

Having trouble seeing everything, like pictures?

[View this email in your browser](#)



WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

May 2024



A Note from the CCC Director

Interacting with the many remarkable individuals at Western Collaborative Conservation Network's third biennial [Confluence](#) last month in Tucson, I gained new insights into the event's purpose. I had thought *Confluence* was foremost about learning. After Tucson, I see it differently: *Confluence* is foremost about connections, from which learning—and much more—flows. Nathan Fey from [Mighty Arrow Family Foundation](#) echoed this view when he said *Confluence* reminded him “*how important it is to have a community that comes together to rally support for one another and to exchange ideas.*” In the [Quivira Coalition's](#) most recent [newsletter](#), Education and Outreach Director CJ Ames beautifully expressed this core aspect of Confluence by sharing, “*While I always leave conferences with ‘contacts,’ I don't think I've ever left a*

conference having made friends, but the connective atmosphere and time spent chatting over coffee made this year's Confluence a delightful exception."

In their essay, CJ went on to share valuable insights and reflections on two *Confluence* learning sessions. The first session, presented by the [National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution](#), was on interest-based negotiations. This session emphasized understanding the values and interests—not just the positions—of people whose views differ from yours. A similar emphasis on listening deeply as a path to building trusting relationships emerged from a training presented by the CCC on our new [Toolkit for Meaningful Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Conservation](#).

Themes of listening, relationship, and trust also wove through the recent multi-day retreat we held for our latest cohort of [CCC Fellows](#). For the retreat we welcomed [five teams from across the globe](#): two from Mongolia, one from Brazil, one spanning Mexico and the southwest US, and one from Colorado. Three of these teams' projects are focused on living with carnivores in agricultural landscapes, so the CCC is partnering with the [Center for Human Carnivore Coexistence](#) to support these Fellows projects. Together we are exploring cultural similarities and differences in how collaborative solutions can help communities navigate the challenges that arise when people, livestock, and predators share a landscape. When predators are involved, passions on both sides run deep, making it particularly hard for many of us to listen well. In the book [Time to Think](#), author Nancy Kline gives simple, powerful, and challenging guidance that you might consider applying in this type of charged situation: *"Pay unbelievably beautiful attention to the other, even if you don't agree with them or like them."*

Be well,



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



The Magic of Confluence

Aireona shares her [Reflection on Confluence 2024](#) in a new blog post on our website!

"There is something really special and welcoming about the WCCN and collaborative conservation community. I am SO grateful for the kind of environment that we have been creating year over year... I know that I have never felt quite so supported and welcomed in any other conference space. And I think that this is something that is worth celebrating and thinking about together." [Read more here.](#)

If you were at Confluence with us this year, feel free to [let Aireona know](#) if you have any thoughts about how to **keep this magical trend going for Confluence 2026: Springtime in Fort Collins, CO**. And if you weren't at Confluence 2024, but wish you were, please keep us on your radar for 2026!



Fellows Community of Practice

Riding the high of the Fellows Cohort 14 Retreat, **we had a lively Fellows Community of Practice virtual meetup last week!** People from multiple cohorts attended, and the exchange of ideas, real-world problem-solving, and networking that happened was really wonderful and inspiring. The group touched on a variety of subjects like starting a nonprofit, fiscal management, human-carnivore coexistence, and our favorite meals abroad!

Fellows, the next meetup will be July 10th, and we are looking for a topic and session speaker- we can't wait to see everyone again! **We want this Community of Practice to be helpful to current, recent, and early cohorts. The more you communicate with us, the better we can include you!** [Email Allison and Roxie](#) or reach us on Whatsapp with your ideas.

Want to learn more about the Fellows Program? Click [HERE](#).



Happy Graduation!

Congratulations to the Spring 2024 graduating class at CSU! We are so impressed by y'all, and especially by our **Warner College students**. Check out our [CCC job board](#) at the bottom of this newsletter for opportunities this summer and beyond!

CCC Job Board



Save the Date for CFC Summit Sept 4-6

For years, collaborative leaders and partners have convened in an annual [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit](#) to share updates, build relationships, and learn from one another. Each fall, approximately 100 collaborative leaders and partners gather somewhere in Colorado for the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit. The creation of the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network (CFCN) was inspired by successes at past Forest Collaboratives Summits, and Summit now represents the flagship annual event for the CFCN.

Details & registration coming soon!

Keep up-to-date with CFC Summit

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Office Assistant: Fin Camp

Fin is a current Colorado State University student studying Landscape Architecture, as well as our Office Assistant. Born and raised in Fort Collins, they have cultivated a lifelong love and passion for conserving and protecting nature. They are particularly interested in the biology of forests, crafting cute beanies for their goose statue, and the use of sustainable and native plant garden design as a way to conserve lands. Fin is just at the beginning of their journey in conservation and is excited to learn more about the process of caring for nature.



Branching Out Peer Support Session TODAY!

A few weeks ago, Katie, of the [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network](#), signed up to be a part of the **mentorship match** at [WCCN Confluence 2024](#). She and her peer-mentor chatted over coffee, sharing advice on the things they have figured out, commiserating over challenges that neither of them have the answers to, and sharing stories in a more honest way than one might normally share with a colleague they just met.

This peer-mentorship experience inspired the creation of this month's [Branching Out](#) session...

A primary goal of the [Branching Out series](#) is to facilitate relationship-building between collaboratives across Colorado, so they can share stories and learn from one another. We also envision Branching Out as **a space for people to share current challenges they are facing and seek advice from folks who 'get it'**. In this presentation-free session, we invite you to bring both your challenges and your unique wisdom to the table; we'll engage in several activities designed to facilitate shared learning and problem-solving.

Join us for the [CFCN Branching Out: Peer Support Session](#) TODAY, Thursday, May 16th from 1:30-3pm!

Register [HERE](#).

WCCN

All-Partners

WEBINAR

**NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION'S
COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY
PROGRAM FOR FORESTS &
COMMUNITIES**

JOIN US

May 29 @ 3:00 PM

REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM MEETING
ON THE CCC "CALENDAR" PAGE
<https://collaborativeconservation.org/events-calendar/>

May 29 @ 3:00 PM
REGISTER FOR THE ZOOM MEETING
ON THE CCC "CALENDAR" PAGE
<https://collaborativeconservation.org/events-calendar/>

Join Us for a WCCN All-Partners Webinar

The National Forest Foundation's ([NFF](#)) is launching "[Collaborative Capacity Program for Forests & Communities](#)" a NEW funding and technical assistance program supporting collaboration for forest stewardship, including co-stewardship with Tribal Nations.

Join Jaimie Baxter and Rebecca Brickner from the National Forest Foundation to learn more about this new program, if your collaborative work might be eligible for funding, and how to apply, at our May 29th All-Partners Webinar!

Learn more about the launch of the program on our blog [HERE](#).

Check out the All-Partner's Webinar and register for it [HERE](#).



The Next Storyteller's Circle: May 30

Recent federal funds, via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, have spurred unprecedented opportunities for landscape conservation and habitat restoration. Of note is the West's vast sagebrush ecosystem, where projects range from wet meadow restoration to invasive grass treatments. **An important but often challenging component of these projects is the communication aspect – which may be required under grant conditions or simply be a valuable part of the overall strategy.**

Part 1: On May 30, communicators from entities that receive funding, federal or otherwise, are invited to come together and share information about their projects, how they approach communicating project success, and collectively brainstorm effective ways to meet the communication aspects of their grants.

You can [register here](#) to participate in this month's conversation!

Part 2: On June 27, participants from the May session will showcase their communication strategies, which may be at different stages. These will reflect efforts to advance conservation storytelling around federally funded projects, while building connections amongst individuals working towards similar communication goals. You will need to [register separately here](#) to join in.

You can review some highlights and shared resources in notes from previous sessions [here](#).

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.

At the CCC, we often think about and immerse ourselves in the work of strengthening the effective connections between academia and practice. Among much innovative work on this, one paper that I've really enjoyed on this subject is [Cockburn et.al. \(2018\)](#) "*Towards Place-Based Research to Support Social-Ecological Stewardship*." In this paper, J. Cockburn and her colleagues walk through various elements of the collaborative natural resource management research field, touching on what has been learned, and examining the complexities of the knowledge-base, before identifying what they (and me!) consider to be a major gap.

They describe this in their abstract as a need to deepen theory through "further research into the agency of individual human actors, the complex social-relational dynamics..., and the situatedness of actors within the... context." In particular, I find this paper to be so poignant and worth reading, because it points out something that has been reflected in my on-the-ground experience—specifically that, we are relying too heavily on governance structures and rules when we try to set up our collaborations for success. These are important, of course, but individual people and they dynamics between them deserve more of our time and consideration. [Cockburn et.al. \(2018\)](#) creates a powerful argument for research (and practice, in my opinion) to start paying more

attention to these elements, and I couldn't agree more.

- Aireona Bonnie-Raschke, PhD.

Other News and Opportunities

Colorado Water Center's Water Fellows Program | The Colorado Water Center (CoWC) Water Fellows Program advances the next generation of diverse water leaders by training and connecting undergraduate and graduate students from historically excluded/ marginalized communities or identities to careers and opportunities in the water field. Apply to join the next cohort of Fellows by June 21st. Learn more [here](#).

Ranching for Rivers Riparian Health Grants | The Montana Association of Conservation Districts ([MACD](#)) [Ranching for Rivers](#) program has funding to assist landowners protecting riparian health through improved ranching practices along water bodies listed as impaired in DEQ's [Montana 2020 Impaired Waters list](#). Funding is also available for Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups to provide technical assistance on ranching management projects to local landowners in their area. Proposals are due by Sept. 1, 2024, and projects must be completed by Oct. 31, 2025. Find details and apply [here](#).

NM Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan Workshop Series | We are excited to announce the launch of New Mexico's first [State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan](#) with a Community Conversation Series on Climate Resilience! This series aims to bring together community members, experts, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for building resilience in the face of climate change to shape the development of the Plan. Regionally-focused public meetings will be held in person in six locations across the state, as well as virtually. The Community Conversations are open to all, and lunch or dinner will be provided after each workshop. Together, we can shape a resilient future for New Mexico. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference! Interested individuals should register for any of the workshops [here](#), and find out more about it [here](#).

Community Catalyst Fund: RFP | [Coalitions and Collaboratives](#) is thrilled to announce the launch of our Community Catalyst Fund as part of the [Community Navigator Program](#). The Community Catalyst Fund aims to

strengthen community-serving organizations with increasing capacity towards climate resilience. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$150,000, providing substantial support for initiatives focused on leading communities to climate resilience. Applications are due June 6th. Visit the [Request for Applications](#) document for more information and specific instructions to apply. Please reach out to cnpinfo@co-co.org with any questions.

NFF Collaborative Capacity Program RFP | With federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the National Forest Foundation's Collaborative Capacity Program for Forests & Communities (CCP) invests in the resources, skills and tools, and support activities that make collaboration for forest stewardship successful through a financial awards program. Eligible collaborative efforts must describe how investments in collaboration will support a long-term strategy for achieving stewardship outcomes into the future and these outcomes must seek to benefit National Forest System lands. Find more information [here](#).

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:

Entry-Level Field Opportunities with Parks and Agencies | Check out the Great Basin Institute's volunteer and job board, where you can find opportunities in cultural resources assistance, ecological restoration, forestry & fuels reduction, wilderness & recreation management, and more across the West. Learn more about the Great Basin Institute [here](#), and apply to your next place-based opportunity [here](#).

Programming at the First Nations Development Institute | First Nations Development Institute is a 44-year-old Native American controlled nonprofit organization whose mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing. They are looking to hire a [Program Officer](#) for their Stewarding Native Lands Program and a [Program Associate](#) to assist and support program officers and the Director of Programs in the administration and implementation

of First Nations' Stewarding Native Lands projects. Learn about these two opportunities and more [here](#).

Conservation in the Classroom Coordinator for the Teller Wildlife Refuge and Bitterroot Water Partnership | Through a coordinated and joint effort, the K-12 Coordinated Conservation Learning Program (CCLP) aspires to provide all K-12 students in the Bitterroot Valley, MT, transformative, educational experiences that foster a deep appreciation for local nature, instill an understanding of natural resources and associated sciences, and inspire a lifelong commitment to conservation. The CCLP is seeking a Conservation in the Classroom Coordinator to spearhead its mission. This includes conducting outreach and building relationships with K-12 educators, developing curriculum, facilitating educational experiences, and working collaboratively with the CCLP consortium members in fulfilling its mission. Learn more and apply [here](#).

Fight Climate Change in Your Community with MHYC | Join Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) for our 2024 Climate Corps- Energy & Water Conservation (E&W) program! E&W is a team-based program for individuals 18-24. E&W Corpsmembers serve on community-based energy and water conservation projects throughout the Denver metro area. Never had a job in conservation before? Not sure if you like this kind of work? That's okay! Learn more about entry-level Americorps positions with MHYC [here](#).

Communications Coordinator for Prairie Pothole Joint Venture | The Prairie Pothole Region of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) is seeking a highly motivated, self-starting collaborative individual to work as a key staff member of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV). The Communications Coordinator serves as lead PPJV communications staff working across the 5-state region (MT, ND, SD, MN, IA) of the Joint Venture. This position provides critical direction and implementation of strategic external and internal communications to advance PPJV conservation efforts. The Communications Coordinator is responsible for furthering communications to support wetland and grassland habitat conservation. Learn more and apply [here](#).

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](#).



photo of collaborative conservationists at work by Eleanor Ludwig

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.



Facebook Twitter YouTube LinkedIn Instagram Website Email



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).