

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

Location: Seattle, WA

Date: July 1, 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
Challenges	Motorized access for recreation continues to be restricted. This is an issue for snow machines. Don't allow funding allocated for trail activities go back to general fund
Challenges	Limiting motorized access limits many of the Baby Boom generation that is aging. "It is a disservice". More tolerance for people with mobility issues
Challenges	Accessibility issues. #1 Make the outdoors more accessible. No mention of special needs. No programs mentioned for youth and adults.
Challenges	We do volunteer trail work all over Washington. Infrastructure is crumbling; we need partners at the agencies who can help us help them. We need better funding at the agencies to staff positions that can help non-profits restore trail infrastructure and use resources more effectively. Fund National Recreational Trails Program.
Challenges	Need to expand funding for motorized trail development as well.
Challenges	Agency staff is not available to families at district offices. There's nobody available to explain the rules and the different regulations and passes
Challenges	Access for groups (non-profits) is limited by the regulations and permits required. Need to remove those barriers to kids back into the woods.

Challenges	Water is also a key issue in this discussion. Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers needs to have their authorities reviewed and need to be encouraged to embrace conservation.
Challenges	Need to keep or waterways and lands safe so that they can continue to be enjoyed. Consider the Gulf of Mexico crisis. Enforce the regulations and implement those that will protect natural resource.
Challenges	Need more accessibility to parks and open spaces to grow their own food for youth and their families. Need more education and information around sustainable, local food production.
Challenges	Educate people on the urban opportunities, time, access and knowledge.
Challenges	Support public learning activities that will encourage youth to experience National Parks. People from diverse backgrounds, new citizens are not experiencing the Parks. Need to reach out to those who are not familiar with local and national parks.
Challenges	The liability that private landowners incur when they allow the public to access to their lands is a barrier to recreation. Consider the Moab, UT and Hatfield/mccoey Trail system model
Challenges	Raised money through vehicle tabs (state) that was re-appropriated to the general fund. Those funds show go back to expanding motorized access to public lands. Funding is a barrier to motorized access.
Challenges	I work a very diverse school district, because of the focus on school testing there is no time to devote to outdoor recreation opportunities.
What works	Lately programs at the MBS district offices have been working closely with communities. Opportunities for the community to engage their local agency staff. Better relationships at the local level.
What works	Partnerships are important. They are what works and need to be given a higher priority. Agency staff needs greater latitude and support to form the partnerships that the public wants. More money invested in partnerships = more relationships=more work getting done. Recent partnerships have demonstrated that people with different interests can work together. Take Pride in America authority is a good example of how agencies can work with the community
What works	Washington Trails Assoc. Has an amazing trail database that allows anybody to find trails accessible to them in their community. Model example that helps me, my students and other people access trails and get involved in conservation efforts. The Mountaineers are another example who engages youth.
What works	Trying funding to the collaborative processes drives people to work together more effectively.

What works	Incorporate science based, environmental activism, conservation experiences into classroom curriculum. Design ways people can recreate in their communities who cannot or do not want to drive to recreate.
What works	Richard, let those who pay manage the funding. Allow user groups to be more active in the way fees are spent locally.
What works	Many youth parents have to work and their parents cannot provide recreation activities. Use schools as an outlet to get more kids onto public lands. Partnerships with schools work.
What works	Fully fund Land and Water Conservation Fund– It works. It's 17 Billion in arrears since inception in the 60's. Nature Conservancy in OR land purchasing
What works	Audubon's program is a good example. Engaging youth in citizen science encourages conservation practices. Public ROW in Europe is a model we could learn from.
What works	Education programs don't have to happen at school but schools can be a segue to outdoor recreation for youth.
What works	Restore LWCF funding, National Park Service system works and is a great model.
What works	Bring back Youth Conservation Corps
What works	Paying young people to do conservation work. This initial incentive can be just enough to get them hooked.
Federal Government Role	Government needs to stop paying lip service to issues but act. Infrastructure is good example. "fund the talk" so you can walk it. Fund programs to capacity.
Federal Government Role	Invest in our volunteer organizations that conserve and develop trails. Keep the opportunities available to leverage volunteer organizations' resources (time, money, and networking) to do work on public lands.
Federal Government Role	Need to figure out ways to finalize the planning process. Make it more workable.
Federal Government Role	Federal gov't needs to look out after our interests. Closures occur without public input, shouldn't close trails just because nobody comments.
Federal Government Role	Insure that dealings with the public are transparent and in good faith - done positively, Richard Elkins

Federal Government Role	Protect and add additional new special places (NRA's, Park expansions, Wilderness, Wild& Scenic etc...)
Federal Government Role	Urban vs. Rural values with regard to the management and use of federal lands. The gov't needs to ensure that the values of those living close to public lands are considered. Shutting down of public lands to commercial uses is hitting local communities.
Federal Government Role	The role is to represent us. That's not happening. They are fighting us. The way we use public lands is being dictated to us. The gov't is not working with us but against us.
Tools	More people working together, (ex. WTA and WA state snowmobile association – motorized and non-motorized working together). Northwest Avalanche Center is an example of where the federal gov't dropped the ball.
Tools	Bring back the CCC! There are many that are looking for work. Many folks would enjoy contributing their time for publicly funded conservation projects.
Tools	Federal employees that can listen and bring people together, mini-grants to individuals
Tools	CCC actually still exists and there should be more awareness about this program. It is funded through Americorps.
Tools	Fully Fund LWCF, National Recreation Trails Program, NOVA (WA state program). Land managers need to seek out non-profit partners to leverage volunteers to accomplish work on public lands. Make working with key partners to accomplish work on their lands a national priority for land managers in Interior and USDA.
Tools	Bring back the CCC. My father 991/2 was a CCC leader.
Tools	People care about the environment but don't want to lead the way. More leadership is needed in conservation efforts
Challenges	Coordination between different agencies, especially in regards to water for salmon and other uses. TFW – water quality recovery plans – 10 years too long. Jurisdictional concerns. User conflicts with limited resources
Challenges	Look at whole basin – several jurisdictions involved – one person can hold up actions, government has a large role in leadership
Challenges	Commissioner – salmon recovery board – federal government is biggest problem – overstocked forests – in stream flow concerns in meeting goals in Okanogan Co. Forest health is an issue. Litigation can hold up actions moving forward. Concern that any group across the US can comment hold. One entity able to stall progress

Challenges	So many agencies – compartmentalize, - land being bought up – how does this effect tax base, border – homeland security, role of federal government involving the local government. Don't see details being shared.
Challenges	Federal agencies need to be at the table with local governments – coordinate at the beginning of plans
Challenges	Landscape scale – challenge between conservation and recreation, parks loved to death. Need to identify point where resource uses are at odds with each other. Need for communication – interest groups at the table. Goals may be at odds with one another, and the time it takes to work with the system to get to identify the point at odds.
Challenges	PCT – volunteers out on trail – good partnerships, challenges – disconnect between National and local levels – National direction may be difficult to implement on the ground – ex. Liability – concern with injuries workmen's comp – who pays, concern with risks and funding not there to cover. Funding availability, criteria and representations on panels.
Challenges	Access fees can be an obstacle – parking at trailheads. Questions about fee use – admin and enforcement, want to see it invested back in trails. Lack of knowledge of fee, arrive at trailhead, back to facility to get pass – hassle, Need information on trail situation. Keep funding for trails.
Challenges	Youth education – need to figure out K-12 education- get into curriculum and out in the woods – interagency cooperation and local involvement early. Concern with having Mt. St. Helens under NPS – more funding and different emphasis than USFS. How can federal government cooperate between agencies, Not enough \$, everyone will need to Do more with less.
Challenges	Vested interest in the PNW, first come have interests that they don't want to give up. Water rights issues – use or loose. Concern with limited resources
Challenges	Education is a challenge for all ages. Regulations inadequate, lack of enforcement, some stakeholders feel polluters and promoters are together, and that other voices not heard. Concern with water quality in Willamette River – containments. Polluters are self-monitoring. Need EPA to step up enforcement and supportive.
Challenges	Example of graduate students that are 18-19 year olds with no first hand knowledge of the land and forests, need for connection with land. Important working forests, fisheries, but if no knowledge – difficult to engage in communications. Plug for education in K-12 to get aht background. Need to prioritize challenges – concern with conversion of lands, need to reconsider economic values. Sustainable forestry – federal agency support for local groups'

	proposals, changes in law.
Challenges	Support of OAK Alliance – multi agency problem – not talking. Support a multi agency oversight group. No child left behind depends on interagency support and local groups – Scouts. Scouts special use permit not renewed. Sees discrimination in resources and permit process. Barriers to getting youth to the outdoors. Need to coordinate federal agencies with local groups. 4 million members – strong advocacy group.
Challenges	Land acquisition not equal to conservation. Can end up with unintended consequences. Concern with need to include a diverse group of recreation uses and work with the diverse groups. Need to make areas usable. Need to support facilities – ex. LO maintenance – one group wants to support it, others don't. Need to work with community. Make site enjoyable – have service in the service. Adventure series per park/forest. Barrier to use – permit process – ex. Film couldn't get permit to film in forest. Money to the field – had to ask for 6 times as much from Congress. Need to streamline the processes and participate locally. Need recreation plan for Forests – too long a time frame for planning process.
Challenges	Equal access to the outdoors – there are barriers – fees, education, adult users taking youth.
Challenges	Memorial and cultural site to help adults/youth to think about actions not happening again. Looking for federal support.
Challenges	Youth and youth of color out to the forests and parks. Access issues and making areas welcoming to families – diversity in workforce – career goals. City parks program start for youth to get out to the forests and parks
Challenges	People back to the land – how is this reconciled with roads management, and the removal of roads. Road closure shifts users. Little connection of people to and in the agency can be a can have with users. Access issues and users.
Challenges	Process can a barrier - NEPA
What works	Upper Columbia Salmon recovery Board – putting solutions back into local hands
What works	NW early consultation with tribes, and coordination between agencies and landowners for collaboration.
What works	Experience in bringing together, plan the process. Strong leadership, Reaching out to stakeholders, Identify challenges and opportunities, communicative clearly logical projection

What works	Add campaign – media driven society – see themselves in the park (Coming soon!!!!)
What works	Partnering, networking, collaboration - raise pollution tax above 5% - use for damages when funds weren't there.
What works	Partnerships – can help connect people to the woods – stewardship is happening
What works	Use of private funds for adult education and other
What works	Involve local business communities – local organizations, clubs, etc.
What works	Money
What works	Youth corps groups - and what other gateway opportunities are available or technology to get kids out.
What works	Education is talked about being important, but doesn't get funded as a priority.
What works	Honor your volunteers – give thought of how to use effectively
Federal government role	Processes are very cumbersome – language is difficult to understand.
Federal government role	Work people in charge in agencies, fund enforcement so groups know they can't get way with pollution. Support to enforcement agencies.
Tools	Different funding stream for the DEQ -= not to be funded by the polluters, for example – through permits
Challenges	"Silo effect"barriers to govt. Agencies cooperating.
Challenges	Publicize the lack of liability for homeowners for trespasses
Challenges	The general public may not know the differences between federal agencies. Entrance fees, permits, etc.

Challenges	Sessions like this are the answer to these issues. People can discuss the issues openly in the public arena. A state law holds landowners harmless for recreation use of property.
Challenges	Agencies working with landowner need to not be regulatory in nature.
Challenges	Lack of full funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund. It has been underfunded for many years. Volunteers in Forest Act is dysfunctional as organized by the Forest Service. Liability is borne by individual National Forests which makes forest managers overly cautious, and cripples ability to work in the woods.
Challenges	Outdoor education is hindered by high costs of food and transportation. Students are generally afraid of the outdoors. Experience is the answer.
Challenges	Land conservation organizations work well with landowners, but state agencies often feel it is their turf. We need the right scale of conversations with large landowners.
Challenges	Schools are not engaged in educating kids on land management issues because there is a lack of unified curriculum. There are some from individual agencies, but not coordinated. We should elevate Environmental Science as a core class rather than an elective.
Challenges	Kids don't know they can go out into the forests and parks. It is not a part of their culture.
Challenges	Lack of a united plan connecting federal agencies with the states, focusing on schools, municipalities, etc who are trying to connect people with nature.
Challenges	Need full funding of the Historic Preservation Fund. There is a lack of focus in classrooms on history.
Challenges	Classrooms don't have time for guest speakers. Some parks have crime issues.
Challenges	Lack of general understanding that student learning is enhanced by learning in the outdoors.
Challenges	Overwhelming competition for federal funding, grants, philanthropic etc. To support youth serving organizations
What works	The magic of being outdoors. Learning in outdoor environments goes beyond learning about the outdoors. Get kids engaged and find new ways to make that happen.
What works	Collaboration of school districts with recreation agencies. Afterschool programs for K-12 focusing on environmental education. Family camps in the parks. More time spent making personal connections.
What works	Weekly trips to local parks sponsored by schools or recreation agencies. Need to solve the problem of transportation, but if the kids can get there it is fantastic.

What works	Provides funding for preserving historic properties, conserving resources, employs more people on a dollar for dollar basis.
What works	Helping in the park creates a more profound connection with the outdoors. It creates a sense of stewardship. Need to enhance and encourage volunteerism.
What works	Get students out in the land. Having the experience in nature is what changes people.
What works	Invasive weed pulling and stewardship in the parks is a great way to get involved.
What works	Washington State has learning standards focused on sustainability, the environment and civic engagement. The standards are integrated into core content. This model should be replicated across the nation.
What works	No Child Left Inside initiative has helped to get kids outside. Local learning centers!
What works	Using off road vehicles as another experience to get outdoors.
What works	Boy Scouts is 100 years old and they have done more to get kids outdoors than any other organization. We must support organizations like this regardless of politics
What works	Service hour requirements for graduation.
What works	Jobs for working in the outdoors for youth.
Federal Government Role	Create more access to National Parks. Need more roads and opportunities for people to use the resource.
Federal Government Role	Eliminate the ethanol mandate. It damages many engines and boat fuel tanks.
Federal Government Role	
Federal Government Role	Maintain the wilderness that exists. Keep federal agencies working together like they are doing today.
Federal Government Role	
Federal Government Role	Remove No Child Left Behind and implement No Child Left Inside
Federal Government	Create more access near transportation corridors and urban centers. When has a new trail been created in the local area on federal land?

Role	
Federal Government Role	We need working farms and working forests. Agriculture and conservation districts play an important role
Federal Government Role	Better advertise what is going on in the parks. New trails, activities, roads converted to trails. People don't know what is available.
Federal Government Role	Insist on an agency culture that emphasizes public private partnerships. It is often an up hill battle to convince federal staff that there is a private role.
Federal Government Role	Federal agencies can be a convener and facilitator. Bring people together and encourage cooperation.
Federal Government Role	Ensure federal funding of land trusts. Allow direct application for funding.
Federal Government Role	All the agencies need to work together in a coordinated way. Right now they are each trying to do the same thing in many ways, separately
Federal Government Role	New federal education law includes Environmental Education.
Challenges	If we could pay less taxes, we would have more time to recreate.
Challenges	To use the resources requires multiple permits from multiple agencies
Challenges	Forest Service needs to devote more money to trail maintenance so that state can use money for other resources. Need to make sure to at least budget for basic maintenance and services.
Challenges	Too much of the budget spent on land acquisition – this money should be spent on recreation/resource facilities. Closing campsites and other reductions in maintenance is detrimental.
Challenges	Insufficient cooperation between agencies, e.g. Road maintenance by Parks and Forest. Need better interagency coordination
Challenges	Getting to the outdoors to recreate costs more money now, e.g. Gas. Could there be reduced fees or subsidized costs based on income level?

Challenges	Collaboration between agencies on reaching out to youth could be improved.
Challenges	Budget cuts have limited infrastructure within agencies to coordinate youth and other volunteers to do the park and trail maintenance. We have more volunteers than money.
Challenges	Lack of adequate resources for observation and monitoring for conservation.
Challenges	Should be working with private landowners who know more about the land/resources to set conservation goals.
Challenges	Federal, State and local agencies need to do better enforcement on public and private lands.
Challenges	Single source-mandated funding is too limited.
Challenges	Army Corps wetlands regulations get in the way of viable agriculture
Challenges	Federal and state regulations often are not appropriate to the use of the land. Landowners know best use of land.
Challenges	Land use/recreation restrictions are unexplained, e.g orvs. ORV users contribute more to the resource budget and provide more money for trail maintenance, but are more limited in using the land.
Challenges	Engaging youth: take opportunities to partner with schools, e.g. Students helping with water testing and monitoring.
Challenges	Payment in lieu of taxes program: federal government payments to locals have lapsed, negatively impacting property taxes
What works	National Wildlife Federation: Outdoor Alliance for Kids
What works	Sierra club – h2o sentinels program – water gardens
What works	Conservation Easements to protect working lands
What works	State Citizen Committees to look at applications for projects
What works	Easements on part of the parcel only so the landowner stays actively engaged in the land management – to keep viability of working lands. No total parcel acquisition.
What works	NPCA – working to make Mt St Helens into National Park
What works	Cultural Resources, Section 106, NHPA – ensuring agencies are engaged in cultural resource conservation
What works	Community Service hours for high school graduation, gets youth into community and outdoors. Need more program funding. E.g. Seattle Inner City.
What works	Recreation users too restricted on public lands. Heard that the new administration may

	restrict or prohibit people's access to public lands.
What works	Mountains to Sound Greenway.
What works	Center for Wooden Boats in Puget Sound
What works	Wilderness Areas, National Parks – purpose includes conservation, environmental protection. Need to look at expanding these areas while also encouraging recreation
What works	Mountaineers Club – volunteer supported, outdoor recreation courses, education, connecting people to the outdoors.
What works	North cascades institute (north cascades national park)
What works	World Wildlife Fund – Missouri Breaks area - bison protection
What works	U.S. Fish & Wildlife: Wildlife Corridors Program – scattered among various legislation, hard to track and follow or know what is intended.
What works	Sierra Club – Cascade Snohomish, Earth Day – tree planting on Tulalip Reservation, protecting headwaters, top ten carbon storing forests found here in the Pacific NW.
What works	Partnerships – agencies and tribes
What works	Restoring lands impacted by development – private and public partnership, conservation incentives
What works	Salmon Recovery through watershed-based groups, bottom-up approach
What works	Need more state-run programs, instead of Federal based in Wash. D.C.
What works	No more expansion of federal parks, need to maintain what we already have
What works	Focus on youth, the future of our outdoors/conservation
What works	Develop opportunities for communities who have not had experience or access to outdoors
What works	Urban youth need opportunities to join organizations such as Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts to connect to outdoors
What works	Get feedback from rural communities
What works	Continue conservation ethic
What works	Free gas at national parks
What works	Ducks Unlimited – conservations program committee, CRP program

Federal Government Role	Be an active participant in the successful groups/endeavors mentioned above
Federal Government Role	Establish national monument status for coastal plains of ANWR
Federal Government Role	In areas where local conservation is successful, federal agencies should support, help, fund those efforts
Federal Government Role	Collect information on economic benefits of protecting watersheds, recreation businesses
Federal Government Role	Emphasize User-based fees, e.g. Duck Stamp that funded the federal refuge system, e.g. Pittman-Robertson Act, hunting and fishing licenses
Federal Government Role	Collaboration with conservation and user groups to improve funding for resources
Federal Government Role	More rigorous compliance with Sec 106 of NHPA
Federal Government Role	More and earlier consultation with affected stakeholders for protection of cultural resources
Federal Government Role	Federal government energy policy for DOI, avoid development in Arctic: no offshore drilling
Federal Government Role	Consistent funding for parks, lands – all user fees should go directly to the park or resource, NOT to the general fund
Federal Government Role	Establish youth volunteer/work program Account for federal tax dollars – where does all the money go?
Federal Government	ORV tag fee increased, but WA state did not fund the ORV trails

Role	
Federal Government Role	Feds should have limited or no role in recreation, this should be local
Federal Government Role	To be more effective partner with the agriculture community, Listening Sessions should be in the winter after harvest (farmers are busy in the summer)
Federal Government Role	Do a better job educating the public. Second Century Commission Report, NPS should focus on education role
Federal Government Role	National Forest Plans – revisions should look at climate change impacts, adaptation and resiliency of ecosystems, holistic view
Federal Government Role	Concessionaires contracts – should include requirements to include youth opportunities
Federal Government Role	Energy Policy should be Climate Control Policy
Federal Government Role	Common-sense remedies to impacts of climate change, e.g. Capturing flood water from excess storms, regulations not set up for this now (FEMA)
Federal Government Role	Keep it simple, bypass the red tape and administrative overhead waste
Tools	Grants that require local match underserved low income communities, need to look at alternatives
Tools	Forest Carbon Trust should be established by the federal government
Tools	Farm Bill should not distinguish between commodities and food
Tools	Full funding of the NPS
Tools	Military sites restoration needs more community involvement
Tools	Planning watershed-wide, connectivity between uplands/highlands and shoreline

Tools	Citizen participation in Health Headwaters program (National Forest Foundation) – needs government support
Tools	Database of all conservation/recreation programs, so that you could look at a targeted area and know what is being spent there, to spend more efficiently and avoid duplication
Tools	More funding support and regulation revisions to get K-12 students outdoors more
Tools	Youth Advisory Group for each national park
Challenges	Unable to offer program due to permit issues—appears to be an administrative problem, same problem with boy scouts. Reclassified as an outfitter and can no longer take kids to Forest Service Areas.
Challenges	<p>Abating threat of forest fires in central Cascades. In early 2009 they helped pass an act to allow FS to work with partners on restoring land—taking landscape approach to treat a place as one landscape instead of doing things patch by patch.</p> <p>Authorized at \$40 mill per year—idea was everyone would bring funding together.</p> <p>FS has created collaborative program where federal funds can only be used on federal lands</p> <p>Asking state to bring match—want this policy reinterpreted so funds can be co-mingled to address this issue. Lisa, Bellefond</p> <p>FLRA’s coverage and eligibility should be expanded to allow restoration on Tribal lands, State lands, and Private lands</p>
Challenges	<p>Landscape conservation issue—ability to manage wildlife and access.</p> <p>A few years ago in NW we had mass floods and it showed we have problems accessing our national parks. FS roads were wiped out.</p> <p>Agencies unclear on whose responsibility it is.</p> <p>There needs to be clarity about this.</p> <p>Loosening about ERFO regulations to restore roads as they were previously.</p> <p>Second concern is north cascades grizzly bear augmentation study. Fish and Wildlife Service dragging feet on this—what’s the opposition to studying grizzly augmentation?</p>
Challenges	<p>Take children to public parks and they’re not safe. As a child growing up in a small town, parents had no worries about where she was.</p> <p>It’s not safe anymore—children need constant supervision. How do we deal with these</p>

	<p>safety issues?</p> <p>It's not safe anymore for kids to play and have fun.</p> <p>Questions about corridors and connectivity—what does that mean? Questions about purchasing private lands. Pete Silva details what this means—connecting lands.</p>
Challenges	<p>Access issue with roads and counties. One of few accesses to Olympic National Park has been washed out since 2001, and that was one of very few access roads that's handicap accessible.</p> <p>Grizzly bear restoration: Fear of this wildlife—is it a deterrent?</p> <p>RE: Private property owners: People are motivated to take good care of property and learn and understand better ways to manage property, but they are burdened with layers of regulation from federal to local levels, which impacts the usage of their land.</p> <p>Thousands in permitting before they can even turn a shovel. Affects affordable housing. If people can't use their land, they eventually end up getting forced out a lot of times.</p> <p>Older people whose savings are tied up in property lose this investment. Zoning issues.</p> <p>Puget Sound restoration: Is this going to be another layer of bureaucracy with property rights? That extends all the way to the Cascades, which makes it harder for people to use their property.</p> <p>Use education to protect property rights.</p> <p>In terms of adding to federal lands, in the West so much of it is already federal (1/3 of WA state, 85% of Nevada).</p> <p>Big national financial crisis, and management of federal lands has suffered from inadequate funding.</p> <p>Reports of billions of dollars in maintenance backlogs. If we add to those national lands, are those dollars going to get spread further and further, and not do a Scott Shock</p>
Challenges	<p>Need to see better funding. A lot of the funding gets passed down to local communities so they can conserve.</p> <p>Need more funding to preserve America's treasures. Historic landmark vessels being used for children's camps—these historic places can be used as exercise for kids (obesity crisis). Passport in time program—kids get out to excavate sites.</p> <p>Heritage area is a way of using private property, esp. Ag. Land, good program for heritage farms where private owners get matching grants to repair barns, keeps ag community and keeps lands in private hands and allows them allow to keep their historic building.</p> <p>It'd be great to increase this funding. Where does this funding come from? Dept. Of Interior (?). Use the money for the public good.</p>

Challenges	<p>More and more lands being closed to public use. NOVA funds—gas taxes on people who own snowmobiles, etc.—those taxes should be delivered back to agencies.</p> <p>These funds from registrations is supposed to go to a fund to maintain snow parks, but that money has been taken away and given to general fund.</p> <p>These areas are now closed down with the reasoning that there’s no money to maintain them. That’s frustrating.</p> <p>He’s into trailriding—no money to maintain or fix this area—forcing overuse in other areas, and they say there’s too many people using this. Public access to land and monies being dedicated are being sent elsewhere.</p>
Challenges	<p>Off road vehicle use in WA State and in country displaces hikers and equestrians from trails. People who seek peace and quiet will be driven away by people who make noise</p> <p>Machines displace wildlife, impact soil and vegetation</p> <p>Sedimentation into streams—these human impacts are important</p> <p>Damage can last a long time</p> <p>Messaging that comes from proponents of off-road vehicle proponents is a concern</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Impacts should be considered</p> <p>Needs to be better staffing to ensure following the law</p> <p>Reiter Forest—state DNR land—off-road vehicles were damaging the forest</p> <p>Maintenance of these lands takes money—this is a funding issue</p> <p>Access to lands for high impact uses: There needs to be a linkage to deal with that usage in monitoring and enforcing</p> <p>The land belongs to everybody—not just who happens to be on it at the moment</p> <p>NOVA again—federal connection to what happens on federal lands is affected by state money</p> <p>4x4 community recognized propensity of their own members—state commissioner reopened Reiter for motorized use</p> <p>Views impacted by these vehicles, which are now allowed on gravel road: Message is that it will encourage illegal use</p> <p>Has implications for other forest roads</p>
What works	<p>Delighted with commitment that Aramark has made to preservation</p> <p>Works on Olympic Peninsula doing variety of environmental activities</p>

	<p>Elk festivals</p> <p>Mushroom festivals</p> <p>Tribal event , all backed by Aramark</p> <p>Need corporate buyout on funding outdoor activities</p> <p>Access to grants</p> <p>Can't fund programs they want to do without grants</p> <p>Applications are complicated, time-consuming</p> <p>Have smaller grants that are more streamlined for smaller programs</p> <p>Kesner Homestead Restoration</p> <p>Grants don't apply to corporations, only non-profits</p> <p>Potential of homestead for school groups, etc. —only remaining one in national forest</p>
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation needs to start young • She graduated in 2003, and it was never part of the curriculum • Youth want to do something about conservation, but don't know how or what • Start in public schools young
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe federal-local governments in this up close • Served on advisory board to issue grants • Challenge for fed. Government: Coordinating and speaking with one mind, one voice • Disheartened when EPA greenlighted another mountain top removal this week in W. VA • Good strategy for fed gov is to have better grant or revenue sharing program, and pushing implementation to state and local governments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants for acquisition and local development ○ Grants for maintenance ○ Federal lands generally inaccessible to general population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State and local parks are easier for people to get to and enjoy ▪ Underinvestment is an issue • Local governments more responsive to citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better participation in decision-making ○ Better volunteer response—seeing some great volunteering in his community ○ Area between Eastlake and Capitol Hill under I-5 is mountain bike stunt park with stunts and trails, also another one in suburbs • More coordinated response to trail usage issues • Bottomline: Get grant money to state and local governments for the parks
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big problems with water in our WA state rivers, especially on east side of state • ESA has taken hold of state in good and bad ways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic opportunities for fishing in small communities is important

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get fish off ESA lists to get sustainable populations ● On local efforts: It's also non-profits, conservation districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In some parts, government is a bad name ○ Making it local makes it more appealing to citizens
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Ed. Programs—are they being able to pay? ● Where is Dept. Of Education in this discussion?
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Product of going to outdoor in school in Southern California ● Environmental Education programs are important, even if it's just in the neighborhood ● Funding issues ● Property owner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concerned with impact of gov and nhas may have on her property ○ Is government interfering with her private rights and having too much control over how she uses her property—lives on Columbia River
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities for environmental education ● Worked in Nisqually Wildlife Refuge ● Discussions with children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Without emotional connection to land, decisions weren't going to be made <i>for</i> the land ○ Decisions based more on own enjoyment ○ As they had more ties to the land, more understanding, the whole attitude expanded about what's important ● Need to support more opportunities for kids
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Miles of lights in LA means millions of people ● Drastic discrepancy between city people and ability to travel to the preserved lands ● We need to build connective trails in the inner-city ● Issue with people who live on critical lands and want to use land for profit—how do we overcome this thinking
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water issues—how do we manage water in Region 10? ● Sports and recreation also means jobs ● Infrastructure to support hatchery fish
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Save the Salmon Weekend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On Quinault River, salmon get trapped in pools and die ○ Concern with problems facing wild salmon ○ Go to pools and relocate salmon into running areas of the river ○ Not allowed to do that in the national park, so they did it in state waters instead ○ Families and children excited to participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “When is my salmon coming back?”—little girl
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education aspect: kids have better connection when they're introduced young ● Success in Denver and Boulder with accessibility

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jump on a bus and get to the outdoors ○ That infrastructure should be replicated ○ Don't need a car or mode of getting there
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Let locals manage their land ● Want jobs on a local level ● Lives on Columbia River ● Concerns about what happens in nhas ● Lost logging, fishing—no jobs left, do nhas interfere? ● Clean energy isn't always efficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where can we get information to know how to make that work?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteer stewardship—it works ● Youth involved ● Issue sometimes: land manager to help guide
	Private property owner herself, supports sharing the land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What works is private property ownership where owners are educated about environmental issues and able to be better stewards of their land ● Areas in our nation of tragedy of the commons with waterways and public lands ● See where private ownership is working with stewardship—PERC.org in Bozeman, MO ● Private property is what made this nation wealthy—facing tough economic times, so we have to find ways to do more with less
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elwha salmon recovery—only federal government could have done it ● Federal participation needs to be there—it can't just be local ● Last year, national parks visits almost doubled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sound investments for local economies ○ Counties with nat'l parks in WA state have lower unemployment ● Government can do more to support clean energy, drive these industries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue support for federal government to keep funding going ● Wildlife recreation coalition started by Republican and Democrat governors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good model for other states ○ Citizen led process ● Seeing something bi-partisan would be hopeful
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Address on a more proactive level for species conservation ● Underfunded on ESA ● WA state has some healthy salmon runs that can be better-protected with preventative ● Work with landowners to protect places to be resilient ● 21st century in conservation: looking ahead to progressive actions ● Have things done in a bi-partisan manner with a spectrum of ideas

Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship • Use of information through electronic media about trail resources in state • Parks, national monuments, trails • What used to be a paper newsletter mailed is now a robust online database with information on trails all over state • Huge success of trail maintenance program to do volunteer maintenance is important tool to get people and youth outdoors • Collaborative model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mountains to sound greenway trust—bipartisan collaboration of government entities, non profits, private corporations, industries ○ Along i-90 corridor from seattle to east side of cascades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joins urban-rural dynamic ▪ Political differences on the two sides of the cascades ▪ Brings divergent views together successfully for 20 years now through grants, funding, access from urban to federal lands ▪ Multi-agency trail coordinator paid by combination of fed-local governments
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner-city people don't have access to outdoors • Support public transportation, especially across state lines • Amtrak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there something federal government can do to support transcontinental, interstate transportation system? ○ Getting people out of their cars to more efficient transportation
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want this to be successful • Don't see a lot coming out of this administration on environmental issues
Challenges	Transportation challenge, school participation demographics has changed with less participation by inner city schools especially due to costs of transportation.
Challenges	More emphasis needed on local schools and parks, participation at the local level
Challenges	Amounts of grants available significantly decreasing and more competitive. No money to do the things needed
Challenges	Elected officials need to see better the value of conservation, recreation and the out of doors to place a higher priority on it.
Challenges	Challenge to have the management in place to organize volunteers to help care for forests to trim trees, maintain forests, manage multiple activities (like cross country skiing and snowmobiling). Resources and willingness by agencies to use volunteers.
Challenges	Need a more predictable source of grant funding; need fund sources available to work at the local levels; teachers need more flexibility to incorporate environment into curriculum and classrooms.

Challenges	Need more focus on health care issues and outdoor activity and that connection. Need to do more to encourage healthy, active lifestyles.
Challenges	Greatest obstacle to restore watershed is threat of invasive species, spread from private yards. Pollution another threat affecting salmon restoration in the watershed. Spread of invasives needs to be taken more seriously – ivy, blackberry, other species. Creates rodent habitat, encourages insects, needs to be addressed.
Challenges	Zoning for housing along waterways and rivers has not been sufficient to protect them for riparian health and public safety. Zoning affecting construction quality, energy conservation, green building, not sufficient. Better standards are needed. Also need better protections for Orcas from Dept of Defense operations, re sonar. Need conservation related job program like CCC to employ youth, homeless, jobless.
Challenges	Existing built environment needs improved preservation and funding to restore and preserve them. Natural heritage areas help to get people out into the outdoors and need to be supported with funding
Challenges	Lack of political will to do what is necessary to restore salmon, federal leaders need greater willingness to solve challenges.
Challenges	Spending billions of dollars to subsidize fossil fuels; need to put that funding into clean energy
Challenges	Government prevents access to recreation areas with gates and closures. Improved access needed to increase outdoor activity.
Challenges	People don't believe large change is possible, but a green sustainable lifestyle is possible. Small changes can be effective in conservation.
Challenges	Water is an obstacle and challenge.
What works	Increasing scientific literacy and natural history knowledge works. Empower local planners with biodiversity knowledge to do job.
What works	Provide opportunities for kids to get out into woods with parents and connect with nature. Getting families out and have fun in the outdoors makes a huge difference if it is accessible, outdoors, and fun.
What works	Volunteer stewardship provides a great savings, and a great way for young people and others to get out into the environment.

What works	Need to start young with children to get them outdoors. Local opportunities important to make that possible and multiple experiences for adults and youth.
What works	Quality of staff in National Park Service very high. Knowledgeable, professional, a great benefit.
What works	Urban and community forestry provides great benefits to connect urban people with their everyday life.
What works	Healthy partnerships between land trusts, tribes, local governments very effective.
What works	Collaboration works in conservation. Government needs to be more effective at partnerships and crossing boundaries. Need to help leverage efforts more effectively
What works	Recreation and Trails program works well to encourage volunteerism and local funds.
What works	Monthly work parties that attract young volunteers, working with private companies for grants to get kids into the field, scholarships for high school students. Build stewardship for the future by working with young people and encouraging their interest, but need more funding.
What works	Historic Preservation Fund also works well to support needed preservation work. SHPO, tribal offices supported by this. Full funding is needed.
What works	Strong partnership with NPS very powerful to get work done. Family programs crucial to get kids involved.
What works	Dog friendly!
What works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivizing land stewardship • Address diversity in marketing outdoors • Incentivizing tax credits • Restore rivers, remove dams • Pay a stipend to help disadvantaged youth and get them into the outdoors • Junior Ranger program used by NPS • Incremental training programs for youth • Connecting preservation • Listening to First Nations and tribal communities • Diversity of recreation activities • Access info
Federal Government	Access to federal lands is too restricted. An audit is needed to reevaluate those rules for

Role	access.
Federal Government Role	Protection of national/federal waterways should not be delegated by federal govt to other nations, entities, or the United Nations. The lease of federal Park lands to other nations, entities, or the United Nations should not be allowed.
Federal Government Role	Government should commit to programs for a long enough period so they become sustainable
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special effort is needed to reach a more diverse audience on the subject of outdoors and conservation • Support land trusts to help them do their work • Limit number of roads in federal lands, and motorized vehicles
Federal Government Role	Have allowed commercial interests and leasing to damage federal conservation lands too much. We need to hold accountable anyone causing damage due to the United States through commercial development, bioengineering, mining, or any other capacity. They need to be held responsible financially and should have to restore it. Any time land is leased through a federal agency, this should be part of any contract.
Federal Government Role	A more comprehensive evaluation is needed on designation of federal lands so they are not too restrictive; wilderness is needed but open lands are too. Scrutinize land use restrictions and be more clear of what is allowed on various lands
Federal Government Role	Bring home the troops and provide more support to fight invasives
Federal Government Role	Programs like Natural Heritage Areas need more federal support; fully support Historic Preservation Fund.
Federal Government Role	
Federal Government Role	Need a better spokesperson for the environment who can connect with broader range of rural and other people.
Federal Government	Fund Recreation Trails program, fully fund

Role	
Federal Government Role	Common sense review of policies and regulations that makes it easier to get things done.
Federal Government Role	Support quiet restrictions to reduce noise in parks and other natural areas.
Federal Government Role	Stop oil drilling of Alaska
Federal Government Role	Change the Wilderness Act of 1964 to allow recreational access and diverse activities.
Federal Government Role	Need to provide improved access to marine areas, this is a gap.
Federal Government Role	Federal agencies to engage with state and local entities to better coordinate roles and improve collective effectiveness in recreation and access.
Federal Government Role	Work together to rid Pacific Ocean of plastics gyre (huge area of plastics circulating in ocean).
Federal Government Role	Invite president to camp in a National Park
Federal Government Role	Bring the troops home and use the funds to reduce invasives.
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve urban and suburban areas before they are gone • Put USFS out of Ag and put under Interior so all in one Department • Create an international data clearinghouse for all research and economic data and information. To improve exchange and accessibility of information. • Louise, Lost forests in Rockies, temps increasing, forest fires increasing, sea level rise occurring quickly. No drilling for gas or oil; stop burning fossil fuels. Increased energy efficiency is needed. Stop subsidizing gas and coal (fossil fuels).

Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage adaptive, responsible reuse of buildings, rather than tearing down and building to achieve LEED certifications. More sustainable to reuse than replace and rebuild. • Federal recognition of the Duwamish Tribe
Federal Government Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal recognition of the Chinook Tribe • Please support legislation to allow non-profit organizations to sell tax free bonds on forest lands which are being sustainably logged. Community Forest Bond.
Tools	Increased funding for Farm Bill program; fully fund LWCF; use funds for direct acquisition of lands by land trusts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect prisoners including youth with the natural environment through outdoor work to allow them to do something positive • Reinstate US Coast Guard 200 T Ocean Master (license). Requirements are too onerous. • Support better data on value ecosystem functions and visitation figures on public lands • Limiting the growth of National Park territory that is wilderness and protecting farmlands, in particular non-large scale use farmlands. • Fully fund public schools to help them get kids outdoors. • Support small farmers by creation of small meat processing facilities; needs to be supported by USDA • Give all agencies access to social media sites to reach youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wdnr. Section 6 grant program extremely important to support conservation programs and needs to be expanded. • Bioengineered products like corn need to be better evaluated and regulated.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regard wilderness areas as sites of valuable ecosystem function in face of climate change. • Ecosystem services needs to be considered in the land management evaluation process • Look for ways for leveraging volunteer opportunities to help maintain trails and facilities • Look for ways to provide more sustainable transportation to natural areas. More public transit options are needed to reduce environmental footprint and provide more equity. • Active federal support needed for citizen science programs. It involves urban youth more effectively. • A greater diversity of levels of access is needed to federal lands, more than just wilderness status. Greater access will encourage involvement by young people and others.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry permit restrictions difficult for NGOs' stop navigate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay minimum wage to those who work in our forests rather than simply

