White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation  
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation  

Session number: 44  
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
  o Identify and share best practices at the university level
  o 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
  o 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.”

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