

Leah C. Elwell Biography

Leah Elwell, president of Conservation Collaborations, LLC., represents the conservation non-profit organization Invasive Species Action Network. Elwell has over 25+ years of invasive species experience including managing national campaigns targeting behavior change, engaging grassroots efforts to address invasive species in unique areas, and connecting diverse partners to advance management priorities. She works collaboratively with a variety of partners to improve invasive species management strategies and identify actions to better equip managers in a complex decision-making landscape. Prior to consulting, she led non-profit staff in advancing invasive species issues that recognize the many ways that humans can be engaged in actions to protect natural resources and prevent invasive species spread. Working in the non-profit sector gave her the opportunity to bridge gaps between state and federal agencies, and industry on a variety of invasive species prevention areas. Leah has also cultivated a strong appeal for increasing community preparedness and resilience strategies to address invasive species rapid response. Previously, Leah led conservation projects to protect fisheries in diverse habitats ranging from coastal mangroves to desert streams. She holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in aquatic wildlife biology at University of Montana and a Master's of Science degree in ecology at Montana State University. Her master's work examined the ecological interactions that influence whirling disease. Incidentally this early work on invasive species began a career focused on various aspects of invasive species communication, management, and prevention. She believes there is a strong future in continuing invasive species work to advance practices, and policies to protect our natural environments.

BIO SUMMARY: Leah Elwell is a collaborator working to create invasive species prevention strategies that result in positive outcomes. Her approach is science-based, nature informed, and process driven.