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I am excited to be writing about the opportunity to work as part of the Oregon Marbled Murrelet Project. I was immediately drawn to the importance of this work and how much I would be able to learn from the team and faculty members. My goal is to become a Professor with a strong focus on utilizing technology in the field ecology.

I am currently working as a Software Engineer but am also taking courses and working to apply for graduate school. I have been actively looking for an opportunity like this where I can gain hands on research experience. I am still trying to determine what my particular research will be, but hope to utilize aspects of machine learning and artificial intelligence in ecology. I am interested both forest and ocean ecology and was excited as this project seems to have aspects of both of these broad areas. I was also fascinated by the Marbled Murrelets and the work being done to help this elusive and threatened species. I think this position could help me begin to lay a foundation for my own research career.

I know my background is a little unique but I think it would help me in this role. As a software engineer I am used to engaging in difficult and sometimes repetitive work that requires a high attention to detail. I have also worked in Student Life where I worked with the Dean of Student Life on a project to gather and analyze over five years of past financial and demographic data.

My goal would be to do well in the core duties of this job but also to work more to learn more about the project and how research is conducted. I also would love to be a part of this team and get to know other students and members of the department.

Thanks for your time,   
David Vasquez