Toolik CA renewal proposal update

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Status & Overview

• Renewal Proposal for the Toolik Cooperative Agreement submitted to NSF ARSL program, currently under review
• PIs: Donie Bret-Harte, Brian Barnes, Mike Abels, Brett Biebuyck
• Goal: continued operation of Toolik Field Station and provision of scientific services
  – No decreases in services are proposed
• Budget request: flat (total budget less than requested in the last CA)
  – 1st year: current operating costs + one meeting
CA Renewal Budget Request, year 1

- Labor (plus benefits): 53.4%
- F&A: 20.2%
- Contractual services (fuel, suck trucks): 19.0%
- Travel: 1.5%
- Participant support: 1.2%
- Commodities: 3.8%
- Equipment: 0.8%
- Tuition: 0.0%
What is new

• Goal: continue to promote collaboration and convergence among Toolik researchers
• Hold three workshops/meetings in the next 5 years
  – Two integrative science meetings to present work on the Alaskan North Slope, including work conducted at Toolik (yr 1, yr 5)
    • Funds for some invited speakers, most scientists would pay their own way
  – One science support workshop, similar to our previous workshops (yr 3)
    • Funds for 25 invited guests
• Continued organization of “Toolik” sessions at the AGU each year
  – As we have done in the last two years
What is new

• Development of Toolik Information System
  – Project registration system will keep all project information in one place, allow better tracking of requests, management of project by PIs
  – Spatially explicit component will provide information on plots
  – Metadata and links to archived research data
  – Publication information (eventually) linked to our publication database

• Goal is to get system up and running for current projects, fill in for past projects later
Continuing Activities

• Support for Toolik Steering Committee
  – Two meetings per year (summer & winter)
  – Additional teleconferences if desired
  – Add Faustine as SC member to represent NEON

• Continued participation in INTERACT II (if funded)
  – Transnational access (funded by the EU) will now be open to research groups led by Americans
  – Continue to host European researchers at Toolik (up to two projects per year; 30 userdays total)

• Update TFS publication database yearly

• Update/improve website, business functions

• Continued scientific services, responsive to community input
GIS

• Establish last mile internet connectivity, initially on hill S of Toolik Lake
• Spatial component of Toolik Information System
• Continue to upgrade hardware & software as necessary
• Continue all current services (maps, site selection, aerial and satellite imagery, etc.)
• No changes to staff
EDC

• Participation in National Atmospheric Deposition’s National Trends Network (precipitation chemistry) and Mercury Deposition Network

• Continue all existing scientific services
  – Upgrade and maintain meteorological station
  – Maintain baseline observation program
  – Manage common-use equipment
  – Provide limited assistance with field work, especially in shoulder seasons

• Adapt program to complement NEON as it begins

• Participate in development of Toolik Information System (metadata for research projects)

• No changes to staff
Other Science Support Services

• No fundamental changes to services offered
• Continued assistance building field gear, maintaining vehicles and snowmachines, scientific equipment
• Continued assistance with remote power systems
• No changes in staff
Data

• TFS data (GIS, EDC) will be archived at IARC
  – Primary portal for obtaining data will be TFS website

• All TFS data sets will be assigned DOI numbers, so that they can be cited
Changes to staff

• Add ¾ time administrative assistant in the Fairbanks office
  – Assist with travel, invoicing, credit card reconciling
  – More reasonable schedule for business manager

• Add part-time driver, peak season only
  – Insurance for NSF science trucks more restrictive, so a driver will be needed more often

• Reorganization of Assistant Manager position (no net increase)

• Staffing increases offset by reducing expeditor to half-time during winter, reduced overtime for business manager
TFS Management Structure

• TFS Management team will remain the same, with Donie Bret-Harte as lead PI
• Donie Bret-Harte and Brian Barnes are now Science Co-Directors
• Brett Biebuyck is now a co-PI
• Brett will supervise on-site manager at TFS, business manager, logistics coordinator, and expeditor in Fairbanks
• Mike Abels will focus on permitting, compliance, and external affairs
  – will continue to supervise GIS office
• Changes reflect evolution of responsibilities in the last few years
• No other changes proposed at present