



Kirsten peacefully contemplating the Chehalis River

TYPE OF WORK
I coordinate efforts to restore and protect salmon habitat in the Chehalis River Watershed. Every day is different and exciting!

Kirsten Harma
Watershed Coordinator
Chehalis Tribe



Watershed Coordinator



TYPICAL DAY: Most of the time, I work at my computer, answering questions over the phone and email, or I facilitate conversations at group meetings. Every now and then I get to go out and see locations for potential salmon habitat restoration or protection projects. A lot of what we look for are undersized culverts (the pipes that go under roads) that don't allow adult and juvenile fish to move up and down the river. I spend a lot of time providing constructive ideas on how we can get funding, how to communicate the benefits of our work, and how to collaborate.

CAREER PATHWAY:

My career path started with a project I worked on during my senior year of high school. I wanted to understand what was polluting a creek running by my house. My research led me to understand the concept of a "watershed" and I have been working to improve watershed health ever since!



Chehalis River floodplain

IMPORTANT SKILLS

General environmental science, fisheries biology, restoration techniques, creating and tracking a budget, project management, communications skills, and community planning.

EDUCATION

Master's Degree

SALARY RANGE

\$50,000 - \$75,000

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Computer with GIS and Microsoft Office - especially Word and PowerPoint.

"I love that I get to use my science knowledge and my "soft" skills of working with people to build collaborative relationships to improve fish passage and create healthy wetlands that are protected in perpetuity." - Kirsten Harma