The MES Program has partnered in several ways with local land trusts. Capitol Land Trust and Nisqually Land Trust in particular, have been great collaborators, and have allowed multiple students opportunities for a variety of research.

Student research and thesis projects:

We currently have two 2nd-year MES students working on thesis research in partnership with Capitol Land Trust (CLT). Both students are interested in the role and opportunities of land trusts in the face of climate change, and see land trusts as valuable contributors to local resiliency, as well as potential leaders in implementing needed adaptation strategies.

**Kale (Albert) McConathy** is using GIS mapping to suggest future tools that CLT may use in making climate change adaptation decisions to their conservation property management plans. Albert’s reasoning for this project is that private land holdings, like those of land trusts, are great opportunities to consider the present and furture impacts of climate change, in organizations that are relatively nimble and can implement management changes on a more efficient time scale than local or state government. Further, Albert’s use of GIS mapping will show projected spatial impacts of climate change on the different holding types (coastal, working lands, watersheds, etc.) that CLT conserves.

**Alexandra James** is using a qualitative approach to investigate conservation strategies and adaptation plans for 25 accredited land trusts in Washington. Through analysis of the land trusts’ mission statements and publically available holding information, as well as interviews with employees of each organization, Alexandra looks to identify the continuity around climate change management strategies, and, as she put it: “reveal one aspect of Washington’s climate resilience.” She has received a variety of support and feedback on her research design from CLT board and staff members.

**Allie Denzler** (MES, 17) completed her thesis at the CLT property Bayshore Preserve in Shelton, WA, where she tested [germination of four estuary species using hydromulching](http://archives.evergreen.edu/masterstheses/Accession86-10MES/Denzler_AMESthesis2017.pdf).

**Sarah Mangum**, a third-year MES student, worked with Nisqually Land Trust to create a Story Map in ArcGIS for her final project in the MES elective Advanced GIS. Her project showed various parcels under NLT’s management and their relation to management areas, major tributaries and other protected areas.

Board and Staff Involvement:

There are currently two MES alumnae on the Capitol Land Trust Board of Directors, **Audrey Lamb** (MES 15) and **Andrea Martin** (MES 13). And **Alexandra James** has also joined the Board as the first Board Fellow, a position created specifically for a college student (graduate or undergraduate) to contribute new perspective to the organization, and to learn about non-profit governance and land trust organizational structure. MES regularly has a presence at the CLT annual Conservation Breakfast.

MES Graduate **Daron Williams** (MES 16) is the Restoration and Public Access Manager for Capitol Land Trust, a position created for him after completing his MES and a [multi-quarter internship with the organization](https://www.evergreen.edu/mes/daron-williams-2016).

MES has also completed volunteer work parties with CLT at Randall Preserve and at Harmony Farms (now the Inspiring Kids Preserve), and we hope to do more in the future.