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WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

September 2024



A Note from the CCC Director

Earlier this month, I attended the [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit](#) with over 100 committed, passionate, interesting, and fun people from across Colorado. While there, I found myself again thinking about relationships. In June, I wrote about [taking time to nurture relationships when the world is ablaze](#). The Summit illustrated clearly that strong relationships are vital to addressing those fires.

I had the privilege of reading all the post-Summit attendee evaluations. I was struck by how important the Summit was for people to connect with each other. Many attendees expressed gratitude for the chance to meet so many people who share their values. Others said they felt validated in their work. Some folks

were thankful for being pushed out of their comfort zones. Others were able to connect to funders as well as regional and statewide leadership. My favorite comment about connecting with others: *“I laughed so much today!”*

Much of the Summit also shined a light on the importance of relationships for achieving the forest health and wildfire outcomes western North America desperately needs. For example, in the breakout session on *Partnering with Government Agencies*, the main point of the report-out is worth repeating: *“Nothing earth shattering, but relationships are key. If you want to bridge the gap between local and large-scale initiatives, then focus on building friendships, trust, and mutual understanding. Maintaining those relationships is more important than any single issue.”* During the session on *Indigenous Collaboration* the importance of personal relationships was repeatedly stressed, along with the need for relationships to be personal, not just professional.

The importance of relationships was also apparent during the field trip. Given the number of partners, the diversity of land ownerships, and the variety of activities being pursued, relationships are essential for alignment, funding, social license, and coordinating on-the-ground work. The result: across the landscape as far as we could see from a high point in Durango, the collaborators in southwest Colorado have accomplished an impressive amount of prescribed fire, mechanical treatment, and risk mitigation.

I am also thinking this month about how relationships change over time. One of the relationships changing in our orbit is with Nicole Reese, CCC’s Communications Manager & Conservation Engagement Specialist, who will be leaving the CCC at the end of September. In addition to her formal roles, I am deeply grateful for Nicole’s generous willingness to support all aspects of CCC’s work. If you have found value in CCC’s communications—or, really, any of our work—[please join me in thanking Nicole for her efforts](#). Although Nicole will no longer be on CCC staff, we are committed to staying connected and finding ways to partner in the future. If you also want to connect with Nicole after September 30, you can find her at [Crowd Conservation](#).

Be well,





Did you miss out on CCC news over the summer?
Get yourself up-to-date!

[May News](#) | [June News](#) | [July News](#) | [August News](#)

News from the CCC



Summit Was Awesome!!!

While we pull together our notes on the awesome adventure that was the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit, **check out 10 of Katie's favorite photos from the event [HERE](#)**. There are some goodies!

We're also honored that our friends at [Peaks to People Water Fund](#) **consider Summit to be one of their favorite conferences!!** Read about Sandi and her crew's experience [HERE](#).





Now's Your Chance to Become a CCC Fellow

The Center for Collaborative Conservation is currently seeking applicants interested in receiving funding to plan and implement a meaningful project, delve into the practice of collaborative conservation, and join a community of practice.

The [Fellows Program](#) is for those interested in conservation at any stage of their careers. As highlighted in our [10-year Review](#), the Program challenges and facilitates students, faculty, and practitioners to propose projects that will work in collaborative ways with local communities to help build livelihoods and conserve their landscapes.

Interested parties should assemble their team, develop a project idea, then submit a project proposal by November 1, 2024, to allison.brody@colostate.edu.

A detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found [here](#). This RFP explains how to apply, what to expect from the Fellows Program, and considerations for the project design. Proposals undergo a competitive review process.

Want to learn more?

Two virtual information sessions will be held on [9/27 \(9:00-10:00 am\)](#), and [10/10 \(5-6 pm MT\)](#).

You may also schedule a 45-minute meeting to have your questions answered, discuss project ideas, review proposal format and content, and address other questions and concerns. Proposal support meetings can be scheduled [here](#).



WCCN's Quarterly Roundup: Collaborative Voices

It's time for the quarterly round-up! See what your Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN) partners have been up to these past few months in the WCCN's quarterly newsletter, "[Collaborative Voices](#)".

Read a snippet of one of this quarter's stories below:



"In the aftermath of wildfires, the impact extends far beyond the last ember."

Peaks to People Water Fund, in collaboration with the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership (BTWHP) and other local organizations, is developing a Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) for the Big Thompson watershed.

"During the first week in August 2024, the Alexander Mountain Fire burned almost 10,000 acres in the Big Thompson watershed... Although we are only mid-way through the WRAP process, we are already leaning on the completed hazard analyses to help in recovery planning... This is exactly what the WRAP process was designed to do." (photos by Peaks to People)

Read more about these collaboratives' efforts in the face of an emergency and more incredible stories of collaborative conservation in action in [WCCN's "Collaborative Voices" newsletter](#).

Read "Collaborative Voices"

Join the WCCN mailing list

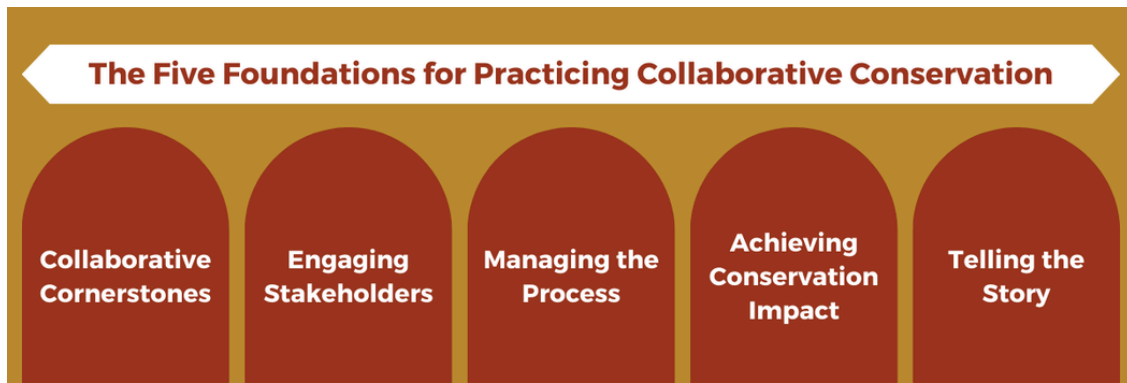


Storyteller's Circle: Join us for a session on behavior change!

Calling all conservation communicators! Join us with Kate Mannle from [Rare](#) who will be giving a short presentation on Rare's [framework](#) for behavior change and leading a discussion on how we can reconsider our approaches to our communication campaigns.

[Register here](#) to join this session on Sept 26 from 12:30-1:30pm MT.

Missed last month's session on mentorship? Check out the recording [here](#) and our [notes too](#).



Meet the 5 Foundations of Collaborative Conservation

We recognize that there is no “one size fits all” formula for how to do **collaborative conservation**, yet we also recognize that there are some universal aspects that are true across many different contexts – such as the importance of trust and relationships, the need to engage stakeholders in some way, the need to periodically manage conflict, and the need to consider how decisions will be made. **We therefore created a framework of five sets of foundational considerations for collaborative conservation.** The [How To](#) page is organized around these Five Foundations, offering helpful resources for each.

This list is by no means comprehensive. It includes resources that were recommended to us, those that we have found to be useful over the years, and some that we created ourselves. We used a variety of criteria to curate this [How To](#) page, such as whether or not the resource would help somebody *do* the work, not just list the activities to be done, or show what others have done. We also wanted to include different media (mostly free), ranging from short guides, comprehensive websites, videos, articles, books, and more.

[Take a look!](#) **See if you agree with our list and the ways in which we have it organized.** Find a resource that is especially helpful? Have a suggestion for a resource we didn't include? Think we should tweak our framework? Let us know - we'd love to hear from you!

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellows: Matt Luizza & Simran Prasad

On September 11th, Matt Luizza (Cohort 4) and Simran Prasad (Cohort 12) led the conversation to explore strategies and stories around addressing human/wildlife conflict and coexistence at the Fellows Community of Practice Meetup.

Dr. Matt Luizza is a Program Officer with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service International Affairs (IA) and manages the African Elephant Conservation Fund. Additionally, he serves as the technical lead for IA on pastoralism and protected area dynamics in Africa, co-chairs the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Biodiversity Working Group, and co-convenes the U.S. Department of the Interior Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Community of Practice. **Matt was a member of the CCC Fellowship Program's Cohort 4 (Graduate Student) and Cohort 7 (Team), in addition to serving as a member of the CCC Advisory Board from 2020 through 2023.**

Simran Prasad is a Doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, based in India. Simran's PhD research interests are multifaceted and encompass human–wildlife interactions, social sciences, socio-ecological field methods and conservation economics. **Her project focuses on researching patterns and drivers of human and elephant injuries and deaths at the interface of human–elephant interactions in select regions of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve of the Western Ghats, south India.** Through her work, she aims to identify what specific factors contribute to rising casualties and mortalities of both protagonists in conflict situations and how this could be mitigated through strategic, site-specific and participatory interventions. Simran is currently working on writing up her PhD Thesis.

If you're a CCC Fellow, join the Community on Whatsapp!



Meet Our Staff: Our Thank You to Nicole Reese

"I have been a fan of the Center for Collaborative Conservation since I was a sophomore in undergrad at CSU, when the CCC launched in 2008. The CCC's mission inspired me to continue my education in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, and Kim Skyelander, who retired from the CCC in 2021, was such a great mentor to me as I began my nonprofit [Crowd Conservation](#) in 2015 to support collaborative conservation efforts.

It has been an honor to be part of the CCC since 2020: building up our communication efforts, weaving our WCCN network, supporting college student interns, and facilitating a watershed project in North Park, Colorado. I am so proud to have had a hand in helping the CCC grow into what it is today – a great resource, with a great community.

I will stay involved with the CCC community through the CCC's Affiliate program and the WCCN's Emerging Leadership Working Group. In partnership with the WCCN's EL Working Group, I am developing a Mentorship toolkit containing effective practices and helpful guidance for those seeking mentorship or wanting to offer mentorship to our next generation of conservation leaders. I will also continue to build up the Storyteller's Circle – a community of conservation communicators seeking to develop our storytelling skills. You can learn more about the projects and networks I support [here](#). I hope to stay connected with you all as we strive together to learn, conserve, and support each other through these impactful networks."

- Nicole Reese
*Outgoing CCC Communications Manager
& Conservation Engagement Specialist*

*"I had the pleasure of meeting Nicole when I first joined the Western Collaborative Conservation Network as a member in 2021. I was looking for a community of like-minded people who also knew the complex work of collaboration. **I found that in Nicole, and I've enjoyed working with her on many projects since I joined the Center for Collaborative Conservation as a team member.** Together, we have navigated two Confluences, celebrated shared collaborative successes, and gotten to enjoy the beauty of the Intermountain West in Wyoming, Arizona, and Colorado together. I'm going to miss getting to work with Nicole on a daily basis. The team won't be the same without her. **But I am also looking forward to continuing our shared work, and I'm excited to see where she goes next. I know she will continue to do wonderful work in collaborative conservation.**"*

- Aireona Bonnie Raschke
CCC Associate Director of Practice, WCCN Director

Want to thank Nicole yourself? Email her!

Scholarly and Applied Impact

Here we review research to guide our practice. Please [reach out with suggestions](#) for what we should cover! **CCC Fellows and staff are indicated by bold font.**

*Effective communication strategies lie at the heart of any collaborative conservation effort. This month, **Uuganbayar Ganbold** ([Fellow, Cohort 14](#)) tells us about how he uses photography to help make lasting connections and support his collaborative approach.*

My name is Uuganbayar Ganbold, and I am a wildlife biologist with a deep passion for photography. I believe my journey exemplifies how visual

storytelling can profoundly shift perspectives, particularly in conservation. Since becoming a wildlife biologist in 2012, I've had the privilege of observing remarkable species such as wolves, the Manul cat, Przewalski's horses, and marmots, many of which are endangered globally or regionally. My passion lies in sharing these experiences with others. It's not enough for me to witness the beauty of these animals alone... if people aren't aware of them, they can't fully appreciate their significance. Through photography, I aim to draw people into the world of conservation by showcasing the incredible beauty and complexity of these species.

One impactful story comes from my experience with Mr. Sanj, now a colleague of mine. Sanj, a highly skilled hunter and nomadic herder, had spent years hunting wolves, which he saw as enemies of his livestock. In 2017, we worked on a project studying wolf packs in Hustai National Park (Mongolia). During the project, I captured numerous images of wolves, and these photographs captivated Sanj, offering him a new perspective. For the first time, he saw the wolves not as adversaries but as beautiful, complex creatures. Photography allowed us to observe their natural behavior, something far different from hunting obviously. Sanj's view of wolves transformed dramatically, and now he's even considering getting a camera to document their beauty instead of hunting them. He said that *"he never thought that they (wolves) have a strong family relationship with all members in a pack."* Photography has also been an essential tool when working with children and young people. Videos, in particular, help ignite their interest in wildlife. Once captivated, I can provide them with more information about species and conservation, which they remember long after. Visual storytelling serves as a powerful icebreaker, helping foster lasting connections. I firmly believe that when people love something, they won't destroy it, and this holds true in conservation.

Alongside my work with Sanj, I've been involved in several wildlife documentaries, collaborating with organizations like the BBC, National Geographic, and NHK (Japan). [My photographs](#) are frequently used in conservation campaigns, engaging local communities and communicating the urgency of protecting endangered species.

- Uuganbayar Ganbold
CCC Fellow, Cohort 14



Other News and Opportunities

Mountains and Plains Thriving Communities Collaborative | We are excited to announce the launch of the Mountains and Plains Thriving Communities Collaborative (MaPTCC) on August 14th, 2024. Montana State University's Mountains and Plains Thriving Communities Collaborative (MaPTCC, pronounced "map-tek") promotes energy and environmental justice across EPA Region 8: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, with a focus on the region's 28 federally recognized Tribal Nations, as well as cities, small towns, and rural areas. We offer free expert support to empower individuals and organizations in developing projects for healthy communities and environments. You can learn about us and find more resources [HERE](#).

Southwest Decision Resources Facilitation Trainings | Hello partners and friends of SDR! Our 2024 facilitation trainings are now open for registration! The dates and locations are: October 3-4, Flagstaff - ([click here](#) to register); October (date TBA), Tucson - ([click here](#) to receive the date and registration information directly). [Please see this flyer](#) for details and share with anyone who may be interested.

Rocky Mountain Wildfire Smoke Symposium | Join the 5th annual Rocky Mountain Wildfire Smoke Symposium (hybrid). Anyone invested in discussing a future with wildfires - including researchers, public health professionals, community and government employees, and concerned citizens - is invited. Local and regional experts will lead sessions on: the health impacts of wildfires, community strategies for mitigating wildfire smoke exposure, and adaptation strategies for living with fire. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Now Open: 2024 COSWAP Workforce Development Grant | The Department of Natural Resources-Executive Director's Office is pleased to announce \$4 million available for the 2024 Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) Workforce Development Grant. This grant is designed to increase the number of people supporting Colorado's wildfire mitigation workforce, primarily by supporting the workforce development partners listed below. Projects and training must be completed by December 31, 2025. The Workforce Development Grant offers four separate opportunities for wildfire mitigation work and workforce training. [Visit our website](#) for more information on Strategic Focus Areas and eligibility, as well as for the applications under the '2024 Release' section.

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:

Community Engagement & Outreach Manager for the Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative | The Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative & the Ember Alliance are hiring an experienced communications and marketing staff person to assist us in growing and meeting our mission needs through creative storytelling and on-the-ground outreach. This job will be hosted by The Ember Alliance (TEA), a nonprofit organization and member of the Fireshed that also hosts the NCFC coordinator. As Community Engagement & Outreach Manager, you will report to the NCFC Coordinator. Position is a 40 hour/week, full-time position, with 75% (30 hours/week) working on NCFC communications and duties and 25% (10 hours/week) on communications for The Ember Alliance. [Learn more about the position and apply here.](#)

Forestry Project Manager for the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition | The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC) seeks a highly organized, experienced, and motivated self-starter to independently oversee BTWC’s current forestry projects and to assist with the organization’s community outreach programs. Under the general direction of the BTWC Director, the Forestry Project Manager will predominantly participate in and lead forest restoration project identification, planning, coordination, management, and monitoring efforts. Local knowledge of the Big Thompson River and water system and its diverse water use needs are extremely beneficial to this position, but not required.

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,
The CCC Team



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