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WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## October 2023



### A Note from the CCC Director

Later this week I will spend an hour sharing the CCC's work with our College Council, a group of students dedicated to supporting their fellow students and the College overall. To prepare for our time together, I asked what they might like to discuss. The first topic on their list: *what is my definition of conservation?*

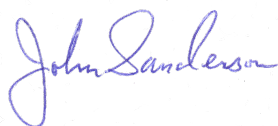
On the CCC website, we say, "*Conservation means taking care of our land, water, and wildlife so the diversity of life thrives, including the people who depend on nature.*" Reflecting on the College Council question, I found myself asking additional questions:

- Aside from the last phrase, the CCC definition is akin to what I heard 30 years ago. Having cruised around the internet in recent days, I see that this type of definition is still common. The practice of conservation has clearly evolved, so how does this definition need to evolve, too?
- In the three-part [Nature Futures Framework](#), the above definition falls mostly under “instrumental” (nature for society) and does not speak to “relational” (nature as culture/one with nature) nor “intrinsic” (nature for nature). Along similar lines, I’m struck by how Kim TallBear [speaks against dualities](#) (“life versus not-life” and “humans versus nature”) and toward the Dakota principle of “being in good relation.” How do we define conservation to better include “being in good relation”?
- Across much of the world, biological diversity and cultural diversity are inseparable. One example of this is presented in [Biological and Cultural Diversity in the State of Oaxaca, Mexico: Strategies for Conservation among Indigenous Communities](#). How do we explicitly recognize this inseparability in our definition of conservation?
- Common definitions of conservation suggest we are in control. The pace of biodiversity loss and changing climate suggests otherwise. How else might we define and frame conservation to make our work as successful we need it to be?

While thinking about this topic, I found myself re-reading [Elegant conservation: reimagining protected area stewardship in the 21st century](#), which I recommended a few months ago. Among the many ideas I like in this paper is the conclusion that “*Reimagining conservation is as much about knowing and understanding ourselves as it is knowing and understanding others.*” I still find this article deeply resonant, and I still recommend it highly.

As always, I would value [hearing from you](#). What observations have you made about definitions of “conservation” that you hear? Have you seen definitions you think are well stated? What other books or articles would you recommend that shed light on these questions?

Be well.



John Sanderson

## News from the CCC



WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK



# We're Hiring a Program Coordinator!

The purpose of the **Emerging Leadership Initiative** is to assist emerging leaders in collaborative conservation.

The deliverable for this position at the end of the year of employment will be to create a **mentorship best-practices toolkit**.

Apply here:



## WCCN Emerging Leaders Working Group is hiring!

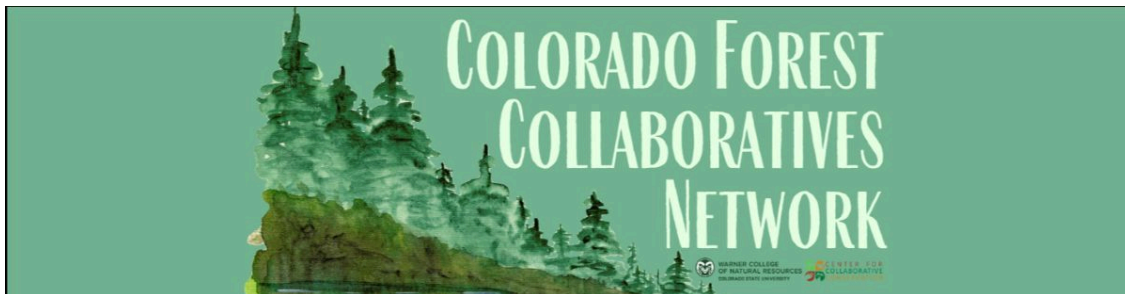
The purpose of the [Emerging Leadership Initiative](#) is to **assist emerging leaders in collaborative conservation**. Conservationists stepping into leadership roles need support to **become better facilitators, communicators, and collaborators** through mentorship and capacity building initiatives. [Crowd Conservation](#) and the [Western Collaborative Conservation Network \(WCCN\)](#) seek to connect emerging leaders with the mentors and resources they need, catalyze leaders' skill development, and provide support in their conservation efforts. **In order to assist emerging leaders, we must first understand best practices for developing leadership skills, mentorship**

**practices, and identify barriers and solutions to those obstacles.** This involves researching existing materials and articles, conducting focus groups, and interviewing key stakeholders.

The role of the **Emerging Leadership Program Coordinator** is to seek ways to coordinate support for emerging leadership in collaborative conservation at regional, national, and international scales, distill best practices, and communicate these efforts through multiscalar networks. The deliverable for this position at the end of the year of employment will be to create a **mentorship best-practices toolkit**.

Learn more about the position and apply [HERE](#).

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## Forest Collaboratives Network Updates: Branching Out and the 2023 Summit Summary

Katie is very excited to invite you all to next week's Branching Out session, announce our Branching Out schedule for the rest of 2023, AND share the summary of our 2023 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit, which we have packed with links and resources that we think will be of interest whether you were able to attend the event or not. See below for all this and more.

**This week's Branching Out:** *Forest Collaboratives & the New Colorado Forest Management Tracker (Forest Tracker)* will take place tomorrow Thursday, October 19th. **Register** [HERE](#).

To check out the **rest of 2023's Branching Out Lineup**, click [HERE](#).

Find the "**2023 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit: Summary & Resources**" [HERE](#).

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## Collaborative Readiness Framework

**"Preparing landscapes and communities to receive and recover from wildfire through collaborative readiness"** is a concept paper recently published via the collaboration of the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes ([SWERI](#)), the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute ([CFRI](#)), the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University ([ERI](#)), the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute ([NMFWR](#)), and us here at the Center for Collaborative Conservation ([CCC](#)).

This concept paper presents a **Stages of Collaborative Readiness framework**. Collaborative, multi-party entities provide fundamental roles and contributions to prepare landscapes and communities to receive and recover from wildfire. The framework **applies insights from the collaborative development literature to the context of forest and wildland fire risk management**. It embeds the fundamental roles and contributions within a four-stage framework, identifying stage appropriate benchmarks and outcomes to increase the ability of a collaborative over time to serve those important functions.

The purpose of the framework is to **enhance the ability of collaboratives to progress** within and between stages, and to **enhance their ability to receive and deploy funding** to increase the pace and scale of implementation by supporting the collective work of partners. It is intended to help collaborative entities **articulate and justify funding and capacity needs** at different stages, and to **encourage more equitable investments in collaboratives** situated in landscapes with high wildfire risk that are early in their development, with limited capacity to obtain and mobilize funds for project implementation. **The framework could be used to:** *inform self-assessment and adaptation by collaboratives; gauge or measure progress and development over time; track performance and increase accountability; or guide allocation of financial and other resources to collaboratives relative to need.*

Read more about the framework in our **blog post** [HERE](#).

To read the full **concept paper**, click [HERE](#).

## Get to Know the CCC



### Meet our CCC Office Assistant: Fin Camp

Fin is a current Colorado State University freshman studying Landscape Architecture, and we are so excited to welcome them as our new Office

Assistant for the Center of Collaborative Conservation. 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.

Learn more about our team at the CCC [HERE](#).

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## Meet our CCC Board Member: Casey Davenhill

As Administrator for the Colorado Watershed Network (back in the last century), and Executive Director for the [Colorado Watershed Assembly](#) since 2013, Casey has a long history of coordination with River Watch, the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund and other important programs and projects facilitated by these two organizations. Casey loves to share her enthusiasm for public engagement and participation to find

what is working and do more of that. She wants to encourage you all to stay involved with important issues of the day, especially water. Water connects us all!

Learn more about our board at the CCC [HERE](#).

WARNER COLLEGE  
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4th  
Tuesday  
of the  
Month  
5 pm

# Happy Hour!

Avogadro's  
Number

Fort Collins,  
CO

## Join Us for Happy Hour!

Come get to know the people behind the CCC at our monthly happy hour! We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 5pm to hang out, have a drink, and build collaborative relationships. **Everyone is welcome**, and we want to especially invite our Partners and our friends and students at Colorado State University.

It takes place this month on **Tuesday, October 24th at 5:00 pm** at Avogadro's Number in Fort Collins, CO.

We hope to see you there!



## 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.

I am so pleased to congratulate [Cohort 12](#) for successfully completing their CCC Fellowship! On August 23, members of Cohort 12 shared thoughts and insights as they reflected on their 18-month Fellowship. CCC staff and others were there to hear these presentations and mark some of the lessons learned. It strikes me that many of **Cohort 12's key takeaways** (listed below) seem applicable to a broad array of collaborative conservation projects. Take a look and see if you agree:

- The Fellows talked about the value of listening to truly learn and understand. This was an important aspect of building trust and relationships.
- As was celebrations! Sharing meals, making space for on-going dialogues, swapping seeds and stories, exploring nature, and visiting

community festivals were all activities that served to strengthen trust and help move projects forward.

- Many Fellows thought hard about what it takes to share knowledge, striving to “default to local knowledge over perceived scientific knowledge.” This included discovering how to take into account Indigenous knowledge systems and local ways of knowing.
- One of the Fellows remarked that “I knew that a collaborative project would require a certain flexibility, [yet] I was surprised by some of the ways the project needed to be flexible.” Others talked about the need to just Let Go - of previous assumptions; of plans; of ways of thinking, of approaches that they thought would work.
- This is one of the reasons why collaboration is truly hard work, a recurring theme of these Fellow reflections. Some of the struggles we heard about included the need to “balance institutional requirements with thoughtful collaboration,” as well as the challenges inherent with the on-going work of fostering trust, changing political contexts, and dealing with mistakes made by yourself and others. One Fellow shared this helpful tip: “laugh at yourself for making blunders” but don’t “get defensive when you make a mistake.”





**We are currently accepting applications for our Fellows Program until Nov 3!**

You can [learn more about our Fellows Program and the application.](#)

## Other News and Opportunities

**GIS Participatory Mapping Webinar** | Join us October 26 to [learn about participatory mapping](#) through (1) engaging with the public, (2) working with volunteers to increase your capacity to gather needed data, and (3) the methods/tools that Desert Botanical Garden has used for their projects so you can too!

**Upper Colorado River Basin Forum** | The Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University will host the 12th annual Upper Colorado River [2023 Water Forum](#). This year's forum theme is *Reshaping the River: Reimagining Water Use & Management in the Upper Colorado River Basin*.

**Managing By Network** | Are you a public agency manager, specialist, coordinator, or front-line supervisor working in partnership, community collaboration and/or Tribal consultation to cooperatively steward our nation's natural and cultural resources? Join the Partnership and Community Collaboration Academy for [Managing by Network](#), a series of 18 live, interactive webinars that will improve your readiness to apply 22 competencies on the job.

**Mentorship Match Opportunity** | [EEB Mentor Match](#) is connecting students with support to apply for graduate school and fellowships in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and related discipline. The 2023 edition of Mentor Match

is now live! If you'd like to request to be a mentor or register as a potential mentee, please sign up!

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## **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:

**State Deputy Forester at the Colorado State Forest Service |** Colorado State Forest Service looking for a leader that can share in full stewardship of the agency to fill the position of [State Deputy Forester](#). The Deputy State Forester is responsible for providing leadership and strategic oversight of statewide CSFS policies and procedures affecting agency human, financial, and physical resources. The Deputy State Forester also shares responsibility for developing and maintaining relationships with all CSU departments that support CSFS programming. The position will serve as the CSFS representative with a variety of audiences.

**Utah State Director at the Nature Conservancy |** The Conservancy has worked in Utah for nearly 40 years, and the Utah Chapter works closely with a variety of partners to maximize Utah's contributions to TNC's Global 2030 Goals. [This role](#) offers a unique opportunity to lead on a strategic approach to Utah's conservation priorities—and to help shape a resilient, viable future for all Utahans. The Utah State Director drives the Utah Chapter's conservation strategy, public policy leadership, and fundraising functions.

**Conservation Educator at William and Mary Institute for Integrative Conservation |** The IIC at William & Mary is seeking a [Conservation Educator](#) to lead teaching and research related to K-12 environmental education (with a focus on middle- and high-school years). This person will direct, in collaboration with external partners (e.g., school systems and teachers, NGOs, private companies, state and federal agencies, and local and Indigenous communities), applied projects that help to build educational programming to engage students in learning about the interconnectedness of nature and society.

*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](#).*

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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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