



Collaborative Conservation Fellows Program Call for Team Proposals 2016-2017

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) at Colorado State University (CSU) invites team applications for its Collaborative Conservation¹ Fellowship Program's *eighth cohort of fellows*. We are seeking teams that integrate disciplines and link theory with practice. All teams must have at least one conservation practitioner (e.g., rancher, farmer, conservationist, public agency personnel, etc.) and at least one CSU faculty, researcher or graduate student. *All teams must also include a CSU undergraduate student this year.*

Team projects will receive up to \$15,000, depending on the number and quality of applications. Final award amounts are at the discretion of the CCC. We encourage applications from practitioner organizations/agencies and all CSU colleges and departments.

A. Purpose

The Center for Collaborative Conservation's Fellows Program is designed to strengthen the real world impact of the work of students, faculty, research scientists, and conservation practitioners by encouraging these groups to work together on joint conservation projects that use collaboration to address research, education or natural resource management issues. Projects must address critical issues that link conservation and livelihoods on landscapes around the world.

B. Timeline

The deadline for applications is **midnight MST, Wednesday, January 27, 2016**. **No late applications will be accepted.** Completed applications should be sent to Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org on or before that date.

(NOTE: The CCC Fellows webpage also contains a "Frequently Asked Questions" document. All other questions should be directed to Kim Skyelander, CCC Associate Director, at Kim.Skyelander@colostate.edu but Do **NOT** send applications to this address).

¹ We define *collaboration* as action on a particular problem where multiple individuals, or organizations, must work together to solve a problem that none can solve alone. We define *conservation* as action that promotes the sustainability of linked natural and human communities and the resources they both depend upon.

Decisions on successful applicants will be announced on March 1, 2016 and will be formally recognized at CSU through the CCC. This eighth cohort will run for 18 months from March 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. Details on the program appear below and on the CCC webpage at www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows.

C. Team Members

Each team must:

- Have at least one conservation practitioner (see description below) AND
- Have at least one CSU faculty, researcher, post doc or graduate student AND
- Include a CSU undergraduate student.
- Each team must designate a team leader, who will be the main contact with the Center for Collaborative Conservation and be responsible for the budget and delivery of the project end products.
- At least one member of the team must live in Fort Collins or northern Colorado and serve as the team representative for meetings.
- Besides direct team members, you are expected to have other collaborative partners that are helping you with your project. These partners will be listed in your proposal.

NOTE: Past fellows may be a team member but may NOT be a team leader; undergraduates may NOT be team leaders.

I. Conservation Practitioner

Practitioners are people acting on linked conservation-livelihood issues. These include people who use, own, or manage natural resources as individuals (like ranchers, foresters, farmers, land owners, conservationists, etc.) or who work professionally as part of tribal nations, the private sector, NGOs, government agencies and other entities. Current conservation practitioners who are actively working on collaborative conservation initiatives, or who are seeking creative ways to build the collaborative aspect of their work through research, education, mentoring and scholarly activities may be team members.

II. Faculty, research scientists, post docs

Faculty members, research scientists and post docs may be from CSU or another accredited university, but teams with more CSU team members will be given preference. On each team, however, there must be at least one faculty member, researcher, post doc or graduate student who is from CSU.

Faculty members, research scientists and post docs who wish to take their engagement and conservation research to a new collaborative level through local partnerships, community action, citizen science and other new forms of exchange may be team members.

III. Graduate Students

Graduate students may be from CSU or another accredited university, but teams with CSU graduate students will be given preference. On each team, however, there must be at least one faculty member, researcher, post doc or graduate student who is from CSU.

Graduate students must be enrolled at their institution for at least two semesters of the fellowship. They may be majoring in any discipline.

All registered students of Colorado State University can receive up to 6 independent study credits for their fellowship, if appropriate, after requirements have been fulfilled.

The team project should add a practical collaborative aspect to the graduate students' research and / or take their engagement with conservation stakeholders to a new level; it should also include a field work component.

IV. CSU Undergraduate Student(s)

The purpose of including these students is to give them an opportunity to study and practice collaborative conservation in an interdisciplinary team setting. Undergraduates may include their experience as part of a senior project, as a fulfillment of an internship requirement, or apply it as independent study credits toward their degree. All teams must have at least one undergraduate and one of those undergraduates must be from CSU.

D. Types of Projects

CCC may give preference to projects that address any of the following three themes related to our strategic plan (although other topics areas are allowed). Successful team projects will link both theoretical aspects of the following issues with practical examples / cases.

Indigenous Perspectives and Conservation Initiatives

- Examples or case studies of indigenous groups who lead *collaborative* (conservation) initiatives.
- Cases that integrate indigenous people's perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge into western conservation or resource management practice.
- Contribute to the understanding and practice of equitable power distribution in collaboratives involving indigenous peoples.

Markets for Ecosystem Services

- Identify the barriers and challenges to watershed investment funds or payments for ecosystem services around the world and how they are overcome.
- Identify practical models of using existing or new and innovative market-based tools for payments for ecosystem services.
- Explore when and how payments for ecosystem services improve community and ecosystem resilience.

The Phenomenon of Collaborative Conservation

- Explore and/or apply innovative approaches to documenting, measuring, or analyzing the direct or indirect outcomes and impacts of either individual collaborative initiatives or collaborative conservation efforts as a whole. (This may include community-based natural resource management, place-based conservation initiatives, and other relatives of collaborative conservation.)
- Research the conditions or factors that influence the effectiveness of collaborative conservation.
- Conduct a needs assessment with practitioners to determine what collaborative conservation tools, handbooks, trainings and skills they need or want, particularly for the western US.
- Teams can propose to strengthen an existing conservation project by implementing or increasing the use of a collaborative approach, or can propose to start a new collaborative to address a critical conservation and livelihoods issue.
- Conduct a comparative study of the effectiveness of collaborative conservation approaches compared to more traditional conservation management, including an assessment of the cost of reaching ecological outcomes (environmental return on investment).

E. Team Fellowship Requirements

****NOTE:** If you cannot commit to these activities, timeframes, and/or deliverables, please do NOT apply.

1. Activities

These activities are designed to grow the overall collaborative conservation program at CSU, and enhance the engagement, teaching and learning of all fellows.

- Attend the Cohort 8 official Reception to introduce yourselves and your project (early-mid April 2016).
Required attendance: as many team members as possible.
- Attend the annual CCC Fellows Retreat / training from Tuesday May 17th through Thursday May 19, 2016 (3 days). This is an overnight Retreat that takes place at the CSU Mountain Campus.
Required attendance: ALL team members if local; *at least* the team leader and CSU representative if international
- Meet monthly from September 2016 through April 2017 with other fellows and CCC staff to discuss your project as well as topical issues in collaborative conservation (may call/Skype in if not physically located near Fort Collins).
Required attendance: ALL team members.

- Select a project partner who will be invited to participate with the team members in CCC retreats, meetings, trainings and other activities (though actual participation of partners is not mandatory).
- Assist other fellows as mentors and colleagues with the challenges they face.
Required: ALL team members.
- Contribute to short courses, classes, and/or trainings in collaborative conservation that are hosted by the CCC (dates TBD).
Required: ALL team members (may do so remotely).
- Participate in CCC conferences, workshops and/or special events.
- Continue engagement with the CCC beyond the term of the fellowship. Fellows will be welcome to attend CCC activities that occur after the fellow's own cohort term ends. Such activities may include participating on future fellowship review panels, acting as trainers for future retreats or short courses, contributing to CCC blogs, attending CCC social / partnership / networking functions, and other activities.
Required: ALL team members (may do so remotely)

2. Deliverables

Teams are **required** to produce the following deliverables:

a. Storytelling Video/Film

Tell the story of your fellowship project in a format that any audience can understand. Be creative. Show your field sites, do some interviews with community members or partners, but be sure to include the following requirements:

- 1) talk about the objectives of your project,
- 2) why the project is collaborative - and who you collaborated with and why,
- 3) any challenges and/or successes you have had,
- 4) lessons you have learned *about collaboration* while conducting the project, and
- 5) how your project is benefitting *both* people and the environment.

Videos are due NO LATER than August 1, 2017. Do NOT wait until the end of the fellowship to get started. Start filming and story boarding from the beginning. CCC will provide some training on this.

b. Team Products

Team Fellowships are required to produce:

1) at least one research product

Examples of research products are: conference presentations, publishable manuscripts, models, case studies, etc.

2) at least one practical product.

These are products that communities want and/or can use. These might include training guides, handbooks, films documenting lessons learned from a collaborative, policy briefs for policy makers, workshop agendas and notes, digital and non- digital maps, community reports, etc.

3) **Undergraduate products**

Undergraduate students are required to submit at least three blogs and a written report to the CCC about their fellowship experiences and what they are learning. Other products such as video documentation of their project role and engagement of stakeholders in their team project are welcome.

These products will be included on the CCC's website. **ALL products are due before August 31, 2017**, the official end of the fellowship.

c. Project Report

Complete a standard report of the team's project **before August 31, 2017**. These reports help the CCC to quantify the impact of the team project on conservation and livelihoods in the project area, and to the field of collaborative conservation as a whole. Report guidelines will be sent to the fellows in late spring of 2017.

d. Fellows Program Evaluation

Each team member is required to fill out a CCC program evaluation form to evaluate the Fellows Program as a whole and offer suggestions for improvement. These evaluations are used to improve the program. Evaluation guidelines will be sent to the fellows in early summer and are due **before August 31, 2017**.

F. Application Package

Directions

The team fellowship proposal **must contain**:

- 1) the following sections for a maximum of 6-7 pages of text
- 2) a budget template, and
- 3) a CV or resumé for **each** team member

All materials other than the CV/resumés should be completed in 11-point font or greater, single-spaced, with 1” margins.

- Please submit the proposal, budget template, and the CV/resumes ALL together as a single PDF document. Separate Word or PDF documents will *not* be accepted.

Note: PDF naming conventions should follow

“*Lastname- Firstname_Team_Application*” **The Team Leader should submit the application on behalf of the team.**

Completed applications should be sent to Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org before midnight MST, Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Sections

1. **Summary of the fellowship, 3/4 page maximum**

This must contain:

- a) the title of your project,
- b) names of all your team members, their titles and affiliations, and their roles in the project,
- c) where the project is located,
- d) what the project is about and its outcomes, and
- e) your partners

Summaries will be used for the news release, for the CCC webpage, and other program publicity, so please *write them for a lay audience*.

NOTE: You must include items a-e above in your summary or your application will NOT be considered.

2. **Overall description of the fellowship, 2.5 pages maximum, including the above summary**

A statement of what you will do during the fellowship, and how this will raise the level of your engagement with any of the following: faculty and students at CSU, landowners, land users and land managers, community members, government agencies, the private sector, tribal nations or other stakeholders.

If the proposed work will form part of a larger research project, or build on or enhance an existing program, part of this description should provide a short background and explain how the proposed work fits into the bigger picture.

Also include how you will *communicate your findings* to stakeholders, communities, and other publics. Be specific.

3. **Potential for impact in the geographic location of the project, 1 page maximum**
1) You must describe how your proposed work will promote sustainable action for BOTH conservation and livelihood issues, 2) how the project will engage stakeholders in the project location, and 3) the anticipated short-term and long-term outcomes of your project.
4. **Measuring project success, ½ page maximum**
Describe how you will measure or determine the success of your project and whether or not you met your goals and your outcomes.
5. **Potential for impact on your team, the fellows program, the CCC, and the greater collaborative conservation-oriented community, ½ page maximum**
You must describe how your proposed work will contribute to: your teams professional and personal growth, the fellows program specifically, the CCC, and the goals of the collaborative conservation community more generally.
6. **Fellowship products. ½ page maximum**
A description of the expected products of the fellowship (see the E2-Deliverables section).
7. **Information on collaborators who will be working with your team, ½ page maximum**
List the names, titles, affiliations, emails, and roles of people whom you will collaborate with during the fellowship project (these are people not directly on your team). These may be community members, other practitioners, other CSU people, non-profits, businesses, government representatives, etc. (NOTE: The panel that reviews the team fellowship applications may speak with these collaborators about their involvement in your proposed work).
8. **Budget statement (½ page of text) plus the budget template**
This statement should include a *description* of how you plan to use the funds in the team fellowship and *general justification* of these expenditures. (If the proposed work will form part of a larger project, an explanation of funding already received and a justification for these additional funds should be given).

You must also fill in the budget template on the CCC webpage <http://www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows>) under application materials.

Categories should include:

- **Salary/stipend** (can be used for local collaborators or a local person to help with the project, for the applicants themselves, a student helper, etc.)
- **Services** (meeting expenses, publications, translation, etc.)
- **Supplies** (supplies and equipment; NOTE: we do *not* fund computer type equipment)

- **Travel** (local and international, including food, accommodation and transport). *If travel is planned for more than one trip or more than one person, please give details that explain this.*
- **Other** if needed.

NOTE : You must use all of your funding by the end of the fellowship, August 31, 2017. Extensions will only be granted for special circumstances out of the fellows' control. Request for extensions must be in writing.

9. A current CV or resume for each team member (3 page maximum each team member)

Individual formats are acceptable, but please keep font size appropriate and lists (publications, awards, etc.) *brief and relevant* to the proposed fellowship project.

G. Accountability

Upon acceptance of the fellowship, you will be required to sign a contract saying you will submit the required products by the due dates (exceptions will only be granted on a case by case basis - we realize not everything goes according to plan). The CCC reserves the right to withhold final fellowship funds until these products are turned in.

H. Evaluation of Applications

***For a list of application evaluation criteria, please see the “Criteria for Evaluating All Fellows Applications” on the CCC Fellows webpage, under Application Materials.*