

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Joseph Albrecht  
Recommenders Institution: Washington Native Plant Society  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Native Plant Stewardship Coordinator

Contact Name: Carrie Smith

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 03/02/2025 03:57 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121734721

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 01/28/2025 07:10 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 03/02/2025 03:57 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

**Joseph H. Albrecht**

Coordinator, Native Plant Stewardship Program  
Washington Native Plant Society  
Gig Harbor, Washington 98332  
360-850-3262 | PugetSoundStewards@wnps.org

March 2, 2025

**Carri LeRoy**

Director, Master of Environmental Studies (MES)  
Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia, WA 98505

**Subject: Strong Support for Carrie Smith's Admissions Application**

Dear Carri,

I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support for Carrie Smith's application to the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) Program at Evergreen State College. Carrie is an analytical thinker, an excellent communicator, and a deeply committed individual with a genuine passion for environmental health and community well-being. I am confident Carrie has the skills, determination, and potential to thrive in Evergreen's MES program and make significant contributions to our collective efforts to protect and restore the natural ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.

I have had the privilege of serving alongside Carrie since September 2024 in a collaborative project between the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS), Washington Department of Natural Resources, the City of Federal Way, and a diverse group of volunteers dedicated to promoting the importance of native plant restoration in urban parks. Throughout this time, Carrie has impressed me with her ability to quickly learn new material, process and think critically about new concepts, and challenge norms to seek greater clarity for collective growth and learning.

Throughout the WNPS Master Native Plant Stewardship Program, Carrie demonstrated a strong aptitude for native plant identification by applying deductive reasoning and empirical evidence. She consistently asked insightful questions and enthusiastically engaged with course material and presenters. Her eagerness to explore underlying patterns in plant morphology and ecosystems reflects her curiosity and commitment to mastering new material. Carrie excelled in all program evaluations. Whether native plant identification, ecological fundamentals, or restoration principles, Carrie excelled in exercises that required both critical analysis and the synthesis of presented materials develop actionable strategies.

During our WNPS Program, restoration teams were tasked to develop restoration plans for assigned management units in one of Federal Way's city parks. As a program manager and trained architect, Carrie brought organization, vision, and clarity to her team's work. Her restoration team's plan was easily the best of five submissions. By conducting a sound assessment of existing environmental and cultural factors, available resources, and sponsor goals, her team produced a clear, well-structured plan that effectively translated a complex set of variables and data into a cohesive and actionable strategy.

Carrie is fully committed to applying her skills and experiences to further conservation efforts in our communities. She is proactive in seeking opportunities to learn and to serve, including volunteer work with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, completion of a "winter twig" plant identification class, and other conservation efforts with the WNPS. Notably, her volunteer service with the WNPS at Steel Lake Park in Federal Way — a location more than two hours from her home — speaks to her dedication to environmental conservation and her willingness to go above and beyond in her efforts.

Carrie's critical thinking, analytical skills, excellent written and verbal communication, and her ability to interpret available data will contribute to her success in the Master of Environmental Studies Program at Evergreen State College. Her steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and her ability to engage and inspire others make her an ideal candidate for this opportunity. I strongly support her application, and I am confident she will excel in the MES program and continue to make a positive impact in the field.

Sincerely,

Joe Albrecht