

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

Topic: Managing Diverse Resource Demands on America's Public Lands: A Cooperative Approach to Improving Conservation

Session number: 40

Morning

Facilitator: Mary Margaret Golten

Location: 274

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.*

- Build relationships/trust from the bottom up and respect local knowledge and focus on getting buy-in from the local level (respect the community).
- Clarify ground rules, assumptions, roles, and goals.
- Build a whole framework of incentives for people to collaborate.
- Encourage and incentivize risk taking
- Appropriate funding is often lacking for planning and monitoring.
- Need for political will.
- Sometimes there is inaccurate/conflicting data in science.
- Low income limited resource communities often cannot participate equally.
- Decision-makers and others who have been part of a decision making process move in and out of the process.

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.*

- Review existing body of all regulation of all federal agencies to enhance and streamline cooperative approach.
- Need incentives for agencies to think "outside the box" to implement cooperative conservation.
- Need cooperative approach to science- research efforts/projects- together (state, local federal).
- Provide incentives for early discussions and preventative measures before deadlocks.
- Prioritize budget decisions on where collaboration occurs.

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.*

- Build capacity (skills and abilities) at local level to collaborate.
- Designate single agency point of coordination in collaborative efforts (local/national levels).
- Institute performance measures and accountability rewards for collaboration (local/national levels).
- Create a “safe harbor” process for collaborative land use management.
- Design a new policy for analysis at the ecosystem level rather than at a single species level regarding ESA.

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

- It is important that the “right people are at the table” in a decision making process to be constructive.
- **“the Monkey Wrench”**: those whose purpose is to destroy/distract the process
- We may have a great idea for a project, but there is no money for planning and monitoring, especially for projects in which there are more long term benefits than short-term
- Working in a rural setting: and “sitting at kitchen tables” and drinking “bad coffee”.
- Starting a conversation in the field. Actually talking about what the on the ground conditions are. In the woods, on the ranch, in the stream...wherever the discussion is involving. “What do you see here?”
- It is important to check your weapon at the **door (from a lawyer)**

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