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October 2022



A Note from the CCC Director

At last month's [Confluence](#), I had the privilege of dining with a group of remarkable individuals involved in the [Western Collaborative Conservation Network's Emerging Leaders Working Group](#). I shared with them a message I have heard repeatedly: as a group, senior conservation scientists and practitioners are sending the unambiguous message to young conservationists of "You're screwed." Immediately, a woman raised her hand and replied, "Message received."

When I ask friends and colleagues if this pessimistic message is serving our efforts to create the future we want, nearly to a person they say "no." So, I have been asking the same people how we might shift this message. Here are a few ideas I've heard:

Learn about and share what's working. Here are a few bright spots:

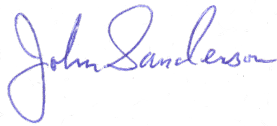
- In 1967, American bald eagles were listed as endangered. Bald eagles are now found in every state. One flew over my head just a few days ago!
- Collaborative conservation efforts across the West are bringing communities together—including across political divides—to work on topics from grassland to grizzlies. To see four inspiring examples, check out the [Life in the Land](#) series we watched at *Confluence*.
- When I was born, 96% of children in the US with leukemia died. Today 90% live.

From that same table of Emerging Leaders, I heard this, too:

- **Demonstrate humility.** Be open to feedback, or better yet, seek feedback. Listen for understanding. Don't assume you have the answers.
- **Trust young people.** Give them responsibility. Let them show how they can lead.

Lastly, from my friend Dr. Grady Grissom of [Ranch Largo Custom Beef](#): **pay attention to the plants**—they have a lot to say about our relationship to the land.

Be well,



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



CCC Fellows Request for Proposals Closes This Week!

Applying to be a Collaborative Conservation Fellow of Cohort 13? If yes, don't forget to submit your Project Proposal by *this* Friday, the 21st of October!

CCC Fellows can be graduate students, faculty, or practitioners who are interested in receiving funding to plan and implement an on-the-ground project, delve into the practice of collaborative conservation, and join a community of practice. Fellows learn and apply the practices that are the hallmark of successful collaborative conservation. They also become part of our growing network of Fellows, staying connected to their cohort and the CCC for lifelong friendship and learning.

To apply, develop a project proposal and submit it to Allison Brody by October 21. You can find all the information you need in the [CCC Fellows RFP](#).



An Update from the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network

The [Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network \(CFCN\)](#) recently wrapped up the final of four Regional Forums across the state, which saw attendees from *more than 40 organizations!* At each meeting, we answered questions about the Network's history and purpose, mapped partner relationships across the state, and workshopped ideas for how the Network can best support Colorado's forest collaboratives moving forward.

Thanks to all who shared their time and insights with us!

Interested in receiving more regular updates from the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network? [Subscribe](#) to the CFCN's email list!



A Recap from WCCN's Confluence

Five of our CCC staff members had the opportunity to participate in this year's Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN) conference, [Confluence](#).

We supported three action-packed days of networking, peer-learning, and inspiration for over 115 collaborative conservation practitioners across the American West. Here are a few quotes from Confluence participants to share their experience:

"The best conference experience since COVID. Amazing atmosphere, people, food, subject matter, facilitation, rhythm, everything."

"For me it was an energizing experience. The indoor/outdoor setting helped everyone feel grounded and I was glad to meet so many other younger folks there. The group size also made socializing easy and not exhausting (you know how these conferences can be - it's just a lot!). I found the programming useful, especially the field trip and the cross-cultural collaboration workshop. Great networking also!"

"It was a great opportunity to hear perspectives from so many individuals working in conservation throughout the West. I also enjoyed learning more about the scope/scale that collaboratives work as well as the common factors of success and barriers all organizations face."



Visiting Scholar and Conservationist: Dr. Krithi Karanth

Thank you to the many faculty and students who joined us to welcome Dr. **Krithi Karanth**, *Chief Conservation Scientist & Director at the [Centre for Wildlife Studies, India](#)*. Although CWS is half a world away, we were impressed by the number of issues they address that share important elements with community-based conservation challenges across the globe.

Here are a few things Dr. Karanth highlighted that may interest you:

- [Wild Seve](#), a novel conservation intervention that assists people affected by human-wildlife conflict.
- [Wild Shaale](#), a middle-school program nurtures children's natural curiosity and empathy for the environment and features locally-specific wildlife, ecosystems, and conservation issues.
- [Wild Surakshe](#), a program that delivers wildlife-related public health and training workshops, including, since 2020, COVID-related supplies.
- Research, from big cats to birds, check out CWS publications [here!](#)

If you'd like to support the Centre for Wildlife Studies India and their projects, make a donation [here](#).

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Calling Applicants to CSU's Master of Conservation Leadership Program

The [Master of Conservation Leadership program](#) at Colorado State University is accepting applications for their Fall 2023 cohort! This graduate program prepares leaders to address complex conservation issues at local, regional, and global scales.

The program is built around principles of experiential learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and applied approaches. Our students work closely with a network of practitioners and organizations throughout the program. Conservation Leadership is the option for individuals seeking to make a difference in the lives and ecosystems of our planet. Additionally, the program is a part of the [Western Regional Graduate Program \(WRGP\)](#), which allows accepted applicants that are from a western WICHE member state or territory to receive in-state tuition. Additional scholarships are available through the program and college.

If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator, Dawson, at dawson.metcalf@colostate.edu or by calling 970-491-5884. You can find more information about the application process [HERE](#).

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellows: Tamara Layden

Tamara (she/they) is an Ecology M.S. student in the Fish, Wildlife, and

Conservation Biology Department at Colorado State University. Tamara is passionate about advancing ethical collaborations in ecological research, including the weaving of academic and Indigenous sciences to support community-centered conservation. Tamara aspires to cultivate a broad understanding of wildlife monitoring and ethical participatory methods to increase the accessibility and impact of ecological science for the benefit of wildlife, community, and culture.



Meet our CCC Advisory Board: Rich Alper

My wife and I moved from the Washington DC area to Fort Collins in 2011. In DC I represented a Maryland County in federal court concerning violations of the Clean Water Act and taught it to superintendents of drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. In Larimer County I have served as chair of the County's Environmental Science Advisory Board and president of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition Board. I am a graduate of the Fort Collins Leadership Northern Colorado program and served on the Legacy Land Trust Board. At the University of Northern Colorado, I have taught Natural Resources Law and Policy, including Colorado water law. I am experienced in facilitating multi-party land use policy issues and look forward to learning with you and from you.

Scholarly and Applied Impact

Current and past CCC Fellows and staff publish impactful research on collaboration and conservation. Here is the latest. CCC Fellows and staff are indicated by bold font.

We know a lot about what it takes for collaborative conservation to be successful. For example, successful collaboratives include a backbone organization that plays the role of “convener”, responsible not only for convening the collaborative, but also for creating and/or maintaining connections and effective communication channels.

The importance of the convener role is highlighted in the Collaborative Capacity Framework model shared during the “Collaborative Capacity” session presented at Confluence 2022. This model, which is also featured in a recent publication by the California Landscape Stewardship Network, presents the relationship of collaborative infrastructure with collaborative mindset, inclusive culture, and meaningful relationships. Here, collaborative infrastructure includes “backbone staffing support” (i.e., the convener) along with “technical services, collective goals and priorities, community engagement, relationship development, and more.”

Conveners can be from academia, a non-profit, a government agency, a local business, or other organization. However, as pointed out by Aireona Raschke (CCC’s Associate Director of Practice) **informal science institutions (ISI’s) such as botanical gardens, zoos, and museums are especially well-suited to play this role.** In their recent article “Collaborative Conservation by Botanical Gardens: Unique Opportunities for Local to Global Impacts” the authors list factors present in most ISI’s that make them ideal for the role. They are agile organizations that are often viewed as a trusted community resource, making them well-positioned to serve as a neutral facilitator and provide neutral, centralized spaces for meetings. They have resources such as staff capacity, the ability to provide marketing services, website design and hosting, produce social media and other communications, and design and develop collateral materials. They have access to different types of audiences, have staff with specialized knowledge and helpful expertise, and often have flexible funding sources.

What other characteristics might contribute to the success of this role? What other organizations are well-suited to play this role? What are some of the challenges to being a collaborative convener? Is this role present in your collaborative?

Other News and Opportunities

The [National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center](#) has a vast collection of lessons, learning materials, case studies, videos and more about **resilience**. Check out these resources that are free and [available to the public!](#)

The [Living Earth Collaborative](#), a partnership between Washington University, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo, is offering four postdoctoral fellowships in the area of biodiversity research and conservation. Fellowships last two years and start between June and September of 2023. Learn more about this post-doc opportunity [here](#).

[River Network](#) and [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) are hosting an informational webinar on Thursday October 20 from noon to 1:15 p.m. for communities interested in stream management or integrated water management planning. Find more information on [this info-sheet](#) and register for the October 20 webinar [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:

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) is looking to hire a new **Coalition Director!** Applications are due **October 31**– more information [here](#).

Spruce Root, Inc. based in Juneau, Alaska is looking to fill a new position: **Rural Economic Development Catalyst**. Candidates must be passionate about equitable and sustainable economic development and working collaboratively. [Apply by October 31!](#)

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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