

9/20/93  
UTOR All-Scientists  
Meeting

Report on discussion of Standardization for Landscape Characterization and Geomorphic Processes - Chairs: John Magnuson, Fred Swanson

Objective: Improve potential for multisite comparison

A group of about 25 with broad site representation engaged in a wide-ranging discussion. Highlights:

First question: Why consider some standardization for landscape characterization (or other aspects of LTER subject matter). Response: Implicit obligation in the network nature of LTER. Create opportunities. Many sites were selected in part on the basis of their anomalous properties, ~~so~~ therefore amplifying the need to characterize (in regional/landscape) context what sites represent.

There seemed to be significant group consensus to focus on questions and to let standardization be a byproduct of question-driven science. Below is a list of questions raised. Long-term measurements programs <sup>(with standards)</sup> should emerge to examine the playout and consequences of alternative future scenarios. One process would be to have a few workshops with objective of preparing a network proposal for landscape characterization, including definition of standards for comparative analysis and long-term measurements programs.

Land classification was identified as a central issue, but one much bigger than LTER -- several national and international groups are working on aspects (eg, soil). But there was strong reaction that no universal classification will be found and the critical issue for LTER is to understand how large-scale ecosystems operate and change. Characterization and standardization should serve that end.