



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE

The volume of research activity at The University of New Mexico's Sevilleta Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program is just as vast as the 230,000 acres of land it investigates.

Jennifer Rudgers, professor of Biology and principal investigator for the UNM Sevilleta LTER program—along with several distinguished UNM scientists and students—are forging research breakthroughs at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge located in Central New Mexico. This expansive refuge is one of the largest in the nation and home to six converging dryland ecosystems. With ecosystems such as the Plains Grasslands and the Chihuahuan Desert in close proximity, scientists can determine how long-term climate trends can transition these ecosystems from one type to another. They are also the first in the world to test how drier and more variable climates of the future will impact those ecosystems, predicting a wide range of future environmental outcomes. Supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the UNM Sevilleta LTER program holds a deep commitment to diversity, inclusion and outreach, creating exceptional training opportunities and essential external collaborations.

There's a reason why scientists from across the globe are interested in conducting research at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Not only is it a great example of New Mexico's scenic biodiversity—it's a key to the fundamental research that unlocks our future, with the UNM Sevilleta LTER program on the scientific frontier of that research.



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