



November 14, 2018

Dear TreePeople Supporters,

I hope this message finds you and yours safe and well. I sincerely hope you are not among the numbers who have suffered tragic loss of home and property.

We all however, have suffered a deep trauma in the ravages wrought upon the mountains and community we love.

It is indeed a time to reflect and embrace. It is also a time to look forward.

As TreePeople supporters, you have taken up the mantle of leadership. Let that sink in. Together we have poured ourselves into this ecosystem because it needed us, and our friends and family need it.

The open spaces that support our physical health, our mental well being and connect us to infinity suffer today...but they were suffering before. That is why we served to begin with. Hidden in our acts of joyful toil, planting and growing life and removing threats from the landscapes, was triage and treatment of damaged natural vitality.

We remember that unfathomable wildfire is well known deep in the DNA of our oaks. Let it be with us as well.

For now, smoke occludes our path forward. It will dissipate.

With arms linked we are an engine, idling, ready to charge when the time is right. Take heart that every inch of ground you touched in service was better prepared to face this event than had it gone disregarded, deemed unworthy of intervention. No stretch of this land is "lost".

Which of our trees and plants survived?

Which will crown-sprout anew from deep roots nurtured by you?

Where will wildflowers erupt like we've never seen?

Where is the dense infestation of invasives peeled back revealing soil yearning for acorns and seed?

It all waits for us to behold.

Take care of each other in this moment.

In the coming year the woodlands and streams will need you, and your stewardship will serve your community in obvious and intangible ways.

I am in communication with our land management partners.

We are evolving plans and when the ash settles we will act.

And I will need you.

You are invaluable and I can never express my appreciation and admiration to each of you accurately and comprehensively.

Like the oaks and walnuts, we sprout. We struggle. We survive...

And in the struggling and surviving, that is where we thrive.

Tending the wild is a task many are incapable of understanding, much less performing.

Thank you for recognizing this ability in yourself and gifting it to all.

Your ally,

Cody Chappel

TreePeople Wildland Restoration Manager