

Shawangunk Ridge, NY

In partnership with Open Space Institute, we have protected more than 21,300 acres on and around the Shawangunk Ridge.

Photo by: Chris Bennett



Reimagining Rural Land Conservation & Outdoor Recreation Session 3

June 12, 2024



Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



Welcome!

In the chat, share:

- Your name
- Where you're joining from

Agenda

Effective and Equitable Community Engagement

- Welcome
- Session 2 Recap
- Session 3 Overview
- Panel Discussion
- Q&A
- Breakout Discussions
- Closing



Recap: Economic Benefits of Public & Conserved Lands

A holistic approach to conservation and outdoor recreation can provide a powerful tool for integrating economic development and community vision in the comprehensive planning process.

Challenges

- Fear of change or perceived change to the community
- Increase of public lands may diminish property tax base
- Lack of consensus leading to inaction
- Resource and housing demands as recreation economy grows
- Priorities seen as competing rather than complementary
- Land speculation due to property value increases

Resources Needed:

- Economic benefits beyond tourism & visitation
- Visitation data – collecting & establishing causality
- Tools for managing increasing property values



Recap: Strategies & Insights From the Field

- Outdoor recreation & conservation are sometimes seen as either/or priorities, rather than part of a **holistic planning process** alongside housing, economic development, recruitment, and retention.
- A **cohesive community vision** is a necessary starting place for recreation and conservation planning.
- **Climate change** – and climate commitments – have a major impact on local conservation and recreation efforts.
- In some cases, outdoor recreation and conservation may provide opportunities to **sustain economic prosperity** and community wellbeing as historic rural industries shut down/evolve.



Effective & Equitable Community Engagement

Today's session will cover strategies to achieve effective and meaningful community engagement.

Community at center rather than the outcome at the center: Ensuring that community development strategies benefit everyone

Building consensus by identify shared values, alignment and compromises within the community

Strategies for managing success, ensuring inclusive growth, and preserving community character

Poll:
Would you participate in a workshop on one or more of these topics?

Today's Speakers



Julie Renaud Evans
Northern Forest Center



Hedda Peterson
Crested Butte Nordic



Amanda Workman-Scott
West Virginia Community
Development Hub



Cary Simmons
Trust for Public Land



Q&A

Drop your questions in the chat!

Breakout Discussions

20 minutes

- What strategies have been successful in making inroads with new/previously not engaged communities?
- What strategies have been successful for deepening/strengthening existing partnerships?
- What do we usually miss when designing engagement processes for rural communities? What factors do we need to consider?
- Have you seen conservation take place without community as a stakeholder? What worked? What didn't?

Welcome back!
What did you hear?



Thank you!

- Exit Ticket
- Summer Workshop
- Session Materials
- Next Session: September 11



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