

June 20, 2005

Matthew McKinney
Public Policy Research Institute
The University of Montana
516 N. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Letter of Intent for the Natural Resources Conflict Resolution Program

Dear Admissions Committee:

I would like to express my intent to apply for the University of Montana's Natural Resources Conflict Resolution (NRCR) Program. Please find my attached application materials, including the following: statement of interest, academic and professional goals, proposed course curriculum, and résumé.

The NRCR is a unique opportunity for me to acquire the tools I will need to achieve my academic and professional goals. Currently, I am a graduate student in the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Resource Conservation. My research interests center on natural resource policy, with an emphasis on the American West and public lands. I am especially interested in natural resource conflict and its impact on rural communities. In my graduate studies, I want to examine nontraditional approaches to conflict resolution, such as collaborative decision-making, deliberative dialogue, and shared learning, that seek to move stakeholders past gridlock to a place where people with diverse worldviews can live and work together in healthy, sustainable communities. In my future career, I would like to continue to live in the West and work for a government resource agency, non-profit organization, or research institution where I can apply the practical lessons I have learned from my graduate experience.

I am excited to participate in the NRCR program and look forward to interacting with other talented and passionate people dedicated to finding sustainable solutions for managing our natural resources. In a region plagued by natural resource disputes, the NRCR program is timely and eagerly anticipated by those of us wishing to make a difference. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily West
1407 Jackson Street
Missoula, MT 59802
emily.west@umontana.edu
406-531-3734

Proposed NRCR Program Curriculum

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Professor	Date
FOR 579	Natural Resources Dispute Resolution	3.00	Matt McKinney	Spring 2005
FOR 573	Advanced Natural Resources Conflict Resolution	3.00	Matt McKinney	Fall 2005
PSC 595	Negotiations	3.00	Bill Corbett	Spring 2006
EVST 565	Public Land & Resources Law	3.00	Ray Cross	Fall 2004
FOR 595	Ecosystem Management	4.00	Jim Burchfield and Jack Ward Thomas	Spring 2005
FOR 424	Social Forestry	3.00	Jill Belsky and Steve Siebert	Spring 2005

Courses in green cells are required courses.
 Courses in white cells are elective courses.

Other Graduate Courses

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Professor	Date

EMILY R. WEST

1407 Jackson Street
Missoula, MT 59802
emily.west@umontana.edu
406-531-3734

EDUCATION

Masters of Science in Resources Conservation (*in progress*). College of Forestry & Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula, MT. August 2004 – Present.
G.P.A.: **4.00**

Bachelor of Arts – Cum Laude. Willamette University, Salem, OR. May 2003.
Major: Politics, *with honors*
Minor: Environmental Science
G.P.A.: **3.84**

Senior Thesis: *Stakeholder Groups, Politics, Power, and Appropriations: Can You Still Build the Puzzle When Pieces Are Missing?* (An analysis of three collaborative watershed groups in Oregon)

Honors/Awards: **2002 Harry S. Truman Scholar**
Willamette University Scholar (four years)
Bob Packwood Scholar (Politics Department)
National Association of Collegiate Scholars
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society
College Honors (four years)
Mortar Board Honor Society
Senior Band Key

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant. The Montana Challenge, USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station and Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. Missoula, Montana. August 2004 – Present.

Truman Fellow (GS7-1). Federal Duck Stamp Office, Division of Bird Habitat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. Arlington, Virginia. August 2003 – August 2004.

- Coordinated the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program, a nationwide K-12 art scholarship contest.
- Conducted research and wrote issues briefs for the Service Director and the Secretary of the Interior.
- Organized working meetings, conducted phone interviews with state wildlife agency officials, and helped craft bill language for legislation authorizing a federal electronic migratory waterfowl hunting license.
- Coordinated special events, documented procedures, and maintained the Duck Stamp Office website.
- Completed projects for various grant programs in the Division of Bird Habitat, including: reports, database maintenance, Federal Register notices, and documentation for the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Training: LED5136 Resolving Complex Environmental Issues with Stakeholders, February 2-6, 2004 (40 hrs.)
TEC 7155 Internet Developers National FWS Workshop – December 2-5, 2003 (40 hrs.)

Truman Fellow (GS7-1). Office of Wildland Fire Coordination, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. May 2003 – August 2003.

- Successfully negotiated a Cooperative Agreement between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), signed by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton on September 25, 2003.
- Revised and edited portions of the USDA Forest Service/Department of the Interior's joint *Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook*.
- Conducted an assessment of progress made on GAO/NAPA recommendations for the National Fire Plan.
- Compiled "Success Stories" and "Lessons Learned" for the National Fire Plan website.

Award: On-the-spot award for work on the IAFC/DOI Cooperative Agreement. December 15, 2003.

Legislative Assistant. Oregon State Senator Jason A. Atkinson. Salem, Oregon. January 2003 – May 2003.

- Legislative process projects: drafted legislation requests, wrote testimony, worked with constituents on legislation ideas, coordinated committee testimony, worked with state agency officials and lobbyists.
- Writing projects: wrote weekly e-mail newsletter (sent to a list of 800+), drafted constituent and official correspondence, wrote briefing papers, and edited speeches, letters, etc.
- Supervised interns.

Vice President, Finances. Associated Students of Willamette University. Salem, Oregon. May 2002 – May 2003.

- Elected by student body to manage student body funds.
- Budget Management: selected and trained a seven-member finance board, supervised a 3-person staff, oversaw the creation of a \$300,000+ budget, worked with student groups to distribute funds, and managed the day-to-day budget operations.
- Served as a member of the four-person Executive Team charged with implementing policy and representing the student body on University boards and at University events.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Writing Consultant. Willamette University Writing Center. Salem, Oregon. December 2000 – May 2003.

Campaign Intern. Oregon Gubernatorial Campaign. Salem, Oregon. Spring 2002.

Biological Science Aid (GS3-1). USDA Forest Service. Klamath Falls, Oregon. Summer 2001.

Legislative Intern. Oregon State Senator Jason A. Atkinson. Salem, Oregon. Spring 2001.

Salesperson. Mountain Valley Gardens (farm/nursery). Klamath Falls, Oregon. Summer 2000, 2001, & 2002.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

Judge/Volunteer. Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program – Montana. January 2005 – Present.

Precinct Committeewoman (elected). Klamath County Republican Precinct Committee. May 2002 – 2004.

Director. Tokyo International University of America/Willamette University Buddy Program. 2002 – 2003.

President (elected). Willamette University College Republicans. August 2001 – September 2002.

Senator (elected). Associated Students of Willamette University. September 2001 – May 2002.

Senate Representative. Finance Board, Associated Students of Willamette University. August 2000 – May 2002.

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). January 2004 – August 2004.

Circle K Volunteer Service Club (a division of Kiwanis International). August 2000 – May 2002.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutor. Bush Elementary. August 2001 – May 2002.

Willamette University Band Council. August 2001 – May 2003.

Willamette University Wind Ensemble, University Band, and Pep Band (Bass Clarinet). August 1999 – May 2003.

American Civil War Era Living History, 1st Oregon/20th Maine Volunteer Infantries. 1994 – 2003.

References Available Upon Request