

## ALPINE Summer Institute 2022 Participants

**Alyssa Benoit** is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) and has a B.S. in Allied Health Sciences. This past year, she has interned for a non-profit called Save the Sound in New Haven, CT as a Climate Policy Intern. For the past two years, she has worked in Sustainable Food Systems through UConn's Cooperative Extension program, bringing attention to the abundance of local food in Connecticut. She is interested in how policy can impact land use whether it be for farms, conservation, or recreation. Alyssa has enjoyed trail running in the Nipmuck forest near UConn as well as traveling to the White Mountains of New Hampshire many weekends. The Whites have a special place in her heart after completing all of the 48 mountains over 4000 feet before graduating.



**Riley Bertoncini:** I am a Metis/Cree/Mohawk man from the Eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Currently I'm pursuing an anthropology PhD focused on the place of bear in both settler and Indigenous societies. Being bear myself, I'm interested in weaving my own story through the stories of both the land and other beings. In the winter I hibernate, in the spring I awaken, in the summer I'm active and social, and in the fall I start to relax and get ready for my long nap. Academic work is not the center of my life but is an important part of the structure that is my love. I also value my partner and family, and show this through my writing, music, and words.

**Cameron Bonnell** is a recent graduate of the Commonwealth Honors College at UMass Amherst with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. As a student at UMass, Cameron focused his studies on environmental and energy policy. While studying abroad in Kenya, Cameron designed and completed over 230 household surveys to gauge community members' interaction with climate change and renewable energy. His work there inspired him to complete his senior honors thesis on the sustainability and equity of electrification in Kenya. Beyond the classroom, Cameron has gained professional experience with the Orleans Conservation Trust, the UMass Clean Energy Extension and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. He has been motivated by these experiences to pursue



a career in environmental law, with the intention of enrolling in law school this fall. Following law school, Cameron hopes to work at the intersection of conservation, energy and environmental justice. He currently resides with his partner in Davis, California, where he works full time and volunteers to promote sustainability as a community organizer with Cool Davis, a local nonprofit. Outside of working and volunteering, Cameron enjoys backcountry skiing, rock climbing and backpacking.



**Cassandra Bull** is a graduate candidate for the Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning program through Tufts University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Through both professional and grassroots nonprofit leadership capacities, much of her background is in promoting local food systems efforts in Western New York through farm to institution models, community gardens, and farmers markets. With undergraduate degrees in Fine Arts and Agriculture, Bull has been drawn to the intersections of

art and science, of research and action. She returned to graduate school in 2020 to learn more about rural sustainable economic development, regional planning, and climate policy.

Though Bull's childhood in the Adirondacks was shaped by the efforts of conservancies, she gained deeper insight on conservation efforts, specifically the global 30x30 movement (to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030), during her time as a delegate observer at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2022. That experience was truly an 'a-ha' moment for Bull, as she realized that conservation was at the nexus of three major issues of interest: nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity protection, and environmental justice. After graduating from Tufts, Bull wants to in pursue a career in large landscape conservation policy and practice.

**Julio Canas** is currently studying a Water, Watersheds and Wetlands graduate program in Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst under a Fulbright scholarship. Born and raised in El Salvador, Central America. He majored in Chemical Engineering at the Universidad de El Salvador. He is an active member of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, and the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. His interest in the APLINE 2022 Summer Institute is to gather firsthand learning of the case studies in land conservation throughout New England, it would be a tipping point in the adaptation of such approaches to his country's reality as an environmental conservation graduate. In addition, the applicability of this experience in large land and landscape conservation in his graduate dissertation is of high relevance for him.





**Owen Grey** has worked at Wildlands Trust (WLT) for nearly half of his life. He began as a volunteer at 14 years old, and then progressed to a seasonal staff member the following year. He worked as a seasonal land steward until returning from college at St. Lawrence University. He accepted a full-time stewardship position at WLT in 2016. For him, working with volunteer groups and providing a service that benefits the public are among the most rewarding aspects of his job. Owen lives in Duxbury, MA, and now serves as Wildlands Trust's Stewardship Manager.

**Michaela Gold** recently completed her MS in Environmental Sciences & Policy at Northern Arizona University. Her research focuses on rancher-led collaboratives across the Intermountain West, exploring the role of monitoring data in their efforts. She currently participates in the Western Collaborative Conservation Network on their emerging leaders and capacity-building working groups. Michaela was recently announced as a Presidential Management Fellow finalist and plans to continue working on collaborative and large landscape-scale conservation efforts. Prior to her master's degree, Michaela was a conservation intern with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, the Programs & Partnerships Manager at the Outdoor Foundation, leading the Thrive Outside Community Program, and a Grants Administrator at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation focused on the Rocky Mountain region. Michaela is focused on solving our greatest conservation issues through thoughtful collaborative processes and the implementation of results-driven planning. She has a special interest in comprehensive land management and landscape-scale conservation efforts. Michaela is excited to broaden her knowledge of land conservation beyond the west to New England in the ALPINE Summer Institute. In her free time, Michaela enjoys hiking, camping, playing ultimate frisbee, and spending time with friends at her favorite breweries in her home of Flagstaff, AZ.



**Grace Goodwin-Boyd** grew up in Western Massachusetts and attended Vassar College, where she majored in Psychological Science and Hispanic Studies. Grace was introduced to the world of conservation while serving as an AmeriCorps trail crew member with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Colorado. She then went on to lead three crews over the next two years, developing a wide range of trail skills and a passion for conservation. She currently serves as a TerraCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator at Kestrel Land Trust in Amherst, MA, where she maintains and assesses trails, coordinates volunteers, and produces signs and map information. In her free time, Grace enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, and kayaking.

**Gabrielle Gundry** was born and partially raised in the western suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, and shared her childhood between the United States and France. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Political Science at Iowa State University in 2020, where she was motivated by her studies and research in Costa Rica, Kenya, and Tanzania to pursue a career in climate science and policy. Following her graduation, Gabrielle completed a service term with TerraCorps as a Land Stewardship Coordinator at Barnstable Land Trust, a conservation nonprofit on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and an internship at the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a part of the Global Warming and Climate Change Committee.



Presently, Gabrielle is a CivicSpark Fellow at the California Environmental Protection Agency in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board working on the Tribal Beneficial Uses project. There, she works to protect the traditional, cultural, and subsistence uses of water of California Native American Tribes. In fall 2022, Gabrielle will be pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences and Policy with a concentration in Climate Change at the Johns Hopkins University. She will also be interning at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where her work will likely involve research writing and developing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps of the Arctic region using satellite imagery.

In her free time, Gabrielle enjoys watching movies and reading books (especially historical/period pieces), hiking, rock climbing, and getting coffee with friends at local cafés. Though currently in California, she hopes to return to New England to lead regional climate action and resilience efforts.



**Mitchell Hennings** graduated from University of New England with a degree in Environmental Science. Returning home to Plymouth, Mass., after graduating, he shortly got a job as Stewardship Coordinator for Wildlands Trust. His passion lies with habitat creation and management; when at school he had internships helping with integrated pest management and managing endangered cotton-tail rabbits with NFW. Mitchell hopes to integrate habitat management into more of the properties at the trust to create biologically productive land. In his free time, Mitchell enjoys reading novels, birding local areas, hiking, and getting close with the outdoors. He hopes to create protected land that is productive and healthy for both people and the wildlife that live there.



**Colin Novick** is a Worcester native and an alumnus of the University of Chicago. Serving as the Executive Director of the Greater Worcester Land Trust, he has pursued urban land conservation for over two decades. He is part of a partnership working on conservation projects with the Quinsigamond Band of Nipmuc. Colin has also served the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (as Secretary, Chair, and Chef) and worked for the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Bolton Land Trust, and the Regional Environmental Council of Central Massachusetts. He serves as a deacon for the Cathedral of Saint Paul in the Diocese of Worcester. In his spare time Colin hikes, camps, and backpacks, and has a particular soft spot for the White Mountain National Forest.



**Damian Alfonso Olmo Lopez**, born and raised on the island of Puerto Rico, is currently an undergraduate at the University of Puerto Rico, majoring in Environmental Science. He is simultaneously working as an Accounting Assistant in Netstep Technologies on the island. Past professional experiences include Quality control and logistics at Brands of Puerto Rico in '20-'21, and before in a drone-technology-assisted Resource management project in the northeast ecological corridor of Puerto Rico. During Spring 2022 he has invested time and work in agroecology projects that develop the agricultural and culinary industries in the island of Puerto Rico. On latest news incubating his new project VerteVerde dedicated to work with waste/resource management and oceanfront conservation, creating and developing innovative ways to engage with our environment. Looking into the future, Damian is ecstatic to help in the development of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean’s conservation and environmental resilience transformation.



**Justin Pikulski** is a member of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe of Plymouth and Cape Cod, MA. After high school he took a 3-month journey on the Appalachian Trail to try and determine what is “necessary.” Further cultivating his childhood love of nature, this experience sparked a passion for becoming a true outdoorsman. After returning, Justin found his way into Cape Cod Community College pursuing a degree in Computer Science. While not particularly dedicated, he was good at it and knew he had to make a living. While in college he was offered a position in IT and followed this career path for the better part of a decade—from local computer companies to Johnson & Johnson—eventually landing comfortably in full-time remote work. He has since spent as much time as he is afforded with Nature, trying to cultivate skills of self-sufficiency and traditional knowledge. He studies and practices tracking animals, trapping, hunting, fishing, foraging, herbal medicine, and gardening, among many other disciplines known to his indigenous ancestors. Justin still works in IT part-time and is actively working

towards a career shift into naturalism and conservation. He is currently interning with Native Land Conservancy and Northeast Wilderness Trust. His career goals include natural resource research and management and Native American cultural awareness.

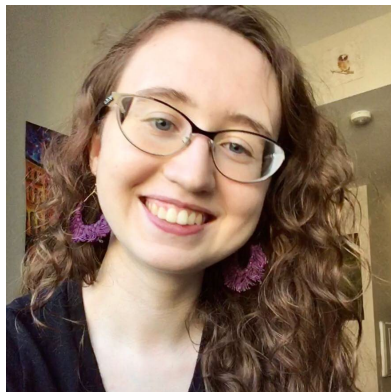
He and his partner hope to one day build a homestead near his tribe where they will live from Wampanoag New Year (Spring, when the herring run) until harvest time. In the colder months, they aspire to build a traditional trapping cabin to harvest game and fur in Northern Maine.

**Lily Robinson** is a UMass Amherst graduate with degrees in journalism and public policy. Over the past two years, she has worked as a reporter for the Harvard Press and Commonwealth Magazine covering topics including environment, sports, policy, and inequality.



Having grown up in a highly developed Eastern-Mass suburb, she found a deep appreciation this year for the trails and conserved farmland that surround her new home on the Amherst-Hadley border. Her love for these open spaces—and concern for those she’s watched disappear over the years—inspired her interest in conservation and sustainable land use.

When not at work or in a classroom, Lily can be found running long distances around Massachusetts, making art, hiking, xc skiing, seeking out a good cup of coffee, and spending quality time with her cats.



**Kate Slorach** is a conservationist, cat owner and ice-cream lover. Born and raised in New Brunswick, Canada, Kate always had a strong connection to nature, but she somehow convinced herself that chemistry was the right academic choice. After realizing her mistake, Kate graduated with a BSc in Environment and Natural Resources from the University of New Brunswick in 2018. Ever the indecisive, Kate has worked in the municipal, business, non-profit and hospitality sectors, but in 2020 she finally landed a job she loved with the Passamaquoddy Recognition Group (Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik). As Conservation Project Coordinator, Kate creates all kinds of

GIS maps, writes reports and grants, does research on some pretty cool things, and occasionally gets to romp around in the woods. Kate's interests include plant identification, indigenous-led conservation, nature-based solutions, and being consumed by the overwhelming threat of climate change. She also enjoys hiking, swimming, kayaking, knitting, and making origami.