

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

**Topic:** Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

**Session number:** 37

**Morning**

**Facilitator:** Nadine Tafoya

**Location:** 230

*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.*

The need for agencies to relate to Tribes as individual nations, and recognize the importance of sovereignty and distinct differences of each Tribe.

Early clarification of reasonable expectations is important to collaboration.

Need to build trust relationships and recognition of the importance and fragility of trust.

Continuity of agency staff engaged in processes and the need to maintain collaborative efforts despite changes in personnel.

Importance of mutual education about culture, history, decision-making processes, organizational structure and operation, political constraints, missions.

Teaching our kids and youth about conservation and preparing them for leadership.

Feds need to invest resources in collaborative process and ensure dependable funding available for duration of projects and processes.

Develop understanding about tribes and their unique relationship to the environment.

Importance of indigenous knowledge and local community knowledge.

Need for communities to be proactive and convene processes.

**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.*

Consolidate funding sources for collaborative efforts and establish a repository for information about resources available at all levels.

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Existing regulations and directives don't reflect this way of doing business – need regulations to focus more on cooperative approaches and allow more flexibility.

Fund training for collaboration skills in addition to technical knowledge.

Provide training on process for all levels.

Tribes need to take responsibility for learning about the policies and regulations that impact them.

Federal government perspective on states is too limited. Feds need to learn more about states and how they function and why they do what they do.

Federal agencies better engaging communities in decision-making, e.g. invite community members to staff meetings.

Capture and build on past successes.

- 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.*

Local communities should be proactive in identifying their needs and convening stakeholders without waiting for agency direction.

Local communities should recognize, validate and thank leaders who are working this way.

Local communities should cultivate leaders that work this way.  
Get rid of pre-conceived notions and assumptions and start fresh in each situation with a non-adversarial approach.

Keep a visual record of project or process.

Engage in more face to face communication on the ground and at all levels.

Learn more about cross-cultural communication.

Learning respect for cultural differences.

Local communities take responsibility for their place and teaching others about what they need and how they work.

Offering skills training on collaboration and teaching community about process. State universities including collaborative approaches in curriculums.

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

If the process is correct, then the product is correct.

Others have discovered that focus on the place and how they do things is important. People need to know what that place is all about and its history.

We need to decide who is going to have a seat at our table.

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