

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

Location: Asheville, NC

Date: July 15, 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?

Comments	Question (1-4)
Partnerships with federal agencies and partners/volunteers/user groups- forming coalitions with other user groups- esp. hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers working together—GA Mountain Trail is a good example- open to all three user groups- partnerships are very powerful in trail maintenance, fundraising, etc	1

<p>Agree- collaborating with USFS as well as a community revitalization group-example: Jackrabbit mt. bike trails (Tusquitee RD, Nantahala NF) – collaboration on grant writing is esp. important</p>	1
<p>Need more collaboration in policy development as well</p>	1
<p>Value of USFS to recreation is very high- the NVUM results report high satisfaction with USFS recreation- has not had the status with the agency mission it should</p>	1
<p>Reconnecting people with outdoors- have programs working with teachers- teachers work in the park as rangers- helps them understand what is in their back yard- also get students into the park- focus on both curriculum and recreation</p>	1
<p>Work with rivers In Middle GA- many people who live there have never experienced the river- amazed by the experience- getting them there is a big challenge- need more funding for awareness of their own backyard</p>	1
<p>Conservation very important- on specified days, the store donates 20% of sales to conservation</p>	1
<p>Interested in Lewis and Clark trail- referenced the Stephen Ambrose book about the trail- people love the trail to death- we need to make people aware of what we have- need easy mode to educate, using vehicles such as novels, public broadcasting stations, etc</p>	1

<p>NC trust fund provides \$\$ for recreation facilities- also emphasis on planning, what communities need- provide technical assistance- process is as important as the \$\$- master plans help in build strong projects- communities initiate the request for help from NCSU-</p>	1
<p>Get schools involved- eg high school in Maine- "Mountain Day"- also have days to pickup trash in communities- use schools for delivery of outdoor learning</p>	1
<p>Federal lands bring a good opportunity for students to learn in a multi-curricular/multidisciplinary activity- many disciplines in one place- such environments have a strong/lasting impact</p>	1
<p>Trails to Every Classroom program-taps into teacher's creativity- give the teachers the tools</p>	1
<p>Clay County health dept and school systems are taking kids mt. biking- fighting obesity- currently building a skills park to help build basic biking skills</p>	1
<p>Development of waterways is growing a lot- a lot of local interest-bringing families and children in a safe environment-esp. need to locate them in or near towns- in OK City a park was been developed for water recreation- teaching kids about rivers and river safety</p>	1
<p>Focus on access to recreation- example: Salida CO- good development of biking and hiking- esp greenways- enjoy walking in the evening</p>	1

<p>Need for local recreation groups to introduce people to resources- 5000 river and watershed organizations across the country- provide THEM with the tools they need to address local policy issues and more effectively working with federal agencies</p>	1
<p>Grants from programs such as Rec Trails Program have been very helpful- keep what we have</p>	1
<p>More national parks are esp. important for protection- expand them</p>	1
<p>Want people at higher levels to foster more trails and greenways- needs to come from the top down- need leadership and funding to generate the interest</p>	1
<p>Rocky Mount NC-got the park system with Land and Water Conservation Fund \$\$-have 40 parks now- would not have them without LWCF</p>	1
<p>Need regional strategies- not easy for small communities to develop by themselves- Western NC better than most in regional development- need to cover even more areas- for example, many waters in NC empty into SC- needs federal leadership for interstate coordination</p>	1
<p>USGS is very important for managing river water gauging- many gauges are threatened due to lack of funding</p>	1

<p>Focus on gateways- hiking and fishing and biking- need to get kids away from their video games- incorporate recreation and conservation into videogames and the other “environments” kids live in</p>	1
<p>Support and build on existing programs such as Boy Scouts</p>	1
<p>Funding- non- profits are all competing against each other for the same \$\$- need to work together- example is sharing membership program with NC Arboretum, sharing lists-</p>	2
<p>Grew up in a Maine mill town- conservation groups are often viewed as in conflict with local business- need to partner with businesses, eg a greenway for employees to walk at lunch- give businesses a chance to see themselves as stewards</p>	2
<p>Has been a contraction in recreation access- only 24% of federal budget is discretionary, most of that goes to the military- how do we maintain rec resources on federal lands given funding limitations- rec organizations need to help- processes for managing public land are becoming much more complex- processes necessary to authorize are becoming much more complex- beyond the scale of local units- need to operate more efficiently - need to restructure- less overhead, more \$\$ to the ground</p>	2

<p>No brainer-need more\$\$- pvt foundations looking for joint projects- trust funds very important- many states would kill for the kind of \$\$ we have in NC-more collaboration among groups needed- need to use trust fund \$\$ wisely</p>	2
<p>Live in Asheville neighborhood- no one outside- very surprising-</p>	2
<p>Too many multiple mandates for the federal agencies- these can be very conflicting management directives-recreation does cause some damage- how does that info get across to people- how can the public better understand all the impacts</p>	2
<p>Refer to RTP, funds derived from gas tax-ability to access the funds vary from state to state-small towns have a hard time applying- need staffing time</p>	2
<p>Encourage “No child left inside act” !!!!! Oriented to \$\$ for schools to take buses into national parks and national forests- teachers need to get the students engaged. Currently the testing systems actively discourage teachers from teaching outdoor education- only given resources to teach what is on the test</p>	2
<p>Parks and rec. leisure activities not seen as an essential service, enhancing property values</p>	2
<p>Also 80% live in cities, where parks are not- lack of parks in urban areas</p>	2

<p>Represent horse enthusiasts- 600 acres/day disappear from equestrian uses- planners tend not to include equestrian uses in multi-use trails- horses are not the detriment commonly believed- disappearing because we are not being included in multi use trail planning</p>	2
<p>Ref LWCF funds-Congress diverts 85%to non-rec purposes. Need a fully-funded NPS- operate at 2/3 baseline budget- we are fortunate to have such a large park in our region</p>	2
<p>Move USFS to USDI-would eliminate accidental clear cutting</p>	2
<p>Agencies have multiple jurisdictions --don't communicate with each other- volunteers have a hard time getting agencies to talk to each other- when they do, great things happen- volunteers are the mortar between the bricks- initiatives don't come together unless the volunteers do it</p>	2

<p>Disconnect in understanding that conservation and recreation use are an economic engine- there is a dearth of knowledge-we are working to develop economic data-people don't understand how the hospitality industry develops around that, with products, services, etc- need to better understand the economic return....lack of awareness of what we have- natural resource heritage program very important to know what we have---- access is greatly limited to private lands- esp. where only source of \$\$ for local communities is property tax- local govt sees too much advantage in putting houses on the land-</p>	2
	2
<p>As a parent we had to look hard to find a neighborhood that was outdoor-friendly- most areas have no sidewalks- need to be able to get to green spaces without driving</p>	2
<p>More roads are built in suburbs to handle traffic- need to be designed to handle bike traffic</p>	2
<p>Mapping paddle trails-many opportunities but not enough providers- liability is a big obstacle especially on non-federal lands-</p>	2
<p>Communicate with those who are not enthusiasts in a way that they can feel comfortable</p>	2
<p>Boulder and Portland good examples of bike-friendly communities- known for best place to work, retire, raise family, etc.- not an accidental connection</p>	2

So bad that you have to get in your car to go from one shopping center to another- need better urban design- needs to be a network, not isolated routes	2
Community development block grants-need to get grants to design recreation	2
Focus on access to green and blue ways when developing communities	2
Need more modern technology- need PSA's for outdoor recreation- Smokey Bear needs to twitter	3
Evaluation of recreation resource impacts should be mandated along with evaluation of other resources- needs to be integrated into every agency's mandate	3
Moving FS to USDI would be a bad move for recreation- recreation is not a mandate for the NPS- USFS is more recreation oriented- FS and BLM need to document benefits of recreation better than they have, incl. health benefits- private advocates often don't have the info they need to be effective- should have NVUM surveys for NPS and BLM.	3
Depts of Transportation at fed and state levels need more emphasis on trails- want higher \$\$ spent on trails as means of transportation	3
Private lands need to get access to adjacent fed land for uses such as riding stables/trails- will generate jobs in small towns- pvt lands need to utilize nearby forest lands better-	3

National wildlife refuges generally only day use- opening them for more camping-would generate more local income if people stayed longer	3
A lot of expertise in agencies- share expertise and make available to smaller governments and non-profits- share your tools	3
AGO is a right step---full funding of LWCF would make a big difference- equalize federal and state funding- LWCF is biased toward federal	3
Air pollution----ozone alerts discourage outdoor recreation-need legislation on climate change	3
A lot of fed lands in the west- fewer in the east- need more focus on recreation where people live-	3
Ref Ken Burns' movie- momentum for a push for more land set aside- esp needed in middle GA-allowing hunting on NPS lands would increase support for NPS lands with local communities	3
Do NOT tear up lands already preserved-energy policy should encourage biking, etc	3
There is a disconnect between states and feds in recreation planning—no mechanism to connect fed and community planning efforts- exception is the Over mountain Victory Trail- NC and SC are working on connecting two state parks---another example is the Guilford Natl Battlefield in Greenville SC, tied in with a community greenway	3

<p>AT would not exist w/out LWCF-need funding for continued stewardship of the land after acquisition- volunteer model works when it is supported by a diverse base</p>	3
<p>Be as inclusive as possible when planning recreation- don't go straight to wilderness- preserve hunting opportunities</p>	3
<p>Emphasize pack-in-pack-out---- campsite 70 in GSMNP a mess- attracted feral hogs during a recent trip</p>	3
<p>Fed government should take leadership role in river way development-often an interstate issues- too often it is just the local govt that drives it—important not only for recreation but provide conduits for wildlife</p>	3
<p>Need resources that help marketing of outdoor recreation- community development grants- make them more accessible sand easier to find</p>	4
<p>We have met the enemy and it is us---we cannot wait for the fed govt to act</p>	4
<p>Streamline management planning- cut red tape-agency processes are not keeping pace with society--- recreation must be a purposeBLM's I and conservation program does not have rec as a purpose-need that authorization</p>	4
<p>More fed encouragement of recreation</p>	4

<p>Will never be enough funds-want to see the fed govt develop their tool kit to take on blue/green ways as venture capital, then have an exit strategy to allow others to take over- user fees must become a non-political issue—people in the outdoor community are used to paying their way</p>	4
<p>Need more education- a key motivator is parents- educate parents in the positive effects that being outdoors has on the kids- need to see more of it- parents need to model it- talk more about how it makes people better later in life</p>	4
<p>Build it and the will come- am an old guy in a young sport- have had to learn to bring resources TO people- use current technology- email is out of date-communication to the youth has to change- facebook, text, twitter- true of communities and pvt sector as well</p>	4
<p>Public Service Announcements are very important</p>	4
<p>Use USGS more to provide more information- integrate with states and pvt groups who collect information- NOAA is absorbing some but doing it badly- USGS should be the clearing house</p>	4
<p>Need a national strategy of passive energy generation- need more discussion on pay-as-you go recreation- not supported by all</p>	4
<p>More marketing and information- awareness---need to put it on the stations kids are watching---fund LWCP and RTP</p>	4

NPS's Second Century Commission ----implement that vision-promote geocaching to get people outside	4
Implement a special resources study in GA	4
Create a website as a spinoff for social media- one stop shopping for environmental education- capitalize on our existing educational system	4
USFS contracts out timbering- be sure they supervise these guys- I live near the AT near Mill Ridge-need to move USFS to USDI to prevent timbering	4
In marketing, start with public schools- messages not tailored to kids---communication gap in talking to the next generation- work into the toy business	4
Getting \$\$ to the NGO's and work collaboratively with them- provide tech transfer- use NGO's to get federal information out	4
Educate general public to the connection between their actions and impacts to the environment- what they pour down the sink matters	4
I don't need more tools- we need to learn to use the ones we have-media is one of the most important- make it a daily thing- use the media in positive messages too	4
Fund no child left inside act	4
Need a natl office of environmental education- agencies need a cooperative, unified plan	4

<p>Kids fishing day a great thing-need similar days for mountain biking, hiking- referred to the recent Kids Fishing Day on the Uwharrie NF-- lots of kids</p>	4
<p>Support fees in certain places, get boots on the ground such as rivers and trails (NPS) to develop more projects- expand the program</p>	4
<p>Recreation is a necessary component in developing transportation</p>	4
<p>Recognize good partners- involve the local community....NC has great funding sources— federal \$\$ can leverage a lot of other funds</p>	4
<p>Feds need to be able to take corporate funding to support local efforts- losing millions of \$\$ by not being able to accept these funds</p>	4
<p>Fortunate to have a land base protected by previous generations; lots of existing land trusts; historically lots of resources to spend on conservation; have a natural heritage program in NC; link the state's natural heritage areas</p>	1
<p>Great successes with cooperative management system of public/private partnerships that form Appalachian Trail Conservancy. "Trails to Every Classroom" has been transferred to other national historic and scenic trails; train the trainer for teachers; citizen science is a great tool to engage communities about what's in their back yards – also serves as a laboratory for climate change.</p>	1

<p>Landscape scale vision for NC that contains North America’s most diverse temperate forest; highlights globally, nationally, state’s significant places; gives message for focus areas and demonstrates priorities; collaborate and coordinate efforts among members; working toward same goals increases effectiveness</p>	1
<p>Building broader coalitions (state and local levels); planning that engages people with diverse interests broadens conservation base. Non-traditional customers (eg: low income communities of color): conservation planning effort that engages communities; helps create and develop different kinds of priorities.</p>	1
<p>North Carolina State Parks is developing a pilot program of “nature emersion”, helps overcome fear of the unknowns of outside; develops appreciation and conservation ethic; learning lab at focus parks; Youth internship programs and mentoring programs; engages people who are afraid of the outdoors</p>	1
<p>Community based science – monitoring project in Little Tennessee Watershed has created a generation of river advocates; model of citizen science; projects needs to be funded in perpetuity. Little Tennessee Watershed – Jackson, Haywood, Graham counties</p>	1

<p>“Trout Towns” program; don’t need license to fish in trout streams in select towns in Western NC; encourages communities to make sure their trout streams are in great shape; tourism and clean water innovation within city limits</p>	1
<p>State-wide Trails projects (theme trails) – NC Equine Trail – maps statewide equine trails; also NC Daniel Boone Trails in piedmont counties and eastern counties; resources programs like Friends of Mountain History); themed exhibit projects with museums and historic sites travel across the state (like “Civil War 150”); develops local participation with Chambers of Commerce, historic sites, Departments of Natural Resources, Blue Ridge Natural Heritage Areas; distributes newsletters</p>	1
<p>National Trails like Trail of Tears National Historic Trail provide opportunities for collaboration to implement interpretation; Main Street Programs that link Blue Ridge Parkway and local communities</p>	1

<p>NC's comprehensive wildlife action plan to improve wildlife species in NC; citizen groups can partner with wildlife commission to help improve these projects; a great process to develop plans included biologists from all state's agencies; there is a great group of professionals in the state; Passing a comprehensive carbon bill that reduces carbon and fines polluters would help fund NC's wildlife action plan; current plan is adapted to climate change: NC's plan is a model; NC's wildlife federations are "bringing boots to the field"; this is a habitat model – easy to interpret; habitats that species need to survive are identified</p>	1
<p>NC is a model with trust funds leveraging</p>	1
<p>Connecting communities with resources; for example, the "Snot otter" festival (a species of hellbender) where people come for bbq and bluegrass and then get into the river! Make sure interpretation is included and encourages connection with community</p>	1
<p>Connecting lands and communities: a local four- county planning process outreaches to provide green infrastructure, etc.</p>	1
<p>Local workshops and initiatives to help people determine how they want their future to look; one community did a model charette, lots of community diversity</p>	1

<p>Difference between convening people around species and connecting people and constituencies; equal amount of effort needs to be focused on the latter; National Forests float above the landscape at 2500' – connecting with national forest lands are difficult since there is such a buffer of private land; funding from states for “small pocket connections” deserve attention; there are already plenty of species connection plans in place – need to focus on heritage and urban site connection planning</p>	2
<p>When economy is down, opportunities are created; full funding through Land and Water Conservation Fund for public agencies is critical now</p>	2
<p>National Trust of Historic Preservation’s campaign to help communities engage in their cultural resources; increase efforts to help people donate easements; fund Historic Preservation at a national level</p>	2
<p>LWCF mostly goes to the west and should come to the East; at issue is Southern Appalachian mtns’ new road construction (interstates, state, forest service roads); states and agencies need to hold back on construction and look at more holistic approach</p>	2
<p>LWCF funds dedicated could help land managers better plan</p>	2
<p>dedicated funding for the farm bill, not subject to annual allocations can help individual farmers</p>	2

<p>Look at incentives; temporary success with charitable contributions for Conservation Easements; temporary program should be made into permanent program; NC was 1st in credits to easement donors – 180,000 acres have been conserved; provides for negotiations with landowners; dollars stretched with state conservation dollars; credits are not currently transferrable</p>	2
<p>easements benefit small farmers</p>	2
<p>Hope to expand and make permanent Federal tax deduction for conservation easements.</p>	2
<p>difficulties with land protection work – timing is an issue on the federal side of LWCF projects; properties often end up owned in fee by land conservation groups for two years or more; individual landowners are forced to wait a long time for closure; Forest Legacy is not currently a successful program in NC</p>	2
<p>Management of TNC's lands and private lands – use of fire as part of ecological land management; 4 states in the mountains have gotten partnerships to help the needs of wildlife and reduce fuels in forests. Partners on state side, NFS, NPS help people realize that fire is critical component of ecology. An obstacle: concerns about effects of smoke on human communities, roads, etc; small window of when prescribed fire can be implemented; need to work with EPA to develop a more realistic window for burning</p>	2

<p>Forest legacy and other initiatives require matches; is there a way to incentivize local governments with large tax base to use federal funding</p>	2
<p>Timber management – hard to do good silviculture in NC; losing early succession habitat; biofuels; education that relates to timber management</p>	2
<p>Time spent outdoors with a caring adult contributes to conservation ethic; need to increase programs like “No child left indoors”</p>	2
<p>Conservation and cultural heritage are falling by the wayside, especially in public schools; there is a huge disconnect with youth and heritage</p>	2
<p>Eastern US has majority of population and don’t have the land base that western states have; criteria for availability of Federal funding is a disadvantage to get LWCF and other funding; criteria needs to be scrutinized to go where the greatest need is</p>	2
<p>Connectivity of people is a critical need. An example is Old Fort NC where 1st piece of land was purchased under the Weeks Act. The Forest Service is at the table but isn’t able to invest much or offer communities’ assistance; needs to strengthen community assistance and cultural resource management; staff presence is a missing link; cultural and heritage resources are a point of connection between people – need to interpret local traditions, historic sites important.</p>	2

<p>The connection to Federal tribes: US needs to be as good as Canada in connecting with native peoples. An example is the Cherokee tribe and connection with GSMNP; shared management structures with native peoples – National parks and national forests are tribal lands</p>	2
<p>Fully funded LWCF in 1964 would be \$3 billion now; current requests in NC of \$7 million might “break the bank”; there is a huge scale of unmet needs</p>	2
<p>Losing entire hemlock forests in Southern Appalachians; direct more \$\$\$ to treat hemlocks and save the species; this is a great tragedy of our lifetimes</p>	2
<p>Incentivizing local communities to contribute to Federal monies; NC has great track record in being leader in conservation; nice if Federal Government would recognize and weigh this into how funds are dispersed – in local programs, incentives are in place to match federal funds</p>	3
<p>Full funding for preservation; easements are great working tool and funding is being reduced; federal government needs to recognize full value of easements and provide incentives; Section 106: largely misunderstood at a local level; feds could help explain initiative</p>	3
<p>Trout streams are being filled in by mountaintop mining; need better controls to prevent damages from this resource extraction</p>	3
<p>also natural gas explorations</p>	3

<p>(500 mountaintops have been mined in the Southern Appalachians); natural scientists in all the agencies only talk to each other; can't speak outside their own field; need to have authority to speak to individuals; spoke to Southern Appalachian Man in the Biosphere (SAMAB) conference – no federal scientists have spoken to the outside world on climate change –</p>	3
<p>need to improve the accessibility of federal personal to communities; need to connect and speak out; help reinvigorate US Man and the Biosphere program; a paradigm for the rest of the world; let's don't just take care of our own house</p>	3
<p>U-Par program hasn't been funded since 2001 – pay attention to emerging population of urban youth; Carolina Thread Trail is a new initiative; there are few federal funding pots to provide programmatic funding</p>	3
<p>Effectiveness of volunteers: kids exposed to volunteerism are more likely to be adult volunteers; need federal programs</p>	3
<p>look toward required community service for youths, like the AmeriCorps program</p>	3
<p>Federal government can change the tone of dialogue on the questions of subsidies; sometimes current tone is skewed; inconsistency in funds for extractive subsidies vs. subsidies for conservation</p>	3

encourage Forest Service have strong science-based policy on biomass	3
Watauga Parks and Recreation Authority has sponsored a newly formed Tourism Development Authority pushing for more outdoor recreation opportunities; very fortunate to have tourism-based community; state and federal parks cutting staff but more people are coming to local, state and national parks.	4
Educating people on how to care for parks; example is abuse at ATV trails in Nantahala National Forest – people have built illegal berms, people have been injured, etc. Safety measures need to be implemented to keep the forest from being scary.	4
AmeriCorps is a non-partisan concept of volunteerism; keep changing administrations from rebranding this program	4
Rural areas have to have infrastructure; local Rural Development groups support rural businesses, etc. Could assist with some community niches; could help find partners and help; e.g.: Community Facilities program, low interest loan program; funding for schools; eco-tourism and relating small towns with parks – can help with revitalization (sidewalks, benches); can finance businesses in rural areas; Mountain BizWorks program receives loans at 1% and then provides low interest loans to small businesses	4

Rural Development programs would use conservation development principles – opportunity for preservation of open space, etc.	4
Open up conversation with agriculture; provide fresh local produce; plant a cherry tree in a park	4
Re: Youth in the Outdoors; what about the youth desiring to be in proactive positions? Government should push internships and help emerging youth develop their career paths	4
Encourage federal development and participation in “Historicorps,” emerging CCC, HABS/HAER	4
Healthy effort in developing greenways in the state; 1987 highlight at one of the last conservation initiatives didn’t yield much follow-through; these are needed in urban areas to produce functioning ecological mosaic	4
“GOD” – “Greenway-oriented development”	4
Conservation Easement; initiative for conservation easements need to become permanent	1
Adequate funding for LWCF; end KV funding system to increase amount of stewardship projects – keep money local; carbon accounting/offsets are important	1
LWCF; climate change will have huge impact – need to keep change in mind when prioritizing LWCF acquisitions	1

Restoration on existing public lands 1) invasive plant species removal working with partnerships (need to remove red tape) 2) Pisgah and Nantahala NF – budget focus is on timber with restoration as an after-thought – need to prioritize restoration; surveys and legal fees have been paid for by the county – fed money would help.	1
have ongoing dialogue with partners and local communities – dialogue has become part of nature	1
Government agencies need to be involved in dialogue with partners and communities	1
Buncombe county advisory board is focal point of conservancy groups; can work across counties; cross-section of public and agencies; Federal and states could reward local jurisdictions with money to fund land conservancy programs	1
lives near Catawba river on Pisgah NF – has conservation easement (forestry program) on his land – feels like he is penalized in taxes on his land due to neighbors activity	1
have a new tax program in NC passed in 2008 that gives landowners a tax break	1
value ecosystem services in general are important	1

<p>Partnership with public partners – acquired new piece of land with agreement that there will be more LWCF money in future; many trails are in the area; transaction costs should cover stewardship responsibility</p>	1
<p>Jaqueline – formed collaborative county outreach groups with knowledgeable persons; funding with LWCF and tax incentives have been important to group; received funding from fed, state, and private citizens for acquisitions; Partnership for the Blue Ridge – multiple partners in four states</p>	1
<p>Farm land – NRCS could provide more support in acquisition costs; volunteer agriculture program – 3/4s of counties have these; get federal agencies cooperating – create advisory council for agricultural land conservation; community gardening /local foods</p>	1
<p>Public/private groups work well; ATC is a good example of what works well; trails to every classroom and parks in every classroom are great programs; need to connect people to what is in their backyard.</p>	1
<p>Tax incentive is important in conservation easements</p>	1
<p>Outdoor classrooms work well. Don't cut bus services to field trips</p>	1
<p>collaboration, sustainability education; private enterprise funds different conservation and education programs; need to kids out of the classroom and out into the resources</p>	1

federal agencies need to build stronger relationships with private entities	1
taxes – agricultural easement limitations due to the requirement to make at least \$1000 from their land annually – hurts the elderly; reappraisal in 2006 – taxes went up significantly so people were forced to sell their farm land to developers	2
work in an area with national forest that only comprises 23% of the proclamation boundary; working to acquire more land – need more LWCF dollars to acquire more	2
Cobb county in TN – will take a collaborative effort not only from traditional stakeholders; need more funding in LWCF – did congress forget about this? Need to work in partnership with congress	2
LWCF needs full funding and re-examine how funds are distributed; need more money in the east due to population centers; how are federal agencies using LWCF; huge disconnect in where the money is going – example Uwharrie NF	2
leadership needs to come from administration to raise awareness of LWCF needs	2
cannot give public access to conservancy lands due to costs	2

<p>climate change is biggest challenge to land management; protect, connect, and restore; lands such as wilderness study areas need to be designated wilderness (keep promises); money needs to go to agencies for restoration efforts</p>	2
<p>Funding is biggest challenge for private (NGO) groups in land management – such as conservation easements; bureaucracy – grants are so labor intensive to apply for and hard to administer; grants all seem to have different deadlines and matching requirements; relevance to the public – need to connect environment to people; public misconceptions about land management; no land use zoning in South Carolina; urgency – people do not see the need</p>	2
<p>local people don't want government to take property or interfere with their lives; may be inclined to sell land to a developer rather than a conservation easement or working with governments</p>	2
<p>DOT's may drive development – they should be here as a key stakeholder. Roads take away character of National Forests</p>	2
<p>grants for trail work received from DOT have to be built to their standards</p>	2
<p>DOT is critical partner in this process – they need to be brought to the table</p>	2
<p>there is no money to be made in conservation, America is monetarily driven</p>	2

wildlife corridors and biodiversity is being affected by land fragmentation; fragmentation makes prescribed fire for restoration difficult; conserving land or resources	2
policies are prohibitive	2
delays and lengthy reviews are prohibitive; strengthen federal law to maintain easements	2
children are wired and stay in their houses and parents encourage this – need to get people out and interacting in nature; need PSA’s to get people unwired, medical community needs to understand the importance of nature, as well as educator’s	3
Get DOT involved; fed government needs to increase funding to federal natural resource agencies	3
Federal incentives for conservation easements need to be made permanent; people are shying away due to the uncertainty	3
decision makers need to get outdoors to see it first hand; inform developers of “sense of place”; fund staff time to do community education	3
get children outdoors; FHWA has huge impact on state’s budget; FHWA – get back into thinking about alternative transportation; need money to staff educational programs; public needs to get on to their public officials; has to start at the grassroots level with local officials; FHWA needs to be involved at the beginning	3
PSA’s – find good examples of what works well elsewhere	3

agency relinquish control – allow local entities to be empowered; engage at a local level to enable local initiatives	3
Need to get DOT to the table – they need to be educated on natural resource management;	3
Decision makers into the field – can make conservation advocates out of them; what is land trust communities role in climate change? – federal government needs to provide leadership on this, incentivize conservation; target NRCS programs towards conservation programs	3
funding – tax incentives, project funding, etc.; land agencies need to be talking to the commerce agencies; rural economic development - need to promote REAL rural development such as tourism	3
matching funds to where people are i.e., Great Smoky Mtn NP or Blue Ridge Parkway (have highest visitation in system)	3
keep entrance funds local! Look at park units individually	3
responsibility to make good on promises – inventoried roadless areas, wilderness study areas, etc	3
protect buffers around military bases – need increased DOD funding for farms and forests around bases	3
share successful examples from other states	4

take advantage of resources that you have i.e., research stations and local forests; get more comprehensive in approach to land management;	4
need to use GIS more effectively; land use planning needs to be a coordinated effort to map invasive species	4
agricultural lands may be impacting water resources – can make a difference by funding educating farmers on sustainable practices; look and newer problems coming down pike	4
more funding to local units to support NGO's who work on federal land; make all of the local tools known to everybody (southern research station, coweeta lab)	4
federal government should be bolder and push planning on the local level; need to learn the rules of the road like the defense department when getting money from congress; give people a reason to go to parks	4
adopt second century commission's plan	4
bring these kind of groups together on a bigger scale	4
federal tax incentive permanent and fund LWCF	4
start using new media tools like facebook and twitter, smoky bear application for the iPhone	4
increase enforcement ability to protect water quality; enforce existing environmental laws	4
need interagency interaction – DOT – be bolder	4

need to be more responsive to issues	4
Need to know who to call – who’s responsible for what?	4
local and state agencies should be involved in this process – they can help put local property owners in touch with the right people	4
New CCC and incentives for alternative energy programs; federal loan repayment; NRCS need to lower bar in organics certification program	4
rivers, trails assistance programs work well; use programs that work well as best practices model	4
First do no harm i.e. Globe timber sale on the Grandfather RD	4
need to look at true multiple-use of lands, such as recreational uses of national forests	4
get the cart behind the horse – manage for ecology first, not timber management	4
Civil War/Benton Battlefields(near Raleigh success- continue to use the farmland as it was at time of battle, still preserved and yet farmed with collaborative preservation funds, in original condition, contributes to preservation/historic value and real estate agreements with multiple land owners	1

<p>Emile Eagle, Civil war also- mechanisms –Farm and Ranchland protection program, matching grant program, federal, state, private, Transportation enhancement funding, Conservation tax easement incentives, Land and Water conservation funds</p>	1
<p>Continue same theme, NC state historic sites, potent force in parks- maintain them continuously, protect the land use.</p>	1
<p>protect, restore habitat,-- Farm Bill, TU Admin cost shareie fencing to leverage solutions(cattle out of streams etc)- Collaboration between all is key- National Fish Cons Habitat- joint partnerships instrumental in pristine streams/cold - Conservation Easement Tax incentives- Unknown status of the tax incentives is a huge concern- right now it's on renewal basis year to year –Federal tax incentive for donation of easement.</p>	1
<p>Hickory Nut Gap farm- wife and sister- 50 children/horses camp, made possible by Conservation Easements. Thankful that this county most fortunate to have funding and official support. (Farm and Ranchland protection program) Makes higher quality farmland, keeping it out of development</p>	1
<p>per John's work - protection of entire corridor Hickory Gap—2-land scenic road designation keep it out of development and no more billboards.</p>	1

<p>add to Damon's national level- I work at state/local level- Good working arrangements with FS and NPS- Marisue Hilliard and Steve have discussion have helped them too be more effective, ie, Clean Water Act, LCWF, projects getting done across WNC</p>	1
<p>DFR- State level working well in Urban and Comm Grant program with USFS-establish urban forestry and education, site specific programs. Inc Tree City USA, Tree Line (util) and Campus Tree programs. Lots of greenways and planting initiatives. Several non-profits help- Keep America Beautiful programs. ACT also.(neighbor-woods)</p>	1
<p>SC – local land trust difficulty getting \$, except if fed tax designation- Wetlands Restoration fund does come back t help benefits. Ie, 135 acres mitigation process paid for it.</p>	1
<p>Working- Clean Water Trust Fund-brings together a lot of folks, and able to leverage the federal \$, LWCF, Forest legacies as someone who works all over the Southeast, NC seems to be working the Best. (FL- Defunded, SC-not much, GA-no funding) Synergy between all is good.</p>	1
<p>NC has 4 Trust funds</p>	1

<p>Forest Stewardship and Wildlife Habitat Improvement program, Farm Bill, Federal programs are underfunding but are such a big help to private landowners. Forest Development program for Regen/Stnd Impr, replanting- Feds could Enhance that.</p>	1
<p>Farm Bill has assistance decreasing for private though.</p>	1
<p>Programs have provided access and experience with areas we are trying to protect- in college outdoors instructor—took a girl camping that saw milky way for first time and camping, Ever. Chances to experience help with future appreciation.</p>	1
<p>(riverlink) Strategic plan-need a land trust check - repairing areas under 100 acres—gotten 400 acres given to them... restoration – easement might be 6 acres, who is monitoring it, they are filling a gap</p>	1
<p>Question- More of a challenge Item-</p>	1
<p>Recreation interest- Swain Co 86% Fed owned- had made county a welfare state- and can't take care of what it has(campers. Parks etc) so why are we expanding land ownership. Gov't has too many lands-at what pt are we free, privately owned property rights. Never be able to own property.</p>	1
<p>response – easement- type of trust does pay taxes still. Karen Riverlink – More Creative – Progress Energy relicensing – there were good examples of converting to Grant \$. Also License plate \$ to Natural Heritage trust fund.</p>	1

AT license plates have paid for School Program \$ in Hot Springs schools	1
personal – Spring creek easement- many farmers would like some kind of a farm trust- Madison Co not as well off- unrealistic to think they could come up with the transactions cost/ fees to help put farm into an easement – surveys, appraisal, inspections etc. Huge Problem for Rural counties to come up with funding.	2
Same problem—stewardship \$ for donation for easements- if Gov't would help contribute \$ to subsidize these.	2
from SC – funding sources from Conservation state programs has dried up. Lack of county support. Difficult to proceed.	2
Local jurisdictions – Awareness in the community, outreach needed for economic benefits, quality of life, env benefits need to make them aware/proud of those resources— Educational Component.	2
Nature Conservancy-working—funding for outdoor spaces was good- but not now being funding at level LWCF- \$900 mill a year by revenues from off-shore oil drilling but did not get to them at the level authorized for.	2

<p>Federal and State good, but State/Local good, but Fed/Local conservation easement not easy. Fed gov't needs to work better with land trusts. Need to have staff/agencies to do the work. Too many other things interrupting. Ability of dealing with easements on lands.</p>	2
<p>20 yrs non-profit work-trend over time of DE-investment in staff hurts overall. ARRA burst nice but gone after this year. Society needs to think do we want to invest in our public lands—if so how important and how to pay for it.</p>	2
<p>Urban forestry work --budgeting at local level (municipal) is losing every time without Federal/State funding—should not be Cops or Trees, but cops And Trees. Safety. Happiness and environment sustainability needs to collaborate and support-grassroots importance needs to be done.</p>	2
<p>Ecosystem services – where to put your \$ - conserving lands does more than recreate on – clean water/clean air - talk about this in way people can understand- Federal gov't could help</p>	2
<p>confusion at all levels that are involved with Clean Water-ie. City of Realigh want to shut off flow but Corp said no—National Priority needs to not fluctuate in direction and goals</p>	2

<p>Valley fill permits and Mtn top removal process- Federal gov't has not set penalties -High enough so companies ignore and pay penalties and keep going as is.. West VA in particular- BP oil created giant island of gravel so they could make a loophole</p>	2
<p>BRP vviewsheds overgrown – volunteer partnerships help but staffing is cut in half so how to accomplish</p>	2
<p>Bureaucracy – FS – local Rec area had to be closed – Volunteers offered to pick up garbage etc but the FS imposed such cumbersome rules that group could not do the work and collapsed. Group would have had to be non-profit and pay incorporation – in the name of liability</p>	2
<p>Ecosystem services – new USDA small office- Office of Environmental Markets?? –they Should tie back to local – fund the things we need to do adequately like clean water, rangelands etc. Also – need to communicate Clearly with local for economic opportunities. Recognize local gain is vital to local, since no more timbering etc, no more revenue</p>	2
<p>Little mgmt on multiple use area since court system is impacting us federally So hard.</p>	2

<p>Existing challenge for Parks at all levels – who buys the property across the street—ie, gambling at Gettysburg, or Wal-Mart across the street Zoning for commercial business too close to historically significant sites. Education and understanding</p>	2
<p>100 million more people by 2050—where are they going to go? Open land now, will be gone—challenge federally to recognize/prevent. Wall-to-wall people- Population Growth.</p>	2
<p>Riverlink- Climate change - really don't know all the impacts of that- Polarization of the country hard to accomplish anything,</p>	2
<p>get Congress to Act in legislation – House Nat Resources has voted on offshore oil, land etc. Would like more support of that</p>	2
<p>Teaching young people that , what's your is yours' private respect of lands. Wesser Bald example of Public use on private land- Imminent Domain ruling took her families land. Crimes with proximity. Law Enforcement Challenge- not enough man power to enforce the law.</p>	2
<p>Consistency in message to American People</p>	3
<p>Stability in relationship with turnover of personnel. Multi-year projects hard to start over. AMEN</p>	3

<p>purpose to cross-reference for agency contradictory regulations – Comprehensive review of Federal Programs with conflict rules – ie EA for one dept might be diff for another agency. Env Planning Process needs to be same cross agency rather than the barrier now.</p>	3
<p>Adjacent PVT to FS – calls and complaints – need to rethink the good neighbor policy – ROW etc addressing.</p>	3
<p>Dept of Ag needs to pay attention to Small Farms as much as it does to Large corporate - Subsidy rules, Health and Safety food act</p>	3
<p>chickens in Urban settings, Protect that right. Ermaculture</p>	3
<p>Emphasis on Education – Green Issues/Industries – Push toward that in Education, esp cities – NC is no longer a Rural state. Bring back the music..? Endowment for Arts, so why not Endowment for the Green umbrella.</p>	3
<p>SCA – one thing Fed could do – get more kids involved by new energy/recognition to youth corps.</p>	3
<p>drop in staff, 50% Drop, shut down parks—teachers losing job- PE first to go—why are trying to get people out there but they have no Play/PE time at young ages.</p>	3
<p>Last Child in the Woods –book should be required reading!</p>	3
<p>States with Abandoned mines – lack of Good Samaritan laws to protect the people trying to restore them is Needed.</p>	4

Research and Data - State Forest Assessment - More emphasis on Data Tools and Research ie Urban Canopy	4
Impact of Wind Turbine generators from F&W – waiting.. need more data and recommendations, and get it out there to inform citizens with science.	4
SCA- Public land Service Corps act and Youth Corp acts – support that legislation/ funding	4
House bill 1310 and Senate 296? Clean water Restoration act and Appalachian Rest act – reverse changes during Bush admin that allow fill	4
Small Business association Tree planting act – Schuler is on committee- planting program for Downtown Revitalization	4
Support Private sector self-funding by the industry itself rather than Fed handout	4
Negative - Need state legislature for everything - Density agreement for states at the Local level needed.	4
Transportation planning - Road reclamation funding for roads and trails program that reduces sedimentation- State and Federal \$ pay more attention to local develop/conserv policy .	4
Sustainable use for Revenue streams	4
More sessions like this!	4

<p>Our federal lands can take advantage of new technologies. We're missing a big population by not embracing new technologies to make info available. What would you suggest as a top priority in technology?</p>	1
<p>Smart phone technology. Use social media, facebook, twitter, myspace etc...</p>	1
<p>I think national forest service needs to reevaluate how we market ourselves on higher technology and social media. We need to reposition ourselves so we can take advantage of technology. We need to partner with the business world; we lag by 5 years or more.</p>	1
<p>This is the time to look at business partners and cooperating associations to help with the marketing aspect. We're getting so far behind the private sector. People will be more comfortable engaging through facebook, twitter.</p>	1
<p>How do you get a more hands on interface with youth to exploit opportunities on the parkway? Discount passes for families?</p>	1
<p>How do we reach out to minorities? Do we have urban city internships?</p>	1
<p>I don't think a lot of schools know about programs to introduce youth and minority children to NFS/NPS.integrate more information into school curriculum to make children aware of resources activities available. Need to be</p>	1

NPS should partner with schools and boys clubs to help disadvantaged children. Don't count on parents to know what's available. Many parents have no experience in the outdoors to teach their children.	1
Marketing outdoor opportunities to the schools, outward bound works.	1
Use Cartoon network, every youth in America watches regularly.	1
Programs to take kids into the forest is great experience. Great way	1
We need people to use the outdoor facilities; resources need to be accessible, open longer, easier access.	1
How do we get young people to take more ownership in parks?	1
It's important to engage people to share memories, histories of parks. Parks should pursue these stories. There hasn't been a concerted effort to build a history of forest lands.	1
We do need to connect to our children, how do we pay for all of these programs? We have a lot of good ideas but there needs to be programming funds available. Partnerships work well.	1
We're passionate about getting children outside, need money, most money goes towards conservation.	1
Hard to convince youth that it's more fun to be outside than on video games, ipod. There's a perception that it's not as fun to be outside.	2

Convincing children that it's okay to be outside.	2
There's a lack of inertia, a disconnect between outdoor education and kids. Programs start but don't follow up. Offer competitions outside on youtube to attract youth.	2
Kids using social media spread information to other kids effectively.	2
Knowing that spending time in SCA may benefit you in college, earn college credits, makes it a more attractive program.	2
We need a park service ambassador to visit schools to promote programs.	2
We don't have the resources as park rangers to look outside of the parks to see who we're not connecting with.	2
What can we do to offer benefits/rewards to kids for going outside? Offer rewards for time spent hiking/camping etc... Once we get them out there they're more likely to stay.	2
We're competing against people going to the mall, message not out there that nature is readily available. Most think it's too far away.	2
Using science is a good way to connect to nature.	2
Never see advertising on TV promoting careers in NFS/NPS etc...	2
Too many obstacles to getting a park service job. Too much red tape.	2

Need more advertising. Use more celebrities to hype parks.	3
Use broader initiatives to work with scouts and other organizations to market outdoor opportunities.	3
SCA students make good ambassadors for outdoor jobs and recreation. Have returning SCA students engage scouts and other organizations to promote careers.	3
Partner with McDonalds to support the parks and conservation measures. National park trading cards.	3
Short term politics and long term projects are a big disconnect. Programs started by one administration cut by next administration.	3
Need to promote mountain sports in schools, thrill seeking sports (extreme).	3
There is bad propaganda, no showers, cell phones, etc... Camping doesn't have to be extreme. Doesn't have to be roughing it. Can be luxury.	3
A great thing about our state parks is the ability to step up from easy camping to hardcore. Need to get the message out that there is something for everyone.	3
Remember that the arts are a vital link to the parks.	3
Make the outdoors more multi-media friendly.	3

<p>We need to bridge the gap between youth and outdoors. Using social media take away from each other. Using facebook to convince people not to be on facebook and go outdoors...</p>	3
<p>I have no idea how to apply for a NPS job.</p>	3
<p>You have to put nature and outdoors into the curriculum in the schools. Today's technology has worked against getting children outdoors. Need federal funding.</p>	3
<p>We updated science standards recently, why not nature education. What is the federal responsibility?</p>	3
<p>We need to teach teachers to go outside and teach nature.</p>	3
<p>I think the perception is that the parks are in a bubble, this is not the reality to how water flows, where animals live. Park service needs to lend expertise to smaller units on water conservation, green initiatives.</p>	3
<p>Need a grass roots campaign to convince congress to put initiatives into the schools.</p>	3
<p>National parks should promote their tourism benefits, sales tax dollars raised and how local recreation promotes quality of life.</p>	3
<p>Need funding for the open source community forest program. Open to local governments and local tribes. Need to engage tribal youth, give them the opportunity for forestry careers.</p>	4
<p>We need a special resource study to classify new national parks in Georgia.</p>	4

Is there some way we can share resources between regions?	4
Lending NPS name to private groups may promote the NPS system. Will increase awareness of tourism opportunities.	4
A lot of people don't know the science and history resources available in NP's. We don't do a good job of promoting these resources that are readily available and free.	4
If we as private citizens would take the opportunity to take a child to the forest we could do a lot of good, doesn't just have to be the federal governments responsibility.	4
LWCF – Land and Water Conservation Fund; AT	1
AT is good example.	1
NPS, existing systems are not being fully funded, maintenance backlog, etc. Need more money to fund these programs	1
NC Farmland Protection Trust Fund has worked well statewide – but need more money	1
FRIPP Program has worked well – conserve farmland	1
SC Conservation Bank – also has preserved farmland; state initiatives are critical. Need incentives	1
Wetlands Reserve Program, other programs that support conservation easement – programs could be improved but work – Forest Legacy Programs	1

<p>Land trust working to get access to Catawba Falls – worked to acquire land – Fed and LWCF worked together with community.</p>	1
<p>LWCF funding used commonly, but thin as of late. Partnerships and collaborative efforts working well – needs to be coordinated better. Nonprofit can intervene in land sales – broker sale. Mountains-to-Sea Trail was done this way.</p>	1
<p>New state park is developing based on LWCF and other conservation groups to expand park.</p>	1
<p>Palmetto Conservation Association in SC – Trail system that has used partners to complete trail system. Wetlands Reserve Program has worked and been expanded to uplands. Takes a long time though. Basically a Federal Conservation easement.</p>	1
<p>Partnerships are key. Look at unconventional partners. Military bases and their conservation strategies. Common goals of conservation and military training – RCW example. Dedicated stream of funding works well. Importance of GIS maps and plans based on those maps. Folks can rally around info on the maps.</p>	1
<p>Readiness and Env Response Initiative – Development encroachment on military bases. Use these programs to buffer military bases. Corridor near Macon where NPS is working with military to share management and conserve land – military provides some funding.</p>	1

GIS-based analysis is key – Land of Sky Regional Council’s Linking Lands to Rural Communities. Use natural resource priorities to create conservation value map – piece together major hubs for protection of potential corridors. Can identify what is important to protect. Can connect farm and forest lands and programs.	1
Partnerships are essential for land and recreation management. Need to rely on volunteers as well.	1
NC Conservation Tax Credit – conservation easement based. Has protected lots of land in NC. Tax benefit is often the right incentive. 20 states have this.	1
Partnerships – local land trusts can assemble these. Open space area preserved with private donations. Started here now has developed into greenways and blueways. Creates visible message.	1
Large urban area – nature preserves in urban communities. Restore streams in neighborhoods.	1
Partnerships – Friends of the Smokies, Smokey Mtn Hiking Club.	1
All taxa biodiversity inventory. Get people in the public involved to go out with researcher.	1
Enhancement Program under DOT (FHWA) – Greenway program. Transportation-oriented projects can create greenways along highways, streams, and RR tracks. Make outdoors accessible.	1
Groups of land trusts – Blue Ridge Forever. Private funded.	1

Science-based information (GIS, etc.) works. County inventories. But don't know what is on private.	1
Fed tax deductions on easement and donations of land. Questions on how to deduct. Need clarification. Make it a longer write off. Extend benefit	1
Scenic Byways Program has funded several important projects in NC.	1
State Wildlife Action Plans are very important. States identify what most ecologically important areas are on the landscape. Opportunities for partnerships. GA WL Federation has worked with NPS to manage lands to preserve hunting.	1
Trails – need to be able to get to trails to get folks out. Create visitor centers and programs along trails. Works well.	1
SC Tax Credit – can sell SC tax credits for 80 cents on the dollar.	1
SCA is making trails accessible. See more and more folks on trails and it works well.	1
Need constituency in areas you want to protect – have to get folks out there to develop a connection with the land. Take people out to show them.	1
Private partnerships with state entities. Private groups have different revenue streams that are effective	1

<p>Land Trusts are diversifying groups they are working with – foundation grants. Higher minorities for summer, work with minority farmers, minority training, new housing developments that respect landscape.</p>	1
<p>Roads are barrier to conservation activities. Cannot connect biologically rich areas. Roads are not designed for wildlife passage. DOT does not consider this. Road widening projects are not considering wildlife. Several examples of this given (US 74A). DOT needs to come to the table and consider wildlife crossing in planning.</p>	
<p>Consistent funding</p>	
<p>Coordination – one program doing the same thing as another – need to work together</p>	
<p>Aging of volunteers</p>	
<p>80% of country lives in the urban environments. Children growing up need to develop an appreciation of this. Children in many ways have no way to get outdoors. Need larger pieces of open space in urban areas. Kids only know asphalt. Develop neighborhood gardens. We are missing an opportunity to educate kids in urban areas. Need to leverage funds.</p>	2
<p>Kids in cities can't understand what is so close (mnts). Local budgets are being cut and green projects are going away and losing opportunities to connect urban kids to land. Budget cuts impact existing programs. Nonprofits also have less money to assist urban programs.</p>	2
<p>Bureaucratic obstacles (laughter). Excellent opportunity for Trail development but bureaucracy got in way on the Cherokee NF. Simplify ways to get trails in – too much red tape.</p>	2

Need full funding for LWCF. Never appropriated fully. Congress diverts funding.	2
During economic hardship, land prices are cheap and there are tons of opportunities, but not funding to capitalize on it.	2
Inconsistent interpretation of volunteer programs of work across federal boundaries.	2
66% of land in US private. Need to expend more energy on conserving this private land – limited activity now. Needs momentum	2
	2
Inconsistency of legislation – varying tax credits and funding of programs. Need long-term consistency.	2
Private land being used to preserve longleaf pine. 2009 funding was being delayed and got stuck – sitting on accountants desk on USDA	2
Challenges of getting message to Congress. Big returns to investments when it works. Brag on success stories. Get lots of return \$\$\$ for \$\$\$ put in. 4 to 1 investment return on Fed spending in NPS \$\$\$\$. Convey message.	2
Most people don't think about land conservation and associated jobs.	2
USDA appraisal process does not work well – takes forever.	2
Tax structure can also be disincentive. Estate tax is bad – causes people to sell land. Land rich, cash poor folks suffer. Land is sold and developed. Don't have money to give to people with good intentions for their lands.	2

State side of LWCF has been even less consistent than federal. No commitment to states.	2
Missed at least one generation of getting folks outside. Need to focus on 1 st graders and their parents as well.	2
State tax rarely touches family farms.	2
Need to protect peons. They are not entitled to tax breaks. Need to get poor people interested.	2
Farm Bill – increased ownership length requirements – eliminated lots of land owners from the program.	2
LWCF has no mechanism for reimbursing administrative costs.	2
Americorp program works well – support conservation and gets kids out.	2
DoD programs need more funding.	2
Thanks to NPS and USFS for doing a lot with a little.	3
Decreased funding to National Parks and Forests. Maintenance a problem. Need an incentive program to help out. Needs to start from the top. Makes it difficult to partner when things take so long.	3
Lead the way on climate change.	3
Sea level rises will result in additional land needs. Wildlife corridors will increase in importance.	3
Present use value program – allows farmers to pay less taxes. Farmers want land to remain in present use value as they age. Extend this program	3

Loss of farmland. Models need to be developed. Need to make it affordable for new farmers. Need to recruit more farmers. Think creatively. Incentives for keeping farmlands	3
Education to inspire volunteers. Get kids to take ownership of parks and forests.	3
Feds should partner with states to develop civilian conservation corps. This would educate and provide benefit.	3
Have to give people a reason to care. Need educational component in schools.	3
Dept. of Education needs to put emphasis on outdoors and natural history. Give schools incentives	3
Go straight to the teachers. Bureaucracy gets in the way higher up than that. GSMNP pays half a salary to a school teacher.	3
Get folks involved at federal level.	3
Work in lieu of unemployment.	3
Local schools are getting backyard habitat. Fed provide incentives.	3
Blue Ribbon commission produced report for NPS that provides importance of education of youth. Lots of good recommendations in report.	3
Expand parks and wilderness.	3
Identify highest and best use of National Forests. In TN and NC this use is recreation. Need more money for trail maintenance. Need to ask for more.	3

Provide educational enrichment for teachers. Teachers then develop natural history curriculum. Need to encourage educational involvement.	3
Hard to get corporate partners. Need to involve corporate partners in GAO Listening Sessions.	3
People don't know about success stories and where things have been done or programs that are available. People need information, need to communicate with them. Need federal marketers.	3
Fed govt needs to play a coordination role. Very little coordination between federal agencies particularly with regard to bureaucracy. Need coordinated efforts to set priorities collectively. States also have role, states need to get involved. Needs to be ongoing coordination. Who is the best agency to handle a certain issue or priority.	3
Need to identify partners. DoE should be involved in these discussions. Own lots of land.	3
Would like to see fed government be a leader in landscape level conservation. Longleaf pine restoration is a good example how it has been done.	3
Need national energy planning so that long-term conservation efforts can be improved.	3
Transportation planning so people can easily access open space.	4
Complete Streets Program	4

New Unit Designations for the NPS. Process needs reformed. Studies take too long to be effective – takes a decade.	4
No public transportation to AT from Asheville.	4
Standardized public announcements to address values of open space. Get information out. GAO Video was a great tool. Make more of this available to the public. Need educational tools.	4
Use technology to get to youth of America. Download trail maps to Ipods.	4
talking about rivers and poor counties... how do people come (tourism) and how do you sustain tourism while highlighting and conserving the natural outdoors while providing recreations	1
-camping on platforms only accessible by boat/kayak etc.	1
-target boy scouts and bird watchers	1
-have access on the water for people to use for camping. 40 miles worth	1
-had 5 counties come together to create a “paddle trail” system where people came recreate on the water and use camping facilities	1
resources from all areas for climbing routed, boulder cliffs, etc.	1
climbing paces are on private property... strategies to simply ask residents was failing	1
have made rock face/climbing purchases from private homeowners through fundraising efforts and grassroots efforts	1

collecting donations, silent auctions, etc	1
having access near park service facilities, and collaborating with them	1
VERY GRASSROOT face to face small organization, community relations conservation efforts	1
local level public relations	1
gain partnerships with other related clubs, organization etc. to increase involvement (ex: rock climbing conservation group (Carolina climbers coalition)...partner with urban rock climbing clubs, training facilities etc)	1
Ask what the communities want (ex: school kids want disk golf)	1
Taking kids out into the woods (fieldtrip style) : take the kids out for a few days, and then they want to take their parents out.by teaching the kids about the outdoors you are indirectly teaching and reconnecting the parents.	2
Take high school kids out (usually from urban areas) to parks and they will have the same response as the Statement made by Fred above	2
Water sports, lessons and rentals. Nature groups in high schools. And promote americore programs for students coming out of high school and college. Youth conservation cores should also be more promoted.	2

Agrees with Jess (above) but suggest some government funding for groups such as YCC and summer programs for students and youth to continue volunteer spirits. IAUP: interpret, appreciate, understand, protect.	2
-contact college, etc, to engage student in community service work or public work	2
embed groups in the communities to tie the economic benefits	2
have a plan that everybody buys into that is long range and in visionary (ex: dikeman plan)- have collaboration (!!)	2
tie in together protection work with restoration work and land protection , ex: you cant get out on the river unless you clean the river and make it healthy	2
Money (!!)	2
The burden of taxation on the local level is misunderstood. People are afraid of tax increases., which leads to lessening of maintenance of recreational greenways and trails as a result of lacks of funding and communal involvement.	2
Encroachment of development is another issue.	2
Private funding for advertising: how to get the message out there and promote awareness and education. There are just lacking funds.	2
-Issues with pollution and how to watch that/supervise how it is kept cleaned or protected	2

There is a fear factor: people have never been in the woods and are afraid to get out there because they are so unfamiliar	2
people don't get outdoors, they have lost sight and knowledge of the "fun factor" of the outdoors in the forest-there is no talk about forest...	2
Recreation centers for kids: interactive games (ex: bike pedaling games where you are getting a work out/exercise, but it simulates being outdoors)-use the technology out there to promote (non-nintendo style)	2
community planning , community efforts, educational components, give more opportunities to the citizens-lacks of conservation funding-or inappropriate expenditures/allocations of funding	2
accessibility to outdoor recreations /liabilities	2
How do you make going outdoors "cool"? (ex: gogreenzing.com)	2
Investing money for maps, etc.-some of the way s to get information to the public is too expensive	2
communication between tourism groups and federal agencies-rules and regulation regarding access to public lands and marking areas (not enough signage in some areas about what resources, amenities, etc, are available)-directional services-policies regarding signage	2

What works?-What are the most effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors that you have used?	2
Fee areas, put profits earned back into the parks where the revenue is being made	2
“Commercial users fees” and day fee areas. Enforcement with fee areas	2
MOU’s and friend’s groups (regarding fee areas)	2
Fund the YCC more in all communities (embracing future generations)-provide man power for the national forest-develop conversationalists	3
School requirements (ex: EOG)... have some of the classes taught outdoors-outdoor classrooms	3
-Include part of the educational curriculum to be taught outside, or have more recreational education, environmentally hands on education	3
have more directional information, easily navigable user database with an inventory of recreational opportunities, and advertise it nationally (ex: great American outdoors online) have an index of all these activities	3
-keep up to date!!	3
Get beyond the EOG and connect the students by other means, music etc.	3

<p>Richtop development and wind power--- fear of developing wind power mixes with conservation mandate. Needs to be changes in attitudes. Influence of fed government to show use an “equilibrium with nature” there needs to be marketing of the importance of everything the outdoors has to offer as well as how we should continue to practice conservational efforts to better maintain such valuable recreations Tougher and tighter regulation of what goes into the rivers. (ex: pigeon river) make private industry sectors more accountable, they should be using their profits from dumping to also clean up the waters, etc.</p>	3
<p>Put more money into river health and purchasing conservation easements to buffer river, buying land in the flood plain. Pointsource pollution issues need to be taking into consideration to protect water National blueways initiatives. Establish some sort of funds with national initiative to protect lands near water. Specifically in floodplains.</p>	3
<p>ENFORCEMENT! Need to be more enforcement of rules and regulations-needs to be more transparency when things are being funding, and there needs to be more accountability-more enforcement of already listed regulations</p>	3

<p>Federal government should fund a PSA (public service announcement) or campaigns to encourage retirees and other citizens to volunteer at their nature centers (botanical gardens, arboretums, etc), specifically locally.</p>	3
<p>Initiatives towards institutionalized “fitness” campaigns, as well as recycling campaigns and Go Green type pitches. Get kids outdoors, childhood obesity and benefiting the land.</p>	3
<p>Hollywood can help. Tie in media to real life to educate. Piggyback on such media to relate and connect with communities.-check out climateproject.org</p>	4
<p>Engage celebrity (athletes, actors, actresses, etc) encouragement. Use local celebrities to promote.</p>	4
<p>Reorganize the priorities of where our government funds are going.</p>	4
<p>Money for staffing. Rangers are understaffed and overworked. They are also the ones working and connecting with the youth. Ex: junior ranger programs, campsite talks, they aren’t being offered as greatly because they cannot be provided for</p>	4
<p>-they are also the personnel who help maintain safety in the recreational areas and parks.</p>	4
<p>Reasonable salaries for such employees/staff people</p>	4

Needs to be a reframing of service on public lands. It needs to seem less like work, chores, or punishment. Education provided to help lessen impressions such as those listed.	4
***STAFF STAFF STAFF	4
More patrolmen to reinforce regulations and keep park users in check. (ex: lesson litterers)	4
have better access to information and make it more readily available	4
education of land owners and users and citizens... educate them about our facilities	4
Conservation tax credits.	4
Full LWIC funding.	4
Collaboration and Cooperation to maintain lands uses as they are meant to be.	4
Encourage passive recreation in parks.-also for consideration: equestrian recreation and more specific trailheads made to suit their needs	4
Educational field days-places/stations for schools to go out to and learn from park staff at these stations as well as learn recreational activities and safety.	4
Things take time. Keep moving ahead with things.	4
Educational tours and activities, etc. Advertise for it. Get the locals excited about. Eco tourism!	4
have the gov simplify things to the public	4
Large volunteer maintenance crews for trails	1

<p>Citizen-financed 30,000 acres of greenspace - lightening bug, birdwatching, frog monitoring – offering orienteering in schools via junior ROTC orienteering programs</p>	1
<p>5th grade env. Program – a part of NC school curriculum – working for 3 years – significant increase in science scores by participants. Kids learning all things are connected.</p>	1
<p>2,000 kids so far</p>	1
<p>get all 5th grade classes out hiking on the AT – Trail to Every Classroom – AT becomes curriculum – Am Hiking Soc – website to ID trails – ID trail days, events, trail locations</p>	1
<p>all privately funded –4H kids and others – teaching wildlife habitat mgmt, forestry mgmt, disabled kids outdoor programs</p>	1
<p>Outdoor Alliance – making sure kids have a connection to the outdoors via rec. activities – brings understanding – overcomes disconnect if they don't know it – they won't protect it</p>	1
<p>– Finally realizing that conservation and recreation are not opposed but can be partners – putting people on the land doing rec activities aids in its protection</p>	1
<p>Scouts offer service, outdoor experiences, volunteering – start at a young age, family-oriented, serve 4,000 youth – orienteering, camping, 130 Eagle scout projects this year, horsemanship, day camps</p>	1

<p>co-op w/Parkway on projects – orienteering, other outdoor activities (climbing, spelunking, etc...)</p>	1
<p>Continual revenue stream tied to city/county 6% occupancy tax (1/3 of \$ for infrastructure projects) – these all go to outdoor rec infrastructure – developing mtn bike trails, and a 15-yr mgmt plan – leveraging these funds to increase impact – double it! Building capacity for local non-profits (increases value and footprint of impact)</p>	1
<p>Child care programs – outdoor program emphasis (infants to 5) - increase kids' time outside</p>	1
<p>group dwells on taking on things that go against conservation (development) – example of Va Creeper as adaptive reuse and revenue generator – an opportunity for the FS – from Parkway to valley? Would allow the FS to get away from extractive uses to keep management levels</p>	1
<p>From media perspective – facing shrinking budgets, staff – potential for non-profits to share content – need to create more formalized relationships – providing info to the media – rural areas have poor broadband access – limits communication about info available – a challenge – how to use and access the forest info very disorganized – needs improvement</p>	1
<p>the first place people call for info is local parks dept – don't have resources – no clearinghouse for outdoor tourism information – need a data base for this</p>	1

<p>Ocmulgee NM expansion needed (11,000 acres) -great opportunities – 90 min from Atl airport in middle GA – would link some state, other fed lands, much land still private, not protected</p>	2
<p>LWCF needs support and funding. Strong local support</p>	2
<p>orienteering needs a detailed map – unique skill set – don't hold on NPS lands because of management changes – would like to create MOU to use fed lands – landowners don't support because they don't understand the low level of impact of the sport</p>	2
<p>no incentive program for “good” development patterns – need to consider incentive program similar to cons. Easements, & like credits for historic preservation or LEED building – hard to get lands for greenways – can we increase tax benefits for greenway easements? - Need to increase \$ for CWMTF – supports local growth.</p>	2
<p>½ of trail complete – mostly in WNC – barrier – no camping allowed for camping on BRP – if allowed for trail, would promote use of the trail.</p>	2
<p>local challenge – communication w/land managers – not sure, inconsistent about what the clubs are allowed to do formalized w/agencies</p>	2
<p>need more agency partnerships – will help us do a better job – access to areas also a challenge (where we can ride)</p>	2

<p>Lawyers & politicians the challenge – must convince them the value of recreation – should be a core mission for local govt – for lawyers, legal challenge regarding liability for private landowners – state/fed legislation to fix this?</p>	2
<p>State pop. to grow – but most growth in a few counties – outdoor rec is a (maybe the) legitimate growth strategy – rural counties need to adopt to grow in the future – also tout health benefits of outdoor recreation</p>	2
<p>Youth Summit held in NH – a Dr. mentioned how the next generation will ID their preferred location – will be looking for life opportunities first, then find a job (a switch from previous generations) – also needs help with liability issues</p>	2
<p>need to look to Europe for outdoor liability models & consistent, integrated signage</p>	2
<p>getting more diversity outside – more minorities need to be drawn outdoors</p>	2
<p>Urban youth not traditionally a part of the outdoor conversation – most opp's are city parks – to change, need to fund urban school programs to offer greater opportunities – didn't have parents that did this, also need to give “safe” access – in the area and getting there – “NPS Outdoor Nation” an example – need to be given the skills to gain confidence</p>	2

<p>Infrastructure Working fund – used to fund project for rec on NC in the past – need to look at current examples like this (CO) – bring opp's closer to urban centers – a shift from extractive mgmt to rec and sustainable management (esp w/FS) – partnerships can help move further in this direction – look at groups working together to find solutions for these – land managers need autonomy to work with local groups – when lost, things get difficult</p>	2
<p>FS trails is appalling – major problems – too many “bad” trails were adopted from other uses – too much pressure put on volunteers to try and maintain and fix bad trails – NF's NC/Pisgah has not provided the management needed to help (their job mostly a firefighter) – poor trail knowledge by FS trail managers – must increase manager's trail education – trails needed to get people on the groups – and to put people there in a sustainable fashion – must reinvest – more emphasis being put on small parks/trails, but major land areas also important – not good knowledge of trail assessments – need to better assess need to take advantage of available resources</p>	2

<p>Incorporated a city in order to protect resources – many grants available, but it's hard to comply with the rules – need to break down barriers and not just base of household income – should “beta test” some innovative projects and programs beyond current ideas – clustered development and use plans, env-based charter schools – green incubators – also to share info on what already being done</p>	3
<p>many local inhabitants have never experienced locally available sports (like rafting) – high-speed internet infrastructure a necessity for growth of rural areas – WNC a great incubator for this (Bryson City, for instance)</p>	3
<p>need a comprehensive national database of local recreation economic impact studies – would help those trying to convince local managers of rec's values – need to make electric grid corridors available for recreation use, where needed for trail connectivity</p>	3
<p>change FS mission to emphasize natural ecosystems (ID this economic value), and other uses subordinate to this, including recreation uses – how to fund? - Make Pisgah RD a National Recreation Area – would increase this economic value, move away from dependence on fire & timber \$</p>	3
<p>May need to limit use of rec areas to protect them – more rec use isn't always better</p>	3

major role - stop frivolous lawsuits brought against agencies on environmental grounds	3
develop a "rec easement" for private landowners that would allow them to provide for public use without worrying about liability issues, and give tax advantages for doing it	3
multi-use greenways should be a priority for funding – to connect resources and people – both in urban and in rural environments – a major federal role to fund these, help w/permitting and design	3
Greenways important – make them a required part of DOT development plans – and make FS trails sustainable	3
great to see agencies working together on this initiative – a good process – to be successful, much be collaborative between fed/state agencies, NGO's and local govt's	3
Confusing to know the rules in each NF unit – "can I have a beer here?" - not communicated well – need to get the info out better for the public	3
In GA, had the saqme problem wittth family services, made a small sub-agency from representative of the larger agencies to help public navigate the bureaucracy	3

<p>NEPA is great, but is a hurdle for trail management – moving the trail often improves the land, but too expensive to do the NEPA to clear the projects – allow more CE's for this work – often keeps trails in bad locations – need to reallocate these human resources – look for good examples abroad – Wales is a great example of management integration between parks & forests – 5% of GNP made up of trail use/tourism and infrastructure – need a tool to show green infrastructure and econ development are inter-related – also tie to the “value” of the health benefits generated – also, how to let trails help cut use of fossil fuels/oil dependency – more walkers, bikers in a community – problems managing trails in Wilderness (not enough sawyers to keep open) – need more flexibility</p>	4
<p>Would like to see volunteer liability coverage extended to cover issues of using youth in trail maintaining</p>	4
<p>Create consistent standards for Wild & Scenic River designated areas – need a designation of “wilderness lite” to allow for a great breadth of human-powered use (like bikes) -could be a permanent congressional designation</p>	4
<p>need more early successional habitat – the needed tool – a chainsaw!</p>	4
<p>NF's can't be all things – one of the few places that can provide old growth – a major resource priority</p>	4

<p>Botanist, works with children and adults, teaches heritage of SE, uses flora, thinks we need to teach names of organisms so that children and adults can connect with nature, all ages could benefit, as young as possible</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Young people need to have correct scientific names, those programs work, learning about environment, partnerships work – particularly science learning centers</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Kids need to learn what things are, and see that there are friends out there, not strangers – virtual fieldtrips are really good and she hopes teachers are using them</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Problem with kids – no money/time/knowledge in schools to take kids to nature area – need to teach kids what they are looking at – doesn't have to be a beautiful forest, could just have weeds in a back lot to get kids connected to nature</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Worked as Youth Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association – those are great programs, better than public education to help kids get into</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>Go Green. Use art (recycled materials, trash) make sculptures, talk about social justice issues, using what is around them to engage them initially – we have programs but need engagement before the kids get involved in such programs – for kids, must start in their backyard – bridge from community to the ‘great outdoors’ – gardens, water quality – circle of life (home to neighborhood to regional to national park)</p>	1
<p>Teacher, need to bridge gap between neighborhood to national park – but need additional volunteers for teachers (from NPS?) – teachers need a helping hand, particularly tweens and teens</p>	1
<p>University of TN Professor. Programs really work, we just need to get them going</p>	1
<p>All inclusiveness needed – Go Green, Getting Back To The Basics are two local programs, they need funding to bring all children to the great outdoors</p>	1
<p>Summer daycamp, amazing how many kids have not been to BRP or any national forests – partnered with Kids in Parks, to expose kids to the great outdoors – gives the kids something to latch onto – identifying trees, plants, bugs, etc.</p>	1

<p>leads outdoor learning expeditions for 5th graders – get kids outside – get kids familiar with outdoor equipment (compass, etc.) – become more familiar with learning in the outdoors – 23% increase in EOG test scores, better school attendance, better physical fitness – fosters confidence in children</p>	1
<p>Lived and worked in camps for 26 years – camps are becoming more suburbanized, but close to large populations of students – provide outdoor environmental education programs in a residential center – teach kids an appreciation and love for outdoors – Good to have national parks near urban areas to get kids outside – 14,000 kids per year go through the program</p>	1
<p>Volunteerism important – should be taught and learned – some school systems require seniors to have a portfolio that includes so many hours of volunteerism – should be taught in the classroom at an early age (any type of volunteerism) – people are going to have to step up to put ‘sweat equity’</p>	1
<p>Law and regulations work well – agencies should not bend to industry – need to resolve “Roadless Area” rules</p>	1

<p>Originally from educational arena, but in corporate area. We sit all day in school, and we continue to sit all day in the corporate world. How do we train teachers? Changing the school system to an extrinsic system to an intrinsic system is important – being outdoors will put the soul back in education.</p>	1
<p>Senior Citizen, went along with Muddy Sneakers one day. The teacher and the naturalist sat down before hand, and the teacher taught from this after the excursion. Funding is a problem – most is funded by donors, school system funds some of the bus expenses. Open to every kid in the public school system in the fifth grade in these counties. Funding would mean that every fifth grader would be able to get out.</p>	2
<p>Teacher for many years. Best things she ever did was getting kids out of the classroom. Too much funding associated with teaching to the test to allow teachers more flexibility to get kids outdoors and in “Muddy Sneakers”, e.g.</p>	2
<p>Authentic, inquiry based learning should be brought back.</p>	2
<p>Form partnerships between public and private groups to help with funding.</p>	2

<p>Some programs work really well, depending on the budget. Exposing kids to natural <u>and</u> cultural resources. Use art, poetry, etc. to engage young people. NPS site stories should be relevant to today's life – creating 'schema' in interpretation. More about the 'people' than about strategy.</p>	2
<p>Private working forests – millions of acres of timberland harvested heavily – ecosystem service (pulpwood) is undervalued relative to carbon value – government needs to move on carbon, set fair and reasonable price on carbon. Need to make sure that policies are based on current and future priorities as opposed to past legacies.</p>	2
<p>Fees may be an issue, particular to lower income families. May reduce or provide free passes to NPS lands (maybe at the bottom of tax forms, if income below a certain amount, check a box if you would like a free pass for the upcoming year)</p>	2
<p>Gang activity is due, in part, to lack of recreational activities. People are afraid to go to public housing because of the 'label' or stereotype. Connections that older people had with the land aren't there now.</p>	2
<p>African Americans do not want to go "in the woods" because of the history of how they were treated in the past. Have to make things relevant.</p>	2

<p>Cultural resources (landscapes shaped by human activities). There are still historic features in the woods that no one knows are there, battlefields, etc. Nonprofits cannot do everything on their own. Recognition is important – if NPS would recognize the contributions of the nonprofits. Funding is also important (land acquisition) for less glamorous sites.</p>	2
<p>Danger of creating islands where we conserve our resources, and we don't connect those islands to the lands in which we live. Always be fighting the battle of exotics that are problematic. Funding (particularly from states) is perilous. Federal government could help with higher level funding (cooperative extension). Connecting funding sources to national/state parks would be great.</p>	2
<p>Youth Learning Institute (Clemson) claim to impact 100,000 youth each year. Lots of organizations working with youth. Opportunity – get some of these groups sitting around the same table, one organization may have fundraising arm, and another has the curriculum – mega opportunity. Reduce duplication, and don't worry about who gets credit as long as common goals are met.</p>	2

<p>One of the reasons these wonderful programs are being developed is because existing programs aren't very good. Programs being developed outside of schools are better than ones "officially" part of the curriculum. They should be the ones in the schools, and throw out the existing programs.</p>	2
<p>See exhausted and frustrated teachers. Not just taking kids out, but also training the teachers how to do the program (Muddy Sneakers)</p>	2
<p>Need to revamp how we conduct education in this country – maybe have pilot school – try</p>	2
<p>Biggest Challenge To Youth and the Outdoors – reconnecting people to the outdoors: "Getting Kids from Inside the Schools" – maybe only get outdoors once per day. Moving kids from inside school – have more outdoor activities as part of the school day.</p>	2
<p>Transportation. Need good public transportation system. Need to look long-term as to how we move goods and services, and how to get urban population to outdoor settings. Long term transportation plan that takes into account our economic and recreational needs.</p>	3
<p>White water paddling on the Chatuga River is not allowed on the upper portions. Lots of money is being spent to fight this. Waste. Battle could be simply solved – only river managed by FS like this in the forest. River managed to the needs of fisherman as opposed.</p>	3

Train transit needs to be expanded	3
Needs to be areas set aside for children to play and 'disturb' the land. Perhaps a role for FS.	3
Pilot school funded by government!	3
Accountability. Are funded programs including the underrepresented population? That is key. Rate or grade the programs.	3
Manage to "protect" the natural resources. Federal government needs to stand behind conservation and laws as opposed to bending to the will of business/corporation.	3
Federal government should make parks more accessible.	3
Local governments give tax incentives for development, federal government should provide incentives for 'green space' in developments.	3
Great Smoky Mountains National Park needs to charge a fee, and the majority of the fee should stay in the park.	3
As Muddy Sneakers evolves, children may be charged a fee because of funding concerns. Can the federal government (Forest Service) waive the usage fee if they start charging a fee?	3
Most of the Pisgah forest is used for education, hiking, fishing, recreation. Is there any value in designating forest or portion of the forest as recreational area?	3
Emerging forest management certification programs – need to be audited for truth and accuracy	4

<p>It is very important to teach outdoor survival skills to kids and young adults. DHS, FEMA – education, conservation, and preservation is all the same. Resilience. Every Child Outdoor (ECO) Center. Sustaining health of children, sustaining the health of nature – need to tie these things together.</p>	4
<p>RiverLink/Southside Community in Asheville – WC Reid – GO Green – comfortable environment – but the building is about to be demolished. This building needs to be saved, used as a place to educate children, and used as a tool for the community (“Urban Renewal” versus keeping historically black neighborhoods intact)</p>	4
<p>Need to keep communities together</p>	4
<p>Older African Americans are angry because they’ve been pushed out of the community of Asheville in the name of “urban renewal”. Create a ‘mixed community’, but there is a lot of anger.</p>	4
<p>Facebook and other social networking sites. Parks and Forests need to get in the 21st Century – Facebook, Twitter. Social networking. How do we stay connected after this listening session?</p>	4
<p>Big cost for a lot of nonprofits is litigation and responsibility (insurance). How to reduce this cost.</p>	4

<p>Team River Runner – disabled veterans. Suffering from too much success. Very integrated – African Americans very interested. Great program – doesn’t cost much – Warren Wilson College is donating pool, staff, and training. VA Hospital</p>	4
<p>Schools are really the key to get kids outdoors. More funding needed for field trips to get kids outdoors.</p>	4
<p>Trails to Every Classroom – managed by Appalachian Trail Office. Trains teachers to take kids out to Appalachian Trail Communities – trains teachers to use the resources they have nearby. Great program</p>	4
<p>Ethno-botanist. Developing lesson plans.</p>	4
<p>Young people see role models in National Park Service employees. Mentoring is important. Young people emulate parents and other adults.</p>	4
<p>Federal government senior positions – many are eligible for retirement. Losing institutional knowledge.</p>	4
<p>Youth Conservation Corps is great. Huge impact on kids lives.</p>	4
<p>YMI Cultural Center in Asheville is centrally located, good resources for African American community.</p>	4
<p>We’ve gotten a lot better as a result of Clean Water Act. Lack of willpower to continue pollution regulations. Water is our most important recreation resource. And they need to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act</p>	1

<p>National Parks, State park infrastructure provide great opportunities to get out. Need to keep that infrastructure and keep it well funded. Need to maintain these.</p>	1
<p>The partnership between ATC and volunteers works. It is a good model for volunteer activities. Provides a good interaction with federal agencies.</p>	1
<p>Volunteer equestrians that work with Forest Service and State Parks. Appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the parks and forest as a volunteer. Volunteer groups have been very effective at keeping trail</p>	1
<p>Important to acknowledge volunteer groups. Don't lose sight of the fact that working with volunteers also requires stewardship programs to and funding to organize volunteers.</p>	1
<p>Agency has had a positive move towards ecosystem management. Bringing prescribed fire to the landscape (through Wyden amendment- providing ability to manage across public/private lands.</p>	1
<p>Muddy Sneaker program that works to the future. Instilling values into children. Contract with NC elementary schools, 14 instructors, to bring children into the woods to teach school lessons. Incorporate the environment into their lessons. It works.</p>	1

<p>Work with families with young children (birth to 5 yrs). Advocate the concept of previous comment down to children even younger (3 years old). Work with early childcare community to get teachers trained.</p>	1
<p>Provision of services should be local. Facilities need to be provided locally. Need to make things happen where they are accessible to the people. In this economic environment we have the opportunity to buy land</p>	1
<p>Focus on how to involve youth from urban lands. Need to repeat messages to children. Youth programs work but they need to be repeated through time, from a very young age until their through high school.</p>	1
<p>Reaching 8th graders is too late. Need to get to kids at an earlier age.</p>	1
<p>Successes of land aquisition at a larger scale. Rocky Fork tract- Demonstrates what can be accomplished when you have collaborative working groups. Make connection back to communities between quality of life and large public lands access.</p>	1
<p>Land acquisition is key. Getting community partners involved that recognize the value of having ATC in the community. Mutual benefit of putting relatively obscure communities in the visibility of recreationists.</p>	1

<p>Good people working for the federal gov't. The time that gov't employees contribute to educational events. The importance of having gov't employees having permanence in a local area.</p>	1
<p>It works when people stay local. Biomimicry. Keeping things grassroots and be able to share ideas locally.</p>	1
<p>Transition towards getting people on the ground. Also good to see new faces in the agencies that are bringing forward new ideas.</p>	1
<p>Partnerships work. They work when host agency 'isn't afraid of you' . If a partner group is empowered, better results.</p>	1
<p>Encouraged that administration has decided to include bicycles and sidewalks in transportation planning. Encouraged that administration has focused on cross collaboration between departments. River redevelopment project – ex. River District Project.</p>	1
<p>Cooperation is key. Federal government has the opportunity to encourage collaboration and cooperation with other agencies and private sector. Sustainable communities is a great idea that puts multiple objectives into one basket.</p>	1
<p>Great to have multiple groups working together to actively engage on a local level. Sustainable community initiative needs traction with moving forward.</p>	1

Federal Historic preservation fund works in funneling funds to a local level to preserve historic places.	1
Oftentimes federal and local governments are tasked more with enforcing laws and regulations.	2
A lot of federal land is tied to certain uses (range, farming) and recreation is not an integral part of those land uses. Growing conflict between recreation and other land uses.	2
Most city facilities don't really operate sufficiently (don't have the money and budget). We've grown up in a culture where public facilities should be free to us. There is a balance between the value of activities and the costs to the public.	2
County, state, and national parks are available often for free.	2
The city is challenged because of funding insufficiencies. Public spaces not getting enough money to maintain and enhance. How do we use private dollars to help with these funding inadequacies.	2
Intrinsic conflict between urban and rural population regarding taxes and funding for public lands.	2
Most land is in private land ownership. Need to create an ethic and mindset that there is a value to having more than developments and golf courses on private lands. And secondly provide the funding for protecting private lands.	2

<p>The Rocky Fork tract still has not been fully funded. Critical to get adequate funding. Need to engage communities with regards to land planning/ green spaces in an ecological context which goes beyond biologists and conservationists to the general public. Need to have funding to explore those processes in a collaborative approach.</p>	2
<p>Lack of funding to take care of the lands we have. See that with the EPA, statewide only 7 people to do erosion control. Things fall through the cracks when you don't have capacity.</p>	2
<p>Transfer of Development Rights. TDR program ran into 2 issues – no funding to buy development rights, don't have any demand for development rights currently. Need to develop a source of revenue to buy development rights.</p>	2
<p>Disconnect between where the funding is needed and</p>	3
<p>Challenge we're faced with - food security in the face of global climate change. Federal gov't needs to coordinate how we are going to change how we produce food in the face of this climate change. 15-20 we may see real food shortage problems.</p>	3
<p>Not enough support in the right areas – schools, camps, educating the youth.</p>	3
<p>Unfortunate that some public schools only get small opportunities to engage in outdoor education.</p>	3

<p>A challenge in education is that we haven't reached the educational policy makers. There is a fear that kids won't meet appropriate mandated national education standards.</p>	3
<p>There is a challenge in reaching the staff – educating the teachers.</p>	3
<p>There isn't clear alternative energy development. Need clarity regarding energy policy development. Speaking to example of tradeoffs between preserving viewsheds and supporting alternative energy – windpower.</p>	3
<p>Challenge of how do we wrestle with the roles of government? Gov' t should set a tone for conservation and recreation.</p>	3
<p>Funding. Upgrading and maintaining our parks.</p>	3
<p>Facilities that are historic and cultural resources.</p>	3
<p>A new CCC.</p>	3
<p>Rivers Trail Conservation Assistance Program is less than 1% of park's budget. Need more of an effort and support for this program.</p>	3
<p>Greenway development. Referred to British government as a model for preserving green spaces.</p>	3
<p>Old SCS (NRCS) is an excellent example for ecosystem protection. Need a regional look within the federal perspective to align investments. Focusing cost share money where it can make a difference. Ultimately the private land needs a stronger focus.</p>	3

<p>Only major country where climate change skepticism is still a majority. We have a lot to overcome regarding climate change. Need strong public support from the federal gov't. Fed. Gov't has an obligation to educate the public regarding the validity and consequences of climate change. Would like to see more public education.</p>	3
<p>Issue of fear of engaging in nature.</p>	3
<p>Federal agency emphasis on consequences of climate change.</p>	3
<p>Advocacy is not generally seen as part of a federal employee's job. It is difficult for public agencies to be advocates.</p>	3
<p>Need more emphasis on how to use MOUs and volunteer groups. In the face of climate change and invasive species, it will require a bigger base of federal employees.</p>	3
<p>Agencies who want partners are not the ones who are writing regulations. Too much red tape just to do anything on forests service land. Need to streamline means to work with partnerships.</p>	3
<p>A physical space/hub that people (private and public) can exchange ideas and funding.</p>	4
<p>Grant for Community Sustainable Forest (similar to Comm. Sus. Agriculture).</p>	4
<p>Strongest resource is us – the public, individuals. Keep projects local and manageable but big enough to get gov't recognition for funding.</p>	4

<p>Repetition of messages over time. Repetition of messages. A concerted effort akin to Smokey Bear that brings a message to the public.</p>	4
<p>Role of gov't is to educate and empower people to do the right thing. Local gov'ts getting to determine where funding goes.</p>	4
<p>Opportunity with Eastern Band of Cherokee to fund a sustainable forest.</p>	4
<p>Better labeling on food needs to occur. Need to crack down on big agriculture and focus on small farms. Federal gov't should be a better educator regarding food labels.</p>	4
<p>Preservation, protection of honeybees.</p>	4
<p>Give people the opportunity to improve their local communities. Investment of federal dollars in local communities. Stateside LWCF</p>	4

<p>One of the programs that works is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy/AT Office Trail to every classroom project. Focused on providing workshops to teachers that are in school systems along the AT. Teach approximately 40 teachers per year at several different workshops. Also develop curriculum related to Trail and outdoors/public lands. Play-spaced education (teach students about their local area/environment) and service-learning based (engage students in project of sorts). Bringing teachers together with local "resource" people, so that teachers get to know the local resources that they can use.</p>	1
<p>Summer college program where students work on science-based projects. Connect students with local resource specialists/managers. Provides students with the opportunity to see that career and also have that experience in the outdoors. Provide young people with the opportunity. Training outdoor educators is also an important component. Summer camps have been one successful component.</p>	1

<p>Feels that public education is best vehicle for delivering outdoor education/environmental education. Muddy Sneakers program is good example of one such program. This program emphasizes trying to bring the “summer camp” experience to public school students. Took goals and objectives from mandatory NC school standards that can be taught/learned in outdoor setting. Then took children outdoors and taught these standards in this outdoor setting. That school’s testing/standards improved by 23%. Successful program led to implementation of similar programs and “believers” in other parts of the school district.</p>	1
<p>Treemont at GSMNP. Views programs as partnership with the schools. The Treemont staff does part of the teaching but also have teachers do part of the teaching. Helping teachers learn these skills while working with Treemont staff. Also do summer camp experiences for students. Have students do research projects while there and then present their projects. Found that this experience enhances their school work and exposes them to career opportunities.</p>	1
<p>Forest is better place to learn science than classroom. Get kids into nature, you don’t need capital investment to do this.</p>	1
<p>State office has inventoried/identified all the environmental education centers in the state. State level sees all these programs, but does not see the support for the programming and staff at all of these centers. Also wants to see this curriculum integrated into multiple disciplines, not just into a single course (eg. not just into a science course).</p>	1

<p>Warren Wilson College is a good reference for a college that has integrated environmental edu</p>	1
<p>Conservation Trust for NC. Project that tries to make land conservation movement in the state reach more diverse audience, be more inclusive. Realize that the demographics are changing and that Hispanic/Latino population will be the majority—working to reach this segment of our population. Doing trainings w/ land trusts across the state on diversity importance, also working with affordable housing groups, local food groups, healthcare providers, etc. Want land trusts to realize that they need more partners to assist and more diverse partners. Bring in diverse students for summer internships etc. Also doing community gardens in urban areas. Conservation-based affordable housing-land trusts protect open space and then partnering with affordable housing groups to build high quality affordable housing in that area. All these efforts are to reach a diverse audience. Feels that this project/initiative is working well.</p>	1
<p>Children’s bicycling programs work to get kids to enjoy outdoors and is an activity that they already have a knowledge of. Children’s bicycling also working to reach children that are diverse. Have found these students have been a natural constituent. Just transitioning these children from urban setting to more natural setting for their bike rides.</p>	1
<p>Wanted to know how involved the Department of Education is with this effort. One of the challenges is the state standards of learning/education standards/teaching to the test. Teachers are too afraid to break from the testing curriculum and take the kids outdoors.</p>	2

<p>The impact of the current drive for “national education” standards is challenge. The standards are not the problem, but the TEST is the problem. The test is the measure of success/gateway to next level and that is why teachers are teaching to the test. Pressure in education is not to innovate, but is all conventionally structured. Test drives educators with no tools to do only that which they know—conventional teaching methods. School administration is also a challenge—not willing to take risks.</p>	2
<p>Teacher. Many teachers out there who have an understanding/knowledge of the outdoors. As long as we define school success as a test or standards, everything else will be lost. Teachers and administrators are forced to give up physical education, field trips, recess, music, etc. so that they can demonstrate that they are using all of their time teaching test components. Problem is that the only system of accountability is the test.</p>	2
<p>FDA comment period open for 2010 dietary guidelines. They are proposing that we reinstitute recess, physical education, home economics into curriculum. We need to get these things back into curriculum for number of reasons including childhood obesity.</p>	2
<p>Teachers have not done a good job of documenting our successes or showing the impacts that our programs are having on children. Depth of experience may be more important than how many million kids we reach.</p>	2

<p>Working on a number of programs for Fontana Foundation. Working to secure private funding—challenge. Also, helps with Stecoah Valley Center—historic and cultural resource. Obstacles are trying to raise finances to implement programs. They have the knowledge, but funding limits opportunities.</p>	2
<p>Challenge of wanting adults to work with youth and the liability concerns that they have. Reliance on volunteers further exacerbates these concerns. Volunteer in Park, Volunteer in Forest program (workman’s comp program in GSMNP) to see how we can cover child abuse/injury type liability issues.</p>	2
<p>Liability is a big concern.</p>	2
<p>Contracting with federal agencies and the agencies difficulties in bringing on SCA interns is an issue. Bring youth as a capacity building function—have the youth bring new technologies and innovation to the federal agencies. Another issue is to get more training for youth leaders and also recruiting agency staff that want to be youth leaders.</p>	2
<p>Intern. The people that are running the parks are “old”. Need to remember that to connect with younger people and to recruit younger people, you need to think like them and probably need younger agency people involved. Need to have young people at the table to be a part of the solution.</p>	2

<p>Technology and how to get young people away from this technology is a problem. Technology is probably a positive and a challenge. Understanding technology and how to best use it is important. Solitude idea is also important.</p>	2
<p>We're not going to win the "leave your cell phone at home" battle. We need to better understand technology and use it.</p>	2
<p>Need to broaden the measures of success for land trusts. Should not just be measuring acres preserved, but community impact. Much broader measures of success.</p>	2
<p>Need to evaluate how many times young people make use independently of the great outdoors. This could be a measure of success. Challenge/obstacle is how young people are able to access the great outdoors, public transportation would be a part of this.</p>	2
<p>Obstacle is how to reach parents of young children. How do we get the parents outdoors.</p>	2
<p>Parents today are overly concerned about safety. How do we lessen the fears of the parents so that they'll take them outside?</p>	2
<p>Local foods initiative by Michelle Obama recognizes that parents are audience we should be targeting. We should follow this model.</p>	2
<p>Importance of partnering with health providers to spread our message and to potentially counter-act the safety/parent issue.</p>	2

<p>Getting kids and families back into the outdoors. NPS could teach families how to use their time at parks. Supply recreational opportunities (eg. rent kayaks, bikes). Need system of teaching unfamiliar outdoor families how to connect with outdoors.</p>	3
<p>Making the recreation opportunities that parks/forest provide accessible and known to the public. Need to do more publicity/marketing of these opportunities.</p>	3
<p>Publicity for National Trails Day is very good. They use website to make all the opportunities known. Can the federal government create website where trails groups and other organizations can upload information about recreational events/opportunities for the public. Would be one-stop shop for finding rec. opportunities. American Hiking Society's National Trail Day website. Make it easier to find opportunities.</p>	3
<p>Look at signage in parks/forests. Many people unfamiliar with outdoors are scared by signage in parks warning of hazards. Signage should be encouraging, not discouraging visitors.</p>	3

<p>Support the No Child Left Inside and Elementary and Secondary Education Act --would encourage supplemental education for teachers. EPA puts out environmental education grants for states each year and this funding is very limited—need to provide more funding and more grant opportunities. Also, create funds/grants for connecting people to the outdoors. Lack of funding needs to be improved and provide incentives for teachers to get additional training.</p>	3
<p>Need way of funding the programs that can demonstrate that they have made a difference.</p>	3
<p>Need government to provide incentives to businesses to play more active role in these programs or to fund these programs. Eg. Provide incentives to businesses to support outdoor/environmental programs.</p>	3
<p>Federal partners need to bring partners in as part of the “family”. Organizations do not want to be controlled by grant requirements, reporting requirements etc. Simplify grant process.</p>	3
<p>Need national level backing for this initiative. Need Department of Education involved as well as other agencies—not just DOI, USDA.</p>	3
<p>Sustainability across administrations—how do we keep this moving with administration change.</p>	3
<p>This listening session is an example of good governance—to come and ask for public’s input and use a bottom-up approach versus a top-down approach.</p>	3

<p>Need to understand and go to where there is greatest need. This is inner cities and isolated rural areas. Currently, many of the programs/organizations working on these issues are concentrated and we're missing areas.</p>	4
<p>Safe Routes to School is successful legislation. Maybe this could be amended to Safe Routes to Schools and Parks. Access to national parks and local parks, not just schools.</p>	4
<p>All have been energized by Louv's Last Child in the Woods. Can the government help us with collecting data and convince school districts with this data. Inventorying the programs that work.</p>	4
<p>Administration should take advantage of the economic downturn and publicize how inexpensive use of public lands can be. Show that money is not a barrier to camping in or visiting public lands.</p>	4
<p>Government should be willing partner on these programs. Need to decrease the amount of red tape involved in partnering with federal agency.</p>	4
<p>NPS good at interpretation. FS is good at managing forests. BLM has different focus. Would we be able to reorganize agencies/public centers to have the people who are good at one thing be in charge of that aspect.</p>	4
<p>Mass transit systems that connect people with national parks, forests and open spaces. Need to put mass transit into the equation for connecting people to the outdoors.</p>	4

<p>Creating better pathways for young people to get jobs. Also providing opportunities for diverse young people.</p>	4
<p>The positions that are cut first are the positions that are seen as supplemental...environmental specialists, sustainability specialists. State and federal levels need to tout the programs that are working.</p>	4
<p>The National Geographic Magazine, exposure at a young age from many sources, makes the connection for your lifetime.</p>	1
<p>Availability and accessibility of opportunities. Transportation means, the closer we can get opportunities to people, especially children, the more likely people will take advantage.</p>	1
<p>Costs to maintaining parks so there is a cost to visiting areas. Free or low costs make areas accessible.</p>	1
<p>Accessibility is what keeps us out of doors every day. Sustainable environments</p>	1
<p>Environmental Education also is an effective strategy.</p>	1
<p>Fully fund the land and water conservation fund. Funds help to establish parks and trail, provides protection, benefit on private lands such as green ways. Annexation not allowed without putting in a new park. Parks and walking trails, nature trails, within walking distance from homes and easily accessible to everyone.</p>	1

<p>Start a group called “Friends of Nature”. Parks with natural landscape, trails in the woods, picnic shelters. Promoted with schools and teacher. The Parks and Recreation Dept does nature camps. This gives access to small children through adults.</p>	1
<p>Develop public and private partnerships with local governments which facilitate land easements, construction of parks. Getting the children involved – environmental education and site visits to colonial sites, etc. Virginia creeper trail is an old rail trail – hiking, biking.</p>	1
<p>National Parks and National Forests work. Public lands are an hundred year experiment. Did it work – yes it does. We are making final choices and we need to think comprehensively.</p>	1
<p>Easements really do work. Purchasing a wetland to use it as a central feature and the subdivision will face the wetland. The wetland will be used as a teaching area for the elementary schools.</p>	1
<p>Another use of easement is to purchase easement from a tobacco farmer.</p>	1
<p>Local works. Easements and trails, local governments, local land owners have a high degree of trust with the local community.</p>	1

<p>Using an historic preservation fund to purchase land and sites works. Developing historic preservation easements. The State Historic Preservation Office receives funding which is used for these easements.</p>	1
<p>Passport in time with the Forest Service give citizens an opportunity to work on an archeological project.</p>	1
<p>Transportation enhancement grant. T-21 funds</p>	1
<p>Surveys of historic properties to help the public make informed decisions on development. Historic surveys are used to work with developers, lobby elected officials, to produce what the community wants to see.</p>	1
<p>Public school children – teaching children outdoors. This a program called “muddy sneakers”. Classroom work is conducted outside. Course topics such as math, social science, geography, etc. Very good feedback from the students and teachers. Program is not funded by the state generally. Funding comes from donations, foundations, etc. School system pays for the transportation.</p>	1
<p>Working with communities to plan a trail and other development. Develop partnerships to generate funds, etc. Rivers Trails CommunityAssistance helped with these efforts.</p>	1
<p>Natural Register of Historical Places is part of the National Park Service as well.</p>	1

In the 1920's, several sites were at risk. Governor Byrd contacted private citizens to build the Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway.	1
Friends of National Parks organizations are very effective in engaging the community in the Parks . They are active in community outreach and education, park clean up, and engaging young people. The Gettysburg model.	1
Loretta C. Woods Park in honor of Lorretta Woods. One million dollar park in Greenville. One person's influence with local politicians, etc.	1
How come things are getting worse – kids obesity, kids spending less time outdoors. Technology is contributing to this.	2
The funding is getting cut. Federal Funds, state funds, etc. This contributes to a maintenance backlog. Visitors don't have access.	2
Majority of the wildlands in this country are owned by private individuals. Owners are challenged by the high rate of taxing. Creative tax incentives would facilitate not subdividing parcels.	2
Programs established but never funded. Private donations often make up the deficit, but not always. Cherokee Nation forestry program never funded.	2
Generational skipping	2

<p>Many sources of funding are confusing. Most people don't know about the various sources of funding, especially with state funding. The challenge is to know what funding is really available and that it is used most effectively. Potential for funding is lost in administrative and government processes.</p>	2
<p>Connecting to people. "The Last Child in the Woods" really opened the much broader topic of relevance. Relating to this is important. For people who don't have any basis to develop the relevance, what is needed is a process to introduce the opportunities to engage. An example of this is the Park Service Science Centers. Experience of children in these centers are then brought back to the school systems.</p>	2
<p>Physical connectivity with the land. Parks were created based on the land that was available, and maybe not the best locations for the parks. Connectivity of all of our public lands and how they work together to preserve and conserve our environment.</p>	2
<p>Diversity of forest visitors and park visitors. Different races are not comfortable in the woods and enjoying the outdoors. Socioeconomic studies and need different strategies.</p>	2
<p>Funding is shrinking and not available. Funding needs to be more flexible for conservation and other easements.</p>	2

<p>In certain communities there has to be a lot of trust and communication. So you don't lose land to their disputes by the petition sale. The land is gone, developed, and the family members get no compensation.</p>	2
<p>We need a national priority for collaborative restoration of our public lands. Look at the species that we have lost – such as the American Chestnut trees. The urban and forest interface ordinances. Fire prone zone – you need a metal roof, safe zone.</p>	2
<p>Keep our waters clean. Protect the headwaters of our stream</p>	2
<p>Financial challenges when people have easements on properties, there is a tax benefits for those. The IRS does not want to honor those deductions. Work with the IRS for resolution of this issue.</p>	2
<p>Private funding is also down. The public and private partnerships are not there as in the past. A lot of public mistrust that develops when public land is used to generate public funding – ie mining, forest harvesting.</p>	2
<p>Economic impact of public lands and places where people can recreate. The long-term is that these places pay for themselves. In the short-term, the most immediate are addressed – housing, food, etc.</p>	2
<p>The cost benefit of public lands is not communicated well to the general public.</p>	2

Having a region embrace, as a core value of connection to the land and wellness. Implementation of this value by employers, school systems, health care systems.	2
Technology, the internet, facebook, etc. is a challenge. Get people to take their iPhones in the woods or whatever so that they can connect to living outdoors.	2
We have to start looking at the internet as a tool and be connected with the land.	2
Asheville facebook outdoor meet-up group for hiking. These young people are meeting on facebook and arranging a hike.	2
What about the scouting organizations? If it works, then we need it. The problem is not leadership.	2
In many ways, technology has connected with the great outdoors –for example earth caching or geo-caching.	2
Church groups were a wonderful opportunity for camping, outside activities.	2
Access to information is a really big challenge. Free information is often not well organized.	2
Virtual science museum would benefit from technology.	2

<p>Federal Government Role that is a real challenge. Big South Fork River and National Recreation Area. Five federal agencies with involvement with this watershed and four state agencies with involvement in this watershed. The federal agencies do not have a basis for interacting with each other. Interagency cooperation is a big issue. Agencies need to be directed, from the office of the president, to manage their resources so that no action taken would not prevent another agency from reaching their mission.</p>	2
<p>Leadership in scouting is missing. Mentors are needed.</p>	2
<p>Social media and technology – challenge to see those as tools for communicating and encouraging participation outdoors.</p>	2
<p>Executive order 13514 to mandate collaboration among agencies. Often tools and orders are not understood and thus are not used.</p>	2
<p>Facilitative role taken to ensure that executive order are followed, collaboration happens and the government is effective.</p>	3
<p>Biggest federal government role often is knowing all resources available.</p>	3
<p>Is there a way that agencies or the office of the President can provide more follow-up on the following of the executive orders. More collaboration and thus more commitments.</p>	3
<p>Toolbox of resources and ways to follow the executive orders.</p>	3
<p>Showcase the solutions of competing and conflicting agencies.</p>	3

Servant leadership. What are the values that have been embraced and how can the government serve the people.	3
Proper zoning is to help protect the lands and set up parameters for development, etc. Zoning is a tool for protection	3
Looking for ways that the government can be a little flexible. Have rewards and incentives to have more flexibility.	3
Leadership. Assuming this process produces a report and eliminates some issues. Reports are on the shelf and we have a dysfunctional congress. Unless there is leadership and a public support, the report will just sit on the shelf. We, as an American public, will have to generate great support for the change to come about. There needs to be real leadership across the administration has to make this into a campaign not just a report.	3
Test the government to see if we can solve twenty complex problems.	3
Mission that we can sign on to and implement.	3
One role that the federal role can fulfill is coordinating state initiatives. One example of this is an initiative is to place the Appalachian Trail on the federal registry of historic places.	3
Funds allocated to the agencies for specific work is not used as intended.	3
Preserving federal tax incentives for private citizens.	3

<p>Tax incentives, Executive orders, Virtual science museum, technology as a tool, Scouting as a tool, Information as a tool. Science Centers as a tool.</p>	4
<p>Rewriting what is available into language that is readable. Make it make sense.</p>	4
<p>Rehabilitation tax credits.</p>	4
<p>A strong conservation education program in every federal agency.</p>	4
<p>Finds programs for youth is rewarding, especially the Junior Ranger Program. Also gets the parents involved. Mobilizing volunteers gives people a sense of ownership and increases public involvement. Need increased personnel for interpretive work and maintenance. Get people out in the field and participating in the work. Urge NPS attention to support groups.</p>	1
<p>Hearing from the population what doesn't work for them. Segmented areas need education programs to have access to safe environment, i.e. ASAP.</p>	1

<p>Best ways to connect to the outdoors is through school programs. Inclined families already participate. Families without, especially under resources, minorities, and not inclined families have hard time making conversion. School programs introduce the resources, which trickles to the families. Problem – environmental education is always marginalized as an add-on to the curriculum. Need prioritization of environmental education on par with other subjects. Single best thing is to put weight of Presidents Support is “No Child Left Inside” Support must come from Top Down.</p>	1
<p>Youth programs in sportsman area – areas of interest to youth. Clubs such as 4H and FFA are excellent, but could be moved to include city areas. However, Rangers need additional training to know the law inside and out.</p>	1
<p>Juvenile restitution programs are helpful. This creates young ones working supervised, in areas to clean up. This is an opportunity, sometimes the only one that they have to get outdoors. One example is community gardens. Scout programs. Many places exclude animals, however many people get outdoors when they walk their dogs.</p>	1
<p>Friends groups assist in raising funds. Teacher-Ranger-Teacher – they take the knowledge back to the classrooms.</p>	1

<p>Blue Ridge National Heritage area. Work with counties on specific projects to assist in continuation of what attract visitors and increase quality of life. Partnerships to provide education activities. Support conservation groups to protect land and scenic views. Visitors and locals say that scenic views are instrumental – should be careful not to alter those views by over development.</p>	1
<p>Increase trail crews - they work in partnership to maintain and establish trails; very helpful when park personnel is lacking. Also a chance for people to contribute to their community. Incorporating the university to accommodate students to come to integrate instructors to share with interested students with 4H. (inter-city kids). Utilize park service camp facilities. Website is www.thesca.org . Click Serve (upper left), select Conservation Corps and select the crew for more information, i.e. PISGAH Crew.</p>	1
<p>Opportunities lacking for children, especially “city-slickers” and younger generations - needs to go through and be supported by the Community Centers. Centers need to take a step further and go door to door and develop methods of different outreaches that are effective. Sale the idea of outdoors and the ideas of conservation and preservation. Mix technology with the ideas behind America’s Great Outdoors.</p>	1

<p>Run extended trips (academic endeavors) for college and university age students. For example, river trips create chance to get out and study river conservation while receiving literature credits. Extended experiences have a large effect - Challenge is access issues. Waterways rarely have places to spend the night. Must pull the organizations, state, local and national parks together to create public access and camping locations.</p>	1
<p>Privately funded groups (i.e. Yes Camp) tour parks and recreational areas and enjoy it, while getting outdoors. Kids in the Creek – 8th grades get put in the creek to catch bugs and fish, taught ecology and get exposed to elements. This may be their one chance to experience the outdoors.</p>	1
<p>Less land to access within easy distance and. Discourage use of waterways due to pollution problems and overpopulation.</p>	2
<p>Lack of appreciation and feeling of inclusion and being part of community. Different lifestyles need different methods of awareness and some need assistance with funding.</p>	2
<p>Lot of federal areas restricted due to threatened/endangered species. Need education before we send them outdoors – perhaps areas wouldn't be as restricted.</p>	2
<p>More staffing to enforce protected areas and increased surveillance.</p>	2

<p>There are tons of interest groups, yet they don't always have opportunities to interact among each other. Perhaps a role for DOI/ DOA to assist in getting groups together and create awareness among groups to increase teamwork and unite ideas/funding/staff, etc. Creates an efficient use of talent.</p>	2
<p>Online resources for groups to interact, i.e. Wiki.</p>	2
<p>Planning logistics of outdoor trips is time consuming and needs expertise. Classroom teachers don't always have the resources needed. What is needed is a position, Environmental Education Coordinator in the schools who has the job skills and desire. Even during depression we created National Parks; therefore, <u>earmark funds</u> for these activities.</p>	2
<p><u>Physical Education!</u> Education as a priority is minimized. Don't hold elected officials (county, state and federal levels) to the mark in order to fund education. Education is the root of the challenges we have discussed.</p>	2
<p>Quality of life issues and funding. Would like to see dedicated, full and equal funding for state side funding. Specific request for NC Parks and Recreation (Hickory) that Land and Conservation fund be fully funded and that state side would be equal to the federal funding.</p>	2

<p>Talking to people's pocket books can create initial interest and can create personal interest. Discuss jobs and duties outdoors. See outdoors in different light - Personal funding – can encourage to see the great outdoors is a positive thing – connect to jobs training, agricultural things. Inter - city areas</p>	2
<p>Level of funding not keeping up with the changing needs of the NPS and other organizations. Should make sure we are applying for federal grants – however those fundings are being cut as well. Current federal budget suggesting that these areas need to be cut. We can't get ahead either way we look.</p>	2
<p>Conflicts among different federal and state programs. Those groups/agencies need to come together – prioritize and plan together.</p>	2
<p>Consider methods to engage all demographics, not just programs for students.</p>	2
<p>PSA's play huge role. Positive input is needed! Engage television audiences.</p>	2
<p>Need to assist small, individual farms in competing with the big players. Until the government stops subsidizing food and have experts look at farm bill and not lump all growers together. Let consumers choose local food over mass produced food. Make connection with the outdoors and local farms. This also creates jobs and labor and better foods.</p>	2

make sure the money gets where it needs to!	3
Grant funding is a huge negative – it sustains a project for a small time and then fall apart as funding runs out. Instead, create project funding to sustain a project.	3
Well funded marketing campaign would be helpful.	3
More stringent environmental protection laws and increased enforcement in concerns of pollution. The idea of production outside the country should be rethought as well.	3
Political battle – how much government should protrude in everyday lives and these programs? We do not have very many well financed powerful friends. Need to fight on broader political front. Campaigning would be helpful but is limited by government agencies.	3
If we cut on taxes we cut jobs, maintenance and sections of every service the government provides. Need to do better job at letting know and educating public on what taxes contribute to.	3
Green Opportunities should focus on smaller issues that everyone can participate in, such as keeping hometown clean. It's a trickle effect. Reach people in areas that they care about and	3
People who normally pollute are uneducated specifically on being outdoors. Inter-city people need to be taught!	3

<p>More focus on greenways, hiking trails, bike trails, etc. Connect the cities with the outer lying natural areas. How could the federal government be a better partner for implementing these types of plans?</p>	3
<p>By investing in green technology, energy resources specifically, a huge difference can be made. Not only in helpful in our surroundings and environment, but with peoples' attitudes. Online technology magazines have proved to be useful.</p>	3
<p>Advertising/campaigning not allowed and it's not taught in schools, so the message needs to get out there somehow, someway!</p>	3
<p>Stay positive – campaigns against cigarettes and littering have taken years to implement. We don't have an exact path, but a lot of persistent people have done a lot and affected a lot. It takes time to get where we are going, but if we stay dedicated and optimistic, positive changes will begin showing.</p>	3
<p>Volunteerism is the key. Volunteers can advertise, campaign, create support.</p>	3
<p>If people came together, they could have an impact. Money is an issue, however time, labor and dedication to change, can and will make a huge impact.</p>	4

<p>Toolkits including guides, resources, links to networks can be distributed in neighborhoods, communities, schools, etc. to create awareness and provide opportunities.</p>	4
<p>People need to feel safe outdoors. We need to focus on ways to educate on the outdoors and create safety awareness among individuals. Interfacing with the outdoors could create safety and prevent these issues on getting outdoors.</p>	4
<p>Partnerships such as SCA should be increased. They work with different agencies and assist in getting the name of the agencies out to the public and also promote federal dollars to local land trusts.</p>	4
<p>Mapping is a valuable tool. Would help if they were easily accessible online. Road and topographic maps are available, but would be helpful if a comprehensive map including both were readily available.</p>	4

<p>bring environmental education into public schools; <u>recommendation is specific funding be available to communities that take environmental education to public school system – because programs like this are running on a shoestring.</u> Despite environment in WNC, many locals out of touch; must plant seeds in young people; funding is needed to keep programs like Muddy Sneakers in schools; Louvs book proves how early exposure is so important; match environmental ed to state mandated curriculum</p>	1
<p><u>NC has tax credit program for conservation easements. Program has been very successful. Would be great to be a national model.</u> Also works for Clean Water Mgmt Trust Fund – when there’s support from govt; local landowners are very willing to come into conservation easement if there’s some help with funding. Can’t say give me the rights on your land, and give me the money. #2 – greater growth of local greenway systems; encourage more work on greenways; #3 – Watersheds – demand exceeds supply though and creates a local liability with an increased pressure to sell non producing land – <u>in NC program to put watersheds in conservation easement for public access/recreation areas.</u></p>	1

<p>appreciates social aspects of hiking and hiking clubs; joining a hiking club is important – provides safe environment and exposure/awareness to recreation areas</p>	1
<p>NTrust Historic Preservation – when people come for eco tourism it’s really heritage tourism – they may not want an outdoor recreation but access to local/authentic experiences. <u>Historic/Culture orgs and Natural Resource orgs need to work better together.</u> Historic/cultural resources offer a diversity of experiences in travel</p>	1
<p>Responsible for wildlife management and to some extent education; one thing that’s working in their agency are: Environmental Education Centers – comparable to other programs bringing the classroom into the woods ; <u>what works – consider the local perspective.</u> Each locality has its own uniqueness and that needs to be part of the plan. Also, in regards to Sports Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act is working. Tax is collected from industry and based on number of licensed hunters/fisherman – user pay/but everyone benefits.</p>	1
<p>Emphasis needs to be on youngest children and at risk groups; need more programs that support that.</p>	1
<p>greenways are what’s working; offer intergenerational experiences; closer than other public lands and trails; trails and greenways in urban environments is very beneficial</p>	1

<p>one thing I see working is collaborative decision making – for natural resource protection, outdoor recreation planning, etc. – if you want to vie for competitive grants you have to show collaboration; don't plan in a bubble – it's not effective.</p>	1
<p>What is working in my group is we're taking care of trails that haven't been touch since 1970s. Will be working on these trails for several months. The question is how to sustain the work and funding. Excellent experience for college student/early graduates and eager work force – people come into SCA who haven't even pitched a tent until</p>	1
<p>what seems to work well and historically has worked well is to marry local efforts with federal dollars and/or federal expertise, such as RTCA; Parks in Classrooms is a Blue Ridge Parkway program that reaches 25000 students throughout region using multi faceted partnership.</p>	1
<p>introduced wilderness to 10000 kids in past 20 years; do school programs, etc. – short term experiences are great, but need longer term opportunities when kids are so programmed with other activities, etc.; public school budgets may not be able to accommodate this additional exposure; her program focuses on private schools with a limited demographic and not much diversity</p>	2

<p>Find that land trusts will help negotiate conservation easements; but finding that USFS in particular is not interested in taking on the property because there's a permanent conservation easement on a piece of property they're being offered. #2 Access to public lands – federal agencies sometime block off access points when navigating between federally and privately owned land</p>	2
<p>Conservation Easements are interesting to many people but for most people they're "land rich and dirt poor" and unable to take advantage of tax benefits because they need to find an income source; as a large landowner he'd personally like to put his land in an easement with some sort of sunset on it. Tie up land for generational easements and pay much less over time? Many local land owners don't trust government – the main thing they want to know is what happens after I'm gone That would buy a little time/bandaid step to get some things preserved – and address permancy issues</p>	2
<p>need to break the cycle and get to young people to help address long term conservation – find models like Muddy Sneakers and others throughout the country; need to create a seamless web for exposure and integration so that people continue to want to work in these fields</p>	2

<p>dedicated funding for land/water conservation; #2 need to do a better job of marketing the federal agencies resources – lands, parks, etc.; bring message to a wider audience and raise awareness through a variety of programs</p>	2
<p>unstructured play missing in today’s neighborhoods/communities/schools; partly a safety issue; even if teachers want to take their kids out some principals and liability issues are discouraging it. Even local daycares don’t always have grass – and when they do they’re caught in issues related to bugs, etc.</p>	2
<p>Challenge – Diversity – getting children interested is a great start</p>	2
<p>more and better zoning regulations can bring sidewalks back to communities</p>	2
<p>building playgrounds, etc; but nothing for older kids – ball parks are ok, but trail systems might help this challenge. There’s money for shovel ready projects, but no money for planning- and trail systems take master planning; hard to build something and not always using effective</p>	2
<p>obstacle is resistance from school systems and lack of willingness of leadership to speak out – it must be mandated for people to fall in with these environmental education programs.</p>	2

<p>consolidate program opportunities; had a hard time finding SCA program info; if he'd know opportunities were available in while in high school he'd have been working every weekend but was never exposed to it and when he heard about it, hard to find info; military recruiters are in the schools all the time; fed govt can help with better exposure to opportunities and possible career paths.</p>	2
<p>federal govt can play bigger role in marketing; reinforce youth session idea of finding celebrities to be spokespeople and engaged in these messages</p>	3
<p>federal govt can help with staff to turn around approvals quicker – number of projects waiting approval is backlogged/massive and costs money; example – taking 3 years for one small access area...; currently not an effective system or use of resources</p>	3

<p>Fed Govt needs to recognize that reducing the size of agencies is not fixing the efficiency issues; staff shortages for those that help maintain federal/park land is really affecting visitor experiences; less supervisors is a problem; #2 from rural Jackson Co – eastern border with Blue Ridge Parkway and very close to EBCI and GRSM; those federal agencies have funding problems; but use this challenge to think of creative solutions – see oil drilled in the western US and fees/taxes related to that helping fund public lands?; Current environment is prime for land conservation due to prices, etc.; NC is growing at rapid rate and these lands are threatened – biggest tool to help is the sale of public resources;</p>	3
<p>Money follows programs; mandates create programs – i.e. incorporating environmental ed must be mandated for money to be available.</p>	3
<p>uses state and national parks for experiences and sees inconsistencies in permitting/application fees/etc – need more consistency across agencies</p>	4
<p>as NC expands lands programs, it would be a lot better to have more access to federal and state agencies – find out what lands are strategically important to all of us; work through acquisition process with federal land managers – historically hasn't always been what it could be</p>	4

<p>Working together as groups like Land for Tomorrow (conservation related groups that lobby as part of their activity has been very successful. The combined effort has resulted in a better, stronger use of conservation trust funds in NC.</p>	1
<p>Land Trust Movement - Blue Ridge Tomorrow group works with a prioritized strategy instead of each competing for donors. Collaboration is working well. Similar to Land for Tomorrow.</p>	1
<p>2 programs that work with child care facilities. One for 3-5 yr olds called Preventing Obesity by Design, via Natural Learning Initiative (Blue Cross Blue Shield foundation funding). Outdoor Learning Environment is the other program that works with established child care facilities. Teaches them that 'bugs' are ok, what is ok to touch. Encourages parents to take the children into nature, into parks. We have a long way to go because there are so many children who need this.</p>	1
<p>NC takes this seriously and has added large amounts of land to public ownership, even during down economic times (Chimney Rock and Grandfather Mtn State Parks). Concerned about viewscapes along the BLRI and that state and land trusts need to work together.</p>	1
<p>Every county has Soil/Water conservation office that can help private landowners address conservation needs on their property. Underutilized service.</p>	1

NC legislators have provided \$1.5 million over the last few years for land purchases. NC does not have as much protected land as western states. Concern about increase in NC population that will put additional pressure on our existing resources. What NC does well is making the most of the dollars available – Dept of Defense is an excellent partner – Ft. Bragg and Camp LeJeune are excellent examples. DOD has lots of flexibility. DOD allows federal dollars to be spent for conservation on private lands. Stretches the dollars, and also provides protection for threatened/endangered species. Ft. Bragg recognized at the White House a few years ago for conservation efforts.

1

<p>Land trust is working with an education program started in 1980s through the National Geographic Society. This model program sent \$\$ to universities around the country for universities to teach public school teachers about geography. Professors taught 'master teachers' the content. Then the teachers returned to their schools and taught others. Model has been going on for 22 years. Funded through endowments from National Geographic. The program is closely tied to environment education and all the curriculum is tied to state standards. The program creates many partnerships. She has worked with this program in AL. Students get not only classroom education, but they go outdoors as well. National Geographic Alliance is name of the program.</p>	1
<p>Blue Ridge National Heritage Area has been very effective in Western NC. Every community was asked what they saw as important in their community worthy of preservation, both natural and cultural. Heritage Area needs continued funding.</p>	1
<p>Alliance for Planet Earth at his college was an effective way to reach students. Put up an info table in high traffic pedestrian areas. Way for youth to engage other youth to recruit people for the club, Alliance for Planet Earth.</p>	1

<p>Americorps' Project Conserve is a great way to connect conservation entities. 22 enrollees and more than a dozen organizations involved this year. Very successful.</p>	1
<p>NC has harnessed private philanthropic opportunities to excellent ends. State has good partnerships with private individuals for 50/50 matches for land protection.</p>	1
<p>Splitting the costs among private/public entities is working well in western NC. Everyone gives something instead of only public money.</p>	1
<p>Wants to see how all the educational outdoor programs can be better integrated. They mostly are isolated efforts and could be more effective if integrated.</p>	1
<p>New developments need to include walkable space or outdoor space. HUD needs to be part of the picture. Curbside nature is the way to go. In Heywood County every 4th grader spends at least one day in an outdoor education program. Need to have a better system to get every child outdoors.</p>	1
<p>Tie USDI into HUD design for developments in cities. Sustainable Communities Initiative is a federal initiative that USDI needs to be a part of.</p>	1

<p>Continue to have the tax credits for conservation. NC has a state credit for conservation. On a national basis, encourage states to provide tax credits for conservation. Collaboration needed with Land trusts. State/Federal need to be open to re-purchasing the land acquired by Land Trusts.</p>	2
<p>Need to have more hiring programs for youth like SCA or provide ways for more agencies to use SCA programs.</p>	2
<p>Sustainable development. Most of current recreators she sees on trails do not reflect the population. Many people have to spend their \$ on gas to get to work or to pay their utility bill, not for gas to drive to a trailhead. Need to go to Girls Clubs, Boys Clubs to teach kids how to enjoy, conserve and live a more sustainable way.</p>	2
<p>Can only continue to afford his land if the present use value program continues.</p>	2
<p>No landscape vision for what these lands should be, should contribute to. Need a landscape-level vision for the Appalachian corridor, especially given climate change issues. State purview stops at state lines. States need a federal entity to bring together a landscape vision. USFW Landscape Collaborative is a new effort in this regard.</p>	2
<p>Challenge is to figure out a way to use the preserved, conserved lands for communities. Need to find a balance between preserving and use.</p>	2

<p>Challenge is public fear of the federal or state government's role in land preservation and conservation. Public fear of losing private land ownership rights. Challenge to put an economic value on the land.</p>	2
<p>Challenge of more outdoor activity in schools. Fear on the part of parents and school administrators. Need to find a way to make Outward Bound type programs more affordable to all. Need to find a way to fund outdoor equipment for schools.</p>	2
<p>What if there was a 'screen-door' Tuesday...just open your doors/windows on a Tuesday as a first step.</p>	2
<p>Challenge to get people over their fear of nature.</p>	2
<p>People in Washington are totally disconnected with people in the real world. People in Washington need to spend 2 weeks working in the programs they implement.</p>	2
<p>Federal agencies need to be talking with each other. Interior and Commerce need to work together. What are we doing at the national level to build sustainability? Need to break down agency barriers to working together. Need to see it more broadly...find some balance and work together for noble and worthy goals.</p>	2

<p>Need more planners at the local level who can go out into the communities around the parks/or forests to communicate plans and work collaboratively with towns and cities.</p>	3
<p>Recruit volunteers and make sure they have a good working experience and they will spread the word.</p>	3
<p>Wants EPA to stop air pollution in western NC. Mountains are at top of watershed. Wants stronger regulations on air pollution. Brook trout are challenged, black bears don't recognize state lines nor private property. Migratory birds need a good stopping place in their migrations.</p>	3
<p>USDI needs to link more closely with EPA re: pollution and land management. Need for prescribed fire for ecosystems, need to work on ozone and particulate prescriptions that will allow for prescribed fire.</p>	3
<p>Tax credits are highly effective and need to be expanded.</p>	3
<p>Using the wrong criteria to measure success. Should the increasing number of cars on the Parkway be a measure of success or should we be looking at trams? Agencies need to be working together better...EPA, TVA, NPS. Agencies need to get out of their 'silos'.</p>	3
<p>GRSM has similar issues of air pollution. Continue to designate wilderness areas within National Forests. Important for enjoyment and preservation of species.</p>	3

<p>NPS has gateway community planning, National Heritage Area has started the process of connecting communities to their nearby public lands as well. Fund that planning process, facilitate it, and follow through with it. It doesn't just happen. NPS has developed this process well. Use the same process for all public lands, state, local, federal. You don't need to own a cabin, just get a tent and enjoy western NC.</p>	3
<p>Ask federal government to retain its promise of LWCF. Great program, with dedicated revenue stream. But almost from day one it has gone downhill. Have LWCF fully funded and fully dedicated is something desperately needed in NC and across the nation. Funds must be dedicated so that they do not have to go through the appropriation process every year. Gives people an opportunity to plan, not just speculate, on what they can do each year.</p>	3
<p>LWCF is the economic engine that will make America's Great Outdoors a reality. 2014 is not soon enough. House Act passed today. Now is the time to move forward.</p>	3
<p>NC needs to see that the Feds will indeed match state programs. It's an incentive for the states to step up to the plate.</p>	3

<p>Need a strong, 30- year strategy of funding in order to make a difference. The feds need to step up with a similar dedicated stream of revenue that can be depended on in order to develop a long term vision.</p>	3
<p>Benefit to feds is that with a dedicated federal funding stream, federal agencies can improve on their track record.</p>	3
<p>NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program. \$ to preservation vs restoration has shown preservation is better way to spend the money. Feds could have similar program that provides \$\$ incentives for preservation.</p>	3
<p>This event, this listening session is helpful. To have vision sessions, listening sessions and try to engage diverse audiences.</p>	4
<p>Federal role could be increase in communication. Michele Obama could tie her obesity initiative to getting kids outdoors.</p>	4
<p>Develop books for children, books that parents can use to better connect with outdoors, get children outdoors. Federal govt needs to be involved in getting kids outdoors.</p>	4
<p>NC parks have a program for kids K-5 for kids to come to state parks and learn that the outdoors is a good place to spend time. State should expand the program and the federal government should look at this program.</p>	4
<p>Use local farms as part of the process. Use federal involvement.</p>	4
<p>Have gardens at schools for kids to learn how to grow things. Let kids plant the seeds.</p>	4
<p>Lots of educational opportunities both inside and out for gardens. Need more funding for early childhood learning. Really important to get kids outside in the woods.</p>	4

<p>Public education should include a component for outdoor education in the summer. Outdoor activity is critical to being a whole person.</p>	4
<p>I was a planner 50 years ago for the USFS in their Outdoor Resource Recreation program. We projected that at the current rate of growth in 1960, it would take all the land USFS owned in NC to provide enough picnic areas and campgrounds needed by the year 2000. The reality is that not one new picnic area or campground has been built in NC since the 1960s. Some have been expanded, but no new ones. We didn't envision all the new forms of outdoor recreations like kayaking and mtn biking.</p>	4
<p>Wealth is created by 2 means - Pull it from the ground as minerals or grow it from the ground as agriculture. If we don't keep our land producing, our nation is in trouble.</p>	4
<p>'Apps' exist for birdwatching, wildflowers, trails, fishing spots. Need to find ways to connect the apps with young users that will help them connect with the outdoors. Every kid needs to learn how to use GPS unit. Use the NPS brand to increase the number of 'apps' to connect kids to the resources.</p>	4
<p>Wants to underscore the connection between resources and dollars. NC state parks had highest year of visitation ever last year. Not all states are that fortunate. Neighboring states have not been so lucky and Fed needs to help</p>	4

<p>Need stricter zoning around NPS sites to prevent encroachment. Would be cheaper than buying adjacent lands.</p>	4
<p>NPS sites do not have adequate funds to maintain the parks. Need to look at taking care of what we have before we move onto other things. Take care of what you have and you won't need as much in the future.</p>	4
<p>How do we educate adults? Reinforces why it is so important to educate the youth.</p>	4
<p>Need to do a better job of interpreting and preserving the Rutherford Campaign, the southern frontier in the American Revolution. It's a national story and should be done by the NPS in concert with the Blue Ridge NHA.</p>	4
<p>Has seen the commodity use of federal lands shut down all across the county and recreation taken over. Can recreation provide the same financial wealth as commodity use?</p>	4
<p>Need a conservation based accreditation system for development. No national standards for a conservation based development. Which ones are 'green washed' and which ones truly have conservation elements?</p>	4