White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

**Topic:** Accelerating Cooperative Conservation as a way of Doing Business: Building Capacity, Skills, and Practices Across Organizations

**Session number:** 35  
**Facilitator:** Patrick Field  
**Location:** 120

This summary cannot be more than two pages; allocate space as needed among the categories.

A. **Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.** A grouping of ideas repeated with some frequency in the session and brought up again during the group summation process. Also includes diverging views and/or questions about the topic.

- Climate has to change (legislation, rules, regulations, behaviors, ways of doing business, etc.).
- We need a shared vision across levels (What are our goals? Where are we trying to go? Context set at different levels)
- Money, people, and expertise are needed on the ground.
- Need top-down message that reaches all levels. Foster leadership that provides a consistent message and empower lower-level staff.
- Social, cultural and technical assistance in the way of training to build capacity
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Funding from multiple sources: How much is given? How can it be leveraged? Is it allocated properly? Focus funding sources on key programs/areas.
- Education, outreach, and marketing/media efforts focused at all levels keeping in mind that the local level may be the most effective.

B. **National-level Practical Actions** that could be taken by the Federal government, national NGO’s, and other national organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.

- President (via press corps) could be used to publicize the cooperative conservation message.
- Capture the cooperative conservation message in Saturday radio addresses to illustrate that this is a bipartisan effort.
- Adjust expectations RE: Timeframes and costs
- Avoid temptation to “fix” local issues
- Continue to require and reward cooperative approaches.
- Reserve regulations for those situations that can’t be otherwise resolved.
- Reduce administrative disincentives (budget allocation, reporting metrics, etc.).

This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.
• Increase incentives for risk-taking
• Continue to support multiple stakeholder efforts on the ground.
• Increase incentives for resolving interagency conflicts.
• Validate innovative approaches
• Publish proceedings from this conference
• Distribute video message from earlier today.
• Provide more money for monitoring and evaluation
• Reevaluate success measurements and performance criteria
• Provide ways to easily mine data
• Long term funding cycles need to be addressed. (Annual budget cycle does not coincide with project timelines).
• Streamline funding mechanisms to accelerate on-the-ground accomplishments.
• Local staff, “I want people to come visit me.”

C. Local-level Practical Actions that could be taken at the local or community level by Tribes, state and local communities, private citizens, and local organizations. Diverging views and/or questions are also noted.

• Advocate (Congress, governors, etc.) for cooperative conservation including changes to “hook into” technical assistance and funding
• Shared ownership of this report.
  – Disseminate this report to governors and local groups. Publicize cooperative conservation. Make the story real for local groups.
  – Use our own examples of successes to publicize and promote cooperative conservation.
  – “Toot our own horn”
• Engage land grant institutions
• Engage local schools
• Foster strong leadership is needed to work through barriers
• Encourage a reflective process of learning
• Continue to do good work. Successful projects promote the cooperative conservation approach.
• Local groups need to realize that the success of these projects will be determined by scale? How do we make this happen on a broader scale?
• Include and engage often the beneficiaries of the project.
• Change climate: What is driving the inefficiencies in the system that drives up costs (why do we need subsidies?)
• Technical and relational assistance packages available and able to be funded. Need to foster trust-building among parties and stakeholders.

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D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group’s discussion.

Stop funding stupid stuff.
Good data, good decisions.
Dollars, people, and expertise on the ground.

Missing stakeholders:
DOC (other than NOAA)
Environmental Advocacy groups
Environmental Justice
DOE
University extension agents

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