

# The Long Term Ecological Research Network

The Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER), funded by the National Science Foundation, conducts integrative ecological research at 26 sites that span many economically and socially important ecosystems. Collaborative teams of researchers and students use long term observations, experiments, and models to understand ecosystem functioning and work with local, regional, and national partners to improve ecosystem management. Stable, sustained research is essential for understanding the principles and processes of ecological science, which frequently involves long-lived species, legacy influences, and rare events.



Photo credit: Cassandra Miller

## LTER Research is:



**Innovative.** Scientists partner with technologists to innovate and validate new measurement approaches, such as acoustic monitoring, e-DNA, machine learning, and bio-optical methods to gather more data with less effort.



**Networked.** At a time when need for science support is widespread, investing in LTER helps support a network that engages 10% of the entire ecological community and connects students to interdisciplinary learning and career opportunities.



**National.** Primary awards are based in 18 states across the country and LTER researchers work in more than 25 states and Antarctica.



**Translational.** Frequently conducted in partnership with local, regional and national management agencies, LTER science provides us the knowledge and tools needed to manage our lands, waters and oceans for economic and environmental prosperity.



**Efficient.** LTER funding is leveraged 3 to 1 with other funding sources.

Learn more at <https://lternet.edu>



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
**LTER NETWORK**  
LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH