



Meet the Scientist!



A wildlife biologist studies wild animals and their habitat.

Mr. Roy Lopez Wildlife Biologist

M.S., Northern Arizona University
USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics:

An understanding of animal behavior, skillful handling of wildlife, curiosity, and keen observation skills are all very important.

Example of a simple research question I have tried

to answer: Because wintering bald eagles usually depend on coyotes to tear open elk carcasses, how do eagles utilize elk meat and tissue in the absence of coyotes?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Motion-activated trail cameras focused on elk carcasses are used to record foraging by both diurnal and nocturnal species. This allows us to monitor multiple areas simultaneously.

Mr. Lopez is a trained professional. The birds are not harmed and will be released back in to the wild. Never approach or handle wild animals.

Most Exciting Discovery

Typically only 10 to 15 wintering bald eagles frequent Mormon Lake. The eagles feed mostly on waterfowl. However, one winter and spring, counts of bald eagles increased weekly to a high of about 120 eagles. We discovered the food source was fathead minnows that were frozen into the ice during low water levels.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

As a child I loved being outdoors with my family. I enjoyed fishing, cutting firewood, and visiting the family homestead. That family homestead is now part of a national forest! During my first season as a wildland firefighter for the Forest Service, I learned about the wildlife biologist job. It seemed like the dream job to me.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=rglopez>