

Ann Bartuska, President of the Ecological Society of America, 2002–2003

Dr. Ann M. Bartuska is Executive Director of the Invasive Species Initiative within The Nature Conservancy. She came to that position in September 2001 from the Forest Service, where she was Director of the Forest and Rangelands staff in Washington, D.C. She is an ecosystem ecologist with degrees from Wilkes College (B.S.), Ohio University (M.S.), and West Virginia University (Ph.D). Her past research has focused on ecosystems processes in landscapes disturbed by coal mining. From 1982 to 1989 she managed research, development, and assessment programs associated with the effects of acid rain and air pollution under the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. She did this first at North Carolina State University and then as an employee of the USDA Forest Service.



In 1989, Dr. Bartuska was named Assistant Station Director for Continuing Research at the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, where she was responsible for research in Georgia and Florida. She relocated to the U.S. Forest Service's Washington Office–Forest Environment Research staff in 1991 as Wetlands Specialist, with specific responsibilities to develop a National Wetlands Research Program. She became the first Director of Ecosystem Management when that staff was created in 1992. Dr. Bartuska spent 1993 as Forest Service Liaison to the National Biological Survey of the U.S. Department of Interior. She then returned to the Forest Service as Director of Forest Health Protection in October 1994. In January 1999, she became the first woman and first ecologist to be named Director of Forest Management. In 2000, she also became responsible for the Range Management program and began integrating forest and rangelands into an all-vegetation focus. She is active in the Ecological Society of America, having served as Vice President for Public Affairs from 1996 to 1999. She also is a member of the Society of American Foresters. Ann's husband, Dr. Mark R. Walbridge, is Chair of the Department of Biology, West Virginia University, and her daughter, Jessica, is pursuing her MBA at Wharton School of Business.