

The Decade of 1990s to the Present

“Development of a Network”

1992-3 10 year LTER review (“LTERN”)

2001 20 year LTER review

**“...despite... accomplishments, some of the critical recommendations of the Ten-Year Review for LTER science have yet to be fully realized. The transition from individual site-based research and science projects to a broader, more integrative research platform has not been sufficient to address large-scale, interdisciplinary environmental issues”.
*(Twenty Year Review)***

Long history associated with;

- changing the scientific culture to networking (NSF push),**
- necessary resource levels at NSF (LTER community push)**

ILTER as an experiment

**1993 ILTER augmentation funds; NTL, CWT;
significant emphasis on social-economic sci.;
competition for cross-site comparisons
and international research**

**Land Margin Ecosystem Research (LMER)
converted to ILTER sites**

**New ILTER sites: e.g., Urban Ecosystems
“the model works!”**

Schoolyard ILTER supplements added to grants;

ILTER “Network” signs contract with Oxford Press

CI supplement to planning grant

1993 Start of ILTER @ All Sci. Mtg. in Estes Park

**Period of LTER promotion;
time,
space,
information management,
“synthesis”**

Self Analysis

- 1999** Preparations for the 20 year review;
- 1980's** – long-term trends/dynamics
- 1990's** – larger and multiscale dynamics
- 2000's** – decade of synthesis

Long Term Ecological Research Network Goals

- ***Understanding:*** Gaining ecological understanding of a diverse array of ecosystems at multiple spatial and temporal scales
- ***Synthesis:*** Using the network of LTER and affiliated sites to create general ecological knowledge through the synthesis of information gained from long-term research and development of theory
- ***Information:*** Creating well-designed, documented databases that are accessible to the broader scientific community
- ***Legacies:*** Leaving a legacy of well-designed and documented long-term observations, experiments, and archives of samples and specimens
- ***Education:*** Using the uniqueness of the LTER programs and network to promote training, teaching, and learning about long-term ecological research and the earth's ecosystems
- ***Outreach:*** Providing knowledge to the broader ecological community, general public, resource managers, and policy makers to address complex environmental challenges

2001 20-year review

Discussions with NSF on need for strategic plan and future for LTER

2004 Planning Grant Funded; Initiated the broader community involvement in planning grant activities

EPSCoR Jurisdictions, LTER sites overlaid with NEON Climate Domains

