

## CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

**All Submissions Due by: Friday, October 26, 2007**

The U.S. Institute for **Environmental Conflict Resolution** of the Morris K. Udall Foundation invites you to share your knowledge at the fifth national conference, **ECR2008**, May 20-22, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park in Tucson, Arizona. Proposals from session organizers are currently being accepted for concurrent panel sessions and roundtable discussions.

**ECR2008** will provide a forum for exchange of ideas and mutual learning about the field of environmental conflict resolution among government representatives, non-governmental organizations, tribal nations and members, community based groups, environmental advocates, corporate entities, resource managers and users, private individuals, and professionals in the conflict resolution, mediation and consensus building fields. **ECR2008** conference sessions will examine various ways to enhance the success of ECR processes, through better understanding of emerging and innovative uses of new technology and communication tools; what we are learning from the latest research and evaluation of ECR and other collaborative processes; and how to navigate process choices to make informed decisions that will lead to improved outcomes of all stakeholders.

The program committee is interested in dynamic, interactive sessions. Training workshops, panels, and roundtables that include members of non-governmental organizations, representatives from the corporate sector, tribes, local, state, and federal agencies and private citizens are strongly encouraged. A list of program committee representatives is available on the U.S. Institute website at [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov).

Please note: More information on Training Workshop Proposals is forthcoming.

Proposed conference panel sessions and roundtable discussions are designed to share lessons learned, discuss hot topics, and explore new innovations and applications in the ECR field. Up to 30 concurrent breakout sessions will be offered on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 and Thursday, May 22, 2008. All panels and roundtables are limited to 90 minutes. Panels are limited to one moderator and no more than three (3) presenters. Roundtables are limited to two (2) presenters who also serve as co-facilitators for interactive small group breakouts or other co-learning activities among participants. Presenters are expected to submit professional written materials electronically before conference and provide any necessary handouts for participants on site at their own cost.

The U.S. Institute does not waive or reimburse **ECR2008** presenters for travel, lodging, meal expenses or conference registration fees unless otherwise stated at the time of engagement.

Proposals are to be submitted by a single individual who is also responsible for providing detailed information about all co-presenters and/or co-facilitators at the time of submittal. The submitting individual is also responsible for coordinating communication among all presentation team members up to and during the conference.

## ECR2008 TRACKS

The 2008 Program Committee has established three conference tracks to guide the call for panels and roundtables. Through these tracks, sessions will address the underlying conditions that have been found essential to fostering success in ECR processes. **Proposals submitted must fall within one of these three tracks.** Preference will be given to proposals that use innovative and engaging methods or other creative formats to encourage participant interaction, discussion and feedback AND that one or more of the following topics within each track:

### **TRACK 1: TECHNOLOGY, TOOLS, AND INNOVATIONS IN ECR**

*This track will explore some of the emerging and innovative uses of new decision support and communication tools in the service of ECR processes. As our society and its technologies evolve, we're seeing people communicate, network, learn, and participate in interesting new ways. Government leaders, scientists and academics, NGO advocates, and ECR practitioners are discovering how these new tools and channels of communication can be utilized in resolving controversial decision-making processes. Examples include web-based project and information management tools, computer-assisted decision support systems, visualization, modeling, and simulation tools, and a range of survey tools and electronic methods for content analysis. We hope to highlight the unique and experimental ways these tools are being applied in ECR processes, and in a range of project contexts: land use, ecosystem management, water, transportation, and energy.*

#### Possible session track topics/titles include but aren't limited to:

- The Use of Collaborative Approaches to Water Resource Modelling
- Bureaucrats, Techies, and Mediators (Oh My!): New Alliances for Institutional Change
- New Approaches to Content Analysis: Enhanced Electronic Tools and Options for Collaboration
- When Technology Gets in the Way: Lessons Learned from a Silicon-based Approach to Dispute Resolution
- Reaching New Audiences in Large-scale Decision Processes: New applications for Websites, Survey Tools, and Other Communications Networks
- The Use of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis in ECR decision processes
- Web-based Tools for On-line Dispute Resolution: An Emerging (Cyber-) Space Odyssey
- Geographic Information Systems: Emerging Experience, Lessons Learned, and Projections for Future Applications
- Testing Scenarios: The Expanding Use of Geo-Visualization Tools in Resolving Environmental Disputes
- The Application of New Survey and Analysis Tools for ECR Assessments

### **TRACK 2: EVALUATING ECR: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

*This track will focus on what we are learning from the latest research and evaluation of ECR and other collaborative processes and their outcomes. A special effort will be made to highlight information that can be used and applied by sponsors, conveners, and stakeholder participants to help ensure that ECR processes achieve their intended goals.*

#### Possible session track topics/titles include but aren't limited to:

- What are we learning from ECR research and evaluation?
- Realistic Outcomes from ECR Processes: Establishing and Managing Expectations
- Judging ECR from a Tribal Perspective...from an Environmentalist's Perspective
- Do "Successful" ECR Processes Result in Environmental Improvements?
- Making the case for ECR
- How do we spell success?
- Is ECR really "faster, better, and cheaper?"
- How do you measure the building of relationships and long-term trust?
- Unraveling Group Processes and Outcomes through Social Network Analysis
- Research Methodologies for Evaluating ECR and Collaborative Processes

### TRACK 3: MATCHING THE PROCESS TO THE PROBLEM: NAVIGATING PROCESS CHOICES

*The public and private sectors are increasingly recognizing the value of "partnering" and "collaborating" to address environmental concerns and resource management issues. There are a myriad of process labels, choices, and requirements, including, for example, public participation under NEPA, community-based collaboration, community involvement, collaborative decision-making, consensus-building, and mediation of environmental lawsuits. Everyone involved in environmental and natural resource decisions faces questions about how to use the right problem-solving approach and make process choices in a way that will best meet the needs of their situation. This track will explore the questions and provide opportunities for dialogue about how best to make informed process choices that lead to improved outcomes for all stakeholders.*

Possible session track topics/titles include but aren't limited to:

- ECR Opportunities for Industry/Corporate Representatives: Corporate Social Responsibility through Collaboration
- Collaboration at the Top: What Works When High-Level Decision-makers are Involved
- How "Go Slow to Go Fast" fits with "Hurry Up and Decide": Integrating Collaboration and the Need to Make Decisions
- Creating Culturally Appropriate Processes for Effective Collaboration
- Options for Effective Government-to-Government Consultation
- Integrating Legal Issues in Process Design: FACA, FOIA, Confidentiality
- Fitting the Assessment to the Situation: What is Essential and In What Circumstances?
- Collaboration: What's in it for Environmental Advocates?
- NEPA and ECR; Integrating Public Participation and ECR
- Early Neutral Evaluation: How Current Applications Meet Needs
- Options When Resources (Time and/or Money) Limit Involvement or Process Choices
- It's Not Your Idea of Facilitation?: What We Learn From our OD Facilitator Colleagues
- Options for Collaborative Processes Without a Third-Party Neutral
- ECR in Regulatory Circumstances: Collaboration for Decision-makers
- Adjusting Processes in Changing Circumstances

#### Selection Criteria

The ECR2008 Program Committee will review all session proposals and make final selections. Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Appropriateness to the Track
- Balance across Topics
- Overall Quality
- Content (Well defined topic and focused objectives)
- Practicality and Timeliness of Topic
- Originality
- Presenter Qualifications/Speaking Experience
- Relevance to Defined Target Audience
- Anticipated Audience Participation/Interaction

#### Conference Materials/Proceedings

All session presenters will be required to submit professional written materials electronically (at a date to be announced) prior to the conference to be made available to conference attendees for download before or after the event. Conference organizers will not reproduce or distribute conference proceedings in any other format.

## **Submission Deadline**

The Call for Presentation Proposals deadline is **Friday, October 26, 2007**. Proposals submitted after that date cannot be assured of consideration. The conference Program Committee will review and select panel and roundtable sessions by November 30, 2007. Selected presenters will be notified no later than December 21, 2007.

## **Options for Session Submissions**

### **Online**

Online submissions are strongly encouraged at  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ECYu3Nx89Wm9xHHP5uyJQQ\\_3d\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ECYu3Nx89Wm9xHHP5uyJQQ_3d_3d)

### **Via Email, Fax or Mail**

Hard copy proposals submitted by email (in Word or PDF format), fax or regular mail must follow the exact same format and criteria as those submitted online. An **ECR2008 Printable Presentation Proposal Submission & Biography Form is available on the website at [www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov)**. Incomplete submissions, or submissions not following the requested format, will not be considered. Submissions by mail, fax, or email must be received by **October 26, 2007**.

To submit electronically, send to: [ecr2008@ecr.gov](mailto:ecr2008@ecr.gov)

Fax to: (520) 901-8527

Or Mail to:

U.S. Institute for **Environmental Conflict Resolution**  
**Morris K Udall Foundation**  
**ECR2008 Abstract Submission**  
130 South Scott Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

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