



PSD R&A Programs: Perspectives of the Small Bodies Assessment Group (update)

Tim Swindle, SBAG Chair
August 16, 2016

*Presentation to the Committee on the Review of NASA's Planetary Science Division
Restructured Research and Analysis Program
Space Studies Board, National Research Council*



Background

- Report by Nancy Chabot, previous Chair, at May 13 meeting
 - www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/reports/SBAG_NAS_May2016.pdf
- Open membership, meets twice per year
 - 424 on mailing list, ~100 attend each meeting live, others attend virtually
 - Steering Committee of 12
- Major output, “findings” about issues of concern
 - <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/findings>
 - Drafted by Steering Committee, comments from community at meeting, online
- Through January 2016, report from PSD on R&A at each meeting
 - From January 2014 on, usually at least one finding about R&A restructuring



Update

- June 2016 meeting, PSD declined to make presentation about R&A at SBAG meeting
 - “New model of communication” – “the "R&A update" information will be made uniformly available to the entire community through a regularly maintained website plus town-hall and agency-night presentations at the major annual meetings. Our view is that this is the best way to make sure that everyone has equal access to this information, regardless of whether or not they choose to — or are able to — participate in the AGs.”
 - T. Statler to N. Chabot (J. Rall cc'd), March 28, 2016 - quoted with permission
- NASA PSD representatives offered to answer questions, but no discussion of R&A (despite open microphone times) – community raised concerns afterwards



SBAG concerns with new communications model

- Presentations at major meetings are good, but AGs are
 - Smaller meetings
 - More time for discussion
 - More focused on policies and planning
- Website is good, but AG
 - More interactive (with NASA, other researchers)
 - Comes with more context
- Equal access is good, but SBAG is an open meeting, can be attended virtually, so the primary effect of the change is to limit access for those who aren't able to attend the meetings at which presentations are made