White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation  
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

**Topic:** Improving Certainty and Incentives for Stakeholders  
**Session number:** 38  
**Facilitator:** Catherine Barner  
**Location:** 262

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.

- **INVEST IN PEOPLE**—Training/attitudes
- --incentives & rewards
- --communication/education/economics
- **LEVELS OF GOVT**—Coordination/alignment/up and down/integration
- **REGULATIONS**—simplification/legibility/flexible/no “one size fits all”/safe harbor from litigation
  - How do you create incentives for change?
  - Tensions created between conflicting goals—urban sprawl vs. the benefits of progress.
  - Looking to value added for complying with regulatory process.
  - Local administration works better than federal control.
  - Various govt. levels and interagency ability to coordinate in decision making process.
  - Private land use needs incentives for investment and protection from litigation.
  - Reward rather than penalize.
  - Simplifying the regulatory process and language.
  - Govt does not always have the dollars—teamwork and leveraging
  - Policy of Feds needs to align with local
  - Personal attitude adds to success.
  - Integrate local knowledge with science and economics to apply to local landscapes.
  - Ability to be flexible and make decisions on local level.
  - Defining “Success” to each group at the outset.
  - Conflict vs collaboration mentality

**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.

- Education, training, flexibility of Govt EEs
- Outcome vs. rule based programs.
- Be willing to consider that one size does not fit all in the regulatory environment—what works in coastal Mississippi may fail in the Rockies.
- Look outside our borders when looking to projects, policies or incentives.

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Incentives at federal level for state/local education to influence attitudes in environmental protection.

- Simplify regulations—more legible & flexible
- Funding
- Remove liability
- Harmonization
- Understand local landscapes
- Integrate functions between local and Federal (particularly middle management)
- Training—guidance on how to be a good partner—reward
- Reconcile economic/social disconnect (ie WV has rich forests and yet state has extensive poverty)
- Outcome based programs & regulations—science, social science, economic & role of scale (local vs territorial)
- Cost Sharing
- National network of education
- System to provide closure
- Empower local Federal staff—reward for flexibility
- Integrate planning/education/communication/best practices
- Funding for forest lands

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.

- Pilots easier to get off the ground then easier to sell to others and easier to see immediate results.
- Local officials are easier to hold accountable.
- Locally important issues increase participation and instills the ethic of valuing the results.
- Mentality of how each component of the environment interrelates
- Incentives may be locally driven.

Local Action: Education/technical assistance/funding/safe harbor/take local considerations into consideration/honor local vision/use ombudsmen/form effective local teams/common ground for local development and conservation to coexist/clear goals and objectives of partnership (both local and Federal)/remove liability for land owners who do the right thing

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

- Those pesky locals need to be part of the discussion.
- We’re all in this together.
- Reward the new order.
- Anytime everyone is willing to cooperate, you can resolve anything.

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