

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

A career as a fish and wildlife officer

Meet Courtney Nasset

Officer Courtney Nasset grew up hunting and fishing. She was fortunate enough to spend a lot of "quality time" outdoors with her father. During one of their hunting trips, she had a positive encounter with a wildlife officer.

This moment stuck with her and in 2013 when she graduated from Central Washington University with a degree in law and justice she saw the show, "Rugged Justice" and knew fish and wildlife police was the career path for her.

Years later, she describes it as, "the greatest job ever."

According to Officer Nasset, fish and wildlife officers protect the natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Whether it's bird watching or hunting, officers prevent poaching and enforce rules and laws set in place to keep species' populations sustainable.



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Currently, Nasset is stationed out of Ellensburg. She said her job duties vary considerably depending on the time of year. Some seasons she patrols hunting and fishing areas and checks tags while other times of year she addresses a bear going through people's garbage. "Days are not the same and I never know what to expect," she said.



Her favorite part of the job is getting to be outside every day and having the opportunity to interact with fellow community members. "On days when I get endless calls about poaching, I remember how excited kids are when they get their first hunt or fish and that feeling reminds me why this job is the greatest. We work to keep those opportunities alive."

For those interested in becoming an officer, Nasset recommends getting to know people within the department and volunteering as soon as you can. She feels the more experience and networking you can do, the more successful you will become.



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