

LTET Network Social Science Committee Report

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LTET TRENDS Book.

The LTER TRENDS book will include a section, "Population and Economy," that will describe changes in population, population density, and economic structure for each of the LTER sites. The data for these trends will be aggregated at the county level and will be for the time period 1790 – Present. With a small supplement from NSF, Chris Boone (ASU : BES / CAP) will organize the 1790 – 1960 data and Ted Gragson (UGA: CWT) will organize the 1960 – Present data. Each site needs to confirm the list of counties they would like to have included in the analyses.

Landuse change will be an additional trend to include. Each site will need to provide landuse change data to the TRENDS group and Grove, Gragson, and Boone will work to aggregate landuse classes to a common level for all sites.

ASM MEETING: SOCIAL SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

There will be an "Ancillary Social Science Meeting" on Wednesday, September 20th. In part, this is a follow-up to the Social Science Committee meeting last summer in Athens Georgia. Please encourage all your social scientists to attend this meeting. This is a great opportunity for your social scientists to network within the network and build connections for individual and cross-site research. You will need to remind your scientists that in order to attend this meeting, they will need to arrive a day earlier than they had planned. That is, have them travel on Tuesday September 19th in order to attend a morning meeting on the 20th.

There will be at least 5 social science oriented workshops at the ASM.

COORDINATION WITH NSF

Gragson, Childers, and Grove (GCG) spent 1.5 days at NSF to discuss prospects for increased NSF support for social science in the LTER Network. The meetings went well and focused primarily on what research is occurring now, opportunities for funding in FY 07 and FY '08 (and beyond), and linkages to observation networks such as NEON and WATERS. (formerly CUHASI and CLEANER?)

GCG met first with David Lightfoot, AD for SBE (Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences) on a Tuesday evening for about an hour. The meeting went very well. During the conversation, Lightfoot asked what core funding contribution would SBE need to make in order to be "serious" about their support for the LTER Network / sites? Childers responded that, based upon the Athens Social Science meeting, GCG estimated \$200 –

300k / year. Lightfoot offered that this would be something to consider for the FY '08 budget. Overall, Lightfoot was very positive and encouraging about collaboration with the other Directorates and the value of the LTER Network and its role in developing social science capacity for interdisciplinary research and the observational networks.

The following day, GCG met with Gholz and Baerwald to discuss the meeting with Lightfoot, opportunities for SBE support in FY '07 (including new RFPs for competitive grants), and presented on social science research in the LTER network during a lunch time seminar. The seminar was well-attended. A few questions focused on and emphasized interest in the role of social science in the LTER Planning Grant. GCG reassured folks that they thought social science was being incorporated as a serious element of the Planning Grant. GCG will continue discussions with Gholz and Baerwald regarding FY '07 and FY '08 opportunities and to share this information with site PIs and LTER social scientists.