



PO Box 720026 Pinon Hills, CA 92372

www.TransitionHabitat.org

760 868-1400

For Immediate Release:

Transition Habitat Conservancy appoints first Executive Director

Pinon Hills, CA. December 30th, 2016

Transition Habitat Conservancy would like to announce the promotion of Cody Hanford to the Executive Director position, effective January 1, 2017. Cody currently serves as the Organizational Development Manager and comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience to lead Transition Habitat. From its early beginnings in 2005 until now, the Conservancy was lead by a very active Board of Directors, especially its co- founder and Board President, Jill Bays.

Cody joined the Conservancy in January 2015 to coordinate a major Hydrology Survey effort and partnership with the Bureau of Land Management. Since then, he has developed a holistic restoration and management approach for THC's Fremont-Kramer project area in the Western Mojave Desert; managed the stewardship activities in all three project areas; administered and received grants such as the California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle restoration grant; guided AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps sponsored by Transition Habitat; participated in the organization's accreditation application process; written or improved policies and procedures necessary for land trust operations; and has worked closely with desert tortoise biologists to develop a scientific survey protocol and ongoing program to better study desert tortoises and improve their habitat in Transition Habitat's project areas.

Cody received his BA from the University of Tennessee and moved to the California Desert in 2003 as a restoration intern with the Student Conservation Association and the Bureau of Land Management, and has remained in or near the desert since then. He has worked as a contractor supervising desert restoration crews, was a *Leave No Trace* instructor for the Center for Outdoor Ethics, and spent several years with a Mojave Desert-based environmental consulting company that specialized in conservation land acquisitions and associated stewardship with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, and a variety of national and regional non-profits conservation organizations.

Cody will oversee Transition Habitat's growing staff and office consultants. He will work closely with the Board of Directors, local land trusts, State and Federal agencies and other partners. This is a big year for Transition Habitat as we welcome in our new Executive Director and pursue Accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance.

Cody currently lives in Joshua Tree with his wife and two young children. Transition Habitat Conservancy extends a warm welcome to Cody in his new role.