

Letter from the Executive Director [341 words]
January 2008

A Great Year Ahead

It's going to be a great year at the Stewardship Council. We are ready, ready to move forward with conserving the watershed lands *in our charge*, and ready to get kids connected with the natural wonders of *California*. We have also started the new year poised to be part of the broader conversation *about preserving* our natural resources *and ensuring* future generations *are prepared to be stewards of the state*.

Melanie Wise 1/29/08 1:29 PM

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Setting the Highest Expectations

The Stewardship Council *staff and board have* set broad, ambitious goals. We are committed to making sound and responsible recommendations to protect the watershed lands *in* perpetuity. We are dedicated to *working collaboratively and inclusively*, with *diverse* community input and engagement. We know this won't always be easy, but we believe the diversity of ideas and interests will *produce* better results for California.

Melanie Wise 1/29/08 1:29 PM

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We also expect a lot from our *Youth Investment Program*. Only recently have we begun to fully grasp the power of our efforts. This work is clearly not just about getting kids outdoors, rather it is about helping to build productive adults *who* care about the world around them. It is about *developing* future hikers, boaters, hunters, biologists, park rangers, naturalists, *and* parents, *all* future caretakers of *California*. Not only will we use our limited funding to support some of the most progressive youth programs in *the state*, we *will also* raise the volume on the conversation about *the dire consequences of neglecting our youth*.

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Thank You and Stay Engaged

To all of you *who've* followed our development and growth over the past several years, thank you. Now more than ever, we need you to stay engaged. We have a big job to do *in* both our land conservation and youth investment efforts. We need your help *in making* the connections that *will help us solve* the complex environmental and youth development challenges we face. We look forward to being part of the solution *together*. We look forward to a great year *ahead!*

Melanie Wise 1/29/08 1:29 PM

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