

## White House Conference On Cooperative Conservation Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

Topic: **Building Successful Partnerships**

Session Number: **36**

**Morning**

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### **A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion**

For Success:

- Need inspiring, clearly stated, compelling vision.
- Focus on what the group has in common, rather than their differences.
- Clearly establish expectations for each partner's roles, responsibilities, and contributions.
- Partners need to have willingness to work for the good and glory of the goal, rather than for their own accolades
- Must have an implementation and funding strategy
- Have a balance of short term goals that can be achieved along the way to the long-term goals
  - ◊ Gives stakeholders a sense of accomplishment, momentum
- Institutions need to match their actions with their words, adapting new tools for new times and allowing and encouraging federal policies to allow for local based management
- Much success is due to good leaders who have been trained in and believe in collaborative approaches
  - ◊ But staff level leaders don't always embrace leaders' beliefs in collaborative conservation
- Actively engage your critics – keeping your friends close and your enemies closer
- Better nurturing of existing programs (with funds, staff, advertisement, etc.) rather than continuous

Barriers:

- Partners all have different processes and cultures– this can be frustrating
- Lack of dedicated staff, from all partners
- Not enough \$\$
- Federal Partners and their lack of transparency in partnering (managing expectations)
- Federal processes and policies are outdated and not inline with the new model of cooperative conservation
- A currently apathetic nation
- Agencies don't communicate within or amongst themselves
- Stove-piping

### **B. National-level Practical Actions**

- Need to encourage risk taking inside federal agencies, respecting and rewarding such thinking and the employees who pursue these values
- Seek to incorporate cooperative conservation in federal agency culture
- National level needs to respect community level management and implement collaborative/local based management and allow for flexible 'place based' solutions'
- Adapt federal policies to allow for locally-tailored conservation BMPs
- Federal level needs to actually walk their talk, and commit \$\$, staff time, and attitudes
- Revamp federal policies and measurement systems to become better in line with current cooperative conservation model – these policies need to allow middle managers to fully implement the stated desires of top leadership
- Allow for failure and, rather than condemning failure, focus on lessons learned

- Better align top level funding schemes to match (have a budget line item for restoration)
- NGOs also need to embrace collaborative processes, and not fall back on old ways (lawsuits)
- Consider ‘frivolous’ lawsuit standards for NGO, business and other institutions
- Develop cost effective market driven incentives
- Require ongoing participation in on-going process (e.g., NEPA) in order to file lawsuit later on
- Lower cost-share, or allow for larger in-kind incentives
- Monitor and measure cooperative conservation efforts via outcomes (how many partners, were there links to community-based plans, jobs created, etc.
- Create means by which to maximize NGO participation

### **C. Local-level Practical Actions**

- Local level federal agencies need to better work together and coordinate with each other (for example, NOAA, FS, EPA)
- Share the success stories so other communities, districts, etc; know what worked as well as lessons learned when something didn’t work
- Better communication within local entities (is the planning department talking to the facilities department, etc.)
- Clearly state the need that the partnership is seeking to address
- Provide upward feedback to decision makers and policy makers – effectively lobbying for change
- Engage local business and private stakeholders – look to them for funding assistance
- State entities can work well and directly with local entities to identify and report upward on what cooperative conservation efforts are working
- States can develop tax schema to provide for private sector incentives

### **D. Particularly Insightful Quotes**

“We will never be able to institutionalize this until we see tools for the top levels to fully implement these ideas and actions.”

“We are talking about celebrating stories – not only metrics.”

“Tell me something and I’ll probably forget it, show me something and I may remember it, involve me in it, and I’ll understand it.”

“Whenever you are faced with barriers on any partnership – always turn to your vision.”