

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

Location: Kissimmee, FL

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?

N/A – Not Available

| Discussion Question 1-4 | Comment |
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| N/A | What we need is to fully fund Florida Forever and LWCF |
| N/A | For school field trips, getting kids outdoors is main obstacle. Our biggest challenge is the school system. Our education department needs to encourage and fund trip. Our kids are at the mercy of school bus, once the kids get to where they're going and start to learn what we are teaching, it's time for them to get back on the bus because the buses need to pick someone up else. In poor areas, the kids don't have enough money to even bring bottled water with them so Around the Bend provides water for kids. There is a disconnect between educators and teaching kids. A lot of principals won't let even let kids get feet wet. Things with the environment are not encouraged. |
| N/A | The federal government could provide support in talking to the Dept of Education. The FCAT stops kids from doing anything but preparing FCAT. Other organizations are having to help out. Fishing funds go to help school kids and I would like federal funds to match so we could |

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| | get more money for education. |
| N/A | Audubon offers a curriculum for grade, middle, and high school, but only one school is interested. It is not important to the schools. School administrators are not interested in the environment even after the FCAT tests are over, this could be a good time for environmental education to be implemented. Teachers may be interested but not the administrators. |
| N/A | Our group has a program for disadvantaged youth, they get to go out on field trips and learn. They end the year with a big camping trip. Some kids are in the program year after year so they only reach a small amount of people. |
| N/A | We need to fully fund LWCF and we need to get the funds to the refuges to get people out on the refuges. The only way to get to the Tampa area refuges is by private boat or tour boats. We need to find ways that are inexpensive for families, maybe school kids could go for free to any Refuge |
| N/A | No one wants to go anywhere that they can't wash hands, go to bathroom, or get water, people are afraid of nature. |
| N/A | I've noticed that so many children can't even go into the wilderness because they could get stung by bees or amoebas in the water. |
| N/A | That is typical with people, if you say there are rattle snakes on a property, parents are afraid and then the children get afraid. People are just afraid to go outside. |
| N/A | If we try to publicize a boardwalk all of a sudden it's not so outdoorsy because the people are a step away from nature. It's a little more sterile. |
| N/A | The sporting industry can't go along with all the new restrictions regarding lead gunshot and taking away ammunition, that is a big obstacle, and if I don't say this, many other groups will be upset. By doing these new regulations, the feds will basically be putting a ban on traditional hunting. EPA is trying to input these regulations by November. |
| N/A | FWC does pretty hard core work with its volunteers. An issue that we come up with is incomplete acquisitions with property still in private ownership. It makes it very difficult to manage the property and the bigger problem is they can't do prescribed burns. Agencies and non profits need to complete their acquisition projects. When you're out there working, you can't tell what is publically owned and what's not |
| N/A | Our boys grew up in Scouts and they got to do lots of stuff outdoors that they probably would not have been able to do. It would be great if more kids could be involved. |
| N/A | Our organization presented our proposal with the Kiwanis and school board. The board and the community was so eager to be part of our program. Boy Scout memberships were down |

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| | and they also went for it. Youth Conservation is part of the oath the Boy Scouts take. They can get more membership. Kids need to get connected to nature. |
| N/A | The Youth Program with Florida FWC is really working. Wilderness Park has the ability to provide a e place for kids to go. The kids can fish and then keep the fish. It's not catch and release; it's catch and keep. The kids learn to catch the fish, keep them, clean them and them. |
| N/A | It's important to get kids outdoors for longer periods of time. She has shown pictures to kids and there are three deer in the picture. Only those kids who have been hunting can find all the deer in the pictures. |
| N/A | Kids like GPS and they can do a sort of geocacheing. We should work on an event where kids can get out, and they're working with private land owners, tribes, ranchers to collaborate with everyone. Kids can get things like little geocacheing tags. Friends group is working on a fossil pit where kids can find things that they happen upon with the GPS. |
| N/A | Before agencies didn't work together, but now they are starting to. Everyone needs to work together, with private landowners so kids can connect with the ranchers, tribes. |
| N/A | What works well is their county is the association between the Environmental Lands Program and the Homeschoolers. |
| N/A | Homeschoolers and virtual schoolers can be a part of this. They are now doing hunting safety courses online, and then people go outdoors to do the field work. Over 60,000 people now participate in virtual schools. |
| N/A | As communities are developed or retrofitted, they need to make bike trails and walking trails so people can see wildlife and where they can safely be outside with their family. If they have it, they will use it. A planned community with trails can work so you don't need to use your cars all the time. In my community, the "Y" is connected with the school when you go by there, bikes are outside. Kids are riding to school instead of taking the bus or being driven |
| N/A | Rails to Trails program is working really well, state parks didn't want any part of the trails going through their parks to connect to the county parks. They overcame problems with state and now have it. They've worked with folks on the State Cabinet and had to basically force DEP to agree to it. The bike trails are not going to be harmful to the bears or other critters. The point was to connect state, county, linear parks. You have to connect recreational opportunities for people. |
| N/A | What's happening in Tampa and other communities is urban gardens where families and kids can grow food. Kids are beginning to learn where their vegetables come from |
| N/A | Kids need to make that connection to where their food comes from. Urban gardens are |

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| | really a good thing. |
| N/A | All of the communities in Tampa Bay are working together to coordinate and connect with the Rails to Trails. |
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| N/A | We need to talk to the CRAs (Community Resource Areas) in impoverished areas, they can help rebuild communities, apply for grants from DEP, purchase flooded properties so homeowners could move and go somewhere else. Then they can clean-up areas and turned them into a linear park, clean it up so kids can go swimming. |
| N/A | CRAs are set up by county or state, but not municipalities. Places like Panama City, Fort Lauderdale and other cities have CRAs but they restrict how money can be sent. |
| N/A | What works are grants that help coastal communities so people can bring their kids out. Federal government can help fund some of these type programs |
| N/A | Again, they can fully fund LWCF and state can fund Florida Forever. They need to stop holding back funds needed for maintenance because if the land is not maintained it becomes less hospitable for people to use. |
| N/A | Grant access, access, access at places like Big Cypress and other federal lands. I've been working on a hunting management plan for more than 20 years and nothing has happened. Fed's need to stop doing all these road closures, those of us on ground aren't allowed to make suggestions, they need to listen. Local forestry people feel that their hands are tied and can't work with the public |
| N/A | Continue to support conservation actions that have a record of success. One of the biggest problems is not having long term funds. Just continue to support long term, continuous funding. |
| N/A | A lot can be done at a federal level to get businesses to help by using tax incentives. Businesses don't know what to do. They have to work for the long haul. Can't solve big problems when you don't know what will happen. Are there ways government can take a longer view so things can be solved? There needs to be long term consistency of tax programs, etc., so business can plan accordingly. If it is so chopped up by different administrations it will never work. |
| N/A | We are constantly battling with the Corps of Engineers (who permit destruction of Florida), if society is so ok with paving over everything, what is that message telling our children. An organization like the Sierra Club then needs to duke it out with them in court. The Corps need to explain how things work, rather than using avoidance use mitigations. The Corp needs to design around wetlands so we could have better communities. There used to be a |

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| | lot more woods for people to play in. |
| N/A | There has never been a stop put on development. Developers should have more criteria to keep things more natural, should be more greenways and natural plantings. |
| N/A | Everyone needs to educate the legislative folks. |
| N/A | No one will say were against motherhood, but the earth is our mother and we need to do whatever we can to protect her. Money talks, that's how we can help. The first lady is trying to cut down obesity, maybe there should be a mandate to tie money to education and get kids out. If you want things to happen, you need to do this and that. We need to give school boards the incentives to get kids out. |
| N/A | The government should live by example, rebuild urban area, so people can stay there and not start building in suburban areas. A lot of public lands are fragmented; they may need to build wildlife underpasses, bike trails, etc. |
| N/A | The DOD is one of the strongest supports of conservation. Avon Park and Pensacola bases are conserving lands and reintroducing endangered species. It's amazing. |
| N/A | The federal government needs to use virtual tools, kids are into the computer and social networking. We need to use social media, kids are so hooked in, even though we want them to get away from that stuff and go outside. |
| N/A | We need some sort of website for people to see what's going on.. |
| N/A | Disney had a program called "Give a day, get a day" for volunteer work. Volunteers could pick from various organizations, then give a day of service, and get free full day admission to Disney. Is there something like that that the federal government can do? |
| N/A | Bass Pro has something like that where people can look at their website to check out opportunities. |
| N/A | It would be great to have a website that would show what different educational programs are out there. Organizations could send in information of things that work and others could use those plans and not reinvent the wheel each time, basically a success story site. |
| N/A | If you donate 500 hours of volunteer time, you can get a free national lands pass, but some places are not honoring. Not consistent with all nation lands. |
| N/A | The idea of best practices is a great idea to have a central place where people can find things. If the feds could work on that across the board there would be better sharing of info. |
| N/A | Do this kind of program again, that's what works. Let us know what is decided. |
| N/A | When we were kids, there was the President's Physical Fitness program. The president needs |

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| | to come up with a national conservation agenda. |
| N/A | Conservation must go back into schools. |
| N/A | All schools must be concerned with conservation and the president needs to talk about it on a regular basis. If he does not talk about it, the county will forget. |
| N/A | People need to learn about special places nearby, every community has some kind of park or refuge and kids need to go there and learn about it. Expand refuges in the state and country (especially at the Florida Panther refuge) |
| N/A | Children are not learning about these places. It is not taught in schools |
| N/A | The federal could provide great maps to schools. Kids love maps, they would be a great tool. |
| N/A | Schools could promote Youth Camping. Kids in Florida don't even know the kinds of wildlife that are in Florida. People don't know why they need to protect things. Let them know what is out there. |
| N/A | FWC used to have a one-page info sheet that they handed out with photos and information about the critters. It would be great to have something like that |
| N/A | Just a question, are their plans for any additional national parks? There is a greater need than anticipated. Want ANWAR made into a park |
| 1 | Florida has the best conservation program (Florida Forever Program) in the country. Palm Beach County has 35 sites covering 35,000 acres. Fully fund land and water conservation. |
| 1 | Stewardship Program has been very successful utilizing volunteers to work trails, maintain grounds, etc. Some schools require a certain number of community service hours in order to graduate and this has enabled many high school age kids to participate. |
| 1 | Florida Forever. A variety of people, including elected officials, builders, and conservationists speaking on behalf of the program is effective. |
| 1 | Connected system of public and private lands needs to be accomplished and added to. Expanded National Wildlife Refuges is suggested. |
| 1 | Partner with the Forest Service on National Scenic Trails. Federal money is matched two to three times to provide more trails and greater programs. |
| 1 | The Sierra Club has organized outings for people and children in urban settings to visit natural areas to enjoy the outdoors. The 16 Sierra Groups in Florida promote these opportunities through groups and organizations from volunteers that also assist the club. |
| 1 | Volunteers in any group that contact those that handle the money often find allies for that |

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| | group in the future. |
| 1 | People learn by experiencing. Incentive programs that challenge the general public to take part in activities that offer prizes have been effective. The prizes are provided upon receiving a comment card (feedback) from the individual. |
| 1 | The programs that work are WRP, FRPP, HFRP and GRP as administered by USDA-NRCS. The programs work because the incentives are appropriate to landowners to enroll in the programs and provide conservation benefits. |
| 1 | Leveraging funds is the most successful. Also being aware of what other partners are working on so that multiple groups are not working on the same things is highly beneficial. |
| 1 | Worked to move “digital couch potatoes” from the house to the outdoors. The Lighthouse Kids Explorers Club is a two hour session at the lighthouse grounds helps reconnect children to nature and the outdoors. |
| 1 | Partnering is critical in stretching dollars to accomplish goals. Eco-Heritage Tourism has picked up due to the poor economy. Part of the selling point could be that local economies can benefit from this new stream of revenue. |
| 1 | Fund land and water conservation, don't cut challenge cost-share, community festivals (wildlife, endangered species day, etc.). Partnerships among all levels are important. Eco-tours are effective (kayak tours, etc.), school trips to parks, refuges. |
| 1 | Blueways festival is an eco-tour that has been effective in bringing people out and engaging them in future activities. |
| 2 | Bureaucracy. |
| 2 | Balancing recreational use and the environment, as well as with cultural resource sites. Important that use of the outdoors does not destroy precious cultural resource sites. |
| 2 | Some of the waterways adversely impacted downstream of Lake Okeechobee are due to the dumping of water from the lake into those bodies of water. |
| 2 | Some people don't know how to behave in parks and refuges. A certain amount of education is needed so the sites are not damaged. |
| 2 | The users of outdoor recreation are severely underrepresented when it comes to how designated areas are designed and used. Parents must be involved with youth in order for kids to participate in outdoor activities.....focus on family activities. |
| 2 | We do a poor job of properly designing public lands. |

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| 2 | The cultural view that parks are dangerous and contain bugs and snakes. |
| 2 | Many of Florida's waters have become impaired due to excessive nutrients. Outdoor activities that are on polluted water bodies lead to a poor experience. |
| 2 | Massive cutbacks in parks to maintain infrastructure...ability to collect garbage, provide decent restrooms, etc. |
| 2 | Huge inventory of lands and a golden opportunity to acquire additional easements, but limited public funding. |
| 2 | Public agencies charged with maintaining public lands have received more lands, more responsibility with decreased staff and funding. Finding additional volunteers can be difficult. Not offering enough of a variety of activities for different age groups and interests. |
| 2 | Many public agencies buy lands, but little is set aside for maintenance. |
| 2 | Many organizations depend greatly on volunteers. It is difficult to find enough people. |
| 3 | Use the Florida Forever program as a model for an America Forever Program. |
| 3 | Continue the Youth Initiative initiated in 2010 by the Bureau of Land Management. |
| 3 | A cohesive program that all Americans can buy into, fully funded, working with non-profits and other organizations to leverage funds. A national volunteer program with incentives. |
| 3 | Television commercials can have a national template plus local information to air at the local level. |
| 3 | Department of Education assist with funding field trips to outdoor classroom areas. |
| 3 | Use the Disney "Volunteer for a Day" model on the national level. Free/reduced admission to national parks, tax incentives, etc. |
| 3 | Renew the Civilian Conservation Corps. |
| 3 | Enact numeric nutrient loading criteria for all water bodies. |
| 3 | Financial assistance programs to private landowners that operate recreation businesses and properties. Assistance with liability coverage for landowners that provide outdoor recreational opportunities. |
| 3 | Allow publicly owned to participate in easement and restoration programs such as WRP. |
| 3 | Revamp the inheritance tax so people don't have to sell land due to pay taxes. Debt for Nature. Liaison positions to assist landowners navigate the variety of programs and |

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| | paperwork. |
| 4 | Federal funds for the Northern Everglades Restoration. Stop offshore drilling; enforce regulation on water quality; funding staff. |
| 4 | Give the people a program they want. Influence corporations to assist with ideas and incentives on volunteerism....Day to Disney, Pepsi Points. |
| 4 | Fund the Wetland Reserve and Enhancement Program that would allow smaller landowners to participate in the program. |
| 4 | Consider minorities and outreach with any program that is proposed. Cultural differences need to be considered and appreciated throughout. |
| 4 | In FL, the Hispanic population is greatly increasing and we have not done a good job of understanding the Hispanic culture and establishing programs to address the needs of our population as it changes. |
| 1 | On coastal trails, paddlers need access to launch boats and primitive campsites. Some in good condition, some are not. |
| 1 | Buy lands along Wayka river basin and make more accessible to schools in Orlando area |
| 1 | People have such little knowledge about nature- need into curriculum. Need trained naturalist into schools. |
| 1 | Need to provide field trips in schools, but not enough money. There is a fear of nature, media puts out all negative news. |
| 1 | Achieve funding, this is the key. Get lands that complete connections of green lands. Cut through bureaucracy. Mini-grants for schools to transport kids to natures and feel safe. |
| 1 | There is a disconnect between providers and users. The young generation is missed being asked for input, but they are future parents. |
| 1 | Single parent families need to have vehicle to get families involved in nature. Too much money, they need transportation to activities. Resources dollars, more trained volunteers, to teach life skills. Need transportation to get more young people involved. |
| 1 | Ranchers own 2/3 of FL in private owners. Needs to more flexibility for landowners. Hard to plan long term for them. |
| 1 | Land has private liability issues, help private provide with liability issues. |
| 1 | Sustainable recreation not just ball parks, make land accessible. |
| 1 | Need money for preventable medicine. Get kids to love the outdoors. Get kids outdoors to |

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| | have healthier kids generations |
| 2 | The City Apoka has 200 acre complex ball fields. Need walking area get people out need to offer multiple things to do. |
| 2 | Tallahatchie skate park struggle to get in but kids in listened to kids to get different recreational activities. |
| 2 | Sports are important, but not sustainable recreation. Stop breaking up groups and become one group outdoor recreation group – it can work |
| 2 | Need Conservation easements ranchers don't have retirement plans. But need to be feasible. Safe harbor agreements programs work good |
| 2 | Conservation easements work. Connect public lands. Onsite interpretation is helpful. Historical sites interpreters have huge lasting impression on youth. |
| 2 | Get kids out when young , they want to learn more and be safe. Need to handle animas and get knowledge. Start young. |
| 2 | Local conservation groups work. Volunteers can go to schools and take groups out on public lands. Teach them about nature. Find out what youth connect to – find conservation issue for them to preserve them. Start in elem. Read Last child in Woods.... |
| 2 | getting people to places to do it... give it the area and not out in all area doing |
| 3 | Mini-grants needed to go to schools and local orgs to fund projects. This will help to make it (projects) happen quickly. |
| 3 | Fund YCC and Americorps programs. This is key to connecting youth into nature. |
| 3 | Must fund Gulf of Mexico Be Wet programs. Can reach more kids quickly. |
| 3 | Not enough young generation in agencies. Need college students more opportunities to speak and give feedback within agency. |
| 3 | This generation sees extreme games on TV. Can government embrace extreme sports and bridge what they see on TV? Embrace and market outdoors on TV. Embrace and promote together. |
| 3 | Mandate local No Child Left Inside Act with (Dept Of Education) to get kids outside more. |
| 3 | Mandate Environment Education in schools, make requirement in schools. Make EE programs in school REQUIREMENT. |
| 3 | Make all teachers take/know/use environmental education curriculum. Require |

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| | environment education and take kids outside. |
| 3 | Provide monetary incentive to schools that provide viable EE outside programs. |
| 3 | Money incentives to schools with environmental education programs. Not millions of dollars, but some to pay for their outdoor science programs. |
| 3 | Mandatory from federal gov't to have environmental education programs in schools. |
| 3 | Great example of program: Pelican Elem School kids raised money for Florida Scrub Jay habitat and the gov't matched. Grant programs to match schools help buy habitat near schools add trails etc. |
| 3 | Use/promote volunteers groups give grants to share outdoors with youth. |
| 3 | Look to organizations to help get kids into outdoors; like 4h program. Go back look at org that prove help make change , provide more funds . |
| 3 | Pay more rangers to conduct environmental education lesson and get kids outdoors. |
| 3 | Government owns manages 1/3 land in FL is public for conservation. Group conservation and recreational activities together and get funding from private sources. |
| 3 | Expand the Panther NWR; expand recreation. |
| 3 | Buy lands now when prices are good. |
| 3 | Fund Panther refuge corridor; make sure we complete what we start. Panther is a listed species and we need to connect corridors. |
| 3 | Buy more land for conservation get kids out, building inside cities so accessible inside city. |
| 3 | When was the last time the Federal government created new refuges? Dot new refuges throughout state put more out, this will create more jobs, more sites around for people to go. Keep doing it |
| 4 | Create more interior Wildlife Refuge in state of FL. Then they must be staffed to operate. Fund Pelican Island staff decreased our first NWR... Fund NWRS |
| 4 | Marketing tools to market recreation. Tree City USA example. Where is that now? Protect the lands. |
| 4 | We can only rely on Volunteers for so long, quality educators are needed. We pay them. |
| 4 | Produce more educational tools and get in the hands of teachers. Provide incentive to schools for EE. |

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| 4 | Fund field trips to everglades and other places to make future rangers |
| 4 | Fund people heading into schools to specific wildlife to schools to make presentations |
| 4 | Embrace technology advertise get message out to public. Message to non profits to help out. Use internet. Invoke conserving land for next generation workshops for next generations |
| 4 | Cutback in enforcement is problem. People come on lands human disturbance of bird nests. They think it's "My right to go and do what we want." Help understand public recreation on federal lands. Discuss uses to young generation. Create designated areas for all uses. |
| 4 | Expanding Refuges and plan recreational opportunities. |
| 4 | Need Money and people |
| 4 | Scholarships is a must for interns... to youth camps. |
| 4 | Marketing... for young folks. People in land management with users. Connect groups through workshops and yearly meetings. Conservationists understand recreation. Give the conference weight. Action points are agreed upon both parties will work together and agree. Work toward them. |
| 4 | Recreation DOI new category, disturbed lands could be used for recreation active recreation. |
| 4 | Greatest tool is education in schools. Look at school system. Recreation, natural resources, look at what we are teaching them. |
| 4 | Grant to educate about careers in outdoors |
| 4 | Give land owner tax break to help with conservation. Tax incentive not money. |
| 4 | Programs into schools with birds, live birds into school. Grants for volunteers into programs schools. Help them to live. |
| 4 | Private landowners and liability |
| 4 | Inmates - CCC to help federal lands. |
| 4 | Great idea to add accessibility to lands. Provide liability to private land owners. Private sector to provide lands for citizens to recreate on. |
| 4 | People will recreate on lands so we need to provide lands for this. |
| 4 | Health care to fund preventative messages. Fund programs like: Get Florida Outdoors. |
| 1 | Occachobee protection act required legislature to reduce TMBL by 60% reduction of |

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| | phosphorous. |
| 1 | Natural Resources Conservation Services, conservation grants with the Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Cattleman. |
| 1 | Trail around Lake Occachobee |
| 1 | Expansion of access on storm treatment areas |
| 1 | Providing access in Palm Beach |
| 1 | Partnership for Florida trail |
| 1 | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation |
| 1 | Passive recreation in Florida |
| 1 | SFWMD Partnership to provide birding on their land. |
| 1 | Florida Master Naturalist VIP program through Institution Food and Agricultural Service. |
| 1 | Partial restoration of Kissimmee River at least the part they filled in. |
| 1 | Best Management Practices using less phosphorous. |
| 1 | Environmental Education is good but need more proactive youth into the environment. |
| 1 | Great system of state parks |
| 1 | Adams State Ranch is a good example of how to keep ranchers on the land. |
| 1 | Environmental services extensive land holding generation who hold and love the land beginning to find ways to keep land holder on the land we need to figure out ways to keep them on the land. |
| 1 | Generational transfer of land makes it difficult to continue to operate with taxes etc., and the National Resource opportunities to those lands are incredible. |
| 1 | Conservation easements in some cases have proven positive. Conversely the value of the land goes down. |
| 1 | Partnership with Federal government, Work on Everglades' restoration project and the SFWMD. |
| 1 | Educations of the children, anytime you have kids in urban areas that can educate them, it makes a big difference. Outreach works field trips work even better. |
| 2 | Lack of awareness, people go on vacation and don't see the opportunities in the less known |

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| | recreation areas, they are actually cheap, but people should have access to off road activities and passive recreation we can't compete with the advertised cruise lines etc. Lack of Education in schools is an obstacle. Conduct outreach to a different target. How is this information shared with the state? |
| 2 | Lack of public access and too many restrictions, more so on water but some land restrictions. 22 year ago the state worked with state to 137,000 acres in Collier County, NPS area is still not open. GMP was supposed to open up the area in two years. Contiguous lands I-75 north and south to the BICY preserve "Additional lands" In the BICY preserve lot of restriction to vehicles, some of the proposals in the preferred alt proposed 15 to 85 acres as wilderness. Problem can't have mechanical conveyance, need wild fire and suppression, can't do that against wilderness. Everglades coordinating council umbrella represents state and nation conservation with five agencies including, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), very inexpensive to open areas up for hikers to birders to access. Don't have to spend a lot of money just give access. Loss of tree island in saw grass Island. |
| 2 | The Nature Conservancy Florida State touring entity is doing a fine job promoting natural attributes, challenges Federal and State agencies having enough money to manage and resources to provide access, with greater funds and staff they can provide better access if they had the resources, state funding has trickled to almost nothing. The use of state trust funds to open areas, when money is used to burn and not for its intended purpose is an obstacle. Obstacles are bureaucratic process of leveraging dollars and the need to cross agencies. |
| 2 | Passive recreation, preserving natural Florida land management and exotic species, youth not experiencing passive Florida not being promoted in schools, experiencing natural Florida, transportation is an issue, the expense need to provide access to natural area at no fee should not prohibit children from experiencing natural Florida. Even to get a child out with a fishing pole is expensive, need access to water ways and other areas to fish or swap walk at the Fakahatchee Stand Preserve, need more preserves adjacent to BICY. I know a lot of funding has been cut and other lands that have bird watching and other activities have also experienced funding cuts. Also VIP and birding enthusiast areas are restricted due to lack of staff due to monitoring or staff to provide access. |
| 2 | Referencing the disconnect with children in outdoors and also with adults, the economy, disturbed land and water quality, we don't want to do anything that costs money as long as it is not in my back yard, referenced article in The News-Press dated August 26, 2010 subject, Infestations Render Cape Canals lifeless written by Kevin Lollar. |
| 2 | Water quality impairs recreational actives, they won't be used if filled with algae, people need to get over apathy for educating people and yes it takes money for ordinances to protect water. |

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| 2 | Access issue has to do with liability, example of law suits mentioned that went on for five years. Safety concerns may not match reality due to heightened media attention. Dealing with the multitude of governing agencies working with land owners is a challenge; they all have different requirements and are not working collectively. Working with the bureaucracies both internally and externally are challenges. Differing missions and cross purposes, partly a leadership issue and partially a cultural issue. |
| 2 | Education isn't what it should be barrier like most have stated. Florida does not have an even output standard that they teach to everybody we are teaching to the test, if it isn't on the test, it isn't being taught. Teachers are paying for extracurricular activities out of their own pocket, every state to the north is required to have it, and south of the Mason Dixon line it is not required. Another barrier is the gas stations and burger places which create an immersive loss of open spaces; these are the destruction of opportunities for outdoor activities, inadequate planning at the federal, state and local levels, disconnect with people. Lack of regional realism with the Southwest Florida Metropolitan Planning council the organization does not match up with counties and planning council has a fragmented planning authority. |
| 2 | Should not be so easy to raid trust funds when they are set up for specific purposes |
| 2 | One piece of the problem is the alphabet soup i.e. all of the entities involved. The second is that you need a PHD to run a business with all of the layering of easement issues. Regulatory régimes at the federal level conflict with each other. Void of the federal legal system. Prior to legislation storm water treatment regulations should be prioritized to prevent the bureaucracy. Bureaucrats need to recognize the number of regulatory conflicts land owners get saddled with. |
| 2 | Understanding what trumps what, water quality vs. endangered species act. |
| 2 | Inability to identify environment regulatory planning council, regulator council lost authority to regulate; planning council uses them for political cover. |
| 3 | Need more federal funds. |
| 3 | An example of what not to do with money, Core Of Engineers (COE) Cornel needs to be in the position for more than two years, they move faster than we can educate them. Lengthen the tenure of the Coronel at the COE. |
| 3 | Feds need to start prioritizing the regulatory program. |
| 3 | Fully fund the LWCF, Provide leveraging for the states. |
| 3 | Create additional incentives to create private corporations. |
| 3 | Need more grants for land acquisition, conservation and the management, an example the |

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| | land acquisition of Collier County panther refuge plus 20,000 in Henry County. Re-Introduce pond apple and other restoration efforts, better control invasive, and public access. |
| 3 | Environmental Education cut backs will cause us to lose youth, need to mandate environment education K-12 |
| 3 | Prioritize policy objectives, initiatives, could use some legislative work on clean water and threatened endangers species act. |
| 3 | NCRS requires state conservation agencies to set aside equip dollars which provides cost share money for water management service to retain water management, that requirement was not favorably implemented and may or may not see the funding, second issue wetland reserve program, problem with ranchers immediately having restrictions on grazing, it helps maintain exotics. Reserve grazing right bill is a disincentive. |
| 3 | Federal Government needs to be more flexible and adaptable to deal with the unique Florida ecosystem. |
| 3 | State and Local government lack of common sense, act faster to spend the money, act faster rather than letting the legal morass inhibit conservation and restoration efforts. |
| 3 | Let the local government manage programs, not looking for federal government to take over. |
| 4 | Augment of conservation easement with recreation; look at access and conservation easements differently. |
| 4 | Work with state on legal barriers in particularly Florida trails; work with state to provide insurance use funds for access payments on private lands. |
| 4 | Look at various foundations as a resource avenue to assist with trails or other areas looking at public private ventures. |
| 4 | Broader Federal opportunities that get at sustainability besides wetlands |
| 4 | This Listening Session was a good tool |
| 1 | Biggest challenge for achieving conservation goals is trying to balance the built environment with conservation. State buys lands for conservation and as the economy tanked, there became a huge opportunity for governments to buy lands. But what happened was that Florida cut out the Florida Forever land buying program to balance the state budget. Obstacle is making state legislators understand that conservation is important and now is the time to buy land. Second obstacle is when we buy conservation land and human recreation is the first thing that is allowed on the refuge/park. Before allowing recreation, need to study carrying capacity for animals, etc, before deciding to open to recreation. Need to do |

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| | <p>scientific study to determine if the animals will be impacted by the human use, especially consumptive use of wildlife/fish resources. Not getting answers from the agencies about impacts. Let flora and fauna survive first, and then consider if recreation is compatible. Need to keep ORV and Jeeps out of conservation land. There are Jeep people that stay on trail, but once someone goes off, then you have everyone else follows. When managing conservation lands, government needs to consider recreation vs. protection.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Osceola County set aside money to buy conservation lands. She is an appointed member of the advisory committee for the conservation lands. Even with the special money, there is not enough money to buy the land that needs protection.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Some people just don't care about the lands.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Ecology and Marine Science is required at his school. More schools need to make it a requirement and/or they need to get the students outside through school curriculum or projects.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Highlands county they have undisturbed (natural) areas in county. If undisturbed than the county does not consider it worth anything. The land must be in the middle of something to be worthwhile. Areas that need protection are left alone. Blue head Ranch is going to be developed into 50,000 homes. The planned development surrounds the WRP easement that has just been bought. Blue head Ranch needs to be protected</p> |
| 1 | <p>The same thing (zoning for huge developments in natural areas) is happening in Osceola County. 68,000 homes have already been approved, but not built. Dept of Community Affairs stated that 103 years worth of housing has been permitted for construction in Osceola County. The county wants to expand the urban use boundary so that wealthy landowners can benefit from it before the referendum passes in Nov (Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment). I represent an organization that works to balance buildings and conservation. Our system is slanted toward the developer. Five county commissioners have been working on this development plan...general public doesn't know about it and are blind-sided. State of Florida designated this as a priority A land acquisition project but owner of land didn't want to sell. The obstacle is lack of transparency of government planning/zoning. Lack of public engagement from the beginning zoning and land-use planning process.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Data submitted from developers does not get questioned by county planners. Public hearing is the first time the project is presented. By then it's too late</p> |
| 1 | <p>Mottled Ducks depend upon many of these wetlands (including the Everglades) more than we thought. If we didn't study these species, we'd have no idea what area is important. DU works in partnership with refuges and other groups to restore wetlands. Power to vote is important to protecting resources. Freshwater areas serve as nurseries for much of the seafood we eat.</p> |

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| 1 | A lot of countries do not have a lot of fresh water. We need to protect what we have. |
| 1 | If youth get credit for volunteering in school, then working in the environment is a good opportunity. |
| 1 | When government employees can't speak out due to fear of losing jobs, need outsiders to come in and speak for them. Also need to give the environment jurisprudence. |
| 1 | The FL Fish and Wildlife Commission manage 5 million acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) in Florida. The state is out of money. Need to work together to save what is left. Next generation needs to be educated about our environment if we are to have it in the future. Recreation is managed very carefully on our areas. Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) inventories each WMA and creates maps of critical areas before roads or firebreaks are built. Need to have people out on the land to learn to love the land and have voices to speak for the land. She invited the YMCA participants in the group to come out to Three Lakes WMA. |
| 2 | Suing county commissioners and hiring attorneys to attend meetings (but expensive). Mercenary training center planned in Highlands county. The county had backed the plan and the public didn't know anything about it until a public meeting was held. The planned development was going to go through until the opposition hired a lawyer. |
| 2 | If they hadn't hired a lawyer they wouldn't have squashed the plan to build a huge military training center on Fisheating Creek |
| 2 | You have to sign petitions and send emails to stay involved. She wants to learn how to preserve the wildlife, land, and volunteer for conservation. |
| 2 | Every state has its special places. It needs these places |
| 2 | Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Dept of Environmental Protection, FL Natural Area Inventory biologists work. What they do works. The study and data they get works. She is fearful that the state is not funding these three agencies enough. The state needs to understand how much these agencies support the public and other agencies. These agencies work, but they are endangered due to funding cuts. |
| 2 | With Ducks Unlimited, what works is our partnerships with refuges and landowners. Take DU dollars and write a grant that leverage money to multiple it. That works. North American Wetland Conservation Act works. Involving NGO's, state and federal agencies, and private landowners works. Large ranchers don't want their land developed, can put an easement on it to protect it. Partnerships go a long way. They work well. |
| 2 | Citizen Scientist's program works by utilizing technology to engage citizens. |
| 2 | Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission helps us in Palm Beach County with teaching kids how |

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| | to fish. Kids get to go out for 2 hours in boats and catch fish. Before they go out, they get to see a touch tank, learn how to tie knots, ID fish, learn about tackle, etc to give them knowledge to learn how to fish. This is a great way to get kids involved in the outdoors. |
| 3 | Elect the right people. Check the people out that your vote for and work with friends. |
| 3 | A hotline for the public to report apparent counter-productive efforts by the federal government. We restore part of the watershed with federal money, while spending money to develop land in the watershed. The developers claim that overlays are not a Development of Regional Impact (DRI), but create a sustainable community. |
| 3 | We have an economic model in Florida where construction fuels our economy. Need to change this model or else we will over develop the state. Highest foreclosure rate in the US, yet we are still proposing to build tens of thousands of unneeded houses. We need more aggressive oversight from Federals for land use planning in the earliest stages of planning at the local level. |
| 3 | Heartland Expressway is proposed with all the ranchers impacted supporting this massive project through the central part of the state. Federal government gave these ranchers 93 million dollars to protect 26,000 acres (WRP), yet the Heartland Expressway is proposed in the same area. Ranchers are planning to make money from development and make money from the conservation easements |
| 3 | But development will still occur in this area where the WRP easements (26,000 acres) are going. Ten individuals (large private landowners) will make a decision for millions of people (with regard to developing a large undeveloped and environmentally sensitive area). Government biologists from Dept of Environmental Protection and FL Fish and Wildlife Commission are forced to back down on decisions by their bosses. Federal gov't needs to come in with outside, objective view and take a look at all sides of the issue, and then make a decision. We can't fight it ourselves all the time. No way for private people to easily conserve their land. Need a government to come in and offer economic reason to conserve land through easements for private property. This will protect it into the future |
| 4 | One problem is consultants like Wilson Miller that tie us up. Need some resource to understand the data used to justify developments. |
| 4 | Need a simpler, easier way to comment on Dept of Community Affairs (DCA) reports on Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). We want DCA to stay in place and be well funded, because they are the only mechanism in place in Florida that oversees the balance of conservation and development. They also need more teeth. They decide if the plan is legal. 88% of land use changes are approved by variances. DCA needs more teeth. |
| 4 | We've got Audubon, FNPS, and other groups working for the environment. These groups are so fragmented that they not are as effective as they could be. Need environmental groups |

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| | to coordinate and leverage their resources to protect the environment. |
| 4 | Need to have federal government help the various public groups/individuals to get involved with local planning of developments |
| 4 | Do not need additional development in areas where there is a high level of approved/permitted development already on the books. Federal government needs to lead this mandate to develop a new economic model where construction and development do not fuel the economy. This is one of the most important ideas to get to the president. |
| 4 | Tools: partnerships work very well. Migratory species – we need tools that work for these species. Prairie potholes are where many of our migratory birds come from. This area is facing a lot of change, especially the changes caused by ethanol use. Ducks Unlimited would like to see more tools like the Federal Duck Stamp to put more land under protection. Since 1932 duck stamps have protected 5.2 million acres. Buy more duck stamps to save more lands. This tool helps this area because it protects the area where ducks breed in the prairie pothole area, consequently, more ducks are protected and return to Florida. |
| 4 | Keep the promise to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program has the ability to allow all Americans access to public lands for outdoor recreation for many years to come. Help landowners, farmers, and ranchers use their land for conservation purposes, by funding already existing conservation programs in the Interior Dept and U.S.D.A. through the Farm Bill programs. Increase not only land acquisition for federal and state lands (national parks, refuges, state forests, etc.) but also adequately fund the operations and maintenance of these lands. |
| 2 | Knowledge and education key obstacles- too many kids are afraid of the outdoors. Fear of the unknown – makes trips to the outdoors uncomfortable. |
| 2 | Funding, funding, funding. Need more funding for LWCF, grants, trails, allocation |
| 1 | Exposure to the outdoors– personally and professionally is important. |
| 3 | Mandate Environmental Education in schools! |
| 2 | We think that social media is a barrier to natural resources. We have a component on the environment for everything we do – we are now using social media to benefit . Virtual canoeing. If we have to do this to expose them to the headwaters of the Everglades, then we need to do it! Then, we can get them to the reality. Social media will not go away, so let's figure out how to use it. |
| 3 | Fed. State/ LE seizure costs – usually invested in equipment after crime has been committed. How about 50% be set aside for more education and engagement in the environment. Thought processes have been in place so long. Does Pres. Obama change this? Not a |

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| | grassroots effort yet. But could be. Thank you, drug lords. |
| 3 | Not only full funding of LWCF, but maintaining full funding for state program for land acquisition. |
| 3 | Take incarcerated folks and put them to work - have Federal Gov. use this program. |
| 1 | Don't forget about Get Outdoors Florida! Everyone should join. |
| 2 | Kids today think that adults do not appreciate what they have to do now, time wise, compared to past generations. |
| 2 | Is it more satisfying to see the virtual environment? No, said kids. Would go if money was no object. |
| 3 | We could not do it without partnerships - need more incentives for private landowners - tax credits. |
| 1 | I have attended FWCC meetings to support youth camp and has worked with scouts to build fences, bird houses, as well as with Boys and Girls Club. |
| 2 | Palm Beach County – 40,000 acres that is not accessible for recreation. Burn and leave natural habitat for wildlife. Multi-purpose recreation needed. |
| 1 | Walked into my optometrist's office and he asked me what I can do with my son. Gave him info. On Youth camps. They were able to get involved. He reported that kid enjoyed himself and told his friends and they want to get involved. Here are things in our backyards. Need to educate parents and children. |
| 1, 2 | We have environmental schools – magnet schools – they do a lot of field trips. Use Everglades Youth Camp – now run by FAU and Pine Jog Center. Afraid to come out for overnights. Younger kids – elementary? Transportation hard to line up |
| 2 | Quick comment on these kinds of initiatives. Great to do this, but if nothing hits the ground, it's a loss. IF Fed. Gov. is serious on hard-line stance, American people need to see this. Pres. Obama has very little time, or he loses face. Got to walk the talk. People are interested to come to this, but got to do it. |
| 3 | It all goes back to funding. IF you build it, they will come. FWCC already has the 6 youth centers, so just need funding to get them up and running. |
| 3 | President put \$40 million towards AGO this in April 2010. |
| 1 | To get outdoors, you have to be close to home – there has to be access, land, trails. We have completed 2/3 of Florida Trail – need access from private landowners and to purchase land. The Trail is a facility to get outdoors. For specifics as to what we can do – have Congress fully |

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| | fund Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Support existing volunteer efforts. |
| 3 | There are a lot of good models out there for partnerships for providing trails, for example. Look at these with private partnerships with Fed Gov. that involve the public to be stewards of their public lands. More than just trails. Agencies – look to further existing partnerships and develop new ones to get the kids out. Need to come out with their families and organized groups. |
| 1 | Has to be fun for the kids. Make it something they want to do. Want to be with their friends. |
| 3 | That is the strength of the Federal government – providing great materials. |
| 3 | Maybe Fed. Gov. doesn't need to create new youth program. Maybe Federal government should support existing state and local programs. |
| 2, 3 | The Florida Trail partners with the agencies. IF there were resources so we could more effectively partner, those are the types of opportunities that the Federal agencies could get involved in overseeing the funding at some level. Federal agencies are not in delivery system. Local agencies are in the delivery system. Fund what works. Way too few Federal agencies to get it done. |
| 3 | For example, you (USFWS) could fund Environmental Education center at the refuge, we could bring the Boy Scouts down there if there was funding to lead activities and coordinate projects. |
| 3 | \$900 million for LWCF was real money then – it's not now. |
| 3 | Want this is the FY 12 budget to support America's Great Outdoors and the President needs to make it an agency budget priority. We all know where the rubber meets the road. |
| 2 | USDA Forest Service program Kids in the Woods – did not get enough \$ out. |
| 1 | Family dynamics have changed so much. When I grew up, we were always outside. Later, went outside with my kids to National Parks and Forests. Something needs to be done to get today's families outside. |
| 2 | Race to the Top – standardized testing is an obstacle– if you had the kind of curriculum that met testing protocols, maybe that would work. |
| 2 | How can we wean kids from electronic devices? So much out there vying for time and attention of kids. |
| 2, 4 | I hear a lot of teachers are saying that the way curriculums are structured is an obstacle to field trips. May need to address issue in education. Maybe President's recommendations will have positive impact. Scouts have been mentioned – Rotary , etc., - doctors, established organizations – so, if there is a way to build on existing structures, YCC, stuff your agencies |

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| | do, with civic groups – to expose young people to environment. |
| 2 | Identify common goals and objectives. |
| 4 | I think Audubon has done something with Apple and bird ID. |
| 2, 3 | Manley Fuller – several years ago, Gov. Crist established “Serve to Preserve” and the idea was to link retired people with volunteer opportunities outdoors. Not sure where this is today. Texas similar program. Look and see what different states have done, what would be compatible for this activity. |
| 1 | Everyone supports kids getting more education and getting outdoors and land conservation |
| 4 | In Panhandle FL, Walton County – M.C. Davis, has established E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and this partnership should be looked at. M.C. Davis is wealthy and paid for a PhD study and did an analysis of best techniques to influence kids. Kids are exposed 3X during their 12 years of school. Have a week long experience. Actually test them. M. C. has worked out a program with entire school district. Might be something useful from that experience. Activities support curriculum. |
| 4 | How about civic groups? Maybe Kiwanis, Rotary. |
| 3 | we really want the LWCF to get full funding for: 1) significant acquisition of land for the St. Marks NWR – we have willing sellers and anxious to sell and will help Gulf ecosystem ; 2) great opportunities for the Florida Panther NWR – willing sellers and expansion in existing conservation corridors; 3) connect corridors for Florida Trail, as well as bears and panthers – all provide great recreational opportunities. Florida has made advances in building conservation linkages. Kissimmee Valley opportunities with TNC are out there. |
| 3 | Where there is state and local government. Willing to help, should be incentive to get Federal \$. Should be favored over those who do not have local support. |
| 3 | Same applies to National Forests, campgrounds. Bring back the CCC or YCC and restore these places. |
| 3 | – There is a tendency to put \$ for an impressive facility and it’s a big too-do. But follow-up maintenance funds don’t seem to be there. Big deal 20 years ago, but now Fed. Gov. can’t support. Need to figure out what you need for the public, and maintain it. |
| 3 | An example that this work force (inmates) would be good for – we have tremendous exotic/invasive problems and inmates could be doing this work. |
| 3 | – USFS earn some income from direct harvesting and should we look at whether they sell these leases too cheaply. Alaska – cutting down magnificent Sitka spruce and shipping them to Japan. |

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| 3 | Would be good to hear from ranchers that don't want lands split up, so should have tax breaks for large landowners. Sen. . Baucus has had tax legislation for permanent conservation for a long time. Rationale is conservation easements will provide other public services – groundwater recharge, etc. |
| 3 | Got to get points on the board. I've been impressed with the level of what I believe is increased Fed. Gov. activity on Everglades restoration. Million of problems to deal with, but action has begun. Did the Tamiami Bridge – that's a start, but it's an example. This stuff needs to be totally non-partisan. Shouldn't matter if you're are a Republican or Democrat, should be non-partisan. |
| 1, 3 | Met with FWS/WO in July and others and was talking about 600,000 acres coastal conservation areas, which should help save \$. Sell this as an investment. President needs to look at existing programs and look for duplication and not just saying, we need this much more money. Consolidate programs. This should not be partisan. More efficient. Cooked the program down and will partner more with the states, who will partner more with local communities. |
| 2 | Not a lot of opportunity for horseback riding; need more warning about upcoming events on public lands. |
| 2 | Lack of knowledge -Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts – do they know about this program? They would definitely get involved. |
| 2 | Used to take kids to mud bog to study. Now, liability is out there. Safer to take kids to large amusement areas. Schools don't want to take that on. |
| 3 | Part of the theme from DVD was to get kids involved. Best thing would be for kids to sell kids about the outdoors. Need kids to be more vocal. Show some pride and knowledge that all snakes are not poisonous – kids – all ages, involved. Need them to be ambassadors for conservation and recreation. We can lecture them forever, but get one of those kids (like our speaker) and you get our next generation. |
| 1 | Get Dads involved, too. |
| 2 | Biggest concern is development patterns of the past. Need stronger infill of urban areas and encouraging open space in developments. |
| 1 | Have to go where kids are – soccer companies, gaming companies and get them thinking of mindset to utilize outdoors – to tease kids to get them outside. |
| 2 | Maybe parents and teachers don't understand wonders that can be created in your own backyard – bugs, foundations of life. Work on educating on where accessible and that will help lead them. |

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| 1 | Success story – Circle B Bar Preserve – all 7 th graders are bused in during the school year to do hands-on science and really have fun out there. Accessible. So, obstacle is so many of us are urban now and both parents are working, so difficult to get kids outdoors. Need something close. |
| 1 | When you think kids are not paying attention – you may be surprised. Take them outdoors anyway. |
| 2 | Expensive to get kids to outdoor areas. |
| 1, 3 | Several years ago, heard this comment about teachers and their load. The teachers at Circle B Bar have designed a curriculum to fulfill FCAT as well as support outdoor exposure. If people take the time to work this out correctly, should improve. Federal Government maybe needs to help field trip funding. |
| 1 | Get Moms involved. |
| 3 | Federal Government needs to help with field trip funding. |
| 3 | Fed. Gov. has tremendous responsibility to take care of NPs. Everglades NP – first thing that strikes you is damage from hurricanes that has never been repaired. We are not taking care of physical plant of one of our “crown jewels.” Foreign visitors ask locals what is going on. Not a state responsibility. |
| 2, 4 | they have developed educational materials and websites to download these materials for free. Videos, posters, interactive materials – very good for kids all the way through the university level. http://usgs.gov . Work a lot with counties, cities, WMDs. |
| 2 | I grew up in northeast FL. Don't schools have field trips anymore? When I grew up, we went on field trips to the springs. Boy Scouts took me camping every month. Isn't the school curriculum allowing for this? Why are they going to Disney World? Why not the National Forests? |
| 1 | Thinking about high school level, they have clubs. Maybe they could have someone with her (student who spoke) passion start an environmental club and fundraise to do conservation efforts. Getting more people involved. Going camping. Getting more people of that age group excited about the outdoors. That way, starting that effort in the high school – making them take the lead. Doesn't need Fed. Assistance or other \$. Honestly, sometimes you just have to do it on your own. Listening to her speak, really moved me. Just start small and it might get other schools going. |
| 2 | There are some teachers that do want to take kids out, but no funding. Or Principal tells them to focus on FCAT. |
| 2 | Education works. Need to get to Moms engaged– they need to feel comfortable getting kids |

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| | <p>outdoors. Parents don't want to sign kids up because they are concerned about threats outdoors. Kids often come back 2 or 3 times to summer camp, once they are exposed. They will not be eaten by alligators. Access not issue. We have parks right behind the house – no one knows about them. Educate folks to get out.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Currently working with NRC, USFWS, and USFS. Every agency doing their own thing and has their own rules and programs and need to coordinate better and come up with a few things that work and then all strive towards that.</p> |
| 2 | <p>There needs to be a discussion about economics and how it is in the government's best interest to keep the ranches in business, but not their responsibility. If you let us keep doing what we are doing that is conservation.</p> |
| 2 | <p>80% of my land is in easements and that works well for them. Currently, we have 8 easements and we are asked what do you want to do and we are willing to work with you. 8th generation of ranching now on this land and it is in my kids' blood now. Estate planning devalues your land and we love the land and don't want to see their ranch become a housing development.</p> |
| 2 | <p>It is important to have money through Florida Forever and other conservation funds. Need to have people being the scenes advocating and need full funding for all programs. These funds have been cut back and need that back to help the future and seeking funds now.</p> |
| 2 | <p>State taxes are a major burden.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Hard to find cattle rancher who does not have to sell a portion of their land to stay in business. Biggest obstacle is the inheritance tax and is majorly hurting us.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Need some regionalization. There are too many local, state, and feds who don't look on a regional basis and only focus on their own little portion or piece of land. Hard to manage and accomplish conservation without large scale. Maps can hurt what you are trying to accomplish especially corridors and boundaries that are drawn on a map but don't make sense on the ground.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Keep family together and stay in cattle business and do what they do and these items will mesh with food supply, air quality, and water supply and I see no reason we can't all work together.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Challenges with land acquisitions and easements, makes more sense to provide incentives. The USDA already has incentives, and USFWS is considering easements. It is all about timing, there is opportunity today and encourage you to take advantage of opportunities now. Such as Fish Eating Creek, three landowners came together which rarely happens. The state when they had money would tailor easements to landowners needs. Every agency has their own bias, bias is a well intentioned bias which does not include ranches, or trying to</p> |

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| | them how to manage such as running more cows. USDA doing a good job and all easements should be negotiated to work out terms accepted by all. Show me the money. |
| 2 | Reconnect youth by getting them on the properties and seeing it, food growers tend to get slighted by wildlife conservation agencies. Food growers need outreach activities too. |
| 2 | There is a lack of communication between agencies, all have their own agenda and their own thing they protect such as wetlands or panthers. Agencies need to overcome biases. |
| 2 | Get more people access through litigation reform because of lawsuits tours have stopped on the ranch. Educating our youth is critical and we need to teach our kids about conservation. |
| 2 | Programs attain less than fee, so what options do you have for land if not making it in agriculture? When an agency purchases some of the land, perhaps negotiate sell all if needed. Less than fee programs that could accomplish the same thing and be less than perpetual, maybe something shorter term such as 20 or 40 year to allow the next generation to decide what is best for them. |
| 2 | The property value is high, conservation category that should be high, the evaluations are not good. These lands have been acquired over generations and now just trying to pay the taxes, not getting true value now. Hard to sell your land when undervalued. These lands are way more valuable than others targeted for development. |
| 2 | Different programs and funding mechanisms do help get goals achieved. To preserve land from development and trying to foresee what next generations will need such as estate planning. Will development make land less viable than conservation land. Only big land works, small pieces compromise conservation objectives. Need combination of short infusions of capital, need some conservation easements, need estate tax relief and let the next generation make the decision. Need those three funding mechanisms. Safe harbor programs could be an effective tool. Although is still hard to trust government and that is why I did not do the wetland program. It is a definite challenge that government needs to overcome. Partnership implies trust. |
| 2 | I feel as if when the government comes around I immediately thing what do they want to do with my land now? These listening sessions and coordination and reporting are good and I hope something useful comes out of this. What happens after this session? |
| 2 | We will all try to work better together and make recommendations to President. A budget section will come out of this and will help prioritize resources. Need full funding for land and conservation and the President needs to get behind it. Maybe some new things may come out of this. |
| 2 | The Air Force is a partner have an interest in maintaining rural lands around them and are conservation agencies. Use tools like cattle grazing, and have lots of partnerships and with |

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| | cattle ranches. Possible funding could be available to do partnerships and easements. |
| 1 | Not a lot of opportunity for horseback riding; need more warning about upcoming events on public lands. |
| 1 | Lack of knowledge -Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts – do they know about this program? They would definitely get involved. |
| 1 | I have attended FWCC meetings to support youth camp and has worked with scouts to build fences, bird houses, as well as with Boys and Girls Club. |
| 1 | Biggest concern is development patterns of the past. Need stronger infill of urban areas and encouraging open space in developments. |
| 1 | Success story – Circle B Bar Preserve – all 7 th graders are bused in during the school year to do hands-on science and really have fun out there. Accessible. So, obstacle is so many of us are urban now and both parents are working, so difficult to get kids outdoors. Need something close. |
| 1 | Knowledge and education key obstacles- too many kids are afraid of the outdoors. Fear of the unknown – makes trips to the outdoors uncomfortable. |
| 1 | Family dynamics have changed so much. When I grew up, we were always outside. Later, went outside with my kids to National Parks and Forests. Something needs to be done to get today's families outside. |
| 1 | When you think kids are not paying attention – you may be surprised. Take them outdoors anyway. |
| 1 | To get outdoors, you have to be close to home – there has to be access, land, trails. We have completed 2/3 of Florida Trail – need access from private landowners and to purchase land. The Trail is a facility to get outdoors. For specifics as to what we can do – have Congress fully fund Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Support existing volunteer efforts. |
| 1 | Funding, funding, funding. Need more funding for LWCF, grants, trails, allocation |
| 1 | Palm Beach County – 40,000 acres that is not accessible for recreation. Burn and leave natural habitat for wildlife. Multi-purpose recreation needed. |
| 1 | Race to the Top – standardized testing is an obstacle– if you had the kind of curriculum that met testing protocols, maybe that would work. |
| 1 | How can we wean kids from electronic devices? So much out there vying for time and attention of kids. |
| 1 | Kids today think that adults do not appreciate what they have to do now, time wise, |

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| | compared to past generations. |
| 1 | Used to take kids to mud bog to study. Now, liability is out there. Safer to take kids to large amusement areas. Schools don't want to take that on. |
| 1 | Frances Howell-Coleman– expensive to get kids to outdoor areas. |
| 1 | There are some teachers that do want to take kids out, but no funding. Or Principal tells them to focus on FCAT. |
| 2 | Education works. Need to get to Moms engaged– they need to feel comfortable getting kids outdoors. Parents don't want to sign kids up because they are concerned about threats outdoors. Kids often come back 2 or 3 times to summer camp, once they are exposed. They will not be eaten by alligators. Access not issue. We have parks right behind the house – no one knows about them. Educate folks to get out. |
| 2 | Part of the theme from DVD was to get kids involved. Best thing would be for kids to sell kids about the outdoors. Need kids to be more vocal. Show some pride and knowledge that all snakes are not poisonous – kids – all ages, involved. Need them to be ambassadors for conservation and recreation. We can lecture them forever, but get one of those kids (like our speaker) and you get our next generation. |
| 2 | I hear a lot of teachers are saying that the way curriculums are structured is an obstacle to field trips. May need to address issue in education. Maybe President's recommendations will have positive impact. Scouts have been mentioned – Rotary , etc., - doctors, established organizations – so, if there is a way to build on existing structures, YCC, stuff your agencies do, with civic groups – to expose young people to environment. |
| 2 | Exposure to the outdoors– personally and professionally is important. |
| 2 | Several years ago, heard this comment about teachers and their load. The teachers at Circle B Bar have designed a curriculum to fulfill FCAT as well as support outdoor exposure. If people take the time to work this out correctly, should improve. Federal Government maybe needs to help field trip funding. |
| 2 | Identify common goals and objectives. |
| 2 | Mandate Environmental Education in schools! |
| 2 | Have to go where kids are – soccer companies, gaming companies and get them thinking of mindset to utilize outdoors – to tease kids to get them outside. |
| 2 | I think Audubon has done something with Apple and bird ID. |
| 2 | Is it more satisfying to see the virtual environment? No, said kids. Would go if money was no |

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| | object. |
| 2 | Maybe parents and teachers don't understand wonders that can be created in your own backyard – bugs, foundations of life. Work on educating on where accessible and that will help lead them. |
| 2 | they have developed educational materials and websites to download these materials for free. Videos, posters, interactive materials – very good for kids all the way through the university level. http://usgs.gov . Work a lot with counties, cities, WMDs. |
| 2 | Manley Fuller – several years ago, Gov. Crist established “Serve to Preserve” and the idea was to link retired people with volunteer opportunities outdoors. Not sure where this is today. Texas similar program. Look and see what different states have done, what would be compatible for this activity. |
| 2 | Everyone supports kids getting more education and getting outdoors and land conservation |
| 2 | Get Moms involved. |
| 2 | Get Dads involved, too. |
| 2 | Walked into my optometrist's office and he asked me what I can do with my son. Gave him info. On Youth camps. They were able to get involved. He reported that kid enjoyed himself and told his friends and they want to get involved. Here are things in our backyards. Need to educate parents and children. |
| 2 | There are a lot of good models out there for partnerships for providing trails, for example. Look at these with private partnerships with Fed Gov. that involve the public to be stewards of their public lands. More than just trails. Agencies – look to further existing partnerships and develop new ones to get the kids out. Need to come out with their families and organized groups. |
| 2 | We think that social media is a barrier to natural resources. We have a component on the environment for everything we do – we are now using social media to benefit . Virtual canoeing. If we have to do this to expose them to the headwaters of the Everglades, then we need to do it! Then, we can get them to the reality. Social media will not go away, so let's figure out how to use it. |
| 2 | I grew up in northeast FL. Don't schools have field trips anymore? When I grew up, we went on field trips to the springs. Boy Scouts took me camping every month. Isn't the school curriculum allowing for this? Why are they going to Disney World? Why not the National Forests? |
| 2 | In Panhandle FL, Walton County – M.C. Davis, has established E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center and this partnership should be looked at. M.C. Davis is wealthy and paid for a PhD study and |

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| | <p>did an analysis of best techniques to influence kids. Kids are exposed 3X during their 12 years of school. Have a week long experience. Actually test them. M. C. has worked out a program with entire school district. Might be something useful from that experience. Activities support curriculum.</p> |
| 2 | <p>We have environmental schools – magnet schools – they do a lot of field trips. Use Everglades Youth Camp – now run by FAU and Pine Jog Center. Afraid to come out for overnights. Younger kids – elementary? Transportation hard to line up</p> |
| 2 | <p>Has to be fun for the kids. Make it something they want to do. Want to be with their friends.</p> |
| 2 | <p>How about civic groups? Maybe Kiwanis, Rotary.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Thinking about high school level, they have clubs. Maybe they could have someone with her (student who spoke) passion start an environmental club and fundraise to do conservation efforts. Getting more people involved. Going camping. Getting more people of that age group excited about the outdoors. That way, starting that effort in the high school – making them take the lead. Doesn't need Fed. Assistance or other \$. Honestly, sometimes you just have to do it on your own. Listening to her speak, really moved me. Just start small and it might get other schools going.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Federal Government needs to help with field trip funding.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Fed. State/ LE seizure costs – usually invested in equipment after crime has been committed. How about 50% be set aside for more education and engagement in the environment. Thought processes have been in place so long. Does Pres. Obama change this? Not a grassroots effort yet. But could be. Thank you, drug lords.</p> |
| 3 | <p>That is the strength of the Federal government – providing great materials.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Maybe Fed. Gov. doesn't need to create new youth program. Maybe Federal government should support existing state and local programs.</p> |
| 3 | <p>The Florida Trail partners with the agencies. IF there were resources so we could more effectively partner, those are the types of opportunities that the Federal agencies could get involved in overseeing the funding at some level. Federal agencies are not in delivery system. Local agencies are in the delivery system. Fund what works. Way too few Federal agencies to get it done.</p> |
| 3 | <p>we really want the LWCF to get full funding for: 1) significant acquisition of land for the St. Marks NWR – we have willing sellers and anxious to sell and will help Gulf ecosystem ; 2) great opportunities for the Florida Panther NWR – willing sellers and expansion in existing conservation corridors; 3) connect corridors for Florida Trail, as well as bears and panthers – all provide great recreational opportunities. Florida has made advances in building</p> |

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| | conservation linkages. Kissimmee Valley opportunities with TNC are out there . |
| 3 | For example, you (USFWS) could fund Environmental Education center at the refuge, we could bring the Boy Scouts down there if there was funding to lead activities and coordinate projects. |
| 3 | Not only full funding of LWCF, but maintaining full funding for state program for land acquisition. |
| 3 | Where there is state and local government. Willing to help, should be incentive to get Federal \$. Should be favored over those who do not have local support. |
| 3 | Fed. Gov. has tremendous responsibility to take care of NPs. Everglades NP – first thing that strikes you is damage from hurricanes that has never been repaired. We are not taking care of physical plant of one of our “crown jewels.” Foreign visitors ask locals what is going on. Not a state responsibility. |
| 3 | Same applies to National Forests, campgrounds. Bring back the CCC or YCC and restore these places. |
| 3 | – There is a tendency to put \$ for an impressive facility and it’s a big too-do. But follow-up maintenance funds don’t seem to be there. Big deal 20 years ago, but now Fed. Gov. can’t support. Need to figure out what you need for the public, and maintain it. |
| 3 | Take incarcerated folks and put them to work - have Federal Gov. use this program. |
| 3 | An example that this work force (inmates) would be good for – we have tremendous exotic/invasive problems and inmates could be doing this work. |
| 3 | – USFS earn some income from direct harvesting and should we look at whether they sell these leases too cheaply. Alaska – cutting down magnificent Sitka spruce and shipping them to Japan. |
| 3 | We could not do it without partnerships - need more incentives for private landowners - tax credits. |
| 3 | Would be good to hear from ranchers that don’t want lands split up, so should have tax breaks for large landowners. Sen. . Baucus has had tax legislation for permanent conservation for a long time. Rationale is conservation easements will provide other public services – groundwater recharge, etc. |
| 3 | Quick comment on these kinds of initiatives. Great to do this, but if nothing hits the ground, it’s a loss. IF Fed. Gov. is serious on hardliner stance, American people need to see this. Pres. Obama has very little time, or he loses face. Got to walk the talk. People are interested to come to this, but got to do it. |

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| 3 | Got to get points on the board. I've been impressed with the level of what I believe is increased Fed. Gov. activity on Everglades's restoration. Million of problems to deal with, but action has begun. Did the Tamiami Bridge – that's a start, but it's an example. This stuff needs to be totally non-partisan. Shouldn't matter if you're are a Republican or Democrat, should be non-partisan. |
| 3 | \$900 million for LWCF was real money then – it's not now. |
| 3 | It all goes back to funding. IF you build it, they will come. FWCC already has the 6 youth centers, so just need funding to get them up and running. |
| 3 | Want this is the FY 12 budget to support America's Great Outdoors and the President needs to make it an agency budget priority. We all know where the rubber meets the road. |
| 3 | President put \$40 million towards AGO this in April 2010. |
| 3 | USDA Forest Service program Kids in the Woods – did not get enough \$ out. |
| 3 | Met with FWS/WO in July and others and was talking about 600,000 acres coastal conservation areas, which should help save \$. Sell this as an investment. President needs to look at existing programs and look for duplication and not just saying, we need this much more money. Consolidate programs. This should not be partisan. More efficient. Cooked the program down and will partner more with the states, who will partner more with local communities. |
| 3 | Don't forget about Get Outdoors Florida! Everyone should join. |
| 2 | Access to public lands is the biggest hurdle. Have to be able to get there. Accessibility to private land included. |
| 2 | Awareness. Websites are not user friendly. Look at improving websites. |
| 2 | Federal funding to implement what we know what works – 1) expansion of FL Panther NWR, 2) protect water programs of the Kissimmee Valley and work with cattle ranchers to conserve water. There exists fear on behalf of landowners that by making their property attractive to endangered species that they would be hampering their ranching management. Need to have working partnerships with ranchers and government to conserve wildlife and habitat and restore water for Everglades habitat. |
| 2 | Intergovernmental regulations on manatees. Local USFWS staff make their own regulations and create inconsistencies. There needs to be an understanding of realities of microenvironment vs government making broad regulations. |
| 2 | Promise to fully fund Land and Water Conservation Fund. Help landowners and farmers by funding existing conservation programs through the Farm Bill. Adequately fund refuges and |

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| | parks to be able to maintain them. |
| 2 | There's no landowner incentives to keep land in conservation. |
| 2 | Fund the landowner to manage the lands for exotic species and water conservation so they can stay intact. Everybody wants the open landscapes and we need to work with the landowners to protect them. |
| 2 | How do you make the land valuable when you have a global economy of food production?...for example, we import exotic apples from China. |
| 2 | Everyone wants a piece of FL and everyone wants a piece of nature in FL, but landowners want a lot of money. |
| 1 | Youth archery programs, shooting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, etc, and they need to get back into the schools. |
| 1 | USDA sponsors 4H program that is federally legislated in every county in the US. The 4H program gives the city kids a chance to get outdoors. There's also a wildlife habitat program that we need to expand and create more networking opportunities (training, webinars) with other programs across the nation. We need to work with other youth programs, creating seamless connections between federal-state-county-local for opportunities for action. For example, "Florida Outdoors" website coordinates all outdoor opportunities. |
| 1 | Operate conservation and private landowners to expand FL Panther NWR. Kissimmee Valley – set up and expand programs to compensate private landowners for what they provide rather than them having to sell their land for development. Develop Cooperative Programs. |
| 1 | Where are they going to swim, fish, mountain bike? Conflicts exist between preservation and recreation. There are a very small number of zero impact experiences and Florida's environment is harsh in July. Look at things they want to do and participate with them. Fishing and hunting are most important here in Florida. |
| 1 | Partnerships work. Our MOU with USFWS has created the opportunity to bring thousands of people to our refuges. We need to promote those partnerships to get people engaged. |
| 1 | The mentoring program, but needs to expand to cover liability and improved family access. There's no social structure to get the kids outside. |
| 1 | We need to get back to the business model to get kids outside. Interpretive programs are key to create the spark yet we've cut back on them in both federal and state recreation areas. Yet we need to let the youth tell us what gets them excited, don't just decide it for them. |
| 1 | Lead by example. If the President would do things outside he could help get others involved |

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| | because people emulate our leaders. Most people who go outdoors are hunters and fishers and white which equates to 20%. President Obama could help make minorities more comfortable with the outdoors if he spends time outdoors. |
| 1 | Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. We need a national marketing program to increase participation in these activities. |
| 1 | Duck populations (management?) in the prairie pothole region is working. |
| 1 | Estate tax issues in Florida is a inhibitor. Rich 3% is floating the rest of us. This is the time to correct the estate tax on land. Consider a policy that would split land off. Ranch land should be exempt from estate tax. |
| 1 | Public Lands Youth Day – September 25 th . National Wildlife Refuge Week – October 11-17. |
| 1 | Being able to talk in this forum. |
| 3 | Be more cooperative with state and local agencies. Trail issues exist. Not enough deer and hogs in Everglades and we are losing food sources for panthers. |
| 3 | Land conservation is important. Regulations come down. Reality creates impediments to access. For example, they are closing roads in national forests. We have a car based society and road closures are creating barriers to access. Takes many miles to get there and there are safety issues to deal with. We are good at conserving, but at the same time, we are impeding access. Road closures are bad for wildlife too. Roads provide good habitat for wildlife. |
| 3 | Youth Conservation Corps. Federal government should have more of a role in bringing back the YCC and getting people back out into the resource. |
| 3 | There is a lack of role models for minority groups. TV role models are mainly Anglo Saxon American. Latino population and women are minorities. Use social science to connect with minority groups. What do they expect from us in conservation? Find baseline data on where we are and make decisions based on science to understand the demographic. |
| 3 | Need more funding, but instead there is reduced access. |
| 3 | We need a New Deal with the Economic Recovery Effort. Recreate a National Conservation Corp by the Obama Administration. Make it a \$100 billion dollar national conservation work program building visitor centers, maintaining facilities. This should be part of the economic recovery plan. |
| 3 | Create business partnerships. Business partners help support the program. Get partners involved that are going to have direct benefit. Increase budgets but do creative funding with tax credits and other incentives. Expand Pittman-Robertson Act, in which sporting goods, |

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| | and hunting and fishing license fees go back to states. |
| 3 | Environmental Protection Agency should stop all lead based ammunition. They did it for duck hunting but stopped there. |
| 3 | AGO Listening Sessions need to be publicized more to get more people behind it. |
| 4 | Need more loans to C4 organizations than to C3's. Having a hard time getting grants. |
| 4 | "Lost Child in the Woods" backed by solid science. Develop a communication campaign to communicate it to the country. Campaign can impact lots of people. |
| 4 | Federal Department of Education has a lot of leeway to decide what to fund. For educational institutions removing outdoor exercise from the curriculum yet receiving federal funding, there needs to be federal intervention. Outdoor recreation should be put back in curriculum for anyone receiving federal funding. |
| 4 | There are transportation barriers to get kids out to natural areas. Provide School districts with access to vehicles to get them to outdoor places. |
| 4 | Effect on health. How are we networking with the health community to provide opportunities with getting people outdoors? Develop wellness programs between health care community and outdoors community. Get health care community involved. |
| 4 | Hunter safety programs. Take the same model of hunter safety programs and use it to do wildlife programs. For example, how to build a fire, teach/use things they can see, touch and use their senses. The Boy Scout Program emulates this. Bring scouts, 4 H, other programs back into schools. Get the instructors connected across these programs. |
| 4 | Make outdoor activities mandatory in school curriculum. Have a science teacher symposium. The Department of Interior needs to work with the Department of Education. |
| 4 | Green school program (in MD) developed a culture within the school with kids, teachers, and parents. |
| 4 | Florida green building coalition |
| 4 | Marketing outdoor activities as an alternative to the indoor electronics world. |
| 4 | A kid catching a first fish or hunt makes an impact. Need to provide those "firsts" experiences. |
| 4 | Consider building regional USFWS training schools (like the National Conservation Training Center) that teachers could utilize with reduced travel expenses. |
| 4 | We need a guided experience and it needs to be cheap. Come up with additional |

experiences even if it's Ducks Unlimited showing people nature, not necessarily taking them out hunting first, which can be a bit intimidating.

