

National Collaboration Cadre Biographies

Southern Appalachian Workshop Team

JoBeth Brown has a B.A in Sociology, with emphasis in group processes, conflict management, interpersonal communications and collaborative techniques. For nearly 20 years Ms. Brown has lead collaborative efforts in recreation, travel management, joint facility ventures, economic diversification, timber harvest, prescribed burns, Forest Plan revision, and nationally recognized local and regional tourism initiatives. Ms. Brown is a recipient of USDA's Rural Community Assistance award for her leadership in community collaborative efforts. She is currently the Public Affairs Officer on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests.

Tony Cheng is an Associate Professor in forest policy and Director of the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University. Tony's primary research interests are in forest policy development and implementation, specifically the collaborative structures and strategies that attempt to simultaneously sustain resilient forest conditions and forest resilient communities. In his capacity of director of CFRI, Tony oversees programs that synthesize current scientific and experiential evidence on forest ecology and management, provide assistance and support for multi-party assessment, monitoring, and adaptive management, provide assistance and support for collaborative planning and stewardship, and develop linkages between forest restoration, economic utilization, and local community development and livelihoods. Tony has a PhD in Forestry from Oregon State University, a MS in Forestry from the University of Minnesota, and a BA in Political Science from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

Ashley Goldhor Wilcock is the Human Dimensions National Program Lead in the Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff in the Forest Service. Ashley oversees the development of Human Dimensions protocols and tool development of social science and economics for resource management decision making. One of the suite of protocols that are under her management is the Collaboration Cadre, a unique approach to collaborative learning that is based on collaborative planning research, peer learning. Another major effort under Ashley's management is the Economic Profile System Human Dimensions Toolkit (EPST). The EPST addresses the need for reliable, up-to-date, consistent, defensible, and easily retrievable social and economic assessment information for national, regional, and forest level planning and projects. The EPST retrieves, interprets, and formats relevant social and economic data created by other federal agencies; such as, the Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Ashley has a PhD in Environmental Economics from The Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from Boston University. She has taught business, economics, and tourism development at the graduate level of Johns Hopkins University. Ashley has also worked on USAID and Local Self-Government projects overseas.

Tommie Martin was raised on a ranch in Gila County, Arizona, where her family has lived now for six generations. She has a strong background in resource management consulting primarily throughout the American West, Mexico and East Africa. Through her consulting firms Common Ground Associates and EcoRestore LLC, she facilitates a collaborative group process that culminates in ecological restoration.

More recently, Tommie is in her second elected term as Gila County Supervisor. One of the programs she has initiated in this position is the County's portable bladder fire-water set up for US Forest Service helicopter first-strike forest fire response in the forests within and surrounding Gila County. This system has been awarded several national recognitions. She is also a steering committee member for the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Collaborative in central Arizona.

Bill Pellis is an ecologist who has worked for the US Forest Service for 19+ years. Since 2002, he has served as Staff Officer for Planning, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness on the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas and Oklahoma. During his 31-year professional career, he also worked for a state conservation agency and a nonprofit

conservation organization. Bill received his M.S. degree in botany/ecology from Washington State University in 1977 and then completed 2+ years of Ph.D. studies in ecology at the University of Tennessee.

Over the last 19+ years with the Forest Service, he has served in a variety of roles that advanced ecosystem collaborative approaches to public land management. Those roles include working as the Ecosystem Management Coordinator for the Ouachita National Forest in the first half of the 1990s and as Team Leader for the Ozark-Ouachita Highlands Assessment in the latter half of the decade. Bill also served on the Chief's Ecological Stewardship Project in the late 1990s. He played leadership roles in the completion of two forest plan amendments that featured ecological restoration and oversaw the revision of the Ouachita National Forest Plan published in 2005. Among the many awards he has received are eight for superior performance or exceptional leadership. Two others stand out in the context of this work: the Arkansas Sierra Club's Public Servant of the Year (1999) and the Regional Forester's award for Collaborative Stewardship (FY 1998). Bill became a member of the National Collaboration Cadre in 2008.

Gary Severson is a nationally recognized regionalist facilitator of collaboration of unique place-based regional cultures working together in productive harmony, while protecting, nurturing, and celebrating their uniqueness. He recently retired as Executive Director of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, a regional organization in the high elevation rural resort area of Colorado, where he led efforts to constructively address regional issues ranging from affordable workforce housing to forest health and from energy conservation to economic diversification. Gary was congressionally recognized by both the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives for his admirable leadership in regionalism. Gary earned the USDA's Rural Community Assistance National Leadership Award for his work in building regional multi-jurisdictional collaborative relationships in land management and is listed in the National Registry of Who's Who for regional leadership. He serves as a consultant to federal land management agencies, state and local governments, and private enterprises in regional approaches to land and resource management. Gary's career spans 40 years of public and private sector experience working with communities across the nation with an emphasis on the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains. He earned degrees in public address and group communications from Drake University. Born and raised in Iowa, with a strong Midwestern community ethic, Gary is a resident of Colorado and makes his home with his wife Bert in the aspen forest at 10,000 feet above sea level near Breckenridge, Colorado.

Sharon Timko is the assistant program manager for the Collaboration Cadre. Prior to her involvement in the Cadre, Sharon spent over 10 years in local government as a senior policy advisor and community collaborative specialist in Portland, Oregon. One of her key roles was the county liaison to the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the US Forest Service. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) is an innovative conservation model that was congressionally designated to be managed cooperatively by federal, state, and local governments as a regional landscape. Sharon was the key liaison for local government during the development of the management plan and implementation of the collaboratively developed planning ordinances. She was also responsible for rural economic development, environmental policy and design and implementation of region wide projects. Before working on the CRGNSA, Sharon was an independent park and recreation planning consultant. She has a MS in Resource Recreation Management and Rural Community Development from the University of Idaho and a BS in Recreation Planning and Management from the University of Wisconsin.