

I'm Megan Friggens.

I am a research ecologist with the Grassland, Shrubland, and Desert program at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and I work in Albuquerque.

I think as a progress through my education and career, I was always interested in pursuing these questions of how our environment, and changes in our environment through land use changes or climate changes, really impact species interaction.

So wildlife disease.

Competitive interactions.

Even how species interact with their habitats and the feedback that can occur through those.

And so that has led to my pursuing a job at the Forest Service, where I can practice this kind

of applied ecology-type research.

I do have a close association with the great outdoors [laughs].

I think that is a huge source of restoration for myself.

And I think that many ecologists do like -- do have interest in the outdoors.

And that's really what drives a lot of the science that you do.

For me, a lot of what I do is to help conserve and preserve many of the things that I do enjoy in wilderness areas.

And the species and the habitats in which they live.

Something that I really enjoy about my work, and it's really satisfying, is the problem-solving nature of it.

I'm often trying to develop science that helps managers with their decisions, and to identify;

develop new methods for measuring things like climate change impact for wildlife habitat.

Or new methods for looking at fire -- wildfire impacts on natural resources.

So it's a really diverse range of problems that I get to address,

and I really like that problem-solving aspect.

