



Kim holds a baby cougar on the Olympic Peninsula

Kim Sager-Fradkin
Wildlife Biologist
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

TYPE OF WORK

Exploring wildlife response, removing the Elwha dams, and contributing to tribal subsistence harvest activities by monitoring elk, deer, and the predators that rely upon them.

Created by Michael Aranda

8th Grade, STEM-X Student, Stevens Middle School, Port Angeles



TYPICAL DAY: My work varies day-to-day from sitting in the office preparing grant applications, writing reports, or managing budgets, to slogging through a steep, wet forest trying to capture and collar a mountain lion. We also deploy cameras to document the wildlife in the Peninsula.

CAREER PATHWAY:

I learned about wildlife biology as a career from a college catalog. When I learned that I could actually STUDY animals for a living, I was sold. I started in the wildlife program at Humboldt State University in northern California, and my first job involved chasing bears out of campgrounds in Sequoia National Park. After graduating, I spent 7 years working across the western United States, from radio-tracking small seabirds off the coast of California, to helping Olympic National Park start a bear management program. Later, I received a Master of Science degree from the University of Idaho and then settled into a job at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, where I have been for 12 years.



Kim uses collars to track fawns

IMPORTANT SKILLS

The ability to solve problems and reason in abstract & quantitative ways
Plan & do investigations
Analyze & interpret data
Write clearly & coherently

EDUCATION

Master's Degree

SALARY RANGE

\$50,000-\$74,999

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

GPS unit
Radio-tracking gear
Radios for communication
Map and compass
Cameras

"I love getting to see places and do things that most people don't get to! It's amazing to spend days outside, exploring and learning about the natural world."