

North Slope Science Initiative

**Interim Report
Ken Taylor, Executive Director
April 25, 2006**

Major Activities

Principal activities during this period focused on organizing the first meeting of the Oversight Group with the Science Technical Group, and lining up appropriate speakers to address some of the priority issues surrounding North Slope development. Considerable time was spent working through concerns over the ethics rules for Special Government Employees as they relate to industry members of the Science Technical Group.

Briefings and updates on NSSI activities were given to the Pacific Flyway Council, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the North Slope Borough (NSB) and participants in the NSB workshop to develop a comprehensive plan for oil and gas development, and the BLM All Employees Meeting in Anchorage.

A meeting between UAF staff and several GIS data management personnel from some of the NSSI agencies was held March 7 and 8, 2006 in Fairbanks to identify common North Slope base layers to be included in the GINA GIS system, which were the authoritative data layers and which agency would be responsible for management and update of each data layer.

Both the National Ecological Observing Network (NEON) and the Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (BASC) in conjunction with the Alaska Oceans Observing System are working to develop NSF funded environmental monitoring systems. NEON is a terrestrial program considering three ecological monitoring sites in Alaska (one on the North Slope). The BASC/AOOS effort is to develop the Barrow Cabled Observatory, a sea bottom sensor system from Barrow to Prudhoe Bay which would monitor a variety of physical and some biological parameters in the Beaufort Sea. If funded, both may provide some long term data sets useful to NSSI agencies.

We continued development of the NSSI web site by updating information on the site and worked with Altarum personnel to develop an IMS system on the website portal. The IMS is still in the experimental phase, but it should, when finished, provide the general public and agency personnel with easily accessible information on North Slope resources.

Conferences

North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Columbus OH

Meetings

National Ecological Observing Network, Anchorage

GIS data management meeting, UAF, GINA and agency GIS staff, Fairbanks

Natural Heritage Program, ENRI, Anchorage

MWH Consulting: Presentation on Ecological Modeling Tools, Anchorage

Alaska Oceans Observing System, Anchorage

Open Water Meeting, MMS, NSB, NMFS, and industry, Anchorage

Congressional Delegation and Interior FACA and Human Resources staff, Washington, D.C.

BLM All Employees Meeting, Anchorage

National Monitoring Team, Denver, Colorado (John)

Regional Wildlife and Energy Monitoring Team (John and Dave Yokel), Portland, Oregon

Issues for Oversight Group Discussion

Election of new Vice-Chair (non-federal)