

May 21-22, 2015

ITEM 167-2009-R0515

Authorization to Lease On-Campus Site for NEON Research Project; Montana State University

THAT

The Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to lease a site to accommodate the NEON Research Project.

EXPLANATION

1. The **N**ational **E**cological **O**bservatory **N**etwork (NEON) is a research project, funded by the **N**ational **S**cience **F**oundation (NSF), to collect ecological and climatic observations across the continental United States and Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.
 2. MSU was selected by NEON as a research and teaching site in collaboration with faculty in the MSU Ecology Department.
 3. NEON will install instrumentation on the site to collect and synthesize data on the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity in a semi-rural, semi-urban setting. The site will include an instrument tower and a 160 sf instrument hut. See attached site drawing.
 4. The site will be relocatable in the event that MSU needs to develop the site for university purposes at any time during the lease. The term of the lease will be for an initial five (5) year term, with renewals for additional five (5) years periods at MSU's discretion.
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 - NEON Site Drawing