

## Contact

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(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Leadership  
Fundraising  
Partnerships

## Honors-Awards

40 Under 40

Panelist, Boosting Montana's  
Economy through the Great  
Outdoors

Speaker, The Outdoor Recreation  
Economy

Speaker, The Outdoor Recreation  
Economy

Speaker, "Centered Leadership"

# I Ling Matthews Thompson

CEO, Foundation for America's Public Lands  
Grand Junction, Colorado, United States

## Summary

I Ling Thompson is the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for America's Public Lands, the congressionally chartered charitable partner of the Bureau of Land Management. As the Foundation's first CEO, I Ling leads the organization's inaugural work to improve awareness, access and stewardship of our public lands and waters for present and future generations.

As a mission-driven leader with two decades of expertise in global land and water conservation, I Ling has dedicated her career to fostering people's love, connection and stewardship of the outdoors. Before joining the Foundation, I Ling held leadership roles with The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Outdoor Industry Association.

I Ling drove the game-changing 2012 Outdoor Recreation Economy Campaign, which significantly elevated and reframed the industry's impact on the U.S. economy. She has earned recognition for her work, including receiving the 40 Under 40 Outdoor Industry Award. I Ling also remains active in the community through her board service with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Keystone Policy Center and the Together Outdoors Governance Council.

I Ling has long believed in the power of public lands to unite, benefit and transform people. She's a mountain biker, hiker, whitewater SUPer, skier, novice fly fisher and was part of a group that held a Guinness World Record for the longest static cycling class. In her free time, she loves exploring public lands around Colorado and the West with her husband, an avid hunter and angler, and their two dogs.

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## Experience

Foundation for America's Public Lands

CEO, Foundation for America's Public Lands  
September 2023 - Present (2 years 6 months)  
Grand Junction, Colorado, United States

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Member Board of Directors  
May 2018 - Present (7 years 10 months)

Trust for Public Land  
4 years 2 months

Executive Vice President  
September 2022 - September 2023 (1 year 1 month)  
Colorado, United States

Advanced the mission to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

SVP, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer  
August 2019 - September 2022 (3 years 2 months)  
Greater Denver Area

Led the national brand repositioning and growth of one of the largest U.S. nonprofit organizations that creates parks and protects land to connect people to the outdoors.

Together Outdoors  
Advisory Board Member  
March 2021 - July 2023 (2 years 5 months)

The Nature Conservancy  
5 years 4 months

Managing Director, Global Communications  
May 2017 - August 2019 (2 years 4 months)  
Greater Denver Area

Leads organization-wide vision, strategy and management of global communications for The Nature Conservancy.

Deputy to the Chief Conservation Officer  
May 2014 - April 2017 (3 years)  
Denver, CO

Provided strategic leadership for the largest global conservation organization in the world as it launched a \$4B Our World Campaign for conservation.

## Outdoor Industry Association

Vice President of Marketing and Communications

April 2011 - April 2014 (3 years 1 month)

Led the national strategy to launch the 2012 Outdoor Recreation Economy Campaign to elevate the outdoor recreation industry as an important U.S. economic driver.

## The Nature Conservancy

Director of Marketing, North America Priorities

December 2003 - April 2011 (7 years 5 months)

Atlanta, GA., Austin, TX

## LA Fitness

Group Fitness & Spin Instructor

1999 - 2007 (8 years)

## Porter Novelli

Account Supervisor

December 1999 - December 2003 (4 years 1 month)

## Prospect Associates

Account Executive

January 1999 - December 1999 (1 year)

## Edelman Public Relations Worldwide

Account Executive

December 1997 - January 1999 (1 year 2 months)

## Crestar Bank

Trainer/Program Coordinator

June 1992 - December 1997 (5 years 7 months)

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## Education

The University of Georgia

BA Journalism, Public Relations and Journalism - (1996 - 1997)

Cornell University

Digital Marketing Certificate

George Mason University

The University of Georgia