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WARNER COLLEGE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

July 2023



A Note from the CCC Director

I found myself recently thinking about cognitive bias, a subconscious misinterpretation of the world around us that affects our judgments and decisions. What got me thinking was an article in *Nature* titled [The Illusion of Moral Decline](#). (A lay-oriented presentation of this same research is [here](#).) In this article, the authors show that, across the globe, most of us believe that other people are “less kind, honest, ethical and moral today than they were in the past.” The authors also report “strong evidence that people are wrong about this decline,” and they describe how two cognitive biases could explain why. First, bad news captures more of our attention and is more likely to be shared (‘biased exposure effect’), so things look bad today. Second, good memories last longer than bad ones (‘biased memory effect’), hence our recollection of

the “good ol’ days.”

I suspect cognitive bias is also showing up in the novel I’m reading, *How It Went*, the twelfth book in Wendell Berry’s [Port William Series](#). Using astonishingly beautiful and poignant writing about relationships and land, Berry paints a picture of a community where I want to live. That community is where the main character, Andy Catlett, lived when he was young. At the point where Andy turns 80, however, he longs for the past when people were “farm-raised and self-respecting” versus today’s people who are “incompetent and indifferent.” In other words, he longs for the “good ol’ days.”

If you are curious about cognitive bias in conservation, you might check out:

- [How Behavioral Science Can Help Conservation](#), which discusses leveraging cognitive biases to make conservation more effective, or
- [Navigating Cognition Biases in the Search of Sustainability](#), which explores how cognitive biases can affect our understanding of both problems and their potential solutions.

A paper I particularly like, [Black Swans, Cognition, and the Power of Learning from Failure](#), shows how cognitive biases can limit what we learn from failure in conservation.

Finally, perhaps as a small counter-balance to this week's distressing headlines about fires, floods, and extreme heat, I thought I would share [a short CBS news video](#) about how the City of Fort Collins, Poudre Valley Community Farms, and private businesses working together to help young families farm with an eye toward sustainability.

Be well.



John Sanderson

News from the CCC



2023 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit- Registration Open!

Registration is now open for the 2023 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit! This year's Summit will take place in beautiful Salida, CO from September 6th-8th.

Geared toward practitioners & partners involved in Colorado's place-based forest collaboratives, this event will feature success stories of funding innovations and navigating the array of tools available for collaboratives, plus updates from state and federal agency leadership. There will be ample time for networking & relationship-building.

In addition to the main event on September 7th, this year we've expanded our programming to include a **pre-Summit social on September 6th**, and a **post-Summit field trip on September 8th**. [Learn more & register here](#).



From Consultation to Meaningful Engagement with Indigenous & Marginalized Communities in Conservation

CCC & WCCN Summer Training, June 28, 2023. [This workshop](#) discusses strategies for implementing meaningful community engagement with Indigenous & marginalized communities in conservation.

Desired Outcomes:

- **Define key terms and legal context** to community engagement with Tribal Nations (USA) and Indigenous communities (Intl) in fish, wildlife, land & water conservation.
- **Understand barriers to community engagement** (personal, cultural, institutional, structural), as well as what levers you have to influence positive change.

The final written toolkit is still in progress and we'll share it once it's published. For more information, email: [Gemara Gifford](#) or [Allison Brody](#).



“What do you do when you figure out multiple organizations are working on the same thing? How can we transform competition into collaboration?” - Rosie

Ask Atti: How to Transform Competition into Collaboration

“Dear Atti, what do you do when you figure out multiple organizations are working on the same thing? How can we transform competition into

collaboration?"***– Rosie***

Atti, the Peach-faced Lovebird, studiously gathered responses from other WCCN partners to support Rosie, and this is what he found:

Many people suggested that you should introduce yourself and start building bridges. Collaborative conservation is all about relationships, so start building them quickly! Building a collaborative theory of change can help organizations identify different roles or responsibilities based upon their individual skills and expertise. Learn about what others are doing, this can also help identify gaps and overlaps and open conversations to collaboration.

[Click here](#) to see what the WCCN offered in response to Rosie's question!



Want to hone your communication skills? Join this session 7/27

Conservation communication is so much more than just written articles or a social media feed. When we expand our thinking of communication to the conversations we have with partners or the emails we send to colleagues, it

becomes apparent how much we all engage in conservation storytelling. So, how do you engage your whole team—not just communications staff—in sharing your organization’s story and messages?

As conservation communicators, we are faced with a daunting task: **telling compelling stories to encourage actions that will “save the world”**. But how often do we make space for developing our craft in order to do these stories justice?

Enter the [Storyteller’s Circle](#)! This (free!) bi-monthly, virtual event combines topic-based discussions led by other communications professionals with dedicated time to work on your own storytelling projects in a supportive environment.

The next Storyteller’s Circle is coming up on July 27th.

This month’s session discussion is focused on Collaborative storytelling – engaging your whole team in sharing your organization’s story.

Take a moment to register [HERE](#).



**If you're in Fort Collins, Colorado July 25...
Join us!**

We are hosting a CCC Happy Hour Tuesday 7/25 at New Belgium Brewery

from 5-7pm MT.

Join us for drinks and lively discussions where we gather to connect and relax outside. Also, feel free to extend this invitation to friends, colleagues, and students!



Fellows in Action!

As part of his project around community engagement in pangolin conservation, **Jerry Mbi (Cohort 13)** hosted **World Pangolin Day celebrations**, as well as several focus groups and workshops (see above).

Team Botswana (Cohort 13) has also hosted several focus groups, as well as meetings with the Tshangana Conservation Trust Leadership team to begin supporting community-based decision-making around local human-elephant conflicts (see below).



Get to Know the CCC



Meet our CCC Fellow: Courtney Massey

Courtney Massey is an accomplished conservationist with experience working in diverse places and systems. Her current role at Ducks Unlimited, Inc. focuses on the protection and restoration of wetlands in Colorado and Wyoming. Courtney's expertise lies in bridging the gap between scientific research and community-based conservation efforts, as well as integrating human dimensions into planning. She is passionate about engaging nontraditional audiences to raise awareness of and support for wetlands conservation. Courtney is dedicated to her work and takes great pride in being part of such important efforts to safeguard wetlands for future generations.

Learn more about the Wetlands for Waterfowl and People project in Colorado as well as our other Fellows projects [here!](#)

Other News and Opportunities

The Salazar Center is hosting its 5th-Annual [International Symposium on Conservation Impact](#) this October 11-12 in Denver, Colorado. **The agenda is focused on nature-positive solutions and how they can catapult our communities towards durable, high-impact outcomes for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.**

Southwest Decision Resources is offering some in-person training to build collaborative capacity and skills among our partners and beyond. Sign up to train this Fall in AZ [here](#).

[RiversEdge West](#) in Grand Junction is hiring a **Private Lands Biologist Partner Position AND seeking consultant proposals** for the Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative! Click below to join their team - Applications are due June 30th!

[Private Lands Biologist
Consultant RFP](#)

Partnerscapes is hosting Private Lands Partners Day from October 3 – 5, 2023 in Missoula, Montana. Early Bird rate ends August 18th. [Register here](#).

Save the date for the 2023 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference October 3 - 5, 2023 at the Westin in Avon, Colorado. The theme this year is, **Beyond the Banks: Expanding Perspectives to Change our World**. [Learn more 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:

The National Forest Foundation has two new positions currently open:

- [Collaborative Capacity Program Manager](#) will provide program management of NFF's collaborative capacity program and lead delivery of technical assistance to collaborative groups, communities, and others.
- [Collaborative Capacity Financial Assistance Coordinator](#) will implement delivery of funding for collaborative groups involved in NFF's collaborative capacity program.

Coalitions and Collaboratives Inc. is hiring a full-time, Grants and Account Manager. The position is open until filled, so we encourage anyone interested to apply as soon as possible. Check out the full position description and learn how to apply [HERE](#).

The UCSC Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program is seeking an interim Program Director to support their program which recruits and supports undergraduate students from across the U.S., its territories, and associated sovereign tribal nations. Learn more about the [position 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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