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Hubbard Brook Forest LTER

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Gary-

It was a pleasure to participate in the recent site review of HBR. The program agrees with the panel that all aspects of the project appear to be on track. As you will read in the attached report, the panel felt that the project research was strong with provocative findings on many fronts. Further, they were extremely impressed and excited about the governance structures that the project has in place and, in particular, the approaches being taken to expand the participation of young scientists, including those from outside the LTER network. A noteworthy aspect of this structure, are the within site synthesis activities. The review panel also commented that the partnerships with the US Forest Service and the Hubbard Brook Research Foundations are healthy and of mutual benefit to the missions of each program.

The report also makes some recommendations. From the research perspective, the primary one is to engage further in your investigation of the role of phosphorus limitation. The panel recognized that there continues to be a strong focus on N dynamics, despite your research findings and emphasis in the proposal on P-limitation or co-limitation. The program agrees that your team should review this issue carefully and consider approaches to address it. Other suggestions in the report point to opportunities and are also worthy of consideration. From a management perspective, the program was pleased to see action to assure a safe and civil work place and living environment free of sexual harassment. We encourage HBR to continue to be vigilant and proactive on this front.

As mentioned above, the report is attached. You are welcome to make a formal response to the report in a letter to the NSF, if sent to me within the next 30 days.

All the best-Colette