

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

Topic: Accelerating Cooperative Conservation as a way of Doing Business: Building Capacity, Skills, and Practices Across Organizations

Session number: 35

Morning

Facilitator: Patrick Field

Location: 120

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.*

- Climate has to change (legislation, rules, regulations, behaviors, ways of doing business, etc.).
- We need a shared vision across levels (What are our goals? Where are we trying to go? Context set at different levels)
- Money, people, and expertise are needed on the ground.
- Need top-down message that reaches all levels. Foster leadership that provides a consistent message and empower lower-level staff.
- Social, cultural and technical assistance in the way of training to build capacity
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Funding from multiple sources: How much is given? How can it be leveraged? Is it allocated properly? Focus funding sources on key programs/areas.
- Education, outreach, and marketing/media efforts focused at all levels keeping in mind that the local level may be the most effective.

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.*

- President (via press corps) could be used to publicize the cooperative conservation message.
- Capture the cooperative conservation message in Saturday radio addresses to illustrate that this is a bipartisan effort.
- Adjust expectations RE: Timeframes and costs
- Avoid temptation to “fix” local issues
- Continue to require and reward cooperative approaches.
- Reserve regulations for those situations that can't be otherwise resolved.
- Reduce administrative disincentives (budget allocation, reporting metrics, etc.).

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- Increase incentives for risk-taking
- Continue to support multiple stakeholder efforts on the ground.
- Increase incentives for resolving interagency conflicts.
- Validate innovative approaches
- Publish proceedings from this conference
- Distribute video message from earlier today.
- Provide more money for monitoring and evaluation
- Reevaluate success measurements and performance criteria
- Provide ways to easily mine data
- Long term funding cycles need to be addressed. (Annual budget cycle does not coincide with project timelines).
- Streamline funding mechanisms to accelerate on-the-ground accomplishments.
- Local staff, “I want people to come visit me.”

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.*

- Advocate (Congress, governors, etc.) for cooperative conservation including changes to “hook into” technical assistance and funding
- Shared ownership of this report.
 - Disseminate this report to governors and local groups. Publicize cooperative conservation. Make the story real for local groups.
 - Use our own examples of successes to publicize and promote cooperative conservation.
 - “Toot our own horn”
- Engage land grant institutions
- Engage local schools
- Foster strong leadership is needed to work through barriers
- Encourage a reflective process of learning
- Continue to do good work. Successful projects promote the cooperative conservation approach.
- Local groups need to realize that the success of these projects will be determined by scale? How do we make this happen on a broader scale?
- Include and engage often the beneficiaries of the project.
- Change climate: What is driving the inefficiencies in the system that drives up costs (why do we need subsidies?)
- Technical and relational assistance packages available and able to be funded. Need to foster trust-building among parties and stakeholders.

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

Stop funding stupid stuff.

Good data, good decisions.

Dollars, people, and expertise on the ground.

Missing stakeholders:

DOC (other than NOAA)

Environmental Advocacy groups

Environmental Justice

DOE

University extension agents

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