



# Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Mr. Dickerson is a trained professional. The animal pictured was not injured and was released back into the wild. Never handle or approach wild animals.

A wildlife biologist studies wild animals and their habitats. A wildlife biologist applies this knowledge to maintain populations of wild animals for future generations.

**Brian E. Dickerson**  
Wildlife Biologist  
M.S., Texas State University  
USDA Forest Service scientist

## Important Scientist Characteristics

Maintaining constant awareness of your surroundings and paying attention to the details are critical to my work in wildlife biology. I have a passion and love for what I am doing and why I do the work. It keeps me motivated to push through those times when the work is tough.

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

Are wood borer beetles present in the spring following a late season wildfire? Wood borer beetles aren't actively flying during late season wildfires. If beetles are found in the spring, how many are found in that area compared to an area in which wildfire occurred while beetles were actively flying?

## Technology or equipment used in research:

One piece of equipment that is used in almost all wildlife work is a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. A GPS unit is a device that records locations of observations. A GPS unit can also guide someone using it to a location they want to study.

## Most Exciting Discovery

Our team was given the locations of a historical vegetation survey in which the previous scientists placed metal stakes in the ground. All we had were written descriptions of where the metal stakes were located. No one had tried to find the stakes in over 50 years. We found 47 out of the 50 stakes!

## When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

As a kid, no one could keep me inside. I wanted to be outside looking for critters, and I was constantly asking questions about what I was seeing. I rescued a Great Blue Heron one day, which is a large bird. When the wildlife biologist came to get it from my house, I knew I wanted their job.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=bedickerson>