

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

**Topic:** Measuring Success of Cooperative Conservation Efforts

**Session number:** 50

**Facilitator:** Robert Jones

**Afternoon**

**Location:** 242

**A. Major Repeated Themes Raised in the Discussion.**

Monitoring and measuring success are essential components for all conservation partnerships. Federal and other partners need to provide funding support for monitoring and measuring as a part of conservation initiatives. *“Evaluation equals conservation accountability.”*

Successful conservation partnerships have clear goals supported by science. Both scientists and citizens can contribute to monitoring, measuring, and achieving conservation objectives. In many cases, citizens and local communities are able to support stronger stewardship roles, when they are involved in resource evaluation and management.

Given the breadth and variety of monitoring data gathered, there is a clear need for archiving and sharing data so that others can use the information.

Better communication and coordination is needed across all levels of government related to establishing goals and measures for conservation partnerships.

Successful partnerships need to balance the tension between what Federal and other Governmental agencies want to measure with what is meaningful to measure at the local level.

If partners do the upfront parts of the process together (setting realistic goals supported by science), then monitoring and measuring progress will be enhanced.

Measuring what we can count does not mean that it is valuable to measure.

**B. National-level Practical Actions**

Successful conservation initiatives will require partners to join in developing a system to archive data and share information, including best management practices, case studies, and evaluation guidance.

Develop, build upon, and enhance standards and compatible, accessible data among Federal agencies and other partners. Mandate Federal agencies to use these systems in their management processes and decision making.

Establish the expectation among Federal agencies that evaluation will be budgeted for as part of the process and conservation objectives.

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

**C. Local-level Practical Actions**

Utilize and disseminate information on successful approaches for addressing participation of new partners and establishing new goals.

There is a need for education and capacity building and training of local partners in strategic planning partnership processes.

Strive for a limited suite of measures for monitoring. For example, focus on the management policy decisions and what information is needed to inform them.

Incorporate values and recognize trade-offs into the process of setting partnership goals.

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

Where did you get the ice cream?

Can we finish early?