



## 2020 ALPINE SUMMER INSTITUTE PARTICIPANT BIOS

**Alivia Acosta** recently graduated from Unity College with a degree in Parks and Forest Resources. During a three-year college hiatus, Alivia travelled across the country following her passion for building connections to environmental landscapes through hands-on trail stewardship. Alivia currently works for the Harris Center for Conservation Education as an Easement Monitoring Intern and for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as a National Service Coordinator.



**Luke Beeson** grew up in Southeastern Pennsylvania before attending the University of Vermont where he is currently a rising senior studying Wildlife Biology and Geospatial Technologies. While attending school, Luke works with the outreach team for the Burlington hub of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led environmental movement throughout the country, and as a research assistant on a project investigating the connection between increased forest cover and improved water quality. This summer he will be working as a land stewardship intern with the Kennebec Land Trust in Maine and will be conducting a project on identifying vernal pools throughout the county for classification and protection. Outside of school and work, Luke likes to go backpacking, birding, and rock climbing.



**Emma Gjullin** is currently an Environmental Philosophy and Natural Resource Conflict Resolution graduate student at the University of Montana. She primarily researches the ethics of geoengineering and is interested in the intersection of science and collaboration. This summer, she is thrilled to be working with Heart of the Rockies to help develop a Wildlife Movement Working Group for the High Divide region. In her free time, you'll find Emma doing something silly with her pups.





**Arielle Landau** grew up in Redding, CT. She is currently a rising senior at Middlebury College where studies environmental justice and computer science. This summer, Arielle is conducting an environmental justice, political ecology and GIS analysis of US nuclear testing on indigenous lands in Nevada and the Marshall Islands in order to advocate for the Marshallese and the Western Shoshone in seeking justice. After graduating, she hopes to use GIS to aid locally based environmental justice movements. In her free time, she enjoys birding, knitting as well as producing and listening to podcasts.

**Stephanie Long** is originally from Traverse City, MI but has been living in New England since attending Smith College. She graduated with a degree in Environmental Science and Policy in 2019 and moved to Vermont the following fall to start an AmeriCorps service term with Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation ECO AmeriCorps program. Stephanie is currently serving as a Planning and Assessment Assistant with the Vermont Land Trust where she helps farmland conservation projects move through state and federal approval processes. She has also been helping VLT implement their relatively new restoration program on conserved properties. Stephanie is interested in getting more involved in land stewardship and restoration in the future. In her free time, she likes to go hiking and work on improving her nature photography skills.



**Olivia Lukacic** has been working and living in New England her entire life and still can't get enough of the beauty of the area and the endless stonewalls that crisscross the forests. Originally from Massachusetts, she has now returned to her home state to work on a Master's degree in Environmental Conservation from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. After graduating from the University of Vermont with a dual B.S. in Environmental Science and Forestry, Olivia spent several years in mid-coast Maine working for an environmentally focused educational non-profit. She enjoys challenging herself in the outdoors with friends but also with her nose buried

in a book. A lover of questions and stories, she will probably ask you about your latest adventure or for your favorite recipe.

**Alana Lutz** is a rising sophomore at Middlebury College, planning to major in Conservation Biology. She is originally from Chapel Hill, NC and grew up exploring the Southern Appalachians, but was eager to relocate to Vermont and experience the ecosystems of the Northeast. She is the conservation coordinator for WildMidd, a student organization that connects local youth to place-based environmental initiatives, and is currently involved with the creation of a Regional Conservation Partnership in Addison County, VT. In her free time, she enjoys backpacking, snowboarding, and hammocking.





**Hailey Nase** is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) in New Boston, New Hampshire. At PLC, Hailey manages 126 conservation properties with the help of 70+ amazing volunteers. Before returning to New Hampshire, Hailey attended Ithaca College, where she received her degree in environmental studies. Hailey's conservation experience started with a summer internship with the Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire. Hailey is interested in environmental education and outreach and preserving and protecting lands that mutually benefit the human and ecological communities. In her spare time, you can find Hailey running or hiking with her dog.

**Oscar Psychas** is passionate about empowering young people to connect with nature, take environmental action alongside diverse community groups, and speak up for the future of our home places and the planet. An environmental studies and geography major at Middlebury College, Oscar grew up in Gainesville, Florida and Accra, Ghana. He walked 280 miles from his house to Florida's state capital to support land conservation funding. Oscar co-founded WildMidd, a club that brings together Middlebury students with K-12 youth and local conservationists to lead local conservation and environmental education projects. With Jacob Freedman and ALPINE he founded the Wild Hometown Movement to start, support, and connect place-based, youth-centered environmental groups in communities around the world (see our [website](#) or our [ALPINE](#) page). The Wild Hometown Movement has founded 7 active youth groups in New England and Florida. This summer he is working as an intern with ALPINE to kickstart this movement in campuses across New England.



**Shauni Secombe** is originally from upstate New York and grew up on a farm at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. In this nature-rich rural setting, she developed a deep appreciation for the natural environment and a heart for conservation. Eager to put her hands to work, she served as a Montana Conservation Corps volunteer, which first sparked her interest in the working landscapes of the Intermountain West. Then, she spent three seasons working with the USDA Forest Service and one season as a Park Ranger, until deciding that it was time to apply her field experience in a broader conservation context. Currently, Shauni is an Environmental Studies graduate student at the University of Montana. Her research interests this summer will focus on wildlife movement, social justice and holistic landscape conservation with the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, as well as completing a SWOT analysis of existing collaborative partnerships in Idaho and Montana with the National Forest Foundation. As a NFF Fellow, she is looking forward to studying land conservation in greater depth while engaging with diverse stakeholders to assess the obstacles and opportunities of collaborative partnerships. During her free time, she enjoys biking, gardening, hiking in the Crown of the Continent, hunting on Montana's public lands, and fly fishing with her husband, Cody.



**Daniel Sherman** is a rising senior at Harvard College. While concentrating in Biomedical Engineering, Daniel has long been interested in natural methods of combating climate change. Hailing from the urban center of Boston, Massachusetts, he has seen first hand the pace of urban development's consumption of forests and wetlands. This summer, he will be working with the Harvard Forest to study carbon offsets and carbon credit markets as they pertain to expanding land conservation for the purpose of natural carbon sequestration. In his free time, he likes watching movies, playing piano, screenwriting, and photographing plants.



**Taylor Wyckoff** grew up in Brattleboro, Vermont, but is currently moving to Northampton, MA. In 2019, she graduated from Greenfield Community College with a degree in Environmental Conservation and in the fall, she will be transferring to UMass Amherst as a junior majoring in Natural Resource Conservation. My first internship was with SPARCnet, a collaborative research effort of the eastern red-backed salamander under USGS Amphibian Research & Monitoring Initiative. In 2018, she worked as a reviewer for the Vernon and Bellows Falls, VT fish ladders. Since May 2019, she has been working at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Turners Falls, MA. Our projects include SPARCnet, vernal pool surveying, newt mark/recapture to monitor the spread of chytrid, as well as the sampling of stream salamanders and mudpuppies in various areas of MA. My goals are to get involved in a project that works with issues in sustainability and climate change. My favorite activities are rock climbing, hiking, and swimming.