

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 2, 2014

Reply to Attn of: SMD

Dear ABoVE Science Definition Team:

Thank you for your scientific leadership and hard work while serving on the Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABoVE) Science Definition Team (SDT). You tackled the tremendous challenge of creating an ABoVE Concise Experiment Plan (ACEP) with great energy, wisdom, and scientific insight. I was pleased to see the diligence and thoroughness displayed by everyone during the SDT meetings and telecons, and in the writing of the ACEP. It is clear that every member of the SDT made their own unique and valuable contributions to the ACEP.

I believe that the SDT was successful in providing a compelling argument for the need for interdisciplinary research on the response of Arctic and boreal ecosystems to environmental change, as well as the need to study and understand the societal impacts of and responses to these changes. In addition, the ACEP provides the essential top-level study design and useful guidelines needed for the implementation of ABoVE by NASA. The plan provided for ABoVE in the ACEP is clearly compatible with key U.S. national research priorities identified by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC), and the President's Climate Action Plan. Because of this, like previous NASA field campaigns, ABoVE has the potential to produce major and important scientific advances over the next decade.

With the public release of the completed ABoVE Concise Experiment Plan on the ABoVE Web site, the work of the ABoVE SDT has come to an end. I hereby disband the ABoVE SDT.

I hope you all realize that while producing the ACEP is the last stage in planning, it also enables the beginning the implementation stages. I am hoping that most, if not all of you, will remain interested in ABoVE and will be motivated to take advantage of future opportunities to contribute.

Dr. Eric Kasischke has joined me at NASA HQ as a part-time IPA and will be devoting much of his effort here at NASA HQ to moving ABoVE forward into implementation. We are both really excited to now be at this stage with ABoVE and thank you so very, very much for helping to get us here!

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane E. Wickland".

Diane E. Wickland, PhD
Manager, Terrestrial Ecology Program and
Lead, Carbon Cycle & Ecosystems Focus Area
Earth Science Division