

Inventory of Internship and Mentoring Programs in the Rocky Mountain West and South West Regions

Lindsey Sarazen
Center For Collaborative Conservation, Western Collaborative Conservation Network,
and Warner College of Natural Resources



Background

“Collaborative conservation invites diverse and inclusive groups of stakeholders to solve sustainability problems through collective learning and action” (Center for Collaborative Conservation).

The CCC creates collaborative conservation solutions by:

- training future collaborative conservationists through university coursework
- supporting collaborative conservation practitioners in developing skills
- investigating how and why collaboration succeeds or fails in achieving desired outcomes

“The WCCN promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.” (Western Collaborative Conservation Network)



Selected References

- Munoz, D. Conservation, Community, Collaboration image Retrieved from <http://munozmunozmunoz.com/about/>
- Reid, R. S., Scharf, V. L., Huayhuasca, C., Lynn, S., Loyd, K., & Jandreau, C. Collaborative conservation in practice: Current state and future directions.

Project Focus

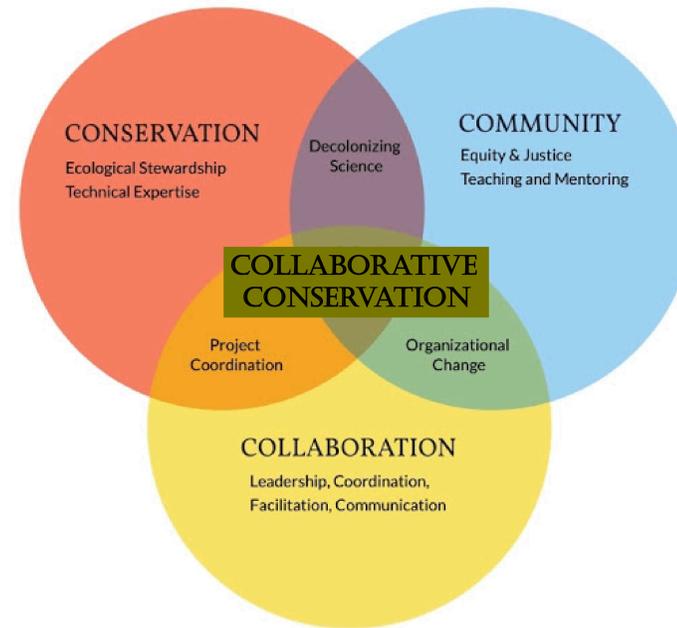
Objectives:

Investigate and evaluate internships and mentoring programs focused on collaborative conservation within the United States.

Methods

Collaborative conservation internships and mentoring programs project:

- Take a comprehensive inventory of programs
- Create an excel database of programs
- Analyze and summarize these findings to discover current capacity and needs

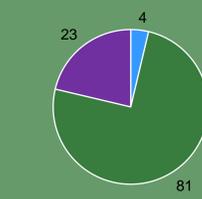


Next Steps

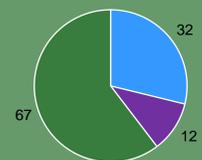
- The Western Collaborative Conservation Network will use the inventory and summary report created to:
- Promote existing internship & mentoring programs and connect practitioners and future leaders to these programs, and
- Determine where gaps exist and how to collaborate with others to fill needs

Findings and Discussion Internship & Mentoring Programs

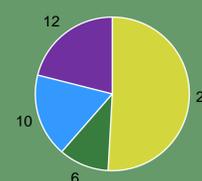
General Characteristics:



■ Mentoring ■ Training
■ Both

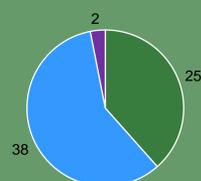


■ National programs
■ Regional programs
■ State programs

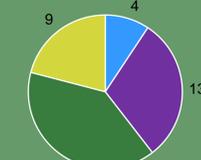


■ Nonprofit Organizations
■ Public Organizations
■ Academic Institutions
■ Conservation Corps

Format:

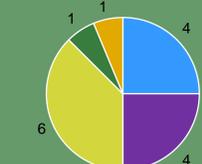


■ Individual-based
■ Cohort-based
■ Both

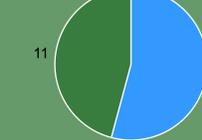


■ Host 1 intern
■ Host 2-10 interns
■ Host 11-75 interns
■ Host 75+ interns

Needs and Funding:

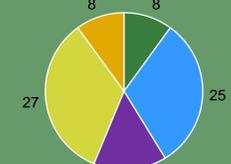


■ Recruitment support needed
■ Fundraising support needed
■ Partnerships needed
■ General support needed
■ No support needed

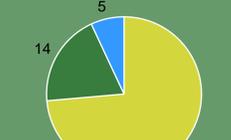


■ Funded by federal programs
■ Funded by private donors

Affordability and Accessibility:



■ Military veterans
■ College students
■ Young professionals
■ Anyone over 18
■ Other eligibility requirements



■ Paid ■ Unpaid ■ Both

Trends:

- Basic program information is widely and easily available
- Abundance of programs in Colorado, Arizona, and on the regional and national scales
- Seven of nine western states have a small number of programs (Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, Utah, Texas, and Wyoming)
- The programs are highly affordable and accessible for participants in terms of pay, benefits, timing, and lengths
- A diverse range of opportunities for people from many backgrounds and life stages currently exist

Needs:

- Increased funding, program partnering, and overall number of programs, specifically mentoring, is needed

Gaps:

- Many programs in the inventory lack information on participation, program funding and partners, evaluation, and support

Limitations of study:

- Given the scope and duration of the project was limited to about 10 weeks, many more programs could likely be discovered through additional inquiry
- Completeness of each program in the inventory was largely limited by publicly available online data (including contact information) and responsiveness to email inquiries.

Acknowledgements:

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