Made Yates

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SUMMARY

Throughout my career and studies in conservation, restoration, and environmental education, I have followed and fostered my lifelong goal of helping protect, restore, and advocate for precious natural spaces. I strive to nurture a sense of appreciation and connection to the landscapes and ecosystems I encounter.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Environmental Science Educator, Education Assistant—*NatureBridge* | 2022-Present

- Using a student-centered approach to lead participants through multi-day, hands-on, experiential and investigative science learning in outdoor settings
- Facilitating scientific inquiry-based learning experiences, including conducting forest plot surveys, water quality investigations, and riparian transect surveys on Barnes' Creek in Olympic National Park
- Cultivating an inclusive learning environment by delivering culturally relevant content that presents multiple perspectives and connects to students' background
- Fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace community by establishing and maintaining respectful, supportive, and compassionate relationships with staff and participants
- Participating in continuous professional development through bi-weekly staff-enrichment seminars, weekly debriefs, field observations, and personal and professional goal-setting

Elwha River Ecosystem Monitoring Community Science — NOAA via Naturebridge | 2022-Present

- > Teach and coach students on collecting high-quality samples for professional research on the ecosystemic impacts of salmon repopulation following dam removal on the Elwha River
- Collect macroinvertebrate, periphyton, and macroalgae samples for isotope analysis, following
 protocols established by principal investigator Dr. Sarah Morely (NOAA)
- Teach students benthic macroinvertebrate identification, coach them on isolating the study species for this investigation, and quality-control all samples
- Design and implement lesson progressions to improve student understanding of the study, including teaching on isotope analysis, marine-derived nutrients, and nutrient cycling through ecosystems

Field Education Instructor (Americorps)—*Teton Science Schools* 2022

- > Developed and implemented thematic, place-based, hands-on field science curriculum and evening programs for multi-day, outdoor learning experiences with a focus on exploration of local natural history, inquiry-based learning, field research, and stewardship & citizen-science projects
- Incorporated program logistics, student interests, teacher requests, NGSS and state science standards and TSS educational framework into instruction; engaged in professional development through weekly debriefs, lesson planning support, and field observations
- Contributed to inclusive work and learning environments through continually developing cultural competency

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Land Conservation Assistant Crew Lead — Walker Basin Conservancy 2021

- Worked with a team restoring highly disturbed agricultural lands through native tree, shrub, forb, and grass planting and invasive species removal
- > Removed invasive plant species using a variety of treatments both mechanical and chemical
- Mapped restoration efforts using ArcGISPro, trained others on use of mapping software
- > Identified a wide variety of plant species in the high desert sagebrush steppe ecosystem
- Collected site data including species inventories, vegetation density, soil type, and more at both restoration and reference sites using specialized AIM protocol
- Collected seeds of native plant populations in reference areas for propagation and planting in restoration sites
- > Aided in the propagation and care of native plants in WBC's native plant nursery
- > Built cattle fences in areas adjacent to restoration sites along the riparian corridor
- > Assisted in the construction and maintenance of irrigation systems in restoration sites

EDUCATION & RELEVANT COURSES

Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach (Costa Rica) - Organization for Tropical Studies | 2024

Became familiar with the local ecology of several research stations in a variety of tropical ecosystems including premontane tropical forest, lowland tropical rainforest, tropical dry forest, wetlands

Las Cruces, La Selva, and Palo Verde Biological Stations, Loma Linda Field Station

- ➤ Gained extensive experience designing and conducting group and individual research projects across a range of tropical ecosystems focusing on research design, statistical analyses, analytical tools for ecological research, and scientific communication and public outreach
- Presented 4 completed research projects to an audience of scientific mentors, peers, and research scientists; submitted multiple revisions and final written reports on each project
- Explored diverse perspectives in ecological research, statistical analyses, and science communication through hands-on activities and research projects facilitated by a diverse array of guest faculty
- Attended lectures about ongoing projects being overseen by scientists conducting research at several biological field stations

University of San Francisco – Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science 2016–2020

- ➤ Minor: English & Creative Writing
- ► Cumulative GPA: 3.78

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- Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List 2016 2020
- Received the 2020 Stanley D. Nel Award for highest overall GPA in graduating class

Methods of Environmental Monitoring – University of San Francisco 2020

- Collaborated with the National Parks Department collecting water quality data from various locations of the Redwood Creek Watershed. Learned extensively about watershed ecology and hydrological processes, as well as restoration efforts and impacts on endangered species populations
- Final project creating a habitat suitability index of the watershed to predict potential habitat for California red-legged frogs using GIS software and data

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Tropical Restoration Ecology (Borneo, Malaysia) — University of San Francisco 2019

- ➢ Focused on riparian restoration, community educational outreach, monitoring of restoration efforts and reference sites, and invasive species management. Studied impacts of oil palm industry on critical habitat for endangered endemic species, local ecotourism efforts, and riparian restoration techniques
- Worked with a team to design and execute a project evaluating the population dispersal of *Cyrtobagous salviniae* introduced by KOPEL into Lake Tungog as a biocontrol agent to help control an extensive infestation of *Salvinia molesta*

Field Botany — University of San Francisco 2019

- Studied California chaparral ecology in depth in relation to California native plants. Examined historical and geological context of the SF Bay Region's unique native plant ecology.
- Became proficient in botanical nomenclature and plant physiology terminology, as well as contributed to the California Academy of Science's herbarium using their specimen mounting procedures

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- > *Scientific Research & Data Collection:* Field surveys, water quality analysis, macroinvertebrate sampling, vegetation data & plant identification
- > *Field Research & Monitoring:* Ecological surveys, restoration monitoring, technical data collection
- > *Technical Proficiency:* GIS (ArcGISPro), statistical analysis (R), Microsoft Office Suite.
- > *Restoration Techniques:* Native species planting, invasive species management, habitat restoration
- > Project Management: Team leadership, project management, training
- > Public Speaking: Scientific research presentations, educational content delivery
- > Educational Program Design: Experiential, place-based, and inquiry-based curricula development
- > Community Engagement & Teaching: Mentoring, inclusive and supportive learning environments
- > Citizen Science: Methodologies, data quality control
- > Cultural Competency: Culturally relevant curricula creation, inclusive education
- Language Skills: Basic conversational Spanish
- > Safety & Emergency Response: Wilderness First Responder, CPR/AED, First Aid

AWARDS RECEIVED

2020 Stanley D. Nel Award

> Award for highest academic achievement in the Environmental Science graduating class

2024 Scholarship from the Organization for Tropical Studies

Received a scholarship of \$9,900 to attend OTS's *Tropical Biology: An Ecological Approach* field course