

# Opening Plenary

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 9 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Lory Student Center Room 382**

Society faces a number of environmental challenges connected to climate change, human health, energy development, and food security that will require human action on an unprecedented scale. This year's International Colloquium focuses on ecosystem science– the integrated system-level study of the living and non-living components of the environment. Ecosystem science provides a powerful framework to study and address these challenges. Colorado State University and the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) have been leaders in the development of ecosystem science as a discipline. The program will introduce the ecosystem concept, and provide an overview of our rich history and paths to resolving our environmental challenges.

**9 a.m.**

- Introduction  
Dr. John Moore, Department Head, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, CSU; NREL Director

**9:10 a.m.**

- “Ecosystem Ecology – The Ultimate Abomination No More”  
Dr. Alan Knapp, Professor, Biology, CSU

**9:30 a.m.**

- “Musings on the Future – It May Be Challenging”  
Dr. Mary Firestone, Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley

**9:50 a.m.**

- “Microbiomes to Macrosystems: Personal Reflections on Ecosystem Science in the Anthropocene”  
Dr. Serita Frey, Professor, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of New Hampshire

**10:10 a.m.**

- “Emergence of Ecosystem Science Through the Lens of the NREL”  
Dr. Dennis Ojima, NREL Senior Research Scientist

**10:30 a.m.**

- Panel overview and adjourn