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Nicole DeCrappeo is a soil ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis, OR and a doctoral candidate in the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University. She received her Master of Science degree in Ecology from Colorado State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from American University in Washington, DC. Her research focuses on the effects of environmental changes on soil organisms and communities. She has worked in Antarctica examining the effects of climate change on simple soil communities and in Kansas searching for links between above- and belowground biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Nicole has served as a coordinator for the Global Litter Invertebrate Decomposition Experiment (GLIDE), an international experiment testing the significance of arthropod diversity on litter loss, and a program officer for the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) Committee on Soil and Sediment Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning.

Currently, her research focuses on how exotic invasive plants affect soil communities and nitrogen cycling in the northern Great Basin. She surveys biological soil crusts, fungi, bacteria, and nematodes using a variety of techniques in order to assess differences in soil community structure under sagebrush, bunchgrass, cheatgrass, and interspace areas. She is in the process of elucidating the consequences of these community differences for ecosystem processes. She works to highlight the importance of using soil physical, chemical, and biological properties as indicators of sites that may benefit from native plant restoration efforts.