

**Nedra Chandler** is an experienced mediator and facilitator of public policy and governance work. She serves as an impartial process guide, assisting participants to enable constructive engagement, useful information exchanges, and public decision making. She is an ICF-credentialed coach focused on government staff and leaders.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's (USIECR) National Roster of Conflict Resolution Professionals & Native Network
- National Coalition on Dialog and Deliberation
- Association for Conflict Resolution's (ACR) Environment and Public Policy Section

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- M.A., Geography, University of Washington, 1992
- B.A., Political Science, Montana State University, 1987
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health, University of Montana, July 2012
- Mediation Certificate, University of Washington, 1996

#### RELEVANT PAST WORK EXPERIENCE

- Montana (MT) Department of Public Health Program Manager
- Mediator then Managing Director of MT Consensus Council
- MT Dept of Labor Mediator
- Cadence, Inc. Mediator

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PANELS

*Collaboration Under NEPA*, Chapter III of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West's publication, **Reclaiming the National Environmental Policy Act's Potential**, March 1999.

*Mediating Across Cultures*, Panel moderator for Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference, 2005

## Neutral Facilitation and Mediation

For 26 years Nedra has mediated and facilitated over 200 multi-party groups, subcommittees, and other interagency, intergovernmental or multi-sector working groups to help them discern for themselves where they can take a situation, generate options, manage conflict, reach agreements, manage resources, and set action plans. Since 2013 she has also served government clients as a credentialed professional development coach.

Example topics have included: federal land management, Tribal-Federal-State consultations and agreement building, historic preservation, establishing rules for cleanup, cleanup priorities and Superfund remedy selection, state-tribal relations, joint fact finding, modeling, and regulation and enforcement for water, air quality, pesticides, public health and land use and redevelopment.

During her career as a professional mediator and facilitator of public policy, workplace and intergovernmental public conflict, Nedra has:

- Developed and managed major public decision-making projects involving deep values, big public investments and emotional currency;
- Created and implemented workshops, lectures, trainings and presentations on open governance, mediation, facilitation, leadership and trust-building behaviors in the course of everyday work;
- Conducted up to eight situation assessments per year, many leading to successful decision-making, capacity building or agreement-building processes;
- Used visual process maps, field trips, collaborative fact-finding, expert panels, risk management assessments, media relations, roving teams, and other creative tools to engage agency participants, elected officials and stakeholders;
- Facilitated senior management teams and stakeholder caucus work to assist parties to understand, jointly frame, and engage in the tasks at hand and carry results forward.
- Provided all levels of individual development coaching and organizational development for public agencies – assisting them toward specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound work they design and commit to themselves.
- Taught and trained interest-based negotiation, listening and powerful questions, and facilitative leadership skills for agency staff, leaders, citizens, and county and other elected officials.
- Mediator of challenging intergovernmental situations and other conflicts since 1990.

## Representative Projects Facilitated by Nedra

- Served as **neutral facilitator** for EPA Region 8-convened yet community-led effort called “Making a Visible Difference in Communities” in Poplar Montana on the Fort Peck Reservation.
- Served as a neutral facilitator for a **multi-agency group** (U.S. Forest Service, NPS, BLM, counties and state and federal Historic Preservation offices) with the **Blackfeet Tribe** regarding oil and gas leasing in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana.
- Served as **interagency neutral** for the EPA Region 10 and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in their annual meeting to renegotiate their partnership on the Bunker Hill cleanup, implementation and monitoring.
- Mediated MOU between **EPA Regions 7 and 8, Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Oglala Sioux Tribal Pesticides Program.**
- Facilitated a workshop for **EPA Region 10 and two Tribal governments, Idaho, Washington and Oregon**, bringing regional stakeholders together to form partnerships to keep pesticides out of the Columbia River Basin.
- Served as lead **Cooperating Agency facilitator** for development of the Winter Use Plan in Yellowstone National Park. One significant project success was increased and functional **information sharing and cooperation between and among the NPS, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, 5 counties, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. EPA Region 8.**
- Facilitated **Interagency Bison Management Plan meeting** that included representatives from the NPS, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others with a stake in bison management.
- Served as **interagency neutral** for the legislatively-mandated Montana Public Health Care Advisory Council over a period of 18 months to redesign Montana Medicaid. As part of this role Nedra also **facilitated monthly conflict management and coordination meetings** between the Governor’s Health Policy Advisor, the Indian Affairs Coordinator, and the Medicaid Director.
- Developed and facilitated an expert panel regarding in situ treatment technologies potentially relevant to the **Superfund cleanup remedy** that was under consideration for the complex 49-mile stretch of river floodplain on the Clark Fork River contaminated with mining waste.
- Facilitated many team meetings and **cooperating agency meetings for National Park Service (NPS) and EPA**, states, counties and National Forests surrounding Yellowstone National Park environmental issues from winter use to Clean Water Act-related work.
- Facilitated the **Libby Asbestos Superfund Site Cumulative Risk Assessment Meeting** (for Region 8).
- Facilitated the **EPA-convened Collaborative Summit of state and federal leaders** in the Intermountain West (held in Utah) to discuss air quality modeling, interagency cooperation, and the future of the Federal Leadership Forum.
- Served as facilitator for Montana State University’s Office of Rural Health on statewide assessments of **critical access hospitals and their services and impacts on rural communities in Montana and in Indian Country.**
- **Taught facilitation and collaboration skills** to US Forest Service professionals and managed the **one-on-one coaching** program that followed the two intensive courses.

## Testimonials

You have great skills in working with a group of individuals who are skeptical about a facilitated process. You help with development of vision and you have the flexibility to adjust in ways that blend and empower the group. – **Julie DalSoglio, Office Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 Montana Office**

The work Nedra helped us do made changes for the better. Nedra is committed to assisting tribal governments and natural resource agencies with this important work. I recommend her to others working to find collaborative solutions to environmental problems. – **Irv Provost, Director, Oglala Sioux Tribe Natural Resources Regulatory Agency Pesticide Enforcement**

Nedra, you are an exceptional listener. I always appreciate your ability to draw out perspectives of each individual, and your capacity to meet the group where it is. – **Wendy Thomi, Environmental Protection Office Region 8, Montana**

Nedra was a joy to work with. – **Denice Swanke, Superintendent, Little Bighorn Battlefield**

It's a rare skill to be able to focus a diverse group's attention – to blend the various personalities, biases, and worldviews of the individual participants – into an organic unit with a shared mission. Nedra Chandler has all these skills. Nedra is a great facilitator. – **Richard Oppen, Director of Public Health and Human Services**

You leveled the playing field. You ensured that every person's expression and way they view the world was honored as important to the outcome. You were very clear about what your role was in the process. The summaries were very, very helpful as well as your intuition/insight into human nature. A positive experience. I would do it again if you were facilitating. – **Patricia Sternberg, Lewis & Clark County Library Business Manager**

Thank you for all you and your team did to help Yellowstone be a better partner in the greater context of our world. You have made a difference. – **Suzanne Lewis, (former) Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park**

I like that you reached out beforehand. I liked that you had us up and moving around and didn't mind if we stood or walked around.--**Judy Merickel, local government-connected board member**

Many thanks for your teaching and participation in the county commissioner certification program this week. Your presentation on effective governmental relationships was terrific and the evaluations were very high. I have truly enjoyed working with you over the past years and admire the work you do so effectively. You have a powerful, generous spirit and thanks for all that you do Nedra. – **Jane Jelinski, Director, (former) MSU Local Government Center**

Nedra was awesome to work with. She helped the interagency group create a constructive work environment over a period of 3 days as we charted out the real risks and gains associated with avalanche control on Sylvan Pass. This alone was an enormous feat dealing with sensitive and technical situations and working relationships. What also stood out was that she followed with some critically useful document preparation which put a solid cap on the work. In short, a very dependable, effective and smart facilitator. – **William Shott, NPS Intermountain Chief Ranger**

Nedra, you were extraordinarily organized and did an exceptional job of helping to plan and implement this workshop. You did an excellent job providing flexibility in responding to the moment and providing facilitation and meeting support that was needed at that time. – **Mary Lou Soscia, Columbia River Coordinator, US EPA**