



## California's First Nature-Based Solutions Summit

January 29, 2026

### Speaker Bios

**Juan Altamirano, Director of Government Affairs, Trust for Public Land:** Juan Altamirano is the Director of Government Affairs at the Trust for Public Land, where he leads advocacy efforts to advance policies that expand access to parks, public lands, and equitable outdoor spaces for communities across the country. He brings extensive experience in creating public funding for conservation and community investments, including helping to lead Proposition 4 and other local funding measures at the ballot box. In his role, Juan works closely with policymakers, coalition partners, and community leaders to build bipartisan support for initiatives that promote conservation, climate resilience, and public health through strategic land-use and funding solutions. He is known for his collaborative, results-driven approach to protecting natural resources and strengthening communities.

**The Honorable Josh Becker, Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee:** Senator Josh Becker is a public policy innovator working at the nexus of community activism, technology and social justice. Elected to the State Senate in November 2020, Senator Becker represents the residents of California's 13th Senate District, which comprises most of San Mateo County and the northern part of Santa Clara County.

He is the author of several bills focused on accelerating California's transition to 100% clean energy and net zero emissions, voter access and justice reforms, and leveraging technology to provide greater economic mobility for all Californians.

He chairs the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water, the Senate Committee on Human Services, and the Select Committee on Economic Development and Innovation. He serves on the Senate Committees on Energy, Utilities and Communications; Insurance; and Transportation; and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Josh's commitment to service crystallized when he traveled to war-torn Guatemala to work with refugees in the early '90s and later started a basic school for repatriated refugees in El Salvador.

In 2000, Josh created Full Circle, a community leadership and policy innovation organization that funds nonprofits creating positive change in the Bay Area and



building civic leaders for the future. He has been the driving force for Full Circle, which has supported policy innovations and community organizations in economic opportunity, education, environmental sustainability and health.

Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Josh served seven years on the California State Workforce Development Board, and he served on the Child Care Partnership Council in San Mateo County. Josh also is a founding trustee at the University of California Merced.

Josh has long been a champion in pushing businesses to create social good. After losing his father to brain cancer, Josh helped start a biotech company researching cancer cures. Uniting entrepreneurial expertise with his passion for social change, Josh cofounded New Cycle Capital, a pioneer in building socially responsible businesses. In 2011, Josh joined Lex Machina, which has a mission of bringing openness and transparency to the law. As CEO, he grew the company from a Stanford University public interest project into a nationally recognized platform. Most recently he founded a legal tech accelerator to support entrepreneurs who want to innovate in our legal and public policy system.

Josh earned a JD/MBA from Stanford University in 1999. While a student, Josh cofounded the Stanford Board Fellows program, which trains students to serve on the boards of local nonprofits, engaging them in social progress at the beginning of their careers, rather than the end.

Josh is a 20-year resident of Menlo Park, where he lives with his wife, Jonna, their two children, Leo and Aaron, and the family dog, Percy.

**The Honorable Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe:** The Honorable Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, is a Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry and Falasco Chair at the University of California, Merced. She previously served as Director of the United States Department of Energy's Office of Science (Senate confirmed, Presidential nomination) and Associate Dean for Graduate Education at UC Merced. Dr. Berhe's research bridges the disciplines of soil science, geochemistry, global change science, and political ecology. Her research aims to improve our understanding of the soil system's role in regulating the Earth's climate; how soil carbon and nutrient cycles respond to environmental changes, including climate change, land-use changes, erosion, and wildfires; and the dynamic two-way relationship between soil and human communities. She holds the distinction of being an elected member of the United States National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of both the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America, and recipient of many other awards and honors.

**Anale Burlew, Protection Chief Deputy Director for Operations, California Department of Forestry and Fire:** Chief Burlew began her distinguished fire service career in 1998 with



the Marin County Fire Department before joining CAL FIRE in 2000 as a Fire Fighter 1 in the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit (NEU). Her progression through the ranks included roles as Fire Apparatus Engineer and Fire Captain, where she contributed to the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center and the Marysville Hazmat Team.

Promoted to Battalion Chief in 2011, she led operations at the Northern Region Operations Coordination Center and later at the NEU Grass Valley Emergency Command Center. In 2017, Chief Burlew advanced to Central Operations Division Chief in the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit, where she oversaw critical areas including Training, Safety, Fleet, and the Emergency Command Center.

In 2018, Chief Burlew took on the role of Deputy Chief of Command and Control, managing CAL FIRE's statewide Command and Control Program, the Hired Equipment Program, and the Sacramento Command Center. Her expertise culminated in her appointment as Assistant Deputy Director of Fire Protection Operations in February 2022, where she oversees vital Fire Protection Operations Programs, including Operations Support, Intelligence, and Incident Management Teams.

An active leader in CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams, she served as Plans Section Chief and Incident Commander Trainee, and has been involved in rewriting and maintaining multiple CAL FIRE Handbooks. Chief Burlew holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration from Sacramento State University, underscoring her commitment to excellence in fire service management

**Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Founder and Principal, Sowing Change Strategies:** Ashley Conrad-Saydah, a recognized expert in climate change, renewable energy and natural resources policy, founded Sowing Change Strategies in 2020. She engages cross-sectoral organizations and inter-disciplinary leaders to develop and deploy measurable action to address climate change and ready communities for its ongoing impact. Her clients have included Vibrant Planet, Elemental Impact, The Nature Conservancy, Deloitte, Spatial Informatics Group, the California Council on Science and Technology and many others.

In 2021, Ashley was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board; in this role, she also represents the State on the Tahoe Science Advisory Council. She served Governor Edmund G. Brown as Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy Policy at the California Environmental Protection Agency from 2012 to 2019 and on Sandia National Laboratories' Energy & Homeland Security External Advisory Board from 2021 through 2025.

Ashley earned an AB from Princeton University in ecology and evolutionary biology and a master of environmental science and management from the Bren School at UC



Santa Barbara, where she was a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow. She began her public service career as a Presidential Management Fellow, working in the US Departments of Interior and Energy.

Ashley's work aims to provide all people access to nature, education, healthy communities, and good jobs. She lives in Sacramento with her husband, daughter, son and anxious dog.

**Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency:** Wade Crowfoot serves as California's Natural Resources Secretary, leading efforts to conserve California's environment and natural resources. He has served as Secretary since 2019 and advises Governor Newsom as a member of his cabinet.

Secretary Crowfoot oversees an agency of over 25,000 employees spread across 26 departments, commissions, and conservancies. His agency is charged with stewarding California's forests and natural lands, rivers and water supplies, and coast and ocean. It also protects natural places, wildlife and biodiversity, and helps oversee the state's world-leading clean energy transition.

Secretary Crowfoot is leading efforts to achieve Governor Newsom's ambitious environmental vision, including a commitment to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. He oversees billions of dollars of public investment to protect people and natural places from climate change impacts, and has led efforts to navigate California's record-breaking droughts, floods, and wildfires. Secretary Crowfoot has also initiated a new era of partnerships with California Native American Tribes and is shifting how the agency operates to better support all California residents and communities.

Secretary Crowfoot has been on the frontlines of environmental leadership throughout his career. He served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor, driving climate action. He led the non-profit Water Foundation to build water resilience across the American West. He spearheaded efforts to establish and defend California's landmark climate change policies as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund. As an environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, he helped establish many first-in-the-nation urban environmental policies. Secretary Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

Wade grew up in Michigan spending summers at a YMCA camp and in the woods around his family's remote cabin in Northern Ontario. He moved to California in the mid-1990s and discovered backcountry camping with friends. His first time in the



redwoods at Big Basin State Park is still one of his defining California moments. He loves to camp with his wife and daughter and learn new things in the outdoors, currently including fly fishing and soon backcountry skiing. He says his best days in as Natural Resources Secretary are spent outdoors with local groups that are conserving land and connecting people to nature.

**Bruce Durbin, Councilmember, Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and Supervising Regional Planner, County of Los Angeles:** Bruce Durbin is a Supervising Regional Planner at L.A. County Planning and has worked in planning for over 25 years. Bruce's expertise ranges from community planning and ordinance to historic preservation and creative placemaking. Bruce is a member of the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, a federally recognized tribe located in north San Diego County, and is an elected member of the Tribal Council.

**Christine Gemperle, Owner, Gemperle Orchards:** Christine Gemperle has been farming almonds since 1998 although she was raised in an almond and poultry farming family in the Central Valley of California. Her educational background is in biology (BA, UC Santa Cruz) and fisheries (MS, Utah State University) with the scientific process and research having been the main attractant. Currently she and her brother, Erich, manage and operate 135 acres with no employees which places them in the unique position of intimately knowing every facet of their operation, from the mundane to the technologically advanced. Practical knowledge and feasibility combined with scientific advances and discovery are essential to solving problems in agriculture. Every choice made on the farm works towards the goal of developing a sustainable, efficient, and profitable farming operation that is part of the solution to climate change not the cause. Over the years Gemperle Orchards has hosted numerous studies related to almond growing, whether it be deficit irrigation strategies, root stock trials or the benefits of cover crops. Christine serves as an alternate on the Almond Board of California, additionally participating on the Biomass Task Force and the Nutritional Research Committee. She has been a member of the Blue Diamond Growers Cooperative for almost 25 years where she serves as a grower liaison. Formerly she was a small scale beekeeper and acted as secretary for the Delta Bee Club for 7 years before she came to terms with how ridiculously hard beekeeping is. Most of all Christine enjoys being active and vocal in the agricultural community especially when it comes to promoting and sharing what she has learned about sustainable agricultural practices.

**Ms. Tashanda Giles-Jones, Environmental Educator, Unite For Green:** Tashanda is an environmental educator cultivating a network of like-minded individuals, organizations, and activists eager to support the learning and growth of urban youth in Los Angeles, California. She develops human impact lessons that are adapted for her student



population and provides engaging learning activities through garden-based education. She has volunteered and held positions with several nonprofit fundraising, leadership and youth committees, as well as outreach and service learning departments. She holds two AA degrees in Resource and Recycling Management and Public Policy from a local community college, and a BA degree in Sustainable Development from Arizona State University. Tashanda is also an expedition fellow at EarthEcho International, a Master Gardener, MESA Agroecology Fellow, and recently gave a Tedx Talk on the importance of emotional connections with nature.

Tashanda is applying innovative, relative place-based, project- and action-focused environmental education for several projects in her community. She served as the Green Ambassadors Teacher for the past 8 years at the Environmental Charter Middle School-Inglewood, for which she was recently awarded the Garden Club of America's Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award for her innovative holistic science and garden education program. In her new role, she serves as the Environmental Education Program Lead for Environmental Charter Schools. Beyond the campus, Tashanda teaches about environmental injustices and toxic racism. She helps communities understand the political and historical forces that have led to these inequitable dynamics, and encourages them to strengthen their voices in order to advocate on behalf of their communities. In her newest endeavors, Tashanda is serving as a fellow in Women's Earth Alliance's most recent cohort of women leaders where she hopes to expand her own knowledge and build pathways for food security and environmental literacy with women and girls in the communities she serves. Lastly, Tashanda is also the Lead Educator in Kiss the Ground's Introduction to Regenerative Gardening online course and host of their podcast Grow What You Know.

Her continuous and relentless drive for ways to provide sustainable skills for communities that are often left behind, uninformed about local mandates, regulations and accessibility, has fueled her passion for teaching about environmental issues and sustainable solutions. And her passion is contagious.

#### **Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, California Natural Resources**

**Agency:** Amanda Hansen joined the California Natural Resources Agency in April 2019 as the Natural Resources Agency's Deputy Secretary for Climate Change. In this role, she drives the Agency's efforts to build California's resilience to climate impacts and accelerate the contribution of nature-based solutions to meeting our ambitious climate goals. She also coordinates the Agency's national and international climate engagement. Amanda previously worked on climate issues for the Governor of New York, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and U.S. Department of State. She grew up in Takoma Park, Maryland, and earned a Masters of Public Policy from the



University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University. Amanda lives in El Dorado Hills with her husband, children, and dog. They enjoy traveling, hiking, biking, camping, games, and sports such as tennis, baseball, and soccer.

**Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy:**

Campbell became the first Executive Officer of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy in March of 2011. The Conservancy is tasked with being a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supporting efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Previously, Campbell was an Associate Director of The Nature Conservancy's California Water Program where he participated in statewide efforts to balance water needs of ecosystems and human use. He previously worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he was responsible for implementing several CVPPIA restoration programs and the CALFED Environmental Water Program; and prior to that was employed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation working directly for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.

**The Honorable Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., Valley Professor of Marine Biology, Oregon State**

**University:** Jane Lubchenco, Valley Professor of Marine Biology at Oregon State University, is a marine ecologist with expertise in the interactions between the environment and human well-being. She brings scientific expertise to policy and action that contribute to sustainable and equitable uses of the ocean and the biosphere, a stable climate, abundant wildlife, healthy economies and vibrant communities. Lubchenco has served multiple times in the U.S. government, including as Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Administrator of NOAA (2009-2013); the State Department's first U.S. Science Envoy for the Ocean (2014-2016) where she was a science diplomat to China, Indonesia, South Africa, Mauritius, and Seychelles; and most recently, leading the Climate and Environment team at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (2021-2014). She co-led the Expert Group for and later served as the U.S. Sherpa to the High Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy. She co-founded The Nature Record Initiative that is producing the U.S.'s first scientific assessment of the state of nature and nature's benefits in the U.S. She grew up in Denver, received a B.A. in biology from Colorado College, an M.S. in zoology from the University of Washington, and a Ph.D. in ecology from Harvard University. She has received numerous awards including a MacArthur 'genius' Fellowship and 24 honorary doctorates (most recently from Oxford University).

**Cindy Messer, Lead Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources:** Cindy

Messer was appointed as Lead Deputy Director in February 2017. Prior to her appointment, Messer served as a subject matter expert and policy advisor to the director and former chief deputy director on a broad range of issues impacting



statewide water management. She briefly served as acting director in the summer of 2017 after Mark Cowin retired and prior to Grant Davis' appointment.

Messer was the deputy director of the Planning, Performance, and Technology Division at the Delta Stewardship Council from 2012 until her appointment with DWR. As deputy director, she coordinated the preparation and implementation of the Delta Plan. Prior to this position, Messer served as the assistant executive officer for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy where she provided oversight for development of the Delta Conservancy's Interim Strategic Plan. Messer also worked for more than 10 years in various technical and managerial roles in DWR's Division of Environmental Services.

Messer is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental policy analysis and planning. She also earned a Master of Science degree in conservation biology from California State University, Sacramento.

**Wendy Millet, Ranch Director, TomKat Ranch:** Wendy Millet is the Ranch Director of TomKat Ranch, TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation and LeftCoast Grassfed. In addition to working for several years on cattle and dude ranches in Wyoming and Montana, Wendy ran a local land trust, worked for a timber investment company, developed programs for an environmental economics research foundation, led education and leadership programs for the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, and spent 12 years at The Nature Conservancy working with farmers, ranchers, and timberland owners to protect and restore ranches, rivers and forests. Her efforts to share best practices led to work on several publications including: Land Use in America (Island Press), A Place-Based Partnership Manual (The Nature Conservancy of California) and Preserving California's Natural Heritage: A Guide to Land and Water Conservation (California Resources Agency). Wendy holds a B.A. in Literature from Harvard. She studied Environmental Economics at the University of Washington and Environmental Planning at University of Virginia. She serves on the board of the California Council of Land Trusts, the Farmland Advisory Committee for Peninsula Open Space Trust, and the Board of Councilors of Save the Redwoods League.

**Julie Rentner, President, River Partners:** coming soon!

**Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture:** Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on January 9, 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom. In re-appointing Secretary Ross, Governor Newsom cited her unmatched leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California, in areas including environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and trade. Secretary Ross was initially appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2011.



Before joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996- 2009, and as Vice-President of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989-1996. Her prior experience before moving to California included staff work for a United States Senator, a presidential candidate, and government relations for rural electric cooperatives and public power districts.

Secretary Ross is passionate about fostering the reconnection of consumers to the land and the people who produce their food, and to improving the access of all California citizens to healthy, nutritious California-grown agricultural products, celebrated for their diversity and abundance in serving local, national and global markets.

During Secretary Ross' tenure, the Department has focused on core functions to protect and promote California agriculture, investing in the Department's employees to provide the best service to farmers, ranchers and consumers and fostering an agricultural industry that embraces its role as a global leader on everything from the most technical aspects of farming to the broadest environmental imperatives.

Secretary Ross has strengthened partnerships across government, academia and the non- profit sector in the drive to maintain and improve environmental stewardship and to develop adaptation strategies for the specific impacts of climate change. She has initiated programs to provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, energy efficiency, nutrient management, and ecosystem services; and she has worked to provide greater access to farm-fresh foods at school cafeterias through CDFA's Farm to Fork Program.

Secretary Ross grew up as a 4-H kid on a farm in western Nebraska. She owns 800 acres of the family farm where her recently retired younger brother, a fourth-generation farmer, is mentoring a new, beginning farmer in growing no-till wheat and feed grains, incorporating cover crops and rotational grazing for beef production. The Secretary has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program. She has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions.

**Lauren Sanchez, Chair, California Air Resources Board:** Lauren Sanchez was appointed Chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2025. A seasoned climate policy expert, Sanchez brings experience at the intersection of environmental policy, diplomacy, and state governance.



Prior to her appointment, Sanchez served as Senior Advisor for Climate in the Office of Governor Newsom beginning in 2021, where she was widely recognized as a chief architect of California's ambitious climate agenda including codifying the state's carbon neutrality goal and extending the Cap-and-Invest program through mid-century. Her leadership also helped direct billions in climate and clean air investments, further solidifying California's position as a global leader.

Sanchez's career spans both state and federal service. In 2021, she was Senior Advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate in the Biden-Harris Administration, contributing to international climate diplomacy. From 2019 to 2021, she served as Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the California Environmental Protection Agency. She also held the role of International Policy Director at CARB from 2018 to 2019 and was a Climate Negotiator at the U.S. Department of State from 2015 to 2017, where she played a role in shaping global climate agreements.

A Fulbright Scholar, Sanchez holds a Master of Science in Environmental Management from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Biology from Middlebury College. She lives in Oakland with her husband and son. In her spare time, she enjoys trails, tacos and travelling.

**Sarah Swig, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor on Climate for Governor**

**Gavin Newsom:** Sarah Swig serves as Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor on Climate to Governor Newsom. She spent the last decade in Washington, DC, most recently serving as a policy advisor to Senator Alex Padilla and previously working for Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Sarah grew up in the Bay Area before attending Tulane University, where she earned her degree in political science and international development. She recently moved back to California to be closer to family and is happy to continue working on behalf of the state.

**Heather Tallis, Senior Fellow, Center for Coastal Climate Resilience at UC Santa Cruz and**

**Former White House Office of Science and Technology Policy:** An interdisciplinary scientist and policy advisor, Heather Tallis works to bridge nature, the economy, and people's lives. Dr. Tallis partners with governments, businesses, Indigenous community and others to change the ways we relate to and invest in nature. She co-founded and chairs the Secretariat for The Nature Record to close a major knowledge gap on the state of nature in the US. Dr. Tallis is also a Senior Fellow at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and serves as an independent advisor for multiple sectors.

She served as President Biden's policy advisor on nature in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she helped establish national policy on nature-based solutions, drove efforts to account for nature in benefit-cost analysis, and embedded funding for nature-based solutions in transportation, infrastructure, housing,



water systems and emergency management. Through previous work with The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Capital Project, she has advanced the science of ecosystem services, created measurement frameworks for biodiversity and the human dimensions of conservation, developed standards for conservation planning and the design of nature-based solutions, and infused nature into decisions with local communities, governments and the private sector in 20 countries.

Dr. Tallis has brought her expertise to the World Economic Forum, assessments with IPBES and the National Climate Assessment, and global non-profit and research boards.

**Lisa Worthington, Office Chief, Caltrans Office of Natural Resource Management:** Lisa Worthington is the Chief, Office of Natural Resource Management, and a California licensed Landscape Architect in the Division of Maintenance for the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in Sacramento. Lisa is originally from the mid-Atlantic, earning a BA in Urban Studies/Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, followed by MLA in Landscape Architecture at the College of Environmental Design at Cal Poly, where the principles of nature-based design and natural resource management at a landscape-scale clarified her career path.

Although her early professional work in the private sector focused on engineering entitlements and environmental planning, she found cross-disciplinary work in the public sector for Caltrans in 2004, and now twenty-two (22) years later, is grateful to be working directly with forward-thinking local, state, tribal and federal partners to make the right actions in public resource management easier, and the wrong actions harder.

She is a driver of a collaborative vision for climate adaptation at Caltrans, and has adopted a dynamic, flexible leadership style that flips innovative, community-level local expertise ahead of formalized policy and standardized practice during project scoping, funding and team building. Partners including the US Forest Service, CAL FIRE, State Parks, Local Fire Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, and Counties will find a willing partner in Caltrans VMP Staff statewide to reduce wildfire risk, restore native vegetation and build landscape resilience along state highways within their communities. The nine (9) funded programs collectively called the "Vegetation Management Program (VMP)" impact over \$122M of annual activities by 250 Field Crews and nearly \$60M in 23 "multi-year" projects that will awarded this Spring to specialty Contractors for vegetation management.

**Hayden Young, Corpsmember, California Conservation Corps:** Hayden Young was born in Scottsdale, AZ and moved to southern California at age 10, after his father joined the U.S Navy. Eight years later he graduated from Adolfo Camarillo High School, with no vision, goal, or path to follow. He decided on a change of location and moved to Chico, CA for college. After dropping out of college having only been enrolled a total



of two months, he heard from a friend about a program called the California Conservation Corps. He was a part of the CCC Chico program for nearly a year, working on many nature-based and community driven projects including, habit restoration at Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER), fuel reduction and tree planting operations in Paradise. After a fallout with a long-term partner Hayden moved back home, and transferred to CCC Camarillo. And after nearly 2 years he'll have taught three onboarding corpsmember classes, graduated a 5-month EMT course, spent 3 months on injury after a bad ankle sprain, work the Mountain and Palisades fire, complete a Firefighter 1 Academy, serve a year as President for the Corpsmember Advisory Board, achieve Corpsmember of the Year at Camarillo Fire Center, volunteer 100+ hours, and enjoyed every second of it.