White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

Topic: Improving Certainty and Incentives for Stakeholders
Session number: 47       Afternoon
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.

- Have a clear goal and success has to be defined
- Identify and remove barriers
- Culture change – adoption of proactive cooperation policy/process
- Financial, cultural, social/emotional incentives. If you do not have solid social issues established such as trust, good faith, cooperative spirit then very difficult to get to the financial and technical incentives.
- Need active problem solving - regulators are too focused on regulation not on solving problems; the regulations don’t have flexibility to change
  i. NEPA- Cannot challenge decision, only the process arrived at to reach decision
  ii. Need outcome based regulations
- Alternatives to litigation – get beyond litigation
- Take an ecosystem not a species by species approach
- We need sound science and to use it – also need to respect and acknowledge experiential learning
- You need consensus to reach a goal, but consensus for consensus sake is not the goal
- Fair Democratic Process: everyone needs an equal voice and transparency is fundamental
- Have to have a desire to give up something to deal with issues
- Agencies are under-funded and understaffed; get enough funding to do their jobs (ex. Staff overloaded with FWS section 7)
- Need surveys, science, data and ability to share it all
- Federal statutes need flexibility- allow innovative approaches
  i. Adaptive management
- Need an independent mediator at stakeholder meetings
- Have to deal with basic fundamental trust issues
- Optimize success stories and how to use them in other places
- Funding to assist shared goals

This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.
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.

- Laws need to be implemented consistently (ex. ESA)
- Need transparency in monitoring that governs adaptive management
- Give regulators more flexibility – example Section 7 permit extensions.
- Sincerity and good faith are needed to create a long-term relationship
- Find alternatives to litigation
- Be proactive to change culture
- Create agency to encourage/policing cooperation throughout government

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.

- Land owners are the ones that will protect species
- Bring science to the local level for a solution
- Financial incentives are critical
- There must be trust among all groups involved
- Incentives to ensure success
  - Reducing costs
  - Cooperative process
    - Agencies have barriers
  - Flexibility
  - Get something good out of a problem
  - To fix a problem
  - To address an impended threat
- Knowing that we were heard and what we had to say was factored (in)

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

- Can get more done by working together than you can by yourself.
- I feel a little like the lamb in the lion’s den because I haven’t seen many conservation organizations here.
- I don’t want to play defense anymore, I want to play offense.
- Sound science is the common denominator for everyone.
- Science isn’t the panacea because we also have the social and decision arena that is politically driven.
- Certainly certainty is uncertain.
- 2 wolves and a sheep deciding what to have for dinner is not a democracy.
- Train your people (Feds) how to deal with people and not hide behind regulations.
- We as local folks can solve this problem and want to be a part of the group and not apart from the group.
- Take away the incentive to sue, not the right to sue.
- Nature is full of surprises – no surprises policy has caused more problems and needs to focus on adaptive management.

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