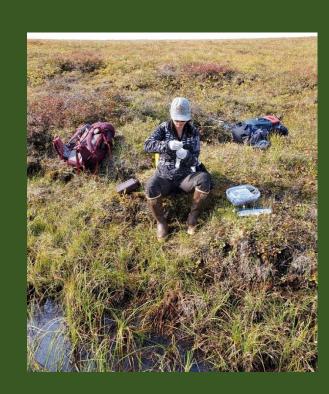


RA's at Toolik

- Many stay at TFS for full summer, or make several trips
- Usually not students, but often working closely with graduate students or mentoring undergrads
- Carrying on research and making project decisions when PIs are not in camp

Working at TFS in 2020

- 2020 season presented new challenges for virtually everyone –especially with COVID, State, Institutional restrictions
- Even with restrictions, 2020 was very successful for projects that were able to go to Toolik
- The helicopter was <u>absolutely</u> <u>critical</u> to being able to carry out fieldwork with reduced



COVID Challenges

- Lack of early information was very frustrating
- Quarantine prevented some researchers with families from being able to work at TFS
- Some researchers camped near TFS, but wish they could have still used limited TFS support (Fuel, Food, WiFi).
 Contactless fueling would have made a huge difference
- Some institutions still prevented travel even with TFS and NSF safety plans

Living at TFS

- Overall camp life was good in 2020, low population made things easier
- Sustainability remains a priority "TFS has the opportunity to be a leader in this area"
- Camp activities were appreciated, and pretty well attended
- Cards, games, bonfires were great, request for additional Kung Fu movie VHS tapes
- Doors, stairs, and beds in muskox dorm are very loud, did disrupt sleep for several people

Title IX training and camp culture

- View of Title IX should be shifted from a "requirement" to a promotion of a safe community for all
- Title IX is not taken seriously by all, and remains a punchline for jokes
- Title IX training is good, the "real" camp scenarios are especially helpful, but could be updated
- Documentation around camp, in towers is useful

Title IX Reporting

- Choosing to report an incident is a very tough decision, and is made tougher if on-site "authorities" are all male
- Change the narrative from "reporting to the authorities" to "working together to make camp safe for everyone, and looking out for one another"
- Including a photo of Title IX office personnel in Fairbanks could make them more approachable

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

- There is "an urgent need for better diversity equity and inclusion policies within camp and training for staff"
- Meeting held last summer was helpful in addressing the need for improvements, but didn't come up with a clear path forward
- Adding DEI to pre-camp training, and having additional posted information will help

Mental Health in camp

- Mental health remains a concern, especially for those at TFS from prolonged stay, away from home
- Single rooms make a huge difference during a long stay
- Camp resources/counselor available?
- Community events help to stem loneliness, isolation

EDC Support and Remote Access

- Remote access prevented many projects from losing an entire year of work
- Amanda Young noted by all respondents as incredibly helpful and critical to several projects
- More communication on when requested tasks were carried out would have been helpful

TFS Shared Equipment

 Request for a shared <u>handheld pH</u> <u>meter</u>

 No major equipment conflicts mentioned

GIS Support

No feedback regarding GIS in 2020

Sample Storage and Shipment

 2020 reduced truck schedule made some logistics difficult, but manageable

 Additional freezer and fridge space in new garage is great!

Welcome back Pete!

Summary

- Overall, 2020 went as well as it could have gone
- Camp staff has been outstanding and helpful, especially Amanda Young
- Better communication about camp policies and plans, along with better individual project communication will help eliminate many of the COVID challenges
- Sustainability, diversity and mental health should be priorities in the future development of TFS

