

I am eager to join the Masters of Environmental Studies program to deepen my understanding of interdisciplinary factors affecting Pacific Northwest ecosystems, particularly within the context of climate change. This program is a perfect fit for me to apply my strong passion for ecology and develop it into the skillset that will enable me to serve the Pacific Northwest. My love for scientific communication is rooted in my interest in empowering individuals from all backgrounds to actively participate in protecting these ecosystems. A graduate degree is essential to effectively engage in meaningful research and contribute to the field of conservation. It will equip me with the advanced analytical skills and understanding of complex social and political issues needed to tackle the challenges facing PNW ecosystems today.

In my career, I plan to focus on Pacific Northwest conservation and restoration efforts. I am particularly interested in collaborating with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund to enhance kelp reforestation, highlighting local conservation efforts through free-lance writing, and designing restoration projects in Seattle's densely populated shoreline communities. I am most inspired by projects that have a tangible benefit to the health of Puget Sound. A critical aspect of conservation is community engagement. I aspire to organize beach cleanups that educate participants about the PNW ecosystem and inspire young children to engage with their environment by advocating for ecology curricula in schools. The Masters in Environmental Studies program perfectly combines my interests in research and storytelling with a more integrative understanding of factors influencing bioregionalism.

I have selected the Evergreen program because of its esteemed faculty and interdisciplinary design. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I was inspired to explore research through a scientific communication lens. My interest in combining scientific discoveries with my innate curiosity and desire to inspire others led me to write for FieldNotes. I spent three quarters writing for the journal and one of those as Editor-in-Chief. During that time, I engaged with various researchers and learned about their passions and the impacts of their projects on conservation efforts worldwide. This experience solidified my commitment to research and scientific communication and taught me how to effectively convey complex scientific ideas to a broader audience. It also made me realize that my passions for ecology extend beyond lab work. The draw I feel towards fieldwork is rooted in my love of being outdoors and observing complex ecological processes occurring right before my eyes. However, my motivation to pursue this master's degree is driven by witnessing the spaces I cherish disappearing, motivating me to learn how to conserve what remains and to seek sustainable solutions for their protection.

My previous jobs have prepared me well for the rigors of a master's degree. After high school, I spent over a year working as head groom at a busy eventing barn where I managed the daily care, training schedules, and rehabilitation programs for clients' horses. I was also responsible for coordinating my boss's schedule at competitions, ensuring her horses were prepared for rides, managing their care throughout the day, and assisting clients- all while personally competing as well. This experience taught me to work quickly under pressure, stay organized, effectively communicate needs and expectations to various people, and keep moving through difficult situations.

I am excited about the opportunity to broaden my understanding of social, political, and ecological factors of climate change and inspire others to seek opportunities to do the same. The outdoors has always been special to me—it's where I go to find peace and solitude, where I push myself and remind myself I am capable of anything, and where I find the most joy in my days. I have always felt a responsibility to care for the nature around me. Much of the discourse around environmental issues is displayed in a negative, fear-based way. My goal is to shine light on the grassroots local organizations and the hopeful ways in which people are fighting for change all around us because, in order to be engaged in conservation in a sustainable way, we have to focus on action instead of allowing ourselves to be bogged down by constant bad news. I want to highlight the progress environmentalists are making behind the scenes and how everyone can get engaged. I have found a lot of inspiration in Native voices in how we can more equitably and effectively protect and conserve these lands we inhabit. It is our job to uplift these voices to find solutions for a sustainable and equitable future.