

WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

# Confluence

2024

APRIL 2-4

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON AT REID PARK  
TUCSON, ARIZONA

photo by Tahnee Robertson

# SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE & STAY CONNECTED



Tag Us on Social Media! **#WCCNconfluence**

 [@WcollabCNetwork](https://twitter.com/WcollabCNetwork)

 [Western Collaborative Conservation Network](https://www.facebook.com/WesternCollaborativeConservationNetwork)

Send Roxie your pictures, thoughts, stories, and experience with Confluence and the WCCN as a whole at [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu) or 970-491-3341.

Subscribe to the [WCCN newsletter](#)

Fill out the [Confluence review form](#)

Check out the [WCCN website](#)



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*photo by Aireona Raschke*

# Confluence

2024



MEET THE  
WCCN &  
WELCOME TO  
CONFLUENCE!

# MEET THE WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

**The Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN) promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies. We do this by connecting, convening, and catalyzing action amongst our partners across the West.**

## OUR MISSION

The Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN) promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.

## THE WEST IS UNDER THREAT

Increasing population demands on limited resources, declining land management capacity, uncertain climate patterns, and unpredictable natural events are making the West's natural resources, communities, and economies vulnerable.

## HOW WE ARE RESPONDING

The Western Collaborative Conservation Network connects partners across eleven states in the West to advance the practice of community-based collaborative conservation.

## WHO WE ARE

We are individuals and organizations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming—and expanding across the West—working in forests, grasslands, and watersheds.

## OUR NETWORK INCLUDES:

- Private Landowners, Rural and Agricultural Communities, Tribes
- Business and Industry
- Community-Based Collaborative Conservation Leaders and Practitioners
- State, Sub-Regional, and National Conservation Organizations
- Local, State, and Federal Land Management Agencies
- Academic Institutions



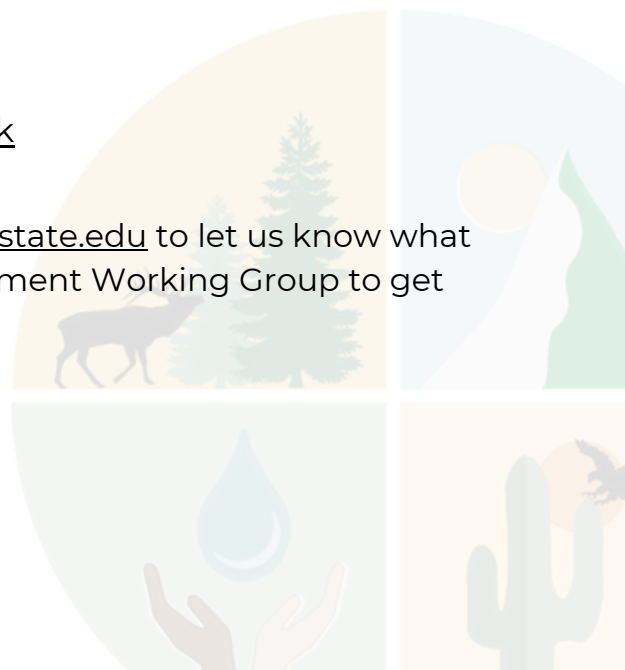
# COLLABORATIVE VOICES & COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

Our community includes all elements of the collaborative conservation sphere: practitioners, researchers, land owners, students, community members, agencies, and more. You are a partner of the WCCN if you subscribe to our newsletter, if you are part of a Working Group, and even if you just follow us on social media! We would love to get you connected to the WCCN and for your organization to view us as a resource and a community of practice.

- **Collaborative Voices:** This quarterly newsletter gathers stories in collaborative conservation from across the West (state by state) as a way to inspire others and build connections across the West.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:** This weekly newsletter shares opportunities in collaborative conservation from across our network. Reach out to [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu) if you have any events, job opportunities, or stories you would like to reach a wider audience! Alongside our weekly collaboration opportunities email, we have an events calendar, social media, and a job board at your disposal.
- **Subscribe to our newsletter:** <https://collaborativeconservation.org/wccn-sign-up/>

## KEEP UP WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Follow WCCN on [X](#) and [Facebook](#)  
[X](#) [@WcollabCNetwork](#)  
[f](#) [Western Collaborative Conservation Network](#)
- Tag **#WCCNconfluence**
- Reach out to our social media team at [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu) to let us know what you would like to see, or join the Awareness & Engagement Working Group to get involved!





*photo by Tahnee Robertson*

## WCCN WORKING GROUPS

The WCCN Working Groups are collaborative, action-oriented groups whose purpose is to move forward and provide leadership on specific priority program areas/objectives of the Network. The Working Groups exist as a space for mutual support for members, developing and implementing work plans based on member capacity and interest, and building on and connecting existing organizations/efforts in the West to advance working group priorities.

### AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Maintains communication platforms to connect network participants and grow our community of practice. Uses communication tools to increase awareness of and support for the collaborative approach to conservation. Tools include: newsletter, listservs, regional collaboration map, case studies and stories, and social media.

Contact Rox Hicks [rox\\_hicks@fws.gov](mailto:rox_hicks@fws.gov) or Rich Alper [richard@confluencecollaboration.org](mailto:richard@confluencecollaboration.org) to get involved.

### CAPACITY BUILDING WORKING GROUP

Convenes the collaborative conservation community, virtually and in person, to strengthen collaboration skills and sharpen tools, and build the capacity of collaborative groups. Peers learning from peers, on the ground, across diverse landscapes and communities, is a priority.

Contact Aireona Bonnie Raschke to get involved at [aireona.raschke@colostate.edu](mailto:aireona.raschke@colostate.edu).





## EMERGING LEADERSHIP WORKING GROUP

We invite practitioners at all career levels to join our Emerging Leadership Working Group for monthly peer-support and engaging conversations centered on learning and sharing about best practices for just and equitable collaborative conservation.

We support practitioners new to the field of collaborative conservation and foster the motivation, passion, and collaborative mindset to achieve our innovative visions for the future of conservation work.

The current initiative of this group includes the development of a mentorship toolkit to support mentors and mentees in developing meaningful and effective mentorship relationships.

Contact Paula Short to get involved at [paulashort@crowd-conservation.org](mailto:paulashort@crowd-conservation.org).

## GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP

Convenes collaborative groups with any interest or skill level in mapping and Geographic Information Systems with the goal of sharing ideas and resources that can enhance collaboration through the use of geospatial technology. This group also serves as a community of practitioners to help one another troubleshoot problems or learn about new techniques for using GIS.

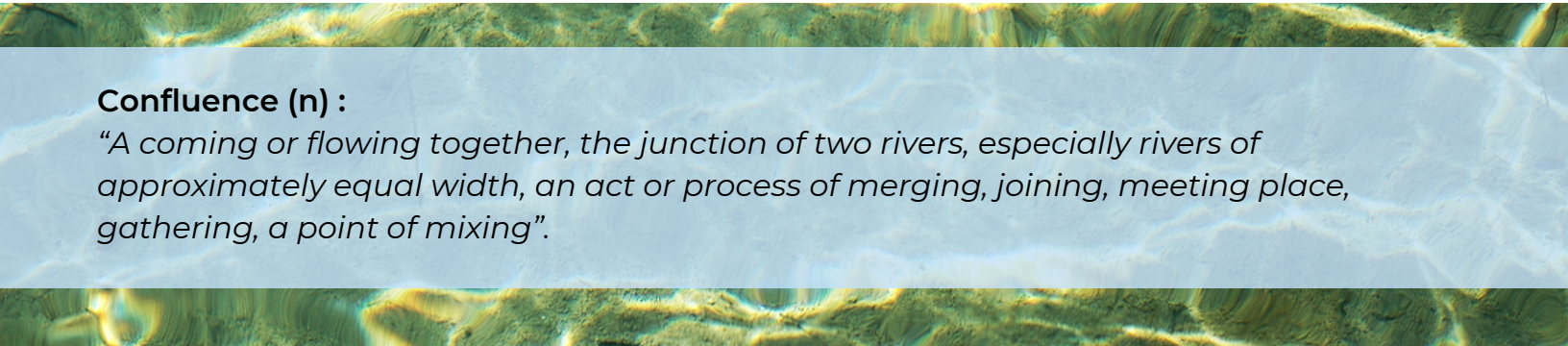
Contact Joe Zebrowski to get involved at [jpzebrowski@gmail.com](mailto:jpzebrowski@gmail.com).

# WELCOME TO CONFLUENCE!

**Confluence is an opportunity for us to come together in person to *connect* regionally to build a strong collective voice and community; *convene* peers to build skills, tools, and capacity; and *catalyze* actions that strengthen collaborations and enhance conservation success.**

The Western Collaborative Conservation Network's (WCCN) Confluence is a biennial gathering that provides an indispensable space for learning and professional community-building within the collaborative conservation field. For the complex, landscape-scale challenges that we face today, **gathering is essential for successful land stewardship**, and the professional network and skills to do collaborative work successfully are fostered over a lifetime.

Confluence isn't your typical conference! We will be exploring through solutions cafés, panels, mentorship matching, breakouts, field trips, and more. 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.



## Confluence (n) :

*"A coming or flowing together, the junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width, an act or process of merging, joining, meeting place, gathering, a point of mixing".*

Confluence cycles around the West - making it an opportunity to take a deeper dive into different locales and interact with people doing good collaborative work on the ground. In past years, we dove into Paradise Valley, Montana, and the Front Range of the Rockies, Colorado.

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 building bridges across boundaries and demographics, collaborative conservation success, and leveraging funding and related resources to secure capacity and sustainability.



photo by Tahnee Robertson

## IN THE HEART OF TUCSON, ARIZONA

Tucson and Southern Arizona have been a hub for collaborative conservation for several decades. The area 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. Early April is a fabulous time to be in Arizona for a sunny getaway, and Tucson is a UNESCO City of Gastronomy famous for its museums, art, nature, and rich cultural history. Check out the [Insiders guide to Tucson](#) for Tucson's great Mexican food offerings and more.



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

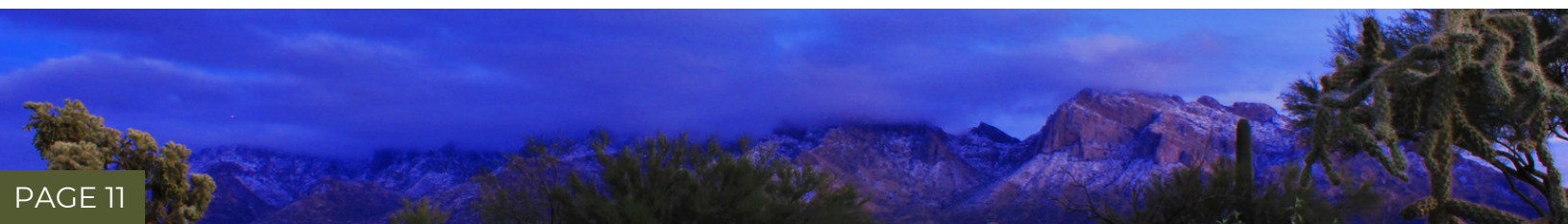
We respectfully acknowledge that Confluence 2024 is on the land of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes as well as other Indigenous communities, and Tucson is home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. We also acknowledge that the geographic extent of the Western Collaborative Conservation Network, spanning the Western United States and beyond, covers the lands and territories of many Indigenous people. We are dedicated to honoring diversity, and we strive to do this through committed relationship building and partnerships with Indigenous communities and individuals. (But are always learning and seeking to do better.)

As a part of this effort, we have put together a short guide on [How You Can Contribute](#) to some of the work of Indigenous people here in Arizona. Please click through and consider supporting this work through donating, volunteering, or using your platforms to raise awareness.

## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

There are numerous organizations that are led by Indigenous people and seek to address the visions and specific needs of Indigenous communities (if you'd like to learn more about the 22 Tribal Nations in Arizona, please visit the [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona's](#) website, and if you'd like to learn more about Indigenous communities in your area and who's Native lands you are on, consider visiting <https://native-land.ca/>). While you are in Tucson for Confluence 2024, please think about contributing to and learning about some of that work. While the organizations listed here are not comprehensive, they represent some of the exceptional work being done in this region.

If you would like to explore a living version of this document, which may be updated, please visit our [How to Contribute Blog](#). If you are part of an Indigenous-led organization and you would like to be added to this list, or if your organization is included on this list and you would like the profile to be edited or removed, please email [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu).



# HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

## FLOWERS & BULLETS

**Mission:** We reclaim our cultural roots and amplify them through sustainability, art, and rebellion to heal and empower our neighborhood.

**About:** Flowers are the art and bullets are the struggle. We are organizers creating outlets for under-served youth and communities, which highlight the life we live and the places that we come from. By sharing skills, promoting place-based connections in the barrio, and listening to each other's stories we promote sustainable ways of living. These ways of life address some of the traumas in our community, caused by disproportionate minority incarceration, drug addiction, physical and mental violence, food insecurity, health issues, and economic disparity.

**How to contribute:** Donate or volunteer through the [Flowers & Bullets](#) website.

## INTERNATIONAL SONORAN DESERT ALLIANCE

**About:** The International Sonoran Desert Alliance is a comprehensive community development non-profit that is committed to growing resilient and sustainable Sonoran Desert communities where the natural environment and a rich cultural heritage are held in the highest regard. Founded in 1993 and governed by a board of directors representing the indigenous and non-indigenous populations of the U.S. and Mexico, ISDA is committed to convening diverse stakeholders and building community across borders. We believe that sense of place has a high level of importance and that Ajo and other Sonoran Desert communities are special places with stories worth sustaining and sharing.

**How to contribute:** Donate through the [ISDA](#) website; contribute to the Tri-National Sonoran Desert Symposium.

*photo by Aireona Raschke*



# HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

## INDIGENOUS ALLIANCE WITHOUT BORDERS

**Mission:** As a collective of Indigenous Peoples, our mission is to affirm the rights of Indigenous peoples, their right to self-determination, their collective human and civil rights, the rights of sovereignty and the protection of sacred sites, and the free unrestricted movement across international borders.

**About:** In 1997, the Indigenous Alliance Without Borders came together as a result of persistent law enforcement abuse against indigenous peoples living in the southern United States and Mexico border region. We have since worked together inter-tribally from California to Texas to address these human rights violations that threaten the indigenous right of mobility and passage over the international border line.

**How to contribute:** Learn more about [Indigenous Alliance Without Borders](#), upcoming events, and to donate through their website.

## PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

**Mission:** To improve the lives of the people living within the [Pascua Yaqui](#) communities through community investments, philanthropy and cooperation.

**How to contribute:** Donate through their website.

## SAN XAVIER COOP FARM

**Mission:** [The San Xavier Cooperative Association](#) is committed to healthy farming practices and growing traditional crops to support the cultural and environmental values, as well as support economic development within the community. The San Xavier Cooperative Farm considers the following aspects (and others) of the Tohono O'odham Himdag, or Way of Life, to ensure that decisions in the farm's rehabilitation project are consistent with the culture. (We will be visiting San Xavier Farm as one of our Confluence 2024 field trips.)

**How to contribute:** Donate or volunteer through their website.

# HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

## TOHONO O'ODHAM YOUNG VOICES (PODCAST)

**Mission:** Tohono O'odham Young Voices Podcast is a show that focuses on sharing tribal topics and stories of Southern Arizona within' indigenous communities. Telling our own stories uncensored and truthfully without limitations or changes to our narratives creates empowerment. We work on educating the public and communicating awareness and information from community perspectives. We provide accessible media outlets that archive and distribute this content on mainstream platforms.

**How to contribute:** Listen and subscribe, donate via Paypal (link on their website).

## INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA

**Mission:** To provide its member tribes with a united voice and the means for united action on matters that affect them collectively or individually...

**About:** The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona was established in 1952 to provide a united voice for tribal governments located in the State of Arizona to address common issues of concerns. On July 9, 1975, the council established a private, non-profit corporation, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.(ITCA), under the laws of the State of Arizona to promote Indian self-reliance through public policy development. ITCA provides an independent capacity to obtain, analyze and disseminate information vital to Indian community self-development.

**How to contribute:** Learn more by visiting their website.



# HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

## ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTHWEST

**About:** Archaeology Southwest is a private 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, on the homelands of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

**Mission:** We practice Preservation Archaeology, a holistic and conservation-based approach to exploring and protecting heritage places while honoring their diverse values. We compile archaeological information, make it accessible and understandable, share it with the public and decision-makers, advocate for landscape-scale protection, and steward heritage properties and conservation easements. We are committed to real and ongoing collaboration with Indigenous communities.

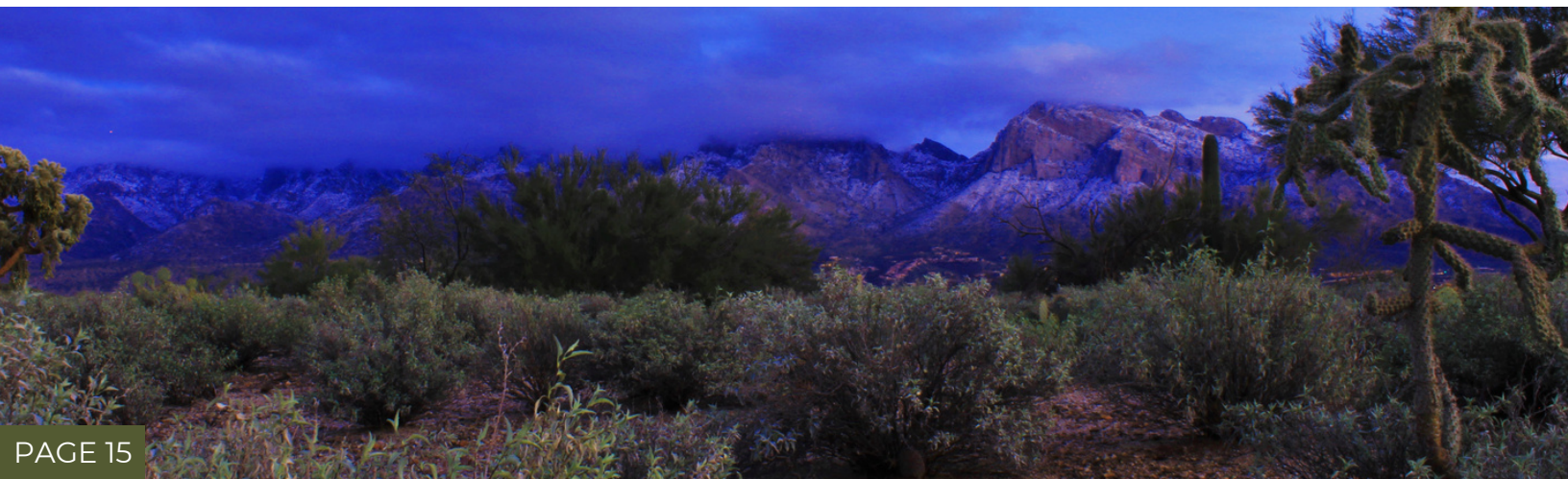
**How to contribute:** Donate, volunteer, or sign up for their newsletter through the Archaeology Southwest website

## NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER

**About:** Native Governance Center is a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to assisting Native nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty.

In fall 2019, the Native Governance Center released an online guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment. Since then, they have received hundreds of inquiries from educators, city government officials, churches, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals seeking help on writing their own land acknowledgment statements. They expected that a few people might contact them, but they never envisioned feeling so overwhelmed by such a large volume of requests.

**How to contribute:** To learn more about Native Governance Center going beyond land acknowledgments, and/or to donate, visit their website.



# OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

## OUR VALUE OF HONORING DIVERSITY

**We embrace natural and human diversity. We inquire humbly and listen carefully. We support under-represented and marginalized groups. We value Indigenous and local perspectives. Our actions reflect that individuals and communities matter.**

([Learn more about the CCC's Values](#)).

**We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully.** To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact our Accessibility Specialist, Roxie Stricker, at [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu), or reach her by phone at 970-491-3341.



*photo by Tahnee Robertson*

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

- We are providing you with information so that you can make informed choices on what aspects of the conference are or are not accessible to you in an [Accessibility Information Packet](#).
- Since 2022, we have offered scholarships to help partners cover registration and travel, and this year we introduced registration discounts to better include people and organizations for whom affordability is an issue.
- We hired Colleen Cooley (Diné facilitator) to assist with the development of this year's land acknowledgment statement and associated resources. Ms. Cooley also assisted with invitations to Indigenous participants including Vice Chairwoman Celestine Pablo, who will be providing a land blessing. This is a continuation of similar work that was led by Dr. Shane Doyle for Confluence 2022.
- We emphasize that inclusion and accessibility are continuing conversations in our work and in our Compelling Question: How are we building bridges across boundaries, scales, and demographics for more effective and impactful collaborative conservation?

# MAPS

## MAP OF VENUE

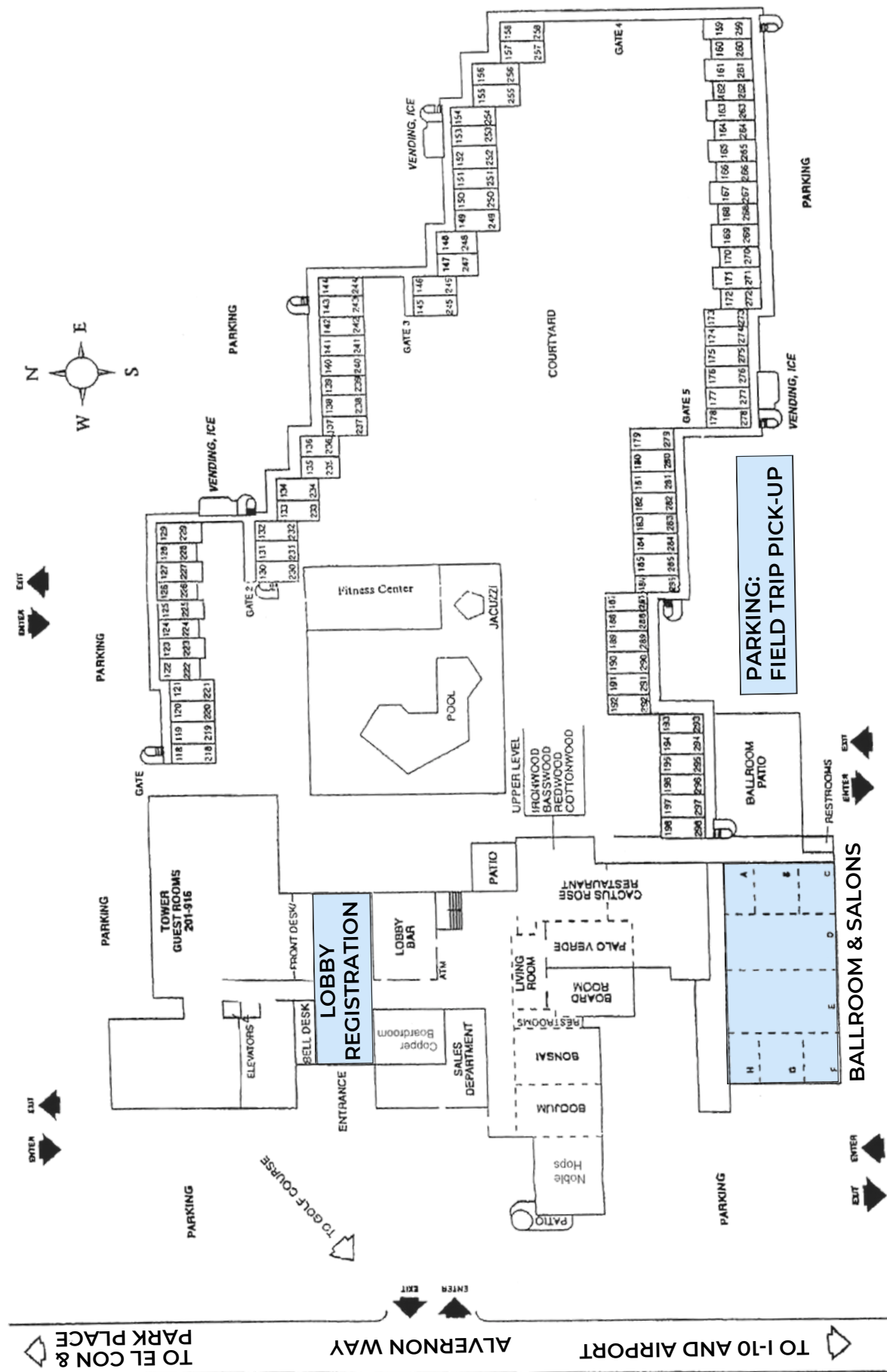
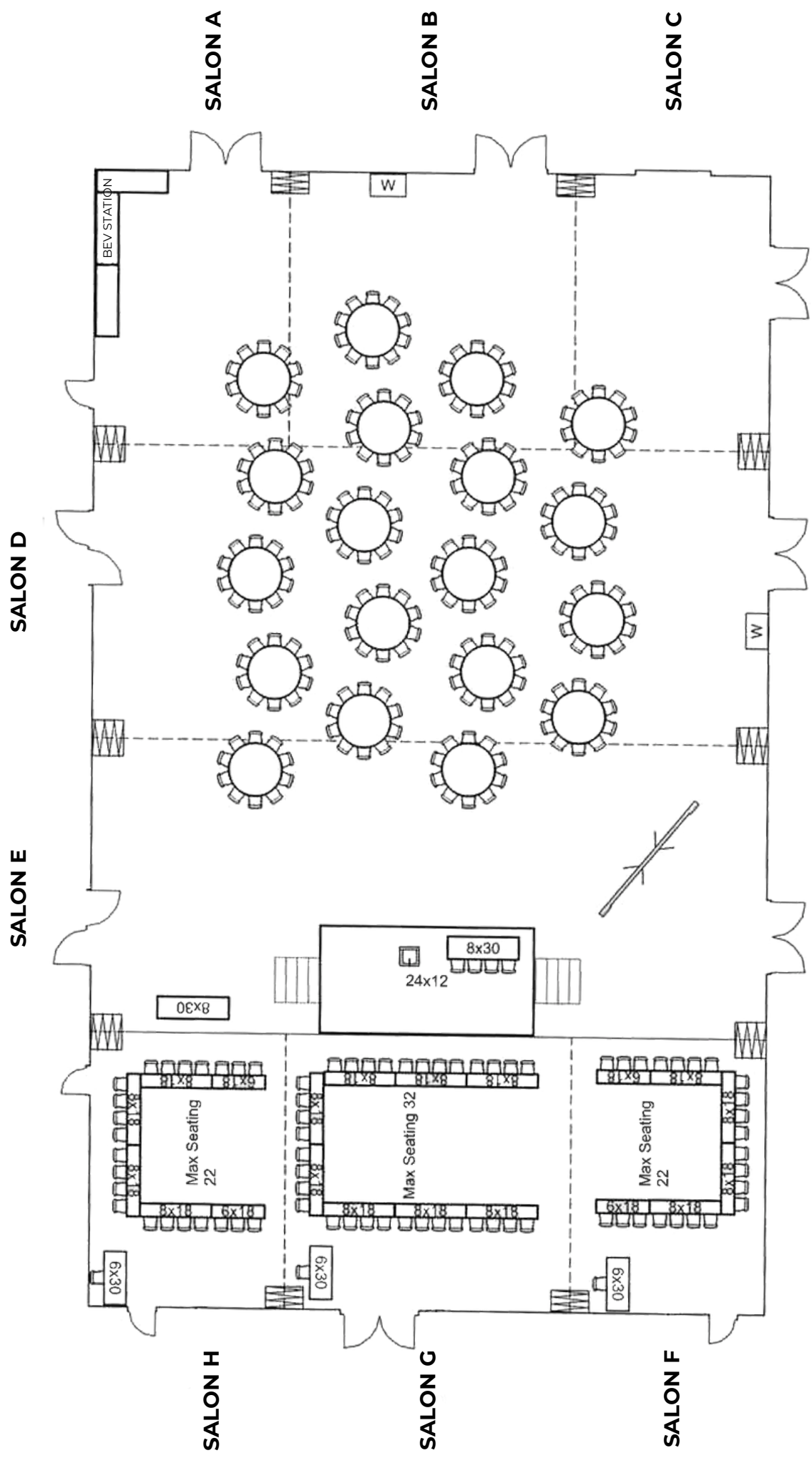




photo by Tahnee Robertson

# MAP OF BALLROOM



# Confluence

2024



## AGENDA & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



*Photo by Aireona Raschke*

## COMPELLING QUESTIONS

1

How are we building bridges across boundaries, scales, and demographics for more effective and impactful collaborative conservation?

2

How are we achieving collaborative conservation success?

3

What are opportunities for leveraging funding and related resources for collaborative conservation capacity and sustainability?



*Photos by Tahnee Robertson*

# DAY 1 AGENDA

## TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

TUESDAY, APRIL 2		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Pre-Confluence Bonus Training (Advance Sign-Up Required)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conflict Resolution (<i>National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution</i>)</li><li>• Facilitation (<i>Southwest Decision Resources</i>)</li></ul>	Ballroom
11:00 AM	<b>Registration Open and Lunch on Your Own</b>	Foyer
	<b>OPENING</b>	
12:30 PM	<b>Welcome, Land Blessing and WCCN Overview</b>	Ballroom
1:15 PM	<b>Opening Presentation and Table Discussions</b>	Ballroom
2:15 PM	<b>Break</b>	Foyer
	<b>COMPELLING QUESTION 1:</b> <i>How are we <b>building bridges across boundaries, scales, and demographics</b> for more effective and impactful collaborative conservation?</i>	
2:30 PM	<b>Building Bridges: Overview and Solutions Café</b>	Ballroom
4:45 PM	<b>Wrap Up</b>	Ballroom
5:00 PM	<b>Break</b>	
	<b>EVENING</b>	
5:30 PM	<b>Dinner at the DoubleTree (Provided)</b>	Ballroom
6:30 PM	<b>Mentorship Match: Optional Networking Opportunity for All Interested</b>	Ballroom



Photo by Tahnee Robertson

# PRE-CONFLUENCE BONUS TRAININGS

*Advance Sign-Up Required*

## FUNDAMENTALS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND INTEREST-BASED NEGOTIATION

**8:30 AM - 10 AM**

*Melanie Knapp and Brian Manwaring (John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution)*

Environmental collaboration and conflict resolution (ECCR) requires a broad range of skills and abilities including finding workable solutions by negotiating from an “interest-based” perspective to satisfy the diverse interests of all parties. This session will introduce the fundamentals of multi-party conflict resolution from an interest-based negotiation perspective, and provide case examples of conflict resolution and collaborative decision-making in a multi-party context.

## FACILITATION IN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

**10:30 AM - 12 PM**

*Andi Rogers, Carrie Eberly, and Colleen Whitaker (Southwest Decision Resources)*

This interactive, mini-training will introduce you to the process of designing and facilitating successful meetings in natural resources and community settings. Participants will be introduced to key principles and best practices, explore (and practice) the many applications of facilitation, and learn about useful tools, approaches, and resources to support future facilitation efforts





## OPENING

### LAND BLESSING

**12:30 PM**

*Celestine Pablo (Vice Chairwoman for the San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation)*

Participants will gather outside in a circle where Vice Chairwoman Celestine Pablo will provide a land blessing to respect and honor the space we are gathering on, to set good intentions for our three-day Gathering, and to connect with each other.



**Skeg Taş! Good Day! My name is Celestine (Sally) Pablo and I am from the Wa:k Community also known as the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Currently I am the Vice Chairwoman of the San Xavier District and prior to being elected to this position, I was the Director of the District's Natural Resources Department for about 32 years.**



Photo by Bob Budd

## WELCOME TO CONFLUENCE: INTRODUCTION TO THE WCCN AND OVERVIEW

Meet the Western Collaborative Conservation Network on page 5 and learn more about Confluence on page 9.

## A STORY OF TRI-NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION: THE INTERNATIONAL SONORAN DESERT ALLIANCE

*Lorraine Marquez Eiler (Hia C-ed O'odham Elder, International Sonoran Desert Alliance Co-founder and Board Vice-President)*

To set the stage for Confluence, Lorraine will tell the unique story of the International Sonoran Desert Alliance, a collaboration among Sonoran Desert peoples at the intersection of three nations that began 36 years ago to preserve and enrich the environment, culture, and economy of the Sonoran Desert.

*Will be followed by Table Discussions (30 min).*



After completing a career in nursing administration, Lorraine Marquez Eiler served on the BLM's Regional Advisory Council, one of many environmental stewardship positions she has held. She is a founder and board member of the International Sonoran Desert Alliance and a founding member of the Hia-Ced O'odham Alliance. She has served multiple stints on the Tohono O'odham Nation's Legislative Council as a representative and alternate representative of the San Lucy District. With the exception of a brief hiatus in the late 1990's, Lorraine has continuously served on the ISDA board since its founding in 1993.

# COMPELLING QUESTION

1

## How are we building bridges across boundaries, scales, and demographics for more effective and impactful collaborative conservation?

*We will explore this question via a Solutions Café with lightning presentations and 2 breakout sessions (30 min each).*

2:30PM

### SOLUTIONS CAFÉ TOPICS

#### THREADED TOGETHER: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING EMERGING LEADERS

SALON F

*Paula Short and Nicole Reese (Crowd Conservation and WCCN), Danya Gorel (Grand Canyon Trust) and Boisiu Dewangyumtewa (Boys and Girls Club)*

A life-long career of impact in conservation is sparked by igniting passion early. Join this session to hear how continuous feedback guides leadership programming from the Grand Canyon Trust Rising Leaders Program and the Boys and Girls Club of Flagstaff, and how the Emerging Leadership Initiative is building resources for mentorship.

#### FROM CONSULTATION TO MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION

SALON G

*Gemara Gifford and Allison Brody (Center for Collaborative Conservation, Colorado State University)*

The Center for Collaborative Conservation developed a Toolkit to support conservation practitioners and students who desire to work towards meaningful and sustained engagement with Indigenous Peoples in conservation. In this two-hour interactive workshop, we will explore barriers, pitfalls, skills, and strategies to support participants' efforts towards meaningful engagement.





## TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND DECOLONIZATION FRAMEWORK

SALON H

*Haley Case-Scott and Sydney Nilam (Upper Willamette Stewardship Network)*

This session will focus on identifying best practices and successful case studies on how the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network has developed programs, partnerships, and funding models for a more inclusive approach to restoration and conservation. We will engage with participants to understand existing challenges and successes and present our framework for Tribal Partnership and Decolonization in a collaborative Network structure.

## WORKING ACROSS SCALES - SCALE AND VALUES IN COLLABORATION: WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS?

BALLROOM

*Alan Barton (New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute) and Aaron Kimple (Southwest Ecological Research Institutes, Northern Arizona University)*

In recent years, there have been efforts to expand collaboration to cover larger landscapes, by creating conglomerates of collaboratives that provide opportunities for place-based organizations to share information relevant to large landscapes. The purpose of this session is to engage in a conversation about how scale shapes collaborative practices, partner composition, and how facilitators can adapt their approaches as the scale of organization changes.

## CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION

BALLROOM

*Aaron Cooper and Lorraine Eiler (International Sonoran Desert Alliance)*

This session will begin with ISDA sharing more about how they work cross-culturally as a tri-national organization. Then, ISDA will offer an opportunity for participants to share their experience, challenges, strategies, insights and questions in their own cross-cultural work or desired work.

# MENTORSHIP MATCH

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL INTERESTED

*Paula Short, Nicole Reese, and the Emerging Leadership Working Group*

6:30PM

One of the most powerful takeaways from Confluence is the network we create here that can support us back home. Join us for an evening networking opportunity immediately following dinner. There will be a brief presentation, followed by “table talks” around a variety of topics. This is a great opportunity for those in the Mentorship Match to connect, but all Confluence attendees are welcome and encouraged to join us!



# DAY 2 AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

**\*Field Trips:** Please arrive early to ensure enough time to load onto buses for an on time departure. Be advised that some trips will be out in the field and may take 4-5 hours. Please prepare yourself accordingly for all weather conditions.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30 AM	Coffee and Informal Networking	Foyer
8:00 AM	Welcome and Day 2 Overview	Ballroom
	<b>COMPELLING QUESTION 2:</b> <i>How are we achieving collaborative conservation success?</i>	
8:15 AM	Collaborative Conservation Successes: Mini-Presentations and Solutions Café	Ballroom
	<b>FIELD TRIPS*</b>	
10:45 AM	Break and Get Boxed Lunch (Provided)	Foyer
11:00 AM	Field Trips Depart	Bus Pick-ups Outside of Foyer
4:00 PM	Field Trips Return (Most Trips)	DoubleTree Hotel
4:00 - 5:30 PM	<b>Confluence Bonus Training (Advance Sign-Up Required):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Science Communication and Storytelling Training (Colorado State University Center for Science Communication)</li></ul>	Ballroom
	<b>EVENING</b>	
5:30 PM	Reception (Light Food)	Foyer
6:30 PM	Dinner on the Town (On Your Own)	



# COMPELLING QUESTION

2

## How are we achieving collaborative conservation success?

*We will explore this question via a Solutions Café with lightning presentations and 2 breakout sessions (30 min each).*

8:15AM

### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

#### COUNTY-LED COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING: SONORAN DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOMES

*Brian Powell (Pima County)*

The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is the most ambitious natural and cultural resource conservation plan of any local jurisdiction in the United State (scaled for tax base). The presentation will cover key elements of the plan, focusing on the collaborative nature of the decision process, how science and politics were kept separate, and how the community has supported conservation through bonds.



## SOLUTIONS CAFÉS

### CHASING THE GRUFFALO: TRANSFORMING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH NEPA THROUGH COLLABORATION

*Birch Malotky, Melanie Armstrong, Selena Gerace (Ruckelshaus Institute, University of Wyoming)*

This session will explore the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) as a collaborative success for elevating the pace and scale of restoration and the key processes and characteristics that have helped RMRI move forward. Guided conversation with participants will focus on challenges for restoration collaboratives and pathways to overcome them.

### COLLABORATIVE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE: LAS CIENEGAS AND SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS

*Colleen Whitaker (Southwest Decision Resources)*

This session will highlight two examples of collaborative adaptive management in two BLM National Conservation Areas in southern Arizona. Discussion will center on collaborative adaptive management approaches, challenges, lessons and strategies.

### COLLABORATIVE RECREATION PLANNING

*Michaela Gold (US Forest Service), Jessica Archibald and Carrie Eberly (Southwest Decision Resources)*

As more recreation collaboratives form to address increasing outdoor recreation demand and challenges on our public lands, there is an opportunity to learn from how existing recreation collaboratives operate and navigate the intersection of recreation and conservation. In this session, we will hear about the lessons from several recreation collaboratives, discuss current challenges being faced by participants, and highlight best practices for bringing collaboration to the recreation realm.



## COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION

*Julia Guglielmo (Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and Southwest Decision Resources)*

In this session, we will learn about taking cross-jurisdictional, watershed-scale planning from an idea to a plan with specific priorities to on-the-ground projects.

## CONNECTING COLLABORATION TO OUTCOMES: EXPLORING CAUSAL MECHANISMS

*Chelsea Pennick (University of Idaho) and Travis Anklam (University of Montana)*

This session will explore the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI) as a collaborative success for elevating the pace and scale of restoration and the key processes and characteristics that have helped RMRI move forward. Guided conversation with participants will focus on challenges for restoration collaboratives and pathways to overcome them.

## CREATING AT THE INTERSECTION OF HUMANS AND WILDLIFE: A CRITICAL EXPLORATION OF OBJECTS CREATED FOR WILDLIFE

*Jessie Golding (University of Arizona)*

Conservation must occur at the intersection of human and non-human needs. Within urban environments, conservation relies heavily on built objects and environments, but there is little guidance on how to create effectively for this purpose. Through examination of built objects for urban wildlife, our research explores the challenges of creating at the intersection of human and urban wildlife.



## INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS KINSHIP VALUES INTO COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION: A MODEL FOR TRIBAL COLLABORATION

*Skylar Begay (Archeology Southwest)*

This session highlights "A Model for Tribal Collaboration" published by Archaeology Southwest and two of its Indigenous staff members. The model focuses on building relationships that incorporate the four Indigenous Kinship values of Relationship, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Redistribution as a foundation for successful collaborations in conservation and beyond.

## PLACE-BASED COLLABORATIVES

*Tahnee Robertson (Southwest Decision Resources)*

This session will share the approach Southwest Decisions Resources uses to design and support place-based collaboratives and then open up for sharing about other collaboratives in the West.

## RANCHING AND AGRICULTURE: ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

*Sarah King (Altar Valley Conservation Alliance)*

Ranching and agriculture have essential ties to the landscape that lend themselves to place-based conservation. This session will explore engaging participants in agriculture and beyond to engage in collaborative conservation with true stakeholder engagement.





## RESEARCH TO ACTION: RIVERBANK REVOLVING LOAN FUND FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THE CENTRAL COLORADO FOREST COLLABORATIVE

*Katie Dorman (Coalitions and Collaboratives)*

This session will focus on the crucial role of research before designing a new program and opportunities to include partners in the development processes using two real-world examples: the RiverBank Revolving Loan Fund Feasibility Study and the Central Colorado Forest Collaborative. Discussion will focus on the barriers and tradeoffs to be made when moving along the continuum of research to applied research to implementation.

## RESTORATION: ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESTORATION INITIATIVE IN COLORADO

*Elizabeth Dowling (National Wild Turkey Federation)*

This session seeks to explore and elaborate on a "multiple pathways" approach to studying and theorizing the causal mechanisms associated with success in collaborative governance of natural resources. The session will engage participants in facilitated dialogue to elicit practitioner and academic insights and explore what a "pracademic" approach to future research on this topic might look like.



## FIELD TRIPS

These field trips are a chance to engage in the local experience of collaborative conservation work, permitting us to take a deeper dive into the landscape and meet the people working on-the-ground. All of the sites you can visit are works-in-progress that encourage questions, feedback, and peer-to-peer learning. Being in a landscape with the people that work in that landscape is an incredible opportunity to bear witness to and enrich what is being done locally and beyond.

**Please note the following important information for field trips:**

- All field trips will take place on Day 2 of Confluence (Wednesday, April 3rd) and will depart the venue (DoubleTree Hotel -Reid Park) promptly at 11 AM. Please be at the departure location on time.
- Participation in field trips will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis and limited to a maximum number of participants.
- **All participants will receive a boxed lunch from the DoubleTree (to be picked up in the Foyer before departing). Please bring a water container for refills during the field trip. Consider bringing additional snacks if you are participating in a longer field trip.**
- Please prepare accordingly for weather conditions as all field trips include an outside portion. Dress comfortably for travel and walking.
- All field trips have different accessibility considerations. If you have further questions, please contact WCCN's Accessibility Specialist, Roxie Stricker, at [Roxie.Stricker@colostate.edu](mailto:Roxie.Stricker@colostate.edu) or by phone at (970)491-3341.

**\*Field Trips: Please arrive early to ensure enough time to load onto buses for an on time departure. Be advised that some trips will be out in the field and may take 4-5 hours. Please prepare yourself accordingly for all weather conditions.**

# CIENEGA WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE ADAPTIVE/WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

*photo by Tahnee Robertson*



11AM - 6:30PM

The Cienega Creek watershed is located in an extended grassland valley at an average elevation of 4,000 feet. Land in the valley is of mixed jurisdiction. Although the centerpiece is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA), the watershed encompasses considerable State Trust Lands, as well as lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Pima County, the Department of Defense, and numerous private landowners, some with conservation easements. The watershed contains five of the rarest plant communities in the arid Southwest: cienega wetlands, cottonwood-willow riparian forests, sacaton grasslands, mesquite bosques, and semi-desert grasslands, and its landscapes support several threatened and endangered species.

This field visit will focus on the long history and experience of collaboration and adaptive management in the watershed. We will highlight joint conservation efforts between federal, state, and county agencies, local NGOs, university-based researchers, and active work with the ranching community. Stops will include visits to the County's Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, overlook of the proposed Rosemont mine, a tour of the historic Empire Ranch, stops on the LCNCA (including invasive species treatments and T and E species recovery efforts), and discussions of modern-day ranching. We'll end the tour with a visit to one of the region's most scenic wineries (Rune), enjoying happy hour with sunset views of the area's picturesque grasslands.

**Travel time:** This field trip is approximately 1 hour drive from the DoubleTree.

**Accessibility considerations:** Light walking with few rest spots aside from travel time. Accessible bathrooms available in some locations.

# IMPLICATIONS OF BORDER POLICY ON WILDLIFE MOVEMENT



11AM - 6PM

Sky Island Alliance will lead a trip to the scenic Huachuca Mountains to see where the U.S.-Mexico border transects across a major wildlife corridor. This is the site of the most recent jaguar sighting in Arizona and a location affected by both federal border wall construction and a failed state shipping container wall. After a 2-hour drive to Moctezuma Pass in Coronado National Memorial, we will hike the 0.8-mile Coronado Peak Trail (300 feet elevation gain) to take in sweeping views of Sonora, Mexico and the San Pedro River and San Rafael Valleys. Then we will drive west down to the border on Coronado National Forest and see where wildlife movement between Mexico and the U.S. is still possible because no wall has been built across the valley yet. Sky Island Alliance will give a brief history of the border, describe results from their 4-year study to understand wildlife movements at the border in the landscape, and talk about what's next for wildlife connectivity under current border policy.

**Travel Time:** This field trip location is approximately 2 hours from the DoubleTree.

**Accessibility considerations:** A short hike (.8) miles will be done during this field trip, and there will not be accessible bathroom options. Smaller group size may better facilitate hearing conditions.

*photos by Emily Burns*



# RANCHER-LED COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION IN THE ALTAR VALLEY

11AM - 4PM

The 600,000-acre Altar Valley has been a leading area for collaborative conservation for the last three decades and has brought together ranchers, land managers, agency personnel, researchers, and a host of interested individuals. Join some of the people who have engaged in this work for a field trip to talk about how collaborative conservation of this landscape began, the work they've engaged in, trends over time, and project outcomes on the ground. Topics will include the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, the Altar Valley Watershed Working Group, the Altar Valley Watershed Plan, and projects to address complex ecological issues.

**Travel time:** The furthest field trip stop is approximately 1.5 hours from the DoubleTree.

**Accessibility considerations:** Light walking in locations with uneven ground and few rest spots aside from travel time. Accessible bathrooms available in some locations.

*photo by Tahnee Robertson*

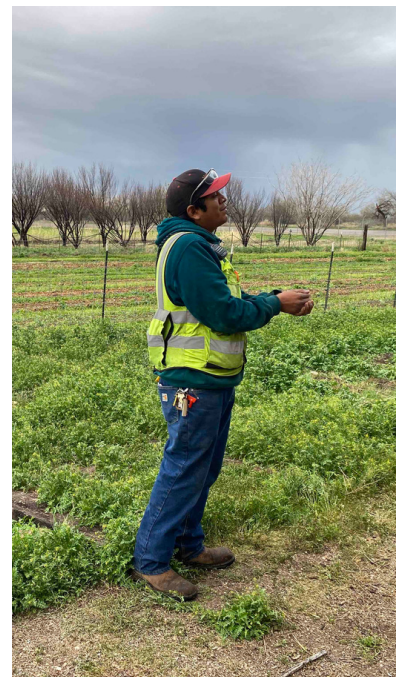


# SAN XAVIER CO-OP FARM AND SANTA CRUZ RIVER HERITAGE PROJECT

11AM - 4PM

## **San Xavier Co-op Farm**

Participants will have the opportunity to explore and discover the San Xavier Co-op Farm and its rich history during this site tour. Accompanied by a representative from the Farm, attendees will tour the farm, delving into its day-to-day operations and historical background. The host will also shed light on the farm's future objectives, considering factors such as water availability and climate challenges. This tour aims to show how the farm intends to evolve and persevere, following in the footsteps of the many generations of Tohono O'odham who have thrived in similar conditions before them. Please keep in mind this is a working farm. Some parts of the tour will take place outside on dirt and gravel, and depending on the weather, hats, sunscreen, and bug spray are recommended to be as comfortable as possible when on site. Also, please bring a reusable water container, which can be filled or refilled on-site. A cool-down area will also be available if needed. Safety first!



*photo by Colleen Cooley*

## **Santa Cruz River Heritage Project**

Participants will meet at the newest flowing reach of the Santa Cruz River: the Heritage Reach. This stretch of river started flowing in 2019 through partnership with the City of Tucson and Pima County. Here, Sonoran Institute's Santa Cruz River program director, Luke Cole will lead a discussion of the river's history, its current rehabilitation, and how the Heritage Reach is a model for regional resilience and sustainability. We'll start the tour under some shade along the Loop, a paved biking/walking path that runs parallel to the Santa Cruz. From there, we will walk down into the riverbed to explore the water source at the Heritage Reach. That is soft sand. Closed-toed shoes are essential as well as wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen.

*photo by Luke Cole*

**Travel time:** These two field trips are located within 20 minutes of DoubleTree Hotel.

**Accessibility considerations:** At the San Xavier Co-op Farm, the tour will begin in a meeting room and then light walking around the farm. At the San Cruz River Heritage Project site, there will be light walking on pavement and then walking down to a riverbed. There will be little opportunity for resting on benches. Accessible bathrooms and water refill stations are only available only at the San Xavier Co-op Farm.





## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

11AM - 4PM

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a world-renowned botanical garden, zoo, and mineral museum showcasing only species of the Sonoran Desert region. Most of the museum is outdoors, spread along paths with the animals and plants of the different subregions of the desert clustered. Docents are stationed throughout the grounds offering talks and often handling animal ambassadors. Participants in the field trip will receive a tour from staff and learn more about the Museum's efforts on species and habitat conservation. Following the presentation, participants will have time to explore the museum on their own. To prepare for the trip, please review the AZ-Sonoran Desert Museum's "Know Before You Go" list. Please note that this field trip has an additional \$15 cost for entrance to the museum.

**Travel time:** The Desert Museum is about a 40 minute drive from the DoubleTree.

**Accessibility considerations:** Wheelchair-accessible with accessible bathrooms (manual wheelchairs and electric convenience vehicles available for rent). Hearing and visual accommodations can be made by the Museum if previously coordinated. Could include up to 2 hours of walking along pathways to view the museum. Rest spots available.



*photos by Tahnee Robertson*

# BONUS TRAINING

*Advance Sign-Up Required*

## SCIENCE COMMUNICATION AND STORYTELLING

*Jaime Jacobsen (Center for Science Communication, Colorado State University)*

4PM - 5:30PM

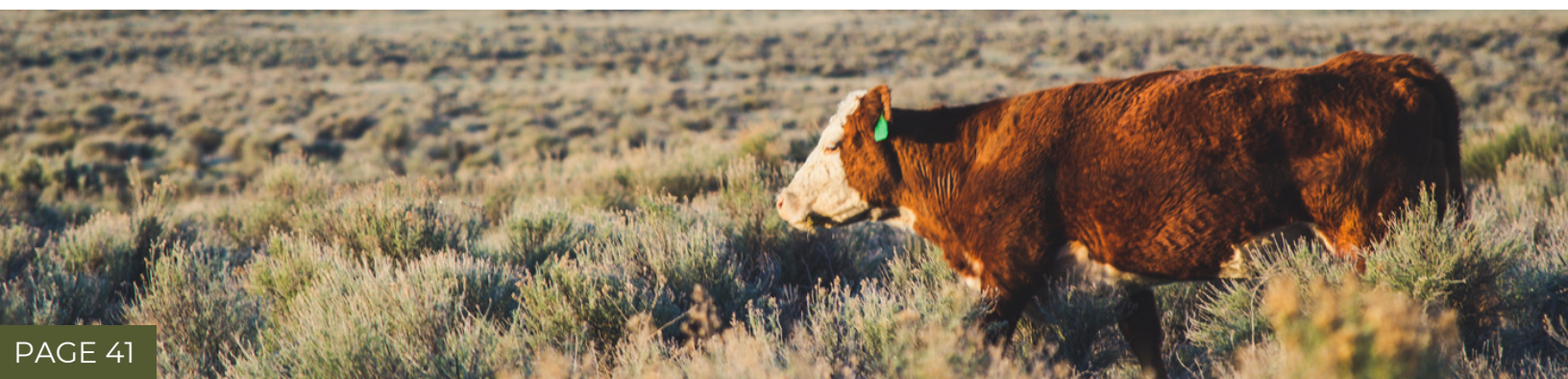
This mini-training will introduce participants to best practices for and examples of science communication and storytelling, including truly collaborative storytelling. Bring your ideas for communications projects or products as there will be time to workshop them!



# DAY 3 AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 4		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 AM	Welcome and Day 3 Overview with Coffee	Ballroom
8:15 AM	Highlights and Lessons Learned from the Field Trips	Ballroom
8:45 AM	Shared Collaborative Conservation Tools and Resources: Mini-Presentations	Ballroom
	<b>COMPELLING QUESTION 3:</b> <i>What are opportunities for leveraging funding and related resources for collaborative conservation capacity and sustainability?</i>	
9:15 AM	Collaborative Capacity: Panel and Table Discussions	Ballroom
10:30 AM	Break	Foyer
10:45 AM	Workforce Capacity: Panel	Ballroom
11:30 AM	Fostering Collaborative Capacity and Regional Convening	Ballroom
12:00 PM	Lunch at the DoubleTree (Provided) • Regional Discussions	Ballroom
1:00 PM	Funding Collaborative Conservation: Panel and Breakout Discussions	Ballroom
2:45 PM	Break	Foyer
	<b>WCCN MOVING FORWARD &amp; CLOSING</b>	
3:00 PM	WCCN Moving Forward - Help Shape Your Network!	Ballroom
4:30 PM	Wrap-Up and Closing Blessing	Ballroom
5:15 PM	Adjourn	
	<b>EVENING</b>	
6:30 PM	Celebratory Dinner (Advance Registration Required)	Reforma Modern Mexican: 4340 N Campbell Ave Ste 101, Tucson, AZ 85718



# COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES

*Mini-presentations followed by table discussions*

8:45AM

## CONSERVATION AND ADAPTATION RESOURCES TOOLBOX (CART)

*Anna Weinberg (University of Arizona)*

The Conservation and Adaptation Resources Toolbox (CART) is a multi-organizational partnership directed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the University of Arizona that supports peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing on issue-based conservation challenges that span geographies and jurisdictions. CART develops case studies (210 searchable collaborative conservation case studies to date) and decision-support tools that communicate lessons learned from on-the-ground activities and applied research.

## NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION TOOLBOX OF RESOURCES

*Jaimie Baxter (National Forest Foundation)*

Collaborative groups and organizations learn best from each other. The National Forest Foundation's (NFF) Toolbox of Resources is a comprehensive resource library built and organized for collaborative conservation and stewardship practitioners. NFF is in the process of refreshing this tool to include recorded webinars, example governance documents, a list of available grant opportunities for capacity building, and frameworks for evaluation and reporting on collaborative outcomes.

## FIND-A-COLLABORATIVE

*Jon Peterson (Network for Landscape Conservation) and Tahnee Robertson (Southwest Decision Resources)*

Find-a-Collaborative is an inventory and searchable map of collaborative groups and support organizations/entities working on conservation and resource management across the US. The purpose is to help collaborative groups and support organizations more easily find and connect with each other for shared learning and problem solving. The map, which began with a Western US focus, is now merging with a national effort. Sign up to add your collaboratives and support organizations!

***Check out the WCCN's and CCC's "How-To" page and reach out to [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu) to share your resources with our community***

# COMPELLING QUESTION

3

What are opportunities for leveraging funding and related resources for collaborative conservation capacity and sustainability?

*We will explore this question in a series of sessions.*

- **Collaborative Capacity:** Panel followed by table discussions
- **Workforce Capacity:** Presentations followed by table discussions
- **Fostering Collaborative Capacity and Regional Convening:** Short presentation and strategic discussion
- **Regional Discussions Lunch**
- **Funding Collaborative Conservation:** Panel followed by breakout discussions



# COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY

*Panel followed by table discussions*

9:15AM

## FACTORS OF SUCCESS FOR COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

*Aireona Raschke (Center for Collaborative Conservation) and Mike Schoon (Arizona State University)*

We will share a Practitioner's Brief and a description of our systematic review of peer-reviewed literature that resulted in a list of 22 Factors for Success in collaborative natural resource governance. We will explore what these factors are, how they were identified by our research, and discuss how we have been using those factors to build out a codebook.

## BEYOND BOUNDARIES: SHARING INSIGHTS FROM COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY RESEARCH

*Jaimie Baxter (National Forest Foundation)*

We will share recent research with leaders and funders across the United States on what collaborative capacity is and how it leads to improved outcomes. Using a simple framework, we will explore how collaborative capacity shows up in our current work and where capacities need to grow.

## SCALING-UP COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORING NEEDS, FRAMEWORKS, AND PATHWAYS FOR DELIVERY

*Travis Anklam (University of Montana), Allison Brody (Colorado State University), Shawn Johnson (University of Montana), Melanie Armstrong and Deb Kleinman (Ruckelshaus Institute, University of Wyoming)*

Developing the “collaborative capacity” of individuals, organizations, and communities is critical to enabling us to work equitably and effectively across boundaries, yet practitioners continue to struggle with how to do this well. In this session, we will work together to explore core components of frameworks for collaborative capacity, identify the capacity-building needs of participants, and discuss pathways for developing the collaborative capacity of conservation practitioners across the West.



# WORKFORCE CAPACITY

*Presentations followed by table discussions*

10:45AM

## COST SHARING

*Shannon Wadas (RiversEdge West)*

This presentation will highlight the opportunities for and share examples of cost-sharing mechanisms across jurisdictional boundaries and across organizations. In light of ever-present workforce challenges with internal coordination capacity as well as external boots on the ground capacity, several approaches will be discussed that have led to successful riparian restoration at a landscape scale.

## VOLUNTEERISM

*Wendy Lotze (Arizona Trail Association)*

The Arizona Trail Association is a conservation organization that uses non-motorized trail recreation as its primary tool for large-scale landscape preservation. By engaging the Arizona community first in recreation, and then in volunteerism, we are fostering stewardship and investment in the preservation of natural spaces. We'll talk about some of the ways we have added value to the volunteer experience and created one of the most dedicated and skilled volunteer corps in the National Trail system.

## WHY CONSERVATION NEEDS LABOR

*Erica Prather (Green Union Hall)*

Many green nonprofits are unionizing - why? The environmental movement will be able to meet its purported DEIJ statements, foster deeper workplace collaboration, and show up in a genuine way to so-called frontline communities by uniting with the labor movement, especially in its resurgent form. Before this is possible, nonprofits must also be receptive to union drives within their own workplace. Let's imagine a future together where we don't have to choose between jobs and the planet.



# FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY AND REGIONAL CONVENING

*Short presentation and strategic discussion, followed by Regional Discussions lunch*

## TAKING COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

*Jon Peterson (Network for Landscape Conservation), Joanne Marchetta (Zephyr Collaboration) and Tahnee Robertson (Southwest Decision Resources)*

11:30AM

A near universal challenge is securing funding and resources for collaborative capacity; the vast majority of funding sources, public and private, primarily focus on direct, specific project implementation. How do we collaborate as a community of practice to shift the paradigm for collaborative capacity funding to achieve impact at the scale we need?

## REGIONAL HUB LUNCH

*Jon Peterson (Network for Landscape Conservation) and Tahnee Robertson (Southwest Decision Resources)*

12PM

Over lunch you'll talk to others in your region about the current efforts and potential needs within and across scales for collaborative capacity.



# FUNDING COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

*Panel followed by breakout discussions*

1PM

## COLORADO RIVER COLLABORATIVE: FROM PLANNING TO PROJECTS, EXPLORING MODELS TO ACCESS EXPERTISE

*Nicole Seltzer (Colorado River Sustainability Campaign) and Gretchen Rank (Mancos Conservation District)*

This session will discuss two models that support smaller, community based organizations to access the knowledge and expertise needed to successfully compete for federal funding for infrastructure and restoration projects. We will examine the model used by the Colorado River Collaborative to provide technical assistance and grant writing support, as well a 2-year capacity building partnership between River Network, the Mancos Conservation District and the Community Agriculture Alliance in Colorado.

## FOUNDATION FUNDING: HOW DO YOU WORK WITH FOUNDATIONS AND PRIVATE DONORS

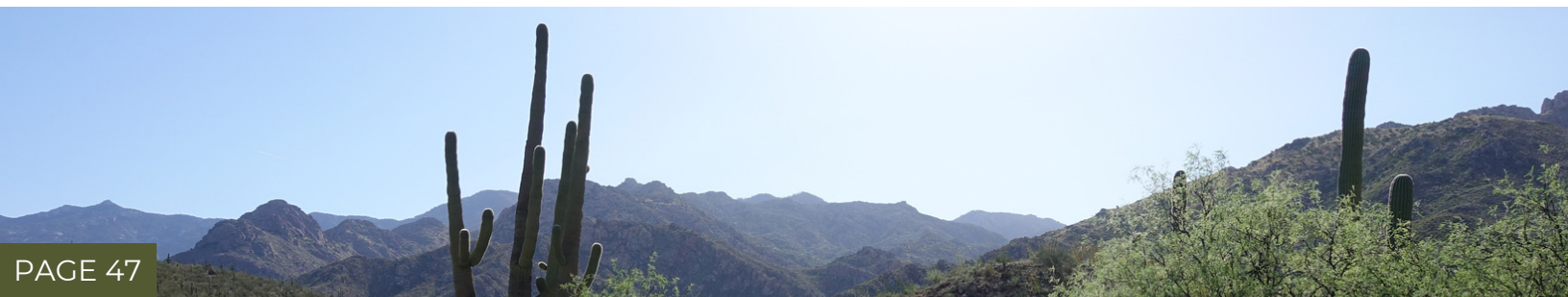
*Nathan Fey (Mighty Arrow Foundation) and Jill Ozarski (Walton Family Foundation)*

Foundations and private donors are a crucial funding source to support collaborative conservation efforts. This session will explore best practices for working with foundations and private donors to advance collaborative conservation efforts.

## NETWORK FOR LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION CATALYST FUND: LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Jon Peterson (Network for Landscape Conservation)*

The Catalyst Fund is a regrant program that the Network for Landscape Conservation operates to provide collaborative capacity support to place-based, community-grounded landscape partnerships across the country. Reflecting on the first five years of the Catalyst Fund program, this presentation will highlight insights and lessons learned around how we can build collaborative capacity to advance landscape outcomes.



## SHARED FUNDING MODELS FOR COLLABORATIVES

*Tahnee Robertson (Southwest Decision Resources)*

Given the challenge of securing ongoing funding to support collaboratives (e.g., facilitation), SDR has found that a shared funding model helps address this need while also building longer term commitment by key leaders. Lessons and key steps will be shared in this short presentation.

## CROSS-WATERSHED COORDINATION: REDUCING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FEDERAL FUNDING TO SCALE WATERSHED RESTORATION EFFORTS IN ARIZONA

*Christian Fauser (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership)*

Using findings from a series of interviews, focus groups, and workshops with watershed groups and conservation practitioners across Arizona, this short presentation will share pressing barriers to accessing funding for watershed restoration efforts in Arizona, strategies groups use to address these barriers, and how collaborative partnerships can better access funding to do restoration work.

## COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY PROGRAM (CCP) FOR FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

*Jaimie Baxter (National Forest Foundation)*

This presentation will unveil a new collaborative capacity funding and technical assistance program with the National Forest Foundation including exploring the program's key components, eligibility criteria, and the intended impacts for collaborative forest stewardship groups.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RTCA)

*Laura Bolyard (National Park Service)*

The NPS-RTCA is a free program available to assist community groups, nonprofits, tribal governments, local, state and federal agencies through an annual application process. This presentation will introduce the program, provide examples of project work, the program's benefits, and discuss how to apply for these free project planning and facilitation services.

# WCCN MOVING FORWARD: HELP SHAPE YOUR NETWORK!

*Short presentation followed by topical action planning with two rounds of solutions café*

3PM

## SOLUTIONS CAFÉS

### WCCN WORKING GROUPS: CURRENT ACTIVITIES & PRIORITIES MOVING FORWARD

*Awareness & Engagement Working Group, Capacity Building Working Group, and Emerging Leadership Working Group*

After describing the current activities of the Awareness & Engagement WG, we will touch upon some aspirational ideas to address gaps, needs and priorities. This may include, a) more ways to network and learn from each other within a community of practice, b) piggybacking on existing hubs within one state or across two states for peer learning, and c) the use of story maps and non profit watershed maps.

At the Capacity Building WG table, we will be focused on discussing together: What are peoples' capacity capability, needs, and gaps? What tools have participants found to be really helpful? What are some tools that they wish they had? Specific kinds of capacity to be considered are technical skills and knowledge (e.g., GIS, subject matter expertise), stakeholder engagement (e.g., stakeholder analysis, situation assessment), collaborative processes (e.g., relationship management, facilitation), project planning (e.g. Theory of Change; monitoring and adaptive management), and fundraising.

The Emerging Leadership WG will discuss next steps for the development of our Mentorship Toolkit and what we hope to accomplish between now and the next Confluence to support emerging leaders.



photo by Aireona Raschke

# Confluence

2024



# THE WHO'S WHO OF CONFLUENCE

# THANK YOU TO OUR CO-CONVENERS

## PLANNING COMMITTEE AND LOGISTICS TEAM

- Aireona Bonnie Rashcke, PhD, Associate Director of Practice, Center for Collaborative Conservation; Director, Western Collaborative Conservation Network
- Colleen Cooley, Facilitator, Southwest Decision Resources
- Jessica Archibald, Facilitator, Southwest Decision Resources
- Karen Simms, Natural Resources Division Manager, Pima County
- Rox Hicks, Collaborative Conservation Practitioner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Roxie Stricker, Communications Coordinator & Accessibility Specialist, Center for Collaborative Conservation
- Sarah King, Executive Director, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance
- Tahnee Robertson, Founder and Director, Southwest Decision Resources

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Bill Milton, Rancher, Milton Ranch
- Birch Malotky, Emerging Issues Initiatives Coordinator, Ruckelshaus Institute, University of Wyoming
- Candice Carr Kelman, Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Conservation Solutions, Center for Biodiversity Outcomes, Arizona State University
- Challie Facemire, Central Arizona Conservation Alliance Program Director, Desert Botanical Gardens
- Corinne LaViolette, Program Director, Diablo Trust
- Dave Bastian, Division Director - National Park Service, American Conservation Experience
- John Sanderson, Executive Director, Center for Collaborative Conservation



# THANK YOU TO OUR CO-CONVENERS

## DESIGN AND FACILITATION TEAM

### Colorado State University & the Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC)

- Aireona Bonnie Rashcke, PhD, Associate Director of Practice, CCC; Director, Western Collaborative Conservation Network
- Allison Brody, Associate Director of Learning, CCC
- Finch Camp, Office Assistant, CCC
- John Sanderson, Executive Director, CCC
- Katie McGrath-Novak, Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network Coordinator, CCC
- Monica McQuail, Digital Media & Communications Manager, Warner College of Natural Resources
- Nicole Reese, Communications Manager & Conservation Engagement Specialist, CCC
- Roxie Stricker, Communications Coordinator & Accessibility Specialist, CCC

### Southwest Decision Resources

- Andi Rogers, Senior Facilitator
- Anna Murveit, Facilitator
- Carrie Eberly, Facilitator
- Colleen Cooley, Facilitator
- Colleen Whitaker, Senior Facilitator
- Jessica Archibald, Facilitator
- Julia Guglielmo, Facilitator
- Larry Fisher, Senior Facilitator
- Tahnee Robertson, Founder and Director



# DIRECTORY OF PARTICIPANTS

We had an incredible group participate in Confluence 2024! To learn more about who came, who you met, and who you want to reconnect with, check out the [Directory of Participants](#).

If you feel there are edits to be made in this directory, leave a comment on the document and email [conserve@colostate.edu](mailto:conserve@colostate.edu) so we can fix that for you.



# SPONSORS

BENEFACTOR: \$10,000 +



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LEADERS: \$5,000 - \$9,999



*photo by Aireona Raschke*



**ALTAR VALLEY**  
**CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**



**WALTON FAMILY**  
**F O U N D A T I O N**



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GUARANTORS: \$2,500 - \$4,999

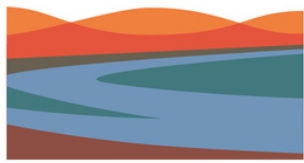


WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



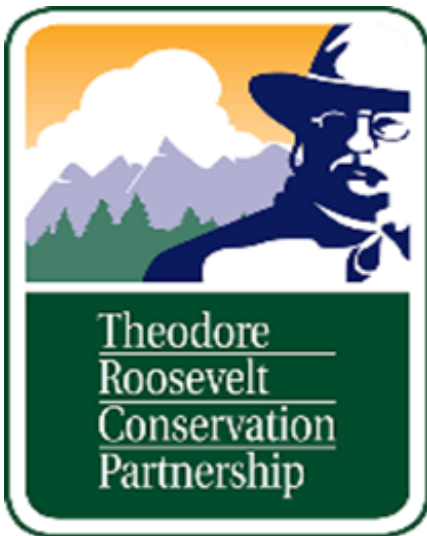
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GUARANTORS: \$2,500 - \$4,999



**Confluence**  
COLLABORATION

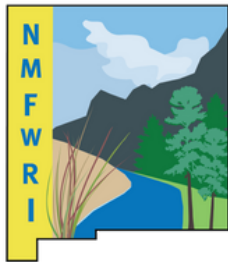
Facilitation, Mediation & Natural Resource Planning



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CHAMPIONS: \$1,000 - \$2,499

HEATHER AND RICK KNIGHT



New Mexico  
Forest and Watershed  
Restoration Institute

*New Mexico Highlands University*



**PIMA COUNTY**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS & RECREATION



**National Forest Foundation**

**2 KING'S ANVIL RANCH**



GUARDIANS: UP TO \$999

DEB KLEINMAN  
MAISIE POWELL  
JOHN SANDERSON



**DESERT  
BOTANICAL**  
*garden*



CENTRAL ARIZONA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
JOINT VENTURE

*conserving habitat through partnerships*



**RiversEdge West**

RESTORE + CONNECT + INNOVATE



WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

CONNECT CONVENE CATALYZE



COMMUNITY



COLLABORATION



CONSERVATION



WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY