

26 September 2012

Dear Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABoVE) Workshop Participants:

The ABoVE Workshop Steering Committee has finalized the ABoVE Workshop Report. The document is attached and may also be accessed on the Web at:
http://cce.nasa.gov/terrestrial_ecology/above/index.html

I would like to thank everyone who attended the workshop and those who commented on earlier drafts of the report. The scientific knowledge and practical insights that were offered really improved our plans for ABoVE and prepared the NASA Terrestrial Ecology Program for the next steps to be taken. I am deeply appreciative of the scientific leadership and hard work provided by the scientists who served with me on the workshop Steering Committee and as report authors: Eric Kasischke, Scott Goetz, Michelle Mack, and Peter Griffith. We thank the workshop's speakers, breakout session leads and note takers for their excellent contributions. We also wish to especially acknowledge the work of our exceptional scientific and support staff: Leanne Creamer, Carla Evans, Lisa Henderson, Amy Hodkinson, Dan Hodkinson, Liz Hoy, Beth Nelson, and Lisa Wilcox.

We made every effort to incorporate the corrections, clarifications and additional perspectives offered during the comment period. Although workshop participants were advised not to edit the *Revised Executive Summary* – a task I am reserving for the Science Definition Team (SDT) that will be formed soon – many were tempted to offer helpful improvements anyway. Because most of these edits appeared to be clear improvements, we have captured those comments and suggestions in a separate file and plan to make them available to the SDT, but we did not incorporate them in the workshop report.

I will now be consulting Section 5 of the workshop report to help guide our continued planning for ABoVE. NASA will soon be soliciting through a “Dear Colleague Letter” a Science Definition Team (SDT) for ABoVE. I urge you to watch for this and consider proposing if you can offer the expertise and perspectives requested. At the same time NASA will be asking interested partner organizations to indicate how they would like to engage in the further scientific and programmatic development of ABoVE, including if/how they would like to add members to the SDT. In parallel, the Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems (CC&E) Office at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and I will begin planning the necessary infrastructure and logistical support for the field campaign. The CC&E Office will also support the activities of the SDT. We anticipate a busy year and plan to keep the Web site updated regarding planning activities and progress. I encourage you to consult it regularly to stay abreast of our developing plans.

Thanks again!

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