

**WWU Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 8, 2021**

**Statement Read During Public Comment on Behalf of Students in WWU Huxley College ENVS 499D Seminar: Readings in Environmental Justice**

Hello, my name is Sophie Manning, and I am a representative from the ENVS Environmental Justice Readings course in the College of the Environment. We ask that the Board of Trustees listen to the BSO and unanimous Task Force recommendation to remove the Huxley name from the Huxley College of the Environment title. Recently, we discussed the Combahee River Collective's statement from 1977. This Collective was a Black Feminist group started in the mid-70s that utilized anti-racism *and* anti-sexism in activism. They chose to name the collective not after a person, but rather, an influential political movement or moment in Black history relevant to their cause: the Combahee River Raid of June 2, 1863, led by Harriet Tubman. We urge the university to consider a college name based not on a person, but on a significant movement or moment in environmental justice history led by Black or Indigenous people instead. We also ask that further discussion about this topic be based in the College of the Environment and center BIPOC students and faculty.

Thank you for your time.