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January 2023



## A Note from the CCC Director

Some things require a lot of patience. In 2005, [Sturtevant et al.](#) described many advantages of collaboration for “wildland fire and fuels management” while noting that funding for collaboration is “chronically short” and “inconsistent.” I suspect that feels true to a lot of you today. Fast forward to 2022, [Yung et al.](#) described three ways of framing the barriers to scaling up wildfire risk mitigation, concluding that “Perhaps the most important synergy across the frames is the need for building collaborative capacity. . .”

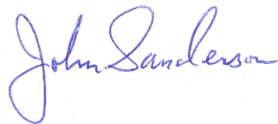
Yung et al.’s assertion aligns with interviews we’ve done recently with staff, board members, and partners of our local watershed group, the [Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed](#) (CPRW). Many interviewees described CPRW’s critical role in communicating, connecting, and catalyzing public agencies, cities, private landowners, and our community at large. In a [webinar we held in the wake of Colorado’s record 2020 fire season](#), you can hear the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest supervisor and CPRW’s former executive director

describe the value of this role.

Despite the strong consensus that collaboration is essential, I still see many of us wrestling to define what, exactly, is collaborative capacity and how do we invest in it well? Among the best answers to both questions I've seen recently are in [Increasing Collaborative Capacity and Infrastructure for Landscape Stewardship](#). If you know of other papers or programs that answer these questions—or that suggest how we measure the impact of these investments—I would appreciate an [email from you](#).

In the face of uncertainty, some funders are still moving forward. Last year, [Colorado's Forest Restoration and Wildfire Mitigation grant program](#) added a “capacity building” component. Recent federal announcements suggest more is coming. If all goes well, we will be learning much about collaborative capacity investments in the next few years.

Be well,



John Sanderson

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**News from the CCC**



# CCC Solutions Lab

## Join Us for Our 2nd Session!

**This spring, we are piloting the *The Solutions Lab*, CCC's new community of practice, meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 4pm M.T.**

These meetings feature informal conversations around crosscutting issues and challenges for collaborative conservation.

These discussions add to our understanding of what it takes to practice collaborative conservation; grow our network of support; provide an enjoyable, enriching experience; and model helpful tools and strategies. For example, the tool we modeled for January's discussion was [ORID](#), a method for constructing a series of questions to shepherd a group of people through decision-making.

**Please join us!** Participants help determine future discussion topics, formats, and possible speakers. **Registration is required to receive the Zoom link – register [here](#)!**

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## CCC Fellows Graduation: Cohort 11

We are pleased and proud to celebrate the completion of the Fellows Program for [Cohort 11](#)! While the global pandemic significantly impacted virtually every aspect of their original projects (including goals, deadlines, team members, and relationships), our Fellows persevered and accomplished meaningful and important activities:

- **Team Brazil (Jim Barborak, Juarez Michelotti, and Felipe Zanusso)** did collaborative work to share practices among protected parks in Brazil and Colorado. They put into place a variety of initiatives designed by and for individuals with disabilities to overcome barriers to visiting these special places.
- **Andie Conlon** sought to address human-carnivore conflicts and their threat to African lions. She created a model to see how tolerance towards lions is transmitted through social networks, and document the effects of some of the factors affecting attitudes toward lions and predation.
- **Team Colorado (Blake Osbourn and Nora Flynn)** took on a multi-pronged approach to address diversity, equity, access and social justice around issues of water pollution.

I am impressed by these accomplishments, and appreciate all that these individuals and teams were able to bring to the Cohort, the CCC, and to the practice of collaborative conservation. **Please join the CCC in congratulating Cohort 11!**



## CCC's Practice Program for 2023

**2023 will be a year of growth and exploration for CCC's Practice Program.** We will be working with many of the Center's exceptional partners to carry out work on-the-ground and collaborative conservation research. With the Western Collaborative Conservation Network, we will also be solidifying the network's strategy and purpose, and beginning to plan for Confluence 2024.

**Stay tuned to learn more about our [Practice Program](#) in future newsletters!**

A green vertical banner with the Western Collaborative Conservation Network logo at the top. Below the logo, the text "WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK" is written in white. A horizontal line separates this from the main title "All Partners Meeting" in large white font. Another horizontal line is below the title. At the bottom, the text "Join the conversation to help inspire the future the WCCN" is written in a smaller white font.

WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

### All Partners Meeting

*Join the conversation to help inspire the future the WCCN*



## Join Us for WCCN's Next West-Wide Virtual Gathering: March 1st

We hope that you will join us for the first quarterly [WCCN All-Partners Meeting](#) of the year on Wednesday, March 1 at 1pm M.T. We will be featuring the work of John Sanderson and many CCC partners on their conservation philanthropy workshop, learn more about the outcomes of this workshop, and a vision for the road forward. We will also be exploring various communication strategies for collaborative conservation by examining WCCN's communication lines.

All are welcome, so please join us! Find more information and register [here](#).



## Forest Summit Summary Report & More!

In fall 2022, the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network (CFCN) hosted four Regional Forums across the state of Colorado. One of the most common recommendations we received at our Regional Forums was to continue hosting the Annual Forest Collaboratives Summit, hosted by various entities in the past.

Read what we heard from the forums and how we incorporated it into our work plan by clicking the button below. **We welcome feedback on our work plan through the end of January.**

### Regional Forums Report Summary with Draft Work Plan

**On October 27, 2022, more than 30 collaborative leaders and partners gathered in Frisco, CO for the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit.** Collaborative leaders and partners from across the state shared their successes throughout the year, heard updates from the Colorado Forest Health Council, shared their thoughts with Department of Natural Resources leadership, reflected on stages of readiness, and strengthened relationships with a happy hour at the end of the day.

**Read the full recap of the 2022 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit by clicking on the yellow box below!**

### Annual CO Forest Collaboratives Summit Report

**CFCN is also excited to offer funding for professional development, a suggestion made by collaboratives and participants at our regional forums and annual Summit!**

We have a limited amount of funding available to support capacity-limited groups in attending the [Colorado Wildland Fire Conference](#) or the [SWERI Cross-Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop](#).

**To apply for funding, please complete [this Google form for funding for the SWERI Workshop](#) or [this Google form for the Colorado Wildland Fire Conference funding](#) by Friday, January 27.**



## **Recently Published *Collaboratives Behind the Scenes* with Texan by Nature**

**The first edition of the Western Collaborative Conservation Network's Blog Series, [Collaboratives Behind the Scenes](#) of 2023 is out now! This**

month, we feature [Texan by Nature \(TxN\)](#), a nonprofit founded by former First Lady Laura Bush with the mission to *“bring conservation and business together, amplify projects, and activate new investment in conservation which returns real benefits for people, prosperity, and natural resources.”*

For the blog, we spoke with Taylor Keys, Program Director of TxN. She told us about the innovative strategies that Texan by Nature uses to connect large industries to conservation organizations, initiatives, and programs to reach environmental goals.

Taylor advised other collaborative conservationists to *“listen, be curious, show respect and transparency, and ask questions to understand— you have to put yourself in the shoes of who you’re trying to help so you can best support them. In a collaborative it’s so important to lean on the expertise that each partner brings to the table and really try to break down silos to work together.”*

**Read the complete version of the [Collaboratives Behind the Scenes: Texan by Nature](#) interview to learn more.**

## 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.*

**Jennifer Solomon** and **Paul Evangelista** (Cohort 7) are co-authors on a recent paper ([Abede, B.A. et al 2020](#)) in which they recognized “the need to address the inclusiveness and participatory nature of decision-making processes, while respecting different values and knowledge systems in the design and implementation of conservation programs.” Achieving this requires thinking about equity – that is, adjusting our approach to address long-standing imbalances.

To study how different communities and stakeholders think about equity, the authors first define the different types of equity. These include: (1) distributive (who has access to the benefits of conservation interventions); (2) procedural (who has a voice in decision-making); (3) recognition dimensions (there are

distinct identities, values, interests, and histories at play); and equity in access - that is, the “pre-existing political, economic, and social conditions that affect how and to what extent different actors engage in and benefit from resource distribution.” It is this latter that Team Brazil (Cohort 11) addressed for their project, whose goal was to collaboratively share practices to make urban protected areas accessible to individuals with any type of disability. Project deliverables included including purchasing a specialized wheeled gurney to allow mobility impaired visitors access to nature trails; working with local university researchers in Manaus to develop a smartphone app enabling the hearing-impaired to enjoy interpretive trails without requiring assistance from sign language interpreters; and collaborating with individuals with differing physical and mental abilities to plan and construct new universal access trails.

These efforts in Brazil are great examples of conservation initiatives that make natural areas more welcoming and accessible to all. Abede et al (2020) also point out the importance of a having a nuanced understanding of the multiple dimensions of equity at play when we implement different types of conservation projects. **We need to remember that “equity cannot be achieved without recognizing the values of different individual identities and promoting fairness in the process of decision making.”**

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## Other News and Opportunities

**American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange** is now accepting applications for the [2023 Community Science Fellows Program](#). Fellows are committed volunteers eager to facilitate and lead collaborative, co-developed community science projects that produce on-the-ground impact in local communities. **Applications close January 26. Learn more and apply [here](#).**

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Colorado State University recently launched an interactive [environmental justice mapping tool](#) called [Colorado EnviroScreen](#) which allows users to identify communities disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and its health impacts. The group will host a **bilingual (English/Spanish) workshop Friday, February 3 at 11am M.T.** to teach the general public how to use Colorado EnviroScreen. [Learn more and register](#)**

[today.](#)

Similarly, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also developed an environmental justice and screening and mapping tool called [EJScreen](#)– *this webpage provides information and tutorials on how to use the tool.*

National Wildlife Federation has a user-friendly [Nature-based Solutions Funding Database](#) tool which allows users to filter grant opportunities based on "purpose", "eligibility", "support type", "agency" and more! Definitely worth checking out!

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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:

**The Wilderness Society is seeking a [Senior Conservation Specialist for the Southern Appalachian Region](#)** to execute a regional conservation vision, analysis, and management. The position is based in Asheville, NC.  
**Applications due January 22.**

**The Nature Conservancy** is hiring a new **Florida State Director** to lead environmental work, including on-the-ground conservation work, public policy in local, state, and federal government, and fundraising. **Find out more about the position [here](#).**

**Defenders of Wildlife has two positions open:** [Representative of the Rockies and Plains Program](#) based in Denver, CO and [Communications Specialist](#) based in Washington D.C.

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science also has several job openings, including:** [Faculty Research Assistant](#), [Assistant Director for Communications and Engagement](#), and [Executive Director of the Charles County Resilience Authority \(CCRA\)](#). All positions located in Maryland.

*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 the resources and information we share through this newsletter, please forward this email to them. If you do not yet received our newsletter, you can sign up [here](#).

Do you have questions, suggestion, ideas, or opportunities?  
Please email CCC Director [John Sanderson](#).



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