



# **NEON Ground Beetle Technical Working Group**

## ***2020 Annual Report***



1685 38th St., Suite 100 | Boulder, CO 80301 | 720.746.4844 | [www.neonscience.org](http://www.neonscience.org)

National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation and proudly operated by Battelle.

## Introduction

Since its inception, NEON has relied on expertise within the science, education, and engineering communities to advise on key areas impacting the design, construction, and maintenance of the observatory with the goal to optimize its operation. Currently, two types of external advisory bodies support staff and leadership in making key decisions that guide all of NEON's activities: the Science, Technology & Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs). Both bodies are comprised of experts nominated to serve in these roles who are selected by NEON staff following a rigorous selection process.

NEON currently relies upon input from 22 TWGs. These groups play an important role by providing input to NEON's data collection and processing methods and ensuring that NEON infrastructure, data, and programs are a valuable community resource. Working groups are participatory and advisory; they are often tasked with providing input on issues that have scientific, educational, engineering, or operational implications.

This document includes a summary of activities, recommendations, and NEON's response to those recommendations for the Ground Beetle TWG during the 2020 funding year (November 2019-October 2020).

NEON Ground Beetle Technical Working Group collects ground beetle observations and archival samples at all terrestrial field sites to capture how ground beetles (*Carabidae*) communities change in different habitats and ecosystems over time. This TWG determines targets for sampling that generate data that can reveal significant changes in beetle abundance, diversity, and community composition.

## Q1 – November 2019-January 2020

### Summary of Activities

Meeting delayed while Katie Levan on maternity leave. First meeting planned for March.

### TWG Recommendations

N/A

### NEON Response

N/A

## Q2 – February 2020-April 2020

### Summary of Activities

No meeting held in Q2. First meeting scheduled for early Q3.

### TWG Recommendations

N/A

### NEON Response

N/A

## Q3 – May 2020-July 2020

### Summary of Activities

Discussed current status of ground beetle data product, data quality targets, and circulated current sampling protocol to the TWG for comment.

### TWG Recommendations

TWG made recommendations about sample archiving and handling of specimens with less than complete metadata.

### NEON Response

NEON staff are incorporating input from TWG on the data quality analyses; specimens with incomplete (but generally sufficient) metadata will be advertised in the NEON Biorepository and Data Portal with appropriate context.

## Q4 – August 2020-October 2020

### Summary of Activities

No activity for Q4.

### TWG Recommendations

N/A

### NEON Response

Work is ongoing to address previously raised recommendations.