

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

Topic: Using Science and Technology to Reach Cooperative Conservation Goals

Session number: 52

Afternoon

Facilitator: Scott McCreary

Location: 225

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.*

1. Taking stock of existing conditions and setting goals

- Understanding the resource data shows stakeholders to see what they have in common, helps to define context or “decision space” where options can be considered and creates a framework to overlay values.
- There is an important role for synthesizing and interpreting science.
- Maps are a good way of making it accessible. Transparency is important.
- Scientists and researchers are not rewarded for engaging in monitoring or synthesis of scientific information
- Monitoring shows progress and builds momentum.
- Mapping technology, different alternatives is very powerful in framing goals and objectives.
- Proprietary assumptions prevents people from sharing their data or letting others analyze it).

2. Meeting challenges

- Create and support a specialty in science communication geared at multiple audiences. Don’t assume that scientists are the only communicators
- We need to get away from the “What does the science say” narrow view.
- This is true because we get lost in “use the best data” kind of talk.
- Restructure funding for science: Real dollars for conservation science have declined. Scaling or change messages change for speaking to different audiences?
- We must better communicate that achievements

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.*

National initiatives

- The bottom-up citizen based model (in Washington state example – NW Straits) has been successful because it’s tied to local government, appoints

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local people, looks at broad information set. It's citizen driven but with oversight and coordination with governments. And its bounded by benchmarks. And it's been very successful.

- Help politicians make long term commitments. Politicians want quick success. We need long term institutionalized programs. Build political will.
 - If cooperative conservation is an entity it needs to have an identity. Give serious consideration to international protocols
- Decentralize the program to the states.
- Revise rules that constrain essential participation e. g FACA.
- Create a clearinghouse to access grants
- Building capacity, shield from liability and increase training
- Communicate success.

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 initiatives

- Look to the NEP, NW Straits and Community Wildfire Protection Plans as potential models.
- Commit to long term (5-8 year projects)..

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

- "Science means three things: the scientific process, the knowledge generated, and the body of people called scientists. We need to be clear about our meaning.
- We need to stop and say "What does the science tell us and ask what does the knowledge tell us".

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