



Western Collaborative Conservation Network Presents the Inaugural

# CONFLUENCE 2020

March 10-12 | Colorado State University

## Speakers, Presenters and Volunteers



WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



CENTER FOR  
COLLABORATIVE  
CONSERVATION



**Dr. David Augustine** is a Research Ecologist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, based in Fort Collins, CO. His research has examined the influence of a diverse array of herbivore species, particularly those with hooves, on the structure, function, and diversity of rangeland ecosystems in Africa and North America. He received his MS in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Minnesota, and PhD in Biology from Syracuse University. Dr. Augustine's current research focus is on tradeoffs and synergies in managing rangelands for livestock production and biodiversity conservation in the western Great Plains.



**Laurel Anders** trekked west in 2016 to become the Intermountain West Joint Venture's Communications Program Coordinator. In this role, she develops, coordinates, and implements strategic communications to build partnerships for bird habitat conservation and advance the IWJV's mission. She brings with her 20+ years of state fish and wildlife experience from Pennsylvania, including the development, delivery, and evaluation of outreach and education programs, strategic planning, and creating collaborative work environments. She earned a B.S. in Education with an emphasis in Environmental Education from Slippery Rock University and is a Fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute.



**David Baker** has been responsible for planning and executing the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) conservation programs and services in accordance with their mission and goals since 1996. He envisioned and conceived of the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network (THCCN) in 2015 after 20 years of working to protect Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek, the Blanco River, and serving for over a decade on the Hill Country Alliance Board. His service on numerous other boards and founding of several NGO's and public agencies, including the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, has led to collaborations with diverse agencies in ongoing efforts to conserve land, water, and to adopt science-based public policy. The Mitchell Foundation grant to the WVWA in 2015 to study the THCCN launched this collaborative effort and has led to the development of numerous joint funding proposals including the successful Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Water Funders Initiative grants. WVWA will continue to serve on the THCCN steering and executive committees and work to increase investment in conservation across the region.



**Alan Barton** is Collaboration Program Manager at the New Mexico Forest & Watershed Restoration Institute. He has over 35 years' experience working in conservation and sustainable community development around the U.S. and in Central and South America. He has taught community development, sociology and forestry at several colleges and universities.



**Dave Bastian** is the Partnerships Director for the Canyon Country Discovery Center and the Canyon Country Youth Corps, developing projects and helping to foster the next generation of conservation leadership. In his free time he builds Midcentury Modern style furniture, skies, bikes, goes on river trips, plays music and chases after a wild six year old, working hard to instill in her a love for the public lands and the amazing vistas of the west.



**Stacy Beagh**, President of Strategic By Nature, Inc., established to support those striving for impact and effective outcomes around land and water resources, will be the primary facilitator to develop the business model, working closely with other team members to align and support other aspects of the project. Ms. Beagh has seventeen years of direct strategic planning, organizational leadership, program evaluation, and consensus building experience, most notably working for ten years as the Executive Director of RiversEdge West, leading the organization through two strategic planning processes and growing the organization through its formative years. Ms. Beagh has experience with numerous state-wide water-related projects including serving as facilitator for the San Miguel River stream management plan and Water Bank Work Group stakeholder process, working with River Network and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to develop a peer-network and resource guide ([www.coloradosmp.org](http://www.coloradosmp.org)) for stream/integrated water management planning leaders. Other strategic/action planning collaboration building clients include the National Forest Foundation, Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, Montezuma Inspire Coalition and Columbine Forest Resilience Collaborative. Having lived on both the front range and west slope, Ms. Beagh has been a permanent resident of Colorado for 12 years and currently resides in Durango.



**Michellsey Benally** is Diné who grew up in Sháá'tóhí on the Navajo Nation. After receiving her degree in Parks and Recreation from Northern Arizona University, she made her love of the outdoors a lifestyle. She spent time instructing individuals on both mountaineering and rock-climbing in the mountains of Southeast Alaska. She racked several days instructing in the Yukon Territory, the slot canyons of Southern Utah, and the open waters of the Prince William Sound. In 2014 her adventures took her down a river that forged a passion in river restoration and conservation. This led to running raft trips down the Middle Fork of the Salmon, and then to co-leading restoration efforts on the Chehalis River. Returning to the southwest in 2017, Michellsey continued her river pursuits with the Escalante River Watershed Partnership. Now located in New Mexico, Michellsey continues her relationship with the natural environment by supporting the Ancestral Lands Program as their Program



**Dr. Drew Bennett** is the Whitney MacMillan Professor of Practice of Private Lands Stewardship in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. Drew's work focuses on strategies to balance agricultural production and the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources on private lands in the American West. He has previously worked with The Nature Conservancy on a cattle ranch in eastern Colorado, and for the Mesa Land Trust in western Colorado where he assisted landowners in exploring conservation opportunities for their land.



**R. Patrick Bixler** is an Assistant Professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas, Austin. His work focuses on environmental governance, resilience, and the ways that cross-sector networks influence policy and on-the-ground outcomes. His work is theoretically informed and he work closely with practitioners on conservation policy and strategy. A sociologist by training (PhD, Colorado State University, 2014), his research program emphasizes a variety of ways to better understand dimensions of “social” in social-ecological systems from local to regional to continental scales. One thread of research utilizes social network analysis to research, evaluate and design collaborative conservation efforts.



**Travis Brammer** is currently a law and master’s student at the University of Wyoming and has been working with Dr. Bennett developing the Western Ranchland Conservation Fund model. Travis worked for the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust for several years before coming back to law school in 2019. Travis grew up working on his family’s farm and ranch operation in Northeastern Colorado and graduated from U.W. with his Bachelor’s in 2016.



**Bob Budd** is the Executive Director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, a state program that enhances wildlife habitat and natural resources in Wyoming. Prior to helping launch the WWNRT, Budd was manager of Red Canyon Ranch, and Director of Land Management for The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming. Before his tenure with TNC, Bob spent 15 years with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, ten as Executive Director. He holds degrees in Range Management (MS), Agricultural Business (BS) and Animal Science (BS) from the University of Wyoming. Bob is a past-president of the international Society for Range Management, past president of the Wyoming Section of the Wildlife Society, Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, and past chairman of Cheyenne Frontier Days Public Relations committee. He and his wife, Lynn, live in Cheyenne, Wyoming and have three grown children - Joe, Jake, and Maggie.



**Gary Burnett** is a long-time leader in the conservation field. Gary is executive director for the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, a network of 26 independent local, regional and national land trusts. He has 30 years of experience in natural resource management and nonprofit development – and has worked with and for public and private landowners/managers on land protection and stewardship; prescribed fire; and natural areas, wildlife and habitat management. Gary has developed and directed annual fund, major gift and planned giving programs for local, regional and national organizations. Prior to his position with Heart of the Rockies, he served as executive director of the Blackfoot Challenge and development director with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He holds an M.S. degree in Wildlife Biology from University of Montana.



**Wanda Burget** is the owner and principal of Accord Resource Solutions, LLC, a woman-owned natural resource-focused consultancy based in Wyoming and serves as the Executive Director of the Wyoming Mining Natural Resource Foundation (Foundation). The Foundation, which was initiated by the mining industry in southwestern Wyoming, is managing a large landscape-scale conservation effort created to benefit the Greater sage-grouse and its habitat. Prior to starting her consultancy, Wanda served as the Vice President of Environmental Services for Norwest Corporation based in Salt Lake City, Utah for 3 years and worked for Peabody Energy Corporation for 29 years. Her responsibilities with Peabody included serving as Director, Sustainable Development for Peabody's U.S. operations and managing permitting and environmental compliance for four major surface mining operations in Wyoming. Throughout her career, Wanda has been entrusted with positions of leadership and responsibility in numerous local, state, regional and national boards, workgroups and coalitions comprising a broad and diverse cross-section of stakeholders.



**Justin Caudill** works for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture managing the departments Water Quality and Range Health Assessment Grant Programs. He also represents the department on the multi-agency Coordination Team for the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI). The WLCI Coordination Team is responsible for the daily operations of the initiative. WLCI's partnership formally includes the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Parks Service, six county commissions, and nine conservation districts working in just over nineteen million acres.



**Laura Calandrella** has spent the past two decades developing collaborative approaches to sustainability challenges. Her work took her across five continents consulting on projects that drive social, economic, and environmental benefits for a wide range of people and places. She found that the success of these projects was not dependent on the solutions themselves, but on the quality of leadership engaged in cross-sector collaboration. Building on her experiences as a biologist and sustainable development practitioner, she now studies the human dimensions that enable systemic change. She blends her expertise in these areas to create the internal and external conditions that activate highly effective collaborative leadership within her clients.



**Jonathan Clifton** is Director of Development for the Warner College of Natural Resources, working to strengthen engagement with alumni, individual and institutional stakeholders to further the College's mission and goals. He has worked at CSU since 2011. Jonathan has 20 years of experience in advancement, spanning annual, major and planned giving, as well as foundation grant writing, corporate partnerships, and strategic planning. Jonathan holds a B.A. in Music Performance from Indiana University, and both an MBA and MA from the University of Cincinnati.



**Ed Contreras** joined the Intermountain West Joint Venture in 2017 as the Conservation Delivery Coordinator for the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California region, one of the continent's most important landscapes for migratory birds. He leads a nationally supported model for integrating wetlands conservation and agricultural production, working with landowners to improve their flood-irrigation infrastructure, maintain sustainable ranching operations, and implement voluntary conservation practices. Ed earned degrees in wildlife biology and resource conservation from the University of Montana. He also worked as a Range and Wildlife Conservationist with the Sage Grouse Initiative implementing science-based habitat projects for wildlife and agricultural conservation on working lands in Idaho.



**Tuda Libby Crews** of Ute Creek Cattle Company is a seventh-generation New Mexico rancher. In high school she was active in 4-H with emphasis on feeding/showing livestock. At the University of Arizona, she met Jack Crews, married and returned to Cheyenne. They raised their children, Libby and Ted, and were actively involved in the community for over 30 years. In the late 1990's Crews published two books on cookie baking and operated a home-based custom-made cookie cutter business. In 2000 she inherited part of her family ranch and they returned to New Mexico focusing on ranch restoration. Their conservation achievements include 2006-*Excellence in Range Management*, 2008-*Quivira Coalition Leadership in Ranching*, 2013-*Harry Hopson Excellence in Conservation Award* and in 2019 received the NCBA *Region VI Environmental Stewardship Award*. Tuda is especially proud her children and their families are involved in the ranching operation.



**Jessica Crowder** works on policy for the Western Landowners Alliance (WLA). Prior to joining WLA, Jessica was a policy advisor for former Wyoming Governor Matt Mead. In this position, Jessica worked closely with federal partners, state agencies, local governments, landowners and non-governmental organizations to develop policy and management of natural resources to benefit Wyoming citizens and landscapes. Jessica has also worked as policy analyst for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, for the Agricultural Research Service as a technician and for Northwest College in Powell, WY as an instructor. Jessica was born in Victoria, Texas and raised on a cattle ranch in New Mexico. She holds a M.S. in Range Science and a B.S. in Range Management from Texas Tech University. Her M.S. research focused on prescribed fire and grazing management in the Northern Great Plains.



The Wineinger-Davis Ranch is located on the eastern plains of Colorado, and over the last 70 years has grown from 400 acres to over 12,000. After finishing college, **Russell Davis** returned to the ranch where he grew up to run the day-to-day operations on the ranch with the help of his brothers. The ranch runs 500 black and red Angus mother cows, 40 Angus bulls, and 500 yearlings. The ranch has a variety of habitats including short grass prairie, cottonwood/willow riparian corridor, playas, and sand sagebrush, and hosts associated species suites including, but not limited to, mountain plover, swift fox, black-tailed prairie dogs, burrowing owls, plains leopard frog, long-billed curlews, American Avocets, and Massasauga rattlesnakes. The ranch actively considers these species in its cattle management decisions. Russell drives the conservation efforts of the Wineinger-Davis Ranch and is a strong advocate for such efforts in the surrounding ranching communities. In addition to the Conservation Wildlife easements and partnerships he actively manages on his ranch, Wineinger-Davis Ranch is a host tour site for the Karval Mountain Plover Festival and also the Ranching and Wildlife Youth



**Will Davis** brings his background in conservation, community engagement, and event planning, as well as a M.S. in conservation leadership from CSU to Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. Will has done conservation work in varied locations around the western U.S. and worked on a community development project in East Africa. During this time, he found a passion for involving and engaging communities in order to raise awareness and advance conservation goals.



**Cindy Dohner** is an independent environmental consultant providing support to federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, private landowners, NGOs, and industry. Before her retirement in 2017, she served as the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Region. Her environmental experience stems from working for three federal agencies, three state agencies, industry and in the private sector. Cindy is the first woman to receive the prestigious C.W. Watson Award (2017). She earned her B.S. in Marine Biology from Millersville University, and a M.S. in Fisheries and Aquaculture from the University of Rhode Island.



**Isaac Dudley** is an avid lover of the outdoors from Cottonwood, Arizona with a Bachelors of Arts from Northern Arizona University. After finding rock climbing as a sophomore in high school, Isaac immersed himself in the wild places of Arizona. Passionate about conservation and the sustainable growth of his community, Isaac works with businesses across the Verde River Watershed to raise money for on-the-ground projects focused on conserving, and enhancing Northern Arizona waterways while educating the surrounding communities on the importance of healthy systems like the Verde River. In the first year of operating the business program for Friends of the Verde River, Isaac was able to increase giving from businesses by over 50% through simple, but powerful strategies. Isaac is thrilled for the opportunity to share his fundraising experience with others, because our wild places get stronger with every individual and institution that stands behind them.



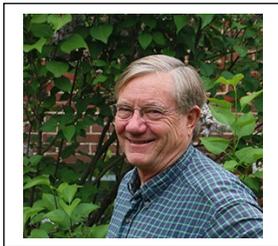
**Angela Dwyer** moved to Colorado in 2010 and began working for Audubon Rockies on habitat restoration and at Colorado State University on several GIS vegetation mapping projects. She studied waterbirds in graduate school and received a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management at Stephen F. Austin State University in 2006. Prior to moving to Colorado, she was the Conservation Biologist for Audubon North Carolina from 2007 to 2010, chasing shorebirds on the beach. She has been with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies since 2012, and oversees collaborative grassland research and management projects, along with supervising several Private Lands Wildlife Biologists in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She has been a member of the Collaborative Adaptive Rangeland Management Stakeholder Group since 2015.



**Gregg Elliott** delivers conservation communications working as an independent consultant, based on a lifetime of conservation work and communication tech skills learned on the job. Over the past 10 years she has developed and implemented communications strategies for organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, and bird conservation joint ventures. Her skills include content development & design (i.e. articles, blogs, and reports) and web-based communications (i.e. websites, e-news, press releases, and social media). At the moment, she manages seven Facebook business pages. Learn more at [kgreggconsulting.com](http://kgreggconsulting.com).



**Jan Engert** retired in September 2019 as Assistant Station Director for Science Application and Communication at the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fort Collins, CO. Jan led a program to bring scientists and land managers together to co-produce knowledge, integrate natural resource science findings into land management policy and decisions, and communicate science findings across the western U.S. Before coming to Fort Collins in 2010, she was the charter Director of the Forest Service National Partnership Office in Washington, DC. Jan lived and worked in northern Costa Rica for two years as part of her graduate work in natural resource planning. She spent 8 years with Forest Service International Programs, managing a portfolio of technical assistance, research and training activities in Latin America. Jan has a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management from Oregon State University, and a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



**Amos S. Eno**, president and founder of Land Conservation Assistance Network (LandCAN), has been changing the environmental policy and philosophical landscape for 40 years. He has challenged government, the corporate world and environmental leaders to think differently about environmental policy, conservation vs preservation, development and land use. Simultaneous with founding LandCAN in 2000, Amos was executive director of the New England Forestry Foundation where he engineered the two largest privately held land conservation easements in the United States totaling 1.1 million acres, the Pingree Project and the Downeast Project. For 10 years, he was executive director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; he re-organized NFWF into a regionally managed organization to improve services. He has been director of wildlife programs at the National Audubon Society and editor of the Audubon Wildlife Reports. He served as special assistant in the Office of Endangered Species at the Department of the Interior. He served as assistant to Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1974-1976, working on Alaska lands, endangered species and national wildlife refuges. Amos also founded Resources First Group.



Carrie Frickman of Heartwood Visuals is a graphic recorder, illustrator and conservationist based out of Fort Collins, Colorado. Her work is inspired by interconnections between humanity and the environment and she harnesses the power of visual communication to deepen and strengthen these connections. Carrie's current path as a visual practitioner has grown from her experiences as a naturalist, environmental educator, sustainability planner and social science researcher. Art has always been a core passion of hers and she feels incredibly grateful for the opportunity to utilize this strength to support social and environmental change around the world. You can view her portfolio at [www.heartwoodvisuals.com](http://www.heartwoodvisuals.com).



Dr. Rickey Frierson joins Warner College as the college's first Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Frierson joins the College with a strong background and set of experiences related to diversity and inclusion in higher education. He recently completed a Ph.D. at the University of Houston, where his dissertation research addressed factors underlying degree success and completion of minority males in predominantly white institutions. He has an extensive background as a consultant, trainer, and professional, with experience with faculty recruitment and retention, program assessment, student mentorship, program leadership, strategic planning, and other topics.



**John Geerdes** is the new CEO/Executive Director of Coalition for the Upper South Platte. He retired in 2018 after 34 years of service with Colorado State Parks – later Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). While with CPW he served as a Park Ranger, Region Trails Coordinator, Park Manager at two different State Parks and State Park Regional Manager out of Colorado Springs. As a Region Manager he was on the agency leadership team and over saw 11 state parks with an annual visitation of over 2 million people. He supervised 63 full time employees and \$6 million in park operating and capital construction budgets.



**Gemara Gifford** is a socio-environmental scientist and community development expert, with over 8 years of experience designing participatory conservation and development programs with local partners in Latin America, and the United States. Gemara joined non-profit, Trees, Water & People in 2015 after finishing her M.S. in Natural Resources at Cornell University as a Gates Millennium Scholar. Gemara works closely with Indigenous-led organizations and rural communities to co-design programs that emphasize community-led natural resource management including community reforestation and biodiversity conservation, improved household energy, food and water security, and sustainable agriculture in rural Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. She specializes in participatory methods, bottom-up approaches to development and conservation, and wildlife conservation in working landscapes. Gemara is also Affiliate Faculty at Colorado State University in the Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources.



**Dennis Glick** is the Director and co-founder of Future West, a non-profit organization based in Bozeman that *helps communities create the future that they want*. Future West provides information, training, technical assistance and facilitation services to key land use decision makers in the Northern Rockies. Previously, Dennis was the Director of the Sonoran Institute's Bozeman Office, the Private Land Stewardship Director for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and the Co-Director of the Wildlands and Human Needs Program of the World Wildlife Fund. He has a BS from Oregon State University and a MS from the University of Michigan.



Dominique Gómez joined the Salazar Center as its program director in the summer of 2019. Prior, she most recently served as COO at WaterSmart Software, where she helped the company grow its operations and advocated for technology and innovation in the water sector. Dominique has worked on climate policy as a Governor's Fellow at the New Mexico Environment Department, then later as a consultant at Cascadia Consulting Group in Seattle, where she currently serves on the Board of Directors. Dominique has an MBA from Stanford, MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a BA from Yale University. Originally from Colorado, Dominique is thrilled to live in Denver with her husband and infant daughter and enjoys baking sourdough bread and getting outside.



**Tom Gougeon** became President of the Gates Family Foundation in August of 2010. The Foundation invests in public education, natural resources stewardship, and community development throughout Colorado. For the prior ten years he was a Principal and Chief Development Officer for Continuum Partners, LLC. Continuum is a developer and operator of mixed use and transit oriented real estate projects. While at Continuum, Tom was heavily involved in the Belmar redevelopment project in Lakewood and the creation of a regional transit hub and neighborhood at Union Station. Prior to Continuum Tom ran a charitable foundation, was the CEO of the Stapleton Redevelopment Foundation and served for eight years in the Mayor's Office in the City and County of Denver. Tom has served on the boards of numerous housing, land conservation, urban redevelopment, environmental, and historic preservation organizations. Tom has a BA from the University of Denver and a MCRP from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.



**Kate Greenberg** has served as Colorado's Commissioner of Agriculture since 2018. Prior to her appointment, Greenberg was the Western Program Director for National Young Farmers Coalition, where she established and grew the organization's presence and membership across the West. Greenberg has farmed on operations across the West, managed Western policy field programs through Whitman College, and worked in natural resource education and restoration from eastern Washington to Mexico's Colorado River Delta. She was involved in the development of the Colorado Water Plan and Colorado River Basin water policy and is a graduate of Water Education Colorado's Water Leaders flagship course. While she currently spends much of her time traveling the state, Durango, Colorado is home.



Shonto Greyeyes draws experience from 8 years working in forests, deserts, and occasional classroom. Shonto is the Program Coordinator in the White Mountains office of Arizona Conservation Corps, a non-profit AmeriCorps program. He strives to continually develop skills to better engage youth and young adults within communities that do not have resources or structures dedicated to personal skill development and exposure to land stewardship opportunities. He works towards making a positive impact in the lives of young adults to cultivate more mindful, environmentally conscious leaders. Equipping them with the confidence to inspire themselves and others to become pillars in their communities. Whether it's backpacking, mountain biking, rock climbing, or tending corn fields, he is most comfortable outside.



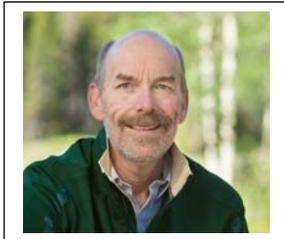
**Galen Guerrero-Murphy** is a Land Conservation Program Manager for the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Galen leads land protection projects across the state, with an emphasis on ranchland conservation in southeast Colorado. As director of the emerging Southern High Plains Initiative, his strategic focus encompasses neighboring High Plains states and conservation finance more broadly. Galen is passionate about furthering landscape-scale conservation that benefits rural communities. He holds an MBA in Sustainability from Marlboro College, and a B.S. from Stanford University.



**Courtney Gutman** brings twelve years of habitat restoration, monitoring, community engagement, and outdoor education experience to the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. She completed an M.S. with Colorado State University's Human Dimensions of Natural Resources department and joined BTWC as Project Manager in 2018 and accepted the role of Director in 2020. In overseeing the implementation of these projects and collaborating with various sectors, she has become fascinated with building habitat resilience into restoration and enhancing community-supported initiatives that prepare both wild and human communities for a changing environment.



**Claire Harper** is a cooperative forestry program manager for the Rocky Mountain Region of the US Forest Service in Lakewood CO. She oversees watershed investment partnerships, land conservation projects, and landscape scale restoration programs. Previously, she served as the Forest Service's national open space coordinator and as a Presidential Management Fellow in Washington D.C. Claire received a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke University and a Bachelor's in Biology from the University of Colorado. She enjoys spending time in the mountains hiking, backpacking, and skiing with her husband and two kids.



**John Hayes** has served as Dean of Colorado State University's Warner College of Natural Resources since 2014. Prior to his arrival at CSU, John spent 8 years at the University of Florida where he served as Head of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Director of the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station, and as Dean for Research in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science. He began his academic career at Oregon State University where he served as a faculty member and Associate Dean for International Programs in the College of Forestry. Hayes' scholarly background has focused on applied ecology, primarily related to wildlife ecology and forest science. He has co-edited two books and authored or co-authored numerous technical, semi-technical and popular articles and reports in the field. John is passionate about creating pathways for Land Grant institutions to make a positive impact on the world and is committed to help catalyze broader engagement of underserved communities in academia and conservation.



In 1981, **Rox Hicks** graduated in Wildlife Biology at CSU. Afterwards, she continued to work in reclamation for a surface mine and various consulting firms in Montana and Wyoming. In 1987, she began her career for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the National Elk Refuge, Jackson, Wyoming. During her 32 years of employment she has served as a habitat and private lands biologist in Refuges, Montana Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, and is currently working with Wyoming Ecological Services as a Partnership Coordinator. Rox concentrates her work on collaborative conservation opportunities, building partnerships, acting as a coordinator for habitat improvement projects for public and private interests, and searches for external funding for project implementation. She resides and works in Baggs, Wyoming, along with her husband, Larry, dogs and horses.



**Amanda Hill** is the Southwest and California Program Manager at the Land Trust Alliance. She delivers Alliance services designed to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of land trusts across the 10-state region. Prior to joining the Land Trust Alliance in 2018, Amanda worked at Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and was a Colorado Conservation Trust Future Conservation Leaders Fellow at Palmer Land Trust. Amanda holds a BA from Colorado College, an MS from the University of Montana, and a JD from the University of Montana School of Law. She is based in Denver, Colorado.



**Rebecca Hill** is a research scientist with a joint appointment between the Department of Ag and Resource Economics and the Office of Community and Economic Development at CSU. Rebecca received her Ph.D in Agricultural Economics in 2012 and since that time she has taught many classes at CSU including: Agricultural Law, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Economics, Water Law, and Agritourism Enterprise Management. Rebecca also mentors' students outside of classes through the extension internship program, advising the Premier Farm Credit Student Board of Directors and serving as the superintendent for the Future Farmers of America agricultural sales career development event.



**Claire Hood** is a Specialist for World Wildlife Fund's Northern Great Plains Program. She is based in Bozeman, MT and serves as the Montana Representative for the Sustainable Ranching Initiative, a program that works with ranchers to conserve private grasslands in the Northern Great Plains. She spends much of her time driving around Montana, meeting with ranchers, and working with ranching communities to develop conservation strategies that benefit grasslands and people. Claire has been with WWF for over five years. Prior to working at WWF, Claire worked at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



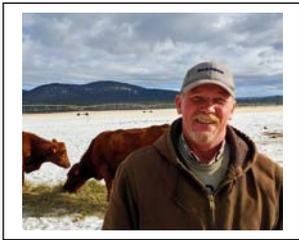
**Ch'aska Huayhuaca** is a policy instructor in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at CSU and former researcher for the CCC. She led the CCC's Colorado Atlas of Collaborative Conservation project, and her dissertation focused on the origins, form, and function of collaborative conservation initiatives across the state. She received her B.S. in natural resources from Cornell University, and both her M.S. (in human dimensions of natural resources) and Ph.D. from the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at CSU.



**Paul Hudnut** taught entrepreneurship, strategy, finance and business law classes at Colorado State University and served as director of their Global Social & Sustainable Enterprise MBA program. Paul currently serves as an advisor or board member for the New Belgium Family Foundation, Bohemian Foundation, Factor[E] Ventures and Watsi.



**Ben Irej** joined NFF in April of 2017. He is the Conservation Connect Program Manager, the NFF’s learning network serving community-based groups and Forest Service employees involved in collaborative stewardship. Ben conducts web-based peer learning sessions, maintains an online library of best practices and tools, convenes in-person workshops, and facilitates collaborative groups. Ben has over 15 years of experience in engaging stakeholders in public land conservation. Before joining the NFF, he worked as a social scientist for Ecosystem Research Group, where he facilitated collaborative groups and performed socioeconomic assessments for public land stakeholders.



**Denny Iverson** ranches in the Blackfoot Valley in western Montana where the family runs a cow calf operation. He also worked in the timber industry for many years to help support his ranching habit. The next generation is landing back home to begin to take over the worries but he plans to continue the work part until he’s all used up! Denny serves the Heart of the Rockies, Blackfoot Challenge and Five Valleys Land Trust organizations as a board member. He inherited his conservation ethic from his father and is now transferring that same ethic with all the new tools available to the next generation and enjoys helping young conservationists understand how ranching, logging and conservation of land, water and wildlife are and need to continue to be intertwined to have a healthy, sustainable landscape.



**Kevin Jablonski** is a Range Ecologist and Extension Research Coordinator in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship. He has an Extension appointment and is an affiliate for the Center for Collaborative Conservation. As a Range Ecologist, Kevin studies the ecology of grazing livestock—how domestic herbivores interact with their environment, how humans influence this, and the good and bad things that arise from these relationships. As Extension Research Coordinator, he works to build bridges across disciplines, departments, and institutions to improve research and extension in Colorado’s rangelands.



**Liberty Jack** is the Administrative and Program Coordinator for the Center for Collaborative Conservation at Colorado State University. She has a B.S. in International Business from American University and a Master’s degree in Employment and Labor Relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Liberty previously worked for six years at Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, DC in their Climate and Air Program, focusing on climate policy and defending clean air rules and regulations.



**Steve Jester** is the Executive Director of Partners for Conservation. During his almost 30-year career he has worked for private, public and non-profit employers in the fields of agriculture and wildlife conservation. He currently makes his home in Blanco just north of San Antonio in central Texas.



**Heather Johnson** is the Regional Chief for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in the Mountain-Prairie Region with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has been in this capacity since 2009 and with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program since 2004. Heather has an Associate of Science degree in Agriculture and Wildlife Biology from Northwest College in Wyoming and a Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. Heather has been working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past 30 years, working in a number of different capacities in the Mountain-Prairie Region, as well as spending 10 years in the Alaska Region and three years in Washington, D.C. She worked in Refuge Management, Migratory Birds, External Affairs, International Affairs and Partners. Heather is a Wyoming Native, currently living in Evergreen, Colorado.



**Shawn Johnson** is Managing Director of the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy at the University of Montana and co-director of the Center's graduate certificate program in Natural Resources Conflict Resolution. Shawn organizes and leads strategic planning and capacity building workshops for a wide variety of organizations focused on natural resource policy and management and has served as a facilitator and mediator on issues ranging from land use planning and forest management to conservation priority setting and regional collaboration. Shawn earned a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.



**Shayna Jones** is currently a Project Manager for Larimer County Department of Natural Resources in Loveland Colorado. Shayna previously served as the Director of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition from 2015-2019, leading collaborative watershed improvement efforts. Shayna has worked on a variety of natural resource issues across the Western US, including endangered species, stream and wetland restoration, and conservation finance, and has worked in the public, private and non-profit sectors. She has a M.S. in Conservation Leadership/Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University, and a B.S. in Business from the University of Maryland.



**Heather Knight** hails from Australia, where she received her education in Ecology and Natural Resources Management and secondary teaching, followed by graduate research on human disturbance of wildlife on the Great Barrier Reef. Heather immigrated to the US in 1991 and for almost 25 years led a community-based conservation effort for The Nature Conservancy in northern Colorado. In 2016, Heather joined the Center for Collaborative Conservation at Colorado State University as the Associate Director of Practice. Heather is the co-facilitator and coordinator of the Western Collaborative Conservation Network. Heather and her husband, Rick, live and steward a place in Livermore, Colorado.



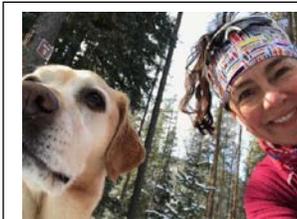
**Ethan Kunard** joined Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) as executive director in November 2019. Here, he focuses on supporting watershed conservation efforts through diverse partnerships at a statewide level. Prior to this, his work in the Madison Valley of Montana focused on community-based conservation related to long-term planning and development. Additionally, Ethan served as chair of the MWCC Board while they created their “Watershed Fund” and served on the Madison County Planning Board as the locale became the second-fastest growing county in Montana. Ethan graduated from the University of Montana, where he studied in the College of Forestry & Conservation.



**Devin Landry** is the Fellow for Collaborative Leadership with the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy at the University of Montana and serves as a consultant for the California Landscape Stewardship Network. In these roles, he helps to facilitate multi-stakeholder convenings, develop training opportunities for conservation practitioners to learn collaborative leadership skills, and advance partnership-based, cross-boundary conservation efforts through regional networks. Devin holds an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana and is a graduate of the Natural Resources Conflict Resolution Program.



**Jim Levitt** is Director of the International Land Conservation Network at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and a Fellow at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University, in Petersham, Massachusetts. In addition, he serves as a Fellow at Highstead, a non-profit organization advancing land conservation in New England. Levitt focuses on landmark innovations in the field of land and biodiversity conservation (both present-day and historic) that are characterized by five traits: novelty and creativity in conception; strategic significance; measurable effectiveness; international transferability; and the ability to endure. He has written and edited dozens of articles and four books on land and biodiversity conservation. He has lectured widely on the topic in venues ranging from Santiago, Chile, to Beijing, China, and Stockholm, Sweden. Among his current efforts, Levitt plays an instrumental role in the effort to organize the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN), whose mission is to connect organizations around the world that are accelerating voluntary private and civic sector action to protect and steward land and water resources. Levitt is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale School of Management (Yale SOM). He was recently named a Donaldson Fellow by Yale SOM for career achievements that “exemplify the mission of the School.”



**Deb Love** has spent the last 25 years leading collaborative conservation efforts and connecting people to nature. Currently director of the Intermountain West program at Resources Legacy Fund, Deb has served as executive director of the LOR Foundation and, prior to that, senior vice president at The Trust for Public Land. She holds a BS in organizational management from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley and an MS in environmental resource management from Antioch New England Graduate School.



**Joyce McConnell** is Colorado State University's 15th president, the first woman in that role. She is proud to lead one of the nation's leading land-grant universities and to embody the progress CSU has made in embracing and celebrating the diversity of its campus community. She recently announced CSU's Race, Bias and Equity Initiative, an expression of her own long-held commitment to diversity and inclusion in education and the workplace and to directly address challenges the University faces today. Prior to her arrival at CSU, McConnell was provost of West Virginia University, where she earlier served as dean of the WVU College of Law. An advocate for the preservation and protection of our environment, President McConnell finds both inspiration and relaxation in natural beauty and looks forward to exploring this beautiful mountain state



**Matthew McKinney** is Director of the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy at The University of Montana where his work focuses on collaborative approaches to natural resource and environmental policy. Prior to his current position, Matthew served as the founding director of the Montana Consensus Council. During the past 20-plus years, he has designed, facilitated, and mediated over 50 public processes on issues related to federal land, water, fish and wildlife, land use, regional planning and resource management, and other public issues. He received a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Policy and Conflict Resolution from The University of Michigan.



Kristina Ortez is the Executive Director of the Taos Land Trust. She grew up in the San Joaquin Valley of California in a small farming town and moved to New Mexico in 2008. She lives in Taos where she is raising her two daughters, ages eight and five. Kristina graduated from Harvard College with a degree in Anthropology and completed her Masters of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico. Kristina has dedicated her professional career to the preservation of public lands and ensuring clean water for rural communities. She serves as the Secretary for the newly restored Vigil y Romo Acequia Commission and sits on the Board of Directors of Alianza Agri-cultura de Taos and Conversation Voters New Mexico.



Arielle Quintana is a proud tribal member from Cochiti Pueblo, one of the twenty-three federally recognized tribes in New Mexico. She was raised to preserve the strong ties between people and land, which she continues to do to this day. Arielle is the Education and Outreach Director for the Quivira Coalition, a non-profit that seeks to build soil, biodiversity, and resilience on western working landscapes through education, innovation, and collaboration. Her primary role is to design, coordinate, and implement high-quality educational programming on regenerative practices for agricultural producers and land stewards. She also oversees the Quivira Tribal Land Stewardship Initiative, which builds partnerships with tribes in New Mexico to offer educational opportunities tailored to tribal interests and goals related to agriculture, land management, food sovereignty, and other traditional uses.



**Cole Pearson** is a Colorado State University Junior studying media communications. Cole wants to use his passion for video as an outlet to promote conservation and sustainability.



**Mark Peck** is a native of Libby, Montana, from a 3rd generation timber family. Prior to election as County Commissioner, he served as a Unit Manager, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, overseeing school trust timber lands and wildland fire jurisdiction. Mark served 9 years on National Incident Management Teams as a liaison officer. He has testified before the U.S. Senate, Western Governors' Association and speaks frequently on timber, fire, land management policies and their effects on local communities. He serves on the Montana Forest Collaboration Network, Governor's Forest Action Plan Committee and a board member of the local Collaborative.



**Jonathan Peterson (Jon)** has more than 10 years experience in working to advance landscape conservation. Prior to joining the Network for Landscape Conservation, he coordinated the South Mountain Partnership, a regional landscape conservation project in south-central Pennsylvania, and spent three years on the staff of the Boston-based Kendall Foundation. He is also a senior fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program. A graduate of Middlebury College and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Jon lives in western Massachusetts with his wife and young son.



**Chelsea Phillippe** is a graduate student at the University of Montana studying Resource Conservation and is pursuing a graduate certificate in Natural Resources Conflict Resolution. She works for the US Forest Service as a lead wilderness ranger and conservation educator striving to enhance relationships and a sense of shared stewardship between public land managing agencies, stakeholders, businesses, nonprofits, and the public.



**Henry Rael** has almost 20 years of experience in the publishing and technology sectors and more than 10 years experience in grassroots community and enterprise development. Henry was on the start-up team of Innovent Technologies, a Bluetooth semiconductor company and served as a communications and marketing Manager at Broadcom Corporation, managing communications efforts for the company's market-leading wireless products. Since returning to New Mexico in 2002, he founded a community-based economic development agency and co-founded a cooperative of small farms and a communications firm serving the non-profit sector. He currently serves as Program Officer with the McCune Foundation of New Mexico. Born and raised in Albuquerque, Henry has B.A. degrees in English and Political Science and an M.A. in English from UNM and lives in Albuquerque's South Valley with his wife and two children.



**Erin Reilly** is the Digital Communications and Outreach Specialist for The Nature Conservancy in Colorado. She has over five years of professional social media and marketing experience, primarily in the entertainment field at Getty Images and The Tribeca Film Festival. Erin has also consulted for a variety of different brands and organizations including The Key West Film Festival, Earth Angel Green Productions, Think Trio Residential and Girls Not Brides. As a relatively new Colorado resident, Erin has been enjoying spending her free times hiking outside, taking yoga classes and playing with her French Bulldog Wally.



**August Ritter** manages The Nature Conservancy's partnership with Techstars – The Sustainability Accelerator. This first-of-its kind partnership harnesses and directs technological innovation to help solve the world's food, water and climate challenges. The accelerator provides a way to systematically identify disruptive, commercially viable technologies and quickly bring them to scale. Prior to the Sustainability Accelerator, August helped start The Nature Conservancy's India Program as the program's Associate Director. Before heading to India, August managed TNC's global Board of Directors. August has a dual-degree M.S. in Conservation Leadership from Colorado State University and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur.



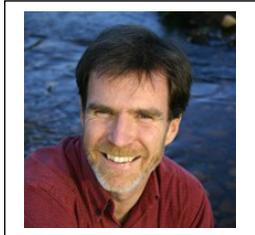
**John Roberts** is a retired Forester, having managed trust land forests throughout the state of Idaho over his 35-year career with the Idaho Department of Lands. In 2010 he and a few others became aware of the collaboratives springing up around the state and saw that they needed support. Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership (IFRP) sprang from that realization and has been supporting collaborative decision-making on U.S. Forest Service projects throughout the state, at the Statehouse and in Washington D.C. ever since. John is on the managing board of IFRP and is a member of Idaho's new Shared Stewardship Advisory Committee.



**Tahnee Robertson** is the Director of Southwest Decision Resources, a facilitation and mediation group based in Arizona specializing in cross-boundary collaboration in the Southwestern US. For the past 20 years, her work has focused on designing and facilitating collaborative efforts related to watershed, forest, conservation, outdoor recreation, community planning, and engagement of underrepresented stakeholders. She and her team currently support several place-based collaboratives in AZ, NM and UT.



**Lisa Runkel** is a Minnesota native and grew up on the waters of Lake of the Woods. While her entire career has been focused on non-profit fundraising and development, it wasn't until she started working for The Nature Conservancy (in both Iowa and Colorado) that she was able to align her personal and professional passions. Lisa is currently the Philanthropy Manager for River Network. Lisa has more than fifteen years of wide-ranging development experience and has secured more than \$10 million in private philanthropy for a diverse cadre of non-profit organizations. Positions in the social services sector, higher education and conservation have provided a variety of experiences including designing, building and executing fundraising plans, annual funds, events, capital campaign management, board engagement, creating and growing portfolios and cultivating and maintaining HNW donor relationships. Lisa has a B.A. in Psychology with an emphasis in Business from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa and a M.Ed. in Higher Education from Arizona State University. She recently launched her own non-profit consulting business to empower and assist organizations of all sizes to increase their



**John Sanderson** is the CCC's director. He has been doing conservation work in Colorado for 25 years, most recently as the Director of Science at The Nature Conservancy. At TNC, he led a staff working to protect land, manage rivers, restore forests, and mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. He earned a B.S. in engineering from Purdue University, an M.S. in botany from the University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology at Colorado State University.



**Russ Schnitzer** is a Senior Program Officer for the Gates Family Foundation, overseeing the Foundation's Natural Resources strategy. Russ's career in nonprofit conservation has carried him from organizational development and strategic planning to large-scale project management, major gifts fundraising, and public policy. His primary conservation interests focus on finding mutually-beneficial solutions to the increasingly complex demands facing people, communities and their environment through creative collaboration and leading through innovation. He spent a decade with Trout Unlimited, most recently as the Agricultural Policy and Partnerships Advisor to TU's Western Water Project. Prior, he was with The Nature Conservancy as Director of External Affairs for its Wyoming office. Russ is a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Achievement Award, and has co-authored a number of publications pertaining to the intersection of social values and the environment. He played a key role in the development and eventual reauthorization of the 2014 Farm Bill's conservation title, and was a founding steering committee member of the Western Agricultural and Conservation Collaborative. A former US Forest Service "smokejumper," he is a graduate of the University of Idaho, where he earned his M.S. in Environmental Studies and B.S. degrees in Conservation Social Sciences and Wildland Conservation.



**Nicole Seltzer** leads River Network's efforts to strengthen the influence and effectiveness of local coalitions in Colorado and the Western U.S. through knowledge sharing, mentorship and breaking down silos. She oversees a team that documents best practices in watershed planning, supports coalitions as they scope and fundraise for river restoration and protection plans, and works to involve rural landowners in conservation projects. Prior to joining River Network, Nicole was Executive Director of Water Education Colorado and handled public affairs for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Nicole has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in Water Resources from the University of Vermont.



**Gary Severson** is a member of the USDA Forest Service, National Collaboration Cadre and has worked with forty-one national forests. He is the retired Executive Director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, earning the USDA Rural Community Leadership Award for collaborative work with federal agencies. He was a co-founder and chair of the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative. After retiring from NWCCOG, he served as coordinator of the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council and served on the USDA Secretary's Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration National Advisory Committee. Gary is a fifty-one year resident of Colorado and lives in Evergreen.



**Karen Simms** is Natural Resources Division Manager with Pima County, Arizona's Department of Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation. In this position she manages more than 200,000 acres of Pima County's natural resource parks, ranch lands and grazing leases, which are part of the County's Conservation Lands System, a key feature of their Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. In her position, Karen collaborates regularly with several watershed partners including the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, the Cienega Watershed Partnership, and the Lower San Pedro Collaborative. Prior to taking on her position with Pima County, Karen worked for 30 years with the BLM in Tucson, Arizona where she worked as a wildlife biologist, ecosystem planner, and manager. She led development and implementation of the Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan and gained National recognition for her expertise in collaboration and adaptive management. Karen has been on the Steering Committee for XWN - Cross Watershed Network, on the Leadership team for CAMNet - Collaborative Adaptive Management Network and has participated on working groups of several other watershed collaboratives in Arizona. Karen has an MS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Arizona and a BS in Zoology from UC University of California, Davis in 1983.



**Kim Skyelander** has degrees in wildlife biology, environmental studies and natural resource management. She worked professionally for the U.S. Forest Service for 16 years as a wildlife biologist and natural resource manager. Kim taught environmental science classes at the Salish Kootenai College on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana and at the University of Idaho. She was also the executive director of Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, a large residential outdoor environmental school in northeastern Minnesota. Kim is currently the Associate Director of the Center for Collaborative Conservation at Colorado State University.



**Steve Smutko** is a professor in the Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. Steve's scholarship is focused in three areas: application and efficacy of participatory decision making in natural resources management and policy, decision making in coupled human and natural systems, and environmental leadership. His outreach work is conducted through the Ruckelshaus Institute at UW where he works with government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations to enhance participatory decision-making on complex environmental and natural resource policy issues. Steve teaches courses in negotiation, negotiation analysis, decision analysis, and natural resources problem solving.



**Adam Snitker** is a recent graduate from the University of Montana's College of Forestry and Conservation where he received a Master's of Science in Resource Conservation. His graduate research focused on the intersection of social and natural systems; specifically, how agricultural producers make decisions during times of drought. These research interests were further explored while he served as a Conservation Connect Fellow with the National Forest Foundation and a trainee within the University of Montana's BRIDGES program. Since graduating in December 2019, Adam has relocated to Denver, Colorado and now works for the Colorado Parks & Wildlife within the Department of Natural Resources.



**John Starinieri** has lived in Colorado for the past 5 years and attended Colorado State University for the past 2 years. John is a student at CSU, majoring in conservation biology with a minor in entomology. His field of interest is entomology, specifically invasive insects. He has research experience in entomology working with multiple species. This includes studying the digestive fitness of house flies, cognitive ability of honeybees, and his most recent work with codling moth control with CSU Extension.



**Jayne Thompson** grew up on a ranch in Pinedale, Wyoming. After attending The Pennsylvania State University, Jayne followed her passion for agriculture and conservation back to the West where she is the Director of External Relations for the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT). Jayne oversees a small development team that facilitates all events, fundraising, and communications for CCALT. In the past three years, Jayne has been an influential part of the CCALT team that increased annual unrestricted contributions by individual donors by 30%, 8%, and 24% year over year. Working with CCALT has given Jayne a large view of how small non-profits with limited staff capacity can operate and even thrive with a little bit of elbow grease and a lot of passion! Jayne is currently board president of Colorado's Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals.



**Shannon Wadas**, Associate Director of RiversEdge West, a nonprofit based in Grand Junction, CO, that focuses on the restoration of riparian lands across the southwest through collaboration, education and technical assistance. Shannon directly oversees staff and the various programs as well as assists with partnership facilitation needs, strategic planning and organizational development. She currently serves on the Coordinating Committee for Cross Watershed Network, a southwest regional network that strives to connect watershed groups at a multi-state level, as well as serves on the Leadership Team and Steering Committee for the Western Collaborative Conservation Network. Prior to working for RiversEdge West, Shannon was the northwest regional representative for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet where she worked on constituent advocacy as well as community outreach and engagement in current legislation and specific policy objectives. She also worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a park ranger for ten years at various state parks across the state. Throughout this time, Shannon oversaw a multitude of various park programs and served as a field training officer for the agency. She is a Colorado native and attended Western Colorado University, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Recreation.



**Aaron Weiss** joined the Center for Western Priorities in July 2015 after 14 years as a journalist and broadcast news producer, executive producer, and news director. Now the center's deputy director, he hosts CWP's *Go West, Young Podcast* and works to expand the Center's reach among reporters and the general public. A native of Tucson, Arizona, Aaron grew up exploring the Sonoran Desert, and now enjoys hiking with his kids and impersonating a skier in the Rocky Mountains.



**Sarah Wentzel-Fischer** has worked in food and agriculture planning for the past seven years with a focus on supporting young and beginning farmers and ranchers. She was the editor of Edible Santa Fe from 2011 to 2017. From 2013 to 2015 she worked for the National Young Farmers Coalition as an organizer and is currently the board president of the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust. She also worked with La Montanita Co-op, New Mexico's longest running and largest member Co-op, co-founded the Albuquerque Grower's Alliance, and championed the local food movement through her graduate research in small-scale agriculture in the region.



**Dr. Jessica Western** is Senior Research Scientist in Human Dimensions in Natural Resources and Director of the Collaboration Program in Natural Resources in the Ruckelshaus Institute of the University of Wyoming. Jessica provides collaborative leadership trainings and assesses, designs, and facilitates collaborative public processes in relation to natural resource issues e.g. wildlife, forests and energy. Recent and current related examples include leading Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Chronic Wasting Disease collaborative process, the Whiskey Mountain Bighorn Sheep collaborative process and the Wyoming Range and Platte Valley mule deer management processes. Dr. Western is a peer-reviewed social psychologist who has researched the relationship between people and natural resources. She teaches natural resource policy in relation to the United States and the European Union.



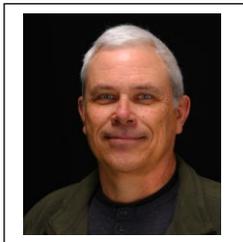
**Leigh Whelpton** leads the Conservation Finance Network's effort to accelerate land and resource conservation by increasing the capabilities of practitioners to use of innovative funding and financing strategies. Prior to this role, she managed trainings and initiatives at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. Leigh serves on the advisory board of the Environmental Policy Innovation Center and volunteers with the Three Valley Conservation Trust.



**Gary Wolfe** is executive director of the Montana-based Cinnabar Foundation, a private foundation focusing on environmental and conservation issues in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He has 45 years of conservation and natural resources management experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Prior to joining the Cinnabar Foundation he served as CEO of two conservation NGOs – Vital Ground and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – and worked as a wildlife biologist in New Mexico. Gary earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in wildlife biology from Colorado State University.



The Spiritual Advisor of Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB), **Jonah Yellowman** is Diné from Halgaito in Monument Valley, Navajo Nation, Utah. He is of the Living Arrow Bitterwater clan, and born of the Redhouse clan. He was a founding Board Member for UDB in 2011. As UDB’s Spiritual Advisor, he promotes healing among people and across ancestral, public lands. Specifically, he practices as a roadman for the Azee’ Bee Nahagha of Diné Nation, and helps the Medicine People and Herbalists protect Mother Nature through ceremonies. He believes that through prayers and ceremonies, we can find harmony and balance to keep the land all lands intact. He also works as a traditional artist (creative), specializing in Native American beadwork and painting.



Joe Zebrowski is NMHU’s Director of Geospatial Technology at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM. As a Visiting Instructor of Forestry, he teaches remote sensing and geographic information systems courses at Highlands. He also facilitates collaborative conservation groups such as the Mountainair ranger District Collaborative and the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Program. Joe’s research and applications interests center on the use of geospatial technologies in the support of collaborative conservation and watershed management. Landscape-scale restoration is particular interest. Joe received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Sciences in Geography, both from Texas A&M University.

## Thank you Student Volunteers

### Conservation Leadership Through Learning Graduate Students

- |                   |                    |                       |                 |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Laura Anthony     | Kristen Brinkley   | Will Buchman          | Kate Burgess    |
| Mitch Dahlke      | Roberta Farrington | Isabella Harris       | Ellie Harrison  |
| Taylor Heid       | Kayla Jones        | Kristin Leger         | Courtney Massey |
| Juarez Michelotti | Anna Molera        | Madeline Norman       | Tyler Nuckols   |
| Vincent Ontita    | Audrey Ramsey      | Julianna S. Rodriguez | Nathan Smith    |
|                   | Talia Speaker      | Monique Thompson      |                 |

## Colorado State University Undergraduate Students



**Shannon Iral** is a freshman at Colorado State University. Shannon is currently majoring in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology and am planning to add a minor of Ecological Restoration. She believes that conservation is not only a biological science, but a social science as well. An event such as the Confluence 2020 is an incredible way to speak about conservation efforts from the past, present, and the hopeful future. With her concentration in Conservation Biology, Shannon hopes to learn about the social science aspect of projects during this amazing event.



**Sierra Klemme** recently transferred to CSU and is part of the Warner College studying Watershed Science. Sierra is a passionate stewardess of the environment and is inspired by the combined efforts of all the conservative groups. In the future Sierra hopes to work with ecological water sites and preserve one of our greatest resources.



**Nick Schrader** is a fourth-year Human Dimensions of Natural Resources student minoring in History. Nick enjoys climbing, snowboarding, and hiking with friends furry and friends, local sustainable beer, and biking around Fort Collins. Nick believes one key to successful collaborative conservation is understating the importance of unbiased regional history. Following graduation Nick hopes to pursue a career in local government where he can be involved in with the community though creating inclusive spaces for diverse and equitable engagement, and learning about what makes for successful community conservation projects.



**Kaili Schroeder** is a junior studying Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at CSU. Kaili has worked as a trail crew member and team lead the past two summers. She currently works as an environmental educator at CSU's Environmental Learning Center. Kaili loves all things of nature – getting outside for recreation, helping to promote sustainability on campus, and pursuing a zero (or at least minimal) waste lifestyle. She hopes to find a job that allows me to build community, educate, and connect with people to build a more environmentally aware and compassionate world.

### WESTERN COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION NETWORK

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COMMUNITY    COLLABORATION    CONSERVATION

