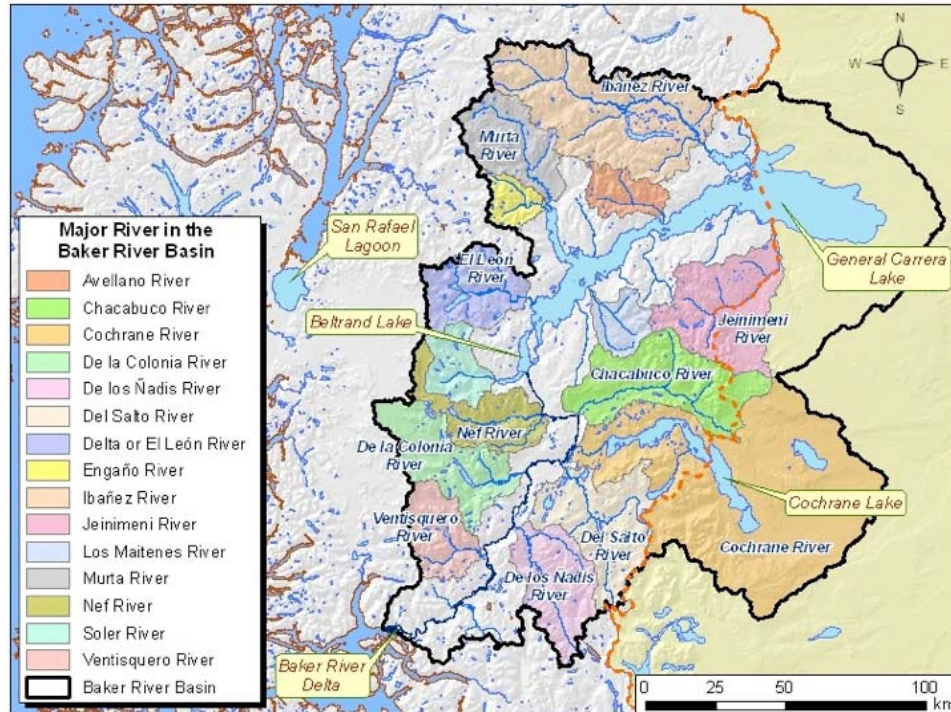


## TERC Research in the Chilean Patagonia

TERC is involved in a collaborative research effort with the EULA Center of the University of Concepcion (<http://www.eula.cl/>) to study freshwater systems of the Chilean Patagonia. The lakes, rivers, glaciers, wetlands and other aquatic environments of the Chilean Patagonia offer a globally unique opportunity for science. They represent the most undisturbed aquatic systems in the world, making them ideal for observing the impacts of global drivers, such as climate change and atmospheric deposition. The systems are also poised to undergo intense change in the coming decades as Chile pursues the development of the hydroelectric potential of the region. This latter activity is likely to be broad scale, impacting entire rivers systems. It will also be associated with other stressors related to the construction – these include population increases, road development, tourism, and associated construction.

The primary focus of the collaboration is on the interdisciplinary study of the Baker River watershed. This watershed encompasses the full range of land forms, land uses and geographic features that characterize Patagonia. It includes the largest river (the Baker River) and lake (General Carrera Lake) in Chile, while at the same time includes numerous smaller streams, lakes wetlands and glaciers. While the Baker River itself is slated for development, there are many other rivers within the watershed that are likely to remain undisturbed for decades to come.



In December 2008 and December 2009, TERC undertook research expeditions to Patagonia to install instruments on three lakes – Lago Bertrand, Lago Negro and Lago Cochrane Chica. A weather station has also been installed on Lago Bertrand.

The long-term plan is to use these sites as part of an extensive research and training program to enable Chilean and California students and other researchers to undertake a broad range of interdisciplinary studies.



Lago Bertrand, at the head of the Baker River.



Meteorological station at Lago Bertrand.