



Western Collaborative Conservation Network (WCCN)

Keys to Success

Collaboration for Land Management Issues in the West

WHO WE ARE

The WCCN promotes and supports community-based collaborative conservation (CBCC) efforts that strengthen and sustain healthy landscapes, thriving economies, and vibrant communities. This document was produced by the diverse members in the WCCN Public Policy Group.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION?

CBCC includes managing natural resources management, by, for, and with the local community. Collectively, learning and action from diverse and inclusive groups of stakeholders coming together to jointly solve problems creates a sustainable future for people and places.

RATIONALE

People depend on public lands in the West for their livelihoods, for recreation, food, water and fuel, and they care deeply about how they are managed. Bottom-up land management approaches are proven successful when the ability to include collaboration with the general public has been incorporated into land management policies. Long term, sustainable decisions require full, open and transparent exchanges for effective and efficient implementation. The WCCN Public Policy Group supports policies that enable our federal partners to use collaborative problem solving at all levels to find sustainable solutions.



1) Establish a Culture of Collaborative Problem-Solving

- Local communities help drive the process
- Enhance resiliency
- Build on respect for different values and sets of knowledge
- Agencies create successional plans to ensure consistent participation in collaboratives following leadership changes
- Prioritize employees who live where they work and have vested interest in issues/solutions

2) Incentivize Employees to Embrace Community-based Collaborative Conservation Culture

- Give employees the tools they need to collaborate competently
- Evaluate and reward employees engaging in collaborative processes
- Maintain consistency in agency collaboration incentives





3) Implement Training and Mentoring Programs to Build Competency in Collaborative Decision Making Practices & Land Management Approaches

- Provide collaborative problem-solving, on the job training, and mentoring at all levels
- Use existing partners and resources

4) Provide Sustained Funding

- Provide diverse funding capacity to support CBCC efforts
- Provide information to funding appropriators on the value of CBCC
- Leverage non-agency funding opportunities, including industry



5) Revise Policies to Enable CBCC Problem Solving

- Streamline the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to efficiently facilitate collaborative problem-solving by obtaining approval at a regional or state level
- Encourage non-federal and federal agency partnerships
- Enable collaborative problem-solving to efficiently implement National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions; community engagement should occur both within and beyond the NEPA process
- Ensure that regulatory frameworks and public policy do not result in unintended consequences



6. Standards and Guidelines for Agency Practitioners

- Representing collaborative conservation of national interest, Federal Employees can serve as a resource, stakeholder and convener in collaboratives.
- Decision makers must be flexible and use collaborative input
- Articulate compatible values and benefits of working lands and economic interests
- Agencies should provide appropriate guidance regarding resource use and engage accordingly in CBCC processes

