

Input from Toolik Users



Communication with users

- Toolik Steering Committee
 - 2 meetings this year
 - Thank you for your time and assistance!
- Two summer User Forum meetings at TFS
- Several Title IX outreach sessions at TFS
 - Continued mandatory TFS Title IX training and waivers of confidentiality so that information can be sent to NSF
- Personal contacts with concerned individuals
- EDC Science Advisory Committee (1 mtng)

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

Promoting scientific collaboration

- First Toolik All Scientists' Meeting in January 2017
 - 77 attendees
 - 16 oral presentations, 33 posters
 - 8 breakout groups on synthesis topics
 - Folks were very enthusiastic!
- “Toolik sessions” at AGU December 2017 to promote collaboration – 4rd year

Toolik Steering Committee

- Members (two are **new**):
 - Steve Oberbauer (co-Chair)
 - Breck Bowden
 - **Ed Rastetter**
 - Michelle Mack
 - Mike Weintraub
 - Ian Billick
 - Dan White
 - **Tom Glass**
 - 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

Next Meeting

- Originally planned for a smaller workshop next year to assess science support needs
- Proposal: 1st day All Scientists' meeting, 2nd day breakout groups focused on science support needs
 - Would build on momentum of first All Scientists' meeting
 - Would enable a larger population of researchers to participate in science support planning

EDC

- Generally, folks are very happy with EDC
- 2 issues from EDC SAC to discuss:
 - Loss of USFWS funding jeopardizes long term discharge data at Imnavait
 - Request for soils guide by EDC

User Forum comments

- On-site user concerns & comments:
 - Common use equipment requests; another DeWalt drill, table saw needs blades, another networkable printer (lab 2), more bicycles in a range of sizes (fit large and small people)
 - Small upgrades: more coat hooks in the dining hall, motion-detector lights in outhouses
 - Problems with floor, shower head in men's side of shower module
 - Sauna floor is deteriorating, water circulating system needs repair
 - Screened in porch desired
 - More lab space would be helpful
 - More LED lights instead of fluorescents/incandescents to save power
 - Discussion about safety training: more on-site resources, more training made available ahead of time, low attendance at safety trainings in camp
 - Discussions about travel delays to Deadhorse and taxi schedule
 - Potholes in the road and need to grade the pad
 - Lots of use of the suggestion box, primarily in relation to food (comments were mostly positive this year, except for coffee)

Appreciation

- On-site staff very helpful
 - EDC, GIS, Chad, Jeb, kitchen staff are fabulous
 - Thanks for the shipping station in the community center
- EDC data is very useful, and so is EDC help provided to projects
- GIS department help with permitting, maps is greatly appreciated
 - Kudos for the website, and its ease of use
 - Notes of appreciation from NEON staff, Daniel Obrist, Sveta Stuefer, K-12 teachers via suggestion box
 - “To NSF: Toolik Field Station is awesome. Best project and support I ever received. Keep it up, it’s a treasure up here.” – Daniel Obrist
 - Two European groups (INTERACTers) were happy

Frustrations

- Not many complaints this year, most people thought things went well
- Surprisingly, not many complaints about the internet this year
- Some challenges accommodating all the plucks
- Vehicles - more for common use, need to replace long-haul vehicles, and for LTER
 - We are making progress, with a new truck last year and another one coming
 - We plant to 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
 - Some progress is being made on archaeological clearances
- BLM's revision of Resource Management Plan for Dalton Highway corridor is on hold
- Site selection
 - Most site selections went well this year
 - NEON site selection is complete

Issues

- Desire for year-round EMT/safety person with winter ops expanding – will be met!
- Integration of NEON personnel with other Toolik folk
- Funding campaign for grad students – in progress
- Further development of diversity/inclusivity at TFS
- Common resources off the pad
- Crowded plots on south side of lake, Imnavait
- Anxiety about future funding for science – risk analysis?

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 last year
 - Still our plan to expand Toolik Information System with metadata on projects and links to data

