The courses have been developed under the auspices of an interagency steering committee including representatives from the U.S. Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Trainers

Course leaders include facilitation experts who have successfully implemented collaborative processes, researchers who have studied collaborative processes over many years, and regionally-based resource managers who have participated in effective collaboratives. These include instructors from:

- The Ecosystem Management Initiative at the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment
- CDR Associates, an international training and dispute resolution organization in Boulder, Colorado
- Federal and state resource management agencies from around the U.S.

For More Information

http://www.snre.umich.edu/emi/collaboration/cc.htm provides materials from the pilot course as well as additional details on the planned courses.

Steven Yaffee or Althea Dotzour
The University of Michigan’s Ecosystem Management Initiative
adotzour@umich.edu (734) 615-6512

Elena Gonzalez
Director, Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution
Elena_Gonzalez@ios.doi.gov (202) 273-2237

Learn how to:

- Understand the benefits of collaboration.
- Effectively design and participate in collaborative processes.
- Overcome common legal and personnel challenges.
- Ensure the quality of scientific information.
Collaboration for Solving Complex Resource Management Problems

Collaboration:

- Develops a sense of shared ownership with problems and solutions.
- Requires groups to interact in ways that challenge traditional roles.
- Fosters coordinated action among groups that leverages their unique capabilities for greater impact.
- Integrates science into an adaptive management framework.
- Builds support for decisions that are accountable to legal, fiscal, and political realities.

In the 21st century, land and water resource management issues are more complex than ever before. Management decisions affect the long-term sustainability of natural resources as well as the people who use them. Frequently it falls to federal, state, local, and tribal governments to lead a collaborative effort to solve problems, but often staff are ill-prepared for such leadership. Fitting a collaborative approach into mandates and organizational norms takes skill and understanding.

Recognizing this situation, an interagency group formed in 2000 (listed on back page) that believed effective management could only come through collaborative efforts of numerous public and private groups. The University of Michigan's Ecosystem Management Initiative has designed a course under the guidance of the interagency group; a pilot version was conducted for the Pacific Northwest that included 35 resource managers from ten different federal agencies.

The Ecosystem Management Initiative has developed a cooperative agreement with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior to offer this training to four regions. The Missouri River is one of the regions selected to hold the training in 2003.

The DOI is providing a flexible fee structure to underwrite the course. Contact us to learn about ways to arrange the expenses for this unique training opportunity.

www.snre.umich.edu/emi/collaboration/cc.htm

New Skills

The training will teach you how to design, lead, and participate in collaborative processes. You will gain new ways of approaching your work that enhance the capacity of others to accomplish their goals while more effectively accomplishing the goals of your organization.

**Strategic Assessment** Learn how to determine when to collaborate since collaboration is not always warranted or effective in all situations.

**Process Design** Learn how to craft and manage the collaborative process.

**Action planning and implementation** Design strategies to overcome common legal, personnel and political challenges.

**Adaptive management** Understand how to integrate opportunities for science-based learning and evaluation.

**Negotiation** Use collaborative problem-solving techniques to reach multiple goals.

**Effective application** Learn how to apply the concepts to different situations.

Training Approaches

**Case Studies** Real-world examples that provide a perspective on how others have accomplished successful collaboration.

**Simulations** Practice the collaborative process using exercises to test new skills.

**Strategy Clinic** Focus on specific problems and opportunities in your own resource area.