

Annual LTER Committee Report  
for 2010-11

**May 10, 2011**

**Social Science Committee**

**Chair/Co-chairs:** Morgan Grove (BES), Ted Gragson (CWT), Laura Ogden (FCE), Chris Boone (CAP / BES), Gary Kofinas (BZC)

**Current committee composition and changes in 2010-11 (since May 2010):**

Lead PIs were asked to designate site leads for the social science committee. The social science committee list and listserv were updated accordingly.

**Frequency / Number of times met in 2010-11 (since May 2010):** numerous sites met regarding specific cross-site projects, noted below. There was no formal meeting of the entire social science committee.

**Activities / accomplishments since May 2010:** The LTER network funded two social science related workshops. The first, MAPS and LOCALS led to a multi-site social science supplement. The second residential landscapes and urban homogenization, led to a social science supplement and to a successful NSF Macrosystems Proposal that includes the following LTER sites: PIE, BES, FCE, CDR, CAP, and the L.A. ULTRA-Ex project.

The following is an update on the MAPS and LOCALS project. MAPS and LOCALS - MALS: MALS seeks to integrate local ecological knowledge (LEK) and other existing social data with spatial analysis into theories and models of social-ecological change to understand its implications to human livelihoods and well being. The first phase of MALS examined changes in land surface characteristics at 11 sites using a newly developed spatial analysis tool. Current MALS activities are focused on 1) methods for documenting local knowledge and its integration with maps and 2) comparisons of land surface and land use change across participating LTERs. The project has been funded by two LTER social science supplement grants in which sites pooled their resources to support cross-site analysis. The group met at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Oct 2011 and will meet again this coming June in AT THE Andrews Experimental Forest. Project website:

[http://www.lter.uaf.edu/bnz\\_MALS.cfm](http://www.lter.uaf.edu/bnz_MALS.cfm).

The residential landscapes project will be a 4-year project, ~\$1.5m, and include both social and biophysical scientists. Peter Groffman is the lead PI. The major focus of the research is to examine whether urbanization leads to social and ecological homogenization, regardless of social context and history, or differences in climate. This project includes the development and implementation of standardized social and biophysical science sampling protocols, survey instruments, and data analysis. Cross-site comparisons of related social-ecological research were presented at AAGs, a paper has been submitted to *Cities and the Environment*, and follow-up papers from AAG presentations are under development.

Finally, Grove and Gragson were invited and participated in a NSF / SBE workshop to

identify opportunities for social science observatories (Dec. 2010). Emilio Moran chaired this workshop in D.C. A report is forthcoming.

**Plans for leadership transitions, if any:** No leadership transitions are planned until the next LTER ASM.

**Plans for 2011-12:** Continued work on MAPS and LOCALS and Urban Homegenization Projects

**Other information pertinent to Committee activities:** None.