

Director's Report
North Slope Science Initiative
January 28, 2008 through February 28, 2008

Since the last Oversight Group meeting a substantial amount of time has been spent on revising the Annual Operating Plan. All of the comments I have received have been incorporated into the current version.

Denny Lassuy, will be serving in the role of "Deputy Director" and senior technical specialist for the coming year. Denny brings substantial experience and knowledge in resources as well as much appreciated skills in working in a variety of situations where interpersonal communications are critical to success.

NSSI held the annual interagency senior staff committee meeting in Fairbanks on February 5th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming projects for all member agencies in FY 2009, identify possible coordination or sharing of resources, and see if anyone wanted to utilize the STAP for technical input. The results of these meetings are presented in the attached handout.

On February 6 and 7 NSSI held a joint meeting between the STAP and senior staff committee. The purpose was to help the STAP understand the missions of the member agencies and to received input on several task orders and projects that have been brought forward to NSSI. The results of the meeting on are the attached handout.

I spent a week in Washington, DC and met with a number of individuals key to the success of NSSI or its operations. The meeting with Henri Bisson resulted in a proposal to bring a small intergovernmental contingent to Washington in early April to revive interest in NSSI through the Congressional delegation and senior level Interior management.

I also met with Henry Bastian, National Lead for LandFire, to propose NSSI work with LandFire to produce a land cover map that is better than those of the initial effort by the LandFire program. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Bob Shuchman, chair of the remote sensing/GIS subgroup for NSSI. There was a very positive response from Henry to work together to make the second generation of LandFire products better to address user requirements that the initial effort will miss. We agreed to additional meetings and teleconferences in the near future to develop a strategy.

NSSI has made considerable in-roads into addressing North Slope needs through the National Science Foundation and the Office of Polar Programs. While NSSI will not receive a seat on the review board of NSF, we have agreed to work together to both inform and adjust to the needs of NSSI for the long term.

The renewed Charter for the STAP has been signed by the Secretary of the Interior and will be filled with OMB and Congress. I will notify the Oversight Group when this

occurs. The announcement for the second round of nominees for the STAP has closed and a nomination booklet is being prepared to forward to the Secretary. There were four requests for re-nomination and one new nominee. There were no objections to the new nominee from the Oversight Group.

Meetings and Conferences

February 10-14, 2008, NSSI was represented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment by both myself and Denny Lassuy.