



Taylor Wilderness Research Station General Practices, Policies, and Risk Management

The intent of this document is to provide information regarding requirements for use of Taylor Wilderness Research Station (TWRS), to enhance safety, and to align user practices to create an academic and social environment that allows the most people to have the best possible experience while at TWRS.

TWRS brings together a diverse group of learners and professionals. While you are here, you will likely share your time with people who bring a variety of qualities to our Taylor community, including diversity in race and ethnicity, social and emotional interaction styles, gender identity and sexual orientation, and more. We celebrate this diversity and find that all people benefit from spending time in a varied and supportive community. Each station user has a responsibility to treat other community members with respect and dignity.

Please refer to the University of Idaho's Residence Hall Handbook for an insightful information on diversity and respect <http://www.uidaho.edu/~media/UIdaho-Responsive/Files/student-life/Housing/Forms%20and%20Policies/RH%20Handbook%202016-2017.ashx>

I. Communication

1. Users will coordinate dates of travel with TWRS managers and keep them apprised of changes.
2. Users are not permitted to have guests without approval.
3. Orientation to relay TWRS expectations will take place as early as possible during a user's stay.
4. Users are asked to communicate questions, incidents, issues, or concerns as they arise. TWRS managers will keep users informed on incident reports, policy, safety updates, and relevant news as confidentiality and/or security allow.
5. Users will complete a reservation form and liability waiver with insurance and emergency contact information prior to or upon arrival at TWRS. Forms will be kept on site and shared with the Dean's office safety lead.
6. For safety, users will notify managers when they leave the property and return. For reporting, users will record the location and time of departure and return.

II. Grounds, Cabin Space, and Equipment

- A. Smoking is prohibited on TWRS property and in all buildings.
Refer to <http://www.uidaho.edu/apm/35/28>

B. Research Equipment

1. Manager and user cooperation is needed to properly maintain equipment, cabins, and grounds.
2. Users are required to wear protective gear while using hazardous materials and equipment.
3. Hazards or improperly functioning equipment should be reported to TWRS managers.
4. Incidents must be immediately reported to station managers. Users and station managers must complete and submit an Incident Report Form to CNR within 24 hours of the incident.
5. Station users are responsible for the repair or replacement costs of lost, damaged, or misused equipment. Compensation to TWRS for lost, damaged, or misused equipment will be worked out on a case-by-case basis with the college administration.

6. Users are asked to inform station managers if new equipment is needed or desired.
7. Equipment must be returned to its proper place and in good condition after use.
8. Equipment may not be borrowed from other station users without permission of the owner.
9. The workshop and TWRS tools can be used with permission from the managers.

C. Cabin Space

1. TWRS provides a pillow, pillowcase, and bottom sheet, as well as hand soap, dish soap, cleaning products, cleaning rags, kitchen linens, hand towels, and toilet paper. Users must provide their own personal care products, laundry soap, bath towels, sleeping bags, and first aid kits.
2. Users must keep cabins clean and organized.
 - a. Equipment, supplies, dishes, etc. need to be put away after each activity.
 - b. Tabletops and counters must be kept clear when not in active use.
3. TWRS does not employ a cleaning staff. Users must clean their living spaces on a daily basis and thoroughly clean before departure.
 - a. Promptly after eating, dishes must be washed and food put away and cleaned from tables and counters - both to reduce pest problems and out of respect for other users.
 - b. Nonperishable food must be kept in cupboards or sealed bins. Long-term users are asked to bring appropriate storage for food.
4. Outdoor research equipment (nets, flowmeters, flags, measuring tapes, etc.) must remain under the supervision of the user and must be stored away from high-use areas. Users will work with managers to determine appropriate storage space.
5. Cabin doors must be kept closed to deter pests; windows can be used for ventilation.

D. Waste

1. Short-term users must fly out their trash and recycling upon departure.
2. Food waste (except meat and dairy) goes in compost bins. Users are responsible for emptying their compost bins at the designated site regularly and before departure. Meat waste may be stored in a freezer until it can be flown out with your trash.
3. Long-term users must take care of their recyclable items. Items must be rinsed, dried, crushed, and sorted into boxes in the staging shed.
4. Burnable items (paper) must be sorted by users into the designated bins in each cabin. Long-term users will be trained in safe disposal of burnable items. TWRS managers will dispose of burnable items for short-term users. Cooking grease should be stored in freezer and sent out with meat waste.
5. Items that do not fit the above categories go into fly-out trash. Items with food particles should be washed to reduce odor and pests. Large items should be crushed. Short-term users are responsible to fly out their trash and recycling upon departure. Long-term users are responsible to seal and deliver trash bags to the staging shed.

III. General Supervision

A. Discipline and Behavior

1. The following goals guide the use of discipline at TWRS:
 - a. Minimize risk for all participants.
 - b. Offer an opportunity for each participant to succeed.
 - c. Offer an opportunity to experience the benefits of the learning process.
 - d. Offer an opportunity for participants to build cooperative academic and social relationships.
2. Taylor maintains a policy of tolerance and respect for diversity, including race, ethnicity, social and emotional interaction styles, gender identity and sexual orientation, and more.
3. In the rare instance that a person or persons behave inappropriately, the following applies. "Disruptive Behavior" is any action by a station user that disrupts or decreases the positive research /learning environment or community of the group. The following steps will be taken by TWRS managers in response to disruptive behavior:

- a. First offense: TWRS managers will talk to the individual to determine if the person understands the rules and is capable of following them. The individual will agree to a verbal behavior contract.
 - b. Second offense: TWRS managers will initiate a meeting with the individual and the supervisor, mentor, or advisor, and potentially a member of UI administration. The individual will agree to a written behavior contract. Third offense: the individual will be asked to leave the station at his/her own cost.
4. The following actions justify immediate expulsion:
- a. Violent acts against others.
 - b. Possession by anyone of illegal drugs or alcohol use by minors.
 - c. Theft or vandalism.
 - d. Possession of unauthorized firearms.
 - e. Overt sexual or offensive behavior or remarks toward others.
- Refer to student code of conduct <http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html>

B. Alcohol Policy

1. Students are not allowed to consume alcohol at TWRS.
2. Non-student visitors are not allowed to consume alcohol.
Exceptions can be made for specific short-term professional groups. Contact the TWRS managers to discuss this.
3. Public inebriation is prohibited, as is any kind of disruptive or destructive behavior.
4. Underage drinking is prohibited.
5. Providing alcohol to minors is prohibited.
6. TWRS managers will respond to violations of these rules in the following manner:
 - a. First offense: TWRS managers will meet with the individual to discuss the behavior and the individual will agree to a verbal behavior contract.
 - b. Second offense: TWRS station managers will contact UI administration and the individual's mentor, advisor, or supervisor. The individual will agree to a written behavior contract.
 - c. Third offense: the individual will be asked to leave the station at his/her own cost.

C. Firearms

In accordance with University of Idaho firearm policy, open carry of firearms is not permitted by users. Exception is extended to TWRS managers, law enforcement officers, and passing outfitters/hunters. In accordance with Idaho Code section 18-3309, licensed concealed carry of a weapon is permitted to these individuals on TWRS property under the specifications of the Code. Firearms must remain on the person and are not allowed in cabins.
Refer to <http://www.uidaho.edu/apm/95/12>

D. Pets

1. Users are prohibited from bringing pets to TWRS.
2. An exception for short term users can be made by TWRS managers for extenuating circumstances. If an exception is made, poorly-behaved pets will be sent out at the user's expense. Examples of poor behavior include biting, barking, harassing wildlife, failing to follow owner commands, and inconveniencing other users.
 - a. Users with excepted pets must comply with TWRS manager requests regarding leashing and pet behavior/control.
3. Animals providing assistance to persons with disabilities are permitted on University property and in University buildings. Also permitted are resident manager pets.

E. Fire Safety

1. Campfires
 - a. While on property, station users will use the designated fire ring at the barbecue pit only. While backpacking, users must adhere to wilderness policy specifying the use of existing rings or the use of a fire pan or blanket.
 - b. Campfires must not be unattended for any length of time. The fire must be put out cold before retiring.

2. Forest Fires

- a. Check in with TWRS managers or research fire conditions before going into the field, especially if there are fires already burning in area.
- b. Report smoke or fire to TWRS managers immediately. Make a note of smoke color, wind direction, and suspected fire location. If you see fire, attempt to gauge intensity, rate of travel, direction, and spread.
- c. Evacuate the area. Immediately, return to TWRS if possible and await further instruction or move to a safe area.
- d. Outside of TWRS, the nearest USFS contact is at Cabin Creek Ranger Station.
- e. Smoking on TWRS/UI property is prohibited.

F. Frank Church--River of No Return Wilderness and Idaho Fish and Game Policies

1. Idaho Fish and Game and FC-RONR regulations apply to all off-property activity and must be obeyed at all times.
2. Fishing on and off TWRS property is legal with a current fishing license. Only TWRS users may fish on-property. Non-users will be regarded as trespassers and asked to leave.
3. Only catch-and-release fishing is permitted, and only barbless hooks may be used.
4. Hunting is not permitted on TWRS property. TWRS users are not permitted to hunt during their stay.

G. Station Maintenance

Users residing at TWRS for more than seven days will be asked to participate in maintenance projects for approximately four hours each week.

IV. Safety Guidelines

A. Hiking Safety

Proper attire is required when hiking on or near TWRS. Steep, rocky, and rugged terrain is commonplace and good shoes and proper clothing should be worn. Group leaders will be in charge of taking a hiking first aid kit and it is highly suggested that at least one person in the group carries a hiking pole that can be used to move snakes off the trail.

B. Water

1. Dehydration

- a. Generally, users should drink 2-3 liters of water a day.
- b. Symptoms of dehydration include: Mild: Slowed activity, decreased urination, headache. Moderate: Increased pulse, slowed activity/awareness, decreased urination, cool, mottled skin with low elasticity, dry mucus membranes. Severe: Strong increase in pulse, weak or unresponsive, no urination, cool, clammy, skin with low elasticity and delayed capillary refill, dried mucus membranes, sunken eyes.
- c. Moderate-to-severe dehydration is grounds for immediate medical evacuation.

2. Giardia

- a. The waterborne protozoan Giardia is known to exist in all TWRS-area waterways except Pioneer Creek. Users must exercise caution in these waterways to avoid ingesting any amount of untreated water, especially in activities such as swimming, snorkeling, fishing, or rinsing dishes away from the creek.
- b. All water outside of Pioneer Creek should be boiled, treated, or filtered before drinking.
- c. Water in cabins is untreated from Pioneer Creek. While the water from Pioneer Creek has been safe in the past and has never yielded a case of giardia, users drink untreated water from the cabins at their own risk.
- d. Symptoms of giardiasis include: abdominal pain, gas, bloating, diarrhea, headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting.
- e. Giardiasis cases should be evacuated at the nearest reasonable opportunity, depending on severity.

C. Temperature

Users are responsible for preparing for both cold and hot temperatures, particularly in high-elevation areas, foul-weather events, or during periods of heavy exertion. Dress for the weather. Extra water and a rain shell are good resources to carry.

1. Cold risk

a. Hypothermia can progress to a life-threatening situation. Mild hypothermia: Severe shivering, poor coordination, cold skin. Severe hypothermia: No shivering, stiff muscles, slow pulse and breathing, altered mental status.

2. Heat risk

a. Sunburn

b. Hyperthermia can occur. Mild (heat exhaustion): thirst, fatigue, flu-like symptoms, nausea, rapid pulse, shortness of breath, hot skin. Severe (heatstroke): all of the above, except skin temperature is now cool or clammy and with the addition of altered mental status.

3. Severe hypo- or hyperthermia is grounds for immediate medical evacuation.

D. Plant/Animal Encounters

Users are advised to familiarize themselves with plant and animal risks in the area and to know their own limits or sensitivities. Users are not to harass wildlife under any circumstances.

1. Tick fever/tick bite

Spring is generally tick season in the FC-RONR, although ticks can be found at any time of year.

a. Users should check themselves for ticks regularly. Embedded ticks can be safely removed by grasping the head and gently and steadily pulling with tweezers (no matches, gasoline, Vaseline etc.).

b. Tick-borne illness can be characterized by extreme fatigue, nausea and vomiting, severe fever and chills. Many types can be treated with antibiotics.

c. Tick-borne illness cases must be evacuated at the soonest opportunity.

2. Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are common in the FC-RONR but are typically docile and rarely pose a threat to users. However, caution should be exercised.

a. Users are advised not to use headphones on the trail, nor any other audio equipment that may impede their ability to hear a rattlesnake warning.

b. Users are not to attempt to touch, catch, or harm any rattlesnake.

c. A rattlesnake on the property should be immediately reported to TWRS managers.

d. A rattlesnake bite is grounds for immediate medical evacuation.

3. Bites/stings/allergic reactions

a. Animal bites are to be reported to a TWRS station manager. Users with deep skin-breaking bites or bites from an animal behaving strangely should be evacuated at the soonest opportunity.

b. Users discovering a bee/wasp nest are asked to report it to TWRS managers.

c. Poison ivy is uncommon but has been observed east of Taylor near the Bighorn Bridge. Ask if you require assistance identifying poison ivy or need help obtaining treatment.

d. Allergies:

1. Users known to have a severe allergy are strongly advised to carry an EpiPen at all times.

2. If able, the user experiencing anaphylaxis must self-administer the EpiPen.

3. Anaphylaxis is grounds for immediate medical evacuation.

E. Falling Objects

1. Trees: The area surrounding TWRS has experienced several fires in the past decades, and deadfall or hazard trees can be a serious concern. Be aware of your surroundings and current weather conditions. Avoid snag zones during periods of high wind.

2. Rocks: Several trails and research areas around TWRS intersect with talus slides, rock walls, and overhangs. Be aware of your surroundings, listen carefully, and do not linger in risky areas. Do not use headphones while hiking.

F. Tree Climbing

Only users certified in tree climbing and who have authorization from the Dean's office may climb trees on TWRS property.

G. Emergency Equipment/Training

1. Users must have personal first aid kits.
2. Standard first aid kits are kept in each cabin and are for emergency use only. Users are asked to replace items used from the kits (e.g. adhesive bandages, aspirin, ibuprofen).
3. A first aid kit must accompany each hiking group. The group leader is required to make sure there is a first aid kit on each hike.
4. Extensive first aid, medical, and trauma supplies are kept in the managers' cabin.
5. An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is kept in the managers' cabin for cardiac emergencies.
6. Station managers have a current certification in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or higher.

H. Airstrip Use

1. Use of the airstrip is limited to TWRS users or authorized guests transported by local aviation services (e.g. Arnold Aviation in Cascade, Sawtooth Aviation or McCall Air in McCall, Middle Fork Aviation in Challis, Interstate Aviation in Moscow). Recreational users (hikers, rafters, hunters) are welcome to visit on foot, but may not fly themselves, gear, or meat in or out of TWRS except in cases of medical emergency.
2. Private aircraft not on TWRS business are prohibited from landing at TWRS.

I. Winter Safety

1. Users visiting in the winter must have ice cleats for use in icy conditions.
2. Winter users must bring clothing and gear appropriate for cold temperatures.
3. Visitor cabins do not have running water during winter months.
4. Weather delays for aircraft are common during winter months and users should pack food accordingly.

J. Additional Causes For Immediate Evacuation

In addition to incidents noted above, causes for immediate evacuation include: head and neck trauma, noticeable or lasting reduced levels of consciousness or awareness, severe blood loss, serious infection, animal bites, deep puncture wounds, fractures, and dislocations.

V. Trail Etiquette

A. Pack Strings

1. Pack strings have the right-of-way before hikers. Signal your location to the packer to avoid startling the stock and move off the trail to a safe distance.
2. Do not attempt to touch, handle, or catch pack stock without the permission of the packer.

B. Other Wilderness Users

1. Be aware and respectful of other wilderness users, as many are specifically seeking a "wilderness experience." Reduce your visual/audio impact as much as possible.
2. Always exercise "Leave No Trace" practices.
3. Offer assistance to travelers in need or refer them to TWRS.

VI. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct

<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html>