

Meet the Scientists

Joshua Leffler – Associate Professor, South Dakota State University



Q: What is your current position and academic focus?

My background is in plant physiological ecology and ecosystem ecology with a research focus on arid lands, grasslands, and arctic systems. In my work, I pay special attention to the impacts of climate change and land management on plant communities and greenhouse gas emissions. My research currently addresses two broad questions:

1. Do interacting components of climate change, such as warming and altered precipitation patterns, amplify or dampen the consequences of climate change?
2. What are the consequences of different grazing technologies and schemes for carbon and nitrogen processes on rangelands?

Q: Why did you become a biologist?

Q: Can you describe your study and what you hope to learn

Q: Do you have any aspects of your identity that you feel are underrepresented in STEM or society?

Q: What is an obstacle you faced related to/during your STEM career?

Q: What are hobbies and/or interests that you have outside of your research?

Q: What is your favorite thing about camping?

Q: How did you get into this hobby?

Q: Why is it important for scientists to have hobbies?

Q: What advice do you have for aspiring biologists?