

Having trouble seeing everything, like pictures?

[View this email in your browser](#)



WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2025



A Note from the CCC Director

As a facilitator, I am commonly struck by how different people can believe dramatically different stories about how things are in the world. These stories may or may not align with facts. In this note, I share a few resources that have expanded my thinking about how to gain perspective and align our stories so we can move conservation forward together.

That stories are paramount is well established. In [7 1/2 Lessons About the Brain](#), neurologist Lisa Feldman Barrett states that “we all live in a world of social reality that exists only inside our human brains.” Regarding facts, Martín Carcasson, director of the [Center for Public Deliberation](#), likes to point out that when relationships lack trust, facts don’t help; instead, facts drive parties farther

apart.

In [*The Righteous Mind*](#), Jonathan Haidt describes how most of our beliefs and decisions are based not on facts but on intuition. Haidt writes that rationality—often highly valued in Western culture—usually follows intuition. Closely related to this idea is Daniel Kahneman's [*Thinking Fast and Slow*](#). In Kahneman's model, thinking fast (intuition) can lead us astray while thinking slow (rationality) often does a poor job of correcting poor intuition. The good news, Haidt tells us, is that groups are better than individuals at making rational decisions because we can learn from and be challenged by others.

In addition to these books, other resources on our ["how to" page](#) may help as you strive to effectively tap into the power of working together, including:

- [*Working Through Environmental Conflict: The Collaborative Learning Approach*](#). Although more than two decades old, the CCC team still finds this book's combination of theory and application highly relevant to supporting groups navigating challenging situations.
- [*The Facilitator's Toolkit: Tools, Techniques and Tips for Effective Facilitation*](#). This easy-to-digest publication is filled with practical guidance and tips that can knit a diverse group together as it makes decisions together.

On the personal level, I still draw on [*Mastering Leadership*](#) where the authors describe the skill of not getting attached to a simple story while navigating complex situations. Keeping this skill in mind helps me muster the perspective and patience needed to remain impartial while the group seeks an answer rather than driving toward what I think is "right."

Do you have any related resources you find helpful? Please send them my way, John.Sanderson@colostate.edu



News from the CCC



What's your 30-second pitch?

Funding is a perennial challenge for us all, so bring your organization's fundraising pitch to our July session. **On July 31 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. MST**, we'll work together in small groups to practice your pitch and refine it. **If you don't have one ready, that's okay!** Bring your organization's mission statement, or brainstorm your ideas during the session as you provide feedback for others. We'll also discuss how you can work with your team to **promote your organization or your work in any opportunity.**

[You can read more about our Storyteller's Circle events on our website!](#)

[Register here](#)



(c) Willore Ford

Save the Date: Confluence 2026

May 19-21, 2026 in Fort Collins, CO

We are super excited to announce that planning for Confluence 2026 is underway (with an amazing planning committee, no less!). So, we would love to invite you all to save the date for the Western Collaborative Conservation Network's (WCCN) biennial gathering!

Confluence 2026 will be held in Fort Collins, CO at the Colorado State University campus from May 19-21, 2026. And the theme for this year is...

The Future of Collaboration: The Power of Working Across Divides

Updates coming soon to the [Confluence Website](#).

Confluence is expressly focused on providing a place for collaborative conservation professionals, students, and emerging leaders to connect with one another and learn together about the best-practices, processes, and outcomes of collaborative conservation. It will be structured to support peer-to-peer learning about collaborative processes and skillsets, and designed as best

as we can to create a space conducive and welcoming for community-building, networking, and mentorship for everyone who attends – whether this is their first Confluence or their fourth.

We do this through:

- Providing welcoming opportunities to connect or reconnect with people working in collaborative conservation to encourage community-building.
- Creating spaces for participants to learn and share their expertise through guided sessions designed to prompt discussion.
- Inspiring participants through connections with collaborative experts leading sessions, and through in-place connections via field trips.
- Providing a dedicated mentorship program to support 1:1 linkages throughout the collaborative conservation field that support individual career growth and a sense of belonging.

Our co-conveners this year are [Trees, Water & People](#) and [Crowd Conservation!](#) Thank you to them, and to all of the people and organizations represented on our planning committee.

If you are interested in sponsoring Confluence 2026, or have general questions please email WCCN Director, Aireona Bonnie Raschke at araschke@colostate.edu.



Upcoming CDR Associates Event

Check out the CDR's facilitation course in Boulder, CO this October!

Looking to level up your skills in facilitation, engagement, and collaboration? Our friends at CDR Associates are hosting a dynamic **3-day training, October 21–23, 2025**, at the Museum of Boulder.

Designed for folks working in **natural resources, transportation, disaster resilience, and community building**, this hands-on training offers tools, strategies, and real-world practice to help you navigate conflict, lead inclusive dialogue, and build lasting partnerships.

Space is limited, so don't wait!

[Register Now](#)



Check up on News from the CFCN

The Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network is a branch (no pun intended!) of the CCC, intended to **benefit and support place-based forest collaboratives in Colorado** by connecting them to information, resources, and each other, and by telling their stories to make their value and needs understood.

From the latest newsletter:

"Reminder to submit your data for the Forest Tracker, plus information about the 2025 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit (registration is now open!) and a bunch of opportunities, trainings, and resources around the Network.

Wishing you a lovely week,
Katie"

Read here



**WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**CENTER FOR
COLLABORATIVE
CONSERVATION**

CAMP, CONNECT, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SEEKING BILINGUAL STUDENTS (SP./ENG.)



**CONSERVATION, OUTREACH SERVICE DAY,
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NETWORKING, FUN!**

.....
AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1
.....

FREE FOOD, LODGING, & TRAVEL
.....

**INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT
US AT [JULIA.LANKISCH@COLOSTATE.EDU](mailto:julia.lankisch@colostate.edu)**

North Sand Creek Restoration Partnership OHV Outreach Volunteer Weekend

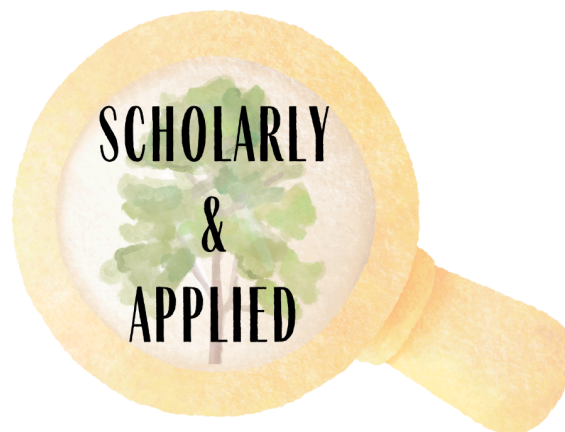
We aim to enrich our partnership's outreach efforts by engaging with a previously uninvolved group of **Spanish-speaking land users**, and enrich student development by providing a fulfilling and **educational experience for CSU students**. This opportunity would be perfect for any student looking to get some experience and make an impact in **conservation and recreation access**, to expand their professional network through meeting practitioners, and/or to receive \$1200+ in professional development value for free.

Plus, we'll do tons of fun camping and off-roading!

[Visit our website's event calendar](#) for more information and the full itinerary.

Are you interested in getting involved? Have any questions? Contact Julia.Lankisch@colostate.edu

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.**

Two recent case studies, published by Fellow alumni, highlight the different

scales at which collaborative conservation can operate, as well as the fact that these projects often face similar challenges even when the contexts are quite different. In these case studies, readers are able to learn lessons about the “ability of all parties to actively share, listen, and engage in the learning needed to transcend persistent conflicts and imagine new futures” (Wilmer et al 2025).

Chantsalkham Jamsranjav (Cohort 14), Maria Fernandez-Gimenez (Cohort 2), and Robin Reid (founding Director of the CCC) were recent co-authors of a [case study](#) that presented lessons learned from successfully combining 172 unique datasets into a single database, allowing a variety of researchers to answer different types of questions. This impressive database is “organized into different thematic data sets, gathered by an interdisciplinary and multi-cultural research team (e.g., hydrologists, ecologists, geographers, and social scientists from US and Mongolia) using different data collection methods, scales, units of analysis, and analytical techniques.” The result: researchers have access to in-depth information around the “socio-ecological aspects of climate change and nomadic herder adaptations in Mongolia,” while others can learn from this to build similar multi-disciplinary databases across cultures.

And Hailey Wilmer (Cohort 8) is the lead author for a recently published [case study](#) that “places stakeholders, including ranchers, conservation groups, and government land managers, in the decision-making seat” related to livestock–wildlife conflict. The authors introduced a collaborative adaptive management structure to a “complex system where the needs and goals of various actors are misaligned across spatiotemporal, disciplinary, and socio-ecological scales.” This structure allowed the partners to focus on learning from each other, evaluate trade-offs, and address issues head-on. “Early lessons from [this case study] can be applied in other systems and contexts where goals and uses of working lands are contested or where social conflicts arise between groups that have contrasting goals for the same lands and resources.”

- 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!

This month's focus: Compassion for Others Starts with Compassion for Self



Over the course of my time directing the Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN), there is a conversation that I have had over and over with different people coordinating/leading collaboratives. That is about the intense expectations that are sometimes directed at the people trying to organize collaboration. There's a lot that we could explore around this phenomena – but today I want to focus on how these overwhelming expectations can lead to burn out, and what we as individuals and as a community can do about it.

There was one conversation that I had with someone that has stuck in my mind for years. This person ran a successful collaborative, and then they were completely burnt out by the constant expectations and demands. So much so, they emphasized that they *never* planned to work in collaboration ever again. And after doing some research on self-compassion in the last couple weeks, I wanted to take some time this month to talk about it, because I hate to see good people leave the collaborative conservation field feeling unappreciated, used up, and/or hurt. To keep doing this work, we need to take care of ourselves and each other.

For my Kinder Conservation project, I recently dipped my toes into some literature from the health field, and I found a really striking paper by J. Giovannoni from the Watson Caring Science Institute entitled "Perspectives: Compassion for others begins with loving-kindness towards self."

Since our work benefits from both our own well-being and the compassion that we share with our collaborative partners, our colleagues, and the other people

in our field, I thought that this paper had some really good ideas to share.

In following the theme of the title, Giovannoni focuses on personal solutions to the strain of emotionally draining, interpersonal work. First, they discuss the importance of recognizing commonalities. In collaboration, we often work with people who can test us in a variety of ways – having wildly different perspectives or goals, or people who don't collaborate in the same way. In these cases, I think that it is important to move beyond the commonly touted "shared goals" of the collaboration itself, to commonalities among individuals. Building connections is not only a healing practice, but it is something that is sorely needed in this moment of division.

Second, Giovannoni reminds us that we need to be cognizant of our own traumas. It is easy for old pain to be stirred up in times of conflict or disagreement, and this can complicate our work, and drain our energy through the continuation of our own internal struggles. One of the best things that we can do for ourselves in these instances, is to process our grievances, decide if we need to act on them for the good of the partnership, and then let them go.

Finally, the author shares a short list of self-compassion techniques that I have personally practiced and found helpful.

1. Connect with your breath, and breathe into your heart in order to find peace in difficult moments.
2. Life-affirming messages can help us reconnect to our worth, and Giovannoni offers some examples that remind us that our work isn't everything. "I am love, I am life, I am the universe, ...I am stardust, I am compassionate."
3. Mindfulness through meditation and full engagement in the present moment.
4. Awareness of nature, which can both help to heal us and link us to the persistence of the natural world.

And I will leave you all with this inspiring quote: "Self-compassion allows me to extend genuine gratitude and compassion to others. I experience the energetic field that sets in motion my ability to collectively co-create with others effective solutions..."

- Aireona Raschke, PhD
Our Associate Director of Practice



Other News and Opportunities

CDR Associates Upcoming Event in Boulder | Looking to level up your skills in facilitation, engagement, and collaboration? Our friends at CDR Associates are hosting a dynamic **3-day training, October 21–23, 2025**, at the Museum of Boulder. Designed for folks working in **natural resources, transportation, disaster resilience, and community building!** [Register now!](#)

Rocky Mountain Wilderness Gathering, Keystone, CO | The planning for the Rocky Mountain Wilderness Gathering is underway, and the organizers are gathering ideas for content! The event will occur **October 10-12, 2025** at the Keystone Science School, Keystone CO. [Learn more 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:

New Mexico Resource Coordinator, Western Landowners Alliance | WLA's Working Wild Challenge (WWC) program is designed to support landowners in achieving positive outcomes for both working lands and wildlife. This position is responsible for the **implementation and coordination of WWC initiatives**, including reducing conflicts between wildlife and livestock, and improving economic and regulatory support for wildlife stewardship on working

lands. [Learn more](#)

Western Director of Communications, Western Working Lands for Wildlife | Pheasants Forever, Inc., invites qualified contractors to submit proposals for a Western Director of Communications to develop and oversee targeted communications plans for the Western Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) frameworks for conservation action. **This position is remote.** [Learn more](#)

Mile High Youth Corps Crewmember | As an AmeriCorps member, you are joining an initiative that engages more than 85,000 individuals per year in community service. In return for their service, AmeriCorps members receive an Education Award that can be used to pay for college tuition or qualified student loans. [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



Email



Instagram



LinkedIn



YouTube



Website



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