COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Supporting shared solutions to our most complex environment and natural resource challenges.

- Collaborative Leadership
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Capacity Building
Building Inclusive Solutions to Complex Natural Resource Challenges

Natural resource issues are complex—economically, socially, institutionally, politically, and ecologically—and managing natural resources responsibly for the future becomes increasingly difficult. Conflicts arise over such issues as endangered species protection, forest management, energy production, water allocation, and rural development. People with a stake in these issues must build on common interests to create new solutions.

People who are deeply involved in natural resource issues can reach mutually acceptable solutions by communicating in a more meaningful and effective way, opening the dialogue to include all stakeholders, structuring problems to reflect complexity and uncertainty, and negotiating to settle disagreements. This will require committed natural resource leaders who possess the skills to collaborate for mutually beneficial solutions.
Collaboration Program in Natural Resources

Building Collaborative Capacity in Wyoming and Beyond

Our Collaboration Program in Natural Resources (CPNR) is building a network of natural resource professionals in Wyoming who are equipped with skills and tools to lead and constructively participate in effective collaborative decision-making processes.

Participants come from a range of sectors including industry, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Over the course of one year, they attend rigorous, hands-on training sessions and complete a practicum to build leadership skills in mediation, negotiation, facilitation, and collaborative processes. They return to their workplaces as leaders who can orchestrate processes leading to sound, inclusive, lasting management decisions.

CPNR interactive sessions cover self discovery, group negotiation and leadership, collaboration for communities and landscapes, public participation, and environmental decision making.

Collaborative Competencies

The CPNR curriculum addresses the ten collaborative competencies defined by the University Network for Collaborative Governance.

1. Strengthening collaborative leadership
2. Planning, organizing, and managing for collaboration
3. Communicating effectively
4. Working in teams and facilitating groups
5. Negotiating agreement and managing conflict
6. Applying analytic skills and strategic thinking
7. Evaluating and adapting processes
8. Integrating technical and scientific information
9. Using information and communication technology
10. Maintaining personal integrity and professional ethics

Assess natural resource challenges.

Identify stakeholders.

Clarify questions and objectives.

Follow through on commitments.

Monitor the agreement.

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Stakeholder Engagement

Supporting Shared Solutions
The Ruckelshaus Institute provides neutral, third-party facilitation and mediation services to help communities resolve natural resource challenges. Our collaborative decision-making experts bring decades of experience to guide stakeholders through processes to build inclusive, lasting solutions. Contact us at ruckelshaus@uwyo.edu or (307) 766-5080 to inquire about engaging our team to help with your project.

Steps in a collaborative process may include

- Assess the natural resource challenge to determine whether a process can succeed
- Identify the stakeholders and invite representatives to participate
- Clarify the question being addressed and objectives of the process
- Identify the facts and reach agreement on the baseline information
- Identify and validate the interests of all participants
- Generate and evaluate potential solutions
- Identify tradeoffs and seek consensus solutions
- Follow through on commitments and agree on monitoring arrangements
Academic Programs
- Preparing future leaders
- Interdisciplinary majors and minors
- Field and international courses
- Partnerships across the UW campus

Research and Creative Activities
- Creating new understanding
- Inquiry spanning disciplinary boundaries
- Exploration and scholarship that matters
- Findings to inform better decisions

Ruckelshaus Institute
- Informing sound decisions
- Science communication
- Policy-relevant synthesis and analysis
- Collaborative problem solving