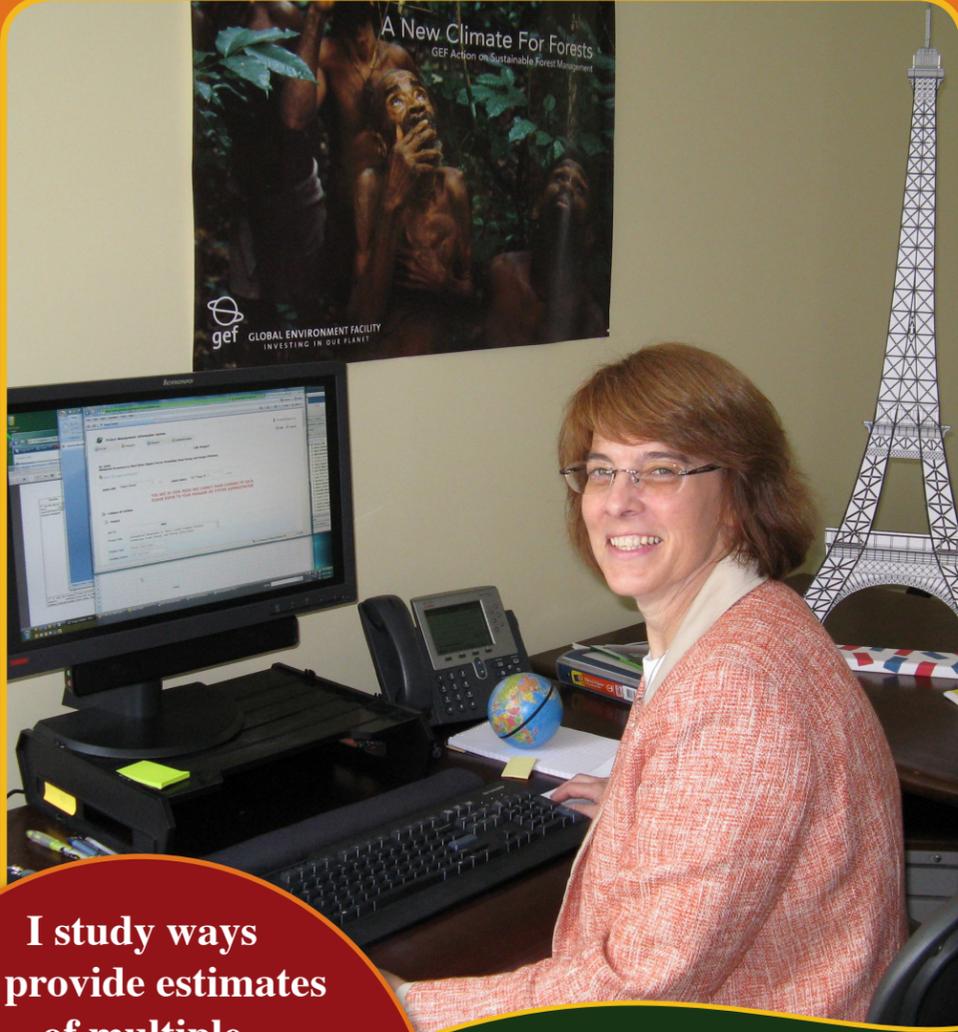




Meet the Scientist!



I study ways to provide estimates of multiple environmental benefits. An example of a benefit is forest carbon. The estimates are needed at local to national to global scales.

Dr. Linda S. Heath

Research Forester
Ph.D., University of Washington
USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Passion for objective understanding
- ★ Independent, analytical thinking
- ★ Pattern recognition skills
- ★ Dedication to the scientific process, including publishing in scientific journals

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: How much carbon is being stored in forests of the United States and how uncertain is that estimate?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Our most important tool is our brains! I extensively use information technology hardware and software, and data from satellites, cell phones, standard field tools (such as diameter tapes and lasers), and CO₂ and other greenhouse gas analyzers.

Most Exciting Discovery

On average, forests and forest products in the United States store 15-25% of the carbon dioxide emitted by the burning of fossil fuels.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew I wanted to be a scientist while studying forestry in college. During that time personal computers were becoming available. Every day I saw the promise of scientific thinking to produce information that can be used to guide our choices in creating the future. I wanted to contribute to fulfilling that potential.

<http://nrs.fs.fed.us/people/lheath>