

New Collaboration Approaches

Session Hosts: Laurel Anders and Ed Contreras

Description of Session: **New Collaboration Approaches** will share innovative, community-based models to increase collaboration across state and federal agencies and engage local organizations and communities. Case studies from different regions across the country will help illustrate strategies and models to work across public and private boundaries and regulatory frameworks to effectively implement collaborative conservation that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.

Outline the session: (90 minutes total time)

- 8:15-8:25 (10 min) Introduction and framing
- 8:25-8:35 (10 min) **John Roberts** – case study
- 8:35-8:45 (10 min) **Mark Peck** – case study
- 8:45-8:55 (10 min) **Cindy Dohner** – case study
- 8:55-9:05 (10 min) Whole group question and comment
- 9:05-9:25 (20 min) Small breakout group discussion
- 9:25-9:40 (15 min) Reconvene & small breakout groups share results
- 9:40-9:45 (5 min) Identify main outcomes and next steps, session wrap-up

Case Studies:

1. John Roberts – Idaho Department of Lands (retired), Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership and Idaho’s Shared Stewardship Advisory Committee will talk about the U.S. Forest Service’s Shared Stewardship in Idaho (idahoforester@gmail.com)
2. Cindy Dohner -- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (retired) and independent environmental consultant will talk about frameworks to utilize existing ESA regulatory authorities to encourage collaboration that ensures working lands continue to work and conserve species (ckdohner1@gmail.com)
3. Mark Peck – Montana Forest Collaboration Network, Governor’s Forest Action Plan Committee, and Lincoln County (MT) Commissioner will talk about grassroots collaboration and the U.S. Forest Service’s Good Neighbor Authority (mark.peck@libby.org)

Small breakout group discussion: Attendees are divided evenly among three breakout groups and select one notetaker per group. Each breakout group uses the following questions to stimulate discussion and strategize how to use the information presented to advance their work (“*key takeaways*”) and identify action items (“*next steps*”). Case study presenters mingle among the breakout groups to answer specific questions and offer intriguing thoughts.

1. How do the case studies apply to your work? (*key takeaway*)

2. Which elements of the case studies benefit your work? (*key takeaway*)
3. How can you integrate your learnings from these case studies into your work? (*next steps*)
4. Based on what you learned in this session, what do you need to facilitate your collaborative efforts? (*next steps*)

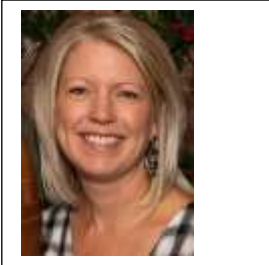
Technology & Materials: (add to list below as needed)

PPT title slide for each case study (to be prepared by Laurel)

Flip charts and pens

PPT template slide (to be completed during session wrap-up)

HOSTS:



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.



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.

PRESENTERS:



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.



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.



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.