

My name is Serra Hoagland and I'm a biological scientist
with the U.S. Forest Service and I'm a tribal member.

I'm Laguna Pueblo from the village of Pagate in New Mexico.

I see myself as an underrepresented group.

I'm a Native American female scientist and you don't find many of us in the Forest Service.

I feel to some degree I can serve as a role model for native youth who might be interested

in pursuing a career in science or in research.

I also directly with my research, I address a lot of research needs
that are important to tribal communities.

And then also I serve as the tribal relations point of contact for my research station.

I think it's important for the Forest Service to recognize
that tribes might consider different things in the Forest Service with different values.

So for instance, one thing is you know there are a lot non-timber forest products.

So things like roots and herbaceous plants, then berries and all kinds of resources that are

in the forest that we're charged to manage

that might have different values for tribal communities.

So it's important for us to sort of continue that dialog
and continue that relationship with tribes.

It definitely get the sense that there's a lot of responsibility with my role because I am sort

of bridging that gap between tribal communities who you know were sort
of the first stewards of the landscape.

And then here we are now with the U.S. Forest Service, we do manage a lot of those
lands

that are still important and sort of ancestral territories for tribal communities.

So I definitely get the sense that there's a lot of responsibility,

but with that there's also a lot of you know, great benefit from that as well too.