



Sophie A. Gutterman

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Summary

A Fellow and Project Assistant at Meridian Institute with experience working on natural resource issues in the government and nonprofit sectors. Graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's in Forest and Natural Resource Management. Education and work experience have focused on forest management, park and protected area management, human dimensions of natural resources, and Native American environmental knowledge.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2016–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Fellow and Project Assistant

Provides research, writing, and general support for policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development on projects involving facilitators and outside parties. Assists in the preparation of reports, meeting summaries, meeting materials, press releases, and other communications. Specific project highlights include:

- Member of the Meridian team working on the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Initiative. By the year 2020, the project aims to achieve zero net deforestation of tropical forests associated with commodity crops such as palm oil, paper and pulp, soy, and beef. Meridian works to facilitate the creation and progress of voluntary public–private partnerships in three focus areas: South America, West-Central Africa, and Indonesia.
- Please see <http://merid.org/staff/sgutterman> for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

National Indian Carbon Coalition

Little Canada, Minnesota 2016

Intern

Coordinated progress and provided input for the development of four pilot projects and a guidance document supporting the entry of tribal lands into U.S. carbon markets. Created and managed maps on ArcGIS Online and Desktop for tracking Indian land ownership in the U.S. Updated and maintained the organization's website using MODX web design.

Northern Research Station, U.S. Forest Service

St. Paul, Minnesota 2015–2016

Research Assistant/Student Intern

Designed and conducted research on relations between the Forest Service and Tribal Nations. Interviewed Forest Service Tribal Liaisons about their experiences collaborating with tribes. Coded and analyzed data using QSR NVivo software. Defended research to panel of professors at University of Minnesota. Findings currently under review for publication.

Community and Environment Research Group, University of Minnesota

St. Paul, Minnesota 2015

Research Assistant

Produced a literature review of the human dimensions of aquatic invasive species prevention. Created a survey template for evaluating aquatic invasive species prevention programs in Minnesota counties. Produced a user manual for implementation of the survey template. Assisted with facilitation of timber harvest focus groups.

Native American Medicine Garden, University of Minnesota

St. Paul, Minnesota 2015

Volunteer

Aided in the care of a holistic medicine garden based on Native principles of land management. Explored Lakota philosophies on the caretaking of land.

Farmington Hills Nature Center

Farmington Hills, Michigan 2014

Intern

Planned, executed, and evaluated nature-related programs for children and adults. Developed event-related press releases. Created an inventory of park signage and a standardized template for future signs. Collaborated with municipal departments to develop a plan for signage renovation.

Education

University of Minnesota

B.S., Forest and Natural Resource Management
2016