



Oikos is the Greek root word for "household." It is also the root of the word "economy" and "ecology!" Good management of the economy, and ecology, is like good management of a household.

Dr. Trista Patterson
Economist
Ph.D., University of Maryland
USDA Forest Service scientist

<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Dr. Trista Patterson



Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Adventurous!
- ★ Likes to learn languages and about cultures.
- ★ Has fun imagining the future.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to

answer: If every person on this planet lived like we do in the U.S., how much forest would we need to produce all the wood and paper products we consume in a year? As it turns out, many countries are losing forests all around the world.

Technology or equipment used in research: In the future I see people using smartphones a lot; in the store when they buy wood to build a house, maybe they scan the bar code and get to see a video about the forest and people where it was harvested. Or, hiking on national forest land maybe they use their phone to see the trail, or identify a tree or a bird, or know if hiking up that next hill is worth it!

Most Exciting Discovery

- The planet supports our lives
- every day, in many invisible ways
- that we don't have to pay for! For
- example, in the hills above my
- town, the forest roots are taking
- pollutants out of the rain water,
- which provides clean water. If we
- don't take care of that forest, we
- have to build an expensive water
- treatment plant to do what nature
- already does for free!
- **When did you know you wanted to**
- **be a scientist?** I went to go help
- out on my grandfather's land one
- cool autumn day, and found this
- really sweet salamander with blue
- spots who didn't want to leave my
- (warm) hand! My grandfather was
- one of the first people ever to re-
- plant forests along the rivers of the
- U.S. I thought that was awesome.