

**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: 46

Afternoon

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.*

- Both voluntary incentives and regulatory enforcement are both needed to accomplish conservation goals - it's not either/or
- Need a national conservation ethic that would motivate collaboration across diverse backgrounds
- A sustainable conservation ethic must be inter-generational
- Need for resources (not just money) to facilitate collaboration
- Effective conservation must be "ground up"
- Facilitate community stewardship of resources – manage our own neighborhoods
- Important to energize the public so they understand their roles and responsibilities in their government structure
- Energize citizens to be active participants in cooperative conservation
- Each tribe is unique with its own procedures/timelines – other parties should learn how to work with them
- Need for political will, funding and leadership champions for change must exist at all levels to implement existing environmental laws in a way that engages all communities
- Language is critical – should be transparent, truthful, and not divisive

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.*

- Federal government should adopt training and rewards system to encourage collaborative activities
- Adopt federal standards and guidelines for effective collaboration
- Model collaboration at the Secretarial level, including in implementing the outcomes from this conference (i.e., by including states, tribes and others on the task force announced by Secretary Norton)
- Create a mechanism for any person to share idea/concerns and get them to be considered (e.g., a website)

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

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.*

- Build community capacity to participate in collaborative efforts
- Engage in multi-party monitoring of effectiveness of collaboration and use the results to be more effective the next time
- Better coordination of overlapping projects to avoid duplication of effort
- Involve youth more
- Every citizen can't be involved in every issue; so need to ensure good communication and keep those who aren't directly involved informed.

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

"Putting nature back into cooperative conservation."

"formal integration of youth at our table to be developed as leaders of the future, but as participants now."

"Character needs to be modeled and encouraged in collaborative processes."

"Federal govt. has a role in establishing goals and encouraging and empowering local people to meet that goal."

"We need activated communities and not just community activists."

"In America we want our environmental decisions to be made by local communities on the ground and not in the courts."

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