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.

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