Here are some excerpts from the *30 year report* and the NSF response that pertain to data and data management. We would like to use these bulleted items to stimulate discussion and hear your observations and concerns. We would like to write a response that is representative of group views where we can find common agreement.

Note: The numbering refers to the numbered recommendations used in the Thirty-Year Review Report, but the recommendations are ordered as they appeared in the NSF response. The section title (from the report) pertaining to the recommendation is included. The italicized text portions come from the report and plain text comes from the NSF response.

*8. Resource Issues*

* *Resources are a key limiting factor ...*
* *Review recommendations*
  + *The network should: … prioritize …, and pro-actively develop new resources.*
  + *Prioritizations will include spending more on data and diversity*
* NSF recommendation*s*
  + NSF considers it essential that LTER sites prioritize their research, data management, and education and outreach efforts
  + Priorities must be based on resources currently available

*1, 2. Defining the Value of Long-Term Ecological Research*

* *Review recommendations* 
  + *LTER must clearly articulate … the challenges that long-term data are uniquely poised to answer …*
  + *The richness of the long-term observational data gathered across the LTER network makes it uniquely and optimally poised to establish cross-site experimental studies of the mechanisms … that impact ecosystem functioning and species dynamics*
* NSF recommendation
  + Pursue funding to conduct short-term studies that will allow sites to build on their extensive datasets in order to develop deeper understanding of mechanisms and processes.
  + NSF expects that long-term research and data collection at LTER sites will result in syntheses that extend well beyond site-specific research. Integration of research efforts across LTER sites to advance cross-site experiments and observations has been an NSF priority since the program’s inception.
  + Cross-site activities must be driven by compelling scientific questions, however, and not be a blanket mandate across all sites

*5. Data management*

* *Review recommendations*
  + *The LTER network as a whole must invest in making LTER data comparable across sites and more readily available to those interested in network-wide analyses. This problem can be remedied by either:*
    - *providing new resources for the network office, or*
    - *directing some existing network office funding towards providing current and future scientists easy access to all LTER data from all sites.*
  + *the LTER Network Office must markedly expand its current data activities into a fully functional data management system that serves and archives all LTER data and metadata from all sites in a consistent manner*
  + *each LTER site must fully support this LNO mission by publishing all data sets, in their entirety and with appropriate metadata, in a standard format with the network office and/or some other permanent repository in a timely manner.*
* NSF recommendations
  + the LTER community must make timely access to all core data their top priority. This must take precedence over efforts to develop more advanced features for documentation, data integration, or application services.
  + the network must strengthen its commitment to developing centralized data management services that its own leadership has identified as strategic priorities
  + the network must exercise the necessary oversight to ensure proper compliance with network-generated procedures.
* NSF Actions
  + NSF will initiate discussions with LTER leadership and the information managers to arrive at an effective set of metrics and procedures to raise both individual and network performance on the most basic expectations of data management.
  + NSF will strengthen oversight of LTER information management as a critical component of NSF-wide investments in informatics and cyberinfrastructure.
  + Additional steps may include:
    - consideration of new partnerships with third-party institutions and resources
    - creative solutions for organizing information management efforts across the network
    - cultural changes regarding data sharing and data publication.
* NSF supporting statements
  + site-level data are not yet in full compliance with the network’s Data Management Plan, and it is unclear how many LTER datasets meet the requirements of the Network Information System
  + additional work is needed to facilitate data capture and interoperability
  + the LTER Network Office and Network information managers are encouraged to seek the resources needed
  + Observations from the Thirty-Year Review indicate that the Network Office's data management efforts have yet to replace site-based efforts and appear to compete for the data managers’ time rather than relieve it through economies of scale.
  + NSF expects LTER site PIs and their information managers to work together to accommodate the growing importance of participating in network based solutions
  + Difficult decisions will be needed to balance the importance of local customized systems against reliance on shared network ones.
  + movement toward shared systems for fundamental data archiving and publishing will be rewarded with the flexibility to redirect more of the information managers’ time to applying or developing advanced eco-informatics methods and technologies

*4. Reassessing network structure*

* *Review Recommendations*
  + *… As the goals and spread of long-term science continue to broaden, it is becoming critical to think beyond networked LTER sites …*
* NSF recommendations
  + NSF does not consider … any of the several EON or EON-like activities to overlap with LTER but rather views them as complementary or synergistic activities. The … observing platforms [are] designed to accumulate streams of continuously collected data and to establish infrastructure to gather data that will ultimately be used to address very diverse research questions …
  + It is important for LTER sites to maintain open communication with these efforts [in other networks] and to ensure that efforts are not being duplicated
  + LTER sites are encouraged to use existing or planned networks, observing platforms, and synthesis efforts to their advantage.