

LEONARD & SANDY SARGENT EVST GRADUATE FELLOW

2022-23

Paige Johnson

Paige Johnson grew up on the Blackfeet Reservation in Northern Montana and is Blackfeet and Navajo. She is passionate about Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Tribal co-management of federal lands, Indigenous data sovereignty, and investigating the dynamic between national parks and Tribes. Specifically, her research interests are focused on the relationship between Glacier National Park and the Blackfeet Nation, and the role that Joint Secretarial Order 3403 plays in the co-management of the national park. She is developing her research with the Bolle Center for people and Forests while at the University of Montana.



A graduate from Yale University with a B.S. degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (2020), Paige developed an undergraduate thesis with the Skelly Laboratory in the School of the Environment on “The Effects of a Suburbanization Gradient on Wood Frog Larvae.” During the summer of 2020, she worked as a research assistant for the Blackfoot Laboratory in the Yale Linguistics department and helped to develop Blackfoot language teaching materials with the Cuts Wood Immersion School located in Browning, Montana. After graduating from Yale, Paige returned to the Blackfeet Reservation where she worked at Grass Winds Veterinary Clinic as a veterinary assistant from Fall 2020 to Spring 2022.

Currently, Paige is the Native Climate Data Fellow for Native Climate, a project that is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and builds on the work of the Native Waters on Arid Lands project. This project aims to enhance the services of the USDA Climate Hubs in Indian Country and implement federal guidance on incorporating Traditional Knowledge into federal decision making. Paige is also working as a research assistant with Dr. Robin Saha for the NOAA-funded Resilience MT project in partnership with SprectrUM Discovery area that is bringing a Mobile Climate Resilience Exhibit to rural and tribal communities in Montana.

The Sargent University of Montana Environmental Studies Program (EVST) Graduate Fellowship has made it possible for Paige to join the EVST Graduate Program in 2022, work in Indigenous-led research projects, and work with Environmental Studies Professors Paul Guernsey and Mark Sundeen and other EVST graduate students on developing the Stolen Waters Summit: Colonial Theft of Northern Rivers to be held in November 2023.