

Public Policy and the Positive Implications of Collaborative Processes

Capacity Building Working Session

Session Host(s): Heather Johnson

Session Facilitators: Jessica Western

Description of Session:

NOTE: This Session is specifically designed to continue the process of researching, writing and distributing materials related to public policy to promote collaboration as a way of doing business within Federal Agencies. Please do not sign up or join this session unless you are able to read the Paper and the One-Pager in advance.

Public policies developed and implemented by public land management agencies directly affect the efforts of communities to conserve and steward natural resources. When a collaborative approach is taken, greater success can be achieved. Public agency personnel need to be supported to encourage participation in the collaborative approach and policies need to be reflective of collaboration. The WCCN Public Policy Working Group has engaged practitioners and policy makers to identify issues and opportunities to strengthen collaborative approaches across the West. This Working Group convened in April 2019 in Sheridan for a workshop which resulted in a White Paper and a One-Pager, both for distribution to agency leaderships and other interested parties. This session will convene representatives from public agencies and leaders of the conservation practice community to refine both products and identify implementation actions to put these products to use.

The discussion will be as follows:

- a. Heather Johnson will provide a presentation on the background and work of this Working Group as well as an introduction to the White Paper and the One-Pager.
- b. Jessica Western will facilitate a discussion to finalize the White Paper.
- c. The group will finalize the one-pager.
- d. Identify action items for distribution of public policy papers with deadlines and volunteers.

Outline the session: (the session is 90 minutes long- edit this suggested session format)

20 minutes: Introduction and Framing

30 minutes: Refine White Paper

30 minutes: Refine One-Pager

20 minutes: Determine Action Items

Technology & Materials:

Flip charts and pens

PPT template slide

Background Materials: One Pager and White Paper

Host, Co-Chair Heather Johnson



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 28 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.

Facilitator, Co-Chair Jessica Western



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.