Creating Nimble and Effective Collaborations for Sustainable Results

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Fire, Landscapes, Wildlife & People: Building Alliances for Restoring Ecosystem Resilience
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More about the Fire Learning Network: www.conservationgateway.org/topic/fire-learning-network
for resources from this session, search for "collaboration resources"

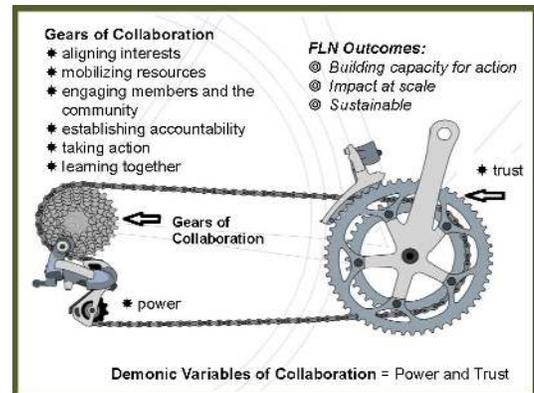## Collaboration

Align interests
Mobilize resources
Engage members and the community
Establish accountability
Take action
Learn together
Solve trust and power imbalances

The FLN is a cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies—Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service—and The Nature Conservancy. The partnership has a ten-year proven track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and to make communities safer from fire.

Collaboration Lessons Learned
Fire Learning Network Quick List of 10

1. Send the **right people** to the collaboration.
2. **Commit** to the process.
3. Start with a **shared mission and vision** that the collaboration can agree on (even if it is simple to start with).
4. Ensure that the process is **open, inclusive, transparent, accessible**, and tailored to local needs.
5. **Everyone** has something to share and something to learn. Co-learning changes relationships.
6. **Playing nice** with others and sharing your toys matters.
7. Keep the commitments that you make. Ultimately success is about **relationships**.
8. Incorporate **food, fun, and field** co-learning opportunities.
9. **Implement** the projects; nothing undermines a collaboration more than not getting to implementation.
10. It's a team effort. You succeed, fail, and evolve as a team. **Share** leadership and credit.

The Fire Learning Network is an equal opportunity provider.

TABLE 1.2
COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

A table describing the elements of each

From *Collaboration: What Makes It Work* (Mattessich et al., 2001, p. 61) and adapted from works of M. Blank, S. Kagan, A. Melaville, and K. Ray.

Essential Elements	Cooperation	Coordination	Collaboration
Vision and Relationships	Basis for cooperation is usually between individuals but may be mandated Organizational mission & goals are not considered Interaction is on an as needed basis/no time limit	Individual relationships are supported by their organizations Mission and goals of the organizations are reviewed for compatibility Interaction usually around one specific project or task	Commitment of the organization is fully behind the individual Common, new mission and goals are created One or more projects are undertaken for longer-term results
Structure, Responsibilities and Communication	Relationships are informal, each organization functions separately No joint planning is required Information is conveyed as needed	Organizations assume needed roles but still functions separately Some project specific planning is required Communication roles are established and channels for interaction created	New structure and/or formal division of labor are created Comprehensive planning is required including measures of success Many levels of communication and channels for interaction are created
Authority and Accountability	Authority rests solely with individual organizations Leadership is unilateral and control is central All authority and accountability rests with each organization	Authority rests on each organization but there is coordination Some sharing of leadership and control There is some shared risk, but most authority and accountability rests with each organization	Authority is determined by the collaboration to balance ownership Leadership is dispersed and control is shared and mutual Equal risk is shared by all organizations
Resources and Rewards	Resources are separate	Resources are acknowledged and can be made available for a specific project Rewards are mutually acknowledged	Resources are pooled or jointly secured for a long-term effort Organizations share in the products: more is accomplished together than individually