



**Collaborative Conservation Fellows Program
Request for Cohort 12 Proposals
2022- 2023
Submission Deadline: November 2, 2021**

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) at Colorado State University (CSU) invites both individual and team applications for its Collaborative Conservation¹ Fellowship Program, Cohort 12.

We accept applications from:

- 1) Practitioners: non-CSU people who use, own, or manage natural resources as individuals (e.g., landowners, ranchers, foresters, farmers) or who work professionally as part of tribal nations, the private sector, non-profits, government and state agencies, and other entities
- 2) CSU graduate students from all colleges and departments
- 3) CSU faculty, research scientists, post docs, and extension agents from all colleges and departments

The CCC is strongly committed to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts of Warner College of Natural Resources. The Fellows Program seeks to increase the diversity and representation of our fellows to provide deeper cultural learning among the cohort, and increase collaborative research, education, and practice opportunities for underserved communities. In addition, we recognize that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected people and communities of color and those with limited financial resources. As such, we encourage applications from individuals who identify as belonging to an underrepresented group, and/or projects that focus on underserved or marginalized communities.

The CCC will be offering two “how-to apply” sessions in early September and October 2021.

Check the website and the CCC newsletter for information on dates and times:

<https://collaborativeconservation.org/program/fellows/application-materials/>

To sign up for the CCC Newsletter, go to:

<https://collaborativeconservation.org/>

¹ We define *collaboration* as action on a particular problem where multiple individuals, or organizations, must work together to solve a problem that none can solve alone. We define *conservation* as an action that promotes the sustainability of linked natural and human communities and the resources they both depend upon. *Livelihoods* may address economics, well-being and health, gender issues, power structures, trust and relationship building, or behavior changes.

An example of a past Fellows' Application can be found on the application webpage [here](#)

A. Introduction

The Center for Collaborative Conservation

The Center for Collaborative Conservation (CCC) was established in 2008 in the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. The CCC promotes working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to address conservation issues on public, private and indigenous lands across Colorado, the western United States, and the world. Collaboration can result in more enduring conservation outcomes by incorporating the power of the collective wisdom, diverse viewpoints, and resources of a community in decision-making when addressing local social, economic, and ecological concerns. For more information, go to www.collaborativeconservation.org

The Fellows Program

Since 2008, the Center for Collaborative Conservation's Fellows Program has challenged and encouraged students, faculty and practitioners to work together to help local communities sustain their livelihoods and conserve their landscapes. Fellows work across disciplinary, landscape, cultural, and administrative boundaries to find innovative solutions to conservation issues through on-the-ground projects in the United States and around the world.

Fellows Program Goals

- 1) Build the capacity of the fellows as conservation leaders, both professionally and personally, through mentoring, training, and experiential learning in collaborative conservation.
- 2) Find innovative and locally driven solutions to conservation problems by directly involving communities and practitioners in all aspects of the fellows' projects, from design to sharing project results.
- 3) Build an action network among practitioners, students, and researchers to share collaborative experiences, skills, and research to improve the processes and outcomes of collaborative conservation efforts.

Program Benefits to the Fellows

Alumni tell us that:

- Their fellowship experiences have led to significant, sometimes transformative, impact on their collaborative conservation work and careers.
- They have received a range of other lasting professional benefits including development of confidence, leadership, credibility, and networks.
- Their projects lived on and continued evolving years beyond their fellowship, resulting in various tangible and intangible impacts to a range of stakeholders (e.g. communities, partners) and structures (e.g. education, policies).

- The fellowship provided an experiential, interactive learning environment comprised of four specific components: funding, project experience, interactions with other fellows and CCC staff, and a supportive fellowship community.

B. Fellowship Focus

We are seeking projects that use collaboration to address conservation and livelihood issues. These projects should engage communities and/or stakeholders through every step of the work – from project design to project implementation.

We encourage applications with an emphasis on at least one of the four following criteria:

- 1) Projects led by individuals who identify as belonging to an underrepresented or marginalized group.
- 2) Projects focused on underserved communities, and tribal and ancestral lands.
- 3) Projects centered on private land issues.
- 4) International projects that focus on rangelands.

C. Timeline and Application Materials

The deadline for applications is **midnight MST, Tuesday November 2, 2021. No late applications will be accepted.** Completed applications should be sent to Fellows@collaborativeconservation.org on or before that date.

Decisions on successful applicants will be announced November 17-18, 2021. This cohort will run for 18 months from January 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.

**Details on the program and all application materials can be found on the CCC webpage at www.collaborativeconservation.org/fellows.

For questions about the RFP or the application, contact Kim Skyelander at kim.skyelander@colostate.edu (but do NOT send applications to this address).

D. Description of Funding Opportunity

Applicants may apply for either an Individual Fellowship **OR** a Team Fellowship.

Individual Fellowships

- 1) **Graduate Fellowships:** CSU graduate students enrolled in any department may apply. Awards are **up to \$7,500.** Graduate students must be officially admitted and registered at CSU to apply and must be enrolled as a graduate student through the spring of 2023. Graduate students are required to collaborate with at least two conservation practitioners outside of CSU (prefer they be from different organizations) on their projects, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.

- 2) **Faculty Fellowships:** Current CSU faculty members, research scientists, post docs, and extension agents may apply to this category. Awards are **up to \$10,000**. Faculty fellows are required to collaborate with at least two conservation practitioners outside of CSU (prefer they be from different organizations) on their projects, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.
- 3) **Practitioner Fellowships:** Practitioners are not affiliated with CSU and include people who use, own, or manage natural resources as individuals (e.g., landowners, ranchers, foresters, farmers, fishers) or who work professionally as part of tribal nations, the private sector, non-profits, government agencies and other entities. Awards are **up to \$10,000**. Practitioner fellows are required to collaborate with at least one person (student, faculty, or researcher) at CSU, and explicitly refer to this collaboration in the application.

Team Fellowships

Teams – a team can consist of a maximum of three fellows: Teams can be made up of any faculty members, researchers, post-docs, extension agents, graduate students, or practitioners, but there **MUST** be at least one practitioner, and one individual affiliated with CSU as team fellows. Teams may also include additional collaborators (but collaborators are not subject to Fellowship Requirements outlined in Section E). Team awards are **up to \$18,000**.

E. Fellowship Requirements

Summary of Fellowship Requirements

Attend:

- Orientation meeting
- Reception and Retreat
- Cohort Trainings

Produce:

- Final Product (s)
- Final Fellows' Project Report
- Fellows Program Evaluation

****NOTE: Because a big part of the fellowship is interacting with the other fellows, Fellows must attend all meetings and trainings.** Failure to do so without written approval will result in expulsion from the program and loss of funds.

The format and timing of these activities may change due to pandemic circumstances to ensure the health and safety of all participants and remain in line with state/CDC and CSU restrictions/guidelines.

Attend

- 1) **Orientation Meeting, Reception and Retreat:** Fellows are required to attend the Cohort 12 Fellows Orientation Meeting (early December) and Reception and Retreat

(mid-February). These will be in-person or on-line, depending on the circumstances. During orientation, fellows meet each other and learn about the fellowship logistics and requirements. The reception gives fellows a chance to introduce their projects to peers and guests and interact with past fellows. The one-day retreat following the reception allows for networking, planning, and training around the field of collaborative conservation. Project collaborators are welcome and encouraged to attend these events.

- 2) **Cohort Trainings:** Fellows will be required to attend 4 in-depth, half day or full day trainings during the 18-month fellowship. These will be in-person or on-line, depending on the circumstances. Training topics will be chosen by the fellows at the February Retreat from a comprehensive list of collaborative conservation skills and tools. Trainings will be hands-on, provide peer-to-peer learning, and give fellows time to apply the skills and tools to their specific projects.

Previous training topics include:

- Conducting a Situation Assessment
- Collaborative Research and Fact Finding
- Building Partnerships
- Science Communications
- Cross-Cultural Learning
- Lessons Learned from Collaborative Conservation
- Facilitation Strategies
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Understanding Power Dynamics When Collaborating
- Evaluating Your Collaborative Project
- Listening and Building Trust

- 3) **Support the CCC:** Engage with the CCC both during and after the term of the fellowship. Fellows are encouraged to attend and participate in CCC activities such as participating on future fellowship review panels, acting as trainers for current and future retreats or short courses, contributing to CCC blogs, attending CCC social / partnership / networking functions, and participating in CCC conferences, workshops and/or special events.

Produce

All Fellows are required to produce the following deliverables: a final product(s), a final Fellows Project Report, and a Fellows Program evaluation.

NOTE: The CCC will be using your final Fellows' Project Report information (NOT your actual project data – see below) for future journal articles, internal reports, and fund-raising. By accepting a CCC Fellowship, you will be giving us permission to use your Fellows' Project Report information for these purposes. Your acceptance of the award also constitutes agreement to

post your final products and your Fellows' Project Report on the CCC website (if your report contains sensitive information that should not be shared with the public, we will honor this).

Also, all future Fellowship related journal articles need to acknowledge the Center for Collaborative Conservation as a funder and collaborator.

1) Final Products

Individual Graduate Student and Faculty Fellows

- Turn in one academic product.

Examples of academic products are: conference presentations, publishable manuscripts, models, conference posters, thesis or dissertation chapters, etc.

Individual Practitioner Fellows

- Turn in one practical product.

Practical products are items from your project that communities want and/or can use. These might include training guides, handbooks, media products, policy briefs for policy makers, workshop agendas and notes, digital and non- digital maps, community reports, etc.

Teams

- Turn in one academic product and one practical product.

2) Final Fellows' Project Report

Each individual fellow and each team must complete a standard CCC project report. These reports help the CCC quantify the impact of the project on conservation and livelihoods in the project area, and to the field of collaborative conservation. Report guidelines will be given to fellows at the start of the fellowship and several times throughout the fellowship. As part of the final report, fellows will turn in *quarterly journal notes* throughout the fellowship for use in the Fellows Final Project Report.

3) Fellows Program Evaluation

Each individual fellow and each team fellow are required to fill out a CCC program evaluation form to evaluate the Fellows Program as a whole and offer suggestions for improvement. These evaluations are used to improve the program.