



This month has been an exciting one at the Arctic Data Center, with our recent Science Advisory Board (SAB) meeting, the arrival of our newest data interns, and new [so ware improvements](#).

During the SAB meeting, we discussed strategic priorities for the Center and reviewed nominations for incoming [SAB members](#). We also extend our sincere thanks to **Mark Parsons, Peter Pulsifer, and Karl Rittger** as they conclude their service on the Board. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and lasting contributions to the Center, and we look forward to welcoming our newest SAB members in the coming months. Read on for more exciting updates, new opportunities, and more!

Newsletter At a Glance

- New So ware Releases
- Latest Datasets
- PGC User Survey 2026
- Luna Initiative: Moonshot Ideas for the Planet
- 2026 GeoAI Arctic Challenge
- New Paper Releases
- Opportunities and more!



New So ware Release

New Dataset Versioning Features to Support Reproducible Research

We're excited to announce a new release of the MetacatUI 2.37.0, which now allows for new ways to explore datasets. This release introduces new dataset versioning features, making it easier to track and navigate changes across dataset versions. Read more about it in our latest [blog!](#)

[Read Latest Blog](#)

New Interactive Experiences in Portal Maps to Support Data Exploration at the Arctic Data Center

We have also introduced new interactive mapping features for data portals in order to make data exploration more intuitive. This MetacatUI 2.37.0. release introduces new ways to interact with portal maps, making it easier to explore data spatially. Test out in one of our [portals](#), and learn more in our latest [blog](#).



[Read Latest Blog](#)



Follow the Arctic Data Center on LinkedIn

We're excited to announce the Arctic Data Center is now on LinkedIn! Please share our page with colleagues, and [follow us](#) for updates and opportunities from the Center.

[Follow us on LinkedIn](#)

Latest Datasets

[Explore the full catalog](#)

Explore some of the latest datasets uploaded to the Arctic Data Center, ranging from geoscience to atmospheric science.



Cryology

Licht, 2026

This dataset contains time-lapse camera imagery capturing the formation of naledi (icing) on the forefield of a Greenland Ice Sheet



Human Geography

Schmidt et al., 2026

This dataset contains survey, interview, and mapping data examining how contamination concerns at a formerly used defense site on



Physical Geography

Jorgenson & Kanevskiy, 2026

This dataset contains soil, vegetation, and radiocarbon data from permafrost surveys and thermokarst monitoring sites, capturing how the

outlet glacier, revealing how winter meltwater routing and freezing processes differ from summer outflows.

Unalaska Island are reshaping subsistence practices and community well-being.

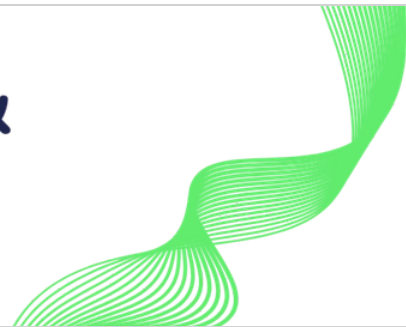
upper permafrost layer responds to environmental change and disturbance.

[View Dataset](#)

[View Dataset](#)

[View Dataset](#)

Partner News & Opportunities



Complete by August 31, 2026!

PGC User Survey 2026

Have you used Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) data, tools, services, or support in your cryospheric work in the last three years - or have ideas about how PGC could better support your efforts? We're inviting members of the polar community to participate in the 2026 PGC User Survey.



Whether you've used PGC extensively, occasionally, or not at all, we'd like to hear from you. **The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and is open through August 31, 2026.**

As a thank you, five participants will be randomly selected to receive a PGC swag package, including a PGC mug, ArcticDEM/REMA flat map, Science on the Ice magazine, stickers, and more. [Take the survey.](#)

[Take the survey](#)



Proposal Deadline August 17, 2026!

Luna Initiative: Moonshot Ideas for the Planet

The new [NCEAS Luna](#) Initiative is designed to support **early-stage, high-risk, high-reward science** to solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges. Luna brings together small, diverse teams to develop and refine ideas through

collaborative synthesis and turn promising ideas into actionable directions for science and decision-making. Click the [link](#) below to learn more about submitting a proposal for this year's theme: **Climate Change**.

Submit your proposals here



The poster for the 2026 GeoAI Arctic Challenge features a background image of a snowy, mountainous landscape. At the top, the title "2026 GeoAI Arctic Challenge" is displayed in bold white text, accompanied by the NSF logo. Below the title, the poster is divided into several sections: "About the Challenge" which describes the goal of advancing GeoAI methods for mapping Arctic permafrost; "Why This Matters" which highlights the rapid changes in the Arctic due to climate warming; "How to Participate" which lists four steps: form a team, team registration, train your model, and submit results; "Important Dates" which lists key milestones from July 1, 2026, to March 1, 2027; and "Awards & Recognition" which details cash prizes and an award certificate. At the bottom, logos for ASU, Woodwell Climate Research Center, Arctic Data Center, and NCSA are shown, along with a QR code and the URL "cyber2a.github.io/challenge".

Final submission deadline is January 31, 2027

The 2026 GeoAI Arctic Challenge is officially open!

Following the success of the first GeoAI Martian Challenge, this year's challenge centered on the Arctic, one of the fastest-changing regions on our planet.

This [#NSF](#)-sponsored challenge brings together the AI, geospatial, and Arctic research communities to develop innovative GeoAI methods for mapping Arctic permafrost features from multimodal remote sensing data. As climate change rapidly reshapes Arctic landscapes, improving our ability to monitor these changes has never been more important.

More than a competition, the GeoAI Arctic Challenge is a platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation. Throughout the challenge, we will host webinars and hands-on sessions on AI, remote sensing, and GeoAI to help participants build new skills, connect across disciplines, and tackle real-world environmental challenges. Please watch our website for updates.

The Challenge is open to researchers, students, practitioners, and anyone interested in AI, geospatial science, and Arctic research. Individuals and teams are welcome, and we especially encourage interdisciplinary teams that combine expertise in AI and Earth science.

Top teams will receive cash awards and certificates:

- 1st Place: \$1,000
- 2nd Place: \$500
- 3rd Place: \$200

All challenge details, including registration, access to the high-resolution satellite data on Hugging Face, modeling guidelines, and submission instructions, are available on the [website](#).

Learn more about the challenge

Apply by August 14th, 2026!

Apply to join the organizing team for the Polar Impact Mentorship Initiative!

The Polar Impact Mentorship Initiative (PIMI) program is a volunteer-run, international program designed to offer support for anyone who identifies as belonging to a historically excluded racial or ethnic group and is involved with work in the polar regions. Polar Impact is encouraging individuals to apply to join the organizing team. Organizing team volunteers are expected to commit to a two-year term with an average of approximately 5 volunteer hours each month. The goal is to have the new organizing team established by early-mid January, solicit applications in May, and begin the new round of PIMI programming in August 2027. This is a great opportunity to help create an impactful mentorship program, expand your professional network, and build skills to list on your CV/resume!



Reach out to pimi@polarimpactnetwork.org with any questions.

Complete the [application form](#) by midnight (your local time) on August 14th, 2026. Applicants will be notified of decisions by September 15th, 2026.

[Link to application](#)



New Media

Arctic Together Podcast Episode 5 Available Now

The Fostering Indigenous-led Research (FILR) Convergence Working Group (CWG) is one of three Convergence Working Groups that the NNA-CO supported from June 2023 to May 2025. The FILR group focused on what Indigenous-led research is now, what it can look like, and next steps to creating research that is Indigenous-led. One of the final products of the FILR CWG is a podcast mini-series, of which this is the fifth and

final episode. This episode is hosted by host Dr. Anamaq Margaret Rudolf with guests Mary Beth Jäger and Dr. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyak. Find more information [here](#).

[Listen to the podcast](#)

August 14th at 12pm PT

Final NCEAS Seminar Series Talk

[Dr. Patricia Balvanera](#) studies social-ecological systems at the Institute for Ecosystem and Sustainability Research at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México with a focus on linking biodiversity with human well-being. Her talk, rescheduled for August 14th at 12pm PT, will discuss how to integrate the diverse values of nature into decision-making processes and highlighted how synthesis efforts can best inform policy decisions.



Register for webinar

New Paper Releases

When top-down is also bottom-up: Examining consumer-driven nutrient recycling in an arctic herbivore population

Roy et al. explore how brown lemmings may help fertilize the Arctic tundra through their droppings. They found that lemming droppings decompose slowly, sometimes persisting for more than four years, gradually releasing nutrients that can continue benefiting the ecosystem long after lemming populations decline. The [dataset](#) supporting this research is available through the Arctic Data Center. Read more in the full article below.

Read Article

Other Opportunities

Job Opportunities

- Polar Archivist at Ohio State (<https://osu.wd1.myworkdayjobs...>)
- Data Specialist at Asiaq, based in Nuuk, Greenland (<https://asiaq.career.empty.com...>)

- Senior Lecturer in Spatial and Statistical Analysis at the University of York (<https://jobs.york.ac.uk/vacanc...>)

Postdoc Opportunities

- Postdoc in Oceanography at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) (<https://jobs.awi.de/Vacancies/...>)
- AGU26 Postdoctoral Travel Grant closes on August 12 (<https://www.agu.org/Honors/AGU...>)

Conferences and Workshops

- [MtnClim 2026](https://www.mtnclim.org/), Science for Decision-Making in Mountains, September 14 – 18, 2026 in Gothic, Colorado (<https://www.mtnclim.org/>)
- 2026 NNA Annual Community Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska, September 15-17, 2026 (<https://nna-co.org/outreach/wo...>)
- International Symposium on Snow in a Warming Climate: Processes, Extremes, and Disaster Risk, November 7-12, 2027 (<https://www.igsoc.org/wp-conte...>)

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