

Confluence 2020 Open Space Session Notes

Catalyzing and Sustaining Collaboratives

Topics for discussion proposed by session attendees:

How to maintain level of funding for watershed collaboratives

Volunteers-creating a clearinghouse, sharing volunteers, coordination network

Funding for projects that support collaborative conservation – risky and innovative ideas

What do state conservation partnership (SCPs) need in terms of leadership change, recruitment of new people, dealing with burnout?

Deep dive into lessons learned from collaboratives-practical strategies and solutions for facing challenges-turnover, policy, and economics

Evaluating collaborative conservation efforts-potential role for universities

Ideas for collaborative communication

How to have workshops on key topics

How can we collaborate more effectively-getting federal agencies to the table?

How to change the conversation with the USFS

Situation assessments to start collaboratives

What makes collaboration work-why do people own their collaboratives more than others? And How to bring imagination to these problems?

Mapping of collaboratives and creating a support network

More efficient ways to collaborate

Main Points of Discussion in Breakout Groups

1. Owning Your Collaborative

People own a collaborative if:

- It affects their real life
 - Quality of life
 - Financial bottom line
 - Community prosperity
- Is broad enough that many people want to be there
- The governance and protocols are
 - Friendly, safe, welcoming
 - Productive, effective at addressing needs
- There is broad leadership
 - Multi-age
 - Shared responsibility in committees
 - Mix it up
- There is cross-group exchange and if it is energizing
- There are shared agendas
- Overhead is low but the need to increase support
 - Coordinator/leadership is good at leveraging energy/responsibility
- There is shared funders and funding
- All the key people are at the table
 - one stop shop
 - local government
 - state and federal agencies
 - NGOs
- Benefit and importance of discussions
- Research is co-designed by the collaborative
 - Protocols about making sure researchers follow a good approach
 - Leave data with the collaborative, etc.
- Shared power
 - All have an equal seat at the table
 - Power of peer-to-peer

2. Addressing Collaborative Challenges

- Longitudinal assessment of capacity
- Survey what resources you have and don't have
- Embrace multiple levels of management in collaboratives=a culture of collaboration at multiple levels
- Peer learning across all collaboratives
- Sharing stories of success and needs from local collaboratives to regional leadership and directorates of federal agencies

- Allocate adequate time for building relationships, trust, etc.
 - Not just for implementation
- Celebrate small wins
 - Meetings, workshops, milestones, etc.
- Defined transition strategy
 - Instructional legacy knowledge
 - Redundancy in roles (to eliminate lag time)
 - Buddy system-mentoring newbies
 - Hand-over memos-USFS-see protocols
- Agreement on rule, roles, expectations
- Be inclusive but balance with manageable number of stakeholders – use sub-committees
- Engaging the collaborative in hiring federal employees who are involved in the collaborative
- National Forest Foundation-collaboration resources and webinars
- Rural Vices for Collaborative Conservation-resources

3. Keys to identify, record, or measure when conducting Situation Assessment and Evaluations

- Situations Assessments
 - Parties
 - Issues
 - History
 - Values
 - Vision
 - Process and capacity Inventory
 - Options
 - Facilitation/structural needs
- Evaluations
 - Tracking outcomes
 - Relationships - communicating between partners
 - Identify key components
 - Project implementation versus social benefits - building social capital has value
 - There is a desire to compare CBCCs with a standard matrix
 - Purpose, mission, value