

Input from Toolik Users



Communication with users

- Toolik Steering Committee
 - 2 meetings this year
 - Thank you for your time and assistance!
- Three summer User Forum meetings at TFS
- Green Dot bystander training 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 has not yet met

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

- Second Toolik All Scientists' Meeting in January 2019 (tomorrow)
 - ~90 attendees (as compared to 77 last time)
 - 16 oral presentations, 29 posters
 - breakout groups on facilities, services, landscape planning
 - This is a chance to get input from a larger cross-section of the community than previously
 - Thank you for your help in organizing and for your help to make this meeting a success

Toolik Steering Committee

- Members (one is **new**):
 - Steve Oberbauer (co-Chair)
 - Breck Bowden
 - Ed Rastetter
 - Michelle Mack
 - Mike Weintraub
 - Ian Billick
 - Dan White
 - Tom Glass
 - **Chris Baird**
 - 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:
 - Small upgrades: more coat hooks in the dining hall, more shelving in residence rooms
 - New blackout curtains in rooms are nice; need blackout curtains in weatherport tents also
 - Problems with windows leaking in wet lab; labs are getting old
 - Problems with leaks in old ATCOs – new ATCOS this year!!!
 - Leaks in blue weatherports (old blankets)
 - New dorms are nice, but more lab space would be helpful
 - New reservation system works well; ability to manage group reservations is very helpful
 - Wifi survey would be useful; some parts of camp are still problematic, though completion of fiber ring has improved connectivity
 - Discussion of screens in dining hall; some find them distracting; weather data should be added
 - Lots of use of the suggestion box, primarily in relation to food (comments were mostly positive)

Appreciation

- On-site staff very helpful
 - EDC, GIS, Chad, Jeb, Faustine, kitchen staff are fabulous
 - Thanks for maintaining the legacy vehicles
- 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
- Wifi and shelving in residences popped up several times over the summer
- 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, new van should be awesome
 - We plan to maintain summer DHE service

Some Recurring Issues

- Less discussion of permits this year, but BLM permitting continues to be 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
 - Progress is being made on archaeological clearances
- Site selection
 - Most site selections went well this year
 - Landscape planning will be a topic at ASM, as areas with easy access are getting very crowded

Issues

- Desire to coordinate and integrate scientific research and measurements
 - Preserve legacy of institutional knowledge as PIs retire
 - Moving ahead to add spatial component linking project locations with reservation/project database
 - Over the next two years, student intern will help to enter historic project information

