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Compton Tucker is a senior earth scientist in the Biospheric and Hydrospheric Sciences Laboratory at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. A native of Carlsbad, New Mexico, he holds a B.S. degree in biology and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in forestry, all from Colorado State University. Upon completing his B.S. in biology, he worked at Colorado National Bank in Denver and the First National Bank of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Realizing that banking was not his calling, he entered graduate school at Colorado State University and was associated with the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory for his graduate work. After completing his Ph.D. degree in 1975, he was a National Academy of Sciences postdoctoral fellow at the Goddard Space Flight Center before joining NASA as a physical scientist. He is the author of ~160 journal articles on the use of remote sensing to study vegetation that have been cited >12,000 times. In collaboration with coworkers, he is presently studying tropical deforestation and fragmentation, global variations in photosynthetic capacity, climatically-coupled diseases, tropical glacier variation in Bolivia and Peru, and studying climate using satellite and ground data. He is presently assigned by NASA to the Climate Change Science Program for a 3 year period. He is the recipient of NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal, the Henry Shaw Medal from the Missouri Botanical Garden, National Air and Space Museum Trophy, the William Nordberg Memorial Award for Earth Sciences, the Mongolian Friendship Medal, the William T. Pecora Award from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Galathea Medal from the Royal Danish Geographical Society, and is a fellow of the American Geophysical Society.