

**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: Gregg Walker

Location: 122

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.*

- People need more training in cooperative conservation skills
- Local input is required for actions that impact the local community
- Procedural Flexibility
- Leadership at the local level
- Respect for the land owner
- Persistence
- There needs to be an impetus for change
- Good science is essential for cooperative conservation
- Learning is a two-way street.

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.*

- Need to identify skill sets for cooperative conservation;
 - Develop job series that reflect those needs (i.e., facilitation skills, conflict resolution specialists)
 - need to hire people with those skill set;
 - train new and existing people in that skill set
- Identify examples and models of successful Cooperative Conservation
 - Develop a support /mentor system for Cooperative Conservation
- Change legal and regulatory framework in agencies to better promote cooperative conservation; i.e.
 - Agencies should develop a cooperative conservation guidebook that presents guidelines for procedural flexibility and resource integrity, thus, reducing litigation risks
- Devolve conservation authority to states
 - Block grants for cooperative conservation
 - Allow innovation and experimentation at the local level

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

- Provide block grants to states
- The success of Cooperative Conservation efforts needs to be measured in two ways
 1. The on the ground resource results
 2. the quality of the cooperative effort
- The President should sign an executive order on cooperative conservation that sets long-term goals and drives actions of the agencies
- Universities should teach effective communication and collaboration skills
 - Identify and share best practices at the university level
 - Solicit corporate endowments to support student learning in cooperative conservation

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.*

- Community Stakeholders need to attend training in CC together
- Recognition that some CC efforts are community driven with government as minor players
- Utilize the facilitation and conflict resolution expertise of local not-for-profit organizations
- Agencies need to understand and access the informal network of the local community
 - Develop and utilize tools; i.e., social mapping and community assessment; and identification of opinion leaders
- The success of Cooperative Conservation efforts needs to be measured in two ways
 - The on the ground resource results
 - the quality of the cooperative effort
- Need resources for monitoring and adaptive management

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

“We need to get the people skills right.”

“The best way to lead a mule is to let him think it's his idea.”

“It's about attitude.”

“Agencies need to work together and not compete.”

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