

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

Topic: Building Successful Partnerships

Session number: 36

Morning

Facilitator: Linda Kucera

Location: 124

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.*

A lot of discussion covered themes already well-expressed at the conference such as development of trust, sharing, shared vision, openness, voluntary participation, recognition, solving common problems, getting buy-in, and early engagement, cooperation not regulation, collaboration not confrontation.

A number of other themes emerged during discussion. Some new ideas were no unfunded mandates, motivate not mandate, provide resources (e.g. dollars, people, in-kind support) to further partnerships Also noted-

Identify the links between different interests/cultures, and use those links to create new ways of shared thinking, such as “Marines can go to war for conservation”

Creativity and innovation was stressed. We should look for new creative solutions.

Leaders must be good communicators and model collaboration.

Look for types of people who makes things work, e.g. “mavens, “salespeople”, and “connectors”.

Find practical ways to reach large-scale goals with attainable increments.

Manage expectations up front in terms of time, level of effort, and results

Celebrate, have fun, thank people that participate.

All stakeholders need to be held accountable.

Need to be mindful of the press and how it can help or hinder partnerships.

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.*

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

Promote monetary incentives for partnerships.

Create a protocol for flexibility in rules pertaining to partnerships.

The Department of Interior and EPA need to better communicate and model the principles and policies for partnership. There needs to be consistency and follow-through among Federal regional offices. USDA and EPA need to resolve agricultural issue conflicts created by the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, CERCLA and RCRA.

We need clear definitions across the Government for terms such as farm, grasslands, rangeland, and CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation).

We should have a “one-stop shop” in each Federal region coordinating information and providing accessible entry for conservation and environmental issues and programs.

Recognize and reward Federal employees who demonstrate collaborative skills.

Federal agencies should have to document in-kind partner support in order to get full annual appropriations.

We need strategic plans for agriculture/conservation/environment for 10 years, 50 years, and 100 years.

We need a Government-wide policy statement on partnering principles and competencies needed to implement them.

- 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.*

Promote a transfer of knowledge among local groups about successes, including field trips from one region to another.

Make better use of the Corporation for National Service Agencies for promoting conservation in communities.

Share these conference materials on as many existing state and regional networks as possible.

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

“The people with the most at stake need to be full participants and engaged participants”.

“Formalizing something may kill it – work informally, below the radar.”

“Talk story” -- more personal interchange at local gathering places.

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