

# Input from Toolik Users



# Communication with users

- Toolik Steering Committee
  - 2 meetings this year
  - Thank you for your time and assistance!
- Three User Forum meetings at TFS
- Several Title IX outreach sessions at TFS
  - Also introduced mandatory TFS Title IX training and waivers of confidentiality so that information can be sent to NSF
- Personal contacts with concerned individuals

# Promoting scientific collaboration

- “Toolik sessions” at AGU to promote collaboration – 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- First Toolik All Scientists’ Meeting tomorrow!

# Toolik Steering Committee

- Provides input to IAB and NSF on the management and operations of the Toolik Field Station, including the services that we offer under our Cooperative Agreement (CA) with NSF
  - Supported by the CA
- Provides input on development of the station, and how it can best meet needs of a broad community of scientists using TFS as a research & education platform
  - Helps facilitate site selection of research plots (if there is a conflict)
  - Provides input on issues related to coordination of science support services & other issues

# Toolik Steering Committee

- Members:
  - Steve Oberbauer (co-Chair)
  - Breck Bowden
  - Gus Shaver
  - Michelle Mack
  - Mike Weintraub
  - Ian Billick
  - Dan White
  - Helen Chmura
  - Faustine Bernadac
  - Donie (co-Chair), Brian, Mike, and Brett
- Meets at TFS in summer, in Fairbanks (or Portland) in winter, as desired in between by teleconference

# User Forum comments

- On-site user concerns & comments:
  - Common use equipment requests; binoculars, another networkable printer (lab 2), boardwalk buggy, more garden carts, more bicycles of a range of sizes (fit large and small people)
  - Small upgrades: more coat hooks in the dining hall, furniture, shelving in new ATCOs, motion-detector lights in outhouses
  - Pad/road grading would be helpful
  - More lab space would be helpful
  - Discussion about safety training: more on-site resources, more training made available ahead of time
  - Degraded plot markers: tundra trash and rebar that is hard to see
  - Discussions about managing storage
  - Discussion about possible future enhancements for research: growth chambers, satellite camps, but perhaps less demand for on-site N and P determination
  - Lots of use of the suggestion box, primarily in relation to food (comments were mostly positive this year)

# Appreciation

- On-site staff very helpful
  - EDC, GIS, Chad, kitchen staff are fabulous
  - Kudos for the website, and its ease of use
  - European visitors (INTERACT groups, Ellen Dorrepaal) appreciate TFS support
- EDC data is very useful
  - Consider adding advanced data products for both EDC and GIS
  - Post products derived from EDC data (Jesse's analysis of time lapse photos)
- EDC help provided to projects is very useful
- GIS department help with permitting, maps is greatly appreciated

# Frustrations

- Continuing frustration with internet connectivity
  - Less frustration than in previous years but still some complaints
  - Connectivity in new ATCO dorms was poor (partially solved with another AP), and residence side of camp not as good as lab side
  - Need to complete fiber upgrade
- Vehicles - more for common use, need to replace long-haul vehicles (issues with old trucks out of service parts of this summer), and for LTER
  - Maintain summer DHE service



# Issues

- Less discussion of permits, but BLM permitting continues to be perceived as challenging and expensive
  - Switching over to Right-of-Way instead of permit for long-term projects
  - BLM is far behind in dealing with applications, prioritizing new research applications over conversions
  - Toolik BLM lease renewal is now complete
  - Toolik will hold permit for common-use boardwalks
- BLM's revision of Resource Management Plan for Dalton Highway corridor not expected for 2-3 years
- Site selection
  - Most site selections went well this year
  - NEON site selection nearly complete

# Issues

- Desire for year-round EMT/safety person with winter ops expanding
- Further development of diversity/inclusivity at TFS
- Common resources off the pad
- Anxiety about future funding for science, logistics costs, changing demography and project base
  - We would like to help as much as possible, but some things are beyond our control

# Issues

- Desire to coordinate and integrate scientific research and measurements
  - Preserve legacy of institutional knowledge as PIs retire
  - Toolik Field Station searchable on-line database of Toolik publications – updated this year, merged with LTER publication database
  - TFS will expand Toolik Information System with metadata on projects and links to data; possibility of archiving data for non-LTER projects, if not archived elsewhere

