



Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Mrs. Fletcher is a professional biologist. She works with the Arizona Game & Fish Department to collect valuable information for managing bald eagles in Arizona. This bald eagle nestling was returned to its nest and successfully fledged. Never handle or approach wild animals.

A wildlife biologist collects and shares information to ensure that wildlife species' needs are considered when designing and implementing projects on public lands, from mountain bike rides to prescribed fires and new trails construction to old road closures.

Noël Fletcher Wildlife Biologist

B.S., University of Idaho
USDA Forest Service scientist

Important Scientist Characteristics

My curiosity helps me to discover information for the needs of wildlife. Good record keeping is essential for understanding the history of an area and planning for the future. Teamwork and problem solving are my most valuable tools for working with partners inside and outside of the Forest Service.

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

How do I protect nesting Peregrine Falcons on a popular rock climbing cliff face? Rock climbing during the nesting season scared the falcons away, preventing them from nesting. Now, a coordinated closure on Granite Mountain provides nesting in the spring and summer and climbing in the fall and winter

Technology or equipment used in research:

I use everything from Post-It® notes for quick comments to Global Positioning System (GPS) units for locating places in the field. I use geographic information systems (GIS) to make maps, binoculars to identify birds, e-mails to share information, and video-chatting to communicate with co-workers. When no one is around, I have trail cameras capture pictures of critters.

Most Exciting Discovery

Sharing my passion for nature, with the help of a generous partner, I took Special Olympic families on a kayak trip down the Verde River. Engaging people of all ages in new fun things they can do and learn in nature is a rewarding part of my job.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I have been drawn to nature since I was a child reading Ranger Rick. I spent many summer days exploring every nook and cranny of the Pennsylvania countryside where I was raised, looking for animals, wading in creeks, and riding my bike or pony to investigate whatever caught my eye.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/prescott/learning/kids>