

COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

A WORKSHOP TO
CREATE AN ACTION PLAN TO BUILD THE COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY
OF PRACTITIONERS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

FINAL AGENDA

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2018
LONGS PEAK ROOM, LORY STUDENT CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO



SUPPORTERS

We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the following organizations. This workshop would not have possible without them.

Benefactors

Center for Collaborative Conservation, Colorado State University

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University

Partners

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Wildlife Program

US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

Friends*

Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, University of Montana

Colorado Forest Restoration Institute

National Forest Foundation

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.

Ruckelshaus Institute, University of Wyoming

Western Landowners Alliance

**In addition to the organizations listed above, numerous organizations have provided resources to support participation of their representatives in the workshop.*

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The American West has long been defined by aridity and the high concentration of federal public land. More recently, the region boasts many of the fastest growing states and communities in the country, and represents the most rapidly urbanizing region in America. Several studies conclude that people are moving to the West to enjoy the open spaces, outdoor recreation, and other benefits associated with federal public lands.

In response to the various challenges and opportunities facing the region, civic leaders throughout the American West are stepping forward to convene and facilitate community-based forums to address conservation and other objectives. Community-based collaborative conservation (CBCC) is a public process where multiple stakeholders work together to solve a common problem or achieve a common objective. These processes are citizen-driven, place-based, multi-stakeholder, and multi-objective. They vary in terms of purpose and spatial scale given that each process is homegrown, tailored to the particular needs and interests of a community, watershed, or ecosystem.

Although CBCC is not a panacea, it is increasingly the forum of first resort for one reason – it works. The conservation community and other stakeholders increasingly recognize that collaboration leads to more inclusive participation, more complete information, buy-in among diverse stakeholders, and better decisions that are more likely to be implemented. CBCC is often used to generate widely supported on-the-ground efforts in planning, implementation, and monitoring of land, water, and other natural resources projects. It is also used to resolve long-standing conflicts over water and other natural resources restore and manage public and private forests and rangelands, and create local and regional economic benefits. In addition to solving particular problems, CBCC has also proven to be an effective strategy for communities to adapt and be resilient in the face of new challenges. It builds social, political, and intellectual capital, and this civic currency can then be applied to issues facing communities, watersheds, and ecosystems.

Although there is no single model for CBCC, there is an emerging community of practice and an evolving set of best practices, resources, and learning opportunities to support these efforts. Given the challenges facing the American West, along with the success of CBCC to build resilient communities and landscapes, *it is clearly time to scale-up and amplify these efforts across the American West.*

In response to this growing interest, the Center for Collaborative Conservation conducted a needs assessment in 2016/2017 to assess the capacity of collaborative practitioners to catalyze, enable, and sustain CBCC. Sixty-four practitioners in the American West were interviewed to help identify the most needed collaborative skills and tools, preferred delivery methods, priority target audiences, and challenges for building capacity among CBCC practitioners. The purpose of this workshop is to build on the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment. Sixty-five practitioners and resource people are coming together at Colorado State University to create an action plan to build the collaborative capacity of practitioners in the Rocky Mountain region.

OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The objectives of this workshop are to:

1. Synthesize and clarify existing resources and learning opportunities (e.g., workshops, training sessions, networks, handbooks, websites, etc.) to build the capacity of individuals and groups to catalyze, enable, and sustain community-based collaborative initiatives (CBCC).
2. Identify the barriers to participate in and use existing resources and learning opportunities (e.g., lack of awareness, lack of access, etc.).
3. Clarify the gaps between supply and demand; in other words, are CBCC practitioners seeking new resources and learning opportunities to build their collaboration capacity?
4. Develop and prioritize strategies to address the barriers and gaps, including but not limited to:
 - a. Examining different delivery methods or approaches to address the barriers identified earlier (options may include place-based problem-solving clinics, skill-building workshops, a leadership institute, peer-to-peer consultations, mentoring, coaching, and internships);
 - b. Identifying new resources and learning opportunities as appropriate; and
 - c. Identifying partners that might be willing and able to help fill these gaps.
5. Seek agreement on the most effective and efficient way to connect CBCC practitioners in the Rocky Mountain region to share lessons, build collaborative capacity, solve problems, and otherwise support each other's efforts. Options may include a learning hub, a collective impact network, or other similar approaches.
6. Pull all of these pieces together into an action plan to build the collaborative capacity of CBCC practitioners and increase the impact of their efforts. The action plan will include the following elements:
 - a. A menu of existing resources and learning opportunities;
 - b. A list of barriers to using existing resources and learning opportunities;
 - c. Strategies to increase participation in existing trainings and resources, address barriers, and fill gaps;
 - d. A prioritized menu of new resources and learning opportunities, including suggestions on potential leaders and partners to make this happen; and
 - e. A plan to connect CBCC practitioners in the Rocky Mountain region, including suggestions on who might provide leadership and backbone support.

The expected outcomes of this workshop are:

1. A searchable database of existing CBCC learning opportunities and resources located on the Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) website <https://collaborativeconservation.org/>; and
2. An action plan to build the capacity CBCC practitioners in the Rocky Mountain Region (see objective # 6 above for specific content).

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to the Workshop

CCC staff and volunteers will:

1. Conduct a survey of existing collaborative learning opportunities and associated resources;
2. Share a summary of the survey results with participants prior to the workshop; and
3. Develop a searchable database of Collaborative Learning Opportunities and Resources.

Facilitators will:

1. Prepare and share workshop materials with participants; and
2. Prepare a facilitation guide and train the breakout group facilitators.

Participants will:

1. Provide a short bio and photo.
2. Read and digest the CCC Needs Assessment report and Infographic.
3. Review survey results of existing collaborative learning opportunities and resources.
4. Think about and make some notes in response to the following questions:
 - a. What existing collaborative learning opportunities and resources are not included in the survey results?
 - b. What are the most significant barriers that limit awareness of, participation in, and access to, existing learning opportunities and resources? And what strategies could be employed to overcome each barrier?
 - c. What new collaborative learning opportunities or resources need to be developed? What is the best delivery method, and who might be best situated to fill these gaps?
 - d. What is the appropriate mechanism for a group of people to come together after the workshop to implement the action plan? Is it through and in partnership with an existing organization or network, or is it through a new network or coordinating group or learning hub? If in partnership with an existing organization or network, suggest options. Who might comprise this group to implement the action plan?

During the Workshop

CCC staff and volunteers will:

1. Provide logistical support for the event; and
2. Assist in documenting the results of the workshop activities.

Facilitators will:

1. Orient participants to the overall workshop objectives;
2. Guide participants through each session, building toward our overall objectives;
3. Provide opportunities for all participants to engage in discussions;
4. Keep the group focused and on-task;
5. Respond in real time to group dynamics and make any necessary adjustments to the agenda; and
6. Record and document the results of the workshop, including a daily summary for participants.

Participants will:

1. Engage actively throughout the workshop by sharing their experience, perspective and advice;
2. Take notes on ideas they really like and things they did not get to say, but wish they had;
3. Take notes about the workshop process for the workshop evaluation; and
4. Complete a workshop evaluation.

After the Workshop

CCC staff and Facilitators will:

1. Prepare a workshop summary/action plan; and
2. Within 30 days of the workshop, share the workshop action plan with participants and ask participants to do the following:
 - a. Provide final changes to the action plan;
 - b. Provide final suggestions on the scenario for implementing the action plan;
 - c. Share any additional personal take home messages and lessons from the workshop;
 - d. Describe how they would like to contribute to the implementation of the action plan;
 - e. Let us know if they are willing to join the “Leadership Team” that will provide leadership on next steps; and
 - f. Let us know if they are interested in/willing to co-design and co-deliver the first collaborative training.
3. Convene a “Leadership Team” (from the group of participants and perhaps others) to refine and begin to implement the action plan.

Workshop Agenda

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

3:30 pm Final Prep by Conveners, Logistical Support, and Breakout Group Facilitators

The workshop conveners, logistical support, and breakout group facilitators will meet on campus in room 114 of the Forestry building to review final details and confirm roles and responsibilities.

6:00 pm Welcome Gathering

Participants are invited to gather at Café Vino, located two blocks south of Best Western University Inn at 1200 S. College Ave., Fort Collins.

Dean John Hayes of CSU's Warner College of Natural Resources (WCNR) and Robin Reid, Director of the Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC), will welcome workshop participants. Participants will have an opportunity to socialize with CCC and WCNR faculty and staff. Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided.

7:30 pm Dinner on Your Own (see list of nearby restaurants in workshop packet)

Thursday, March 1, 2018: CSU Lory Student Center, Longs Peak Room

8:30 am Welcome

Heather Knight (Center for Collaborative Conservation) will welcome the participants, briefly review the objectives and agenda, and introduce key partners, logistical support staff, and the facilitation team. *If time allows, workshop partners will be invited to say a few words about the importance of this work in general and the expectations of this workshop.*

9:00 am Introductions

The *facilitation team* (*Shawn Johnson and Matt McKinney*) will lead the participants in an interactive "group handshake." The participants will create two lines and then move up and down the line in an organized way until they have had a chance to shake hands and meet every other participant.

9:30 am Why Are We Here? Key Lessons from the Needs Assessment

To clarify the background and rationale for this workshop, *Heather Knight* will provide a more detailed overview of the findings and conclusions of the needs assessment completed in 2016/2017.

Review Objectives, Agenda, and Expected Outcomes

The *facilitation team* will review the objectives, agenda, and expected outcomes of the workshop, and clarify how this workshop builds on the results of the needs assessment. Participants will have an opportunity to briefly discuss, clarify, refine, and adapt the agenda and expectations as appropriate.

10:30 am Break

11:00 am Plenary Session # 1: Review the Menu of Existing Resources & Learning Opportunities for Collaborative Capacity Building (Objective 1)

Heather Knight will provide an overview of the information collected prior to the workshop on existing resources and learning opportunities (a presentation on barriers, strategies, and gaps will come later).

11:30 am Break-out Session # 1: Refine the Menu of Existing Resources & Learning Opportunities

The *facilitation team* will guide this first break-out session. The intent of this small group session is to: (1) critically review the preliminary menu of existing resources and learning opportunities; (2) identify other existing resources and learning opportunities that should/could be added to the menu; and (3) identify gaps in resources and learning opportunities, starting with the findings of the needs assessment **(Objective 3)**.

12:00 pm Lunch

Lunch will be provided; participants should eat lunch with members of their break-out group and continue working.

12:45 pm Break

1:00 pm Reports from Break-out Groups

Each break-out group will report on its discussions and recommendations. The *facilitation team* will help the participants organize the results according to: (1) existing resources and learning opportunities; and (2) gaps in resources and learning opportunities.

1:45 pm Plenary Session # 2: Barriers to Using Existing Resources & Learning Opportunities (Objectives 2 and 3)

During this facilitated plenary session, the *facilitation team* will work with participants to: (1) identify the barriers to using existing resources and learning opportunities (e.g., lack of awareness, time, money; lack of access and availability; or challenges related to when/where trainings and tools are offered; etc.); and (2) review the gaps in resources and learning opportunities as identified prior to lunch, and clarify why these gaps exist.

2:30 pm Break-out Session # 2: Strategies to Address Barriers & Gaps (Objectives 3 and 4)

The *facilitation team* will guide this second break-out session. Participants will work in small groups to develop strategies to address the barriers and gaps, including but not limited to:

- Identify strategies to reduce barriers associated with existing learning opportunities and resources;
- Identify and prioritize new resources and learning opportunities that can/should be developed to fill gaps and the audience for each;
- Identify different delivery methods or approaches to address the gaps identified earlier (including place-based problem-solving clinics, skill-building workshops, leadership institute, peer-to-peer consultations, mentoring, and coaching; and internships); and
- Identify partners that might be willing and able to help fill these gaps (who will do what by when?).

3:15 pm Break

3:30 pm Reports from Break-out Groups/Prioritize Strategies

After each break-out group presents its observations and recommendations, the *facilitation team* will help participants use Poll Everywhere technology to prioritize: (1) suggested strategies to address barriers associated with existing learning opportunities and resources; and (2) learning opportunity and resource gaps and partners and methods to fill gaps.

4:45 pm Review Accomplishments and Plan for Day 2

The *facilitation team* will check-in with participants by (1) reviewing the goals for the day, (2) sharing accomplishments from the day, (3) identifying areas of agreement as well as areas needing additional conversation, (4) asking for support for components to be included in the action plan, and (5) reviewing the plan for Day 2. The facilitation team will prepare a short document summarizing the agreed upon outcomes prior to Day 2, which will then become part of the action plan developed on Day 2.

5:00 pm Adjourn

5:40 pm Transportation to Dinner

All workshop participants will gather outside the Best Western University Inn and catch MAX from CSU to the Mountain Avenue stop in Old Town Fort Collins and walk two blocks to The Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant for a workshop dinner. (See map in participant packet).

6:30 pm Dinner at The Rio Grande

Dinner for workshop participants at The Rio Grande Agave Room. Cash bar-best margaritas in town!!! Fajita dinner ticket \$17/person to be paid by each participant upon arrival.

Friday, March 2, 2018: CSU Lory Student Center, Longs Peak Room

8:00 am Welcome & Check-in

The *facilitation team* will share a summary of what was accomplished on Day 1, review the agenda for Day 2, and solicit feedback and suggestions on where we are and where we are going (particularly in light of the conversations people may have had during the evening of Day 1). ***Remind participants that no lunch is provided at the conclusion of the workshop; indicate to Heather if you are interested in a small group lunch.***

8:15 am Plenary session # 3: Connecting CBCC Practitioners (Objective 5)

The *facilitation team* will lead participants in an open dialogue to identify effective and efficient methods to connect CBCC practitioners. Participants will be asked to (1) share examples of learning hubs and/or networks that they are familiar with; and (2) explain the purpose, structure, outcomes, and observations on what makes these initiatives work or not. Participants will also identify and document existing CBCC-type networks in the Rocky

Mountain region – e.g., Montana Watershed Coordinating Council, Montana Forest Restoration Network, Cross Watershed Network, Colorado Watershed Assembly, and Network for Landscape Conservation.

8:45 am Break-out Session # 3: Identify One or More Scenarios to Connect CBCC Practitioners

The *facilitation team* will guide this final break-out session. Reflecting on the previous plenary session, three breakout groups will develop one preferred scenario for connecting CBCC practitioners throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. Each scenario should clarify: (1) purpose; (2) expected outcomes; (3) target audience; (4) who will provide leadership and backbone support; (5) potential activities; and (6) what organizational and financial resources are needed to make this operational. Facilitators in each small group will help the participants prepare a very short presentation (via flip charts or laptop) to review the elements of each scenario.

Take a break as needed

10:00 am Reports from Break-out Groups & Discussion

Each break-out group will report on its discussions and recommendations. The *facilitation team* will then help participants identify common themes for each element identified above (items 1-6); identify, if possible, a preferred model or options for each element; and identify who needs to do what to move from vision to action (including a discussion on obstacles and barriers).

11:00 am Plenary session #4: Pulling It All Together: Toward an Action Plan to Build Collaborative Capacity of CBCC Practitioners in the Rocky Mountain Region (Objective 6)

The facilitation team will lead this session to pull all of these pieces together into an action plan that includes the following elements:

- A menu of existing resources and learning opportunities;
- A list of barriers to using existing resources and learning opportunities;
- Strategies to increase participation in existing trainings and resources;
- A prioritized menu of new resources and learning opportunities, including suggestions on potential leaders and partners to make this happen;
- A scenario/plan to connect CBCC practitioners in the Rocky Mountain region, including suggestions on who might provide leadership and backbone support;
- Capture, clarify, and finalize next steps to move from vision to action, including who is going to do what by when; and

- Identify any additional resources, people, or organizations that should be included in future conversations.

12:15 pm Wrap-up, Evaluation, Thanks, and Next Steps

The *facilitation team* will wrap up the workshop. The wrap up will include a thanks to break-out group facilitators and recorders, resource people, partners, convenors, and participants. Next steps will include follow up after the workshop, and instructions for lunch and departures.

The evaluation will be a open discussion to give participants a chance to say (1) what worked/what went well? and (2) how could we improve/what should we do different next time? Participants will also be encouraged to write-out responses to these questions on index cards as they pack-up and get ready to leave.

1:00pm Adjourn

Lunch will not be provided following the workshop. A list of local restaurants can be found in the workshop packet.

For those who are not departing immediately, there will be an opportunity to participate in a final group lunch (the cost covered by each participant individually).

PROFILES OF CONVENERS

CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) helps create innovative and lasting conservation solutions for people and nature through collaboration. We believe that a collaborative approach can better address contentious conservation issues by representing the diverse voices, diverse needs, and diverse challenges involved in conservation and livelihood decisions. Leveraging the resources of Colorado State University, the CCC uses a multifaceted approach that reflects the university's land grant mission of teaching, outreach, and research. We train future conservationists through university coursework and experiential learning, support conservation practitioners by building and strengthening collaboration skills and tools, and investigate how and why collaboration succeeds or fails in achieving desired outcomes. Through our Fellows Program and a water fund, Peaks to People, we are expanding the reach of the CCC into communities around the world.

<https://collaborativeconservation.org>

CENTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The mission of the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy is to connect people to solve problems related to natural resources and the environment. To achieve this mission, the Center facilitates and mediates complex, multi-party dialogues on land and water issues; informs and invigorates policy by providing timely, decision-relevant research and analysis; builds and shares knowledge to advance natural resources and environmental policy and governance; and trains future leaders in natural resource and environmental policy, particularly in the theory and methods of collaboration and conflict resolution. The Center works on land, water, and natural resources issues in the American West, as well as throughout North America and around the world.

www.naturalresourcespolicy.org