

Place-Based Collaboratives for Minimizing Human-Carnivore Conflict: Collective Factors Driving Success Throughout the American West



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Outline

- Place-based collaboratives and carnivorelivestock conflict reduction
- Research: collective factors driving success
- Case study: the birth of a collaborative
- Conclusions

The Problem

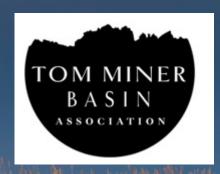
- Linking populations of carnivores through human dominated landscapes is important to recovery goals. (Lopez-Bao & Bruskotter, 2017)
- Working wild landscapes offer the most opportunity for connection and they are the most threatened (Breck et al., 2012, Nyhus, 2016, Hansen et al., 2008; Knight, 2007)
- Agriculture is part of the solution

Place Based Collaborative Groups











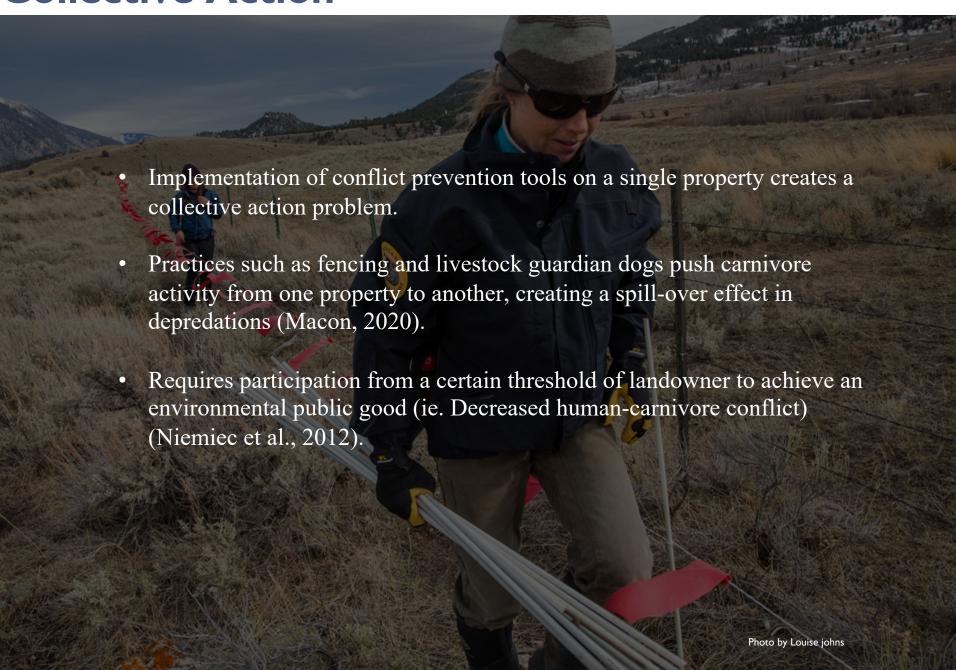




The collective action nature of implementing conflict prevention tools at community-scales.

The emergence and success of collaboratives across diverse social and ecological contexts.

Collective Action

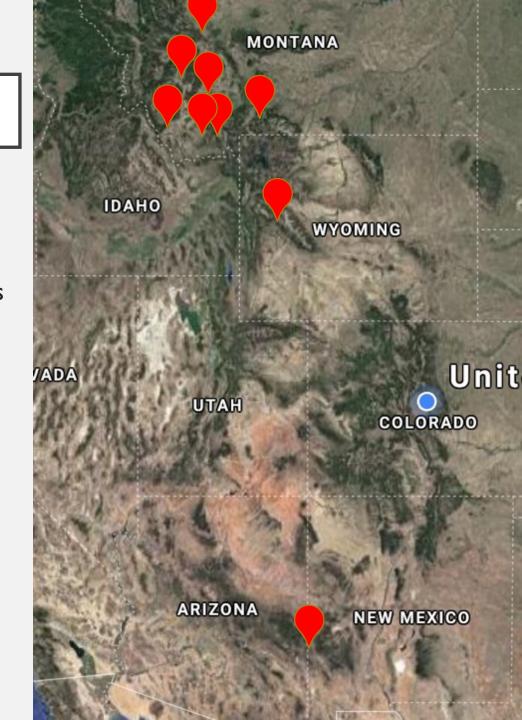


RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- I) How do collaboratives form and reduce human-carnivore conflict across diverse social and ecological contexts?
- 2) How does the work of collaboratives intersect with the collective action nature of conflict prevention tools?

METHODS

- Comparative case study analysis
- Combined inductive and deductive approach
- Qualitative thematic content analysis
- Sampled for diverse social and ecological contexts
- 27 interviewees from 9 place-based collaboratives
 - 9 program directors
 - II livestock producers
 - 4 wildlife management agency representatives
 - 3 non-profit conflict-prevention experts



Results: Enabling Factors

Within Program Factors

- "Spark" for collaboration
- Effective community leader
- Stakeholder-driven
- Collaboration by consensus ie. the 80-20 rule
- Support of boundary-spanning organization
- Effective facilitation
- Early wins create cascading successes
- Agency participation

Social Factors

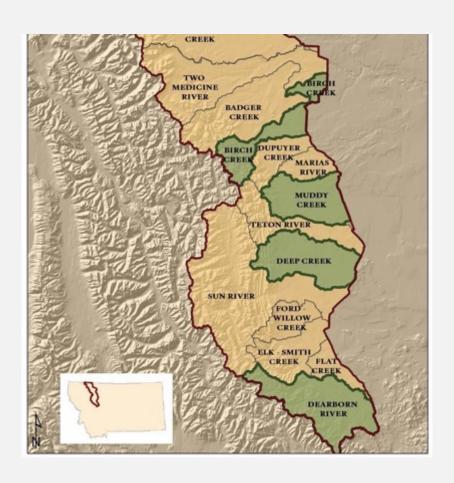
- Trust and social capitol is an inputs and outcomes
- Collective efficacy an important outcome

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The Spark for Collaboration

- Initial success
- Shifting personnel
- Dedicated leader



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- Conducted a stakeholder analysis
- Created common vision, goals, and objectives
- Collaboration rakes practice
- Boundary spanning organizations
- Quick wins create cascading successes

Results: Collective Factors and Collaboration

Social Norms

Ranchers think about how their neighbors will perceive them

Diffusion Behaviors

- Expert to collaborative
- Thought leader dissemination
- Peer-to-peer dissemination

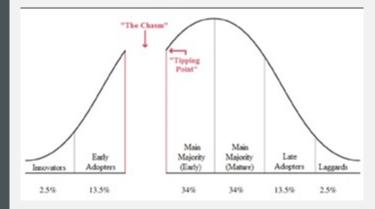
Spiral of Silence

 Landowners may be socially ostracized for implementing conflict prevention practices

Results: Norms and Social exclusion

BREAKING THE SPIRAL OF SILENCE

- Any innovation begins as a departure from social norms
- Individuals may be ostracized for associating with some NGOs to implement conflict prevention tools
- Thought leaders of collaboratives (often community leaders) signal acceptance of conflict prevention practice in community meetings and programming
- The collaborative group forms a bounded network, where focused conflict prevention programming becomes the descriptive and injunctive norm





Results: Boundary Spanning Organizations







Individual



Community

Photo by Erika Peterman







Regional

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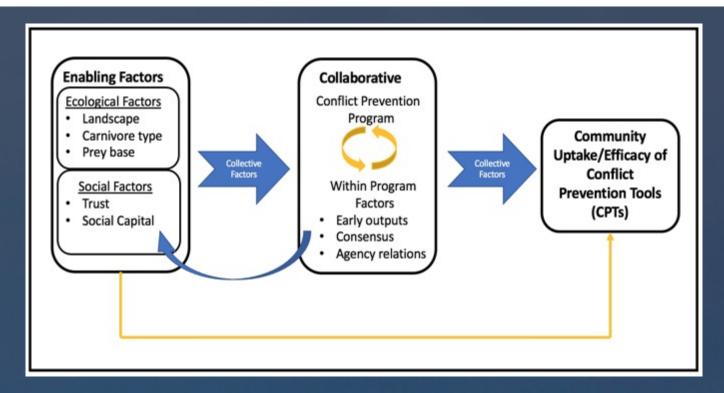


Community scale implementation

- Breaking the spiral of silence in the RMF
- Range Riding
- Coordination and collective action

Photo by Erika Peterman

Conclusions



- Collective factors, namely norms, are crucial drivers of the formation and success of collaborative groups in implementing conflict prevention tools at community scales.
- Community scale implementation can help overcome social norms that are a barrier to implementation and increase the collective benefits of conflict prevention tools.

Recommendations

- More attention should be paid to the collective action nature of conflict prevention
- Efforts should be made to build peer-to-peer networks within and across communities
- Create durable funding mechanisms for coordinators of place-based collaborative groups









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