

Intro

I am Gretchen Moisen and I work for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, FIA, With the Rocky Mountain Research Station out of Ogden, Utah.

What is your work

You know, forests are important to everyone on this planet.

They bring us a load of wood products that we all use every day.

They store carbon.

They influence the quality and quantity of water.

They provide wildlife habitat.

They provide us with a place to play.

And because of that, it is really important for us to understand and know how much forest is out there.

What are its characteristics?

Where is it?

And even more importantly, how is it changing?

How is it changing due to change events?

How is it changing over the long periods of time?

How is it changing

My work involves building bridges between the giant sample of field observations that FIA collects over the whole country and its vast amount of remote sensing information

that we have wall-to-wall, even through time.

And what we can do with that is start talking about the status, the change, the trends, and even the futures of forests in this country.

Most proud of

And I'm working with so many talented people through the years, in our own organization

and in other organizations, and I think I am most proud of the progress

that we've collectively made on raising the bar in terms of the statistical tools that we've used and making the best use of new remote sensing and other technologies to try

to bring more information and shed more light on our problem.

With FIA for almost 33 years now, and honestly, I think almost every day it feels like we have a new challenge, a new technology, maybe even a new solution, and almost every day it feels like we are making a little bit of a difference.

And that's a pretty good way to spend three decades.

And I don't know if I feel proud or just really lucky.