



Meet the Scientist!



An applied forest ecologist develops new knowledge regarding the function and processes of forest ecosystems. This knowledge can have real impacts on forest management and conservation.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

A passion for science, unending creativity, a willingness to fail, a cooperative personality, and endurance help me as a scientist.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

How can we improve carbon management in the United States? Forests remove large amounts of carbon from Earth's atmosphere. My research team improved methods for estimating carbon in forests. We looked at many diverse sources of forest carbon, such as soils and dead wood.

Technology or equipment used in research:

I seek to combine large data sources, such as national forest inventories and satellite data, with our understanding of forest growth and change. This combination helps us to better monitor the condition of the forests. It also helps to inform the management of our Nation's forests.

Most Exciting Discovery

Do you want to know the maximum number of trees of a certain size and species you can fit into one acre? To answer this question, we found that the only thing you need to know is the density of the wood for each tree species.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew I had a talent for science when I swept first place all three years at my middle school science fair.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/woodall>