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WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## November 2023



### A Note from the CCC Director

In the spirit of Native American Heritage Month, I would like to share several items that have resonated with me recently.

Many of us working in conservation learn early that the creation of Yellowstone National Park was unprecedented and has served as a model for protecting natural wonders across the globe. [Re-Indigenizing Yellowstone](#) describes how Yellowstone also resulted in the exclusion of Indigenous peoples and how “tribal members may still feel like visitors in the park.” At 92 pages, this Wyoming Law Review article is long, but I still found it an engaging and easy-to-read overview of both history and “how the next 150 years of the park’s story could tell a more just and equitable tale of inclusion for the region’s original

inhabitants.”

In a much shorter on-line article, Nathan Fey of the Mighty Arrow Family Foundation wrote about a conversation with Daniel Cordalis, Navajo Nation Tribal Member and Tribal Partnership Manager at the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign, on [What's Next for Tribal Water Rights Following Arizona v. Navajo Nation?](#) Thirty federally recognized Tribes live in the Colorado Basin and collectively have rights to about a quarter of the water in the river, yet access to that water—and to the political process that governs water—is severely constrained.

Compared to the Colorado, tribes on the Klamath River have a much stronger voice, and, by extension, the non-human life in the river also has a stronger voice. I learned more about the Klamath at the recent annual meeting of the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition during a presentation by Paul Robert Wolf Wilson, a Klamath and Modoc photographer who is Chief Storyteller for Rios to Rivers, an organization doing inspiring work to engage underserved and indigenous youth around healthy rivers and communities. You can read about Rios to Rivers and support them financially [here](#).

At last month's Salazar Center International Symposia on Conservation Impact, Gwen Bridge, a member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and James Rattling Leaf, a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, gave excellent presentations on [Indigenous approaches to advance climate and biodiversity solutions](#) (53 minutes total). If you want to go deeper, consider joining Gwen and James at an [Indigenous Engagement Institute workshop](#) on conceptual frameworks and strategies for building relationships with Indigenous Peoples that lead to mutually beneficial outcomes.

Last but certainly not least, I recently met Gregory Cajete, a Tewa author and professor from Santa Clara Pueblo who wrote a 12-page book chapter on [Native Science and Sustaining Indigenous Communities](#). In contrast to Western science, which rests on principles of separateness and objectivity, Dr. Cajete describes Native Science as “first and foremost a relational orientation, knowledge base, and process for sustaining people, community, culture, and place through time and generations.” His book chapter is behind a paywall—if you cannot access it, email me and I'll send you a pdf.

Be well,

John Sanderson

## News from the CCC



We are excited to invite you to the West's premier **collaborative conservation** gathering. This year we will be focusing on **stories of success, funding, and building bridges among communities.**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING**

Participate in active learning sessions with expert leaders, peer support, and spaces to share your work.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Explore the landscape and collaborative work in Southern Arizona.

**COMMUNITY-BUILDING**

Come together with some of the most exceptional people in the collaborative conservation field.

**MENTORSHIP MATCH**

Sign up to be matched with a mentor or mentee for Confluence 2024.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CONTACT US](mailto:araschke@colostate.edu)  
araschke@colostate.edu







**CLICK TO REGISTER TODAY!**

**APRIL**  
**2-4**  
2024

**TUCSON, AZ**  
DOUBLETREE REID PARK  
445 S ALVERNON WAY,  
TUCSON, AZ 85711

## Confluence Registration is Now Open!

Confluence is the Western Collaborative Conservation Network's ([WCCN](#)) biennial gathering that provides an indispensable space for learning and professional community-building within the collaborative conservation field. For the complex, landscape-scale challenges that we face today, collaboration is essential for successful land stewardship, and the professional network and skills to do that work successfully are fostered over a lifetime. To support those doing collaborative conservation on the ground, and to elevate us towards a thriving future, **the WCCN is hosting our 3rd Confluence, a three-day gathering in Tucson, Arizona from April 2 to 4, 2024.**

To register for Confluence, click [HERE](#).

Learn more about Confluence at our website [HERE](#).

Please share [this flier](#) with your friends and colleagues who may be interested in Confluence.



## Reflections from a Joint Workshop

Last week, CFCN Coordinator Katie McGrath Novak attended the [Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership \(IFRP\)](#) + [Montana Forest Collaboration Network \(MFCN\)](#) joint [workshop](#). The creation of the CFCN was in part inspired by networks across the West, including IFRP and MFCN.

Check out the blog post [HERE](#) for resources from IFRP and MFCN, and to read a couple of Katie's takeaways from the workshop.



## Collaboratives Behind the Scenes - River Network

The Western Collaborative Conservation Network's (WCCN) "Collaboratives Behind-the-Scenes" series features **Q&As with different conservation organizations** to provide a view into what it takes to run a collaborative organization from challenges faced in building partnerships to tips for budding organizations. Whether you're already running a collaborative and are looking to increase your efficiency or are thinking of starting a collaborative but want to know more about what you're getting into, **we hope you find this series insightful.**

**This time, we had the pleasure to speak with Chelsea Silva and Brian Murphy from the River Network.** Chelsea manages the Colorado Stream Management Plan Peer Learning Network which provides leaders and coalitions around Colorado with a venue for information sharing, problem solving, and peer learning, and Brian is passionate about working on the ground with local communities, providing technical assistance and innovative solutions that support leaders working to ensure their communities and rivers are healthy and resilient into the future. They share how they work together, facilitate collaboration, and build relationships with on-the-ground communities.

**Glimpse behind the scenes** [HERE](#).

To watch Chelsea and Brian speak at our **most recent All-Partners**, click [HERE](#).

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## Upcoming Storyteller's Circle Nov 30

Calling all conservation communicators! **Join us Thursday Nov 30 from 12:30-2pm MT for our last session for 2023!**

Co-produced by the Center for Collaborative Conservation and Intermountain West Joint Venture, Storyteller's Circle is for conservation communicators who are looking for peer-support and professional development opportunities.

We bring in a presenter to share an experience or lesson learned related to communication, and then open it up for a Q&A to round out the first 45 minutes of the session. For the second half (we hold space for a total of 1.5 hrs), you are welcome to continue the conversation, request feedback from the group on a project you're currently working on, or if you want to sign off to focus on a communications project without distraction, you can.

You can [register here](#), and learn more about the Storyteller's Circle [here](#) including past session notes.

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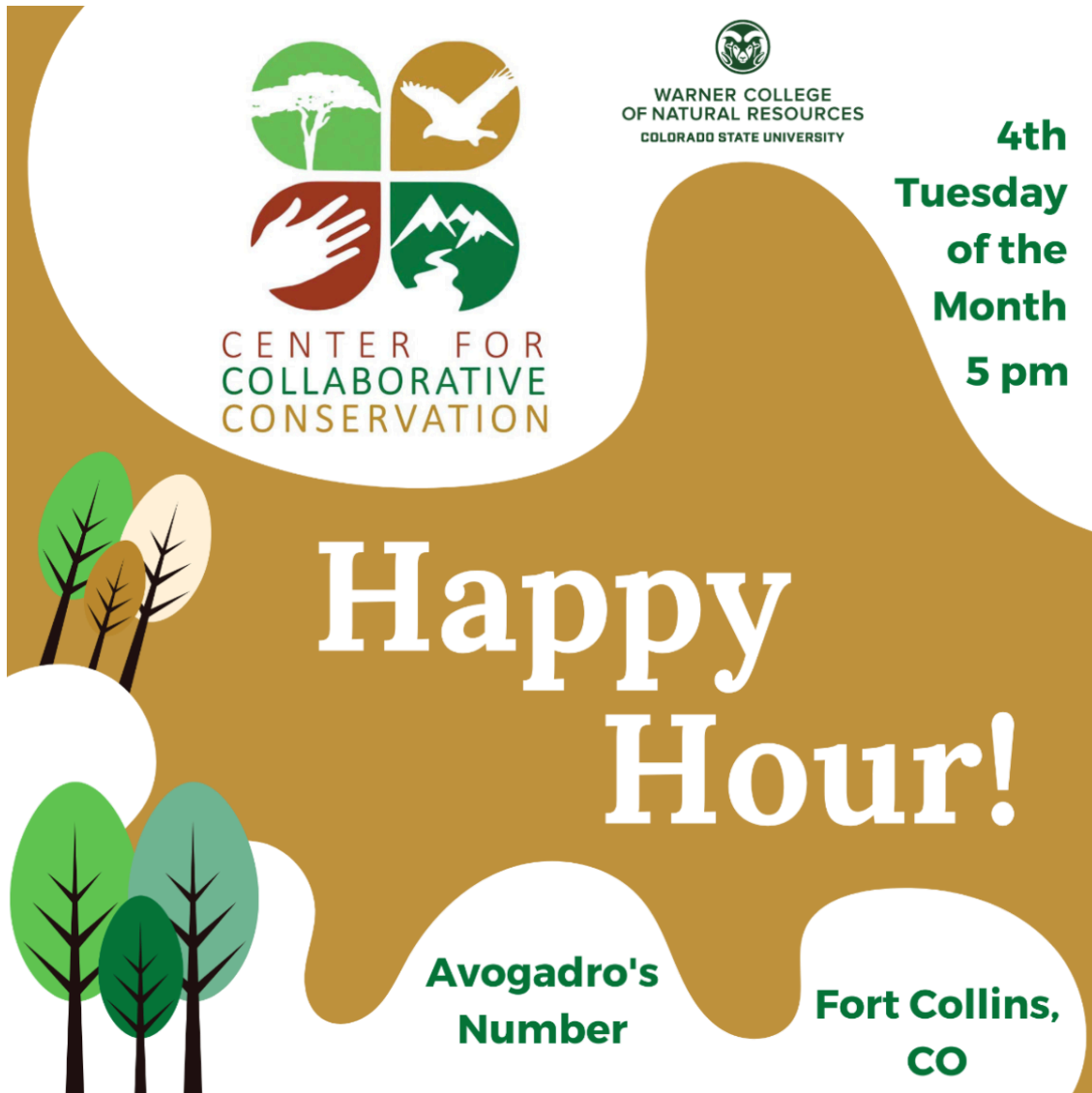
## Get to Know the CCC



### Meet our CCC Fellows: Dr. Cini Brown

Cini is a CSU Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology and an ecologist who specializes in the ecology and management of invasive plants and restoration ecology. She grew up in San Luis Obispo, California, earned her BS and MS degrees in Biological Sciences from Stanford University (1986) and her PhD in Ecology (1998) with a specialty in Restoration Ecology from University of California, Davis. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer 1986-88 and was posted in Maitengwe, Botswana as an agriculture teacher, which is where she met Life Mashumba.

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## 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, November 28th 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.**

There are a variety of professional learning opportunities that we can choose from to help build our knowledge and skills around the practices of collaborative conservation. For example, several of us at the CCC recently participated in the University of Wyoming's "[Collaboration Program in Natural Resources](#)" (CPNR), a ten-month training program focused on collaborative leadership and problem-solving. In addition to focusing on collaborative processes that create value for everyone, the leaders of this program also build the case for strong collaborative leadership skills.

A number of barriers can get in the way of collaboration: our unconscious biases; our leadership styles; the need to build trust and deal with conflict; and the tendency for breakdowns in things such as the cycle of reliability. It's tricky to separate people from the problem and focus the group on interests rather than positions. It can even be surprisingly difficult to develop foundational pieces such as a strong purpose statement. And when a group generates options to solve a problem, it's helpful to learn methods to evaluate and prioritize these options while shepherding the group to a decision in innovative ways. It has been really rewarding and impactful for me to build my skills in addressing these (and more!) as part of a really strong and fun collaborative learning cohort.

A bonus of the CPNR program is that we get to spend time in some really beautiful places across the state of Wyoming. I highly recommend seeking out similar opportunities as they become available to you!

**Allison Brody, D.A.**, Associate Director of Learning at the CCC

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## Other News and Opportunities

**Warner College HDNR Graduate Degrees** | The Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Warner College has 3 graduate programs: Master of Conservation Leadership, Master of Tourism Management, and the Graduate Certificate in Communications for Conservation, Check them out [HERE](#) or [email](#) the HDNR Graduate Programs Coordinator for more information.

**Virtual Open House for Community, Equity and Resiliency** | Join the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), starting November 6, for a Virtual Open House featuring engaging panel series discussions and fireside chats to explore the Inflation Reduction Act investments and other funding opportunities through President Biden's Investing in America agenda. These community-driven conversations on investments in environmental and climate justice are designed for communities, community-based partners, and potential grant applicants. Register for each discussion and chat [HERE](#).

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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:

**USDA-ARS Fellowship on Co-producing Rangeland Social-ecological Research in the U.S. West** at Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education | Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

**HHS Research Opportunity on Environmental Justice and Equity** at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

**Pure Water Partners Program Coordinator** at McKenzie Watershed Alliance | Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

**Program Associate** at the Network for Landscape 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](#).*

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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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