



# Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

A natural resource sociologist  
looks at humans and their  
relationship to the  
natural world.

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### Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Creativity
- ★ Asking questions about social groups and their view of the natural world

**Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:** Why do some social groups rarely visit National Forests even though they live close to them? What beliefs do recent immigrant groups have about nature?

### Most Exciting Discovery

I found that socially vulnerable populations in the South that also live in high wildfire risk communities are less likely than more affluent communities in high wildfire risk areas to have programs that help reduce the severity of wildfires.

### When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I'm not sure. It sort of evolved over time. I came to the realization after working with the Forest Service several years that the great outdoors and nature seemed to have different meanings for different people. I wanted to better understand these various interpretations of nature.

<https://srs.fs.usda.gov/staff/306>