

My passion for environmental studies is deeply rooted in a commitment to stewardship, sustainability, and inclusive science. I am bringing over five years of hands-on experience in environmental research, public education, and community engagement, and a lifetime of love for our natural world. I am now seeking a graduate degree in Environmental Studies to build upon this foundation, advance my technical and policy knowledge, and contribute more effectively to science-informed decision-making that supports both ecological integrity and social equity.

My academic journey began with an undergraduate degree in Multidisciplinary Studies from Western Washington University, a program that emphasized interdisciplinary inquiry and field-based learning. This degree path gave me the opportunity to dual major in both environmental science and studies tracks, with a minor in women and gender studies. Through coursework and collaborative projects, I developed a strong foundation in ecological principles, environmental policy, and data analysis. This academic background shaped my systems-thinking approach and reinforced my commitment to applying science in service of public interest.

Professionally, I have had the privilege of working across multiple sectors on a diverse range of ecological and community-driven initiatives. I started out as a Fisheries Technician for The Salmon Center in Belfair, Washington in 2020. This was there I found my love for Pacific Lamprey. I have carried that through side passion projects as I have navigated my career path through various government roles. I am now an Environmental Project Manager for The Washington State Department of Transportation, working on fish passage projects. My role ensures NEPA, SEPA, ESA, and Section 106 compliance on fish passage projects from scoping through post construction monitoring.

One of my most formative experiences was working as a Fish Passage Technician for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife shortly after I completed my undergraduate degree. I had the fortunate experience of being able to travel all over Washington state, surveying culverts and subsequent streams for restoration work. I have carried that boots-on-the-ground experience with me throughout my career.

While I thoroughly enjoy exercising the scientific part of my brain, I would like to reiterate my consistent commitment to public service and education. I have developed interpretive programming for public lands, led environmental education efforts through Shore Friendly Kitsap and Kitsap Salmon Tours, and am an advocate for Traditional Ecological Knowledge. I thrive in roles that connect people to place, whether that means leading a field workshop on native fish species or helping communities understand complex environmental regulations. These experiences have shown me the power of narrative and knowledge-sharing in driving conservation outcomes.

Seeking a graduate degree now is a natural next step. I am eager to deepen my understanding of environmental policy, climate adaptation, and community-based resource management. I am particularly interested in research that bridges Western science and Indigenous methodologies, and I hope to work on projects that advance environmental justice and co-management practices. My long-term goal is to work in an interdisciplinary leadership role—within a tribal agency, government, or academic institution—where I can facilitate collaboration between agencies, scientists, and local communities in restoring ecological health and resilience.

The Environmental Studies graduate program aligns perfectly with my goals because of its emphasis on applied research, systems thinking, and social-environmental integration. I am excited about the opportunity to learn from faculty whose work intersects with conservation biology, Indigenous studies, and environmental governance. Moreover, I bring with me a strong set of professional skills in data analysis, GIS, stakeholder engagement, and project management—tools I hope to sharpen further through graduate study.

I would be remiss if I did not address, in some capacity, my journey to get to where I am. I was born into poverty with parental figures that were uninterested in my future. For many years, I struggled to make ends meet – experiencing homeless, abuse, and alcohol addiction through my later teens and early twenties. This education, this work, and this natural world – has led me to peace. In turn, I will forever protect and advocate for the spaces that gave me my life back.

In conclusion, my professional, personal, and academic journey has prepared me well for graduate-level environmental studies. More importantly, it has instilled in me a sense of responsibility to contribute meaningfully to the environmental challenges of our time—challenges that demand not only scientific expertise but also empathy, humility, and partnership. I am ready to embrace this next step in my journey and would be honored to contribute to and grow within your program.