Most Exciting Discovery
My most exciting discovery was understanding that small forest predators often select habitats which have a lot of prey and provide protection from being killed by larger predators.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?
When I was a kid, I was really interested in wildlife. I wanted to have a job working with wildlife, and found that there are many wildlife jobs. In my first year of college, I knew I wanted to be a scientist that studies wildlife in forest ecosystems.

Important Scientist Characteristics
As a scientist, I am very curious about the natural world and love being outside observing wildlife.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:
How do predators indirectly affect each other when they share the same prey?

Technology or equipment used in research:
Many deer hunters use remote cameras to scout potential hunting grounds. As a scientist, I can use remote cameras to study the behavior of many wildlife species. Forest predators are often rare or shy. I use remote cameras to study where they live, and I try to identify which habitats can support the predator species.

As a wildlife biologist, I study the functions and interactions between small predators and their prey in forest ecosystems.

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Meet the Scientist!

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

http://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=Damon