

## **Dr. Thomas W. Boutton**

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Dr. Thomas W. Boutton is internationally recognized in the development and application of stable isotope methodologies in soil science, ecology, agronomy and biogeochemistry of the grassland and savanna ecosystems of North America and Africa. His high quality, timely and relevant studies have been widely published in a number of highly respected scientific publications. His recent work on controls



over soil respiration and decomposition processes have put him at the forefront of key issues of carbon sequestration on rangelands.

One of Dr. Boutton's key contributions has been the development and application of isotopic techniques for detecting and quantifying changes in plant cover that have occurred in response to environmental variation and human land uses. He has provided a powerful tool to study the dynamics of natural and managed ecosystems and to facilitate a better understanding of the evolution of grasslands following the end of the last glacial period.

Dr. Boutton's invaluable contributions on nutrient and water cycles and energy flow has facilitated a better understanding of the principles of conservation and sustainable use of rangeland ecosystems by land managers around the world. For these reasons, the Society believes that Dr. Thomas W. Boutton is most deserving of the Outstanding Achievement Award.