

All-PI Winter 2003 Coweeta Meeting, 7-8 January
Georgia Power Training Room, Fanning Building, University of Georgia – Athens

Attending

Paul Bolstad	Gary Grossman	Dave Leigh	Jim Vose
Seong-Hoon Cho	Bruce Haines	Dave Newman	Bruce Wallace
Barry Clinton	Gene Helfman	Scott Pearson	Dave Wear
Dave Coleman	Ron Hendrick	Cathy Pringle	Jack Webster
Katherine Elliott	Mark Hunter	Ron Pulliam	
Linda Enos	Brian Kloeppe	Kitti Reynolds	
Ted Gragson	Jennifer Knoepp	Mark Riedel	

General Comments

There was a good turnout for the meeting, a delicious lunch and hearty snacks coordinated by Linda, and lots of opportunity for people to discuss the details of the upcoming field season. Dac came over to meet someone for lunch and thought he was in the wrong place since the Georgia Power Training Room was “much too nice” for the Coweeta group. He soon adjusted, however. There was a preliminary classification of an ETM+ image prepared by Barrie for the meeting with an expanded set of categories. Details on the meeting highlights follow.

Research Theme Leaders

Our proposed research is organized into three initiatives: (1) Characterization of the Socio-Natural Template, (2) Ecosystem Responses to the Socio-Natural Template, and (3) Forecasting Ecosystem Responses to Changes in the Socio-Natural Template. Theme Leaders were identified in the proposal to help ensure the integration sought in the research. They would serve as a point of reference for the various activities and participants in each effort. By coordinating information on “when, where, who and how” theme leaders would provide a benchmark for research participants that would help them assess their progress over time; the information would also inform Co-PIs not directly involved in those portions of the research on their activities. It was generally agreed in the meeting that the theme leaders identified in the proposal were the appropriate ones.

INITIATIVES AND RESEARCH THEMES	LEADER
Initiative 1: Characterization of the Socio-Natural Template <i>Theme 1:</i> Mapping Long-Term Land-Use Trajectories <i>Theme 2:</i> Environmental Gradients <i>Theme 3:</i> Disturbance Regimes	Paul Bolstad Brian Kloeppe Ted Gragson
Initiative 2: Ecosystem Responses to Variation in the Socio-Natural Template <i>Theme 1:</i> Sedimentation as an Anthropogenic Driver <i>Theme 2:</i> Organic Matter as an Anthropogenic Driver <i>Theme 3:</i> Climatic and Site Controls of Forest Form and Function	Jim Vose Jack Webster Jim Clark
Initiative 3: Forecasting Ecosystem Responses to Variation in the Socio-Natural Template <i>Theme 1:</i> Conceptual and Technical Development of the Forecasting Framework <i>Theme 2:</i> Partial Validation of Land-Use Forecasts	Dave Wear Cathy Pringle

This agreed, a “study plan” consisting of an overview of the theme (≤ 1 page) followed by as many “crib sheets” as there were research efforts (each ≤ 1 page) was outlined. The study plan would thus organize two levels of information and would be developed by each theme leader from input by all participants in a given theme. Study Plans for all themes would be available for the Summer 2003 meeting. Study Plan Outline:

- Study Plan for Theme
 - Name of Theme Leader
 - Names of Participating Investigators
 - Abstract for the Theme
- Crib Sheet for Each Research Effort
 - Project Name
 - Brief Description of Project
 - Location of Activities (description & Lat/Lon)
 - Hypothesis
 - Measurements

All-CWT Summer Meeting 2003

General agreement was reached about the summer 2003 meeting. It would be a 1½ day meeting held in the newly finished (see Vose under miscellaneous reports) Coweeta Conference Center. Attendance would be open to all LTER-funded co-PIs and their students, selected non-LTER funded researchers working at Coweeta and guests. The general outline of the meeting (to be refined over the next couple of months) is:

Half-a-day: update presentations by research theme leaders (see previous section) followed by working groups for each research theme.

One day: presentations of work-completed, synthesis, of general interest by LTER and selected non-LTER researchers and students. Some possible candidates for invitation to speak: Eric Neilsen, Amy Rosemond, ? Wallace (leaf exclusion), Jim Clark (on gap study).

Other: there would be some time available to discuss new opportunities. Also, there would be a poster session at an appropriate prime time.

Choice of dates for which there was consensus by those in attendance:

First Choice – June 24 and 25

Second Choice – July 8 and 9

External Advisory

It is not too soon to begin thinking about who we would like to serve on our external advisory board – their first visit is scheduled for Summer 2004. The initial list of names that emerged at the meeting: Pat Mulholland, Emilio Moran, Adrian Finzi, Steve Pacala, and Bill Michener.

Miscellaneous Reports

J. Webster: update on the LINX2 project funded last year in which he and Judy Meyer (as well as many other researchers) are involved. Project will sample three reference, three urban and three agricultural streams in each of eight regions around the country. The Little TN around Coweeta is one of the regions. For additional information contact Jack (jwebster@vt.edu).

D. Coleman: comments on the likelihood of NEON being funded with additional insight by M. Hunter, B. Kloeppe, and R. Pulliam. While U of Florida has expressed interest in a SE Coastal Plain NEON, it is eliciting little support from researchers and is currently focused on the Kennedy Space Center. U of Virginia has expressed certain interest in a mountains-to-the-sea NEON, but it is not clear how far plans have progressed. For additional information contact Dave (coleman@sparc.ecology.uga.edu).

J. Vose: update on Forest Service/Coweeta activities. The station is still operating on continuing resolution funds, and the budget could be resolved anywhere between January-March, 2003. Both the Dormitory and the Conference Center/Office Building are scheduled for completion May 15-20, 2003. By April the likelihood of meeting these deadlines should be known. Pending their completion, the plan is to hold a dedication-open house for the Dormitory, the Conference Center and the Wet Lab for all contributors and supporters in August 2003. The station is beginning the replacement of weirs and will have 3 new headwalls by Spring '03; it will also be upgrading some of the stream gauges and climate stations. This is an ongoing project that will eventually replace all weirs and upgrade all gauges and stations. The station's new 5-year Research Work Unit Description was approved with high marks this fall, and new funding was obtained from the Joint Fire Sciences program (3 years) and the National Fire Plan (5 years). For additional information contact Jim (jvose@fs.fed.us).

L. Enos: procedures and "fiscal policies" for the new funding. She has drop-in hours Tuesday and Thursday mornings in which she can help you personally with requests, but she can give you the best attention if you send her an email (lindalee@sparc.ecology.uga.edu). Linda's goal is to process everything she receives (e.g., check requests, purchases, postings, etc.) within a week of receiving it. However, this will often require her uninterrupted attention so the procedures and policies she has laid out are designed to help her stay abreast of her very significant actuarial and UGA/NSF procedural responsibilities. PIs will be issued quarterly budget status reports to help them keep track of expenses, and full details will eventually be posted to the Coweeta Business Page (<http://coweeta.ecology.uga.edu/webdocs/1/admin.html>).

B. Haines: update on the ESA 2003 field trip to Coweeta, August 2-3 2003. Rather than departing as originally planned from Savannah, the trip may now be scheduled to begin from Athens (on the premise that most ESA attendees will fly in to Atlanta). This reduces the field trip by one day, which may help increase attendance. Bruce is requesting volunteers to offer "specialist overviews" on selected topics. For additional information or to volunteer contact Bruce (haines@sparc.ecology.uga.edu).