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



CCC News for June 2021

A note from the CCC Director...

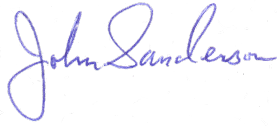
Dr. Kate Wilkins and colleagues (including former CCC staff and Fellows) recently published a review of motivations, composition, goals, and outcomes of 296 U.S.-based collaborative conservation groups (see the summary in the “publications” section below). These researchers found that collaborative conservation remains “a promising approach for resolving conflict and achieving benefits for conservation, society, and economies.” In 2019, while they worked at the CCC, Dr. Ch’aska Huayhuaca and Dr. Robin Reid completed a similar study called the [Atlas of Collaborative Conservation in Colorado](#). They also found an abundance of collaborative groups statewide: over the last 40 years more than 200 collaborative groups have formed in Colorado and about 150 remain active.

Irrespective of outcomes for land, water or wildlife, well-run collaborations produce social good, including shared learning and trust building. Still, positive conservation outcomes are essential, too, yet Dr. Wilkins and colleagues found that only 16 percent of collaborative conservation groups evaluated and reported outcomes.

The work of Dr. Wilkins and her colleagues reminds us that, collectively, we are falling short with evaluation. Meaningful collaborative conservation can take years, and the social and ecological contexts in which these outcomes occur are complicated. Nonetheless, there are ways to evaluate outcomes. To learn

more, I recommend watching the recording of a training that Sarah Walker and Dr. Rina Hauptfeld led for a recent cohort of CCC Fellows on [Theory of Change: Setting Goals and Evaluating](#). For other useful insights and approaches, see the listed resources below my signature, including contributions from several CCC Fellows Program alums and partners.

Be well,



John Sanderson

- **Evaluating the Process and Outcomes of Collaborative Conservation: Tools, Techniques, and Strategies.** 2019. Rebecca Thomas and Arren Mendezona Allegretti. (Journal article; [request from the author](#))
- **Collaboration as Pursuit of Progress.** 2021. Forest Service National Collaboration Cadre FS-1164. ([3 pp. guide](#))
- **Assessing Collaborative Conservation: A Case Survey of Output, Outcome, and Impact Measures Used in the Empirical Literature.** 2020. Tomas Koontz, Nicolas Jager, and Jens Newig. ([journal article](#))

News from the CCC



New Approach to Working with Communities to Conserve a Threatened Species

The US Fish & Wildlife Service is taking a new approach to species conservation through locally formed Site Conservation Teams (SCT). The first team — targeting Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (PMJM), a threatened species — was established in the Cache la Poudre River Basin in 2019. The SCT includes representation from local landowners, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. The Poudre SCT aims to work with the local community to achieve the best solutions for people and PMJM. Learn more about the SCT and PMJM in [our latest blog post](#).



Highlights from Conservation Facilitation Training

Nearly 50 people joined a recent training on Facilitation and Equity training sponsored by the CCC with training by staff and trained students at the Center for Public Deliberation. During the session participants defined the role of a facilitator, discussed best practices such as how to establish ground rules, and completed exercises such as "reframing" to affirm stakeholder values and emotions while reframing the conversation to a solutions-based question.

The [Facilitator Resource Book](#) is a great resource to review the basics of facilitation.



Warner College of Natural Resources 2021 Team Award

The CCC, along with our colleagues at the [Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence](#) and [CSU Extension](#), is proud to have been honored for having “played a highly impactful role in advancing one or more key aspects of the mission of Warner College” through our engagement on wolf re-introduction in Colorado.

In a letter of support for our team’s nomination, a member of CSU Extension's leadership said, “I have worked for CSU Extension for just over 30 years. Across all those years, this collaboration has been among the most important for CSU and Colorado.”

Our constructive engagement on wolves was one factor in three members of this Team — CCC Director John Sanderson, CSU Extension’s Robin Young, and Warner College’s affiliate faculty Stewart Breck — being invited to serve on the [Technical Working Group](#) that will review and contribute expertise towards planning for wolf reintroduction in Colorado. We are grateful to our partners who have worked with us on this engagement and to our many advisors and supporters who have guided us along the way.



Institutionalizing Collaboration with the WCCN Public Policy Working Group

The Western Collaborative Conservation Public Policy Working Group supports collaboration with federal partners to achieve healthy landscapes and resilient, thriving communities. To that end, 14 members of this working group gathered in 2019 to discuss enhancing collaborative problem solving in relation to federal natural resource agencies. They identified several issues impeding collaboration, from lack of local relationships to federal policy. A recently published report from this workshop contains recommendations for institutionalizing collaborative problem solving as a way of doing business. Read the full [10-page report](#) or a [2-page summary](#). You may also want to read the 2-page "[Keys to Success: Collaboration for Land Management Issues in the West](#)."



Meet our CCC Fellows: Rae Nickerson

Rae Nickerson is a wildlife ecologist and interdisciplinary scholar who focuses on human-wildlife interactions, agricultural economics, collaborative conservation, and landscape ecology. Currently working on her MS in Ecosystem Science at CSU, she earned her BA in Comparative History of Ideas from the University of Washington.

As a researcher at the Center for Human Carnivore Coexistence and a member of the Conflict Reduction Consortium – Rae is part of a diverse group of academics, practitioners, and landowners developing policy and practice recommendations on ranching in conjunction with large carnivores in the West. She is certified in Conservation Conflict Transformation through CPeace, and currently serves as a trained facilitator at the Center for Public Deliberation.

Rae is currently headed to Logan, Utah where she will begin a PhD at Utah State University. Good luck, Rae!



Meet our CCC Advisory Board: Matt Luizza

Matt Luizza, a CCC Advisory Board member and Fellows Program alum, is a Program Officer with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Africa Branch, and technical lead for the Service on issues of pastoralism and protected area dynamics and community-based conservation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Additionally, he is Associate Faculty in the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at CSU, founder and co-chair of the interagency and multi-sector Africa Pastoralism Working Group with U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, and a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Task Force on Environmental Change and Migration. Matt was recently featured in a wonderful [interview produced by our friends at CSU's Africa Center](#).

Scholarly Impact

CCC Fellows alumni and CCC Staff alumni publish impactful research on collaboration and conservation. Here is the latest. Fellows and Staff are indicated by bold font.

Wilkins, K., L. Pejchar, S. Carroll, M. Jones, S. Walker, X. Shinbrot, C. Huayhuaca, M. Fernández-Giménez, and R. Reid. 2021. Collaborative conservation in the United States: A review of motivations, goals, and outcomes. *Biological Conservation* vol.259 109165.

In this valuable new paper, former CCC staff, Fellows, and partners reviewed community-based collaborative conservation groups to 1) characterize geographic distribution, types of participants, and sources of funding for these groups; 2) assess issues motivating group formation, goals, activities to achieve those goals, and outcomes; 3) identify whether these goals, activities, and outcomes were biophysical, social, and/or economic. The top three issues motivating collaborative group formation included impacts of land and resource degradation on livelihoods, water quality and management, and managing land and resources across ownership boundaries. They found that only 16% of groups published information on outcomes, suggesting a need to focus more on evaluating impacts to support learning and improved action. [Find it here.](#)

Other News and Opportunities

The Envision Chaffee County Coalition is hosting a webinar titled "Envision Recreation in Balance: Practical Advice for Collaborative Planning and Transformative Action" on June 17. This is a great opportunity to learn directly from Coalition members about their experience on collaborating to create healthy public lands, quality experiences, and a sustainable recreation economy. [Register here.](#)

"Maintaining Collaborative Momentum During a Pandemic," a recent blog post from the National Forest Foundation, highlights a few key learnings from the past year from how to run a meeting to how to make more personal

connections. [Read it here.](#)

U.S. Forest Service Shared Stewardship Strategy In mid-March, a new report assessing the early implementation of the U.S. Forest Service's Shared Stewardship Strategy was released. [Read the report](#) or [watch a recording of a May webinar on the report](#)

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition report Last month the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition and partners released a new guide for implementing cross-boundary projects, providing a checklist of principles, considerations, and best practices for collaborative cross-boundary work. [Review the guide.](#)

A Network for Landscape Conservation recent presentation highlighted how to foster local stakeholder engagement when taking a collaborative, landscape-level approach to natural resource conservation. View the [practitioners guide here.](#)

Jobs

CCC Director John Sanderson is leading the search committee to find a visionary and inspiring leader to be Colorado's new **State Forester and Director of the [Colorado State Forest Service \(CSFS\)](#)**. The State Forester will bring creativity and innovation to the agency as Colorado's growing population and changing climate pose new challenges. Within the agency, the State Forester will provide direction and foster a culture of positivity, inclusivity, diversity, and accountability. Outside the agency, the State Forester will build the role of CSFS as a state and national leader, operating in a collaborative manner and positioning the agency to address the most critical forest issues in the Colorado. Find the application and view a complete [position announcement here](#). Apply by June 27, 2021 for full consideration.

The **Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) is hiring an Executive Director**. If you are a smart, energetic nonprofit leader that is passionate about keeping the Poudre River Watershed resilient and want to share that passion with others, then CPRW has an opportunity for you. The ideal candidate will be a skilled, mission driven, self-directed leader, with a proven track record of successfully managing nonprofits; and is knowledgeable

about watershed health. This position has the opportunity to play a visionary role for the health of the Poudre River Watershed. [View the full job posting here.](#)

Director of Climate Action at The Nature Conservancy - Based in Colorado, this position will develop and implement a strategic program of work that builds on TNC's growing role as a leader in tackling climate change. To apply, search job #49655 on [TNC's Career's Page](#).

Business Administration and Grants Manager, RiversEdge West is seeking a creative and detail-oriented individual to join their team and help make an impact on rivers in the West! Exceptional communication, organizational, and business administration skills are important. The position will work in coordination with, and in support of, RiversEdge West (REW) staff on the business administration and grant management aspects of their organization. See [full job description here](#) (apply by June 24th).

Two positions - Restoration Program Manager & Community Conservation Fellow - at Colorado Open Lands. [Apply here](#) by June 20 (Manager) and June 18 (Fellow).

Women in Water scholarship - an annual \$5,000 gift awarded to a woman pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in any facet of Western water. Apply by July 1. [Review resources here.](#)

If you have a job openings that are aligned with our work on collaborative conservation and you want us to share them, email a link to the job description to conserve@colostate.edu.

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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