

## Eliza Letourneau Member Spotlight



Eliza Letourneau (she/her) is serving with the [Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District](#) in St. Albans, VT as a Conservation Technician. Eliza has returned to her hometown of Monkton after studying and receiving her undergraduate degree at Duke University in North Carolina. During her time at Duke, she was also a member of a research team studying the health and environmental impacts of artisanal small-scale gold mining and associated mercury inputs in the Madre de Dios River/region of Peru. Now, Eliza is focusing on soil health and land conservation efforts around Franklin County. Her daily service alternates between office time and field service. When in the field, you can find her taking soil samples or doing surface water monitoring. One of her biggest projects is the state-wide tile drain monitoring study that is run by the Agency of Agriculture. FNRCDC manages a small portion of it, and Eliza coordinates the biweekly sampling and keeps track of the data from the samplings. As her service site moved to remote, she was able to stay busy writing her many water quality reports and other data compilation responsibilities. Luckily, she has still been able to get out in the field to continue her sampling as well as participate in a few socially distanced tree plantings.

“I serve to support the harmony of water quality, land conservation, agriculture, and forested land in Vermont. Vermont is a very land-based both economically and culturally and I believe that all these different aspects of land use and land conservation can be balanced for the benefit of everyone in the state.”