

March 8, 2013

RE: NEON Project Site Characterization Sampling-Summer 2013

NEON staff would like to perform terrestrial site characterization activities this upcoming summer at the Bartlett Experimental Forest. All activities would be performed within the USFS boundaries but may not be located directly at the NEON tower site. The activities planned will have a minimal impact and are outlined below:

- Bird Diversity and Abundance: no active sampling would occur at this time. NEON would compile species lists and abundance data. Staff would like to communicate with local researchers and USFS natural resource specialists, this could include onsite visits.
- Ground Beetle Diversity and Abundance: pit fall traps would be embedded below soil surface. The cup used is 7 cm deep and 11 cm in diameter. The trap will preserve the insects in non-toxic propylene glycol. Traps will have an elevated cover to prevent precipitation and other material from entering. The traps will be checked and emptied by NEON personnel. Collected invertebrates will be shipped back and will be sorted in the laboratory. This would occur June 15-22, 2013.
- Mosquito Diversity, Abundance and Phenology, and Disease: CO<sub>2</sub> baited traps would hang in trees or sturdy shrubs where possible. A battery powered fan pulls the mosquitoes into the traps for live storage until collected by the staff. This would occur June 15-22, 2013.
- Plant Productivity, Diversity and Phenology: within the tower airshed, staff would collect plant abundance and diversity data, and create a stem map. If possible, NEON would like to mark trees, using either plain or aluminum nails. Specific dates have not been identified at this time.
- Tick borne disease: Tick drag sampling would be performed by staff walking in 20-50 m transects dragging a piece of cloth. The ticks would be collected, shipped back to NEON and will be sorted in the laboratory. An estimated 150 ticks would be collected. Site disturbance would be minimal. This would occur June 15-22, 2013.
- Soil biogeochemistry: up to a maximum of 120 soil cores would be sampled across the ORO. The samples would be approximately 5

cm in diameter and a maximum depth of 1 m, and backfilled based on the host's request. Specific dates have not been identified at this time.

Below are the names, titles and emails of the two employees who will be conducting terrestrial sampling on June 15-22, 2013.

Yuri Springer  
Disease Ecologist  
yspringer@neoninc.org

David Hoekman  
Insect Ecologist  
dhoekman@neoninc.org

Please let me know if there are any additional questions or concerns regarding the sampling activities. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and assistance with the NEON project.



Diana Scott  
Environmental Permitting and Safety Coordinator  
NEON Inc.  
1685 38th Street, Suite 100  
Boulder, CO 80301  
Phone: 720-330-1533