

# Ecological Information for the Next Generation



Agriculture Systems

Climate Change

Forest Management

Invasion Biology

Urban Ecosystems



# THE NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY NETWORK



## Why NEON, why now?

The world is undergoing an era of rapid environmental change. Ecosystems are increasingly stressed by climate, invasive species, pollution, and land use change.

NEON is part of a bold effort to:

- **Understand and forecast continental-scale ecological change**
- **Inform natural resource decisions**
- **Engage the next generation of scientists**

## Measuring the causes and effects of environmental change

The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a continental-scale observation system sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

It will collect and provide 30 years of ecological data on the causes and consequences of:

- **Climate change**
- **Land use change**
- **Invasive species**

## Open-access data and resources

NEON will provide large amounts of freely available resources, specimens, and data. Its infrastructure can be used as a baseline for long-term ecological studies. NEON will also provide educational resources and citizen science programs to engage diverse communities in scientific discovery.

## A DIGITAL RENDERING OF A NEON SITE



## What NEON collects

NEON sites are strategically placed across the country to collect data on key drivers of ecological change and the impacts of these changes over time.

NEON provides data in the following key categories:

- Atmospheric
- Soil
- Aquatic
- Biological

Each site includes a variety of sensors placed in the soil, water and on a tower. Information is also collected on plants, animals, invertebrates, and microorganisms around the site.

Additional airborne mapping of each site collects data on changes in overall plant composition and structure over time. These integrated data will contribute to a better understanding of how and why U.S. ecosystems are changing.



Above: NEON will monitor a range of plants, animals, invertebrates and microorganisms that are indicators of environmental change.

Deer mouse image courtesy of DavidCappaert, Michigan State University

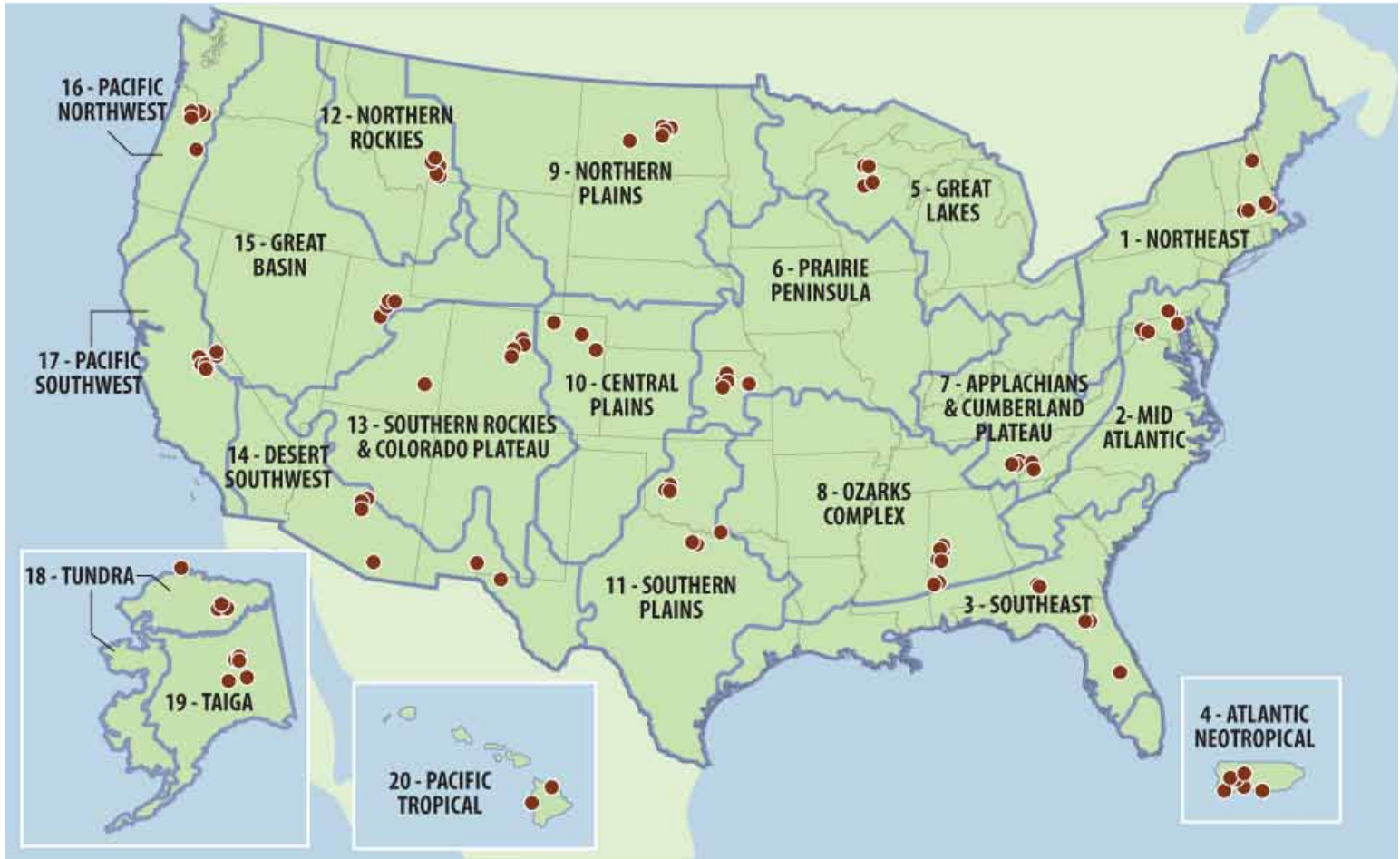


*“NEON is a shared vision by the scientific community designed to listen to the pulse of the U.S. ecosystem.”*



## NEON FIELD SITES

NEON will collect data from 106 sites across the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico). The sites were strategically selected to represent 20 eco-climatic domains, which include distinct landforms, vegetation, climate and ecosystem processes.



Learn more at [www.neoninc.org](http://www.neoninc.org)

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