

My name is John Frank and I'm an Electrical Engineer
with the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

[Background Music] So I work at the field site, the Glacier Lakes Ecosystem
Experiments Site --

we call it GLEES -- and we have a carbon tower and there we're studying the exchange
between carbon and water between the forest ecosystem and the atmosphere.

So we were up there detecting basically how the trees breathe in
and out water throughout a beetle epidemic and it was pretty fascinating to watch them
die.

When they are initially attacked you can see the bark beetles come through
and basically put the trees into severe drought stress and so they can't move water.

After a couple of years the trees die and it was pretty fascinating.

You can see the carbon sink just peltet.

Our forests over a course of a few years changed from being a carbon sink to being
carbon neutral

to all from anything being a carbon source

so that has you know major implications for things like climate change.

It's not often that you get to go work at a field site
at a high elevation every week for your entire career.

It's pretty fascinating.

There's a certain amount of adventure to it.

The Forest Service called and needed someone with my skill set and I had kind of a
moment

where I had to decide what I wanted to do for my career.

And I just decided I wanted to do the job that would get me to --

wake me up in the morning and that's what ultimately brought me to the Forest Service.

I know that most electrical engineering jobs would be in a laboratory or behind a
computer

and this would be an opportunity to do electrical engineering outdoors.

