

Date sent: Sat, 16 Dec 1995 10:16:26 -0700 (MST)
From: James Gosz <jgosz@sevilleta.unm.edu>
Subject: Workshop proposal (fwd)
To: exec@lternet.edu

You probably remember from our last CC meeting that we suggested a policy for workshop proposals that would be funded by the Network Office. Eventually they will be reviewed by the CC, however, because of the short time for this next year, we agreed that the EC would review proposals that had a deadline of Dec. 15. We only received one! It is included below and given the importance of Remote Sensing to all sites, the fact that 14 are involved in this one and that NASA has provided preliminary funding to get research started, my vote is to fund this.

Let me hear your vote.

Incidentally, this would only use 1/2 of the money available so perhaps we should all go to Hawaii to review this proposal.

Either we put out another call or invest more \$ in both the Soils Standardization workshop and this one from Cohen.

jim

----- Forwarded message -----
Date: Wed, 13 Dec 95 09:12:16 PST
From: Warren B. Cohen <cohenw@ccmail.orst.edu>
To: jgosz@sevilleta.unm.edu
Cc: jvc@lternet.edu, swansonf@ccmail.orst.edu
Subject: Workshop proposal

Jim,

Following is a proposal for financial support of an upcoming workshop. Thanks for the opportunity. Please acknowledge receipt--thanks,
Warren

Workshop Proposal (December 13, 1995)

Submitted to the LTER Coordinating Committee by Warren B. Cohen,
H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest LTER site

This is a proposal for funds to help cover the costs of a planned workshop involving LTER scientists and NASA collaborators. The main focus of the workshop will be on standardization of combined

field, modeling, and remote sensing methods across the LTER network for creation of biophysical GIS data layers at the LTER site level, and on linkage of those data layers with the same data layers created at the global scale by NASA scientists.

The focus of this workshop was shaped by a research proposal bringing 14 LTER sites together with NASA's MODIS Land (MODLAND) Science Team, submitted last year to Dr. Diane Wickland, Manager of the Terrestrial Ecology Program of NASA's Office of Mission to Planet Earth. The proposal is entitled "LOCAL VALIDATION OF GLOBAL ESTIMATES OF BIOSPHERE PROPERTIES: A SYNTHESIS OF SCALING METHODS AND RESULTS ACROSS SEVERAL MAJOR BIOMES," and has a proposed overall project budget of \$4,016,707 for three years. The proposal was peer-reviewed and given the overall grade of "Very Good." As a result, Dr. Wickland recently informed me, as principal LTER representative, that she would provide us with start-up funds of \$242,000 for Year 1. This is just 17 % of the requested amount for Year 1, and it is our hope that we can use these dollars to garner support from other programs at NASA and elsewhere.

In the research proposal, each site described combined field, modeling, and remote sensing methods for creating local maps of land cover class (LCC), leaf area index (LAI), and aboveground net primary productivity (NPP) for a minimum 100 km² area at a grain size of about 25 m. Several methods are proposed for estimating each of the three biosphere variables at all sites, and these will be used to help establish error bounds on the variable estimates. A number of different strategies are proposed for spatially aggregating the fine-grain site maps to a coarse grain (1 km) so that they can be compared to maps of the same three biosphere variables developed by the MODLAND Science Team. This coordinated, multi-site grain-size aggregation exercise presents us with an opportunity to grapple with one of the most vexing current problems in ecology, that of the effects on estimates of important biosphere variables of scaling from a fine grain to a coarse grain. We propose several methods for addressing this issue including the calculation of geostatistical and landscape metrics. The intent is to characterize the sites, in terms of the LCC, LAI, and NPP at several spatial scales to elucidate similarities and differences among the multiple sites and biomes and between the MODLAND maps and site maps.

The only substantive science concern of the proposal reviewers was that we need to standardize our methodological approaches across the 14 LTER sites; hence the focus of the planned workshop. With a standardized set of methods we will be ready to move ahead with some of the most important components of the research. We also will be better positioned to obtain the additional 94 % of the financial support requested for this three year project.

Prior to the workshop there will be a significant planning effort. The intent is to have e-mail focus groups for specific

methods problem areas like measuring NPP and LAI, data sets and approaches for land cover definition and mapping, and scaling of ecological information from plot-data to 1 km resolution. This pre-workshop activity should enable us to confront most of the methodological concerns immediately, and to focus our attention on difficult and unresolved issues at the workshop. The workshop will be held at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest over two and one-half days in early May 1996 and will include one field trip to several local sites to help foster discussions on the measurement and methodology issues in a real setting. The products of the workshop will be: 1) a written, detailed plan for measurements and scaling for the three biosphere variables of interest, with rationale given for major decision pathways; 2) a plan for spending our (thus far) limited funds, including task definitions for individual sites--we hope to have a field measurement program in-place on some sites by the summer of 1996; and 3) a plan for soliciting additional dollars from target funding programs.

All sites were invited to participate in this research. Those that have contributed to the proposal (with site proposal PIs given in parentheses) are : H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest (Warren B. Cohen), Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest (Cynthia L. Williams), Cedar Creek Natural History Area (Peter Reich), Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory (Steven McNulty), Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest and Harvard Forest (Mary Martin), Kellogg Biological Station (Stuart H. Gage), Konza Prairie Research Natural Area (John Briggs), Luquillo Experimental Forest (John R. Thomlinson), Niwot Ridge-Green Lakes Valley and Central Plains Experimental Range (Carol A. Wessman), North Temperate Lakes (Stith T. Gower), Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (Bruce T. Milne), and Virginia Coast Reserve (John H. Porter). The four sites that chose not to participate in initial proposal writing will be kept informed with the hope that they will become active in this and related research in the future. The research is being guided by a steering committee, consisting of Warren Cohen (Andrews), Carol Wessman (Niwot), John Aber & Mary Martin (Harvard Forest), Bruce Milne (Sevilleta), John R. Vande Castle (LTER Network Office), and Steve Running (representing the MODIS Land Science Team).

The planned workshop is a crucial step in the future development of LTER and NASA programmatic and science interactions. Benefit to the Network Office in providing funds for this workshop is in being an explicit contributor/participant in this major intersite, interagency effort, and in demonstrating an LTER commitment to LTER and NASA joint-research. The benefit to this project is to help get the most out of the NASA start-up funds, by not having to use these funds to support the workshop.

The proposed budget for the workshop follows. To avoid overhead charges, it is my desire that charges be directly billed to the network office.

Budget:

\$ 6,500: Approximate cost of air travel for 13 LTER scientists.
No request for travel of NASA scientists.

\$ 1,050: Conference charge and lodging at the Andrews (20-25
people including NASA and local Andrews participants)

\$ 1,500: Full catering service for 20-25 people

\$ 750: Local travel & supplies

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\$ 9,800 Total

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