Building Collaborative Capacity of Conservation Practitioners

64 conservation practitioners from the private and public sectors in the American West identified the critical skills and tools, preferred delivery methods, and challenges for building collaborative capacity amongst their peers.

To access the full report, please visit: www.collaborativeconservation.org/practitionerneedsassessment

To learn more about the needs assessment and ask questions, please contact: Heather Knight, 970-631-7645, heather.knight@colostate.edu

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Top Collaborative Skills and Tools

- Listening & Communicating
- Relationship Management
- Facilitation & Decision Making
- Understanding Others
- Collaboration 101
- Leadership
- Finance & Fundraising
- Legal, Regulation & Policy Information
- Nonprofit & Executive Director 101

Preferred Methods for Learning Skills & Accessing Tools

- Peer-to-Peer Exchanges
  - Place based
  - Issue driven
- Classes & Short Courses
  - Field based
- Interactive Peer-led Workshops
  - Peer-led
  - Interactive
- Interactive Online Courses
  - Peer-led Practice
  - Accessible
  - Flexible
- Mentoring
- Internships
- Existing events

Who Needs These Skills & Tools?

- Current Practitioners
  - 58% identified:
    - Mid-career Practitioners
    - Executive Directors

- Next Generation Practitioners
  - 48% identified:
    - Students
    - Early Career Practitioners
Taking Action to Build Collaborative Capacity of Conservation Practitioners

The Center for Collaborative Conservation will work with practitioners and partners to design and implement learning opportunities to close the gap in collaborative capacity.

Current Practitioners
- Convene bioregional conservation practitioner workshop to develop an action plan
- Map existing skills & tools, identify gaps & partners, and build the foundation for a learning network
- Practitioners co-create & co-deliver learning opportunities
- Evaluate effectiveness, refine delivery, & improve learning network
- Scale-up learning network to close gap & accelerate conservation success

Next Generation Practitioners
- Improve student learning opportunities in collaborative conservation
- Explore options for internships with collaboratives
- Expand curricula with critical skills for students
- Identify experiential learning & mentoring opportunities
- Build highly skilled leaders ready to take collaborative action

Challenges to Developing Tools & Accessing Skills
- Limited Time
- Leadership Support
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Participation

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