Introducing the Organization of Biological Field Sites
Map showing OBFS locations
OBFS Research Themes

- relating fundamentals of basic biology and ecology
- measuring environmental change
- maintaining biodiversity
- sustaining ecological systems
- predicting consequences of management policies and actions
- restoring and rehabilitating damaged ecosystems
- demonstrating rates of change in biological diversity and the subsequent effects on community structure and ecosystem processes
- describing the biology of rare and declining species and the scientific information necessary to sustain such species
- defining the principles that govern outbreak and spread of pest and disease organisms
- assessing evolutionary consequences of anthropogenic and other environmental changes.

from 1995 New Horizons Report  (NSF sponsored)
Field Stations 2000 Initiative

- The 158 OBFS sites have information resources that are of national importance
- A framework for an OBFS distributed information network has been developed
- A collaboration of OBFS, LTER, SDSC, initially
- Three pilot projects (OBFS internet site is operational):
  1. Personnel data base (in progress)
  2. Status of amphibian populations (done)
  3. Compilation of species lists (in progress)
- Recommended data management protocols and standards based upon DIMES report
Future Tasks:

- Establish network office and catalog long-term data bases
- Determine strategic questions that can be answered via the network
- Determine suite of environmental change variables for routine monitoring
- Develop collaborations to add more sites (TNC, NAML, IOBFS, agencies)
- Initiate funding strategy