

## **US NEON: Open Data and Information for Large-Scale Ecological Sciences**

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The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a US investment designed to listen to the pulse of the continental ecosystem and how it is responding to large-scale environmental changes. NEON accomplishes this by intensively observing natural, agricultural, and urban ecosystems at 60 locations throughout the United States. These observations are a combination of airborne, terrestrial, and aquatic measurements. Over 700 NEON data products will be freely web accessible to enable regional to continental-scale ecological forecasts, an essential capability if we are to better manage critical ecosystem services that humans rely on.

NEON is also developing formal partnerships with environmental observatories outside the United States to foster greater interoperability between observatories. These partnerships are organized around an interoperability framework, of which cyberinfrastructure interoperability is just one component. NEON is also fostering the development of innovative end-user tools to facilitate the acceleration of data intensive science in an open data world.

NEON is funded solely by the US National Science Foundation. The Observatory is currently under construction, and slated for completion in 2017.