

Michael Mowry

Statement of Purpose

When I was a child, I distinctly remember a presentation made at an elementary school assembly by the Lower Colorado River Authority about the hydrologic cycle, and how it impacts the land, ecosystems, and our society. I also learned about the ways that people had done great damage to each of these systems, and their potential to restore them through better stewardship of water resources. That day, a fire lit inside of me, and I knew that I would someday be of service to humanity through service to the environment.

In high school I was Vice President of our school's chapter of Key Club International. One of our most frequent partners was Keep Austin Beautiful, with whom we organized events to clear trash from the Colorado River and along riparian zones. These experiences deepened my connection with the river, and showed me in very concrete terms the extent of the damage that had been, and continues to be, done to it.

I went on to college, with the intention of equipping myself with the knowledge and tools to fix the issues I had observed in Austin. In my time at Evergreen, I did excellent work in most of my natural science programs, with my evaluations painting a picture of a student with a brilliant mind for critical thinking, quantitative analysis, and integration of concepts across disciplines. Some also mention difficulty in completing assignments but performing well on tests and quizzes. This is due to destabilizing family issues and then-undiagnosed neurological conditions proved to be obstacles to reaching my highest academic potential in these cases. Later in life, I was able to identify and address these issues such that they do not pose a threat to my academic achievement in this program. In fact, I believe that having lived through those trials will only serve to galvanize my resolve toward achieving my goals in this program.

In my last two years at Evergreen, I chose to pursue programs that focused on audiovisual technology, as my natural proclivity for systems-based analysis and attention to

detail made it easy for me to excel in that field. After graduating I found success in this career path, though I had often felt the growing pangs of a spiritual misalignment in the jobs I had been taking to such an extent that I can no longer deny it. Namely, that I must seek a life of stewardship to the Earth if I am ever to bring myself into alignment with personal values. Toward this end, I am committing myself, body and mind, to helping repair the environment so that future generations can enjoy a world with stable and balanced ecological and environmental systems.

I believe that my best chance at attaining this goal is through disciplined study with a cohort of like minded individuals. As such, I hope to use the Masters of Environmental Studies program to gain a deeper understanding of hydrologic principles and land management practices so I can apply them toward the restoration of water systems in our region, and across the world.