

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

Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 42

Morning

Facilitator: Marlon Sherman

Location: 223

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.*

- Citizen/Convening groups are essential to the conservation process – these participants face unique challenges relating to lack of funding that limits full engagements.
 - i. Funding for projects v. funding for convening others and travel
 - ii. Always realize that there are folks attending meetings that are “on the job” versus others who are away from their job.
- Shared Governance – issue of upper case versus lower case “g”.
 - How do they interact?
 - What is the voice of little “g”?
 - The little “g”, with a sense of place, must interact with decision makers/elected officials so as to create political will.
 - There are different ways for the two to interact. For example, the small “g” may bring specific ways to improve services from agencies.
- Implementation of on-the-ground actions accompanies the policy realm, Shared governance here also involves the small “g”
- Sound Science, including/balanced with individual ways of knowing, provides the foundation for cooperative conservation and shared trust.
- “Ethic” issues often present a barrier to full involvement of potential fed/state/expert involvement with collaborative venues.
- Boundaries are horizontal and vertical in nature. Federal, State, local interactions often work, but boundaries between federal agencies and between individual agency programs can cause problems.
- We should also recognize the many conflicts that prevent cross boundary work, including legal impediments, social issues, inconsistent regulations, etc.
- Although boundaries vary location to location, collaboration allows us to overcome barriers.
- “Trust lines” can take longer than “Time lines”, but the former clearly more important and valued.

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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.*

- Create mechanism to provide greater funding support to citizen groups and convening entities for fuller participation of these conservation partners.
- Secure improved, functional connectivity between decision makers (capital G) and citizen groups (lower case g). Encourage big “G” to make decisions with the lower case “g” at the table.
- As a statutory issue, seek federal/state/local consistencies
- Seek consistency of federal message for public involvement/engagement at the national level. This venue serves as an example.
- Identify principles/standards that lead to successful collaborative conservation (i.e. the Enlibra Principles)
- Identify common language, measures of success, and standards of accountability relating to natural resource and environmental issues.
- Seek ways to reward people who collaborate and bring creativity to issues. Incorporate these characteristics into personnel actions.
- Engage U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the Policy Consensus Initiative, and others to develop practices, standards, case studies, and sunset guidance to assist others with new and ongoing cooperative efforts. Also look to Section 101 of NEPA to provide guidance for this action.
- Ensure that DOT, DOE, and Homeland Security are invited to the table and any next conference.

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.*

- Increase environmental literacy at the local level and foster “environmental citizenship”.
- Encourage university/extension role with environmental education.
- Look for opportunities for shared positions between governments.

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

- If we've learned anything, conservation succeeds when we have place based coalitions that bring people together to overcome limitations of national policies and laws.

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