

Activity Highlights - LTER Social Science Subcommittee - May 2013 SC Meeting

Mike Galvin (Casey Trees) and Morgan Grove (USFS) have established a LinkedIn information-sharing group focused on long-term urban social-ecological research. They are reaching out to LTERs and Forest Service Urban Field Stations, ULTRAs and RCNs.

Simron Singh and others (H. Haberl, M. Chertow, M. Mirtl, and M. Schmid) just published an edited volume entitled *Long Term Socio-Ecological Research: Studies in Society-Nature Interactions Across Spatial and Temporal Scales* (Springer 2013). It traces the developing bonds between ecology and a range of other disciplines; includes analysis of numerous case studies varying widely in location and time; and, features in-depth research spanning several fields of socio-ecological inquiry. The authors make a case for LTSE's potential in providing insights, knowledge and experience necessary for a sustainability transition. It includes contributions from Europe and North America (BES, CAP and CWT represented).

The LTER network and Les Zone Ateliers signed a MOU to promote collaboration on long term interdisciplinary research (Scott Collins has the details).

The LTER Maps and Locals Working group met in Boulder CO in Feb for two and a half days with 27 participants from 11 different LTER sites. An impressive mapping local knowledge is currently being integrated with conventional sciences across the LTER network in so many novel and creative ways including work by graduate students. The group talked at length about the challenges and benefits of this kind of work and discussed the options for keeping the group's exchange of ideas going in the future. A sub group of senior investigators also talked about options for funding a special cross-site research project. A paper that reports lessons learned in MALS is being submitted to a special issue on knowledge integration of *Ecology and Society*.

KBS had several recent social science publications:

Ma, S., S.M. Swinton, F. Lupi, and C. B. Jolejole-Foreman. 2012. "Farmers' Willingness to Participate in Payment-for-Environmental-Services Programs." *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 63(3): 604-626. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1477-9552.2012.00358.x>.

Ma, S. and S.M. Swinton. 2012. "Hedonic Valuation of Farmland Using Sale Prices versus Appraised Values." *Land Economics* 88(1): 1-15.

Zhang, W. and S.M. Swinton. 2012. "Optimal Control of Soybean Aphid in the Presence of Natural Enemies and the Implied Value of Their Ecosystem Services." *Journal of Environmental Management* 96: 7-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2011.10.008>.

Mike Agar is working with SEV on water policy in Albuquerque, in particular, and New Mexico in general. He presented invited papers at the Society for Applied Anthropology in Denver and the New Mexico Geological Society in Socorro, submitted a grant to the Social Science and Law program at NSF, submitted an article to the journal *Water History*, and published an op-ed piece in the local paper.

CWT launched the Coweeta Listening Project website (<http://listening.coweeta.uga.edu/>) that serves as the gateway to activities that seek to listen to residents of Southern Appalachia, integrate their concerns and knowledge with ecological research, and build useful and meaningful connections between scientists and the public.