



ТАНОЕБАЙКАЛ

*Tahoe-Baikal Institute*

## **California Conservation Corps Members and the Tahoe-Baikal Institute**

Since 1991, the California Conservation Corps has been an integral part of the Tahoe-Baikal Institute (TBI) program planning, as well as one of our strongest supporters. Each year at least one CCC member has taken part in our exchange. Sixteen CCC corpsmembers have been participants in our thirteen summer exchanges, and many others have taken part in the Tahoe side of the program. During the TBI program, CCC participants have worked on trailbuilding, scientific research, and conservation projects. A number of CCC participants have remained in close touch with TBI. For example, Melissa Haeffner ('03) currently serves on our alumni committee and is conducting research on TBI alumni for her Master's degree in Sociology. Bobby Jo Close ('97), who continues to work for the CCC in San Luis Obispo, has helped to recruit corpsmembers to the TBI program. Below is a list of the CCC members who have been involved in TBI activities.

### ***1991***

**Laura Castro, Roy Hunter, II.** During the TBI program, Laura and Roy worked with other participants to prepare a report on possible permanent sites for TBI in both the U.S. and Russia, as well as a report on resource management practices at Tahoe and Baikal.

**Jason Carkeet.** After TBI, Jason worked as a crew supervisor for the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps, a private, non-profit environmental restoration organization.

### ***1993***

#### **Sean Shopes (Tahoe)**

At last report, Sean Shopes was working in Santa Fe as a production manager for a handmade tile company.

#### **Joe Rubin (Santa Cruz Center)**

Joe was responsible for coordinating trail building exercises during the Tahoe side of the TBI program.

#### **Joel Calland (Placer Energy Center)**

Joel participated in the Tahoe side of the TBI '93 program. As of July 2000, Joel was studying Political Science/Environmental Science at Humboldt State University, California.



### **1994**

**Virginia Esperanza (Placer Energy Center).** Virginia followed her CCC service by completing a year in Americorps as TBI program coordinator, then took a job in wetlands restoration with the California Tahoe Conservancy. After four years with the Conservancy, she worked with the California Coastal Commission in San Francisco, and then returned to the Conservancy as a Program Analyst in the Public Access and Recreation Program. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Management at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Virginia Esperanza (1994) at a TBI restoration project

### **1995**

**Jeremy Mills (Del Norte).** At the CCC, Jeremy built in-stream structures to enhance spawning habitat for anadromous fish. After the California Conservation Corps and TBI program, Jeremy worked for the Americorps watershed project. In 2003 he received a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Planning and a minor in Forestry from Humboldt State University.

### **1996**

**Elizabeth Lindsay (Del Norte).** At last report, Elizabeth was living in San Diego and pursuing a writing career.

### **1997**

**Bobby Jo Close (San Luis Obispo).** Bobby Jo continues to work for the CCC. She has developed a Geographic Information Systems Pilot Program and she and her crew contract with local agencies to map areas of ecological concern. In 2001, her program received an EPA grant (along with the Coastal Commission) to create a comprehensive GIS map of the Morro Bay Watershed which could become a model for data collection and organization in other watersheds. BJ has remained in close contact with TBI and has helped recruit corpsmembers to the TBI program.



Bobby Jo Close (1997) gives a presentation on photography

### **1998**

**Randy Brown (Del Norte).** Randy worked on salmon habitat restoration, trail restoration, and flood emergency crews at the CCC. After completing his service at the CCC, he took an Americorps position in Alaska doing salmon habitat restoration.

### **1999**

**Kenneth Collins (Watsonville).** Ken was a crewleader at the CCC and spent substantial time working on salmon restoration crews. On his own initiative, he set up a small grassroots group of corpsmembers

to do local environmental projects on the weekends and completed two months of volunteer conservation work in Australia.



Randy Brown (1998)

### **2000**

**Phansak Bunsri (Vallejo).** Before participating in the TBI summer exchange, Phansak was a crewleader, working on emergency response for floods and fires. He also took part in the Australia Exchange. He has since been promoted and is working on energy conservation projects.

### **2001**

**Odyssey Palacios (Klamath).** Odyssey completed a degree in Anthropology in 1999 and has worked for the CCC in Klamath since then. She has completed internships with Parks and Recreation and participated in the CCC backcountry program.

### **2002**

**Ryan Townsend (Klamath).** Ryan is from Wasco, California and has been working for the California Conservation Corps since June 2001. He has worked on stream restoration, exotic plant removal, emergency fire response, and environmental rehabilitation, as well as becoming the education swamper for his crew. He intends to get a degree in Natural Resource Management and is studying Russian.

### **2003**

**Melissa Haeffner (Tahoe).** Melissa joined TBI after completing a position as a VISTA intern at the Tahoe Center, where she started up a "Career In Transition" program to provide support for members leaving the CCC. Before moving to South Lake Tahoe, she studied and worked at DePaul University in Chicago, where she received a degree in sociology. She is now back in Chicago working on her Master's degree.

### **2004**

**Amorita Bustos (Fortuna).** Amorita has been a CCC corpsmember and crewleader for three years, working on a variety of environmental and cultural programs including salmon restoration, backcountry trails, and the Australia Work Exchange Program.

Ken Collins and Liliana Macias (1999)



## **Drivers:**

### ***2003***

**Nicole Medeiros** returned to drive with TBI for the fourth consecutive summer, joined by new recruit **Graham Huntington!**

### ***2002***

We were fortunate to have 2001 driver **Mitch Griffith** and 2000 driver **Nicole Medeiros** return to work with us in 2002!

### ***2001***

**Mitch Griffith (Fortuna, Tahoe).** Mitch worked at the Used Oil Recycling Program at the Fortuna California Conservation Corps in 2001 before he came to Tahoe to drive the TBI group last summer. He is currently taking classes at Lake Tahoe Community College and works for the Tahoe Center of the California Conservation Corps.

### ***2000***

**Nicole Medeiros (Tahoe).** Nicole worked on reforestation projects with the Tahoe Center of the California Conservation Corps and was a TBI driver in 2000. In the meantime, she has worked as a backcountry trail crew member in Northern California.

### ***1999-2000***

**Liliana Macias (San Diego).** Liliana is a Volunteer Coordinator.

### ***1998***

**Lee Perry (Del Norte).** Lee does seasonal work for State Parks and other restoration agencies in Humboldt County.

### ***1997-1999***

**Mike Everly (Stockton).** Mike is now a C-1 at the Vallejo Center.