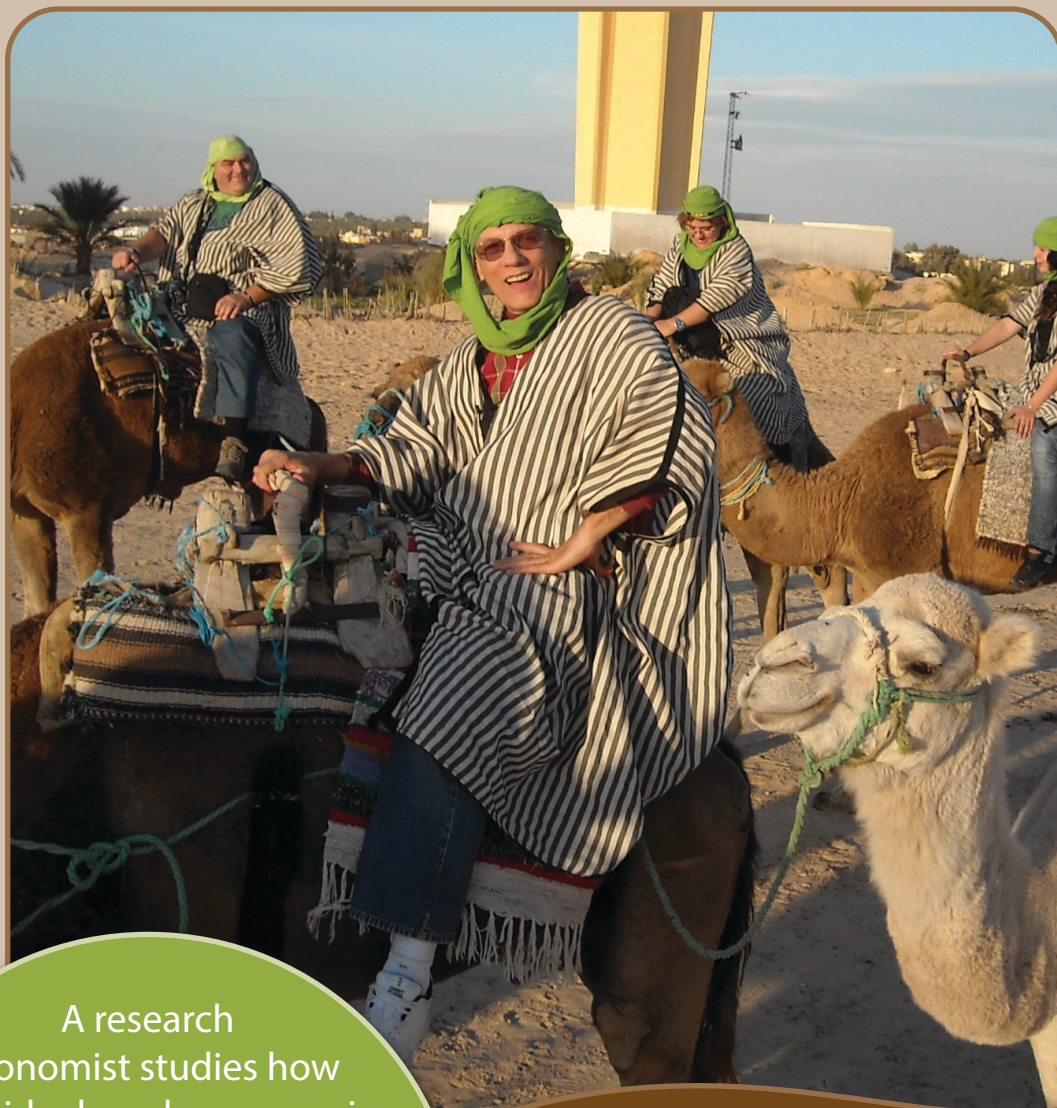




Meet the Scientist!



A research economist studies how individuals make economic choices and tradeoffs about scarce resources. A research economist also measures the value of ecosystem services and explains the demand and supply relationships for market and nonmarket goods.

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Research Economist

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Important Scientist Characteristics

In all fields of science, curiosity and creativity are a must. Without an inquisitive mind and creativity you can't pursue a quest or find out why things work the way they do. Patience, critical thinking, careful record keeping, mathematical skills and the willingness to fail are fundamental. Failure is a great teacher!

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

How much would head of households be willing to pay for a program to maintain water quality and quantity in a particular river to protect an endangered species?

Technology or equipment used in research:

The principal tools used in our work is the computer and surveys. Surveys are used to collect the information necessary to estimate models. The models enable us to measure the public's welfare. For example, there may be economic benefits gained from the activity or some contribution to society's well-being.

Most Exciting Discovery

An important discovery was discovering how fire managers experience and act on risk is a significant contributor to prescribed burning costs. Another was discovering that the heads of Puerto Rican households placed great economic value on protecting the Rio Mameyes, an important river.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I didn't know that I wanted to be a scientist, but I wanted to teach at the college level which requires a Ph.D. My studies provided me a range of opportunities, and I sought to pursue a career in research.

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