



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 · 360 902-2200 · TDD 360 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, Olympia, WA

January 29, 2025

The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Jessica Ostfeld as a candidate for The Evergreen State College's Master of Public Administration program.

Jessica Ostfeld started at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in November 2022 as the European Green Crab Outreach Specialist and was most recently promoted to Statewide Outreach Coordinator in January 2024, a position within the Community Partnerships and Outreach unit.

As Jessica's supervisor, I've had the opportunity to watch Jessica establish herself as a true resource for program and regional staff throughout the agency and excel in her new role. Jessica has supported staff participating in outreach activities, such as provide outreach and event guidance, develop resources and materials, and offer consultation for staff when interacting with the public. Through a lens of inclusion and belonging, Jessica continues to make improvements to outreach efforts to ensure every Washingtonian feels invited to recreate on Washington's landscapes. Her commitment to serving the public has made her an asset to the team and made the agency's services more equitable and accessible. Her ability to strategically assess problems and fill in gaps has been significant to her success thus far. Jessica has made improvements to large Department events, making them more effective and impactful for Washington's communities. When representing the Department, Jessica makes people feel welcome and respected and leads with kindness and empathy, making her an excellent ambassador for WDFW.



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Jessica often works in team settings with members from our work unit and others across the agency. She possesses excellent skills in collaboration and working with others. When navigating spaces with disagreement, Jessica handles herself professionally and respectfully. Her skills in communication and active listening often lead to resolving an issue or conflict.

I'm impressed by Jessica's commitment to advancing her professional development. Jessica often utilizes trainings and workshops within the Department to deepen her established skills and refine her strengths. Some areas Jessica and I have identified as areas of growth include project management, change management, and budget. Jessica has also sought out external opportunities to grow as a professional, including Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow, a professional development program designed to improve natural resource professionals, and workshops through the International Association for Public Participation, a national organization recognized in best practices for community engagement and public participation.

I believe Jessica is an excellent candidate for Evergreen's Master of Public Administration program. Her drive, passion, and professional experience at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have prepared her for the challenges and opportunities presented in environmental and public policy management. I highly recommend her for your program.

I look forward to watching Jessica grow as a professional in state government and leader within the natural resources field. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Deedee Orr

Deedee Orr
Community Partnerships and Outreach Lead
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife