THE BACK OF ITS HEAD WITH HIS PELLET GUN THEN CUT OFF ITS TAIL FOR THE BIG BOUNTY. IT WAS TROY'S DAY OFF AND AFTER A LAZY MORNING VISITING OVER COFFEE WE NOTICED THAT IS WAS BECOMING CLOUDY AND WINDY SO TROY AND ED GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA

TO RIDE OR WALK TWO PACK ANIMALS UP TO CAVE CREEK FORK TO PICK UP THE
 CAMP SUPPLIES THAT SHELLY BISHOP HAD LEFT WHEN SHE FLEW BACK TO
 MOSCOW AUG 5th. THEY LEFT AT 12:30pm WALKING PENNY & DAISY WITH DECKER
 PACK SADDLES AND CRICKET WITH A SADDLE. (ROCKY HAD A CHUNK OF HOOF BROKEN OFF THE
 OUTSIDE EDGE OF HIS RIGHT REAR HOOF -- LOOKS OK BUT WOULD NEED SHOES FOR TRAILS). IT
 WAS IN THE MID 90s° BUT WINDY AND SOME CLOUDS HELPED. TROY HIKE THE WHOLE WAY
 AND ED RODE 6 miles (20 mile round trip). CAVE CREEK IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL VALLEY
 WITH NICE MEADOWS, ROCKY CRAIGS ON THE SIDES, AND SOME HUGE OLD YELLOW PONDEROSA
 PINES. THE CAMP WAS CLEAN AND HAD NOT BEEN DISTURBED BY BEARS. FOOD PACKS WERE HUNG
 HIGH, BUTTER & CHEESE WERE IN THE STREAM, AND 3 GIANT POLY TARPS WERE STRUNG UP
 LIKE TENT FLYES. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO CAMP, WE DIVIDED THE GEAR INTO
 4 PANNIERS AND TWO SMALL TOP MANTLE LOADS FOR THE 2 MUELS (200-230 lbs).
 THERE WERE LARGE TEXT BOOKS, ROCK HAMMERS, BULLETS (45 CAL!), COLEMAN FUEL, FOOD,
 HEAVY DAY PACKS, STONETOP JIFFY POPCORN, CHEESE SAUCE, CANNED PINEAPPLE, SOLAR SHOWER,
 WE FOUND EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK! FROM THE NOTE THEY LEFT AND THE
 WAY THINGS WERE PACKED UP, ED THINKS THAT SHELLY NEVER REALLY INTENDED TO
 RETURN TO THAT CAMP. OUR MAIN MOTIVATION FOR GETTING THEIR STUFF IS THAT
 IT HAD BEEN AN ILLEGAL CACHE FOR 10 DAYS ALREADY AND WITH THE NOTE TO JIM
 AND HOLLY IT WOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH TAYLOR RANCH (WHICH ED DIDN'T LIKE). IT WAS
 PLENTY HOT BUT THE FIRST DAY THAT WAS "COOL" ENOUGH TO EVEN ATTEMPT IT.
 WE SAW 5 RATTLESNAKES (ONE AGGRESSIVE) ON CAVE CREEK TRAIL AND A TOTAL
 OF 7 MOOSE! (BULL & COW AT CABIN CR., 2 BULLS & COW ON RETURN THRU CABIN CR. AND
 TWO COWS DOWN TOWARDS LOBAUER BASIN). A COW NEAR THE TRAIL SPOOKED THE
 MUELS AND ^{ONE} BROKE THE TIE OFF. WE RETURNED TO TR. AT 8:30pm AFTER A
 LONG HOT HIKE. WHILE WE WERE GONE BLAINE SAW A RATTLESNAKE BY
 COOKHOUSE BRIDGE BUT COULDN'T FIND IT WHEN HE RETURNED WITH A SHOVEL.

CHARLENE WAS RELIEVED -- HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE WANTED TO SKIN IT. JESSIE AND BLAINE PETTED THE HORSE & MUEL LEFT BEHIND IN THE CORRAL AND FED THEM HAY SEVERAL TIMES TO KEEP THEM FROM MISSING THEIR BUDDIES.

CHARLENE FINISHED READING COLD MOUNTAIN BY CHARLES FRAZIER WHICH WAS ABOUT A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER WHO TRAVELLED FOR MONTHS THROUGH THE BLUE MOUNTAIN'S WILDERNESS RETURNING HOME (A GOOD BOOK TO READ IN THE BACKCOUNTRY). BEST OF ALL, SHE HAD A BIG POT OF TUNA NOODLE DINNER FOR US AT 9:30pm WHEN WE HAD FINALLY PUT THE STOCK UP (AND TROY FOUND 2 BEERS TO SHARE).

AUG. 16
SUNDAY PAT FLEW IN AT 8:20am AND TALKED TO ED ABOUT BORROWING ROCKY AGAIN BECAUSE ONE OF HIS MULES HAD A SORE SHOULDER. ED TOLD HIM ABOUT ROCKY'S HOOF AND JIM GOING WITH FS ARCHEOLOGISTS ON TUES. & WED. HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY FLY DOWN ON MONDAY EVENING TO TALK WITH JIM ABOUT IT. CHARLENE & ED & BLAINE & JESSIE DECIDED TO HIKE UP PIONEER CREEK. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, BREEZY AND LOW 90's, AND THE TRAIL WAS BRUSHY BUT THE PIONEER CREEK VALLEY WAS BEAUTIFUL TO SEE. THEY RETURNED AT 3:30pm AND WATCHED A DOE AND BIG FAWN BEHIND THE WOOD PILE ABOVE THE ORCHARD. ON THE HIKE THEY SAW A RATTLE SNAKE THAT JUST WOULDN'T LEAVE THE TRAIL SO THEY FLIPPED IT OFF WITH A WALKING STICK AND IT FINALLY SLITHERED AWAY. LUCKILY BLAINE HEARD IT AFTER ED WALKED RIGHT OVER IT. OF COURSE AFTERWARDS WE "HEARD" HUNDREDS MORE, SKILLFULLY DISGUIISING THEMSELVES AS ~~A~~ RATTLING LEAVES OR STEPPED UPON BRANCHES. THE NIGHT BEFORE WE HAD A BIG LIGHTNING STORM AT 2:30am AND TWO DOWNPOURS (.02in) SO THE GROUND AND BUSHES WERE WET AND IT WAS VERY HUMID THE FIRST HOUR. WE WOULD LOVE TO HIKE IT AGAIN IN THE FALL AND SEE THE COLORED LEAVES. ED TRIED TO GET A GPS READING AT THE PROPERTY CORNER BUT THE

SATELLITE SIGNAL WAS VERY, VERY POOR, EVEN WITH THE EXTERNAL ANTENNA AND NO CANOPY COVER. BLAINE AND TROY RESET 6 WOOD RAT TRAPS FOR ONE FINAL ATTEMPT AT THE WOODRATTAIL BOUNTY. THEN WE ALL HAD A GREAT BBQ OF TUBE STEAK AND SAT AROUND THE CAMPFIRE UNTIL WELL AFTER DARK. ALL IN ALL, A GREAT VISIT TO CARE-TAKE TAYLOR RANCH WAS ENJOYED BY ALL!

AUG 17 6:30 a.m. Blaine catches ~~one~~^{TWO} more wood-rat. sets the traps again in hopes of one more chance at them before we fly out! 7:30 a.m. - One more wood-rat bites the dust!

Aug. 18
Tuesday

We (Jim, Holly, Peter - nephew) ^{yesterday} planned-in @ 6:00 pm. Flight was a bit bumpy. Put most gear away... but we'll get to repeat this in a couple days when the rest of the items and lumber get flown in. Put shoes on Rocky's hind feet, his rear-left has a badly broken out "y panel. Pulled Penny's shoes, reset fronts and left her rear unshod. Attended to "mail matters." Clem P. called to say that he and the ranger would have to postpone a week. Troy finished solar power set up for the tackshed, then we moved 2 saddle stands into the feedshed and attached to the wall.

Aug 19 Mail plane in with more gear, no lumber yet.
 Wednesday Wrote up credit card purchases & called Sue. Troy floated poles down Big Cr. Got Lab ready for next group. Irrigated. Bighorn rams up cliff Cr (4). Fished in pm.

Aug 20 Stacked firewood & cut kindling, Troy on logs again. Peter & I rode mules to the Gorge - lots of bear droppings. Jim worked on the wolf-cougar proposal in between bouts of food poisoning / flu: Byron & Marilyn Dangerfield (^{Dean of College} of Business) and Dan Schoenberg (Aux. svc - Conferences) and Jim Toomey (Bus. Coll.) flew in from Moscow in pm. They are in Lab & Duplex. Bighorn rams.

Aug. 21
 Friday Gave a ranch tour to the group from yesterday, discussed potential conference uses... some good ideas, some bad. Used Rocky to skid some wall tent beams to the job site. Also used the mules to haul 6 stonebat loads of firewood to the Latham cabin (5) and the duplex (1). Got a little stormy mid-afternoon but Doug G. came in on time, he shuttled the group out to Chamberlain enroute out. Doug reported a fire on Horse Mtn., this side of Browns Basin 2/3rds up. RC made 2 flights in - one of lumber and the other propane.

Aug 22
Saturday

Finally saw some trail activity today - a couple backpackers and 2 pack strings of Steve Zettels. The first string passed by and the second one stopped - Dan Adams and Jason. After lemonaide they headed up towards Rush Pt. Used Rocky to skid some more tent frame poles. Troy ripped these poles into joist members. Got word that the FS plane did not find the Horse Mtn. fire - odd, as we distinctly saw smoke in that direction! Holly spent the day - mostly - working on the computer, editing and expanding the predation proposal.

Aug. 23

Today was a day off, except Troy did some leveling/plaining on the tent frame joist. We ^(with Holly, Peter, Tim) rode to Cabin Cr. and distinctly saw the fire burning in the upper gooseneck, burning in 5 places. Visited Pat and Sarah at Cabin Cr - we couldn't believe their progress! We got caught in a thunder-rain storm enroute back.

Aug. 24

Nice and wet this morning. Troy plucked the knapweed patch by the Big Rocks upstream. Repaired drift fence. Sawn up old fence materials for firewood. Troy continued leveling the tent frame joists. Holly worked on predation proposal. Guides Dan and Jake stopped by in the evening - perfect timing for cupcakes.

- Aug. 25
Tues. Holly primarily spent the day adding to the predation proposal. I worked with Troy on the wall tent platform and did some yard work. We tried to get Holly's mom and Enaiv coordinated to fly in this pm, but no luck contacting Kenna. Got mail ready to go in am. when Peter flies out.
- Aug 26.
Wed. FS flight came in bringing Larry Kingsbury and Ben Hipple. Saddled 3 animals and rode ^{to waterfall CR.} downstream to survey cultural sites and check the Bighorn Bridge for structural condition (Ben) Enroute we checked out all the pictograph images and the 2 caves. Mail plane came in bringing Enaiv and taking out Peter. Holly continued working on the predation proposal. Impressive Northern lights display > 10:00 pm!
- Aug 27
Thurs. A FS flight came in early bringing some fire people - Pete and Franky. ^{we} They checked over the facility for fire fighting capability and discussed equip. needs for better protection... long term, not just the minor threat now posed by the Horse Mtn. fire. We finalized the 1st draft of our wolf-cougar proposal. We all got together for potluck dinner. Waited up for Northern lights, but no show.

Aug. 28
Friday

McCall Air came in early taking out Larry and Ben. We visited w/ Larry on a cooperatively offered cultural resources class for next year, a 5 day event - mostly on sheepwater Indian lifestyles. Saddled the 5 head w/ 3 pack saddles - 2 riding and hauled the rest of the wood pile on the Cliff Cr. flat. Troy, Enair, H & I all helped. Steve Z. stopped by to inspect the wiring arrangement on our B.C. radio, his got damaged during a "mute rodeo event." Had a barbeque.

Aug. 29
Sat.

McCall brought in 3 planes w/ N.M.F.S. people (8) to spend 3 days sampling / pit tagging salmon par. Steve Achord is their leader, we visited w/ him about anadromous fish research - environmental monitoring. He left us with several reports on their 90's research. Troy and Enair headed to Cabin cr. for an overnight stay. I overhauled the "single-stoneboat," put on new runner boards and tightened up the structure. Also built wood rack in front of the shed. Holly worked on a new sprinkler spread for the main pasture.

Aug. 30
Sunday

We watched the pit tagging operation & talked to Steve about fish monitoring potential at Taylor Ranch. We all (12) had a potluck at

the lab in pm. Jim showed visitors (fishermen that worked on 1991 Hotshot crew for fire near Taylor R) around the ranch. He showed NMFS ^(Kew) folks the hydro system. We all (Troy, Einar, H&I) were invited to dinner with NMFS crew - turkey feast! Larry Jindrich and son Dan (IDFG ^{D.C.O.} - Larry) came in this pm, they will fly out in the a.m. with Troy, Einar, and I. Larry checked a fisherman enroute down from Big CR.

Aug 31
Monday

Jim, Troy, Einar, Larry, & Dan flew out on a very (people) full plane that came in with a load of lumber for the tent frame. Jim is headed to LaGrande to fix up our property for selling. Troy & Einar went to Pullman. The NMFS crew finished electroshocking Big Cr and Rush Creek - I watched. They pit tagged about 500 chinook salmon parr over the 2 day period. They had tagged on lower Big Creek/Rush in 1992, 1993, 1994. From Steve's reports, of 20 tagging sites lower Big Creek stood out - the pit tagged fish were the largest in the Salmon & Grande Ronde systems, they had the highest detection rates at the Columbia River Dams, and they had the earliest & narrowest passage dates thru the dams! In contrast upper Big Creek

(Edwardsburg) had small fish, high mortality, and a late & protracted migration through the dams. We discussed additional research/monitoring from Taylor Ranch - stream monitor, screw trap. It sound like Steve will get a stream monitor for Big Cr at Taylor Ranch in November! Chuck Hower, Cascade stopped in on his backpack downstream, I suggested he visit the Gorge tomorrow.

Sept 1.

Tuesday

Collected lodging money, wrote receipts, & mailed to Sue for NMFS. The NMFS crew flew out in the Am with talk of returning in November with the stream monitor. I worked on my bighorn report until Clayton, the FS Wilderness Ranger stopped to visit... and visit! Daily irrigation & waterline chores

Sept 2

Wednesday

Gave a ranch tour/history to Chuck Hower, who has permission to fly from Taylor on the mail plane today. I worked on bighorn report. Weed & feed all the lawns to get rid of the dominant dandelion & plantain; reseeded bare spots. Larry Kingsbury

FS Cultural Resources sent us a copy of Dave Lewis' homestead application file (1921-1928) and a variety of local history publications done by the Payette N.F. I read the homestead info and then walked the old (1920s) trail along the S side of Big Cr from the ranch to the flat around the corner to E. - as shown on Dave's map. The trail's only visible on open slopes; deer, elk, large fish, raccoon bones, grouse feathers at the cougar pen spring. Recent bear & cougar scat at the flat + dead elk from springtime. I couldn't see the original "H" etched into the cliff at the eastern boundary corner in 1921; only the 1965 surveyors' etchings.

Sept 3
Thurs. Reviewed our retirement stock accounts & made some changes - oh yes I have heard the stock market has been jumping around. Pat & Merry Armstrong flew in to visit - They tried to land at Cabin Creek, but their horses were feeding on the airstrip and one refused to leave after being buzzed repeatedly - so they visited here in hopes that the stock would finish eating & find some shade! Steve Z & Dan A

stopped in on their way up Pioneer Cr with 2 sheephunters. I worked on my sheep write up & irrigated. Put the pole fence back up (no nails yet) from the mules going through it on Sunday.
^{wednesday} I doctored a wound on Daisy's back & finished worming mules.

Sept 4
Friday

Jim & Troy flew in with gear/lumber. Put away gear. J & T moved lumber & propane with Rocky on the rebuilt 1 mule stoneboat. I worked on my sheep paper. Dinner at our house. Troy worked on tent frame floor. While he was out to town Jim had long conversations with Howard Q & Curt M. about the wolf-cougar research. It sounds like we are getting the necessary support.

Sept 5
Sat.

I worked on my sheep paper til it got frustrating picking the right words! Jim did yard work. We changed irrigation & shot bows in the evening. Troy sanded the tent frame floor & did finish work. Steve Z's guides Dan & Pat stopped in - 4 guides + 18 horses came out of Pioneer Cr - Steve + hunters remain

Sept 6
Sunday Last night I stayed up reading the various versions of the Sheepstealer Campaign & local histories provided by Larry K. ^{til 4:30 AM} I think I have it figured out - it would be interesting to trace the routes of the calvary. Read more this morning - thanks to Larry for the new materials. Yesterday ¹⁴ Bighorns (7E, 5L, 2YR-I) on 1st Bench; we suspect they just arrived from a high elevation summer range - great lamb:ewe ratio. Jim ^{hand} sawed cookstove wood - branches from firewood trees. Jim & Troy put deck wash on the tent floor. Troy did finish work on it. I processed the box of pears Laura & Jer sent us (\$50 FedEx overnight!) - sourcream pear pie, pear butter, pears for freezer, fresh pears - they are delicious & perfectly ripe - from Laura's family's commercial orchard. Jim and Troy Rebuilt panel of rail fence on east side of lower flat that the males rolled and broke.

Sept 7
Monday J & H rode upstream to the gooseneck to inspect the ambush site... from the Sheepstealer Campaign. We found a loose rock wall on the south ridge line which perfectly fit Brown's ^{Col.} description from his diary. We searched for spent shells etc, but nothing was found. Had a heavy afternoon

thundershower to contend with. Selected-sawed some more dead poles to complete the wall-tent frame. Troy rode/pulled the little raft down to the cookhouse landing. John flew in from A.A. with a barrel of helicopter fuel (F56?) and 1 propane tank. Head of strip a bit soggy from irrigation.

Sept 8
Tuesday

Holly worked with the computer most of the day - on her sheep mortality paper. I helped Troy wrap up the wall tent framing and then we all slipped the 12x14' tent over the frame - and it fit like a glove!, compliments to Troy for precision measurements/wood work. P.M. showers, in fact, a lone rider came through the ranch during a heavy shower - headed for Rush CR and didn't return. Could be a sheep guide of Steve Zettels? No plane traffic today.

Sept 9
weds.

Rained hard last night, over 3/4 of an inch. Steve Achord from NMFS called to say he was ordering an expensive ^{\$10,000} H₂O monitoring device (10K.) to be put here! Holly called J. Peck to clue him in and check into the merits from an overall monitoring standpoint. Mostly stayed in doing computer work, letters etc. Continued wall tent improve-

ments. The mail plane came in late morning. All streams up and off-color from heavy rains, especially Rush CR, which appears to have experienced a slide. Reviewed Peek's Monitoring proposal - not all. H fisherman passed by enroute upstream, with back packs.

Sept. 10
Thurs. (4x)
Lots of FS. flights today, bringing in Patty Steiger and 5 trail crew members, a long with 42 boards for the Bighorn Bridge rebuild. Had a good catch-up visit with Patty. Rotated beds for Troy - trading Arlow's "sponge rack" for one of the pole beds from the cookhouse. Troy built a table for the wall tent. Oh ya, another $\frac{1}{3}$ " of rain last night, along with lots of thunder. Holly and I spent all day + working on our respective writing projects. Also visited w/ Curt Mack regarding more wolf - rendezvous site documentation. Tailed frog in our yard!

Sept. 11
FRI.
Holly and Troy made arrangements to go to Cold Mtns - doing wolf work, their plane came in early afternoon. Terry Hokenetz flew in Maurice Hornocker. We toured them around and visited. (predation project, monitoring)
Did more fence repair work, the herd is still restless to break out of the main pasture. Holly processed 4 quarts of peaches (to freezer) that Terry gave us.

Sept. 12
Sat.

This am. Clem Pope came down from Cabin Cr. with the FS packstring - 9 head. Helped him pack planks for the Bighorn Bridge... 4 - 6'6" boards per mule was quite a cumbersome load. Did more mule proofing of fences, extending electric. Clem came back early evening, helped him unsaddle his stock and then visited about winter mgmt. issues. Jim Pope, Russ Throno, & Brookes, stopped by (helicopter) to refuel doing Redd count - Chinook - for USFS Rocky Mtn Region research.

Sept. 13
Sunday

Helped Clem get his last load of lumber mantied and loaded. Finished enclosing the main pasture electric line... and collected the stock off of the 2nd bench. Ray flew Holly and Mica back from Cold Mtns. Troy hiked back via Coyote Springs - Black Butte and down Horse Mtn. A pilot - George from CA., hiked up to "check the place out." Late pm Clem and Patty stopped by to get their duffle. Another string stopped by earlier - 12 head, 6 people enroute to Soldier Bar, plus Jake from Steve's outfit came from Rush Pt. → Soldier Bar. We finished shoeing Bo. Put away gear.

Sept. 14
Monday

I finished edets on my bighorn sheep paper (draft) for NWSheep & Goat Council. Jim spent the day on his computer on the black bear population report.

Troy finished up details on the tent frame, & made a shelf. He sanded the old paint off the Lanham deck. Helicopter crew refueling ^{& visit}

Our trip to Cold Mdw: Troy & I backpacked to the 2 wolf rendezvous sites of early June. We located pup dens, diggings, bones (elk, deer, bear, beaver), and scats at both sites. Troy found a nice 6 point antler set. Cold Meadows was full (14+ parties) of hunters getting ready for the season. We stayed at a F.S. cabin & visited with Jen, the wilderness guard on our last night. We still don't know what caused Jeff Holliday to get so sick - He was in the hospital in McCall & Missoula 3+ weeks - they suspected tick fever then bubonic plague... He won't be back to Cold Meadows this fall. Saw 2 spotted frogs at our Whimstick Cr camp.

Sept 15
Tuesday I printed out 5 copies of my sheep paper + cover letters. Jim printed out his bear paper. The weed-n-feed really made the lawns grow (along with >1" precipitation last week + reseeding) - it was difficult to mow - but finally looking like a lawn. Troy worked on Lanham deck sanding and treating wood landings

and gutters. Ben H. & Tom C. flew in on a FS flight and hiked to Cabin Cr after muffins (Ben's) and coffee. Jim gave directions to Travis' guide headed to the Flying B to pick up their lame (wandering) mule - we never saw it go by & our gates were closed! Hope it is at the "B" since it's a 4 day ride from Miletti to Flying B to Miletti.

Sept 16 FS flight out. Mail plane in. I shut down irrigation
 Wednesday ditches (except main pasture) & drained hoses.
 Troy made a coffee table & finished treating deck.
 Jim took the mules & went hunting - muzzleloader.
 He picked up Maurice Hornocker & Terry Holubetz at Soldier Bar.

Sept 17 Troy & I pulled thistles along the side of
 Thursday the airstrip S of the slough. They pulled up
 with roots easily. We 2-4D sprayed new
 plants - 1/2 day. Trail crew flew out
 (2 flights) after working the Gorge blasting &
 rebuilding Bighorn Bridge. I worked on
 phone bill allocation. Troy peeled the tile off
 the old particle board & burned particleboard
 subfloor debris that was piled behind the
 lab last year. Wes from Miletti Outfitters

stopped by with the mule from the "Flying B" - it's not their mule! We reconfirmed that after talking to Brenda. The mule's a new one of Steve Zettels - "CB". We kept it here until someone can pick it up.

Sept 18
Friday Hailey came from Goat Creek camp to pick up the mule. I cleaned Lab & Duplex up, as Ed called to say he & engineering students will be in tomorrow. Troy & I burned more particle board & boxed up broken floor tile - now 1/2 way through the junk pile! I bagged up plastic (water?) bottles & more junk from behind the old Dave Lewis cabin to fly out.

Sept 19
Saturday I went hunting with my bow this morning before the UofI flights - no bugling action. Ed Krumpe, Roger Ely and 5 civil engineering students flew in to look at our septic / sanitation system & design a septic treatment plan for Taylor Ranch. I gave them a tour of Taylor Ranch septic systems after we had coffee & cookies. The students have checked the internet for ideas. They seem to understand the unique constraints at T.R. - all hand labor, expenses w/ flying in people & supplies, no source of raw materials (gravel) on site. Troy, Ed, & I

visited about Taylor Ranch in pm. Students went fishing or worked on project til it rained. The Hydro system went down to 3 Amps w/2 jets. Leaves in intake screens was the problem, but repeated air bleeding in the line didn't help. We are now clearing leaves every 1-2 days on the intake screens. Students took soil samples & did percolation tests in dug holes around pasture. The gas went out at Taylor cabin - after the usual 2 days of gas smell in the house. The hot water heater leaked propane in the evening/night.

Sept 20
Sunday

Fog from yesterday's rain delayed Interstate Aviation 2 hours. Students surveyed water box & upper boundary of T.R. on Pioneer Cr. Propane tank #2 out at Taylor Cabin; fixed HW heater valve w/WD-40 & it appeared to stop leaking gas. Students flew out. Troy flew to Chamberlain during the airplane shuttles. He'll hike back to Taylor in 2 days. Rick, the Interstate pilot made his 1st Taylor Ranch landing yesterday - with a load of students. Jim showed up with the stock & a 5 point bull elk he got with his muzzleloader. We unpacked mules, cleaned blood off manthies & ropes, & put meat away to cool - in the bunkhouse.

Sept 21st
Monday
6pm I (Troy) just returned from Chamberlain -
great hike pretty tired. Note from Holly
says she went to Haring Camp - I assume
that's the Black Butte Camp and that they're
shuttling gear. Note says they'll return
tomorrow PM. Ran into Dr Richard
Zimmerman from Salmon, ID at Lobner Basin
He thinks Taylor Ranch should ~~be~~ be really
pushing for knapsack weed control along the
Big Cr. Trail. I explained the situation - he
said he would contact The Ranger.

Sept 22
Tuesday
Holly and I broke & packed the whiskey
Sprgs. camp while Terry and Maurice hiked/hunted
down Cougar Cr. We met them on Goat Rd.
and shuttled them across the Soldier Pass
ford to access Terry's plane at S. B. Got
home about 6:00 pm. Troy had built a ladder
step on back of Lankam Cabin, plus repaired door
to water heater cubby. He also peeled blue tile off
of particle board and boxed to ship out.

Sept. 23
Wednes.
Holly and I spent the day on meat processing
- 1 hind quarter and burger grinding. ^{10+ pounds} Mail plane
came in mid morning. Troy brushed linseed oil
E. Duplex and Lankam porch.

Sept. 24 H. & I processed meat all day and into evening.
 Thurs. Cut up front 1/2, and wrapped, also ground 50+ pounds of burger. We converted the cookhouse and hantam refrigerators into freezers... so far so good. Troy had a vigorous day of "brushing" along Pioneer Cr. to allow larger plane ^(wing) clearance. He also burned brush and other debris lying around. Holly and I ground burger until 10:30 pm with our Kitchen Aid mixer w/ grinder attachment.

Sept. 25 Pat Armstrong called this am to ask if someone
 Friday here could let his horse loose... tied up @ his Cabin Cr. camp. Holly saddled Cricket and rode to C.C., in the rain, to free the horse. I spent the day on elk meat - finally done! Troy installed tack shed lights and worked on cookhouse screen door.

Sept. 26 Holly did laundry and other cleaning today.
 Sat. I repaired and cleaned tack. Continued debris burning. Troy continued working on solar set up. Using Rocky and the single boat, we hauled 1/2 logs up to the water trough (2) and made 5 trips to the woodshed landing with fir branches for cookstove wood. Gary Power and Shawn rode in

late afternoon. They have been checking on illegal outfitters - and legal ones, in the Cold Meadows - Big Cr. areas. We visited about the wolf study details & planning over dinner. Kept Gary's 5 head in the main pasture electric and put them up in the Lanham Cabin.

Sept. 27
Sunday

Gary and Shawn rode to Bear Trap Saddle via Big Cr. Ridge - going, and down Big Cr. coming home. They saw 7 moose today between Doe Cr. and here. Holly and I spent most of the day preparing for our 2 wk. Alaska trip. Troy finished the cook house screen door and began overhauling the single stone boat. I made a huge pot of "stone soup", Holly baked some biscuits and everyone came over for dinner and talk. Troy established a huge trapline (8) for woodrats.

Sept 28
Monday

Gary and Shawn up for breakfast and discussion about an "educational packing permit" for TIR.

Also confirmed next meeting date on wolf study w/ Gary and Curt Mack - Oct. 22nd. ^{called him 2x} Gary and Shawn packed up their stuff and pulled out - for Corns ^{95°16} Cr. - before noon. Helped Troy finish his reconstructed single stoneboat. - made mostly of salvaged materials from many assorted sources. Holly worked on monthly

phone billing and letter to Lynne K. Spent several more hours preparing for Alaska trip. Had a funny mishap with a spilled can of varathane on back porch - which Holly knocked to the floor. We ended up refinishing the floor in the process of mopping up the mess... with paper towels. Also today 2 planes were in from AA, one brought 5 propane²⁰⁶ (R.C.) and the other brought 1 propane and 13 bags of cubes (R.A.)¹⁸⁵.

Tues

Sept 29

Jim + Holly left for Alaska - flew out w/ John around 4:30 pm. Two plane loads of cubes in hauled them to head shed. Spent the morning cleaning out the East end of the Lorchon cabin for reblowing project - prep work will be extensive - pulled up some Masonite. Looks like I'll have to trim and glue down most of the subfloor. Checked on the sock (lower Pasome) Mica seems a little depressed.

Wed

Sept 30

Arnolds made it in around 11 AM - forgot the floor adhesive and the nail bag? did remember my groceries. Carol said the adhesive will come in tomorrow morning. Worked on the floor and Greenwood hauling

Mules spent morning on first bench (Rocky)
Then took off downstream in the afternoon
found them $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below the lick.

Oct 1st RC. Brought in the adhesive - worked most
Thurs of the day on the subfloor - real mess,
covered the black cat out of the attic and
threw her out - I don't really think
it was fair for the Athensons to leave
on vacation w/ the cat already in
the attic --- giving the cat a head start!
now we are equals.

Daisy has a fairly large cut on her left
front leg - put some ointment on it - doesn't
seem to be bothering her.

Fixed up the wood stove at the Lanham
cabin and worked on flooring till 10:30 pm
figured the heat would be good for the
gluing and patching compounds. Also found
out that my mom is coming in for a
visit Saturday after next.

OCT 2nd Worked on the floor.

Fri Doctored Daisy.

Walked up to the Taylor cabin at 5:30 pm
and everybody was in the yard/garden -
guess I'll mend some fence tomorrow.

SAT
OCT 3rd Did some birthing in the morning - Mica did a lot of swimming in Big Cr. (cut down on the chances of her catching on fire). Mon Ash berries starting to ferment i.e. drunk birds flying into windows. repaired fence. Overcast/rain most of the day.

Sun
OCT 4th low fog this morning - snow on the top of Cliff Cr. and up Dave Lewis Peak. Worked on the floor in the AM. Moved stock to the upper pasture (grazing the main pasture). Checked on the floor sealer after lunch - still wet so I took Mica for a walk down to the gorge... we ended up going to Waterfall Cr. back around 4:30 Load of cubes on the strip - moved them to the feed shed. Rainbow on the first bench, baking bread, listening to channel 13 on the radio - dead mule found near a Cabin Cr turn off? doesn't really sound like this Cabin Cr?

Mon
OCT 5th worked on the floor - cold last night - warm today. Two mule deer ♀ by the corral shed in the AM. Observations: 2 more woodrats over the past weekend. Car killed a rabbit (about 3/4 of the car's size.) Mica was impressed. Checked on the stock crabby! going to sleep in the lab tonight to keep the line going - wish I had a fan to blow heat into the back rooms. What would Arlow do?

Tues Oct 6

Really nice fall day - did some burning, yard clean up, mowed the lawn, dried out some tarps, drained some hoses, and put them away for winter. Worked on getting water back to the Conyer Cabin and Arlows - major plug (leaves mostly). Lifted weights (2 plane loads of cubes). Mica spent much of the day tearing up the pile of drain tile behind the shop (in pursuit of?). One section of tube made it to the duplex, another ended up down in Pioneer Cr. Will work on the lab floor after dinner - you know the old saying "People who work in trapezoidal buildings shouldn't throw square tiles..."

Wed

Oct 7th

Oops --- day behind in the Journal --- hmmm Wed? sat around and watched TV all day! Actually --- worked on the floor in the AM and decided that I'm not convinced that the tiles are going to work on an unheated/uninsulated subfloor. Some of the seams don't seem to be staying down all that well - I think it would be wise to watch the one room (w/ tile) for awhile and see what happens before adhering the rest. F.S. flew in w/ four people headed to Cabin Cr. (Tom, Ben, John, and Ray?)

sounds like they're going to sling in a load of gear at cabin cr tomorrow and a work crew of 14 will fly in next Wed.

Rolled the downed log off the hill and ripped it for bridge stringers. nice day weatherwise. * Jack McGee brought J+H some Jam

Oct 8th
Thurs
Worked on the bridge footings, peeled the stringers. replaced gate poles by the shop. hauled fill down to the ditch crossing by duplex. Tom, Ben, and Ray? hiked back around 2pm (early) and said they were flying out around 3pm due to incoming weather. stock was on the far end of the runway! gathered them up for the incoming flight. winds picked up just as Rod flew in. tricky conditions but they made it out all right. let the stock out and went back to work - went to look for them around 6pm - tracked them away up Rush Cr? will look for them tomorrow (w/ hawks) if they don't show up in the AM. - Also they really tore up the electric in the upper pasture! about 100 ft of it out in Big Cr and it was snapped in a couple different places? All this after

feeding them some cubes and carrots.

Also - The F.S. wasn't able to sling in their gear.[?] sounds like some people might fly in next Tuesday related to the cabin or project - Also heard that Jeff Holiday is back and doing well and it was some type of tick fever.

* Perhaps it was the moose, that tore up the fence...

Oct 9th

FRI

Long day - found the mules at daybreak - down by the tack shed - good to see them again - after walking around some - realized they'd been back in the Taylor yard/garden trashing things and they knocked over the fence/gate by the shop!

Then Arnolds called - bringing in more cubes and some lumber. As John landed he flushed a bull moose and pushed it all the way up the runway - it hopped pioneer creek - then into the electric, then out of the electric pulling it all down below the barn - then it crossed Big Cr and proceeded to tear down the electric fence in the upper pasture.

fixed up the main pasture fence after John left - then I started shuffling cubes down to the head shed when the moose appeared again and chased Mica and I up the hill - the moose veered off and knocked down the

note pasture fence again! Put Mica back in the house - consumed hauling stuff around (watching my back). Two sheep hunters showed up wondering what day it was? They were headed up Rush Cr so I guided them to the upper trail - Moose was in the orchard circling around and snorting - skirted the orchard and headed up the upper Rush Cr trail - I doubled back - moose was crossing creek and in the BBQ pit area. Think it might be the Rut for Moose right now?

Rebuilt the fence/gate by the shop - after a couple moose free hours I let out the stock and Mica - kind of funny - Mica was right on my heels the whole time, I'd drop the hammer and she'd jump... guess the moose this morning made her a little nervous. By 5:30 pm the stock was out of sight again - after dinner Mica and I hiked to the sagebrush flat to look for them - no sign of them. Talked to the sheep hunters - said there were moose running everywhere and that there was a larger Bull (I've been seeing some huge tracks down by the mouth of Rush Cr.). Back at the Taylor cabin I propped up some of the fence around the yard - then we walked to the mouth of Rush Cr. to look for tracks - looks

like they headed up Rush Cr again - surprised I didn't see them come up on the flat. Hopefully they'll show up in the morning... Hopefully I can keep a fence up around this place for 5 or 6 hours... hopefully these "Cired up" moose won't attack the stock... hopefully...

SAT

OCT 10th

Overcast stormy day - hiked back over to sage brush flat looking for stock - lower pasture - no sign of them other than being back in the Taylor yard last night. Jim the sheep hunter hiked up from goat Cr - came up for coffee during a squall - he didn't see any sign of the stock downstream - I finally picked up their trail - realized they headed up river.

R.C. made it into the ranch around 3pm w/ Alice (mom) pretty crazy flying conditions. R.C. spotted the stock at Cabin Cr. on his way out.

Sun

OCT 11th

Left for Cabin Cr around 7:30 AM - nice buck at the mouth of Rush Cr. Couldn't see the stock anywhere at Cabin Cr (the flat) hiked up to see Pat and Mary - they hadn't seen the stock anywhere... I'm wondering if they're over profile

by now? Pat offers to fly me around to look for them, I decide I'll hike up to Cave Cr first just to see if they conformed up river. Glassed from the bench above the west end of the flat, took a deep breath "Criiiiiikeet!" Two big red ears w/ a mule attached to them walked out of the trees below the bench. Penny the Mule and Co. Haltered them up - checked in w/ Pat and headed back to the ranch. Passed Jason w/ a strong headed Cor Canyon Cr. Snow at about 5500 ft.

Mon
Oct 12 The sheep hunters stopped by this morning on their way to Soldier Bar (No Rensyer) - Worked on greasing a feed bin in the morning. Cut some birch poles along the strip to fix fencing around the Taylor Cabin. Harnessed Rocky and skidded bridge materials to the site, skidded the birch poles and hauled a little live wood - It all went real well - The new stone boat is pretty slick. Mom and I worked on the bridge all afternoon. Fed corn cobs and apples to the mules.

Tues
13 OCT Worked on the upper pasture in the A.M.
-patched up some of the fencing around
the Taylor yard - need some new bucks.
Mon and I hiked up to Conger Cr in
the afternoon. 13 bighorns at the lick (6 ♀, 4 lambs
, 3 young rams) Noticed alot of hempweed (non-flowering)
on the flat west of Conger Cr.

Wed
14 OCT kind of a stormy day - Mon flew out on
the Mail plane around noon. Jim from the F.S.
hiked down from Cabin Cr to meet the incoming
crew - they never flew in. We had lunch and
he hiked up to Labour to camp. Worked on
fences, feed bunk, and clearing up the shop and
Taylor Cabin. 4 mule deer in the corral.

Thurs
15 OCT Finished feed bunk and prepped poles in
the A.M. 4-5 plane loads of F.S. folks. Said
they'll be flying out in 8 days. Patty from
F.S. trailed in around 3pm w/ stock - helped
her load mules. she said there would be
a flight Sunday w/ clear flying in and her
flying out. Kind of cold and overcast today -
a few flakes fell.

Fri.
Oct. 16
Holly & I arrived at A.A. in the early a.m. Did some gear/grocery reorganizing and were headed home by 11:00 a.m. Troy flew out along w/ ranch garbage and a few of his tools. Troy did many tasks while we were gone, which I looked over. We spent all afternoon and evening putting gear away and going through endless mail. Called the CFWR office, left message with Janet regarding ^(organizing) a late Oct. advisory committee meeting.

Oct. 17
Sat.
oh ya, yesterday pm visited w/ Bob Gillihan on the radio. He had made a trip most of the way back but turned back when he heard (from F.S.) that we were out. His relative(?) Jim Castle shot a 44" bull moose @ Cabin Cr., he had 1 of the 2 tags issued. Jason stopped in enroute to Telephone Cr. w/ a packstring. Did inside and yard chores. Moved stock back to main pasture. Visited Howard Q. (sat. phone) regarding predation research proposal. Water intake about plugged with leaves. Holly reorganized attic to accomodate camp ^{stuff.}

Oct. 18
Sunday
Patty Steiger, some FS stock, and 2 others ^(Dennis &) came down from Cabin Cr. early a.m. as a McCall plane came in with Clem Pope. The 3 went out and Clem stayed. He visited us for a

couple hours prior to taking the stock back up to C.O. We discussed a cooperative weed control project (w/ funded intern) and a wilderness skills training for FS workers and suitable UI students. Worked on water intakes, we'll have to plug some holes in E. side box, so we drained to repair. Cleared out a huge pile of "spent" catalogs & magazines. Wrote several letters. Went on grouse hunt with Mica to "vent some energy."

Oct 19
Monday Jim set up Advisory meeting in Moscow with Nancy M. I calculated phone expenses for us, Troy, NP Tribe from satellite phone bill and sent a memo + \$ to Lynne K. We are checking / cleaning leaves at the waterbox daily. Fall colors have peaked and most leaves have fallen this week. Arlow's cabin ^{water} box was low due to air in the intake pipe and extensive leaking in lower box - into Pioneer Cr. I located leak sources & did short term repair - stuffed cracks between logs with rolled visqueen then moss. The waterbox ^{& intake} needs replacement or major overhaul.. next year. 9 bighorns on the 1st bench (6 Ewes, 1 Y Ewe, 1 Lamb, 1 Y Ram class I).

October 20
Tuesday We wrote up the TR meeting agenda to fax to Nancy M. tomorrow. Todd Fluckiger came up to visit while hunting upstream. He had ^{been} caretaker at Taylor Ranch in Nov 1996. Jim worked on his bear paper revisions. I put together info about Taylor Ranch projects & maintenance for our upcoming meeting.

Oct. 21
Wed Mail day. I winterized the cookhouse - drained, disconnected, and poured anti-freeze into waterlines; quick cleanup. We moved the car battery to the tack shed solar - it's been trickle charging > 1 week & is finally charged. Cleaned waterbox screens - Eastside box has good outlet flow, but still has quite a leak evident at Pioneer Creek. Jim's on his computer again. The benches had an unusual brown swath across them - it was from the low angled 4pm sun shining thru smoky looking clouds. We discussed logistics of our winter predator work & packing in camps.

Oct. 22
Thurs.

I spent a long and boring day on the computer working on my bear study writing. A large FS crew liked down from Cabin Cr. (12). It took McCall Air 4 flights to haul them out. Holly ordered an electric heater. She worked on accepting information for next week. Brought the stock back over from across Big Cr. Arranged for Janet Hohmann to caretake next week (via Ken Hohmann). Did usual leaf cleaning at water intake.

Oct 23
Friday

A large string w/ 2 packers trailed by ~14 head total, must be the Root Ranch headed to "the B." A large buck came down the trail behind them, < 1 hr. later. Pat Armstrong flew in to borrow some medication for one of his mules eyes. ^{to Mike treatment?} Holly picked apples, collected "thoughts" on next weeks research meeting with the H.W.I / N.P.T. group, and did a lot of other organizing for next week. I again labored over the stupid keyboard. The mules/Bs appear to have pulled out, upstream again. Warmer today, a few bugs even still alive. I cleaned out the Taylor chimney. This was Brian Simmi the Big Creek Outfitter ← illegally taking a sheep hunter in Steve Zettels hunting area. He was investigated by IOGA.

Oct. 24
Saturday

Quite a busy day on the trail with several pack strings going by. One was led by an old friend - Joel Bender, who stopped for a brief visit. Joel was a UI "intern" in 1979, lived here a couple falls guiding, and did his senior project on local rattlesnakes. Holly did laundry. I sawed wood and stacked, then moved cubs (6 bags) and grain (2 bags) to the corral shed. Sharpened hay knife. Holly ^{begin} creating camp equipment lists. The stock is still gone so we'll head to Cabin Cr. tomorrow... something we would do anyway to check out the Wallace Cabin for winter use, but we should be riding up! Another 1/2 day on the computer.

Oct. 25
Sunday

Got an early start and hiked up to Cabin Cr. Encountered a note from Pat A. saying that the mules / Bo were at the strip. Visited Pat's Mary over a snack. ^{hard cider & blue, tortilla chips!} Looked the airstrip over - impressive accomplishment! Gathered stock and headed home. Inspected the old Cabin @ C.C. for winter use... it will be a cold spot!

- Oct. 26
Monday Keeping stock in confinement. Modified the gate behind shop and electric connection @ duplex. Most of day on computer and planning for this weeks meetings in Moscow. Lance K. from Steve's outfit stopped by for visit. He's camped at mouth of Cliff Cr. so we had him over for dinner.
- Oct 27
Tuesday Jim & I both worked on his bear paper edits. We packed up paperwork & clothes for our trip out, and my possible horseback ride in (2 days) if we buy the horse we'll look at in Spray this weekend. Matt O'Connell IDF&G CO flew in to check on a bighorn carcass in Snake Creek. He visited with us Am & in pm and stayed in the cookhouse. Lance shot a nice ram with his bow up Cliff Creek (~168^{8 yr. old} points). Jim let him use Cricket & Penny to pack it down. Last night we talked to Lance about the wolf cougar work & found he was interested in working on the project if it happens.

OCT. 28
WGS. JANET HOFFMANN (ME) ARRIVES ON MAIL PLANE AROUND NOON. JIM SHOWS ME AROUND WHILE HOLLI & MATT LOAD UP. THEY HEAD OUT AROUND 1 & MICA CONTINUES TO SHOW ME AROUND! SPEND AFTERNOON RE-FAMILIARIZING MYSELF W/ THE PLACE & NEARBY.

START ROLLING UP ELEC. FENCE ON N. SIDE OF CREEK. STAYS CLOUDY ALL DAY. PYGMY OWL CALLING NEAR WHERE I'M TAKING DOWN FENCE AROUND 5 p.m. NO SHEEP SEEN ON HILL YET.

OCT. 29
THURS. MULES GOT OUT LAST NIGHT BUT ALL 4 STUCK AROUND & I PUT THE 2 BACK IN THIS a.m. ELEC. FENCE CHARGER NOT WORKING (BECAUSE OF COLD?). AFTER CHORES, MICA & I HEAD DOWN BIG CREEK TO MIDDLE FORK. REALLY NICE, CLEAR DAY. TRY TO RECALL WHERE I SAW THE OTTER FISHING THROUGH THE ICE IN NOV. OF '93 (I THINK) BUT CAN'T RELOCATE EXACT SPOT. HIT THE MIDDLE FORK AROUND 11:30 & WALK UPSTREAM ALWAYS. REAL SUNNY & WARM AFTER THE COOL, UNLIT BIG CR. CANYON. ALDERS HAVE LOST $\frac{3}{4}$ OF THEIR LEAVES, CHOKECHERRIES ALMOST NAKED EXCEPT FOR OLD TENT CATSPILLAR WIGS. WALK BACK UP TO RANCH AT 4 - FIDDLE WITH FENCE CHARGER & GET IT GOING AGAIN (MULES STILL IN). NO PEOPLE OR BIG GAME SEEN TODAY. MAGPIES, A FEW NUTCRACKERS, DIPPERS, CANYON WRENNS, BELTED KINGFISHERS, MTN. CHICKADEES, KINGLETS SEEN ON HIKE.

OCT. 30
FRI. MULES OUT AGAIN LAST NIGHT BUT THEY HANG AROUND & LET ME RUN THEM BACK IN AGAIN. FENCE CHARGER NOT WORKING AGAIN THIS a.m. BUT IT STARTS BACK ABOUT 9-9:30 WHEN THE SUN HITS IT - DUH! I WRITE LETTERS & FINISH TAKING DOWN ~~NEW~~ PASTURE FENCE THIS MORNING, THEN WALK UP CLIFF CREEK TRAIL TO RIDGELINE VISIBLE FROM CABIN. A STIFF CLIMB, ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY. TAKE IN VIEW FROM RIDGE FOR

AWHILE, TURN BACK DOWN TO WHERE THE SUN HAS ALREADY SET. ALL THE MULES + THE HORSE ARE INSIDE THE HOT FENCE THIS EVENING - THEY SEEM TO COME + GO AT WILL. I FEED THEM ALL INSIDE + LEAVE THEM, FULLY EXPECTING THEM TO BE OUT BY MORNING. CHARGER IS ON. (AT 6 pm)

OCT 31 ANOTHER CLEAR NIGHT + MORNING, + NO ESCAPEES LAST NIGHT! SINCE JIM SAID THE FS MIGHT FLY IN TODAY, I LEAVE THEM ^(STOCK) ALL IN. AFTER CHORES, I HIKE UP TO CABIN CR. AIRSTRIP. LOTS OF PLANES OVER BIG CR. TODAY - AT LEAST A DOZEN FLIGHTS OVER, SOME ALMOST CERTAINLY TO SOLDIER BAR. ONE OUTFITTER GROUP ^(I THINK) PASSES ME HEADED DOWNRIVER - BOB HADLEY WITH THEM SAYS TO SAY HI TO HOWL + JIM. CABIN CREEK MOUTH SURE IS PRETTY, NOBODY AROUND AT THE AIRSTRIP, THOUGH GEAR THAT I ASSUME BELONGS TO PAT + MERRY IS STILL SCATTERED AROUND. ALSO A RED MULE + SEVERAL HORSES NEAR FS CABIN, A WALL TENT + A NYLON TENT UP ABOVE FS CABIN, WE (MICA + I) EAT LUNCH NEAR AIRSTRIP, SNOOP AROUND CABINS, THEN HEAD BACK. PASS 2 HUNTERS (PAUL SOMEBODY) SETTING UP BACKPACKING CAMP IN LOBAUER BASIN ALONG TRAIL. SAID THEY'D BE IN UNTIL NOV. 10 UNLESS THEY GET THEIR ELK SOONER. ABOUT A MILE ABOVE TAYLOR AIRSTRIP, A YOUNG MAN + WOMAN + ABOUT 6-8 MULES PASS ME HEADED UPSTREAM. BIG CREEK'S A BUSY PLACE TODAY! GET BACK AROUND 4,

FEED, RE-ARRANGE MULES (PENNY & ROCKY BACK OUT), CLEAN SCREENS, ETC. PATRICK, FS WILDERNESS RANGOR FROM CHAMBERLAIN, & HIS DOG DYLAN SHOW UP AROUND DUSK. HE'S ON THE LAST HITCH IN HISRE, FLEW INTO SOLDIER BAR TODAY & WILL WORK HIS WAY OUT TO BIG CR. TRAILHEAD IN COMING DAYS. I TELL HIM HE CAN STAY IN COOKHOUSE & HE DOES. JIM CALLS IN p.m. TO CHECK IN.

NOV. 1
SUNDAY

HIGH OVERCAST THIS MORNING, & WARMER THAN PREVIOUS MORNINGS. PATRICK TAKES OFF UP BIG CR. AROUND 8:30. KITCHEN STOVE GAS TANK RUNS OUT SO I CHANGE IT FOR A FULL ONE. WORK AROUND PLACE IN a.m.: SPLIT WOOD, WRITE LETTERS, CHRISTMAS SEWING. MIKA ^I PLAY ALONG GRAVEL BARS OF BIG CR. IN p.m., THEN TAKE A WALK UP PIONEER CR & ONTO HILL TO W. ABOVE RANCH. VERY FEW PLANES TODAY, NO PEOPLE SEEN. 5 PINE SISKINS AT FEEDER UNDER EAVES, EXCEPT FOR 1 MULE DEER IN MULE PASTURE, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY BIG GAME. HUNTER FROM SOLDIER BAR YESTERDAY REPORTED HEARING BIGHORN RAMS BUTTING 2 EVENINGS AGO. STAYS CLOUDY & DRY ALL DAY. WATER HEATER GOES OUT IN EVE. - MUST BE OUT OF GAS - WILL CHECK TOMORROW a.m.

NOV. 2
MONDAY

CLOUDY NIGHT; HEAR SWANS IN THE DARK EARLY THIS a.m. RIDGES ABOVE CLIFF CR. IN CLOUDS. STILL CAN'T RE-LIGHT WATER HEATER PILOT EVEN THOUGH TANK FEELS PRETTY FULL.

SWITCH GAS TANKS W/ KITCHEN STOVE & TRY AGAIN: THIS TIME BOTH STOVE & HEATER LIGHT - AND ANOTHER PROPANE MYSTERY IS CORRECTED IF NOT SOLVED! LIGHT DRIZZLE AS I DO MORNING CHORES, SEE 1 FLOCK OF SWANS CIRCLING HIGH, JUST AT BOTTOM OF CLOUDS. 2 MORNINGS IN A ROW WITH NO MULE ESCAPES! SPEND MORNING FINISHING THE SEWING PROJECT, WRITING, READING, SPLITTING KINDLING. MARK FROM U OF I ELECTRIC SHOP CALLS TO SET UP DISCUSSION TIME W/ AKENSON'S ABOUT ELECTRICAL SYSTEM HERE; TROY R. CALLS TO CHECK IN + SAYS HE'LL BE BACK IN THIS WEDS. DRIZZLE QUITS BY NOON. RAY FLIES IN AROUND 2:30 WITH A FULL PROPANE TANK & A UPS DELIVERY, MICA & I REPAIR FENCE & DIG UP THE FEW REMAINING CARROTS IN GARDEN AFTER THE NIGHTLY RAID BY PENNY & ROCKY. QUIT THAT JUST IN TIME TO WATCH ALL 4 MULES + BO TROOP PAST ABOVE THE CABIN! THEY KICK UP THEIR HEELS & ROAR DOWN TO THE AIRSTRIP, WHERE THEY PACE UP & DOWN SEVERAL TIMES IN APPARENT GLEE AT THEIR MASS ESCAPE. THEY COME TO THE SOUND OF HAY CUBES + BO, CRICKET & DAISY GET PUT BACK IN PRISON. FENCE CHARGER NOT WORKING (TOO CLOUDY??) AGAIN. MICA GETS ME TO THROW STICKS FOR HER ALONG THE AIRSTRIP. JUST BEFORE DARK, A LONG PACK-STRING W/ 2 RIDERS PASSES ON RIVER TRAIL HEADED DOWNSTREAM, & I MEET A COUPLE RIDING, LEADING A LOADED MULE & CARRYING 2 YOUNG KIDS, GOING DOWN THE AIRSTRIP HEADED (THEY SAY) TO RUSH POINT.

NOV. 3
TUES.

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL CLEAR MORNING; GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER HIKE. PUT ALL MULES INTO HOT FENCE IN CASE THE NOAA GUY DOES FLY IN. TAKE OFF FOR RUSH CR. POINT RIGHT AFTER WEATHER REPORT TO CASCADE. AS I CLIMB UP BIG CR. RIDGE, THE BIGGER CRAGS COME INTO VIEW - PRETTY NICE - LOOKING COUNTRY. SEE SOME MAGPIES + RAVENS ON SLOPE N. OF SWITCHBACKS BUT I SEE NO CARCASSES. REACH OUTFITTERS CAMP IN SADDLE BELOW LOOKOUT - TURNS OUT TO BE THE COUPLE W/ KIDS FROM LAST NIGHT (STEVE + FAMILY). HAVE A CUP OF TEA THERE, THEN ON UP TO LOOKOUT. WHAT A VIEW. (WHAT A CLIMB) EAT LUNCH AT LOOKOUT, WHICH IS KIND OF TRASHED BUT STILL CONTAINS A LOT OF EQUIPMENT + STUFF INSIDE. CLOUDS THAT HAD BEEN SOLID OVER THE CRAGS HAVE BROKEN UP. REALLY A BEAUTIFUL DAY. HEAD BACK DOWN AROUND 1, MEET OUTFITTER W/ 3 GUESTS RIDING INTO STEVE'S CAMP ABOVE SWITCHBACKS, THEN A LONG STRING OF MULES HUSHEDED THAT WAY TOO AT RUSH CR. CROSSING. BACK TO RANCH AT 4. FANTASTIC NEARLY-FULL-MOONRISE IN NOTCH FORMED BY BIG CR. CANYON TO EAST AT 6:30. NOTE FROM LARRY, THE NOAA WEATHER GUY, WHO STOPPED IN + LEFT 2 NEW THERMOMETERS IN WEATHER BOX. NO GAME BIGGER THAN A GROUSE SEEN TODAY.

Nov. 4
Weds.

Today was a return to T.R. day. Holly made it in first w/ flight to Soldier Bar. Then Troy and I made it in with a ^{large} load of gear. Spent rest of day putting things away. Made business calls to Clem Pope, Howard Q. while still in Cascade.

Nov. 5
Thurs.

Nice day for Nov. Troy & I used Rocky to skid firewood ($\frac{3}{4}$ cord), and a couple of fence posts. Also hauled the feed trough into the corral and moved a ^{3 bags cubes} propane (w/stoneboat) while Rocky was harnessed. Repaired broken fence by fuel shed, sawed, split, and stacked firewood at Arlows. Holly spent the day on receipts and book keeping, also visited with Lynn K. and Mark LeBeau @ U of I. She worked up phone bill and letter to Clem Pope on winter camp requests.

Nov. 6
Fri.

Finished Arlow's firewood. Holly and Troy repaired the water heater - thermostat replaced - at Lanham Cabin. "Cogitated" more on Lanham floor, also found a 2nd leak source at the double sink. Feeding stock 2x a day now - snowed/rained most of day. Reworked budget for predation study. Fired up stoves in Lanham C, and wall tent to dry things out. Electric still kicking off from the new electric heater in Arlows.

Nov 7
Saturday

Jim packed up camping gear then saddled up the mules & headed to Soldier Bar to pick up Tom Fisk & Dale Borum who are going hunting with him. Jim saw a single wolf track from Goat Creek to Cougar Cr and a ♀ cougar + subadult ^{tracks} from Cliff Creek to Cougar Creek in snow.

Several groups are hunting near Taylor Ranch - not common in past years - 2 bulls & 4 bucks from a Brown's Basin camp. Troy installed his new carbon monoxide detector in Arlow's last night and it went off this morning while he was cooking muffins! The gas stove was the one from the lab that we adjusted for propane recently. Troy made additional adjustments to the oven gas/air flows ^{which} changed the flame from yellow & sooty to blue. Troy had dry heaves this AM - from CO. We worked on Dave Lewis (Conyer) cabin oven (the green trailer model ~ 1970) since Troy had so much success with his. We never could get the oven to light. Moose & Sitka black tail deer steaks for dinner for all. Tom & Dale spent the night in the wall tent.

Nov 8
Sunday

Jim, Troy, Tom, & Dale loaded mules & went up Pioneer Cr. to hunt/camp. Troy brought the stock back. I'm still recovering from a cough/sore throat from our trip out last week. 12" of snow at Root Ranch, Miletti, Big Creek. Brenda of Miletti Outfitters called to see if they could use our strip if they can't get Miletti usable by next week. Matt H. & Tom arrived from Root Ranch w/ 11 head of stock to spend the night here on their trail-out to the Flying B. Troy & I helped unsaddle

and visited with Matt & Tom about wolves (they didn't seem bothered by them), guiding / packing and their packing school, and backcountry hunting, horse gear, and wildlife. It was nice to get to know the Root Ranch / Flying B people.

Nov 9
Monday Fixed breakfast for the Root Ranch guides & they pulled out with stock at 8 AM. Pete ^{Nelson} and Steve Cope (Middle Fork Av. pilots) flew in with 206 & SuperCub - they couldn't get in to Simonds for Jerry J. due to deep snow. They left 2 bags of cubes here for Jerry. Jerry's crew will spend the night here on trail out Nov 20. Troy and I drained & winterized the Conyer Cabin waterline, & plumbing and insulated the yard valve. Both waterboxes have been working well - we check every other day to clean out leaves. The hydro system has been < 23 volts on batteries since Troy has been trying to run the small electric heater at Arlows. We are still waiting for the "trash burner" to be flown in for Arlow's cabin wood heat. Bob DiGrazia stopped to visit with Jesse (T.R. Outfitters). They were in knee deep snow at Barrel Spring Camp.

Pat & Merry Armstrong flew in with mule medicine, & "refreshments" and let us know the Cabin Creek Airstrip repair contracts had been approved today! They are done

Nor 10
Tuesday

Troy pulled the cookhouse waterline out of Pioneer Cr. for winter. I made a "billing template" on the computer & sent a bill to Alan Haney-UWSP. I finished the "bare bones" wolf-cougar budget & letter to Howard Q. Mule feeding & waterbox chores. Troy's back is bothering him today. He worked on a project list & cost estimate for next year. Jim arrived home in the evening, reporting that Tom shot a bull elk-5pt and Dale's still sick with a cold. A 2pt buck on the airstrip - later chased by Penny.
 ↳ 2 cougars went from T.R. to the camp today.

Nov 11
Wed.

Troy worked on Lab bedroom floor tile. I spent the morning on a letter & organization of bills, receipts, travel expenses etc to Lynnek. Jim did odd jobs while we waited for the mail plane. Headed back to camp ^{H, J, D, T} w/mules.

Nov. 12
Thurs.

We hunted in the am then packed Tom's bull down. Troy continued Lanham floor prep. and began preparing his cabin for the wood stove which hasn't arrived yet.

Nov 13
Fri. Date, Tom & I built a new gate, fence line at the end of the airstrip. Holly and Troy made and installed trim for lab bedroom floor. Used Rocky in harness to move fence bucks and new poles. Over 30 sheep on tie benches + a group of 6 rams above the 3rd bench. It has turned very mild.

Nov. 14
Sat. Saddled stock and took Tom & his elk to Soldier Bar. Holly and Date went elk hunting. R.C. flew in with Troy's stove and our other supplies. After returning from Soldier Bar I helped Troy install his wood stove, seems to work well. Still unseasonably warm. Pat A. flew in, picked up 5 bags of cubes and took them to Cabin Cr. for us.

Nov. 15
Sun. Holly did many loads of laundry. I did a brushy hike/hunt up Rush Cr. Expecting Pat A. in for more cube flying but weather poor... or something. Worked on wall fut stove hole flap. Date welded borium on a dozen caulked shoes. Troy built a lampshade.

Nov. 16
Monday

Troy continued work on the Lanham floor. Did some paper business in the am, then Holly, Dale, and I headed to our stove camp. At the Pioneer Cr. switchbacks we heard cougar vocalization, when went on for \pm an hour midday then again in the evening.

Nov. 17
Tuesday

Troy finished S. bedroom / bath and did floor prep in the kitchen. We packed down our camp during light rain storm. (Cougar(s) still vocalizing in Pioneer Cr. Dale shot a 3 pt. buck which we packed down w/camp. Bloomy, wet evening - unseasonably warm.

Nov. 18
weds.

Built traditional water hole dam between T.C. and duplex to protect valves from cold. Packed Dale's stuff to Soldier Bar, Troy took some time away from the floor and went with to S.B. Holly did a few hrs. of last day hunting. Pat A. took another load of cubs to Cabin Cr. for us while he took his stuff out. Mail plane in/out.
→ Bobcat near Cougar Creek; cougar tracks + scats both directions on the trail.

Nov. 19
Thurs.

House e/cleanup. Calls to H.Q. and N.P.T. Pat shoes on front of Cricket, Daisy, Penny. Organized camp gear. Troy continued laying tile in Lanham Kitchens.

Nov. 20
Friday Spent most of the day getting camp equipment together for packing upstream. Prepared buildings for outfitters stopping by (overnight) enroute out. Jerry Teppan's crew arrived at dark and later with 4 people and 15 head. Also today helped Troy put furnishings back into Latham Kitchen. Troy has almost completed tile laying and edge trimming. Pete Nelson stopped in twice with cubes for Jerry's and Travis' stock when they are here. A definite feeling here of our neighbors pulling-out for another year.

Nov. 21
Sat. Got going early with breakfast and helping Jerry's crew get going. Holly and Troy took our stock to Cabin Cr. with camp gear and to move our cubes into cover. Weather turned wet, Jerry unable to fly out. Mile Hi Outfitters began coming in with 7 people and 31 head of stock for the overnight.

Nov 22
Sun Mile Hi outfitters left in A.M. Plane flying in to pick up Jim & Holly had a mishap at Monumental Ranch (slushy runway/bent prop) weather alternated between rain/snow flurries & broken blue. Ray Arnold shuttled John L. and the Von Soder's from Monumental to Taylor - ^{Scott} Patrick flew in - everybody

flew out in the two planes at dusk - including Jerry Jeppson. Fed the mules and covered up all the gear on the airstrip. Tyler Ranch and Lissans dropped off box of food. ← no yellow mustard!

Mon
Nov 23

Woke up w/ fever and sore throat. Fed the donkeys, cats, and Travis' hounds. Recovered Rocky's eye w/ ointment again - looks pretty good. Gave the injured hand an aspirin. Snowed all day. Reconnected plumbing in Larham cabin - did some finishing up work.

Tues
Nov 24

♀ hound is pretty crippled up - the other is an escape artist. Almost clobbered by stop-run away for most of the day, showed up at dinner time. Had company this evening Dan Adams, Jason, Adams' dad, and Jack. Hunter took a ♀ cat up Canyon Cr. Overcast most of the day.

Weds.

Nov. 25

Troy saw off the Zettel crew, also trailing out for the season. Pete Nelson hauled out a couple loads of gear. We waited the morning in Cascade for the weather to break. Finally early pm it did and Holly, Hanky, Ed, Mica and I all crammed in the 206 and flew in. Put gear away. Pete Nelson made 1 more trip from east to take out fitter gear out.

Nov. 26 ^{60°} Very warm today. ^{Hanley} Prepared mega-dinner.
 Thanks-giving Picked the apples from the red-delicious tree
 and yellow-banana - in front of Arlow's.
 Hanley and I made a new cover for the
 wall tent stove jack. Every body helped take
 down the wall tent. Holly organized/packed
 camp food. Troy finished Kitchen floor laying.
 Did the usual over-eating characteristic of
 the day.

Nov 27 Organized camp gear and food for Coxey Creek
 FRIDAY camp. Jim did up manties. Troy started on the
 Kitchen boxes.

Nov 28 Jim, Hanley & Ed loaded camp gear on 5
 Saturday mules/horse and walked to Cabin Creek in the
 rain. ^{They cut firewood & cleaned the Cabin woodrat debris.} Troy worked on Kitchen camp boxes
 then took Mica for a hike up Cliff Cr.
 They found 3 recent bighorn carcasses -
 at least 2 killed by cougars. I stayed
 home with my leg up and iced and read
 Pat Peek's "One Winter in the Wilderness" about
 the winter shee & Jim spent at Taylor Ranch.
 Saw 29 bighorns below 1B (17E, 8L, 1I, 1II, 2III).
 Jim shot the woodrat in the Cabin Cr cabin
 at night - threw it out the door & there was a
 bobcat there - bobcat didn't eat the woodrat.

Nov 29 Jim & crew took the stock & camp from Cabin Creek to Coxe Creek. Troy hiked back to the top of the ridge (Cliff Creek) in search of a ram skull. Mica went along. They saw a bobcat above the lower pasture plus ~30 bighorns on upper slopes. They set up camp, tent frame, cut firewood.

Nov 30 Monday Calls to Curt M & Pam Bell. Letters/receipts to Howard Q & Lynne K. Becky B called & we set up flights for her + Troy + Jim & I on 12/5. Troy built kitchen boxes. Jim, Ed, & Hanley to the ranch after firewood cutting, camp set up and wolf tracking on Mile High (Cham Pack) - J. E. H. made it to T.R. @ 7pm by moonlight.

- cube ladder
- dig cooler
- dig hole
- dig outhouse

Dec 1 Tuesday We found an old woodstove to take to the Cabin Creek Cabin - the one we took up last week is too small to put out enough heat. Troy et al. fabricated some parts for the draft of the stove. J, E & H dried out mantles & pack gear. I printed out data forms & camp supply lists for wolf-cougar. Hanley saw 27 bighorns above 3B. We celebrated my 41st birthday today.

Dec 2
Wed. Jim & Hanley & Troy repaired & rebuilt fence line along the airstrip - used birch poles. Replaced corral rail knocked off by Penny 2 days ago. We are still locking 2 animals in the corral day & night to prevent mule escapes. I put together more camp supplies, cooked, phone calls. Troy's putting additional coats of polyurethane on the kitchen boxes. Jim agreed to do some bighorn immobilization for IDF&G to help Becky Bigelow next week. The mail plane couldn't fly today - rain in Cascade.

Dec 3 It's my real birthday today. Ed & Hanley are still around for celebrating. Jim & Troy loaded stock up and rode to Coxe Creek with 4 bags cubes + camp gear. It's snowing - no mail plane for Hanley & Ed again. Hanley cleaned ashes out of the Taylor & Lab woodstoves & baited sheep on 1st bench with apples. Calls to Becky B. & Lynnek.

Dec. 4 Jim and Troy take the stock back to T.R. after stop at Cabin Cr. cabin to check rat traps - no activity there. We cut more wood at the Coxe camp and generally "shored up" the tent for winter weather. Hanley & Ed flew out and the mail plane came in. Holly cleaned, cooked and prepared business mail for

her trip out. It took us 5 travel hrs. between the Coxy cabin camp and here... the trail is turning from mud to ice. Had Troy over for halibut dinner (provided by him).

Dec. 5
Sat.

Everybody preparing to leave - Holly to Ortho. doc in Boise and Troy moving out. We are sorry to see Troy go, he's been a good companion and great worker. Mid. Elk aviation came in w/ cubes for us (via Steve Z.) and to haul more Mile Hi ^{for T. Bullock} gear out. A.A. (John) flew in near noon with Becky and Nikki to do sheep capture. Holly and Troy flew out. We hauled (on Rocky) 2 bags of cubes & apples to lower pasture to entice sheep. Below freezing all day, over 20 sheep below 1st bench, 9 elk on 3rd bench and below. Troy completed 95% of the pack box project and showed me remainder to do. Becky and Nikki up for dinner. Calls to G. Power and from J. Porter today.

Dec. 6
Sun.

This am I went after sheep to dart with Becky and Nikki, after a practice session in the orchard. Got into ~30 sheep in the E. nob vicinity. I finally got

the right range (35-40 yds) and darted an older collared ewe. The dart over penetrated but popped back out. We couldn't get our hands on her because a ram kept pestering her ... not letting her stay bedded. After 1 hr. she was really favoring her leg. I snuck in on her twice but had misfires... dart froze in barrel. We all came back dejected after a 1 mile pursuit of her. Drained water lines in the lab and duplex. At the lab I pulled out the inline filter, opened the hot valve underneath, and applied anti freeze to all places with standing water. At the duplex I drained the hot H₂O tank and pulled 3 plugs underneath bldg... where the spotted skunk watched me!

Dec. 7
Mon. Down to 15° this am and no running H₂O! Shut^{off} the east line (to Arbus's), drained that line. Cleared ice from our box. ^(screens plugged) Worked bleed outs, finally got some water back, although pressure is still low. Becky and I hiked to Cougar Cr. - west side and relocated the wounded ewe, still accompanied by the annoying ram. She looked a bit better today and we couldn't get close enough to dart her anyway. Holly was unable to fly in this p.m.

We spent the evening working on the waterline - which went off again. There appears to be a big air jam in the line, we also found a live 7" trout in the water box.

Dec 8
Tuesday

Spent all day getting the air out of the waterline. Holly & Ray started flying in after noon, but heavy snow squalls on Big Cr. forced them to land at the flying B, finally they could make it in here. Nikki flew out w/ Ray.

Spent the evening putting purchases away. I met Rick at Flying B. and also invited Jack Walker of Big Creek to come to see Taylor Ranch. I made WI & Cougar-Wolf, and Bighorn calls while I was out to see the doctor about my knee surgery.

Dec 9
Wednesday

Jim & Becky sawed up old fence rails for firewood (we had replaced old rails with new this summer) - for Arlow's ^{cabin} stove, I finished antifreezing the Lab system & did some clean up - still needs more after the flooring & pack box projects. Jim, Becky & I went to the 1st bench to dart sheep. Jim got several good shots, but the charges/gun malfunctioned. No sheep captured. Jim worked

on the Palmer gun and we tried the Pneu-dart gun on^{the} target - brown charges unreliable.

In the evening - as Jim was going to bed, we found the water was off again - main problem was leaves on the screen inside the waterbox.

We restored water/power, but probably not for long. 49 bighorns (28 ewes, 8 lambs 13 rams) on 1st bench, bobcat tracks at Cliff Creek, spotted skunk by our porch.

Dec 10 We spent 4 hours restoring water & power to TR: put the 1/4" screen in the waterbox, built up dam for intake, varied pressure in pipe to get air jams out, heated jets with lightbulbs to thaw. We need Pioneer Creek iced over to stabilize our water system. Becky, Jim, & I went to dart bighorns in pm. Collared & sampled 1 ewe. Sheep were very cooperative.

67 bighorns (35 ewes, 17 lambs, 3 I, 8 II, 3 III, IV)

Lots of big lambs. Bobcat tracks across Big Creek bridge and in our yard. Immature bald eagle over the ranch. Coyote tracks across Big Creek bridge. Dinner at our house.

We heard Pat Dorris^{aerial} radiotracking for wolves ~~over~~ Rush Pt - Curt told us later this was the Chamberlain Pack - 1st time documented S of Big Creek.

Dec 11
Friday

Jim & Becky went after the bighorns again to sample & collar. They couldn't maneuver the sheep into a safe darting area. I spent the morning drafting a Fnd. N. Amer. Wild Sheep grant application for our wolf-cougar work. Pete N. of Middle Fk. Aviation flew in 3 barrels of gas for Fish & Game & hauled out the last of Travis' outfitting gear. Jim, Becky & I hiked downstream to dart sheep - only paired up bighorns. Large cougar track on the trail. Birthday brownies for Becky. Jim cleaned up the lab - Troys tools, sawdust etc.

Dec 12

I finished the FNAWS application & started editing the Yellowstone predation data forms for our Idaho project. Jim packed. Pete Nelson flew Jim out & the rest of Jerry Jeppson's outfitting gear in the supercub. Jim spent the night at Jerry's & picked up our truck in Challis (Jerry borrowed it when he had to fly to Cascade with us so he could drive to Challis & pick up his guides & horses at the trailhead - weather wasn't flyable at Challis). Becky flew to Cascade with John - A.A. I winterized Arlow's cabin water system and cleaned up the lab refrigerator & sinks.

Wormed the mules. Repaired the leak in the cart wheel and patched holes in 3 long rubber gloves we use at the waterbox.

Milder today $>32^{\circ}$ - leaves/needles in the waterbox screen, no ice. Read my new Dutch oven cookbook.

Dec 13 I wrapped Christmas presents & listened
 Sunday to my new tape of Christmas music with nature sounds - nice! Washed 3 loads of laundry. I thought the mules escaped & went to Cabin Creek, but when I headed out I didn't find their tracks - only what I thought was a small bobcat track on the main trail across from Rush Cr. I found the mules relaxing in the lower pasture - they had missed 2 feedings, but were not hungry enough to return to the haystack. The elk had already eaten hay cubes Jim put in the lower pasture to bait bighorns. A black domestic cat showed up in our yard this afternoon! My guess is that it's the one that wandered away from the Miletti basecamp over a month ago. We have seen its tracks at Rush Cr/Big Creek gate and Cliff Creek

but thought it was a bobcat kitten track. Last night I saw it growling with Maui, but thought that was Yap in our yard.

Dec 14

Monday It's a foggy morning, so I didn't expect Fish & Game in early. Mike Scott, Jeff Rohlman, and helicopter pilot Ron Sipes flew in ~10:00 when I had laundry draped around the house. They stayed for several hours waiting for the fog to burn off, so they could do the Big Creek deer comp counts. We visited about wolves, bighorns, cougars. & had coffee, lunch & brownies. They saw a lone gray wolf 2 miles up Cliff Creek - no collar observed; deer were high (6500+) and scattered - low count but buck & fawn numbers were good. They spent the night at Mormon Ranch. Read Wildlife Society Bull. Jim met with Gary Power in Salmon about the Wolf-Cougar project.

Dec 15

Tuesday

I sent Mastercard & reimbursement bills to Lynne K. Changed propane tanks at Dave Lewis & Cookhouse cabins. Usual waterline (1 time/day) and mule feeding chores. Mild weather has been easy on waterline & electric system. Spent 1/2 day writing Christmas cards and finishing packaging gifts to mail. Made Christmas cookies.

Dec 16
Wed.

Mail day. Received Christmas cards & gifts;
 1 propane tank. We got our special use permit
 from F.S. for winter camps / Cabin Creek Cabin use.
 Pete Amell, FS Krassel Asst FMO sent us a
 detailed list of fire protection ^{equipment} we need at Taylor
 Ranch, with complete plans for 5 water sources.
 We had asked him to help us find sources to
 purchase fire equipment and give us some ideas
 on setting up a fire prevention / fighting system
 for Taylor Ranch — when he was here in
 early September for Taylor Ranch structure
 protection / assessment when a small fire burned
 in the Gooseneck. This plan + list + annotated
 fire catalogs was much more than we expected, but
 very helpful. Called Lynnek on Amerigas bill.
 Jim's in Moscow today. He met with Howard
 Quigley about the upcoming wolf-cougar research;
 Jim Peek about immobilizing bighorns for Becky
 Bigelow; Pam ^{Lynn Kiffner / Dick Potter} Bell about hiring Greg Bjornstrum
 to caretake in January; Lynn Mineur about
 the Jess Taylor - Jack O'Connor collection for display,
 and about an "endowed chair" and the Hornocker W.I.

Dec 17
Thursday

Time to organize the house & move things back to other buildings. Rounded up more camp gear (my clothes). Sewed my wool pants and browsed the catalogs for new wool pants. Mules tried to escape today, but Bo got hung up - straddled over the lower gate rail across Big Creek from the cookhouse. He patiently waited for a rescue (with the greatest muscle mass of all the animals he was the only one who couldn't jump over the rail!). Jim's in Moscow trying to coordinate meetings & initiate hiring of a field tech. & houndsman. Met with H.G. in the pm - late to discuss lion/wolf project funding and staffing.

Dec 18
Friday

Sorted out the satellite phone bill & sent details & checks to Lynne K. Called Paul at Clark Communication to request a new handset - for the 3rd time! Temperatures are dropping. The water & hydro went off this afternoon - slush ice in the box screen. I got water restored, but hydro's only 9Amps at 10 pm. Ordered rigid foam insulation for the hydro shed. Painted "chew stop" on corral rails & feed bunk.

Dec 19
Sat.

I spent the am doing final shopping in McCall and calls for project. Holly spent the am on Christmas cards and cleaning. John flew me in after lunch. Getting colder this pm rather than warmer. Spent pm putting things away. Brought close to a full plane load in, including most of hydro-shed insulation. Left a plane load in Cascade, rest of insulation, grain, and supplies for the J. Porter trip in.

Dec 20
Sun.

Today was spent on Christmas preparation, -3° outside and we did cut down a frozen Christmas tree. Wrote many cards and caught up on mail. Cleared ice from stock watering spot 3x today; the hydro-water intake is covered with ice and flowing fine.

Dec 21
& Dec 22

Spent these days working on the proposal to be submitted to FNAWS for a \$15,000 grant. Still quite cold with ^{Sunday} night getting down to -10° F. The hydro is still working but dipped down to 6-7 amps, although the ~~rpm's~~ rpm's remained near 10,000. We clear ice where we can but this bitter cold without snow could spell doom for the water and hydro systems. Made several attempts at contacting H.Q. on the FNAWS proposal and project hiring - no contact made.

Dec 23
Weds.

We continued cranking on the sheep Foundation proposal, Holly managed to put the print out into the application-form format. Worked on Christmas cards until noon. Ray flew in with the mail and J. Porter supplies. By late afternoon we had lost domestic water and the hydro was slipping to 3-4 amps. We spent until after dark trying to bleed out air from the line and jump starting the system. Holly put hot water bugs in all the bleed out valve holes. This does not bode well, even though temps have come up into the mid-teens. Carol copied and mailed our FNAWS grant proposal.

Dec. 24
Thurs.

Awoke this a.m. to no water making it beyond the orchard bleedout, which has come on with a good flow. The jet-pipes have cracked (2" plastic)... it does not look good for our electrical system but we'll keep water going as far down the line as possible. Worked on lanterns and attempted to adjust back to 50's technology! A very disappointing day.

Dec 25
Christmas

We are still feeling low about the loss of water, electric lights, and telephone. Ugg. We did have a nice morning opening presents. It started snowing last night & we had 3" of

the "no longer necessary" insulation by mid morning. We disconnected the hydro from the 4" line. Jim's hauling water buckets to the house - it's good we planned ahead this past fall & put the board dam in Pioneer Creek for water bucket filling in winter. I cut kindling & Jim took care of stock. We both finished reading our books "Thunder Mountain" and "The Horse Whisperer" that we've been reading by flashlight in the evening. We celebrated with a small Turkey dinner. We both gave each other outdoor gear (^{insulated} shirt, leatherman, bone saw for project, thermos, mini-mag light) and horse equipment (saddle pad, crupper, Blevins buckles). The "Lonesome Dove" video and Hanley's gift - an electric breadmaker - will have to wait until spring thaw for use!

Dec. 26

Snowed off and on today. Again attempted to throw suspected frozen bleed out, still nothing beyond the orchard. I finished latches and completed final details on Troy's kitchen boxes. We biked around to Rush Cr. and checked for wolf signals - nothing. Did not get signal on the collared ewe either. Edited 15 pages of Beck's monitoring proposal.

- Dec. 27 It got warm today, at least to freezing. Holly took down ^{the} Christmas tree and ornaments. I pulled the mules front shoes and reshoed Be with plastic pads to shed snow-balls. Jim Porter's crew unable to fly from Cascade to Big Cr. today. Still no change in water system. Holly read wolf literature, I read "undaunted Courage" about the Lewis & Clark Expedition.
- Dec. 28 It still does not look "flyable" today, and it turned out not to be. The stock are still not using their regular water hole, so I enlarged it 2 fold with a splitting maul. Put together 2 pack animal loads for the C.C. cabin. Holly wrote letters to Dick Botger and Jim Peterson regarding hydro matter. She also talked to "Backwoods Solar" ordered a more "freeze proof" jet assembly. Holly also called Nancy at UofT to inform them of our no-phone situation. Warm and sloppy in the p.m. We messed around with the bleedouts - still heating w/warm water - but saw no change. Becky Lane of FNAWS called to say we and the Hornocker Institute had put in applications for funding on the same project! Oops, ...after all that extra work. She said we could let her know which application to evaluate by next week after Howard returns from vacation.

Dec 29
Tues

Its still raining & sloppy slush in Cascade; Jim Porter's crew didn't make it in today. Jim set up the snow roller - we have 5" of wet snow on the airstrip and its 35°. He cleaned up the lab outhouses & turned on gas for the Porter group. I continue to put garbage bags of boiling water on the hydro valves behind the cabin in hopes of a miraculous melt down - nothing yet. The spotted skunk must have had an encounter with the new black cat, judging from the tracks and odor near the Duplex. We rode Cricket & Penny to Lobauer Basin - chopped out branches & brush & broke out a path for mules over the Big Creek Ice, which had been pushed up on the trail (20") when the ice went out. Bobcat tracks from Lobauer to Ram Canyon along the trail. A goshawk was on the ground eating a chukar at Mule Basin. We still see ~40 bighorns - above the East Knob and 6 elk in the lower pasture, 15 elk on 3rd bench.

Dec. 30
Wed.

We rolled the airstrip this am using Daisy and Rocky. Two planes from A.A. came in with Jim Porter, Renan, Randy, and Mindy. We skidded a couple logs down Pioneer Cr. while the mules were harnessed. We also fell a large fir with 4 of us running the crosscut in rotation. Limbed the tree and did usual chores. Jim P. made a chowder for all of us.

Dec. 31
Thurs.
end of '98

Saddled the stock early and headed to Cabin Cr. w/ 3 loads, 2 of supplies for the cabin. Put up tarp wall divider at the cabin. Oh ya, enroute up we saw an adult lion on a deer carcass on the S. side of Big Cr - above the gooseneck. Wet snow fell most of the day. Sawed up a fir and a couple aspen - dead, for firewood. Holly, Renan & Mindy headed to Coxy. Jim P., Randy, and I took the stock home - back at 6:30. J.P. built another delux dinner.

Jan. 1
1999

Rolled the strip this am. w/ Rocky & Cricket. J.P. caught on to the process well. Randy piled lg. branch material up Pioneer Cr., which we hauled down to the Conyer Cabin w/ Rocky and stone boat. Ray & John flew in F&G fuel - 5 trips, 2 barrels per trip. 30 elk and 3 bulls

up Pioneer Cr. Showed J.P. several jobs to do while we are out (his choice!). Holly, Mindy, ^{Mica} Renan, made it back at dark. Beautiful day!

JAN. 2, 1999

Saturday ^{SF?} Jim, Holly, Randy Gaultage & ^{SF?} Mika (dog) flew out with Ray A. Ray made 2 more trips with helicopter fuel & John L. made two. 18 drums total. ^(yesterday & today) Cut up wood for Conyer cabin. Renan & Mindy hauled & stacked, ^{all} helped Ray & John unload planes. Last of J4G fuel is in. Dog houses were refurbished by Renan & Mindy. Mules & horse were across creek this morning. (They were hoping to be chased. No takers! So they decided to come on in for feed.) Read part of Shepeter Graham Campaign tonight. Nice day! J

Jim Porter

JAN. 3 Clear sky, pretty day!
 SUNDAY Let Renam + Mindy sleep in till
 7:30. Make down stream + on other side
 of creek in lower pasture. They were still
 on way there at daybreak. No problem getting
 them back. Told girls to take day off
 + go for hikes. Mindy went to top of
 Cliff Cr. ^{above 3rd bench.} (lost glasses on way up). Saw bobcat
 tracks + one set of cougar tracks + a few
 elk on the hoof. No sheep. Renam went up
 ridge between Rush + Pineck Cr. Saw a
 few elk + much bobcat sign (tracks + scat).
 I split up + cut up 2 small logs +
 started bucking up a large tree that we
 fell Wed. Both girls came back about
 2:30 P.M. + started hauling wood to cabins.
 (guess they don't know its Sunday.)
 9° last night. JB

JAN. 4 Overcast high ceiling. Mules directly
 MONDAY across creek. Changed the Pappone
 on Lab. (The dual bottles.) The
 single bottle is low but not used, I
 suppose, at present. Renam + Mindy
 hauled in the last of split up wood
 at gate. I bucked up most
 of the big tree + rolled it down hill.

Re The girls are getting the hang of the crosscut. They came up & helped, buck up some more. Renan especially has it down pat I think. Figured out how to use it with very little effort. Mindy about logs also. Skidded a few logs with mules (Rocky & Cricket). No problems. They know their business. Got the book out for harnessing & let the girls verify the hookups. Good exercise for them I think. Quit about 5:15 P.M. A good day. J
 Changed 2 Coleman generators. J

JAN. 5 Mules on this side of creek this
 TUESDAY morning. Imagine that! Sent girls
 down Big Cr. to gorge to look for
 cat sign. Renan saw a large
 lion track around Goat Cr. (It went
 up towards Goat Basin.) Also
 saw what looked like a female &
 (yearling?) kittens (tracks) in the
 gorge. Several bobcat tracks
 also. One lion kill that was
 mostly consumed. (small deer)
 They are both very observant.

They got back about 3 P.M. & started cleaning up the lab. They also corraled the mules & horse, fed them, & watered also without being told. They have turned into some pretty good hands. I stayed home & squared up logs & split more wood & distributed it to the cabins. Hooked up the propane at Conyer Cabin. Put all tools in shop on bench or leaning against it. If Carol A. said the hounds are heading this way tomorrow.

Jan 6
Wednesday

Jim & Holly spent the day in Boise at the Predator-Prey symposium put on by I.O.G.A. It was a good meeting with a broad perspective. We also made phone calls regarding the hydro system, backup power (generator), and bought new batteries for the solar so we can at least use the satellite phone and computer/printer.

We flew in late afternoon, since Taylor Ranch had fog this AM. Jim & Wes Craddock & his 3 hounds were on the first

flight. Greg Bjornstrom, our caretaker, Dan Adams, our field assistant, and I were on the second flight. Jim, Mindy & Renan flew out. They did a great job with stocking up winter wood. Everyone got settled in at Conyer, Arlow, and Duplex cabins & came over for dinner.

Jan 7
Thurs. Wes took the hounds up Pioneer Creek & Cougar & Goat Cr. He saw day old wolf tracks and 2 day old cougar tracks at Cougar Cr and benches to the east. Jim put together his capture & immobilization kit for cougars & helped Dan shoe Rocky, Cricket, and Daisy with borium shoes & snow pads (made of plastic sled material). Greg did odd jobs and he & I checked the water intake, weatherization of Lanham Cabin plumbing, and pots/plates stocking of Duplex for Dan. Greg took some time off - recovering from the flu. Jim Dan & Wes packed for camp. I allocated the satellite phone bill & put together reimbursement receipts and Mastercard summary.

Jan 8 Jim, Wes & Dan took 3 mules & 3 hounds upstream to capture cougars from the Cabin Creek camp. Greg & I rode then hiked around ^{lower} Cougar Creek & Goat Basin backtracking the wolf tracks Wes saw. The wolf investigated 3 recent cougar scrapes.

Jan. 9
Sat. Holly worked up the Sat. phone bill and did billings for cougar/wolf project. Greg worked on insulating the hydro-shed. We caught and collared a battle scarred adult Tom cougar that the dogs jumped off an elk-calf kill. Unfortunately, the dogs made contact with the big cat prior to freeing in a Mt. Mahogany tree... and the dogs incurred some lacerations which we cleaned and sewed once we reached the ranch.

Jan. 10
Sunday Good snow this am. Cut a fairly fresh lion track by the Cliff Cr. crossing, the dogs pursued up the benches. Located a cougar kill above the timbered bench - bighorn ewe. Also heard yawling-type vocalization in this vicinity. Saw a large ♂ cougar run from the kill vicinity... spooked by Holly and Greg and went by me at 20 ft. We (the dogs) ended up pursuing different cats ^{1 ♂ 1 ♀ w/2 yr olds.} and both pursuits ended stalling out in vertical rock. Long day! We did at least locate 4 cougars up Cliff Cr.

Jan 11
Monday

Today was another day of cougar capture, and was even successful! We collared an adult female lion (same as yesterday's mention) on the timbered bench - after it ran through the lambing cliffs and treed and baited twice prior to cooperation. We also documented a lone wolf visiting the 2 sheep kills up Cliff Cr. and then a deer kill just above the gorge. Pat Norris circled Horse Mtn. area above the fog - suspect the Chamberlain Pack nearby. Greg did odd jobs around the ranch, put new handles on the Cougar wood stove etc. Had to re-sew Cord's leg wound. Holly began laborious field form catch up. Had the crew up for chicken dinner.

Jan 12
Tues.

Worked on paperwork catch up. Found out from Pat Norris that the Chamberlain pack was on Horse Mtn. - Brown's Basin. Dan and I rolled the airstrip. Holly finished field notes. Greg finished insulating the hydro-shed. Wes doctored the dogs and rested up. Dan checked for signals up Rush Cr. and shined Penny.

Jan 13
Wed.

I finished letters with receipts to H.Q. and Lynne K. Jim & crew packed for work upstream. I aerial tracked on mail plane: wolf pack at the mouth of 2 Point Cr (Rush Creek), cougars at Cabin Cr. & lower Rush Cr. Jim Wes & Dan took 3 dogs & 3 mules upstream for cougar capture.

The 4" hydro line has thawed! Greg & I set up the garden hose waterline bypass to the Taylor Cabin, insulated with foam pipe insulation - we have running hot water!! We set up & rewired 2 of the new Trojan batteries in the Taylor basement (for the solar panels) to run the satellite phone. Greg & I had a Cribbage tournament - too many skunks for me!

Jan 14
Thurs

Greg & I spent most of the day figuring how to glue up the new plastic pipe for the Harris Hydro. Tried to call Don Harris on his new design. Talked to J. Peterson about a backup generator for our 4kw sine wave inverter & read about specs. Greg cleaned up Hydro shed. In the evening I went thru the box of capture supplies Kathy Q sent in, and put together field kits. Checked for signals at T.R. - none. Warm temps, rained at night.

Jan 15

Cleaned out chimney & stove at Taylor Cabin. Called HQ about wolf-cougar project and got info on Harris Hydro rebuild from Don Harris. Called Kerry Reese on Internship. Jim, Wes, Dan are upstream to capture a cougar. Rain & Sleet. Greg worked on the hydro rebuild.

Jan 16
Sat.

Greg worked on hydro-cutting new PVC parts for the hose gap design. I camped at the Cabin Cr cabin last night & tonight. I monitored the Cabin Creek Tom who was bedded on an outcrop across from Spring Creek. Jim, Wes, & Dan were up Coxe & Acorn yesterday and Mile Hi today in search of cougars. They found old wolf tracks and a doe & coyote killed by wolves a week ago.

Jan 17
Sunday

Greg glued the hydro together. I snow-tracked the Cabin Cr. Tom to its bed, scratch trees, and to Brown's Basin then Rush Cr. and found an elk kill. Jim's crew worked Big Cr and Cave Creek - collared a Tom in Cave Creek. We all returned to the ranch after dark. I rode down with Bo, Daisy, and Mica, following the fresh tom tracks wondering whether we would encounter the dog fighting cougar in the next brushy thicket in the dark. Bo & I were glad to be home without incident. I rode home in my riding "Acorn" slippers since my hiking boots were so wet and cold! We all had a late dinner together then went to bed early, - After real hot showers!

Jan 18
Mon

Dan & Wes & dogs flew out today for a week. The dogs need to be resutured and rested. Jim arranged for Keith Ruble to sew them up before Wes headed home. Dan & Jim rolled the airstrip w/ Rocky & Daisy so Ray could come in on wheels (206) - 8" \rightarrow 2" packed snow. We got 3 propane. Jim & I finished our field notes, predation forms, UTMs and put away field gear. Jim called Howard. Greg reinstalled the hydro & finished gluing the 3" & 4" fittings.

Jan 19
Tues.

Today was a big day at T.R. as we restarted the hydro, which still has some leaks - some of the parts sent in had hairline cracks, which we temporarily patched. Worked on business and personal letters. Greg, Holly, and I hiked up W. Pioneer Rdg. to check on cougar signals - none, but Holly did spot a wolf (lone) in the lower pasture which we watched move to the 1st bench, then bed, then move on up to the timbered bench. This evening we watched "Lonesome Dove" in video - 6 hours worth!

Jan 20
Weds.

Morning came too soon after the extra long video last night. I rolled the airstrip - again, as it snowed a couple inches last night. Holly did business mail on the computer - letter to FNAWS, C. Mack, H.Q. etc. Greg sanded on tub molding and put plastic over F&G fuel barrels. The mail plane came in late afternoon, too late to do any tracking. Holly also copied met station data and sent to J. Peek! - and received " " " from Guy Wagner for 1994-1995.

Jan. 21
Thurs.

Worked on water box, the incoming flow was low. Greg built housing for the hydro. incoming pipe. He insulated the box and the hole where the pipe enters the building. Holly worked on the computer some. She also organized a camp resupply - of food. Both Holly and I worked on editing one of my bear papers.

Jan 22
Friday

J & H worked on Jim's paper. Ray flew in to track, but cancelled & flew home due to weather in Cascade and the forecast. Greg finished the box for 4" hydro line. We went to the Sagebrush Flat looking for a suspected kill - none found, but... wolf tracks on airstrip trail (west side) + 8 spots of blood, cougar tracks on airstrip, W side, 18 elk at mouth of Rush,

8 mule deer above Sagebrush Flat; 2 raghorns on 1st bench in Am, then they went to our North pasture to feed. Jim rolled the airstrip this morning again. It snows 4" daily.

Jan 23
Sat Jim worked on bear paper edits. Holly did laundry. Greg sanded boards for Taylor Cabin bathtub trim. Snowed 3" last night. We hiked to Cougar Cr to check for wolf, cougar, or bighorn signals - none and no tracks in fresh snow! 6 bighorns & 5 elk on benches.

Jan 24
Sun Jim edited his paper. I worked on Jim's statistics and read up on cougars. We made more bighorn CAPTURE-ALL 5, after figuring out amounts & dosage. Wrote up more hypotheses for the wolf-cougar project. Phone calls to P. Dorris, Dan, Wes, Kathy/Howard. We hiked up Rush Cr switchbacks to get telemetry signals - only found the bighorn on Big Creek. We spooked a large Tom cougar off an old cow elk it had killed. We watched the cougar run off thru the deep snow 120 yds away - he threw sparkling clouds of snow into the air with each powerful bound. An indelible image! We wrote up a predation form

on the kill. The elk had been dead a few days, but was not frozen, since it was buried under 6" of packed snow. The cat had bedded alongside the elk at least a day. The elk had an old swollen pastern joint injury that likely contributed to her death by ^{the} cougar. Her teeth were irregularly worn, but she had plenty of body cavity fat, and had at least 3 cotyledon scars from pregnancy. 7 bighorns headed up Rush Cr just below the kill.

20 bighorns on the licks across Big Creek from the Cookhouse. 10 elk on the swale; 7 elk on Big Creek above Rush Cr. Many game trails thru the new snow up Cliff Cr and West Pioneer Ridge → Rush Cr.

Jan 25
Monday

We were literally up half the night keeping the waterline going - the box had run dry from slush ice plugging the intake screens. Then we had to "milk" the bleed outs in the orchard and hydro diversion to regain a moderate flow. After 3-4 hrs. sleep we awoke to a replay of the same hassles! Finally, we seemed to get the air jam out and water going again. Greg built a skirting around base of hydro shed to help insulate. Worked on my bear paper edits, Holly worked up statistics for me. Rolled the airstrip at dark, but the roller failed to roll so it was really

"dragging the strip." We heated the axle with a torch and still couldn't get it to roll - maybe tomorrow, long day! Checked screens 4x today and evening.

Jan 26
Tuesday Wes & Dan flew in ^{to TR} in the afternoon with 4 hounds. Jim finished his bear paper edits. Greg finished the hydro insulation. I worked on TR administration.

Jan 27
Wednesday Kathy Quigley flew in on the mail plane to assist on the cougar captures. & give us a veterinarian perspective. Wes & Dan checked for tracks downstream. Jim & I flew telemetry - wolves at Cabin Cr., cougars at Spring Cr, Goat Basin, West FK Rush Cr.

Jan 28
Thursday Jim, Holly, Kathy, Dan, Wes + hounds rode/walked to Coxey tent camp. Wolf signal at Cabin Cr. Dead elk in Cabin Creek below the cabins; no evidence of predation.

- Jan 29
Friday The cougar crew treed 2 Tom cougars,
We immobilized one, but did not collar it
since it was a tom^(or). Both were on Coxey Creek.
Close to zero degrees last night at Camp.
- Jan 30
Saturday The cougar crew hiked & rode to Cabin Cr.
We treed another tom in Garden Creek—
released him uncollared. The tom + a female
were on / near a dead elk. Jim & Dan saw
the tom on the carcass.
- Jan 31
Sunday We checked for wolves at Cabin Creek—
no signals, but wolves heard in Cow Cr and
4 sets of tracks seen in Spring Creek, so we
did not search further for cougars. I did
a predation form on the dead elk - it had been
fed on by a wolf & a bobcat since Thursday.
Another cow elk was observed in a bloody bed
at Cabin Cr. Hot showers & ham dinner.
Greg still has the hydro & water going.
Greg completed trim work around the bathtub, including
making some new pieces of board and refinishing.

- Feb 1
Monday We all headed in different directions in search of cougar tracks - Rush, Cliff, Pioneer, Cougar, Goat Creeks - only fresh bobcat tracks and old cougar & wolf tracks. Dan found a coyote carcass - killed by a cougar on Rush Cr.
- Feb 2
Tues. We cut a fresh cougar track during a snowstorm while hiking across to the sagebrush flat. The dogs ended up tracing a yug female ($\pm 72\#$) which we immobilized and radio-collared. Holly made a pizza dinner and we celebrated the days success by watching a video. Holly worked up monthly weather and did other business mail. Rotted the airstrip late afternoon - J., Dan, Greg.
- Feb. 3
Wed. The mail plane came in late morning. Holly flew telemetry on the cats and wolves. Kathy Q. and Greg B. flew out. Dan, Wes, and Jim packed up gear and took 3 mules to Cabin Cr. We caught another yug ad. ♀ cougar just before the cabin, I saw it eating on the elk in the creek. We are done with cougar capture!
- Feb. 4
Thurs. Heavy a.m. snowsquall. Returned to T.R. I was feeling poor in the p.m., probably urine track infection - again. Reported to H.Q. on our capture completion. Holly cooked fancy bean, ham, beer bread dinner

Feb. 5
Fri.

Holly did monthly phone billing. Wes and Dan prepared to fly out. R.A. came in w/206 @ 1pm. He had Barb from 5-mike on board and took out of here w/ very full load: 3 passengers, 4 dogs and gear. There appears to be heightened concern (on radio ch. B) for the missing skier. Plummer's plane circled the ranch then flew off in the Stockland Pt. direction where the fellow was last seen. Did laundry, cleaned etc. I'm still feeling "pucky".

Feb. 6
Sat.

Spent most of day reorganizing and putting away capture equipment. Hauled feed to corral shed. Split and hauled firewood. Holly finished laundry. Began getting reacquainted with the TR internship slideshow.

Feb. 7
Sun.

Holly worked on revising the predation form and getting receipts etc. ready to take out next week. I wrote up a progress report draft on our predation study - cougar capture. Very stormy today - wind, rain, snow and getting colder.

Feb 8
Mon.

I put the progress report - predation, on the computer. Holly made several changes. Worked on internship slide show, cut out many slides and formulated "verbage." Ed Krumpke called twice, TR business on research proposal and flying expenses over last year.

Feb. 9
Tues.

Jim's birthday. Holly made cinnamon rolls, aside from that, just another day. Holly worked on the predation form overhaul. I rolled the airstrip w/ Rocky & Daisy during a break in the weather - which didn't last as heavy rain ^{by 2:30 pm} set in. Rolling conditions crummy! Checked the water box because the hydro was "rewinding", found that it was near empty. Had to break the "ice cap" in order to clean debris from the outside screen. C. Mack called to set up mtg. (Thurs.) on predation study. A blizzard set in 2:40pm, wind, sideways snow, all the stock ran for cover. The "white out" ended by dark. Packed and organized for trip to Moscow.

Feb. 10
Wed.

Arrived today to caretake while Jim & Holly are out. I brought in parts for repairs to Taylor Cabin sink drain. I began working on the drain this evening. Watched 3 mule deer feed on the slope behind the 3rd bench. I fed the stock just before dark and checked the water box and cleaned the intake screen.

Feb 11
Thurs.

In bed by 10 pm and up at 2:30 am. Not by choice but the near zero temperature caused slush ice in the intake screen and as a result the water box was empty so no water to the house or hydro. At approx. 5:30 am I had the water box stabilized but the water to the house

is another story. The water in the house is slowly coming back. It was too cold today to uncover the hose bypass to thaw. Maybe tomorrow. Fed the stock at daybreak and fixed w. Hayshed gate. Worked a little more on the sink drain and checked the water box a few more times with minor adjustments made. Made a handle for the 2 pound sledge that broke while I was fixing the Hayshed gate. Can anyone say "Job Security"? Two elk in corral in the p.m.

Feb 12
Fri

Awoke this morning with the anticipation one has Christmas morning, only water was what I looked forward to, not presents. The water in the house was running strong and the hydro was at 24 amps. Will it last? After calling in the weather I went for a hike down Big Creek. Saw two separate bobcat tracks in the trail (2 days old). The usual bighorn, deer, elk and golden eagle showed but a new, or not so social, bobcat was seen. It was sitting about 120 yds. up slope from the creek on the side opposite the trail.

Feb 13
SAT.

No water this morning. Ice in the intake screen again. This is getting to be a common chore. I fixed the tub leak. I had to make a gasket for the hot

water handle. It is a little stiff to turn, but there is no more leak. I think the drain pipe for the sink needs to be replaced. It has 50% blockage. Began cleaning up the E. corral shed today and deciding on a shelf for the interior. Elk up on the 1st bench this evening. It was nice today. Konda felt like summer. Must have rose above freezing today!

Feb 14
Sun.

Happy Valentine's Day. Headed up to the waterbox at daybreak to do daily maintenance. Water level outside the box is getting low but is not a serious problem yet. As I was nearing the waterbox Boone made me aware that something was lurking in the willows. As I began to pay closer attention I noticed a dark presence feeding. It was a moose (calf). I then saw the mother just 5 yds farther upstream. They were right around the Conyer Water Box. Even though I was only 10-15 yds away they kept on eating. Then Boone made his presence known and they slowly worked their way uphill. Sheep on the 1st bench, deer on Horse Mtn. A big box of dishes that was in the E. Corral Shed was waiting for me so I washed dishes most of the afternoon. Wet snow this afternoon. A herd of 26 elk on the lick across from the hayshed in the eve.

Feb 15
Mon.

Started snowing in the morning but turned out to be a nice day, warm and sunny. The water box was fine today. I built a work bench in the E. Corral shed today. Elk up on the east slope. I plan to work on the shop tomorrow. Well I thought I had a rather uneventful day going until I saw the stock up by the woodshed. of course it just got dark. I went out and tried to head them off as they headed for the orchard. When they proved too nimble for me I led them across the orchard bridge and down to the electric fence. Once I had them on the right side of the fence I looked real quick for their escape route. They had broke the top pole of fence (rot) by the gate to T. Cabin and also opened the gate. I closed the gate and hooked it. Then I propped up the broken piece and went for mending tools. I will put up a new piece of fence tomorrow.

Feb 16
Tues.

Today was productive... I think. After calling in the weather I began cleaning up and organizing the shop. I hope Jim & Holly will be able to find stuff when I finish. As I was rummaging through a box I found what I needed to re-plumb the sink drain. I was excited to have the sink back after being without for 6 days. I will begin on the shop again tomorrow. Also put up new fence rail that stock broke yesterday.

Feb 17
Wed. Started working on the plumbing for the washer. Two groups of elk, one on Horse Mtn. and another on the first bench, bedded. Snowed some in early A.M. Another group of elk headed to Timbered Bench. Pine Grosbeak in the apple tree by T. Cabin (♂, ♀) 2 pair. Worked on shop clean-up some. What a chore. Penny in the yard again. Not sure how this time.

Feb 18
Thurs Elk in corral in early a.m. Sheep feeding up on Horse Mtn. The stock have been rather mischievous the past few days. Boone and Yap seem to be getting along well. They share a bed when they rest in the day. They also compete for a spot closest to the fireplace. The hydro has been running well since it warmed up. The shop is just about done. Finishing touches occur tomorrow. I put up the flashing on the shop today. I also revamped the welding cart.

Feb 19
Fri. Another routine morning. Sheep at the lick across from the hay barn. And the stock across the river. Me, I am working on the shop. Came up to the house about 1:30 p.m. to check AA. For messages when I noticed the gang (Penny, Rocky, Daisy, Bo, and Cricket) over on the trail headed up Horse Mtn.. The gate was left open and they finally found it. So I went over and brought them back. On my way back to T. Cabin I noticed a bobcat (small) watching the

whole ordeal. It was sitting in the snow right by property boundary behind T. Cabin Outhouse. I am finished with the shop, finally. Just little things to do in prep. for my trip out.

Feb. 20
Sat.

Finally, J & H. returned to T.R. and Greg went back to Moscow. We had a productive "work trip," and completed the process of interviewing[↔], advertising, and selecting 3 student interns for the next summer. Also, met with Pick B., Alton C., Chuck Hatch, G. Labor, J. Peck and others on T.R. matters. Ed Krumpke worked with us on the internship hires. Yesterday we met with FS and F&B officials in McCall. First we saw Clem Pope, Patty Steiger, & Fred Rauber (Ranger) to discuss the Knapweed program, our proposed wilderness skills class, and gave them an update on our predation work. It was a productive meeting. I met with Don Anderson & Kim Emerson to visit about Steve Accords' fish proposal - screw trap and par (salmon) pit tagging. After flying back in we spent most of the pm putting things away. Greg did a superb job on many tasks over the last 10 days.

Feb. 21
Sunday

Still sorting and putting things away. Put a new map collage on the kitchen door. Hiked to sagebrush flat to try out/wolf signals, but a heavy snow storm hit and Mica and I headed home, rather than proceeding up the ridge. Holly cleaned-defrosted re fridge. I read most of the newly uncovered portion of the Caswell Diary - year's 1900-1903 @ Cabin Cr. One pt. of interest was the "Elkhorn Ranch" name applied to the cabin cr. homestead. Jim Porter obtained this journal add-on from the Id. Hist. Society.

Feb. 22
Monday

Worked on business mail for weds. Holly figured out the N.P.T. remote camera, also called the maker in McCall for more details. I hiked to Cougar cr., no signals or lg. predator tracks. Did see deer, elk, and sheep on W. cougar cr. slope. G. eagles (2) flying from S. side Big cr., across from Cougar cr. Cleaned house and watched video in the p.m. Also shoveled snow in front of Lawham cabin. Trimmed Rocky & Paisy manes.

Feb. 23
Tuesday

Holly wrote up bills to send to Moscow, sent in travel reimburse. Harnessed Rocky and hauled a propane to T. Cabin. Then used him to skid 3 logs down Pioneer cr. to the woodpile. Getting warm. Did usual chores. Still filing away paperwork from Moscow. 14 sheep hit the outbank lick. Visited H.Q. about project options for next month.

Feb. 24
Weds.

Holly worked on monitoring literature for J. Peek. She also typed up a revised budget for cougar-wolf project. I used Daisey and Rocky to roll the airstrip. It was "doable" early but warmed to above 50° by noon! John flew in with the mail and then we did telemetry. We located the 5 cats but couldn't find the wolves. Sent our ^(NIPD) 2nd receiver out for ODFW to use on locating the wayward wolf near Prairie City, OR. John brought in some more boxes of our "stuff" to sort out, put away.

Feb. 25
Thurs.

Prepared for F&G group to come in on elk "sightability" count. Cleaned/organized lab, turned on appliances and attempted to get water flowing - w/out success, suspect ice sitting in low spot at P. Cr. crossing. Trimmed manes on Cricket & Penny. Hiked to Rush cr. and got signal location on ♀ #5. F&G helicopter, and the plane from McCall, were unable to fly due to weather problems - rain, snow, wind.

Feb. 26
Fri.

Harnessed mules and rolled the airstrip - until one of the roller barrels split... Holly had a minor runaway down the strip, but was able to regain control. The helicopter came in with Jim Pope, Jeff Rohlfman, and Tim on board. I flew

a couple hours in the pm since Tim was being taken out via McCall Air Taxi. Mike Dorris made 4 trips ^{185 on skis} shuttling people and gear. Janet Pope also came in, along with Dana a McCall A.T. mechanic. Tim flew out... via a shuttle to the "B." Located the ♀ cougar in lower Rush cr.

Feb 27
Sat.

The flight crew continued sightability flying w/ helicopter. Holly flew one leg (2-3 hrs.) and I flew ^{2 flights} another. Weather not good enough for flight to come in from McCall ^{Call}, w/ Larry Jindrich (IDFG) Did laundry and usual chores, plus hoisting. Holly and Janet hiked to Rush cr. located the female flow same as yesterday.

Feb. 28
Sunday

Spent the morning flying elk sightability on the ^{up Big CR.} lower Mid. FR. Did usual chores, Holly and Janet did laundry and handled flying communications. After lunch we continued flying up Rush cr. When we left the airstrip a partial fuel barrel fell over, either from prop wash or a bump by the rear stabilizer. At any rate, we came back to check it out - barrel is ship. Upon coming in for landing we had a mishap, resulting in a scary accident. While over Pioneer cr., 50' from desired landing spot, we suddenly dropped 4 or 5' into Pioneer cr. For an instant there was chaos with blades hitting ground, then ^{tail section} bubble, then bubble. We all got out OK, just a bit shook up. The helicopter is totalled. We all immediately "secured

the site" and pumped the leaking fuel tanks into empty barrels. Only a small amount (1-2 gal.) went into or along the creek bank. This whole episode was disturbing to all, especially since J. Pope has ~~3200~~ 3200 hrs. of accident free flying. Jeff Rohlman and I were also in the helicopter, Holly & Janet were standing nearby.

