

AH: I did an outing at a water reservoir here in Connecticut. The Farmington reservoir, it's technically West Hartford. [chuckle] That one really stuck out to me because despite being a paved walkway that was a little more accessible and not a down and dirty hike, there were some children there. I really felt that they were genuinely excited about it. That one was a hike that definitely stayed with me because the excitement from the kids. Especially from this little girl [chuckle] that was photographing every second of the hike, but just seeing her excitement made me feel inspired.

I know we tend to shame upcoming generations, and go, "you're disconnected." I think that's what got me so excited about that hike, was that it's not just visibility to the public eye, but visibility to the youth. We are getting through to them, they are excited, they do want to learn. They do want to participate and recreate in the outdoors, and honestly, I think conservation comes with love of the outdoors. I think once you see the outdoor space as yours, as something that you are connected to, that's when you respect it. That's when you want to take care of it. And it's maybe not visibility in the way that most people would talk about it, but I think just in the sense that she's harnessing and fostering this love for the outdoors. This is a path that's now visible to her.