

## **SAMPLE STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

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### **Statement of Interest – Annie Pumphrey**

January 2020 Application

I am applying to the University of Northern British Columbia's Master of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Graduate Program because of my interests in an interdisciplinary approach to the topics of parks management and the balance of human-wildlife conflict with tourism growth. My interest in this area of research stems in large part from my work and volunteer experience over the past six years in both provincial and national parks in the Canadian Rockies. During my undergraduate studies at the University of Alberta, my interest in natural resources and environmental studies emerged through coursework in environmental policies and methods of environmental interpretation. The MNRES program is an excellent fit for my research interests, as the courses directly apply to my academic goals, and will introduce me to new epistemologies and interdisciplinary approaches to researching parks management and human-wildlife conflict issues.

My work with Alberta Parks, Parks Canada and the Department of Conservation (New Zealand) has momentarily reinforced my goal to pursue research in the field of natural resource management under the ever-growing pressures of conservation and tourism growth. Through my time spent working as an environmental educator and ecology team volunteer in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, I became conscious of the increasingly difficult issue of balancing wildlife viewing tourism and bear-smart recreation with grizzly bear conservation in the mountain parks. The MNRES program at UNBC will allow me to research this subject through the exploration of conservation area management, trends in recreation and tourism, and wildlife management.

Following the MNRES course I would like to continue to pursue my interests in human-wildlife conflict issues and parks management through working with either provincial or federal parks in the Canadian Rockies.