

## Education

M.S. Economics, University of Oregon

B.S. Economics, University of Oregon,  
Magna Cum Laude

Years at ECONorthwest: 1

Years in Industry: 1

## Areas of Expertise

Education & social policy

Environmental & natural resources

Business analytics

Workforce development

Decarbonization policy research

## Natalie Walker, Associate

Natalie joined ECONorthwest as an Associate in 2022 to work across practice areas with a specialized interest in social and environmental policy. Her work focuses on conducting input-output analyses, quantifying social and economic benefits and costs, and evaluating funding strategies. Natalie specializes in econometric methods and analysis utilizing R and IMPLAN.

## REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

*Natalie has served as associate on the following projects, unless otherwise noted:*

- **Wildlife Corridor Transportation Funding—Philadelphia, PA (2022-Ongoing).** Pew Charitable Trusts seeks to identify existing and potential state funding mechanisms for wildlife crossing transportation infrastructure. Identified and evaluated mechanisms to create dedicated funding streams to construct wildlife crossing.
- **Cost of Living Index — Big Sky, MT (2022).** Big Sky Chamber of Commerce asked ECO to calculate the cost of living for service workers in Big Sky, a luxury resort community in Montana with a lack of affordable housing.
- **Economic Impact of Clean Energy Targets & Renewable Portfolio Standard Legislation — Bend, OR (2022).** Estimated the economic contribution of meeting the legislative mandates of Oregon’s Clean Energy Targets and Renewable Portfolio Standards if the legislation required a percent of all new renewable energy generation to be built within Oregon.
- **Economic and Social Impact of the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Project — Jefferson Co., OR (2022-Ongoing).** Farmers and residents of the North Unit Irrigation District rely on consistent water supply. Lead economic and social impact analysis of constructing the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping project to mitigate drought conditions.
- **Dardanelle Whitewater Park Economic Contribution Analysis — Pope County, AR (2022-2023).** Estimate the economic contributions to the local community of constructing a new whitewater park in Pope County.
- **Umpqua Health Economic Contribution Analysis — Douglas County, OR (2022).** Estimated economic and social contributions of Umpqua Health services locally and statewide.

- **Columbia Gorge Regional Transit Strategy – Columbia Gorge Area, OR & WA (2022-Ongoing).** Identify funding strategies that have nexus with the unique goals of the transit agencies in the Gorge: increasing access to the Columbia National Scenic Area and increasing transportation access for residents.
- **Impact of the Lack of Housing Affordability on the Business Community – Bend, OR (2022).** Through extensive surveying of businesses in the Bend Metro Area, ECO estimated the impact of the lack of housing affordability on business operations, including the impact to hiring and retention, revenue, and expansion.
- **Analysis of Oregon Relief Nurseries – Oregon (2022 – Ongoing).** Calculate the potential cost savings to the public sector and longer-term social benefits associated with Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries services.
- **Portland Bureau of Transportation Revenue Forecast – Portland, OR (2022-Ongoing).** Create forecast of parking revenue and transactions for Portland Bureau of Transportation, including a deep understanding of economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic had on revenue trend.

#### **Pre-ECONorthwest Experience:**

- **Workforce Development Intern, Economic Development Department—City of Hillsboro, OR (2021–2022).** Created labor market reports to educate various audiences on the local economy. Participated in building workforce strategy at city and county level through collaboration with business and community partners. Aided in the development and implementation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant proposals to address workforce needs.
- **Peer Advisor, Program Coordinator Assistant, and Economics Tutor, University of Oregon—Eugene, OR (2019–2022).** Reviewed and taught students core concepts in Intermediate Microeconomics. Helped launch pilot mentoring program to aid first-year students in acclimation to college. Tracked and assessed program effectiveness under the supervision of the Program Coordinator. Generated detailed reports on advising sessions, conducted outreach campaigns to at-risk students, and implemented program information via social media.