

TYPE OF WORK

In my job, I work with others to measure water quality in creeks and rivers to make sure the water provides a healthy environment for salmon and other fish.

Joel Green
Water Quality Biologist
Hoh Indian Tribe
Natural Resources Department



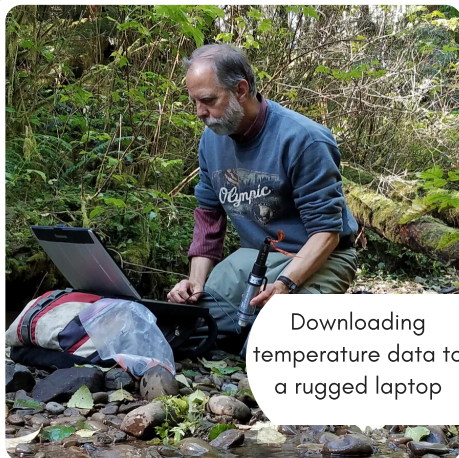
Water Quality Biologist



TYPICAL DAY: My job is partly working outside and partly working in my office. When I get to work in the morning, I say "hi" to everyone and we decide who is going to work together that day. We gather equipment and supplies and head to our temperature monitoring site. It might take 40 minutes to drive there. Then we park, walk through the woods, and wade through the creek until we get to where the temperature logger is installed. We take a reading, and, if the temperature logger is in good shape, we may reinstall it in the creek. We get to four or five sites a day.

CAREER PATHWAY:

When I was a kid, I decided I wanted to help protect the natural world somehow. Then in college, I decided to major in biology since I like to learn about how things work in the natural world. After I graduated with my Bachelor's degree, I worked for a whole year as an environmental specialist and then went to a university for more studying and working as a research assistant. Since then, I have worked as a fisheries biologist and also taught science classes at colleges.



Downloading temperature data to a rugged laptop

IMPORTANT SKILLS

To be a water quality specialist or biologist, it's important to have knowledge about math and science, be able to read and understand what you're reading and also have good writing skills.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree

SALARY RANGE

\$25,000 – \$50,000

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

I use computers, GPS, water quality meters, waders, boots, and a good old hammer. My favorite tool is a water temperature logger -- only 2' long and can measure temperature every half an hour for five years!

"I love to work outside in beautiful settings. I enjoy the conversations with my co-workers. It's satisfying to know that water quality information we are gathering could help protect the fish." – Joel Green