



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.

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

<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 CO₂ 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.