

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: Don Charpio

Location: 275

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.*

- Process – Participants must have confidence in the process if they are going to be committed to the results. Decisions must be final and conclusive. Transparency is important. We must have accurate information on which to base decisions.
- Information – Participants must also have confidence in the partnerships they develop. The partners must be transparent and honest about their agenda and interests. Additionally, each partner should be educated as to the goals and interests of those with whom they work. This will foster understanding and trust. Respect for partners is crucial.
- Leadership – Vision must drive the process. Strong leadership is necessary for successful collaboration.
- Administrative Concerns – Participants voiced concern over funding issues and resource allocation, including employees' abilities to participate. The lack of finality in the process is detrimental to resource allocation decisions. Further, all stakeholders must be included to create a truly collaborative process.
- Streamline and Coordinate Regulations – Further discussed under National-level Practical Actions.

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.*

- Fully fund agencies.
- Provide flexibility to the agencies so that they can work together more easily. Streamline regulations that apply and try to make them consistent between agencies.
- Organizations at the national level have a responsibility to educate their members.
- Utilize a more open process with a level playing field.
- Educate our members about the value of the cooperative process and about the rules and regulations with which they are concerned. Organizations and NGOs need to be vocal about issues with Congress and help agencies be successful

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- Get out of the box and engage folks and come up with a process that is different than it is now and explore ways that might get us to a different means to results. Reinvent the process to engage everybody.
- NEPA needs to be streamlined/amended/repealed.
- FACA needs to be repealed/amended, but keep the intent of open meetings.
- This whole conference has emphasized the key role of President Roosevelt. If this administration was serious about this they would focus on this over and over. Roosevelt was consistent in his advocacy.

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.

- Key partners on the local level must be visible and be in touch with others who are involved. They must be able to take concerns straight to the correct folks.
- At the local level we need to encourage regional action. Alpine example is good.
- Demand that land grant universities are engaged.
- Local level must be involved in conservation education. Folks aren't getting enough education on the subject.
- Serve as a conduit from landowners to state agencies and other government organizations.
- Local governments can take more of an interest in federal lands. Work to get the right people at these meetings.
- Disseminate information to their constituents.
- Must learn conservation, it isn't inherited. Kids at an early age must learn what conservation is and how to collaborate.
- Need to engage lots of organized groups.

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

- “Fear of change and fear of things they don’t understand brings to the table folks who are defensive.”
- “Federal agencies have individual cultures and missions. Often times those competing missions/mandates/cultures are a real barrier to cooperation. Sometimes we have expectations that are unrealistic in this area.”
- “Empower the process.”

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