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Finding Hope on the Road

What does 'hope' mean to you? What do you hope for? For me, hope requires fortitude and the strength to recognize what is wrong while staying focused on what is possible. Hope is the courage to look for ways to influence positive change rather than preserving the status quo. Where will you find the fortitude to stay hopeful?

These are the questions I will attempt to answer as I continue my cross-country journey of exploration, discovery and inspiration with the help of my trusty sprinter van (which has recently been christened 'Hope') My fortitude to stay hopeful is often fueled by listening to the stories of people creating positive change in the areas I care most about (equality, female empowerment and environment).

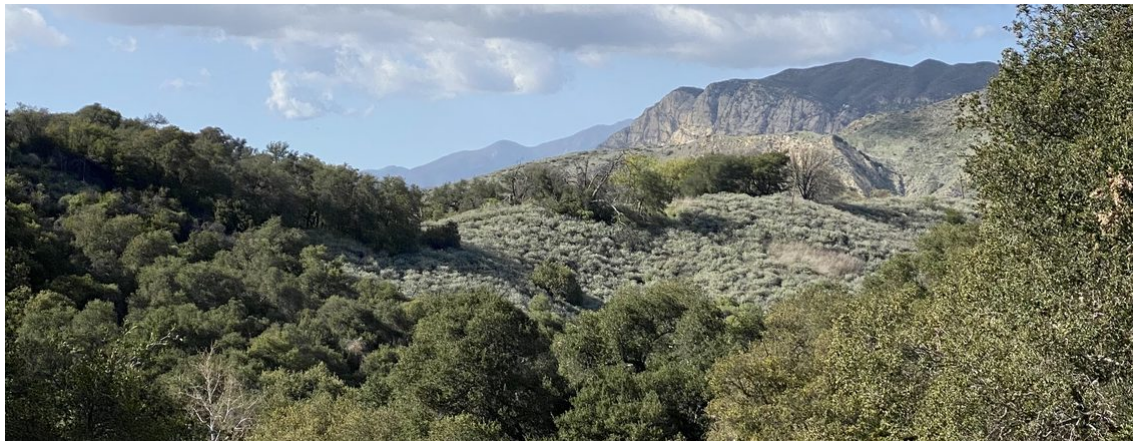
This past month I drove to Joshua Tree National Park and up the central coastal area of California. These places are beautiful and vast but are also experiencing the negative effects of climate change. There is a need to not only preserve these natural landscapes but work to influence the reversal of climate change on these environments. After living in a 24-foot solar, diesel vehicle for three weeks, I have become acutely aware of how little energy and water I actually need and how easy this is to forget when I am back home. And while our small individual changes can make a difference, large companies must also be held accountable in order to reduce the effects of climate change. Fortunately, there are people influencing positive change by developing eco-friendly programs that could be utilized on a larger scale.

One example is [Paicines Ranch](#), located in San Benito county, which produces and distributes certified organic products while regenerating the health of the land. They do this through a unique, revolutionary method which makes soil health the priority, thereby helping reinvigorate the environment and reducing the effects of climate change. The Paicines Ranch team members, a majority of which are women, are challenging what is possible in the agricultural industry.

Although fighting for things such as gender equality and the environment can feel overwhelming, the people tackling these issues and influencing change give me a renewed sense of hope. They inspire me to do what I can on a small scale within my own life and by sharing their stories I hope it serves to elevate awareness and action on these issues. Which stories inspire you to take action on the things you hope for? How can you increase their impact by sharing them?

Influence Strategy Tool

For additional inspiration, check out the [Joshua Tree Genome Project](#)



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