



IUFRO  
International Union of Forest  
Research Organizations

A landscape ecologist studies how landscapes (ranging from large continents to small fields) are put together and how they function to provide ecosystem services to humans and all life.

**Dr. Louis Iverson**  
Landscape Ecologist  
Ph.D., University of North Dakota  
USDA Forest Service scientist

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



## Dr. Louis Iverson



### Important Scientist Characteristics

For me, an analytical mind combined with amazement and wonder about our natural world, followed by concern for its well-being led to my desire to study ecology. By studying ecology, I strive to better understand the ecological challenges we face and contribute to some applied solutions.

### Example of a simple research question I have tried

**to answer:** What species of trees from northern Wisconsin might be most vulnerable (and least vulnerable) to climate change? What species might end up moving north due to a warming climate?

### Technology or equipment used in research:

My primary research tool has been the computer. I was among the first to use computer-based geographic information systems software (dating back to 1983) in solving real-world ecological problems.

### : Most Exciting Discovery

: A long-term study to  
: determine potential impacts  
: of climate change in the  
: eastern United States has  
: been my most important  
: work. Our team of Anantha  
: Prasad, Stephen Matthews,  
: Matthew Peters, and I have  
: worked together well to  
: advance this field.

### : When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

: Being raised on a species-  
: diverse North Dakota farm,  
: I was intrigued by the natural  
: world. My high school and  
: college science courses  
: encouraged that curiosity to  
: learn more about my world.