

**Institute for Cooperative Conservation (ICC) Or
Center for Cooperative Conservation (CCC)**

April 2005

An International Research Institute for the study of cooperative conservation on Private, Communal and Public Lands.

Preamble:

Colorado State University and the College of Natural Resources realizes that reliance on regulation-driven, command and control environmental compliance has not fostered voluntary action or innovative approaches to conservation. In order to provide sufficient protection to large scale landscapes that will preserve threatened and endangered species and important habitat on private and communal lands, non-traditional approaches to conservation need to be developed and tested. There must be fostered a broader understanding of private conservation that goes beyond acquiring land to create ‘preserves’ or restricting land use in order to protect it. The connection between wild lands and the people the live on it is an essential aspect of Cooperative Conservation since a vast amount of forests, wildlife, water resources and important habitat remain under private or communal control.

Conservation approaches and institutions need to correspond to the scale of ecological problems. Just as there are multiple scales of ecological organization, relationships, and impacts, there are multiple scales of social organization, relationships, and impacts. Emergent conservation approaches and institutions have been built around collaborations among stakeholders, including government agencies, landowners, communities, and organized interests and government agencies. Additional bridges are needed between landowners, communities, and government agencies that can bring sound science and analysis that links the ecological, economic, and social dimensions that characterize cooperative conservation.

Mission Statement:

To that end the Institute / Center for Cooperative / Collaborative Conservation has set for itself the following Mission:

- 1) To develop and test research models based on the principles of Aldo Leopold for the preservation of large landscapes using Monitoring, Metrics and Adaptive Management to evaluate the success or failure of preserving and protecting wildlife on Private, Communal and Public lands.
- 2) To study the development of management processes that use cooperation as the primary tool of intercourse and to contrast these processes with the use of ‘Command & Control’ methods of habitat management.
- 3) To study the sustainability of economic systems and resilience of large scale habitat using adaptive resource management tools .
- 4) To study and evaluate models of sustainability, devolution of decision making and democratization by stakeholders in communities managing communal and/or private lands., combining rigorous academic scientific research with local and traditional ecological knowledge.

5) To provide analytical support to and critical evaluation of cooperative conservation initiatives, specifically in the areas of local institutional arrangements, enterprise development, management and monitoring systems, economic performance and benefit sharing, and enabling policy frameworks.

6) Work to enhance accountability between national and local stakeholders where devolution of power and decision making at local levels has positive consequences to national resource management.

67) To incorporate teaching and mentoring as a central aspect of the research model; sponsor research assistantships and internships to enable students to fully participate in the operation of the Institute on local as well as international projects.

Principles:

Monitoring: Ecosystem studies are only valid if the habitat and inhabitants are monitored using systems developed for that particular landscape; monitoring on large mammals or single species is only part of the system; monitoring must include a framework that is multidisciplinary. That is, studies which include some or all of the following areas of science: botany, zoology, social anthropology, economics, business and marketing, veterinary medicine, political science, soil science, geology and meteorology. Monitoring programs and activities should be designed to help landowners and communities become full, accountable partners in conservation and stewardship whilst being useful as well for technical transfer.

Metrics:

Metrics must be developed which allow the monitoring system to be managed by the local stakeholders. The level of scientific integrity must match the ability of local people to manage the monitoring with or without the help of science professionals.

Adaptive Management:

The goal of Monitoring and Metrics is the development of Sustainable Land/Wildlife usage by stakeholders. Flexibility is the key to long term sustainable preservation of large scale habitat. Adaptive Management is a product of a fact-based belief system. Adaptive management requires a self-correcting approach to analysis. A priori belief, dogmatic belief or faith-based belief systems are contrary to and inimical to, adaptive management systems.

Collaboration:

Foster cooperation between stakeholders to build a foundation of continuous collaborative learning between scientists, landowners, communities, and government agencies.