

Introduction

>> My name is Dan Williams, I'm a Research Social Scientist with the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, Colorado. And I've been there about 17 years.

Why did you become a scientist

What inspired me to become a scientist wasn't really obvious when I first started, I was interested in forestry.

I grew up in a resort community.

I enjoyed the outdoors and so I decided to study forestry and over time, studying that I became more and more interested in human environment interaction, or the people

or the community side of forestry and how those two things interact and so one thing lead

to another and it kind of became a research career.

I think because I spent a lot of time in the out of doors, and you know, again kind of as an interesting way to approach forestry was hey, I can actually study the things that I enjoy doing.

What do you like about working for the Forest Service

There are a lot of great things about working for the Forest Service, especially as a research scientist.

Obviously, one is I get to get out to places like this and work in the forest and often, you know, meeting people that live in the communities or live around the national forests.

Spend a lot of time you know, hiking and getting out in the woods and stuff.

So that's a great thing about being in the Forest Service if you love being in the out of doors in the first place.

But I also think that as a scientist there's a lot of room for creativity, a lot of room to explore new ideas and things like that.

And it's always fun, it's always engaging.

You get to kind of do what you want to do.

You know, there's nothing wrong with that.