Colleen Iversen is an ecosystem ecologist who uses a variety of field and laboratory techniques to understand and predict how ecosystems are shaped by environmental change. Her work takes her from upland forests to soggy peatlands to thawing arctic tundra, chasing a better understanding of the secret lives of roots hidden beneath the soil surface. She works at the millimeter scale to answer a global question: how will ecosystems respond to the climate of the future? Iversen is a Senior Staff Scientist in the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and serves as a Theme Lead in the Climate Change Science Institute.

She has published more than 50 papers in high-impact journals ranging from New Phytologist to the Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences. She serves on the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal New Phytologist and is an elected Early Career Fellow of the Ecological Society of America. Iversen sees science communication as the foundation for a shared understanding of society’s future, and she has shared her scientific vision on Public Radio International's 'Science Friday', and in the Alda School's 'Flame Challenge', as well as in organized symposia, sessions, and workshops. For more information, visit www.coleeniversen.com.