

Introduction

>> Hi, I'm Pete Robichaud.

I'm a Research Engineer in the Air, Water,
and Aquatic Environment Program here in Moscow, Idaho.

My research focuses on the post-fire environment.

More specifically I look at the erosion issues that occur in a post-fire environment.

I work closely with the BAER teams.

They are the Burned Area Emergency Response teams and they're the ones who go in immediately

after the firefighters leave to assess what the conditions are like after that fire.

What do you do

The other component that I look at is if we are going to have an erosion issue
on a particular landscape, what can we do to mitigate that?

So, we do research that looks at not just the short term benefit or impact
of doing these treatments, but also the long term effects on that ecosystem recovery.

One of the things that I've learned is that to communicate our science, we need to build
tools

and make the information easily accessible to the land managers.

So, we've done a bunch of publications

that are these general technical reports and research notes.

All of that work we've been doing over the years with numerous collaborators and
cooperators.

But we summarize that not just in the scientific publication but in these kind of guides.

And that's been really useful to help the managers make better decisions.

What do you like about your job

One of the things that I really like about doing this kind of work is it's very dynamic.

We can't do this work in a laboratory setting all the time.

We have to do it in the field.

We need to be ready to go to the field during the fire season.

So, a lot of the work that we do, we'll prep ahead of time
and then we're responding pretty much just as the fire is getting out.

We're out there installing our equipment to be able
to measure what's going to happen when the rains come.

And that's really exciting.