

**HUBBARD BROOK: STUDENT RESEARCH, SCIENCE LINKS, RESEARCH GROUP  
RENTAL SUPPLEMENT, AND NSRC COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP**

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Supported execution and planning of Science Links projects; student research; and a NSRC communications workshop.

Funding support for this project was provided by the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC), a partnership of Northern Forest states (New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and New York), in coordination with the USDA Forest Service.

<http://www.nsrcforest.org>

## ***Project Summary***

### **Student Research**

In 2010, 10 students participated in Hubbard Brook's research experience for undergraduates program. The REU program supported students doing their own research, under the mentorship of Hubbard Brook PI's. In addition, REU students participated in communications projects with state and federal environmental agencies and local nongovernmental conservation organizations.

### **Science Links**

The NSRC grant devoted funds to three separate Science Links projects. NSRC funds helped cover production costs of a translation document for HBRF's Carbon Science Links project. In addition, funds were used for project planning purposes and team building for two new Science Links initiatives: Migratory Birds and a Regional Science and Policy Partnership. The Migratory Birds project established a team of scientists which decided research objectives that will contribute to a synthesis scientific paper and separate translation document. The Regional Partnership held a design workshop in November 2011 at Harvard Forest.

### **Research Group Rental Supplement**

Funds were used to assist in paying for housing costs for two research groups working in the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the summer of 2010. The larger of these groups, comprising 20 researchers and technicians, worked on the longest running migratory bird study in North America. The second group, comprising 10 researchers, studied vegetation at HBEF. These rental supplements helped defray costs for housing, communications, a classroom and other meeting rooms, a dry lab and web lab, and storage facilities.

### **NSRC Communications Workshop**

On June 11-12, 2012, 20 people attended a workshop at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, VT, to explore how the NSRC can improve its public and policy outreach through new communications strategies. Among the topics that were explored at the workshop: NSRC's history and accomplishments; rethinking NSRC's institutional identity; communicating science in a changing world; current and potential NSRC communications strategies; and the possibility of using the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northern Forest Lands Study (September 2014) as a way to re-invigorate the NSRC brand.

# Background and Justification

This grant supported several ongoing education, policy, and outreach projects of the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, which exists to support the work of the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study (HBES), often cited among the largest and longest running ecosystem studies in the world. The grant also provided subsidies for scientist housing at Hubbard Brook. HBES is conducted in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. A key justification of the grant is the need to develop new ways to communicate cutting-edge research with the public.

# Methods

- REU program puts undergraduates together with PI mentors, working on individual research projects at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- Science Links projects convene teams of scientists to produce peer-review articles and “translations” of research on a variety of policy-relevant topics.
- Hubbard Brook roundtable process brings together ecosystem scientists with stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds, using pre-meeting interviews, and a facilitated meeting that encourages dialogue.

# Results/Project outcomes

- Publication of *Carbon and Communities*, a Science Links publication.
- Support for 10 undergraduates in REU program at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest.
- Creation of regional policy group called the Northeast Science & Policy Consortium.
- Convening of Hubbard Brook Roundtable on NSRC communications strategies.

# Implications and applications in the Northern Forest region

The Northeast Science & Policy Consortium will highlight policy issues important to the Northern Forest region, bringing to bear the latest ecosystem science. The communications workshop will help NSRC develop new strategies for sharing research with a wide array of stakeholders. Science Links projects dealing with carbon and migratory birds will help land managers and policymakers develop policies useful to communities wishing to protect their natural resources.

# Future directions

Communications and outreach strategies explored as part of the NSRC communications workshop will be used during events celebrating the Northern Forest Lands Council 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. A key component of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be to communicate the importance of the NSRC research program to the Northern Forest region.

# List of products

- Fahey, T.J., et al., Carbon and Communities: Linking carbon science with public policy and resource management in the northeastern United States, Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, 2011.
- <http://hubbardbrookfoundation.org/carbon-and-climate/>
- <http://hubbardbrookfoundation.org/undergraduate-programs/>