



March 7, 2025

Graduate Program  
Evergreen State University

I would like to recommend **Kestrel Thompson** for the Master's program in Environmental Studies at Evergreen State University. I have known Kestrel since September 2022 when they took my course *Oceanography Laboratory* (ESCI 322). Kestrel also took my course, *Topics in Marine Ecology* (ESCI 432), a course based on readings from the primary scientific literature. Kestrel performed well in both courses. They received a B+ in *Oceanography Laboratory* and an A in *Topics in Marine Ecology*. In these courses, they demonstrated a keen interest in learning and genuine enthusiasm for science. They can read, understand and discuss topics from the primary literature. They also demonstrated good research and writing skills as well as original thinking through written assignment.

Kestrel has been motivated to care for the environment since they were young. They performed well as a student at Western while concurrently working outside the classroom. This indicates the kind of discipline and time-management skills necessary to succeed in graduate school. I think that the training they received at WWU has prepared them well for pursuing a graduate degree in environmental studies. I have not observed Kestrel in a research setting, nor have I observed them performing independent field work. However, I think Kestrel is fully capable of identifying a research project for a master's thesis and they are capable of carrying out the work.

Sincerely,



**David Shull**

Professor

Dept. Environmental Sciences  
Western Washington University  
phone: 360-650-3690  
email: david.shull@wwu.edu,

College of the Environment  
Bellingham, WA 98225-9181  
fax: 360-650-7284  
web: <http://myweb.facstaff.wwu.edu/shull/>