



## **Collaborative Conservation Fellows Program Request for Proposals 2020-2021 Submission Deadline: February 21, 2020**

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) at Colorado State University (CSU) invites both individual and team applications for its Collaborative Conservation<sup>1</sup> Fellowship Program's tenth cohort of fellows. We encourage applications from practitioners (organizations, agencies, or individuals) and all CSU colleges and departments. We are particularly interested in involvement from CSU Extension employees, members of the [Western Collaborative Conservation Network \(WCCN\)](#), and Indigenous individuals or communities (see p.4 for details).

**IMPORTANT!** All potential applicants should contact Kim Skyelander at the CCC to discuss their project topics BEFORE applying. This will reduce duplication of efforts already being undertaken at CSU. Email: [kim.skyelander@colostate.edu](mailto:kim.skyelander@colostate.edu).

### **A. Introduction**

#### **The Center for Collaborative Conservation**

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) was established in 2008 in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University ([www.collaborativeconservation.org](http://www.collaborativeconservation.org)). The CCC promotes working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to address conservation issues on both public and private lands across Colorado, the American West, and the world. Collaboration can result in more enduring conservation outcomes by tapping into the power of the collective wisdom, diverse viewpoints, and resources of a community while addressing local social, economic and ecological concerns in decision-making.

The CCC strives to take a rigorous, evidence-based and transparent approach in all its research, education and outreach activities to maintain the credibility and integrity of the CCC and the wider CSU community.

#### **The Fellows Program**

Since 2008, the Center for Collaborative Conservation's Fellows Program has challenged and

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 an action that promotes the sustainability of linked natural and human communities and the resources they both depend upon. *Livelihoods* may address economics, well-being and health, gender issues, power structures, trust and relationship building, or behavior changes.

encouraged students, faculty and practitioners to work together to help local communities sustain their livelihoods and conserve their landscapes. Fellows work across disciplinary, landscape, cultural and administrative boundaries to find new solutions to conservation issues through on-the-ground projects in the United States and around the world.

### Fellows Program Goals

- 1) Build the capacity of the fellows as conservation leaders, both professionally and personally, through mentoring, training, and experiential learning in collaborative conservation.
- 2) Find new and more locally driven solutions to conservation problems by directly involving communities and practitioners in all fellows' project development and activities.
- 3) Build an action network among practitioners, students, and researchers so they can share collaborative experiences, skills, and research to improve the processes and outcomes of collaborative conservation efforts.

### Program Benefits to the Fellows

Alumni tell us that:

- Their fellowship experiences have led to significant, sometimes transformative, impact on their collaborative conservation work and careers;
- They have received a range of other lasting professional benefits from their fellowship experience including development of confidence, leadership, credibility, and networks;
- Their projects lived on and continued evolving years beyond their fellowship, conferring various tangible and intangible impacts to a range of stakeholders (e.g. communities, partners) and structures (e.g. education, policies);
- The fellowship provided an experiential, interactive learning environment comprising four specific components: funding, project experience, interactions with other fellows and CCC staff, and supportive fellowship community.

## **B. Fellowship Topic**

For this cohort we are seeking proposals focused on a single, multi-faceted topic: *People and Predator Relationships in the United States*. We are particularly interested in *interdisciplinary projects that relate to the potential need for wolf management in Colorado. These projects may address the biological, social, economic, or political aspects of wolf management*. At the CCC, we know that an effective process for having a dialogue and making decisions on such a contentious issue requires a careful and skilled approach, backed by good information from biological and social sciences and from people who derive their livelihoods from the land.

We are seeking projects that are science-based, use collaboration to address conservation and livelihood issues, and include outreach to communities or stakeholders that have a direct interest in the outcomes of this work.

## **C. Timeline**

The deadline for applications is **midnight MST, Friday February 21, 2020. No late applications will be accepted**. Completed applications should be sent to [Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org](mailto:Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org) on or before that date.

Decisions on successful applicants will be announced March 23-25, 2020 and will be formally recognized at CSU through the CCC. This tenth cohort will run for 18 months from April 1, 2020 to September 31, 2021. Details on the program appear below and on the CCC webpage at [www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows](http://www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows).

## **D. Description of Funding Opportunity**

Applicants may apply for either an Individual Fellowship **OR** a Team Fellowship.

### **Individual Fellowships**

Individual fellowships are awarded to CSU graduate students, CSU faculty/researchers, and conservation practitioners.

- 1) Graduate fellowships: CSU graduate students enrolled in any CSU department who wish to add a practical collaborative aspect to their research and / or take their engagement with conservation stakeholders to a new level. Awards are up to \$6,000. Graduate students must be officially admitted and registered at CSU to apply, and must be enrolled as a graduate student through the spring of 2021. Graduate students are required to collaborate with at least two conservation practitioners outside of CSU on their projects, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.
- 2) Faculty Fellowships: Current CSU faculty members, research scientists, post docs, and extension agents who wish to take their engagement and conservation research to a new collaborative level through local partnerships, community action, citizen science and other forms of exchange. Awards are up to \$10,000. Faculty fellows are required to collaborate with at least two conservation practitioners outside of CSU on their projects, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.
- 3) Practitioner Fellowships: 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) or who work professionally as part of tribal nations, the private sector, NGOs, government agencies and other entities. Awards are up to \$10,000, Practitioner fellows are required to collaborate with at least one person (student, faculty, or researcher) at CSU, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.

### **Team Fellowships**

Teams – a team can consist of a maximum of three fellows: Teams can be made up of any faculty members, researchers, post-docs, extension agents, graduate students or practitioners, but there **MUST** be at least one practitioner and one CSU representative as team fellows. Teams may also include up to 4 collaborators (but the collaborators are not considered fellows and are not subject to Fellowship Requirements; see Section E). Team awards are up to \$18,000.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note:** Both individual and team proposals will *receive higher consideration* if they include one or more individuals from the following groups as a fellow or a collaborator:

- **Extension Employees**– Extension is a tremendous face of CSU in rural communities, and through a fellows partnership with Extension we can advance their goal to “Enhance a true two-way communication between agents, specialists, campus, and other universities”.
- **CCC’s [Western Collaborative Conservation Network \(WCCN\)](#) Participants.** The WCCN is a practitioner network covering seven western states that promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.
- **Indigenous Individuals or Communities-** Numerous Indigenous communities have a special relationship to carnivores and theirs is a voice that is often under-represented in public discourse.

## E. Fellowship Requirements

**\*\*NOTE: Fellows MUST attend the Orientation Meeting, Reception, Retreat and at least 75% of the trainings.** Failure to do so without written approval will result in expulsion from the program and individuals being disqualified from calling themselves CCC fellows.

*\*\* If you cannot commit to these activities, timeframes, and/or deliverables, please understand that this is not the right program for you.*

### 1. Activities

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

- Orientation Meeting, Reception and Retreat:** Attend the Cohort 10 Fellows Orientation Meeting, Reception, and Retreat (week of April 20, 2020; specific dates to TBA). Fellows meet each other and learn about the fellowship logistics and requirements at the orientation meeting. That same evening is the welcome reception which gives fellows a chance to introduce their projects to peers and guests, and interact with past fellows. The following day is a one day Retreat for networking, planning, and training around the field of collaborative conservation. Project collaborators are welcome and encouraged to attend these events.
- Cohort Trainings:** Fellows will be required to attend 4 in-depth, half day or all day trainings during the 18-month fellowship. Training topics will be chosen by the fellows at the April Retreat from a comprehensive list of collaborative conservation skills and tools. Trainings will be hands-on, provide peer-to-peer learning, and give fellows time to apply the skills and tools to their specific projects. Faculty and collaborators will have the optional opportunity to engage as co-trainers and mentors during these trainings. Project collaborators are welcome and encouraged to attend these events.

Training topics might include:

- Conducting a Situation Assessment
- Collaborative Research and Fact Finding
- Building Partnerships
- Science Communications Skills
- Cross-Cultural Learning
- Lessons Learned from Collaborative Conservation

- Facilitation Strategies
  - Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
  - Stakeholder Analysis
  - Understanding Power Dynamics When Collaborating
  - Evaluating Your Collaborative Project
  - Listening and Building Trust
- c) **Support the CCC:** Engage with the CCC both during and after the term of the fellowship. Fellows are encouraged to attend and participate in CCC activities such as participating on future fellowship review panels, acting as trainers for current and future retreats or short courses, contributing to CCC blogs, attending CCC social / partnership / networking functions, and participating in CCC conferences, workshops and/or special events.

## 2. Deliverables

All Fellows are **required** to produce the following deliverables. **NOTE:** Final reports and other deliverables will be posted online for other fellows to view. Acceptance of the award constitutes agreement to post final products and reports to a private forum.

The CCC will also be using report data for future journal articles, internal reports, and fund-raising. By accepting a CCC Fellowship, you will be giving us permission to use your data. The CCC will keep your identity confidential.

### a) Final Products

#### 1) Academic product

Individual *faculty and graduate student* fellows: turn in one academic product.

*Teams:* turn in one academic product.

Examples of academic products are: conference presentations, publishable manuscripts, models, conference posters, thesis or dissertation chapters, etc.

#### 2) Practical product (products intended to give back to the community or partner organization)

Individual *faculty and graduate student* fellows: turn in one practical product.

Individual *practitioner* fellows: turn in two practical products.

*Teams:* turn in one practical product.

Practical products are items from your project that communities want and/or can use. These might include training guides, handbooks, media products, policy briefs for policy makers, workshop agendas and notes, digital and non-digital maps, community reports, etc.

ALL products are due **NO LATER than September 31, 2021.**

## **b) Final Project Report and Program Evaluations**

- 1) **Final Project Report:** Each individual fellow and each team must complete a standard project report. These reports help the CCC 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 given to fellows at the start of the fellowship and several times throughout the fellowship.

**Journal notes:** As part of the final report, fellow will turn in quarterly journal notes throughout the fellowship. Journal notes must address the questions from the final report so when it comes time to write the Fellows Final Project Report, fellows are not struggling to remember what they did over the course of 18 months.

- 2) **Fellows Program Evaluation:** Each individual fellow and each team fellow 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.

The Fellows Final Project Report and Program Evaluation are **due NO LATER than September 31, 2021.**