



WARNER COLLEGE  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



### **Conservation Philanthropy workshop**

*What:* A two-day workshop on “conservation philanthropy” that brings together equal numbers of funders and practitioners (≤20 people total) for a robust dialogue on what funders and those seeking funding should know and do to make giving and receiving conservation funding more effective. The focus of this dialogue will be, on the funder side, individual and small/medium-sized family foundations and, on the practitioner side, community-based organizations working on a consensus basis toward sustainable landscapes and strong communities and local economies.

*Workshop goal:* Describe “best practices” for conservation philanthropy from the point of view of both funder and practitioner, emphasizing what each side of this reciprocal relationship (funder, practitioner) wants the other side to know. From “best practices” we will turn to discussing key challenges funders and practitioners face, how can these be overcome and identifying 1-3 highest priority actions that funders and practitioners might do together to make progress on these challenges and increase the impact of collaborative conservation on the ground. Published literature on “conservation philanthropy” may be used to inform and guide the discussion, but the overarching emphasis will be on capturing the experiences of workshop participants.

#### *Product(s):*

- (1) Article in a special issue of *Conservation Science and Practice* co-authored by workshop participants. After publications, this article will then be disseminated through the Center for Collaborative Conservation and the Western Collaborative Conservation Network.
- (2) Possible: A condensed, lay-oriented (i.e., non-academic) “key takeaways” summary of the paper / workshop.
- (3) Possible: A short seminar offered to funders and/or practitioners on the outcomes of the workshop.
- (4) Possible: A plan to collectively address a small set of high-priority actions that will lead to more impactful use of philanthropic funding.

*Where:* CSU campus, Fort Collins.

*When:* Begin Nov 1, 2021 at noon. End Nov 2, 2021 at 5 PM. A manuscript must be submitted by January 15, 2022.

*Title and abstract (as accepted for Special Issue of Conservation Science and Practice on "Conservation Philanthropy" – see RFP below)*

***Key practices for effective relationships between funders and practitioners to drive effective community-based collaborative conservation***

Conservation is often done by community-based groups working to achieve conservation through consensus-based processes that sustain healthy landscapes while also strengthening communities. In Colorado alone there are about 150 practitioner groups doing collaborative conservation. Many of these groups rely on considerable volunteer contributions and small paid staffs that may lack the experience, skills, and relationships needed to engage effectively with philanthropic individuals and family foundations. At the same time, philanthropic individuals and family foundations who want to invest in conservation may lack the staff and time to understand the work and effectiveness of prospective and actual grantees. Through a two-day workshop focused on the Rocky Mountain and Intermountain western US, a group of fifteen to twenty individuals comprising equal numbers of philanthropists and practitioners will identify key practices both sides of this important relationship should understand so that conservation philanthropy drives meaningful outcomes for landscapes, livelihoods, and communities. Funders may emphasize, for example, that community-based conservation groups need not engage on every issue; creating and following a clear strategic plan focuses time and energy on the most important issues for the highest return-on-investment. Practitioners may emphasize, for example, that extensive and complicated application and reporting requirements add little value while detracting from a small organizations ability to build and sustain community participation in conservation efforts. Understanding these important practices from perspectives of both funders and practitioners will guide more impactful conservation investment and grow skills needed by practitioner to attract funding. During the workshop we will also discuss key challenges funders and practitioners face and identify the highest priority actions that funders and practitioners might take together to make progress on these challenges. Our hope is that our report on experience-based key practices and challenges will ultimately drive more effective use of scarce philanthropic resources.

## **\*\*Call for Papers\*\***

### **Special Issue of *Conservation Science and Practice* on “Conservation Philanthropy”**

*Guest Editors:* Rebecca Gruby (Colorado State University), Ash Enrici (Indiana University), and Daniel C. Miller (University of Illinois/University of Notre Dame)

#### **Overview**

We are living in an era of mega-wealth and big philanthropy. Philanthropic individuals and organizations affect conservation in profound ways, both through their funding decisions and direct engagement in conservation policy and practice. Despite its growing prominence, however, conservation philanthropy—voluntary contributions of money, property, or time in support of conservation—has received little scholarly attention. This omission limits knowledge on how philanthropy works (and could work) to influence conservation agendas, organizations, networks, research, local communities, and natural systems around the world. There is a significant need for research that can inform debate, policy, and practice in relation to conservation philanthropy.

#### **Special Issue focus**

This special issue of *Conservation Science and Practice* will include papers that explore conservation philanthropy from diverse theoretical, methodological, and geographical perspectives, with explicit attention to informing conservation science and practice. As the first special issue to focus on conservation philanthropy, we aim to mobilize scholarly attention to this prominent yet under-studied dimension of conservation. The scope is broad, covering any biome or country context. Contributions may consider any type of philanthropy, including high net worth individuals and organized philanthropy, such as private or community foundations.

We invite contributions on topics including but not limited to:

- Funding flows, showing relative contributions to particular conservation issues or geographies coming from philanthropy compared to other types of donors;
- Roles of philanthropy in conservation (e.g., in agenda-setting, knowledge production, capacity building, convening, etc.);
- Social and ecological outcomes of conservation philanthropy, including differential effects across gender, race, class, and other social distinctions;
- Critical perspectives, including analyses of ‘philanthrocapitalism’;
- Internal organizational dynamics of foundations working on conservation;
- Issues of legitimacy, equity, and justice in conservation philanthropy; and
- Applied best practices.

We are especially interested in empirical contributions (e.g., case studies, small- or large-n comparative work, etc.) but will also consider review or perspective pieces.

#### **Contact information:**

To submit an abstract for a paper to be considered for the special issue or for more information please contact Dr. Rebecca Gruby ([Rebecca.Gruby@colostate.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Gruby@colostate.edu)). We look forward to your abstracts!

#### **Timeline:**

- 30 June 2021: Deadline for interested authors to submit short (<300 words) abstracts
- 15 July 2021: Deadline for editors to invite full contributions for the special issue
- 15 January 2022: Deadline for submission to *Conservation Science and Practice*