A landscape ecologist searches for the links between patterns and ecological processes across large areas.

Dr. Bill Hargrove

Landscape Ecologist

Ph.D., University of Georgia

USDA Forest Service scientist

Important Scientist Characteristics

★ Creativity and curiosity are very important, but anyone who asks questions is already being a scientist. Having a "prove it!" attitude and not believing everything you hear or read is also useful.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

I have worked on mapping areas that are ecologically similar with regard to particular characteristics. One specific question I have asked is, "How are ecologically similar areas different when they are mapped?"

Technology or equipment used in research:

I use supercomputers, statistics, and large data sets, often gathered from satellites orbiting the Earth.

Most Exciting Discovery

I have several favorite discoveries. I helped design and run a national "eye-in-the-sky" tool that detects forest disturbances every eight days. I also created a Web site that predicts how the home ranges of 215 tree species will shift with future climatic change.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I knew I wanted to be a scientist by high school. By that time, I was doing a lot of noisy, messy science experiments at our home on a regular basis.