



Meet the Scientist!



As an archaeologist, I work with partners, volunteers, and tribes to survey, record, protect, interpret, and preserve places where people once lived.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

My mathematical and computer skills have helped the Kaibab National Forest maintain one of the largest Forest Service archaeological site databases. Knowing how to use computer data helps me conduct research and efficiently share information with other scientists.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to

answer: What does geographic information systems (GIS) and a database of pottery sherds tell us about the "Cohonina" people? The Cohonina lived on the Colorado Plateau between AD 700-1100. Our research shows they may have migrated in different directions after the eruption of the Sunset Crater in AD 1080.

Technology or equipment used in research:

To locate and record archaeological sites, we use Global Positioning System (GPS) units that collect location information of places we study. We then import that data into a geographic information systems (GIS) program.

Most Exciting Discovery

In 1993, we conducted an inventory of a trail in the Kanab Creek Wilderness. We found dozens of preserved rock shelters with colorful paintings that were at least 5,000 years old.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I didn't know I wanted to be a scientist until I was a junior at Grinnell College. I spent a summer class excavating at Lizard Man Village near Flagstaff. I learned how scientific methods such as tree-ring dating and archaeomagnetic dating contribute to understanding the past. I was hooked!

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/kaibab/learning/history-culture>