

**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: 44

Afternoon

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.*

- Align regulation, policy, and cooperative conservation
- Funding
- Education and Awareness
- Making It Real in agencies:
 - Capacity building
 - Training
 - Performance measures
- Continuity and Commitment
- Transparency and Inclusiveness
- Communication should happen early and often.
- Measurements for monitoring and evaluation
- National Commitment and local action
- Clearly stated and institutionalized policy that is implemented at all levels
- Reduce institutional impediments

This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.

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.*

- Identify a Cooperative Conservation Czar
- “Renewed national commitment” to cooperative conservation
- Funding or incentives
 - Require local matches for federal funding. Local matches may include in-kind services
 - Create mechanisms for multi-year funding
 - Tie funding to agencies as well as public and stakeholders if they are collaborating
 - Find mechanisms to pool multiple sources of funding to support cooperative efforts
 - Budget for cooperative conservation more than compliance and litigation avoidance
- Encourage open, transparent processes.
- Reform or address FACA challenges to the cooperative conservation approach.
- Establish clear ground rules up front.
- Reevaluate Project Performance measurements to incorporate a diverse suite
- Integrating existing resources
 - Cooperative Conservation Hotline
 - Compilation of websites of collaborative approaches that ARE working
- Create cross-agency state Cooperative Conservation committees which would work similarly to NRCS
- Personnel performance measures need to be reevaluated
 - Reward risk taking
 - People should be judged based on diverse metrics (including relationship building, etc.) rather than bureaucratic metrics
 - Strategic plan to reinvigorate and align the personnel system
 - Reform performance based budgeting to align with cooperative conservation
- Visionary targets
- Avoid creation of new bureaucracy

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- Decentralize and devolve decision making while maintaining clear overarching vision, goals, and objectives
- Training in stewardship contracting, partnering, conflict resolution. Mentoring and exchange programs across sectors should be encouraged.
- Make case for the cost-benefit of cooperative conservation that is broad-minded and takes into account administrative costs, litigation risks, etc.
- Frame capacity building positively to encourage high level participation.

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.*

- Finding more and creative ways to leverage funds with private funds
- Share best practices that would help to use the successes and key techniques for other sites
- Integrating funding, priorities, and technical capabilities with cooperative conservation
- Businesses need to engage neighbors and their public
- Engage local universities as partners
- Incorporate indigenous knowledge
- Link rural development to cooperative conservation
 - Rich ecosystems, forested lands, and poor communities often overlap
- Train diverse groups to encourage participation of relevant stakeholders.

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

“The federal government should be helping us do it not telling us what to do.”

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