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LNO Data Access Cedar Creek Site

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Dear Fellow LTER PI's,

We are struggling with the data access issue. We need a policy that reaches the appropriate compromise between openness and treating the on-site investigators involved fairly. We have discussed several different ideas.

Our most recent idea is below. We would like to hear your response to this. How does it compare with the policy of your site? Which data are you actually putting on line? Are these in a readily useable format?

I hope that this issue will be discussed at the upcoming LTER PI meeting, at which our site will be represented by Johannes Knops.

FIRST DRAFT -- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Rules for Use of Cedar Creek LTER and Related Data and User Pledge:

As a condition for access to data provided by researchers of the Cedar Creek LTER, I agree to abide by the following philosophy and conditions.

1. All data in this data set that were gathered seven or more years ago are in the public domain and may be used without any of the restrictions listed below except that they and all other data must be formally acknowledged by citing either their source, the scientists who collected them, and the sources of funding that led to their collection, or the most relevant publication(s) on them.

2. All data gathered more than three years ago but less than seven years

ago is made available because I agree to abide by the following:

A. I agree to notify the Cedar Creek LTER scientists who gathered data if

I would like to use them in any publication. I acknowledge that these data were gathered by Cedar Creek scientists because they had already perceived the importance of these data for a variety of scientific and societal issues. I will provide them with formal recognition that, at their discretion, may include co-authorship on publications, or acknowledgement as listed in item 1 above.

B. I realize that the researchers who gathered these data may be using them for scientific analyses, papers or publications that are currently in preparation, and that such activities have precedence over any that I might wish to prepare. In this case, my preparation of any work may be delayed, at the option of the researchers involved, for a period of up to one year from the time that I contact the relevant Cedar Creek researchers.

Possible maximum of 7 years