- **Name**: Kelly A. Burks-Copes
- **Grade**: DB 04
- **Classification**: 0408 Ecologist
- **Title**: Ecologist, Ecological Resources Branch, Ecosystem Evaluation and Engineering Division, Environmental Laboratory, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center
- **Duties**: Ms. Burks-Copes is an Ecologist in the Environmental Laboratory, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Ms. Burks-Copes conducts research, development, and provides technical support/technology transfer of tools to assess, manage, and restore habitats, communities, and landscapes for the Department of Defense (including USACE) and other Federal agencies. Her research and development activities primarily address ways to enhance stewardship of the Nation's natural resources and development of basic knowledge of ecosystem processes in terrestrial and riparian communities in support of resource restoration and management at the system-wide level. Specific work includes application of existing methods and development of new technology for assessing, managing, and restoring habitats for wildlife in terrestrial, riparian, and wetland ecosystems.
- **Biographical Sketch**: Ms. Burks-Copes was born in 1967 in Raton, New Mexico. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of New Mexico in 1991 and a Master of Science degree in Biology from New Mexico State University in 1994. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Interdisciplinary Ecology from the University of Florida. Ms. Burks-Copes has 15 years of service with the US Army Corps of Engineers. She began civil service in 1993 as an Environmental Resource Specialist for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District. She performed environmental assessments and assisted in the preparation of environmental impact statements for USACE projects, actions, and activities. In 1998, Ms. Burks-Copes transferred to ERDC and began developing and testing software technologies (Habitat Evaluation and Assessment Tools – HEAT) to quantify the effects of ecosystem restoration activities across a broad range of processes, functions, and systems. Her work is presented in over 20 technical reports and conference proceedings.