STEAC Meeting Report
(03/23/2022)

The STEAC met on March 23, 2022, with a quorum of seven members attending (Sarah Bevins, Mike Dietze, Anne Giblin, Peter Groffman, Sparkle Malone, Steve Petruzza, Shawn Serbin,). Seven NEON-Battelle staff attended (Zoe Gentes, Darcy Gora, Tristan Goulden, Paula Mabee, Chris McKay, Bonnie Meinke, Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Approval of previous minutes; II. Follow up from the February Meeting; III. Prioritizing partnerships in AY23; IV. Update on AOP data republication for the 2022 release and request for inputs; V. Spring Meeting Dates; VI. STEAC new member recruitment.

I.   **Approval of [previous minutes](#):** Minutes approved (additional edits provided by Peter Groffman were included on March 25th, 2022).

II. **Follow up from the February Meeting:**
- NEON social media and publication tracking
  - The STEAC discussed updated efforts within NEON to address previous feedback on improving the use of social media outreach and the tracking of publications that use NEON data. This included a new webform that allows the user community to alert NEON to new publications. It was noted that in the short time this form was available, there were already two uses of that new form.
  - STEAC also learned about current NEON social media campaigns, including promoting female researchers during Women's History Month, seasonal field technician advertisements, the upcoming Airborne campaign, and others.
- Tracking data through aggregators: update and request for help
  - The STEAC continued discussions around ways NEON could attempt to track data usage by external data aggregator efforts. It was noted that NEON needs a ranked list of NEON data users and identify how to implement FAIR data aggregation tracking.
  - Current external efforts that NEON is engaging with include [Ameriflux](#), [BOLD](#), [PhenoCam](#) network, [AERONET](#), and [GBIF](#).
  - It was suggested that NEON should also work more closely with [StreamPulse](#), [Environmental Data Initiative](#), and the [EFI RCN](#) to identify how NEON data is being aggregated and used in those efforts.
  - It was further noted that this is a challenge facing all data providers and there are no good, current automated ways to facilitate provenance tracking. It requires coordination with the external groups ingesting NEON data that basic metadata is maintained during the aggregation process and may still be a mostly manual process.

III. **Prioritizing partnerships in AY23:**
- STEAC discussed an AY23 proposal idea focused on developing a collaboration between NEON and ForestGEO.
- There was a discussion about how NEON could leverage their assignable asset program to assist in a possible NEON-ForestGEO partnership.
- In addition, as part of the partnership a new NEON site located on Barro Colorado Island, Panamá was discussed.
- STEAC commented about the potential disadvantages of a ForestGEO partnership, including that they only cover forested sites - NO aquatic and non-forest areas (grasslands, etc) - and the recent harassment at the Smithsonian/STRI.
- STEAC suggested targeting groups who are currently underutilizing NEON data
  - There was a discussion on how to identify those groups
  - It was suggested to look at data usage stats and scientific focus areas.
  - The Disease community was also suggested as a group that has underutilized NEON data.

- STEAC also discussed how to foster more international partnerships, as well as how aspects of NEON could also be leveraged for new partnerships. For example, the use of the AOP for assisting in national forest inventories or NEON-Ameriflux upscaling.
- It was decided to carry this discussion into the Spring meeting (May 20th, 2022).

IV. **Update on AOP data republication for the 2022 release and request for inputs:** The AOP data is now available.

V. **Spring Meeting Dates:** A new set of dates for the spring 2022 meeting were discussed to avoid a conflict with the LTER meeting. The new virtual STEAC meeting will be all day, from 8am -5pm mountain time on May 20th, 2022

VI. **STEAC new member recruitment:** STEAC discussed the application form, current applications, and efforts to obtain more and wider applications from the community.