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Dr. Brian Bencoter is a Program Manager in the Earth and Environmental Systems Sciences Division of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science (SC) Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program. He earned his PhD in Plant Biology from Southern Illinois University and MS and BS degrees in Biology from Villanova University prior to postdoctoral positions at Michigan State University and University of Guelph. Before joining DOE in 2021, he was an IPA (rotator) in BER during his prior position as Associate Professor of Wetland Plant Ecology at Florida Atlantic University. Brian's expertise and prior research focus on ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry of plants and wetlands, particularly on the role of disturbances like fire and drought in ecosystem function. At DOE, he is the lead program manager for the Next-Generation Ecosystem Experiment (NGEE) Tropics, Wetland Function and Resilience Science Focus Area (SFA), and Free-Air CO₂ Experiment (FACE)–Model-Data Synthesis (MDS) project in the Environmental System Science (ESS) portfolio and co-manages the Terrestrial Ecosystem Science SFA, NGEE Arctic, and Coastal Observations, Measurements, and Processes Across Systems and Scales–Field, Measurements, and Experiments (COMPASS-FME) project. Brian represents DOE on interagency groups such as the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG) and the Department of Defense Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP). He is a member of the American Geophysical Union, Association for Fire Ecology, Ecological Society of America, and Society of Wetland Scientists. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, football, and fishing.