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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 Programming and Data Science internship because I think it will be a good opportunity to apply what I'm trained in, programming 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 land management and conservation efforts. 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 your work in stonefly genomics intrigues me.

I am confident in my ability to use Python and R to perform data analysis and visualization as evidenced by both my classwork and my personal pursuits. I am currently working on a data analysis project in my free time to help write a medical research paper. The project involves using Python to organize and analyze the results of cancer screenings in Native Alaskan populations. The project is young, but we have already found some statistically significant differences in screening results between parameters like gender, risk levels, and location. We plan to use this data to inspire more research into this topic, as well as to suggest targeted screening efforts for higher risk demographics. This project has 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