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*Flathead Lake Biological Station*                                                February 28, 2021
*32125 Bio Station Ln*
*Polson, MT 59860*

Dear FLBS Team,

I am a student at the University of Montana studying Computer Science and Mathematics and minoring in Wilderness Studies. I am interested in your Software Development and Data Science internship because I think it will be a good opportunity to apply what I'm trained in, software design and data analysis, to what I'm passionate about, conservation and science in the outdoors.

My time spent in the Conservation Corps and the Forest Service equipped me with hands on tools and knowledge of conservation efforts and invasive species management. While I value my experiences on these projects, they taught me the important lesson that I am more useful as a brain person than as a tool person. Since leaving the world of backcountry jobs, I have been looking for ways to apply my new skills in Computer Science to the same efforts of conservation, which is why working on your project of tracking invasive species appeals to me.

I am confident in my ability to use Python and R to perform data analysis and visualization as well as my ability to design and build web applications with Javascript, evidenced by both my classwork and my personal pursuits. In addition to coursework in both web design and statistical analysis, I have several ongoing projects that I am using to explore web design and data analysis. For example, I have a personal website that I have been working on intermittently for the last year, which has been a sandbox for me to experiment with design in HTML and CSS as well as scripting with Javascript and Python. For another one of these projects, I have been using Python to analyze the results of cancer screenings in Native Alaskan populations in an attempt to find statistically significant differences between parameters like gender, risk levels, and patient location. This research will be used to help write a medical research paper. All of these personal pursuits have been enjoyable for me, and I am excited for the opportunity to expand my current knowledge base and work on new datasets.

I believe that my history and skill set make me a qualified candidate for this position and I think you'll find that reflected on my resume. I look forward to speaking with you in more detail about the internship.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Christensen**