

Forest Isbell Bio

Forest Isbell is an associate professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota. He is the director of the MnDRIVE Environment program, which supports collaborations between university researchers and industry to enhance quality of life and economic vitality in Minnesota and beyond. From 2015 to 2022, he was the associate director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, which is one of the most active biological field research stations in the world. Prior to that time, he held an endowed faculty position at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Isbell's research considers how human activities are changing biodiversity, and how changes in biodiversity cause changes in ecosystem functioning, stability, and services. He has published more than 100 scientific journal articles, including more than a dozen papers published in *Nature*, *Science*, and *PNAS*. He is recognized by Clarivate as one of the most highly cited researchers worldwide in the areas of ecology and the environment. He recently co-authored expert information documents for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework. He was also a lead author on multiple reports by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Professional Appointments

- Director of the MnDRIVE Environment grant program, 2022-present
- Associate Professor of Ecology at the University of Minnesota, 2020-present
- Assistant Professor of Ecology at the University of Minnesota, 2017-2020
- Associate Director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve at the University of Minnesota, 2015-2022
- Haines Family Professor of Aboveground Ecology and Assistant Professor of Plant Ecology at the University of Georgia, 2014

Professional Preparation

- Postdoc with Dave Tilman and Steve Polasky at the University of Minnesota, 2011-2013
- Postdoc with Michel Loreau at McGill University, 2010-2011
- PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with Brian Wilsey at Iowa State University, 2010
- Undergraduate degrees in biology and chemistry teaching from the University of Northern Iowa, 2005

Selected Recognition and Synergistic Activities

- Publications
 - >100 scientific publications
 - >10% of these publications are in *Nature*, *Science*, or *PNAS*
 - >20% of first author publications are in *Nature* or *PNAS*
- Highly Cited Researcher in Environment/Ecology, Web of Science, 2018–present
- Journal Editor
 - *Ecology Letters*, 2019–present
 - *Oecologia*, 2020–2021
 - *Journal of Plant Ecology*, 2014-2015
- Mercator Fellow for the Jena Experiment, 2020–present
- International Science-Policy
 - Coauthor of expert information documents for UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020, 2022
 - Coauthor of assessments by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): Global Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment, 2015–2018; Americas Regional Assessment, 2015–2018
- US NSF CAREER Awardee, 2019–2024
- University of Minnesota:
 - Fellow, Institute on the Environment, 2017–present
 - Council of Graduate Students Outstanding Advisor Award, 2018–2019
 - EEB Graduate Program Outstanding Mentorship Award, 2018
 - Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Fellow for Inclusive Excellence, 2018