

PROPOSAL #1 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

"LTER data management meeting" to be held in conjunction with the Ecological Society of America meeting in Davis, CA on August 14-18, 1988.

Date/time Sat. Aug. 13 8-10 pm -- Informal introductory meeting
Sun. Aug. 14 9am-5pm -- Formal meeting

Agenda for the Aug. 14 meeting:

9:00 Introduce session (purpose, goals, format)
9:15 Introduce LTER data managers, site coordinators, and others in attendance
9:30 "Role of data managers at an LTER site" -- John Briggs, Konza
10:00 "Hardware/software considerations" -- William Michener, North Inlet
10:30 "Documentation of data sets" -- Susan Stafford, Andrews Forest
11:00 "Management of historical data sets (when to, when not to, and how to if you do)" -- Carl Bowser, Northern Lakes
11:30 Summary and open discussion
12-1 Lunch
1:00- Continue morning discussion and/or break into smaller working
5:00 groups, pass out site materials (Kellogg report, data management publications, and other relevant information), discuss follow-up meetings, etc.

Justification:

With the addition of new LTER sites to the network this meeting is particularly timely. New and old (relative to LTER) data managers will have a chance to meet one another, discuss the basics of data management, and exchange ideas and information. The four formal presentations in the morning are designed to acquaint the new data managers with the techniques that are employed at four of the original sites. In addition, we will discuss failures and successes within our sites. The primary goal of the morning discussion is to make the new data managers aware of the various techniques which have been tried and those which are still in use. The verbal exchange and handouts should be beneficial to the new data managers and will hopefully alleviate the need to reinvent the wheel. The four topics were chosen in response to the many questions which we have received from data managers at the new sites as well as personnel at other institutions.

The afternoon session will evolve in accordance with the wishes of the participants. Possible scenarios include a single open discussion or breakup into two or more working groups to discuss specific issues. Regardless, a portion of the afternoon session will be devoted to discussion of the contributed paper session(s) which has been organized

(see PROPOSAL #2) and the format of future meetings. It is anticipated that the bulk of the afternoon session will focus on answering specific questions and more detailed discussion of the topics presented in the morning.

The meeting is proposed to be held in conjunction with ESA for several reasons:

1. recognition of the scientific interests of the data managers (most have an ecological or environmental background)
2. many site coordinators will be in attendance at the ESA meeting and would be interested in attending the data management discussions as well
3. recognition that data management is an integral part of ecological research and not a divorced discipline
4. allow data managers to attend and contribute to the session addressed in PROPOSAL #2
5. minimize costs and effort associated with organizing an independent data management meeting

BUDGET (estimated):

1. Travel (\$600/person/site) X (20 sites)	\$ 12,000
2. Lodging (\$40/person/night) X (6 nights) X (20 sites)	4,800
3. Per diem (\$40/person/day) X (6 days) X (20 sites)	4,800
4. Coffee breaks, social (Sat.)	250
5. Conference room rental	100
6. Xeroxing for handouts, folders	150

(travel costs may be conservative estimates ?)	\$ 22,100

PRODUCTS:

1. Data management folder for each site containing annotated outlines of the formal presentations, reference materials, publications, directory of attendees, etc.
2. Summary of proceedings and recommendations for the Coordinating Committee
3. Initiation of communication channels between new and old data managers

PROPOSAL #2 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Sponsorship of 1-2 contributed paper sessions at ESA:

"Innovative graphical and statistical approaches to analysis of environmental data."

BACKGROUND:

Two new sections are being proposed for inclusion in ESA (Long Term Research Section by Dr. Jerry Franklin; Statistical Ecology Section by Dr. Marsha Conley et al.). With the encouragement of many individuals who have interests in these two sections Michener, Conley, Edwards, and Stafford are organizing 1-2 contributed paper sessions dealing with 'Innovative graphical and statistical approaches to analysis of environmental data'. It is hoped that this topic will be of interest to potential members of the two new sections as well as LTER data managers and investigators. Contributions are being sought from ESA members, American Statistical Association members, LTER sites (packets available from Dr. Vernberg), and numerous others.

Should sufficient interest and quality papers exist, we plan to publish the proceedings. The organizers will review the abstracts in December and make a judgment as to the desirability of publication. A proposal to the Coordinating Committee seeking support for the publication may be forthcoming at that time. Regardless, we hope and anticipate that LTER ecologists, data managers, statisticians, etc. will support and contribute to the session(s).

BUDGET (estimated):

1. Travel (\$600/person) for Michener, Conley, Edwards, Stafford	\$ 2400
2. Lodging (\$240/person) X 4	960
3. Per diem (\$240/person) X 4	960

	\$ 4320

JUSTIFICATION:

Sponsorship of the sessions by the LTER Coordinating Committee will enable the sessions to serve as a precursor for the development of future ESA symposia (and hopefully publications) by LTER data managers and statisticians. We feel it is important that LTER data managers continue to make contributions to the ecological community as a whole. This goal would not be realized if meetings (such as the one discussed

in the first proposal) were divorced from symposia (such as the one proposed here).

Sponsorship will also serve to enhance awareness of the statistical community (ASA and others) to the LTER Program and some of the unique challenges with which we are faced. One of the comments often overheard from LTER investigators is that "we don't have the tools and expertise to analyse some of the complex long term data sets which we are generating." It is time to not only bring in the experts we need, but generate interest in the LTER data sets and analytical problems so that development of new statistical and graphical procedures for our investigators may continue.

We hope that LTER data managers and statisticians can continue annual meetings and develop ESA symposia relevant to the ecological community and especially those problems which may be unique to the complex long term data sets generated under LTER.

CALL FOR PAPERS -- ESA MEETING, 1988

August 14-18 Davis, California

Contributed Paper Session:

Innovative graphical and statistical approaches to analysis of environmental data.

Statistics:

- principal components analysis
- kriging
- autocorrelation in time series
- multi-dimensional scaling
- response surface analysis
- etc.

Graphics:

- robust exploratory methods
- fractals
- pattern detection
- geographical display in landscape ecology
- etc.

If sufficient interest exists, papers presented at the session plus up to 15 more will be published as a hard-back volume through a respected publishing company.

If interested:

1. fill out the brief form below, tear off, and leave in envelope
2. submit abstract (500 words or less) by Nov. 15, 1987
3. notification of acceptance and further details about publication and required formats for the papers will be sent Feb. 1988

Abstracts should be sent to:

William Michener
Baruch Institute
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
phone (803) 777-3939

Questions about the session may also be addressed to:

Marsha Conley
Department of Biology
Box 3AF
Las Cruces, NM 88003
(505) 646-5666

Don Edwards
Department of Statistics
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 777-5110

Susan Stafford
Department of Forest Science
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97330
(503) 754-2244

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

If you already have an idea for the topic you will be submitting an abstract for please provide the title below (titles may of course be revised later):
