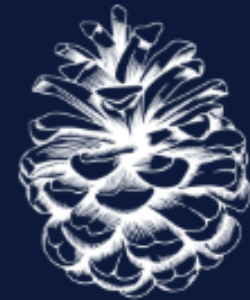




*California*  
**SQUIRREL**  
*Awards*



**2025**

## About the Awards

The California Squirrel Awards were created in 2024 by the California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership as a way to annually recognize and honor the hard-working people who — somewhat like squirrels — retrieve and save the seed needed to grow future forests.

These dedicated cone hunters are up before the sun daily through the summer, traversing the state in a frenzy against the clock to get the work done before the 'seed flies', demonstrating extraordinary dedication and earning this recognition and more.

Nominations began in September, with voting open through November. The awards were presented on Dec. 4, 2025 in Roseville at 'The Understory' gathering.

## **The Categories:**



**Rookie of the Year**

**The Road Warrior**

**The Bushel Bagger**

**Squirrel of the Year**

**Hidden Champion**

**Cone Squad of the Year**

**Cone Hunter of the Year**

# Rookie of the Year

Though new to the cone hunting game, this person brought enthusiasm, a ton of energy, and learned FAST to become a vital contributor to the projects they supported

**Emily Yun**

**Martin Uriarte**



**Reiley Allison**



**Aiden Sands**



# The Road Warrior

This cone surveyor got in the truck in May and didn't get out until September, showing outright disregard for bodily comfort in total service to finding future forests.

**Ricky Tapia**



**Jack Stewart & Robert Ochoa**



**Crystal Danheiser**



**Robert Ochoa** accepts the **'Road Warrior' California Squirrel Award** on behalf of himself and **Jack Stewart**.

# The Bushel Bagger – Ground Crew

This unsung hero put in the hours and sweat to keep collections moving along and just get the job done, regardless of the time of day or night.

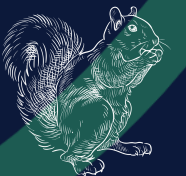
**Gill James**

**Alex “Buck” Buckner**

**Maddie Spears**

**Stanislaus National Forest** (Nell Cook, Jacob Baker, Ryan Murdoff,

Cynthia Harmon, Kristin Meyer, Lia Jigour, & Vincent Camp)





**Kirsten Meyer accepts  
the ‘Bushel Bagger’  
California Squirrel  
Award on behalf of  
Stanislaus National  
Forest Crew (Nell Cook,  
Jacob Baker, Ryan Murdoff,  
Cynthia Harmon, Kristin  
Meyer, Lia Jigour, & Vincent  
Camp)**

# Squirrel of the Year – Climber/Lift Operator

This champion is one with the squirrels. A true partner to the forest, they navigated the canopy with skill, respect, hard work, and ambition – all in the name of reforestation for CA's beloved forests.

**Kaden Ashdown**



**Colt Langstaff**



**Lisa Crane**

**Emily Doe**



**Robert Beauchamp** of Sierra Cone accepts the **'Squirrel of the Year'** California Squirrel Award on behalf of winning climber **Colt Langstaff**.

# The Hidden Champion

This person may not have been out in the field much, but their work in the office and/or shadows is crucial!

**Clarisse Goetzen**

**JT Abbott**

**Marie McLaughlin**

**River Pratt**

**Olivia Roe**



# Cone Squad of the Year

This team of hunters went to work and didn't quit till the job was done. For their dedication to finding future forests, we salute them.

**The Kern River Ranger District**

**American Forests Southern Sierra Team**



**New Growth Forest Management**



**Sierra Cone**



**Kaden Ashdown** of  
accepts the 2025  
**'Squad of the Year'**  
California Squirrel  
Award on behalf of  
winner **New Growth**  
Forest Management.

# Cone Hunter of the Year

This all around seed star demonstrated the whole package - effective planning, communication, coordination and HUSTLE, and a great attitude



**Spencer Lachman**



**Kristin Weikel**

**Rachael Norton**



**Spencer Lachman** of  
**CAL FIRE** Reforestation  
Services accepts the  
2025 '**Cone Hunter of  
the Year**' California  
Squirrel Award from  
2024 winner **Marisol  
Villareal**.

**If you were involved, you are a champion.**

**Congratulations to all  
California Cone Hunters  
on a great year!**

