

STEAC MEETING REPORT (11/16/2022)

The STEAC met on November 11th, 2022, with a quorum of thirteen members attending (Meghan Avolio, Henry Bart, Michael Dietze, Rich Fiorella, Shannon LaDeau, Sparkle Malone, Jackie Matthes, Kim Novick, Steve Petruzza, Sydne Record, Daniel Rubenstein, and Adrienne Sponberg). Five NEON-Battelle staff attended (Darcy Gora, Chris McKay, Courtney Meier, and Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Approval of the minutes, II. TOS sampling strategy for 2023, and III. the Fall site meeting agenda.

- I. **Approval of previous minutes for [10/19/2022](#).** Minutes approved (Unanimous vote).
- II. **TOS sampling strategy for 2023 (BUSINESS SENSITIVE):** NEON showed what was accomplished in 2022 to guide the development of a strategy to adjust the terrestrial observation system (TOS) plan in 2023. Three options were presented. Option 1: suspend sampling at 5 gradient sites selected on similarity to nearby sites in the network. Option 2: Prioritization protocol at all sites (estimated to result in 75% completion in 2023 and possibly 2024). Option 3: drop specific data products, though dropping the least used data products only results in ~600k of budget savings when the deficit is 2 million dollars.

The members of the STEAC recognize that this issue is complex and will require additional conversations at the Fall site meeting. It is clear that the sampling strategy will have to change and may require a re-evaluation of the sampling plan for the relocatable sites. In the previous meeting ([10/19/2022](#)), the members of the STEAC expressed that a longterm plan to deal with the budget is preferred to making changes annually. The STEAC is interested in evaluating the impact of spatial versus temporal sampling re-design. It is essential to see the cost of the sampling to determine a long-term plan that will meet budget projections and to evaluate if the community has learned information that can support the development of optimized sampling.

- III. **Planning for Fall meeting (20 min):** The STEAC reviewed our list of [Proposed Agenda Topics](#). The STEAC is interested in discussing the following topics in the fall meeting:
 - Strategies to enhance community empowerment to use NEON to advance science and solutions.
 - Discussion of how NEON anticipates interacting with [the new ESII](#)
 - Recruiting for 2023: Recruitment at the domains and headquarters.
 - TOS sampling strategy for the gradient/relocatable sites
 - Reflection on NEON's original vision and if it has been realized. Review of high profile papers.