__Important Scientist Characteristics__

- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Observation
- Thinking about how systems work, especially systems that include humans.

__Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:__

Why do people volunteer to work with public land management agencies?

__Technology or equipment used in research:__

I use an audio recorder to record interviews with informants—people who can help me answer the research question. I used to use a cassette recorder. Now I use an iPod or iPhone!

__Most Exciting Discovery__

My most exciting discovery was learning that volunteers often benefit more from volunteer activities than the Forest Service does. Government agencies provide a service when they give people opportunities to stay physically and mentally active while sharing time with friends and giving back to society as volunteers.

__When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?__

When I was in 6th grade my grandmother told me “you should be a scientist.” I loved spending time outdoors learning about nature. As an adult I worked for many years as a park ranger before I decided that I wanted to go back to school to be a scientist.