“THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT I’VE SEEN.”

— Daniel Lucio, Volunteer Lead, The Sierra Club’s Our Wild America

85% of Americans live in urban areas. America is slated to become a minority-majority country by 2040. The average member of The Wilderness Society is a 71-year-old Caucasian female. America’s hunting and angling communities, which have long carried the country’s conservation work on their backs via the ca. $750M in taxes they pay each year for conservation, are overwhelmingly Caucasian. If the efforts to protect America’s lands, waters and wildlife continue to be led by Caucasians as they have been historically, it will not be enough to secure their health and wellbeing.
The coalition of stakeholders working to protect our public lands has the potential to become a movement. Outdoor recreationists, land managers and conservationists realize their greatest opportunities for effectiveness when they address issues of common concern with a unified voice. Working together to achieve shared objectives, our ability to champion our public lands in a time of unprecedented threat is extraordinary.

One of the greatest threats to the movement’s success is fragmentation. Compartmentalization of work, replication of effort, lack of communication between principals, and conflict between natural allies are just a few of the challenges that conspire against a united whole.

Lack of diversity is our Achille’s heel. Unless and until issues related to our public lands, waters and wildlife are relevant to all Americans, we will not be able to build enough support to secure their health and well-being for future generations.

The Center for Jackson Hole is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen the coalition of interests devoted to our public lands by investing in the future of their constituencies. We achieve this mission via two main programs: SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow), an annual festival, held each autumn in Jackson Hole, that explores issues at the intersection of conservation, outdoor recreation and cultural relevancy; and The Emerging Leaders Program, which trains a culturally diverse cohort of young outdoor recreationists to lead the conservation conversation.

By preparing early career leaders from across the core SHIFT stakeholder groups to address challenges affecting our natural world, The Emerging Leaders Program is helping to revitalize the American conservation movement.
Connecting People

Protecting Land

Diversity
Regional, Cultural, Ideological, Generational

Export
ELPx, Podcasting, Interviews, Public Engagement

Compelling Personal Narrative
Collaborative Dialogue
Disciplined Learning

THE EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM
The Emerging Leaders

In 2016, in conjunction with The Teton Science Schools, The Center for Jackson Hole developed The Emerging Leaders Program (“ELP”) to address the issue of cultural relevancy in outdoor recreation and conservation. Working with partner organizations such as 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, Latino Outdoors and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, ELP brought thirty-four men and women between the ages of 19 and 31 to the Jackson campus of The Teton Science Schools for three days of preparatory work in advance of The 2016 SHIFT Festival, and then integrated them into the proceedings as panel hosts, moderators, speakers, facilitators, and logistical assistants.

By convening a diverse group of early career leaders from across the core SHIFT audiences, ELP successfully elevates the voices of underrepresented members of our community.

At each Emerging Leaders Program, ELPers are given:

- **Familiarization** with subject matter to be explored at the SHIFT Festival (e.g., funding for public lands, the public land transfer movement)
- **Instruction** on how to then lead the conversations at SHIFT
- **Tools and skills** to help engage in discussions critical to protecting public lands
- **Export models** that allow them to share the results with their communities

“THANK YOU... for creating a culture of trust .... Absolutely incredible and a true reflection of the deliberate and thoughtful facilitation and leadership from ... the TSS staff!”

—from the 2016 Post-ELP interviews
The Teton Science Schools (“TSS”) has been teaching about the natural world and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since 1967. Its seven program areas share a common vision of education, one deeply rooted in the outdoors as place anchors that enrich our understanding of the world.

TSS instructors help develop and execute ELP curriculum. The resulting program leverages personal narrative as a means of galvanizing others around a cause, collaborative dialogue as a frame for acting practically within institutions to affect change, and disciplined learning to bring together unconventional partners for work on complex challenges.

ELP includes three days of preparatory work in advance of SHIFT that familiarizes ELPers with the Festival topics.

Upon conclusion of the training, ELPers are prepared to help lead the proceedings at SHIFT in various capacities: as panel hosts, moderators and panelists, as keynote speakers during SHIFT, and as key logistical assistants throughout the Festival.

By structuring SHIFT programming to channel ELPer experience and perspective, we connect the next generation of stewards with the traditional voices of conservation. The result? At SHIFT, the leaders of today and tomorrow collaborate to make this work relevant to all Americans.

“I can safely say my life was changed by this gathering of brilliant minds and passionate hearts.”

—Alyssa Ravasio, Founder, Hipcamp
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
With the training provided within the Emerging Leaders Program and the experience gained by actively presenting and facilitating at SHIFT, ELP alumni return to their communities with the requisite skills to organize, facilitate and lead conservation conversations, present their perspectives, stories and insights, and actively participate in other areas of public engagement.

PODCASTING
The stories we tell of our interactions with the land are the ties that bind us. During the 2017 Winter Emerging Leaders Program, ELPers developed the framework for a podcast that they could run and produce.

The podcast will provide a platform for a diverse array of stories and discussions about personal and community connections and relationships to the land and/or landscape. Via these podcasts, ELPers aim to increase the diversity of voices and experiences in relation to the outdoors in the podcasting community; raise exposure for SHIFT and ELP; and develop storytelling as a tool to build connections between people and landscapes.

Each class of Emerging Leaders will be trained to participate in the podcasting.

SHIFTx
Sharing SHIFT’s work allows us to continue it between annual events, broaden the coalition of our stakeholders and bring value to both the Emerging Leaders and the communities where they live. To this end, we developed a “SHIFTx” stakeholder discussion format that the Emerging Leaders can apply to relevant issues in their communities.

SHIFTx stakeholder discussion meetings are built on five major objectives:
- Convening stakeholders to foster collective impact
- Sharing stories important to the movement
- Inspiring tangible action and goal setting among stakeholders
- Identifying solutions to local issues of landscape and community
- Connecting ELP participants to colleagues in the field while also elevating their presence in their own community

During ELP, participants are given the tools to share their work back out with their communities. These tools, known internally as “export” or “sharing” models, include SHIFTx Stakeholder Discussion Meetings, Podcasting and Public Engagement.

/ SHARING MODELS

Rachel Leinweber, Mabari Byrd and Leandra Taylor. Photo: David Swift
The Center for Jackson Hole works with organizations around the country to identify candidates for ELP. Partner organizations nominate individuals who have distinguished themselves in their programs for consideration for ELP. ELP alumni are invited to nominate candidates for consideration as well.

The Center for Jackson Hole evaluates candidates on the basis of their responses to essay questions developed in conjunction with The Teton Science Schools and an internal set of criteria that allows us to achieve our objective of a cohort that represents American in all its diversity.

2016 Partner Organizations were as follows:
- 21CSC
- Conservation Legacy
- Student Conservation Corps
- Latino Outdoors
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- International Mountain Bicycling Association

The 2016 Emerging Leaders Program was made possible by support from:
- US Fish and Wildlife’s National Conservation Training Center
- Mammoth Lake Trails and Public Access
- Conservation Legacy
- The North Face
- City Kids Wilderness Project
- The Grand Teton National Park Foundation
The 2017 SHIFT Festival will explore the symbiotic relationship between outdoor recreation, public lands and the American economy. Emerging Leaders will be familiarized with the themes of the Festival, and then instructed on how to lead the conversations at SHIFT.

### 2017 ELP AGENDA

**SATURDAY, OCT. 28:**
- 4 p.m.: ELP registration
- 5 p.m.: Dinner
- 7 p.m.: Introductions
  - SHIFT Principles
  - Collective Impact Models

**SATURDAY, OCT. 28:**
- 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 9 a.m.: ELP Outside
- 11 a.m.: Story Exchange
- 12 p.m.: Lunch
- 2 p.m.: Transfer to Murie Center
- 3 p.m.: ELP outside
- 5 p.m.: Dinner
- 7 p.m.: 2017 SHIFT theme work

**MONDAY, OCT. 30:**
- 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 9 a.m.: 2017 SHIFT theme work
- 12 p.m.: Lunch
- 2 p.m.: ELP storytelling (podcasting, video interviews, SHIFTx)
- 5 p.m.: Dinner
- 7 p.m.: Story Exchange

### 2017 SHIFT AGENDA

**TUESDAY, OCT. 31:**
- 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 9 a.m.: ELP storytelling (podcasting, video interviews, SHIFTx)
- 12 p.m.: Lunch
- 2 p.m.: 2017 SHIFT theme work
- 5 p.m.: Dinner
- 7 p.m.: ELP stories

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1:**
- 7:30 a.m.: Breakfast
- 9 a.m.: SHIFT Prep
- 12 p.m.: Lunch
- 2 p.m.: Transfer to SHIFT

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1:**
- 9 a.m.: Pitch Day—Center for the Arts
- 2 p.m.: SHIFT Registration—Snow King Hotel
- 5 p.m.: Happy Hours
- 7 p.m.: Speaker TBD—Center for the Arts

**THURSDAY, NOV. 2**
- 8:00 a.m.: Breakfast Keynote
- 9 a.m.: SHIFT Summit
- 5 p.m.: Happy Hours
- 7 p.m.: Adventure, Inspired Film Festival

**FRIDAY, NOV. 3**
- 8:00 a.m.: Breakfast Keynote
- 9 a.m.: SHIFT Summit
- 11 a.m.: Closing Keynote
- 5 p.m.: The People’s Banquet
As we proceed, SHIFT’s substantive focus will remain the intersection of outdoor rec, conservation and cultural relevancy. We will continue to explore the niche between this focal point and the economy, highlighting the role outdoor recreation can play in the protection of our public lands.

The Emerging Leaders Program will be the engine of our efforts.

SHIFT’s goal is to help advance the collective agenda of its stakeholder coalition—an alliance of the outdoor recreation, conservation, land management, and cultural relevancy communities—by aligning and amplifying complementary efforts that protect our public lands. These efforts will not succeed until they represent the priorities of all Americans.

We invite you to join us.
EMERGING LEADERS

Class of 2016

TAIMUR AHMAD
Recreation and Forest Policy Fellow, The Wilderness Society
Washington, DC

Taimur Ahmad grew up in New York City, where he learned to fish and climb in the lakes and on the boulders of Central Park. At Princeton, he was active in outdoor education and recreation programs as a leader and leader-trainer, and also founded his own campus outing group. After graduating in 2016 he took a position as a Recreation and Forest Policy Fellow at The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., where he works on issues related to outdoor access and recreation.

GRACE ANDERSON
Coordinator, Inspiring Connections Outdoors Program, Sierra Club Outdoors
Oakland, CA

Grace Anderson, who currently calls Oakland, California, home, discovered the awe of nature on a college spring break trip with the Student Conservation Association to Joshua Tree National Park. Since then she’s been chasing wide-open spaces from Patagonia to the Yukon Territories to Wyoming. As Program Manager for Sierra Club Outdoors’ Inspiring Connections Outdoors Program, she helps connect communities with limited access to the outdoors. Prior to the Sierra Club, she worked in the field instructing 2-24 days courses and in administrative capacities for organizations such as NOLS, GirlVentures and Conservacion Patagonica.

KAITLYN BERNARD
Maine Program Associate, Appalachian Mountain Club
Portland, ME

As Maine Program Associate for the Appalachian Mountain Club, Kaitlyn splits her time between direct advocacy and lobbying work on state and federal policy issues and connecting people to the outdoors. Kaitlyn coordinates a statewide activity series called the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend and is the chair of the Maine Outdoor Coalition. Kaitlyn also sits on the board of directors for Teens to Trails and the Outdoor Sport Institute. Kaitlyn is a graduate of Colby College, where she studied Environmental Policy and Environmental Education.
MABARI BYRD
Crew Leader, PowerCorps PHL
Philadelphia, PA

Mabari Byrd supervises, mentors and project plans for 10-12 AmeriCorps members doing a variety of environmental sustainability and community development projects across Philadelphia. “I truly believe that this work chose me. From walking the trails of the Wissahickon, to working as a summer camp counselor and exploring/traveling to all our city parks, I adore mother nature. For me, having the option to infuse the best of both worlds was, and is still, a no-brainer. It’s why I love to serve in this kind of professional capacity.”

MADELEINE CAREY
Greater Gila Guardian, WildEarth Guardians
Santa Fe, NM

Madeleine works in the heart of the Mexican gray wolf recovery area to promote and execute a grazing permit retirement program. “So often, we look for ways to dress up our passions as activism or utilitarian endeavors when often the most effective thing to do is to let passions be passions and dedicate other parts of ourselves to our values. My work in conservation is just that: work. But it leaves me time for my passions (riding, running, skiing) and allows me to achieve a higher level of excellence in my activism and change making.”

ELIZABETH CASE
PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering, Cornell University
Ithaca, NY

As co-founder of Cycle for Science, Elizabeth Case designed and taught 1,000 kids physics, solar energy, and outdoor recreation on a cross-country bicycle trip in 2015 with her partner Rachel Woods-Robinson. “Outdoor recreation, such as bicycling, provides an incredible and stimulating means for curious scientists to get outside of their communities and into these target parts of the country. Our ultimate goal is to spread this idea to scientists all over the world and to create a network of ‘STEM messengers’ like us zooming around and sprinkling science as they go.”
SAWYER CONNELLY
Campus Outreach Coordinator, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Missoula, MT

Sawyer believes in our hunting and fishing heritage in the traditions of Teddy Roosevelt, fostering civic engagement and protecting Americans’ birthright to public lands. Originally hailing from the Acadian forests of northern New England, he developed a love for the indomitable Western landscape, public lands, and wildlife while studying environmental science and English at Colorado College and serving as a research fellow with the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project, where he studied large-landscape conservation.

MICHAEL DAVIS JR.
Instructor, YMCA Boys Outdoor Leadership Development School; Coordinator, Let’s Move Outside Program, Seattle Seattle, WA

In addition to coordinating the Let’s Move Outside program for Seattle, Michael takes young men from the Seattle community on eight-day backpacking trips through the North Cascades and Olympic Coast Wilderness. “Many of my friends, family and students ask me why I made the switch from investment banker to instructor. The simplest answer is that I would rather be paid in sunsets and smiles than dollars any day.”

CHLOE DECAMARA
Smokies Stewardship Coordinator, Appalachian Trail Conservancy Ithaca, NY

Chloe, a native of western North Carolina, began her relationship with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) shortly after obtaining her BA from UNC-Asheville. She started as a volunteer before securing a seasonal position coordinating trail maintenance crews in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the summer of 2014. In 2015, she thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), thus solidifying her long-term relationship with the A.T. As the Smokies Stewardship Coordinator with the ATC, Chloe works directly with current and aspiring hikers, trail crews, volunteers, and Park personnel.
RUBY JEAN GARCIA  
Executive Projects Coordinator, 
Latino Outdoors  
Arcata, CA

Ruby was born in Fresno, California, where agriculture inspired a love for outdoor spaces. Growing up, she was intrigued by nature's restorative qualities and human-kind's capacity for growth. Eventually, these interests merged into a deep-rooted passion for outdoor recreation, an endeavor Ruby Jean believes to be an avenue for empowerment. Ruby holds a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration from Humboldt State University, and is now working towards entry to their Public Sociology program.

CHRISTIAN GERING  
Environmental Stewards Program Assistant, Conservation Legacy  
Durango, CO

As Environmental Stewards Program Assistant with Conservation Legacy, Christian currently helps 33 tribal members from various tribal communities across the nation to get involved with their community’s water resources department. “I am a Pueblo Indian. It will be only a matter of time of when I will be able to involve Conservation Legacy with my community, so we can continue the legacy of stewardship in our homeland and attract youth back to our old foot trails.” Christian is also an avid ultra/trail runner.

CIARRA GREENE  
Nez Perce Tribe; Masters Candidate, Portland State University  
Portland, OR

Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) culture and traditions emphasize environmental stewardship and drive Ciarra’s academic, professional, and personal endeavors. Ciarra has her BS in Chemistry from Northern Arizona University (2012), where she researched environmental transport and stabilization of uranium on the Navajo Reservation. She has completed internships with the Nez Perce Tribe, Dept. of Energy (Hanford), EPA, and Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals.
HILARY HENRY
Community Coordinator, Gunnison Public Lands Initiative
Gunnison, CO

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative is a coalition of local conservation and outdoor rec groups working together to protect public lands in Colorado’s Gunnison County. As Coordinator, Hilary considers her most important role to be facilitating dialogue between non-traditional partners. “With climate change and population growth rapidly altering the Western landscape, communities must think ahead if they want to preserve their wild places for future generations. Labels – rancher, recreationist, sportsmen, conservationist – frequently get in the way of people finding solutions for the lands they all love. I believe communities are stronger when people connect over what they have common and find ways to make their differences secondary to their goals.”

MAYA HUNGER
Sea Kayak/Bike Guide
San Juan Islands, WA

Maya works as a backcountry guide in the San Juan Islands in Washington. She centers her content around history of the land, First Nations People, and the importance of protecting healthy ecosystems. “This land is my home; it’s a part of me, and I feel that I have been honored with the responsibility of taking people out into it as its ambassador and teaching them how important it is. Many people might feel lost in the middle of a multi-mile kayak crossing where there’s water on all sides and land is a mere speck in the distance, yet in this place I feel connected.” Maya moonlights as a freelance journalist for the outdoor industry and as backcountry/galley chef focused on sustainable eating practices. She received her B.A. in Political Ecology and Multimedia Journalism from Fairhaven College.

JASMIN-MARIE JONES
Interpretive Park Ranger, Timpanogos Cave National Monument
Holladay, UT

As Interpretive Park Ranger at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, “Jas” describes the challenges of reaching out to all communities in her region, and of representing an age of people who would rather spend time looking at screens than being outside. “Through the help of the Student Conservation Association I was able to find a niche in the conservation world. It is the kind of work that makes you proud of who you are. We are the next generation and we have big shoes to fill to protect the wonderful outdoor places of our world.”
DREW LEHNERD
Coordinator, AURORA Outdoor Orientation Programs, Penn State State College, PA

Drew works to develop leaders through outdoor recreation, and help those leaders work with incoming Penn State freshmen to ease their transition to college life. He also assists with instruction of the Adventure Based Program Leadership Course in Penn State’s Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management Department. Drew has a passion for teaching and all things outdoors, and hopes to continue to use outdoor recreation as a means of educating people and developing leaders.

RACHEL LEINWEBER
Founder/Owner, Pikes Peak Outfitter Colorado Springs, CO

Rachel grew up in a family owned small business, Angler’s Covey Fly Shop, in Colorado Springs. She fell in love with the combination of retail and the outdoors and started Pikes Peak Outfitter, a rental and retail paddle shop, while she got her business degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Rachel also assists in the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, an initiative to make the incredible natural and recreation assets of the Pikes Peak area an economic driver for the region. Passionate about fly fishing, paddling, advocacy for public lands and conservation, she also takes pride in leading and mentoring high school students in her community.

CLAIRE MARTINI
Coordinator, Uplift Climate Conference Seattle, WA

As Coordinator of Uplift Climate, a unique, youth-led program of Grand Canyon Trust and Landscape Conservation Initiative, Claire works to amplify youth voices for climate justice on the Colorado Plateau. Since Uplift’s inception in 2014, Claire and Uplift’s other organizers have engaged hundreds of young climate leaders in multicultural conversations to build regional community and landscape-scale collaborations. She holds a B.A. in Geology from Whitman College.
ERIC MELSON
Assistant Region Director for the Pacific Northwest Region, International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)
Missoula, MT

Eric Melson acts as a resource and coach for IMBA member advocates, working on a wide variety of issues that affect the management of mountain bicycling on western public lands. Eric is focused on working collaboratively between the recreation and conservation communities to protect critical areas yet provide access for sustainable, human-powered, quiet forms of recreation.

MAREN MURPHY
Senior Planner for Montana State Parks
Helena, MT

Maren has over eight years of experience in public land agencies in Montana and Oregon. She has a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University specializing in recreation planning and public engagement. Maren also serves on the board of the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals. In 2015, Maren received a Governor’s Award for Excellence recognizing her contributions to the State of Montana.

MAGGIE NORIEGA
Science Communication Intern, Student Conservation Association; student, Forestry and Restoration Ecology, University of Montana
Missoula, Montana

Originally from Seattle, Washington, Magdalena envisions a career working in public lands, either with the USFS or NPS. She started her conservation journey at age 15, working with the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corps, and most recently worked in Rocky Mountain National Park as an NPS Academy intern with the SCA. “All my peers care about beautiful places and natural areas, but most would never do anything hands-on or take action to help out the beautiful spaces. The biggest challenge is motivating people to actually participate in events that support the environment.”
ALFONSO OROZCO
Wyoming Regional Coordinator, Latino Outdoors; Candidate, M.S. in Natural Science Education and M.S. in Environmental and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY

Alfonso's lifelong passion for and career in the outdoors began with a Yosemite backpacking trip and evolved into positions with Bay Area Wilderness Training, Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Alcatraz National Park, and Virgin Islands National Park. He received a B.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration from San Francisco State University. “My goal is to break down barriers that prevent Latinos from participating in the outdoors. These barriers include language, knowledge, and culture. I believe we can create more stewards by removing these barriers and creating positive connections between people and natural places.”

MICHELLE PIÑON
Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator, Latino Outdoors; Outdoor Trip Leader, Washington Trails Association
Seattle, WA

Hailing from sunny Southern California, Michelle is a Seattle transplant working to protect Washington state’s majestic wilderness. Her initial attraction to environmentalism arose while organizing against workers’ rights violations in the food industry. Through activism within her Latino community, she began to question how communities form and connect to nature. She independently launched the Latino Outdoors Washington Chapter with ten outdoors experiences for Latino families. A graduate of Yale University, Michelle spends her free time exploring the US and learning about regional environmental issues.

JILL SANFORD
Freelance Journalist and Communications Content Writer
Truckee, CA

Jill is a published journalist with more than 5 years’ experience writing for both local and national audiences. In her work with Sierra Business Council, she brings a passion for outdoor recreation and solving environmental and economic problems in the Sierra. As a freelance writer, she seeks to bridge the gap between urban and rural in order to encourage downstream city dwellers to fall in love with wild, natural places through recreation.
AMIE SCHILLER
Trails Partnership Intern, Student Conservation Association
**Brattleboro, VT**

As part of her yearlong SCA position as a trails partnership intern, Amie was tasked with supporting, developing, and providing outreach concerning NPS trails. She studied Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of Vermont, and served a 2015 NPS Academy session as a biological technician at seven NPS units in South Dakota, including Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands.

ELIZABETH SODJA
PR and Marketing Coordinator, Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning, Utah State University
**Logan, UT**

Liz has been involved in conservation and outdoor recreation since her freshman year of college at Utah State University. As PR & Marketing Coordinator for The Center for Civic Engagement & Service Learning, she promotes the important role Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) plays in Utah’s public lands. While a student at Utah State, she formed the group “Aggie Outdoor Volunteers.” As an Education Ranger at Zion National Park, she created and facilitated youth programs and led school groups from the Las Vegas area on outdoor educational expeditions. She is also the owner and creator of Liz Sojourns Photography & Design.

LEANDRA TAYLOR
Ambassador for the Middle Rio Grande: Education, Employment & Environment Alliance
**Albuquerque, NM**

Born in Berlin, Germany, and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Leandra is a graduate of Baylor University (B.S., Environmental Science) and currently works as Ambassador for the Middle Rio Grande: Education, Employment & Environment Alliance (MRGE3) in Albuquerque, NM. Leandra believes the connection between people and nature is the most important aspect of conservation. The MRGE3 allows her to facilitate partnerships between non-profits, government agencies, and tribes to better connect people with nature through education, outreach, and recreation.
LAURA NAYELI TORRES
Field Representative, NPCA; Volunteer Coordinator, Latino Outdoors
Los Angeles, CA

Born in Mexico City, Laura’s connection to nature began with her family’s devotion to home-cooked meals and local foods. She obtained her B.A. in Spanish from Iowa’s Grinnell College and her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Cal State Los Angeles. A lover of life and nature, Laura works to engage families and youth in urban communities to build a diverse base of leaders and advocates who support NPCA’s local and national campaigns. As volunteer contributor for Latino Outdoors, she leads outings from urban LA into Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains.

JOSHUA TUCK
Assistant to the National Park Service Regional Youth Volunteer Program Manager
Atlanta, Georgia

Joshua serve as an assistant to the National Park Service Regional Youth Volunteer Program Manager in Atlanta through Greening Youth Foundation. His background is in Public Policy and his professional degree (in progress) is in City & Regional Planning. Joshua has a passion for sustainable communities and hopes to see a day when the innovation in designs for sustainability is a primary goal in most of our cities.

JANET XOCHICUICATL VALENZUELA
Field Ranger, Angeles National Forest; Student, Chicano/a Studies, California State University Northridge
Northridge, CA

Janet Xochicuicatl Valenzuela is a Chicana Eco-feminist who studies Chicano/a Studies with a minor in Decolonial Anthropology at California State University Northridge. She is an environmental justice organizer in the city of Los Angeles and a project assistant with Good Heart Project. She is also currently an intern for the United States Forest Service as a Field Ranger in the Angeles National Forest. She completed the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Leadership Academy with the support of The Wilderness Society and works with the Forest Service to build more relevance for people of color and people living in urban areas.
Rachel Woods-Robinson is an experimental materials physicist seeking a PhD position in Materials Science and Engineering. Specializing in synthesis and characterization of optoelectronic semiconductors, and applications of these materials to photovoltaic solar energy conversion, she’s currently researching transparent conducting materials for photovoltaics at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. As Co-Founder, with science journalist Elizabeth Case, of Cycle for Science, Berkeley Lab research associate Rachel Woods-Robinson visited middle schools across the country, teaching science lessons and profiling science teachers, all while serving as female role models with the hope of attracting girls to science.

Brandon Williams is a Conservation Biology major at SUNY Cortland in central New York with a strong passion for the natural world that started with a love for plants. What drives him to succeed in his academic major is the hope that younger generations will be able to be changed by the natural world the way he was.

Allison Williams’ passion centers around conservation, diversity issues, volunteer coordination, outreach and getting the next generation outdoors. She gained her skills as Conservation Leadership Corps Coordinator for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and as a USDA Forest Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy Volunteer and Service Coordinator, where she helped support Volunteer and Service objectives with Region 8 of the Forest Service. A graduate of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, LA, she currently works in the Las Vegas, Nevada area as a Reclamation Guide for the Bureau of Reclamation.

A Michigan transplant, Zeppelin received his International Business degree from Westminster College. His passion for startups has led him to become involved with a number of projects and businesses, including Mountain Sports International, Far From Home Movie, Occupy Pando, WZRD Media, and DMOS Collective. He is currently in the pre-production stages of a feature-length film documenting the fight for America’s public lands.
The Center for Jackson Hole

The Center for Jackson Hole leverages outdoor recreation for conservation gains, via The Emerging Leaders Program, SHIFT and related programming.

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