

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

Topic: Measuring Success of Cooperative Conservation Efforts

Session number: 50

Afternoon

Facilitator: Mary Lou Addor

Location: 232

This summary cannot be more than two pages; allocate space as needed among the categories.

Major Themes:

Process Drivers:

- Deadlines and timelines
- Outside pressures overseers (OMB, Departmental offices)

Communication

- Provide regular and accessible progress reports
- Equal access to information
- Use technology tools (GIS, email); media friendly tools; and use lay terms.
- Need a common understanding of changing process and technical terms (i.e., what is cooperative conservation?)

Characteristics of successful participatory processes in setting goals and desired outcomes.

- Rules of engagement
- Facilitation of the process by outside party
- Shared vision
- Setting clear goals
- Ensure commitment
- Right people involved
- Transparency of and in the process
- Acknowledge that stakeholders have different values
- Everyone needs to be willing to bring something to the table and be flexible in giving of it.
- Face to face meetings especially in the early stages as opposed online group sessions.
- Focus on human dimensions of the process and link that into focusing on the numeric goals backed by science that again link into the human values (socio-economic- environmental).

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Appropriate scale of metrics for monitoring and evaluating progress

- The spatial and temporal scale: at the project, program, and system
 - Metrics at different scales may be different
 - Organizations at local, state, and federal may evaluate for their respective interests differently (example: ESA- bull trout in Walla- Walla and not being to declassify stream/lake)
- Lack of numeric metrics should not impede progress

Stage the project, program, or system

- Break down into discrete and measurable components
- Use pilots in the early stages
- Use locally informed planning

External Feedback

- Throughout the process: from problem identification to monitoring progress, to measuring success, to communicating with the community. Constantly build a shared learning.

National level Practical actions:

- Ensure cultural competency training to understand diverse perspectives and what is "valid info"
- Build time into processes to accommodate collective actions and keep all stakeholders informed
- Provide appropriate funding to support collaboration
- Multiyear processes should include annual increments of progress
- PART - Program Assessment Rating Tool = needs to be adapted to collaborative conservation
- Set broad non-prescriptive national goals - let state and local governments -define best approaches on how to reach those goals.
- Established realistic timeframes when using collaborative processes - take longer, permitting involved.
- NEPA reforms: consider using SEPA and/or integrating permitting processes based on national standards, and developing a encompassing monitoring plan. No net loss - use categorical exclusions.
- Programmatic approvals for beneficial practices.
- Science based decisions

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- Incorporate qualitative decisions and knowledge into the process, program, system.

Local level Practical actions:

- Ensure cultural competency training to understand diverse perspectives and what is "valid info"
- Build time into processes to accommodate collective actions and keep all stakeholders informed
- Provide appropriate funding to support collaboration
- Use partnerships to accommodate legal, political, and supported measures and decisions.
- Multiyear processes should include annual increments of progress
- PART - Program Assessment Rating Tool = needs to be adapted to collaborative conservation
- Set broad non-prescriptive national goals - let state and local governments -define best approaches on how to reach those goals.
- Established realistic timeframes when using collaborative processes - take longer, permitting involved.
- Measure the parties respective contributions
- Develop conferences on monitoring - techniques, processes.
- Programmatic approvals for beneficial practices
- NEPA reforms: consider using SEPA and/or integrating permitting processes based on national standards, and developing a encompassing monitoring plan. No net loss - use categorical exclusions
- Science based decisions.
- Incorporate qualitative decisions and knowledge into the process, program, system.

Resources:

- "Dynamic Governance: decision making process www.sociocracy.biz
- John Bude-consultant in Silver Spring
- The Association of Partners For Public Lands works @a very practical, site-specific level to help a public land site work with help start/enhance an agreement-based, site-specific resource- generating partner e.g. friends/association/foundation
- Partnership - federal agency partnership agency website - DOI, USACE, USDA,

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- Association of partners for public lands-provides very practical site specific assistance to help start.
- Globe- citizens protocols for monitoring environmental quality, developed by NASA.

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