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WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

April 2024



A Note from the CCC Director

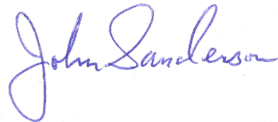
If you have attended a CCC event like the recent Western Collaborative Conservation Network's [Confluence](#) 2024 or have been part of one of our [Fellows](#) cohorts, you know we regularly seek feedback. Usually, we hear plenty of positive feedback, and that of course feels good and affirming. Personally, I am more interested in critical feedback, because feedback that makes me uncomfortable usually gives me more opportunity to learn and adjust, actions that can be vital to keeping collaboration on track.

In the spirit of learning and growing as collaborators, here are a few resources I have used to understand how to give, receive, and learn from feedback:

- [The Right Way to Respond to Negative Feedback](#) is a short article in the Harvard Business Review where Tasha Eurich notes that “Feedback [is] a key driver of performance and leadership effectiveness . . . But processing and acting on negative feedback is not always easy.” She then describes five ways to hear and work with critical feedback in a healthy way.
- If you have more reading time, I recommend [Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well](#), by Doug Stone and Sheila Heen. In this book, the authors explain why receiving feedback is so crucial yet so challenging, and they offer a framework and tools for managing feedback.
- If you have time to listen but not read, I recommend a two-part series on the [Hidden Brain](#) podcast focused on failure and feedback. The first episode is [Learning from Your Mistakes](#) where Lauren Eskreis-Winkler shares insights on a range of topics related to feedback, including what keeps us from paying attention to things we don’t want to hear. In the second episode, [The Truth About Honesty](#), Taya Cohen shares insights on the other side of the feedback relationship: sharing critical feedback with a friend, colleague, or partner.

As usual, I invite you to share your thoughts—and feedback!—[with me](#).

Be well,



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



Fellows Retreat is happening now - here is what Cohort 14 is up to this week!

Many of us learn collaborative practices in relatively ad hoc ways. With the Fellows program, we have the opportunity to intentionally design learning and skill-building opportunities in ways that complement and inform the experience of planning and implementing their projects.

Twelve Fellows from [Cohort 14](#) were able to travel to Fort Collins this past week to participate in the Fellows training retreat. In addition to some intense time learning together, the week also included field trips and the chance for the Fellows to share their stories via presentations and panel discussions.

On our way back from our field trip to meet with ranchers in the North Park area of Colorado, I asked the Fellows riding in the van with me to reflect back on their week. Here are a few things they said:

The retreat was about ***“Co-learning, Connecting, Collaborating, and Conservation ... these are critical elements of our projects.”*** Another reflected that the retreat was about ***“connections not just among the fellows, but also to past cohorts and also to all the presenters.”*** This

means the Fellows feel they can ***“reach out and ask for help or just talk about something.”***

In addition to these connections, they pointed out the importance of building and practicing skills. As one Fellow put it: ***“I think I’m in a much better position to collaborate with others on conservation projects, be a better listener, and deal with conflict in constructive ways.”*** The retreat also gave the Fellows time to fine-tune their project plans, improving their project’s feasibility.

I know I feel the same way as this thought shared by one of our Fellows: ***“I think my heart is most full from the connections amongst our Fellows group. It is so inspiring to be with motivated conservationists from around the world working on difficult issues, demonstrating commitment and passion together.”***





Confluence

Thank you to all who joined us for Confluence 2024 in Tucson, Arizona! **It was such a blast to connect and strategize across disciplines and landscapes of the West.**

Wanna hear more about Confluence in Tucson? Stay tuned for a special **Confluence edition of the WCCN Collaborative Voices Newsletter** in May. In the meantime, check out the [Confluence Program](#) and the Confluence website [HERE](#).

Meet the Sponsors who helped make Confluence 2024 happen [HERE](#).



Have thoughts, photos, reflections, or testimonials to share with us? Email your #WCCNconfluence experience to Roxie at conserve@colostate.edu



Save the date!
The 2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit
September 4-6 | Durango, CO

For years, collaborative leaders and partners have convened in an annual Forest Collaboratives Summit to share updates, build relationships, and learn from one another. Each fall, approximately 100 collaborative leaders and partners gather somewhere in Colorado for the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit. The creation of the Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network (CFCN) was inspired by successes at past Forest Collaboratives Summits, and Summit now represents the flagship annual event for the CFCN.

Details & registration coming soon!

2024 Summit Webpage



Why Facts Don't Change Minds

Join us this Thursday, April 25 to hear from Dr. Anne Toomey about why communicating science is harder than it seems—and what we can do to be more effective in our science communications.

Anne Toomey is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Science at Pace University and the co-founder of Participatory Science Solutions LLC, a social-impact research consulting company based in New York. Her work focuses on developing creative ways of using scientific research to help solve real-world problems, and she is the author of a book in press titled "Science with Impact: How to Engage People, Change Practice, and Influence Policy."

Anne has also done extensive research along NYC waterfronts, focused on how people use, value, and care for blue spaces, and collaborates regularly with NYC-based organizations such as the Billion Oyster Project, the New York Restoration Project, and NYC Parks.

The April Presenter Session will run from 12:30 – 1:30 MDT. This session will not be recorded, so if you're interested in this topic and how to apply it to your work, register now!

Register for the Presenter Session [HERE](#), and for the following Feedback Session [HERE](#).

Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellows: Cohort 14

Each year, the CCC engages in a competitive process to select participants for our Fellows program. We recently accepted a total of five Fellows projects to make up Cohort 14, which includes a combination of **graduate students, faculty members, and conservation practitioners from across the globe.**

We are excited to partner with the [CSU Center for Human Carnivore Coexistence](#) and an anonymous donor to support three of these projects,

whose work will focus on different aspects of human-carnivore coexistence. One of these projects will engage communities in shared decision-making to create a conservation plan to **promote co-existence with four carnivore species in southern Brazil**: the jaguar, mountain lion, hoary fox, and maned wolf. Another project will seek to **reduce conflict between gray wolves and herders adjacent to Hustai National Park in Mongolia**, among other activities. And the third project will **engage livestock producers in Colorado** to learn about their experience with tools to deter livestock predators, including the gray wolf.

A fourth project is focused on building the capacity of the Northeast Mexico Agave Restoration Network to **restore and protect agave and the bats that pollinate them** – agave are a keystone species for natural and human systems on the borderlands of the US and Mexico. And our fifth project will explore using the school system in Mongolia as a mechanism for the **intergenerational transfer of Traditional Ecological Knowledge** and conservation actions.

Even though these five projects are occurring in three different continents and four countries, the challenges of collaboration and coexistence are similar – and through the CCC Fellowship we'll be sharing learnings, effective practices, and cross-cultural experiences.

Learn more about the Fellows Program, including past and present cohorts, [HERE](#).



Meet our CCC Staff: Aireona Bonnie Raschke

Aireona Bonnie Raschke, Ph.D. is the CCC's Associate Director of Practice and the Director of the Western Collaborative Conservation Network ([WCCN](#)). She came to the CCC from Desert Botanical Garden, where she led the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) as the Program Director. Through her work with CAZCA, Aireona specialized in collaborative conservation, and led shared work on invasive plant management, ecosystem restoration, and public outreach across central Arizona. Previous to that, she was immersed in studying community-based conservation globally through systematic review and expert consultation, and evaluating the impact of nature-based tourism on the environment and community well-being of Dominica and the Dominican Republic. She's also an avid hiker, travel blogger, and artist.

We are so grateful to have Aireona on the team, especially as we reflect on the incredible gathering of [Confluence 2024](#) in Tucson, AZ, and what it means for the WCCN and the future of collaborative conservation in the West.

Other News and Opportunities

Ruckelshaus Institute 2024 Collaboration Symposium | Wasn't able to make it to Confluence but craving connection with other collaborative minded folks? Join the [Ruckelshaus Institute](#) of Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources April 19 in Jackson, Wyoming, for the 2024 Collaboration Symposium - *Ripples Across Wyoming: Collaboration and its Impacts*. Learn more and register [here](#).

Stories of the Soil Health Movement in Colorado | Researchers in CSU's [Department of Soil and Crop Sciences](#) are partnering with the new [Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources \(STAR\)](#) program to help Colorado farmers and ranchers improve their land for future generations. The [Center for Science Communication](#) is sharing the stories of their soil-health journeys in a new film series called "[Hold Our Ground](#)." Read the article [here](#).

Save the Date for Poudre RiverFest | Poudre RiverFest, the free family-friendly festival dedicated to celebrating and protecting the Poudre River, is returning on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at New Belgium Brewing! There are many opportunities to get involved, including [becoming a sponsor](#), being an [exhibitor](#), purchasing a page in the [Poudre RiverFest Digital Passport](#), or signing up to [volunteer at the event](#). Learn more about Poudre RiverFest and get involved [here](#).

Exploring Planetary Justice Series | The third webinar of the Exploring Planetary Justice series that the [Center for Environmental Justice](#) at Colorado State University is cosponsoring with the Planetary Justice Task Force of the [Earth System Governance Project](#) will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 8-9:30 am Mexico City/Denver time. This webinar will examine views from Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Register [here](#) and watch previous webinars on South America and Western Europe [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:

Fund Development Coordinator for the Blackfoot Challenge | We are currently seeking a full-time Fund Development Coordinator to support the Blackfoot Challenge's fundraising and donor stewardship work. Responsibilities include managing donor data systems, coordinating individual giving campaigns, and assisting with grant proposals and reporting. Application deadline is February 26, or until filled. Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Program Assistant at the CO DNR | The Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Program Assistant exists to assist with Shared Stewardship efforts in Colorado through the Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP) in the Department of Natural Resources' Executive Director's Office. The Program Assistant supports the Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Program Administrator with grant solicitations, contracting, invoicing and project tracking of state and federal funds. The Program Assistant also assists with website development including design and content accessibility. Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Agricultural Program Manager for the Central Colorado Conservancy | Central Colorado Conservancy (Conservancy) is an accredited land trust and community-based conservation organization based in Salida, CO. This is an excellent opportunity for a self-motivated individual to take the lead role in enhancing the Conservancy's Agriculture Program and agricultural producer partnerships in the region, with a focus on developing projects and management capacity for the Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD). Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Careers at the High Line Canal Conservancy | There are two unique opportunities to be part of a nonprofit dedicated to the long-term protection and enhancement of one of the nation's longest and most unique urban recreational and ecological assets. The High Line Canal Conservancy is seeking a highly qualified Project Manager to manage the design and construction of multiple capital improvement projects focused on improved access and amenities along the High Line Canal. They are also looking to hire a Field Coordinator, who will spend significant time on the trail implementing and coordinating Canal maintenance efforts, monitoring the work of contractors, completing field inspections and data collection, and supporting restoration and environmental stewardship projects. Learn more about these opportunities and apply [HERE](#).

Careers at the Mountain Studies Institute | Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is a mountain education and research center established in 2002 to develop the capacity of southwest Colorado mountain communities to thrive and live

sustainably. MSI is looking for a motivated and dedicated individual to become a Water Program Research Associate in MSI’s Water Team. They are also looking for an Accounting Coordinator to be the third member of MSI’s finance and operations team. Learn more and apply [HERE](#).

Preserve Manager Positions at the Center for Natural Lands Management

| The Center for Natural Lands Management focuses on protecting and restoring native and imperiled species and their habitats throughout California and Washington. They are looking for Preserve Managers for Santa Barbara County, CA, Coachella Valley, CA, and San Diego County, CA. 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](#).

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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