

STEAC November 2020 Advisory Report to Battelle

The STEAC met on November 2nd and 4th, 2020 with a quorum of twelve members attending (Anne Giblin, Jackie Matthes, Jeff Dukes, Kim Novick, Lillian Alessa, Mike Dietze, Peter Groffman, Rob Guralnick, Sarah Bevins, Sparkle Malone, Frank Davis, Emily Bernhardt). Thirteen NEON-Battelle staff attended (Michael Kuhlman, Gene Kelly, Kate Thibault, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Zoe Gentes, Michael SanClements, Marie Faust, Kirsten Ruiz, Christine Laney, Claire Lunch, Rommel Zulueta, and Cory Ritz). The meeting was virtual and the following topics were discussed: I. the NEON vision; II. the NSF annual review highlights; III. assignable assets (AA); IV. data release plan; V. the strategy for optimizing NEON data products; VI. community engagement; and VII. staff breakout meetings on diversity and inclusion.

Overall, the STEAC was excited to see the progress being made by the Observatory, especially in light of the challenges presented this year due to [COVID-19](#). In particular, we appreciated the leadership provided by the Chief Scientist and Observatory Director Dr. Paula Mabee, who brought NEON business to the STEAC in an informed and coherent manner and focused on constructive and positive interactions. We also thank all of the NEON staff who attended the meeting for their thoughtful and informed presentations and discussions. In total the Fall STEAC meeting was a good, productive meeting.

Summary of key recommendations

1. Refine elements of the vision statement aimed at broadening NEON's roles.
2. Streamline and improve the Assignable Assets review process.
3. Grow the scientific value of AA products.
4. Develop a clear plan of communication to future users about how and why they should cite NEON data using the new DOIs.
5. Continue to optimize and improve existing data products.
6. Urge users to make use of existing mechanisms (i.e., NSF RAPID proposals) for the study of perturbations and extreme events affecting NEON sites.