

**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

Morning

Facilitator: John Jostes

Location: 123

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.*

Trust, respect, clarity and forgiveness are 4 characteristics that all have to come together. Each of those 4 characteristics requires hard work, and investments of time.

When groups convene, clearly identifying key issues.

Include all players, and develop parity among participants as much as possible.

Need a reason to get together – reactive or proactive reason. Need incentives.

Need somebody to convene efforts. The convener needs to be of a stature to “take it up a notch,” and to bridge the gap between the values they hold and the conditions they face.

Its not a 1-shot deal, there is a need for constant care and feeding of collaborative processes to make them work. Don’t be impatient about results – it takes time.

Find the success stories, and distribute those stories far and wide so that it is not so intimidating.

Make it safe to sit down with people who you traditionally disagree with.

Celebrate mini-wins as they happen.

Foster diversity in thinking about responsibility and commitment.

Locals need commitment of feds, and feds need locals in order to make it work.

- 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.*

Making it happen – the Feds need to invest in these programs, monetarily, administratively, and across departments. Countered with dichotomy of we need fed;s to be top down in doing this, yet bottom up in terms of ownership.

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Directive from the CEQ that “this is the way we will do business from now on,” and also to assess the effectiveness of efforts that are currently underway.

Interagency committee chaired by CEQ should reach out to states, establishing a regionally focused structure, e.g. Great Lakes E.O.

Federal agencies need to work more both with state and local organizations, and also among themselves. Inter-agency barriers (e.g. turf battles) remain a big problem. Agencies need to identify shared goals, or overlapping goals.

Need to establish lead federal agency for each effort.

Requirements for funding, ie. grants need to include collaboration, or if not required, then extra points are given for proposals that include collaborative conservation.

Federal budgets need to be prioritized for local capacity building (tools, techniques, training, and outreach – e.g. sharing success stories), and need to be directed more specifically toward collaborative conservation efforts.

Agencies need to formally recognize and value the skills needed for collaborative efforts. Need to reward good behavior, both federal employees, and participants.

- 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.*

Regions are where you implement this policy. It is the intersection of the local grass roots level, NGO's, businesses with the federal.

A Best Practices Manual for communities with less resources, should be developed and applied at the local level. Need a multitude of locations with different circumstances so communities can see examples they can relate to.

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

I'm willing to play in every game.

How do you overcome the golden rule – “He who has the gold rules.”

Food is important, but the feds can't buy food.

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