

Dear Admissions Committee:

I highly recommend that Fey Boss be admitted to your graduate program. This is based on Feys's outstanding academic aptitude and performance, practical experience, research and professional interests.

I had the pleasure of having Fey as a student in a course called Agriculture and Conservation in the Pacific Northwest in 2012-13. This program required students to consider how society values and balances biodiversity conservation with modern agricultural production; which prepared Fey to enter graduate programs in environmental science. Fey consistently took advantage of learning opportunities in field trips, lectures, and workshops through active engagement of the subject material. Her excellent attendance, timely completion of assignments and high quality work demonstrate great persistence and dedication to her studies. Fey also went beyond the basic material by conducting additional research on areas of interest. Her unique ability to see multiple perspectives of important issues will help her achieve her scholastic and professional goals. In the Spring program; Ecology of Grazing and Grasslands in the PNW, Fey demonstrated exceptional comprehension of all major concepts covered in the course. Fey acquired proficient knowledge of livestock grazing systems and grassland ecology. She is able to identify common forage species and assess pasture/rangeland health. Fey can formulate appropriate grazing plans based on available pasture, paddocks, season, and animal nutritional needs. She has an excellent understanding of how to use species-specific foraging behaviors in order to improve habitat. Assigned as an environmentalist, Fey prepared and articulated lucid arguments in a mock debate on public land grazing.

Fey can skillfully review and interpret primary scientific papers from a critical perspective. Fey was one of the more perceptive students in my classes, demonstrating outstanding observational skills on field trips to farms. From an academic perspective, she is definitely ready for graduate work in agriculture, ecology, natural resource management, economics, or environmental policy. Fey has shown an aptitude and interest in doing environmental science research. In 2014, I sponsored an independent learning contract for Fey, where she did a complete data review and synthesis of invasive species (feral swine, nutria, and European green crab) in the Pacific Northwest.

Fey has a unique set of skills that makes her a perfect candidate for the MES program at Evergreen. She is capable of reading relevant scientific studies, but also understands the underlying values that are involved in policies that address environmental issues.

Mike Paros DVM
Member of the Faculty, Biology
The Evergreen State College