

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

Location: Charleston, South Carolina

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
1	Working with partnerships on the Waccamaw River through easements to preserve land along the river has been successful. The goal of the project is to involve children and families with the value of our natural resources on the river. Children have been able to benefit from learning conservation ethics and protecting our rivers. Children are reconnected to the outdoors by offering paddle trips and becoming engaged in identifying hardwoods as well. The value of the project is seeing a child's facial expression.
1	The Conservation Bank maintains the State's forest lands, protect and enhance significant historical and archeological sites, enhance public access for outdoor recreation and preserve uses such as hunting, fishing, and other types of outdoor recreation, and encourages cooperation and innovative partnerships among landowners, state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.
1	The success of the National Wild Turkey Federation is "Listening" to what partners and private landowners say.
1	Volunteers from local communities doing local fundraising to help accomplish local projects have been a successful.
1	National Wild Turkey Federation has done a great job connecting state and federal agencies in restoring the turkey population as well as schools and coalition building. States have begun to understand the local culture. There has been more than 100,000 youth in the JAKES program which is dedicated to informing, educating, and involving North America's youth in the wildlife conservation and the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

1	The Penn Center is certified as a National Landmark Trust. The property also has worked with federal, state, and non-government agencies in order to refine and manage Longleaf Pine acres.
1	Clemson Extension has many youth and outdoor programs such as: H2O, hunter education classes, shooting sports, and Environmental Technicians to teach children specific outdoor activities and usually partner with local, state, and federal entities that are professionals in a specific area.
1	County level funding has helped recreate and certify a national historic district as part of conservation efforts with of the Penn Center to connect local culture and get diversity into the faces working with minority landowners. It has given 10 acres of land to the county in order to build a library on the property and build walking trails. The library was built in order to help improve sustainable development among the community.
2	Budgets are a major factor with providing education to meet conservation goals, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors for the Extension Service. Hire more Forestry Experts.
2	More funding for Forestry Commission across the southeast to put in prescribed burning teams to facilitate burning under proper conditions.
2	Establishing a new stand of longleaf pines requires seeding, fertilizers, etc. People need more grants to cover establishment costs. Landowners need more updated growth and yield tables so they can make sound investment decisions regarding longleaf forestry.
2	Keeping the minority landowners on the land. Convincing people that working with others is important. People do not trust the federal government.
3	Prescribed Burning education for the public.
3	Federal recognition that prescribed burning in conjunction with forest management is needed to provide endangered species habitat, propagate plant species native to the lands, prevent wildfires using burning, prevent non-native species from encroaching, and improve sustainable wildlife habitat.
3	Stop mandatory hoops to jump through to receive federal funding. Forest management plans are worthless because landowners do not understand the information. Keep programs simple.
3	Implement a mid rotation pine release program of Forest Service hardwoods and non-native invasive species. Promote burning in all southern states through cost share programs. Campaign nationally that prescribed fire is good. Federal agencies are not utilizing prescribe burning practice because there is a liability issue.
3	Add more funding for long leaf reforestation after clear-cutting.
3	Lack of communication from government agencies and there programs Federal government has too much red tape to put practices on the ground.
3	Take the opportunity to allow people to fall in love with local parks to appreciate the outdoors through government education programs.
3	Payments from the federal government have to be financially advantageous to the landowner.
4	Key to good management is working to educate landowners and add more incentives for reforestation costs.
4	Organizations should work together and specify the same priority areas to enhance longleaf restoration and other outdoor activities.
1	Participates in programs to teach kids about nature; recruits older persons that serve as volunteer instructors to work with the kids; activities include camping on the National Forest and trips to the South Carolina Aquarium; public/private partnerships; support of grassroots organizations; Air Force Earth Day event, networking with many partners to reach 5 <sup>th</sup> graders; "Are you smarter than a fifth grader when it comes to the environment".
1	Interest of older people/retirees participating in outdoor and environmental education activities; has partnered with REI on outdoor programs to reach inner city youth; and worked with local Parks and other agencies.
1	Introduced daughter to hunting and fishing; need outdoor activities that really connect people to the environment; need to reach kids early, connect them to the outdoor world, and have them participate in activities that allow them to get their hands dirty in real world experiences.

1	Holding tours of the Joseph Fields Farm, three different school and a senior citizens group has toured so far, somebody has to take on continuing the tradition of farming and educate kids where agricultural products come from, tours are designed to get children involved in farm-related activities, and educate them about importance of farms and agriculture. "A Day on the Farm" is a teaching tool that could be replicated elsewhere.
1	NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION conducts outreach to kids, women and the disabled, in partnership with State, federal, other public agencies and membership, volunteers, private corporations and private landowners to host 1500 events touching approximately 150,000 people on an annual basis.
1	Trail events, trail maintenance and construction can be environmental and outdoor education opportunities; kids remember areas where they have worked and return to visit; need to extend beyond individual events to include the community, such as Disney Give a Day get a Day program, a great incentive to encourage connection between participants and land stewardship and conservation.
1	Spoke to South Carolina's wild and scenic rivers, and their efforts and successes related to use of trees and appropriate buffers practices and maintaining swimmable waters, and available places with access to water-related recreation and associated opportunities for outdoor activities.
1	Promotion of land integrity through partnerships between public ownerships that provides the core of the land base, buffered by adjoining and willing private landowners and acceptance by non-landowning community, is important to successful landscape conservation efforts such as the ACE Basin, and piecing together conservation areas sufficient to provide environmental, economic and social benefits, including recreation opportunities, and large enough to facilitate land management activities designed to maintain landscape viability.
1	South Carolina very active in partnership efforts (5 <sup>th</sup> in the nation) and aggressively uses tools such as acquisitions, easements and incentives to protect conservation/recreation areas such as the ACE Basin where partnership accomplishments have far exceeded the original vision and over 200,000 acres are being conserved and open to access.
1	Charleston County currently owns land, partners with other public lands, and has funding to acquire or provide access to land; frequently brokers land deals with land trusts and non-profit organizations; generates revenue for green space; developing business model to help raise funds to enable other actions. Park Districts are often forgotten and not on the radar but can play a prominent role.
1	National scenic trails are a huge partnership effort in Florida; State of Florida built into State statutes liability protection if private landowners wished to provide public access across their land; Bill in Congress (HR1912 Completing America's Great Scenic Trails) aims to provide tax credit for private lands providing public access for national scenic trails; there are examples of things that can be done to help encourage or provide incentives for private landowners to work toward these goals.
1	Florida also has a policy of no net loss of hunting/recreation lands, which enables the State to create increased land-base for recreation and conservation.
1	Conservation education materials to reach kids; promoting the kids book "Longleaf"; working with businesses to support employees getting out with family members in the outdoors; working with landowners to manage and restore longleaf pine; longleaf pine systems are a great venue for outdoor education with hundreds of species, some of which are threatened or endangered, found in such systems; and technology transfer activities to increase awareness and knowledge of natural resource managers and practitioners as to the values and benefits of longleaf pine.
2	Environmental education and literacy needs to begin in Pre-K and continue and integrated with curriculum throughout the education process.
2	Outreach to kids is great but don't forget the parents; need to educate parents as well; if parents not interested it will be difficult to recruit kids.

2	Hands on events initially get kids and others involved; but once exposed it is important that follow up activities take place to retain interest; access to such opportunities may be lacking; how are they going to recreate, reconnect with nature and cultivate that interest if there is no place locally available for them to do so; access, both public (Making Public Lands Public) and private (Voluntary Public Access) initiatives need to be encouraged and expanded to enhance ongoing outreach and incentives, especially to private landowners, to make more lands accessible; spoke to each affiliation must first support the mission of their own organization, but that there are many commonalities that we can all work together on, making reference to longleaf pine restoration and the newly signed agreement between USDA, DOI, and DOD; expressed concern over the continued loss of rural lands to development.
2	While in Chicago saw urban sprawl overtaking the land; doesn't want to see such changes happen; has concerns over development pressure.
2	Effect estate tax has on fragmenting and management of conservation lands.
2	Expressed concern over water quality; need everybody working together to maintain/enhance keep water quality.
2	Different dimension of access- visual considerations of recreational opportunities.
2	Hopes America's Great Outdoors Initiative will facilitate the ability for us to network among ourselves better; encourage more holistic thinking; get us out of our comfort box and talk more about other opportunities beyond our special interest; improve collaboration among various agencies, organizations and interested parties; enhance coordination of messages about farms, forests, and ranches, wildlife, water, and recreation and sharing right messages as appropriate at the right time; stimulate contact among people with different expertise; and capture and communicate and build upon all the great stuff that is currently going on.
2	Need to start early in order to reach kids and make them ambassadors of interest in the great outdoors; following initial dialogue need to work at building relationships and trust; made reference to the declining number of hunters and evolving recreational interest.
2	Mentioned that it was difficult to validate changes in participation in different pursuits or recreational activities with no registration or licenses to track.
2	Need a conservation-recreation-reconnecting-with-the-outdoors strategy or plan developed and prepared with interests of appropriate people considered and included.
2	When developing and implementing the plan(s) need to get in touch with the right people.
2	Inclusiveness of everyone, especially those you wouldn't normally think of, especially in urban communities; when you exclude partners, you really undermine your efforts; building relationships is important; some kids in Jacksonville may never have seen the ocean; need for parental encouragement, children's interest, opportunity, available resources, and access to come together and everyone might be more inclined to get involved in the outdoors; we need to provide resources, for example, a free day on the bus/metro system to get people out to the woods or the beach; or find out who in the neighborhood can take others to the outdoors; made reference to restrictions related to land ownership affecting national trail connectivity because of individual parcels of land being owned by different agencies.
2	Importance of getting people out to experience "real" versus "manufactured" nature.
2	Open access to private lands especially in the Southeast is not commonplace; number 1 reason why people no longer hunt and fish is loss of access; need to fight the negative perception of visiting public land during hunting season being unsafe; all related organizations need to talk about this.
2	Legal issues with federal acquisitions/easements and grants compromises county donations (US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE) in Charleston County.
2	Number one obstacle is transportation, linking people with interest to available places open for access.
3	Need to build relationships in order to develop partnerships.

3	Needs increased consistency with how federal agencies deal with partnerships; policies don't change and partnerships affected as individuals change (as an example changing priorities associated with change in National Forest Supervisor); inconsistencies between agencies regarding federal funding/matching requirements.
3	Need for a good plan and set of goals; re-iterates continuity of effort, long term commitment, not affected by personnel turnover; and federal government needs to solicit community input; communications back and forth between federal agencies and local communities, stakeholders and partners.
3	Need to look at common areas of interest; set policy such as no net loss of wetlands; coordinate across programs for conservation and infrastructure development; provide guidance; and make available financial resources to leverage with non-federal funds and other considerations; expressed local concerns about ability to partner with landowners with federal easements, especially those based on dollars earned and cost share; if a piece of property has an NRCS easement on it, the lawyer for the landowner will not recommend purchase.
3	Mutual interest among federal agencies has got to be there for partnerships to succeed; you can't start from scratch with an incentive, the interest must already be there, incentives just make it easier to pursue the interest; federal and non-federal partners in the ACE Basin are all "landowners"; and some landowners won't deal with federal funds because they are too much of a hassle.
3	Foster coordination and collaboration; serve as a catalyst; and support grassroots organizations and local efforts.
3	Fully fund Land and Water Conservation Fund; need enhanced tax incentives for landowners who hold land for conservation purposes and enhanced programs for private donation of land and resources; mitigate conflicting government policies especially between natural resource conservation and rural development; exercise due diligence help to eliminate conflicts over different agencies policies and programs and what activities are being supported within the same areas; difficulty for federal government to accept non-federal funds; local county has one-half cent tax initiative that lead to \$65 million to benefit land acquisition for the Francis Marion National Forest; federal government needs to resolve this issue because of the great potential for use of the funds raised.
3	Limited federal involvement but find the right people; get local and national political support; retain flexibility and ability to move quickly on emerging opportunities; needs to figure out better ways to incentivize conservation; facilitate leveraging of federal state and private sector funds; programs and funds are tools to be used to accomplish greater good.
4	Need clearing house for information on a number of topics such as an America's Great Outdoors website through which we can keep in contact, or use as reference such as a listing of calendar events or places that are available to host outdoor events, or related tourism activities.
4	Website great, opportunity to share all the great things that are going on and could provide links to get people to the right information; private landowner's availability to host outdoor events; don't forget the availability of corporate and business partners.
4	Website can be used to highlight outdoor things to do; can be used by parents to excite their children; every school should have a garden or on-going natural resources type project.
4	There are sites that can be linked to that describe recreational places and activities, but website could help a young association like hers make additional contacts.
4	We all need to learn how to step out of our comfort zones; if I don't know something, I want access to information or someone who does know the answer, and can share that information.
4	Keeps in touch with and communicates to participants and partners through on-line newsletters.
4	Availability of retirees to help.
4	Everything we do is a teachable moment; the oil spill can provide the opportunity to speak much more broadly about the environment and connections to fishing, shrimping, farming, etc.
4	Change comes from crisis; partnerships; easements; and incentives; plenty of places to go and things to do, especially with kids; abundant educational opportunities such as school gardens to demonstrate where food comes from.

4	Regional planning efforts such as the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPASS) offers opportunities for interested entities to keep in touch and help cement holistic approaches; some of our activities can be emotional moments that will stay with people for a long time; attendees at this listening session can be advocates for conservation and should go back home and network with colleagues to elevate the ideas discussed here, change the direction of things and reconnect people to the great outdoors.
1	Friends group SEWEEA (Southeastern Wildlife and Environmental Education Association) partners with agencies. Major focus of education forces kids to spend too much time inside and parents do not take them outside. Bring parents along on field trips in Earth Stewards program. Kids love habitats, never been to beach, field trip gets them there to appreciate. 4 entities only 2 professionals rely on volunteers.
2	Staff the nature centers, keep open, fill positions and have them work on the educational programs. Stay open on weekends. Environmental literacy, related to state standards, but it would be better to be required. Grants are needed that are easier to obtain, smaller, maybe 10-50,000 make reporting easier.
1	Project Learning Tree-how to think not what to think. Increase attentiveness, thinking skills no child left inside, pass bill.
1	Healthy markets, capitalism works non-industrial private landowners, tax codes need changes, help to owners keep. Land prices/hard to keep in forests. Conservation Reserve Program works.
1	Zone and tax accordingly, need to keep the viable level of keeping people there. Public and private, can't purchase enough for public ownership.
1	Extend ACE basin model, good relationships among partners, and then they help do each other's work.
1	Trust important cultural landscape also part of natural landscape. Bring in different values, partners.
1	Taxes are disincentive; not just estate taxes.
1	Start with critical mass. Large landowners believed in the ethic first provided a spring board takes a long time can't be in a hurry.
1	Demonstration sites. Management plans qualify people for programs.
2	Stability; what will be in there to provide consistent support, newer programs more complicated. Will it be there next year and 5 years and beyond. Lack of time to build relationships.
2	Long Leaf system, different agencies, classification of long leaf ---no ecological benefit to just planting 600 long leaf trees per acre, need all ecological components—direction he would like to see ecological restoration. Value longleaf for economic benefit also, but need to further define what practices are appropriate for feds to give money so that it is clear and consistent. Establish what we are doing. Some people have knowhow, but have had failures, If you know soybeans but not long leaf you are the wrong guy to be giving instructions—need training for foresters and others. No disturbance, no herbicides, problem to uses farming techniques. Education needed.
2	Control pasture grasses, re-establish native cover, burn.
2	Protected a lot, resources to manage that, burning issues around smoke- how to work with neighbors. Low country swamps important also, keep those ecosystems too. Hike through the hardwoods, kayak the swamps.
2	Prescribed fire. Lawsuits "Who can I Sue" website. Forest fragmentation. Tracts broken up. Ecosystem services—whole suite of things not paid for, can we pay the private landowners. Thinning and pine straw vs. Conservation Reserve Program incentives. Green belt tax laws (Florida) need knowledge of.
2	Recreation hurt by sprawl, can't get to areas. That is why connection is broken zoning important. Take care of current built environment we have so we can build less.
3	Consistency agencies---no one half plus to restore other foster sprawl. Clean Air Act EPA, missions of different agencies might conflict.
3, 4	Private lands burning hard to meet demand for svcs to burn enough. Liability insurance coverage, max coverage/liability.
2	Worst issue—fire—fire will be essential.

2	Access to land, urban kids an opportunity to get outside! Have a place, and funding to make it happen. Grants available.
3, 4	Provide transportation. Salaries, ok to fund!!! Not enough money available.
3	Don't need more programs, have them. Provide incentives, Kids in the Woods—spend money on what is needed. Fund it all until you run out of money, ideas will come in from outside.
1	School yard habitats
2	South Carolina forestry commission is too focused on old school forestry programs, and not progressive conservation. We need a Land Stewardship think tank—they determine where the money is going to get the goals met, more successful. More academic driven distribution of funds.
3	Feds can't solve all problems, leverage. Private funds, incentive to spend them. All need to help solve.
3	Economic incentives—needed. Public policy—healthy markets. Biomass feedstocks. Renewable portfolio standards—green power standards. Define Carbon neutrality.
2	Longleaf understory, native grasses can be used for feed stock or livestock; funding gone.
3	Forest Inventory and Analysis plots; need new current information to make good decisions. Research products ecology, holes in research.
3	Next generation of tech experts, we need to recruit so that people can be trained. Don't cut this. Bring in interns Student Career Experience (SCEP) Program, etc. Corporate world does this better.
3	Flexibility in entry level positions needed.
3	PhD programs needed in Federal government, especially ecology.
3	Inter, intra government communication, camping ok on some islands, high water line other no camping; too may disparities in rules. Decide on goals and be consistent.
3	Not enough opportunities, “young person's opinion”, dirt bike racing, sponsor teams. College clubs—if they are there then there would be more high school participation and competition in outdoor sports. Bike trail and river rafting on Chattahoochee River GA.
3	Rent materials equipment to do backpacking, etc. Also produce revenue.
2	Charleston County spending for conservation—public needs to understand the full public benefit! Causes a problem when this conflicts with public access. Can't all be accessible, some areas are sensitive or on private land. Conflict there unless there is understanding, also public benefit on Private lands or off-limits areas make a difficult debate, sophisticated concept. Southeast most is private access not always possible, but cleaner water, air, etc. are beneficial.
3	Federal Funding and Incentives—Land and Water Conservation Fund, Historic Preservation Funding Tools already there—fund them.
4	Non-industrial private landowners—economic incentives for carbon sequestration needed. Make money on sequestering carbon in trees. 3 <sup>rd</sup> party certification—sustainable forest certification. SFI funded.
3, 4	National Forest System balance out managers that are having a forestry background----ecology background needed. Others say that need they will need more foresters. Santee corridor—Francis Marion National Forest, Cape Romaine National Wildlife Refuge, Santee---comprehensive plan—ISSUE that Fairmont Plantation (hunting rights not able to be retained—simple problem) could not to be incorporated/retained due to this problem. Western focus on invasive species, need more money here—equitable distribution of funding.
4	Use county level agents to deliver programs. Extension Offices. Rural Conservation Districts, local support contact.
3	Feds need to be more like The Nature Conservancy—they understand capitalism.
4	Active land trusts in South Carolina very helpful.
4	Planning need, difficult to sell the benefits, what are you doing to protect what you have?
3,4	National Forests should participate in planning and zoning actions so that developers know what the impacts are may be disincentive to develop.
4	Educate about smart growth, glad to see MOU signing, teach people about value of conserving land.

4	Keep or make taxes low on agricultural and forest land—high on changed use pay back taxes on developed land.
1	People inherently attracted to water; use rivers to connect with the outdoors.
1	Saltwater paddling program along the coastline – extending up the coast from Hatteras to Virginia; need more funding and resources to maximize recreation uses – most programs about staffing.
1	Getting teachers out to show forest management; Wood Magic – hosted at 3 places in SC (4 <sup>th</sup> grade classes); talk about forestry and conservation.
1	½ cent sales tax for green space.
1	Reforestation; CRP programs allowed him to jack up the amount of conservation; the programs work; use resource professionals from industry and different organizations; provides for educational tours of his property to show how the conservation tools work.
1	Driving power or jobs; economic incentives; cash flow needed to do good things.
1	Cultural and historic preservation; historic connection to the land.
1	Federal government “Blue Trails Initiative” – connecting people to the water; need similar program for connecting people to the land.
1	Done research on landowners; most won’t make money on the land but still have a connection to it. National survey on recreation and environment shows people’s use of/connection to the land has been going on since the 1960’s but in jeopardy because of funding cuts. Connecting children with the land – Every Child Outdoors campaign in TN. Surveys show this generation not comfortable in the woods. Place-Based Education teaches children about where they live and about the things in their lives.
1	Land has been in his family since the 1860’s; still farm it; successful strategy is that it still be profitable; allows for his family to keep it – lease to hunt, timber production, corn, cotton, wheat crops; intensively manage; CRP soil banks, EQIP programs – tools of the Federal government that help it work; conservation easement will be the way to keep it in the family – estate tax issue.
1	Connect people to the land, outdoors by mingling with the arts; hold plays/performances outdoors.
1	Take the lessons to the classroom and teach kids/build on what they have learned outdoors.
1	Connection of the public to outdoors. In some places, Nature Conservancy lands are the only lands that folks can access if they do not live near public lands. Day-to-day maintenance of these areas an issue though.
2	Pollution is a challenge; hard to encourage use when air and waters are polluted; aging sewer systems, storm water runoff, sedimentation issues; mercury contamination of waterways. EPA enforcement of 208 plans.
2	Aging stands of longleaf attract RCW’s – endangered species issues; environmental laws need to be incentive based, not penalty based; Safe Harbor a good thing for RCW but Estate Taxes another deterrent; Need to have better environmental education so that forest managers won’t be vilified.
2	Permanent conservation easement a road block – something more short term (20-30 years?) more appealing?
2	Used to be that you got perpetual tax benefits for gift of 30 years conservation easement – but no more. When the government took that away, they deterred a lot of people.
2	Paperwork that accompanies some of the Fed. Programs are a deterrent; landowners are basically afraid of making errors for fear of what government might do.
2	Money given to counties by the Fed government to help with infrastructure placement – no one living there but have added infrastructure. Now the development follows; not most efficient use of funds. When you continue to give the money to the counties for infrastructure, you will continue to get sprawl.
2	Placement of infrastructure not only encourages sprawl but costs the landowners – not a good way to achieve the goal of protecting 8 million acres of LONG LEAF PINE; In some ways, septic systems (when properly installed and maintained) are better than running water and sewer lines – puts the water back where it belongs.

2	Access to funding and technical assistance.
2	Inconsistency in how programs are interpreted – not only across the nation but within the state.
1	First experience feedback. It helps us to understand what people want/need in an outdoor experience.
1	Hands on experiences. It turns young people into nature lovers. Focus on middle/high school and elementary. Get them out planting trees, etc.
1	What are our needs? Identifying needs in Berkeley County. We have national forest but also privately owned. Lake Moultrie, Marion, and Cooper River. Lots of water based recreation. Lack of public access to water recreation. We want to make them available. Trying to identify trail and camping opportunities.
1	Conservation easements are helpful. NRCS, Forest Service, etc. are working on development of the first ever conservation easement database. We need support for this tool. Easements are a great tool. The database would be for public use so folks know what outdoors activities are available and where. People need to know. There are too many databases, and we need a <i>central</i> source. We are building one system. It needs permanent support base. Now we have less than \$500,000/year. We don't know where the conservation easements are.
1	Not all lands are public, a lot is private, but I think staff is important. For instance, Lowcountry Open Land Trust (LOLT), they go out of their way to help folks who want easements, and they provide assistance, and helping people with land planning, and we are lucky to have a resource like this.
1	Stable rural economy and we are seeing how to connect urban and rural environments, so that urban folks understand the importance of a stable rural economy so they grasp how important this resource is to them, and therefore will support it.
1	Conservation easements-we have thousands of acres in easements through LOLT, and we look at forestry and ag working lands and conservation easements work well because the government does not have to buy the land because it stays in private hands, and over the long term, this cost a small fraction of what it would costs the government to maintain it. That didn't have to happen this way (public access or not) and long term, it's the gift that keeps on giving, because all association cost is on the tax books. It's not the government's job to do this.
1	Provided an overview of the South Carolina Master Naturalist program which seeks to create a corps of citizen volunteers well trained in the fundamentals of natural history, nature interpretation and the interface of humans and nature. This is a regional extension program, and it's a very successful program which can help people manage their land. Using satellite/computer tech. to promote and providing on site experience and they can learn from each other. Master naturalist program is for non-landowners to teach them history of where they live, and this is 72 hours of instruction, and they learn about natural history, and wildlife/habitat/forest/fields, and they become engaged, and will hopefully volunteer at schools, and it's very successful. Graduates of all 3 programs pay back volunteer time.
1	Litter programs and a positive first experience for kids in the outdoors, so they appreciate it and want to take care of it. We have education in the schools where they learn about bugs/snakes, so when they get out there they will have a better understanding of what to expect, and not be scared of the outdoors because its new to them.
1	Rivers are plentiful in SC (Blackwater, Piedmont) and we want to encourage people to use these rivers appropriately and safely, and have knowledge about water trails, and this is a great tool to highlight natural/cultural features. In Columbia, we take kids down Congaree River and it's a first camping experience for many kids, and the city of Columbia is unique because of our river system, but like many other cities, folks live within miles of navigable rivers, and don't know it, but they are a great recreational resource. Need a Blueways initiative on a national level. Water trails are cheap/cost effective/because the resource is there, they are connectable, they bridge the gap b/t urban and rural, and in SC you paddle for two days and then paddle through a national park (Congaree National Park). By providing this experience to kids, we can create a future generation of Riverkeepers.

1	We are funded by half cent sales tax, and we listen to the public and this helps them become part of the process and they feel invested in it. County government didn't have the expertise, so we don't purchase them, but the proceeds go to the groups who do know about land, and the partnership helps the money go further, and because the funds are from a public source, we had to find a balance. Easements are cheaper, and donated by landowners, but because this is public land, we had to find a balance b/t public and private land protection.
1	Low country recreation is important and unique.
1	Where are the properties that allow the public access?? Whatever this initiative spurs, easement location needs to be a part of it. I believe in public lands when they can be afforded and well managed and in the right place. Some of our SC parks have little visitation, and I wonder if that was a good place to put that park. I hope as we move forward that we look closer into <i>where</i> public dollars for public access is going, and is it well thought through? Being able to drive the same road, and they want that place to look the same, that corridor, they want to see the things they have always seen, and that's value, and sentiment, and for example Hilton Head, we watched that change drastically, and if you look at Bluffton, to see what had been done on commercial forest tracts--it was clear cut--and now it's gone, and that's what could happen to Charleston, but easements are a good way to help prevent this. I think Richard Louv's "Last child in the Woods" should be required reading for all educators. There is a major disconnect between urban/rural residents. If you don't see it and live in it, you don't understand the rural vs. urban. Someone in the breakout group asked him if there were other ways, other than easements, to protect private land. He answered that there were other options, like for a landowner to allow for public access, on an easement, or one week of the year, open their property for use by school kids. It isn't incentivized, but it is the right thing to do that. He concluded that an easement was the best option.
1	Outdoor recreation is important to him-I grew up outdoors, spent lots of time outside. What lands you can and cannot go to? You have to go to 20 different resources/places to figure out where you can go, and we need a central place to go to get this info. What do you do when you get there? Maps-some are up to date, some are very old, and common person/middle class dad isn't going to know where to go/what to do, and we need to have a better information system. How the average person, who doesn't have much outdoor experience, can get more experience outdoors. It doesn't have to be PRT, but also other groups. Letting public know what they can access. That's when they will become an outdoor advocate...when they can become involved.
1	The issues he picked up on during this discussion on <i>What Works</i> are: Connecting urban and rural; Corridors are important and serve as mechanism to get folks outdoors; A centralized database is essential to show these connections b/t private/public opportunities to get folks outdoors. And environmental education is important.
2	MONEY-it's our challenge. The county is doing well. And the half cent sales tax has been functioning; despite the state economy it's had a huge effect on Conservation Bank. Easement purchase-landowner gives up some, we pay some. When you don't have that funding source, lots of protection is stalled. And without that, it's stopping the progress. We have a great plan going on in Charleston, but with more money, and multiple funding sources, it could build momentum, and incentivizing landowners, and giving tax advantages, it really impacts the landowners and motivates them.
2	We don't have enough money. Politics. Challenge to deal with politics, and strike balance. Elected officials listen to constituents and listen to needs, and we have to sometimes defend why projects were successful. The Nature Conservancy has used sales tax funds to purchase properties, but there is so much bureaucracy at the federal level, so if we can realize that we all have same purpose and try and work together we can get further and accomplish more.

2	Money. River pollution. Not enough incentive for smaller landowners to protect riverside with corridors/buffers, which protect from storm water runoff. In Columbia., we have rivers that experience over 150,000 user days per year, but we have small utilities that pollute the water and they are not even required to report to public that they contaminate water, so there needs to be more money, a mechanism to address these things, but the bottom line is that we need clean water to recreate in and drink and without a doubt, the highest environmental concern nationwide is clean water, so we need to really think creatively on how to address this.
2	Boats that use water for recreation. We have access points--Broad River, and public lands. Sumter National Forest, Chattooga headwaters, and there is a debate about allowing landowners to go in and kayak on upper regions on Chattooga. Not a lot of boaters go in there, but everyone is entitled. Greenways, in towns, in Columbia. We have a good greenway, but there is a 10-mile stretch that is privately owned that is a barrier to continuing this greenway because 4 or 5 people, private landowners, are stopping this. Uneducated people who don't follow laws, they ruin a good time for others, and we don't have enough money for law enforcement.
2	Money. We try to be creative and partner with outside groups, and this is the only way we can deliver statewide programs.
2	Conservation easement concept is great, and we need to go with this. Over ½ of our easements are donated, so I don't think funding is major obstacle, rather inconsistent and short lived tax strategies is the issue. We haven't done any easements because we cannot tell them what the tax implications are yet because the tax law is not written, and it will be at least September until it's done, which leaves us just three months to complete a year's worth of work. This is inconsistent and we cannot keep up with USDA rules and regulations. Tax issues are at national level/federal/estate tax.
2	Capacity is an issue. The way federal money gets filtered down is driven by programs. OMB is saying that's not good enough, we need to see what's going on--on the ground, and we need to prove this work, when they say money that is coming to your state for accomplishments has to be designated to a specific project, thus you lose capacity. If you don't have folks to provide technical, on the ground assistance, you won't get the project done. I feel like we as natural resource agents tend to hang our hat on the most current solution; here's the silver bullet. I am afraid conservation easements are the silver bullet. While I'm a big advocate—for example, CRP land was a silver bullet years ago, and now there are others, my fear is that conservation easements are great for a <i>limited</i> portion of the population, and we must create more tools in our box to reach out to other landowners who can't utilize them. We need a multitude of tools to make the reconnect happen.
2	Consistency would help. It makes it hard to plan. Must consider tax ramifications. If it isn't there consistent you are up in the air.
2	Conservation Innovation Grants—needed a match. We got one year of that, and were told it was a great program, and then there was no program. We wasted effort on something that didn't exist/wouldn't work. <i>Targeting</i> of money is the problem. We have a great longleaf plan here, but when I talk to folks that deliver the programs, they have different ideas about treating everyone equally. So if we are going to set priority areas, we have to set people and resources in a targeted way too.
2	Money is always a problem. We have done all planning and we have built ideas. On conservation easement side, we have done special area management plans, and we have pulled groups together to get done stuff without money, but you have to have some money. Don't need a lot of money; we can take dimes and turn them into dollars. Conservation easements are a great tool. Property is protected/plans are in place, but there is money in Berkeley County that is needed because some of our landowners can't rely on a tax-write-off to donate property. Their property is a real investment. We have landowners with conservation ethics, and they want to do the right thing, but we need money too.
2	The challenge is consistency on part of government. They don't have education to be able to develop a vision. The elected government officials want to be leaders, but they don't develop a vision, because they have particular expertise, and they drive that, and forget overall good for the community, and that's a problem. They have a vision, and they don't prioritize, they don't get funding.

2	I spend lots of time explaining the tax code to landowners and I get the same basic questions, because it's so complex, that people cannot grasp it, and it takes so long. The biggest challenge is funding. To keep our jobs. If you look at educating public, we meet with young people and put them outdoors, and we educate landowners and the agencies that are doing this are getting hammered with budget cuts and loss of staff. People are retiring and this experience is leaving, and the landowners rely on this experience, and the lack of people is hard. We can't educate without the expertise.
3	I don't know what their role should be. WE need more money, but we have to recognize the fed. Government has their own financial issues. No more deep pockets. Is there someone they could play a role through tax system, or facilitate more private partnership/more collaboration? I sense there are lots of people in my perspective, lots of people think partnerships work.
3	Outdoor ed. In public schools. It doesn't exist now. Private schools have huge wonderful programs and classes, but not public schools. Fed government could initiate an education piece into the classroom
3	Pass full funding for land water conservation fund. Great opportunity for feds to include a national water trail initiative because they are proven, cost effective, and get kids out on the river, and build support for recreation and conservation because rivers are a public resource. Building in a national Blueways through AGO.
3	Pass Conservation Incentive Act. Also experiential education; getting them outside, hands on. Not necessarily kayaking, hiking, but just more hands on. It's in public schools for the first time, but they will hopefully have this in public schools. Southeast is a great climate for this, but I feel kids are trapped in schools. Would like to have promotion of Greenbelts, and greenways/ corridors, and have states incentivize them and get towns and communities to institute them. When they do that, (1/2 cent sales tax) cities can learn from models like Charleston.
3	No more funding cuts. No more staff cuts. Don't use National Park cuts as a way to save money.
3	Feds can't run everything from top down. Give us here locally tools/fund incentives/all conservation is local. You can't do easements or protect acres from Washington, but they think money has to be directed, and programs/bills, you can't do it in Washington. Funding. Local communities have to protect their own land, but incentive programs from federal level, tax programs are good, but the idea that all things come from Washington (alphabet soup) they don't understand complex programs and drive local people away. And we are here, these people are our neighbors, we know how to talk to them. Grassroots
3	We need to be more flexible with funding sources. No two states are alike or forest stands.
3	Feds get their act together. Get coordinated IRS is picking on little things. But when you have conservation targeted by IRS, they should be more coordinated.
3	Be consistent. Humans think they need to change things. We have some great programs. We need to fund things we can. I am worried that we are so much in national debt and that money pot needs to be used more efficiently.
3	Strings attached to Washington things. It is hard to work with diff. incentive programs. FOREST SERVICE has done a great job, NRCS great help locally, Forest service, but when it comes to applying for diff. incentive monies, you look at the strings attached, and the grant app. It is complex. Easement cannot allow forestry management, and some grants are just useless (KELP?). Folks aren't going to give up their forestry rights. It is a problem because what you are trying to do can't be accomplished. I heard at the podium today about agencies coming together to mesh visions and goals and I hope this carries down to programs/ priorities and see how they fit together.
3	I was taught if you can't afford it don't buy it. The government needs to focus money on proven projects that work. See what works and focus on that. Some tax companies have their own people that do nothing but try to stay up with tax laws. It's amazing the complexities.
3	Our landowners want to do the right thing, but we have made it so hard for them to do it. We have made it so hard they are doing the wrong thing and they don't know it.
3	People in fed agencies hold jobs to slow things down. The more I work with feds the more mind boggling it is. I think it is going to change. There is going to be some cleaning house. Appraisal department makes you wonder if they even want the money to go on the ground. In some places there are 3 people doing one person's job.

3	Summary of Fed. Government Roles: Simplify tax system; encourage collaboration; bring outdoor education to the school systems; create National Blueways initiative; pass tax bill; feds must stop funding things top-down—don't forget the foot soldier; need tools to facilitate work and initiatives from the ground up—on the local level; be consistent; fewer strings attached to funding; agencies should match visions and goals; feds trying to buy too many things; families want to carry on traditions, but tax system is getting too complex.
4	Markets--landowners don't have them. US Endowment has first ever commodity check off for wood products. Need a coordinated program. It's before USDA now for consideration. It's on the books. It's all industry money but will grow the market. The fed's should adopt program of go first with wood because it's a sustainable building material. Build with it. It would push the demand.
4	If we could get the agencies (we can handle private sector) to look at the conservation programs they have, regardless of agencies, as an equal system approach, that would be key. Each agency has its own single program and approach and they need to come together and interplay and the opportunities will be there. The folks that control the game need to get together and make it happen. Equal system plan. Try and get a handle on what's out there. We need coordination at the top.
4	Recognition of our successes. It doesn't cost anything. We have Earth Day, and we talk about why we are where we are and what we need to do, but we are not celebrating or recognizing our successes. Talk about our nat. resources. What we have. Let folks know. We talk to ourselves too much—not our audience—Joe Public. Folks everywhere—New York City, and rural areas. Everyone needs to hear our message.
4	Engage the public with advertising/ public service announcements.
4	Need an evaluation system for ecosystem services. This is a catchphrase now a days; how do we value them? Ecosystem services - what is the value to that landowner who sets aside streamside buffers? Science goes into that, but also how are we going to value this, and incentivize landowners to do it?? What's in it for them?
4	Incentivize riverside protection. Outdoor recreation/ protecting rivers--How to mesh regulatory and non regulatory river protection. Through designations by creating national water trail. Rivers have recreational value.
4	Advertising so they can see what we have and how important our natural resources are.
4	Market. Used forest products.
4	Comments have been awesome. Glad you are taking notes and hope it comes to something.
4	TOOLS summary: Promote building with wood; Use what's available; Commodities; Markets; Emphasize forest products; Agencies should coordinate--Look at common goals. How can agencies simplify? Don't overburden potential partners. River corridors need protection. National level to give incentive to protect corridors. Recognize conservation successes.
4	Resources available through local organizations, like Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust, studies that are done. Local expertise. They need what we have at the local level. How do we do that? Avenue needs to be open up to get information to right places. Jurs presented group moderator with two resources. He presented the moderator with a <i>Berkeley County Blueways booklet</i> , which highlights a paddling trail system to id over 175 miles of water course from 23 trails and resulted from a conservation partnership. He also presented the draft concept for the Cooper River West Branch Ecosystem Protection Plan. This is available online at <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/pubs/reports.htm#samp_docs">www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/pubs/reports.htm#samp_docs</a> . It is located on the SCDHEC OCRM web page under Planning/Technical Assistance then SAMPs--Cooper River SAMP.
4	Stewardship contracting; authorization set to expire in 3 years. We want to make sure that tool does not go away.
4	Tax incentives for private land conservation. Private tax incentives critical. Least expensive tool in the box. Low country open land trust. Leverages other funds. Greenbelt – with Chas. \$250/ac
4	Working with military to establish buffers. Landowners waiting to see if federal incentives going to come through. Back log funds in jeopardy. Get people outside. GET KIDS OUTSIDE. Kids are the future.

1	Partnerships between conservation agreements with NRCS.
3	Support LWCF funding. Public lands public access. Leverage funding that defines who we are.
1	Blue water trails maps. Rivers are natural connections. LWCF. Greenways connecting and expanding 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> order waterways. Partnership with Congaree National Park
1	Nature-based early childhood education. Align state standards to align teaching materials. Nature-based inquiry program at Univ. of South Carolina. Getting teachers to influence natural curiosity. Imperiled butterfly project. The conservation bank – private /public partnerships. SC has a unique state/private model not seen in other states. CRP – program works great but funding is inconsistent.
1	Partnerships. Military, too. Funding sources. REPI funds. DOD – WHIP and EQIP money. Partnerships best way to get conservation work done. Focus funding where good partnerships are working.
1	Local communities – getting them involved. Ordinances developed locally. (Maine for example) Open space/connectivity. Developers (Maine) had incentives to work with a local open space organization – trails, open space.
1	The extra level of protection. Military. Lands protected that link to other public lands Wild scenic river.
1	Educating children. Charleston Co Parks system – educating adults/children, getting them outside. But it's not enough. More children outside. Protect what we have in the future.
2	Less recess time for kids at school – emphasis on testing insane. Making grass roots effort. Pushing No Child Left Behind has led to No Child Left Inside. Kids LEARN while outside. Teach mom and dad, too. Going to the woods, where you learn what is important. Kids don't know about hunting culture and natural resources. Summer camp program in national forests, national parks.
4	Private timber lands used to be owned by timber companies, they leased hunting rights. Tax credit to a timber company for allowing recreational hunting would be a good program.
4	Investment in a rural place, gives kids an incentive to stay interested. Nature trails.
1	What is working are working forests – 2/3 of state is forested. 12.9 million acres. More forests and timber than we had in 1936. Why? Because we have trees, which attract forest industry. Landowners grow trees to sell. Family forests work, are sustainable and managed under Best Management Practices. Once maintained, recreation opportunities follow. Private timber land around our communities. We are competing in a global mkt. PRO FORESTRY CLIMATE, COST SHARE INCENTIVES, TAX INCENTIVES. It all starts with the tree. Wood Magic, Project Learning Tree. There have to be financial incentives to continue.
2	Youth events. Depends on US FOREST SERVICE, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. Costs involved with events – grants such as more kids in the woods. Keep competing for that grant money for MKIW.
4	Promote technology that is attractive to youth (IPOD apps).
2	Simple land ownership. Connecting the dots between ownership, public education/knowledge. Hunger for knowledge. Lots of information out there. No matter how large or small your ownership, small landowners do not know where to go get information. There is disconnect – folks within the conservation community disagree – about hunting, for example. Even residential landowners need to think of their backyard as “landowners”.
2	OHV groups. Motorized access to the woods for hunters/anglers. There are places appropriate for motorized recreation. SCORE. Unmanaged trails – claims (incorrectly) that there are less than 100 miles of motorized trails in SC (there are over 200 miles on US FOREST SERVICE alone).
2	Agencies that have contradicting policies – US FOREST SERVICE was giving Awendaw permits for waterlines which would lead to development on private lands. Strict zoning of private property is key. Fend off development in sensitive environments.
2, 3	Developing public lands – minerals, for example. Destroying/conquering environment is a mentality that needs to be overcome through federal leadership.

2	Active management of public lands – threats of lawsuits and ecoterrorism are huge obstacle. Manage public lands with wildlife and forest products objectives. That we are importing timber from South America and Russia is wrong when we have so much forest. Good sensible management on public lands that promote wildlife objectives.
3	Use of fire – how do we burn 8 million acres every 2-4 years? Air quality issues/regulation in conflict with need for prescribed fire. 800,000 acres in NC of fire dependent ecosystems that need to be burned every 2-4 years. Not getting it.
2	Liability issues – are a huge concern for private landowners. FIREWISE. Working with communities in WUI. Hunting/public access. LONG TERM FAMILY /ESTATE PLANNING and community planning. How to manage towns and communities. DOD – how to get public access to military installations. Leadership through policy and vision. Need to protect private/public properties so public can still have access.
4	Private property rights. Conservation easements – once landowners realized they could design them, private landowners starting trusting conservation easements. 22 land trust orgs in SC. Now landowners WANT to put easements on property. Federal programs have restrictions attached – suspicious of taking cost share money knowing there is fine print and an encumbrance may be involved. Don't over regulate private property rights.
2	Prescribed fire – reduce fuels around communities. Public needs to feel confident about use of fire on their private lands
2	Need to reach out to young leadership of color. The generation coming behind us needs to be recognized. Demographics and changing population.
2	TRUST – the larger the organization the less people trusts it. Work from the bottom up.
2	BUDGET is a critical issue. We are telling the public that federal land conservation programs are not important. Reconnecting people to the land – leads to political will.
4	We can be BOLD and do BOLD THINGS. Make it a priority, not in half steps.
2	Estate tax – window this year, this is a huge issue. Working farm being forced to sell their land upon their death because of estate tax. Can get a huge conservation bang. Extension of favorable tax incentives – make it permanent, not 2 years at a time.
2	Budgetary. Cost for maintenance of Ft Sumter, etc. is huge, in this coastal environment because of heat/humidity. NPS needs to receive enough funding for backlog maintenance. Increase diversity in workforce. Education – public schools, let kids learn their local history.
2	Preservation of hunting heritage. Adults may not have ability to take kids out to hunt, experience public lands. Can't infringe on adults rights to hunt.
2	LWCF – KEEP IT FUNDED.
2	2008 Farm Bill – REPI cannot match with FRPP. Statutory change “killed some deals” with the military. US FOREST SERVICE – Community Forest Initiative.
3	Centennial of NPS – 2016.
3	USDA National Ag Statistics Service includes the delivered value of timber in its annual report issued by state Dept of Ag. FIA – need to be able to quantify recreation values. Federal government should be able to provide this data. Affects rural development programs. Carbon connection.
3	US FOREST SERVICE needs to reauthorize stewardship contracting.
4	WHIP, EQIP, Grants
4	Walkable bike-able communities – LWCF. Bicycle commuting needs to be emphasized. Bike lanes. Bike friendly communities.
1	Need to connect people to their cultures. A cultural connection and history of an area are crucial to having people want to protect the area, otherwise they don't see how cultural resources and conservation and making a living can come together.
1	What works is something combining historic/cultural preservation and conservation – looking at the broader picture that makes up the conservation landscape. Eating at a local business that's been there forever, or at someone's house.

1, 2	My focus is on recreation. Not to be too simplistic, but for people to reconnect to outdoors, we need access to it. I understand it's important to restrict to something. Thinks National forests are the most user-friendly; they have fewest restrictions on use and still do a good job conserving resources. With private lots there's no avenue for them to open their lands for recreational users; too much fear of liability.
1	Quality of life big part of conservation in communities. It would be helpful for government agencies to capture the things that are important to the people in the area. Land should have easy access for use for nature trails, cross country track teams, etc. Give the people access to use the land. Get the non-locals and bring them into conservation education via the recreational avenue. Introduce them to the goals of FWL refuge. Look at wildlife values; habitat protection. People move here specifically to recreate & we're one of the only areas.
1	Has two ways that has worked. One is a place for friends & family to enjoy – had worked for him. On another property he leases the land to hunters and since they pay to lease the land, they take care of the land and help to preserve and use conservation practices to enhance the land. They have a vested interest/ sense of ownership in the land since they pay. People talk about how all these things should be free; I feel even if it's on public lands, you use it you pay. When the expectation is removed that everything is free, then people get the wrong idea because they tend to forget that someone is paying to provide the service. It costs to maintain it and do a good job of it.
1	Proponent of municipal and local parks; local parks are the low-hanging fruits – it's the introduction of most urban people to the outdoors – then as they get older they go to state and national parks. Outdoor wildlife recreation areas bring in kids and introduce them to nature and history working together; through programs that fit the curriculum. Municipalities have more flexibility because they're not tied to goals of feds.
1	We have zoning laws locally to protect the culture and then there must be regulations to keep the environment; this ties back to protecting the culture. Has done eco-tourism or cultural tourism (eco-cultural tourism) for over 25 years. Eco-tourism – bio diversity – tours will visit a cultural community to established local businesses and observe how the business ties back to the culture and environment; such as sweet grass, throw shrimp nets. Connect them with people and allow them to experience the culture/environment connection through hands-on experiences. People remember when experiences make a difference in life on a given day. Where do we pull sweet grass, where do we cast net; they have interaction with the people and don't have to go to a visitor's center; when you create people with the holistic view point, you get stewards; people are so affected they want to become stewards.
1	The entry point for a lot of people is to introduce their children to the outdoors, conservation and outside environments. Then later in life they will visit National/State/County/Municipal Parks as they get older and have a respect for conservation practices. Bring in school children and introduce them to the facility/land and history. Educate the children in conservation measures and practices. Later these will be the constituents and give support to conservation laws/regulations/practices in the future.
1	School children visit a landowner's property where they have placed learning stations throughout the property about wildlife indigenous to the area, and an old cabin is also maintained and toured so you can see how people lived in the 1800's. Different and diverse agencies come and man the stations providing education to the children as part of the tour and interact with the environment. The tour is set to follow the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Classes can only take one field trip per year because of funding and it's a challenge to get transportation. There is a liability issue for the landowner, though they think parental permission forms take care of that. We must teach children about the culture, environment, woods and what is safe. This provides a wonderful hands-on day to educate children. It is true that a picture is worth a thousand words and during the day the experiences provide many multi-sensory pictures to educate about habitat and environment. Need coordination of agencies to get the children to these events. If landowner could get transportation for the kids, it would help teach the children – otherwise, they'll be taught by people that are maybe scared of the woods (ewww, snakes!). Can't get the kids to come out. Kids were overwhelmed that they could measure a tree. Sometimes it takes simple logistics and coordination of the agencies to get them there.

1	Blue ways and blue trails are a great way to connect the kids and people to the outdoors and to the cities and towns that are along the way. When they enjoy the water this inspires them to want to protect conservation and resources.
4	LWCF is one of the best tools but it needs to be secured. Stabilize funding for national parks, etc so they have the manpower to manage. Tax incentives for private landowners and they need to be permanent. Permanent funds are needed, not something that changes each year.
3	If you don't have natural areas, this is all for naught. Tax incentives work – we had enhanced tax incentives for conservation easements – we had easements rolling in until that ended. Renew the tax incentives that existed until end of 2009. CRP works – an investment of half a billion dollars. Need to establish reenrollment for continuous CRP when CRP contracts expire to allow landowners to sign up for new contracts which will require the landowner to manage; such as thinning trees to 70 square basal feet, frequent burning, and planting native warm season grasses. Programs need to place a value on forestry land to mirror the row crop programs without a limit on it. We have commodity, peanut, etc programs, but we don't have it for the forests – why can't we do the same thing for the forests. If you remove the cropping history for CRP, more land owners will be able to participate. Fully fund land acquisition, LWCF.
3	A program needs to be established to retain what is in place. We really don't have a program that helps land continue to be managed properly. Financial incentive to retain land in long leaf pines after the deceasing of the landowner– kind of like CRP, but what's going to happen at the end of the day to retain Long Leaf Pine when land owner dies or land is transferred. Another obstacle – Tiny farms, real small and on worn out land, not well managed nor maintained are operating for one reason only and that is for federal subsidy payments to grow things we don't really need – corn, cotton, etc. Or in some cases the only reason they continue to farm is for collecting insurance (locally called insurance farming).
4	Tax incentives for recreation easements & conservation easements; provides legal protection for landowners. Washington, DC is getting in the way – can't figure out what they're going to do about taxes and no one knows what the regulations are going to be. The landowner needs as much time as possible to implement the regulations to protection as much as possible and to carry the practice before the end of the year. Need to know law before the first of December. It is impossible to implement practices during the last 4 weeks of the year. It's got to be multiple tools; tough we're all working to address the same need. Land is cheaper now so it's the time to do acquisitions.
2	The 1,000 pound elephant in the room is the estate tax/death tax; most people who own land are land rich, but cash poor. Children of landowner will have to sell off the timber or sell off the land so they don't get stuck paying taxes. That's the issue – the fragmentation. This is another way the land is vanishing away from the conservationist. Constantly having to look to the future to figure out what the tax situation is going to be. They're trying to figure out which parts of the land should be sold first to pay the taxes. 30 to 50 years you own land; value of land is raised but you have no cash; there has to be a way to look at that.
2	A major challenge is most forestry and USDA programs do not apply to small landowners in the community – they have one acre properties. How can they do long leaf pine? At death, now 4 to 10 people own a 15 acre property – they won't qualify for the program. Thinks you can't have a group of people apply for a program like CRP – they won't qualify. Plus they need financing. If zoning could change, you could get tax credits that would benefit when the timber was used for building on land or other sustainable practices.
1	Forests should be evaluated the same as gas/coal, etc. The public must be educated to look at the forests as a renewable resource when other natural resources are not. Then a lot of the small tree farmers would have incentives to keep it in trees rather than subdivide.
4	Ecosystem services – no payback for the clean air, water – should be an additional funding source or a tax incentive for those folks. We've been lucky that we've never been taxed for those amenities so far.
1	A lot of people will donate part of their land to use by municipality and get a tax credit.

1	New tools coming on line all the time. One pot of money to be divided - ½ cent tax credit – has been great in Charleston Co. Money is divided between parks/recreation and two other agencies – some going to urban section, some going to rural area. We have to be creative when we use the new tools coming online. The more leveraging we can do, the farther the dollars will stretch.
2	Most landowners are not able financially to attend an event like this. Suggestion would be to hold this type of meeting on a Saturday. This would reach landowners more than on a weekday. If the government is really trying to listen to the landowners- then the meetings have failed because the landowners are few in attendance today. They can't afford to come. Suggestion is to go to the events that the landowners – local landowners, tree farmer meetings attend at night with dinner sponsored by local business and a local educational experience such as local Forester or Clemson Ext. agent provides instructions. No wonder they don't trust us or they aren't engaged or we're not reaching them. Trust is not there since Government is not meeting with the landowners.
2	Gullah Sea Island Coalition does have sponsors for meetings to provide food & drink and discuss topics that affect landowners, like zoning changes and how they can affect you; that pulls people together. Like today, minority groups/individuals are not usually invited to these types of events. People of color are not on the lists to get in meetings like this. There's no trust factor because we don't know you exist, so there's no trust. How was I going to go, I had to work. And what about my children. Need a different mindset about who are you trying to reach. Everyone communicates differently, too. To Margaret, easements sound really good; to Gullagetchees, it means theft. Need educational campaigns geared to different cultures. We need to tailor things so they see themselves in it. If I can't see what you're saying, it won't work.
1	Suggest landowner workshops 3 times per year in different communities within the state/areas. Meetings on weekends, evening; that's when we educate them about what easements are.
2	Silos of natural resources and cultural preservation and silos of government agencies. Same goals for all agencies, but they do not communicate with each other. Everyone wants the same thing (sustainable communities, etc), but the different programs for the agencies are so territorial, even if the practices are the same/similar and working toward the same results. It's all about aligning interests.
1	Resources are the difference. Game bird research facility has fire ecologist. Goal is to manage for diversity. Overlapping the interest of people helps. Landowners approach us to increase quail population, but when the plan is established and reviewed, the landowner sees other opportunities for income when they plant longleaf pines. This makes them receptive to the multiple uses. Regular occurrence of fire brings in native plant species and increases species in wildlife community that's better suited for this area. Education is a tool and challenge to let people see how everything comes together to enhance a healthy forest with multiple species (versus how a forester might see things as board feet per acre).
2	The bottom line is the land owner. When planting longleaf pines the landowner is concerned with the higher costs of planting and decreased profit in the end because the production is less than the loblolly pine. Those that plant long leaf pines will lose money, so they're planting the more productive, faster-growing pines that they can harvest after 15 years or so. Land owner needs incentives after 15 years - they can only thin with little profit and they have been patient for 15 yrs. Survival rate on longleaf pines is not as good as the loblolly pine.
2	Lots of folks use waterways for subsistence, but there are no laws for that so these families get caught in the middle between State/Federal laws. There needs to be a better coordination of regulations. The Savannah River Plant pollutants are coming down because of this and the feds just gave the plant more money; so causing more issues for the subsistence fishermen. And why do the studies if we're going to finance harmful activities anyway? One agency worried about toxins, but another funded what created the problem.

3	<p>There's a CRP program where people are paid to plant long leaf pine – need to expand that program so it's attractive to Landowners to plant long leaf pine instead of Loblolly. Enhance the program to include incentives for thinning and burning properly. Ecosystems in SC need fire. Habitats need fire to allow native ground cover and wildlife to come to the forest and keep hardwoods under control. Survival rates on long leaf pine are good as loblolly or slash with containerized seedling. Give the land owners incentive to plant that tree versus another kind. LONG LEAF PINE has as good a growth rate as loblolly on comparable soil. Thin CRP stands properly, got to have fire – be able to burn. Quail needs it as well – that open, pine forested savannahs. Help the landowner out on the extra seedling costs, site-prep costs and help them to of Forest Service the income loss for selecting long leaf pines. Another incentive would be to provide would be for harvesting pine straw.</p>
3	<p>Redhead woodpecker loves the long leaf pines. The matured long leaf pines are the nesting ground for the redhead woodpecker. So when there is a presence of the woodpecker, then regulations don't allow land owner to cut the trees because of the endangered species presence. Coordination from the agencies to eliminate this regulation is necessary to encourage the planting of long leaf pines. This has the appearance of a being a penalty for planting long leaf pines. There need to be incentives, not penalties to folks who do the long leaf pine.</p>
3	<p>Need good educational program. Need to pay instructors to educate the public – teach 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Funds are needed to staff visitor centers at county/state/national parks by individuals who can educate the public. A cost-share program through Fish and Wildlife Service matches salaries of teachers and staffing the visitors' center. At wildlife refuges education often isn't seen as the integral part of things and is the first thing cut. Also, when creative programs come along, they don't always match what the local program says. Forest Service won't allow the land in because it says the agency will always have to use the land that way, but the local program says because there are local tax dollars in there, they shouldn't. Charleston County Greenbelt has a program. The piece they need has a clause that says it can revert back to the state/forest. I'm confused. \$26 million to leverage federal dollars. Definitely thinks there should be leveraging. Need to take where lessons have worked.</p>
2	<p>Conflicts exist between county and Forest Service. There is a clause that states the land must always be used a certain way. The agency can't get past the law to say the land has to be used the same forever. Money is being turned away because of the future use clause – Charleston County Greenbelt has a program but lawyers will not accept the language in the grant because of this 'future use clause'.</p>
4	<p>Nationwide system of blue ways – great way to connect rural and urban areas and great outdoors to the water. Working with federal partners to develop a toolkit to help communities create their own blueways. The trails and waterways are already there, need to publicize and get people to these locations.</p>
3	<p>Tax incentives for keeping your land like it is – not develop or sell – people who keep a farmhouse, or other land as open space; developers get incentives all the time to keep building on land. Can we switch it? So we protect the outdoors instead of building more buildings. Property taxes incentives not to sell. Property taxes are the reason the Gullahgetchees end up losing their land.</p>
3	<p>A great idea would be a program for small landowners – 1 to 20 acres – especially if you're trying to maintain a rural community. A program specific to do that. CRP typically targeted farm acres – how do you get to acres that have not been farmed? The small farms?</p>
3	<p>There's a lot of coordination that's needed among agencies and programs. Private/public partnerships and communications. Recognition that lots of programs overlapping and coordination of federal/ state/ local agencies are not recognizing. Everyone should be a team player, not on opposite sides.</p>
3	<p>Remove cropping history requirement from CRP.</p>
4	<p>Bring forestry industry to public's attention. Upgrade forest resources and recognize what forestry provides. What it does not only for renewable wood products, but for air and water, etc. Education is critical, starting with school age children. Maybe public service announcements to elevate forestry to where it belongs.</p>
3	<p>Think about a local citizen task force in conjunction with this national one on great outdoors.</p>