

Vice President (2024-2025)
Marisa Pushee

I am excited by the prospect of supporting The Washington Chapter of The Wildlife Society to advance our mission and grow this important community.

I recently served as the Communications Manager for [Panthera's Puma Program](#). Panthera is an international organization devoted to the conservation of the world's 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems. In this role, I supported work to ensure connectivity in fragmented habitats, identify key landscapes for conservation efforts, and foster coexistence. In Washington State, Panthera co-leads the Olympic Cougar Project with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in collaboration with the Skokomish, Makah, Jamestown S'Klallam, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes, the Quinault Indian Nation, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. Research from the project focuses on mapping cougar connectivity, tracking cougar dispersal, and analyzing genetic data.

I have been working with wildlife for over a decade. I hold a BA from Hampshire College, an MA from California College of the Arts, and an MES from The Evergreen State College. Over the last several years, I have worked on wolf conservation, landscape connectivity research, and camas prairie restoration. I have also worked with western pond turtles, Taylor's checkerspot butterflies, and Yuma and little brown bats. Before moving to Washington, I was a language studies researcher with the lowland gorilla, Koko, through Project Koko—the longest-running interspecies communications study. I am also GIS certified and hold a Level Two certificate from CyberTracker Conservation in wildlife track and sign.

I am based in Olympia and can often be found outdoors with my 14-year-old cattle dog, Hiji, by my side.



