

# Letter from the Principal Investigator

May 2017

Greetings to everyone,

I'll start with the bad news: as you may know, our 2017-2022 Track-1 proposal, "Fire and Ice," was not funded by the National Science Foundation. The review panelists liked our science questions and many elements of our work, and have provided us constructive criticism on parts that they would like us to strengthen. We're now working to revamp "Fire and Ice" in preparation for an anticipated early fall deadline.

At the same time, we will be wrapping up the final activities of our current EPSCoR project under a no-cost extension, which enables us to use our remaining funds past our original end date of June 30. Our researchers will use this time to work on integrative activities, such as planned scenarios work that follows on the successful "Salmon 2050" effort in the Southcentral Test Case. We will also have more time to prepare and submit academic publications based on EPSCoR research.

And speaking of publications, in the last year EPSCoR researchers have published 28 of them, and have another 49 in various stages of preparation. The published items are listed on our website (at <http://www.alaska.edu/epscor/publications/>), and they'll also be accessible from our data portal. I'm also proud to report on some other accomplishments over the last year, including the graduation of three of the five members of our social-ecological systems graduate student cohort. Many other EPSCoR-supported students have also donned the cap and gown recently, including 10 grad students and eight undergraduates this past year, bringing our total number of graduates over the course of the project to 19 grad students and 43 undergrads. Congratulations to all of our student researchers who've taken this momentous step.

And finally, I had the privilege of delivering a "Science for Alaska" lecture back in February for a crowd of around 150 people here in Fairbanks. The title of the talk was "How Do We Adapt to Alaska's Changing Environment?" and the topic was an overview of the research we've done into adaptive capacity over the last five years. The talk was well-received and gave me a chance to reflect on the many achievements of the project. We've done a lot, and I'm excited to have some extra time to finish our work.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash



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