General Ecology Assignment #1

Due Tuesday 9/10/13

Please remember that all your answers should be written in your own words.

I would like you to do some further research about the academic discipline of ecology. The history of science (including ecology) is based on individual personalities as well as their scientific accomplishments. This assignment is designed to introduce you to some ecologists.

1. Search online to find a current ecologist at an American university or college who fits into the description of academic ecology that you have been introduced to in the class. Try and choose somebody that has a research interest that you find particularly intriguing, and that has enough online material for you to use easily. Once you have found their webpage, answer the following questions. Each lettered part should only require a few sentences or a brief paragraph, so keep it concise.

a. Briefly, what are the research interests of your ecologist?

b. What is the scale of ecology that is the expertise of your ecologist, based on what has been introduced in class?

c. What are the types of scientific approaches used by your ecologist, again based on what has been introduced in class? You can answer this as one or more general categories, but also give one or several specific examples of studies this person has done. You will likely need to download a published article by your ecologist. You can usually find papers either directly on their website, or at least a bibliography.

2. Repeat this sequence for a second ecologist either current or historical.