

## **APPENDIX 3**

### Interview guide

#### **Theme 1: Individual Socio-Ecological Projects and Research Sites**

Please tell me about the socio-ecological project or projects you are currently working on.

*Prompts*

- How did you become a part of this project?
- Why did you choose this topic? Were there any other topics that you were also considering?
- How does this research project relate to your graduate studies? Is this your main research project?

In doing this research, who do you typically interact with? Where are they located?

You're at the [LTER site], right? Can you tell me about the kind of research people do there?

*Prompts*

- How much socio-eco work goes on?
- Does your site actively support socio-eco research? In what ways?

What about at your department/program - are they supportive of socio-eco research?

*Prompt*

- Are many of your peers doing socio-eco research?

#### **Theme 2: Socio-Ecological Research In General**

(Why) do you think socio-ecological research is important?

What kind of work do you think is cutting edge in socio-ecological research?

Do you keep up with other people doing socio-ecological research? Who are they and what are they doing?

Are there any conferences that you like to go to? Is there anyone you would really like to meet?

How do you describe socio-ecological research?

*Prompts*

- Try to get them to talk about socio-ecological vs. purely ecological or purely social science research, if they get onto the topic [but don't lead them].

### **Theme 3: Challenges and Barriers**

Ask them about the challenges they have run into while conducting socio-ecological research. [Pick a few challenges that were ranked high in their survey and reword the questions below to capture these themes, as necessary]

#### *Prompts*

- Tell me about your methods. What kinds of methods do/did you use for your project? How did you come up with them? Can you remember any particular problems that came up when you were defining/applying these?
- Tell me about the theories that guide your project. How did you decide to engage with them? Can you remember any particular issues that came up?
- Tell me about what it is like working across multiple disciplines.
- Tell me about time management. Walk me through an average week. What would make it easier for you to do socio-eco research?

What other challenges or problems have you experienced in doing your research?

Do you think any of these problems are specific to graduate students?

#### *Prompts*

- Do you think some graduate students have a harder time than others?

If you could do your research/dissertation/proposal over again, would you do anything differently?

### **Theme 4: Resources and Solutions**

Tell me about your funding. Who funds your project?

#### *Prompts*

- How easy or difficult is it to get funding for socio-ecological research?

Who has been the most helpful in getting your research off the ground?

#### *Prompts*

- How helpful has the LTER network been for your research?
- What kinds of resources does the LTER network provide? [If they don't mention it, then ask]: Do you interact with people from other LTER sites about your work?
- Do you tap into other social science or ecological research networks outside the LTER?

What do you think the LTER network can do to help with some of the problems you mentioned?

What advice would you give to a graduate student who is just starting out and who is interested in doing socio-eco research?

### **Theme 5: The LTER Network**

How would you describe the LTER to somebody who knew nothing about it?

When did you become part of the LTER? Who got you involved? [Keep this broad; let them answer for either the network or their site]

If he/she isn't a member of the LTER network, then ask him/her: Tell me more about why you aren't a member of the LTER network?

*Prompts*

- Even though you aren't a member, do you think your research is important the LTER network? Why?

How important is the LTER network for your research?