White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation  
Day 2 Breakout Session Compilation

**Topic:** Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance  
**Session number:** 42  
**Facilitator:** Lucy Moore  
**Location:** 221  
*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.*

- Tension between national level policies and local interests…need to preserve federal responsibilities and regulations v need to include and empower local interests…expand opportunity for local input but not give away federal responsibility for federal laws
- Need for governing body to keep legal authority for decision making
- Need for leadership skills/training for shared governance process
- Need predictability and reliability of process…participants need to understand expectations and commitment.
- Need to preserve/ensure access and transparency of process
- Need for Programmatic Integration at federal level to include policy, procedures, authority…particularly OMB
- Provide realistic expectations
- Improve private landowner access to information through technology
- Streamline federal procedures

**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.

- Interstate compacts to facilitate cross-border environment collaborative spending
- Provide quality facilitation
- CEQ act as a repository…create “one stop shop”– website with guidance, facilitators, case studies
- Dovetail and cooperate with local communities (policy, regulations, procedures)
- Coordination within the federal family…consistent policies, regulations, procedures and funding
- Try to limit federal/state duplication and inconsistency
- Design regulations that focus on outcomes
- OMB needs to evaluate their rules to optimize cross-agency collaboration and consistency
- Increased allocation for state wildlife grants. Provide a roadmap for conservation of species at the state level.

**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.

*This document represents the views of the individual participants and does not reflect group consensus.*
• Need for leadership skills/training for shared governance process.
• Better planning at a local and regional level…need to cover natural systems
• Incentiveize local participation in something other than dollars.
• State and Local equivalent of the Economy Act
• Facilitate exemption from certain local regs
• Gift acceptance authority – make it easier for the local gov to accept volunteer work and gifts
• Recognition including market incentives, awards and endorsements
• Need for education and to promote success stories

D. Particularly insightful quotes from participants that capture the essence of key points made during the group’s discussion.
• There are diminishing returns on taking regulatory approaches. Taking a shared government approach is a necessity if we are to meet our environmental goals.
• Benefit of shared governance is helping stakeholders/ALL “overcome me and move toward we” and understand it HAS to be shared.
• private landholders “match puzzle pieces” to take care of something as a group they couldn’t do individually.
• “Motivation is not all that relevant as long as the objectives can come together.”
• Shared governance creates a “practice field for true participative democracy”
• Virtual conservationists connected by the internet.

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