

Planetary Science Subcommittee

Comments on “Mix”

General Principles

- R&A in planetary science is of greater importance to the field because PSD does not fund (much) general research from flight project lines.
- Prudent, targeted, near-term investment in technology is critical to the success of future, high-priority missions.
- Effective exploration of the solar system demands a mix of small, medium, and large missions.

Specific Suggestions

- Cuts to the R&A line risk major areas of research and recruitment of the next generation of space scientists. A high priority should be at least a partial restoration of the R&A line.
 - Funds should be sought in reductions of management overhead or delays in future PI-led mission opportunities.
- For out-years, cost-caps should be revisited compared to the size of the R&A line.

Issues and Concerns

- Cannot give serious recommendation about an alternative program mix due to conflicts of interest that forced the most qualified subcommittee members to be absent from the discussion.
 - Can a mitigation be worked out?
- What is the precise definition of “corporate” in the budget tables? What is the management overhead on various budget lines?
- Should Mars missions be evaluated against non-Mars, planetary science missions?