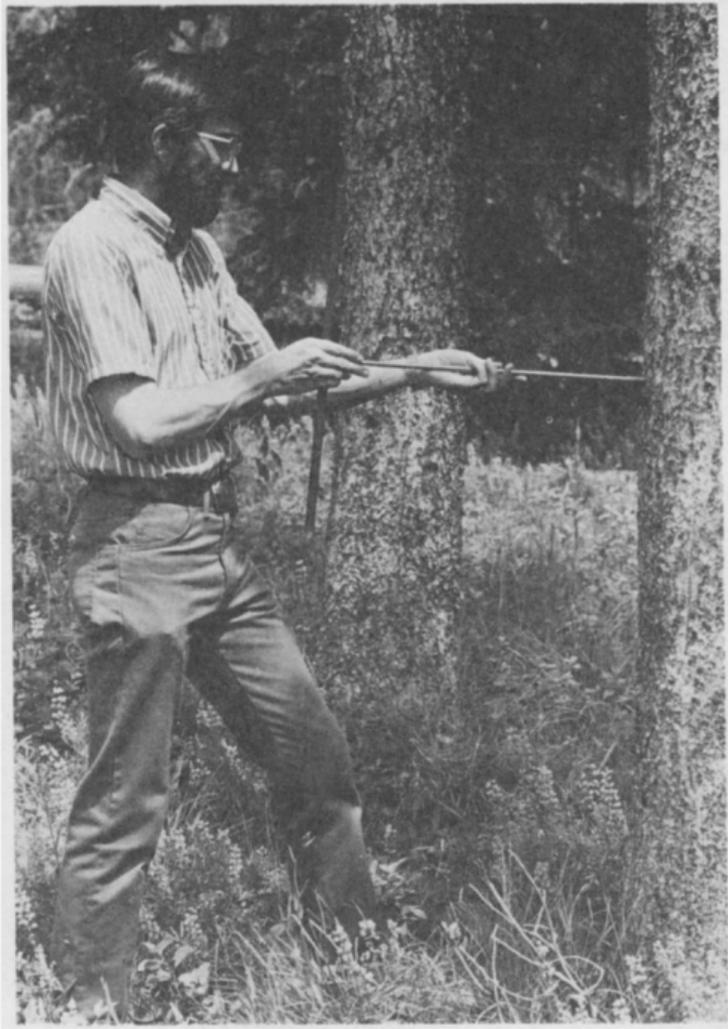


## COOPER AWARD

William H. Romme



The recipient of the first Cooper Award is William H. Romme, who is Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. The Cooper Award was established through the leadership of Donald B. Lawrence, Professor Emeritus of Botany at the University of Minnesota, in memory of William Skinner Cooper (1884–1978). The award was established to honor the author(s) of the best article on some aspect of geobotany or of physiographic ecology.

Dr. Romme was selected to receive this first award in recognition of his paper, "Fire and landscape diversity in subalpine forests of Yellowstone National Park," published in *Ecological Monographs* in 1982 (52:199–221). The research was carried out under the guidance of Professor Dennis H. Knight while Bill was a Ph.D. student at the University of Wyoming. In this paper, Bill focused on the interactions between physiographic features, development of the fuel complex, and fire in

establishing a dynamic mosaic of forest age classes and vegetation types in Yellowstone National Park. The work combined extensive field observations and modeling to show how the diversity of vegetation types would have changed over the last 200 years with fire exclusion or selective burning in comparison with the natural fire regime. In this process Bill demonstrated a particular sensitivity to the relationship between spatial and temporal scaling so important to interpretation of process and utilization of concept. Bill

Romme's work embodies some of the most critical concepts of contemporary ecology within the Cooper tradition of physiographic ecology, and stands as a superb example for subsequent recipients of this very important award.

Written by William A. Reiners  
Selection Committee:  
Edward J. Cushing  
Robert K. Peet  
Orie L. Loucks  
William A. Reiners, Chair