

Colby Mills

Facilitation/Mediation Support & Office Manager

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Overview

Colby has worked at DS Consulting, a woman-owned mediation and facilitation firm, for over six years, serving as Mediation/Facilitation Support and Office Manager. She has provided virtual and in-person support on projects including: natural resource mediation and public policy facilitation, regional forums, consensus building, strategic planning, regional forums, and task force and rulemaking advisory groups.

Project support includes assisting with client communications, technical/report writing, project management, budget tracking, project and logistics planning, and other administrative support as needed. She has experience working with members of Tribal, State, and Federal Governments at all levels, affected/interested community groups, natural resource professionals, and higher education professionals. Colby is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in her work, and values all voices, identities, experiences, and perspectives.

Formal Education

Certificate in Project Management

Portland State University

2018

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio

2011

“Studies in Human Evolution & Ecology” Program

University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2009

Work History

DS Consulting

Facilitation/Mediation Support & Office Manager

March 2017 - Present

Ano’s Art Academy

Office Manager & Executive Assistant

January 2016 - March 2017

Oregon Mediation Association

Program Manager & Administrative Assistant

April 2013 - December 2015

Mercy Corps

Marketing Intern

June - September 2012

Related Work Experience

Lake Roosevelt National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Project Specific Programmatic Agreement

January 2022 – present

Providing facilitation support of a consensus-seeking multi- party process aimed at developing a project specific programmatic agreement for the management of cultural resources with the Lake

Roosevelt Region and tiered under the Federal Columbia River Power System Programmatic Agreement. This effort includes 8 Tribal, State and Federal government agencies. Efforts include meeting logistics and scheduling, real-time virtual meeting support and technical assistance, communications with meeting participants and representatives, materials preparation, issue and action tracking, internal meeting notetaking, and additional support to team members and the Lead Facilitator as needed.

Fifteenmile Creek Managed Underground Storage Facility Stakeholder Group

September 2021 – present

Facilitation support of a regional affected-party group consisting of 16 Tribal, State, Federal, and regional government agencies, along with private businesses, watershed council, and community members. Efforts include real-time virtual meeting support and technical assistance, meeting notetaking and summary drafting, issue and action tracking, communications with meeting participants, and additional support to team members and the Lead Facilitator as needed, with the goal of seeking consensus on the ownership and management of the underground water storage facility, a first of its kind in the region.

Flexible Spill Working Group

January 2021- present

Facilitation support of a regional technical and policy working group consisting of 13 Tribal, State, and Federal natural resource agencies. Efforts include drafting technical summaries and additional meeting, communication and logistical support to team members and the lead facilitator.

USGS' National Climate Adaptation Science Center – 5-year External Review for the Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (RCASCs)

October 2020-present

Project and administrative support for the assessment, design, facilitation, and management of a federally required external review of our nation's RCASCs. Efforts include contacting and interviewing ERT nominations, assisting in the selection of ERT members from over 100 candidates nationwide, scheduling and logistics for 8 separate multi-day reviews of each RCASC (over 3 years), developing meeting and review materials, drafting daily review session summaries, report compilation and revising, exit-survey process design, evaluation and analysis, and additional communication and logistical support to team members and the lead facilitator.

Columbia River Regional Implementation Oversight Group – Technical Management Team

August 2018 – present

Facilitation support for a multi-agency team consisting of representatives of 15 sovereign governments, focused on collaboratively managing the Columbia River system, within the parameters of NOAA biological opinions and the Endangered Species Act. Efforts include drafting technical summaries of weekly meetings, attending pre-meeting conference calls, and additional meeting, communication and logistical support to team members and the lead facilitator.

Additional Training Received

- Sketchnoting 101 from Mid-Atlantic Facilitator's Network (March 2022)

- “Recognizing and Interrupting Racism” from Rakeem Washington and Kasia Rutledge, (February 2021)
- “White Ally Toolkit” Training from Dr. David Campt, PhD. (June 2020)
- Audited (and assisted with) Facilitating Dynamic & Difficult Groups – DS Consulting (September 2019)
- Institutional Equity I: Shift Your Outcomes by Shifting Your Systems – Resolutions Northwest (February 2019)
- “Becoming a Compassionate Warrior: Ally Skills for Talking About Race” from Dr. David Campt, PhD. (November 2018)
- Audited (and assisted with) Ethics for Managers – DHS/OHA (October 2018)
- Visual Facilitation for Project Managers - The Grove Consultants International (May 2018)
- “Ally Conversation Toolkit Workshop: Tools and Skills to talk about inclusion and equity in the workplace” from Dr. David Campt, PhD. (April 2018)
- Association for Conflict Resolution’s Environmental & Public Policy Conference (June 2017)
- Oregon Mediation Association’s Annual Fall Conference (2013-2019)

Professional Affiliations

Oregon Mediation Association Member (*April 2013 – present*)