

Throughout my time at Eastern Washington University, I have been lucky enough to take a wide variety of classes including high-level classes that gave me in-field experience, for example, my Field Botany class that I took allowed me to spend time in the forest keying plants to collect and eventually mount and add to the EWU's herbarium, or in my Environmental Ethics class I hosted and participated in many Philosophical hikes that was open to the public to help teach about certain philosophies and how to help protect and maintain these conservation areas. Throughout my education, I know I am most passionate about conservation biology and restoration ecology.

I have been lucky enough to start helping in EWU's own Prairie Restoration Project, I have been employed at the Seed Increase Garden which is a small garden focused on producing and collecting as many seeds as we can so that we have enough seeds of each species that eventually plant in our 120 acres of the restoration site, I have also helped participate in the preparation of the restoration site. This job has given me many opportunities to know my biology faculty and be able to help research projects about the restoration site. I am also about to travel to Montserrat, a small island in the Caribbean, with the Dean of Biology at EWU, to research the ecology of the Caribbean Sea life. At the same time, in association with Bard College at Simon's Rock, their research facility is in Montserrat. This research will allow me to present at one of EWU's research symposiums and will be published. I think my background of a major and experience in the environmental field along with a minor in philosophy make me a great match for the MES program which mixes both social and natural sciences. Throughout my environmental ethics class, I was one of the only STEM major students and it allowed me to share my scientific knowledge with students who had spent their time in academia learning about

the philosophy and social sciences side. It also gave me time to be able to connect with students who came from a different background and be able to exchange knowledge.

This school offers a completely unique style of education for not only environmental studies but for all types of education. This type of unique style of teaching has always drawn to me since my older cousin attended this school for her undergraduate degree in environmental studies. When I heard the stories of her in the field work and experience she got I was immediately intrigued with how special the education was. As I spent time in the field here at EWU I knew that I wanted to be able to get as much in the field experience and time as I can. Knowing how much this school is able to get their students into the field and have real job experience I would love to be able to continue my education at this university and pursue my interests of restoration ecology and conservation biology.