



COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION: A BARN RAISING FOR THE MODERN WEST

By Steven E. Daniels

(The following are outline notes from Professor Daniels' presentation.)

A Simple Plan

- Discuss collaborative approaches to resource conservation.
- Brief overview of the multi-party/community-based conservation (CBC) phenomenon.
- Draw a historical parallel to barn raisings.
- Discuss the advantages and pitfalls.

So What Is Community Based Conservation (CBC)?

- Perhaps 50-250 in the western U.S.
- Many organized around watersheds.
- Some organized around particular issues.

Some High Profile CBCs

- Applegate Partnership (Oregon).
- Henry's Fork Watershed Council (Idaho).
- Kenai Watershed Forum (Alaska).
- Malpai Borderlands (Arizona).
- Ponderosa Pine Partnership (Colorado).
- Willapa Bay Alliance (Washington).

Common Characteristics of CBCs

- Land management issues.
- Mixed parties.
- Includes weary combatants.
- Convened out of a sense of desperation.
- Addressing short-term issues in a long-term context.

Is Multi-landowner Conservation Like a Barn Raising?

- In rural America, we have a long tradition of banding together to address needs that we cannot conquer alone:

Steven E. Daniels is the Director of the Western Rural Development Center at Utah State University, as well as a Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology
Logan, UT 84322

- Barn raisings
- Marketing and production co-operatives
- Quilting bees
- Threshing bees
- Volunteer fire departments
- If you understand the challenges of a barn raising, you know everything I can tell you.

- A good plan is essential for getting everyone on the same page.
- Sometimes designing by committee gets a little impractical.
- Some days the job can seem way too big for the group.
- Success will be shared among many.
- Even when lots of people participate, the benefits are not equally shared.
- The sociologists' (and Yogi Berra's) concept of reciprocity is critical to sustaining the phenomenon.
- Sometimes we all need a hand (even though some of us would rather die than ask).
- We need to know when to bring in the big guns to do the heavy lifting.
- Nay-sayers and spectators abound.
- Opportunities to celebrate success are important.

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In Conclusion

- Working together is nothing new for us.
- Species conservation and ecosystem management are more abstract than a barn raising.
- The ways that federal agencies use their authority and discretion is critical.
- The fundamentals of community politics and relationships remain central to success.

