

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

**Topic:** Improving Certainty and Incentives for Stakeholders

**Session number:** 38

**Morning**

**Facilitator:** Randy Moore

**Location:** 263

*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.*

- Look at things from a big picture and shared vision
  - Longer timelines
  - More reality and honesty in shared vision
  - Watershed perspectives
- Need adaptive management
  - There because we want government to be flexible
  - Successful at the site level- Ex. Walla Walla watershed
- Recognize site or regional specific needs
- Patience, honesty, reality
- Certainty critical to keep people at table.
- Have clear authorities – roles and responsibilities identified
- Minimize risk to keep people at the table
  - Particularly with institutions- politics, regulations
- Treat all partners as equals (a basic ground rule)
  - Say it because it antithetical to the normal
- Be results focused
- Be clear with regulations and regulatory standards and all must understand and follow rules- the regulated and the administration
  - Hold decision-makers accountable
- Unintended consequences need to be considered and identified upfront (alternative view was that unintended consequences are not unintended b/c someone in policy wanted those outcomes- want to regulate what people are doing- Ex. SCS to NRCS)
- Changes of administration forces the collaborative process to start all over again.

**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.*

- Treat all partners as equals
- Have incentives to bring people to the table
- Need a culture change within agencies from the top down

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- Too many people don't have experience working in sectors they're regulating, so encourage employee exchanges between local groups, private sector to see things from others perspectives
  - i. Rancher following agency around for 10 days and vice versa
- Minimize risk of participation (ex. Agency coming back and changing things at end of process)
- Have maximum flexibility and minimum risk
- One-stop shopping; removing of silos (NGOs, Feds, etc.)
  - i. How? Network of governance- Fed and non-fed all at table
  - ii. Can't function well with too many involved; have to deal with issues of your own first

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.*

- One-stop shopping; removing of silos (NGOs, Feds, etc.)
  - How? Network of governance- Fed and non-fed all at table
  - Can't function well with too many involved; have to deal with issues of your own first
- Can there be one entity to call the shots with all agencies involved?
  - Have to come to an agreement on that
- Ex. Habitat Conservation Plans; Ex. Natural Heritage Areas with NPS- they're an equal player not a driver

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

- There's a tension between the desire for flexibility and the need for rules.
- They took the white hat off and put the black hat on. (Moving from local, technical assistance to a regulatory approach.)
- It's going to take a generation or more to establish that trust again.
- Recognize that collaboration should not be the same as policy and politics as historically practiced.
- 15 or 20 years ago, the focus was on consensus and today it's on solving problems.
- Coming to agreement to solve the problem often takes longer and more resources than consensus building.
- Consensus is easy, solving the problems is difficult.
- A vision without action is a daydream, and action without vision is a nightmare. (From Mayor Anthony Williams)
- Good governance means good stewardship.
- The private sector deals with the good stuff, the gov't deals with the bad stuff, and the NGOs deal with what even the gov't doesn't deal with.

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