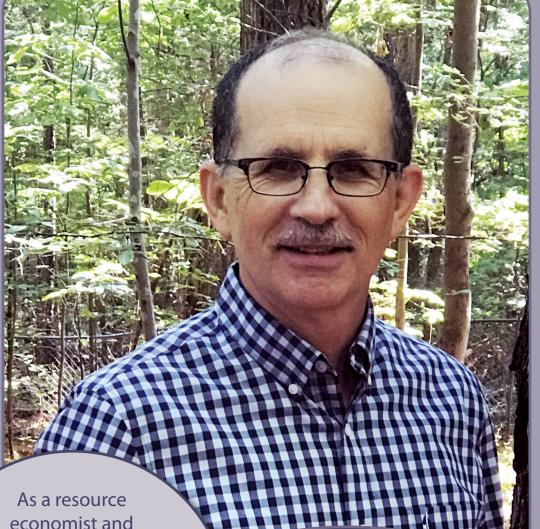# Meet the Scientist!

As a resource economist and computer modeler, I study how people choose to use and manage forests and natural resources. This enables us to predict how people may use those resources in the future.

Dr. David Wear
Resource Economist/Computer Modeler
Ph.D., University of Montana
USDA Forest Service scientist

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Important Scientist Characteristics
I think all scientists bring a unique combination of skills to their work. I have a strong curiosity, and I have training in a combination of biological and social sciences. These skills help me see solutions to questions differently. I think persistence is important, too. I can work for months at a time on hard questions.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:
What will the forests of the United States look like in 50 years based on all the changes occurring in the world?

Technology or equipment used in research:
I use computers and models to test hypotheses about how people use natural resources. These tools help me simulate and predict how natural resources might be used in the future.

Most Exciting Discovery
I am most excited about the work that I am doing today! The most exciting discovery is always the one that is in the works. Right now, I'm focusing on understanding which forests are most likely to be managed based on their tree species, owners, and economics. This study already indicates that we can do a better job of predicting forest management.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?
When I was a child, my grandfather gave me small appliances to disassemble and reassemble. These activities fueled my curiosity about how things work. In high school, the classes in science were always the most interesting to me. I first started studying botany, the study of plants, in college.