

Synthesis Working Group Final Report

<b>Title</b>	A guide to successful graduate student socio-ecological research: Insights from the Long Term Ecological Research Network
<b>Proposers</b>	Sydne Record ( <a href="mailto:Sydne.record@gmail.com">Sydne.record@gmail.com</a> ), Paige F.B. Ferguson ( <a href="mailto:paig.f.barlow@gmail.com">paig.f.barlow@gmail.com</a> ), and Elise Beneviste ( <a href="mailto:elisebeneviste@gmail.com">elisebeneviste@gmail.com</a> )
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<b>Award Year</b>	2012-2013
<b>Budget</b>	\$7,875

**Summary of research activities and products:**

In November of 2012, we were awarded \$7,875 to complete a peer-reviewed manuscript that would build upon ideas generated by two working groups from the LTER 2012 All Scientists Meeting entitled, "Sharing stories from outside the box," and, "Best practices for graduate student socio-ecological research." Below we outline our research activities to date:

- November 2012 – September 2013: We held bi-weekly conference calls to assign tasks and report research progress.
- March 22-25, 2013: We held a four day meeting at the Coweeta LTER to outline a paper on successful graduate student socio-ecological research, which highlights four case studies from graduate students within the LTER network. This paper offers advice from the graduate student perspective to graduate students, advisors, committee members, and institutions.
- April 2013: Elise Beneviste presented a talk about our working group at the Kellogg Biological Station All Scientists Meeting in East Lansing, Michigan.
- June-July 2013: We sent our draft manuscript to the following senior faculty members for feedback as recommended by the reviewers of our Fall 2012 proposal to the LNO: Drs. Colin Beier, Steve Carpenter, Nik Heynen, and Bill Provencher.
- July 2013: We had some additional funds left over from our trip to Coweeta, so we received permission from the LNO to hire a graduate student from the University of

Georgia train in graphic design, Sam Bond, to illustrate two figures for our manuscript. This was to address a comment from a senior faculty member to improve upon the illustrations in our paper.

- September 2013: After revising our manuscript based on comments from senior faculty members, we submitted our manuscript to *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (see attached copy of the manuscript).

Looking forward, we will keep the LNO updated on the progress of our manuscript as it goes through the peer-review process. We also anticipate presenting our paper at our respective LTER symposia this year.