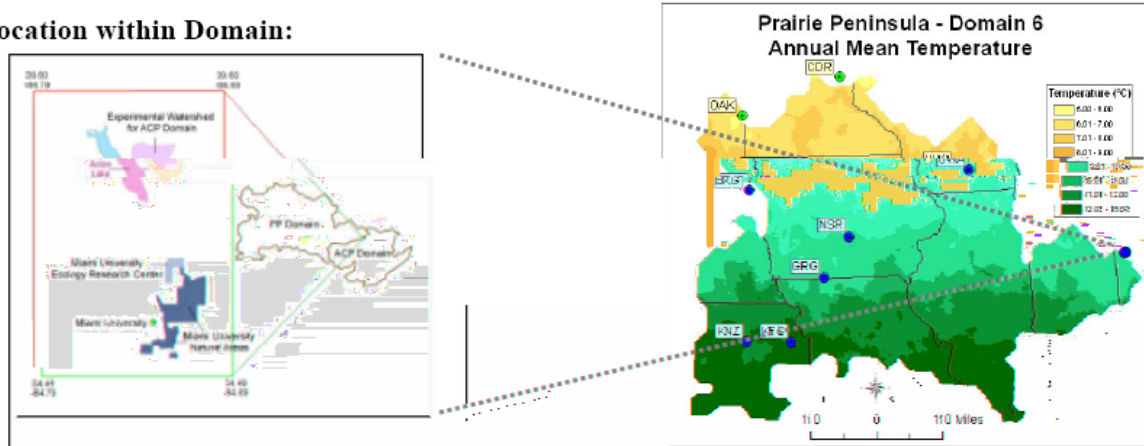


Miami University Ecology Research Center (MUE): Prairie Peninsula Domain (Alternate Site)

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Location within Domain:



History: Dedicated research area established in 1969, associated natural areas preserved in perpetuity since 1992; aquatic facility coupled with long term monitoring of regional watershed and reservoir in Ohio State Park since 1992. Extensive and intensive history of aquatic and terrestrial field research (see: <http://www.muohio.edu/erc>).

Key Characteristics: Existing vegetation includes, old fields, agriculture, woodland ranging from old growth on state property to mixed use and old pasture land on university property, restored prairie patches, soil/landform, land use history, and climatic features transitional to Domain #6 (Prairie Peninsula) and #7 (Appalachians/Cumberland Plateau). Comprehensive long-term data set on regional watershed (Acton Lake/Four Mile Creek) and UV effects on aquatic systems critical to GLEON. Other existing resources can help address climate, land use and urbanization, pollution, biodiversity and invasive species ecological research themes; elevation range of 325 to 425 m; partnership with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and University of Cincinnati.

Existing Infrastructure: Member of numerous existing networks including the National Atmospheric Deposition Programs AIRMoN (Atmospheric Integrated Research Monitoring Network wet station) and NTN (Nation Trends Network station), Ohio Automated Weather Network Station, Clean Air Status and Trends Network National Dry Deposition Network (CASTNet NDDN), USDA's UV-B Monitoring Station, National Air Dioxin Monitoring Network (NADMN). Member Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS), and Association of Ecosystem Research Centers (AERC). Water samplers and flow monitors on 3 Acton Lake inflow streams and the lake outflow provide continuous data (since 1994) on water, nutrient and sediment fluxes. Data on Acton Lake and other reservoirs are in the Ohio Fisheries Information Service (OFIS) database maintained by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife.

Facilities: Field research facilities for terrestrial and aquatic manipulative experiments complement long-term observational capabilities. Includes multiscale aquatic facility (experimental ponds and mesocosms) small mammal study areas (enclosed fields and semi natural pens), replicate agricultural fields, artificial aquifer, replicated prairie plots. Classroom/office building, storage, technical assistance and equipment for fabrication,

maintenance, and repair of apparatus. Within 5 km of Miami University's modern laboratories, research support group for high performance computing (Ohio Supercomputer Center) and housing in Oxford, Ohio.