Most Exciting Discovery
My most exciting discovery was calculating the effects of thinning treatments, which most likely saved many homes in the 2011 Wallow Fire.

Important Scientist Characteristics:
A combination of curiosity, experience, and passion for what I enjoy are important for my research. I have had the opportunity to work on elite firefighting crews (Redding and Redmond hotshot crews). Those experiences were valuable exposure to fire. I also understand what managers in the field need to make their jobs easier. I work for them.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: How do fuel treatments change wildfire behavior during extreme weather conditions?

Technology or equipment used in research:
I use computer models to simulate fuel treatment effects and wildfire behavior. The model grows trees and estimates fuel characteristics which influence fire behavior. In the model, I can remove trees to see how fire behavior changes.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?
At first, I never had plans to attend college. Most of my classmates had joined the military, and I thought that was my only available option. It wasn’t until after I was accepted into graduate school that I knew I wanted to be a scientist.