202410_GR_G **Application Not Verified** Iteration Name: Application: Grad Program Applying To: MES Program Name: MES Recommendation Information PhD Recommended By: Carri LeRoy Recommenders Title: Recommenders Institution: **Evergreen State College** Rosemary York Contact Name: I do not waive my right to Recommendation Waiver Waive Access to review this recommendation. Choice: Recommendation Ltrs: Recommendation Form Recommendation Status: Received Submitted: Received Date: Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant 03/09/2023 01:44 PM without reservation. Recommendation Type: General Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109176182 Josephine Bernier Recommendation Owner: Recommender Form Questions How long have you known Applicant ability as applicant: self-directed learner: Time since last contact with Applicant as productive applicant: member of group: Relationship with Applicant: Applicant most significant strengths: Ability to complete rigourous Responsibility/reliability: grad program: Communication Skills - Oral: Communication skills written: Service Ability to work independently: Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Ability to handle stress: Ability to think critically: Ability to analyze/problem Ability to think creatively: solve: Openness to feedback: Potential for leadership: Personal/professional Ability to work in a team: reflection: **Description Information**

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Other Information

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March 8, 2023

Master of Environmental Studies Program The Evergreen State College

Dear Graduate Selection Committee:

I am pleased to submit a strong letter of recommendation for Rosemary York as an applicant for the Master of Environmental Studies Program at The Evergreen State College. I am a member of the faculty at Evergreen in the Environmental Studies Program and I have known the applicant for six months. The applicant has done strong academic work in an upper division program, including proficiency in GIS, statistics I & II, biogeochemistry, ecophysiology, and forest ecology. This program, in combination with an AA in International Relations, a BA in Anthropology and Foreign Linguistics, and extensive and diverse life experiences makes the applicant an excellent candidate for this graduate program.

The Evergreen State College is one of the oldest experimental colleges in the US. Most student learning takes place in 16-credit interdisciplinary courses with several faculty co-teaching overlapping material from multiple disciplines. I know the applicant through an intense, full-time (16-credit), interdisciplinary course called "Temperate Rainforest Biogeochemistry and Ecophysiology." The applicant did very strong work in the program, both individually and in group research settings.

In the Forest Ecology and Biogeochemistry sections of the program, the applicant did excellent work on exams. The applicant worked to improve demonstration of knowledge and engagement in seminars evaluating published books and scientific journal articles over the two quarters. Theoretical work was paired with learning advanced field and laboratory methods for forest science and biogeochemistry and students were asked to apply techniques for measurement of forest carbon and soil carbon dioxide efflux in long-term research plots, compiling those measurements into a forest carbon budget. The applicant's work in our regular field labs (which evaluated data integrity and critical analysis) was very good. The applicant's final presentation on carbon flux in a long-term forest measurement plot was excellent.

A research proposal completed in fall quarter allowed students to apply their learning in forest ecology and biogeochemistry proactively, while deepening their learning in a specific area of forest ecology. The applicant's research group completed a nice proposal on the influences of a legacy of wildfire on temperate forest soil biogeochemistry. The group did particularly detailed work on a literature review describing the potential influences of wildfires on soil chemical characteristics, methods describing their sampling and analysis techniques, and they did excellent work in GIS to choose potential field sites that span 100 years of burn history. The applicant's final presentation on this group research proposal was complete and professional.

The applicant learned basic and advanced statistical and spatial data analysis methods in this program. By the end of this quarter, the applicant will have learned to calculate descriptive statistics, understand probability and probability distribution functions, perform parametric statistical tests (Student's t-tests, Chi-square tests, analysis of variance (ANOVA), simple linear regression, multi-way ANOVAs, ANCOVA), permutative statistics (permutative ANOVA), multivariate statistics

(permutative MANOVA, NMS ordination), and meta-analysis using several statistical software packages (JMP-in, PAST, Excel). The applicant will apply what they have learned in GIS and statistics in a final research projects at the end of this quarter.

The research experience the applicant participated in this program at Evergreen will allow them to jump directly into a graduate degree program. The applicant has independent and group experience in the field, in data analysis, in group collaboration, and in both written and oral communication. The applicant has the intelligence and resolution to do strong work at the graduate level, with effective communication and a professional manner. Rosemary York would be an excellent candidate for this graduate program and I support this application whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,

Carri J. LeRoy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor (Member of the Faculty)

Environmental Studies Program

The Evergreen State College

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