

**White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation**

Topic: Building Successful partnerships

Session number: 36

Morning

Facilitator: Carl Moore

Location: 126

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.*

The group agreed that there are certain critical factors that are essential to partnerships

1. Communications/listening
2. developing trust
 - a. know partners
 - b. develop relationships
3. overlapping purpose/vision/goals [Venn Diagram]
4. resources – money,
5. sustain/commitment
6. right people
7. leadership
8. equal access to/shared information; learn together
9. the partnership has to define the roles rather than an institutionalized approach
- 10.

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.*

1. follow-up regional conferences to showcase success stories
2. no lip service to environmentalism = a commitment to dedicate real resources to support partnerships
3. set partnership related agency goals and measure progress against them
4. draft an executive order on partnership across government
5. amend FACA so it cannot be used as an impediment to partnerships
6. develop and approach to support partnerships by determining that consensus trumps agency political agendas / “don’t pull the rug” from out of the partnership
7. create incentives to make participation attractive to private organizations (e.g. something from agencies – improved relations, changed rules, stock rating grading)
8. access (use and interpretation) to technical information (e.g. mapping data) and experts
9. agency training on what is entailed in incentives for partnerships

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

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.*

1. give priority to partnerships in allocating non-federal resources
2. change organizational policies and cultures to support partnerships
3. fully empowerment to representatives
4. build a “business case” on why partners should participate (may not be financial)

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

“Partnerships are kind of like a marriage; it does not take much to break them up but it takes a lot to keep them going.”

“Beware of institutionalization of an approach to partnerships because that feels like it is too to-down driven.”

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