

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

Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 51

Afternoon

Facilitator: Lucy Moore

Location: 221

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.*

- Much confusion over what “shared governance” means: is it a shared vision or shared governing? Group uncomfortable with this term, even as defined—challenged the notion of “shared governance” as a tool for cooperative conservation. Prefer thinking in terms of partnership, collaboration, or shared vision.
- Challenge to recognize/respect authorities and share resources.
- Legitimacy/credibility of process: need for clarity of public’s role...has the decision already been made?
- Need for a common vision for resource management goals.
- Do not let the money chase blind you to the long term goal of gaining trust
- Less money means need to focus on core functions, need high level decisions on priorities.
- Tribes have not traditionally been included in process and need capacity building.

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.*

- Support for a good map (data, GIS, local knowledge)
- Embed priorities for cooperative conservation in the authorization process
- Focus on shared goals throughout all organizational levels
- Challenge the notion of “shared governance” as a tool for cooperative conservation (private landowners and tribes do not want to be told what to do)
- Development of performance expectations/measures for federal agencies to measure success in collaboration and change cultures and behaviors
- Feds need to look across state boundaries and engage states in ecosystem issue
- Be up front and be clear about their authority to deliver.
- Broaden view of “conservation” to a holistic view.
- Educate federal staff on cultural and religious differences.

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.*

- Need training in how to measure success in performance
- Encourage local entities to be “cooperating agencies” for processes like NEPA
- Hold yourself and the national government/organizations accountable to deliver on their promises
- Early communication in the life of a project with all levels of partners
- Share local resources (money) with national agencies
- When developing a plan (MOU), draw a contract with a NGO to avoid turnover problem
- Support for a good map (data, GIS, local knowledge)
- Educate federal staff on cultural and religious differences.

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

- “consensus is the absent of leadership”
- “If you come up with a plan that everyone can deal with, ‘governance’ ultimately takes care of itself.”
- “it’s all about relationships”
- “we cannot do more with less anymore, we’re going to do less with less”

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