



Meet the Scientist!



A forester studies how trees live and grow, and how they help people and animals.

Ms. Sonja Oswalt

Forester
M.S., University of Tennessee, Knoxville
USDA Forest Service scientist



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics

★ I love to write, which is something I do every day at work. I am also creative, curious, and love to solve problems and help people—all things that I need in order to understand our forest resources and describe them to other people.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: How do United States forests compare to global forests? I help assemble data for our Global Forest Resources report. We meet with representatives from many countries to talk about forests and how they are changing so that our governments will know how to manage the forests for the future.

Technology or equipment used in research:

I work in an office, so I use computers every day. I use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for mapping, and many different software programs and databases to examine the data our field foresters collect.

Most Exciting Discovery

The United States has an amazing, rich variety of natural resources. Because of our forests, we are able to produce wood, recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, fuel, and air quality improvements. Forests provide so much that we use every day and don't even think about!

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

When I was in high school I became part of an environmental club at our school. We did clean-up projects, tree-planting projects, and did a lot of hiking. I really enjoyed learning about nature and solving problems, so science seemed like a great fit for me!

<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>