

2018 CNHP Partners Meeting

March 9, 2018

Grand Ballroom D, Lory Student Center

Colorado State University Campus, Fort Collins, CO

Meeting Purpose: The Partners Meeting is a forum for communication across Colorado's conservation organizations. Our intention in hosting this meeting is to bring our community together to strengthen our collective network, build connections that make us all more effective, and identify priorities that we can address together.

At our 2016 Partners Meeting we discussed several themes in breakouts, and a few key priorities emerged from this work. Access to data, addressing climate change, and expanding services to the conservation community were prominent priorities for CNHP that were identified. We have a new strategic plan that addresses these priorities, and for this meeting we have organized panels that will examine these topics and engage you in conversations on how we will move forward as a community.

Agenda

8:00-9:00 Sign in, coffee, snacks, networking

9:00-9:10 Welcome and meeting overview: David G. Anderson

9:10-9:25 Welcome from Dr. John Hayes, WCNR Dean

9:25-9:45 Who are we? Social Network Exercise, CNHP Donors, CNHP Students

9:45-10:20 Conservation Updates: Amy Greenwell, Daly Edmunds, Heather Schinkel, Eric Odell

10:20-10:40 Break

10:40-12:00 Panel 1- Colorado's Conservation and Environmental Review Tool

Moderator: **Rick Schneider**, Director, Nebraska Natural Heritage Program

Panelists: **Eliza Hines**, Nebraska Field Supervisor, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Brooke Stansberry, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Tyler Johnson, Regional Botanist, USDA Forest Service Region 2

David Klute, Species Conservation Supervisor, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Matt Schulz, Forest Management Coordinator, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The Conservation and Environmental Review Tool deployed in seven US states now is speeding up regulatory compliance processes and is supporting conservation planning and development efforts. It is in development in several other states including New Mexico and Kansas. Rick Schneider, Director of the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program in the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, will kick off this discussion with an overview of how Nebraska is using this tool. CNHP is planning to stand this tool up in Colorado, so our other panelists will describe what this might look like, and we'll discuss data you'd like to access through it. If you'd like to look at examples, here is a link to the Nebraska CERT: <https://cert.outdoornebraska.gov/> Arizona's ERT: <https://azhgis2.esri.com/>

12:00-1:00 Catered Lunch (Taco Bar)

1:00-2:30 Panel 2: Natural Climate Solutions: Benefits for Nature and People

Moderator: **Renée Rondeau**, Conservation Planner/Ecologist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Panelists: **Imtiaz Rangwala**, Research Scientist, NOAA ESRL, CIRES/Western Water Assessment

Bruce Rittenhouse, Branch Chief, Cultural and Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management

George Schisler, Aquatic Research Chief, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Betsy Neely, Climate Change Programs Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Robin O'Malley, Director, North Central Climate Science Center

Colorado's forests, rangelands, and aquatic systems contribute towards mitigating the impacts from a warming planet by sequestering carbon and providing resiliency from severe climate events. Increased wildfires, droughts, and damage from insects and disease stand to lessen the value of Colorado's natural lands. Our Partners will discuss their visions and strategies for incorporating climate impacts and natural solutions into their efforts. We will also pose the question: How can we effectively achieve natural solution goals, adapt to a changing climate, and maintain a healthy human community?

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-4:15 Panel 3: Private Land Conservation Services

Moderator: **David Anderson**, Director/Chief Scientist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Panelists: **Molly Fales**, Director of Conservation Transactions, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

Bob Tate, Manager of Special Projects, Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

Terri Schulz, Conservation Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Bill Martin, Real Estate GIS Planner, Colorado State Land Board

Drew Bennett, Professor of Practice, University of Wyoming

CNHP is expanding our role in supporting Private Lands Conservation efforts. We will help our partners with baseline conservation easement documentation. We also plan to give a new home to the Ranchlands Database to support appraisals of conservation easements. We will continue to enhance COMaP, Colorado's comprehensive map of protected areas, and integrate that with the Colorado CERT. We also want to continue to provide return on investment support for Colorado conservation easements and tax credits through a State of the State report. Our panel will discuss their roles in private land conservation and how we can better support private land conservation moving forward.

4:15-4:30 Closing Remarks and Questions

4:30-8:00 Happy Hours at the Ramskeller