

Statement of Interest

I am writing to express my interest in pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at Evergreen State College. With a strong foundation in environmental biology, I am eager to contribute to and grow within your program while addressing pressing ecological challenges.

During my undergraduate studies at Greenville University, I developed a deep passion for understanding species interactions and the impact of climate change on biodiversity. My senior capstone project focused on the effects of climate change on alpine species distribution, where I conducted a comprehensive literature review, synthesized data on species' elevational shifts, and presented findings to peers and faculty. This experience honed my analytical and communication skills, as well as my ability to synthesize complex ecological concepts.

My coursework also included that I design and conduct my own experiment focused on local ecology. For this, I chose to organize and carry out a raptor survey. I documented my findings in a research paper, taking the creative liberties to make my own visuals which included graphs made with Google spreadsheets. This project gave me a solid foundation in experimental design and scientific writing. I did not complete this project alone, recruiting a peer to collaborate with me. This further developed my teamwork and leadership abilities. My love for ecological monitoring was born with this project, deepening my commitment to understanding and preserving biodiversity.

Beyond academics, my coursework included experience working on a project with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program. This allowed me to refine my project management and team collaboration skills. Independently coordinating with venue managers and compiling research on statewide initiatives deepened my appreciation for the intersection of ecological research and community engagement.

I am particularly drawn to the Environmental Studies program at Evergreen because of its emphasis on field-based research and opportunities to collaborate with faculty whose interests align with my own. I am particularly intrigued by Prof. Amy Cook's focus on animal behavior in the field. I am excited about the possibility of working on projects that explore ecology, something that has fascinated me since childhood. My background in hands-on learning and data visualization will enable me to make meaningful contributions.

Looking ahead, my goal is to apply what I learn to conservation efforts, whether through academia or work with environmental organizations. The Evergreen State College's program provides a great environment to refine my research skills, deepen my knowledge, and prepare for a career dedicated to preserving the natural world. In particular, I hope to hone my skills in data analysis and improve my ability to collect raw data from the field, whether through ecological surveys, field experiments, or other hands-on research methods. I am looking to work in the field,

possibly as a forestry technician, wildlife biologist, park ranger, refuge officer, or animal caretaker. Simply put, I want to work directly with nature. Eventually, I am also open to pursuing a doctoral degree in the future and working as a professor. However, as of now, I am interested in fieldwork.

Thank you for considering my application. Please feel free to contact me. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the Evergreen State College community.