

Detailed Agenda

Tuesday, October 20th

Landback to the Future

Plenary

Time: 10:00am – 10:50am **Location:** Mountain Ballroom

Description: This plenary session will feature a panel of Tribal perspectives that explores what we can learn from various Landback examples in California, and how we can expand our collective notion of what the Landback movement can accomplish moving forwards.

✶ Track Session #1: 11am - 11:55am

Title: Necessity is the Mother of Innovation

Systems

Location: Mountain Ballroom **Moderator:** Sharon Farrell (The Stewardship Network)

Description: This session explores how collaborative practitioners have responded when existing models failed to meet the scale and urgency of today's challenges. From cross-boundary governance structures and statewide learning networks to streamlined permitting pathways and adaptive management systems, necessity has catalyzed innovation across policy, practice, and culture. Participants will hear how wildfire and climate risks drove the emergence of cross boundary stewardship collaboratives, how capacity gaps gave rise to increased coordination capacity and backbone organizations to enable regional collaboration, and how threats to water quality and infrastructure gave rise to changed communications strategies and practices.

Through practitioner-led discussions on these case studies, the session will highlight not only what has changed, but what it took to change it—and what remains fragile. Attendees will leave with concrete insights into how crisis-driven innovation is reshaping stewardship in California, and how these approaches can be adapted or scaled to meet emerging challenges.

Speakers:

- Christy Brigham | The Nature Conservancy
- Kim Caringer | Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Kyle Rodgers | Sierra Institute

✶ Track Session #1: 11am - 11:55am

Title: Sharing and Applying Multiple Forms of Knowledge

Knowledge

Location: Big Pine Room **Moderator:** Deniss Martinez (Indigenous Stewardship Network)

Description: Through a blend of presentation, panel-based dialogue, and audience engagement, this session will explore the multiple forms of knowledge that inform our work in landscape stewardship, and how we can better share and apply different ways of knowing to enable better outcomes on the ground.

This session will provide background and presentational overview on different types of knowledge, how they are integral to practicing inclusive and effective landscape stewardship, and explore why forms of knowledge are shared and applied more than others. The session will then engage practitioners engaged in collaborative efforts in California to illustrate how they are actively sharing and applying multiple forms of knowledge to guide their stewardship approach. The primary goals of this session are to further educate and inform practitioners about the value of meaningfully integrating multiple forms of knowledge in their work as collaborative stewards.

Speakers:

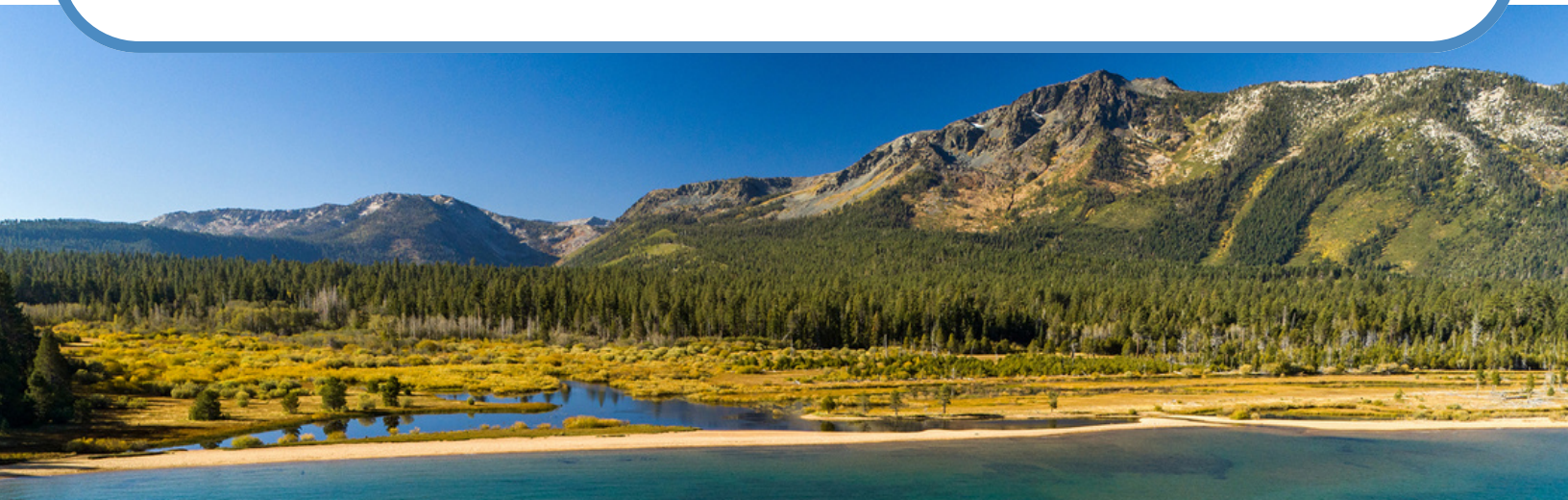
- Luna Latimer | Western Klamath Restoration Partnership
- Scott Green | California State Parks

Title: What Calls You to Stewardship?

Practice

Location: Alumni Room **Moderator:** Shawn Johnson (University of Montana)

Description: This session explores the deeper interests, motivations, philosophies, and life circumstances that draw people into this work. Rather than starting from strategy or expertise, we'll start from personal experience: what actually called you here, beneath the professional language we tend to reach for first? From there, we'll turn to an exploratory question as a community of practice — how do we recognize, support, and make more room for that full range of callings in each other and in the field, rather than narrowing it down to what's easiest to fund or credential?



* Track Session #1: 11am - 11:55am

Title: What's So Special About Collaboration?

Storytelling

Location: Aspen Room **Moderator:** Connor Jandreau (CA Central Coast Joint Venture)

Description: What are the unique needs of working in collaboration, and what are its unique impacts when done effectively? How can our field amplify the power of collaborative approaches, and continue incorporating collaborative metrics and indicators of success into funding programs? This session will reflect on how this effort has grown over the last decade, share the latest research that demonstrates the importance of collaborative approaches and collaborative impact assessment, and offer bright spots in how it's happening California and beyond. Session attendees will be invited to consider a key question many of us face: what's so special about collaboration?

Speakers:

- Mark Fenstermaker | Pacific Policy Group
- Amy Mickel | CA State University – Sacramento
- Jon Peterson | Network for Landscape Conservation



* Track Session #2: 1:30pm - 2:50pm

Title: Share Your Greatest Lessons

Practice

Location: Mountain Ballroom **Moderator:** Shawn Johnson (University of Montana)

Description: This is a session for conservation and stewardship professionals to learn from the hard-earned wisdom of invited panelists and the room itself. We'll open with several experienced practitioners distilling their top lessons — specific, concrete, and earned through deep experience. From there, we'll pool the collective wisdom already in the room through live crowd-sourced submissions and small-table discussions.

Speakers will be announced soon, check back in for updates!

* Track Session #2: 1:30pm - 2:50pm

Title: Communicating Value: Getting at the 'Why' of Your Collaboration

Storytelling

Location: Big Pine Room **Moderator:** Michelle O'Herron (O'Herron & Co.)

Description: How are you communicating value? Collaborative approaches to stewardship are buttressed by our values of caring for the land and for each other. They are also driven by the need to communicate the value-add of our work, whether to funders, decision-makers, partners, or to our communities surrounding the lands and waters we're stewarding. This session will explore how we can best communicate the values underpinning this work and the value of the work in enabling better outcomes for people and place.

This session builds off the previous Storytelling track session on collaborative metrics and impacts, getting into more detail around how we can communicate the value (and values) of your collaboration in its own context, and will prepare for the next day's conversation about how to communicate across differences.

Speakers:

- Alex Roa | TOPO Collective
- Griff Griffith | Jumpstart Nature
- Thea Schwartz | Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Title: Changing from the Inside Out: Operational Realities for Better Collaboration

Systems

Location: Alumni Room **Moderator:** Shelana deSilva (California State Parks)

Description: How do we innovate administrative and operational systems to enable cross-boundary, collaborative outcomes? Across a variety of topics this session will unearth the broader system of needs for collaboration to be more intentional and successful.

We'll operationalize the concept of collaboration by highlighting specific, implementable examples of how to advance collaborative practice and more collaborative outcomes in your region. Whatever scale your collaborative is at or where it is in the collaborative life cycle, this session is for practitioners who want discrete examples to bring home and guide their collaborative action. This look under the hood of how collaboration gets done will prepare attendees for the broader vision for systems change that this track will take on in Day 2 of the Conference.

Speakers:

- Jay Chamberlin | CA State Parks
- Sharon Farrell | The Stewardship Network
- Kellyx Nelson | Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network



Detailed Agenda **Wednesday, October 21st**

Unlearning, Relearning, & Sharing: Telling the Story of Stewardship

Plenary

Time: 8:30am – 9:20am **Location:** Mountain Ballroom

Description: We've grown up with stories in mainstream culture about how the world is and how humanity is that were often misleading, the effect of which contributes to major 21st century crises. How can relearning stories based in relational understandings of the world, and based in stewardship as a fundamental component of being human, help the stewardship movement and society as a whole?

✶ Track Session #3: 9:30am - 10:40am

Title: Making the Invisible, Visible: Systems at Work

Systems

Location: Mountain Ballroom **Moderator:** Kellyx Nelson (San Mateo RCD)

Description: In this session, we will begin to recognize the many systems at play in our work. Whether ecological, financial, political, or regulatory systems, we must continuously navigate many dynamics and at times barriers to accomplishing our stewardship and conservation goals. Through examples based in major stewardship needs facing California – forest and fire resilience, habitat restoration and species recovery, invasive plants management, and more – attendees will be able to better see these systems “at work,” and discuss what changes are needed to accomplish the landscape-scale, collaborative outcomes we seek.

Speakers:

- Keali'i Bright | CA Natural Resources Agency
- Natalie Chapman | CA Department of Conservation
- Kimberly Crispin | Cal Invasive Plant Council
- Erin Ernst | Blue Forest
- Rebecca Fris | Wildlife Conservation Board
- Forest Schafer | The Watershed Research & Training Center

* Track Session #3: 9:30am - 10:40am

Title: Unexpected Bedfellows: An Exploration of Different Partners in Stewardship

Storytelling

Location: Big Pine Room **Moderator:** Bobbie Kipreos (San Mateo RCD)

Description: When we bring people together who are like-purposed but not always like-minded, unexpected partnerships emerge that give way to good things. What can we learn from examples of “unexpected bedfellows” that aren’t always on the same page but see common purpose? This session will explore the power of these partnerships, empower attendees in turn to seek out unexpected partnerships in their communities, and continue building the vision for a stewardship movement that brings a diversity of actors together to care for communities and landscapes.

Speakers:

- Dina Moore (Lone Star Ranch) *and* Chris Heppe (retired U.S. EPA)
- Bridget Fithian (Sierra Foothill Conservancy) *and* Ben Goger (Sierra Nevada Conservancy)
- Mike Mendez, PhD (UC Irvine) *and* Nikola Alexandre (Shelterwood Collective)

Title: Tools and the Ability to Use Them

Knowledge

Location: Alumni Room **Moderator:** TBA

Description: This session will highlight several tools that effectively share information in service of cross-boundary stewardship, with an emphasis on how to make these tools widely accessible to practitioners and communities. The types of tools shared during this session get at the heart of CLSN@10: How can we be responsive to pressing challenges related to wildlife connectivity, native plant propagation, wildfire resilience and community protection, and offer forward-thinking, proactive planning to create a better California over the next decade?

Speakers & Highlighted Tools:

- Ann-Marie Benz | CA Native Plants Society on [Calscape Pollinator Companion](#)
- Austin Parker | San Diego Monitoring & Management Program on [Suppression & Planning Action to Restore Communities and Species](#) (SPARCS)
- Cat Fong | National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UC Santa Barbara on [Wildfire Resilience Index](#)
- Lindsey Rich | CA Department of Fish & Wildlife on [Wildlife Insights](#)



✶ Track Session #3: 9:30am - 10:40am

Title: Fostering a Collaborative Culture: What it Means & How We're Building it Together

Practice

Location: Aspen Room **Moderator:** Shawn Johnson (University of Montana)

Description: Culture — the shared, often unspoken assumptions and norms that shape “how we do things” — is frequently the real determinant of whether collaborative conservation and stewardship work succeeds. It shows up in whose knowledge counts, how conflict is handled, what pace feels acceptable, and how power moves between the people and institutions at the table. Today we'll name the culture we actually have, decide whether it's the one we want, and explore how to shape it — together and individually.



✶ Track Session #4: 10:50am - 12:00pm

Title: Making the Invisible, Visible: The Example of Cutting Green Tape

Systems

Location: Mountain Ballroom **Moderator:** Kellyx Nelson (San Mateo RCD)

Description: How do we better understand the many systems that inform our work in stewardship and conservation? This session will explore ways in which the Cutting Green Tape interagency initiative provides a model to examine how systems change work is a key element to meeting pressing challenges in stewardship and conservation.

Speakers will be announced soon, check back in for updates!

* Track Session #4: 10:50am - 12:00pm

Title: Telling the Unexpected Story

Storytelling

Location: Big Pine Room **Moderator:** John Hausdoeffer (Western Colorado University)

Description: How do you tell a story across difference? This session is about how to tell stewardship stories in a way that celebrates different understandings of what “stewardship” means, but also how we tell our story to different audiences. This session is meant for practitioners seeking a better understanding of how they can reach multiple audiences in a variety of ways.

Speakers:

- Elizabeth Paige | Native American Land Conservancy
- Mike Mendez, PhD | UC Irvine

Title: We’ve Only Just Begun: Stewardship Action Beyond the Individual Project

Knowledge

Location: Alumni Room **Moderator:** Christy Brigham (The Nature Conservancy)

Description: This session will explore a fundamental need: how can we conduct stewardship in the long-term, shifting away from the status quo of funding projects and not systems? We’ll explore how funding, policy, partnership agreements, and other support systems need to shift in order to advance the need for stewardship well beyond a project’s time horizon. Join this session to hear examples of how this is going in California, and to continue the conversation around a prevailing need that defines the landscape stewardship movement: how can we advance a vision of stewarding California that needs to happen everyday, everywhere?

Speakers:

- Bill Tripp | Karuk Tribe
- Caroline Godkin | CA Council of Land Trusts
- Claire Mooney | One Tam; Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy



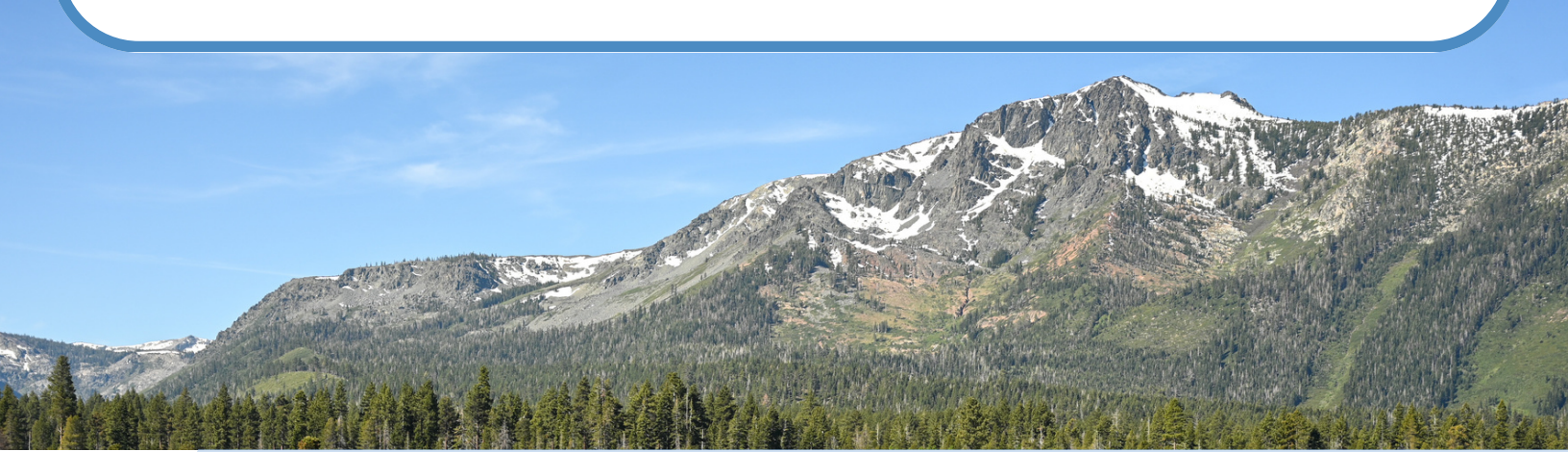
✶ Track Session #4: 10:50am - 12:00pm

Title: How to Truly Listen and Connect

Practice

Location: Aspen Room **Moderator:** Dylan Skybrook (Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network)

Description: This session is a light workshop focusing on listening, an all-important skill for collaboration. An opportunity to deepen our listening skills, we will take a somatic approach to understanding how we pay attention to others and how that informs the connections we might make. Along the way, we will explore what we actually mean by the term “listening.” Expect thoughtful discussion and some exercises that get you up on your feet.



✶ Track Session #5: 1:30pm - 2:50pm

Title: Transforming Governance: The Power of Participating in Collaborative Stewardship

Systems

Location: Alumni Room **Moderator:** Sharon Farrell (The Stewardship Network)

Description: This session will explore how people are organizing in more networked, participatory ways—and what those approaches reveal about building more responsive, inclusive, and resilient systems. This conversation sits at the intersection of systems and practice, offering an opportunity to examine both big-picture structures and the on-the-ground strategies that make participatory governance real. At its core, this session is about building the muscle of our movement.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how to move from intention to practice—strengthening their ability to design and support participatory, equity-centered systems of governance.

Speakers:

- Calla Allison | Marine Protected Areas Collaborative Network
- Claire Mooney | One Tam, Golden Gate National Park Conservancy
- Shawn Johnson | University of Montana

✱ Track Session #5: 1:30pm - 2:50pm

Title: Data Sovereignty and Collaborative Stewardship

Knowledge

Location: Mountain Ballroom **Moderator:** Deniss Martinez (Indigenous Stewardship Network)

Description: This session will explore the centrality of data sovereignty, what it means, and how its principles can be applied in collaborative research, planning, and project implementation. This discussion will engage with important questions and consider better practices related to data sovereignty: how can we support moving past extractive research paradigms and more intentionally approach how data is (and isn't) shared?

How can we better navigate tensions that emerge when non-tribal entities mandate the sharing of data as part of research design and agreements, and where do we see good examples of data sovereignty agreements between Tribes and agencies, universities, nonprofits, and more? Join this conversation to hear from Tribal scholars and practitioners on these topics and better understand how in an age of growing collaboration, it's essential that there are spaces for some knowledge to remain unshared.

Speakers:

- Cutcha Risling Baldy | Cal Poly Humboldt
- Donna Begay | CA Tribal GIS
- Julie Thorstenson, PhD | Native American Fish & Wildlife Society
- Tom Gustie | Bishop Paiute Tribe

Title: Network Principles and Larger Society

Practice

Location: Big Pine Room **Moderator:** Dylan Skybrook (Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network)

Description: A question that often arises, because collaborative stewardship generally and networks specifically have proved so effective, is: how can this work contribute to moving toward a better world? There is the sense that because collaborative stewardship is a bright spot in a dark time, there must be a way to expand its successes into a larger field of play.

Come and take part in a World Cafe, a series of small group discussions in which we will explore how the stewardship field's efforts to work together well might join up with other kinds of efforts to make the world a better place.

