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WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

January 2024





Happy New Year

Choose 2024 as the year you get more involved in learning, practicing, and engaging in collaborative conservation



A Note from the CCC Director

Last week, the third [Climate Change in Colorado report](#) was published. The conclusions are unsettling:

- Statewide temperatures increased 2.3°F since 1980 and will increase another 1.0 to 4.0°F by 2050.
- Spring snowpack is decreasing, runoff happens earlier, and streamflow is dropping.
- Extreme heat waves are happening more often and will happen much more often in the future.
- Going forward, we will have more frequent and severe droughts.
- Since 2000, wildfires are bigger, more acres burn with higher intensity, and the fire season is longer.

Many of us feel anxious about these changes, and [the BBC reported on a survey](#) that tells us the depth of anxiety for young people is particularly intense. Over half(!) say they think humanity is doomed. The report says that many young people feel “fear, anger, despair, grief and shame” and then adds “as well as hope.” I sense power in “as well as hope.”

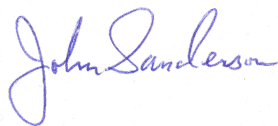
One thing about climate change is clear: it doesn't respect where we live, our politics, our religion, or other boundaries. We are all experiencing the change. Solutions similarly need to cross those boundaries.

One source of hope for me are the [160+ collaboratives across Colorado](#) working across these boundaries to secure a vibrant future for habitat, water supply, recreation, and rural economies. On Colorado's eastern plains, the [Karval Community Alliance](#) turned the perceived threat of a proposed endangered species listing into a community-based organization promoting local economic development that includes prairie conservation. In southwest Colorado, the [Mancos River Restoration and Resilience Group](#) is sustaining the many values of this beautiful river, including habitat connectivity for native fish. The [Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative](#) is building forest resilience, protecting communities, and keeping water supplies reliable across millions of acres.

If you are curious to dive into hope, I recommend [a recent podcast featuring Christiana Figueres](#) who spoke to "how to keep hope alive amidst a thousand reasons to despair." Figueres admits that she wanders into "woo-woo land" during the interview, but she does so with extraordinary credibility: she is the person who led the negotiations that created the Paris Accords, the most significant agreement to date on reducing carbon emissions.

In a similar vein, William Ury talks about a "path to possible." Two of Ury's books are among those I recommend most often: [Getting to Yes!](#) and [The Power of a Positive No](#). Having worked in conflict zones across the globe, Ury speaks with authority about a key skill in collaboration: constructively engaging and transforming conflict. He recently published a new book: [Possible: How We Survive \(and Thrive\) in an Age of Conflict](#). Next Tuesday I will be tuning in to a (free) webinar where Ury will discuss this book. If you are interested in joining that webinar, you can [register here](#).

Be well.



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



Join Us at Confluence 2024

We are excited to invite you to the West's premier collaborative conservation gathering: [Confluence 2024](#). **Confluence cycles around the West** - making it an opportunity to take a deeper dive into different locales of the West and interact with people doing good collaborative work.

This year, the WCCN is hosting our 3rd [Confluence](#), **a three-day gathering in Tucson, Arizona from April 2nd to 4th, 2024**. We will be delving into stories of collaborative conservation success, leveraging funding and related resources to secure capacity and sustainability, and building bridges across boundaries.

Confluence isn't your typical conference! Each element of this gathering is **designed to support participants in learning, sharing their own expertise, and connecting with other professionals in the collaborative conservation field**. One participant described a previous Confluence as, *"the best conference experience since COVID. Amazing atmosphere, people, food, subject matter, facilitation, rhythm, everything."*

Tucson, itself, is the confluence of several ecosystems, making it a great place for birding, hiking, and exploring what collaborative conservation looks like across biomes and borders, and **early April is a fabulous time to be in Arizona for a sunny getaway**.



Confluence 2024 will also feature **terrific field trips** to visit and learn about collaborative conservation work being done in and around Tucson, AZ. One of the options will be a visit to Altar Valley, southwest of Tucson, to learn about the large landscape work of the [Altar Valley Conservation Alliance](#), a **rancher-led collaborative conservation organization**. We'll be visiting erosion control sites and brush management sites and **learning about the value of collaborative conservation to large landscape management** in the Altar Valley.

Join us in Tucson April 2nd-4th for Confluence 2024! Learn more [HERE](#) and click [HERE](#) to register.



Branching Out: CFHC & Forest Collaboratives in 2024

Join us for the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network's (CFCN) **Branching Out: The Colorado Forest Health Council & Forest Collaboratives in 2024**, January 25th.

What is the [Colorado Forest Health Council \(CFHC\)](#)? The CFHC was formed "to provide a collaborative forum to advise the Governor, through the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Colorado

General Assembly, on issues, opportunities, and threats to Colorado’s forests.” In 2022, Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network Coordinator (CFCN) Katie McGrath Novak was appointed to serve on the CFHC as ‘an individual employed by or associated with a forest collaborative organization.’

This Branching Out session will be split into two parts:

1. Katie will share highlights from the [CFHC 2023 Annual Report](#), and discuss progress made on collaboratives’ [recommendations](#) from our May 2023 Branching Out listening session. She’ll also share resources on how collaboratives can [keep up with the CFHC](#).
2. In part two of this session, we’ll ask two questions: 1) What do you want the CFHC to do this year? and 2) What do you want the CFHC to know about your work on the ground?

Following this session, Katie will refine written recommendations and present the final recommendations to the CFHC’s Legislative Committee on February 9th.

To participate in this Branching Out session and make sure your voice is heard by the CFHC, click [HERE](#) to register and [HERE](#) to learn more.



Workshop at the Riparian Restoration Conference

The 2024 Riparian Restoration Conference by RiversEdge West brings together students, scientists, restoration practitioners, governments, nonprofits, and more stakeholders to collaborate and share knowledge about riparian restoration. Building upon their 2023 Workshop Series which included the [Planting for the Future](#) and [Habitat for the Future](#) workshops, the theme for this year's conference is, **Restoration for the Future: Promoting resilience in our rivers and communities**. [View the draft agenda and register here](#).

Our **Associate Director of Practice, Aireona Raschke, PhD**, along with Shawn Johnson of University of Montana and Shannon Wadas at RiversEdge West, will be hosting a session at the conference called, *"Just Trust Me: Exploring and Understanding the Role of Trust in Collaborative Efforts"*.

Because collaborative efforts are largely supplemental to existing organizations, institutions, and structures, they rely on effective relationships rather than formal or hierarchical power to function. Regardless of the type of relationship, it **requires a certain amount of trust in order to unlock the promise of that relationship** – whether that's greater knowledge and understanding, access to more capacity and resources, accountability to a process, or an abiding connection to place.

Aireona and her team will dive into why trust matters and then **explore approaches, tools, and skills for building, restoring, and communicating about the state of trust among partners**. Everyone will spend some time on peer-to-peer learning through the sharing of experiences and discuss how we have navigated the ups and downs of trust among our partnerships, coalescing the theoretical with the practical to **provide some tangible skills and resources around engaging and sustaining your collaboratives**.

Join Aireona and attend her workshop at the 2024 Riparian Restoration Conference by registering [HERE](#).

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellow: Heidi Hausermann

Heidi Hausermann is an Associate Professor of Geography at Colorado State University, and a CCC Fellow of [Cohort 13](#). Her research **focuses on the relationships between land-use change, rural livelihoods, and human and ecosystem health**. She has long-term collaborations with communities impacted by unregulated gold mining in Ghana, West Africa, and has also worked on collaborative conservation projects in Mexico's coffee agro-ecosystems and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. In addition to leading interdisciplinary and cross-cultural teams, **Heidi is committed to community-based projects that center collaboration, dialogue and ethics, and has published on these topics**. She has also won mentoring and interdisciplinary research awards from Colorado State University, Rutgers University, and the Association of American Geographers.

In collaboration with Pintag Amaru, an Indigenous (Kichwa) community organization in Pintag, Ecuador, Heidi and the Ecuador Fellows team **seek to implement a multifaceted collaborative conservation project** that includes: 1) forest regeneration project & adjacent water purification system on Pintag Amaru collective land, 2) ecological research focused on mining impacts, to be used be for community education, dialogue, and broader resistance efforts, and 3) anthropological research exploring conservation values in relation to concepts of development and resistance.

Agua es vida. Water is life.

Learn more about this Fellows team and more of Fellows Cohort 13 [HERE](#).



Meet our CCC Advisory Board: Matt Luizza

Matthew Luizza, PhD, is currently working as the Program Officer for the African Elephant Conservation Fund with USFWS, but **he has a long history with us here at the CCC**. We are grateful for all of the support Matt has

provided the CCC over the years, and although he is stepping down from our Advisory Board this month, he will continue to be engaged with our Fellows program.

"The CCC played a pivotal role in my conservation career path. The Fellows Program and my PhD co-advisor, Dr. Paul Evangelista, were catalysts for me beginning a lifelong commitment to locally-driven and collaborative conservation efforts in Africa. I feel lucky to have been a part of the evolution of the Fellows Program over the past 12 years. From graduate student Fellow (Cohort 4), to Advisory Board member, to project mentor (Cohort 13), it's been such a rewarding journey, and I've continued to learn and grow as a conservationist. I look forward to seeing what the next 12 years have in store and remaining part of the CCC family."

Learn more about Matt in the Elephant Protection Initiative's **"Friend of the Month"** post [HERE](#).



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, January 23rd 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.

Collaborative conservation leaders design ways to get a diverse array of stakeholders thinking creatively about a conservation issue, and then effectively put to use the ideas they generate. Doing this often involves collaborative learning, systems thinking, and working through conflict (e.g., [Working through environmental conflict: The collaborative learning approach](#)).

Because the systems in which conservation issues exist are complex, it can be easy to oversimplify or underestimate the importance or impact of any given solution that might be generated. These system components interrelate in unpredictable ways, making it difficult to understand their ultimate functions or predict unexpected consequences.

This is why [Dr. Tungaa Ulambayar](#) (**Fellow, Cohort 4**) and her co-authors developed a model to describe the ways in which farmers, livestock, pastures, products, processes, and more interact in different contexts ([Multifunctionality and diversity of livestock grazing systems for sustainable food systems throughout the world: Are there learning opportunities for Europe?](#)). This multifunctional livestock grazing model not only teases apart the complex systems in which a livestock producer must operate, but does it in a way that stakeholders “better comprehend and understand the points of view of the other stakeholders in the territory and the compromises to be sought.” The leaders designed these conversations in ways that reduced conflict: “Using the multifunctionality approach enabled the reduction of misunderstanding between stakeholders about what could be the future of livestock grazing. [It] also enabled the participation and dialogue that underlines the positive outcomes and interactions of embedding a large spectrum of stakeholders” to collectively design their future. Throughout, the authors found that learning, connections, and communication amongst the stakeholders were key to the success of their approach.

In this publication, the Multifunctionality framework was used to “organize discussions on priorities, interactions and trade-offs.” What other tools have you used to tease apart complex systems while promoting learning and creative discussion? Please email allison.brody@colostate.edu with ideas and thoughts!

Other News and Opportunities

Wrigley Institute Storymakers Program | Through this program, scientists become storytellers, and academic research becomes a vision that changes the world. The Storymakers program is a weeklong intensive that trains full-time, mid-career researchers in the art of environmental storytelling. Held in residence at the [Wrigley Marine Science Center \(WMSC\)](#) on Catalina Island, the program includes lectures, workshops, studio time for creating original content, and networking opportunities. Instructors are chosen from the best in media, the arts, and publishing. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

COCO's After the Flames Conference and Workshop | After the Flames Conference and Workshop is an event devoted to post-fire recovery. Attendees represent individuals, organizations, and agencies impacted by wildfire and responding to the post-fire impacts, as well as experts in the arena of post-fire recovery. Join us on April 15, 2024, in Estes Park, Colorado at the YMCA of the Rockies. [Learn more here.](#)

Center for Environmental Justice Java & Justice Author Talk | Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Justice is hosting their recurring series of Java & Justice Talks this February 6th at Wolverine Farm Publick House in Fort Collins, CO, from 4:30-6:15PM. Join authors Ruth Alexander and Jared Orsi as they discuss their new books in a talk titled, "Tales of Memory, Environment, and Justice in Two National Parks". [Register here for Java & Justice.](#)

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:

Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator at NCEAS UC Santa Barbara | The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) is seeking a Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator for our open science projects, with an

emphasis on community building, communications, and data science training for the Arctic Data Center. [Apply here](#)..

Development and Outreach Coordinator for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte | CUSP is hiring for multiple positions right now. The Development and Outreach Coordinator specifically will be responsible for developing and implementing fund raising strategies, donor relations, volunteer events, community education outreach and diverse media engagement. [Learn more here](#) about this and other positions at CUSP.

Firewise Community Coordinator at Wallowa Soil & Water Conservation District | Wallowa Soil & Water Conservation District in collaboration with our nonprofit partner Wallowa Resources, are seeking a motivated individual to work alongside community partners to support existing and future Firewise Communities and promote wildfire risk reduction and restoration opportunities to private landowners across Wallowa County. Learn more about the position and [apply here](#)..

Post-Fire Navigators Coordinator OR Forest & Mitigation Program Manager at Coalitions & Collaboratives | COCO is hiring for two positions right now. The Post-Fire Coordinator (PFC) will support the development and delivery of a new program, The Community Navigators, that Coalitions and Collaboratives is leading in partnership with local, regional, and national partners. The Forest & Mitigation Program Manager is challenged to work with landowners, communities, and agency partners to co-develop multi-objective forest restoration and wildfire mitigation projects. Apply to the [PFC position here](#) and to the [Forest & Mitigation position here](#).

Senior NEPA Program Director at the Great Basin Institute | The Great Basin Institute is an interdisciplinary field studies organization that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation throughout the West. In partnership with US Forest Service (USFS) and agency collaborators, GBI is seeking a Senior NEPA Program Director to contribute to, develop, and direct NEPA Program initiatives. Learn more about the position 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](#).

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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