

**America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session**

Location: Albuquerque, NM

Date: July 17, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted by Discussion Question. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

N/A – Not Available

Discussion Question 1-4	Comment
1	Strong grassroots interest which involves local, State, and Fed partnership.
1	Volunteerism works well when it works.
1	Community garden has started to feed food pantry, local foods and farmers markets work great.
1	Workgroups having fun, spend night at some place easy to deal with and affordable – NM Outdoors is a club which is having success in this area.
1	Youth as catalysts, instead of just recipients of services – example recycling – poor response from community and schools until they gave the job to the youth. The program went from 7 schools to 17 last year, with more signing up.
1	Marketing campaign, partnered with local groups and businesses, radio shows.

1	Federal funding on conservation grants, more infrastructure, more resources = more volunteers.
1	In the All Indian Pueblo Council HS, students go to pueblos, work on community environmental projects – it works very well. At the end of the school year, they present their projects in school. Students have gone on to work for tribes in conservation.
1	Works best when we work together, Feds, States, Tribes, citizens. When Fed creates environment in which all can succeed, it works well.
1	Creation of more wilderness area – protects ecosystems which are vanishing.
1	Identify ONE common goal that every member of all organizations can adhere to, start working towards one commonality, then we work together and not at cross purposes.
1	NM can work at landscape level on public lands protections. Otero Mesa, Organ Mountains, examples of large swathes of public land. How to connect kids? Protect it for the future.
1	It works best for me when I have a job, and I know what to do – I volunteer when I'm scheduled....better than 'come when you can'.
1	Needs to be taken to grassroots level...involve local peoples, not just big entities and groups. Get all players at the table...if you don't, there will be dissent. Respect each other.
1	Unplug the children. Provide alternatives. We have two urban gardens.
1	Encourage Congress delegation to move protection measures forward quickly.
1	Most of the time, finding an overriding goal works. Unplugging kids? Can't just unplug them and send them out....you have to TAKE them out. Make yourself available for youth.
1	Give people opportunities to participate, involve smaller groups.
1	Better communications into media so people know there's something out there they can connect to.
1	Father took her camping – made outdoors an integral part of her life. Initiate interest and respect through getting young people out into the natural world.
1	In public schools, it really works if you can start children in enjoying the outdoors. Also, families doing activities with others outdoors. Cooperatives all across country, doing that as a way of joining together and thrive.
1	Partnering with Forest Service – trail maintenance, helping.
1	We support research-based, multiple-use and wise-use of federal lands. Place attachment

	theory means to get the kids out and attached to the land.
2	Schools are held hostage to standardized testing. We can't get them out of the schools and outside.
2	Make it fun for people. Make it so they can touch wild animals.
2	Working on uphill grade, because many communities are resistant to reclassification since they don't understand what the benefit is. Need education process on the idea of economic value.
2	Concerned about wildlife on the land. Trying to have a wildlife corridor in Bernalillo, created beautiful murals. Photographers go; classes go. It helps attach people to land.
2	Government seems impossibly remote; policy is dictated in unilateral fashion.
2	Fed government needs to help cash-strapped municipalities establish large central parks – nowhere to get close to nature.
2	Schools are not likely to be funded for field trip. Start small: one class, take them fishing. If you catch a fish, it may lead you to examine how you are going to help sustain their habitat.
2	Stop illegal shooting of wolves. Local regional director deplores it – FWS Director Tuggle. But nothing happens. Direct additional law to regional FWS office, request FBI involvement.
2	There is an extreme distinction between government and private. Critical to break down barrier, private land owners get involved with federal agencies. Work with NRCS – because of them I'm still in business. Get word out to other private land owners, give more workshops.
2	Shortsightedness – we tend to look at immediate problems. Look at bigger problems, longer range. Huge blind spot in forward vision – engage kids in conservation, land stewardship, recreation at a much earlier age.
2	State and national parks – lagging in implementing maintenance. They're starved for resources. Update plans; create a public process for monitoring.
2	We think provincially rather than regionally. Water, air, pollution, wolves, jaguars. Focus on larger issues, rather than 'my little piece of it'. Keeping kids here in State. Analysis paralysis. Keep going back to table. Eventually we have consensus, and it's time for action
2	Stay positive. Use words like entice, harmony, don't focus on the negative. Stay with the positive view. Then networks can function
2	Extension Services are underutilized. They can play a role.

2	Trying to create something for us, a lot of people don't like to go camping or whatever. I spend all my time outdoors. Most challenging things: forests up north have too many trees. If lands would be managed well, there wouldn't be so many fires. Need to maintain stuff. Where is this money coming from? Insufficient access, but we don't have money to spend
2	Had to do a lot of talking with different groups just to get something to happen
2	We need to educate community as well as children
2	Television can be a tool to educate. Not enough good environmental programming.
2	I have been actively trying to find information on America's Great Outdoors since April – even went to D.C. and my congressman's office, and still couldn't get anything. Got email on Wednesday that this was happening – so many people couldn't attend at such short notice. Challenge is communication.
2	Website is an issue. It's not user friendly, it's too cluttered and busy.
3	Otero Mesa. Vast amount of water under it. We are threatened all the time with drilling...if it is made a national monument, will protect the water. We can't count on Gov. Richardson, we need the Feds.
3	Fed needs to be facilitator to make things happen. We bring groups along as collaborators, we decide as community. Fed and state agencies help make that happen. We couldn't do what we do without them
3	The Federal government seems to be primarily partnered with powerful private industry. Corporate interests – oil and gas industry – get away with things that destroy our environment. We need more follow-up on meetings like this. Meeting happens, then nothing happens after that. Update website, keep people posted on what's actually happening
3	Fed government provides huge support to corporate agriculture, there is no support for smaller farm efforts. Completion of the travel management program for the Manzanos that Forest Service worked on with us.
3	Create opportunities on Federal land for groups to help out. Have Fed government take a page out of Bingaman's book, and come back to the table with patience and diligence, until we move close to commonly held value. Bingaman and Udall are great. We can no longer afford black/white point of view.
3	Involve Dept of Education. Have online national conference.
3	Fed government should model cooperative behavior. Infighting been going on for years. Would help a LOT if you'd stop.

3	What is the process of getting Sec Salazar's ear to get Otero Mesa declared as a national monument? Make it easier for people to figure out what to do. Don't forget communities that don't have websites, can't host webinars. Fed needs to remember and find ways to connect with people who don't have access to those tools, capture their input
3	Protect private property rights. Better communication – we don't know about projects, stuff has to be done online, and we don't have that. We don't know about the records that have to be kept. We face a lot of barriers and lack of knowledge.
3	Outreach in Spanish, at least in NM. Problematic that there isn't a true recognition that if we don't protect the land, the air, the water, we won't survive. Where tax money goes to destroy an ecosystem that will never recover. We do it over and over and over. As far as communication, most of it we don't really hear. If you don't have water in New Mexico, you don't have anything else
3	We want President Obama to start a 21st century Civilian Conservation Corps.
3	Take the President, Arnie Dunkin, First Lady, and the kids out in to the National lands. Get the high level officials out into the lands they've impacting with their actions.
3	During mandatory testing, students who were not testing could have environmental and conservation education and curriculum. Get environmental curriculum built. Service/learning program. Love to see Fed government support this – funding is wonderful, but a school that aims towards environmental focus would be eligible for federal monies. Will build a body of committed students and educators. BLM's "Restore NM" program is great, but limited. Get them to where they can ID new projects. Get a clear vision on the top – five to ten years out
3	Grass roots very important. We're used to having clear vision from top; people find strength and empowerment in grass roots.
3	Education initiatives need to not be limited to school system. Educate people – all the people, not just school systems. US Forest Service adopted a school. Have Government agencies partner with school district. Land and Conservation funds diverted. Congress needs to get full funding for it. Can Federal government create a central clearing house for small group funding? National Endowment for Conservation. We have got to look at the bigger picture – put it as a priority to protect water, air, land so we can get out and enjoy the outdoors in a sustainable way. We cannot afford to wait – Bingaman's supported legislation needs to be passed now.
	"You mentioned protecting wildlife. I am mystified that our government spends 100 million tax dollars to kill predators. That seems like an irresponsible way to use money, and it is used to kill things in horrible, cruel, violent, ways. I think DOI is about killing, not about

	stewardship. I think this is a great tragedy for this nation."
N/A	"I think she was referring to wildlife services predator control, in the DOA."
N/A	"100 million dollars is spent on sodium cyanide and other poisons to poison wildlife. I thought this was done by BLM and other DOI agencies."
N/A	"There is also a program under DOA that deals with the same kinds of things."
N/A	"Our area encompasses Santa Fe, Taos, and Rio Arriba counties. Much of the enchantment that the state markets, that is found in northern New Mexico, are the remnants of things that went along before and during the Spanish Colonial period. Our goal is to help communities in Northern New Mexico so that they will not have to open its doors to a Wal-Mart or whatever in order to find jobs for their youth. This part of the state is primarily agricultural with deep historic ties that go back for centuries. Part of your initiative is focused on trying to get people meaningfully engaged in the outdoors. Speaking from that point of view, we are one of 49 National Heritage Areas in the country, one of only 5 west of the Mississippi. They range widely in orientation and function. The entire state of Tennessee is one, for example, because of Civil War Battlefields. My recommendation is for this commission to look at increased funding for National Heritage Areas."
N/A	"Greatest challenge is working together as partners, not finding fault with others."
N/A	"We are the only program fully run by Native Americans. A while back we were used as a model for other Native American Tribes in connection to the Public Lands Act that was put together in 2009. I would like to see something like this go forward. We have a great partnership with the Pueblo of Acoma and would like other tribes to have that option and to learn more about themselves, their cultural values, and their connection with nature. Tribes are losing their connection with traditional values, due to technology. Speaking from the point of view of Native Americans, I'd like to see Conservation Corps started on all tribal lands. We started with 42 members, and are now up to 80 members. We are very excited to see our program move forward, but we need some money. We train young adults to do preservation work on some of our projects. Working with young people is one of our main goals."
N/A	"All land is local. No matter what you are going to do, I'm very proud that we have, in our jurisdiction, the City of Albuquerque Open Space Center. It is amazing. We have lots of programs that we run every week for different ages. We work with the Petroglyph National Monument. We've joined forces with them. Being as we are a rural state, we think of Santa Fe and Albuquerque as urban. The Open Space Center gives kids a chance to have open fields where they can grow stuff."
N/A	"What I would like to say, the most important thing President Obama needs to hear, is that nature is in crisis. We are currently in the middle of the sixth greatest extinction event on

	<p>earth. The others were caused by natural disasters. I've been involved in conservation for all of my adult life. We judge our work on how good it is compared to how bad it could have been. We need to protect more areas, we need to protect more areas dedicated to nature. Another new frontier area is carnivore conservation. There is a tremendous amount of research on the importance of maintaining our large carnivores. Top carnivores are key players in the ecosystem, even keeping streams and vegetation intact. We need to restore large carnivores over landscapes so that they can operate in a way that is ecologically effective. In the Southwest, we have been trying to restore the Mexican Wolf. The Forest Service has not stepped up to the plate. We need bold new initiatives. We need to take a long hard look at all of our public lands policies."</p>
N/A	<p>"We were both at the youth session this morning. A lot of the youth managed to sum up really strong and significant points. It was inspiring. Youth are often full of passion and have new ideas. Everybody talks about this specific designation or this specific cog in the machinery; we need to see the big picture. It will not take just all of our organizations, but all of our organizations working together. Without the dung beetle, all of those savannah ecosystems would collapse. The dung beetle rolls the dung and carries it underground, keeping the grasslands fertile. That keeps all the elephants, zebras, etc., all of those well known animals, afloat. I know a lot of people bring up problems, but we need to follow those up with a solution. This morning we talked about a significant problem in getting kids to connect with the nature – it is just not a top priority for a lot of kids. "Mental access" someone said this morning. Also, not every kid lives near open land. Friends, shopping, preparing for college, etc., take priority. Mentors are key. We should make sure that nature is part of the way we all think. We need to get networking done right as we sit here. We've got to get all partners together to come up with solutions. This morning at the youth session, some girls talked about having a walk for conservation causes. That is what all of the 7 or so organizations I have worked for have been trying to do for ages. I think it is really important that we can all work together. Lasting change – part of that is seeing the big picture. The national picture. Implementing things that will protect places on a national scale."</p>
N/A	<p>"We need to raise awareness for everyone. There are people that don't think about conservation, recycling, whatever. Making things like hiking and nature tangible and enjoyable is key for people to find value in other activities – promoting stuff through media or any way you can. Nowadays youth just look to videogames and technology. A big problem that I see is using energy sources that are going to be renewable. My friends don't really care about what their car does to the environment, they just want to get places. We have solar panels at my house, but they are very expensive."</p>
N/A	<p>"I work with trusts and National Preserves. I was a little unsure about showing up, I wasn't sure how many people would show up. I am really excited. This is a large group. To address the two questions, re: getting kids outdoors. Let's hold another one of these in two years."</p>

	<p>This is a solution. I think this is already a good idea. Let's do this again. And just hearing from everyone already. I can't imagine that everyone would walk away today without making some kind of networking connection. We need to help ourselves by working together."</p>
N/A	<p>"Thousands of farmers and ranchers are not here today. We work at growing products for the world. Every one of us is intimately involved in agriculture. As we look at landscape management, if we cannot maintain our food supply, we can't recreate or worry about wildlife. We have to get back to our roots that allow us the time to do these kinds of things. I agree with a lot of things that have been said. In defense of the Forest Service, we think they are doing too much for wolves. Otero Mesa is a very special place. The reason it is a special place, people that have lived and ranched there for four generations. Go to Otero county, talk to those people. No one there knew that it might become a monument. It was the fourth worst drought in 100 years. We don't want to see gas and oil drilling there, but do we just give away that energy source?"</p>
N/A	<p>"I take kids on walks through the Nature Center. We explore bugs, the pond. They love it and are fascinated by it. Kids don't even know often that there is a river here in Albuquerque. I'm constantly surprised with how little interaction these kids have with the outdoors. A lot of families don't take their kids outside. They don't have money for buses. I think that is one very simple solution . Once a year isn't enough to form a relationship with nature. If they do, they will actually care about it and form a relationship for the future."</p>
N/A	<p>"As far as people mentioning about buses, yes, that's an issue, but kids aren't being taught about nature or the environment either. No child left behind is a disaster. Environmental education needs to be addressed. There is an enormous amount of material out there. Teachers can't use them though, because they are teaching to the test. The other issue is what is going on with agriculture in our culture. USDA. The corporate farms and the type of agriculture that is going on in this country is an environmental nightmare. I'm not a fanatic about organic food, but would rather have that then genetically modified. Often foods are not labeled as genetically modified. Tremendous travesty. One company more than any other which is responsible for this stuff is Monsanto; you need to educate yourself about that. All our conservation won't make a difference if the destruction of our native seed isn't addressed. Everything will be a chemically poisonous soup. President Obama said we'll tell Conga that it isn't the Department of Agribusiness, but agriculture. I don't see that happening at all. All of the people he selects are from that background. We are all eating genetically modified food whether we know it or not. Much of the sugar that you are eating is from sugar beets which have been genetically modified; this is also true for corn. We're not being told the truth and it is being exported to the rest of the world. Chemicals to keep soil going, degradation of the soil, with documented effects to young people."</p>
N/A	<p>"We really have an opportunity here. Our culture (in New Mexico) is based, for the most part, on small scale organic farming. You can actually invest a lot of money in New Mexico.</p>

	<p>We can be the example for how it can work for supplying food. We've been doing this for 800 years. Community farms are unbelievable resources. It is important that children know where their food comes from. It is really how we profoundly understand the experience on our planet. Nature heals. We think we are going to solve all the natural disasters. We should pay attention to nature. Nature will tell us how to clean up these disasters. It is really important to protect nature. The other thing, so many veils have been lifted in terms of ethics, greed, etc. What I came to realize is that youth are ethical. They don't need an ethics course. They understand what's right and what's wrong. We need to work for each other."</p>
N/A	<p>"I have some brief items. 1) Childhood obesity – lack of exercise kids get – implement some kind of farm in schools, on school property, don't turn it into child slave labor or anything. 2) Water. When you go into restaurants, why serve water if people don't want it? Water on all of these tables. It bugs me to think that it will be wasted."</p>
N/A	<p>"I am a big proponent of wilderness. In New Mexico, less than 2 of the state is wilderness, the lowest percentage in the entire west. But wilderness can't do everything. We need to take better care of our forests and stop fragmentation. The Forest Service is not using the best science and is fragmenting the forest with fuel breaks. I wish all fuel breaks looked like those at the Grand Canyon. Another thing is that in addition to using the best science, we need to focus on long range planning and sustainable use. We are going to use the forest, more and more people, more and more use, we have to do the right thing long term. Limiting motorized use in the forest, allowing wildlife habitat to expand."</p>
N/A	<p>"Only 2 percent of our land is protected. Two pieces of legislation right now that could be passed in 2010 are those protecting the Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation area and the Oregon Mountains Desert area."</p>
N/A	<p>"I would like to speak in favor of the Oregon Mountains Desert area. We've worked really hard on it. We've had some surprising opposition from some people. The vast majority of people down there support it. I've been surprised at the deceitful campaign by some ranchers down there. One in particular brought forth issues regarding national security. These things are really hard to rebut. Thanks for supporting this. Subsidies - a lot of these issues come down to financial issues. The people who lose in the long term are poor people. Massive deforestation all around the world. More bio fuels, more soybeans, more pollution of natural resources."</p>
N/A	<p>"We're seeing more and more loss of trails every year. For those of us who are in favor of a recreational trails program, we would like to see that re-funded. And also, like everyone knows, it comes down to funding for the Forest Service. Also, we would like to ask the administration to direct land managing agencies to revise policies that hamper reviews - particularly overly strict criteria."</p>

N/A	<p>"I'm just a citizen, local music teacher, and composer, and a member of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. This group has been involved with the Manzano Mountains. I'm urging that the study area there be designated as part of the wilderness. This would create a critical wildlife corridor. That's right here. "</p>
N/A	<p>"Member of. "Great Old Broads for Wilderness". We have a new chapter here in Albuquerque. It is a national organization. We need to support the wilderness we already have and create new areas. Wilderness areas are being overused, misused. Expand them. We are at the other end of the age spectrum from those young women. We need to take our children and grandchildren out into nature. We learned to appreciate nature as children. Permanent changes – setting aside areas for wilderness is one of the few permanent changes. It can't be changed back."</p>
N/A	<p>"I'm with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish. Stuff that is working - recognition that natural resources are important. Government and non-government entities talking more on a smaller scale. I think what confounds the fundamental desire of a lot of folks is that we as a society are electing politicians to incentivize growth. We encourage growth. It typically comes at the expense of natural resources. The government needs to say "incentivize conservation of natural resources." Bureaucracy of government, it has been said all day long. Lots of projects, lots of ideas, but we need to get past the red tape. That might take a review of certain statutes on the books. Bureaucracy is often used in legal maneuvers. I think that brings me to my last point, we need to move towards encouraging sustainability as an approach to life. No group gets 100 percent of what we want. We are probably our own worst enemy with natural resources."</p>
N/A	<p>"I'm a rancher in Northern New Mexico. To answer the questions that you presented today - a third of the land in the U.S. is public land. We don't need any more public land or wilderness. We need to put more money towards the lands we already own and make healthier watersheds. Also, how do we protect private lands? It is by allowing people who own those lands to use them in a sustainable manner. New Mexico being a poor state, a lot of ranchers cannot partake of federal programs that require a match. That slows progress and any impetus we have. We have a whole lot to do with the lands we already have. Work on what we do have and what we need to change."</p>
N/A	<p>"I proudly work for the National Park Service. Backcountry Ranger for the season. At Bandelier, people come there to see the archaeological resources. 70 percent of it is wilderness. Youth Corps is a partner, AmeriCorps, there is a Youth Conservation Corps at Bandelier, Cornerstones Program, Day Camps. We need to make things last, get kids outside, beef up State Parks education programs. Mentoring. Bring youth to be more civically engaged - example as outdoor educators or writing letters. Being part of the political process."</p>

N/A	"Dona Ana county - I'm concerned with border security – will it have mechanized vehicles?"
N/A	"I'm with the Southwest Environmental Center in Las Cruces. Along the line of landscape conservation, I'd like to recommend a place known as Otero Mesa in Southern New Mexico be protected from being opened up for oil and gas. Rather than continue to fight with Federal Agencies, we'd like to work together to protect areas. "
N/A	"I'm a former member of New Mexico Mountain Club Conservation. The reason I came here today is that I would like to say "Amen" to this man about Otero Mesa. We have to keep some lands wild. We have to keep it wild in some places for future generations. I really came also to ask the question - how are the trails for these ATVs and these off-road vehicles that are tearing up the mesas, how are they related to conservation and maintaining the beauty and the wildness of this beautiful state? We owe it to the children not to let those expand anymore."
N/A	"We are the only facility that can deal with large carnivores and mammals. We got a mountain lion in yesterday and are over run with bears this year. I want to talk about the premise of historical use. What history? What about pre-human history? We can't make everyone happy. We can't accommodate all uses. Our starting point needs to be how we maintain the health of the land and the uses need to be secondary. "
N/A	"I would love to see permanent protection for Otero Mesa by whatever method is available. What works? Wilderness works. If you look out at the Sandia wilderness or the Pecos wilderness around Santa Fe, then you realize that lays the groundwork for everything we are talking about, giving people of all ages the chance to get out and interact with nature. Lasting change. Of course I realize that some of this is due to the legislative process. We'd like to see some of the places talked about get protected by the agencies, and we'd like to see existing laws be enforced. For example, off road use. The Forest Service needs to be aware that there are a lot of illegally created roads and they need to be closed. Defragment land ownership, preferably between the State and Federal ownership. Rationally manage."
2	We need a garden in every school. Need to educate people on the difference between "zero-scaping" (rock) vs xeriscaping (native plants).
2	Technology, media are one of the biggest barriers but could also be the best marketing tool. Need to get kids unplugged. We need to provide real jobs. (What can we do to get them unplugged?) 7-8 hours a day spent in school, 3-4 hours doing homework, other time plugged in. Need outdoor classrooms. NM had funding for outdoors classrooms and that funding was cut this year. Teachers and parents have recognized that students are better behaved and happier after going to the outdoors programs. We need to lean on our education system to provide more outdoor opportunities
2	There are a lot of programs in existence offering summer internships. We need to do a better job at marketing these opportunities. As a rancher, she deals with 17 agencies just to

	try and conduct ranching. Too many overlaps, too many boundaries. Agencies need to coordinate.
2	Funding is our biggest obstacle. Government and other organizations don't properly market what's being done with taxes. Need to highlight the successes and profits of paying taxes. Need to show the public what their taxes are being used to accomplish.
2	Ms. Burke teaches students with disabilities and they have difficulty getting information at public/government facilities. Captioning should be provided on videos in visitor centers etc.
2	Children are disconnected from wildlife, distracted by consumerism. Wildlife corridors are being destroyed. Her organization is trying to promote ecotourism to provide jobs and economic development. They are marketing wolves, wild horses to draw tourists. Government agencies should be using wildlife to market for tourists.
2	There is no connection with wildlife, outdoors. Attitude change needs to start up high. If we are slaughtering animals what will our kids learn to do? Different interest groups need to work together for common goals.
2	Lands are being drilled for gas and minerals. Chemicals injected into soil. This makes lands unusable for ranching/farming.
2	(This individual was very aggressive and uncooperative.) The government is just trying to take and control land. They don't want us to mine anymore. Miners are conservationists. With this effort the government is pretending they want to protect the environment but they are trying to take and control your land and keep you off of it.
1	State parks are wonderful local opportunities. Have good education programs. Need to protect wilderness areas.
1	Civilian Conservation Corps from FDR era worked. Need to re-implement a program like this.
1	There are young people who are doing great conservation works and know where their roots are. We need to start learning what works and maintaining cultural practices. The government ruined our (Latino) lifestyle and you want us to partner with them? Not all youth are addicted to electronics. But these can be used to reach other youth through youth already doing conservation work. Young people who know where they came from are best for reaching and reconnecting other youth.
1	Mentorship and culture is what works. Provide the opportunities and youth will do it (recycle bins, compost). Make it convenient, make it habit and kids will do it. Kids need role models/leaders who are doing it. Need to make opportunities for kids to apply what they learn – outdoor classrooms. Education works.
1	Moved to New Mexico to try to heal from 9/11 (eye witness of Twin Towers being hit).

	Inherited land and got inspired to share with others. He takes youth to public land management meetings. Youth ideas can inspire us. Individuals (adults) need to go out and get involved with young people and take them to special places, public lands.
1	Over the last 6 years there has been a great organization effort to work with farmers and ranchers to conserve private lands. This is a great opportunity and many farmers/ranchers are willing to work with us if we educate them and partner with them. They make conservation choices everyday and we can help them make better choices. Average age of most ranchers is over 50, we need to move youth into this way of life or lands will be sold and subdivided.
1	We need to have fun. Make outdoors fun and a good time. Kids need to learn the outdoors means freedom, independence, a place in nature. Don't make it seem like formal education/structure. Let kids run and have fun. For the last few years there has been a waiting list for girls wanting to join local Girl Scouts chapter but there aren't enough adults willing to volunteer their time to work with kids and get them outdoors.
1	The Youth Conservation Corps work! Keeps kids out of jail, teaches them conservation skills/job skills, employment/money, helps them find future employment.
1	Need to find a way to support sustainable local economy. Need to make conservation work economically viable. Government needs to implement policies that do this. Community supported agriculture works. Tax incentives work.
1	Entry fees for public lands need to be affordable so parents want to/ can afford to take kids there.
1	You can be conservationist and be a consumer. Most suggestions being made are cost extensive. We're in bad economic times. We need to create income opportunities but wisely use natural resources.
1	Need to deal with climate change. Need to pass current legislation for carbon limit (CLEAR). We don't need a cap and trade system. There is a cap and dividend approach proposed by Rep/Dem senators. This would provide funding for youth corps. An aside - kids like animal poop and tracks. Take them out to do animal tracking.
1	Worked on Navajo Reservation. She saw firsthand that nuclear energy isn't clean energy because uranium can't be cleanly mined. The government shouldn't allow uranium mining.
3	We need to recognize that animals are part of the ecosystem. Prairie dogs are part of the ecosystem. Prairie dogs need to go on endangered species list.
3	He does Open Space education. Government considers Open Space education/recreation. Government should quit cutting budgets for these programs (education/recreation). If we kept or increased budget, we could do more education and marketing. Need stringent rules

	to list out what can't/can be done with funding. Having clear idea of what we should/could do makes programs more effective
3	Implement changes within parks and recreation. There should be community gardens in every city park. We water city parks, why can't we grow food there? This would do more than cure hunger; it would teach people how to grow food. Need to have programs that encourage farm/ranch lifestyle, not everyone wants to/can go to college. Food grown in parks could supplement government WIC/welfare programs. Federal public lands could be provided for these types of programs too. Stop exporting food grown here, stop importing food grown elsewhere.
3	Communication problems exist between conservationists and resource consumers. We can bridge the gap. Not all uses are appropriate for all places. The government needs to make regulation simpler, get rid of the layers of government. Don't make regulations weaker but make them simpler and easier to understand. One size doesn't fit all, tailor regulations to the place. Need consistency, can't keep changing regulations/processes all the time.
3	Use money from tax dollars to create jobs. Educate people on green techniques. Banks need to give money to people.
3	This ranch brings in thousands of campers from across the country. Now the federal government is making them do their own NEPA studies for projects on federal lands. Government could let public do some of the work on public lands. Federal government should help with liability issues for recreation opportunities on private land.
3	Resilient ecosystems are beneficial. Federal government could streamline federal grant proposal process. It takes enormous amounts of energy to balance/match funding and administer federal grants. EPA money should be able to match NRCS money etc. There are so many restrictions on interagency money even though they all support the same programs. Sometimes federal funding is available but the state can't provide funding needed for match. Having resources to manage federal grant is difficult because of reporting requirements etc.
3	A lot of federal agencies already have restoration programs in place. We need to use these existing programs instead of always creating new programs initiatives. Farmers/ranchers need to be supported because they care for land and provide wildlife habitat. Simplify regulations that they have to follow. Conservation/restoration programs already in place can be used to support farmers/ranchers. Give programs time to get established and work.
3	Thanks to federal government for opening arms to traditional communities and cultures. Working harder to bring traditional communities to the table. More of this needs to happen, especially for grass-roots efforts. Many traditional communities are reluctant to work with federal government based on their perception that we are closed. Government can be better partners in local efforts.

4	Effective responsible leadership at federal level would be a good tool. Need to properly fund conservation efforts. Need to overcome fragmentation of agencies, need to share data, geospatial info. Need to coordinate at a federal level between agencies. FWS, BLM, BOR all tell different things. Need interagency coordination on policies/regulations. Need to aggressively do outdoor, environmental education efforts. Need more events like National Get Outdoors Day, need to tie in local, private organizations. Federal state local agencies should promote private conservation through joint funding and tax incentives. Extend tax benefits, change required grant matches to make programs more effective. Need to elevate priority of regional and large-scale landscape restoration initiatives. Need to involve all agencies, interest groups and private communities.
4	Bills/laws are tools. Federal government needs to pass omnibus wilderness bill to protect wilderness. Encourage president to make Otero Mesa a national monument.
4	Volunteering is a tool. Go out and serve the outdoors in a way that suits your interests. Volunteerism allows you to get connected with lands and it doesn't cost a lot.
4	Veterans are a great source and nature is healing for them. Veterans are good at shooting and can dart wild horses from helicopters. This would be cheaper than round ups.
4	Start requiring all facilities the federal government uses (hotels etc.) to provide recycling bins.
4	Organic agriculture. Federal government should support more organic food production practices instead of petroleum based agriculture process. We are saying we protect the land but support unsustainable and harmful agriculture practices. Subsidize organic farmers.
2	She has a problem with drunks when she takes her boy scout troops out and has had to pack them up and leave.
2	She feels the biggest challenge is bringing people to the outdoors. Teachers are isolated in their classrooms so they are not connected to the outdoors either. They have parents that don't care.
2	He has done a lot of programs with the federal and state agencies and people are very generous with their time but it is very hard to sustain that as a teacher. He feels that there needs to be a youth involvement plan. Things are not going to happen without a plan. It's a hit and miss. Since the federal leads now want to do something, how about a plan.
2	He brought a group of students from Gallup to the Youth Session and he works with youth conservation corps, planting trees, making trails and restoring tributaries. What they need the most is an agreement from the Federal Government to create and sustain conservation jobs. Whatever happened to the agriculture workforce? Why isn't there more agriculture education in schools instead of welding? There is too much screen time in the schools and

	homes.
2	More marketing. No one is marketing these sorts of jobs. They don't promote to these groups the opportunities that are out there so they have failed in that. They need to cross the threshold on how they can set monies aside if there are grants in their own federal organizations and how you can commit to these groups.
2	There are lots of opportunities to be outdoors. The outdoors is free. Make more opportunities for free outdoor activities. Because of all the fees that exist it makes it difficult for families that can't afford it.
2	She is convinced that one of the reasons for the crime is the nature gap in children. They have no fundamental underline joy for the earth that they live on. They do not have enough community centers for children. If you are going to convince the kids to go outdoors you need to make the experience pleasant.
2	A challenge is communication. Many agencies overlook pueblos and tribal government. Anything that deals with water and lands, they want to know about it. They worry about what is happening upstream. Conservation thought is already developed. There is a tremendous need for development and technology. He remembers farming with horses. What works for them in the pueblo community is to allow them to have the steering and guidance in projects. They have the conservation but there is the problem of dollars. Under the Federal Government is an agreement. Tools and resources are themselves to make the earth better.
2	Great Animals and he would like Secretary Salazar put more protection of them.
2	She is involved with trying to preserve a wetland. They need to work more with federal and state laws and jurisdictions. There needs to be more coordination with agencies on preservation efforts.
2	Cultural Resources. These resources are part of the landscape and anything that affects the land affects those resources. They are fragile and non-removable. There is a lack of appropriate scales where the state and federal government is involved. There is no plan and so one of things that need to be in place is conservation plans at the regional level. He was involved in putting together the Sonoran Dessert Conservation plan and should be considered as a model.
1 and 3	His group is trying to get together with the youth conservation groups and bring grants into the Las Cruces Communities and get kids out into the dessert in Dona Ana County. It helps to reconnect the rest of the community. The Federal Government should pass the Omnibus Bill. The Land Bill will be helpful for the West. BLM should look for more wilderness or NCA lands. He would like to see Otero Mesa become a national monument. NLSC is now helping him put together a friends group to get grants. He would like to see the Federal Government provide

	more funds to organizations that support what the group does.
1 and 3	One of the biggest challenges they face is that there is not enough funding for trails to fix those in existence or to create new trails. Just over the 4th of July weekend 14 members from his group cleared 80 miles of backcountry trails in the Pecos Wilderness. The Forest Service is under continuous pressure and without these kinds of groups they have no choice but to close the trails.
N/A	Start with a clearly defined vision that goes out over 5 years to serve as motivation to see the big picture.
N/A	His group formed a non-profit to accept monies. The BLM was designated as a lead and he doesn't feel that they would have been funded if the BLM staff wasn't involved. One of the things they do is hire youth to do watershed restoration. You have to work with your neighbors and designate an agency to get the staffing.
N/A	Likes to do outreach in Otero Mesa. He is trying to get people to Otero Mesa. BLM is coming out with an RMP. Local based environmental group. Need more youth and more organizations to become involved and work with what is in the backyard. So much misinformation out there and it cannot be what is being taught to the kids. Everyone can work together to come up with a plan. Teach adults and kids agricultural lessons. Environmental issues need to be taught in schools. It starts with the older generation that the earth matters.
N/A	She formed her own coalition. There are 6 members who are very committed to the community and the land. They have a relationship with Cochiti and Santo Domingo. They are not waiting for anyone and are doing what they want. She wants the Federal Government to have a vision for the 21st century that increases public lands and have an agreement with private land owners. Northern NM wants the toxic chemicals ceased and from getting into the waterways. She would also like to see a continental conservation protection plan.
N/A	Students to grab concepts at the level that they are studying. Partnerships with agencies works.
N/A	Political issue and how do we support the political environment. Federal Government role is to work locally to create these coalitions. He feels that what is needed is a partnership at the state level.
N/A	BLM was told no more wilderness policy. That is the worst given about public lands to greedy corporations. Use it as the great outdoors and not as a market for greedy corporations.
3	Who is going to pay for this? Federal Government should go back to the state and they should start getting money from the states. They have the money from oil and gas, gambling, military etc. Organizations should legislate through the state.

