

National Ecological Observatory Network



Science Office
5340 Airport Boulevard
Boulder, CO 80301
Phone: (720) 746 4844

To; Dr. Ankur Desai, and Tenure Committee Chair
Dept. of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
University of Wisconsin

November 2, 2009

From; Dr. Henry W. Loescher
National Ecological Observatory Network
5340 Airport Blvd, Boulder, CO

Dear Dr Desai and Tenure Committee Chair,

This is a letter to Dr. Ankur Desai requesting him to chair an advisory working group for the Fundamental Instrument Unit (FIU), a sub-system of the National Ecological Observatory Network. It is expected that the FIU Working Group (FIU-WG) will have ~ 15 active members whose expertise span all aspects of this continental-scale observatory sub-system. We recognize Dr. Desai's theoretical and applied expertise and broad range of knowledge in ecology, micrometeorology, and scalar transport, in such a way to be able to scale in time and space, and understands the measurement and experimental designs to minimize the within and among site uncertainties. We also recognize Dr. Desai as being a leader in this field and works toward building new methodologies, new frontiers in ecology that enhances our understanding and informs policymakers. Many of these activities involve scientific vision and consensus building among scientists to develop large networks, NEON, AmeriFlux, etc. This suite of skills is precisely what is needed by the FIU-WG.

FIU Working Group. The purpose of the FIU-WG is to provide expert technical and scientific consulting support to NEON in support of development of the FIU infrastructure. The FIU-WG will provide a bridge to and a conduit for input from the broader scientific and technical community in ecological research, micrometeorology, and ecosystem ecology on the FIU infrastructure. FIU-WG members are selected on the basis of their expertise and a desire to adequately represent the wide range of disciplines in ecosystem ecology and technologies essential to the FIU infrastructure. The overarching objective is to ensure that the design of the FIU infrastructure is based upon a sound scientific rationale, and thereby provide a consulting role in the FIU of NEON.

We formally request Dr. Desai to consider chairing the FIU Working Group. Given Dr. Desai's knowledge, experience, and previous work and vision, makes him an excellent choice, and we hope he will accept this offer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
541.981.1818, 729.746.4913

Henry W. Loescher, PhD