



Examining
submersed plants
collected with a
modified rake.



TYPE OF WORK

I examine and measure the aquatic plants in lakes and rivers. When invasive non-native species are found, I monitor the growth and research methods to reduce their impact on native plants.

Jenifer Parsons
Aquatic Plant Specialist
*Washington State
Department of Ecology*



Aquatic Plant Specialist



TYPICAL DAY: In the growing season, I assess plants that may be at risk in lakes where invasive species are established. This includes sampling from a boat or by snorkeling and measuring growth using both instruments and direct sampling. In the winter, I analyze the data and write papers and reports.

CAREER PATHWAY:

I always enjoyed being outdoors and had several summer field jobs for various federal agencies as a student and between my bachelors and MS degrees. Therefore, when my current job was open I had the education and years of practical experience to qualify.



IMPORTANT SKILLS

Botanical classification
statistically meaningful
sampling design,
statistical analysis

EDUCATION

Master's Degree

SALARY RANGE

\$50,000-\$75,000

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

GPS, GIS, data analysis
software, hydroacoustic
mapping equipment,
snorkeling equipment

"I enjoy being outside and working with other people to reduce the impact of invasive species. It is especially gratifying when results of our efforts restore native plant species in a lake." – Jenifer Parsons