

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

Topic: Using Science and Technology to Reach Cooperative Conservation Goals

Session number: 43

Morning

Facilitator: Larry Fisher

Location: 227

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.*

- We all collect a lot of data, but there is limited synthesis, limited framework or analytical approach to looking at the data.
- It's a challenge for scientists to communicate to the public – need to find effective mechanisms, educational opportunities to help stakeholders understand scientific information, and incorporate this skill into the educational model
- Need a strategic systems view of cooperative conservation – integration of data, models, risk assessment, problem solving, etc., and to overcome the barriers of policy, funding, and objective setting
- Need to capitalize on existing mechanisms to further the principles of cooperative conservation – share experiences, information, skills
- Develop learning networks and transfer of information – learn from failures, support for critical reflection
- Value importance of good data and the resource commitment for acquiring good data
Users of the data sho
- Need to reorient the way we're collecting data. Part of the scientific investigation comes from better data to support decision making.
- Integration is the key. Got to integrate different disciplines. Stakeholders should be involved in identifying data needs
- Decision makers are key to defining the problem and securing the policy instruments and funding
- Science is not just data generation – we need to acknowledge and legitimize knowledge, local and traditional
- Framing the problem is a key challenge – need to have someone who is seeking to be objective or judicial, trying to assure that all parties' needs are represented. Collaborative process involves reaching consensus on defining the problem that needs to be addressed. Example given where each group at the table had different view of what the problem is.
- Cooperative decision is a a better way to make good decisions, because of the buy-in at the local level. Its not about the decision, its about implementing. Once the decision is made, you actually get parties commitment to actually doing it.

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

- However, the collaborative process is not cheap – it takes more time, more money, it's not efficient. Analysis paralysis can be a problem – you need someone, or some agency that has the authority to make the decision.

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.*

- Strong role of CEQ and OMB to provide strategic systems view for achieving cooperative conservation. Identify what is not being done, where science is needed, and how to integrate science at the highest levels.
- Examine policy and funding sources
- Need to develop a clearinghouse approach - a system that interconnects scientific information to make data available and better understand the data that is there. Better information on tsunamis, weather, health. We need large systems perspectives in order to organize the information and make it available so that it is useable
- Willingness to invest resources to collect information that's needed: basic, real-time, spatial-temporal capability
- Reading list: 1) The Art of the Long View, 2) The Systems of the Ancient World (Laszlow), Freakonomics

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 to be more cognizant of connections up and down the system – increase awareness of local initiatives and look for opportunities to link to larger-scale

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

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