

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

Topic: Building Successful partnerships

Session number: 45

Afternoon

Facilitator: Paul De Morgan

Location: 127

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.*

1. Fund partnership infrastructure (coordination, facilitation, travel, etc.) to allow for creativity and flexibility (then don't need to rely completely on volunteers).
2. Set measurable outcomes when building partnership.
3. Identify short-term achievable objectives to ensure early success.
4. Who plays what roles will be dependent on the type of issue; flexibility is more important than dictating specific roles for specific interests.
5. Forming partnerships when there isn't a crisis can lay the groundwork for addressing future challenges; however, in reality, it is a significant challenge to get participants interested.
6. To keep partnerships sustainable you need successful results and to address broad based issues and interests.

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. Have environmental fines go towards cooperative conservation efforts in the form of a cooperative conservation fund.
2. Identify and eliminate Federal barriers to allow easier movement of money to non-profits which allows for increased partnership flexibility and results in incentives
3. Develop Federal programs that give grants for collaborative processes (not just projects).
4. Need Federal agency support (funding) from the top and the appropriate structure to support on the ground efforts (e.g., partnership specialists and partnership offices).
5. Clearly identify funding sources for conservation partnerships.
6. Explore authorities for cooperative conservation in each agency.
7. Have national environmental policy as the means to exceed environmental standards.
8. There is a need for cultural change in federal agencies and national organizations.

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9. Need agency leadership to direct that if there is a choice between a regulatory or cooperative approach, allow the more flexible approach to be chosen. This needs to be consistent within and among agencies.
10. Develop and use a coordinated and streamlined permit application process.

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. Identify funding sources for conservation partnerships.
2. Explore state authorities for cooperative conservation.
3. Remove disincentives and identify incentives for landowner participation.
4. Develop and use a coordinated and streamlined permit application process.
5. Create an atmosphere that encourages tribal participation.
6. Recognize the need for cultural change within state agencies.

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

1. Seek first to understand.
2. Each of us has a personal responsibility to understand where the other stakeholders are coming from.

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