> As a forester, I study ways to provide estimates of multiple environmental benefits. An example of a benefit is forest carbon. The estimates are needed at local to national to global scales.

Meet the Scientist!

Dr. Linda S. Heath
Research Forester
Ph.D., University of Washington
USDA Forest Service scientist

CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA
Interpretive Association

FOREST SERVICE
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

http://www.naturalinquirer.org

Important Scientist Characteristics

★ Passion for objective understanding

★ Independent, analytical thinking

★ Pattern recognition skills

★ Dedication to the scientific process, including publishing in scientific journals

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:
How much carbon is being stored in forests of the United States, and how uncertain is that estimate?

Technology or equipment used in research:
For my field work, our most important tool is our brains! I extensively use information technology hardware and software, and data from satellites, cell phones, standard field tools (such as diameter tapes and lasers) and CO_2 and other greenhouse gas analyzers.

Most Exciting Discovery
On average, forests and forest products in the United States store 15-25 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted by the burning of fossil fuels.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist? I knew I wanted to be a scientist while studying forestry in college. During that time, personal computers were becoming available. Every day I saw the promise of scientific thinking to produce information that can be used to guide our choices in creating the future. I wanted to contribute to fulfilling that potential.

http://nrs.fs.fed.us/people/lheath