

Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Cynthia Easterson

Recommenders Title: Project Manager/Board of Directors

Recommenders Institution: Puget Sound Bird Observatory

Contact Name: Mason Wiggins

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 02/22/2025 12:24 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121771290

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

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

Description:

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

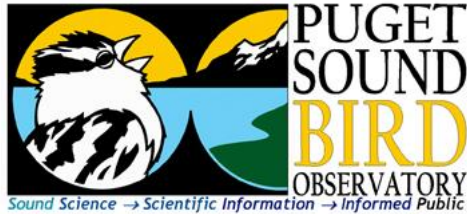
Other Information

Created Time: 02/05/2025 04:18 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 02/22/2025 12:24 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



PUGET SOUND BIRD OBSERVATORY

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February 22, 2025

TO: Whom it May Concern
Graduate Admissions
The Evergreen State College
Master of Environmental Studies Program

FR: Cynthia G. Easterson, Board of Directors/Project Manager
Puget Sound Bird Observatory
Email: c_easterson@pugetsoundbirds.org
Phone: 425-876-1055

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Mason (May) Wiggins for Graduate Admission

I am delighted to recommend Mason (May) Wiggins as a candidate for The Evergreen State College's Master of Environmental Studies Program (Evergreen MES Program). I firmly believe that admitting May to this program would be an asset to your institution. Not only would you gain a highly skilled and dedicated learner, but you would also engage with a thoughtful and principled human being.

As a field biologist, I provide project design, management, and data analysis oversight on a wide range of avian monitoring projects for Puget Sound Bird Observatory (PSBO). May has served as field biologist across several of our avian monitoring programs for a little over a year. He has conducted transect and point count surveys to help establish standard protocols for estuary avian monitoring project and has provided distance sampling/broadcast surveys for PSBO's regional wetland secretive bird survey program. Under any setting, weather conditions, or terrain, May has hit the ground running with admirable skill and intrepidity. I am impressed with his attentiveness to detail and keenness to take on new tasks. He is focused and observant of protocol requirements while keeping the overall goals of the project top of mind.

I have always been impressed with May's communication skills, particularly his written work. He writes with an efficient but thoughtful elegance, and with a respect that seems too often lacking in today's 'send and respond' world. He has a skilled ability to craft a narrative that expresses his message with a mature respect for the reader or recipient. May has always struck me as thoughtfully quiet or reserved in his verbal communication but his ability to listen, to take in comments, instructions, and information is superb and a valuable component of the give and take in verbal communication.

Most of May's work for PSBO involved data collection and documentation for use in analysis of avian population trends and abundance. I am confident in his ability to comprehend the importance of his role in following strict protocols to ensure scientifically robust results during the analysis phase of these projects.

In assessing May's aptitude for critical thinking, I have observed the qualities of curiosity and awareness but with just enough skepticism to evaluate information and determine its relevance. In many respects his consideration and decision to apply to the Evergreen MES Program showed evidence of this thought process. Recognizing that his current opportunities were not achieving the goals he set in life, he began to research career paths and continuing education opportunities. He reached out to mentors to gather advice and spoke with other professionals in his desired field as well as current graduate students to fully assess how further education might help him achieve his desired goals.

However, the character quality that I most admire in May is his connected relationship with the natural world. Even after repeated surveys, across the same landscapes, he never loses his sense of awe and appreciation for the space. He seems keenly aware of the privilege we hold to participate in the avian monitoring that we do and finds delight in both the grand and incremental changes discovered across these systems. It is a quality that can't be taught and yet it adds a depth and richness to the experiential knowledge required of this work.

I believe the interdisciplinary learning style of the Evergreen MES Program would be ideally suited to May. He is self-motivated, self-disciplined and I believe would be highly successful in a program that combines field studies, internships, and research projects alongside theoretical knowledge to produce innovative environmental leaders. He has the maturity, passion and focus to excel and the intellectual capacity to succeed. I would be happy to provide any additional information in support of his application and can be reached by phone at (425) 876-1055 or by email at c_easterson@pugetsoundbirds.org.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia S. Easterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the end of the letter.