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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
NORTHEASTERN REGION
BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20705

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SUBJECT: Costs for Recent Field Work to Collect General Samples and Recollections

TO: Dr. Arthur S. Barclay

Costs for recent field work in Colorado, California and Nevada were separated on the basis of three operations.

1. Ipomopsis Recollection - Colorado

Air Fare.....	\$ 107.00
Per Diem - 6.5 days @ \$42.00 per day.....	273.00
Vehicle.....	159.00
Misc.....	44.00
	<u>583.00</u>

TOTAL: 60 pounds @ \$9.72 per pound

2. Horkelia Recollection - California

Air Fare.....	\$ 157.26
Per Diem - 5.5 days @ \$62.00 per day.....	310.00
Vehicle.....	111.00
Labor.....	100.00
Misc.....	10.00
	<u>687.26</u>

TOTAL: 190 pounds @ \$3.62 per pound

3. General Samples - California, Nevada

Air Fare.....	\$ 415.24
Per Diem.....	806.00
Vehicle.....	232.00
Labor.....	100.00
Misc.....	100.00
	<u>\$1,652.87</u>

TOTAL: 66 samples @ \$25.04 per sample

Air fare and vehicle dollars were proportioned according to the time spent on each operation. For example, 25 percent of my ticket was recorded under Ipomopsis because I spent 6-1/2 of 26 days on this. Emely's air fare of \$250.00 was split between Horkelia (31 percent) and general samples.

Unexpected rain, sleet and snow were responsible for higher than anticipated costs. In Colorado which had the rainiest August on record, 100 pounds of Ipomopsis might have been obtained at \$5.83 per pound. Contracting this out, \$6.00 per pound would not be unreasonable.

We had to leave some Horkelia piles behind. More than 200 pounds would have been sacked at \$2.15 per pound. Previous samples of Horkelia from the same locality were purchased at \$3.00 per pound (via lab. contracts).

Spending more time on Horkelia (because of rain) meant less time (than planned) for general samples, a loss of possibly 18. Also, the usual vehicle problems prevented us from reaching the alpine flora in the Inyo-White Mountains and required our time in moving field equipment in and out of the truck. Some cost comparisons to previous trips are shown below.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Cost (per sample)</u>	
			<u>W/O Salary</u>	<u>W/Salary</u>
California	4-5/78	.7 PP	\$14.00	\$24.00
N. Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee	9/78	3- GE	\$33.15	\$84.29
Texas, Nevada, California	11/78	0	\$41.61	\$57.08
Mexico, California	2-3/79	.6 PP	\$41.71	\$52.75
Nevada, California	9/79	1- GE	\$25.04	\$39.04

Purchased Plant Pickers (PP) were not employed 100 percent of the time during my travels, thus, their values are less than one. Costs for Government Employees (GE), in addition to myself, include per diem under the first column and salaries under the second column. One major cost difference between this and recent trips is the rental of a functional GSA truck rather than the more reliable commercial vehicles. Other differences might be attributed to inflation, the advent of SLOP, number of government employees traveling together, time of year, and weather.

RICHARD SPJUT, Botanist
Economic Botany Laboratory
Building 265, BARC-East

cc: Dr. James A. Duke