

A man with a goatee and a black baseball cap stands outdoors on a wooden deck, leaning on a railing. He is wearing a white long-sleeved t-shirt with a logo for 'Girls on the Run' and 'S/RIDE CHALLENGE'. The logo includes a pink ribbon and a green figure. Below the main logo, it says 'PRESENTED BY PRECISION' and 'Katherine C. Conlin, D.D.S.'.

Girls on the Run
S/RIDE CHALLENGE

PRESENTED BY
PRECISION
Katherine C. Conlin, D.D.S.

A sociologist studies the relationships among people's behavior and social institutions, rules, and organizations.

Dr. J. Morgan Grove
Sociologist
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USDA Forest Service scientist

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Dr. J. Morgan Grove

Sociologist



Important Scientist Characteristics:

My notable talents are to make connections among social and ecological “things” that other people don’t see. Maybe this is curiosity or creativity, I don’t know. But it’s the ability to see connections and appreciate perspectives from different people, organizations, and ecologies.

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

The dominant land type in urban areas is private residential lands. The basic question I have tried to answer is: What factors affect how homeowners manage their yard?

Technology or equipment used in research: We use a combination of high-resolution, remotely sensed data to map where trees are and where they could be. One of the really neat aspects of this work is that we use Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data, which measures the heights of objects on the land. LiDAR is crucial for helping us find the trees hiding in the shadows.

Most Exciting Project or Discovery

One of the most interesting projects I worked on was the relationship between trees and crime in residential neighborhoods. For every 10 percent increase in tree cover, crime declined by 11 percent. This was a surprise for many people, and it also has important policy implications.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist? I’m still surprised that I’m a scientist. I like science, and I like doing it to help people and the environment. I have always liked helping people and being outdoors.

<https://baltimoreecosystemstudy.org>