



My work uniform always includes a good field knife, compass, and fanny pack.

**TYPE OF WORK**

I design and carry out research efforts that study biodiversity of aquatic and forested habitats on the Olympic Peninsula.

Marina Hein  
**Research Assistant**  
*10,000 Years Institute*



# Research Assistant



**TYPICAL DAY:** Sometimes I'm in the office, and sometimes I'm in the field. In the field I usually stick around one stream or forested area for my work, but some projects require me to go all over the woods, and I get to hike in areas few people are allowed to go - places where there are no trails. I find my sample-collection sites using a map and compass. We collaborate with the US Forest Service and the University of Washington to help collect water samples that were analyzed for Olympic mudminnow. My dog, Netmeg is a great hiking partner - especially if I see fresh cougar tracks!

## CAREER PATHWAY:

I grew up on the Mississippi River and was the kid that always wandered away from the group to poke around in puddles. After high school, I got my bachelor's degree in biology with a focus on aquatic ecology, hydrology, limnology (the study of lakes), and aquatic nutrient use. My minor was in chemistry and has been useful, but I wish I had gotten a double major in writing - you do a lot of writing in science!



## IMPORTANT SKILLS

Background knowledge in general biology, hydrology, and botany, specialization in plant identification, statistics, strong writing skills, and outdoor and wilderness skills.

## EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree

## SALARY RANGE

\$25,000 - \$50,000

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Flow meter, temperature loggers, quadrats, filters and pumps, microscope, planet ID books, and photosynthetic active radiation meters.

"It's research like mine that helps shape practices used to restore salmon habitat or even how much state money should go to conservation efforts. I love being paid to spend a lot of time outside, especially in the summer!" -Marina Hein

