

2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit
September 4-6, 2024
Program

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Time	Activity	Jump to Section
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Time	Activity	Jump to Section
8:30am - 2:00pm	Field trip	Link
10:00am - 3:00pm	Training: Facilitation & Conflict Management	Link

Thanks to our [Sponsors & Planning Team!](#)

Wednesday, September 4th

Interpretive Hike, 2:00 - 3:30pm

Cost: \$0 (must be registered for Summit)

Alex Handloff and Anthony Culpepper of Mountain Studies Institute will lead a hike at Animas City Mountain, discussing last year's Bureau of Land Management prescribed fire. We'll enjoy great views of the Animas River Valley, which lend themselves to landscape-scale conversations about forest management in the Durango area. The hike will take place from 2-3:30pm on Wednesday, September 4th.

[Click here for all Interpretive Hike details including meeting spot, what to bring, etc.](#)

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Mountain Bike Ride, 2:00 - 3:30pm

Cost: \$0 (must be registered for Summit)

Join fellow Forest Collaboratives Network participants on a fun, casual mountain bike ride just outside of downtown Durango on the Horse Gulch trail system. This group will showcase some of our favorite beginner-intermediate mountain biking trails in Durango on a 1-1.5 hour bike ride. The ride will be welcome to mountain bikers of any experience level. The ride will include great views of the diverse forest types surrounding Durango, and will include plenty of stops for water breaks, catching your breath, and networking with fellow network members. Led by Josh Braun and Courtney Young.

[Click here for all Mountain Bike Ride details including meeting spot, what to bring, etc.](#)

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Training: Opportunities and Barriers for Engagement with Tribal Nations as Sovereign Partners in Forest Collaboratives, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Cost: \$0 (must be registered for Summit)

Location: Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301, Student Union Vallecito Room SUN 103

In this two-hour interactive workshop, we will explore the strategies, tactics, and barriers to support participants' efforts towards collaboration with Tribal entities in forest collaboratives. This workshop will be led by Gemara Gifford, an independent consultant and Doctoral Candidate at Colorado State University. Her work as a practitioner and researcher focuses on identifying promising pathways to advance State-Tribal collaborations in conservation and natural resources, as well as the historical, institutional, and personal barriers that stand in the way of this work.

Registrants: We encourage you to bring pen & paper to take notes, and snacks/water if you feel like you will need them. Please also bring a device (phone/tablet or laptop) to participate in small group activities using Mentimeter.

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Pre-Summit Social, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Cost: \$0 (must be registered for Summit)

Location: 11th Street Station, 1101 Main Ave., Durango, CO

Welcome to Durango! Join us for an evening of networking, including a welcome presentation from Danny Margoles (Executive Director, Mancos Conservation District), Jason Lawhon (US Forest Service), Ashley Downing (Executive Director, Wildfire Adapted Partnership), and Rebecca Samulski (Executive Director, Fire Adapted Colorado), who will share an overview of some of the collaborative work that's been done in the area in recent years. This event takes place on Wednesday, September 4th from 6-8pm.

Each registration includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, one drink ticket, and an evening of socializing!

Thursday, September 5th

The 2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit, 9:00am - 4:00pm (the main event!)

Cost: \$90 (includes admission to the Summit, coffee, snacks, and lunch)

Location: Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301, Student Union Ballroom, Room SUN212

About 2024 Summit

Place-based collaboratives work in close partnership with state and federal agencies to achieve big-picture goals that require local expertise, buy-in, and implementation. Working to match goals and opportunities across varying local, regional, state, and federal scales has proven challenging.

Southwest Colorado has long been a hot spot for innovative multi-level collaboration that successfully bridges large-scale initiatives to local action. At the 2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit, we draw from successes and challenges in Southwest Colorado and beyond to understand:

- How can we bridge the gap between local work and large federal opportunities?
- How can we adapt and sustain work at the local scale when high-level directives change?

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Detailed Summit Agenda

9:00am - 9:45am Mingling, introduction & activity - coffee & pastries provided!

Join us for coffee and pastries as La Plata County Commissioner Clyde Church and San Juan National Forest Supervisor Dave Neely give us a warm welcome to southwest Colorado. Then, Katie McGrath Novak (Coordinator, Colorado Forest Collaboratives Network) will give a brief overview of the day before handing it over to Alex Handloff (Collaborative Communications Manager, Mountain Studies Institute) to help set the tone for the day.

9:45am - 10:00am Quick break

10:00am - 12:00pm Bridging large-scale initiatives to local action, and vice versa

For this session, we've gathered speakers from across Colorado to share stories and generate conversation about successes and challenges. You'll have the opportunity to visit three of these "Colorado Café" stations (don't worry, we'll take notes so that you can read about all eight when you get home!):

- Colorado Forest Resilience Planning Guide (*Laura Hickey, Program Associate, CDR Associates*)
- Central Colorado Forest Collaborative (*Esther Duke, Chief Operations Office, Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. & Jennifer Peterson, Partnership Coordinator, US Forest Service*)
- Balancing commitment to process with remaining nimble (*Meg Halford, Wildfire Team Forest & Grasslands Project Coordinator, Boulder County*)
- Storytelling, audience, and communicating about your work (*Alex Handloff, Collaborative Communications Manager, Mountain Studies Institute*)
- Partnering with government agencies (*Sam Pankratz, Rocky Mountain Region Program Manager, National Forest Foundation*)
- Indigenous collaboration (*James Calabaza, Indigenous Lands Program Director; Trees, Water, and People*)
- Colorado Mass Timber Coalition (*Will Lepry, Director, Colorado Mass Timber Coalition*)
- Wood for Life Partnership (*Nick Olson, Southwest Colorado Project Coordinator, National Forest Foundation*)

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch - provided

1:00pm - 2:15pm How do we adapt & sustain work at local scale when high-level directives change?

After hearing four flash presentations highlighting long-lived collaboratives in southwest Colorado and how they've adapted over time through changing top-down directives, we'll do an activity where you can get advice from other attendees on the unique challenges you face in your own work. Flash presentations from:

- Dana Guinn, *CFLRP Assistant Coordinator, US Forest Service*
- Kevin Khung, *Region 2 Director of State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, US Forest Service*
- Aaron Kimple, *Program Director of Cross-Boundary Fire and Fuel Treatment Assessments and Application, Southwest Ecological Restoration Institute*

- Matt Ford, *Broker, Pagosa Land Company & member of San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership*

2:15pm - 2:45pm Break

2:45pm - 3:50pm Empowering local collaboratives

In our final session of the day, we'll do an activity to help attendees identify actionable ways that Colorado's land management agencies can support place-based collaboratives. Then, leadership from various agencies will share updates, ways collaboratives can engage, and initial reactions to the recommendations we generate. Speakers for this session include:

- Kevin Khung, *Region 2 Director of State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, US Forest Service*
- Matt McCombs, *Director / State Forester, Colorado State Forest Service*
- Rebecca Samulski, *Executive Director, Fire Adapted Colorado (facilitating session)*
- Chris Sturm, *Watershed Program Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board*
- Elizabeth With, *Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- Courtney Young, *Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation Program Administrator, Colorado Department of Natural Resources*

3:50pm - 4:00pm Wrap up

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Happy Hour

Cost: \$0 (must be registered for Summit)

Location: Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301

Student Union Ballroom, Room SUN212

After a long day of learning and networking, enjoy an evening of socializing and celebration! Registration includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, and those who submit a Summit survey will also receive a drink ticket.

Friday, September 6th

Training: Facilitation & Conflict Management, 10:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$40 (ticket does NOT include lunch - you will have a 1hr lunch break)

**Location: Fort Lewis College, 1000 Rim Drive Durango, CO 81301, Student Union
Vallecito Room SUN 103**

In this ½ day training, professionals from Collaborative Decision Resources (CDR) Associates will use presentations, exercises, group discussions, and trainer coaching to cover the following topics:

- Principles of interest-based problem solving
- Dynamics of conflict: sources and strategies
- Effective communication: focusing on the problem
- Facilitation: Consensus-based meetings and processes

This training will take place at the same time as the field trip, so unfortunately you will NOT be able to do both! We have limited spots available for this training and expect it to fill up quickly!

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Field trip, 8:30am - 2:00pm

Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)

This field tour will take participants to the sites of three forest health and wildfire mitigation projects in southwest Colorado, and includes several overlooks that are nice for viewing and learning about even more projects in the area from afar. The three stops are as follows:

Falls Creek Conservation Area - we'll learn about restoration work being done on National Forest System lands following significant input and planning with collaboratives, tribes and pueblos.

- Suggested pre-read: [Changes coming to Falls Creek Conservation Area](#)
- Anthony Culpepper, *Mountain Studies Institute, Four Rivers Resilient Forests Collaborative Facilitator*
- Nick Glidden, *US Forest Service, San Juan National Forest District Ranger*

Falls Creek Ranch - we'll visit the site of a major defensible space project following the 2002 Missionary Ridge Fire and threatened by floods from the 2018 416 Fire. We'll also hear about how wood from thinning work in this area has been donated to wood banks for heating and cooking in Tribal communities.

- Clyde Church, *La Plata County Commissioner*
- Paulette Church, *Community Leader & Collaborative Member*

College Mesa / Powerline Trail Fuel Break - After eating lunch with a view, several speakers will point out a number of collaborative projects that are visible from this overlook.

- Alex Graf, *Wildfire Adapted Partnership*
- Derek Padilla, *Bureau of Land Management, Tres Rios Field Office*
- Noah Daniels, *Assistant Fire Management Officer, San Juan National Forest*
- Josh Braun, *Forester, Colorado State Forest Service*

NEW! [Click here for all field trip details, including meeting spot, what to bring, etc.](#)

Thanks to our Sponsors!



AURORA
WATER

CDR ASSOCIATES
COLLABORATIVE DECISION RESOURCES



National
Wild Turkey
Federation



*San Juan Mountains
Association*

EXPLORE ♦ LEARN ♦ PROTECT

Thanks to our planning team!

Josh Braun

Esther Duke

Clarissa
Dukeminier

Alex Handloff

Ch'aska
Huayhuaca

Aaron Kimple

Alison Lerch

Danny Margoles

Katie
McGrath-Novak

Adam Moore

Becca Samulski

Priscila Santos
Urteaga

Roxie Stricker

Estevan Vega

Lo Williams

Scott Woods

[Click here to return to Summit webpage](#)