

Laura Huenneke is an ecologist and conservation scientist who has also served in university leadership positions. She grew up in St. Louis and completed a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Missouri (Columbia), before earning a Ph.D. in ecology and evolution at Cornell University. Dr. Huenneke spent 16 years at New Mexico State University, where she became Regents' Professor and department chair in Biology. In 2003 she moved to Flagstaff and Northern Arizona University, where she served as dean, vice president for research, and provost (vice president for academic affairs). She returned to faculty status as Professor in NAU's School of Earth and Sustainability, and is now Professor Emeritus. During her academic career, Dr. Huenneke was principal investigator for research and training grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Cancer Institute, and other funding agencies. She has been elected three times to the governing board of the Ecological Society of America (most recently as President for the 2018-19 year), and is a certified Senior Ecologist recognized by the Ecological Society's Board of Professional Certification. Dr. Huenneke has served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations, including the Las Cruces Natural History Museum, the Arboretum at Flagstaff, and the Arizona Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Currently she is a member of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund board, the Board of the Museum of Northern Arizona, and the board of Flagstaff STEM City.