

## **Jonathan Geurts** **Policy Facilitator**

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Jonathan is a Policy Facilitator with the Keystone Policy Center. He currently provides project support and facilitation services for natural resources projects on agriculture. He has a background in the public sector, having worked for the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. To celebrate the inter-mountain west, he runs ultra-marathons in the summer and cross-country skis in the winter.

### **Project Experience**

#### **Keystone Monarch Collaborative**

Jonathan facilitates the Monarch Collaborative, a multi-sector initiative formed to address the declining monarch butterfly migration in North America. The Collaborative's membership includes stakeholders from the academic, nonprofit, agribusiness, grower, and government sectors. Its work is focused on restoring monarch and other pollinator habitat within and adjacent to agricultural lands throughout the United States.

(March 2015 – Present)

#### **Midwest Row Crop Collaborative**

Jonathan facilitated and served as project manager for the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative, a diverse coalition working to expand agricultural solutions that protect air and water quality and enhance soil health while remaining committed to producing enough food to feed the growing global population. The Collaborative's leading companies and conservation groups are all committed to building a broad partnership in three focus states: Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. They measure and deliver improved environmental outcomes through cross-sector collaboration and continuous improvement at a meaningful scale throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Jonathan managed several of the Collaborative's work streams, including efforts to engage farmers in practices that improve water quality, communicate farmer efforts to consumers, and educate ag retailers in the economic benefits of sustainability practices. (November 2016 – December 2018)

#### **Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue**

Jonathan facilitated and provided project support for the Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue. By 2030, Colorado is projected to experience a 65 percent increase in population and with it a substantial increase in demand for water. In a state with limited water, this increase in demand will result in a water supply gap. This impending gap is a well-known and pressing problem for the future of Colorado. Thus far, strategies to address the gap have generally taken three forms: develop new supply and water storage projects; implement reuse projects; and encourage water conservation. The Keystone Policy Center led the Colorado Water and Growth Dialogue in an attempt to explore and demonstrate how the integration of water and land use planning should be utilized to reduce water demand from the development and re-development associated with the projected population increase. (2014 – 2018)

#### **Carlsbad Resource Management Plan Community Roundtables**

The Carlsbad field office of the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plan (RMP) guides the management of 2.1 million acres of public land in Eddy, Chaves, and Lea Counties, New Mexico. The plan guides all management within the planning area for 20-30 years, including what areas

are available for energy development, recreation, and conservation priorities. Keystone facilitated two community roundtables that were designed to enable community members and stakeholders to share perspectives, challenges and opportunities regarding land management in the context of the Carlsbad RMP. Participants included diverse perspectives and interests from oil and gas; agriculture; recreation; local, state, and federal government; conservation and environment; religious leaders; and the local business community. The roundtables resulted in a report summarizing the perspectives of stakeholders in attendance. The report provided a reference to the BLM, community members and stakeholders to use during the subsequent period of public comment and associated deliberations on the RMP. (2018)

#### **Gold Butte National Monument Conservation Partners Planning**

Gold Butte National monument in southeast Nevada was established by presidential proclamation in 2016. The monument covers nearly 300,000 acres of remote and rugged desert landscape and is home to stunning rock art sites and other cultural resources as well as unique plants, wildlife, geology and motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities. Key questions include how to manage and preserve the monument's resources for the future while enabling and improving the visitor experience. Keystone facilitated two meetings of conservation sector partners to identify common vision and priorities to recommend to the Bureau of Land Management as it develops a management plan for the monument. (2018)

#### **Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture**

Jonathan facilitated and served as project manager for Field to Market, a long-standing collaborative stakeholder organization that began as a Keystone dialogue and represents the U.S. commodity agriculture supply chain. Its members include agricultural producers; agribusinesses; food, restaurant, and retail companies; conservation organizations; universities; and federal agencies. Field to Market develops environmental and socioeconomic indicators to measure the sustainability of U.S. commodity crop production. These indicators process national agricultural statistics into meaningful national reports. They also measure ongoing improvement in cropping systems by means of the Fieldprint® Calculator, a freely available online tool. Jonathan's focus was to build consensus on a verification system for member claims, enabled by Field to Market's standard of continuous improvement in sustainability outcomes. (June 2013 – December 2016)

#### **Sustainable Agriculture Summit**

As project lead, Jonathan facilitated a Planning Committee comprised of national scale agricultural sustainability organizations, which have convened to produce the premier annual event for sustainability in U.S. agriculture. The Sustainable Agriculture Summit convened over 500 representatives spanning the supply chain in commodity and specialty crops, beef, poultry, pork, and dairy production. Together they comprise a network capable of taking on the nation's largest natural resource issues.

(June 2016 – November 2016)

#### **Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

Jonathan facilitated and offered project support to the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). The Desert LCC is part of a greater LCC network, a nationwide U.S. Department of Interior initiative involving federal, state, tribal, academic, non-governmental, and private sector stakeholders. LCCs are management-science partnerships for addressing climate change and other stressors at a landscape scale. Since 2010, Keystone helped launch four LCCs – the Desert, Southern Rockies, Great Plains and Gulf Coast Prairie – assisting them in establishing their steering committees and identifying science priorities. (August 2014 – February 2016)

#### **USDA Forest Service Planning Rule Advisory Committee**

As a subcontractor to Kolibri Consulting Group, Jonathan offered project support and facilitation for the federal advisory committee convened to offer recommendations for the U.S. Forest Service 2012 National Planning Rule and its policy directives. As the rule's directives went into effect, Jonathan assisted and coordinated the committee's efforts to develop guidance supporting the rule's implementation. As a truly cross-sector and inter-governmental group, the committee also assists the Forest Service to establish partnerships and government-to-government relationships to share information and effort across jurisdictional lines. (January 2014 – August 2014)

### **Jefferson County Mediation Services**

Mediated parenting and child support cases. Mediated cases in small claims court. Spent 70 hours working with 30 cases. (May 2011 – May 2013)

### **Oval Options**

Facilitated small group discussions on public policy issues (e.g. taxes, education, and foreign policy) in a tavern setting. (January 2012 – May 2012)

### **Awards and Appointments**

DU Conflict Resolution Scholar  
St. Olaf Regents Scholarship  
National Merit Scholarship  
North Fork 50 Mile Trail Run finisher

### **Education, Training, and Certificates**

**University of Denver**, Master of Arts, conflict resolution, 2011  
**St. Olaf College**, Bachelor of Arts, environmental studies, 2006

### **Previous Employment**

**USDA NRCS/Jefferson Conservation District**, soil conservation technician  
Lakewood, Colo. (July 2011 – June 2013)

- Advocated best practice conservation to forestland, rangeland, and cropland owners.
- Coordinated over eighty federal contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Facilitated office strategic planning meetings.

### **Oregon Caves National Monument**, park guide

Cave Junction, Ore. (July 2009 – September 2009; June 2010 – August 2010)

- Researched, developed, and presented two programs: a 90-minute original tour of the main cave route and 20-minute day programs on surface topics such as the role of western American expansion in modern fire ecology on the monument.
- Wrote cave myths and views section of new training manual.
- Researched, developed, and presented an evening program with the theme, "We are all adventurers here," which linked hero mythology and cave meanings to the visitors' modern day experience.
- Received Superintendent's Guide of the Month Award September 2009.

### **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**, park guide

Carlsbad, N.M. (May 2008 – November 2008; November 2009 – April 2010)

- Researched, developed and presented the Kings Palace 90-minute tour to groups of up to 55 visitors twice per week. Revised and presented existing 15-

minute presentations on bats and geology, creating and inserting multi-media and animation features.

- Received Star Award along with rest of seasonal staff for excellent visitor service during interim operations; superior end-of-season performance reviews, both seasons.

**Royal Gorge Nordic Ski Resort**, ski instructor; ski school supervisor

Soda Springs, Calif. (November 2007 – April 2008; December 2008 – January 2009)

- Coordinated schedules of 20 part-time instructors to ensure adequate staffing on busy days; distributed incoming lessons to instructors fairly by keeping up-to-date lesson statistics; coordinated end-of-day sweep of trail system.
- Taught both group and private hour-long Nordic ski lessons in skate and striding techniques at varying skill levels to up to 10 guests at once.

**Gunflint Lodge**, naturalist/camp worker

Grand Marais, Minn. (September 2006 – March 2007)

- Researched, developed, and presented geology of the Minnesota arrowhead talk. Adapted and presented other talks. Conducted nature hikes and ski tours.