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November 2022



A Note from the CCC Director

November is Native American Heritage Month, which I am taking as an opportunity to deepen my understanding of CCC's ["Honoring Diversity" value statement](#). Here are a few things I've paid attention to recently.

Among our current CCC Fellows is James Calabaza (profiled farther down), who shares insights on *Developing Healthy, Reciprocal Relationships with Tribal Nations in the U.S.* in a presentation you can find [here](#). I also recommend a paper CSU's Dr. Dominique David-Chavez co-authored: [Relationships First and Always: A Guide to Collaborations with Indigenous Communities](#).

Building on the experience of the Fellows, we welcome Gemara Gifford and Arielle Quintana as CCC staff (also profiled farther down) to develop a *Toolkit for Meaningful Engagement with Indigenous and Marginalized Communities in Conservation*. For a sense for where the Toolkit is headed, check out the [Kūlana Noi'i](#).

If you missed the Western Collaborative Conservation Network's *Confluence 2022*, I recommend you take 45 minutes this weekend to watch [Amskapi Piikani \(People of the Blackfeet Nation\)](#). One of the things I loved about this film was Kristin Kipp describing her community's relationship with grizzly bears, which contains wisdom that can apply to carnivores across the West, including wolves in Colorado.

Among the other nuggets of wisdom shared with me at Confluence was guidance from Marsha Small (Tsististas, or Northern Cheyenne). Marsha reminded me that meaningful engagement with others begins with myself. Specifically, she recommends:

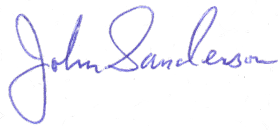
- Learn deeply about the people I descended from: where they lived, their culture, and their relationship to the land. I know vaguely that my dad was “northern European,” and my mom’s family was German diaspora who came to North America in the 1870’s to escape persecution. I can’t tell you much more than that, but I hope I can soon.
- Learn the place names where I currently am. I spend a lot of time near the CSU Mountain Campus, and only since talking with Marsha have I learned that what we call the “Mummy Range” was called [nookbee3eino' \(White Owls\) by the Arapaho](#).
- Volunteer in your local Indigenous community.

And here is more guidance others have taught me:

- Go deeper with your understanding of the history and treatment of Indigenous people, especially where you live and work. Marsha shares an important piece of that history in [Finding the Voices of Indigenous Boarding School Students](#). If you are in northern Colorado, check out [Fort Collins Didn't Start with Fort Collins](#).
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. Do be sincere, curious, and willing to learn.

If you are at CSU, it's not too late to participate in some of [this month's events](#), including the premier of [Homelands](#) co-produced by our friends at Trees Water & People.

Be well.



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



 WESTERN COLLABORATIVE
CONSERVATION NETWORK

All Partners Meeting

*Join the conversation to help
inspire the future the WCCN*

Upcoming WCCN All Partners Meeting

Join the [Western Collaborative Conservation Network \(WCCN\)](#) from 1-3 p.m. M.T. on Wednesday, December 7 for the All Partners Meeting: a quarterly meeting designed to convene collaborative conservation practitioners from throughout the American West, in order to share knowledge, connect with one another, and build a greater network.

This quarter's meeting will feature at least one case-study presented by a network member, updates about the WCCN, discussions regarding the WCCN Working Groups, and some networking if time allows. **Sarah King**, from Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, will share her case study of a fire program that facilitated communication in wildfire situations. **To join the conversation, please [contact Aireona Raschke](#), our Associate Director of Practice.**

The WCCN's mission is to "promote and support community-

based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies." If you as an individual or organization identify with this mission and practice collaborative conservation in the American West, **please join us for the All Partners Meeting December 7 and consider [signing up](#) for the WCCN Newsletter!**



CCC Fellows Cohort 13 Update

We were thrilled to receive so many applications for the Conservation Fellows Cohort 13! Review of the project pitches is underway and more information will be coming in the following months.



Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit 2022

This past October, the [Colorado Forests Collaboratives Network](#) hosted the **2022 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit**. More than 30 collaborative leaders and partners gathered in Frisco, Colorado, despite an unforeseen snowstorm, to build relationships, exchange stories of success and lessons learned, share their perspectives with state leadership, and brainstorm useful metrics for collaboratives at different stages. What we learned at Summit will be used to help inform state-level leadership, other forest collaboratives, and researchers developing the Stages of Readiness framework.

Find out more in this [short blog post](#) summarizing this year's Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit, and sign up for our email [listserv](#) to receive a full report in coming weeks.



Emerging Leaders Profile Series: J.R. Logan

J.R. Logan is not your typical emerging leader— hearing the term may conjure up the notion of a 20-something-year-old at the debut of their professional career. On the contrary, J.R. is in his late 30's and has already experienced a fulfilling career as a journalist and free-lance writer.

What makes J.R. an inspiring emerging leader in conservation is not his age. Rather, it is the unique perspectives and innovative ideas that he brings to the field with a passion to make sustainable environmental change in a place that he loves: the San Cristobal Valley of New Mexico.

Read about J.R.'s career shift into conservation and his passion for equitable sustainability solutions in Taos, NM in [his full profile](#), one of many in our Emerging Leaders Series!



Collaboratives Behind the Scenes: Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable

Last week, we had the opportunity to chat with Nicole Seltzer, Colorado Basin Program Director at [River Network](#), about her work as the Project Manager of the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) Advisory Committee for our blog series, *Collaboratives Behind the Scenes*.

Nicole dove into the nitty-gritty details of building a new collaborative with a complex structure, the tough challenges and the gratifying successes of working as Project Manager, and the future plans of the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable.

This past September, the group published their [final report](#) which provides water management recommendations and implementation strategies for river basin. **You can find more about the IWMP Final Report, the process leading to the report, and more in our [full Collaboratives Behind the Scenes profile with Nicole!](#)**

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellows: James Calabaza

Born and raised in New Mexico, James comes with direct experience working with Tribes and understanding the traditional knowledge as it pertains to their unique values. After working with the government sector, James realized his heart belongs to the nonprofit world. As TWP's Indigenous Lands Program Director, James provides much needed insight and experience on working with Tribal governments that uphold traditional ethics of governance and leadership. His deep rooted experiences and cultural values, strengthens our program by building trust with Tribes, promoting traditional landscape conservation values and over-seeing the development of community-based projects.

Check out James' presentation titled [Developing Healthy, Reciprocal Relationships with Tribal Nations in the U.S.](#) to learn more.



Meet our CCC Staff: Arielle Quintana and Gemara Gifford

New Special Projects Coordinators developing a *Toolkit for Meaningful Engagement with Indigenous and Marginalized Communities in Conservation*

There is growing recognition in conservation about the importance of collaboration, community-based methods, and developing solutions with peoples that are most affected by environmental changes. However, conservation has a history of excluding marginalized perspectives, especially Indigenous voices, which needs to be addressed. Working in collaboration with Arielle Quintana and Gemara Gifford, the CCC will develop a *Toolkit for Meaningful Engagement with Indigenous and Marginalized Communities in Conservation*. The toolkit will guide practitioners on ways to better engage with, support, include, and amplify Indigenous and marginalized community efforts, priorities, and knowledges within the field of collaborative conservation.

Arielle Quintana— Arielle (*pictured above, left*) is a proud tribal member of Cochiti Pueblo, a federally recognized tribe rooted in lands currently known as New Mexico. She is a PhD student in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. Her interests are reclamation and repatriation of Indigenous and Pueblo land stewardship and food sovereignty, particularly around gender roles and practices. As a Pueblo woman from a long line of matriarchs and land stewards, she is dedicated to supporting tribes in the stewardship of ancestral lands to strengthen Indigenous sovereignty. With over

10 years of experience in tribal land stewardship, Arielle centers Indigenous and Pueblo epistemologies, pedagogies, and worldviews to guide the development and implementation of natural resources projects.

Gemara Gifford– Gemara (*pictured above, right*) is a Chicana environmentalist, effective nonprofit leader, scholar and consultant with 10+ years working in community-centered conservation, environmental justice, and environmental education across the Americas. She is dedicated to reducing the institutional, interpersonal, and cultural barriers to land management by Indigenous and other historically marginalized communities within the U.S. and Latin America. Gemara is a PhD student in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and outgoing Program Director at Trees, Water & People where she leveraged over \$1.5MM to primarily BIPOC-led environmental coalitions & Indigenous land stewardship efforts across Central America.

Other News and Opportunities

CivicGreen and partners recently published a report, *Civic Engagement in American Climate Policy: Collaborative Models*, which builds upon innovative models of engagement and considers how to build community resilience in face of the twin crises of climate and democracy. Read the full report's policy recommendations and strategies [here](#).

Congratulations to Colorado State University's Mountain Sentinels!

The [Mountain Sentinels](#) program was recently awarded \$2 million from NSF to bridge Indigenous and western sciences to advance mountain sustainability! [Learn more](#) about the program and the incredible work they strive to do.

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), will be hosting a 3-part webinar series

starting noon M.T. Tuesday, November 15. The webinar will the five [Inner Development Goals](#) (IDGs) and question how students can use these principles to support and engage in sustainable development. Find more information about the series and register [here](#).

Citizen Science Association's 2023 C*Sci conference will take place next May in Phoenix, Arizona and is now accepting symposia

proposals. Proposals are due November 19. Find out more about the call for symposia, the C*Sci conference schedule, and more at the [conference webpage](#).

May 2023, the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution will host a training titled "Understanding Conflict and Planning for Successful Collaboration". The course is hybrid (in-person in Washington D.C. and virtual) and will provide opportunities to practice environmental collaboration and conflict resolution (ECCR) skills through real-life scenarios and peer-to-peer learning. [Register now!](#)

Jobs

Check out the CCC's [Job Board](#) for a list of jobs focused on natural resources and collaborative conservation! Here are just a few postings shared through our board:

Xerces Society is seeking an [Endangered Species Conservation Biologist](#) to launch a new initiative conducting a region-wide bumble bee atlas project in the southeast using community science. Position is remote within several southeast U.S. states. Applications due November 21.

Wyoming Game & Fish Department are hiring a [Lands Coordinator](#) to create and review real estate agreements, conservation easements, and other property right-related transactions **AND a [Public Information Officer](#)** responsible for providing accurate and strategic information to the Director's Office, media, and the public. Both positions based in Cheyenne, WY. Applications close near the end of the month!

Great River Greening is hiring an [Environmental Stewardship Director](#) to achieve ambitious stewardship goals and restore healthy land and water across Minnesota. Based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Apply by December 31.

The Watershed Center has three exciting full-time job openings based in Boulder, Colorado: [Forest Program Manager](#), [Science Program Manager](#), and [Forest Project Manager](#). Application deadlines vary.

If you have job openings that are aligned with our work on collaborative conservation and you want us to share them, submit them to our [job board](#).

If you think a colleague would find value in reading CCC news, please forward this email to them and invite them to subscribe to our email list using the form at the bottom of the [CCC home page](#).

If you feel moved to support our work supporting conservation, please consider [supporting the CCC with a donation](#).

Questions? Ideas? Opportunities? Please email the CCC Director [John Sanderson](#).

Be well.



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