

Working Resource Lands: Sustaining the Human Dimension of Regional Conservation Strategies

Christopher Overdorf and Jennifer Knauer,
Jones & Jones Architects + Landscape Architects + Planners

Ranchers, rangeland managers, and farmers are integral to achieving any landscape-scale conservation strategy. These working resource landowners often possess a deep land ethic which fuels their stewardship of their property. They are also key to creating a network of connected open space corridors across lands often fragmented by roads, power lines, fences, and other forms of development. In this poster, we will demonstrate how a “bottom-up” planning technique can systematically capture values of the people who work and manage working resource landscapes. Systematically capturing these values provides the basis for developing an integrated conservation strategy that is intended to preserve productive working resource lands within a landscape scale ecological conservation framework.

Christopher Overdorf

Chris Overdorf is a landscape architect and planner with more than 20 years of experience in a broad range of planning and design projects. His work includes land use and conservation planning, urban design, park and recreation design, visual impact assessment, stream restoration, and transportation planning. A strong proponent of the application of digital technology to land use planning, he has extensive knowledge and experience in GIS mapping, 3D modeling and visualization, terrain modeling, software programming, and database management. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, where his fields of study were both computer science and remote sensing. While at West Point, he was involved with the continued development of the LandSat satellite mapping application. He received his degree in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University.

Jennifer Knauer, ASLA, APA

Jennifer Knauer is a landscape architect and environmental planner with over 15 years of experience providing leadership for complex land and water conservation initiatives. Her project work celebrates the intricate web of natural, community and social values which comprise landscape. Her portfolio of completed projects reflects a sustained commitment ecologic integrity, community engagement, human-nature relationships, and improving the adaptive capacity of natural and social systems. Over the course of her career, Jennifer has been a seasonal park ranger for the National Park Service, a university professor, a social science researcher, a landscape architect for the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, California, and a private trail planning consultant. Prior to joining Jones & Jones, Jennifer served as a special projects manager for King County, Washington, where she managed regionally significant projects, including East Lake Sammamish Rails-to-Trails Project; the King County Green print, a land acquisition and conservation strategy; and the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan.