

### Prototype Data Policy

As part of NEON's design and development activities, a number of data sets are being collected. These data are being collected to aid in designing protocols, to test protocols, assess the level of effort required for executing protocols, and to design infrastructure (e.g. cyberinfrastructure) to support sample and data collection in the field. These data sets have different levels of processing, QA/QC and independent verification than the long term data sets we anticipate from the facility.

NEON will make these data available to the community under its open data policy, but until the NEON information system is completed, distribution and documentation will be on an "as-is" basis. Prototype data sets, during 2011 through 2013, will be available to educational, technology and scientific users by request, and some data will be available online in a basic archive format. Any requests for NEON prototype data should be made to the NEON Project Scientist and will be filled by the Project Scientist's Office via media depending on the nature and size of the data request (ftp, removable hard-drive) and NEON may recover the marginal cost of reproduction (e.g., a removable disk drive). Every reasonable request for information and support will be addressed, however, these data are on an "as-is" basis and, depending on staff time availability, support may be limited. Please address all requests and problems to the Project Scientist.

All users of the NEON prototype data are required to adhere to the following agreements:

- 1) All NEON data is released under NEON's Open Access data policy and all users understand that the data they request are available to all scientific, technical or educational users.
- 2) NEON will make a list of users publically available so that users may coordinate amongst themselves to avoid duplication or competition. However, NEON's responsibility is limited to making the existence of multiple requests public. Users agree that their request may be part of this publically available database.
- 3) All users of NEON data agree to use, in all publications resulting from the data, the acknowledgment attached to the data set (that identifies the Observatory and any individuals linked to the data collection activity) as well as to acknowledge the National Science Foundation by including "The National Ecological Observatory is sponsored by the National Science Foundation" in their paper's acknowledgment.