

Toolik Steering Committee RA Update and Feedback

January 2025

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2024 Survey

- Anonymous, no required questions
- Feedback sought regarding all aspects of life and work at Toolik.
Including:
 - Critical issues that prevented research goals from being accomplished
 - Travel to/from Toolik
 - Helicopter vendor and coordinators
 - Housing accommodations and Washateria
 - Prepared meals and food items
 - Shipping to/from Toolik
 - TFS-SEDC, TFS-GIS, and TFS logistics office
 - Equipment requests
 - TFS website, MyToolik, SRS system
 - Community recognition
 - *ANY* other comments or concerns about *any* topic

Critical Issues or Barriers to Completing Research Goals

- No respondents reported any *major* problems or critical failures
- More *minor* issues included:
 - “Shuttle schedule is difficult for short trips (for local / UAF researchers who may not need to stay in camp a full week). Logistics/transportation staff try to be accommodating and helpful though.”

Traveling through Fairbanks

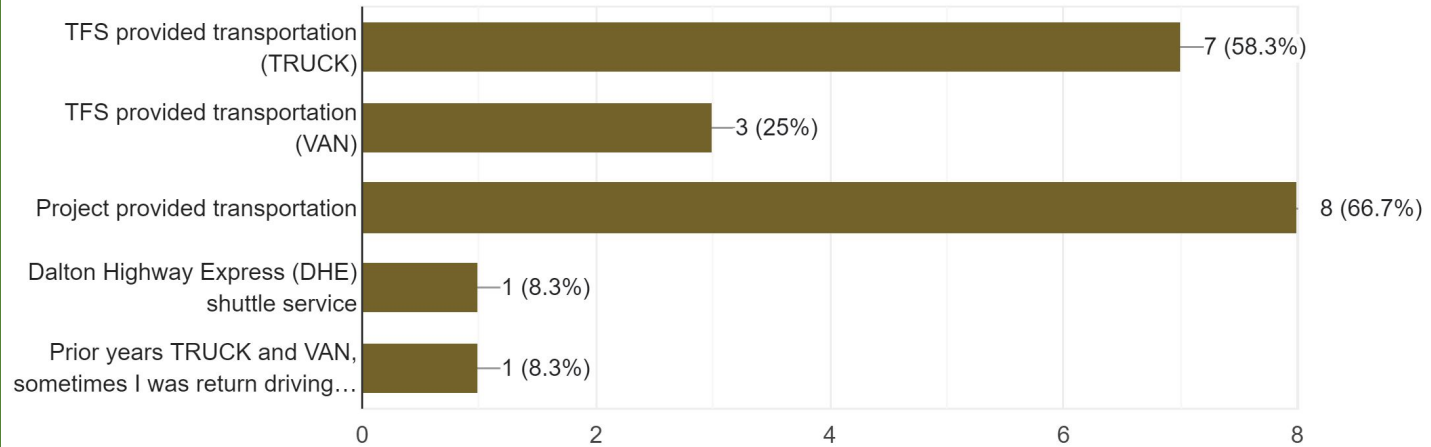
- Staying in, and getting around Fairbanks has gotten much more expensive in recent years

Comments:

- “Staying in the UAF dorms was very helpful”
- “We stayed in a delightful airbnb very close to the Fairbanks airport - would recommend!”

How did you travel between Fairbanks (or Prudhoe) and Toolik?

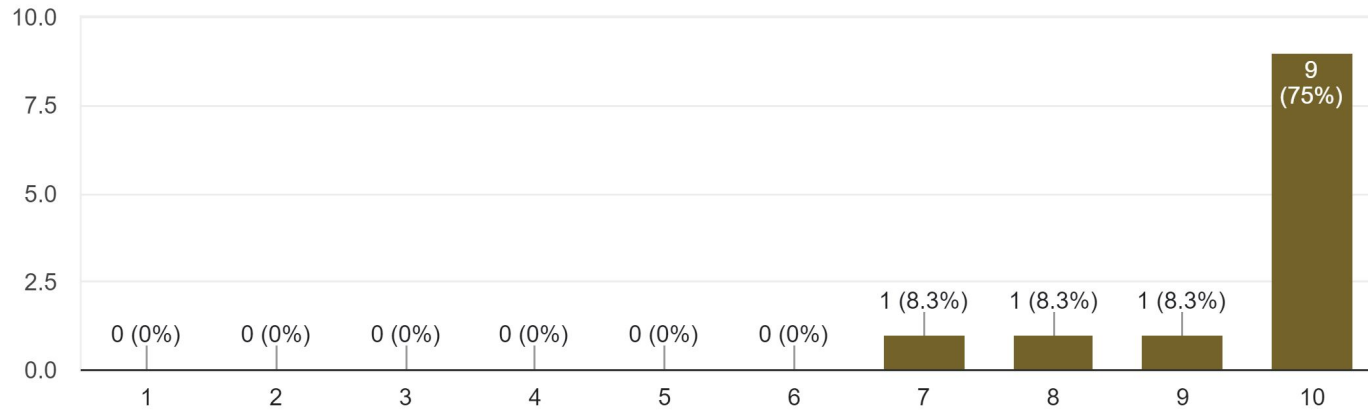
12 responses



Toolik Logistics Support in Fairbanks

How would you rate any assistance you received from the Toolik logistics office in Fairbanks?

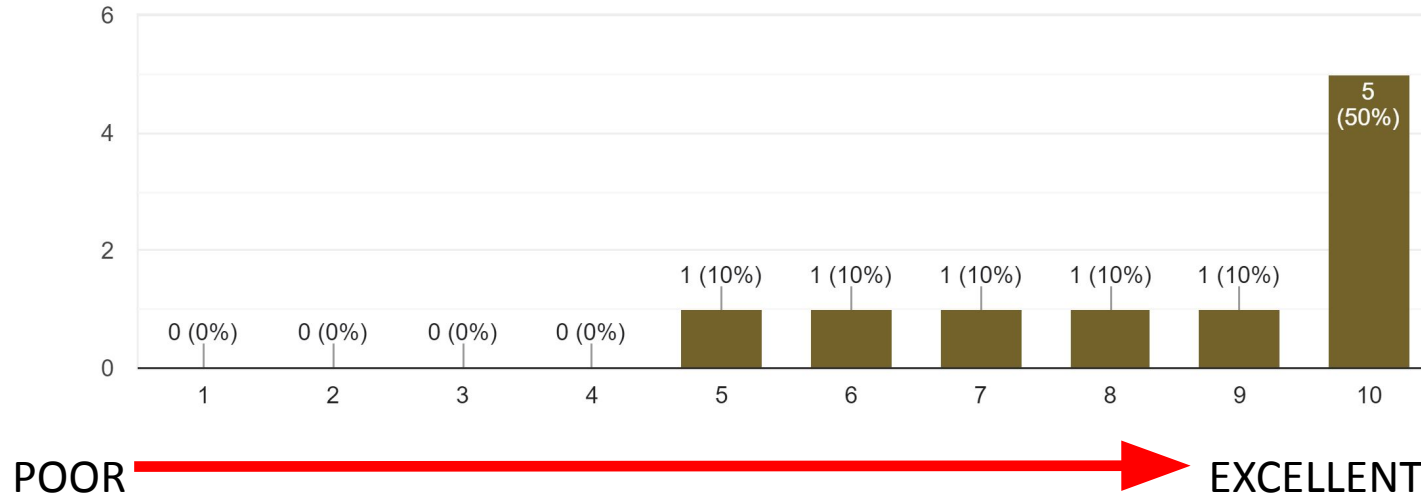
12 responses



Toolik Science Trucks

While at Toolik, did you use TFS vehicles? How would you rate access to TFS science trucks?

10 responses



TFS Trucks

- Overall, truck availability was more limited than previous years.
- Trucks seemed to be *constantly* needing repairs

Comments:

- “The beginning of the season there were some issues with the science/toolik trucks. This caused a bit of a shortage especially on weekends, but it ended up being ok by the end of the season.”
- “I did not personally (we mostly use our project truck), but there was talk around camp that TFS vehicles were limited.”

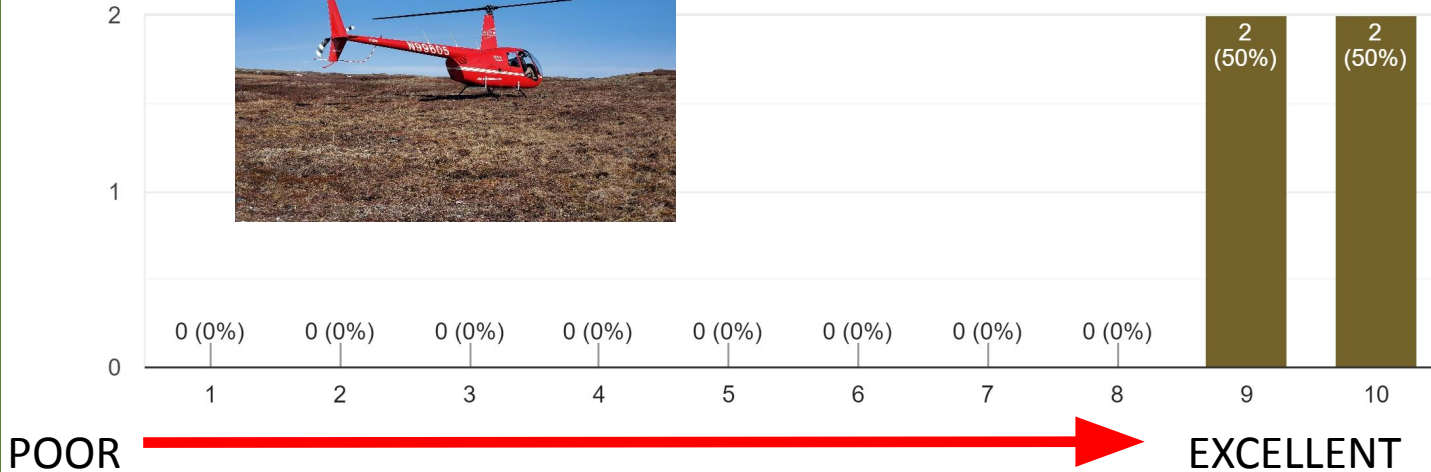
Fueling trouble when at TFS

- There were a few instances of confusion about how to fuel vehicles
- Projects that work odd hours or Sundays had trouble getting fuel (e.g. returning after staff work hours and needing to leave early the next morning)
- Need to have a clear protocol/options for how to get fuel at “off-schedule” times

Helicopter Vendor

Did you use the helicopter in 2024? If so, how would you rate the helicopter vendor (Alpine Air Alaska)?

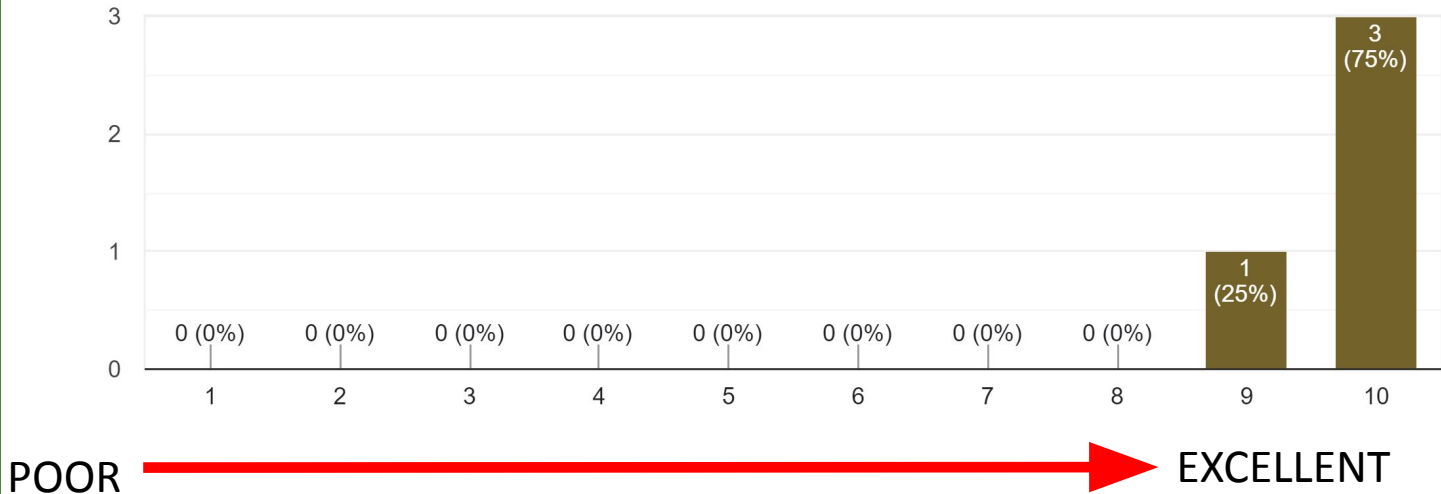
4 responses



Helicopter Coordinators

Did you use the helicopter in 2024? If so, how would you rate the helicopter coordinators (Jon)?

4 responses



Helicopters at Toolik 2024

- Helicopters in 2024 worked well, good weather helped keep everyone “on schedule”

Comments:

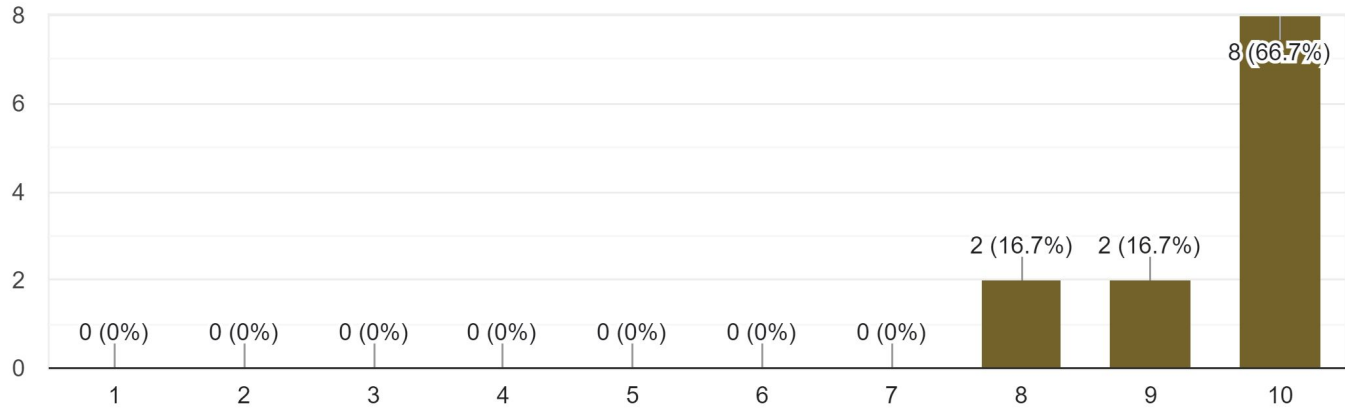
- “The helicopter vendor and coordinators did a lot to restore trust this year, and I had an excellent experience every time. Tianna in particular was a great pilot.”
- “No complaints here. It seemed to work well to have the rotating pilots; they all seemed fresh and eager to help us complete our work efficiently and safely. The helicopter coordinator, Jon, did a great job throughout the summer.”



TFS Housing

How would you rate your housing accommodations at Toolik?

12 responses



POOR



EXCELLENT

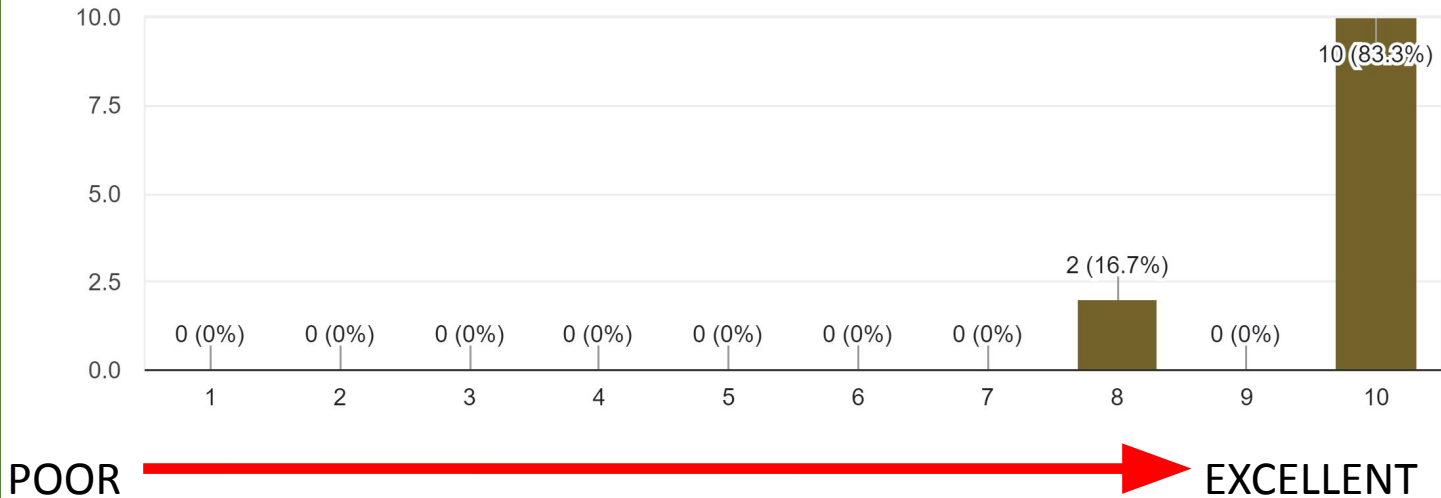
TFS Housing

- “In the Weatherports the flooring can give splinters, in particular I got one under my fingernail that was very painful! The painted or sealed flooring really helps!”
- “I LOVE the single weatherports with the insulated "wall" between sides. The semblance of privacy this provides is essential to my Toolik experience. It may be helpful to double check that the space heaters actually work reliably though - I went through multiple space heaters before finding one that actually stayed on reliably.”
- “It would be nice to know your housing assignment before arriving, even just in an email the morning of arrival. This is where I've seen the most confusion with new people arriving and not knowing what to do before orientation.”

Meals at TFS

Overall, how would you rate the prepared meals at Toolik?

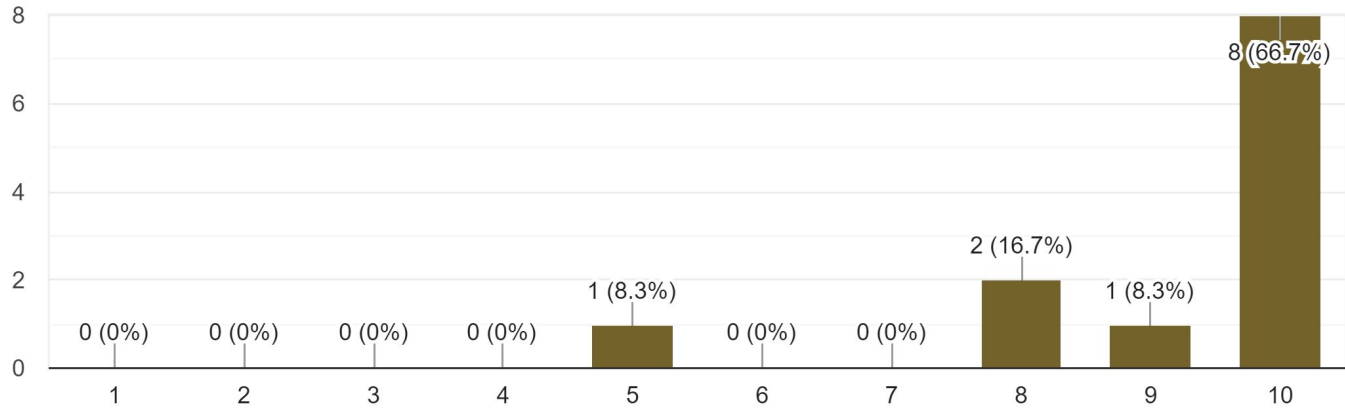
12 responses



Sandwiches, Salad, Snacks at TFS

How would you rate the variety of sandwich, salad, and snack items available at Toolik?

12 responses



POOR

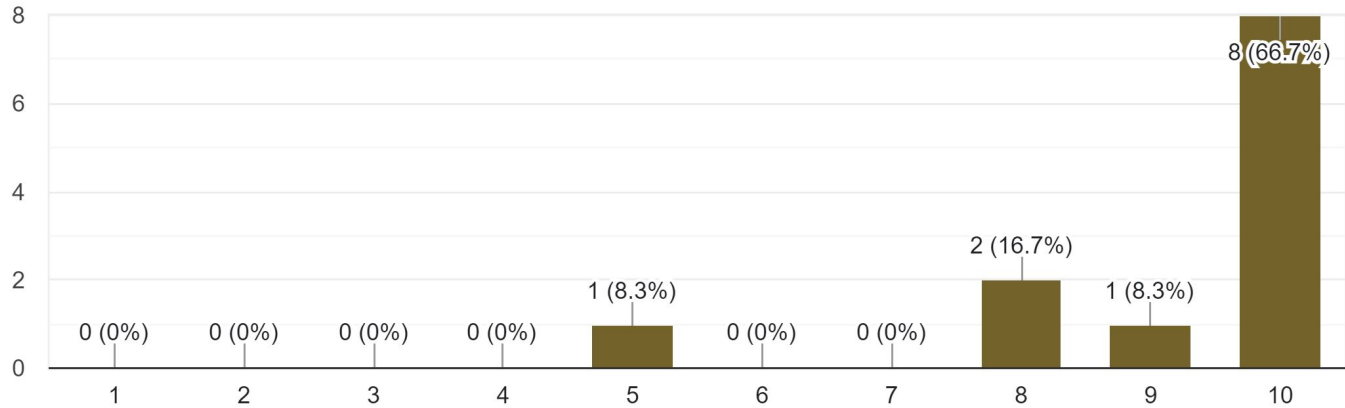


EXCELLENT

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12 responses



POOR



EXCELLENT

Food at TFS

- “More sun chips.”
- “Salami for sandwiches”
- “Too expensive: king crab. ;^)”
- “I would love to see more filling snack options, such as protein bars.”
- “...I was satisfied with the selection of hot meals, snacks, salad/sandwich bar, and leftovers. Yum!”
- “Everything was perfect. The food was amazing. I definitely ate so much and I really appreciated The variety that was offered for vegetarians! That’s hard to find even in a big city :)”



TFS Washateria

- “It's a great facility.”
- “I thought it was very comfortable to take a shower.”
- “I think its fine.”
- “It would be great to have more spots for towels and ideally more clean towels available. Having a door that shuts in the shower is very nice.”
- “I liked the washeteria.”
- “I like the washeteria. I'm happy that some of the issues, particularly hot water unavailability, were resolved. The private stalls make a big difference.”
- “The name still sucks”
- “10/10 no complaints. Everything was clean warm and perfect”



Camp Life and Recreation Requests

- Camp bicycles are in rough shape, chains seemed to always be falling off, which is dangerous on a gravel pad.

Comments:

- "...kayaks. They are great, yet a bit small. Some additional recreational watercraft would be awesome, but I'm not complaining."
- "The blue kayaks sink. They are a hazard. I have begun the sinking process multiple times now"
- "Kayaks tend to leak"
- "Always a need for more music equipment. Perhaps a small PA system if possible."
- "Maybe better upkeep of the outdoor bikes? Some were a little janky but ok to use short distances"

Lab Space at TFS

- “No specific issues. Prior year had a sharps disposal issue.”
- “The lab space worked great!”
- “I wish Lab 6 had windows or better ventilation because there is so much dust which can impact sample processing.”
- “Nope, we have sufficient lab space and capabilities.”
- “No issues!”

Shipping from TFS

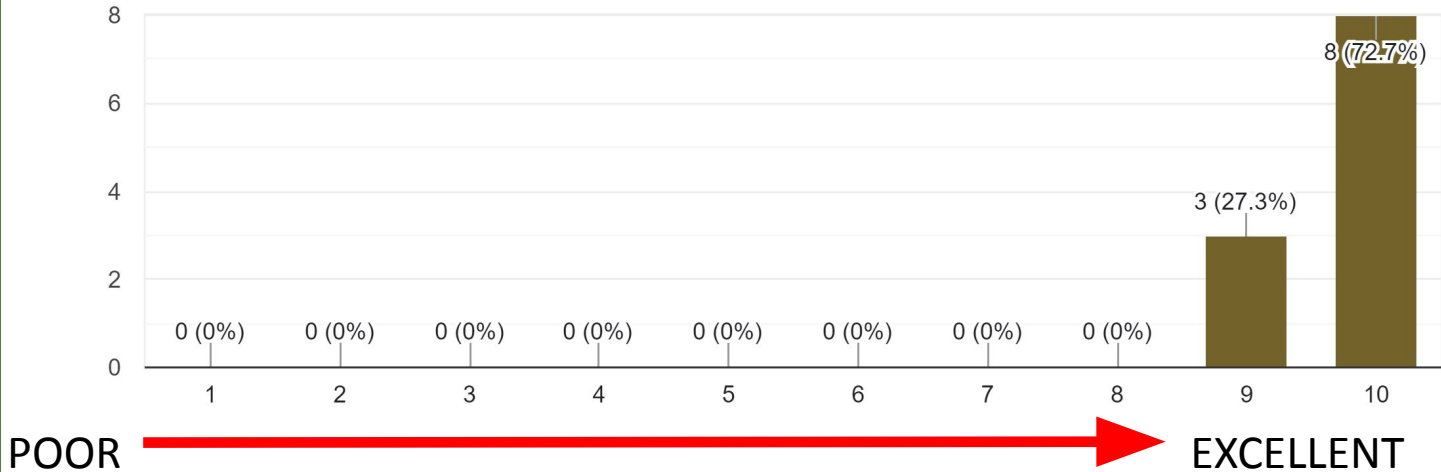
- “We sent 80 tussocks south to fly back to Pennsylvania. There was limited truck space, but other than this, no problems with our shipping.”
- “Very easy”
- “No specific issues.”
- “Not this year. Special shout out to Stevie Goetz for going above and beyond to ensure my packages were where they needed to be on time and correctly labeled!”



TFS SEDC Support

How would you rate any field assistance or remote access assistance you received from TFS-ENVIRONMENTAL DATA CENTER?

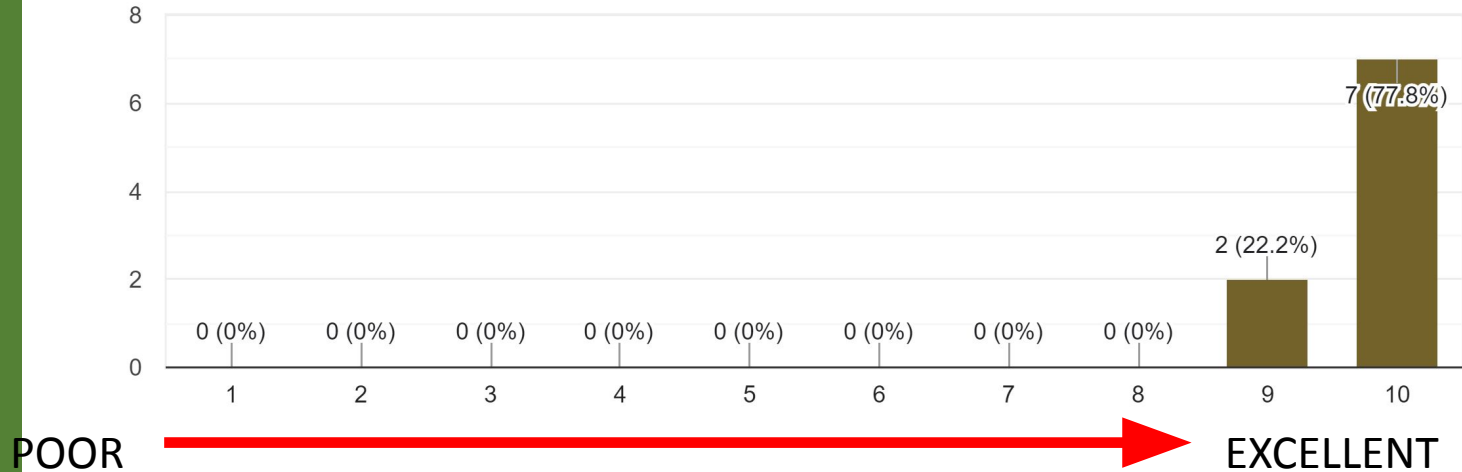
11 responses



TFS-GIS and Remote Sensing

How would you rate any field assistance or remote access assistance you received from TFS-GIS and REMOTE SENSING?

9 responses



SEDC and GIS Support

- “The GIS staff are excellent, but I could tell how busy they are. The demand for GIS services at TFS is recognizably high. This is definitely an area for additional funding and/or resources.”
- “Toolik staff was incredibly knowledgeable and helpful.”

TFS Shared Equipment Requests

- “We found ourselves needing a scale to weigh boxes and equipment. We often would have to snag the scale from the Health Club.”
- “The gear closet has made a world of difference to be able to access expensive gear - maintaining and adding to this collection is essential!!”
- “Extra toughbook (as a backup) with various software in case scientists have issues with their own computers.”

TFS Website, SRS System

- “I wish I could change my email address in MyToolik more easily”
- “SRS system doesn't have an option for shipping up to Toolik. For example with temperature sensitive items it would be nice to have an SRS request option”

Other Comments and Future Directions

- “...I'd like to express support for a private sound-proof space, for phone calls or mental health appointments. Thanks for the work being done on this!”
- “I will always take the opportunity to express the vital importance of mental health support at TFS. Thank you for keeping safety and emotional hygiene on your docket.”
- “I suggest always take a little time off and join other projects and help them do each others work in the field as we have done in the Antarctic.”
- “T shirts or sweatshirts available for purchase!! Though the mugs are amazing! (Don't get rid of those)”

Community recognition

- “**Chad Diesinger** is an incredible leader. **Lalo Morales** is an incredible EMT.”
- “**Amanda** and **Abby** were great!”
- “Everyone we worked with was amazing.”
- “I think **Chad** and the staff do a fine job for the entire time I've come.”
- “**Stevie Goetz!!!**”
- “I am grateful to ALL the Toolik staff for being extremely helpful in so many different ways (EDC/GIS - Camp Managers - Logistics - Maintenance - Kitchen staff). The Toolik staff really do make a big difference in the success of a field campaign.”
- “The chefs, again, vegetarian food is very appreciated and was very good”



Questions or
comments?