

Report from the Social Science Committee: 2009-2010.

Morgan Grove (BES), Ted Gragson (CWT), Laura Ogden (FCE), and Chris Boone (BES / CAP)

The Social Science Committee had no formal meetings this year.

Social Science Committee members participated in a number of LTER Network events, including the Planning Committee for the LTER Network's ASM (Boone and Grove) and ASM plenary presentations (Ogden). Ogden gave a terrific summary of social science progress in the LTER network with examples from almost all LTER sites. Baerwald (NSF DEB) has asked Ogden to give a similar presentation at NSF.

Students at the ASM found much common cause, with particular interest in interdisciplinary research. After an organized student session on interdisciplinary research, the students agreed to work together over the course of the year to survey and understand students' obstacles and opportunities for interdisciplinary research in the LTER network. The students submitted a proposal to the LTER Network EB and received funding to follow-up at ESA.

Several LTER social science PIs participated in the LTER NSF mini-symposium, including Swinton (KBS), Boone (BES / FCE), and Larson (CAP).

The Population and Economy chapter for the EcoTrends book is complete (Boone, Gragson, and Grove) and database is current.

Instructors and students from our distributed network class, *From Yardstick to Gyroscope - Interdisciplinary Methods for the Long-Term Study of Social-Ecological Systems* (http://coweeta.ecology.uga.edu/ecology/web_learning/syllabus.html) met at Harvard Forest (April 26th-29th) to convert individual and/or groups of seminar presentations and discussions into multi-media products that can be shared across the LTER network and more widely. Some topics include research on *A Sense of Place*, *Environmental History*, *Environmental Justice*, and *Reassessing Sampling Strategies and Data for Long Term Interdisciplinary Research*. Drafts of these multi-media products are expected by May 31st. The group is also considering teaching this methods course again in Spring 2011 and developing a distributed course on theory, using a similar framework.

In order to maintain active and viable leadership and membership for the social science committee, it would be very helpful if Site PIs could designate a social science representative to the social science committee.