

## The LTER Network

The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program is a national network of 24 field research sites with more than 1300 scientists collectively engaged and dedicated to multi- and interdisciplinary long-term research in environmental science. A Network Office facilitates LTER research by supporting and coordinating collaboration among sites. The LTER program is supported by multiple directorates of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

### Long Term Ecological Research Network Vision

The vision of the LTER Network is a society in which exemplary science contributes to the advancement of the health, productivity, and welfare of the nation's ecosystems, in turn advancing the health, prosperity, welfare, and security of the nation as a whole.

### Long Term Ecological Research Network Mission

The mission of the LTER Network is to provide the scientific community policy makers, and society with the knowledge and predictive understanding necessary to conserve, protect, and manage the nation's ecosystems, their biodiversity, and the services they provide.

### Long Term Ecological Research Network Goals

- **Understanding:** To understand a diverse array of ecosystems at multiple spatial and temporal scales.
- **Information:** To inform the LTER and broader scientific community by creating well-designed and well-documented databases.
- **Synthesis:** To create general knowledge through long-term, interdisciplinary research, synthesis of information, and development of theory.
- **Legacies:** To create a legacy of well-designed and documented long-term observations, experiments, and archives of samples and specimens for future generations.
- **Education:** To promote training, teaching, and learning about long-term ecological research and the earth's ecosystems, and to educate a new generation of scientists.
- **Outreach:** To reach out to the broader scientific community, policymakers, resource managers, and the general public by providing knowledge and capability to address complex environmental challenges.