# Olivia De Stefano

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## EDUCATION

### **Washington State University,** Pullman, WA — *PhD*

August 2025 - Present

Advisor: Dr. Hannah Haemmerli

School of the Environment, Environmental and Natural Resource Sciences PhD Student

Rivers, Watersheds, and Communities NRT Trainee

Research Interests: Collaborative governance, Dam removal politics, Conflict resolution, Adaptive governance

### **Community Engagement in River and Watershed Systems Certificate** (In Progress)

WSU, Expected Fall 2027

Graduate-level training in community-engaged research methods

### **Reed College,** Portland, OR — *B.A.*

August 2021 - May 2025

Advisor: Dr. Chris Koski

Environmental Studies with a concentration in Political Science

Thesis: Dammed If You Do, Dammed If You Don't: The Clash of Coalitions Over the Lower Snake River Dams

## COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AND WORK EXPERIENCE

### **NSF Rivers, Watersheds, and Communities Traineeship,** Pullman, WA

August 2025 - Present

- Selected as an NSF NRT trainee focused on transdisciplinary, community-engaged scholarship addressing complex water, watershed, and community challenges.
- Engage in cohort-based coursework integrating social science, natural science, and policy perspectives on rivers and watersheds.
- Receive advanced training in community-engaged research (CER), including ethical partnership building, co-production of knowledge, and place-based research methods.
- Participate in structured professional development in collaborative research, stakeholder engagement, science communication, and translational scholarship.
- Supported by a fully funded, one-year Research Assistantship to conduct community-engaged research in partnership with regional stakeholders.

### **Bark: Defending and Restoring Mt. Hood,** Portland, OR

May 2024 - August 2024

- Engaged in collaborative, community-based forest and watershed management initiatives in Mt. Hood National Forest
- Conducted community science fieldwork, including wetland surveys, beaver habitat assessments, data collection, and GIS mapping in partnership with local stakeholders
- Contributed to a regional beaver task force focused on identifying relocation habitats for 'nuisance' beavers in coordination with the Oregon Zoo, watershed councils, and community groups
- Supported educational outreach events designed to increase public understanding of forest management, fire ecology, and habitat restoration
- Participated in multi-stakeholder forestry collaboratives alongside representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, local governments, NGOs, and rural community members
- Developed and organized a digital archive documenting Bark's organizational history to support storytelling, institutional memory, and long-term community engagement

This opportunity was funded through the **Summer Internship Award (Center for Life Beyond Reed)**, an internal Reed College program that supports summer internships with local nonprofit organizations at no cost to host organizations. The award enables students to pursue academic and professional interests through hands-on, community-engaged work while contributing meaningful labor and expertise to the City of Portland and its nonprofit sector.

### **Nehalem Bay Watershed Council,** Nehalem, OR

January 2024 - May 2024

- Conducted interdisciplinary, project-based research in partnership with watershed council staff and local stakeholders to address climate change impacts and watershed resilience
- Participated in field-based learning and community tours focused on riparian ecology, old-growth forests, salmon habitat, and the impacts of land-use practices
- Applied GIS and statistical analysis to identify cold-water refugia, map riparian canopy cover, and assess relationships between land ownership and riparian condition
- Tracked riparian-related policies over time to contextualize ecological findings within regulatory and governance frameworks
- Led cross-case comparative research of regional watershed councils to identify best practices in community-based management
- Co-designed a proposed community science program emphasizing volunteer engagement, educational programming, and survey-based data collection to address restoration data gaps

### **Curbside Compost,** Ridgefield, CT

May 2021 - July 2021

- Collaborated with Ridgefield Public Schools and municipal stakeholders to introduce composting as a community-based solution to food waste
- Conducted outreach, research, and lead cultivation to support the expansion of community composting programs
- Supported on-site composting implementation across industrial, residential, and school settings, contributing to district-wide adoption beginning September 2021

## SKILLS

QGIS and ArcGIS Mapping

R-Studio Statistical Analysis

Qualtrics Surveying