

July 10, 2017

Matthew McKinney and Shawn Johnson
Co-Chairs of Natural Resource Conflict Resolution Program
The University of Montana
Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812

Re: Letter of Intent

Dear Matthew McKinney and Shawn Johnson:

I am writing to express my interest and intent to seek admission to 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 courses, and résumé.

Through the curriculum of the NRCR Program, I look forward to expanding my current skillset to become a more effective change-maker and collaborative professional. This fall, I am beginning my graduate study in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana. My interest and enthusiasm lies in exploring social vulnerabilities connected to climate change and mining development in the rural Intermountain West. I would like to investigate collaborative and creative partnerships, policy instruments, and non-traditional mediation platforms. I am especially interested in fostering dialogue between indigenous communities and federal agencies to develop holistic, comprehensive climate adaptation and resource extraction plans.

The Intermountain West has become my home and for the past five years, I have explored and strengthened my partnership building skills through work in conservation, education, and large scale policy work in Colorado. I want to continue to live and work here, pursuing opportunities with collaborative community organizations, federal agencies, growing my consulting business, and exploring teaching opportunities.

After sitting-in on a NRCR practicum class this month, I was impressed by the high level conversation and engagement, and knew that I wanted to be part of it. I am deeply excited for this opportunity and feel very prepared to immerse myself in the coursework and applied experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Best,

Sophia Cinnamon

Program of Study for Sophia Cinnamon

Core Requirements, EVST	15 credits (36 credits for degree) blue
Core Requirements, NRCR Program	12 additional credits green (15 credits total)
Other Classes & Credits	9 credits orange

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	Professor	Date
LAW 613	Natural Resources Conflict Resolution	3 NRCR Core EVST Engagement	Shawn Johnson	Fall 2017
NRSM 515	Collaborative Skills for Natural Resource Leaders	3 NRCR Core	Matt, Shawn, others	Spring 2018
EVST 579	Practicum in Collaborative Conservation	3 NRCR Core	Matt McKinney	Fall 2019
LAW 619	American Indian Natural Resource Law	3 NRCR Governance	Monte Mills	Fall 2018
EVST 595	Environmental Justice	3 NRCR Perspectives	Robin Saha	Fall 2017
EVST 519	Foundations of Environmental Change	3 EVST REQUIRED	Neva Hassanein	Fall 2017
EVST 555	Research Methods for Social Change	3 EVST Scientific Approaches	Neva Hassanein	Spring 2018
COMM 575	Rhetoric and Environmental Controversy	3 EVST Policy Approaches	Dr. Steve Schwarz	Fall 2018
JRNL 620	Graduate Honors: Covering Native American Issues	3 EVST Thought & Writing	Not listed	Spring 2019
LAW 595	Economic Development in Indian Country or Environmental Issues of Native Americans	3	Monte Mills Rosalyn LaPier	Spring 2018
EVST 598	Internship OR Ind. Study	3 *possible NRCR Practicum	N/A	Summer 2018
JRNL 592.5	Video Production	3	Not listed	Fall 2018
LAW 654	Public Land Law and Resources Law	3	Michelle Bryant	Spring 2019

Preliminary Schedule

Fall 2017

Natural Resources Conflict Resolution, LAW 613 (3 credits)
Environmental Justice, EVST 595 (3 credits)
Foundations of Environmental Change, EVST 519 (3 credits)

Spring 2018

Collaborative Skills for Natural Resource Leaders, NRSM 519 (3 credits)
Research Methods for Social Change, EVST 555 (3 credits)
Economic Development in Indian Country, LAW 595 (3 credits)

Summer 2018

Internship, EVST 598 (3 credits)*possible NRCR Practicum

Fall 2018

American Indian Natural Resource Law, LAW 619 (3 credits)
Rhetoric and Environmental Controversy, COMM 575 (3 credits)
Video Production, JRNL 592.5 (3 credits)

Spring 2019

Graduate Honors: Covering Native American Issues, JRNL 620 (3 credits)
Public Land Law and Resources Law, LAW 654 (3 credits)
Practicum in Collaborative Conservation, EVST 579 (3 credits)

Environmental Outreach and Partnership Building

Project Coordinator, Western Conservation Foundation, Crested Butte, CO
Fall 2015-Winter 2017

- Developed network of wildland firefighters organized around statewide climate change and renewable energy policies
- Engaged local and state elected officials on climate change issues
- Participated in statewide hearings and drafted statements for Federal Coal Reform and the Clean Power Plan

Wildfire Mitigation and Education Coordinator, West Region Wildfire Council, Gunnison, CO
Spring 2015-Spring 2016

- Worked with collaborative multi-agency stakeholder groups to address wildfire risk on private lands in Gunnison and Hinsdale counties
- Co-managed mitigation projects with the Colorado State Forest Service
- Managed project assistance grant program for private landowners
- Organized regional meetings, events, and developed educational resources

Community Outreach Coordinator, Reel Thing Films, Telluride, CO
Fall 2013-Fall 2014

- Coordinated and developed national screening campaign for environmental documentary, *Uranium Drive-In*
- Identified and cultivated professional and civic partners for rural outreach
- Developed website and online marketing content
- Assisted with grant writing and grant reporting

Education and Outreach Coordinator VISTA EcoAction Partners, Telluride, CO
Fall 2012-Winter 2014

- Planned and organized large-scale community outreach programs
- Developed science standard-based activity book and teacher resource guide for public school greenhouse pilot program
- Designed website, monthly newsletter, and marketing materials
- Assisted with grant writing and fundraising

Conservation Experience

Stewardship Intern, Crested Butte Land Trust, Crested Butte, CO
Spring-Fall 2014

- Prepared monitoring reports and maintained stewardship database
- Assisted with overall property maintenance including: invasive species removal, soil improvements, sign installation and trail improvements
- Researched and compiled data for strategic conservation plan
- Assisted with volunteer and conservation corps management

Sophia Cinnamon

PO Box 2973 Crested Butte, CO 81224 sophia.cinnamon@umontana.edu (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Field Conservation Intern, National Park Service, Capitol Reef National Park
Summer 2012

- Conducted biodiversity health assessment on historically managed lands
- Surveyed for Peregrine Falcons and Mexican Spotted Owls
- Collected and prepared natural resource GPS/GIS data

Field Research Intern, Tipp of the Mitt Watershed Council, Petoskey, MI
Summer 2011

- Conducted riparian invasive species monitoring project in Little Traverse Bay
- Completed kayak-based shoreline vegetation survey
- Created maps and reports for monitoring projects

Environmental and Outdoor Education Experience

Environmental Educator, Rocky Mountain Biological Lab, Crested Butte, CO
Fall 2014

- Organized pre-trip logistics with classroom teachers and staff
- Assisted with lesson plan research and development
- Instructed place-based, environmental science lessons focused on alpine ecology, geology and natural history to 3rd- 7th grade students

Field Instructor, Naturalists at Large, Ventura, CA
Fall 2013-Spring 2014

- Developed and implemented field-based educational programs for 5th-9th grade students in multiple National and State Parks in California
- Provided instruction for LNT, backcountry travel and safety
- Guided school groups on canoe, climbing, and backpacking trips

Watershed Education Coordinator VISTA Watershed Education Program Telluride, CO
Fall 2012-Fall 2013

- Planned and guided daylong, and overnight environmental education field trips grades: 4th-12th with the Watershed Education Program
- Organized and coordinated logistics for field research and data collection sessions for dual accredited, high school science research program
- Developed and taught lessons in alpine ecology, biology, and natural history

Related Skills

- PC-MAC / Adobe Creative Suite / GIS / GPS / MS Office
- Conversational Spanish
- Wilderness First Responder
- Current Red Card
- Grant Writing

Education

Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL) Graduated 2012 B.A. Environmental Studies

Sophia Cinnamon

PO Box 2973 Crested Butte, CO 81224 sophia.cinnamon@umontana.edu (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Civic and Personal Involvement

Crested Butte Search and Rescue Volunteer | Winter 2016-Present

Tipp of the Mitt Watershed Council Volunteer | Winter 2015-Present

Western Hardrock Watershed Team Americorps VISTA | 2012-2013

Access Fund Member | Since 2012