

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Rose Snyder	Recommenders Title:	Director of Community Engagement
Recommenders Institution:	Point Blue Conservation Science	Contact Name:	Taylor Stephens
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	11/13/2023 10:07 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000112045961	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radius.com
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Other Information

Created Time:	11/02/2023 10:54 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	11/13/2023 10:07 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



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Rose L. Snyder
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November 13, 2023

The Evergreen State College
Master of Environmental Studies Program
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, Washington 98505

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Taylour Stephens for the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. I met Ms. Stephens in the spring of 2019 when she approached me as an undergraduate student attending Sonoma State University to express interest in volunteering on a bioacoustics citizen science research project that I was coordinating at the time, Soundscapes to Landscapes. She joined our field team in May 2019 and I had the pleasure of supervising Ms. Stephens for the next two years while she worked on numerous aspects of the Soundscapes to Landscapes project in both a volunteer and paid capacity.

Although Ms. Stephens started as a field volunteer, deploying and retrieving autonomous recording units on public and private properties across Sonoma County, California, she excelled and it quickly became clear that she had the commitment and drive to take on more responsibility. Ms. Stephens continued to demonstrate a strong work ethic, excellent attention to detail, and a problem-solving mindset as she worked through the summer conducting field work. In the fall of 2019, after the field season completed, Ms. Stephens was eager to learn more about the research and as a volunteer, she began assisting the team with audio analysis identifying bird vocalizations in the recordings. When a temporary paid field coordinator position became available due to my taking a planned medical leave, Ms. Stephens was the clear candidate for the position. Alongside consistently demonstrating genuine interest in learning and growing her skillset, she was reliable, committed, and highly motivated. When the paid position ended after the summer of 2020, Ms. Stephens continued to volunteer on the project until the fall of 2021 helping with various tasks including audio analysis, map making, and strategic communications with volunteers and landowners.

Over the 2 year course of her volunteer work and paid position within the Soundscapes to Landscapes team, Ms. Stephens grew as a leader and gained experience and skills in: project planning and coordination, written and verbal communication, managing and organizing large sets of audio data, analyzing audio data using cloud-based tools, working collaboratively with a team of scientists, and training and leading a team of field volunteers. When the Covid pandemic hit in March 2020, Ms. Stephens was busy preparing for a field season to start in April, including coordinating a team of volunteers. In collaboration with the rest of the project's leadership team, she participated in creating



and executing a new strategy to quickly adapt to the pandemic and still collect field data successfully, despite the change in conditions. As an integral member of the Soundscapes to Landscapes project, Ms. Stephens additionally co-authored a manuscript published in *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, titled "The Soundscapes to Landscapes Project: Development of a Bioacoustics-Based Monitoring Workflow with Multiple Citizen Scientist Contributions" (Snyder et al.; <https://doi.org/10.5334/cstp.391>).

I have continued to stay in touch with Ms. Stephens since she stopped working on Soundscapes to Landscapes in 2021, and over the past three years she has gained ample experience as a professional field biologist in a number of seasonal positions. Through these positions, she has acquired wildlife monitoring experience working with a wide range of taxa, including birds, amphibians, plants, bats, and butterflies. Ms. Stephens has held lead field positions for multiple institutions including Point Blue (on our Northern Sierra field crew), the Chicago Botanic Garden, and Oregon State University, in which she was responsible for the safety and well-being of multiple field crew members, contributed to and maintained large sets of data, and collaborated with non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the general public.

I am thrilled that Ms. Stephens is pursuing graduate studies and I am certain that she will excel in your program, should she be accepted to the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. Having known Ms. Stephens for nearly five years now, I am confident that she has the motivation, drive to learn, and critical real-world research experience that make her an excellent candidate for your program. It was a true pleasure supervising Ms. Stephens for two years during her time at Point Blue and I am excited to witness her growth in the next phase of her education. I strongly endorse her application and would be happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose L. Snyder".

Rose L. Snyder
Director of Community Engagement
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