

The LTER Network has been funded to conduct a 2-year planning process for synthesis and Network-level research for the coming decade(s). The LTER program has developed very strong research programs at the individual sites, positioning the Network well to engage in major synthesis efforts and to develop new synthetic research programs across the Network. Society is facing an increasing number of pressing environmental challenges that require coordinated, long-term, interdisciplinary research efforts across the LTER Network and with other environmental science networks and programs. This planning grant represents an important opportunity, not only for planning in the LTER Network, but for many other programs and disciplines that can benefit by working together. The LTER Network has identified four Grand Challenges that will be addressed by our planning activities:

- Ecological effects of alterations in biodiversity
- Ecological effects of altered biogeochemical cycles at multiple scales
- Ecological responses to climate change and climate variability
- Coupled human-natural ecosystems.

The planning grant proposal is available at <http://intranet.lternet.edu/archives/documents/other/Planninggrant.pdf>.

We will be developing collaborations between LTER scientists and the broader scientific community. We invite you to contact us about participating in this important process.

On behalf of the Planning Grant PIs

Sincerely,
Jim Gosz, Chairman
LTER Network Coordinating Committee