What makes the LTER network unique and essential?

A network of ecological sites and researchers conducting question driven long term research
Unique

- Science instead of monitoring
- Core questions as well as investigator initiated inquiries placed in a long term framework
- Flexible and adaptable
- Fine spatial and temporal resolution as well as studies across multiple spatial and temporal scales
- Research begets research: our sites are strong attractors of research activity
Essential

• Changed the culture of graduate education in ecology

• Lead the way in information management and data accessibility

• Collaborative science is necessary for complex science

• Long term nature of the LTER enables substantive interdisciplinary connections and insights to form

• Perfectly poised to capture future ecological change

• Promotes interdisciplinary insights in a long term framework

LTER network has led to broad scientific insights and affected policy that would not have been possible otherwise
In the future

• We have the ability to capture ecosystem response to interannual variability and future change

• Continue to attend to actionable science

• Train the next generation