

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

Topic: Expanding the Role of Tribes, States and Communities in Cooperative Conservation

Session number: 46

Afternoon

Facilitator: Christine Carlson

Location: 130

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 want innovative, collaborative relationships built on trust, respect, and understanding with authority to act. Make sure there is a common vision, clear objectives, strategic, and priorities are set.
- Agencies, tribes, local agencies just don't have the capacity to conduct collaborative projects. There is a shortage of staff and funding to support these efforts. We talk a lot about collaboration, but funding for capacity will require a change in values among those people who allocate resources.
- Technology is helping somewhat through email, conferencing, and posting of reports.
- Successful partnerships have an advocate to move collaborative projects forward.
- Local councils are a very good thing for input, trust, (e.g., state technical committee, NRCS, tribal advisory councils).
- National relationships deployed locally leverage dollars, and agencies bring credibility for fundraising efforts
- Education is key. We're developing the next set of collaborators, mentoring them and education will help with sustainability of collaboration efforts.
- Integrated and long-term planning is key overall. For example, tribes look ahead in distance up to seven generations.
- Acquire funding by setting aside a certain portion of budgets, using supplemental environmental projects to add funds to collaboration, and/or using tax credits.
- Incentivize collaboration within agency, between agencies, and with private sector. Establish measurable goals for collaboration efforts.
- There is a strong recognition that collaboration takes more time and energy, and requires funding that to make it happen.
- We need to celebrate successes and hold people up as leaders today, rather than just citing leaders from the past.

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.*

- Training is needed in how to collaborate and deal with conflict, because conflict often stops collaboration.
- Need to develop and use good models and best practices of what has worked.
- Find the market-based business incentives, avoid more regulations

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- Encourage and reward employees who are able to collaborate and solve conservation problems.
 - All levels of government need to make employee resources available.
 - Establish ways for regular contact between levels of government and with other organizations. This personalizes the federal government in the eyes of the public and other agencies.
 - State/federal employees are often the ones who can provide technical expertise regarding conservation.
 - Increase private sector activities in support of conservation efforts.
 - The President of the U.S., the more he stands publicly behind conservation and is perceived to really be upholding that trust, interest in conservation will increase.
 - NEPA/FACA may be seen as impediments because Federal government isn't doing a good job of implementing them. Need to do a better job of implementing NEPA and FACA.
- 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.*
- Integrated planning is essential; it's the first step. Planning should be longer range and more inclusive. It should identify organizations' needs, and see where there are intersections and common interests. This allows clear objectives to be developed and priorities set.
- D. **Particularly insightful quotes from participants** that capture the essence of key points made during the group's discussion.
- "I would like 1% or less than 1% of federal funds to go to collaborative projects." (~\$1B)
 - "It's all about relationships, and it's like a marriage – you have to go along to get along."
 - "Not one size fits all."
 - "Mentor the next generation of collaborators."

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