

## 5 key elements that lead to engagement of diverse and multiple partners in a collaborative

**Session Host(s):** Laura Calandrella / Steve Smutko

### **Description of Session:**

Engaging diverse stakeholders in collaborative initiatives requires thoughtful approaches that bring together multiple perspectives. In this session, leaders from Partners for Conservation, Wyoming's Landscape Conservation Initiative and Utah Diné Bikéyah will share their experiences, successes, and challenges.

These case studies will serve as a springboard to guide participants through five thematic areas that are essential to the success of highly participatory collaboratives. Together we will explore the role that clear definition of purpose, outcomes, stakeholders, and invitations to collaborate provide leaders with the ability to define the best strategic approaches to their initiatives. The case studies will provide participants with the opportunity to see how these themes have been applied in various contexts across the West.

Outline the session: (the session is 60 minutes long- edit this suggested session format)

- 5 minutes: Introduction and session overview
- 10 minutes: Case Studies
- 40 minutes: Panel / 5 Thematic Areas / Participant Discussions
- 5 minutes: Session Wrap-Up

**Case Studies:** (list the 2 -3 case studies to be presented by practitioners as success stories and or lessons learned and include the presenters name, organization and contact information.)

1. Russell Davis, Rancher-Wineinger-Davis Ranch, Board-Partners for Conservation  
[davisrdt@gmail.com](mailto:davisrdt@gmail.com)  
(719) 892-5427
2. Justin Caudill, Agriculture Program Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
[justin.caudill@wyo.gov](mailto:justin.caudill@wyo.gov)  
307-350-5480
3. Jonah Yellowman, Spiritual Leader and UDB Board Member  
[info@utahdinebikeyah.org](mailto:info@utahdinebikeyah.org)  
(385) 202-4954

### **Activity:**

Presenters will lead with a brief introduction of their collaborative.

Co-hosts will introduce a thematic framework for managing diverse and multiple partners within a collaborative. The themes include: purpose, outcomes, stakeholders, invitation, and strategic approach. These themes are core to any collaborative initiative and, when intentionally considered, can create a strong container for engagement of diverse and multiple partners

Co-hosts will then lead the presenters through a panel discussion that explores these themes. Emphasis will be placed on two-way dialogue between presenters and participants to deepen knowledge.

### Participant Questions, Comments/Discussion:

The panel discussion will engage questions on each of the 5 themes. Potential questions are listed below:

- **Purpose:** What is the compelling for doing this work now?
- **Outcomes:** What do we hope the tangible and intangible results of our work will be? What new knowledge will be built? How will relationships be different? What action will be taken?
- **Stakeholders:** How will we make action happen? Who needs to be involved in order to achieve that? What does diverse mean? And in what context? Ideological?
- **Invitation:** What is the inspiring question that will bring people together? How will we invite people so they know that they are needed?
- **Strategic Approach:** What ideas do you have about the form this engagement should take to achieve the meeting purpose while integrating the contributions of all who attend?

### Flip Chart 1: Key Outcomes

- *Ask participants: What new knowledge was built? What new awareness are you leaving with today? What are the tangible / intangible results of our time together?*

### Flip Chart 2: Next Steps

- *Ask participants: What action will be taken? What is your commitment walking away from today's session?*

Technology & Materials:

Flip charts and pens

PPT template slide

Index cards and pens

## Bio of Host(s) and Case Study Presenters:



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.



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.



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 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 Program each year.



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.



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 all lands intact. He also works as a traditional artist (creative), specializing in Native American beadwork and painting.