

Collaboration Planning Assistance

USDA Forest Service National Collaboration Cadre

What We Do: The National Collaboration Cadre (Cadre) works with National Forests, communities, interested stakeholders, and collaborative groups to help them engage in effective collaboration.

How We Do It: The Cadre offers a unique collaborative approach that models and blends the perspectives of the Forest Service, Communities, and Academic Research through the guidance of experienced collaboration advocates. Each Cadre offering is custom tailored to participants' needs.

The Cadre Offers:

- **Peer-to-Peer Collaboration Training:** This one-day course provides participants with a foundation of how collaboration works, particularly focused on increasing participants' knowledge, ability, and confidence to effectively collaborate. The training explores different types of collaboration, levels of public participation and engagement, how to measure collaborative progress, the relationship of collaboration to NEPA and FACA, and more.
- **Capacity Assessment:** Need help assessing your unit's capacity to collaborate? A Cadre team will assess past collaborative efforts, identify potential stakeholders, identify current collaborative skills and experience, and work with the unit to identify next steps.
- **Organizing for Collaboration:** Whether it's forest plan revision, launching a place-based collaborative effort or initiating a project-focused collaborative effort, the Cadre can help a Forest or District and their stakeholders organize for collaboration. This workshop provides a unique peer-to-peer learning environment where participants explore critical elements for effective collaboration and begin framing a strategy that fits local needs and capacities. Participants explore the appropriate scope, scale, and functions of their effort.
- **Diagnostic Analysis:** How's your collaborative group functioning? Is it effective? Invite a Cadre team to work with your group to help them evaluate their strengths and weaknesses and identify actions for improvement. Cadre members have all experienced failures and successes in the field of collaboration and are available to share those lessons learned with their peers.

Who We Are: The Cadre is a network of people from around the US who provide coaching and training assistance to National Forests and their communities who are interested in understanding and developing collaborative processes. Cadre members' experiences range from Forest Service staff in all types of positions in different regions of the agency; local municipal and county government, both elected and staff; not for profit regional associations; to university professors who teach and practice collaboration within communities.

How to Request Services: These sessions are offered on an as-needed basis. Cadre members work closely with Forest staff to schedule and design a session that meets the participants' needs. An experienced Cadre team will travel to the Forest for the course. Also, depending on the situation, rapid action assistance is available remotely.

For More Information: Contact Sharon Timko at 202-205-1140 or stimko@fs.fed.us or Deb Beighley at 202-205-1277 or dbeighley@fs.fed.us