UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

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Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 2009

TO: Rich Boone, MPC Chair

FROM: Brian Rogers, Chancellor

RE: Determination on MPC Recommendation 2009-04 - Balsam Poplar Garden Research Project

Thank you for transmission of the UAF Master Planning Committee's (MPC) unanimous recommendation regarding the use of the T-field for Matthew Olson's research project. The LARS property was toured by PI Olson and Perry Barboza on May 29, 2009. The review of the LARS site generated the following analysis:

> "…the LARS site is not suitable for the Poplar Common Garden. The site closest to the road is pocked with thermokarst sinkholes. This type of soil is not suitable for growing a long term experiment wherein the goal is to plant each tree in as similar an environment as possible. The other site that was mentioned is in the back area of LARS and has not yet been cleared. There are not plans to clear the site this year. It would take significant time and money to cut down the trees, remove the stumps, and prepare the soil for planting."

Based on the lack of suitability of LARS as an alternative site, the MPC action to approve the T-field location for the Balsam Poplar Project stands.

The balance of competing needs for university land, facilities and resources is a continuing responsibility of the university. The process to maintain that balance in this instance involves the North Campus Subcommittee, the Master Planning Committee, and the Chancellor.

In addition to undertaking the alternative site review requested by the MPC, I personally reviewed every comment and suggestion that was sent in on this topic. I also went through the MPC packet that contained the project summary, the trails club appeal, and the permit application. Additionally the University Trails Club submitted an appeal directly to the Chancellor's Office requesting that the MPC decision be overturned.

My review indicated:

- PI Olson has followed the process to conduct research using North Campus Lands.
- Reasonable alternatives were explored, including LARS, the farm fields, and the mixed-stand plantings in the NE corner of the farm.
- The site selected was the best available based on location, topography, and condition for planting this summer. This was demonstrated to the satisfaction of the North Campus Subcommittee and the MPC. It is not required that every impacted user agree with that analysis for the project to move forward.
- Timing of this project is such that the current decision making process has created timing issues for the project, and further deliberation would likely delay this summer's work by a year.
- The planting of an experimental stand of trees can be accomplished without impact to the location of any ski trails. The planting will result in a change to the vegetation of the T-field, but will leave existing ski trails unchanged.
- Access restrictions in the permit, specifically the use of currently defined hiking and snowshoe trails for future teaching purposes, preclude damage to ski trails in the winter.
- Fencing is approved for the permit to prevent damage to the plot by moose graze while the trees are young. The retention or removal of that fencing for aesthetic purposes will be a decision for a later date. The temporal visual dominance of a fence in the early stages of a long term research project is not sufficient grounds to reject a project.
- It is accurate that, across time, the visual perspective from ski trails in the T-field and the sense of openness will change.
- UAF remains committed to the existence of quality ski trails in the winter and available summer recreation. The presence of the UAF ski coach on the North Campus Subcommittee ensures consideration of the impact of newly proposed uses on the ski trails.

The co-existence of recreational use and research activity in North Campus require careful evaluation of impacts and benefits of research projects. It does not provide that no impacts will occur, and almost virtually assures that some accommodations need to be made to allow for any change in use. Given this issue is fundamentally about change in use and the compatibility of current and proposed uses, I have attached a set of historical observations on the North Campus lands authored by Dave Klein, Professor Emeritus IAB and Department of Biology and Wildlife. His depiction of the changes in use of these areas across time provides a valuable perspective on change across time. The prime conclusion one can draw from Professor Klein's background information is that the use

and nature of the North Campus lands will continue to change, and the object is to responsibly manage that change.

The current process, as indicated by the multiple levels of review and evaluation, demonstrates the University's commitment to a fair and legitimate balancing of competing needs for land use. UAF's mission statement:

> **"The University of Alaska Fairbanks, the nation's northernmost Land, Sea and Space Grant university and international research center, advances and disseminates knowledge through teaching, research and public service with an emphasis on Alaska, the circumpolar North and their diverse peoples. UAF--America's arctic university--promotes academic excellence, student success and lifelong learning."**

sets the baseline for all activity within the university. The recommendations of the North Campus Subcommittee and the MPC are consistent with that defined mission.

It is my determination that the T-field is approved for the Balsam Poplar Project as recommended by the North Campus Subcommittee and the MPC. Based on that determination, I have signed the MPC transmittal memo (attached) and authorized PI Olson to proceed with planting. I thank you for your work on this difficult issue.

There remains some confusion about the process for decision-making that UAF uses when there are conflicts in use of UAF land between public use (including trails) and mission-related use (including research projects). I will commission a review of the process this fall, with the goal of clarifying confusion and clearly communicating to all users – university and public – the process for decision-making in cases like this.

BDR

Attachments (as stated)

cc: Matt Olson, IAB Associate Professor
Luke Hopkins, North Campus Manager
Peter Fix, North Campus Subcommittee Chair
Stan Justice, University Trails Club President

dlm/determinationMPCRec2009-04

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **David R. Klein** <ffdrk@uaf.edu>
Date: Sun, May 31, 2009 at 4:33 PM
Subject: T-field and balsam poplar
To: ffrdb@uaf.edu
Cc: fnbdr@uaf.edu, ffsmo@uaf.edu, nrozell@gi.alaska.edu, ffpsb@uaf.edu, stanjustice@gci.net, jeffapplebenowitz@yahoo.com

Rich,

Perspective on the T-field and balsam poplar research

The T-field and Potato Field were created when forests there were cleared by the Agricultural Research Station of the Bureau of Biological Survey prior to the establishment the AK College of Agriculture and School of Mines, forerunner to UAF. These and other areas of the North Campus Lands (NCL) were cleared for crop production primarily to feed the animals at the Ag Station. Some were soon abandoned, especially those on the north side of West Ridge, because of extensive ice lenses that lead to extreme thermokarsting, such as the bicycle bumps area. After merger of the Ag Station with the university, crop culture was continued on the T-field and Potato Field where ice lenses were deeper, thus slower to thaw, and more scattered. They and adjacent forested areas were also fenced with barbed wire, and some times with cattle fencing for periodic grazing of domestic livestock and possibly also mountain sheep and yak used in hybrid crosses with domestic sheep and cattle, and by the reindeer and muskoxen used in feeding and breeding experiments. Later, use of the Potato Field was discontinued because of increasing numbers of grazing animals falling into the thremokarst pits, resulting in injuries and often considerable difficulty in getting them out. It was in the early 1950's when I was a grad student that a tractor fell in a thermokarst pit that had opened up in the center of the T-filed, and several days of effort in excavating a ramp to get the tractor out were required. The T-field was then used mainly to produce hay for the dairy herd the Ag Station had at that time. More fields were being cleared of forest in the flats south of the Station so only occasional use of the T-field was made after that event. Earlier, when I worked at the Ag Station as a beginning student in the spring semester of 1948, I remember that any seeding or other spring or early summer work at the T-field required use of the team of horses rather than the tractor or truck because of the muddy quagmire along the road going by Smith Lake. The T-field will continue to undergo change over time as native vegetation, including young trees and shrubs and a few invasive species encroach, although recent mowing of the perimeter trails will make encroachment from the adjacent forest slower than has been the case in the Potato Field. And the scattered young spruce trees there do appear to enhance the beauty of that portion of the trails system.

The North Campus Lands began to be used for teaching and related

investigative research from the time of UAF's origin as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. Initially, these teaching and research activities were focused on agriculture, botanical collecting, and observation and description of the effects of land clearing on soils underlain by permafrost. As the College developed into a university, and especially with the establishment of research institutes, use of the NCL for research activities expanded to focus on boreal forest ecology, including limnological and other biological investigations at Smith and Ballaine lakes, and more intensive studies of permafrost characteristics, its changes in temperature over time, and its relation to land use practices.
Some of the noteworthy wildlife studies included surveys of wildlife use of habitat types throughout the NCL, pioneering studies of the importance of the subnivian environment for small mammals during winter, the role of red and flying squirrels in spruce seed dispersal, and the role of secondary chemicals in plants as a defense against snowshoe hares, moose, and other herbivores. The NCL has also served as a teaching laboratory, often in conjunction with the ongoing research, for students taking classes in biology, wildlife, limnology, soils, forestry, geology, land use practices, environmental engineering, etc. Clearly the primary use of the NCL has been, and hopefully will continue, to place focus on their value for teaching and research.

It was Ivar Skarland who introduced cross country skiing to the North Campus Lands and he was instrumental in organizing students and others he was able to interest in the sport to assist in preparing trails. There were also several wood roads through the area that provided good skiing in winter. Cross country skiing waned during World War II, and later with the passing of Ivar Skarland. The unavailability of cross country ski equipment in local sporting goods stores in the post war decades also inhibited resurgence of the sport. Pat Pine began importing high quality Norwegian cross country equipment which she sold in the basement of her home. I think that it was sometime in the early 1970's, followed by Jim Whisenhant who did the same to equip the students he first coached at the University Park Elementary School and he later took over Pat's retail sale outlet business to evolve into Beaver Sports. Cross country skiing, both classic Nordic, and more recently skate skiing have boomed in popularity in the past couple of decades throughout the world where winter snows are available. The location of UAF at this relatively high latitude with our normally stable winter conditions and with our now excellently developed ski trail system on the NCL add immensely to our ability to attract academically well qualified students many of whom have outstanding athletic capabilities. And I am convinced that many of our recently employed top quality teaching and research faculty and support staff have been attracted to UAF because of the wonderful conditions for skiing here throughout our long but beautiful winters. We should be proud of the accomplishments, of which many of us have assisted, that have been made in the development of our NCL trail system and of its value to the university.

Unfortunately, the recent proposal to establish a fenced botanical research area for genetic investigations of balsam poplar, a native forest tree species, in the T-field has been presented in a controversial context by the local news media. The proposed location is adjacent to a long established fenced area where research initiated by the late Les Viereck has been carried out on winter hardiness and growth of trees from other sub-Arctic regions. In view of the history of the NCL and the university's primary responsibility to research and education, the proposed location of the balsam poplar research within the T-field is the best possible and most appropriate location for this project. Best possible for the research project in terms of efficiency, convenience, and cost to maintain, as well as best to facilitate educational outreach to the users of the trail system, including students and others in the university community, and the broader Fairbanks community and tourists who will also be visitors to the area and users of the NCL trails system. Of course, interpretive signage describing the research design and its rational should be a required component of the research project.

Regarding the aesthetics of siteing the project at that location I can only speak from my own perspective, recognizing that aesthetic appreciation varies among individuals, or put more simply, "beauty is in the eye of the beholder". I lived during the 1960's through the early 1980's at the corner of Miller Hill and Lawler roads and more lately adjacent to the north entry to the NCL trails system and have during these times consistently commuted to the university in winter on skis by the trail system. I helped open up old trails and to develop new ones. I did appreciate being able to ski or walk by the fenced forest tree enclosure to watch the development of the trees there, some of the Finnish Birches and Siberian larch Don Dinkel, the Ag Station horticulturalist and I were able transplant to the campus when we jointly served on a campus arbor committee. I also appreciated being able to ski from home to the northeast corner of the T-field in an early afternoon in mid-winter during the Christmas break when the sun, low on the southwestern horizon, was able to briefly cast sunshine on the old balsam poplars there. Similarly, my favorite location for viewing the more distant landscape during mid-winter while on the trail system is at the southeast corner of the Potato Field. There, one looks northwest over Smith Lake toward the snow covered hills with Murphy Dome in the distance. At the T-field, I do find the straight stretches of the groomed trails along the edges of the field a bit boring though they encourage me to accelerate from my usual slow, nature observing pace, which results in generation of needed body warmth on cold days. But, I acknowledge that these are my own aesthetic perspectives reflect my own biases.

I hope this background information as well as my perspectives as a long time NCL trail user will assist in the decision process.

Dave Klein

Professor Emeritus
Institute of Arctic Biology and Dept. of Biology and Wildlife

Master Planning Committee
of
University of Alaska Fairbanks

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2009

To: Brian Rogers, Chancellor

Approved 6/8/09 Date

From: Rich Boone, MPC Chair Rich Boone

Re: MPC Recommendation 2009-04 – Balsam Poplar Garden Research Project

The UAF Master Planning Committee held a special meeting on May 29, 2009. Reviewed at the meeting were the North Campus Subcommittee's approval of the permit for research on North Campus submitted by UAF Principal Investigator Matthew Olson, and an appeal of that subcommittee decision. At issue is the site of the project--the T-field on North Campus. At the meeting, PI Olson gave an overview of his balsam poplar garden research project; the review process involving the proposed research site was discussed; UAF Trails Club President Stan Justice argued the club's appeal of the North Campus Subcommittee's approval of Olson's permit; and public comment was received. As background, attached are the Summary of the Proposed Work, the grant proposal, a site map, the application form and instructions in place to request research in the North Campus area, and the appeal of the UAF Trails Club. MPC members deliberated the issues and conflicting interests in the T-field and discussed the possibility of an alternative site for the project. As a result, the following recommendation was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (12-0):

> The MPC recommends that LARS be explored as an alternative site and if not determined suitable by the PI within 7 days, that the T-field location is approved for the Balsam Poplar Project.

If you are in agreement with the MPC recommendation as stated above, please indicate your approval at the top portion of this document.

dlm

Attachments (as stated)

Summary of Proposed Work
Balsam Poplar Common Garden for Teaching and Research
Matthew Olson, P.I.

1. **Goals**: Describe your research goals and objectives. Why is the NCA the most appropriate location for this research?

We will be planting a common garden of balsam poplar genotypes that originate from throughout the range of the species (Across Canada and Alaska) for research and teaching purposes. The entire genome of poplar has been DNA sequenced and genomic DNA nucleotide variation for these genotypes has been characterized for 600+ genes. Studies of these genotypes are the focus of a long term collaborative study with scientists at the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Research goals include understanding adaptation during climate change, identifying genes associated with timing of dormancy (an important trait for adaptation across latitudinal clines), understanding the influence of genetic diversity on ecosystem processes, cold adaptation of trees, and genetic variation of tolerance to herbivory. Research in this garden will complement an NSF-funded project on Cold Adaptation in Balsam Poplar being conducted by the Principle Investigator, Matt Olson. This garden will be available for use in Biology courses including Principles of Ecology, Principles of Genetics, and Principles of Evolution to provide hands-on exercises to estimate genetic diversity in natural populations of trees. We will be using this garden for a summer course in 2009.

2. **Timeline**: What is the timeline for your research?

Ongoing. We intend to grow the trees to maturity, so the site may remain a garden for 10+ years. If no research is being conducted in the garden for any 5 year period, its utility will be re-assessed and discussions will ensue regarding whether the site should be returned to a grasy field.

3. **Access**: Describe how you will access the site: by what means, how often, and in what seasons.

Access will be required during the spring, summer and fall, when snow is not on the ground. We will access the site by foot and, when required, by vehicle along the dirt road from the GI parking lot. Special access during the winter may be requested in the future for teaching purposes and will be by foot along currently defined hiking and snowshoe trails to the T-field.

4. **Location**: Provide GPS coordinates of your proposed site(s) together with a North Campus Area map (See below) that indicates the proposed site. The NCS Chair can provide a GPS unit it you do not have access to one. Specific research locations will not be divulged to the general public but will be used by the NCS strictly for management decisions. Photographs or digital images of the site are also helpful.

This will be provided by Luke Hopkins and Alan Tonne

5. **Size and dimensions of study area**: Give the size and dimensions of your proposed study area.

This will be provided by Luke Hopkins and Alan Tonne

6. **Site modifications**: One of the objectives of the North Campus Plan is to maintain the natural integrity of the NCA and ensure a quality research environment for the future. How will your research meet these objectives? Describe any required modifications to the location such as new trails, soil pits, boardwalks, tree removal, construction projects, or other infrastructure.

We will be installing a fence approximately 8 feet high with metal posts and mesh fencing that surrounds the garden. This is required for tree establishment to ensure the saplings are not eaten by Moose. After the trees are mature the fence can be removed if necessary.

7. **Utilities**: Indicate if your research requires power lines or connections.

No

8. **Potential hazards**: Describe any environmental hazards associated with your proposed NCA research, including use of harmful chemicals, radiation, or infrastructure that could harm the NCA and/or its users.

Roundup herbicide will be used to treat the site before planting. This herbicide has a short retention time in the soil (only days) and has minor long term environmental influences.

9. **Potential conflicts**: The NCS is committed to maintaining quality standards of multiple use in the NCA. Describe any potential conflicts with educational or recreational users.

None known. The garden will not impact the current locations of any ski trails. Minor changes can be made to accommodate any concerns of the trail users.

10. **Restoration:** The UAF North Campus Plan requires that all evidence of the research project be removed from the site within 90 days of project completion and restoration of the area. Describe how you will accomplish this.

This is a long term study, so it cannot currently be projected needs for this site in 10 – 25 years from now. Additional funding will have to be acquired at the time for site manipulation.

A Poplar Common Garden for Alaska's State Needs

Proposal: To develop a common garden of approximately 500 balsam poplar clones (*Populus balsamifera*), each replicated 5 times (2500 trees total), for permanent study on the UAF campus. This garden will be a replicate of a garden currently growing in Indian Head, Canada and will include 15 individuals from each of 32+ populations. These clones originate from sites throughout the range of balsam poplar (Figure 1). My vision is that this garden will be a long term research resource for all types of researchers (physiologists, chemists, geneticists, ecologists, foresters, etc.) interested in genetic variation in Alaskan vegetation. I anticipate that it will spawn many different research projects and can be the source of funded proposals for years to come. Carol Lewis, Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, is very keen on the idea and has offered long term space in the Experimental Fields to plant the garden.

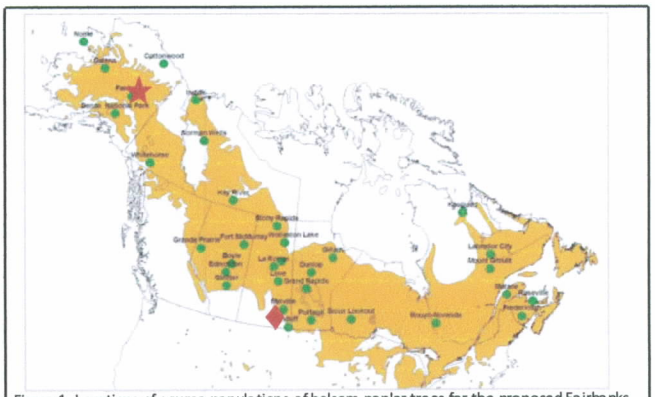


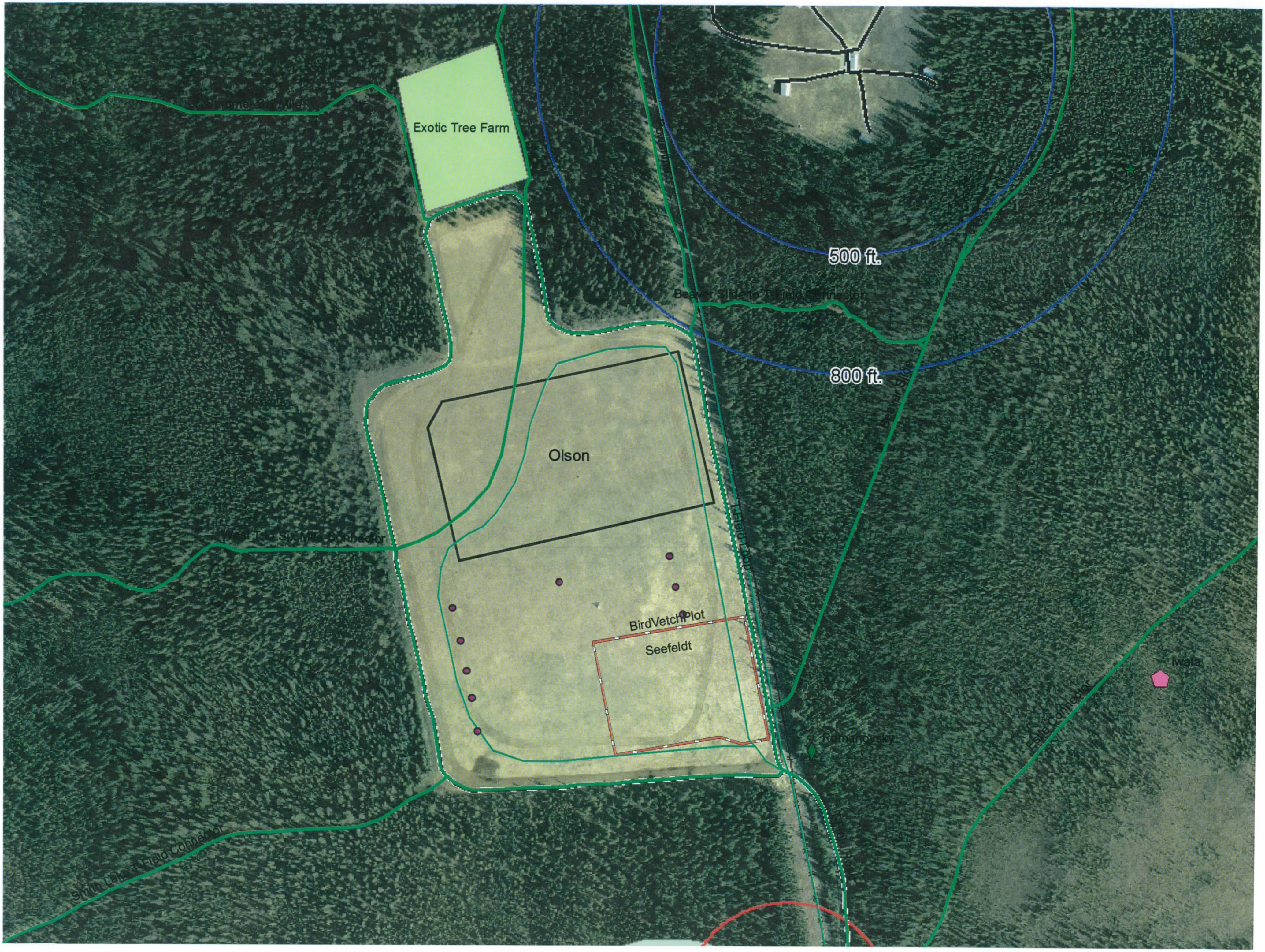
Figure 1. Locations of source populations of balsam poplar trees for the proposed Fairbanks common garden (green circles). Orange shading indicates the range of balsam poplar. The star and diamond respectively indicate the locations of the proposed Fairbanks garden and a replicate garden currently growing in Indian Head, Canada.

Rationale

Landscape Genetics: Poplar is the model tree species for genetics and physiology; an annotated genome is available, making the genetic resources necessary for population and functional genetic studies easily accessible. Balsam poplar is a foundation species for floodplain boreal forest. The degree and type of ecological importance of this species varies across the state and its range, depending on factors such as the presence of competitor tree species or alternative sources for large and small herbivore browse; these factors will drive variation in local selection regimes and adaptation. Ongoing research in the Olson lab at UAF is addressing patterns of DNA sequence variation throughout the range in these same genotypes of balsam poplar. A common garden will allow studies of the patterns of functional genetic variation present across the Boreal forest and expressed in the Interior Alaskan environment. The presence of this common garden on the UAF campus will provide easy access for future students at all levels for studies of plant physiology, herbivory, disease resistance, yield and growth characteristics, and functional genetics. Moreover, comparative studies can be conducted utilizing the same genotypes growing in the replicate garden in Indian Head, Canada.

Teaching and outreach: Genotype and environment affects on plant phenology is one of two curriculum components being developed by EPSCoR outreach to secondary schools. This common garden will serve as a long term site where Fairbanks secondary school students can conduct studies on the effects of genotype and environment on morphological and physiological traits in plants. The garden also will serve as a field site for UAF university classes to conduct field studies of the influences of genotype and environment on plant growth, physiology and morphology.

State needs: Balsam poplar is the fastest growing tree species in Interior Alaska and is being considered for interior floodplain forest plantings. With future requirements for biofuels for heating, coal gasification, and other needs, reforestation with high yield genotypes is necessary. This garden will provide the first study of yield in the Interior for a range-wide collection of genotypes of an Alaskan hardwood species. It will provide information about which source population genotypes are best suited for growth in Interior Alaska. Dr. Carol Lewis, Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences at UAF, is enthusiastic about collaborating on the development of this garden and has suggested collaboration with the Alaska Department of Forestry to obtain future long term funding.



Exotic Tree Farm
500 ft.
800 ft.
Olson
BirdVetch Plot
Seefeldt
Iwata

APPLICATION PERMIT FOR RESEARCH IN NORTH CAMPUS AREA
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS (Updated Oct 2007)

The North Campus Area (NCA) provides an excellent outdoor research laboratory for a variety of disciplines. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and visiting scientists have used the NCA for research in ecology, plant science, soils, wildlife and wetlands biology, water chemistry, geophysical sciences, permafrost, agriculture, ornithology, art, photography, native studies, and more. Its value lies primarily in its accessibility on campus and diversity of ecological habitats.

UAF's North Campus Plan (www.uaf.edu/mastplan/northcampus) seeks to ensure that the NCA remains an outstanding campus laboratory for current and future research programs. The North Campus Subcommittee (NCS), created by the UAF Master Planning Committee, reviews and approves all NCA activities consistent with the North Campus Plan. Membership and the activities of the NCS are included at the web site listed above.

All NCA research requires a permit from the NCS; research in the Boreal Arboretum also requires approval from the UAF Arboretum Committee. Permits are valid for up to two years, with renewals possible upon further NCS review. Attached is a permit application that should be accompanied with a brief summary (3-page maximum) of your proposed work. The NCS will review your application and respond in writing, including a request for additional information (if required). The summary of proposed work should include the following:

1. **Goals**: Describe your research goals and objectives. Why is the NCA the most appropriate location for this research?
2. **Timeline**: What is the timeline for your research?
3. **Access**: Describe how you will access the site: by what means, how often, and in what seasons.
4. **Location**: Provide GPS coordinates of your proposed site(s) together with a North Campus Area map (See below) that indicates the proposed site. The NCS Chair can provide a GPS unit it you do not have access to one. Specific research locations will not be divulged to the general public but will be used by the NCS strictly for management decisions. Photographs or digital images of the site are also helpful.
5. **Size and dimensions of study area**: Give the size and dimensions of your proposed study area.
6. **Site modifications**: One of the objectives of the North Campus Plan is to maintain the natural integrity of the NCA and ensure a quality research environment for the future. How will your research meet these objectives? Describe any required modifications to the location such as new trails, soil pits, boardwalks, tree removal, construction projects, or other infrastructure.
7. **Utilities**: Indicate if your research requires power lines or connections.
8. **Potential hazards**: Describe any environmental hazards associated with your proposed NCA research, including use of harmful chemicals, radiation, or infrastructure that could harm the NCA and/or its users.
9. **Potential conflicts**: The NCS is committed to maintaining quality standards of multiple use in the NCA. Describe any potential conflicts with educational or recreational users.
10. **Restoration:** The UAF North Campus Plan requires that all evidence of the research project be removed from the site within 90 days of project completion and restoration of the area. Describe how you will accomplish this.

Contact the NCS Chair (contact information below) if you need any help with the application process. The NCS strives to expedite the permitting and approval process to make it as efficient as possible.

Regulations for Research in NCA

1. Motorized vehicles will only be allowed on designated services roads (exception, emergency vehicles)
2. Walking and use of wheeled vehicles will not be permitted on groomed ski trails in winter. The only exception will be emergency vehicle access and if a situation arises with the research project that requires access for maintenance, equipment installation, etc. and if a snowmachine will not suffice. Any researcher requiring access that includes possible damage to groomed winter trails or boggy summer trails MUST obtain permission from the NCS Chair prior to using the trails. When required, access that has negative impact on groomed ski trails or wet areas should be coordinated with the NCS Chair to ensure that any necessary corrective work is carried out. Use of a snowmachine, if needed, also should be coordinated through the NCS Chair.
3. Researchers and/or their departments will be responsible for funding repair to trails and roads caused by non-approved vehicle access.
4. Projects should be located at a sufficient distance off trails to avoid vandalism and reduce visual impact to other users.
5. Fencing for protection of research project sites is a last resort and requires NCS approval.
6. Trees and other living plant materials near the research site may not be used as signposts, supports for wires and equipment, or other uses that might cause permanent damage or provide entry points for disease or insect pests.
7. All structures, equipment, flagging, cables, and other research materials must be removed within 90 days of project completion. The researchers and/or department will be billed for anything not removed.
8. If modifications to the site have been made, it must be restored as mutually agreed upon in the permit application by the researcher, their department and the NCS. The researchers and/or department will be billed for any modifications not accomplished.

Permitting Process

Once the NCS Chair receives your completed application it will be distributed electronically to the full North Campus Subcommittee. They will respond to the NCS Chair within 5 working days. If there is no further discussion needed you will be notified by the NCS Chair. If further discussion is needed the NCS Chair will schedule a meeting to decide how the research will fit in with the values of the North Campus.

Please note that applications from students must be approved and signed by a faculty advisor or advisors. Faculty advisors and their departments or institutes will be responsible for removal of research materials and site cleanup after project completion.

Applications from researchers not affiliated with UAF require a sponsor from UAF faculty or staff.

If approved

Research sites need to be accessed in a means appropriate for the management regime of the trails/roads involved. Motorized vehicles will only be allowed on designated service roads (see map below). No walking or wheeled vehicles on designated ski trails in winter. No heavy, wheeled vehicles in wet areas. If needed, a snow machine is available for accessing research plots in winter (researchers can coordinate with the NCS Chair). As a last resort, access that damages ski trail grooming, or creates large ruts in a wet area needs to be coordinated with NCS Chair so that corrective dirt work or grooming can occur.

Research projects should be located away from existing trails and should be concealed to reduce vandalism and visual impact to other users. Fencing is a last resort for protecting research projects, and will require the approval of the NCS.

All equipment and artifacts from research projects must be removed within 90 days of the completion of the research project. This includes all structures, equipment, data loggers, and flagging. Responsibility and funding for removal must be identified as part of the approval process. All research projects need to fall under the responsibility of a UAF school or department that will take financial responsibility for post-project clean-up.

Continuation of research beyond the permitting period will require a permit renewal. Requests for renewal should be submitted to the NCS Chair.

If denied

Denial of permit applications by the NCS can be appealed to the Master Planning Committee. A written appeal should be forwarded to the MPC for immediate consideration by the Executive Committee. The MPC will be informed of the appeal and, if the complexity of the proposal merits, will be considered by the entire body. Final appeal can made directly to the UAF Chancellor.

Contact for Further Information

Chair, North Campus Subcommittee
Peter Fix, Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resources & Ag Sciences
323 O'Neill Building
Phone: 907-474-6926
FAX: 907-474-6184
Email: ffpjf@uaf.edu

Additional Contact:

Luke Hopkins
North Campus Manager
Facilities Services
803 Alumni Dr.
UAF Campus
Fairbanks, 99775
Phone: 907-474-2648; Cell 347-0066
Fax: 907-474-5656
Email: lhopkins@fs.uaf.edu

Application for Research in North Campus Area

University of Alaska, Fairbanks
PO Box 757520
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Project Title Balsam Poplar Common Garden for Teaching and Research

Project start date 1 June 2009 Project end date unknown

Total project duration long term

Principal Investigator Matthew Olson

Work Address 311 Irving 1

Phone number x2766 Email mat.olson@uaf.edu

Co-Investigators, Faculty Advisor (s), or UAF Sponsor Carol Lewis, Alan Tonne

Work addresses 172 AHRB & Experimental Farm

Phone numbers x7083 ,x7627 Email ffcel@uaf.edu ,

Department head/director Brian Barnes Phone number: x7649

UAF address: 311A Irving 1 Email ffbmb@uaf.edu

Project's funding source(s): EPSCoR Biology, Global Change Graduate Student Grant

Budget number (to be used only if agreed-upon repairs/restoration have not been accomplished and only with notification of researcher, department head and/or director listed above)

Signatures (include date)

Principal Investigator:

Department Head or Institute Director:

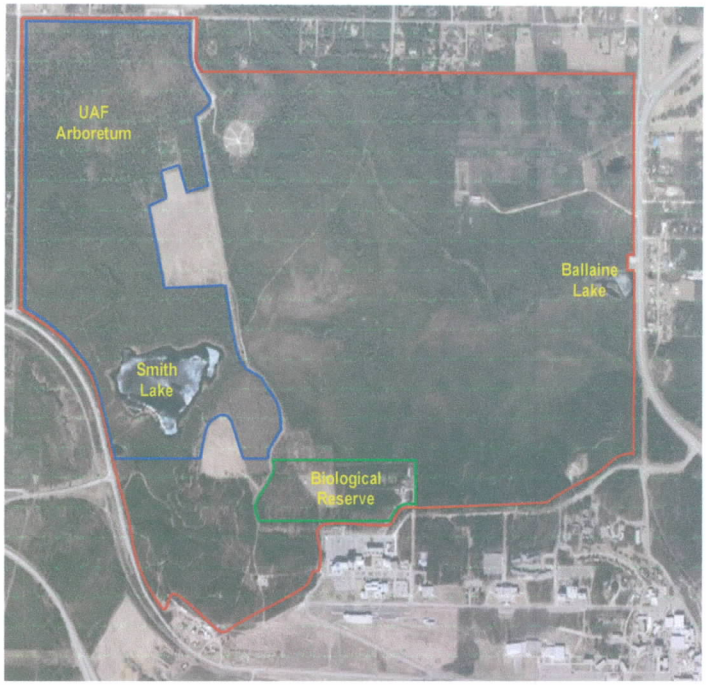
Faculty Advisor(s) if application is from a student

UAF sponsor if applicant is not affiliated with UAF:

Approved Declined by North Campus Subcommittee on

Chair, North Campus Subcommittee:

North Campus Area including the Boundaries of the Arboretum and the Biological Reserve

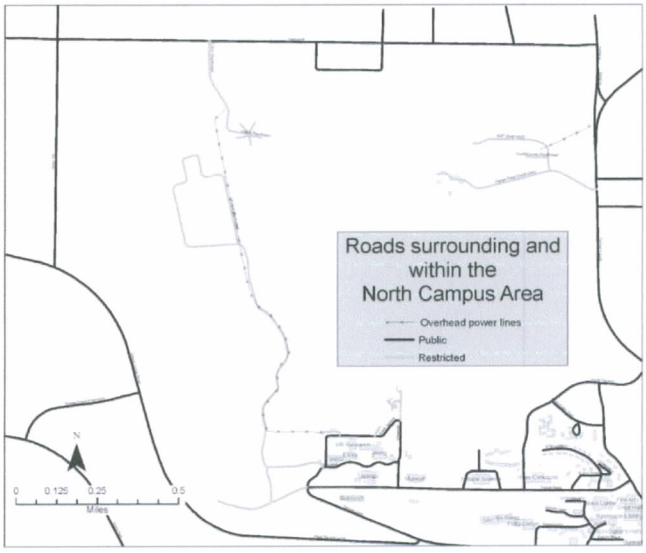


= Approximate boundary of North Campus Area

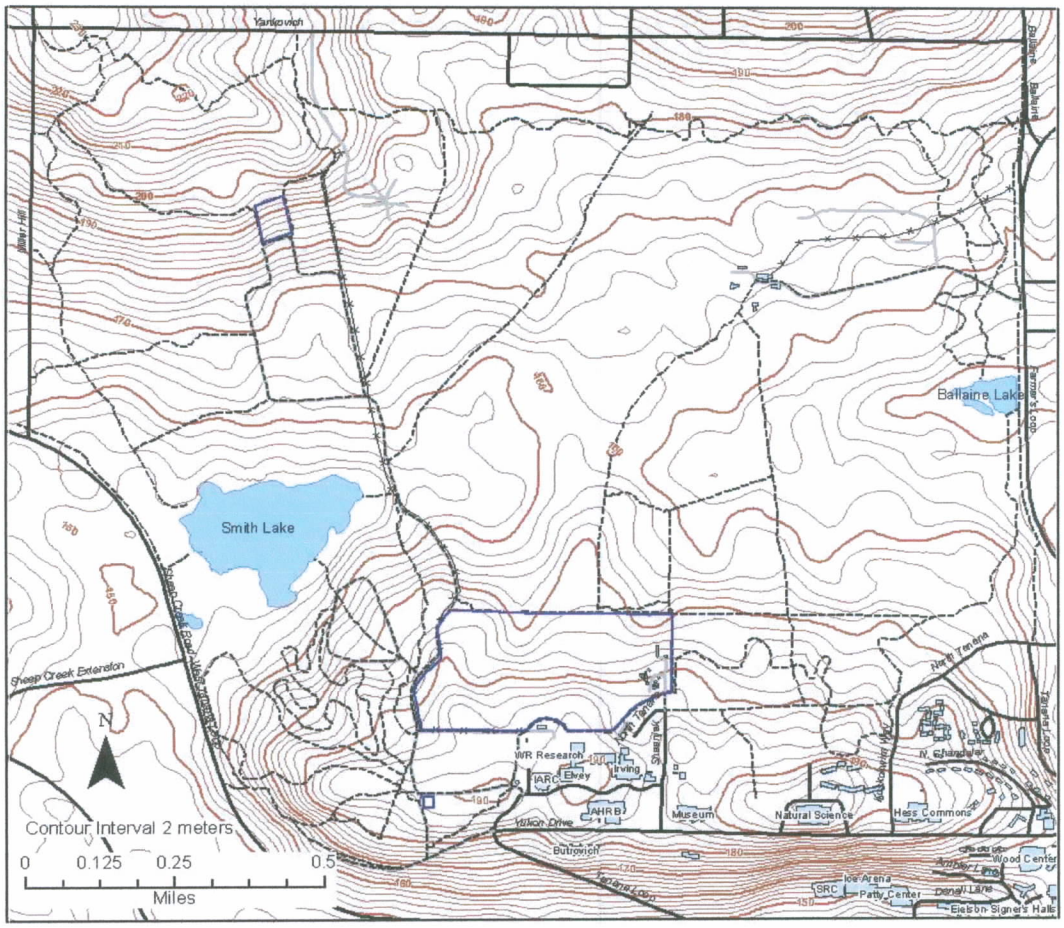
= Approximate boundary of Arboretum

= Approximate boundary of Biological Reserve

Roads Within and Surrounding North Campus Area



Topographic Map of North Campus Area



Fences

Power lines

Trails

roads

Public

Restricted

Subject: [Fwd: T-Field Appeal]
From: "Richard D. Boone" <ffrdb@uaf.edu>
Date: Thu, 28 May 2009 14:52:09 -0800 (AKDT)
To: fnlma@uaf.edu, sarko@asf.alaska.edu, rnjlc@uaf.edu, ftbdh@uaf.edu, j.greenberg@uaf.edu, fyalum@uaf.edu, lhopkins@fs.uaf.edu, fndgh@uaf.edu, fnwrk1@uaf.edu, fnsjm@uaf.edu, dianne.milke@uaf.edu, ffden@uaf.edu, hnielsen@gi.alaska.edu, fnino@uaf.edu, ffslp@uaf.edu, fsjts2@uaf.edu, elisum@gmail.com

Colleagues,

Below is the written appeal of North Campus Subcommittee's approval of Olson's permit application.

A compilation of emails I have received will be sent to you later this afternoon. It will be good if you can review them if possible before tomorrow's meeting.

Rich

---------- Original Message ----------
Subject: T-Field Appeal
From: "stanjustice" <stanjustice@gci.net>
Date: Thu, May 28, 2009 1:28 pm
To: "Rich Boone" <ffrdb@uaf.edu>
Cc: "Luke Hopkins" <lhopkins@fs.uaf.edu>
"Peter Fix" <ffpjf@uaf.edu>
"Matt Olson" <ffmso@uaf.edu>

Below is the text of our appeal memo. Sorry it is so late and hastily prepared.

To: Rich Boone, Chairman - Master Planning Committee

From: Stan Justice, President - University Trails Club

RE: Keep T-Field as an Open Field

Basis of Appeal
The trails club does not feel that the decision by the NCS was in accordance with the North Campus Plan. Value Statement 1 says "Preserve the biological and physical integrity, as well as the natural assets, of North Campus." Installing an 8 foot fence and using herbicides runs against the natural assets of North Campus. And the "physical integrity" includes two fields. Changing one of the fields to a fenced forest damages the physical integrity.

Page 58 Under implementation of the permit process the North Campus Plan says "3. Ensure protection of research projects by locating away from existing trails when feasible, concealing to reduce vandalism and visual impacts to other users, or fencing (as a last resort)" The planned project is adjacent to heavily used trails, will cause visual impacts to recreational users. Fencing is supposed to be only used as a last resort. Since the project could go in the farm fields or other locations the fencing is not the "last resort".

What master planning has been done for the Farm Fields? It appears to be a situation where the project is out of compliance with the North Campus Plan but the primary alternative site has no approved master plan.

Why it is this big deal

The T-Field is a prized location by many recreational users. Something about a large open field surrounded by forest is magical. Many species concentrate on the zone at the edge of the forest - the trail around the T-Field is along the forest edge zone. Pastoral settings are attractive to people. Tall rectangular fences are unattractive.

The long project duration adds to the importance of the decision. In all likelihood the fence and poplar grove will end up being as permanent as the exotic tree fenced area N of the proposed site.

The straight lines, square corners and metal hardware of the fence introduce a dramatic change. The fence will end up with brush growing in the weave of the fence. An examination of the exotic tree fence gives an idea what the new fence might look like years later. It takes back breaking manual labor to keep a fence free of brush - work that will probably not be done.

North Campus issues are always controversial. With the recreational, educational and research uses any proposed change generates considerable interest. Outrage is fueled by failure to involve stakeholders in the decisions early on.

Use of T-Field Road has long been controversial. Some 10 years ago the road had degraded to the point where it was nearly impassable. Susan Todd and I obtained a $24,000 recreational trails grant and a good portion went into typar and gravel on the worst section. Facility Services has done additional work on other sections. But there are still long sections that are just silt. As in past years vehicles started driving the road as soon as the snow melted leaving deep ruts. We have been unsuccessful at getting the NC manager to implement seasonal road restrictions. Recreation users tend to oppose all projects out T-Field road because of the increase in traffic and UAF's failure to manage the traffic.

As winter comes the T-Field is commonly the best skiing around until Smith Lake ice gets thick enough. The gravel of T-Field Road damages ski bases in the early season. With additional projects there will be increased pressure to provide winter vehicle access.

Stakeholder Involvement
I think it is now very clear that projects such as this need to involve education and recreation users at an early stage. Plus they need to engage the planning process so that in the end the project can be a university asset all can support. We feel it would be appropriate for the MPC to develop a full range of options and present them to stakeholders for input.

Alternative Analysis
It is very appropriate for the MPC to be involved because alternative sites are under your jurisdiction. We encourage the MPC to conduct a comprehensive search for an alternative site.

We ask that the search for a site include un-cleared land. For example there are brushy scrub areas adjacent to the farm fields that could be used for this project or could be cleared later and put into animal feed production to replace the area lost to the poplar grove.

It is our understanding that moose damage is only a problem for the first 5 years or so. We also ask that the concept of temporary individual cages for each tree be considered. With individual enclosures the proposed grove could be scattered all over campus or used as a landscape feature. For example there is the large field below the museum. What if the grove was planted in the shape of the UAF logo? What a spectacular catalog cover picture that would make! Or how about planting a long skinny grove on the S side of the "Hillside/SRC" Trail. This would give shade so the trail would hold snow better and provide separation between the road and trail. Does this project really need to be a rectangular industrial looking block or could it be incorporated into UAF landscaping and add to the beauty of campus? The hillside above the SRC and Patty center is primarily old poplar trees in various states of decay. How about replacing those trees with new young poplars?

We want to thank the MPC for considering our appeal and thank you for all the work you do for making UAF a beautiful, efficient, effective institution.

Cc: Peter Fix
Luke Hopkins
Matt Olson

Stan Justice
1750 Reed Circle
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

907-479-5017
ffsrj@uaf.edu

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