

## **STEAC MEETING REPORT**

### **(03/19/2025)**

The members of the STEAC met on March 19, 2025, with a quorum of seven members attending (Meghan Avolio, Jennifer Edmonds, John Kochendorfer, Shannon LaDeau, Sydne Record, Samapriya Roy, and Daniel Rubenstein). Eight NEON-Battelle staff attended (Teresa Burlingame, Chris Florian, Darcy Gora, Paula Mabee, Kim Nitschke, Tanya Maslak, Chris McKay, and Kate Thibault).

The meeting was virtual, and the following topics were discussed: I. Call to order, II. Proposal to discontinue Dust and particulate size distribution data product, III. Summit dates and naming considerations, IV. Finalize planning for in-person meetings.

- I. **Approval of previous minutes for 2/19/2025:** Minutes from prior meeting were approved by STEAC by voice vote.
- II. **Proposal to discontinue Dust and particulate size distribution data product:** NEON staff presented the proposal to discontinue the second of only two NEON products that were designed to be collected at a regional scale, i.e., only a subset of ecoregions due to ongoing quality issues and the recommendation of the Atmospheric Deposition Technical Working Group. The original aim of these data was to provide insight into dust impacts on snow albedo, which in turn affects timing of snow melt and other ecosystem processes. Points raised questioning the success of the data collection focused on: low measurement validity; only 500+ downloads in recent years, including NEON staff, but no publications; cost of improving accuracy and quality of sensors very high. Discussion also included its status as the only remaining regional product that is being gathered by other groups. Given these issues, STEAC voted unanimously to support NEON discontinuing this data product. Motion moved by S. Roy and seconded by M. Avolio.
- III. **Summit dates and naming considerations:** Discussion of continuing with NEON Summit planned for 15-17 October 2025. Concern about attendance at NEON Summit given ESIL's recent move of its annual meeting from May 2025 to mid-September 2025. Given that the NEON meeting is likely to be a gathering of existing NEON researchers and data users, the competition will be minimized because the clientele will be different. To ensure that the focus is attractive, discussants suggested that NEON generate attractive themes and new approaches.
- IV. **Finalize planning for in-person meeting:** There was a preliminary discussion of what should be covered at the in-person meeting in Boulder on 31 March – 2 April 2025. Additional ideas were to be added to the linked draft agenda google doc.