

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

Topic: Reaching Across Boundaries to Promote Shared Governance

Session number: 42

Morning

Facilitator: Pat Tallarico

Location: 222

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.*

- Get group dynamics right. Be sure the right people are at the table and expose hidden agendas.
- Working nationally and locally but often missing the regional piece.
- Inviting stakeholders and giving them a voice is key to reaching consensus and getting to action. Validate and value stakeholders. Stakeholders can feel that meetings and hearings, etc. are often perfunctory.
- Agreement and consensus often clouded by politically charged environments.
- Conflicts and/or crisis often driving shared governance or collaborations. How can we get to collaborations ahead of conflicts or major problems?
- Working at grassroots level to understand issues and create solutions before issues become crisis.
- Often organizations with seemingly disparate missions can find that they have a common interest.
- Local communities often don't understand environmental issues so it can be difficult to coalesce people around a problem or challenge.

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.*

- Promote public/private partnerships and make the need for this type of collaboration known and understood at the highest levels.
- Understand current incentives and integrate new incentives to promote shared governance.
- Agencies should make better use of local information to influence decision making (joint fact finding).
- Agencies promote capacity building both internally as well as local level.
- Agencies align policy tools to enhance collaboration. (eg. training on consensus management).

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- Agencies need to be able to articulate clear purpose and role before coming to the table and better understand their common mission, activities and goals.
- Have more opportunities to delegate authority to the local level.
- Training to help agencies better understand local or target audiences which in turn help agency staff develop and deepen better relationships and community-based level.
- Promote innovation and provide incentives for flexibility with an understanding that one solution doesn't fit all.
- Agencies establish broad umbrella programs so that decisions are made in a broader context based on national priorities.
- Ensure that funds are being allocated properly and used effectively.

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.*

- Local community groups and organizations should communicate to national counterparts and local organizations their goals and needs.
- Define a tangible goal(s) for the agency to help resolve as opposed to presenting a large problem to tackle.
- Increase effort to communicate to the public for informational purposes as opposed to decision making purposes.
- NGOs should play more prominent role in sustaining long term efforts.
- Community-based organizations should develop a diversified funding base which includes private sector and foundation funding.

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

- Nature itself knows no boundaries.
- Listen to what people mean as opposed to what they say.
- One solution does not fix all problems.

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