

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

Location: Nashville, TN

Date: June 28, 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?

Discussion Question 1-4	Comment
3	TN Tourism development like the holistic approach. Asking local communities how they can help with conservation of the landscapes that are privately managed. What are the best practices from private side? Letting the grass roots make the impact with government support. How do we make sure people know where trails (rec) areas are?
2, 3	Partner with economic development to help conserve the landscapes that attract tourism. Not realistic to tell rural communities to stay rural with no development. Provide the incentives and work together. There are so many government agencies, TN department tourism works to designate byways, then TDOT puts rip rap along the road...not working together, government needs to be pulled together. Need balancing of environmental and economic. Hierarchy of gov't. Need economic purposes for recreation to make rural communities more viable.
1, 2	Blue way concepts working well. It gives people access. Not a big investment that can make a difference. Misconception about BIG government taking private land.

	NRCS programs, there's a disconnect. Locals do the paperwork, but the process fails to get the actions/expectations to meet. The small grants are not the effort, work and paperwork! Not going to waste time on a small piece of pie. Need a critical mass to make it worthwhile.
2, 3	Real estate land broker. Couldn't find anyone to tell him how to get land donated to public. Realtors are not at the table when conservation groups get together or when opportunities present themselves. Success would increase if real estate persons were at the table. Could government help identify the key lands that are needed for conservation? So when a farmer is ready to sell, conservation advocates are ready and responsive.
2	American Rivers. Request for funding to allocate specifically for blueways in urban areas. Focusing on local urban streams. Allow for more protection and cleaning up the rivers, i.e. Wolf River. Signs posted for no prolonged human exposure. Kids can't swim in the creek. 319 and State Revolving Loan granting programs are routinely unfunded.
1	Land trust for Tennessee. Joint venture program is working well, set larger picture conservation values for areas. Build on this good thing.
1	Comment added to (name deleted). Storm water management. Communities have no strategic partnerships that are vested in the water quality goals and help the communities. Need to know the players so communities can partner up. Small communities need to know who to go to for help. Rural communities don't have as much money nor the access to people for help.
1	Something that works ...building on environmental attributes, i.e. ducks unlimited buys the conservation easements.
1	2 initiatives that has works. Alliance for the Cumberlands brought a lot of groups and agencies together. Mississippi Corridor Project worked well to help promote and protect these lands. People in rural communities would stay and protect the valued lands if there were job opportunities but they leave. There's a need for a Green Initiative.
1	We do environmental education. What has helped us as a small non-profit is the TN Wildlife Federation. They helped bring a lot of children outdoors. Army Corp too.
2	There's a disconnect between people needing funding and the funding sources. People aren't applying for these funding sources.
1	Do we do anything with Geocaching? Take kids to places with a story. There many places with a story in TN, i.e. battlefields. Make it fun, 4-H works well in TN.

2	Discovery Center Murphreesboro. I do a lot of environmental education with inner city kids. Challenge is kids are terrified. How do we get them over the fear? We need to get their parents to say it's ok to go outside and climb a tree or get a teacher to take the students outside? How do we breakthrough to parents and teachers?
1	Project Learning Tree program helping get youth out and learn how to grow trees.
2	TN off-highway Association Turkey Bay, LBL, and state area above Knoxville (Royal Blue). Supply is challenging. Lack sufficient access. No public riding areas in Tennessee, but thousands of registered riders. However people don't buy OHV's because there's no place to ride on public lands. People have to travel out-of state to ride.
2	A farmer says to be perfectly honest, there's a lot of mistrust with environmentalists. You can't be sustainable without a profit. Let's work together. We need strong, viable farms so the lands don't get sold and parceled out. Regulating farm dust, is this really an issue? What's worse, working lands and forests or development?
1	TN land trust. If we could change the rule to have less than 50% match on purchase of lands? It would greatly grow our success.
1	Ag tourism program in the state is working well. Forms are complicated and scary even for a government worker. Emphasize soil and water with kids.
2	Underlying theme is finding out what the needs are in a community and funnel funds to them. Need to piggyback community needs; i.e. Provide day-care with Environmental Ed. to help kids of single moms to get out outside.
3	Battle of Franklin Trust: We've been declined for any park service status. How do restart a process for affiliation with the parks? Need the affiliation of National Parks to get recognition to grow visitation and appreciation.
2	\$5000 grant is not worth the effort to apply, we only apply if it's at least 80-100 K.
2	Trying to get people outdoors: SAFETY and CONNECTIVITY are the 2 biggest challenges. Culture of stranger danger keeps people indoors. Too difficult to get across the state, just as hard as it was for the pioneers! Too many obstacles in perimeters of cities. Some cities may have good connections, but that all goes away in rural areas. Perception that if someone on a bike gets hit by a car, it's the bike riders fault.
2	Civil war focus. Need some kind of channel or network that various groups can use to work together. We share common interests but don't work together, nor know all the interested parties involved.

1	Land trust TN. Share examples of what's working with groups across the nation.
1	Cam Sholly, Natchez Trace Superintendent, his leadership has really woken up the people and is getting people involved in partnerships. Leadership helps inspire.
2, 3	Public school access and connectivity is being lost because housing developments don't allow through traffic. Fences are going up and keeping kids out. There could be regulations that tell people to allow access and open for use. Federal government should buy key parcels to secure public access. Federal regulations on mortgages have changed in the last few years; these regulations could incorporate land use to accompany better connectivity in neighborhoods (not allowing fences so kids can cut through yards). Can't use utility corridors either.
2	Equestrian, RTP should be constant funding and cut the red tape to get the funds to the ground.
2	Lucky to get one Forest Legacy a year. There's a huge need for very little funding opportunities.
3	Tennessee has great species diversity and should have a higher priority for conservation. It's always California.
2	Need to provide better incentives and push for benefits to put farm in an easement.
3	Stop treating property as a border. Federal government should become partners with gateway communities. Work with the communities.
1, 3	Obesity rates. School field trips are going away. Need to be supported at a national level through education. It is of great value. The costs are making field trips prohibited.
2	Make a requirement for field trips.
2	Need to provide better incentives and push for benefits to put farm in an easement.
2	I see a lack of willingness for educators to bring kids to places. Teachers tend to think it's the parents' responsibility to get kids outdoors. Williamson county trend is taking less and less field trips each year. Less movies! Take kids out.
4	REI in Brentwood. A lot of initiatives to kids outdoors. There is no mission without a margin of profit. Be sure to include the private sector when considering these incentives.
2	Board of land trust. Tried for 20 years to get my grandkids to my farm with limited success. Try to get the parents, grandparents outdoors too. The competition is tough

	with sports, video games, etc.
1	We have teenagers work in the park and sponsor camping trips for inner city kids. A support group is helpful.
1	Help knit private and public lands together for conservation. No one wants to think all lands will be public lands. This is not a federal land grab.
2	From Oregon and familiar with working with Forest Service. The access shut down, don't maintain roads, and charge a fee under Clinton Administration. Less access for fire suppression, higher cost of fire suppression with federal money/tax payer dollars. Less Roads = less jobs.
2	Park enthusiast. Tremendous lack of young park employees. It's difficult to get in. Cumbersome application process. Younger generation are not veterans making it difficult to get employment. Recruitment lacking.
2	One constant thread is everyone is seeking funding. Got accustomed to the government providing cash for their program. Government act more like a business and not a bureaucracy. Government should look as itself as an investor, not a benefactor.
1	Great Outdoors University has thousands of kids who have a chance to experience the outdoors that does not normally engage in the outdoors. They are the instructors that partner with groups like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. This program facilitates getting these kids partnered up with those to take them hiking, fishing, with community naturalists.
1	All spoke to the Great Outdoors University. It is an extremely effective program. TWF serve as the partnering organization. They are working with non profits that want to work with the kids, but don't have the people to lead the field trips, or activities. This program supplements with funds to hire people, pay for transportation, etc. Many of these trips go to public outdoor places like National Wildlife Refuges, state parks, national parks or state conservation areas.
1	Working with Natchez Trace
1	Best way to get people outside is simple land trust. Land trusted areas have put a big effort to conserve these outdoor places.
1	Tribes: Current generations are not the first generation to lose touch with the outside. The parents that have been disconnected and the ones that vote and take their kids. For some of this, we need to look a little backwards to past generations. Several tribes in NC have been able to collaborate on Center for Cherokee Plants. They bring in kids and parents to show them the plants and showed them traditional

	<p>uses. They also distribute seeds and plants for tribal communities. Programs like that are successful in many different ways. This program of getting back to tribal traditions is helping to solve many of the problems within the tribal community. This program can be looked at as an example for getting people outdoors.</p>
1	<p>Historic Nashville - Talk about the other side of the conservation coin is cultural historic and archeological sites. One program is the historic preservation fund, distributed to the historic preservation groups. Other successful program is the Heritage Areas such as the Mussel Shoals area. The Save America's Treasures program is another great program it helped to preserve the Hermitage in Nashville.</p>
1	<p>Trees Nashville Get kids involved in tree planting is a great way to get them outdoors. Programs like this take public and private partnerships.</p>
2	<p>Private landowner: His small town has purchased in town 27.4 acres for a community park. He sent out postcards to townspeople listing asking things they wanted in their park. These people wanted to go back in time. The things they wanted in the park are sledding areas, place to grill out, and places to ice skate outdoors. They basically wanted to slow down and return to past recreation activities. These people just want to relax. His park has many different habitat types. They will connect their park through a hiking trail to other areas. The challenge is funding for parks. They can get matching funds, but they have problems raising that much. Grant process is 157 pages, very complex. If you really want to get to the people you really need to go to the grass roots. You also need to have a simpler process to get the money to these grass roots process. He qualifies for the grant, but they can't get it because of the arduous process.</p>
2	<p>The amount of money it takes to administer a federal grant is high. Some NGO's don't go there because it is such a hard process to deal with federal grants.</p>
1, 2	<p>Watershed NGO, they connect people with the resource. They also work to connect private and public people together. The boat day is a great event to get people connected to the resource. They work to educate local governments, and education community about serving their needs but also serving the conservation needs. They work in local communities to be ready for Climate Change. They focus on forest and water conservation in climate change. They work at a local level in communities building conservation teams. The challenge around that is getting grants. She will never do a federal grant again, it was a horrible experience. The administration of the grant is a big job to do. It would be wonderful to have the government to look at foundations and help them because they can distribute the money easier. Give them general support, and expect reports, but don't overdo the administering portion. Non profits can distribute these funds so much better than the federal government.</p>

2	Clinical psychologist, retired. Been trying to form a Tennessee Naturalist program. Worked on a grant proposal for two years, this grant with NSF was unbelievably ridiculous. They finally got the funding, but by the hardest. She will be in the first group to train with biologist. Do not limit your work to only children. She is 76 and she believes they need to develop their relationship with nature. Many older folks don't like nature. She read a story about an older group that went off into the wilderness. They were going to study how that affect their brains without electronic equipment.
2, 3	NGO Cumberland region tomorrow works with developments of lands in constructive ways and with community development. The current policy works against land conservation. We are set for sprawl in the current policy. What the Fed. Gov't can do is to connect their efforts sustainable communities partnership initiative that will help communities with better development of their communities and infrastructure. The other thing you can do is work with natural resource partnerships with state agencies and provide them with ways to partner with NGO's. Fund communities to help provide comprehensive plans for these community developments.
2, 3	Blueways program Challenge on access points to trails. She would like that state and federal can help in getting private landowners to give access to these trails. For them to work to help educate these private landowners in their views on this. She wanted to thank (name deleted) for his wilderness program.
1	Stones River Watershed Association boat day where they invite public to river, get together as many boats as they can, and let people try out different boats, up to 450 people in attendance, more appropriate use of the river is the result - also GLOBE (Global learning opportunities to help the environment), use stormwater funds to train teachers and get kids out into the field, teachers need more time to do that.
1	Mussel Shoals Natural Heritage Area local fisherman with Bass Masters have take kids to fish day, teach kids to cast, etc., focus on kids who have no one else to take them fishing
1	Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Involved in access to the rivers and creek, have group working with others (REI, etc.)to build access points so people can get on the river
1	Friends of TN NWR Discovery series, held monthly, bring in speakers, do hands on stuff, also fund scholarships to fund bringing kids to the NWR (transportation grants), also do service learning projects in invasive control (educate them also), remember young kids don't drive so you will have a captive audience while there.
1	Lots of tribes trying to bring the youth back to the resources, getting youth out to the wild, not just inner city youth, too many technology uses, too little nature time,

	Cherokee have been trying
3	CEO of TN Wildlife Federation from Federal standpoint, incentive based programs, but these programs are typically resource limited, even small cuts have huge effects, get on the ground working with landowners on a daily basis, i.e., NRCS, FSA, PFFW, need to make the performance standards employees are graded on at a county level to give it the attention it needs to get or give money to non-profits who can do work cheaper and faster, crossing political boundaries.
1	TN NWR North American Conservation model is success, look at Duck Stamp, paid for by hunters and fishermen, problem we are seeing is that it needs help, now the user has changed (more wildlife viewing, more wilderness use), but they aren't paying for their part of the resource use, need to expand the model to include fees/taxes on other users beyond hunters and fishermen.
2	There has to be an umbrella, to organize the groups to qualify for grants in partnership with other similar groups, they will qualify for more grants, grant process is difficult.
2	TWF (also hunting and fishing guide, member of board of several groups) - challenge because losing numbers of hunters and fisherman, need to get word out to all the organizations and public that hunters and fishermen are not the bad guys, don't want to be on a pedestal, but want to be acknowledged for their contribution to grassroots conservation efforts historically, they want to save green space, etc., they are often treated badly, groups trying to take away hunting and fishing rights, need to bring the sportsmen together in partnership with more of these organizations acknowledging common ground.
2	Tennessee Parks and Greenway Foundation success using property transfer funds, used in 4 ways, 16 Million dollars goes back to TN, however those funds can be taken by legislature to balance the budget, it is a fight they will have to fight every year, even though it is dedicated fund, never fully funded, there should be more federal incentive to states to have this type of forward thinking approach to take money when developed and preserve the land, this would be good incentive to state legislatures if the feds would match the money they might set aside. Match all money set aside for conservation.
2	www.walkinonranch.com concerned that these comments won't be read, doesn't like the idea, he is private business man, served in Viet Nam, has some land near Cookeville, they have a horse business, he has PTSD and doesn't like to be around people, wants to know what to do to get help and support, invited to equestrian world games as breed representative for TWH, the small grass roots people can do things, small person can make a difference, looking for help in representing the

	Tennessee Walking Horse, the various websites are not giving him the assistance he needs in getting help he wants, he wants to get help in representing the state of TN, small farmer and rancher can contribute but need help in figuring out how to get assistance. Don't focus all assistance just on organizations; make it easier with less red tape for individuals, not just organizations. Make it easier for people on bottom end of it to contribute.
2	make it easier to get grants, most of these folk are volunteers with day jobs, make it easier
3	1. Government to government consultation requirements with tribes could help feds hear things from tribes they need to hear. 2. Support legislative fix for Carcieri decision which keeps tribes from having lands put into trust for them. 3. Encourage Salazar to consider the precedent set for the role of stakeholders by his decision in Cape Wind projects 4.support extension service through land grant universities (especially in Indian country). 5. Through Rural Development, look at unintended consequences of SUTA and the problem is that it is only trust areas (fee simple doesn't qualify).
1, 3	Poor areas are a problem. Suggest Urban hubs through public transportation. Driving is getting very expensive. Camping equipment is now considered a luxury. Develop a tax incentive for people to donate their camping equipment or canoe to find homes for people that will use them.
1	What works: Cherokee national forest Policy Public and Private funding, Land trust, Land trust easement conservation
1	What works: Civil war heritage sites
1	What works: Sierra Club funding land purchase
1	What works: Mix of easements and land acquisition
1	What works: Green ways and space working for public use
1	What works: State Parks and greenways. Simple for scouting and schools. Lots compared to other states. Really works
1	What works: DU and other org. NWTF Youth orientations with outdoors. Wood Duck Boxes hands on Exp. Gets Kids outdoors
1	TN Civil War Heritage. Authentic exp. Step back in time for the visitor. TN is number 8 for Tourism. Civil war sites have played a great role in that.
1	YMCA every child outdoors. Bredesen working to getting kids outdoors

1	Historic sites like Hermitage blend historic and outdoor recreation
1	Volunteer Friend Groups Wheeler Refuge: Listening session and getting needs to the public. Helps lobby btw public and private usage to allow coordination between groups.
1	DU in Memphis: Public and Private group's work well together.
1	Warner Park Getting kids outdoor in to parks and so forth works to get kids interested in the outdoors.
1	MTSU Historic Preservation Public and private funding provides the glue for historical parks across the state.
1	Sierra Club (Tennessee Chapter) Land purchase ie. Land and Water Conservation Fund State, City and County purchase programs need to be funded.
1	Linear Greenways (Chat. Area especially)
1	Rec. Trails program, Local park and rec fund. Continue to utilize these programs to purchase natural areas.
1	Volunteer Friend Groups Wheeler Refuge: Listening session and getting needs to the public. Helps lobby btw public and private usage to allow coordination between groups.
1	Combine the effects of getting an outdoor experience with attending our historical sites like The Hermitage, Carnton Plantation, etc.
1	Seek more ways to find funding to preserve natural areas using a combination of public and private groups.
2	challenges: Conservation and greenways more \$\$:
2	Challenges: grants not enough \$\$ to cover grants and request for funding.
2	Challenges: Kids connected to nature. Every Kid getting access to outdoors. Classes, greenways and parks, field trips, Teacher training no knowledge for them to get outdoors, lesson plans for teachers,
2	Challenges: TN # 8 in tourism. Preserving America Program: no \$\$ in budget for this program in 2011. Sustainable tourism will suffer if this stands
2	Challenges: DU Kids in the outdoors. Education parents. Find ways to do this. We missed a generation so the kids are suffering
2	Challenges: Childhood Obesity, media partners telling people to stay inside during

	heat. Find another way to provide a healthy message
2	Challenges: Land owners may be interested in Conservation easement. Expensive appraisals or donation of \$\$ to monitor lands. Match up people who have lands and money. Maybe set up trust funds to help facilitate this for people who have \$\$ but no land
2	Challenges: State Mandate for State Wildlife conservation plan, federal agency use same tools to set up consistency btw states. EX no net loss policy for wildlife conservation
2	Challenges: Lack of fitness. Get out and walk, eat healthy, etc: To do this area must be safe and education about fitness and healthy eating
2	Challenges: Consistent and full funding for the USDA's Resource Conservation and D... Fund (RC&D)
2	Challenges: recreation in forested areas is threatened by insects and diseases (trees) Threats to forest health on public and private lands. Land use change loss of forested lands. Work with our policy makers to make them aware of the importance of our forested areas.
2	Challenges: Create opportunities and demand for kids to be outside. Convince kids that it's great to be outside.
2	Challenges: Forest fragmentation housing and commercial developments need more local regulations to manage land use. Keep best farm land in production
2	Change the perception that it's not safe to be outdoors. Address it if it's real or dismiss it if it's fiction.
2	Challenge: Change the perception that it's not safe to be outdoors. Address it if it's real or dismiss it if it's fiction.
2	Challenges: Trouble for private sector to meet matches for federally funded programs. Prioritize or coordinate the funding programs.
2	Challenges: Get our message out to a more diverse group of people instead of the same folks. Engage every member of our population
3	No child left indoors program needs to be implemented similar to no child left behind
3	More monuments to designate areas. To show people what is special or set aside so they can appreciate it more.
3	Pass No child left inside act, Budget that has been cut. Provide more funding.

	Federal Children's Bill of Right all kids should have the right to do these 12 things. Gov't could communicate this to everyone
3	Land HOH conservation funds. State side components federal hwy admin. State self funding gas tax. Continue this program.
3	Protecting large landscapes only Federal gov't can do this
3	Legislature for large businesses will have to put out lots of money for clean air and water act etc. . If this is not achievable or realistic could this \$\$ be used for conservation and recreation.
3	Let the government communication folks have more freedom to spread the message of the benefits of getting people outdoors.
3	Create a comprehensive plan that last longer than one presidential/congressional term.
3	Have the President create an America's Great Outdoors day in which all NGOs, state parks, nat. parks, battlefields could concentrate on to make a large public event.
3	Fully fund the LWC Fund, approve and fund the TN Wilderness Act., Administration to draft a National Heritage Organic Act.
3	Continue to evaluate areas of opportunities to get more kids out doors.
3	Use the current Antiquities Act to protect cultural sites
3	Public service announcement for AGO message. People do not know about the program.
3	internet marketing for zip code cross reference for natural areas
3	Talk to Parents about TN history, get parents to take responsibility about history and about how to be good citizens.
3	Amendment to fund and encourage field trips
3	Need more marketing dollars to advertise greenways and trails initiatives. Promote people getting outdoors.
3	Funding to market natural/wild areas and parks.
3	Fully fund the Federal historic conservation act. Preserve America save America's treasures. Fund school field trips somewhere else other than the school room.
4	Some place (i.e. website) where everyone can go to find everything they can do

	outside.
4	Compensate landowners for maintaining viewsheds
3	Mandate schools to create programs that requires kids to get outside, i.e. 100 hrs. of volunteer services before the child can advance to the next grade.
1	Community Activist to grow meadow Best things that have worked is community outreach. Educating officials that make decisions. Cities work with gov't and change the way they work green native species and places, going back to nature
1	Focus on specific issue and have partners within issue, take focused voice to decision makers; Take similar interest groups together, refine messages together with focus.
1	Conservation easements work to help private landowners use conservation methods. Some programs are not funded well enough to provide local match therefore, need local match requirements lessened or bartered in other ways. Partnering and leveraging
4	Engage with strange bedfellows such as developers to plan green space within communities change ordinances within local statute to better allow green spaces. Beneficial with developers.
3	All states developed SWAP TN has 700 species rank as greatest conservation need. Documents are done but not widespread throughout other agencies and groups to use proactive approach. These documents provide that help. Need to utilize more. Marketing needs to be expanded.
1	People are looking for ways they can help out with the environment, integrate environment into own local homes move people in closer to city and conserve outside. Work with partners who have opposing ideas. Partner to a common goal.
1, 3	Promoting small sustainable farms to protect private lands. 2007 Organic Bill provided more funds for this type of farming. Small sustainable farms are helped by this funding. EQUIP opened up funds for farmers to get started.
1	Have a friends group allows you to do things in conjunction with State. Friends are able to do things quickly, write grants, get money from City and can do things more quickly than other agencies.
1	Works with Media, Team Green, motivates public and benefits all partners.
1, 2	Success in bridging gap between preservation and conservation community. Preservation community is more concerned with buildings and conservation. = landscapes. Need to integrate these ideas. TN Civil War Natural Heritage Area

	administered by University. TN farms that have been in same family for over 100 years These areas are important to many more partners.
2	TN organization, challenge they have release schedules , from TVA they hold lots of land concern Hawassi river, river turns on at 11, want recreation on the river. Wants white water rafting with more releases. Before and after labor daily
3	Young and minorities, connect them to the parks. Working with DOI is a nightmare, very difficult to get suggestions thru. No access to authority people, better correlate with programs with the youth.
1	Children in nature network getting children to the outdoors. Practical ways to get into our backyards. Birdfeeders, mow grass, rake., take dog walk, plant garden. Public announcement campaign, getting families together , Public service announcements to tell family's
1	parent volunteer- Need Public broadcasting, suggesting parents reading, schools could also promote
1, 3	Take children and work into jobs, projects. WPA format to give everyone a boost to do.
2	Lands set aside, and we struggle to maintain what we have, maintenance and upkeep.
2	- help people to love something to get them outdoors. TN children we have lots of parks and trying to get children outdoors.
1, 3	Harder to get out doors. Make a challenge, to stop schools mow the grass, gov't to have native gardens in schools, Stop using pesticides.
1	Ntrace pky write your programs on the web
2, 3	Conservation easements 06 07, easement enhanced. Extended 08 + 09, 2yrs success, want perm tax code(revisions). Chattn cons farm land Farm to school program good benefits, child nutrition act hard to serve food, had more funding and buy from the local farmer.
1	Service corps act, 15 25 full time employment. Enthusiasm is great with children.
1, 3	Climate change- wildlife corridors for animals. Bring people together and provide wildlife viewing, someone to step up to make it work.
2	Grant money criteria need to be looked at: parking lots are a waste of money.
1	Bringing together- ducks unlimited and sierra club we are doing the same thing but in a different way, Bringing kids, radio and TV into play with a PSA bring together as

	one.
1	TNEC Bill wet weather conservation act. Water groups came together. Our planet being threatened, environmental groups recognize what's going on.
2	policy cutting into the NF, on board of TN parks and greenways, reassess the resources of TN, look and not cutting into the NF
2	We observe wildlife no hunting on it, raising money for land, money is hard to get. LWCF land acquisition money
1	Stream line grants process, no mowing highways, working with farmers
1	State parks historic preservation natural resource incentive for state to make jobs for conservation.
2	we created you're going to fix it (as he tells his youth group)
1, 2	Release schedules of water levels are controlled by TVA need to be aligned; engage partners and hold stakeholder meetings regardless of controversy or differing users in order to best regulate water levels.
2, 3	Young people reconnection minorities. Working with Dept. of Interior is a nightmare vs. NOAA. NPS superintendant are too hands off, better coordination of youth programs.
1, 2	Get kids outdoors- find practical ways to get kids outdoors in backyards. Basic everyday things such as raking and mowing are not done, parents overworked. Integrate nature activity with normal living opportunities such as outdoor concert.
1	Public announcement campaign connecting w nature is as easy as walking out back door. Broadening PE in schools to things such as rescuing horses.
1	parent/teacher 'how to' on linking kids w nature in simple ways
1	connectivity turn social innovation fund into taking kids outside
2	Set lands aside and struggle to maintain and keep up lands. Dedicated funding for maintenance and upkeep of lands and use other initiatives to bring kids and people to lands.
1, 2	Help people love something Every child outdoors TN bill of rights for children walk in woods possible because of partnerships subscribing to this bill. School curriculums recesses and outdoor activities are cut and field trips are limited. Challenge is outside activity is limited because of testing requirements.

1	Need alternatives such as native gardens on grounds of school. Re-educating educators, getting them outside. Refocus maintenance of grounds around schools, cities etc.
1	Natchez trace pkwy matching nature program with curriculums held workshops (timing is important)- teachers hungry for integrating lessons with outdoors.
1, 2	Challenge of conservation Easements 2006 and 2007 enhanced tax incentives caused lots more people to enter into CE program Needs to be permanent part of tax code. Help small scale local farmers farm to school programs where schools purchase foods from local farmers Child nutrition act makes it hard to serve quality food and program specifies exact quantities and lends itself to processed large quantity. More funding for Child Nutrition Act.
1	Public Lands Service Corp Act for young 15-25 employs them this Act should be funded. Kids Enthusiasm leads to renewal for all.
3	Challenge in relation to climate change developing wildlife N/S corridors need coordination with feds and state to create wildlife corridors which could provide obvious needs. Need lead on leading all partners to solution.
3	Grant criteria need to be looked at Small parking lots need to be built to federal standards huge waste of \$
1	Pres. Obama commitment to bring together strange bedfellows. Divide between DU and Sierra Club the more we can get together we can understand we are all doing the same thing, just in a different way. Radio and television need to focus on getting kids out in nature, or bring together people who love nature in similar but different ways will soften edge and bring us together. Get beyond misunderstandings and create togetherness to achieve end conservation. Need innovative leaders
1	Had allied with Hook/bullet crowd with tree huggers. Strong coalition caused legislature to get compromised bill. Climate and environmental crisis are bringing people and strange bedfellows together in order to produce unified response.
2	Rethinking cutting in NF if trees store carbon maybe we should reassess if we should cut in NF. Reassess logging laws in NF and licensing. Do not harvest because of carbon and
1	Urban Park serves 1mill people/year no hunting fishing etc only observation get great funding from private, local city governments. Biggest challenge is raising federal money to buy land Fund LWCF pull out from larger Energy Bill Congressional Decision needs support
1	Reexamine criteria on grants and further streamline process, look at strategic

	reduction of mowing money on highways etc and put \$ back into schools; reduce nitrogen and phosphorus and utilize oil spill cleanup efforts to publicize nature conservation in farming communities
1	Youth Conservation Programs provide segue for young people to get into nature positions. Need incentive for States to look to these programs as apprenticeship programs.
2	Problems we face will not be solved by the minds that created them. DOI needs more coordination to get more young people involved.
1	Not always about money instead educate kids, Last child in the Woods
1	Core of success is a respectful unified community
1	Make resources available to local organizations and initiatives
1	Internet access to let people know of local opportunities.
1	Meet with community centers; create connections among people; work with organizations to create programs.
1	Example of Cumberland Trail, extensive new trail system. Success has been funded by grants, now State Park, needs funding to maintain these trails.
1	Working with schools to promote outdoors education.
2	RTCA Program. There has been tension over budget allocations between RTCA and park unit.
1	Works with programs that get kids outside. Program works with Forest Service. Field trip funding has been cut. Put money into local lands, can do amazing things for the community.
2	Wonderful to have initiatives but don't have staff/time to educate public/youth. Not enough staff for field trips. How can we get excited for educating youth if we have no funding/staff?
3	Can we help private sector/retail groups? Get tax cuts, breaks, incentives to help private sector? Family Adventure Journal—passport program that has been successful to get kids engaged in outdoors. Could engage more people if there weren't so many liability issues with transportation. There are regulations that are not being enforced (hunting/fishing).
1, 3	Works with organizations that volunteers to maintain trails, such as Back Country Horse of America, Leave No Trace program. Want access and open relationship with

	park rangers, superintendents, etc.—government agencies assist local organizations.
2	Access is issue, no mass transit- how do you get urban people to open lands? Difficult to get youth out to areas because of transportation.
2	Schools, community groups cannot get to park because there is no bus stop.
2	Concerned about land not being acquired, purchased and developed for private purposes.
2	No equal protection for state programs in local communities.
2	Dealing with what I do with my land is my business and no one else's zoning needs to be in place, to make smaller footprint and preserve more open and green space.
2	Money unavailable to buy in holdings because funds are committed elsewhere.
3	Need Federal money to help buy land before developers buy it up.
1	Don't overlook historic landscapes. Increase the idea of what is preservation.
2, 3	Special use permit process is dependent on whoever is in that job. When it takes one year to be heard, isn't there something wrong with process?
1	Partnership incubation hub for encouraging partnerships between organizations.
3	Can AmeriCorps be of assistance to some of these staffing issues discussed earlier?
3	Government should provide central/interstate level of information. Not asking for funds or regulation, but who do I go to for this?
3	Needs to be strong Federal effort to reach all communities minorities?
3	Government needs to advertise programs (Smoky Bear, pollution) to children
3	Government should take on issues of public transportation, finding ways to increase long distance mass transportation.
3	Continue support for National Heritage Areas.
3	Issue executive order to revise policies on wilderness review.
3	Collaboration of Dept. of Education. Add Water Quality Act, Pollution, Ecosystem, etc. into curriculum.
3	Take advantage of university systems. Reduce student loans for involvement in civic activities?

3	Tort reform to relieve liability issues.
1, 3	<p>Tennessee Department of Tourist Development—approach to sustainable tourism has been a holistic approach inclusive of business development and communities—sustainable tourism summit was successful because it was designed for those who realize the importance of protecting our destinations while maintaining economic growth through tourism—sustainable tourism sustains the environment, culture and heritage of a region while at the same time sustaining the economic growth through tourism—the tourism industry has the potential of increasing public awareness and appreciation of environmental and sustainability issues—the implementation of sustainable tourism practices can preserve and protect a region’s sense of place for future generations—the states initiative was not a top down program, but a grassroots initiative which has grown from community to community (Must be a regional local based program, i.e., Gatlinburg green, Ripley From Red to Green, Ruby Falls, Chattanooga Green Lodging)—Make sure there is a WIN in the program for all stakeholders including businesses, community leaders, developers, preservationists, and environmentalists—The very same resources you are developing allow citizens, visitors, and children to be involved in sporting events, nature and outdoors, preservation of land, agritourism, development of sustainable cities, and will ultimately lower the state’s obesity rates—to get kids involved it has to be fun!—create sustainable strategies recreational stories that allow kids to learn while experiencing nature, i.e., geocaching which utilizes the latest technology while experiencing the states national parks, battlefields, and recreation areas—Tennessee’s greatest outdoor classrooms, such as the partnership between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Tremont School, provide our children and visitors with opportunities for life-long, place-based sustainable tourism experiences—the economic piece is Key to the success of the program as it will bring additional resources to the table, and for businesses the program has to positively impact their bottom line—create recreation resources at the state and local level to move citizens and visitors to the rural areas of the state—These new tourism based businesses will increase recreation and education opportunities across the state—important to remember and recognize that the groundwork has been laid by many others before us Land Trust of TN, TN Civil War National Heritage Area—These partnerships work because the focus is on conservation, preservation, and education creating a WIN for all stakeholders involved—State and federal agencies can provide resources and best practices, however program must not be top down but local driven in order for stakeholders to embrace all facets of the program (business, schools, churches, communities, environmentalists, preservationists)—Remember the best ideas come from the local communities and businesses—The implementation of sustainable tourism practices allows communities to develop their economic, cultural, and natural resources while at the same time enabling them to keep their natural resources beautiful—sustainable funding opportunities for land</p>

	conservation—historic hermitage hotel in Nashville encourages visitors to donate \$1.00 per day—They partner with Land Trust of TN and will create \$1 million for land conservation—What would happen if all historic hotels in U.S. did this
1	Boy Scouts of America works with adult mentors and conscience of outdoors and landscapes are the results
1	4H extension and summer camping programs work—educate in water quality programs—Need more effort to encourage young people to participate in summer camping programs and tying outdoors to their quality of life—need immediate interest for young kids—support new programs and get parent involved
1	Great Outdoors University focused on bring kids from inner city outdoors—TN clay target program which is a shooting sport introduces kids to the outdoors as well
1	taking advantage of diverse array communication tools such as Facebook and twitter at the same time maintaining traditional technological tools—Need state and local facilities to take in consideration of communication tools as well—need state and local resources to take advantage of new technology tools
1	promote mountain bike trails and maintain these trails—get people involved in getting in the woods—mountain biking is a sport that can participate in and get a lot of exercise—needs to be promoted as a family event to include children participation
1, 3	Conserve at least 5% of TN farms and greenways to set aside—add prime farm lines and working corridors to set aside to protect trees, air quality, etc.—connectivity is key—NEED cash incentives from federal government to support management and maintenance so efforts can continue—the job program produces pay and a good quality of life—support and incentive is crucial to adding more land
1, 3	Funding for federal agencies with a line item budget dedicated to conservation and recreation—Park flow program in state of TN is needed for land trust foundation to establish additional area for bridge sites—no water trail system—scenic river program can protect the scenic quality and recreational qualities need to be in another category—no sustainable way to protect those rivers and trails
1	Family education conversation and having access—help maintain OHV trails and putting in water bars and physical labor to make things happen—feedback and communication is necessary to improve maintaining trails—trainers advertise classes to know where to take new jeeps, etc. hiking fishing biking to be able to see things that you cannot see from the interstate—preach and educate the correct way to go into the woods so as to not destroy the resources—need nonprofit help and work together

1	collaborations and partners—emphasis ever child outdoors program—programs that worked—governor summit and outdoor bill of rights—MOU that feds put out with let's get moved outside program needs to involve resource management agencies—Using parks within their local area—Need funds for local parks and programs to stress obesity in children program
1	service learning works—put things in the hands of children and when you can, tie in environmental education
1	collaboration with groups focusing on species specific and habitat planning—dedicate funding to program
1, 3	collaboration with local clubs and organization along with national because people are willing to work hand in hand and need to partner with off road groups—local groups are willing to do the work but they need the guidance of the national groups
1, 3	Identify particular land resources in TN that need to be protected—working to protect the largest known waterfall—have private organizations identify key resources—need access to sustainable funding to ensure targeted acquisitions are funded—benefit of the knowledge that can identify some of things that federal organization
1, 5	Incentives—one incentive should be that TN does not have a state income tax and is depending upon sales tax—not much funding available for programs—where are additional opportunities—loop holes in guidelines and policies—landholders were overlooked—grant money is being available for these non-profit organization to work with private land owners to help—want to continue making sure all plants are native—dedicated funding needed—look at and review at policy and procedures for funding programs—people are not aware of conservation procedures—need some education and/or incentive to help people understand
1, 3	areas are closing down due to not having sufficient money to keep the areas trimmed and open—farmers were willing to go in and maintain the park—Need better cooperation from the federal agencies to allow public to help maintain areas—people are willing to follow the law and build necessary items, but federal restrictions on using local people to work on federal land—need some easing up on locals—need more understanding to allow the local community to assist with projects on federal lands—Need more people involved in volunteerism
1	319 program works because it allows in kind match allowing organizations to use their own resources and community involvement to come up with their portion.
1	Heritage education encourages land conservation—several historic resources on the land but disappearing because land not being preserve—educate the public on why

	land is important not to sell—need to educate to help preserve land and motivate preservation—TN land trust is a wonderful organization in TN
2	Land managers have been accommodating users and resolving conflictions—NOT WORKING—trying to get access to NATR for mountain biking at no cost to land managers to building mountain bike trails—has horseback trails for users but would like mountain biking trails—would not become eye sores—wants consideration for mountain biking
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1, 3	partnerships work—enjoy relationships with local parks—DOES NOT WORK—federal partners and federal managers do not work well together—All agencies are not on the same board—more communication between federal agencies
1	dialogue between two entities works—demographic shifts and demands on the resources—educate county and local planners and decisions on the cost savings by implementing simple solutions like working and developing partnerships to preserve those areas because of the benefits as far as in fracture savings
1, 3	Conservation district and conservation district movements—sole conservation district by state law in TN—works of improvement on privately owned agriculture land—local people or volunteers that are elected to their conservation district that work with the federal entity or state entity to help make the decision on how that money can be spent—involving locals WORKS—lagging support though—increasing the amount of available funds but fewer employees—struggling to get the work done and help from federal agencies lacks—look at better ways for cost share programs—shift some of those cost share funds to the other side—conservation is a conversation—it takes private conversation for the conservation to be preserved—look at rededication to provide assistance to the public in natural resource—farmland protection—how to figure out how we make agriculture profitable?—how do we look at things?—regulations impede people staying on the lands—the age of farming is becoming a thing of the past—no local mentoring programs—need to look at the inheritance tax so the farmers can pass down to youngsters so they can continue to farm—need farmland protection programs--what are hinders to people staying on the land—person cannot bake biscuit in their home and sale it—hurts helping people stay—younger people are not farming—how can federal help older couples finder a younger helper to farm

1, 3	Department of defense is one of the largest federal land owners in the country and we need to adopt the green movement—bring DOD into the system such as taking a look at Fort Carson who utilizes the solar panels and utilize the veterans because A. they are returning service men B. they are knowledgeable C. make military bases more user friendly to the community—land is well preserved
3	partnership in TN with federal agencies enjoy—find ourselves that each federal agency has its own specific reason for being there—public doesn't know how to comply with management schemes or regulations—put together multi jurisdictional agencies to take the lead and figure out problems—federal agencies need to not have conflicting interests
2	challenge—get all districts and all levels to realize under one regulation—realize people trying to help—Federal agencies need to listen more to legitimate ideas from local agencies
1	Need to have more reward programs for land owners for conserving and preserving land—Ecosystem markets have great potential for influencing things—need to reward land owners to keep forest and family farms and credits that they generate
1	private enterprise wants to use solar panels which will produce more electricity—town will have benefit through power array—could be replicated—solar arrays on their buildings could power needs of the park and sell into the system
1	people vote with their pocket books—setup market in a way that provokes people to do things—to bring in a whole new revenue source—setup incentives for programs you want to enhance
1	TN wilderness act 2010—expansion of wilderness areas in TN and nation—do not exclude mountain biking, etc. for these areas—mountain biking is a new sport and not on the books when laws were passed—government needs to take a look at the law to embrace biking in wilderness
1	having kids participate in natural resources—schools need gardens for students to participate more in their upbringing—start young to encourage these options in adulthood—put more money into supporting people willing to help—pay into what is being talked about—Do not have field trips to the source but take the children to the outdoors
3	DOI embraced landscape conservation cooperative—USDA needs to look into it
1	people need to get out there to show the kids they need to be outside—monkey see monkey do—get parents out there to get kids—Educate public in volunteerism
3	There is not a lot of incentives to combine different funding mechanisms—combine

	those programs to make big projects happen
3	NPS needs to spend as much on programming and interpretation as LE—need outdoor recreation specialists but need people to show how to camp and go on hikes without putting themselves in danger—have community coordinators to work with federal and locals—built environment getting planners and local ordinance to have that need more open space knowledge—need more programs
1	Urban environment needs to be addressed more. Educate about getting outdoors and understanding the soil and water. An education program would be ideal in TN. Show how much agriculture is important. Farmville benefits more than people in rural TN.