

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee,

I am interested in pursuing a master's degree in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation at Brigham Young University (BYU). I am currently a senior in the program and will graduate in April 2022. I have achieved a 3.93 GPA in my undergraduate studies and a 4.00 GPA in my major classes. Throughout the course of my studies, I have acquired several skills that will help me achieve my academic and professional goals. For example, I have gained proficiency in mammalogy, ornithology, and plant identification through my identification courses. I have also acquired proficient skill in Microsoft Excel through my plant measurement and range classes. I am currently enrolled in a scientific writing class and a Geographic Information System (GIS) class, in which I am acquiring skills pertaining to the entire scientific writing process, from producing maps and figures to writing posters and research papers.

Through my employment opportunities, I have gained valuable research experience in the field. For a semester, I worked in Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab as a research assistant, aiding in sage grouse captures. For over two years, I have been employed in Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab and have helped in several research projects in partnership with the US Forest Service and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)—namely, the study of rare plants and mountain goats in the Tushar Mountains of Utah and the study of Frisco clover and grazing studies at the Desert Experimental Range (DER) in Utah. Through these job experiences, I have learned a lot about plant measurement and research techniques. In the course of my graduate studies, I hope to continue my research in rare plant studies, ungulate studies, and conservation ecology.

I will effectively employ my experience with plant and animal identification, the scientific writing process, and diverse sampling strategies in my graduate project as I collect and analyze data and communicate my findings to the college and the general public. These skills,

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- Commented [2]: "Several skills" seems general. Could you specify? For example, you could say "technical knowledge."
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- Commented [3]: I don't think you need to provide the class abbreviations because you do not provide class abbreviations for previous courses you have mentioned.
- Commented [4]: Generally, the first time an acronym is used in formal writing, it should be spelled out. The abbreviation appears afterwards in parentheses.
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coupled with my good work ethic, will help me make valuable, scholarly contributions to the Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation program.

In the near future, I will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation from BYU and will pursue a master's in the same field. I am also considering pursuing a doctorate degree. After I finish my graduate studies, I hope to graduate with a master's degree from BYU and then work for the U.S. Forest Service as either a wildlife biologist or a forester. A master's degree will prepare me with valuable research and scientific writing experience to succeed in my chosen profession.

As an undergraduate, BYU has strengthened me spiritually and has created a learning environment that has challenged me intellectually. I plan to continue this journey of lifelong learning at BYU by pursuing a master's degree. I hope to work with Dr. [REDACTED] as my research mentor because her undergraduate classes were rigorous and forced me to grow. I have also learned a lot as her research assistant and feel that I will thrive under her continued mentorship.

I anticipate that some setbacks may occur in graduate school as I conduct my research. However, I have had experience in overcoming research setbacks. Last field season, my research partner and I wanted to finish reading four centroids in one day. The hiking was somewhat strenuous, and as the day went on, I noticed that my partner's hiking pace had slowed dramatically. I soon began to worry that we might not achieve our goal. As my frustration mounted, I remembered that my partner sometimes struggled with back and foot pain. I realized that it would not matter how many centroids we read that day if I embarrassed my research partner. People are more important than numbers. I slowed my walking pace to match hers and finished the day with only two centroids completed. But I knew I had done the right thing in supporting my research partner as she struggled to accomplish the day's tasks. The next day, we

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worked longer hours in order to make up for the shortcomings of the previous day. During the course of my graduate studies, I hope to balance preserving professional relationships with performing fieldwork in order to collect quality data while encouraging collaboration and mutual respect.

After reviewing the expectations and requirements of the Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation graduate program, I believe that my experiences and acquired skills highlighted in this letter will make me a valuable asset to the program. Thank you for considering my application. I am excited at the prospect of joining the program.

Sincerely,

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