### Engagement Review Key Takeaways:
**NE CASC Outreach Publication**

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<tr>
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The idea that relationships are central to enhancing engagement with science is commonly de-emphasized within western science literature, but Indigenous scholars and thought leaders are at the forefront of this scholarship and practice. Kinship, including the relationships among humans, plants, animals, and our physical environment, is fundamental to Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Did you know...

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Considerations for building relationships

- Centering relationships can be the basis for partnerships that engage different cultures, different management approaches, and different research backgrounds.
- Diverse, inclusive, and equitable teams benefit individuals, institutions, and communities: individuals are able to align their work with their identity and personal motivations, increasing their wellbeing. Institutions and communities benefit because diverse, inclusive, and equitable teams are better able to identify areas of need, and find solutions that benefit wider segments of society.
- Without intent to build diverse partnerships, we tend to form relationships with people most similar to ourselves, i.e. with similar cultural backgrounds and training.
- Forming cross-cultural relationships requires dedicated time and attention, cultural competency, and skilled facilitation.

Suggested citation


Based on

M. Weiss et al. [In Prep]. Centering relationships to bridge the divide between science and management enhances climate adaptation.
This work was supported by the U.S. Geological Survey Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center.
Tools for Facilitating Relationship-Centered Engagement

Use Intention, reciprocity, and reflection to facilitate inclusive collaborations

Start with intentions. Then plan reciprocity. Schedule intervals for reflection. Divide your project duration by five and be sure to reflect at all four intermediate time points as well as at the end. Each collaborator should do an individual reflection. Then, via a facilitated conversation, determine what is working, what needs improvement, and how to improve. Repeat the cycles. Use the prompts above and adapt them as needed for your context.

Use the GOAT Worksheet to plan events such as meetings and workshops

First, each collaborator fills out the GOAT template, focusing on their own goals, desired outcomes, and target audiences.

Next, compare goals, objectives, and audiences. Identify and prioritize shared goals. Then discuss any remaining goals, objectives, and audiences. Reach consensus on which ones to address via the project you are planning.

Then determine tools, methods, and processes to align with the goals. Agree on a plan for reflecting on progress and refining the process as needed.

For small groups (i.e. fewer than five people), a discussion among the collaborators is likely sufficient, while for larger collaborations, an outside facilitator may be helpful.

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