2003 Course Offerings

- Over the next year, we will provide courses in several different locations in the United States.
- 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.
- Drawing on the experience of a pilot version taught at the National Conservation Training Center, these four-and-a-half day long courses will be tailored to fit local issues and needs.
- A flexible fee structure has been designed to underwrite the course. Contact us to learn about ways to arrange the expenses for these unique training opportunities.

Instructors
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

Visit our Website
[http://www.snre.umich.edu/emi/collaboration/cc.htm](http://www.snre.umich.edu/emi/collaboration/cc.htm) provides materials from the pilot course as well as additional details on the planned courses.

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Building Understanding

Collaboration has become an increasingly important tool for federal, state and tribal government managers facing the extraordinary challenges of 21st century land and water management. However, designing, leading, or participating in a collaborative process is difficult. Managers are seldom taught such skills in academic programs.

What is collaborative conservation?
It is an approach to solving problems that:

- Develops a sense of shared ownership of problems and solutions
- Fosters coordinated action among groups in a way that leverages their unique capabilities for greater impact
- Integrates science with adaptive management and consensus-building
- Builds support for decisions while ensuring that they are accountable to legal, fiscal, and political realities
- Requires many groups to interact in ways they never have before and in ways that challenge their traditional roles

Developing Skills

This highly interactive course is designed for federal, state, and local agency personnel as well as tribal government leaders or personnel. You will learn how to design, lead, and participate in collaborative processes.

Skills you will develop in this course:

- **Strategic Assessment**: Determining why and when to collaborate
- **Negotiation**: Using collaborative problem solving to reach multiple goals
- **Process Design**: Crafting and managing collaborative processes
- **Implementation and Action Planning**: Designing strategies to overcome common legal, personnel and political challenges
- **Adaptive Management**: Understanding how to integrate opportunities for science-based learning and evaluation
- **Effective Application**: Knowing how to apply the concepts to different kinds of situations, including your own

Through this course you will gain new ways of approaching your work, transforming the way you think about how you and your organization can work more effectively to accomplish your goals while enhancing the capacity of others to accomplish theirs.

Innovative Approaches to Training

This course uses an active teaching approach, employing a variety of methods including case studies, simulations, and a strategy clinic. It will:

**Focus on federal, state, and tribal governments as leaders of and participants in collaborative processes.** Collaborative processes present unique challenges and implementation issues for government professionals. Fitting a collaborative approach into mandates and organizational norms takes skill and understanding.

**Be grounded in real-world experience.** This course relies on case studies, innovative simulations and exercises, and presenters who are experienced in on-the-ground collaborative conservation. It explicitly draws on participant experience with collaborative approaches.

**Take a regional or “place-based” orientation.** This course is designed so that participants come from a particular geographic region. “Strategy clinics” will be used to focus on specific problems and opportunity areas for collaboration within the focal region.

**Highlight the realities of collaborative processes.** Collaboration is not warranted or effective in all situations. This course will be honest about the benefits and costs of these processes and will develop your ability to assess whether and how a collaborative approach might work.