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WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

August 2025



A Note from the CCC Director

The latest [Western Water Assessment briefing](#) says that we have had record-dry conditions and temperatures above normal throughout much of the western US. In other words, wildfire conditions. Indeed, this wildfire season has already been active, including a fire in Colorado that has spread to >100,000 acres in just one week.

At the same time, major changes and uncertainty are afoot in policy and funding related to forest health and wildfire. Recently, the US Department of Agriculture [announced a major reorganization](#), eliminating US Forest Service regional offices and most research offices. A White House directive mandated [increases in timber production](#). There are ongoing efforts to [revise National](#)

[Environmental Policy Act regulations](#). The US Forest Service is in talks with as many as 40 states to execute agreements that will expand coordination and involvement of states in the management of federal lands like [this one recently signed with Montana](#). A bipartisan bill has been introduced into Congress to [extend the Collaborative Forested Landscape Restoration Program](#). Whether or not you view these changes as positive or negative, we remain far short of our forest health goals.

Given all this change and uncertainty, I like Jordana Barrack's suggestion that we embrace an "[Era of Experimentation](#)." Her newsletter introduced me to the article [Grappling with Systems Collapse](#), which provides four models for thinking about change and how we might respond over different time horizons. I am particularly interested in the "creative" model, where there may be "an opportunity—even a responsibility—to pursue truly transformative impact" that might allow us to achieve our goals.

As with much in collaboration, weathering this change—not to mention finding opportunities—depends on relationships. In [Where Do We Go from Here? How Collaboratives are Looking to the Future](#), Katie McGrath Novak tells us that, "Now more than ever, collaboratives are leaning on built trust and relationships with existing partners." The book [A New Era for Collaborative Forest Management](#) echoes this theme by including several chapters on the importance of creating trusting relationships to get things done. Investing in "opportunities for relationship-building, knowledge exchange, and learning" is also a theme in [Developing and Sustaining Collaborative Resilience in the Face of Change](#).

If you work on forest health and wildfire, you want to invest in relationships, and you are grappling with today's change and uncertainty, please considering joining us next month for the [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit](#). In addition to being an opportunity to visit field sites, learn about changing policy, explore funding options, and exchange ideas with others, you might have an experience like the Summit attendee last year who said, "I laughed so much today!"

Be well.

Be well,



News from the CCC



Announcing the CCC Fall Social!

At the CCC, we know relationships based on trust are critical to achieving enduring outcomes. We take pride in nurturing our networks among staff, partners, and practitioners. That is why the Center for Collaborative Conservation is excited to be hosting our fall social on September 26th!

Please join us for food, drinks, and good company. Children, families, and +1's are encouraged to attend.

A spot to RSVP will be posted soon. We hope to see you there!



North Sand Creek Field Trip Recap

The North Sand Creek Restoration Partnership (NSCRP), facilitated by the Center for Collaborative Conservation, hosted a collaborative field trip to the Sand Hills in late July.

Attendees rode over, around, and through the dune system in off-highway vehicles to visit important sites for both the history and future of the creek. Members of the core team discussed the progress in the project (including the in-stream restoration work happening in September - woohoo!) and exchanged ideas about the strategic next step. Even more important were the relationships and synergy forming between collaborators from more than 12 organizations, each with vastly different perspectives and expertise, but all willing to listen to each other and act accordingly.

Folks who learn from one another in community, such as those involved in this partnership, can be a strong force in a divided conservation world.

-- Julia Lankisch

*CSU M.S. Environmental Leadership '26
CCC North Sand Creek Project Assistant*



Counting Down to CFCN Summit

The Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network is thrilled to begin the countdown to our 2025 Summit, "**Designing for Uncertainty, Thriving in Community**"! [Get timely updates through the CFCN newsletter here.](#)

Through this annual event, our mission is to connect place-based forest collaboratives from across the state and facilitate learning about issues most relevant to collaboratives.

Please join us on September 17th-18th in Golden, CO (a hybrid option will be available as well)

[Register here](#)

Get to Know the CCC



This Could be You! We're Accepting Fellows Applications

Do you have a collaborative conservation project waiting to get off the ground? Cohort 16 of our [CCC Fellows Program](#) is accepting proposals until **October 10th, 2025**.

Our Fellows Program provides funding, training, and a community of practice for a cohort of students, faculty, and practitioners to complete collaborative projects.

This is a competitive opportunity to **join a community of change-makers** in collaborative conservation, using our network as your support system!

Examples of projects include:

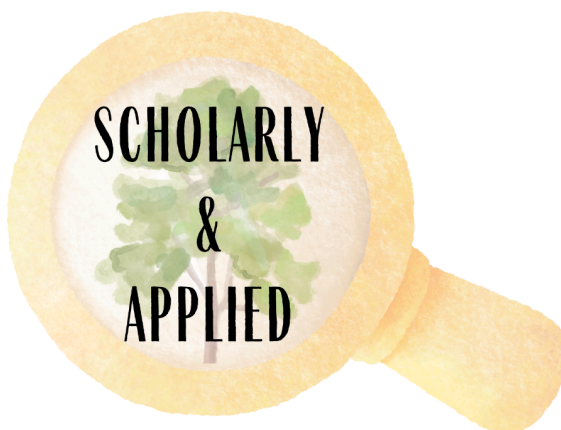
- Working with a group of stakeholders to do on-the-ground conservation, such as a restoration, social science, or citizen science project.

- Building the capacity of a group of stakeholders to collaboratively address a conservation issue. This type of project might include convening, training, planning, creating tools (such as an app, social network map, photovoice, etc.), doing outreach, or other activities.
- Co-produce research that sheds light on how to do collaborative conservation.

We're so excited to work with you! Please contact [Allison Brody](#) with questions, or attend one of our [three information sessions](#) (scroll to "Join our Fellows Program").

[View Request for Proposals](#)

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.**

Many communities have stories of “parachute” science, in which outside researchers “drop in” to a community, collect information about the issue that they were interested in, perhaps consult with community members about their knowledge or experience with the issue, and then leave with all of the information that they have gathered. Many of these researchers would claim this knowledge as their own and use it to publish papers about the issue while

gaining power and status in their given fields.

More and more, people are thinking about how to make the collection and sharing of information more collaborative and just. C. Robinson et al. (2023, [Place-based data justice practices for collaborative conservation research: a critical review](#)) observe that through technologies such as remote sensing, activities such as citizen science, and “various modes of local engagements” there is an abundance of ways to collect information, but that “the nuances of data justice concerns have further emphasized the issues around data privacy, ownership, and the governance in protecting community and Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, and social relations at the local level.”

While Robinson et al.'s literature review revealed a “gap between data justice standards and commitments and how these are negotiated and implemented” with communities, some of our partners in Colorado are working to help us bridge that gap, particularly with Indigenous peoples. For example, **Dominique David-Chavez (CCC Fellows Cohort 7)** and **Tamara Layden (Cohort 12)** help to maintain a resource hub at Colorado State University’s [Indigenous Land & Data Stewards Lab](#). And recently, [Colorado’s Outdoors Strategy Resource Hub](#) published the [Guidance Framework for Tribal Collaboration in Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, and Climate Resilience in Colorado](#). This Framework provides helpful guidance for anyone interested in “tangible outcomes for the benefit of people and the environment”, including considerations for data sharing agreements (e.g., the Tribal Collaboration Wheel presented on p. 5). How do you think about collecting and sharing knowledge with the communities with whom you work?

- Allison Brody, PhD

Our Associate Director of Learning

Notes From the Field



Here we take short explorations of the CCC's projects, on-the-ground engagement, research, and what we are learning along the way!

The focus this month is:

Fundraising Tips from a Beginner (And Where to Learn More)

In July, I had the opportunity to attend the Lilly Family School for Philanthropy's [Fundraising School](#) at the University of Indiana for their Fundraising for Small Non-Profits training. I've been thinking about philanthropic fundraising intensely this year – partially because this is a skillset that I know is essential in our field, but also because it seems like that skillset is now more important than ever with the changes we've been seeing at the federal level here in the U.S. This is partially what inspired the Wildflower Soiree that we had in May, where we had the opportunity to connect our [current Fellows cohort](#) and alumni with current and prospective donors for the Center.

The Soiree turned out to be a successful and impactful evening, and immediately afterwards I was diving headfirst into our follow up plan. We wanted to make sure that we could connect with as many of the funders and prospects who attended as possible. And despite what I have heard from John as well as Warner College's exceptional development team about how fundraising is really all about relationships, I found myself feeling uncertain about how to move forward. My mind was full of questions –

How could I help to build relationships with folks who felt drawn to the Fellows program? What tools should I bring to meetings so that I could answer any questions that people have and leave them with some interesting information to keep the conversation going? What tools would help me set aside the time and capacity for developing these relationships?

This training was an opportunity to lay some foundations, answer my beginner

fundraiser questions, and have the opportunity to dedicate some time to learning more about building these specific relationships with funders. First off, if you or people in your organization are interested in similar training opportunities, I really enjoyed my time working with the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, so definitely check them out.

Second, here are some takeaways from my experience that I wanted to share with you all, because they have been on my mind. [Processing!]

1. Philanthropy is a strength of the United States – people of all income levels give to causes that are meaningful to them. You don't need to have a certain amount of money to be a philanthropist, and giving is a powerful way to make change in the world. So, fundraising isn't begging, it's an effort to link people with causes that are important to them for one reason or another. (I came home from the training with the intent to donate more than ever!)
2. Go out there and connect with prospects and funders, and do so with the intent to build a relationship and learn about people. The more that we know about our friends and community members, the better job that we can do in connecting them to causes that mean something to them. For example, I adore lovebirds (the tiny parrots) and if someone knew me well enough to ask me if I'd like to donate to an effort to care for lovebirds in Phoenix (where I am from and where feral lovebirds can be found), I would be excited to help.
3. Foundations are important to build and these include a strong mission and vision, strategic plan, case statement, and a way to organize your communications. These tools can help you build momentum, communicate clearly, take feedback, and then cultivate meaningful connections with people. Of course, when we are in immediate need for funding, these pieces might feel less important, but if your organization is missing any piece, it is worth working on them at the same time as you are going out to meet with people.

There's so much more that I could share, but I will stop here. If you are one of

many organizations looking to leverage philanthropy more in your work, I hope some of these takeaways will encourage you to get out there with me to make new connections. The work that we are all doing is important, and there are people out there who share our values and visions for the future.

- Aireona Raschke, PhD

Our Associate Director of Practice



Other News and Opportunities

New resource for water health communication | This new handbook supports your communications with decision-makers in the western United States about protecting and restoring healthy stream and river systems. [Read it here](#)

Forest and Flows Social - Free Event at CSU Spur | Water Education Colorado presents a hands-on evening that explores the powerful relationship between trees and water in our arid state. [Join us on August 22](#)

National Active Forest Management Strategy Story Map | Interested in the who-what-when-where and why of forest management? The revised strategy came out in May, and this storymap provides the background on the strategy and discusses the impacts on collaborative approaches to forest restoration. [Check it out](#)

NEWS: Landmark Collaborative Conservation Forest Management Strategy in Montana | Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Shultz on Monday formalized a shared forest management agreement that the governor said was the "first of its kind" between the state and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More states are said to follow suit. [Read more](#)

Beyond the Banks Watershed Symposium | [Register](#) for the MWCC symposium (the first since 2018) before August 22! The biennial Watershed Symposium provides opportunities for watershed partners from across the state to connect, learn, and share information to advance collaborative conservation efforts. [Scholarships also available](#)

The story behind the Big Thompson wildfire-ready plan: [Read this new article](#) shared by our friends at the Peaks to People Water Fund!

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:

Southern High Plains Grassland Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy | The Southern High Plains Grassland Program Manager (Program Manager) leads a community-based conservation program called “Generational Grasslands”, implementing durable, improved management on 4 million acres of private lands. *Remote position* [Learn more](#)

Biological Scientist IV for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission | FWC’s Division of Marine Fisheries Management is seeking an individual to join the Analysis and Rulemaking team, which is responsible for developing recommendations for the Commission, as well as implementing fisheries management policy and integrating habitat considerations into fisheries management for state-managed saltwater fisheries. *Opening in Crystal River, FL* [Learn more](#)

Restoration and Transportation Funding Strategist, Puget Sound Partnership | Support a core outcome of the Strategic Funding Team to acquire additional funding for the implementation of the Action Agenda by matching projects that are local and Tribal priorities with the substantial pools of funds that are becoming available. *Full time in Olympia Washington, closes 8/30/25* [Learn more](#)

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 [donating to the CCC](#).

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

Be well,
The CCC Team



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