

**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/police cooperative 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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