

The Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation, EO 13352, emphasizes the full incorporation of local participation in federal decision-making. In preparation for an upcoming White House-sponsored conference on cooperative conservation, a collection of case studies is being assembled that will illustrate the themes of this EO. The Corps has been invited to propose some of our projects and activities that show the positive outcomes of local participation and collaboration--partnerships in action--that demonstrate achieving conservation while addressing public needs.

Therefore, I am offering you all the opportunity to nominate one or more of your most successful projects or actions that serve as good examples of cooperative conservation in action to be included in this collation. A report highlighting the **100 best** case studies will be prepared by the interagency working group. This report will also include a CD with the more complete collection of all those considered as good examples of the Executive Order being implemented on the ground--but the written report will only present the best 100 of all submitted. Participants in the Cooperative Conservation (CC) Conference later this summer will all receive this collection as read-ahead materials for that conference.

There are three main theme areas being considered: CC in urban areas, CC in rural areas, and CC in wildlife and habitats. Your examples could be related to any of these. Just indicate on the attached format which of those themes your case study(s) best illustrates or addresses. It is important that you include the key organizations and participants in the project so that the partnership is evident. You may wish to include some brief mention of the stakeholders motivations, what made them interested, and perhaps the legal or regulatory context of the case. Any information about goal-setting and identifying desirable outcomes would also be beneficial.

To encourage your selection of worthy success stories and case studies, here are some of the goals that can be achieved through cooperative conservation:

- community development and revitalization
- restoration of degraded environments
- management of infrastructure
- protection of public health and safety
- energy and resource conservation
- access to, and enjoyment of parks, urban forests and open spaces
- protection of wildlife and creation/maintenance of habitat
- more effective land use, growth and stewardship decision-making
- protection and enhancement of natural resources
- protection of biodiversity and pristine systems
- achievement of environmental sustainability

Succinctness counts. The best approach is to briefly summarize, so you will have to tell your story shortly and sweetly to get attention. The review panel will not have time to read a lengthy write up so think of ways to pack a lot into a few paragraphs. Ideally, 2 pages should do it. Those that generate a lot of interest will be contacted for more information (even photos or illustrations) for the final printing.

Please consider submitting your success stories for this compilation. This is an outstanding opportunity for you and your community partners to share your successes with a broad audience and to gain some great publicity for your accomplishments. If you are on a RIT, please encourage your MSC to participate, and if you are at an MSC, please send this request to your respective districts to solicit their input.

**Please submit your proposed case studies to me NLT 28 April 2005. Follow the attached format.**

**Let's see if we can get some Corps projects included among the 100 BEST in the nation!!**

Thanks and Essayons, Beverley

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