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Application for Masters of Environmental Studies - Statement of Purpose  
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The MES program at Evergreen aligns with my educational and professional objectives to further my career in natural resources until retirement and successfully promote into senior management. After retirement, I want to serve as a part-time museum director, teacher of cultural ecology and records and information management, and travel.

The MES is part of a dual program in which pieces I need for my education exist at two different schools, being Evergreen and Central Washington University. The Master of Cultural and Environmental Resources Management at CWU has a stronger cultural resources program, but Evergreen has the Longhouse and Indigenous Arts Campus. Evergreen also offers many other classes I need for my research, such as GIS. Also, I am in Olympia; Evergreen is in Olympia; CWU is Ellensburg.

During my 33 years with the departments of Natural Resources (DNR), Ecology and Transportation. I've gained a deep, holistic knowledge of Washington State government, cultural and environmental management in the big picture, the detailed programs, and their history. I can analyze and critically think how they fit together, from the Enabling Act down through the bills proposed for this legislative session. As the Internal Policy Administrator at DNR, I help agency staff outline how humans are using their environment in our policy and procedure manual.

My bachelor of arts degree from Evergreen emphasizes anthropology/cultural ecology and records and information management. I also completed the Prior Learning from Experience Program. As a Certified Records Manager, I earned my latest cycle of continuing education credits by volunteering at the Mason County Historical Society. There, I process all their accessions, inventory, package, and organize records and artifacts. Serendipitously, I learned how well public education campaigns work; proof the fires can be put out before they start, is in the records. Mason County is where the nation's Keep Green Movement was born, the only sustained yield harvest agreement between federal and

private land existed, and why there's a Mason County Forest Festival. All important in cultural ecology.

I want to further my research in cultural ecology and pursue my passion projects, like human migration and the peopling of North America, climate change, and I found a unique upland cultural resources site on Kennedy Creek. Without doing any digging, I developed a cultural ecology profile that looks like this place was a summer camp and fiber processing center. I have many questions. What were people doing here? *Who* were the people who came to the Americas? How can we educate people that history is relevant today, and that humans can drive climate? I feel like some of these papers are mostly written and I need more research and resources to finish them. I'm looking for a community where I can talk about this with like-minded people.

My thesis will be about how the *Salmon People* brought humans to the Americas. The story is coming together using existing science, DNA, culture studies, oral histories, language, dogs and more, and it's relevant today because these people are still here fighting to save their culture. Working at Evergreen, with the Longhouse is important because like Kennedy Creek, they're on Squaxin land.

While exploring the cultural resources site on my property, I want to develop a partnership with multiple Tribes. Finding a feasible indigenous field archaeology school, let alone turning this site into a project, is proving to be difficult and seems to be turning into a project in itself. This makes it an excellent opportunity for collaboration between Evergreen, the Longhouse Community and CWU.

I'll work as much as possible from Olympia, due to my job and I'm a homeowner with a cultural resources site to explore *here*. I'll blend my work with a combination of approaches: attend Evergreen, remote learning, work independently, challenge classes, write essays/give presentations, or earn credits for experience or projects. I will also commute to Ellensburg for research and program requirements.

My references will demonstrate I am a mature adult with the ability to complete high-quality work products independently under limited/general direction. My Prior Learning from Experience binder is a good example of my work on file at Evergreen. I also have my boss' support.