Most important to my research is my desire to make what I do useful. Being able to apply the results and see a difference out in the world is aided by good listening skills and a creative approach to the work.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: How do plants on the forest floor respond to different growing conditions caused by a variety of tree-cutting activities?

Technology or equipment used in research:
I use computers to help me get a broad picture of conditions in the forest and to predict how things might change. I also use a special measuring tape to measure the diameters of trees in the forest.

Most Exciting Discovery
Although some forest plants may be less common after a disturbance such as tree cutting, none disappear, and they all recover in a fairly short time as forest conditions return to what they were like before.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?
After college I spent several years doing other work. I made furniture and built houses. However, I wanted my career to include more intellectual activity, and being a scientist allows me to ask and answer more of the “why” and “how” questions I have.

http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/mtwery