

CELEBRATING

A YEAR

IN SERVICE



# Grizzly Gratitude



A gracious thank you to our second cohort of GrizzlyCorps fellows for their dedication, action, and presence this year.



FLIP FOR MORE

## | SABRINA | SHASTA LAND TRUST

Sabrina has been an amazing addition to the Shasta Land Trust staff! She quickly blended in and became part of our little work family and we couldn't be happier with the knowledge, professionalism, and skills she brings to the table. On top of the benefits she brings to the organization, Sabrina is incredibly kind and thoughtful. The entire organization has benefited from having her with us for the past several months and we will be sad to see her move on, but with little doubt that she will surely accomplish many great things.



## | MARIA |

### MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION

Maria did not hesitate to get right to work when she arrived at the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. Her first project was creating and facilitating a large panel discussion with a very diverse panel and she managed the challenge very well. Through other projects, she has virtually become the face/voice of the MWPA as she interacts with many members of the public. She has a tremendous work ethic and commitment to protecting our environment.

## | SHAY |

### WESTERN SHASTA RCD

The Western Shasta RCD Board and Staff have been so impressed by Shay's ability to jump right in and take on any task we have thrown her way!. Shay has been an excellent addition to our team and has really helped increase our capacity to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health in Shasta County. From interacting with our partners to engaging community members, Shay has brought a fresh perspective and new skills to our District and we can't thank her enough for joining the WSRCD Team!

## | KATHRYN |

### RCD OF TEHAMA COUNTY

Kathryn has been an incredibly valuable addition to our RCD team. We are grateful for her adaptability and good spirit as we use her various skills in the field contributing to wildfire defensible space, collecting and seeding native plants at a fish passage improvement project site, and youth outreach programs as well as in the office through important CEQA document development and educational media campaigns. On all these projects plus several more, Kathryn has done exceptional work and we are lucky to have her.



| JORDAN |

## MULTINATIONAL EXCHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE AG

"Thank you for your service with AmeriCorps, GrizzlyCorps, MESA and the extended MESA community! This has been a unique time in all our collective history, and to have you in service with MESA these last 7 months has provided a significant advantage to our MESA team and the communities we serve. Your participation and leadership on our current USDA-supported programs have been fundamental to the advancement of our programming and is setting up our next GrizzlyCorps fellow to have an advantage to build on your contributions in MESA.

At times it can be a thankless role to be serving communities and maintaining visionary work, and we feel very confident that your experiences will set you up for success in whatever you chose to do after you conclude your service time in AmeriCorps. You have integrated into our community in such a short time and your thoughtfulness in the way you walk through the world will be a foundation for your next professional endeavors. We aren't quite done yet, but we want to make sure not only feel but hear how significant your contributions as a thought partner have been to the leadership of our work. Looking forward to continued collaboration, for as long as you remain a team member of MESA! "



| HANNAH |

CARCD

"Hannah brought significant value to all three partners supporting this fellowship. She brought creative ideas, great questions, as well as a wealth of experience. She was trustworthy and highly productive, contributing significantly to her host organizations. She proved herself to be an adept and high-capacity leader who promises to make a significant impact in California's agricultural sector. We look forward to watching her career grow."



| NICOLE & BETHANY |  
TRINITY COUNTY RCD

The Trinity County RCD staff have been continually impressed with Bethany's and Nicole's ability to excel at any task we throw at them regardless of complexity. They are both a joy to work with and we are so grateful for their continuing dedication. We are constantly impressed with their focus and drive and look forward to the persisting support and capacity they provide. We wish we could keep them for another year, but we are excited for the next chapters of their professional development wherever that may take them.

| MAKAYLA |  
PEPPERWOOD

Makayla has hit the ground running at Pepperwood. She brings significant biological expertise, a 'can do' adaptable attitude, an intuitive sense about teamwork and working well with others, and we are all incredibly grateful to work with her. I'm continually impressed with how thoughtful she is about all aspects of her work. I appreciate her attention to detail and how responsible she is with her tasks. Her genuine love of nature and dedication to stewardship and conservation science is inspiring. I hope she feels respected, appreciated, and connected to our team and the organization. We couldn't be more happy with her performance so far. Makaya is the type of colleague that we all want to collaborate with far into the future. Thanks, Makayla!





| JOSH |  
**MARIN WILDFIRE**

Josh has been a great addition to the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) team. From the get-go, Josh dove into complex projects with a positive attitude and a thoughtful approach. He excels at building relationships, grasping complex issues quickly and communicating around them to our member agencies and the public. Most recently he's been helping us work with fire agencies and cities to create project proposals for next year's wildfire prevention work. We're very grateful for his awesome attitude and great work!

| EMILY |  
**SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST**

Emily does the work of several people. Give her a shovel and she moves dirt and fence posts - with focus and determination. Give her an idea and Emily is there with thoughtful analysis and research. From Sequoia Riverlands Trust we give Emily many thanks for her hard work in Rangeland Monitoring, developing relationships with ranchers, and teaching. Emily was instrumental in installing six artificial burrows for owls down in the windy Antelope Valley, planting shrubs for Tri Colored Blackbird habitat, and removing barbed wire to improve Antelope habitat in the Carrizo Plain.



| MIKAYLA |  
**SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION**

Mikayla is a wonderful addition to the Sustainable Conservation team. She has been an invaluable partner in identifying opportunities at the intersection of two very complex water-related efforts – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). She brings passion to her work and has shown an impressive capacity to quickly understand complex, interrelated issues. Thank you, Mikayla, for your valuable insights, dedication, and positive spirit!





| JOAQUIN |  
YOLO RCD

Joaquin has worked on most of our restoration and outdoor education projects at the Yolo County RCD, but his passion is prescribed fire and fire prevention. He has attended all of our Fire Safe Council and Community Wildfire Protection Planning meetings and is training to become a wildland firefighter. He is helpful, and always cheerful, and we are so grateful for his service!



| CONNY |  
FRIENDS OF PLUMAS WILDERNESS

Friends of Plumas Wilderness is so grateful to Conny for all she did for us these last five months! What a professional and organized go-getter she is - Conny definitely made things go more smoothly around our office. From big projects to small, sometimes pushing herself to uncomfortable places and other times working in familiar terrain - thanks Coco!



| NICK |  
WILD FARM ALLIANCE

Nick is an extremely positive and talented person whose love of nature shines through in all his work, and as such, is an important part of Wild Farm Alliance. Notably, his work on assisting producers to submit HSP applications was beyond impressive - 20 applications totalling nearly 1 million dollars! We could not have reached as many producers without his help. We are so grateful for his dedication to increasing conservation practices on farms!

| EVE |  
ECO FARM

Having Eve on our team has been a tremendous gift. I'm not sure how we would have persevered this year without her incredible can-do attitude and abilities. She so gracefully took on the challenge of pivoting our in-person conference to a virtual one, and in second's time—all the while upholding her vision and purpose of making a positive impact wherever she can, above and beyond our expectations. Eve is wonderful all around—dedicated, intelligent, and thoughtful. She has demonstrated her leadership skills by exemplifying flexibility, adaptability, and resilience under pressure. We are endlessly grateful for her and all of her contributions.



## | KATIE | FIRE SAFE MENDOCINO & RCD

Thank you for being our first and best GrizzlyCorps Fellow! You have set the bar ridiculously high ... so much so that we are already feeling sorry for whoever may try to "fill your shoes." Your willingness to jump in and take ownership of things is inspiring. We are ashamed to imagine, e.g., how sad our community mapping project would have been without your leadership. We appreciate all your hard work and collaboration. You are insightful, thorough and a pleasure to work with. We are grateful for all you are doing and look forward to keeping an eye on the great things you do down the road!



## | MASON |

### GOLD RIDGE RCD & FS SONOMA

Mason has been a steady, thorough and helpful member of our outreach team. We appreciate the humor, perspective and insight he brings to our communications. We are so grateful Mason chose to spend his time supporting RCDs and Fire Safe Sonoma.



## | JENNA |

### GOLD RIDGE RCD & FS SONOMA

Jenna has been a stellar teammate- helpful, creative, smart, thoughtful, and fun. Jenna has made significant contributions to Gold Ridge RCD and RCDs across the state. We felt so lucky to have landed such an awesome Fellow.

## | TYLER |

### UPPER SALINAS-LAS TABLAS RCD

First of all, it is a pleasure to have you part of the RCD team and the more we get to know you the more we enjoy you. Secondly, I personally want to let you know how much I appreciate your willingness to help out, the responsiveness, and the amount of knowledge and insight you bring to projects. Lastly, you have shown the leadership skills necessary to get things done. The rest of staff have brought this to my attention in many ways: Andy in reference to the work flagging trees for fire/fuel management, Amy for the work out on Willow Creek, and Erin for your work on the brochures for the Healthy Soils Program. We are glad you chose our site and look forward to working with you over the next couple of months.





| LEIGH |

### EAST STANISLAUS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Thanks for kicking so much ass during your tenure at East Stan RCD (and you're not even done yet!). You've helped us in so many ways including taking on leadership roles in the water and restoration world, stepping up to assist with Jr. Chef and other educational programs, and going kayaking when the rest of us cannot ;)

Without trying to be condescending, I also just wanted to say I feel like I've already seen you grow as a person and it's been awesome to watch. I'm so stoked we got you as our grizzly corps member and I hope to continue working with you for years to come. And so, we should go have another refreshing libation to chat more and celebrate

Excellent work, Leigh!! Thanks so much for all you do!! You're amazing, and don't forget it! :)



| MONA |

### HOPLAND RESEARCH & EXTENSION

Mona, thank you very much for all the excellent work you have done here at HREC. You have been self-motivated, organized, curious, ambitious, and thoughtful. From the Carbon Farm Plan to leading field trips, from increasing your GIS knowledge to learning how to do species composition surveys, you have been conscientious and followed through on your work plans. On top of it all, you have been a pleasure to work with these last two years. I and all the team here at HREC wish you all the best in your next steps in life.





| LAURA |  
KARUK DNR

Laura, You are an important team member and a joy to work with. Thank you for all your valuable time and dedication. You have been a huge help and we appreciate you also understanding the importance of tribal culture, that forms the foundation of the work we do. You're doing an excellent job and we would all love to continue working with you.



| ROSE |  
CAFF

Rose has become an integral part of the Ecological Farming team at CAFF as well as the whole organization. She brings competency, enthusiasm and sincerity to her work in a way that is appreciated by all those who work with her. We send out our heartfelt gratitude for all Rose has contributed to our organization and the farmers we serve.



| TARA |  
MARIN RCD

We hit the jackpot! Tara fits perfectly into our team. Every day Tara works her hardest to serve our community. Her technical GIS skills are creating a foundation which will allow us to measure our GHG impacts for years to come and her efforts to expand our regenerative agricultural community will reinvent how we include diversity, equity and inclusion in our programs. The best part of working with Tara is that she does her work with a big smile and cooperative spirit. Thank you, Tara!

| RAINI |  
EAST MERCED RCD

EMRCD is grateful for the energy and perspective you bring to our organization. As District Manager, I am personally delighted to work with you on projects because of all that you bring to the table. Jean, our board V.P. and activist likes to quote: " You are either at the table or on the menu". Your energy, knowledge set, calm demeanor, focused learning, humor, detailed planning and execution contribute to EMRCD's place "at the table" of conservation work in the great San Joaquin Valley. You have endeared yourself to this community of people working towards agricultural resilience in a region critical to this nation's food supply that is gravely endangered by climate change and non-sustainable practices. Every "bit" counts, and your time with us has brought good synergy, focused direction and amidst all the work, some plain old fun! Thank You Raini!



| JASMINE |  
PIE RANCH & CASCADE RANCH

I appreciate your warm and always ready smile

I appreciate how fast you keyboard - I am always impressed when I hear you tapping away

I am humbled by your quiet humility, your strength of commitment to climate and social justice, and your respect for others, yourself and your values

I am always impressed when you remind me (with your quiet strength) that you need me to complete my part of some project - on time!

Thank you for coming to Pie Ranch  
Thank you for sharing your gifts and your intelligence with us

I know that you will continue to inspire respect and appreciation wherever you venture to in the future

A Big Shoutout to you!

Thank you!



| ALEX |  
CENTER FOR LAND-BASED LEARNING

Alex is a conscientious, intelligent, dedicated and determined Grizzly Corps fellow. The Center For Land-Based Learning is thrilled and honored to serve as her host site.

Alex also comes across as a fantastic human being. She almost always has a smile on her face and is a joy to be around-both personally and professionally.

Again, we're so thankful she chose us as her host site!



## | CAILEY & DUNBAR | THE MCCONNELL FOUNDATION

Thank you Dunbar and Cailey for all the work and the corporation over this last few months. We have learned a lot together and got a lot of things accomplished -- moving forward we are going to accomplish a lot more. Thank you for always willing to learn new things and hanging in there when the job gets tough and things are moving pretty quickly. - Matt

Dunbar and Cailey, we are grateful for your contributions to our projects these past five months! Cailey, Dunbar, and our crew are currently prepping a 62 acre burn unit for a CAL FIRE prescribe burn. Cailey was instrumental in pushing this project forward by creating the pre-treatment guidelines and coordinating with our partner CAL FIRE Battalion Chief. She also continues to be a huge help in collecting soil samples with our Point Blue Partner Biologist. Dunbar has excelled in his stewardship over two different rotational grazing systems at Ross Ranch. He also tracked our internal costs to complete a 6.5 ac fuel treatment in the Mt. Shasta City wildland-urban interface that will help us make cost-effective decisions for future treatments. Both Cailey and Dunbar have been learning the tools of the trade and continue to work hands-on in all-weather conditions to help us move our projects forward! Many thanks! - Sarah

## | PAULINE | SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS RCD

It is hard to describe how instrumental Pauline has been in scaling up our Community Resilience programs here at the RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains. She has progressively taken responsibility for coordinating wildfire home evaluations across our District and for building long lasting relationships with community leaders. Her positive energy and problem solving genius will have a long lasting impact on the safety of homeowners in the region and the health of our native ecosystems in Southern California. All of us at the RCD are so grateful for her contribution and we cannot wait to see what she will accomplish next! Thank you Pauline!





**| SUKHMONY |**  
**UCCE FRESNO**

Thank you Sukhmony for all you have contributed to our program serving small-scale farms in the Fresno area! You are an asset to our team, jumping in with everything from installing irrigation lines for windbreak trees to policy analysis, and you are helping build our capacity to reach a wider audience of farmers to promote climate smart practices. Thank you for the energy and thoughtful engagement you bring!

**| ELLE |**  
**FARM TO PANTRY**

Elle, thank you for your commitment to justice through good food. You push us all to be better everyday. Duskie and Farm to Pantry team



**| JONATHAN |**  
**EL DORADO & GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RCD**

I wanted to provide a brief summary about our AmeriCorps Fellow, Jonathan. Since coming to the RCD Jonathan has been an essential and important member to our team. His personality is welcoming as well as professional. We are a small organization but involved with a lot of large projects. Jonathan has been able to step-in and handle anything we, or the projects, throw at him. His work involves working with our contractors, members of the community, and private landowners. This is a demanding and challenging work load. Jonathan has provided information to the community about our projects and is an amazing representative of the RCD. I can't thank him enough. I truly look forward to continuing our work. We are only as successful as our team can make it. Jonathan is truly exemplary of this success and we greatly appreciate his contributions.



# Grizzly Gratitude

AND A SPECIAL

THANKS FROM

THE GRIZZLY TEAM



PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
| KEN |

A huge thank you to our fellows. We started GrizzlyCorps two years ago, and we had high hopes for what it would be. You have exceeded our expectations, benefitted dozens of communities, made a difference in people's lives, and inspired us to do more. Can't wait to see what you do going forward!

PROGRAM MANAGER  
| ELIZA |

Thank you so much for your dedication to your host sites, service communities, fellow cohort members and GrizzlyCorps. You all are such a pleasure to work with and I am constantly in awe of your talent, passion, and service. Although it may not always be tangible or easy to see, the impact you have on your communities and the support you provide your host organizations is invaluable. From our whole team, you have our deepest gratitude.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
| MICHELLE |

It is with immeasurable pride that I have the pleasure of supporting a second cohort of deeply driven, intelligent, and equally compassionate individuals. Watching your growth and connection with building intentional community both in this work and with each another this year has been nothing short of inspiring. Endless gratitude all around!

PROGRAM MANAGER  
| STEPHANIE |

It has been really wonderful to see what each fellow has been able to accomplish so far during their service year. I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of this cohort and their hard work and dedication to addressing the environmental needs of this state. Thank you all for your commitment to this work!