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: Doug Sarno **Location: 228**
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.*

Taking Stock
Set goals for success, hydrological, how do you measure success. How do you do ecological goals

Hard to quantify goals. Need to have central expert that is committed to long term project. Need expert professor to address problems, also graduate schools. Huge divide between biology and technologies. Need to have a synthesis. Expect science based on academics.

DOD – T&E with training how do DOD's mission and management of T&E

DoA talk about non-point source, need to get a handle on issue. Need data to base to make decisions on.

Accuracy of data: We have lots of date to measure the rate of change of conversion of agricultural lands, but we do not have a good handle on the accuracy of the data.

Need to use web based technology to make living maps. We do not know where invasive species are and we need dispersion modeling

Scientist always want to study rather than get an answer
Work of scientist is not translated to public
How do you use local knowledge?

High level of expectations by the public for scientist to answer questions.

Need to convey complicated data in a level of simplicity

Need to address individual behavior issues not just scientific

Public needs to understand the role that science can play

Danger with GIS is that if you gather enough information a pattern will arise. We should be doing hypothesis testing

To deploy resources you need to apply scientific questions – hypothesis testing

Fallacy that scientist know everything, need to spell out the assumptions we are using.

Monitor and collect data for reports: lots of data gaps ecosystems; problem of data resolution, data collected with different tools and therefore we need to be able to compare.

Decision tools: Need to develop models to perform risk assessment to be able to assess the impact on the environment of human activity. Need to know the tools available and how to use.

How can the questions be phrased so that we can get a meaningful answer?

How we frame the question implies the answer.

Growing distrust of colleges and scientist – politicization of science.

Scientist have brought this on them selves

Scientific method is the best approximation we have to the truth, but we do not explain the process of science because we do not allow the individuals understand the uncertainty.

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.*

Government fund science and therefore it is politicized.
Politics must and should play a role in the application of science.

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.*

Communities benefit from GIS, so it needs to be available to people.

Community should be given the tools to help make decisions

Environmental groups use myths, not facts to address the issues
Discussion about values needs to take place. Many problems are about values not science.