

## North and West Alaska Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

### FY 2004 Plan of Work

#### Mission statement

The North and West Alaska Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (NWACESU) seeks to provide cooperative technical assistance related to natural and cultural resource decision making focused on north and west Alaska through partnerships, education, research and knowledge of biological, physical, social and cultural aspects of relevant ecosystems among NWACESU members and the national CESU network.

#### Tasks to be accomplished during FY 2004

1. Hold in-person meeting of the NWACESU managers committee to facilitate completion of tasks necessary to develop the NWACESU strategic plan
2. Hold in-person meeting of agency and university partner administrators to agree on terminology and procedures for NWACESU activity
3. Develop guidance to the appropriate use of the NWACESU
  - a. Discuss the substantial involvement role of agency partners
4. Develop protocol for the initiation, funding, and operation of NWACESU project modifications, items to discuss include:
  - a. Data standards
  - b. Intellectual property
  - c. Overall guidelines vs. project by project basis
5. Develop a process to monitor and report on NWACESU activities
6. Develop strategic plan for NWACESU
  - a. Discuss need of short term vs. long term plan
7. Agency partners will develop a list of their research, education and technical assistance needs
8. Develop NWACESU website
9. Develop outreach materials to promote NWACESU to partner university departments, non-university partners and federal agency partners, areas to be addressed:
  - a. How to initiate agreements
  - b. The NWACESU agreement was established through a competitive process and agreement modifications do not need to go through a competitive bid process
10. Encourage collaborative research projects

## Appendix A Example products and key faculty contacts

### *Example of ongoing education efforts that could be promoted under the NWACESU*

- ◆ Development of distance delivery courses

### *Example of research need / potential project identified by NPS*

- ◆ The role of salmon in riparian ecosystem function and an assessment of salmon population monitoring methodologies. Location: Streams in the Central Alaska Network

### *Example of research need / potential project identified by BLM*

- ◆ Wildlands Recreation Outcomes Study

### *Potential topic areas within the scope of the NWACESU*

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Watershed management/monitoring | ◆ Sea lion/aquaculture        |
| ◆ Cultural resources              | ◆ Invasive species            |
| ◆ Inventory and monitoring        | ◆ Non-timber forest products  |
| ◆ Ecosystem management            | ◆ Sustainability/stewardship  |
| ◆ Recreation/urban interface      | ◆ Public information services |
| ◆ Fire                            |                               |

### *Faculty that will serve as the key contacts and guide the formation of the NWACESU*

Dr. Carol Lewis, Dean & Director, School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (SNRAS/AFES), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

Dr. Peter Fix, Assistant Professor, SNRAS, UAF

Dr. Craig Dorman, Vice President of Research, University of Alaska Statewide

Dr. Theodore Delaca, Vice Provost of Research, UAF

Dr. Brandon Kelly, Dean of Arts & Sciences, University of Alaska Southeast

Dr. Kim Peterson, Associate Vice Provost for Research, University of Alaska Anchorage

Dr. Kelly Giraud, College of Life Sciences & Agriculture, University of New Hampshire (UNH)

Dr. John Aber, Vice President for Research and Public Service, UNH

Tylan Schrock, Executive Director, Alaska SeaLife Center

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, Science Director, Alaska SeaLife Center/Faculty, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, UAF