

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

Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 51

Afternoon

Facilitator: Pat Tallarico

Location: 222

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.*

- Shared governance initiatives should be results oriented rather than process focused.
- Within federal agencies needs to be new expectations and capacity building to ensure success for shared governance. Leadership can come at any level and especially must come from the top.
- Federal agencies should develop flexible policies that encourage local collaborations and innovation.
- Needs to be balance between regulatory incentives and reward-based incentives.
- Agencies should have similar set of authorities to encourage shared governance.
- Capacity for shared governance should be built at the local level.
- Encourage the use of flexible time to allow for agency staff and local organizations to attend meetings.

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.*

- Ensure that national level objectives are met while allowing for flexibility at the local level.
- Change agency culture and language to help eliminate barriers to real participation to ensure that people are seen as part of government.
- Evaluate current programs and projects before determining new initiatives.
- Change agency planning practices and regulations to incorporate community involvement.
- Change FACA requirements to encourage broader community involvement.
- Empower federal agencies to be a more active in local communities with less centralized management.
- Provide incentives and build capacity for federal staff to engage in shared governance initiatives. Risk taking should be encouraged.

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- Develop “pilot” or demonstration projects that allow for innovation and use this to lessen risk.
- Grants and other funding should be designed to encourage shared governance.
- Realize that early on deliverables might not be tangible but they are important steps toward achieving desired outcomes, eg relationship building, convening partner meetings, etc.

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.*

- Utilize the IPA programs to facilitate greater understanding among the various levels of the partnership.
- Local stakeholders need to be more aware of national interests.
- Build bridges between groups with divergent issues or perspectives.
- Local communities invest in visioning process then make planning decisions.
- Federal agencies need to behave in a manner that encourages good relationships with local organizations and governmental entities.
- With shared governance comes shared burdens and responsibilities.
- Communities need to invest in education young people about priority and natural resource issues.
- Communities promote understanding of different perspectives among local citizenry.

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

- Shared governance means the sum is greater than the parts.
- Shared governance means you own it.
- Common vision will change perspectives.
- Change begins by changed expectations.
- Hire for attitude, change for skill.

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