

Reno Buchanan

Statement of Purpose

Ever since I was young I was always infatuated with the outdoors, and when I was younger my family lived in it, in a little trailer in the woods in Graham, where we had few of the amenities that we now have. But those memories are never bad when I remember them, instead I remember exploring the wilderness and the forest, looking at the tadpoles in the creek, the crawdads, and everything in between. If I had to pinpoint a start with my love for the outdoors? It was here, in that childlike wonder.

In much more recent experiences, I am recently out of a BIA watercorps program where I was able to experience quite a few things that I didn't have the chance to outside of it. Some of these things range from hunting for toads at night, to canoeing on a river, and some of which was just cataloging, record keeping, and searching for specific animals while walking around the natural refuge. This really was the experience that really hammered in the idea that I wanted to pursue a degree in environmental studies, the idea of which I was already toying with before I joined that program.

A lot of the work I've done before at Evergreen was interdisciplinary, which generally focused moderately to majorly on the environmental aspects of topics, the most prominent example was my part in, "Removing Barriers: Restoring Salmon Watersheds through Tribal Alliances," By the students of Conceptualizing Place: Pacific Northwest Native Art and Geographies. But that was far from my only choice, I also took ecology, biology, and other courses relating to environmental studies. While I can't say it was always my focus, there was rarely a quarter I didn't do something that could relate to my future Environmental Studies

Master degree.

In my personal life, I am an avid hiker and if I can get away with it, try to go out and do something every weekend in the spring, fall, and summer. Beyond my own recreational activities, I have also participated in the salmon runs on the Duwamish river, both when working for my brother on his fishing boat and even helping out my cousin with processing Salmon for research purposes for his own Masters. During this time I learned how to maneuver and steer a boat, place and pull in nets, and other necessary skills for the Duwamish salmon seasons. From this I became very comfortable on the water, and it helped me learn potentially crucial skills for later use down the line. Because of my time on the water and helping my family, I've learned quite a few things about the river, the salmon runs, and their operations in general and it has led me to believe that this is a place where I might be able to help someday. Maybe it will be at the Fisheries department, maybe it will be with the Wildlife department, but I know that I want to help my community in some way, and this has only furthered my decision to pursue my environmental studies.

It has taken me a long time to come to terms with what I really want to pursue for my Masters, but with my recent experiences and my background I can say with complete confidence that this masters program would be a step in the right direction for my future plans and goals, and is something I can't wait to begin studying and working on.