

A group of 22 scientists and IM staff gathered to learn more about and comment upon the proposed Veg-DB system. After introductions, aspects from the report from the June 2012 Workshop held at Harvard Forest were reviewed including: 1) the system's objective to serve as a one-stop portal to retrieve synthetic vegetation data, 2) possible benefits, and 3) examples of scientific questions the system could help address. There was unanimous support for proceeding to develop the proposed system. The kinds of data flowing into and out of the system were discussed as well as the ways these data would be filtered, aggregated, and reported. The range of complexity the system would need to handle was explored as were several plans to bring it online. A survey to gather information about the kinds of data and infrastructure existing at sites was evaluated and improved by the participants. Future plans include informing the broader LTER community about the project, collecting information to guide the systems development from an online survey, and developing the systems architecture in a series of future workshops. Complete details from the first workshop can be found in the accompanying report and powerpoint.