



# NSF-LTER Symposium

## February 26<sup>th</sup> 2004



Organizers:

Mark E. Harmon and Phil Robertson

Theme:

**The Application of LTER Science  
to Ecosystem Management**

# Overview- When Does LTER Science become Applied?

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# What are LTER's Good for?

- **Creating long-term data**
- **Detecting long-term trends**
- **Understanding ecosystems via observations and experiments**
- **Developing & testing concepts/models**
- **Developing & testing tools (e.g., chemical analysis to regional analysis)**
- **Application?**

# The Traditional Model

- **Basic discovery**
- **Results published**
- **Results noticed by managers**
- **Gradual conversion to application**
- **Application perhaps**

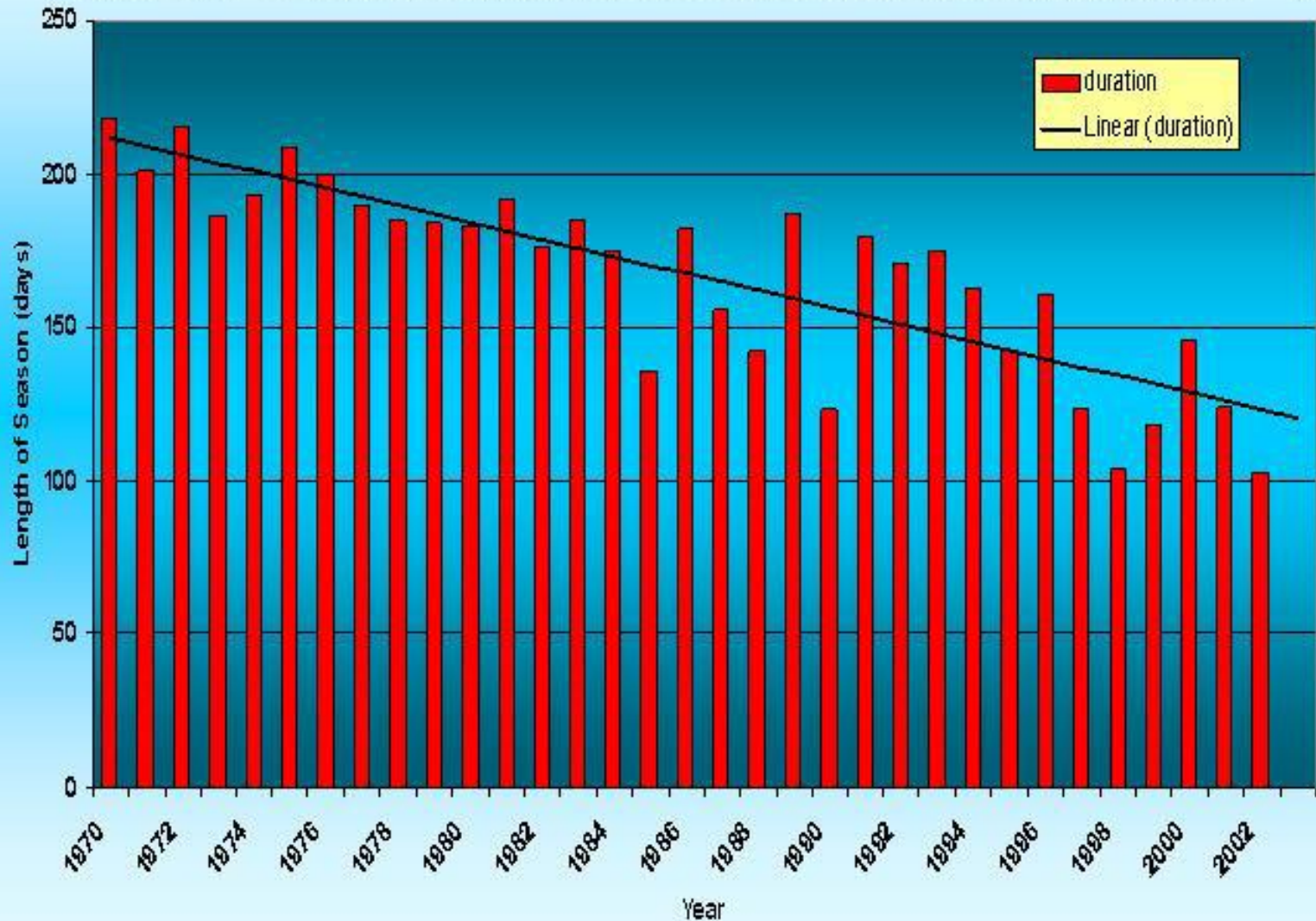
**“The long and winding road.....”**

# LTER's Show that Rapid Transfer to Application is Possible

- **Can indicate a basic problem that was not previously appreciated**
- **Can inform assessments of long-term trends**
- **Can reshape the debate or concern**
- **Can entirely change the approach of management**
- **Can bring new tools to the table for management**

# Alaska DNR Approved Winter Tundra Travel Days

Based on a Consistent Tundra-hardness and Snowcover Standard, 1970 - 2002





The US  
**Long Term Ecological Research**  
Network

# A Selection of Examples

- **Forests**
- **Watersheds**
- **Geology/hydrology/remediation**
- **Agriculture**
- **Land margins/marine**
- **Urban/Rural interfaces**