

## VISION FOR LTER COMMUNICATIONS

The LTER Network is growing and technology is changing. "Publications" necessarily becomes "Communications"—opening the door wider to more opportunities, to reach broader audiences, and to meet greater demands on outreach as well as inreach.

The LTER program conducts multidisciplinary science — working toward a common goal of understanding ecological processes that make up our environment. LTER Communications creates a forum through which these many disciplines can establish a common language to reach common goals. LTER Communications will accomplish this utilizing all available technology, where appropriate, to make information available to anyone who needs it.

Many levels of technology will be used to accommodate different levels of users, including printed materials, electronic publications available through the World Wide Web, video and film, slide presentations and traveling exhibits and posters. The goal is to reach a broad base of scientists and members of the interested public, including elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students, who will benefit from knowledge and information generated by LTER. Publications in any form will be maximally inclusive, utilizing the capacity of LTER and communication resources to the fullest extent possible.

Specific methods and modes of communication: These activities are intrinsically linked, through public outreach and access to websites and literature.

### *Outreach—Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students, and the public at large*

1. Printed and on-line brochures describe LTER sites and basic science activities carried on in their regions.
2. LTER Network Website, with details of outreach, Schoolyard

LTERs, ILTER, etc. offers an additional dimension for those with access to it.

3. Posters and Exhibits/Displays for National and regional meetings provide a window to LTER through which the greater scientific community can view LTER science.
4. Video/film media reaches audiences ranging from k-12 to scientists, public and management/policy decision makers

### *In-reach—Efforts within the scientific community*

1. LTER Site synthesis series—Published by Oxford University Press.
2. LTER Cross-site Synthesis series--Oxford University Press
3. International LTER Synthesis series, possibly published by Oxford University Press

To enhance the effectiveness of in in-reach communications, supplemental materials such as Website updates and CD-ROMs are utilized, in addition other multi-media technology as it becomes feasible.