



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