



Holding a Western Painted Turtle that we caught at one of our wetland sites

TYPE OF WORK

I conduct various amphibian and reptile surveys in wetlands and rivers, as well as analyze CT scans for shell disease in Western Pond Turtles.

Lameace Hussain
Scientific Technician 3
*Washington Department
of Fish & Wildlife*



TYPICAL DAY: A typical day consists of walking or kayaking rivers and streams looking for stream associated amphibians and western toads. We look for egg masses as well as individuals in order to assess population numbers in the Chehalis River Basin. When I'm not in those systems, I'm doing wetland surveys looking for still-water breeding amphibians, fish, and mammals who may be utilizing those wetlands. I also work on the Western Pond Turtle shell disease project, evaluating the severity of shell disease in turtles here in Washington. Occassionally, I help out with snake projects.

CAREER PATHWAY:

I've been playing with frogs and snakes since I was a kid. I never saw biologists who looked like me so it never dawned on me that I could be a biologist. I've always gravitated towards amphibians and reptiles because of how they are perceived by humans. They are often vilified by humans out of fear and misinformation. When I finally realized I could be a Herpetologist, I knew that's where my heart was. I thoroughly enjoy studying these cool creatures, sharing them with the public and emphasizing their importance in our ecosystems.



Holding a large female garter snake

IMPORTANT SKILLS

Comfort traversing landscapes in various weather conditions, a background in aquatic organisms, typically at least 2 years of professional experience in this field

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree

SALARY RANGE

\$25,000-\$49,999

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

IPads, various ArcGIS programs, densimeters, other smaller tools to evaluate the habitat, kayak

"I love going into places that no one else gets to see. Flipping a rock or a log and finding a small little golden salamander is sort of like finding buried treasure." - *Lameace Hussain*