



# UPDATE ON THE STATE OF NEON AND THE OPERATIONS AT TOOLIK FIELD STATION

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# Change management update

- **12/21/15:** Dr. James Olds from the NSF sent the NEON Board of Directors a letter announcing the NSF's decision to pursue other management options for the construction and commissioning of the NEON project.
- **1/11/16:** France Cordova, James Olds and Anne Maglia from the NSF visited NEON HQ in Boulder to discuss the management change.
- 3 organizations were chosen to bid on construction and operations awards, based on their track record and ability to manage large, complex projects like NEON.
- Further re/de-scoping of the NEON project will not occur.
- NSF wants the observatory to be built as planned.
- NEON Inc. was directed to continue maintaining and implementation the project through the transition period.
- “White papers” from the 3 organizations are due in early February.
- April 1 is the expected date for the new organization to begin management.
- An entirely new team within a new division of the NSF BIO Directorate (Division of Biological Infrastructure) which specializes in management of large project will be assigned going forward.
- Many articles were published regarding this news (Science, Nature, etc.)

# NEON Timeline and progress



CONCEPT & DESIGN

2004 - 2011



SITES BUILT OUT

2012 - 2017



DATA COLLECTION

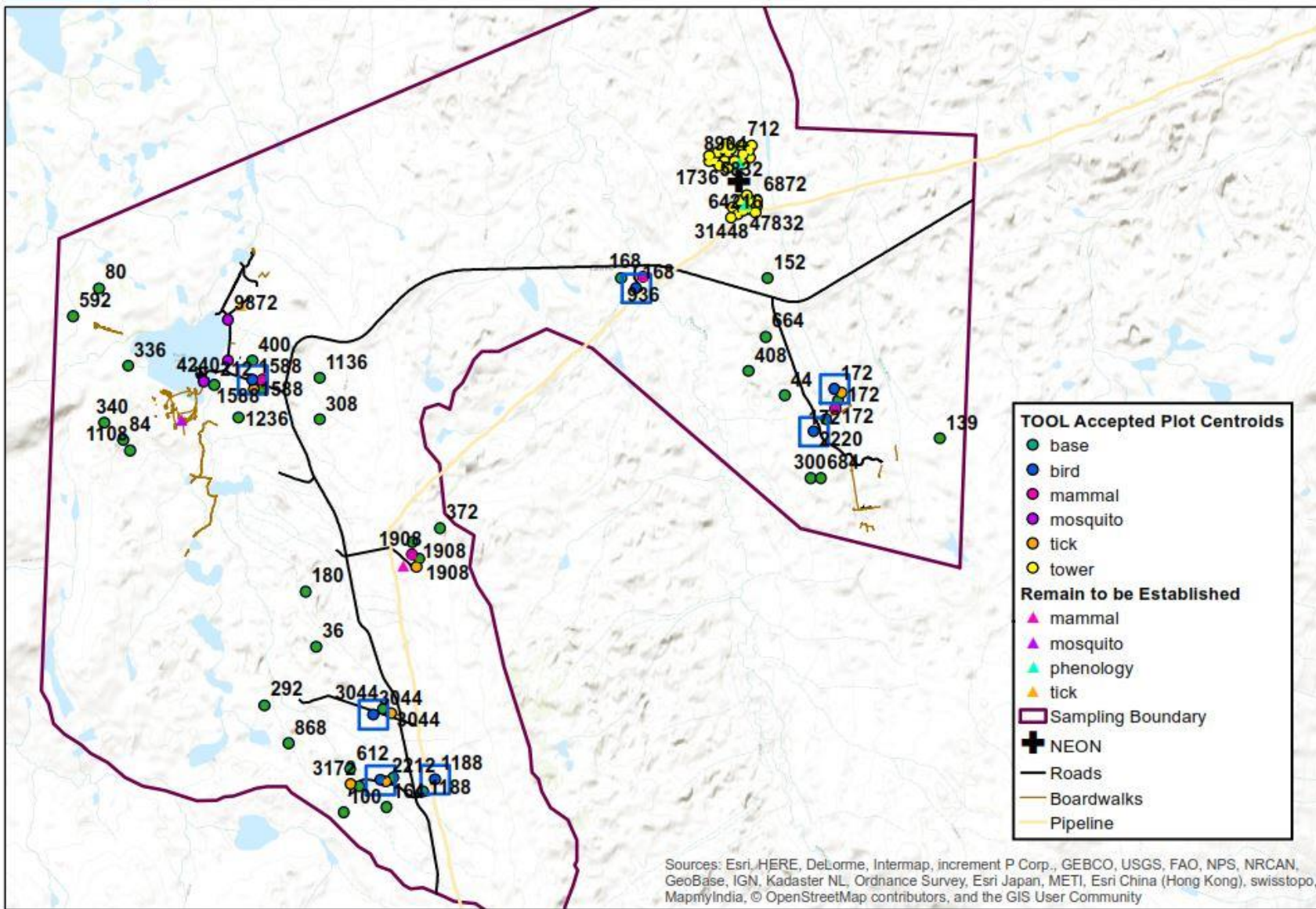
2017 - 2046

Phased transition to operations: 2014 – end of 2017

30-year clock begins after all sites are completed

27 tower and 12 aquatic sites have been built, including 2 towers in AK (Healy, Delta Junction)

13 terrestrial and 7 aquatic sites completed field sampling during 2014. In 2015, 27 TOS and 13 AOS. More sites online in 2016.



**TOOL Accepted Plot Centroids**

- base
- bird
- mammal
- mosquito
- tick
- tower

**Remain to be Established**

- ▲ mammal
- ▲ mosquito
- ▲ phenology
- ▲ tick

Sampling Boundary  
+ NEON  
 Roads  
 Boardwalks  
 Pipeline

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



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# Major Milestones at Toolik TO DATE...

- 2/8: Construction survey & staging
- 2/17-2/18: Review with FIU and AIS
- 3/10: Start foundation work for tower and hut and prepping the generator pad
- Mid-June: Aquatic instrumentation deployment at Toolik Lake and Oks Creek start (depending on construction activities, 3-4 people, ~4 weeks)
- June: FOPS team at Toolik to wrap up plot establishment (~4 people, 1 week max.)
- August: Estimated completion of civil infrastructure
- Late August/early September: Terrestrial instrumentation start (until late 2016 likely, 4-6 people)
- Mid/late June: FOPS terrestrial fieldwork (~6 people, until early September likely)

# Potential challenges for 2016 season

- For terrestrial work:
  - Permitting
  - Boardwalk
  - Ability to hire all staff to conduct terrestrial work summer of 2016
- For tower and aquatics construction/instrumentation:
  - Variable schedule
  - Environmental challenges
  - Fueling of diesel generator
  - Plowing of tower access pad
  - Development of many internal processes affecting the actual SIV sensor deployment schedule (design issues on certain sensors, ordering materials, the best way to ship materials, etc.)
  - Delivery of up to 2 20ft containers to TFS
- And of course, the management change will likely impact all of our plans

# QUESTIONS?