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Taylor-monial

The value of wilderness has been put into question by the Anthropocene, but the answer is *priceless*. The Anthropocene is rapidly taking more and more wilderness away from us and the animals living within it. Humans are effectively destroying one of the last precious resources that has attempted to remain uncontaminated for over 100 years. Corporations are putting a price tag on wilderness while other activist groups and social events are bringing attention to the invaluable benefits of pure wilderness. Taylor Ranch is located in one of the greatest wilderness', and it remains a fountain of knowledge regarding the wilderness and its sublime characteristics. On top of this place, giving endless emotion and information about the contents of wilderness, there is also an elite staff that brings tons of details that are golden nuggets of information. The professors become a part of Taylor Ranch just as much as the students and the relation of giving and receiving becomes what everyone ends up learning the most from. Wilderness is necessary in order for this cycle to continue so that younger generations can feel what it was like hundreds of years ago. They'll learn new perspectives and a certain awareness that can't be found anywhere else.

Taylor has taught me more than I have learned and retained in one semester than in 2 whole years (4 semesters) at one of the best public universities in New York. A large spectrum of new information from how to write in many different techniques to feelings that I've never

felt before. Taylor is its own separate entity that encapsulates everyone's experience each time they come out here. It doesn't have a definitive set of rules or guarantees, it simply shares memories with the people that visit it which creates a mix of memories for all to enjoy. Taylor is very similar to wilderness. Wilderness is a stationary entity that only gives when one willingly participates and explores the wilderness. This is when one creates and takes their own experience from the wilderness. This is basically a bigger version of Taylor's system of giving and receiving knowledge. For example, not many people are interested in, or even aware of, the history of the Frank Church until they come in and see the pictographs, the antique cabins, and the old telephone wire insulators scattered around the ground. You give the wilderness your attention and now it returns the favor with knowledge.

Knowledge also comes from facilitators of the wilderness at Taylor Ranch. The Fish and Game people, the NOAA group, the professors, and the animals all have a story to tell with key information located inside. Starting with history, the foundation of the wilderness with the Wilderness Act of 1964 is what Adam taught us. How wilderness came to be and how each figure: Logging companies, mining companies, governors, activists all played a role in the formation of it. Many people like John Muir and Aldo Leopold were explored for their impact on the public's view of wilderness. These activists relate to what Jenn taught us with the different activist movements and the many techniques they use in writing and speaking that persuade the audience to think and feel a certain way. Ed taught us a very present idea of how each of the events that his organization holds operates and how much work it actually takes to make any action occur. He also talked about forest management and with some hands-on experience of wilderness restoration, we learned quite a lot about modern wilderness. People like Ed and

his organization had to have a consensus with the people and the legislature in order to ensure future impacts weren't too great. Impacts could be based solely on science which is what Pete taught us. He taught us how the ecology of the place is interconnected. One action always requires a reaction so Ed and his team need to be careful when they lobby for certain new ideas to be placed. Pete's teachings are directly related to what certain activist writers said and it is completely substantiated by science. Lastly, Meg taught us how to handle ourselves and our team in wilderness situations using soft and hard skills. These skills are useful in the front country as well, which can be applied to the rest of one's life.

So how valuable is wilderness?

It seems that what I have learned and what I am going to take home is irreplaceable knowledge. The combination of Taylor and the wilderness has brought me an experience unlike any other. Self-knowledge, academic knowledge, and hard skills are all inclusive in the experience. I cannot wait to see where this knowledge takes me and I'm sure I will be back in the near future. Hopefully the mountains will still talk to me and I can learn even more the next time around.