

Taylor Ranch Field Station

DAILY LOG BOOK

6-2001 to 5-2002

TAYLOR LOG BOOK

June 1, 2001 -

Jim & Holly AKENSON

June 1, Friday

+ took 3 flights to move out the enrichment
- 13 people plus gear -
class... 2 by the 206 (Ray) and 1 by the Islander (George D.)
Prior to the flying, a group of us went to the lower
pasture to try and get a good look @ orphan kitten #2. Holly
and I got very close to her in the east bluffs, but we did
not see her today. We saddled all the stock and headed to
Cabin Cr. I had to return due to a very painful knee
cap (don't know why?). Holly replaced me and I elevated
and iced the sore knee most of the day. I cooked a chili
dinner and the crew returned @ 7:30 pm. They brought back the
TR propane bottle (5 gal.) from Cabin Cr. Newborn bighorn
lambs (3) with 5 ewes, 1 yearling ewe and 4 young rams at Mule
Basin Lick - unexpected site for lambing.

June 2, Saturday

Jeremy worked on the sleeping porch floor. I ran the
weed eater around our yard until my knee pain got too intense.
Holly worked on more data analysis in the pm. Holly made a
cake and the crew came back for a movie - "Patriot."

June 3, Sunday

I hardly slept a wink last night with knee pain.
Holly finally found me some heavy duty stuff which helped.
Sam and Carolyn^{ine} moved Sam's stuff into the w. Duplex.
Sam hurt her back and had to spend most of the day
horizontal. Holly cleaned house and did laundry. Jer & Crystal
checked out the "calling cow" on the 2nd bench. They
suspect that the orphan cougar killed her calf... will confirm
in the morning.

June 4, Monday

JER. & Crystal did confirm that the orphan had a calf elk kill. The cow was still somewhat nearby the partially buried carcass. Holly made many calls/contacts regarding my knee and getting to a Doctor. Found out that FNAWS (Idaho) wants to help fund the sheep work that Chris is doing. Holly, JER. & Crystal worked on gas appliances in the cook tent. Jeremy & Crystal finish floor prep. on the porch. I worked on deer/elk comp. summaries... in between "knee-nursing". Holly spent time with Sam and doing miscellaneous chores. Ray flew in around 6 pm with ^{Bristol} Andrea & ^{Speten} Dave (interns). He took out Caroline. We (Crystal, JER, Holly) made a fancy meatball & potatoe dinner for the new interns and the invalids (Sam & I).

June 5, Tuesday

The invalids are still "out flat." Ray flew in today and hauled Sam out... on a stretcher. Caroline flew back in to provide Sam some "in plane" care. she'll go to St. Luke's in Boise. Jeremy worked on the back porch floor in old cabin sanding, and put up old shelving on side of shop. I started on the project overview for the predation research annual report. Dave & Andrea checked out Pioneer G after morning orientation. The cougar "Rachel" is still by the lower pasture.

June 6, Wednesday

Jim flew out on the mail plane to orthopedic doctor appointment. He barely hobbled to the plane with his walking stick. Chris met Jim at Cascade and drove him to the doctor in Nampa. Diagnosis unclear - probably a meniscus tear, but needs an MRI tomorrow.

Sam called from Boise - she had an MRI this morning and found out her disk was bulging, but not ruptured. With 5 days of steroid pills and rest she will be able to return to activity at T.R. I spent much of the day on emails - \$ for sheep telemetry, summer scheduling, budgets. Worked evening & night on the Cougar-Wolf project overview. ~~to~~ Crystal & Dave & Andrea surveyed for amphibians at Dunce, Goat, and Cougar Creeks. Jeremy put 2 coats of finish on the new Dave Lewis cabin bedroom floor. and worked on irrigation.

June 7, Thursday

I worked on maps for the predation report and edits to report. Downloaded weather station datalogger to computer. Dave & Andrea hiked to Lobauer in search of bighorns - none seen. Jeremy is on the bedroom project. He & I checked the cougar - within 100 meters of her on the lower end of the ridge E of Lower Pasture & N above the trail lick. No visual. Jim & Chris shopped for irrigation, propane, and hardware supplies. They flew in late afternoon with Sam.

June 8 Friday

I am still on the HWT predation overview - the computer locked up several times & "lost" my map - which I kept redoing. Jim is able to walk around a little & check on maintenance jobs and help with project data. Andrea & Dave hiked to the lambing cliffs with Chris - no lambs, but saw a cougar on the ridge (no collar) and a deer chasing a coyote. "Rachel" cougar left the pasture toward east today. Bob Gillihan called from Big Cr - concerned because "Noel" orphan cougar is at Big Creek Lodge. She had fought with a dog & killed a deer by the lodge and now was going in & out of a woodshed - too socialized with humans? We called NPT & IDFG - no one available to dart or shoot this cat, but locals authorized to shoot it. Bob said it looked "gant". Isaac Babcock told us the Chamberlain alpha pair radios both went dead this week 3 days apart - they were due to die, but sounds suspicious! No one plans to check it out. The ♀ & 4 pups were at a rendezvous site 3 days ago.

June 9 Saturday

I finished the project summary & we mailed 7 copies out. No news on the Big Creek Cougar "Noel", except she had moved from around the lodge (no one is there now) toward the FS. J & J put shelves back in the new bedroom. Crystal & Jeremy put up the new cabinet & sink + propane tank at the cooktent. Josh flew in - our 3rd intern. Chris & Crystal flew telemetry for sheep & looked for known ponds/water. We did a horse handling / horsepacking clinic with all students, then had a big potluck barbeque.

June 10, Sunday

Today was mostly a day off. Holly did a lot of baking. Jeremy located the stock downstream, brought them in for a couple days. The swelling in my knee mostly gone now. Ten elk on the benches this evening. Also today Chris repaired the screen in his storage shed and hooked up gas for the stove there.

June 11, Monday

Ray flew in this morning with Kerry Reese and Mark Klouda. Kerry is advising Sam with her grouse study and Mark is an entomologist interested in the "wilderness mosquitoes". Holly and Dave flew telemetry on all but sheep, once done with that, Ray flew Chris and Crystal up to Big Creek. They will spend the week surveying for sheep and frogs. Jeremy's interns moved refrigerators around... hooking up big new fridge in the lab, moved & hooked up the old one in the "old cabin". We did the annual start-up maintenance on the mowing machine. Josh made fasteners for the cook tent sink. Holly and crew set up the Alaknak (spike III) tent. Holly made a big pineapple cake for the gang. Kerry and Sam caught and banded a grouse up Pioneer cr... their first!

June 12, Tuesday

Pretty stormy last night, snow on the ridges. We are wondering how Chris and Crystal are doing 4'000 higher than here! Holly worked with Dave, Josh, & Andrea on plotting telemetry locations using UTM grids and quads. Then the group worked on distance determination (pacing) and telemetry. Jeremy and I made roll-up canvas covers for the sleeping porch. Sam and Kerry continued searching for grouse. Holly's crew worked the stock (6 head). Cold and squally all day. Saw a cow w/ calf on the 3rd bench... then several came down to 1st bench lick. Card games in the evening.

June 13, Wednesday

It rained a lot last night (.28) so today it is cloudy and cool. The interns helped Sam/Kerry catch grouse, between the morning & evening they caught & banded 3 more birds. Worked on some mail-matters. Jeremy & I worked some on rat-sealing the sleeping porch. Finished reviewing a bear paper for Cecily Costello, put in mail. Heard that Chris and Crystal were really getting snowed on, Crystal called to change plans due to snow/ice on standing water. Ray flew her back to TR in the evening when he brought the mail.

June 14, Thursday

The grouse crew searched the property for birds w/out success. R.C. flew in @ noon and took out Keery and Mark. Holly, David, Josh, & Andrea saddled stock and rode to Rush Pt. Crystal headed up stream to Coxy & Crooked Creek's. Chris checked in with his phone. Wheat thin the bear visited the ranch mid afternoon. Actually, Sam flushed him out of the brush while looking for grouse. We watched him check out the old cabin burn barrel and eat grass on the hillside. Jeremy & I made "1/2 round" blocks and plugged the big gaps between the wall & roof on the steeping porch. Holly's crew saw a sow w/ 1 cub toward Rush Pt., they returned @ 8pm.

June 15, Friday

Holly did many business emails and started outlining our project 6 mos. report for HWT. Jeremy and the interns attacked the wire & mortar chinking on the steeping porch - finished the job. We all did yard work. Holly used Rocky and Cricket to mow the airstrip swath, the mowers ^(6 mutes) worked well. Dane and Jeremy extended the airstrip irrigation line 300' and put on hose attachments for sprinklers. Holly did more coordinating w/ J. Peck.

June 16, Saturday

Josh, David, Andrea took their backpacks down to Waterfall Creek. Sam continued her pursuit of grouse. Jeremy rounded up the stock from downstream. Holly and I packed up the gear for "facilitating" the Wildland Ecology class.
6 head used

June 17, Sunday

Fed and saddled stock and Holly & Jeremy were out of here by 8:20. They had 3 animals packed - lightly. I moved sprinklers and worked on the watersystem... to be able to handle the 6 sprinklers running. Took the afternoon off. Sam searched more for grouse. Dave, Andrea, and Josh returned from the Middle Fork. Holly & Jer will spend the night @ Little Ramey, where they'll set up a camp for Peek's class.

June 18, Monday

Dave, Josh, Andrea & I worked on the cook tent plumbing and "shower deck". Dave got the sink & drain plumbed, while the rest of us built the deck. Sam continued trying to noose uncooperative grouse. I overhauled the ranch "order" policy statement, then a combination of Andrea, Sam & I put into a final draft and printed it out. Rod Nelson flew in from McCall with a new "Islander" and a big load of Peek equipment/food etc.

June 19, Tuesday

An unexpected busy flying day with McCall A.T. doing 3 F.S. flights of bridge material, plus 4 workers. I worked with the interns to complete the "shower tent" pole framework on a deck. The FS guys made a constant stream of boards, hauling from the airstrip to the bridge site. Jeremy returned from upstream. Holly, Chris, Crystal and Peek's 302 class camped at Garden Cr.

Wednesday, June 20

The student interns put up an electric fence in the orchard for Jim Peek's stock. Jim & Jeremy flew out on the mail plane and Gail & Mike Dorrance flew in to cook for the 302 class. Jim had a pre-op doctor visit for his knee surgery tomorrow and shopped for UI hardware. We brought the mules & Peek's horses back to Taylor Ranch and the class hiked down with Russ Tharow, USFS Fish Biologist. Interns set up 2 tents for 302 class. We all had a sausage BBQ provided by the 302 class.

Thursday June 21

Put up another tent for Jim Peek. I talked to 302 class about some of the findings from our cougar and wolf predation research and we looked at bone injuries, and jaw ages, and ~~elk~~ cougar skulls. Janet Rachlow and Kent Hobson flew in at noon. Sam caught her 5th blue grouse & banded it at the Taylor Cabin. Interns finished the radiocollar telemetry exercise. I caught up on email correspondence. Jim had the arthroscopic surgery on his knee at 1:00 pm and he & Jeremy flew in at 9 pm.

Friday, June 22

I layed pretty low this morning... the day after knee surgery, Chris made pancakes (sour dough) for the TR regulars. Peck's class sampled the sagebrush flat. Jeremy and Ken worked on the building insulation for H₂O storage. The refrigerator @ the lab began malfunctioning... Holly worked on it some. Dave & Josh installed the rest of the shower components... the base, plumbing, shower curtain. Took a break in the midday heat... then Andrea, Dave, and Josh worked on the west-Taylor yard pole fence. I gave a Taylor Ranch history talk @ the fire pit for JP's class this evening.

Saturday, June 23

My knee was swollen this morning, so I had to ice it for 4 hours. Holly worked on her Vitae for ^{the} HWI project report. The interns did a little wrap up on the fence then they took the day off. Jeremy & Ken dug out the ground from inside the H₂O shed. Very hot today, > 95°. In the evening I gave a presentation (w/slides) to Peck's class on our predation study. Holly packed gear for tomorrow's wolf trip of the interns. Janet R. & Jim W. came up for an evening visit.

Sunday, June 24

Chuck Peterson was flown in today to provide herp. teaching to Peck's class. Found out that Chris has been "ill" since yesterday pm., he has a fever, chills, and "weak" feeling. We consulted books & 2 nurses for advice, no sign of tick fever (bite)... although symptoms similar. Holly & interns waited to fly to Cold Mtns, then ^{got} cancelled due to "shared-flight" conflicts. I was able to walk around more today... and little pain. C. Peterson gave a herps talk this evening. Also met with Crystal & Chuck regarding Crystal's schedule... and work plan - objectives.

Tuesday, June 25 26

Ray came in Monday morning and flew Holly, Josh, Andrea, and David to Cold Mtns. for wolf searching. Chris is still not feeling well... no fever, just light headed and tired.

Jeremy & Ken located 2 dozen trees upstream for airstrip project. They also repaired the N. pasture fence after Bo ran Rocky through it. Peck's class spent the day with Chuck Peterson, looking for amphibs from Lower Rush to Pioneer cr.

In the evening David Pilliod gave a power-pt. presentation on his dissertation work on amphibians in the Bighorn Crags. Ed K., Jim P., and I met and discussed the Rush cr. trail easement, mulled over many options. We had Chris flown out this pm to see a doctor about his illness.

Wednesday, June 26 27

Ken Watring was flown in with Wilderness Aviation. The class packed up and headed to the Middle Fork - Waterfall CR. for an overnight. I pulled out a couple blue tarps for J.P. ... which became necessary by evening, when it really rained. I spent the day on paperwork primarily, drafted a letter to Ken Pope on our feelings about the trail easement. Also sent 6 or so emails - mostly on NRC's project, and to Heinrich Von Staden regarding fine issues/caretaking ideas. Chris's Jeremy flown back in. Chris being treated (anti biotics) for tick fever.

Thursday, June 27 28

Ray A. flew in with Holly and crew this morning. They were able to fly out of Root Ranch, saving the hike back to Cold Meadows. They did confirm that the wolves are still around. They saw a wolf @ 60 yds., and Fisher up close. Peck's class returned from the Middle Fork. It sounds like they got a "bit damp". Ed K., HA, JA, and Ken Watring visited about trail easements... ours and others too. Gabe and Mike orchestrated a big barbeque... after a hike to the gooseneck. We had 30 people @ the feed and round robin discussion... summarizing the class. Chris still having relapses after treatment, this should end in a couple days. Visited with Chuck Peterson about reptile/amphibian surveys and a possible rattlesnake study for a masters project... crystal. Sam still trying to snag grouse for banding.

Friday, June 28 29

This was quite a morning for flying with all but the regulars going out. We had 9 flights this morning... with planes coming from Cascade, McCall, Salmon & Challis! After the aerial activity we began mowing hay... starting with the lower flat and the mid-east main pasture. We helped see off Jim Peck, he left TR @ "noonish," with plans of staying on Mike High. Getting pretty hot again. Chris better but not 100%. Ken!

Saturday, June 29 30

This morning we continued mowing... finished the fields east of Pioneer Cr. Had a couple minor breakdowns. The interns took down 2 ^(wall) tents and then used a crosscut to saw the burned fir tree above the H₂O storage building. Holly worked on the HWI-WSG report between haying tasks outside. Had Ed's lasagna for dinner. Also, early this morning, Ray came in and took up Chris, Andrea, and Josh on a sheep telemetry flight.

Sunday, July 1

Used Rocky & Cricket to mow the main/upper pastures... trained Josh, Andrea, Dave on operating the rake - went well. We also picked up one wagon load of hay and unloaded it using 3rd mule in the corral. Had a pulley problem but replaced it. Holly was up until 2:30 am working on our project report. 98° today! Chris & Ed went after sheep on Horse Mtn. Ed's thermometer (Don watch) read 105° @ one time! A cow w/ calf was behind Taylor cabin. Jeremy saw a 12-10-7e chasing the calf by the water intake.

Monday, July 2

(all TR residents worked out)

Handled 3 1/2 wagon loads of hay to the barn today. We backed off this afternoon due to extreme heat. We finished the WCS report; sent to John Beecham & HWT. Saw 2 cows w/ 2 calf on the 3rd bunch. Started sprinklers and irrigation ditch to main pasture. Hobbled the stock and let them graze the main pasture this afternoon. Holly spent 1 1/2 hrs. mowing the airstrip, she did about 35% of the area. Officially reached 101° today - brutally hot! Holly made a lemon-mexican pie, split 10 ways! Interns established Rush Cr. bait site... wheat. then observed on the Big Cr. banks below TR... when "the crew" fed downstream.

Ken 1

Tuesday, July 3

Many elk above the 3rd bunch @ daybreak. Josh & Dave counted 6 calves w/ 21 cows... when they were going to rebait Rush Cr. (looking w/ binocs). We completed mowing hay on the airstrip, ± 12 back-pickers went by today... mostly fisherman, but 3 trail crew headed toward Goat Cr... actually, they headed up cliff Cr. After a couple hours, Al, BS, & Pete stopped in for a visit. We spent the evening trying to rake & shock the airstrip, but even at 102° - 40% of the hay was too green. "The crew" got the upper irrigation ditch flowing. Josh, Andrea, Dave read their Wild. Mngt. chapter.

Weds., July 4th

Awake early with a threatening sky, so we quickly fed & harnessed the mules. We could only pick up 1st loads of hay due to "high humidity"... had to quit mid morning for 2-3 hrs. Finally the sun came out w/ a little wind and we could resume hay pickup. We ended up taking 4th full loads off the airstrip - 8 total for the year... same as last year. We did cut a little less area this year.

Ray came in mid-afternoon w/ mail & Dave Stewart (geologist)

We posed on the wagon for the annual "haying picture" ... Andrea, Sam, Dave, Josh, Crystal, Chris, Jeremy, Ed K., Holly & I. Dave S. ran the cameras. Ken Hobson was off doing something. We had a big barbecue... to celebrate the end of haying!

Thurs., July 5

Caught & saddled stock. Evin & Tanya flew in w/ P. Davis to do weed spraying. We packed up their gear and Jeremy and Chris took the stock to boat CR. This was quite a day for wildlife observations: wheat thin breeding "mini-wheat" a 90# 2^{1/2} yr. old female bear, 45 elk above the 2nd bench -
& 1 doe, 2 fawns, 1 sm. buck
31 cows, 1 yng. bull, 13 calves. It also rained very hard. The New Krassel Ranger - Quinn Carver - called to alert us about a flash flood warning for east Valley Co. We watched the 2 bears @ several different sites on the ranch. (28 inches)

IT Poured Down RAIN AT 3:30pm FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR. BY 6:30pm PIONEER CREEK WAS RUNNING 2 TO 3 inches HIGHER AND WAS PITCH BLACK WITH CHARCOAL & MUD. HOLLY AND ED TOOK WATER SAMPLES AT PHOTO POINT
K.H. 3 1/2 days to Fri.

ABOVE THE WATER BOX, ON BIG CREEK ALONG AIRSTRIP AND JEREMY GOT BEFORE AND AFTER SAMPLES ON RUSH CREEK, WHICH DID NOT START TO RUN BLACK UNTIL ABOUT 9:30pm OR 10pm. CLIFF CREEK REMAINED CLEAR. THE CABIN WATER LINES ARE ALL RUNNING DIRTY. BY 11:00pm PIONEER CREEK HAD STARTED TO CLEAR UP A LITTLE. FRIDAY MORNING PIONEER CREEK WAS CLEAR ENOUGH TO SEE THE STONES ON THE BOTTOM. ~~SLK~~
Wheat Thin took Ken's food from the new wall tent - 1st bear problem we have had.

Fri., July 6

Jim + Holly left around 7:00 am along with Crystal + Andrea. J&H are going first to ^{Nampa} Boise to see Jim's knee doctor + then to see parents. Ray dropped Crystal + Andrea off at Big Cr. They are going to Belvedere Basin to sample amphibians. Around 8:30 Ray came back + picked up Chris, David, + Josh. They will fly to Cascade + then drive to Monumental Summit to look for sheep. At around 9:00 Interstate Air arrived + picked up Ed K. to take him back to Moscow. Jeremy + ~~Sam~~ I did chores + then took Mica swimming to cheer her up. When we returned wheaty was in the wood shed. We first tried yelling at him w/ little or no reaction, so Jeremy shot him in the butt w/ a rubber blunt arrow using Jim's longbow. We didn't get a signal the rest of the day. We did more chores in the afternoon + Jeremy re-baited the bait station in the evening. The water still was not clear by the time we went to bed, though it is improving. - Sam

Sat, July 7

This morning Jeremy did chores (stock, irrigation) + then helped me look for grouse. We noosed one but she got away. Then Jeremy fixed the black irrigation hose on the airstrip which Wheaty bit. There was no sign of Wheaty until late this afternoon when he came + banged on the screen door at the old cabin (taking Mica + I completely by surprise). Mica went after him but I caught her at the door. I yelled at him until he disappeared into Pioneer Cr. I radioed Jeremy who went + got Jim's longbow. We followed Wheaty around to the wall tents, but a clear shot never opened up. His signal remained strong the rest of the day. Dave Stewart showed up this evening. Wheat Thin ripped up his tent + sleeping pad over on Rush Cr. Jeremy gave him a tarp + some baling twine. Dave said his work is going well + he's finding some interesting stuff. The sky threatened rain all day, but nothing fell. I caught 1 grouse behind the Taylor Cabin. The water is clearer, but still not totally clear. - Sam

Sun, July 8

The creek is getting clearer, but still is not clear. Dave Stewart stayed the night on the lab porch last night. We could not get a signal on Wheaty all morning. I spent the morning fixing poles + writing up grouse observations. Jeremy chopped wood above the Taylor cabin. In the afternoon we trimmed the shrub by Holly's garden, tried to catch a grouse + cleaned out the water box (there was a lot of debris in it from the rain). We ran into Wheat Thin at the end of the airstrip coming back from fishing in the evening. He did not move from the brush even after we yelled at him. Jeremy went back down + tried to find him to get

Jim & Tonya showed up
having finished spraying
at Good Cr I will leave Monday
Tues

him with another rubber blunt but couldn't get a clear shot. Dave
said wheaty interrupted his lunch at the lab earlier in the afternoon &
apparently was up at the Taylor cabin too - my backpack ~~got~~ had
tooth marks & drool on it. Jim called tonight to check on us & Crystal & Chris
called to check in too. - Sam

Mon, July 9

Dave Pilliod's ^{2 dogs} his crew (Suki, Holly, & Mark) arrived with Middle Fork
Aviation just after 9:00. Jeremy & I got them squared away in the lab. We
did various chores most of the morning (irrigation, stock, weed-wacking).
An interesting pack string came by - 3 people, 5 goats! There was also
a male blue grouse displaying in the middle of the pasture. Erin & Tonya
appeared in the late a.m. They will fly out of here tomorrow morning.
Erin is sick so we offered a camping site ~~a~~ next to the airstrip - they were
very grateful. ~~At~~ Jim called about noon for a final check-up. After lunch
wheaty's signal got strong. We found him on the trail across Big Cr. He ended
up almost crashing right through Dave & his crew who were sampling
near the mouth of Cliff Cr. He ran across Big Cr then up & across the pas-
ture & ended up on the hillside above the wall tents. Jeremy got a couple
shots off with the bow while ^I screamed & made loud bangs with lumber
all of this had little or no impact. Wheaty then headed to the old
cabin where Jeremy took a couple more shots. Wheaty crossed Pioneer, ~~&~~
crossed the orchard & headed for the Taylor cabin. Jeremy finally connected
on a shot which finally sent wheat thin away. About 2:30 we started
hearing thunder. It rained for about 2 hrs though never really hard.
The creek is cloudier now - it had finally cleared up enough to drink
out of the tap this morning. - Sam

Tuesday, July 10

Holly and I wrapped up Boise shopping and headed to Cascade. Called Rob Sampson regarding the NRCS project, arranged for their visit next week... Tuesday. Put a full load in the plane and R.C. flew us back to TR early afternoon. Most of the day^(pm) was devoted to putting gear away. Called a ranch meeting and discussed "bear avulsion" and considerations... and actions. Jeremy & Sam did all the chores, also shimmed gates, etc. Jeremy overhauled the waterbox, (cleaned sediment from waterbox) Found that Wheat Thin ripped thru the front of one of the new wall tents when it was accidentally zipped closed.

Wednesday, July 11

Holly & I caught up on emails and receipts and other business mail. Found out yesterday that HWSI wants us to wrap-up the first 3 yrs. of our study... disappointing. Ray flew in mid-afternoon bringing in mail, food, and Josh and Dave. It sounds like Chris, Josh, & Dave found a lot of sheep and goats in Big Cottonwood - 62 sheep (90% ewes w/ lambs) and 30⁺ goats, most w/ kids. Ray stayed to visit over coffee/cookies. Found source of "dead smell" along Pioneer Cr. - a snowshoe hare. Sent torn tent out for repair

Thurs., July 12

Spent most of the day on shoeing - Bo (a 11), our 4 wates' fronts. Gave shoeing instruction to the interns. Went to Rush Cr. bait to set up the remote camera, found out battery was dead. Jeremy cut/split birch firewood. Sam caught/banded a grouse. Had a barbecue. D. Pilliod & crew still sampling from the ranch. "Wheat thin" passed through the ranch - no mischief today.

Friday July 13 Pulled Knapweed sites: 1100 plants ^{and} 3 seedheads.

Caught up on ranch chores and emails on summer scheduling. Opened irrigation ditches in main pasture and airstrip to improve coverage after haying. Firewood cutting with crosscut. Ken staining the tackshed exterior. Got the remote camera running and put it up again - yesterday's bait was eaten already by a bear with a large track. Jim & Andrea & Dave & Josh & Crystal packed up gear in mantys & panniers for their packtrip to Whiskey Springs tomorrow. Botters at Rush Cr mouth "swim with Mica" before heading upstream. Sam caught 4 grouse - total of 16 banded now.

Saturday July 14

Jim & crew headed up Cliff Creek early with 6 head of stock to Whiskey Springs. The interns did all of the saddling & packing. Yesterday Steve Zettel's crew of Matt & Matt & Kevin stopped by on their way in for the season - to pick up the mule "B". He's on the packtrip today & we'll take him to Cabin Creek on Monday. "B" has really gained people trust this summer and is now responsive to all of us. I worked him on dominance & human interactions a lot last winter to gentle him. We'll be sorry to see him go, but know he will return whenever he can sneak away, since "B" thinks Taylor Ranch and our mules are home.

Jeremy & Ken worked on maintenance projects - leaky faucets, irrigation, firewood, staining. Sam ran into Wheat Thin along the airstrip while looking for grouse.

I dug out irrigation ditches, but took most of the day off to make apricot freezer jam & sour cherry-apricot jam & cookies. J & S & H watched a movie.

Sunday, July 15

I worked on personal chores & took most of the day off, except 2 hrs expanding flood irrigation areas. Jeremy & Sam went to Goat Cr in search of grouse to videotape, but found none. They saw a large black colored bear. Ken finished tack shed staining. The rest of the crew is on the packtrip. Wheat Thin was on & across from the airstrip again - berry eating. A big wind & thunderstorm hit midafternoon - hail at Whiskey Springs. Big Creek turned black from fire runoff, but Rush & Pioneer are clear. Water sample collected for Wayne Minshall. David Pilliod's crew of 4 hiked to Cabin Creek - they have intensively sampled Pioneer, Cliff & Cougar Cr for tailed frog tadpoles.

Monday, July 16

Wheat Thin the bear ate the ripe raspberries and mashed down many of the canes last night. He left a large pile of berry (hawthorne) poop outside the bedroom window, but I never heard him. Sam & Jeremy pulled thistles (3 grainbags full) from along the airstrip. I worked on emails & correspondence and worked to repair the raspberry patch. Restocked supplies at lab and fixed 2 faucet leaks. Jeremy finished lab faucet repair. Jim, Andrea, and Dave returned from their packtrip. They got rained on and saw where Cow Creek blew out - black slurry ^{remains} 10' high. Big Creek is still dark muddy. Jim left "B" at Steve Zettel's camp. Checked/baited remote camera site - battery needs recharge again.

Tuesday July 17

Rob, Terrill, and Art flew in to discuss the NRCS projects. We marked log placements for the airstrip stabilization project and reviewed the layout of the new water intake. Dave & Andrea hand pulled thistles in the north pasture most of the day. They put the remote camera up again to get more bear pictures. A bear bit holes in both of their water bottles in the North pasture when they went to their cabin for lunch. Wheat Thin was suspected, but no signal on him in Am, Pm, evening. SCA trail crew Pete & BJ stopped to visit on their way from Cabin Cr to Goat Basin.

Weds. July 18

Dave & Andrea checked the bear bait up Rush Cr, it had been hit so they changed the film. Then they continued weed-pulling in the N. pasture. Ray made multiple trips today. First he came in with the mail & Chris. Then he shuttled Josh & Crystal back from Cold mds. Finally Ray flew Chris & Jeremy to Big Cr. (plus tracking). Sent several business emails... J & J Pope, A. Campbell, Nancy M., Mike S. Had a barbecue (all Mexican food) this evening. Dave Stewart back in from Lewis Creek this afternoon. Also today, the repaired wall tent came back in on the mail-plane. We reset it up, and waterproofed the new stitching.

Thurs. July 19

A hectic morning. First, McCall AT came in from ^{-bary Merritt-} Salmon with 2 computer tech's (Bob & Blaine) to set up our new satellite internet system. Spent most of the morning helping these guys. Had to fall a couple trees... for "disk orientation." Dave & Andrea burned a big pile of thistles pulled in the N. pasture. Josh resupplied/reset camera on the Rush CR. bait. We set up the Spike III tent inside the cougar pen and "solidified" Peck's "junkier tent". Dave & Josh saved/split fir wood up cliff cr. Had a helicopter land on the end of the airstrip today. It was a USGS geologist (^{Karen} Sherri Lund) and pilot "Bix". Holly treated them politely, but let them know that they needed to contact us before landing... and land at the head of the airstrip. This evening we let the interns ^(ride) work the stock @ faster gaits on the airstrip... NO wrecks! Also, earlier today Jack Walker flew in for a visit en route from Big CR. → Salmon.

Friday July 20

A lot of planes came in this morning. Two flights came in from Challis bringing in Paul Link (geology prof. ISU), ^{+ Chuck Peterson} (Beau Johnson) a grad. student of Link's, Judy Minshall and gear. Ray flew in a bit later with Lisette Waits, Wildlife Faculty - UI. Holly, Ken, the interns went upstream and floated 4 logs down to the gabion site... they said it was ^{+ Jenny} tough going with the low water. Wayne and his crew (3) came in @ 6 pm. Had a ranch potluck barbecue. Gave an afternoon ranch tour (Lisette, Paul, Chuck, Bo... Crystal)

Sat., July 21

Got up early and prepared stock & gear for trip up Cabin CR. Holly & interns will be locating (trying to) C5 to see if she has kittens. Crystal, ~~Mark~~, Lisette, Paul & Bo will look for amphibians @ C.C. Help Sam this afternoon do "grouse flushing trials." Went fishing, caught 6 cats, 3 bulls, plus lost 2 whitefish in I hr. of fishing. The big event of the day was ^{- geologist -} Bo returning from C.C. with ~~an~~ old-rusty lever gun. It has an octagon barrel (fairly long), top ejection, 38 caliber. Sam got on the Winchester web-site, put out a notice for info. It could be a sheepstealer @ relic!

Sunday, July 22

Did the usual morning chores, changed - cleaned the sprinklers. Checked the bear bait & camera, replaced the film... and the bait which had been bit. Continued trying to identify the make & vintage of the old lever-gun. Holly and interns returned this evening... from Coyote Springs. They did not locate C5. Janie (♀ bear-collared) arrived back @ TR. I've tried to discourage her presence here (2 rubber blunt arrow hits), but she seems focused on the ranch. Paul Link, Bo, and Dave Stewart hiked up Pioneer CR. looking at fully exposed geology post fire. They also found a couple impressive spear points - black & white (basalt & quartz) in saddle above "Table top Rock"

Monday, July 23

Spent most of the day on NRCS issues... e-mails & phone calls to the ranger, trying to explain our urgent situation regarding the intake fabrication. The Minshall crew & geologists sampled Goat Cr. - Cougar Cr. Ken worked on the streambank project. Deisey's eye is getting better. The interns worked on firewood. Rubber-blunted both resident bears today... not much effect.

Did some yard work. Had a potluck @ the old cabin and Ruben, from Wayne's crew, played his guitar & sang.

Had hydro. - water system problem... blown water line to lower property.
Minshall horse feed came in today (2 bags).

Tuesday, July 24

Wayne's crew packed up and left this morning. RC flew in bringing Chris & Jeremy back from Big Creek. Chris & Jeremy had a good visit with Wilbur & Maurice Hornocker @ Big Cr. - spent the night at Wilbur's place. The interns did some ranch chores, killed up to tobacco B. looking for sheep, then read & discussed an article about remote camera use for bear census. I put together a packet for Oz Garten on Oregon bear information. We had both collared bears on the place again today... eating dogwood and hawthorne berries. Ran off Souie... she was by the duplex eating dogwood berries. Kurt Othberg and Roy & Kim Breckenridge, geologists from Idaho Geological Survey, Moscow flew in from Cascade.

Wednesday July 25

New Krassel District Ranger Quinn Carver flew in with Clem Pope to discuss FS concerns with the VI-NRCS application to IDWR, NMFS, USFWS for Pioneer Creek water intake modifications. A good meeting to understand each other. FS must work thru their process.

Wednesday, July 25

Nancy Glenn, ISU geologist and friend Don Keller flew in from Challis; Chuck Peterson flew out. Jim & student interns moved 9 stoneboat loads of firewood to Duplex Lab, and Taylor Cabin. Mail day. Ken dug out roots of a burned doug fir for uprooting.

Thursday July 26

Paul Link & Beau Johnson flew out with Middle Fork Aviation and Jim & I got 14 bags of haycubes in. Jim and crew pulled over the burned tree and used 3-abreast mules to drag the tree to the airstrip site. I went up Pioneer Creek with Nancy Glenn & DonK. to look at potential flood/debris flow hazards. Nancy's specialty is debris flow hazards - she was not particularly concerned about threats to Taylor Ranch, but did advise on specific sites and conditions. The other ISU and IGS and NRCS geologists concurred with her assessment when we discussed the issue on the ground with them earlier. So, it is just the Forest Service 15 minute fly-over in September that led to the dire emergency warning of "50% chance of significant loss of property and/or human life at Taylor Ranch in next 10 years as a result of flooding or debris flows" caused by the forest fire." Our concerns now are more directed - toward specific weather conditions and checking specific sites along Pioneer Creek for debris jams/damming,

Friday July 27

Nancy & Don flew out early and we got another 1/2 ton of hay cubes in from Middle Fork Aviation. Ray flew out Roy, Kim, and Curt then returned for Reed & Karen Lewis and Chris McDaniel. Jack & Kay Magee flew in to visit and brought us cookies and a care package from Marian, Rick, & Vickie at the Flying B! New Flying B T-Shirts. Ken continued NRCS ditch digging. We tidied up Lab and got it ready for the next group. Used the stoneboat & mule team to move hay cubes & firewood. Dave Stewart took down the Alaknak tent in the "State Pen" (congar pen) and moved into the lab for 2 nights. Wheat Thin & Sowie still around every day, plus a new larger ^{black} male bear is at Taylor Ranch.

Saturday July 28

Most of us took the day off. Crystal entered amphibian data on the computer; Sam did a "test" on the Taylor Ranch grouse; Jim & I took the hydro apart to clear debris from the jets and increase power production. Ken continued work on the airstrip root wad tree excavations. We got together for a group potluck - ate at the lab since it was so windy. In the evening Jim discussed wildlife immobilization techniques and protocols in preparation for darting Wheat Thin bear. Dave Stewart cleared out & improved Pioneer Creek trail for future mule use.

Monday Sunday July 29

Day off. ^(at 11/7) Jim took Dave Stewart & 1 mule load of gear to Rush Point for Dave's next 10 days of geology mapping. Jeremy & Josh rode up to Rush Point with them. Ken Donley from the Ecohydraulics group flew in this morning and started surveying at the end of the airstrip. The rest of the crew arrived with the Zettel stock. Ecohydraulics crew leaders Amy, Mark, Matt, Melanie, _____ and high school students Tyson, Julila, Christina, Bria, Jason. We got the group settled into the Lab, Duplex, and tents and discussed bear precautions. Zettel's crew Matt, Matt, and Kevin spent the night here - ^{Peck} wall tent.

Monday July 30

Cloudy and cool today. The Zettel crew slept in, did not head for Rush Pt. until noon - w/s stock to cut firewood. We also worked on firewood, packing it from the N. pasture to our woodshed... 12 animal loads. A German couple ^(Juergen Franz, Heidrun) & WI alum. ^{Olaf} stopped by the ranch, hiking down from Cabin Creek. Holly gave them a tour of the place. Constant rain began late afternoon and persisted until bed time, sort of dampened our barbeque, but we all "potlucked" in the lab. Visited with the ecohydraulics crew about TR, research, and academic trials/tribulations (our summer crew pitched in)

Tuesday, July 31

It rained a half inch last night, very nice. We harnessed 3 mules and used both the single & double stoneboats to move (also, a B-1 Bomber zoomed up Big Cr., spooking the mules) many loads of firewood (hardwood) from lower Rush Cr.

The Ecohydraulics crew continued stream measurements today. The Zettel string returned, 12 head w/ Matt & Matt as packers. We sent our fire story to Judy Austin, Idaho Historical Society to be published in Idaho Yesteryears?

Wednesday, Aug. 1

The packers and ~~eco~~hydraulics crew got off to an early start... at least getting ready to go. Jeremy and Josh (~~& Ken Donnelly~~) put linseed oil on the east side of duplex and the Taylor Cabin. Dave did some yard work. Andrea, Josh, Ken & I dismantled the "bear wall-tent" and put it away.

Attempted to immobilize wheat thins for collar adjustment, but he slipped away to lower Rush Creek. Crystal returned to TR. She saw wheat thins headed upstream. Ken Pope passed by today w/ 4 head of stock. He was curious about the Eco-class... what it was about, who was packing it etc., and he stopped to watch Ken sawing firewood in lower Rush Cr. (w/ chainsaw on the property).

Holly was up half the night (emailed) sending reports to Janet Pope about our project (cougar-wolf) and desired continuation. The DeVlieg Foundation meets

this weekend in Michigan to decide which projects to fund. Emailed Jeff Rohlman IDF&G about elk pregnancy results from the winter predation ^{elk} fecal sampling.

but did not stop at Taylor Ranch

Thursday, Aug. 2

The crew worked on packing firewood from N. pasture to Taylor Cabin woodshed. Early afternoon we (I) darted Sowie in a Hawthorne tree by the lab. Unfortunately the dart needle broke off on impact, leaving Sowie with a "partial dose." Gave an immobilization discussion then Andrea, Josh, & Dave gave talks on their readings...
Mngt. vs. ^{AB.} Non-Mngt. of resources, Brown bear nutrition, and ^{J.H.} pregnant-cow elk movements respectively. Sent phone bill and Jeremy & Keis time to Lynne Kittner.

Friday, Aug. 3

Most of the crew split firewood this morning, then they all practiced tree climbing with the spurs. Sam worked on interpretive write-up for the Guy Wagner dissertation. Holly corresponded via phone & email with Carter Niemeyer about ^{Predation} project fundings. Holly tried to determine the cause of our satellite email/internet slowness. Sent summer lodging bills to Pilliod, Link, Lewis, Minshall.

Saturday, Aug. 4

Sent Carter ^{Predation} copies of project reports and new budget request to ^{Delling Fnd.} so Carter could forward to the Governor's Office of Endangered Species for funding request.

Pretty much a day off. George and Joan Labar arrived via trail (Big CR) this afternoon, basically a day early. We have at least 3 different bears on the place. Sowie a bit crabby about being run off. Talked to Chris via sat. phone while he was in W. Monumental CR. Had a spaghetti potluck and everyone went over the summer activities with the Labars. Crystal & Josh took packs up to Lewis Pk. - Burnt Lk. - sampling amphibians.

Sunday, Aug. 5

George and I went fishing this morning, kind of slow with the water still about ^{slate colored} turbid. Chris was flown back in early. We visited with him about his observations - sheep, dead elk & a wolf. Getting very hot by midday. Jeremy & George caught a big batch of whitefish, which we barbecued this evening. The 3-bears put on quite a show this evening with many behavioral interactions with each other. Right before dark I darted the ♂ bear "Wheatthin" to change his collar. He went "under" the drug on the trail above the old cabin. Crystal & Josh got in late so they missed out, but all of the rest of the crew got to handle-monitor-measure the bear. He was up walking around by 11 pm.

Monday, Aug. 6

Another hot (100°) day. Started out by rehashing the immobilization of last night. Then the crew practiced shooting the dart gun. Shortly before noon Ray flew in bringing Mike Scott (UI), Joel Kaplan, Kevin Gergeley to see the ranch (fish a bit).

Joel is a Congressional staff overseeing Dept. of Interior finances. He has helped Mike & ~~Joe~~ Kevin with funding for their GAP analysis. All the students here talked about their respective projects & activities. Ray flew them & the labars out early evening. ~~Ken~~ Hobson continues preparing foot wads for "extraction". Contacted NRCS about permit status.

Tuesday, August 7

Sent rare animal sightings reports (Fisher) to IDF & G and (Fisher, Wolverine) to Payette NF/Krassel. Corresponded with Nancy Glenn, ISU Geologist after she e-mailed to say they want to have 2 ISU Geology grad students working from Taylor Ranch next summer! Great! The interns worked on crosscut sawing firewood and grouse project until the film crew flew in. Joan Carter-Hansen, Idaho Public TV producer and Tom —, contract cinematographer spent Tuesday & Wednesday filming for a special on Idaho Wilderness, with a piece on Taylor Ranch, plus footage for "Idaho Edens" special and other productions. They interviewed and filmed: Josh on telemetry equipment with Sowie in a tree; lots of Sowie; a bear crossing the airstrip as Ray landed; Dave tree climbing with Spurs; Jeremy & Chris cross cut sawing; Sam & Andrea capturing grouse; Andrea & Dave driving Rocky on the stoneboat with firewood; Crystal with a frog; Jim, Holly, Chris in the burn talking about the forest fires; Jim instructing students; Holly on the spotting scope & talking about predation research; each person talking about wilderness; plus scenics, sunsets, Taylor Ranch. We had a potluck barbecue with everyone. Sowie offered many photography opportunities, but Wheat Thin has left since his darting.

Wednesday August 8

We continued filming and wilderness discussions. Students worked on firewood - floating & splitting. Contacted the ranger about our permit status - in progress, but won't be finalized for at least 10 days! Crystal flew out with Joan & Tom in pm. She has one last trip for amphibians in Monumental.

Thursday August 9

Jim gave the student interns their packing final - loading 2 mules with a large and diverse assortment of gear. They ~~and~~ each did a great job! I spent an hour on the satellite phone & computer with DirecPC to fix problems with very slow internet service (for 10 days). Evidently, all of the new subscribers overloaded the satellite connections & DirecPC has to add on for services. We are now back to instant internet connections. Jim talked to Chris about his bighorn project and schedule of writing reports; then Chris flew out for the summer. I put a harness on Penny & drove her with a pole. This was her 2nd time pulling (the 1st was 2 years ago ~ 15 minutes). She was nervous about dragging log noises and tugs rubbing on her legs, but fairly easy to handle - So, we hitched her to the forcart with Rocky (guaranteed babysitter/mule trainer). Penny did fine, so we worked them 1 1/2 hours hauling firewood logs & gabian baskets on the stoneboat, pulling a log out of the river,

and practicing turning with the forcart. For her first experience working in harness Penny did really well. We should be able to use her with the other 3 mules for the heavy work moving logs for airstrip stabilization. Sweet Pea, Penny! Dave Stewart arrived back from his 10 day trip up Rush Creek. He was full of stories - bears, morels, geology & rocks, trail crew, springs, trails... He said the bear that pulled his pack out of the tree & chewed on it was Wheat Thin! Unbelievable! Wheat Thin must have followed him from Taylor to Rush Point (Wheat Thin was gone from TR that week). We had another ranch BBQ and had the trout Chris left for us. Smoky from a distant (Pistol Creek 1000 acres) fire.

Friday August 10

The last day of the student internship summer, Andrea caught 4 grouse chicks with Sam this morning. Jim, Jeremy, Josh, Dave ^{stone boated} packed firewood on the mules. I worked on NRCS contacts about our permits to do the airstrip stabilization and Pioneer Cr water intake and sent out emails and Ecohydraulics lodging bill. Update hydro operating instructions. Sam worked on summary of Greg Hayward's PhD work on boreal owls. Ken worked more on the tree that the crew & mules tried to pull over - and the tree blew over with a light breeze. Dave Stewart finished his geology mapping. We ^{discussed highlights & low points of summer with interns.} had a last night BBQ. After eating too much we videoed Sam & Andrea trying grouse capture and some people shot longbows on the airstrip. Jeremy talked to us about an interest in undergrad research - ^{on moose.}

Sat. Aug. 11

Visited with Dave & Andrea this morning before they left... for the summer-end. Ray flew in @ 10 pm, taking out 2 of the 3 interns - Josh will stay until Weds. Dave S. sharpened many axes and shovels, I helped him tighten (wedge) heads. Had a few thunder showers today, but didn't add up to much. Holly packed camp gear for Pioneer CR, this evening, Josh & Jeremy hiked up W. Pioneer Rdg w/ telemetry, still no bear signals.

Sunday, Aug. 12

(w/ Cricket & Danny)
We got an early start today up Pioneer CR, so Dave could finish his geologic survey and so Holly, Sam & I could help clear trails. Once at the stove camp Sam & I hiked to the heliport and then back to TR. Holly and Dave continued on to Dave Lewis Peak, clearing the trail. They returned to the stove camp to spend the night. Jeremy and Josh became members of the "8,000² club" by hiking ^{-almost-} to the top of Horse Mtn. (morning), and then Dave Lewis Pk. in the evening... back @ dark. Some threatening thunder this pm, but not much rain.

Monday, Aug 13

This is the one year anniversary of "the fire". Jeremy, Josh, and I shoveled manure in to the team-stoneboat and hauled 8 loads onto the airstrip. Holly, Mica & Cricket & Penny returned from the stovecamp up Pioneer. Ken attached brush to the gabions today. Both Holly & I did several business emails. Sam saw a "new bear" by the lab while doing her grouse watching... smallish, black, rolly-polly. Had a lot of thunder and moderate rain this afternoon. Jeremy, Josh, & I planned the packing deck bench, and those 2 repaired runners of both stoneboats. Irrigation chores as usual.

Tuesday, Aug. 14

Another hot day. Jeremy & Josh built the packing deck bench. I worked with Ken & the routes ^(skidding) hauling decid. trees to the streambank trenches. Holly worked on pre-mail day business correspondence. Holly and Sam attempted to catch/band more young - no luck. They did see a new small bear (black) Had (another) fairwell barbeque - Lasagna!

Weds., Aug. 15

Josh prepared to leave TR. Jeremy put footings around the deck. Ray flew in Sam's parents' with the mail. ^{-Carolinez & Mike-} Holly printed out interpretive displays & other TR admin. Ray flew Josh out late afternoon... and eventually brought back our misplaced pizza's flown in by the Cooney's. Mike Cooney donated to TR a Garmin GPS and a computer quad map program. Spread grass seed (1 bag) on West end of airstrip.

THURS, Aug. 16

A return to hot & smoky. Jeremy and I used the stack to pack 20+ bags of firewood to the Taylor woodshed. We visited more with the Cooney's... and waited for Ray to come in, which he finally did early afternoon. Expanded irrigation's. The FS. trail crew (A1, B1, etc) stopped by to visit, along with André... another FS employee. They all camped on the E. Cliff cr. flat and came back over for ice cream. Oh ya, Jeremy & I... and Rocky/Daisy skidded many birch poles/trees for Ken - ~~to~~ the gabion wall.

Friday, Aug. 17

Holly wrote up some bullet statements (cautious) for Nancy M. on the summer highlights... lots of use, internships, PBS film crew, no flash flooding. The new little bear made his presence known by making some rips & holes in "the other" wall tent. Holly warned about this! JER. & I sewed up & patched the tent, then we took it down. Did many correspondence for NRCS project, still no final word on permits! Dinner at our house.

Saturday Aug 18

Jeremy flew out for the summer; his sister Meg flew in to see TR. Jim flew out to do NRCS business. I made some edits on the research projects interpretive summaries & checked the lab to see which projects needed photos or summaries printed out. I read journal articles

relevant to the predation project - snow urine nutrition analysis, compensatory mortality in deer, harvest strategies... Allergic reaction to something (dust?) in the lab caused my eyelids to swell & painful. Ken did small chores - yardwork & irrigation. Hydro has plenty of power (only 1 1/2 jets turned on) now that Arlow's refrigerator is unplugged.

Sunday, Aug 19

Read & copied some journal articles (elk harvest strategies for increasing ~~old~~ mature bull numbers - for local outfitters Steve & Travis). Ken took most of the day off except odd jobs. We both did irrigation. Greg Bjornstrom backpacked to Taylor Ranch with 2 friends. We allow all day grazing by the mules, but they escaped downstream this evening (Bo crossed Big Creek twice with hobbles on). - back to the corral for the night. Had dinner with Greg's ^{vision} friends Mike & Micah. My eyes still bothering me - no eye drops in any first aid kits, but Ken gave me some. Jim drove the 1,500 gallon poly-truck to Big Creek, ate lunch with Gillihans, then drove back to McCall.

Monday, Aug 20

The NMFS crew flew in from McCall using both Mateo & Arnolds. After the flying was finished, Holly & Ken used the team and "steel boat" to haul rocks to the gabion wall. (Found out project permits came through Fed. & state)

I spent the day in McCall on business. First I met with the ranger Quinn Carver to discuss FS permit authorization, he gave OK to start projects. Visited with Jeff R. & Larry J. with Idaho F&G, then I met with C. Mack and Bao to discuss wolf capture/collaring. I did shopping then went to Arnolds to fly in. Ray flew me in @ 7pm.

August 21, Tuesday

Holly spent the morning on budgets, billings, receipts, she did 12 business emails. I also did some emails and other mail, then I worked with Ken to free up a couple trees up Rush CR. for helicopter lift. Rerouted pack saddle ropes. Hauled 4 stone boat loads of hardwood from Rush CR. to our wood pile, got help from Greg, Micah, Mike, and Ken... who ran the saw. NMFS crew done by 2pm... then they fished like mad! Put up temporary fence ^(fake electric) to hold the stock on the upper end of the airstrip.

Aug. 22, Wednesday

Worked on email & mail matters in the am. Mike & Mica (Greg's friends) flew out on the mail plane. Ken, Greg, and I spent the afternoon digging 2 trenches... for logs. Holly worked on project literature review. The NMFS boys made a fancy turkey dinner... everyone invited.

"Thurs, Thurs", Aug. 23

Holly prepared lodging bills for the NMFS crew. Matco (Rod) made several trips (5) to move the crew to Cabin Creek for the Islander to take out. Did more trench work, and tree flying preparations... cleaning off root wads. Also this morning Sowie returned - lots of picture taking by the NMFS folks. She showed interest in the pear tree but had to settle for a choke-cherry meal!

Friday, Aug. 24

Sawed down 4 large fir trees N of the gabion wall. Greg, Ken, & I bucked into 8-30' logs. I worked on the "bigwad," cutting it to length and sawing loose roots. ^(H, K, G, E, I) We also did final trench preparation and numbered (w/paint) the trenches and "key members." I visited w/ Tom Woody about the helicopter work... it sounds likely for tomorrow.

Ray flew in early afternoon with Steve Steubner and Mark[?], who are doing a table top book on the Salmon River country. They actually were doing a "feature piece" on Ray, but interviewed us some too. I worked on final edits on my bear paper.

Sat., Aug. 15.

Spent the morning coordinating this end of the helicopter log-moving event. Early afternoon things began to happen... first Ray came in with Tom Woody & Mike A. for choker setting. Then Tim Norton flew in with the Kaman (K-Max) logging helicopter... hauling in our 1,500 gal. water tank and 4 sections of water intake pipe.

While the helicopter sat, we took 15 chokers and set them on the tree members to be moved, then the real action began with the helicopter moving a log (or tree) every 2 minutes. In 36 minutes 18 logs were moved.

The biggest root wad-tree (trunch #3) actually exceeded the lifting capacity of the ship (6,000#). Tim kind of "hopped" this one across Big CR. to tip the stem over and into the 5' wide trench... amazing! It was also amazing watching Tom set the choker (to the line block) in 1 or 2 seconds. I flagged the chopper into the proper trench. Holly caught the whole event on video. We all (Ken, Greg, Holly, Mike, Tom & I) got quite a work out... everyone had a critical task, in order to minimize chopper time.

Sun., Aug. 26

Awoke early and began working - harnessed the mules etc. Our first task was to use the team and stoneboat to move all the intake pieces and the water tank up by the shop. Then we took the team to the gabion wall where we shifted trees around within the trenches. Ken and Greg ended up working 5 hrs. this morning... Ray was late and came in after lunch, ^{to pick them up.} Very hot this afternoon, so we spent it packing bags and preparing for our Alaska trip. Holly saw a "smallish" black bear in the yard today. Left the mules out on the airstrip - N. pasture. an experiment.

Mon., Aug. 27

Checked on the stock shortly after daybreak. They were feeding by the west gate, in fact, Cricket had slipped around. Brought them back. Worked on business emails. Continued packing and preparing to be gone. Re-evaluated ^{-photographed} log jams. Holly emailed a description of the current status to Terril w/ NRCs. Heard today that Labar's are scheduled with AA for 1 pm Tuesday. Continued getting ready to be gone.

Tues., Aug. 28

Did several business contacts this morning... NRCs, OSC (Greys.), Lynne K. etc. Ray came in late morning with George and Joan LaBar. Spent most of the afternoon going over ranch details and finished preparing to go. Another hot day

Wed. Aug. 29 - Jim and Hally left with Ray about 10:30 with a plane full. The day was fairly uneventful. The stock really appreciated grazing the air strip in the p.m. We caught a young wood rat in back of the classroom building. I reset the trap in the evening. Weather clear and hot, but not as bad as earlier. Just before dark, I caught two very nice CTT below the Rush Creek hob. They weren't big but very colorful. We ate two pears from the tree, and see why the bears like them. George LaBar

Thursday, Aug. 30 A relatively uneventful day. Clouds came in p.m., but no rain. I surveyed Pioneer Creek ~~upstream~~ looking for reds or fish and saw none of either. I did see what could have been a small (5-6") cutthroat, but no salmon or bull trout. There are several impassable barriers on the stream in the first mile or so. In the evening, the mules decided to go across the river en masse instead of heading for the corral, which they had shown every intention of doing until Penny led the rebellion. Everyone got back eventually.

Friday Aug. 31, 2001. An uneventful day. Joan worked on her quilt much of the day. In between chores, I revisited Pioneer Creek to take pictures of some of the obstacles. The computer died, but I finally got Joey on the phone, and we determined it was a dead (i.e. shot) battery. After ejecting the battery & plugging it in again, we were off & running.

Saturday, ~~Aug~~ Sept. 1, 2001. An uneventful day. No visitors. Weather was beautiful --- again. I fished in the p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 2, 2001. A busy day. I hunted up Rush Creek in the morning after chores, to no avail. Of course coming back I about stepped on 5 birds, but I couldn't bring myself to shoot something that stupid. About 2 p.m., Matt O'Connell, the C.O. from Yellow Pine stopped in for a good chat and some fresh bread. He was camped at Cabin Creek doing back country duty. Shortly after he left, 3 bayakers, yes bayakers, stopped in to chat. They were in inflatable bayaks and had come from Cabin Creek on their way to Soldier Bar for pickup tomorrow. As we watched them heading downstream, a really nice helicopter landed in the pasture (mules were on the air strip). There were 3 USFS folks in yellow shirts. They told us that there was a small fire between Cougar Cr. and Goat Cr. It was up to about 14 acres or so and moving slowly eastward, away from the ranch. They weren't sure how it got started. They also weren't sure if they were going to try to put it out or let it burn. About an hour after they left, one of the bayakers showed up again, wondering exactly where the fire was and whether they would be able to get out of Soldier Bar. He'll be back this morning to see what's going on. Besides that, there were two pack strings and a pair of hikers. At least the mules cooperated. Penny went across the river, but didn't get any support from her colleagues.

Sept. 3. Labor Day. Weather the same - clear, hot, dry. There was some smoke in the air, but not too bad. I walked down to Goat Creek to take a look at the fire. There were some stumps smoldering above Conger Cr. and some above Goat, but you sure don't see any big black area. I doubt it will go anywhere. The mules decided to take a hike. I put them on the strip and when I went to get them out 5:30, they were gone. No stock anywhere to be seen. Joan walked all the way down the strip and finally saw them on the other side. We got them right at the west property line. Very hot!

Sept. 4. Joan & I walked down to see the petroglyphs in the canyon. Neat. We took both dogs and it went well. Mica was very distressed when I dropped out to go fishing, but she kept going with Bart and Joan. Daisy jumped the corral and then untied herself. I'm going to start calling her Houdini. A little cooler today and mostly cloudy.

Sept. 5. The sheep are back! We saw a group of about 8 ewes to the left above Cliff Creek. I said Pittard came in with the mail plane just before noon. We hiked quite a ways up Pioneer Creek to put in a thermograph. Very neat country up there. Rain started in late evening. Ray Arnold dropped in to fuel up about 6 p.m. He'd had a long day, being grounded by wind for a few hours.

Sept. 6. David Pilliod and his dog Kova left for Cabin Creek after putting in a thermograph at Cougar Creek. A very cool day (high of 63°F). The bear is now getting into the apple tree by the house after getting all the pears. We have yet to see it. A long pack string went through in p.m. -- 25 animals, 7 people. Big Creek is very dark, so no redd counts will be possible for a few days. Rush is carrying some sediment, but Pioneer is clear.

Sept. 7. An uneventful day for the most part. Very cool - max. of 61°F, cloudy. Miss is definitely in heat now - whoopee. The stock behaved themselves and didn't leave the air strip. The only excitement occurred around 8:45 p.m. when I put some rotten buckshot into the backside of the Pear Bear. I sat on the edge of the new water house and he came strolling down the P. Creek path. He left the apples alone. ~~Also~~ Also, I found a chinook redd right where the river turns left and riparian vegetation begins. There is a pair of fish on the redd: one very large ^{♂?} and a smaller one ^{♀?}. Haven't seen the sheep since that first morning.

Sept. 8. Very cool (37°F) and crystal clear. A beautiful day. I went up Rush Creek probably a mile & a half or so looking for fish. Didn't see any. Caught one cutthroat. There are chinook spawning just above the island by the strip and at the east end of the strip, right on the river bend. Saw one dead chinook, adipose fin intact, 960 mm, just below Rush Cr. mouth. Stock on strip again today. No problem.

Sept. 9. Another beautiful day. In the a.m., Jack Walker landed from Big Creek with the Big Creek Guard, Sherry Black. Jack was on his way to Salmon for laundry & shopping. About 2:30, Janet Pope & Jane, her neighbor from Clarkston, came in with Barry?? from Wapiti Ranch in yellow Pim. We enjoyed showing them around and having a very good, relaxing evening. I waited on the Pioneer Creek trail, above the orchard, for the Pear Bear, but he didn't show. However, once again, he paid a visit.

Sept. 10. Jane & Janet left at 7:10 for the Flying B, on foot, with light packs. We're a little worried, because they haven't been doing much hiking and Jane already had a crack in her heel. We hope and expect that they make it. I went fishing above Rush Creek about 10:30, walking upstream, wet wading until about 11:30. No fish. However, on the way back, I changed from my P.A. to a CDC Elk Hair Callie and put on 2 lb tippet. I caught about 20 fish, including two of the most of the trip.

Well, it's over. We can't imagine cooperating life in Boise again. We each got something done, but not as much as we had thought before leaving home. I almost did some poetry, as the sun formed a knife-like separation between daylight and dusk on the ridge across the river, but it will have to wait till next time. A wonderful two weeks!

Steve & Joan Faber

Aug 30-Sept 9 Jim & I took vacation time and went to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. We had a wonderful time and a much needed break from all of the Taylor Ranch activities - we went to the wilderness and wild places of Alaska for our change in scenery. This trip replaced the one we cancelled last year after the forest fire burned over Taylor Ranch & the Flying B. We stayed with the Wests in Soldotna. First we went on a 4 day canoe trip down the Swanson River with Robin & Rem. ^(11 yrs old) Day 1 adventures were primarily coordinating our navigation of the canoe and heavy load of gear. On the second day we had to decide whether and how to canoe past cow moose with calves that were feeding on underwater plants in the stream. I missed some good pictures at 15 yards, since I thought it was more prudent to be ready with my paddle in case the cows attacked us. No problems. Rem had a moose tag & we went along on 2 "hunts" to look for a bull - moose tracks, wolf tracks, lowbush cranberries, and the air filled with fireweed seed plumes that exploded out of their shells when we brushed by. We heard sandhill cranes, loons, wolves, and coyotes at night, plus the oil & gas extraction activity within the Kenai Refuge. We stopped early for the 3rd night at a good salmon fishing hole. Rem spotted the "wake" of a large school of silvers headed our way - the water surface rippled in a "V" like a large shark was swimming just under the surface. The salmon continued to tease us, swimming back & forth thru the bend in the river, but were

not very interested in our roe bait or Jim's flies. I caught a jack salmon that we ate for dinner. Caught & released multiple trout. Yesterday Jim caught a silver on my little backpack trout fly rod! He brought the salmon in to the bank & released it, since we were not ready to keep fish yet. He couldn't believe he brought it in with such light line. Robin & Rem paddled upstream to hunt some ducks drifting downstream. Rem was pleased & excited that he shot his first duck "on the wing". Robin had to slap the water with his paddle to get the ducks up. Day 4 Robin & Rem paddled off early for the 1st vehicle shuttle. Jim & I had more time to fish. We saw many salmon swimming under the canoe - upstream. We fished awhile at a spot where "wakes" of salmon kept passing by. Jim had several salmon on and kept one; I kept a jack silver. 2 canoe groups stopped just below us to fish a spectacular fishing hole - that was the area that we had been watching for "our fish" to come from. Over 100 silvers & reds swam past us as we slowly paddled by. Soon we found our own hole. Salmon were everywhere - Jim had several on and kept a second fish - his limit. I got plenty of ^{salmon} action, but missed hooking the bites - except the many, many rainbow trout that I couldn't keep off the roe. No! trouty! Leave my bait alone! - lots of catch & release, but we kept a few to try smoked. Jim ~~power~~ navigated and I fished thru several more holes. We saw over 1000 silver salmon that day under

our canoe. I had worried about the swifter water and riffles Robin had warned us about on the first day, but we navigated thru several tight spots - just fine. We saw a black bear climb out of the water as we got to the faster current. We had been on the river with 4-6 other groups, til ^{near} the end of the road when fishing pressure picked up - mostly wading fly fisherman. The standard way to clean a salmon is to fillet it while whole, then return the carcass to the river. Lots of filleted salmon carcasses in the lower stretch - testament to the good fishing. After a day of rest - the only day that it rained all day, we were off on a 13 mile round trip 1 night backpack trip to Crescent Lake. This trip Robin arranged as an arctic grayling fishing expedition. The grayling were spawning in the river at the lake outlet. They laid in rows like cordwood. Jim started fishing right away and kept catching them. After catching & releasing 30-40 fish he got bored ("too easy, they don't fight enough"), meanwhile I was finally catching fish - the right fly & the right technique - and having fun. We checked out a forest service (Chugash NF) cabin & boat available for public rent. We had the miles long lake to ourselves, but saw 2 people mountain bike to the cabin, then ride back down in the same day. On the way up we saw huge brown bear tracks in the mud of the trail. The toes were as long as my foot was wide! Jim was

wearing one of Robin's pistols in a shoulder holster for bear protection, but we didn't need it.

In the evening we sat at our camp perched above the lake and watched 15 dall sheep in small groups on several mountains surrounding us, ^{while} eating wild blueberries as the sunset faded from the sky, mountains, and lake. Another great day! A little grayling fishing in the morning, then we hiked out.

Shannon had already brined and smoked the 4 salmon, jack, & trout when we got home. Oh, the first day in Kenai Jim, Shannon, & I froze peaches - we brought 2 flats of peaches with us on the plane, but the cooler had been dropped & peaches damaged in transit so it was a "salvage operation" - 75% ok.

We drove to Homer for a 1/2 day halibut fishing charter. Rain turned to sunny skies. We took our Dramamine - Non Drowsy - expecting the worst out in the ocean. Evidently the sea was rough - the worst day this season according to the captain. Not having any experience fishing in the ocean, I didn't know that a halibut fisherman doesn't always have to brace legs & hang on to the rail while fishing, always watching for those BIG swells. The Dramamine worked - we were almost the only ones of the 16 fishermen that did not get sick and quit fishing. We both caught our limit - 2 halibut. They were small (10-30 lbs), but typical of the catch that day. My 30 pounder was one of the biggest on our boat. I watched the sea birds (forked-tail?

Storm-petrel) flit around the boat, ready to dive into the water after a piece of bait. Mostly we fished our bait 150 feet down - 2 feet above the ocean floor. The volcanoes: Iliamna, Redoubt & Spur, on the main land to the north were spectacular snowy peaks rising from the ocean. Jim spotted some seals as we left Homer. We both enjoyed visiting with our fishing companions - all from the lower 48: Idaho, Idaho, Montana, Wisconsin, California... Robin helped us package & freeze our halibut fillets when we got home. The cooler will be full of frozen fish when we head home to Idaho. Yummy, all winter. Robin, Shannon & Alex took us to Seward and Exit Glacier on our last day. It doesn't seem like we've been gone long. Nice to have George & Joan at Taylor Ranch - no big events when we would check in with them. We arrived back in Boise without my luggage. We saw Era Aviation unload my dry bag from the plane in Kenai, because the plane was over the weight limit. Despite assurances "it will catch up with us", it did in Seattle, but was then left there twice - so it was delivered to Ed & Michelle's sometime after midnight. Jim headed to Hanley's & the Eagle Cap Wilderness for an Oregon archery hunt with Robin & Ricky - flew from Alaska on an earlier flight.

Sept 10 Monday.

I had 6 shots this morning for my Uganda/Kenya trip at the Health Dept in Boise. A very thorough travel nurse spent 1 1/2 hours with me discussing travel health, prevention, & immunizations, and issuing pamphlets.

In the afternoon I met with Greg Schilwachter of the Governor's Office of Species Conservation to discuss the wolf-cougar predation project and request funds. The meeting went well, but funding decisions to be made this fall - 2 other projects requesting funds. To Arnolds & TR after grocery shopping & ^(visa) passport pictures. George & Joan flew out 7pm. After several hours of unpacking I appreciated the dinner and cookies Joan left for me.

Tuesday Sept 11 TERRORISTS ATTACK USA.

Backcountry radio talk alerted me to turn on the TV news. Today US citizens' sense of security was shattered. 19 hijackers commandeered 4 commercial aircraft (AA and United Boeing 757 & 767s). Two were flown into NYC World Trade Center Twin Towers (100+ stories). Both towers ^{totally} collapsed from fires within 15-30 minutes. At least 5000 people missing/dead. A third plane hit the Pentagon, 120 dead + fires. 266 people were on the 4 planes. The fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania on its way to Washington DC (White House? or Capitol?). By 8:30 AM MST ALL air traffic in the entire country was shut down. Pres. Bush flew from Florida to Louisiana to Nebraska to DC - Air Force One the only plane in the sky but military aircraft. I watched & rewatched the footage of the planes exploding in the Twin Towers then the towers crumbling to the ground. An amazing, horrible shock.

Despite nonstop attention to the TV and Internet news, I did manage to read 2 weeks of emails and respond to some of them. A pilot from Helena, Kerry Duncan, hiked from Cabin Creek to see T.R. I gave him a tour and filled him in on the day's events.

Wednesday Sept 12

I am still glued to the TV morning, afternoon, and night. The hijackers have been tied to bin Laden terrorists; some learned to fly 757s & 767s in US flight schools and simulators. Few/no live recoveries at sites. I made out my application for Uganda visa and packaged it, passport, & money order to mail off. No mail plane today - the country is still a no-fly zone. Put up a flat of peaches and several bags of zucchini in the freezer.

More emails and irrigation work. Another pilot, from Picabo hiked down from Cabin Creek. I saw the Helena pilot fly toward Helena - even tho all airspace is still closed.

Thursday Sept 13

Watched news on NYC & DC recovery efforts. It's too stressful - I turned it off. Wrote up the NWS monthly weather summary and wrote Larry Holt about concerns that our complete data gets published as having missing data. More emails. Arnolds were given FAA permission to resume flying this afternoon (only IFR^{pilots} and detailed flight plans), but not enough time to finish the mail plane route.

Checked the water intake screens and ended up performing an emergency extraction of a tailed frog.

from the screen. The frog's head was 8mm wide and his head & front legs had both squeezed thru the 5mm mesh. It took 30 minutes with a wire cutter to get the frog disentangled. Released him back to Pioneer Creek; one front leg is injured.

Friday Sept 14

Still watching several hours of news coverage per day. New leads on hijackers & other suspect; no one found alive today. The water went off last night - particles on the intake screen. I did a major (45 minute) clearing of the intake trough. Will the new system work better or worse? Ray Arnold flew in with the mail - a busy day for him. Sent a thank you note to LaBars. Emailed Intn. Bear Assn about Jim's proofs and mailed off hard copy edits. More emails, irrigation changes, mules out feeding on airstrip 2x/day. Rush Creek chalky colored from rain last night (only .04 here, but more upstream); other streams clear.

Saturday Sept 15

Spent most of the day reading a book, ^{THE} Poisonwood Bible. Also kept track of national developments & did usual jobs here. Called Deirdre & Siri Dharma to say "lets hold off on buying our Africa airline tickets for a few weeks to see whether & when it will be safe to go." Called Michele - her birthday.

Sunday Sept 16

Made ^{cantered} dilly green beans and frozen peaches while listening to the news. The ^{terrorist} news is on all day on many channels. Tried to go fishing in the pm but Big Creek is muddy - dark brown from upstream and light brown from Rush Creek. Mica water retrieved anyway.

Monday Sept 17

Back to work on the computer - sent 11 emails out. Got confirmation from 7 of the 10 students I emailed today that they would come work on the NRCS projects during the last weekend in September. Contacted Jeff Rohlman about elk jaw collection from hunters and IDF&G funds/support for the cougar-wolf project this winter. Got pregnancy info back from Steve Monfort for Big Creek elk - like last year a very high pregnancy rate! Misc administration tasks - property inventory data set out, time info for Lynne K, request to NRCS for contract extension. Shut irrigation off airstrip as FS trail crew will come in tomorrow. ^{today} Big Creek is even muddier, but Rush Cr is starting to clear this evening. Took a photopoint on Rush Cr for Wayne Minshall. Fresh bear scats in lower Rush Cr. I counted/inventoried all of the ^{burned} bone piles along the trail below the Sagebrush Flat: 23-33 deer, 3 elk, 4-5 coyotes, 2 horses, 1 beaver! It must be where Jess Taylor or someone left their carcasses. But why take them so far from Taylor Ranch? Details on bones are in the animal sightings book.

Tuesday, September 18

Clem Pope flew in this morning with Josie & Dan - trail crew who will do the trail reconstruction around TR to Rush Cr. I went with them to flag the trail route. Nick Hersternow flew in on a second FS flight and Clem flew out. Nick is documenting (GPS, photos, flows) our water diversions - for the "Ditch Bill", "Special Use Permit on Cliff Creek?", "Special Use Permit on Pioneer Creek?" I don't know for sure, but it always makes us anxious when the FS sends someone unannounced to investigate/question/photograph our water intakes for the "umpteenth" time! So far each "visit" has led to conflict & hassles for WI Taylor. Anyway I had pleasant visits with all. After a week without anyone to talk to, I was quite a converser today! Chris from FS hiked from Cabin Creek to work on trail project. I took stream photopoint photos (monthly) for Wayne Minshall. Rush Cr is almost clear, but Big Creek is still muddy. Emailed the student work crew(8) - it's a go for last weekend in September. Bighorns (4 ewes, 3 lambs) at bridge lick.

Wednesday Sept 19

Mail day priorities - I calculated the August phone bill and sent it with receipts to Lynne; emailed students on what they owed. Sent a lodging bill to David Pilliod. Clem returned on a FS plane with ~~Chloe~~ and Tim who will help on the trail reconstruction. Clem & I visited about the \$11,000 fence replacement money

we received from the FS for forest fire damage, and how we planned to replace fences (pole fence vs post & electric). Also talked about the winter predation research & permits and placing signs at airstrips for cow elk jaw collection by hunters. Clem & Nick out. I spent 40 minutes on the satellite phone with DirecPC trying to fix our system - no internet access for 3 days. After the call I spent 6 hours in the evening trying & retrying various fixes - did not work. We only had 1 branch on the yard apple tree that still had apples. All the other fruit trees (6) had already been stripped by the bears. These apples are almost ripe, so I picked half of them in case the bear found the branch. Several hours later I let Mica outside and she barked & sent a bear away - it had eaten almost all of the remaining apples. I picked the last few by flashlight.

Thursday Sept 20.

Summarized NRCS lodging expenses and NRCS time for Jim & I - all from the Taylor Book entries. Larry Holt & Jason flew in from NWS to check the weather station and answer questions from my letter last week. Again I spent the afternoon & evening trying to reconnect to the DirecPC satellite: 2 more long calls to DirecPC, uninstall & reinstall software, connect to DirecPC thru the web via the satellite phone. Again, no fix. Daily sprinkler changes and every-other-day water box maintenance. Beautiful sunny days; crispy Am. Checked NRCS plans & parts for a supply purchase list for Jim.

Friday Sept 21

Called DirecPC again after several more hours fooling with install, uninstall, web setup, and writing down all of the error messages I got. DirecPC will FedEx an updated version of the software - the satellite no longer communicates with the old software. So I use the satellite phone data line for emails for now, and no internet. I visited with the FS trail crew after I checked the refrigerator temperature (too cold) and replaced the water filter (hot water in shower quits mid shower). The crew is making good progress on the trail and enjoying staying in a cabin.

Sat. Sept. 22

Holly took the day off from TR work, got caught up on personal mail. She also worked on irrigation coverage. I drove from Union OR to Cascade with stops in N. Powder, Baker City, and then the Boise Airport to drop off friends Robin & Rickey. Shopped for NRCPS items and grocery items. Got to Cascade @ 6:30, flew in just before dark.

Sun. Sept. 23

I spent the morning putting away gear, getting caught up on mail & e-mail. Jim & Matt Deval stopped by looking for their father George... supposedly coming from Monumental CR. with stock? No sign of him.

Monday, Sept 24th

A busy morning on the computer-radio-phone getting ready for the "work weekend." Allen Bird ^(FS-wildcat ranger) stopped by after being @ Black Butte - Whiskey Springs. He reported much "hunter congestion"... outfitters & B. Boylston 10 people w/him. Fed Al lunch and visited w/him for a couple hours, then we walked the new trail. Ray flew in with some propane ⁽²⁾ & AV gas ^(1 barrel). We showed him the intake assembly and puzzled over the parts and connections. Ray also brought in a new internet program (fed x pkg.). Holly spent the evening working on loading it. DirecPC sent the wrong program! - still no internet.

Tuesday, Sept 25

Typical morning computer time and chores. George Dorris flew in with Jay Wize to do shoeing... 5 head (3 for UI pay, 2 for us). Continued planning/preparing for weekend work crew. Bo quite lame after shoeing, even with pads. The trail crew came over for card game and cobbler. Had a little rain late afternoon.

Wednesday, Sept. 26

A hectic day. I worked with Jay on the water storage bldg... putting the tank inside and "plumbing". Then ^(Jay too) I worked with the trail crew moving a fence line and building a new gate... for the new "ranch by-pass" trail. Holly continued preparing for the work-weekend. She put away a huge load of groceries that came on the mail-plane.

Thursday, Sept. 27

The trail crew flew out this morning. Holly contacted NRCS about engineering advise... someone coming in. She also finished sign-up for the student crew, with Lynne R.

Jay^(SI) finished the water storage tank plumbing. Used the mule team to haul gabion baskets and other equipment to the streambank job site. At about 6 pm the Islander came in with the student work crew from Moscow: Renan, Sam, Andrea, Crystal, Chris, Josh, Ken, and Greg. Holly made a lasagna dinner for all.

Friday, Sept. 28

We woke early and began working on the projects.

3 people worked with me on the airstrip project... placing logs, hauling rocks (w/team), and filling the trenches - 3 completed today. Holly's crew pulled out the old water

trough and excavated (via hand) the trench for the new intake. We all put in a long day of work, then had

a chicken barbecue for dinner. Bob Bishop of NRCS flew in for the day w/ Scot Patrick and helped us plan the Pioneer Creek pipe inlet placement.

Saturday, Sept. 29

Another day of work on the projects. We only completed 2 trenches on the stabilization project, but moved several

logs to complete "jams". Holly and crew worked on the water box - pipe intake and another outlet with a valve... which

Ray flew in along with a 2 ton come along, we put to use immediately on the logs. Ray also flew Jay out today - 2 pm.

Sunday September 30

We laid the last full round 24" pipe and the 1/2 round pipe with screens in Pioneer Cr. The drain valve worked, the new plastic lining in the box worked, the silicone & firehose seal between pipe & water box held, and water flowed down the pipe into the water box. We turned on the valve in the water box & the hydro & water in cabins worked fine. Jim's crew finished the streambank trench filling on Big Creek. We barely had time to eat a quick lunch at 2pm before the planes flew in to pick up our crew. The crew did a great job - everyone worked hard & helped solve some of the problems that cropped up & shared in the meal prep./cooking and dishwashing. After everyone left Jim & I checked each others work sites and put away tools & cleaned up sites.

Monday, October 1

Lots of emails to NRCS & ULI about project success & completion, receipts, IH time. Jim wrote a letter of appreciation /support for Chuck Hatch's reception as he leaves the dean's job... to become Vice-Pres. of research.

Two sheep hunters stopped by to visit - Jerry Walters and Terry Heinrichson, Terry has the tag. Did usual chores, cleaned buildings etc. Saw 2 groups of sheep on the 3rd bench and the east nob... ewes, lambs, and young rams. Emailed Dick Bottger on new building planning - sent him a list of facilities in each TR building and its typical uses.

Tuesday October 2

More NRCS correspondence - to NRCS and receipts & letter to Lynne K. Jim went hunting in AM. River guide Matt Yost of Rocky Mtn River Tours hiked up from the Middle Fk in pm. He was part of the group that helped us - fed us & provided sleeping bags the first night after we evacuated Taylor Ranch when the forest fire hit last year. We gave Matt a tour of facilities and swapped stories. Matt's story was that ^{this summer} he was sleeping in one of the rafts near the Flying B and a bear bit him in the butt through his sleeping bag! He showed us the scars. The event didn't bother him - left him with a good story to tell rafting clients. Drew a diagram of 2 floor plans for best space use of proposed new building for anticipated users. Arnolds will fax to UT for building meeting on Thursday.

Wednesday October 3

Mail day correspondence - Jim printed his Chuck Hatch letter. I sent lodging bill to David Pilliod & emailed Wayne Minshall about his bill. Ray brought in our fire extinguishers - sent out for annual check & refilling. Received DirecPC software upgrade 4.0.0.40 from Bob Coulter, Salmon, but when I installed it we got the same error messages during WebSetup, so still no satellite connection. Called Jeff Rohlman IDFG on cooperative work on BigCreek predation project.

Thursday Oct 4

IDF & G fish biologists Dale Allen & Paul Hanson flew in to do fish DNA sampling at Cabin Cr & Rush Cr. We talked about

Big Creek & our research projects, then they flew to Cabin Cr. to start surveys. I cleaned up Lab and washed Lab dish cloths & pillow cases. Jim & I and Rocky & Daisy on the stoneboat moved 2 loads of alder & birch firewood + unused gabians from the mouth of Rush Creek then hauled unused cement mix (350lbs) and equipment from the Pioneer Creek work site back to the shop. Herb Meyer, another Idaho FNAWS member and bighorn sheep hunter stopped in and came up to the house for orange juice & a visit. He hiked from Big Creek with 2 mules and will tie in with Terry & Jerry. Set up a trip from Moscow for Ed Krump & architecture student & Jory to come in next week - ^{to} see building site & facilities and Jory can fix our computer - Windows diagnostic tests and/or reinstall Window & our other programs, so we can use DirecPC again.

Friday, October 5

The fish crew finished electro shocking Rush Creek to collect DNA ^{samples} from cutthroat trout fins, then flew out in AM. I made a poster for Big Creek cow elk hunters asking for help - turning in jaws (for aging) and metatarsus bones (for fetal and calf year nutrition) from harvested cows; cut & pasted UI & IDFG logos & elk diagrams and printed out with the color copier. Jim corresponded with Nancy Matthews several times. They set up a reception for Clara Bleak, whose husband's foundation funds the TR student internship. We will go to Moscow Oct 17-20 for Clara's reception, Chuck Hatch's

going-away celebration (Chuck is leaving the CNR Dean position for UT VP of Research & Graduate Studies), and Jim & Janet (DeVlieg) Pope meeting with undergrad research students sponsored by the DeVlieg Foundation. We worked on streambed enhancement and stabilization above & below the Pioneer Cr intake in late afternoon to evening. Mica ran a black colored bear off by the intake.

Saturday, October 6

Jim headed off bowhunting for elk, leaving early in the morning for a day hunt. He got into several bugling bulls. I spent the morning baking cookies, pastries, and chili-cheese strata while listening to music on DirecTV rather than our usual diet of CNN coverage of post terrorism news. I spent the afternoon on the water intake - raising the waterbox overflow 8" caused the waterlevel in Pioneer Creek over the screens to increase from no flow to 2" above the screens. I watched a small cutthroat trout swim up the rock cascade I had just built below the screens and saw it rest in the flow over the screens - successful fish passage! There is a debris dam 14" high just above the intake that may prohibit fish passage above here. We broke out a debris dam below the intake when installing the 24" pipe. Today I stabilized that stretch of streambed with a series of boulder cascades and pools. Made a pool to cover the

overflow pipe outlet ^{in Pioneer Cr} - to keep it from freezing closed as happened in past winters. Spent 1 1/2 hours in the evening searching for wayward mules & horse - no luck.

Sunday, Oct 7

Made up more notices and put together gear for cow elk jaw & leg bone sample collection. Saddled up mules (Jim found them grazing the burned hillside along the airstrip) and loaded a garbage can and elk sampling equipment on Cricket to take to Cabin Creek. Terry Heinrich stopped by to see if we had talked to Steve Zettle for him about sheep hunter guiding. He rode up to Cabin Cr. with us to see Steve, but Steve wasn't there. We met up with Alan Bird, USFS, at Cabin Creek and put up the notice to Cow Elk Hunters and tied the "collecting can" to the signboard (hope the bears don't mess with our samples). We took notices to Travis' & Steve's camps along with plastic garbage bags for samples. No hunters except one of Trav's at Cabin Cr; 1 party of fishermen with their own plane - very quiet for hunting season. We saw bear tracks on the trail near Taylor Ranch. The snowberry crop was enormous - size & quantity of berries, along the burned riparian trail. Chipmunks & squirrels left piles of berry skins after removing seeds/insides. The bear scats of the last few weeks have almost all been snowberry. Tonight we found out the US started bombing bin Laden training camps and Taliban communication sites in Afghanistan.

Monday, October 8

Sent 7 emails out - Moscow meetings, predation budget, caretaking, computer problems, sheep hunter info. I made out lodging bills for USFS trail crew and IDF&G fish biologists. Jim cut, split, stacked firewood. Caught up on 8 days in Taylor Book. Checked on water intake - 3" flow over screens & no debris in screens - great!

Tuesday, Oct. 9

Ray came in fairly early w/ 20 bags of grain and to take Holly out so she could go to Boise. No sooner had they left when another plane came in, Glen from MATEO, with Raudy Peppersack to GPS the new trail. I was in the process of letting the nutes onto the airstrip to feed when the plane landed. They stayed a couple hours. Sent several UI emails - about next weeks trip to Moscow. Terry, sheep hunter from Nampa, had dinner with me. Jim & Terry put posts in for stream deflection wall at intake.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Awoke early and went hunting up Pioneer cr. A beautiful day, not much other action. Resumed working on intake until Holly flew back in ^(mail plane) midday... with a lot of stuff - ^{firewood} boards and supplies. Put things away. Bo ran Daisy through the rail fence - had to repair fence/doctor Daisy's rump where he bit her.

Thurs., Oct. 11

Holly finished sorting/putting away things from her trip out. Then she did some cleaning/organizing in the lab. I worked on the wing wall a bit at the intake. Then when the weather turned bad (rain), I worked on emails, planning for next week's trip to Moscow - Ed's trip in tomorrow. Terry stopped by after hunting nearby. Starting pulling hoses for the season.

Friday, Oct. 12

Too stormy for a Moscow flight today. Holly worked on emails - ^{phone bill,} receipts for Lynne. Terry stopped by and he worked with me on the wing-wall @ the intake... put up boards, cut out brush & roots. Zettel crew went up @ Cliff, at least 1 winter, 1 guide. Ray stopped by to get Terry after loading his stuff at Soldier Bar. Weather quite bad, but apparently he got Terry to Big CR. OK. Confirmed with Greg Bjornstrom to ranch - sit next week, and do more NRCS work.

Sat., Oct. 13

Weather better today, so Doug C. flew down from Moscow with Ed K., ^{Krumpholtz} Tom E., ^{Gorman} and student Luke Vanway. We visited about the new building and measured the site... NE of the lab. We also checked out the 3 NRCS projects and walked the new trail. A beautiful "Indian Summer" day. Saw the Bates (sweep hawks) going up Cliff CR trail.

Sunday, Oct. 14

Awoke to heavy rain... so we did not go elk hunting as planned. I pulled and drained hoses and did a few fix-it jobs in the shop. I cooked & cleaned & read WLF Soc Bull.

Monday Oct 15

Not enough time to go hunting today and take care of meat with our busy schedule tomorrow and rest of the week, so we ended up working instead of taking a day off. I winterized faucet valves at lab since we will wait til after the FS trail crew uses the lab before we drain the lines. Checked & replaced smoke alarm batteries in all cabins; installed a new smoke alarm / CO detector in our cabin. Jim drained & rolled up hoses from airstrip & pasture (15-20 hoses!). Steve & Gloria Bates stopped by to meet us & visit. Gloria has a bighorn sheep tag. They helped us move 2 huge log rounds with a come-along and pry bars - to support the stream deflector Jim installed over the Pioneer Cr water inlet - for flood stage high water. Ray stopped to deliver 5 bags of hay cubes + canned goods & apples Terry had left us at Soldier Bar when Ray flew the Bate's out. Earlier in the day Ray flew out the body of a hunter who had died of a heart attack while out hunting from Big Creek. ^(Airstrip) Bob Gillihan et al found the hunter dead this morning - still sitting on a rock with his gun. They called out for the coroner. At least it was not a big packtrip out with the body - which Bob G. has done before.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

A very busy morning. First, Scott Patrick brought in Art & Bob for final NRCES inspection, plus Bill the state safety inspector also came in from Boise... w/ SP AIR. Then MATEO flew in the trail crew - 2 flights. Patty Steiger is in, along with Dan, Chris, Josie, Kevin, & Mike. They are staying in the lab while working the new trail to Rush CR. - then on to Rush Pt. I had to fix the fence in numerous ^(plus a new gate) places where the stock broke out. Both our inspections (NRCES & safety) went well... although we do have to account for our aspect of 25% cost share with records (people & team time). Holly prepared paperwork etc. for the Moscow trip. At dark I went in pursuit of the stock... down to Cougar CR. Determined they crossed Big CR. to an Island on the south side. Came back without them.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Awoke early, to light rain, rallied the FS crew to help move the heavy $\frac{1}{2}$ logs (old trough) into position at the intake. Holly spent the morning preparing paperwork. I hiked downstream, saw the wayward herd south of Big CR $\frac{1}{4}$ mi. below the "big bend." Arrived mid-afternoon (Greg Brunstrom) Jim briefed me on the stock and then he and Holly flew out. I hauled lumber up to the water box and worked up there until evening, tended the stock and turned in early.

Thursday, Oct. 18

I awoke this morning to a pleasant surprise, the stock were still here. So far they have not been a problem. Work on backfill at the waterbox went slow today without the use of a wheelbarrow. I did install the remaining boards to the wing wall. In the evening one of the trail crew came up to get a squash from the garden and informed me that Patty hiked to Cabin Cl. to flyout. I waited all day for her plane to land here. I wish I would have known. She departed around 1:00 p.m. I also did some quack fence mending around the pasture.

Friday, Oct. 19

Two days in a row without a stock "situation". I feel blessed. Things went better at the waterbox today. I moved a lot of rock and what bit of dirt I could scrounge up. I resurrected the N. Pasture electric fence while the stock were feeding. The trail crew saw some bighorn crossing the ridge between Rush and Pioneer creek today. It was very warm today, nice weather for digging rock.

Saturday, Oct. 20

The third time is a charm. The stock finally created a "situation" today. While I had my back turned they busted through the fence and crossed Big Creek to the lower pasture. I brought them back and assessed the fence damage. Have fun Jim. I worked on the backfill some more today.

Today we travelled from Moscow to Cascade, with stops in Cottonwood and Donnelly... where we helped M. Arnold load 1 ton^t of cubes and 1,000 #^s of grain. We had a good trip to Moscow where we led a reception for

Taylor Ranch internship supporters (Clara Bleak & Janet & Jim Pope). This event was a big success with all the past interns talking about what they got from the internships - regular and research. Besides this activity we met with several people about many things... NRES ^{Lynne's Pam} wrap up, our project budgeting (Dean Johnson) & Janet Pope, our computer ^{Jory} glitches, etc., etc.

On Friday evening we went to the "Chuck Hatch recognition gathering"... another successful event.

We flew into the ranch with grain & other supplies (forcart wheels too)... a full plane load. Greg flew out. Visited with the trail crew and spent the evening putting things away.

Sunday, Oct. 21

Tried to take the day off but ended up "tending stock" as usual... fixing fence etc. I moved them to the north pasture where they can be "electrified." Moved a couple bags of cubes over there. ^{Cow/Rocks} Holly struggled with the Direct PC folks, actually stayed up late writing them (email) a nasty letter. Al Byrd and his friend Alycia ^{-elk-} came down from Cabin cr. They had stew dinner w/us, then stayed in the cook tent. Matt & Robert, with S. Zettel, stopped by en route to Rush Pt. They dropped off a cow elk sample - jaw piece and leg bone.

Monday, Oct. 22

I went hunting this morning. It was very "blustery" at higher elevations. Arnold's could not make it in with hay cubes. Holly worked on receipts & emails, and she read some "elk papers." After returning, I put away hoses - being in E. corral shed and Al helped me take apart the airstrip waterline for draining.. after he hiked to Cliff cr. camp.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

It was very stormy last night - wind & rain. I put wheels back on forecart, worked on snow roller some.

Holly finished catching up on receipts and wrote letter to Lynne. Ray flew in with a load of grain - en route to Soldier Bar to pick up the Bates. Ray said it took him almost 3 hrs. of flying to get here! Harnessed Rocky and moved grains and old fence material with Rocky. Visited with Al and Aliecia about Jan. caretaking. Played "Balderdash" with the F.S. folks.

Wednesday, October 24

Jim sent off to IDF & G a progress report & other info to renew our predation project cougar capture permit. He printed out Lynne's letter and mailed ^{her} receipts, travel expense sheets and reimbursement receipts. Jim worked with trail crew burning brush chopped down for new trail by the bridge. I went on a long elk hunt - cold & snow covered ground above 6500' - mostly muledeer. Trail crew caught a woodrat in Lab attic.

Thursday October 25

I worked on Pioneer Cr intake - improving in-stream "V"s for better fish passage and ^{water} flow in center of stream. Lined the streambank above the deflection wall with rock to improve stream channel and limit high water erosion. System is working well. Time for facility winterizing: closed off water inlet and water box valve to Dave Lewis & Arlow cabin waterlines; drained lines & toilets; antifreezed systems; turned off gas & appliances. Jim checked condition of lower pasture - some grass seed he planted last spring has sprouted recently, despite lack of irrigation water / F.S. special use permit. F.S. trail crew flew out this am. Bighorn rams (young) on 1st Bench. "B" the mule showed up from Zettel's Goat Cr. Camp. Jim sawed & split firewood all pm. I cleaned & packaged ^{cow} elk incisor from Zettel guides (the leg bone was metacarpus not metatarsus). Ram group (1-3 yr olds) on 1st bench.

Friday, Oct 26

Jim hunted in Am; I called Jory + DirecPC again - still trying to restore the satellite connection for Internet & email - now they say maybe its a hardware problem - after 40 days and 8 phone calls and > 6 hours on the satellite phone (\$0.88/min) to DirecPC, - and still no service! We watched a young (3.5-4.5 yr old) ^{small} 3/4 curl ram at the new fenceline / trail by the Big Creek bridge. It ducked under the electric fence behind the barn then went to Big Creek. Jim & I discussed predation project plans & coordination.

Saturday, Oct. 27

Holly and I again went "elk-searching" this morning... No luck. Continued draining water lines... this time to the lab, actually only shut it off, but did drain the line to the cook tent and corral. Ray flew in with 6 bags of cubes, then took out a plane load of fire debris, which Steve & Gloria & Gate helped load. Gloria is on Big Creek sheep hunting.

Sunday, Oct. 28

A rainy day. We spent most of the day at home relaxing. Robert, one of Steve Zettel's ~~a~~ wranglers came over ^{from Goat Creek} to collect "B" mule who returned today after I shod him away yesterday. Gloria & Steve stopped to visit in the pm - they saw 43 bighorns & a bear in lower Rush Cr. We packed up camp gear for an overnight hunt from the stove camp.

Monday Oct 29

Jim & I saddled the stock pre dawn and rode up Pioneer Creek. Set up camp and went hunting in pm. Bear tracks, deer tracks, ram tracks & head butts, a few recent elk tracks, but didn't see any elk. Some nice post-fire grass growth and some light burned winter range.

Tuesday Oct 30

Drizzled last night. We packed up camp & headed home in am. Visited with Steve & Gloria when they stopped to check on their flight from Soldier Bar - cancelled til tomorrow due to Cascade weather. Drained Lab waterlines and antifreezed toilets; shut off propane appliances. DirecPC "Executive Customer Care" called in response to my complaint email letter last week - they are finally serious about getting our system working again ... 44 days later, and maybe crediting our account for the > \$240 in satellite phone calls to DirecPC to resolve this problem.

Wednesday, Oct 31

Holly took 2 mules and went up cliff cr. after elk. I stayed here, giving AA occasional weather reports for the mail plane... the weather was pretty "squally". Sent business emails to HQ @ HWI, and the FS (ekw) about our winter project permit and trail crew billing. Took 3 head back across the creek. Ray made it in about 4 pm, bringing in 8 bags of cubes besides the mail. I moved cubes to bldgs. before the rain set in. Holly returned at dark, she saw elk but no shots fired.

Nov. 1, Thurs.

We worked on project budget revisions in the morning. I rebuilt the Pioneer cr. "water ^{winter} impoundment" after lunch.

Holly spent many more hours working on computer-internet glitches. She stayed up late reading literature pertinent to our predation study. I also worked some on the intake wall diversion and planning trees to move to the "log jams" at the end of the airstrip.

Nov. 2, Friday

Holly continued working on the Direct PC problem. She's getting attention at a "higher level" but still no resolution. I dug potatoes & carrots, then sawed down 4 trees for the airstrip "jams." Holly ended her frustrating day by making contacts to send the computer out - to Bob in Salomon who originally set up our Direct PC. I prepared some gear to pack to my camp.

Saturday, Nov. 3

I headed up Pioneer cr with Rocky and Cricket at day break. Ended up having some mishaps while riding Cricket... she went down sending me (my bow) rolling down the hillside. Her "event" was a combination of bad footing, a couple deer running by, and generally being "boogery" today. Holly's day was more "controlled." She sent out the computer with Mid. FR. Aviation. Then a couple of Steve's guides stopped in to visit... Matt & Jay. She also cleaned up the garden and rototilled. After the am fog, today was sunny and nice.

Sunday, Nov. 4

We took the day off. Rode Penny and Daisy up toward Rush Pt., actually, we used them to pack 4 bags of cubes to the N. pasture first. We saw several ~~deer~~ ^{deer} 2 or 3 mature bucks and 0 or so does. No chukars, much to Mica's dismay. We did take several "group" photos looking toward the Crags... for a potential Christmas card.

Monday, Nov. 5

Hunted for deer this morning. Holly worked on literature review for our project, then we outlined some write up ideas for HWT. Spent a couple hours moving / placing rock at the intake. Ray also made 2 flights in today with helicopter fuel. I helped him unload. Holly prepared FS lodging bill and we sent it, with some other mail, out with Ray.

Tuesday, Nov. 6

Saw 54 elk come off the benches this morning, 43 cows and 11 calves. Holly shot a 4 pt. buck this morning w/ her .308. (w/ 2 mules)
Spent most of the day packing it down to the Ranch... hanging it etc. Big day for emails: 10 in, 6 or 7 out, mostly TR business.

Wednesday, Nov. 7

Frost on the pumpkin again last night. I hiked & hunted towards Rush Pt. Took some "burn photos" from the Rock wall toward Horse Mtn. Also photographed the new beaver dam on Lower Rush cr. Holly did a lot of correspondence related to the internet problems and she worked on her buck... cuping, meat processing.

Thurs, Nov. 8

Spent the morning on project planning, business emails, and "odd jobs." Shot a woodrat under the duplex, as it was climbing the "down-under" ladder. Brought the stock over... actually from the sagebrush flat where they had escaped to - from the N. pasture. Ray flew in late afternoon to drop off Hanky and Ray Guse. We were going to move logs on the "jams" but basically ran out of daylight.

Friday, Nov. 9

Hanky, Ray, and I took a couple pack mules up to the stove camp. We'll deer hunt (w/bows) for a couple days. Holly read reference materials and sent many business emails. She contacted research interns about their write-ups and Dennis Murray about AUC permit. DirecPC has now concluded (after 9.5 hours via satellite phone, 16 calls, 13 technical assistants, 2 months without service, new software, new hardware...) that we need a new (faster) computer! Jory got the OK from Dick Bottger & ordered us a new computer today! Good news! I read up on the Raedeke report on 6-point only bull elk hunting regs. evaluation - a proposal outfitters & guides are recommending to IDF & G for backcountry units - to maintain hunting season, but improve bull ratio & older bulls. The ideas looks like it might work, but with poor calf recruitment for 6+ years there ~~or~~ will be few 6-points in the next 4 years. Something different will have to happen next hunting season - the commission will be enlightened by the helicopter elk sightability census next February.

Saturday Nov 10

I rode to Cabin Creek to check on our ^{cow} elk sample container and visit with hunters. Mica wore her Search Dog vest - safety orange. Not a single cow elk jaw or metatarsus sample in the container. 7 hunters from Washington had shot a cow & calf elk so I did take the I1 incisor from the cow head. Visited with the Washington & California hunters (2 of 4 camps at the airstrip) and told them about our research finding and what's going on with Big Creek elk, deer, bighorns, moose, cougars, wolves... Nice visit. I inventoried the Cabin Creek cabin for winter supplies: more pots & pans, but only 1 day of firewood. Ray flew in 4 barrels of helicopter fuel (^{elk} sightability in February). Jim shot a big 4-point buck with his recurve in the ^{later} afternoon. Baked chocolate chip cookies.

Sunday Nov 11

Jim, Ray & Hanley recovered Jim's buck, cleaned it, and packed it home on the mules (Cricket & Rocky). It's a big, smelly buck! I put together Acorn Camp gear in the Am then helped Jim with his deer - meat, caping, hanging. Made ^{oven} jerky out of my deer flank meat and cooked my deer backstrap for dinner.

Monday, Nov. 12

Threatening to rain/snow but nothing yet. Bo attacked Cricket today - he was hobbled, she was tied. He "doublekicked" her repeatedly but she moved against him to reduce the blows. We punished Bo in the corral by running him and snapping him with whips. Holly wrapped up Acorn camp gear preparations. Ray flew in twice with barrels of fuel, I helped him unload. Cope flew in with the computer worked on by Bob Colter. Sent a job recommendation - email response for Andrea Bristol. Offered Josh & Andrea winter predation technician positions.

Tuesday, Nov. 13

The mules ~~are~~ ^{were} proudly perched on the first bench this morning after breaking through the fence. This event brought about more than 1/2 a day of fence repair, we basically re-constructed the tail fence east of the bridge... 12-14 spans, Ray and Haukey helped. Two hunters, (^{Rodger} ^{Rick} ~~Clove~~ Moe) came up from Soldier Bar to use the radio. They shot 2 bucks, one (Rodger's) was a very large non-typical. Also took down the ebook tent today, dried in lab.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Pretty stormy west of us so the mail plane did not fly today. Harnessed the mules and moved 10-12 logs & poles at the log jams @ the west end of the airstrip. Ray and Haukey worked with me... reducing back strain, but still sore! Holly spent most of the day getting the computer set up again. Had a tough restart of the duplex water heater. Emailed Ivar Nelson w/support for a paper back of Pat Peck's book... and our fire story (preface)

Thurs., Nov. 15

This morning I rewrote our project abstract for a Wildlife Society Meeting in OR. where we will present our findings. Ray flew in late afternoon with the mail, then he came back in again with 2 barrels of fuel. Found out that the Gov. Endangered Species office will not help fund our project... funding IDFEG stuff instead. Holly continued literature review, photocopied many papers with value to our predation study.

Fri., Nov. 16

Holly spent most of the day going over literature and copying papers for reference. I took all our stock up to the stone camp and brought back the camp... w/ Hanky & Ray. The "sick doe" is still just above the first crossing. It appears that she cannot hear. Holly finalized camp gear for Ray to fly, but he never stopped in as he said he might.

Sat., Nov. 17

Finally had some rain this morning - into the afternoon. Sent email to Andrea, acknowledging her accepting one of our technician positions. Ray still couldn't fly in to move supplies to Acorn. Did several inside chores since the weather was crummy. Holly did a lot of baking today and made a fancy Lasagna dinner. Hanky and Ray still have had no luck with deer, been seeing a lot sheep though. Secured stock in the corral... Bo hobbled, Daisy & Penny inside too.

Sunday, Nov. 18

Awoke to another stock break out... picked the triple-latch on the gate!! I'm sure Bo's to blame. The mules toppled the rail fence toward the "new trails." We ^{Hanky, Ray, me} caught up the stock, fixed the rail segment, and strung up electric tape along the entire east side of the pasture, and along a strip between the duplex and lab. Ray came in late morning and brought in 2 barrels of fuel, also Hanky and I transferred fuel from a leaky barrel into a good one - using Ray's hand pump. Ray, Hanky, and Holly flew out, via stop at Soldier's Bar. Holly and I cut up a deer front quarter and processed most of the meat into jerkey strips.

Monday, Nov. 19

Started up the smoker and made a couple batches of jerky. Holly xeroxed more literature for project. Prepared cabins for visitors. Contacted Thanksgiving visitors about coming in Tuesday to beat the storm.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

Rallied the Moscow crew (Jeremy K, Shawna C., Erik S.) to drive down this morning. Ray flew them in mid-~~morning~~ ^{afternoon} then he made 2 flights into the Acorn airstrip. The weather turned evannny by late afternoon so friends Dale

and Cheryl Borum could not fly in. Steve Zettel's crew trailed out stock... almost anyway. A couple hours after they went by a horse & a mule returned... wearing saddles. We unsaddled them and kept them "contained." Talked to Mid. Fk. Aviation via air to ground. Also visited with Steve Z. about the situation... via radio and phone. The Root Ranch trailed by @ 3:30 pm

Weds., Nov. 21

Lined out the crew on firewood splitting and bagging. They bagged up 18 loads worth. Holly saddled Steve's stock (the 2) and Travis' crew took them toward "the B." Ray came in late morning w/ Date, Cheryl, the mail and most of a plane full of supplies (Borum provided).

Thurs., Nov. 22

Awoke early, saddled stock, packed 6 bags of firewood and a load of camp supplies... then headed to Cabin CR. We (Date, Jeremy, Erik, Shawna & I) moved 23 bags of cubes from the airstrip into the cabin. Date started the turkey in the smoker... then Cheryl and Holly finished it off and cooked a tremendous dinner! We arrived back @ 5 pm and feasted!

Friday, Nov. 23

Packed up for the trip to Acorn to set up the camp. Holly, Cheryl, Dale and I rode/walked up with 1 packer, 4 saddled. Got to Acorn @ 4:30. Had camp set up and dinner on by 7:30 pm. Jeremy, Erik, Shawna are holding down the fort @ T.R. Threatened to storm all day, never really materialized.

Sat., Nov. 24

Finalized camp set-up. Hit the trail @ 11: am, cold-blustery, below freezing. Had lunch and a campfire @ Garden Creek. Jeremy and Erik hiked to the top of Cliff Creek... counting sheep. Shawna had a turkey soup and banana bread fixed when we returned.

Sunday, Nov. 25th

Kind of recuperated today. Weather was too crummy in Cascade for Ray to make it in and take out Jer, Erik, Shawna. Those 3 did some studding. Rest of us did cooking and watched football. Went over Erik's resume with him. Completed paper work for our camp permits (signing) and sent back to Ranger Quinn Carver along with a letter.

Monday, Nov. 26

Ray flew in this morning and took out Jeremy, Erik, and Shanna... they scurried back to Moscow. I sent an "excuse" via email to Shanna's English Prof. (Renée), she had emailed Shanna a nasty-gram about missing class w/out a good excuse! Dale and I cut up the remaining half of my deer, put it (pkgs.) in the lab freezer. Holly sent a list of supplies to Josh and Jeremy for the winter project... things to bring & expect. Dale cooked up about 4 pounds of prawns this evening, so we pigged-out and watched Monday Night Football.

Tuesday, Nov. 27

Spent the morning on email correspondence. Saddled the stock after lunch and rode up Rush Ridge to the rock wall. Counted 38 deer: 8 bucks, 18 does, 12 fawns. Pretty afternoon (sunny) but the air temp. never got above 32°. Had some water system "gitches" this evening, slush ice forming in Pioneer Creek. After 2 intake cleanings we got water going down the pipes again.

Wednesday, Nov. 28

Down to 17° last night so slush ice is forming. Used a mop handle device to scrape ice off of the new screen system... worked well. Also had to clean inner-box screen of slush. Arnold's having a lot of snow in Cascade... no mail today. Gathered materials for project meeting with Howard Peigley. Active day for email correspondence. Elk on benches and in lower pasture (8-9).

Thursday, Nov. 29

Another day that was spent in anticipation of a mail plane, no go... still snowing in Cascade. Dale & I cabled some logs down at the "jams" - w. airstrip. Holly and Cheryl put new insulation in the valve boxes and re-winterized the lab and west duplex. We never had any snow to speak of, Deadwood up to 30", Cascade over 12"... TR typical rain shadow effect... nothing!

Friday, Nov 30th (Blue Moon)

Flew in w/ Roy this morning - a lot of tree-top flying till we reached the "Blue sky" of the backcountry. Jim, Holly, Dale, Shayl, & Mica flew out. I hiked around the place - checked out the new water intake. Bald eagle perched on Hay barn. Mules acting pretty rowdy.

Saturday Dec 1st

Started snowing around 1pm. Worked on a chair in the AM. Wrote some letters in the afternoon and watched the snow fall.

Sunday Dec 2nd

Bo was acting up this morning - couldn't get a halter on him. Finished the chair this morning. Went for a hike up on the benches after lunch. Worked on the feed shed window till dusk. Snowing quite a bit this evening. Found my hole saw erbor in the shop.... I thought I had lost it.

Monday Dec 3rd

Couple inches of snow on the ground this morning - nice weather most of the day. Sounds like Cascade received a lot of snow. So did his bucking bronc routine again this morning - led him in the corral and hobbled him after breakfast. Finished installing the window in the feed shed.

Tues Dec 4th

No water at the Taylor Cabin this AM. A truck started around 11 AM - $\frac{1}{3}$ normal pressure by the afternoon. Elk on the second bench in the AM. Hydro is working well - quite a bit of air in the line this morning. No plane today. Working on some custom for the tent frames - finished an end table this afternoon. 4 feet of snow at Deadwood.

Wed Dec 5th 30+ Elk on the benches most of the day. Coyote on the airstrip in the AM. No plane - more snow in Cascade. About 3 inches on the ground here. Worked on lining the table saw this afternoon.

Thurs Dec 6th Elk on the 3rd bench. 7 sheep on the second bench. Weather about the same. Approx 24 sheep on slope above 2nd bench. Built another end table. Blue sky for a couple of hours this afternoon. Talked to Jim this evening - said he's been shoveling around my vehicle there in Cascade. That was good to hear. I ^{had} have this image of a 4' wall of snow and a lot of shoveling once I get out of here. Thanks Jim!

Friday, Dec. 7

Finally, the weather broke and we were able to be flown back to TR... 4 days late! Troy was happy to get going home - Madison, Wisc. via Moscow & Pullman. We did have a productive meeting with Howard Quigley, way back on Saturday. Also met with Curt Mack (Nez Perce Tribe) and Jeff Rohlman (IDFG) a week ago. Stayed with Holubetz's in Cottonwood, Schlegel's in McCall, and Mizis in Cascade. We spent the rest of the afternoon putting away a plane load of supplies.

Sat., Dec. 8

^{einrickson}
Terry H., Dick Nachbar

Found out this morning that 2 FNAWS guys would be flying in soon so we could do the sheep census. Ray brought them in late morning. Holly and Ray did a telemetry flight. Also this morning we had to e-kar slash from the intake screens (13" this morning). We cranked out the write up outline for HWI - Howard Q. and Holly made the sheep census form. Discovered soft deer meat in the lab freezer... turned it way down. Terry & Dick searched the Cougar - Goat area for sheep. Holly made a "Borum chicken" dinner.

7 sheep (2 ewes, 2 lambs, 1 II, 2 III)
3 deer (1 doe, 2 fawns)
bobcat tracks; cougar tracks w/ 2 kittens

Sunday December 9

Jim took shoes off the mules.

Terry & Dick surveyed Rush Creek for bighorns.

Jim & I wrote a Christmas letter and some Christmas cards, ^{Business} emails

We ate Cajun Turkey Terry brought.

18 sheep (12 ewes, 4 lambs, 1 I, 1 III)

2 elk (2 ragnorns)

38 deer (18 does, 12 fawns, 3 2-pt, 3 3-pt, 2 4-pt)

Monday December 10

All 4 of us hiked up Cliff Creek to survey for bighorns. We saw 75 sheep (38 ewes, 24 lambs, 4 I, 5 II, 3 III, IV), 19 mule deer (13 does, 1 fawn, 1 1pt, 2 2-pt, 2 4pt) and 43 elk (32 cows, 11 calves). Saw 2 ♀ cougar tracks at Cliff mouth & Timbered bench; saw bobcat tracks at Cougar Flat.

Tuesday December 11

Jim, Terry, & Dick rode mules to Waterfall Creek to survey for sheep: 20 sheep (9 ewes 5 lambs, 1 I, 3 II, 2 III) at Waterfall, ♀ otter with 3 young at Soldier Bar crossing. I caught up on emails, reading student research papers, set up heat tape on hydro jets & set mouse traps at Arlow's. Holly made a nice ham & yam dinner. Water system doing better, we appear to be beyond the slush-ice period.

Wednesday, December 12

Visited with Terry & Dick this morning about many bighorn issues. Holly prepared the lodging bill for them (paid by FNAWS). Ray came in around noon, after doing all the other mail, and took out Terry & Dick. Spent the afternoon on UI emails, going through mail, and doing some Christmas cards.

Thurs., Dec. 13

Awoke to snowfall this morning. Watched the bin Laden tape on TV. Holly did the monthly phone bill, and sent emails to Wynne and Pam B. I harnessed Rocky and moved a big $\frac{1}{2}$ round onto the airstrip to make a snow-drag. Went to lower pasture and salvaged a 12" section of tin (from old snake/amphibian trap). Put the tin on the $\frac{1}{2}$ round bottom's front w/ roofing nails. Arranged a cable connection to the forecart, not satisfied, will re-do connection tomorrow. It snowed all day, many sheep on the 1st bench - 30+. Terry H. called this evening to report locating a good, slightly used, John Deere snow blower. Both of us did several Christmas cards.

Friday, Dec. 14

Took care of the usual emails... and outside chores. Did about 25 Christmas cards apiece. Harnessed Rocky & Daisy and connected the new drag/plow to the forecart... drag it up and down the airstrip several times. Kind of a hard pull - moving 7" of snow with the 12' wide drag. Alko today contacted Dick Bottger about purchasing the snow blower mentioned yesterday... got the OK and made the purchase through Campbell Tractor in Nampa.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Had some slush on the intake screen this morning, down to 12° last night, water pressure still good. Put together items and loads to go to Acorn Creek tomorrow. Continued X-mas cards. Holly put together clothes for her Africa trip next month.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Got going at daybreak to head up to Acorn Creek w/stock. Discovered that a very large bobcat got into Holly's deer meat... ate about 2th off of a hind quarter. We elevated the halves another 2-3' and moved further out on the limb. Also put a plastic bag on the lower half (slick to grab). Didn't get out of her until 11 am, made it to camp @ 5 pm. Found a thick coat of snow on the N. side of the tent, which we removed. There's about 14" of snow at the camp... also found 23 elk by the tent.

Monday, Dec 17

Got up early (3" new snow) and prepared camp for 2 more weeks of snow accumulation. Put up additional plastic tarp-fly to shed snow better. Left camp @ 10 am, back to TR before 3 pm. Be exhausted (no load), makes fine. Snowed/blow most of the way down. Had to fix main pasture "fake electric". Saw where the resident bobcat jumped (from a tree) onto the old cabin roof... at least he didn't dine on venison last night!

Tues., Dec. 18

Pretty cold this morning 10°, had to restart the water-inner-box screen had some light slush & debris on it. Holly set up the water line bypass for when our "short line" freezes. The bypass involves heat tape wrapped on a garden hose and insulated, its ready to go if need be. I used Cricket & Rocky to roll the strip, really didn't gain much - snow temp. too cold. Visited with Terry Heinrichson in Cascade, he drove the snowblower up from Nampa today -- nice favor! Continued our assault on X-mas cards, began packing bags. Contacted Ken via phone this evening to discuss flight time etc.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19

I FLEW IN TO THE RANCH ABOUT MIDDAY TODAY. I AM KEN HOBSON - A SENIOR RPT STUDENT, AT THE UI, WHO HAS BEEN OUT HERE THE PAST 2 SUMMERS, FIRST AS AN INTERN AND SECOND TO ASSIST WITH THE STREAMBANK RESTORATION PROJECT. I AM HERE FOR THE NEXT 10 DAYS OR SO TO CARETAKE THE RANCH WHILE JIM & HOLLY ARE IN OREGON SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SO, I FLEW IN WITH RAY AT ABOUT 12 NOON, AND JIM & HOLLY FLEW OUT. THE FLIGHT IN WAS GREAT, THE WINTER LANDSCAPE WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL - LOTS OF FRESH SNOW FROM THE PAST FEW DAYS.

I WAS EXHAUSTED AND FELT I WAS APPROACHING SLEEP DEPRIVATION, HAVING SLEPT LITTLE MORE THAN 2 OR 3 HOURS A NIGHT FOR THE LAST WEEK & 1/2. I HAVE JUST BEEN TOO BUSY WITH SCHOOL (FINAL PROJECTS & PRESENTATIONS, FINALS), WORK, AND LIFE IN GENERAL. I KNOW THAT THIS TIME OUT HERE AT THE RANCH IS GOING TO OFFER ME A MUCH NEEDED OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME TRUE R & R ...

... AND SO, AFTER ARRIVING I WENT TO SLEEP ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. I AWOKE AFTER ABOUT 5 OR 6 HOURS AND IT WAS QUITE DARK. I'M SURE THE MULES WEREN'T TOO HAPPY TO BE FED SO MUCH LATER THAN USUAL, BUT I'M GLAD I MANAGED TO WAKE MYSELF ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THEM. NEEDLESS TO SAY, AFTER FEEDING THE MULES AND CHECKING ON THE WATER SYSTEM, I WAS SOON BACK TO SLEEP FOR THE NIGHT.

THURSDAY, DEC. 20

I AWOKE EARLY THIS MORNING - I GUESS MY BODY IS NOT QUITE ACCLUSTOMED TO SLEEPING LONG HOURS ANYMORE, NO MATTER HOW EXHAUSTED I SEEM. I TENDED TO A FEW RANCH CHORES, AND THEN EXAMINED THE STREAMBANK RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE END OF THE AIRSTRIP. JIM & HOLLY HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB CONTINUING TO ADD LOGS TO THE JAMS FROM TIME TO TIME (SINCE THIS FALL WHEN I WAS IN WITH THE WORK CREW TO FINISH ANCHERING THE MAIN LOGS). IT LOOKS GREAT AND DEFINATELY SEEMS TO BE ALTERING BIG CREEK'S BEHAVIOR. I'M SURE THAT THIS STABILIZATION / RESTORATION WILL CONTINUALLY LOOK MORE NATURAL AND BE MORE EFFECTIVE OVER TIME. I WAS EXCITED TO SEE ~ 34 SHEEP SCATTERED ACROSS THE SLOPES ON EITHER SIDE OF CLIFF CREEK THIS AFTERNOON. AFTER WALKING AROUND THE RANCH FOR AWHILE, I WAS SOON BACK IN THE CABIN BY A WARM FIRE WHERE OFF & ON I SLEPT AWAY MOST OF THE DAY.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21

TODAY I AWOKE FEELING QUITE REFRESHED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN QUITE AWHILE - AND GREAT DREAMS I WAS ABLE TO HAVE. I USED SOME OF MY NEW-FOUND ENERGY KEEPING MYSELF BUSY WITH RANCH CHORES FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE DAY. I TOOK DOWN THE ELECTRIC FENCE IN THE NORTH PASTURE - HOPEFULLY THIS WILL ALLOW A BIT MORE GOOD RIPARIAN RANGE & WATER ACCESS FOR THE LOCAL WILDLIFE, AND THE MOLES WILL LIKELY NOT BE OVER THERE AGAIN UNTIL SPRING ANYWAY. I SHOVELED SNOW AROUND THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE DUPLEX & HYDRO BUILDINGS TO HELP INSULATE AGAINST THREAT OF FREEZE. SHOVELED PATHS BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS, AND WISHED I HAD DOON IT SOONER, BEFORE THE SNOW HAD BECOME SO HARD & CRUSTY. I TRIED OUT THE NEW SNOW BLOWER, BUT FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO OPERATE WITHOUT CHAINS ON THE WHEELS. CAROL SAID THE CHAINS WILL ARRIVE ON THE MAIL PLANE MONDAY (MAIL ON MON. FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS TO ALLOW ARNOLDS TIME OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS).

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

WENT HIKING & WANDERING AROUND THE RANCH. I DIDNT GO VERY FAR, BUT I STAYED OUT FOR MOST OF THE DAY. I WENT AS FAR AS A FEW MILES DOWN THE CREEK, AND I WAS SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS. THE SHEEP WERE STILL OUT & ABOUT ON THE BENCHES & SLOPES AROUND CLIFF CREEK. I CAME UPON ONE SMALL "FAMILY" OF THESE SHEEP (9) ON THE WAY BACK FROM MY HIKE DOWNSTREAM AND MANAGED TO GET A FEW GOOD (POSSIBLY) PICTURES. THE ONLY OTHER SIGHTINGS I EXPERIENCED WERE SIMPLY THE TRACKS OF DEER AND ELK AND ONE VERY LARGE (PROBABLY BIGGEST I'VE SEEN) RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. THE HIKE/WANDERING LASTED MOST OF THE DAY, AND IT WAS QUITE EVENING RELAXING BY THE WOODSTOVE.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

I SPENT THE MORNING DOING SOME MORE SNOW CLEARING & GROOMING OF PATHS AND AROUND BUILDINGS. PIONEER IS REALLY BEGINNING TO FREEZE OVER, SO I SPENT ANHILE CHIPPING AWAY ICE AT THE INTAKE & FOR THE MULES TO ACCESS. IT WAS A BITTER COLD DAY - I SUPPOSE I'M STILL NOT QUITE USED TO WORKING OUT IN THESE COLD TEMPERATURES. THE HYDRO IS REQUIRING HEATING MORE OFTEN NOW TO KEEP IN ABOVE 30° - ABOUT 2x A DAY FOR ~ 20-30 MIN. MOST OF THE DAY TODAY I SPENT INSIDE STAYING WARM BY THE FIRE, DOING A BIT OF ARTWORK, AND WATCHING SOME OLD MOVIES ON THE TV.

MONDAY, DEC. 24

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE TODAY, AND THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT FINALLY HIT ME. I JUICED UP THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THAT HOLLY HUNG FOR ME, WROTE SOME CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS (WHICH I HAD PLANNED TO DO WEEKS AGO), AND BAKED MYSELF A BIG HOLIDAY DINNER. I ALSO BAKED SOME COOKIES IN MORNING SO THAT I WOULD HAVE A LITTLE GIFT OF SNACKS FOR RAY - WHO ARRIVED AT ~ 4 PM, AND ALSO HAD A BAG OF TREATS FOR ME. IT WAS A LONE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, BUT IT WAS FAR FROM LONELY. I ENJOYED THE DAY AND EVENING, AND EVEN HAD SOME GIFTS TO OPEN AROUND MIDNIGHT - A GREAT EVE.

~~SUNDAY~~
TUESDAY, DEC. 25

CHRISTMAS DAY. IT WASN'T A WHITE CHRISTMAS, BUT IT DID REACH A BIT INTO NEGATIVE TEMPERATURES, LEAVING IT TO BE ANOTHER BITTER COLD DAY AT THE RANCH. I WOKE EARLY TO FEED THE MULES, BUT THEN RETURNED TO SLEEP TILL ABOUT MIDDAY. I SENT OUT A FEW CHRISTMAS EMAILS TO FRIENDS & FAMILY, AND THEN WENT ON A LITTLE HIKE AROUND RUSH & "SAGE FLAT" WHERE I WATCHED THE SUN GO DOWN ON WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A BEAUTIFUL & CLEAR DAY.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26

ITS STILL QUITE COLD HERE. I THINK THE HIGH FOR THE DAY WILL BE ABOUT 10°. DESPITE THE COLD I JUST COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF INSIDE FOR ANOTHER DAY. I WENT OUT HIKING AGAIN. I WENT BACK UP TO "SAGE FLAT" TO LOOK FOR MORE SIGNS OF THE BOBCAT I NOTICED YESTERDAY (CONSEQUENTLY, I HAD ALSO SEEN ITS TRACKS ON THE STRIP THE DAY AFTER I ARRIVED). ANYWAY, I MANAGED TO LOCATE THE BOBCAT AFTER FOLLOWING ITS TRACKS TO A BURNED OUT STUMP HOLE ON THE NORTH SIDE JUST BELOW THE FLAT. I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK, BUT I COULD DEFINITELY SEE THE OUTLINE OF ITS HEAD, AND ITS EYES SHIMMERING BACK AT ME. I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB IT, SO I WENT ON MY WAY, AND LOCATED / COLLECTED SOME NICE BURNED MT. MAHAGONY WOOD WHICH I SPENT THE EVENING CARVING ON.

THURSDAY, DEC. 27

I AWOKE THIS MORNING TO DISCOVER THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY WATER COMING INTO THE TAYLOR CABIN. THE HYDRO WAS ALSO BELOW NORMAL AND A BIT COLD, SO I SHUT IT DOWN AND WARMED IT UP WITH AND GAVE LITTLE CHARGE WITH THE GENERATOR. MEANWHILE, I WORK ON CLEAR ICE AT THE INTAKE. THE OVERFLOW FOR THE BOX WAS FROZEN OVER WHICH REQUIRE A GOOD BIT OF CHIPPING AS TO CLEAR THE FLOW AND KEEP THE LEVEL IN BOX LOWER. AFTER SOME WORK ON THE BOX & INTAKE, THE SYSTEM (AT LEAST HYDRO FLOW) WAS BACK TO NORMAL. THE LINE TO THE TAYLOR CABIN WAS DEFINATELY FROZEN SOMEWHERE, SO I SWITCHED OVER TO THE ABOVE-GROUND SYSTEM THAT HOLLY HAD ALREADY PREVIOUSLY PREPARED. IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING BEFORE I THOUGHT TO CHECK OUT THE DUPLEX, AND WHEN I DID I FOUND THE LINES THERE FROZEN AS WELL.

Sunday, Dec. 30

Did some shopping in McCall, got a new battery in McCall for the Toyota, then drove down to Cascade. Flew in early afternoon. Holly radio-tracked erroroute back in. She picked ~~picked~~ up a moat. signal on orphan cougar #1 in lower Profile Creek (2 mi. up), then located #C5 in Cave Creek. Visited some with Ken, then Ray flew him out. Spent the rest of the afternoon/evening putting things away.

Monday, Dec. 31

Josh and I tested the snowblower more on the upper airstrip, adjusted the skis lower. Repaired generator stand and ran hydro heater 45 mins.

Holly continued assault on post-holiday trip reorganizing. Josh hiked to cougar creek looking for tracks and I hit lower Rush Creek, not much going on at either place. Ten elk on the benches (1st bench), 6 cows/4 calves. Visited w/ Andrea via phone.

Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 2002

Another year has come & gone. Chores as usual. Holly did many loads of laundry and assorted paperwork ... and emails. I took Mica for a hike on the benches. Saw 35+ sheep above the 3rd bench, heard 2 lambs coughing. Josh hiked up Rush Cr. trail (Rockwall) then dropped down into creek... which is iced over making trip back easy.

Weds., Jan 2.

Josh and I spent the morning on Strip - with the mules, until Ray flew in with Jay Mize and his dogs. Holly did several mail tasks - business & personal. Ray made it back in early afternoon with Chris and Andrea, much to our surprise as the weather was closing in (snowing). He made it back to Cascade via Pistol Creek... barely before a big snowstorm. Jay finished shoeing - 5 head w/ traction shoes. Holly made big spaghetti feed.

Thurs., Jan. 3

Andrea sick w/ bad cold and ear infection. The rest of us searched for a cougar in Cliff-Cougar-Goat Creek. It snowed a lot today (3-4") while we were out - no luck. Holly spent the day (most of it) on bus. e-mails... to faculty, D. Holick, H. ^{& others} Campbell about upcoming internships... dates & plans. She also hiked to the Gooseneck & back. Josh & I whipped-up a chicken dinner.

Fri., Jan. 4

Holly helped Andrea locate some anti-biotic (w/ med. advice) she can use for her ear problem. The crew covered Cliff, Cougar, Rush, Pioneer, & Goat searching for a fresh cougar track, still no luck. I used the snow-blower on the upper 2/3 rds of the airstrip, then used the mules and drag to do the rest and "generally smooth"

Saturday, Jan. 5

Jay (and dogs) and Chris took off early up towards Cabin Cr. Jim, Holly, and Josh took with the stock shortly after. I'm (Andrea Bristol) staying here with Mica, as I'm still feeling bad with my cold. Spent the day dozing off in between reading and also emailing my aunts. Received a call from McCall about B-80 being in the area around Rush Cr. Holly's sister called also. They hooked up the b. country radio up at Cabin Cr. and we were able to talk. Jim, Chris, + Jay arrived back here around 7 pm, w/out the dogs.

Sunday, Jan. 6

Everyone left for Cabin Cr. again, in hopes of getting the dogs back and getting a cougar. Josh and Holly have been working on tracking C-5. I just did a lot more reading, resting, and watching some T.V. (and comforting sad Mica!) Hydro is working fine and water is still flowing in the Taylor Cabin. My aunt called early afternoon, and then mom called in the evening. Chris arrived back at about 5 with Cricket and Rocky. Said there may be a good chance they'll get C-5 tomorrow, and I might go. It all depends on how I feel. Holly & Josh hiked over Vinegar Hill to Cave Creek forks toward C-5 and comped ~153 elk (130 cows, 15 calves 3 spikes, 3 ragnorns, 2 mature bulls), Wolf track on Big Cr trail @ Cave Creek Jim & Jay at Cabin Cr camp with 2 hounds.

Monday January 7

Andrea didn't feel well enough to go out in the field today. Chris rode up from Taylor Ranch and found the hound pup in the Gooseneck cliffs. Jay, Jim, Josh, & I headed to Cave Creek to tree C-5, but encountered a young female cougar track over our tracks from the day before. Jay turned out the hounds and they treed C-7, a 24 month old cougar female near Vines Ranch / the "Canopener". She is very thin and has not eaten in awhile, ~ 58 lbs. We all headed back to Taylor Ranch... got in well ~~before~~^{after} dark.

Tuesday, January 8

The crew searched for cougar tracks around Taylor Ranch. Chris found a fresh tom track up Cliff Creek into Cougar Creek, but we are looking for a female. Andrea finally got out in the field, but I was in bed with a cold this morning. No luck with finding a ♀ cougar close to here. Holly made a nice Pork Roast dinner.

Weds., Jan. 9

Spent the morning on business matters, revising J. Mize's contract, paying for shoeing etc., and preparing outgoing mail (w/ fimesheets for J. & A.). Ray flew in late morning to take out Jay's dogs and bring in 10 days worth of mail. Bill from Pistol Creek sent us some popcorn balls - pretty tasty! Went through mail and Holly continued preparation for her Africa trip.

Thurs, Jan. 10

Chris headed upstream to Cabin Cr. via the Gooseneck → Spring Cr. hills. Josh & I hiked up W. Pioneer Cr., we could reach Chris via radio and found out that he found a Kill-calf elk. Holly, Andrea, Mica went up the bottom of Pioneer. They hit fresh bobcat tracks but did not find any kills. The weather forecast does not look good for Sat. so Holly is finishing her packing to be ready to go out tomorrow. Chris radioed from Cabin Cr. that he found a 2nd calf - not much left to investigate.

Friday, Jan. 11

Holly "hurriedly" did final preparations for her trip today since the weather forecast was not very good. Worked on "mail to go" - bills (UI & personal). Chris arrived back late morning. Ray flew in early afternoon. Josh & I did a telemetry flight prior to Holly and Chris being flown out. Located the new cat - #17 @ Acorn Creek. Josh & Andrea overhauled the 2 snares (removed rust, lubed ^{cable} w/ bees wax). Gave Josh and Andrea an orientation of sorts on cat monitoring and predation - carcass searching. Had a pot luck dinner... Kind of quiet here now.

Sat., Jan 12

Packed up 3 mule loads - 2 riders and headed up to Cabin Cr. for an overnight. Warm & windy along the way

with some trees snapping in burn-zones. Unloaded - unsaddled then went for a hike up MN. Cabin cr., weak signal on C5 - enough to take a trip up drainage in the morning. Today Holly will be in Boise - attending friend Vi Webb's 80th B-day party.

Sunday, Jan. 13

We saddled up and rode up to the Fks of Cabin cr., dropped off Josh & Andrea to search for C-5 and any carcasses. Packed water from the spring box down to the cabin, then took the stock back to TR. En route down I saw a coyote attempt to catch an otter, the otter quickly dove under the ice and escaped easily. Also saw 115 elk in the west Cabin cr. flat. After unsaddling, a check on water system & weather stn., Travis Bullock and brother Trent stopped in... to stay the night. They had 4 head of stock and will be going to CC. in the am. to get set up for cougar hunts. They left "the B" @ 11 am, pulled in here about 5:45. Fed them stew dinner, 1 bag of cubes to their stock. Also visited w/Holly at Mom's Pads in Portland

Monday, Jan. 14.

Holly flying to Amsterdam today! Saw Travis & Trent off - fixed breakfast for them. Did many business emails. Hiked up Rush cr. a bit, didn't see much activity. Caught up on some chores, rewinterized Duplex toilet - E. side. Summarized some early season elk composition for J. Robinson - emailed it to him. Also emailed C. Mack on proj. bus., Roman (recommendation), Sam C. (Report status), etc.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Received 2 emails from Holly in Amsterdam en route to Uganda. She and her sisters had a good time there touring canals and the Van Gogh museum. I re-read Crystal's amphibian paper - made more comments. Did many bus. emails. Hiked down to Cougar Cr. looking for cat activity or kills. Josh & Andrea got in from Cabin Cr. just before dark. I fixed a pork chop dinner. Also today I cleaned the stove pipe.

Weds., Jan. 16

Prepared mail to go out. Ray flew in with the mail late afternoon and Josh did a telemetry flight with him, apparently getting a mortality signal of C7. Andrea's cold going downhill again. Josh made some good meat balls tonight... I made "over spiced rice."

Thurs., Jan 17

Andrea very sick this morning, making calls to get her to a doctor. Josh & I get a late start leaving with the stack for Acorn creek. Enroute up we encountered many wolves (12) above Garden creek. First we saw 8 on a ridgeline close to a group of elk (at a stake mate). We heard much howling too. After watching several minutes we headed upstream. Next we saw a lone wolf on the ice, then we rode upon a cougar carcass on the "Coxey Corner".

The lone wolf barked & howled at us while we checked out the wolf-chewed cougar carcass. On the same precarious corner we next came upon a lot of elk hair and parts of a carcass - from a calf elk. Oddly, it looked like the cougar was killed first. Once around the corner 3 more wolves joined in to "warn us". After checking out both kills we headed on upstream... went through several snowslides, got to camp @ dark, all fine there. No signal at all on C-7... Cave CR. to Acorn CR.

Friday, Jan. 18

Josh and I got saddled early. Josh hiked up in elevation, still no signal on C-7. We headed down the trail, stopped to pack up the ^{2 foot size} cougar carcass... what was left of it. Saw one of Traw's hunter's with 2 horses just above Cave CR... told him about all the wolf activity and he turned around. Dropped off Josh and some supplies at Cabin Creek, then I proceeded down to the Ranch. Got in at dark. Andrea was doing a bit better. She had summarized the 2001 predation forms for me. Emailed C. Mack about wolf locations for possible capture.

Saturday, Jan. 19

Andrea and I worked on updating the project power-point slides. The stock escaped and I rounded them up and fixed the fence. Did many emails... Mike Schlegel about housing Andrea while she goes to the Doc. Josh returned late afternoon. He found 2 kills, an elk by CS up Cow CR. and a Ram near Hobauer, probably a coyote kill.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Josh headed back to the sheep kill early... barely beating Trent to the carcass to claim the head - 5 yr. old ram. Andrea and I saddled 3 mules and headed up to meet Josh, who'd pretty well completed skinning the carcass. We did determine that coyotes had killed the sheep, but he did have pre-existing injury - a torn dew claw and poor body condition. It snowed all day so the plane could not go into Pistol Creek and here. Trent & his hunter stopped by for a few minutes.

Monday, Jan. 21

Updated data forms. It snowed 3" last night so we fired up the snowblower and began ^(airstrip) removing snow. Did the hill and a bit of the flat. We stopped for lunch and it really began to "dump". By dark we had 7 or 8" of new snow, never did use the blower anymore. Several emails sent... P. Zager w/ Recommend. for Renan, P. Preston about archeology trip etc. Made a big pressure-cooker elk stew.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

Worked on airstrip most of the day clearing yesterdays dump of snow. Josh & I ran the snowblower the length of the airstrip, then we harnessed the mules and pulled the drag to smooth it - came out good. Andrea worked on track data most of the day. Not flyable in Cascade. Kelsi staying with Carol A. while waiting to come in.

Weds., Jan. 23rd

Prepared mail in the morning. Ray flew in shortly after noon with Kelsi Luhnou & the mail. Andrea & I did a telemetry flight... still getting a mort. signal on C7 - above Acorn camp. Oriented Kelsi around the place. Oh ya, Ray took Andrea out and she went to the DR. in McCall, then stayed @ Schlegel's.

Thursday, Jan. 24th

(Kelsi writing) Met up with Jim in the morn. and he showed me the screens in the creek, as well as other important things to remember. I crossed the 2 bridges and hiked next to the small creek to the north. Didn't see much as far as wildlife. It snowed lightly the first half of the day. Jim left with the stock to meet up w/ Josh at Cabin Creek and hopefully find a kill.

Friday, Jan. 25

Today I did the chores (check/report weather, feed dog and cats, check hydro + screens, etc.), then had plenty of time for R+R. Went on a hike w/ Mica in afternoon downstream. The sage smelled wonderful and I love the ice and snow on the edges of Big Creek. Played fetch w/ Mica, then walked on airstrip alone. Josh & I set up a remote camera above a deer carcass on Cow Creek. Josh saw the bobcat on the deer while the deer was still alive... Kicking! Took Josh upstream to E.st Coxy Cr. where he took off w/ snowshoes for the Acorn Camp, I brought the stock back to TR in constant rain.

Sat, Jan. 26

Awoke to more rain - wet snow, it doesn't look good for Andrea flying back in anytime soon. Saddled 3 head and Kelsi and I rode to Cabin Cr. We waited a bit for Josh to show from upstream, then we went up to the deer carcass - camera set. We saw the bobcat... against a rock bluff where it thought it was hidden. The camera had not been taking pictures so we re-set and left. Josh still not @ Cabin Cr. by 4pm, so we rode back to T.R. Getting colder this evening.

Sun. Jan. 27

Spent the morning staying by the radio, waiting to hear if Josh made it back down, finally after noon he checked in - just had to travel through a lot of fresh snow, that fell as rain @ T.R. He never got a signal on C7 - emitting the mort. Shortly after noon Ray flew in with Andrea and ~~20~~⁽¹²⁾ bags (50#) of feed, plus some groceries. Ray, I, & Kelsi did a telemetry flight and re-located the mort. (C7) and C5... could not get a signal on wheat thin @ the "helipad" vicinity. The mort. sig. looked (sounded) like it was coming from a cave 1/3 mi. above Acorn Flat... old mine? Josh staying @ C.C. to monitor remote camera set up, he said the bobcat was still on the deer carcass.

Mon. Jan. 28

Minus 3 degrees and no running H₂O this morning, as slush ice on the inner-box screen. Also had some alternator problems - revving high, with minimal resistance, I think the brushes may be shot. Andrea worked on project data (tracks, past years), Kelsi chopped wood and cleared snow from in front of the lab woodshed. Josh pulled in early afternoon, reported that the remote camera film "shot up," but 12V battery dead? (He brought back). I took care of business details, chores, and went for a hike up Pioneer creek.

Tues. Jan. 29

Andrea and Kelsi hiked up the ^{P. Rush} Pioneer Cr. / Ridge trail, shooting signals to 05 in Lotanek Basin vicinity. Josh & I were going to change the alternator, but the "hydro. is back to normal today?", so we "left it be" given the cold temperatures. Got caught up on forms & map locations. Again, made arrangements with Pete Nelson (& Travis) to get our computer-internet in when his next group of cat hunters go out. Josh cooked up a deer roast w/ trimmings, we made the rest of dinner, then we indulged in a "beyond balderdash" game & a movie.

Wed. Jan 30

The morning began with breakfast at the Taylor Cabin prepared by Jim. After breakfast Kelsi went for a walk downstream to The Gorge while Jim, Andrea, and Josh took care of last minute e-mails and letters for mail day. After lunch the mules made a daring escape without Bo. They were lost without Bo for leadership and returned a few minutes later. Jim and Andrea prepared to travel to cabin creek with the stock. They departed after Kelsi arrived back from her walk. Josh and Kelsi cooked dinner at the Taylor Cabin and indulged in forbidden viewing on T.V... "The Simpsons." Ray never did make the mail flight do to weather. - Josh

Thurs. Jan 31

I tended to the chores this morning while Kelsi "re-packed" for her second attempt to fly out. Although not very cold outside, I ran the heater in the hydro shed for a short while. It seems to be running fine despite earlier suspicions. Kelsi and I left for a morning walk upstream to try and locate C-5 around the Goose Neck. We climbed $\sim 1/3$ of the way up Horse Mountain but did not get any signal. We got comps on elk in Mule Basin and 10 elk at Lobauer Basin but saw no other wildlife. Jim and Andrea reported in before we left; they planned to travel to the Acorn camp this morning. While waiting for Ray in the afternoon I managed to catch up on paperwork (track forms, update kill forms) while Kelsi

wrote in her journal and read. Rax arrived with the mail and groceries and left with Kelsi. My new pack arrived and turned out to be considerably larger than I anticipated. Tomorrow I will explore the goose neck area more complete for C-5 and any additional kills. -Josh

Friday, Feb. 1

Josh did the usual TR chores, then hiked to "the Goose neck" to locate C5. Jim & Andrea search for C-7, at least a signal, ~~seeing~~ ^{searching} the country north of Big CR, from Acorn camp on to beyond Mile Flat. We did locate Kill #9 above Mile Flat... an old cow which looked to be a wolf kill from 2 weeks ago. Back at camp Andrea thought to check our frequency programming, which was way off! Put in the correct frequency and hiked back upstream - got a signal right where my air location was, and the old mine shaft site... suspected to be. All very tired from today's "snow trudging."

Sat., Feb 2

^{Doubt} ~~Thought~~ the ground hog saw a shadow @ Acorn - the sun angles too low! Andrea & I went and found the old mine-cave, no cat, so we followed the signal another 200 yds, and found C7 in an overhang cave at the base of a bluff. Mica actually found it. Packed up and rode back to TR. Josh hiked up to "Game Nob" today, saw wolf tracks (1 fresh set). Holly called from Wash. DC en route home.

Sunday, Feb. 3

Another cold day, mostly cloudy. We all pretty much took the day off. Andrea made bread rolls and I made up some clam chowder - for "super bowl Sunday." Trent & his hunters went back & forth up the Rush Creek trail. Watched the super bowl while eating the day's cooking.

Monday, Feb. 4

Another cold (6°) morning. Josh headed out early going up Goat Ridge... and coming back down Cougar Creek + no kills. Andrea took Mica and hiked up Pioneer CR. toward the stove camp. En route back she found the deer carcass between the 1st and 2nd crossings... locked in ice with only a few ribs showing. I spent a lot of the day working on the Pred. study slide show and doing TR emails, monthly weather report, etc. Andrea & I made a chicken dinner & the 3 of us watched the movie "Amistad."

Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Middle FK Aviation (Cope) flew in with our computer w/ bags of cables via Travis and components. Harnessed Cricket and Rocky and skidded ^(From Pioneer) to firewood logs down to the lab. Josh sawed, split, & stacked all the wood. Andrea continued organizing track data and began entering it on a spread sheet. Worked some on the 2 slide shows, I cooked a big stew, Andrea made rolls, and Trent pulled in just before dinner. Holly in Portland now w/ Mom on her Birthday (80th).

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Fixed french toast for Trent & I this morning, then he saddled up and headed to "the B." Did some house cleaning for Holly's return, plus prepared out-going mail, and did some laundry. Josh & I worked on the cougar elow earrings for Andrea. Holly flew from Portland to Boise this morning ... then made it to Cascade in enough time to fly in with Ray. We spent the evening listening to Africa stories and catching Holly up on project activities etc.

Thurs., Feb. 7

Holly spent most of the day re-organizing and putting trip things away. I began preparing for the trip out - 2 weeks worth for me. Also took Mica on a walk around Lower Rush Creek. Josh hiked all around the Indian Face Rock - L. Cougar Creek while Andrea searched the timbered bench for kills. Holly tried to get the Direct PC running but ran into frustrations with the phone start up.

Friday, Feb 8

Holly managed to get the internet working on the new computer! She also worked on the phone bill.

Josh hiked up Rush cr. to beyond the mouth of Lewis Creek... with waders on. I went up Rush Ridge, watched 2 coyotes harass ⁽³²⁾ deer and ^(7 rams) sheep, got within 10yds of the rams... one ram limping. Andrea worked on track data sheets and hiked up Ram canyon. I also hiked up Pioneer Creek... smelled a skunk above the water box.

Sat., Feb. 9

Awoke to clear skies... I'm another year older today (45). Holly made me cinnamon rolls for breakfast (peach pie last night). Sawn some (4) fir logs up Pioneer Creek then used Rocky & Cricket to skid down the trail... where Josh sawed and split it up. Holly finished 2 months of phone bills and cooked a big turkey dinner. Andrea made me a birthday cake. Also today Andrea (w/ Mica's help) located the skunk up Pioneer Cr. Josh skinned 90% of #17 late this afternoon.

Sun., Feb 10

We spent most of the day playing the "waiting game" for Ray Arnold. Jim briefed Andrea on some of the stock feeding chores then prepared for his trip to Oregon. Holly spent most of the day catching up on paper work and other activities that accumulated in her absence. Andrea and I bagged up the firewood for the camps (21 bags!). I started a refrigerator in the old cabin and placed all of our jaw and leg bone samples in it. We had leftover turkey for lunch. Ray flew Jim out around 4 p.m. They flew tracking on the way out and found C-5 in cave Cr. I finished skinning the skull out of C-7 and preped the skin. I think I can save it for tanning and possibly mounting!

Mon. Feb 11

We rose early to prepare for Holly and Andrea's trip up-stream. Holly is still running behind from her Africa trip and was packing for this trip this morning. We loaded the stock with 6 bags of firewood and a little gear. They were off by 10:30 (not the early start they wanted). After finishing chores I hiked up Rush point to the "Rock wall". I counted ~30 deer and saw the bachelor herd of 7 rams butting heads but no kills. H&A investigate the bobcat killed deer carcass Josh found at Cabin Creek - the bobcat rode the deer 270 meters and 300' elevation drop. A record!

Tues. Feb 12

Holly and Andrea should be moving from Cabin Cr. to Acorn Cr. today. After the usual chores I hiked the benches hoping to find wolf activity. I was side tracked by heavy bird activity on the timbered bench. I searched it but found nothing. I counted 24 deer and 11 sheep. I also discovered an injured fawn deer above the 3rd bench. It wouldn't use its front right leg although I could see no apparent injury. I approached to within 5 feet without it fleeing. When it finally did move it moved slowly and painfully so I let it be. Unfortunately she will soon become part of the predation study. Jim called at night from his folks place and I forwarded him his new e-mail messages.

Wed. Feb. 13

Holly and Andrea still upstream working out of Acorn camp. I stayed near the ranch to be here when the mail plane arrived. Travis, Trent, and 2 hunters passed through at mid-morning to Hunt Rush Point. I walked around the mouth of Cliff Cr. to look for sign of the coyote that woke me up yipping at 3:15 a.m. this morning. I kept my eye on the timbered bench throughout the day looking for bird activity or coyotes. I do not expect the injured fawn discovered yesterday to last long. Deer and sheep were eating near where the fawn was, but no other signs. I constructed a mounting bracket for the computer, fixed the loose gate that Bo knocked loose, cleaned the chimney at the lab, and did some cleaning chores around the lab. I made a big pot of Turkey noodle soup with left-over turkey. Ray arrived in late afternoon with an electrical inspector from the state of Idaho. Ray showed him the Hydro and Taylor Cabin while I unloaded groceries and a grain load. Michelle (sp?) called to confirm a package arrived for Holly. HEA to Crooked Creek + Kill @ Mile Flat. Jim presented predation project results and was on a "predation panel" at Oregon The Wildlife Society Chapter meeting.

THURS. Feb. 14

Did the usual chores this morning (what few there are with no stock and good weather). I walked to Goat Cr. and came down the cougar/goat cr. divider ridge. Finally got good use out of my snow-shoes. Heard one coyote yipping on the south side of Big Cr. across from the salt lick on the lower trail. I counted over 30 elk and found some old wolf tracks at Goat Basin. Arrived back at the ranch at 9 p.m.

Andrea called on the backcountry radio saying her and Holly are staying at Cabin Cr. They spotted the wolves and wanted to stay and check things out. H & A followed fresh wolf tracks downstream to Cabin Cr where we saw 10 wolves jump out of beds in the Cabin Creek flat and travel uphill to Cave Creek. Investigated 3 old kills the wolves had scavenged.

Friday Feb 15

Andrea & I returned to Taylor in the morning. I caught up on UI correspondence and laundry. Josh went to Cougar-Goat ridge to retrieve his lost water bottle. We watched the Olympics on satellite TV and checked our email accounts on satellite internet!

Saturday Feb 16

Josh found the remains of the crippled fawn - a piece of hide & some blood in the bed it was in several days ago - killed by coyotes. Andrea caught up on data forms and labeled bone samples. I put more slides in the Internship slideshow and outlined the TR Annual Report. We skinned out the remaining legs/feet on the Tom cougar - found hemorrhaging in front & back feet consistent with wolf injuries but no wolf hair in claws.

Sunday Feb 17

Josh & Andrea hiked to Cabin Creek. I spent most of the day on the annual report. Also hauled the cougar carcass down on the airstrip and restarted the refrigerator with bones in it. Bo attacked Rocky today and created some nasty bite wounds on his back — back to solitary confinement in the corral. J & A saw the wolves on Vinegar Hill, but no kill.

Monday Feb 18

I finished packing for the Moscow trip. After a trip up Main Cabin cr. I headed back to the ranch. I heard wolves howling still @ 1 pm, and HA flew telemetry as she flew out. C-5 is in upper, west Gooseneck. Found a sheep ram head on the trail (Trav or Trent must have found), west of Lobauer. Arrived @ the ranch @ 4:30 w/ the mules eating hay in the barn! The rope had come undone. Mica seemed sad, and was looking for Mom + Dad when I got up to the Taylor Cabin. After some chores, I watched a little bit of the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Watched a French couple win gold in ice dancing, a U.S. woman who recently had mono win gold in speed skating, and an Australian woman get a gold in aerials (only 2nd medal for Australia in any winter olympics!) Josh thinks the wolf pack is up on Mile Hi, and he'll head back from Cabin cr. tomorrow.

Tuesday Feb 19

Awoke early to find the mules in the hay barn again! Only ~~this~~ time they actually broke through the gate. Worked on fixing it, until the battery soon went dead in the drill. It needs to just be rebuilt when I have another pair of hands to help. Temporarily put up electric tape to keep out the naughty mules. Refilled water containers in the lab, did laundry, and did paperwork for my Colorado job, and other paperwork, other chores around the ranch. Rested in the afternoon because I wasn't feeling well. Saw Trav + Trent (and hunter) up Cliffs, heard hounds for a while. Called my little sister for her birthday. Talked to Josh around 6 pm - didn't make it back to the ranch - sidetracked w/ 2 kills, and more howling from wolves on Cabin Cr. airstrip!

Wednesday Feb 20

It had rained in the night, a trace, and then everything was frozen this morning. The benches, and upper Horse Mt. had a dusting of snow. After starting a fire in the stove of the Taylor Cabin, I went down to feed the mules and get Daisy and Penny out of the hay barn, again! Tied up Rocky to hopefully keep the mules out of the hay. Came back up to the Taylor Cabin and couldn't get in! Front door was locked, back door was stuck (frozen?). Tried to get in a window, but I thought I was going to break glass, so instead I stupidly broke the door ramming it with my hip. How stupid of me! That door probably had lots of history. Josh got back @ about 1 pm - found 2 kills (a huge buck deer, and elk). He followed a

huge blood trail too. Trent had found a dead sheep in W. Lobauer, not too far from the trail - Josh couldn't find anything. They also took a female cougar up Cliff creek yesterday. Middle Fork Aviation flew over a couple of times taking out the hunters and Travis' camp. Josh made a great chicken dish for dinner.

Thursday Feb. 21

AB + JH

We left w/ the stock and Mica for Cabin creek at about 10 am. We took 8 bags of wood. We tied up the stock @ Lobauer to search for the sheep - Mica treed a bobcat off the sheep carcass - I got video of the cat! No chase or struggle scene - too many old hound, people trax. Coyote Kill? Still some meat left. Arrived at Cabin about 3:30 - dropped off/unloaded wood. Split up - I went up Cow cr - nothing found; Josh went up Cabin - nothing.

Friday Feb. 22

Left Cabin early to bring Cricket/Rocky back to the ranch. Josh took the others upstream to Mile Hi in search of wolves or wolf kills. I stopped to check on the sheep carcass - it had been scavenged more - all meat gone - bones + hide moved. Wolf trax. all over! At least 2 sets, poss. 3 or more! Made me nervous w/ Mica - the wolves could have been nearby! Arrived at ranch late morning. Went up the benches to look

for a kill Travis said he saw on 2/20. No Kill found
but saw 14 elk, 13 sheep, and 4 very curious deer!
And saw 2 sets of wolf tracks coming down the second
bench towards Cliff Creek. Tied up Cricket + Rocky in the
corrall in case they decide to escape to find their friends!

Saturday Feb 23

Well, the two mules didn't escape! It rained a bit first
thing in the morning. Started wood stoves on both sides of the
duplex for the F+G heli crew, and started the old Calvin refrigerator.
Heard a coyote howling near Cliff cr. and the first bench.
Josh arrived back around noon. The weather wasn't too good
in Cascade so J+H won't be in until tomorrow. Got some
mail ready to fly out. Had yummy, fatty beef burgers
for dinner. Heard a coyote again at about 9 pm - Josh also
heard some howling downstream far away, possibly wolves!

Sunday, Feb. 24

Loaded the plane and Ray flew it (ski-plane) to "the
B"... we couldn't make it into TR. Once we got near
TR the weather turned very "squally"... zero visibility
which forced us to land @ "the B." We had so much
weight on board that Ray had to shuttle supplies before
bringing us over. The helicopter - Jim Pope, Kent, Paul (F&G)
came in right after us. Janet Pope and Mike Scott were
unable to fly in this pm. We cooked dinner for the
crew and rounded up sleeping bags since the plane
couldn't shuttle gear from Whitewater Ranch.

Monday, Feb 25

A busy morning of flying. Ray made 2 trips from Cascade bringing in Janet Pope, and taking out Paul. He skuttled Jeff R. over from Whitewater, and finally brought Mike Scott in from Cascade. The helicopter flew lower Big Creek → Rush Creek. Josh, Andrea, and I hiked up above the timbered bench and located the elk carcass that the helicopter crew spotted yesterday. It was a very large, and old, cow elk that was killed by a cougar... that was killed by Trout and his hunter... 6 days earlier. Turning very cold, wind from the north. Jeff R. cooked a ham for all, and we all pitched in to have a big feast. Also today, Holly shipped out the new computer which went "belly up".

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Awoke to no water and freeze up problems in our line. Spent a couple hours restoring the "systems," after a 5° night. Visited with Janet about De Vlieg candidates, sent many UI emails regarding summer hirings. Holly worked with Josh and Andrea on bone marrow sampling - testing... Janet photographed the activities. The helicopter crew finished flying Rush Cr. and proceeded up main Big Creek. The helicopter crew spotted bird activity south of Big Creek from Mule Basin. Had a big feast @ the lab for dinner. Holly stayed up late working on the bone marrow samples.

Weds., Feb. 27

Worked on mail to go out. Holly, Josh, Andrea continued bone marrow sampling - put in oven. Ray flew in early afternoon with the mail... including the needed Faxes on DeVlieg Research scholarship applicants. Josh, Andrea, Janet and I rode up to Mule Basin... on mules, to check out the bird activity that the chopper saw. We spent an hour looking across Big Cr. with binoculars but saw nothing. After dinner we showed the F&G crew & Pops our project slide show... then discussed results & "meanings"

Thurs., Feb. 28

The helicopter crew finished flying before noon. Emailed Katie Gillies her offer for the DeVlieg Scholarship, which she accepted. Josh and Andrea put leather treatment on saddles - pack & riding.

The ^(F&G) crew prepared to leave, but the weather got "squally," preventing McCall A.T. from coming in.

We pretty much just visited this afternoon, then had another big dinner. I felt "fluish" this evening.

Friday, Mar. 1.

A busy morning... first getting the water going again, ice on the inner screen, then "air bleeding" as usual. Jim Pope flew Josh & Andrea up to Acorn Camp to get "a jump" on an elk kill the heli-crew saw up Monumental Creek. Jim P. waited here as the weather kept him from

Heading out over Profite. Early pm Ray made it in via Rush Cr... soon followed by Rod from McCall. JP hurriedly left - to the east, with the helicopter, before we had 3 aircraft on the top of the airstrip. Holly made a big batch of chocolate chip cookies, but everyone ate them out before getting any! Holly got the computer set up again, that Ray brought in today. Finally, quiet around here.

Mar. 2, Sat.

Another morning with no water. This time the freeze up was in the hose near the water line faucet, had to use the hair-dryer to thaw out. Holly did many loads of laundry. I shot my bow and hiked downstream a bit. Got caught up on personal business since last week was so hectic. By late evening the water was off again!

Mar. 3 Sunday

Attacked the water line (hose segment) today. Had to take apart the faucet connection and use the hair dryer and a metal rod to free the big ice plug. Spent most of the day on this! We rounded up some new heat tape and rewrapped the outlet-half (bank to hill.) Got supplies ready to pack to Cabin Cr. Holly overhauled the door handle...

Mar. 4, Monday

Holly and I saddled the stock and headed upstream early. Holly cut off at Lobauer and hiked to the top of the Gooseneck Canyon. - Saw 28 elk and 30 mule deer and 4 bighorns. The white elk was not with either elk group. Talked to Andrea & Josh on 2-way radios Lobauer to Acorn-Lime ridge. They had lots of excitement at Acorn Camp - after arriving via helicopter on Friday they found a hours-old wolf killed deer carcass 75 yards from the tent! 2 Wolves returned to the kill several times and howled at night nearby. The cow elk carcass seen by the helicopter crew up Monumental was a winter-kill starvation death. Jim dropped supplies at Cabin Creek cabin then rode to Acorn Camp. I spent the evening on taxes.

March 5, Tuesday

UI emails & phone calls - internships, budgets special use permits ... all day. Finished tax info and sent links to my Africa photos to my family. Jim, Josh, & Andrea rode back to Taylor Ranch. Spent the evening watching - listening to Andrea's video of wolf howling. Josh & I made breakfast for dinner. Andrea did capture some good howling sounds. The airstrip is getting real sloppy... some big puddles, at least the snow depth was reduced "on track" with the snowblower use this winter. Also the corral is getting into the "guagnire" phase.

March 6, Wednesday

A crummy day for flying. Josh & Andrea took the day off... to do laundry, cook, mail etc. Holly emailed Mark Drew (F&G, vet) with a case history on the ♀ cougar we sent out. Holly and I "labored" over the water rights/special use permit stuff for Dick Botzger. Andrea made some fancy dinner rolls, Josh cooked a ham & bean soup. After dinner we watched a movie called "Contact."

March 7, Thursday

No mail plane today as it snowed all day... 4" of new by late afternoon. We all worked on paperwork, mail etc. Holly and I continued collecting historic water-right stuff. Andrea made cookies, Holly baked cinnamon rolls!

March 8, Friday

Josh and I used the snowblower on 4/5's of the airstrip. Holly did laundry. She also prepared email for Dick Botzger. Both Holly and I composed an email to FS Tanager Quinn Carver... on water rights matters. Ray made it in with the mail & supplies. Holly and Ray radio-tracked, finding C5 in Dancer cr... quite a surprise! After going through the mail, Andrea and Josh headed up to Cabin Creek.

March 9, Saturday

Spent the morning doing house cleaning etc. Then we (H&I) saddled Daisy and Penny and headed down to Dance Cr. to check on C5. Parked "the donks" at the mouth of Dance Cr. and hiked up a mile or so up the W. FK. We never did pinpoint C5, she was high on the ridge between Goat & Dance Cr., we did see many deer in the '88 burn at the Forks. The deer were really eating the ceanothis shrubs, and willows.

March 10, Sunday

We intended to go upstream today but never escaped ranch duties. Holly spent virtually all day gathering water rights info., importing files, and sending up to D. Botger. I rebuilt (made a new one) screen for inside the water box. Fortunately, the air temp. ^(45°) was warm enough to make it possible to reach shoulder deep in the icy water via bare arm. Did some tack repair too.

March 11, Monday

Holly, Mica, and I headed up Rush Ridge this morning to find the carcass on the steep N. slope across from Lobauer B. Saw several deer (179) and elk (33) along the way. Also picked up a signal on C-5, west Lobauer, and Wheatthin in the heliport draw. We did find the elk - a cougar kill. We evaluated the scene, collected samples, then dropped down to Big Cr. to cross on the ice and head home. Andrea and Josh radioed that they'll stay at Cabin Cr. tonight.

March 12, Tuesday

Stormy this morning, airstrip looking pretty sloppy. Holly did the phone bill and Fish & Game lodging billing. Josh and Andrea return from Cabin Creek early afternoon... in heavy mix of rain and snow.

Found out from Alton Campbell that Clara Bleak will provide additional funding support for a 5th intern, so now we have to choose between the 2 alternates. Holly and Josh work on bones/samples, Andrea puts predation information on the computer.

March 13 Wednesday

Jim, Josh, & Andrea flew out with Ray at noon - scattered snow showers. Jim had to see dentist Bob DiGrazia about a broken tooth → turned into a root canal. Then the 3 headed to Josh's family's in Pocatello and on then the Idaho TWS meeting where Crystal, Chris M., and Sam are presenting their Taylor Ranch undergraduate research projects. I sent emails to Lisette about cougar DNA and Mark Drew about C-7 cougar necropsy.

March 14 Thursday

Sent emails to Aimie-June & Brenda about funding for a 3rd intern - from Clara Bleak - one of them will fill that position. Packed up and saddled mules - Mica & I headed to Cabin Creek. Located C-5

cougar back in Cabin Creek. Many elk & deer seen at Lobauer, Browns, Spring Creek, Cabin Creek. The rest of the crew at The Wildlife Society Meeting.

Friday, March 15

No C-5 cougar signal at Cabin Creek today, but found an old kill - a young buck killed by a cougar - the carcass is submerged in Cabin Creek - unavailable to scavengers. 2 coyotes had been to the site last night and 1 young wolf the night before. Returned home in time to send emails about water rights issue and computer questions. Had to drain mud from Hydro Line to restore water pressure: open & close 4" bleedout at Hydro until most muddy water drained out. Turned on our main (underground) water line to the Taylor Cabins.

Saturday, March 16

Caught up on Predation project UTM's, data forms, maps. Cleaned & organized in the house. Jim & crew couldn't fly in today - too snowy in Cascade, but mostly nice here. Worked on Africa story.

Sunday March 17 St Patrick's Day

Another no fly day for Jim, Andrea, Josh, Chris. No running water or hydro this morning - slush ice on the water box screen. I stepped into the shower and the

water went off again - I turned the hydro off to divert all water to my shower! Put away (drained) the over-the-ground insulated water line, since our underground line has thawed. Internet research - looked for our NWS weather station data on the NOAA website and sent an email requesting free access to the 23 years of Taylor Ranch weather data. Also looked at OBFS web site & Andrews Exp Forest and discovered we need to update the Taylor Ranch Field Station data. Read the OBFS newsletter about NSF grants for Field Stations. Listened to bird CD to learn spring bird songs around TR. Baked 2 batches of cookies.

Monday, March 18

Finally, the weather broke enough for us to fly in! Holly ended up having to go out to get a filling fixed ... in Boise (DR. DiGrazia). We had 2 AA flights, Holly went out on the second flight so we had a little time to visit/plan the week. Put things away, made chili for dinner... for the crew. We also shot pistols before dark... although the weather turned very stormy-windy.

Tuesday, March 19

Packed up supplies for cabin cr. and headed upstream with the stock (Andrea & I). Josh and Chris headed to Acorn Creek for 3 days. Andrea and I rode up Cabin cr. searching for CS and the cougar-killed deer... no CS, but we did get the remote camera set up over the deer, which I hauled out of the stream (yuck!).

Wednesday, March 20th

Got going early at Cabin Creek, saddled the stock and came back to TR. Andrea stayed at Cabin Creek to monitor CS... emitting a signal up Cabin cr. I was surprised to hear Ray make it in, at noon, with Holly and Jay and his dogs. Jay shooed the 4 mules and Bo. Chris and Josh still upstream.

Thurs., March 21

Searched for cougar tracks near TR, then Jay & I rode up into Goat Basin... onto Goat Ridge. Jay also came upon a coyote killed deer up Cliff cr. where we had seen a lot of bird activity... Holly "worked up" the carcass. Andrea hiked downstream from Cabin cr. via Browns Basin. Earlier today Andrea recorded wolf howling around Cabin cr - Cow cr., she used her video camera... came out good!

Fri, March 22

We packed up the stock and headed to Cabin Creek to attempt capture of C5. Met up with Josh & Chris coming back down from Acorn Creek, they documented a couple wolf kills (elk & coyote) above the camp on Big Creek and also saw wolverine tracks in Corey Creek. We located C5 up Cabin CR, but couldn't get the dogs on her tracks before it was too late in the day.

Saturday March 23

C-5 moved to Cave Creek. After more signal bounce we finally got the hounds on the cougar's scent and they treed her. The capture & recollaring went well - she does not appear to have had kittens - surprising for a 5 year old cougar. We are hoping she was in heat & bred at Dunc Creek. Time will tell. It rained .85" on our late evening trip back to Taylor Ranch!

Sunday March 24

A nice and mostly sunny day, but rain & snow & fog at Cascade, so no plane in for Jay & hounds and Chris. We all took the day off from work & caught up on laundry and cooking - Prime Rib, yeast rolls, pumpkin pie & banana cream pie. Snow dropped from 5" to none at the weather station in the last few days. Streams muddy today.

Monday, Mar. 25

Got caught up on TR email business. Ray flew in late morning - noon to take out Jay's dogs + Chris and their stuff. Actually, Andrea and I did a telemetry flight first. Josh and Andrea spent the afternoon on bone marrow sampling. Holly and I cut up $\frac{1}{2}$ (hind) of her deer. I also typed up a recommendation for Josh for work on the Nez Perce Wolf Project. Many elk (50+) on the benches, plus sheep & deer.

Tuesday, Mar. 26

We all took off early for the stove camp (Pioneer Ridge) to locate wheatthins. Josh & Holly's Mica went up the ridgeline while Andrea and I went up the trail. Going both ways we got into deep snow on top (>3'). We did locate wheatthins den underneath a big rock. Andrea videoed a Blue grouse drumming... and wheatthin in the den. Wheatthin got a little agitated with us looking and photographing him - so we left him after a 15 min. visit. We found a cougar killed buck mule deer on route back... above the water intake.

Wednesday, Mar 27

Neeropsied the deer found yesterday (Holly & Andrea). Continued bone marrow sampling. I planted 2 fruit trees and did yard cleanup. Made a load of deer jerkey in the smoker. Andrea made bread sticks, Holly made cranberry rolls, Josh cooked dinner. No plane in today... too windy!

Thurs. Mar 28

Prepared more mail, Holly prepared deer samples for the IDF&G lab (Mark Drew). We did many business emails/letters ... ULI, IDF&G, DDFW (Peg B.) etc. Ray did not make it in today until late pm... just before dark, too late to radio track.

Prepared for spike-out trips tomorrow. Holly finished cutting up her deer... preparing for Jerkey too. Very tender Now!!

Fri. Mar 29

Nice day... spring like! Holly & Josh headed up to Rush Pt. and beyond looking for new kills. Andrea and I took the stock up to Cabin Cr. H & J saw where 2 wolves had been "rooting around" Steve's camp. We took down the remote camera, optimistic of some good photos since the roll was "spart" and the deer carcass had been drug off. Saw 120 elk, or so, on Cabin Cr. slopes... getting a tinge of green now.

Sat. Mar 30.

Andrea and I took the stock around to the Cave Cr. folks locating C5. Set up a dome tent camp for Andrea and I took the stock back to TR. Surprised to see Holly and Josh here... they ran into 3' of soft snow on top so couldn't cover much ground. Did evening chores... grass in pasture getting green... about time to move stock off!

Sunday (Easter!) Mar 31

Holly assaulted the Taylor Cabin floor while Josh

Friday, April 5

A nice day, at least outside. Andrea and I crawled beneath the lab and repaired the copper plumbing - soldered ^{3 segment - connections}.

I closed off the hot[?] to the lab sink... put in a faucet $\frac{1}{2}$ way out the line so it could be rebuilt, yet shut off. Andrea pulled teeth off 12 more jaws, then she and I resurrected the north pasture electric fence. Holly and Josh returned from Cabin Cr., they found 2 dead bobcats along the trail... located via smell! Holly called to reestablish email w/ Direct PC

Sat., April 6

Rained in the night. Spent the morning catching up on forms etc., we're now up to 37 carcasses of the 47 that Josh & Holly found. We necropsied the 2 bobcats, both had starvation causing injuries. One male had most of his upper teeth missing, ^{and a fractured jaw} the other male had a broken femur. I burned a couple burn piles... along with the smelly bobcat carcasses. Let the stock loose in the lower pasture... they were very happy.

Sunday, April 7

We caught up on track data forms & UTM's. I put carcass & location UTM's (C-5) on computer spreadsheets.

Took $\frac{1}{2}$ day off. Jim & Andrea rode to Cabin Cr. in pm. Josh & I got skulls and injury bones boiling. Got rid of old bone & scat samples from previous years.

Wednesday, April 3

Did some mail preparation early, then we (A.B. & I) harnessed the mules and spread 4 more loads of manure on the main pasture. Also harrowed the main pasture. Turned the water on to the lab... discovered that the copper line beneath the floor was disconnected in several places... will have to dry out now before crawling around on "wet woodrat poop on plastic". Ray flew in late afternoon and took us up radio tracking (besides mail delivery). A.B. located CS and Wheatthin then we did a mail drop at the cabin ... pain pills for Holly's tooth. Kind of symbolic, we dropped the parcel within a couple feet of the circa 1925 post-office! ... Josh witnessed.

Thurs., April 4

Another sunny day. Audrea and I saddled Bo, Rocky, Daisy and headed to Goat Basin. Hiked the ridge to the NE of G. Basin, then rode up to Soldiers Bar. No kills found. The pasture got noticeably more green today as the thermometer reached 70°. Holly & Josh still @ the cabin cr. cabin, will be back tomorrow. The email not working... although the internet aspect does

Thurs., April 11

The day started out stormy - rain with low clouds, but by late afternoon it was flyable. Holly and Andrea worked on project data organizing/updating and skull/bone cleaning. I prepared mail... ordered tack replacements w/et card (Ray Hotes). Josh called (radioed) from Cabin CR. to report that wolves had killed a calf elk on the bank of Big CR. - at the Cabin CR. mouth. So we gathered the remote camera and some mounting ^(wood posts) equipment and Holly was flown up to C.C., after doing a quick radio-tracking for CS. Andrea and I went through the mail, made dinner, and played cribbage... she won twice!

Fri., April 12

Andrea and I spent the morning on paperwork - she entered project data onto a spread sheet and I worked on the weekly curriculum for the summer internship. In the afternoon we put up the N. pasture electric fence... reconnected. Holly and Josh returned from Cabin Creek, no pictures taken with the remote camera. We barbecued prime rib steaks for dinner. Also today I made an appt. with Dr. Curran in Nampa for a knee exam - still swollen and stiff... and very sore.

Monday, April 8.

Josh headed to Cabin Creek to meet J&A then they will check Mile Hi and Camp at Acorn. I finished loads of laundry & put away winter wools. Took Pioneer Cr photo point for Wayne Minshall & checked deer carcass (pneumonia) - all meat eaten by birds. Emailed about "Sheep Summit" meeting - T. Schommer & M. Scott. Still no email - Lynne will make the 3rd call requesting a fix. Weighed bone marrow samples. Filled soil around leaking water box - Pioneer Creek & water box level is rising. Checked out our retirement accounts on the web and changed fund allocations.

Tuesday April 9

Email is working again. Edited & completed carcass data entry. Finished bone marrow drying - samples are from poor condition animals lately. Emails out about carcasses to Kathy Quigley & HQ. Jim & Andrea returned from Acorn camp late evening - 7pm. Light rain, they found 2 carcasses on the way home - both wolf kills? Jim's knee is giving him pain.

Weds., April 10

A typical spring day... rain, wind, sunshine. Dried out and put away the camp gear we packed back yesterday. We all worked on project - data organizing. Adjusted the intake rock diversion to reduce flow in the box. Gained another day for outgoing mail... too stormy for Ray to fly.

Monday, April 15

Pioneer Creek is up the most for this spring so far and it is really overflowing the box. Holly put on 5 more layers of redwood and we blocked some flow ~~into~~ ^{from} the intake. I did several emails - TR business mostly, on such email want to Clara Bleak inviting her to coming to TR during the summer internship. My knee is still very bothersome, can't stay "upright" very long. Holly gathered empty propane (4) but Ray didn't make it in as planned to take out empties and Andreas stuff.

Tuesday, April 16

After the morning chores we saddled the stock and Holly headed to Cabin Creek to pack-truck supplies and do final cabin cleaning. Mica and I repaired the N. pasture fence, which the elk and high water in Big Cr. had drug all over the place. Did 8 or so business emails. Holly called from Cabin Cr. @ 6:30 pm saying she'd leave soon. She made it back to TR at 10:30 pm! Helped her unload/unsaddle. Late getting to bed - almost midnight!

Wednesday, April 17

Awoke to snow on the ground! Last night I kept hearing "water running in the pipes" in our bathroom. Well sure enough it was - all over the duplex floor and under the building. There was black ash ooze all over the E duplex floor.

Sat. April 13

Spent a lot of the day on project wrap up, either bones or data sheets. Andrea did a fair amount of cleaning, Josh too later on. Pioneer CR. rising with a heavy rain and warm. The stock are "Awoh" downstream, at least not visible in the lower pasture this morning. Had a fancy dinner of pizza ^(going away for Josh, Andrea) and prawns - that Josh provided.

Sunday, April 14

Rained hard in the night and this morning. Our filter is plugging very quickly with ash-silt. Holly did a temporary add on to the water box so it did not overflow so bad... and erode the bank east of the box. Pioneer Creek is running "high and dark". Did project wrap-up (summarizing 2002 data) with Andrea and Josh, plus an "exit interview" of sorts. Those 2 finished cleaning the lab then waited for the plane... the weather was pretty squally and Ray had to "loke up" at Pistol Creek en route in. Finally, at 5:30 Ray came in and by 6:30 we (H&I) were alone again at the ranch. We'd hoped to get all of A.&J's stuff out but was a bit more than a plane load so Ray will stop by tomorrow - maybe, to get the rest. Brought the stock back from the lower Pasture. Holly did phone bill and mailed.

Fri., April 19

Holly framed some of her Africa photos and put up in the living room. Then she continued skull cleaning - whitening with peroxide. I unman tied camp gear and put away in the storage sled. Planned/priced a pump powered water system for the lower pasture since the ES is being stubborn about ^{our} releasing the ditch (even with our water right and proposed fish friendly intake w/ pipe). Many elk in the pasture this evening... eating our hay crop, feeding out of the bins, and breaking the corral poles going to salt. Holly took some photos of them.

Sat., April 20

Spent the morning cleaning house... doing laundry. Adjusted the water intake, actually increased flow from last weeks "excessive flow." We worked on duplex plumbing, west side is up and running (as is the water heater... which we drained/cleaned of "ash gunk".) We need some flex-connectors to fix the east-side sink. Holly continued skull cleaning project. Also put up a new rail in the corral where the elk broke it.

Sunday, April 21

We are Mike & Carol Smith from Cascade. We were invited to Carolee Taylor's Ranch during Jim & Hallie's "big city" trip. We really enjoyed the flight in

Apparently a sludge jam broke in the line then associated high pressure blew out the sink plumbing - what a mess!, spent the morning cleaning it up. In the afternoon we gathered the water rights files and went over details & correspondence for the meeting tomorrow. Ray was scheduled to pull us out today but he could not make it in. Many elk hitting the pasture now.

Thurs., April 18

Snowing with low overcast, no way to make it out in time for the "water issues" meeting. Visited with Ed Krumpke several times regarding these matters, plus he called us once in Moscow to "recap" the meeting conversations. Visited with Steve Bate a few times regarding caretaking next week. For awhile Gloria was coming, but get spring free from work. So, now we are lined up with Mike and Carolee Smith who are friends of the Bates. I visited Mike & Carolee via satellite phone - looks like this will work! Ray came in late afternoon with the mail and he took out Andrea's stuff. Gave a phone recommendation for Josh on a bear research position in Florida.

Mike's checking the fence again on the other side of B.C., then
we will take them over & hopefully they will stay
out. Sense down along creek side, so he will
feed hay tonight & see if still up in A.M.

Wednesday 4/24/02

Today was chore day around the ranch. Mike cut
kindling for all the units, I cleaned the cabin & leaked
Cankies (for Sally & Devin's trip) We had 4 deer go across the
pasture one must of hit the gate between the house & pasture
it was open and broken - Mike fixed it. I brushed
down the horse, it was fun reminded me of our horse
days. Mike & I took the scope down to the airstrip and
observed 8 of the 14 elk we had seen & 2 mule deer.
We both read & I again took a great nap, must be
the mountain air! Our stay has been great, we hope we
can do it again someday. Thanks Jim & Holly.

Thurs., April 25

Did some shopping in Cascade to augment the Boise
purchases. While in Boise we hit the dentist, or thopedic
doctor for my knee, and attended the Inter-Agency wolf
Mtg. for most of the time. Spent last night at Gloria
and Steve Bate's, Gloria flew back in with us today
to help Holly pack back the Acorn Camp. We flew in
@ 2pm, radio-tracked enroute in. Mike and Carokee flew
out. Spent most of the day ^(Pm) putting things away... answering
many emails.

4/21 (cont.)

with Ray Arnold. When we arrived Jim & Sally began orientation with us. Tonight Mike and I saw 18 Big Horns, 1 with a collar and ear tag, and 9 head of elk. We checked and picked up the fence across the creek, then Mike checked the fencing on this side of creek while I fixed dinner.

Monday 4/22

Mike & I woke up a lot last night... but was able to fall back to sleep (new place/bed). I'm sure tonight will be better. Mica was a good girl, she's been sticking to me like glue, she misses Sally. We woke up to a beautiful clear, sunny morning. Mike & I sat out on the lawn chairs drinking our morning coffee. I called the weather report into Arnolds, we checked on the hydro plant & check all cabins. What a wonderful layout. Real excited about finding St Jo Hat Spot... Hope we can try it out. Mike's been marking on the lawn mower for the last hour. For some reason it just doesn't want to start. Outside temperature right now is 59°, Not Bad! We saw 2 deer in the pasture. The thermometer showed we had a high of 70°. Great Day!

Tuesday 4/23/02

Mike & I left at 10:00 to go down stream to find the horse & mules. We found them at 11:30 and headed right back, with them, back at TR by 1:00. We didn't see any wild life, in fact we haven't seen anything all day.

Sunday, April 28

Visited and relaxed this morning. Ray flew in early afternoon to pickup Gloria and shuttle stuff down from Acorn airstrip. He was able to get everything in the plane except the wire basket. Ray flew in 4 propane... but forgot our pile of stuff in the wanger! Holly did many loads of laundry, I evaluated the airstrip log jams for "reinforcement" measures.

Monday, April 29

Emailed Dick Botzger our concerns about the permitting process for Pioneer Creek... and "signing authority" issues. Holly obtained information about deer and elk harvest (historic) off of the Fish & Game website. Holly also used the internet to apply for a moose tag... I did the same yesterday for bighorn sheep. I hiked downstream below the big lick looking for stock. They forded Big Cr. (tracks on bank) but I did not see them. Holly and I spent a few hours jamming small debris into the log jams. I also "cabled-in" the lower log which is swinging around ^(by current). Mica got herself into a precarious situation while swimming Big Cr., with the current almost pulling her under - above the lowest jam, Holly pulled her out by her collar... close call! Compared log jam photos from last fall with current condition... does not look promising for "real high water."

Friday, April 26

We saddled the stock early and Holly and Gloria headed upstream to pack back the Acorn camp.

I put on new water lines at the E. duplex bathroom sink. Also used the shop vac to remove "mouse nests" and a couple carcasses... smelly! Tried to get the lawn mower going - no luck. Reviewed water issue minutes that were emailed us by K. Nash...

I'm still disgusted on the USFS's approach to the ditch-bill, and basically denying us use of our water-right for ^(other business) Cliff CR. Sent several emails too.

Sat., April 27

A very nice afternoon after rain this morning.

Holly and Gloria dismantled the ^{Acorn} camp, cleaned the area, and brought back 3 animal loads... and piled the rest for Ray to pickup tomorrow via 185. Last night they had ⁻²⁻ wolves howling around the camp, then en route back they encountered the "white elk" and got some still photos. I worked on some yard work - got the lawn mower running again, a parent block or air jam in fuel line. Holly & Gloria got in about 5:30 pm. I had fixed some Sitka blacktail soup and cranmeal muffins. Unsaddled and stored supplies. Heard a couple days ago about Lafe Cox passing away... funeral will be this Tues. Think I'll have a plaque made, with the dates that Lafe & Emma were on Mile High ('39-43')

Thurs. May 2

Beautiful full sun, no wind morning. After reporting weather (Hanley's first) we walked down stream to look for the stock. Seven sheep on the lick around the corner and two on the lower slope about a 1/4 mile down stream. We confirmed Jim's observation that the stock crossed over to Soldiers Bar, but no siting.

About 3:00, sitting in the front yard we observed 14 sheep at the base of the third bench and 16 sheep at the back of the first bench. Later in the evening (about 7:00) the sheep became more active, working their way down slope - 25 at the back of the first bench and 16 below.

We saw the only deer for the day on our walk up to the intake.

I reconnected the irrigation pipe on the strip before dinner and we called it a day.

Fri. May 3

Woke up to 7 elk in front of the duplex. Jamie & I walked up Pioneer Cr. to where Jim, Ray & I dressed out Jim's deer last Nov. - no mushroom, yet.

Packed hose & sprinklers for strip & set upper 3 stations. Surprisingly only had 2 small leaks. Just as I was walking over to work on the north pasture fence, the stock came walking up the south side of ~~the~~ Big Creek. I let them in by the bridge & they went straight to the mineral block in the coral. Led Bo & the others followed over to the north pasture. Fixed elk damage to the fence & turned on

Tuesday, April 30

After the usual flurry of morning emails I headed downstream to search for the stock. They had walked back & forth in many places. Finally decided that "the rats" had forded to Soldier Bar -- end of that pursuit!

Holly worked on project data and spent several hours trying to fix a "lock-up" problem with the computer -- which she fixed near mid night. Prepared things to go out tomorrow... lists, clothes, gifts etc., etc. Ten head of elk eating next summers hay crop... hard to discourage, even with rubber-blunt arrows!

Weds., May 1st

Spent the morning on business emails and many last minute tasks. Completed the internship syllabus and - emailed - sent up to Alton Campbell for credit approval, which he accomplished by noon!... Wildlife 398 - Nat. Resource Internship. Holly noticed a major ^{semi-}leak coming from the bottom of our water heater... amazing timing!, Hauley and Jancy flying in soon, well, soon by "Ray time." We ended up slipping a "lipped pan" under the water heater... after draining and disconnecting the plumbing, for once it was good he was late!

Hauley & Jancy arrive about 6:00 p.m. - Hauley sick as usual. Jim tours us through the instructions for a week and they're off! After dinner we walk down the strip & spot 7 elk upon the south hillside.

Sunday, May 5th.

Overcast & cloudy - The first such day since we arrived. Yesterday was about 70° & today we'll be lucky to make it over 50°! At weather-check time it was 45°. I radio'd in my first report - later than the usual - to Carol. It kept trying to rain all day & "spat" a bit @ about 2⁰⁰ pm. Today's exercise will consist of checking on & feeding the stock in the north pasture, moving the irrigation sprinkles on the airstrip & checking the intake - all A-OK. Hanley worked on planning stuff emailed in & I read & checked out wild flowers in the Audubon book. No sightings on the benches.

We tried to use the sauna - no luck, the stove leaks smoke that fills the cabin - so we take a hike to the Sage Brush Flats. What a magnificent view of the ranch - like an oasis amidst the barren/burned mountains. Max chases the lone deer that we've seen the last few days. By 7⁰⁰ pm it's raining.

Monday, May 6th '02.

Beautiful day, so, after a couple of chores (move sprinklers, do weather) we hike to Cabin Creek. Saw several chukar pairs, couple of deer and pair of kingfishers (must be spring). Cabin Creek was quiet, no sign of other people. When we returned about 5 pm everything was in order so we relaxed with a beer, baths, dinner and early bed.

the charger. Moved all the sprinklers & retired to another great dinner by Janie.

Saturday, May 4th

Sunshine streams into duplex as we awake - so Harley has to clean the windows! Eat breakfast on the chairs in front of the house & I spot elk on the rear of the 3rd bench - munching on what looks like a green on a very hilly golf course. First there are 7 - the group from yesterday in the pasture, perhaps? - then 8 more appear & finally we see 21 munching until it's too warm & they retreat into the trees. Due to my stomach issues we decide against a long morning hike & instead hang around the homestead - me, mainly reading & looking; Harley rarely still. We check on the stock in the North pasture & Harley feeds all 5, then check that the gate upstream is closed. After lunch we see the sheep again - 5 above the 3rd bench, on the East end.

Harley spring cleans the living room & (lightly!) prunes two fruit trees in the afternoon and raspberries.

Janie smells the moose nest behind shower in east side of the duplex, so we fire-up the shop vac with success.

Before dinner we observed about 14 sheep above the third bench near the east timber skinger. After dinner we walked down the strip to reset the sprinklers and look up Rush Creek.

Made spaghetti for dinner (w/ elk meat) & luxuriated in Holly & Jim's bathtub afterwards ... what a treat!!

Thurs, May 9

Flew back in this morning, with a plane load. Spent most of the day catching up on business stuff (emails) and putting things away. I saddled Rocky and packed a big load of cubes to the N. pasture. Visited the trail crew working their way downstream. Heavy rain set in late afternoon. Hopefully Hanley & Janie had a decent flight out. Also saw 2 bears en route in, 1 (brn) above Lewis Cr. and the other on the approach turn (blk, smaller) south side of Big Cr.

Friday, May 10

Spent the morning preparing the hydro. description for Dick Bottger... for the FERE exemption application. We calculated water flow through the hydro: 80 gal. per min w/ 3 jets open, 120 gal. per min w/ 4 jets and this equals 127 cfs. Holly cleaned in the lab and did ^{Ranch} laundry. I did several emails and regular mail... still catching up from 1 wk. away. Fed mules cubes and checked Penny's drooping ear.

Sat., May 11

Very nice day, lots of sun. Got the rototiller going and did both gardens. Holly planted flowers, and veg. plants (in coveral shed). I spread 2 bags of fertilizer in lower main pasture. Continued fletching and staining arrows. Holly ground "bulk elk meat" into burger. Corresponded with Reman B. about coming in for the Harlequin duck survey. Patty Stigger (FS) stopped by to visit and have tea/cookies. Change and extend sprinklers.

Tuesday, May 7th.

Up until 9⁰⁰ am the morning is sunny, but light snow flurries then begin - like blossom petals in a spring wind - & then the snow sets in, blanketing rooves & only the 1st & 2nd benches are visible.

However, Harley pruned some fruit trees!

Generally, it was an indoor day with intermittent snow showers. I did manage to prune the two apple trees at the Taylor cabin. Daisy crossed over to the airstrip then panicked & tried to cross the bridge, came back & crossed upstream of the tack shed.

Wed., May 8

Woke to snow on the ground and ice circles around the sprinklers. Five deer in the north pasture with the stock made moving sprinklers more pleasant. After breakfast Janie helped me move the big ladder to the orchard. Janie helped me send a Mother's Day card by email since I couldn't get out early enough to mail a card. I lightly pruned the apple trees in the orchard before lunch.

After lunch we walked up to the second bench to observe about 20 sheep. I was interested to observe the burned bunch grass. Where the duff was thick the fire killed the bunch grass.

Big Creek has dropped and cleared over the last two days. If fishing season was open it would be fishable. Holly & I met with Kathy Nash (FS) and made changes to the S.U. permit wording for the new intake.

Weds., May 15

(Most to Lynne K.)

A very active day of ranch errands - 17 sent, 12 in! Took care of hiring details for Hati, talked with Steve Hollenhorst about his capabilities and general situation. Continued shoeing until my knee started to hurt from squatting. Did fronts on Rocky & Daisy. Mica still a bit lethargic. Also this morning I had water pressure problems. Did the usual "fix-it" efforts, ended up resuming on its own... ^(kind of) it was air in the line which I bled out @ the hill faucet. Keeping stock in the corral, Bo tied outside... all very restless!

Thurs., May 16

Mica still won't eat breakfast, but did "assist" with shoeing this morning. Put new shoes on Daisy's rear feet and did all of Cricket... just the rear feet on Bo and Rocky left to do. Doctored a cut on Rocky's rear-left lower leg. Ordered 8 bags of grain from new place by Harpo's, now Ray has a plane load along with bags from before. Took all the stock to Cabin Cr. - with 4 saddled in case I ran into Holly & Janet... stayed @ c.c. until 6:00 pm, no contact. En route back, just below "Sego Lilly Flat," I saw a hen Harlequin duck!!, watched her for 10 mins. @ 50' Two larger bucks invaded the haystack this evening. The biggest smashed through the big gate, which I fixed, but its mostly patchwork now!

Sun. May 12 Mother's Day

We'll the mules (3 Bo) started the day with a big break out from the N. pasture. They crossed Big CR., then "rolled over" the west gate and went up Rush CR. H. & I rounded them up and "stuffed them" in the corral. I spent a few hours doing fence work - both sites. Then we took Daisy, Cricket, Rocky over the N. pasture and left the "2 Fatties" in the corral. Holly planted most of the garden seed. Mica acting a bit off, think she might have a sore tooth.

Mon. May 13

Started the day by planning the "to do" list for the month... wow, lots to do! I put new shoes on Penny - all 4. Holly worked on elk tooth samples - pulling from jaws also updating spread-sheet info. I did the yards with the weedeater. Holly made beds @ lab. Prepared various UI mail, plus did several e mails. She also stayed up very late, working on project stuff?

Tues. May 14

Holly packed her stuff for the Harlequin duck survey with Janet. Ray flew in mid-late afternoon with the mail and took Holly up to Big CR. ... where Janet was waiting. I shod Bo's front feet... always a challenge. Corresponded with Diane Holick about hiring a fence builder... she suggested Hati Mvundura from Zimbabwe... he sounds well suited.

Saturday May 18

A beautiful sunny day, 84°. I caught up on emails & UI correspondence then Janet & I spent the afternoon placing branches in the lower rootwad stream deflector at the end of the airstrip - to decrease current around the lower log, since it has already shifted out of place. Mica has intestine/colon partial blockage.

Sunday, May 19

We went "birding" around Taylor Ranch - Janet taught me the warbler songs. Lots of birds active: Lazuli bunting, Audubon warbler, warbling vireo, pine siskin, northern oriole, spotted towhee, MacGillivray's warbler, yellow rumped warbler, song sparrow, black headed grosbeak, flycatcher, spotted sandpiper, Canada goose, merganser, killdeer, flicker, hairy woodpecker, crow, robin, black chin hummingbird, Caliope hummer, rufus hummer. Janet & I opened ditch irrigation on airstrip & main pasture, changed & repaired sprinklers. All streams are up and somewhat muddy. Janet's homegrown chicken for dinner + greens from the garden (last year's crop). Mineral oil treatment is helping Mica. Vet Keith Ruble said to give her Banamine & antibiotics too.

Monday May 20

Opened the pipe to East side waterline for Arlow's & Dave Lewis cabin, but flow leaking from box so couldn't turn water on

Friday → Friday

Holly & Janet met up at Big Cr and spent the night at Wilbur Wile's. Air-telemetry - no Wolf Fang ♀ at Big Cr, but Wheat Thin @ Mule Basin. Wilbur has been hearing wolves - we scanned (clicked) thru 1000 channels on the receiver at Wilbur's & located 2 radio collar frequencies in the vicinity. More good wildlife history stories from Wilbur.

Wed. Am we walked into 2001 wolf den - no wolf signals since 6:30 Am today. No fresh use. Surveyed for Harlequin Ducks on Big Creek from Smith Cr to Crooked Creek. We jumped a dark gray wolf off a 1 day dead elk (11 month) calf near Whiskey Gulch. It ran 60 meters from us.

Thursday I made a 10 mile detour (up Crooked Cr) to Snowshoe Mine to look for Josh's lost binoculars. No binoculars found, but I did wake up a little brown bat in one of the cabins. We continued survey for Harlequins on lower Crooked Creek & lower Monumental to Vines Ranch.

Friday we surveyed to Taylor Ranch. We did not see the female harlequin Jim saw yesterday, but we did watch Wheat Thin grazing grass & forbs along Big Creek @ Mule Basin - 20 minutes. He wrinkled his nose to nip each bite. He looks shaggy & healthy.

Jim sent emails and sent the mules up East Pioneer Cr then flew out mid afternoon to attend the UI graduation of 5 of our Taylor Ranch students. Mica is still not eating.

in cabins. All streams up and muddy. Sprinklers plugged with small debris, ditches overflowing, new intake is fine. Checked rootwad stabilization project - the lowest log shifted over the gabions last night, but the log jam has re-stabilized with additional debris from last night. Janet & I cut & "planted" 250-300 willow cuttings along the cut bank at & around the log jams. Opened ^{cleared out} upper irrigation ditch; changed ditches, sprinklers, irrigation tubes 2x/day. on airstrip & main pasture. Final drying & weighing of bone marrow sample. Janet checked for the harlequin duck upstream - she saw a cow & newborn calf elk try to swim across Big Cr. at Mule Basin. The calf did not make it across. Sad. Jim spent the day in meetings @ CNR ^{new} building construction, hyperspectral plane flight funding, signing up students for summer work.

Tuesday May 21, 2002

The rootwads haven't moved since yesterday - good news! All streams still high, but cool & rainy all day - snow at 6500'. Started quick cleanup of Arlows - no water on as water box is still leaking. Changed irrigations & sprinklers - lots of debris in water. The main water box is fine with the higher water level in the taller water box. Sediment filter @ Taylor Cabin plugged with mud - they don't last long. Janet & I surveyed for harlequins from Taylor to Cougar Creek - no ducks. Mica is a little more lively today, but still won't eat much and no poop.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

WELL, I AWOKED TO FIND THAT THERE WAS ONCE AGAIN NO WATER TO THE TAYLOR CABIN. ~~HOWEVER~~ ALTHOUGH THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING WELL BEFORE I WENT TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT, IT HAD FROZEN-UP SOMEWHERE IN THE LINE. I DISCOVERED THE PROBLEM TO BE IN THE SECOND SET OF HEAT TAPES THAT WERE NOT ~~PLUGGED IN~~ PLUGGED IN OR HAD COME UNDONE. I CORRECTED THE PROBLEM, AND EVEN BEGAN USING HOT WATER BAGS IN THE VALVE BOXES TO LET IT ALL THAW OUT. MEANWHILE, I WORKED ON THE DUPLEX WHICH I FOUND TO BE FROZEN THE NIGHT BEFORE. I HEATED IT WITH FIRES IN THE STOVES ON BOTH SIDES, AND PLUGGED IN THE HEAT TAPES ON THE PIPES BELOW. I DRAINED THE WATERHEATER AND UNCOVERED THE PIPES UNDERNEATH TO ALLOW FOR EXPANSION AND ESCAPE OF ICE/WATER. CONTINUOUS HEAT ON THE ABOVE GROUND H₂O LINE AND IN THE VALVE BOXES DIDN'T HELP GETTING THINGS THAWED OUT & FLOWING AGAIN TO THE TAYLOR CABIN - NOT SURE EXACTLY WHY, AND IT BECAME TOO DARK TOO FAST FOR ME TO TEAR INTO LINES AND HEAT ANYMORE DIRECTLY. SO, THESE PAST 2 DAYS OF DEALING WITH THE FREEZING WATER SYSTEM HAS BEEN QUITE FRUSTRATING. I'M SURE MASTERING THIS ART OF KEEPING IT ALL FLOWING WELL TAKES ALOT OF PATIENCE, CARE, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY EXPERIENCE AND A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SYSTEM & ITS BEHAVIOR.

Saturday, Dec. 29

Holly and I, and Josh waited all day to fly in but the fog never lifted here. Got lots of phone calls accomplished, ended up spending the night in McCall with Mike & Diana Schlegel. At TR, Ken spent the day getting the water line bypass thawed out... between the hose start and the main-line.

