

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

Location: Golden, CO

Date: July 17, 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?

Comments	Question (1-4)
Challenges - What obstacles exist that prevent you from achieving your goals for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors that you have used	1
People are programmed to think locally rather than seeing the large picture when working on conservation and outdoor recreation issues. We need to find a way to reach out and educate people on the need for cooperation among many groups, rather than solely in a local setting.	1

<p>"At a time when our natural resources are disappearing at an astonishing rate, the government has an obligation to promote sustainability, biodiversity, and conservation in any way possible: education, regulation, provision for quiet recreation (hiking, biking, fishing, enjoying animals and birds, etc.), discouragement of destructive practices such as off road vehicle use and destructive extraction processes.</p>	1
<p>The primary obstacles are with education for youth - youth are not being taught at an early age to have the engagement with the land that is required to love the land enough to promote conservation.</p>	1
<p>We are not using the Clean water act legislation to effectively manage and protect wetlands areas.</p>	1
<p>School administrators need to be made more accountable for bringing students into the natural environment and promoting the outdoors.</p>	1
<p>Lack of local green space. Denver currently has programs that we should emulate - Some schools are turning school grounds into native landscape and natural areas that are being used for onsite education. We have a need for more natural areas conservation within the urban environment. Funding - Water conservation act. Lack of initiative. Advocacy - inspiring cooperative action. Lack of protection for natural areas - need to protect - and the resources to support existing legislation.</p>	1
<p>Examine alternative ways to generate funding for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Examine the renewal of superfund money for environmental work. Review of 1872 Mining Act - Are large corporations paying their share of rehabilitation cost?</p>	1

<p>CSAP requirements are preventing schools from teaching the natural sciences. Sierra Club has a program to connect youth with the outdoors which has been extremely successful regarding graduation rates and grades. The expense of transportation for youth in the city to recreation areas is cost prohibitive.</p>	1
<p>Through the conservation trust system, Russell has contributed 12K acres of his ranch to study wildlife species, how development was affecting wildlife and other education opportunities - as a private land owner, how can he generate the dollars required to administrate the program through high schools and colleges, and how best can we approach the cooperation of the educators.</p>	1
<p>The permitting process is prohibitive due to the fact that youth groups and educators are being charged as outfitters. It would be helpful to redesign the process and give breaks for permitting for educational purposes. Allow easier educator access to public lands. *another barrier is the folks within the conservation community...perhaps too conservative?</p>	1
<p>2nd question - What are the most effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors that you have used?</p>	2

<p>Model - "Alpino" has a program that trains kids and their families in how to camp and be safe in the outdoors. Hands on outdoor training is available in a group setting so that kids get to recreate and learn about the outdoors with their own family and friends. Getting kids up to the city. They are seeing success in partnering with corporations and local businesses. We need to go beyond creating an event; we should be designing the program to work with federal agencies to get more families going outside.</p>	2
<p>Replicate the model used by the CO Cattleman's land trust - which is a precursor to over 7 land trusts in the west. Provide outreach to constituents who may be averse to the conservation community. Cooperative use of the existing model. After only 3 years Texas is seeing progress in cooperation between stakeholders.</p>	2
<p>Partner with colleges and retail outlets to endorse sponsorship of outdoor activities for youth.</p>	2
<p>Implemented RAW "Ranch and Wildlife" youth program. Science students are responsible for the curriculum - agricultural and habitat based, as well as riparian and watershed, soils, etc. The Instructors noticed how much improvement the hands on participation provided rather than reading text in class. They indicated that the kids were engaged and actually retaining more information.</p>	2
<p>Use conservation leases to generate funds and initiate local and regional partnerships in education initiatives.</p>	2

<p>Participates in the TEN "Teaching Environmental Science Naturally" program. Working with school districts to provide teacher training so they can be certified to take students outdoors. Once trained - the instructor can obtain grant and other funding to take the kids outdoors. (This program is currently only available in Loveland) Some of the areas incorporated are wildlife skills days, fishing and hunting outreach and various outdoor clinics.</p>	2
<p>The Western Energy program participates in the junior ranger program at Nat'l park - The kids receive a badge, passes to parks and education on natural resources. The key to the success of the program is the federal designation and endorsement.</p>	2
<p>The DOW programs are commendable. The connection with nature creates invaluable influence in the lives of children. Once you make the connection, you are able to establish an interest that they can see and feel themselves. When kids are allowed the opportunity to learn hands on, their research indicates that there is a higher graduation rate, higher math and science test scores, and a higher percentage of college enrollments. Unfortunately, these outdoor programs have been cut from 5 days to 1 - 1 1/2 days to accommodate CSAP requirements.</p>	2
<p>Incorporate and build programs that re-establish habitats within the urban setting. For example, turning public areas or even your own back yard into a wildlife habitat. Continue to restore urban waterways. Find ways of involving businesses, communities, and governments working collectively on solutions. Addressing the problems with transportation to natural resource and recreation areas. How can we build partnerships between entities to accomplish these goals? The federal government needs to be involved.</p>	2

<p>Federal Gov't role. Nature close to home and first experiences must begin at a younger age. Large minimally inhabited areas and control and balance of the management of off-road vehicles and RV's.</p>	3
<p>Discussion and planning across agency and corridor markers to build partnerships in conservation. Using youth programs like Alpino or TEN to train children how to be comfortable in the outdoors. Training outdoors. Design the program to work with federal agencies to get entire families going outside.</p>	3
<p>Federal funding for Environmental sciences programs for kids and the transportation to get there.</p>	3
<p>Travel management, resource management planning and coordination of fee based services to ensure costs are better controlled and agencies align.</p>	3
<p>Funding for youth programs that encourage development in the sciences and land planning careers. Hands on participation to allow students the opportunity to develop an interest in being a steward of the land.</p>	3
<p>Partner with groups like the Co Mtn club to generate interest in the management and conservation of the land for future generations. Develop plan for long term costs - Use tools such as the wilderness act, and less stringent oversight. Use resource mgmt planning - agencies. Enforcement.</p>	3

<p>Resources, BLM enforcement of public lands - ORV problem and lands set aside too little money to educate and enforce what's CURRENTLY IN PLACE</p>	3
<p>MAPPING - LODGEPOLE PINE - MIGRATORY CORRIDORS - AND GETTING EVERYONE TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME - Looking at the different mapping layers, agencies could begin to understand the values and resource uses of each group.</p>	3
<p>Use Forest Service and National Park Svc partnerships to teach urban forest, parks and waterways management, and then relate that education to build respect of our urban parks and waterways...Getting these kids early enough to establish a real connection with the lands or land management.</p>	3
<p>"Recognize that broad eco-systems are at stake and must be addressed beyond any particular state's preferences. The red rain that falls on the Denver area and covers cars, houses, and my expensive photovoltaic solar panels so that the sun can no longer reach them originates in abusive "historic" land practices---read over-grazing---in the Utah desert. If "scientific management" is the guide, why is this happening? Barren drilling and mining sites likewise destroy the land and water. Have we learned nothing from the Dust Bowl of the 30's?"</p>	3

<p>Tools*** How much time we are spending developing a state and federal clearing house to get the most out of the grants and money available through various agencies and non-profit organizations? We should be developing ways to share the limited resources we have.</p>	4
<p>Financial incentives for working lands conservation - clean water, open space habitat, state tax development incentives. *** Tax incentive for conservation easements***is working in Texas.</p>	4
<p>Initiate a citizen involvement program and incentives to participate in existing programs.</p>	4
<p>Initiates a public information marketing campaign. One of the most effective campaigns that affected Jennifer personally was the "Crying Indian" - 1970's?</p>	4
<p>We need a campaign to address the over-sensationalizing the media does regarding the "danger" of nature. If people are consistently bombarded with the "danger of nature," they will be less apt to seek out recreation outdoors. The media plays an enormous part in the stifling of our children and the decisions parents make regarding the activities their children can participate in.</p>	4
<p>Better use of commercial funds for public lands sites that film-makers use for movies. Use this additional funding for recreation and habitat protection. Smarter use of existing resources.</p>	4



<p>Build urban habitats people can connect to. Forest service needs to retire abandoned roads to restore habitat. Policies on rangelands need to be examined for land leases Land lease costs are consistently low. Initiate subsidies for stewardships of public lands. Climate change - work with states, private land owners and local and state agencies. Citizen stewardship would serve to encourage participation in stewardship and volunteerism.</p>	4
<p>Winter travel mgmt planning US AG dept. Exemption for snowmobiles.</p>	4
<p>Citizen Stewardship. Better management of volunteer resources. Trail and park programs for restoration and upkeep.</p>	4
<p>National database to share the names of the people attending today's presentation. (Note*possible FOIA and privacy issues) Provide an easy way to keep track of the sessions and the problems and solutions being discussed. Summary of the sessions on website with contact database.</p>	4
<p>Youth campaign within the schools to promote "America's Great Outdoors." An outdoor education summit with actors, sports figures and other celebrities to bring youth into the big picture.</p>	4
<p>Clearinghouse - to consolidate efforts into one place. A large campaign may be overwhelming. Consolidation of efforts seems like the best route.</p>	4

<p>We have to keep in mind that solutions developed in one state may not be applicable in another. The nineteen western states need to be working together as well as partnering with the Federal government for better land use planning across jurisdictions.</p>	4
<p>Poses question* Is BLM here? They need to hear this. (Both note takers present are BLM employees.)</p>	4
<p>Parting comment* It might be time to reinstate the Civilian Conservation Corp.</p>	4
<p>Submitted DVD for further review by the committee. The DVD is entitled "Wetlands and Wonder, Reconnecting Children with Nearby Nature." (produced by US EPA)N07</p>	-
<p>Works for conservation. This system of lands established in 2000. Challenge is getting the word out. It is wild and scenic areas. That this land exists. Wants to shorten the name.</p>	1
<p>Getting kids outdoors. Kids spend a lot of time indoors. How do we get kids outside even in their own backyards</p>	1
<p>Young people care about what their friends say. "Why do you go camping?" People care too much about what others think. It's okay to go camping fishing, hiking</p>	1
<p>Can't push kids to go the parks. Not enough school shaves the outdoor education programs part of their Curriculum. Funding for travel to get kids to programs.</p>	1

Education of accessibility. Little information saying its okay to go certain parks, and it's okay to go outside to the parks.	1
Personal benefits to people from public lands can be made stronger known.	1
Global footprint of carbon of driving up into the mountains. I feel that it is a sin not just against the country and the forest but against the people of our world.	1
Inner city issues within the education system: in CA, there is not enough resources to get the kids out, and cannot go out everywhere and play basket ball because of risks such as gangs and being shot in different areas and cultures.	1
Private Lands Conservation---Raising money, but hard to come up with private cash match of the funds. Private fund raising is hard. Wyoming has a lot of private ranch lands which are important. Urban places are a big drive of our economic culture.	1
Bark Beetle demonstrates what is important for our forests. We can't leave our forests alone.	1

<p>Industrialization of our public estate. Disorganized public and state. What my kids see is not outdoors and lands they love. Industrial operations causing harm. Grazing lands, sage brush in trouble. Ranches have federal pastures taken over because BLM policies are not being enforced. They let people cut roads and ditch everywhere. Public estate is a big challenge. BLM knows they just ignore. Ranchers can work together to keeping the weeds off the sagebrush land. Have a call for sustaining ranches.</p>	1
<p>We allow millions of pounds of poisons to spread our lands. Changing sex of all fish to female and damaging.</p>	1
<p>Look at eco systems more broadly, and don't really recognize the adaptability of eco systems. Working public land managers together.</p>	1
<p>NO big money. Has changed drastically. States are cash flow challenged because of hunting licenses going up. We could take money and give more to help recruitment problems and finding good spots to go.</p>	2
<p>South Platte River, Grand Junction, Prioritize protecting River for drink and also keep people out and going to these treasured places for camping and swimming. National water trails or blueways trail --cost effective and connect people to the outdoors and create generation of stewards.</p>	2

<p>I own stretch of river, beautiful country. Something brought tot my attention, only funded about third of project where we created fish habitat, and five years later have a fabulous patch of river today.</p>	2
<p>My sisters' middle school had a program and I went with her planting plants and it was hot and I hated it, but I looked over and it was a mess before so I thought it looked good. Next time we went camping. Family started to come and brought friends.</p>	2
<p>Just turned 21 want to go out and party. 18 can do that too. We go to clubs and it gets tiring and boring, so then we go out and go camping and hiking, and get lost. Remember something we saw that was cool and have to go back and find it again.</p>	2
<p>Program at my sisters school, took her and she thought it would be good for us so I went fishing. And we've been out a lot since.</p>	2
<p>Transportation getting to those places is an issue. Programs (ELK) pick kids up to take them out and make it work. The kids in the program but also friends they want to take. Funding for these programs is very important</p>	2
<p>As simple as getting kids out fishing. It's huge. Federal government shouldn't forget about the tribes. They get little money, but the eco tourism for the public. Many are intimidated, and the government is a huge part. Transportation to these reservations is a big part.</p>	2

<p>Compelling power that water has. We live and eat with it. The successful parts CO has with it. Protecting river flow is very important.</p>	2
<p>What the local communities need and want. Important for efforts to be locally and voluntarily driven. 95% of the land is Federal. Ranchers were the first environmentalist, and most are willing to participate, but there's has to be incentives. People want to participate but need the opportunities. Wyoming kids grow up hunting and fishing, but as it becomes more urban we face these things too. Local economies and local pieces are critically important. Three things in this initiative are Urban, Parks, and Lands.</p>	2
<p>Kids start having access at very young age through the school systems, etc.</p>	2
<p>Strong urban presence -- education, etc. More Local non-profit groups. Willing to volunteer and get kids out.</p>	2
<p>Weekend trips to the Mountains are great, but more daily stuff--just going outside and gardening are even better. Drought hinders a lot, but shouldn't stop it forever./What about school shaving their own gardens? Aquaponicssystems</p>	2

<p>Draw people from the city outside. Some neighborhood associations would help with the kids by showing them insects and other creatures. Leadership in the neighborhoods. I was afraid of the mountains, but what helped me was trip to the National Parks and meeting up with the rangers</p>	2
<p>Local community. Some who live in an apartment and don't have the yard to go into and look at nature, need the parks (National and Local) to see.</p>	2
<p>Becoming part of the community is important. Being able to talk to the communities.</p>	3
<p>Partnership between federal and state. Sometimes the state asks federal government for opportunities to explore and explore, but the two agencies are not talking. Communication is a problem between federal and state. National agencies may not have the power to go out and see when the local state agency does. Communication is important</p>	3
<p>Communication between agencies is critical. One hindrance is the Hierarchy. Park values are meant to be timeless for everyone, not for local businesses to exploit.</p>	3
<p>Federal gov't to create a database about the outstanding attributes of the land and wildlife.</p>	3
<p>Public transportation is there but can improve greatly. Federal involvement in transportation to get people places more safely.</p>	3
<p>Federal gov't has a role to give guidance on water, and help communities create water trails, etc.</p>	3
<p>Keep the federal government out until you need them. Having the fed gov't be the solution shouldn't be the primary choice. There's has to be a local determination. Not at the first level. They help implement it after.</p>	3

Convening----bring the local community together to talk about what it is about the future of valley they are concerned about. How do they want the future to look. Community discusses it and the county is listening. This has done more to help folks see they are a community.	3
Money	4
1) FRPPENG- Cash/match is really hard to raise. 2) Land and Conservation fund 3) Conservation wants to be measured in acres not dollars	4
Finding someone who is truly passionate about the lands	4
Funding, Creating a national Strategy, having leadership that can help out, and other tangible things.	4
Valleys with no way to get to them. Trespassing because these lands are held as though they were private. More access to local people	4
Partnerships	4
Matching funds, cash isn't there.	4
Method to helping fund equally across the board, communities	4
National Landscape Conservation would love to see a secretarial order issued to give further guidance	4
What is working: in boulder a symbol of how you merge the outdoors and the communities? 4.7 million Visits to the boulder open space, more than Rocky Mountain National Park. Make it as part of the life style. It is there to use. Sees Boulder being a leader for the country. Overcrowding due to 4.7 million visitors. Accessible open space around the whole town. Making the park become part of the city.	1



<p>What is working: Across the country and work with many agencies. It is a unique partnership with volunteers, youths, adults, integrate with local communities to leverage what we can do. Long-distance trail that goes thru 5 states. Work multi-jurisdictionally. Unique partnership consisting of locals and volunteers engaging stewardship. They economic development and leverage with partners. Powerful network.</p>	
<p>What is working: Engaging the communities who benefit from lands, grass roots outreach, - Is there a lot of resistance? Have to explain what the land is being designated for to get them to understand what the uses are. Groups educate communities. One-on-one contact. They explain the designation to overcome opposition, repeatedly.</p>	
<p>What is working: Cattleman's and the land trust are moving forward in partnership, and stronger organizational structure. Access for the public to the Sangre de Cristo mountains. What is not working the IRS. They have a strong organization regarding access to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.</p>	
<p>What is working: Local open space programs is working well. Every community in Boulder has an open space program over 100,000 acres. Get kids out to the land, buffering, local food production. It is a revolution.</p>	

<p>What is working: Connecting kids to the outdoors, creative partnerships with organizations they have not worked with in the past. Creative partnerships and thinking outside the box. They're forging new partnerships.</p>	
<p>What is working: Land owner driven conservation. Successful around the State. Leadership that is invaluable. Routt County protecting farming ranch properties. Landowner interests.</p>	
<p>What is working: Colorado bar associated, holding its cles by combining meetings on reservation easements, age law section, cattelman's sections, etc.... Bringing forward the issues throughout the state. Think about professional organizations reaching out to the advisor communities. Looking to professional organizations to help families consider willing their lands.</p>	
<p>What is working: Private lands issue and recognize the USDA releasing moneys for land owners to open up areas for outdoor recreationists. USDA funding is for open fields initiative to continue conservation and increase opportunities.</p>	
<p>What is working: Reforms for onshore gas - leasing reforms. Need to continue to promote multi-use and restoring balance. Restoring balance to the way public lands are used.</p>	

<p>What is working: Concept of the programs farm bill based programs based leveraging private land dollars.. Look toward more programmatic and leveraging the private dollars and lands.</p>	
<p>What is working: Colorado is a great example to facilitate all of the groups (environmental groups) and the federal government on working the conservation issues. Seven other states have followed Colorado's lead regarding conservation.</p>	
<p>What is working: Colorado model, seven other states have followed suite and formed cattleman's conservation groups that have replicated what CO has done. SCORP is funded by conservation money. Every five years, all 50 states. Collaborative planning. Federally-funded programs sent to states for implementation. Brings together folks to discuss and build partnerships and vision.</p>	
<p>What is working: Collaborative effort across the Nation sent to the State for collaboration. Colorado good model.</p>	
<p>Challenges: with SCORP is wonderful but do not have the funding to implement. SCORP is a problem implementing due to funding issues.</p>	2

<p>Challenges: CDT - inconsistent direction across the agencies regarding trails that cross jurisdictions. On the ground level is an issue. Find language that provides consistency with a cross country trail. National Forest, BLM and NPS interpret the National Trails Act differently. Hard to get consistent direction. Also, engaging private lands so that interpretation can be accurate from what Congress puts forth. This goes to how different agencies interpret language in an Act. Administration needs to push integration between agencies.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Field Offices - Policies and Instruction Memorandums and Instruction Bulletins are not being translated and reaching the Field Offices. Fee structures are different across the country. Special Use permit issued differently across the nation. Information not trickling down. Agrees with Martinez's comments on enactment of Washington policy decisions being put into place by the states, counties, localities. Believes field offices do not volunteer information on changed/revised directives/policies nor even enact changes in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Goes both ways. People on the ground not getting the best information and technology to do their jobs. No mechanism to put the students into this pay it forward membership program to help the environment. Getting information from the states, counties, localities up to Washington effectively among the varying agencies. There's no way to get all Federal agencies jointly involved with the same program at the lower levels to get something accomplished.</p>	

<p>Challenges: Open space programs have been successful throughout Colorado. Problem eroding sales tax base because of the new internet purchases. The States want the sales taxes that are due to them. Local government requires sales tax now and the base back to them. Counties are receiving less money than in previous years. Keeps them from being able to buy open space lands. States are getting sales taxes from Federal government, but it doesn't appear that local governments are being given the same help.</p>	
<p>Challenges: IRS fraudulent accusations encourage outdoor use, increases the impacts and waste disposal on the land. Group size damage, impacts to the environment. Need to educate about what the outdoors are about and preservation. Concerns from San Isabel involve the IRS; Crystal Mountains and problems with massive trash, etc. From people who use and damage the area because some people being allowed to do whatever they want when there while others' accessibility is limited. Educating youth on preserving the area. LEGACY FUND.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Office of conservation outdoor recreation coordination need to model the wildfire integrated management system. Create an Office of Conservation, Outdoor Recreation Coordination, which would be an agency to coordinate between all Federal agencies. Too many Federal agencies to contend with.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Federal coordination</p>	
<p>Challenges: Wind energy developing faster the regulations.</p>	

<p>Challenges: Legacy fund with GOCO. Transportation (for children and others) – Make it easier for people to get to/from places outdoors.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Transportation (access) Get out side is important to get people to the outdoors. Best use of funding. Design criteria that encourages implementing funding. Encourage flexibilities across programs – private/non – remove time limits on using funding, etc. Consider how landowners work their lands. Ask landowners how objectives can be achieved.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Land owner have to be a partners, we have adequate funding it is how it is used. Be more objective direct. Look at the office of eco-services to help. People need to be flexible. Timing and how the objects work and be flexible where you want to be and go out the landowner base. Could do it fiscally responsible.</p>	
<p>Challenges: USDA programs that are good, changing cash matching requirements. Funding changes, to make more available. Open up LWCF to private conservation efforts. Pilot program for Colorado administered by GOCO to achieve more local programs. Tax incentives. Conservation easement tax permanent.</p>	

<p>Challenges: Funding aspects have to pay upfront and they then get reimburse. Have the funding up front that they can charge against (small non-profits.) Funding aspect – paying for programs across participants upfront and then waiting as long as a year to be refunded by the Federal government. That groups such as hers be given funding upfront and/or refunds much more quickly.</p>	
<p>Don't acquire adequately at the FO level, one botanist for huge land masses.</p>	
<p>Good for kids to have experience working with animals. Protecting the wild mustang. Save the native mustang, horses can live in harmony with the cattle.</p>	
<p>Issue federal land acquisition process, not coordinated and brought up through the public input. Largely politically driven. Not through SCORP. Federal land acquisition process that, to him, is an uncoordinated process that isn't connected with organizations such as cattlemen's associations, etc. Process seems to be too insular.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Personnel - quantity and back ground. Region 2 of the Forest Service hired a person for travel management that is not qualified. (let me do it.) The movement of Federal employees into jobs they're not as qualified to be in as someone in the private sector who has been in Colorado, which, she feels, causes programs to be handled inefficiently</p>	
<p>Tie Federal initiatives to the local levels.</p>	
<p>Youth in Natural Resources program. Where does it stand?</p>	

<p>Challenges: "Let's move" (First lady) initiative gets integrated, needs public support, the National Forest Foundation. Getting the word out. How do we get it down to the local level. How can the local groups help bring the program down.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Effort to get a youth natural resources to the National Level. All agencies and bureaus need to coordinate in the vision. It is about the importance of working lands where our food comes from, conservation, education. Youth in Natural Resources program. Where does it stand?</p>	
<p>A lot of money spent on buying land, and when we take it out of a working landscape, but there is no money dedicated to maintenance, restroom facilities. In Colorado we love our land to death. Need help with the maintenance.</p>	
<p>State 4H. Interest is working with education. Debt relief or college credit. Educating youth via debt relief, etc., (incentivizing secondary education).</p>	
<p>Challenges: People in government are not getting the Leasing Reform message. Leasing Reform not translated to the State Direct the FO's. Training. Onshore reforms don't appear to be translating to the Field. It appears that career Federal employees continue doing their own thing regardless of new policies, etc.</p>	



<p>Hearing about projects getting hung up. The federal employees are not getting the message on new policy. What are you planning about setting the working action groups about dealing with the new policy. Mentoring, have a forum. What would you like us to do? Reiterated the failure of agencies to move on new directives, and wants to know what is being planned to breakthrough such barriers.</p>	
<p>Challenges: How important it is to have the dollars for landscapes - farm and landscape protection. LWCF is important. Tapping into the energy of land trusts. Relationships between the Federal, Local and State Governments. More Flexibility with the Federal Government to have roles that is more coherent. Federal programs that aid preserving landscaping are vital. Ways to tap into the energy of land trust and private citizens goes a long way. Overlap – more flexibility on the Federal government working to have rules that work across such overlaps. That the Federal government recognizes there may be a legitimate need for more protective rules in metro areas than are necessary in rural areas and not trying to have a one size fits all mentality.</p>	
<p>Challenges: Diverse country, give local autonomy so we can manage our resources to the local priorities. That there be recognition that works in one part of the country may not work as effectively in another. Federal government should recognize this and help to overcome such issues.</p>	
<p>What is working: creating small groups of kids and helping them connect to the land.</p>	

<p>Very interesting and diverse. [*THESE REMARKS CAME AFTER WILL SHAFROTH GAVE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE TO SAY.]</p>	
<p>Don't forget Family farm and where our food comes from. [*THESE REMARKS CAME AFTER WILL SHAFROTH GAVE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE TO SAY.]</p>	
<p>What is working: Working landscapes are a good way to protect our lands and plants. [*THESE REMARKS CAME AFTER WILL SHAFROTH GAVE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE TO SAY.]</p>	
<p>Wanted to know how many groups represented in the breakout session funded youth education programs? [*THESE REMARKS CAME AFTER WILL SHAFROTH GAVE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE ANYTHING THEY'D LIKE TO SAY.]</p>	
<p>Small parks need to be improved. If the places are run down and lack equipment, no one goes there.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Lack of funding stems from lack of interest. As a whole, society is not interested and that is why there is lack of funding. People don't support the initiatives. Need to reengage society as a whole. Without re-engaging youth, less and less interest results in voters and tax payers, have to re-engage.</p>	<p>1</p>

<p>I second that, LWCF, and we haven't put enough common effort into urban parks, in communities where kids don't have access to parks where they are. Our charitable group has a goal for a safe outdoor place to play 10 mins walk for every child in the country. Another challenge is "landscape view", how to integrate city with mountains, and federal coordination.</p>	1
<p>One challenge is not being able to fund of the LWCF.</p>	1
<p>How we utilize private sector partners, ranchers and others. Look at best-case, best practices, GOCO is a good example of an org that understands the big picture, understand locals and engage with local entities, engage those in existence. Affordable housing is a good example to.</p>	1
<p>Colorado's treasures are the land and animals. A challenge is policy, with regard to animals, a lot of money is going to the charismatic species, but we need support for the whole spectrum of life. Once we conserve land it's not over, we have to monitor and pay attention to weeds, threats, and misuse of the land to maintain our natural heritage.</p>	1
<p>We have two dedicated education facilities, our obstacle, is transpiration. Fees for buses and trips are too high for some school. We're working with schools to overcome that obstacle but it is a growing concern. Testing and other obligations take up a lot of time.</p>	1

<p>Too many programs with different priorities and different rules bring a project forward and a number of federal groups and youth coordinated for that project.</p>	1
<p>Being able to communicate the relationship between outdoors and the health of our communities. Everyone thinks it's nice but not fundamental in tight economic times and they don't get the importance. Tie it to health.</p>	1
<p>State, federal and local funding, but non-profits are not always an eligible recipient of some programs. Should make non-profits eligible as well, they can take money from more sources, foundations, and give tax credits to the corporations you can't get when donating to county/state.</p>	1
<p>Our challenge is, we own a wildlife refuge, funding is a challenge and being able to serve the communities while taking care of what we want to. We would like to serve more rural communities but funding requires we do Lowry and Stapleton (Denver communities).</p>	1
<p>One challenge is getting youth interested in the outdoors. Science academics in elementary is being sacrificed for the standards like reading, writing, math. Love for the outdoors comes through science class. Don't take science out of the classrooms.</p>	1

<p>One program, that may already exist where you could have a self-guided tour that highlight the attributes of natural and cultural resources, maybe telecommunications could get some cell coverage, and combine with an interpretive service, features of the conserved lands and what they have to offer. It's a PR opportunity and educates people about why those areas are special.</p>	1
<p>Recognize cultural and historic resources, would like to see a greater voice for that. Obstacle of course is funding.</p>	1
<p>One challenge is the technology issue, more interest in tech in their world and lack of interest in the environment, need promotion of what the environment has to offer.</p>	1
<p>Not many people know about the opportunities, need someone to show them.</p>	1
<p>I echo the remark about funding, barrier is leadership. Another issue in Colorado is it is hard for youth groups to get the permission to be on federal lands.</p>	1
<p>Biggest obstacle is funding to acquire open space. Opportunities to partner with Federal Government have been good, would love to see additional funding for LWCF, would like to see it fully funded. There are also some obstacles around coordination between local and Fed Gov on land swaps that make sense. BLM, Forest Service, could swap and increase preservation of open space, it is difficult to do that and would like to make that better.</p>	1

<p>Opportunities to partner with agencies. Fed government is not the most welcome partner, so utilize the existing programs with federal funds. Water rights in CO are contentious, it's an experiment but we are using a state program that has the resources to protect, and how we can protect using existing infrastructure.</p>	2
<p>The value of partnerships, GOCO has been enormously effective in this way in Colorado and that has resulted in a # of conservation movements, interest in conservation and has transformed CO vision of how that can happen. It is a model for the rest of the country. Focus on private lands and the general public and conservation groups, it's amazing. Partnership also working Colorado Rare Plant Conservation initiative has brought diverse stakeholders together and gained funding from a variety of sources, it's a good model of a partnership.</p>	2

<p>Maintaining private lands is important in addition to the public lands we have, we have a dedicated funding source, homegrown partnerships, that are diverse, include local and state governments and non-profits, private, come together to problem solve to protect landscapes. It requires leverage. You have to bring other dollars to the table from other sources. America's Great Outdoors can learn from where we are doing private lands conservation programs, landscape by landscape. Private/public partnership is valuable. Community engagement is necessary, at the local neighborhood level in the urban environment so the community defines what its needs are and the health and the community's access to the outdoors. Make connection between lands, people, outdoors.</p>	2
<p>A compelling reason to go, a story to tell, which is easily accessible. "Cites in the city" has a cell phone feature to tell you about what is around you. Regarding the Public/private issue, keep your compass straight and do not compromise with private funding.</p>	2
<p>We're doing it; kids wanted to come here and are genuinely engaged. If we don't reach kids, these are our future supporters of our conservation efforts and that's what works, if they hear about it in school and hear about in science, or archery programs, some will develop a life-long love of outdoors.</p>	2

<p>Fed government has limitations to working with states. They should provide the money to the state. Applying for a federal grant is horrible. State grants are not that bad, and can meet with the applicants... Currently there is a huge pot of money from the sale of sporting equipment, guns, bullets, etc. That money is in DC they don't know how to dole it out, that money should go to the states to be used by fish and wildlife, its school programs and all that. States could give better access to that money than the Feds can.</p>	3
<p>We have a good community land trust, it has really grown and the professionalization's of that movement, people have careers in it. Conservation easement tool itself, that tax deductibility should be extended and made permanent, that is the single biggest source. Building community, gets the funding, bond, or tax on retail, those processes make for strong communities because people become partners, become invested, have raised \$35 billion and you get partnerships, community.</p>	3



<p>Fed government has “build America bonds”, that fed role is crucial; there is a huge infrastructure for land preservation. I would like to see an interagency cooperation and perhaps a White House coordinator to have the agencies and dollars and programs. A community can envision, but to actually build, it needs all.</p>	3
<p>Augment what is already happening with more collaboration, I hope to see that. I agree with Brett, LWCF funding, it’s important and works well.</p>	3
<p>It’s important to have a usable website with good information, and interactive use of technology, such as online registration, info about what types of programs are available, links on website to see what is offered. Youth and teen volunteers are a great idea, a win/win, they are interested and we need help, it’s a growing area.</p>	3
<p>The problem with Fed grants, the process is too difficult for agencies/interested applicants that don’t have the staff and resources devoted to applying for them. The forms are hard to fill out-Feds should streamline that process; make it less of a pain. Jeff CO Open Space has a user-friendly process.</p>	3

<p>1. Federal funds should be targeted and 2. Flexible and used across boundaries and agencies 3. Full funding for LWCF. It's not accessible to non-profits. There is fear of fed government by land owners who would work with a land trust and third party easements.</p>	3
<p>I remember when LWCF was fully funded; getting it fully funded again would be wonderful. We need to take a look at GOCO; we need to make it more flexible so entities that get funding don't have to use it for that purpose for perpetuity. Can take another look after at time to see if it is something you still need-skate parks, or something isn't working, you can reassess.</p>	3
<p>Need to support public health initiatives. I support passage of the "moving outdoors in nature section of the Healthy Choices Act."</p>	3
<p>Effective strategies with engaging people, it comes in so many forms in how to engage the community. City of Golden's "Golden Vision 20/30" technique was storytelling; it's a way of having a 2-way communication with people. Part of the outreach was with youth, utilized the technology and provided flip cameras, the Flip Company offers 2 for 1 grants for such projects, and 20 students went to places in Golden and told their story-why they loved those places, highlighting what's important from the youth perspective.</p>	3

<p>Storm water management is important. Make sure that development in urban-metro areas is accountable for the quality of our water. EPA needs to be a better a steward, with more power and inspectors. They should work collaboratively with private sector and with developers to stress their impact on water quality. Also, federal forest, fed lands, there is lack of funding. There are plans-fund them. The plans were well thought out, implementation plans not being implemented.</p>	3
<p>Focus on the Conservation Act. The fed role is research, more innovative research leading to more scholarship for students who want to pursue careers in natural resources. Government can stimulate interest by funding environmental science students. Larger environmental policing force, recreation has degradation of parks, so there needs to be more agent personnel and strict legislation that would force corporations in certain industries to make positive environmental regulations.</p>	3
<p>From the home rivers aspect, student aspect, we researched water shed; students were involved in monitoring program and informed management, so they could see the effect of water, and how it changed. GOCO is a good example too, and the aspect that enables large-scale land protection, GOCO public and private lands has been successful, what makes it work is real money, drives partnerships, and can be more visionary. I work in Washington state, it takes those elements of a partnership, public/private, for the Washington Watershed Restoration Initiative, a lot of entities have come together to drive the restoration. Today no more roads and on to healthy rivers and streams.</p>	3

<p>What is really working is a return to a balanced perspective. The federal agency emphasis was on fossil fuel extraction. We need to recognize stewardship and other values, exemplified by BLM's recent plan for the Vermillion basin. It is a piece of the old west, and preserving those things for the long term instead of money for fossil fuel values, over the long term.</p>	3
<p>Spending money on ground field restoration generates a lot of jobs and final disposition of that land.</p>	4
<p>Need a stronger push for public awareness, not just physical wellness but mental wellness effects of connection to nature. Amazing what statistics show and how necessary it is for youth to be outdoors.</p>	4
<p>Fewer agencies and streamline agencies and amend existing laws.</p>	4
<p>Feds have opportunity for landscape conservation and partnerships; we need a White House coordinator to provide top-down direction toward conservation, in the form of executive order, firm direction, in light of global warming.</p>	4
<p>Money</p>	4
<p>Flexible money</p>	4
<p>Lots of flexible money</p>	4

<p>Lot of discussion on getting youth outside, and public lands, but private lands, skiing is too expensive. A program where private sector can create a program or opportunities, lower fees for kids and others if they are a member of those youth conservation organizations.</p>	<p>Prior to session</p>
<p>2. Conservation easements: program is capped for next 3 years. Given states budget, would like express importance of these tax credits.</p>	<p>Prior to session</p>
<p>Resources: make them more efficient and clear.</p>	
<p>Federal government is capable and would do the public information campaign. Need it to be saturated, to talk about the health benefits of outdoor recreation that benefits every group in the room, not playing favorites-it makes everyone healthier, smarter, better-looking... Gov could do the campaign.</p>	
<p>Agri-business not touched on, if we stop agriculture practices that are not conservation-worthy, would allow more conservation-appropriate use of farming lands.</p>	

<p>Flexible money, certainly, but the flavor determines whether it's successful. The GOCO model of landscape-scale efforts by state or region, tax credit option in CO facilitated a lot of conversion of private lands, funding for partnership-especially successful existing ones, and supporting infrastructure/needs –the pieces are in place, the conservation infrastructure could be spurred with more resources that it would take to get to the next level.</p>	
<p>It's great to have these high level discussions but some mechanism to take this, and have a resource to filter it down so that all the efforts can be put rubber to road, a strategy to take this really good information, and how do you filter all that. I hope someone has an idea about what is necessary to take this info for our own use and even more, funding, grants etc, so we can enhance what we have documented today, how can we do something productive with this info?</p>	
<p>Need tools/resources to make sure success stories are highlighted, such a breadth of topics, wheelchair accessibility is important-highlight success overcoming challenges and how. Wilderness on wheels, sustainability efforts, managing what we have, biofuels, untapped resources, plant the seeds to stimulate grass roots level.</p>	
<p>Policies still in place from prev admin. Need to reverse the "no new wilderness areas". Concerned that we are opening up wilderness areas to too many uses.</p>	1

<p>People do not understand what we do with horses on trails and the competitive nature of OHV use on trails used by horse back riders. In some areas other trails are being closed for development of other uses like dog parks. Lack of funds and due to economic times we don't have support to educate about these issues and the benefits/fun of horseback riding in our open places/spaces.</p>	1
<p>When you are out in the wild/wilderness, and you have other uses (e.g. Horses, ohv, etc.) You often get pushed out of the way. We need areas that offer both and do not get "over competed".</p>	1
<p>We try to teach folks with brochures, etc. But he agrees it really takes mentoring, to get the message across. Need to start with kids, but the problem is that many families do not get that opportunity. We need to build a program of stewardship over time to teach our public and especially our youth.</p>	1
<p>Inadequate education on impacts of certain recreation types on the outdoors. (e.g. OHV use and other motorized equipment use on trails). We need to have education programs that teach about the impacts of these uses to solitude and silence.</p>	1

<p>Overheard a lot of people funding non-profits that support outdoor programs. For him, I don't think funding is the issue. I think it is more about the quality of the program and timing. He thinks the greatest solution to getting kids outdoors is to make it part of the school curriculum.</p>	1
<p>Works with three counties to discuss water use/quality. Need people in the counties (not elected officials) to care about the creek, its quality, etc. Need people to understand its recreation potential (e.g. Trail). First step is to get the people to care.</p>	1
<p>Discussed Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project Wild, and Project Food etc. Do a program annually called Camp Rocky that they use to teach youth about a variety of topics related to natural resources and have concurrent teacher workshops. Need to get the "project" curriculum and similar programs like Camp Rocky into schools.</p>	2



<p>Need education and outreach toward community programs. Access to lands is key to doing this. We would love to have people come to plains to help us build our environmental and conservation programs. We do trail rides, festivals, etc. That we do at minimal cost that get a lot of folks involved. Making connections with other communities, especially in urban areas, would be a key help to those of us in rural areas who want to do more and educate about our ecosystems (their importance and benefit).</p>	2
<p>We involved the parents in our programs so they can be a part of the process and make for a successful venture. Another key to our success is the matching of programs to our open spaces, on-going activities, facilities. We need to connect these to our schools. As part of this we need to give credit to our schools.</p>	2
<p>Funding is a challenge, but despite this we see tons of kids getting outdoors. It is all about possibility, and how much we do. So it is really important to get these programs going and people involved them.</p>	2
<p>Teach the teachers about the place. Thus they use a teach the teacher method for the areas which gives teachers the tools to do outdoor education and get their kids outdoors.</p>	2

<p>We do outreach to our local schools and turn them into feeder schools for our programs. Many of our parks are not very safe anymore so getting kids outdoors is really hard. On top of that parents are not able to get outdoors and many parks are run down.</p>	2
<p>We need to find that common thread and unite those folks with that thread. A common thread that can unite folks and bring them together, gives the opportunity for developing partnerships and creating opportunities for developing initiatives.</p>	2
<p>A huge barrier we have is that people are not clear about what their lands are and where they are. We need to do a better job educating them about this.</p>	2
<p>The great idea America had was setting aside open spaces. We would not have the recreation opportunities we have if it were not for our open spaces, parks, etc. In some places we took amazing wild spaces and developed them. In others we have let them go. We need to keep our wild places wild and not development them to the point of ruining them. He likes areas without signs, parking lots, designated trails, etc. Wild does not need to be manicured and paved.</p>	2

<p>One thing the federal government can do is put a hold on anything different to our wilderness areas to keep wild in our wilderness. We need to think about what we are doing now so we don't ruin the areas for future use. There are great wilderness areas that are threatened.</p>	3
<p>Government needs to be courageous in the establishment of national monuments. This program needs to be strengthened and maintained as a national program that is in the executive branch and not in the states.</p>	3
<p>Federal government needs to do something to help its agencies talk/communicate better. Right now we reinvent the wheel too much. We need to have more of the same programs throughout each agency rather than individual initiatives special to one or maybe two agencies.</p>	3
<p>The NPS, USFS, and BLM have been losing representation on the ground (e.g. Law Enforcement and Interpretation). We need to reprioritize budgets to get more money and folks at the field level so we can better work with our public.</p>	3

<p>We need to have an effective delivery system to our youth where they are educated. Thus not after or outside of school programs, but in school programs is critical. This is where the rubber really meets the road. We have skipped a generation in terms of outdoor education. However, teaching the teachers is a key piece to this (above statement) and something the federal government should be more involved with.</p>	3
<p>As a society we have a done good job at setting lands aside. In CO, 16% of our landbase is wilderness. We have to applaud our current successes. The USFS has over 11,000 miles of trails of which only 2,000 are open to OHV. We are talking about encouraging people/youth outdoors. We know that our forests are stretching our current resources. It is a tough go for our land management agencies. We have this desire to get folks outdoors, we have more folks than ever outdoors, and yet our agencies cannot support this.</p>	4
<p>We need to remember our local parks and recreation departments. They are always looking at opportunities to partner with other folks. Denver Parks and Rec have Denver Mountain Parks, but it is a constant struggle to protect, conserve, and maintain these parks. We need to keep our focus and priority in urban areas on our parks and rec departments.</p>	4

<p>We are giving away our land for mining/leases/etc. At minimal costs. These folks are making profits on "our" minerals and yet getting them for a song. Maybe they would not take such risks if they were so cheap.</p>	4
<p>1. Use urban communities as a model 2. Create trust between rural and urban communities 3. Develop ecotourism 4. Create festivals for species 5. Create trust between fed/state/private</p>	1
<p>Service learning volunteer opportunities-- youth-- VOC, YCC, SWCC</p>	1
<p>1. Use Jefferson County open space as a model</p>	1
<p>1. Open space model (Jefferson County) 2. No sunset on sales tax</p>	1
<p>1. Mandate environmental education 2. Project Learning Tree</p>	1
<p>1. Successful environmental education programs--supervised youth education</p>	1
<p>1. Work with partners to bridge the gap between private land owners and agency partners</p>	1
<p>1. Volunteerism is working well 2. Keep federal funding coming</p>	1
<p>1. GOCO as a national model 2. Low maintenance opportunities</p>	1
<p>1. Seconded GOCO support</p>	1
<p>1. GOCO support</p>	1
<p>1. No fees for land access</p>	1

1. Bureaucratic rules are obstacles	2
1. Divide between rural and urban audiences--mistrust, lack of communication	2
1. Need to have environmental education from early childhood through high school 2. Need to have envtl. Ed. in wildlife and provide transportation	2
No money for managing forest service land	2
Cultural resources not to be cut-- Save America's Treasures, Cost Share Program	2
1. Need access to open spaces--must be a connection between where people live/work and where they play outdoors 2. Lack of access isn't just an urban issue--rural too	2
1. Ability to integrate between different agencies to incorporate funding sources--including private land and agricultural sources 2. Bringing together existing federal funding sources	2
Sustainable funding mechanism that generates revenue. 2. Research lab that focuses on environmental education--physical and mental health aspects	2
1. User fees are an obstacle 2. Look for stable funding for activities 3. Don't build unnecessary amenities	2
1. Continue Challenge Cost Share Funding support	3

1. Expand tax benefits for selling developmental rights 2. Expand ease of acquiring easements	3
1. Support GOCO and CO Kids Outdoor Program	3
1. Estate taxes--keep reasonable	3
1. Attract kids to outdoors programs--classes should be integrated into schools	3
1. More \$ for easements through LWCF 2. Cooperation with county commissioners --Yuma County, allow current funding to be utilized 3. There should be more conservation easements--more \$ for easements	3
1. Expand the benefits of the Farm Bill to small family operations	3
1. More interaction between public and the feds 2. Schedule meetings when public can attend	3
1. More monuments	3
1. Allow everyone at the table 2. Healthy level of funding for partnerships	3
1. Make sure we have tools in place to do what we actually said	4
1. Subsidize volunteer training so they can maintain their work 2. Communication and education for general public 3. Physical tools to maintain trails	4
1. Capacity building for grants--available for all not just a select few	4
1. Research--field research 2. Federal influence on integration of experiential learning	Colorado Kids Outdoors Coalition

	1. No Child Left Indoors Act
1. Funds for schools	4
1. Exchange program between rural/urban schools	4
1. Reviving CCC models	4
1. Decisions should be transparent 2. Government should do for people what they cannot do for themselves	4
1. \$ for acquisition of water 2. Consolidated process for grants	4
1. Focus on local outdoors	4
Some don't feel there should be motorized recreation. Have to fight wilderness designation, trail closures, fewer multiple use trails. We are looked on as the bad guys. OHV Registration program in Colorado puts money back into the trails. 3 million dollars annually goes to Federal agencies to maintain, restore and build new trails. Successful program. Greater demand for motorized recreation.	2
Funds are scarce. Have to reduce and concentrate on a smaller group of programs.	2
Same as Kirk. Even with GOCO, funds are tight. Programs that don't generate revenues are lower priorities. Less than 10% of State Parks funding comes from appropriated dollars.	2
Fears of outdoors (example bears). Support of teachers lacking.	2
No dedicated funding sources for operations and maintenance (local and state parks). Creating new programs is the priority rather than funding O&M.	2
Obesity rates. Fitness is a challenge to getting people re-connected with the outdoors. Also, fits with initiative of President to gets kids more fit.	2



Knowledge challenge, don't see the outdoors as part of their lives. Getting unplugged is a big challenge. Understanding how to be outside.	2
Community level – lack of vision and priorities. Go out 50 to 100 years. Big stuff takes a long time to put in place. Having a master plan with vision and priorities. Resources get re-organized.	2
Getting youth unplugged. They have conversations with each other. Communication happens outside.	2
Chatting on line preferred to meeting friends at the park. Invite friends to go to the park, they will find out what can happen there.	2
Going places where you can't use the technology. Where they have to put it away for a week. I like not having phone for awhile.	1,2
Permitting from the Forest Service was a barrier to taking kids with disabilities up there. Requirement for insurance, fees, etc. Fund raising also requires Forest Service permit.	2
Family has a rule when they go outdoors that kids have to unplug. Some trails closed that have been open for a long time. As you get older, it gets harder to get to some areas on foot. Grandparents are very important to exposing their grandkids to the outdoors.	1,2
Heavy use of ohvs is not good for wildlife habitat. Without wildlife, the mystery of being outdoors is not there.	2
School that she started is a model. School in the Woods, Academy School District 20, near Colorado Springs. A public school that accepts fifty-two 4 <sup>th</sup> graders every year. Chosen by lottery. Nature based schools.	1
Create more passports (like the Federal Senior Pass). Maybe there should be a youth passport? Make it more accessible.	1
ELK program started under Ken Salazar. Connections within families. Older siblings participate then younger siblings want to do it. Making connections with parents. Long term mentoring is important.	1
Trips on the river include geologist, botanist, and astronomer. Working with schools is very difficult. Used to do kids trips with Denver Children's home. Now the logistics (number of staff, managing kids' meds, etc.) Make it impossible. Build multi-million dollars sports complexes but no tents, backpacks, etc. To connect kids to the outdoors. Getting kids outside is not viewed as part of the curriculum. Each school has to have a staff person who will lead it.	1,2
Hook kids with "fire, knives, and dirt". High adventure, fun, etc. Is what gets kids interested. Need to attract kids on their own terms.	1

Colorado just passed “No Child Left Inside” law that is funded by grants, etc. Focus is on teacher training.	1
My sister learned that kids that don’t go outside have less creativity.	1
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have a strong service and leave no trace ethic. Exposure as children is important. These organizations get challenged by bureaucracy. Schools used to sponsor these groups. The Federal government should support these organizations.	1
Get the kids and adults out there but preserving the Great Outdoors is really important. Work of the Udall’s in preservation. Conservation is huge. Has to be something there to enjoy. Plan ahead for conservation – look ahead 50 years.	1
Parents and adults need to train kids.	1
When there’s a desire, it can happen. Took a group of students to SEACAMP San Diego. She had the backing of parents and administration. Hard to get the kids out of the classroom with testing requirements. Teachers don’t have the freedom to do the creative outdoor activities with kids. Teachers need support and also more awareness. Networking is key. Sustainability is very important. Not much teaching about it.	1
Invasive species bark beetle epidemic in Colorado. Dead forests aren’t places where people want to recreate. Federal government can help with this.	1,3
Outreach through nature centers has really decreased. Used to be State Parks, National Parks, etc. Would visit schools. This increases interest in participation. State and Federal programs could help with this.	1,3
Outdoor lab program in Jefferson County	1
Balart program has been cut back. This was really fun. Should be more often.	1
Douglas County also has a nature based education school. Federal government could encourage this model. Communicate these successes. Develop common messages.	1,3
BLM needs more authority to enforce regulations.	3
Federal government to standardize data and research, tracking results. Scorps are good.	3
Controversy over global warming. Federal government should have scientists working on monitoring and addressing global warming.	3
Federal government guidance and endorsement that instructional time outdoors is a valid educational strategy as well as promoting health.	3
Indemnification for public purposes to expand participation by youth.	3
Youth Corps funding increase.	3

<p>Program in colleges teaching outdoor skills. This is paid as part of tuition (CSU and ten other universities). FW111, Outdoor Field Skills. Work with partners (outfitters, state and Federal agencies). Excise tax on outdoor equipment (backpacks, hiking gear) -- could be a minimal tax.</p>	3
<p>These forums should be scheduled differently to provide more participation.</p>	3
<p>Involving young people of today. There's been some disconnect between young people and the outdoors, need to get programs in school systems, even starting in daycares - recognition of the landscape, what it means, how to use it and how to preserve so is both useful and soul-satisfying.</p>	2
<p>Better use of federal funding for ngos to help carry out some of their programs. The more they can involve ngos the more they can help bring in young people, teach realization of the importance of these landscapes.</p>	3
<p>Involving young people of today. There's been some disconnect between young people and the outdoors, need to get programs in school systems, even starting in daycares - recognition of the landscape, what it means, how to use it and how to preserve so is both useful and soul-satisfying.</p>	2
<p>Better use of federal funding for ngos to help carry out some of their programs. The more they can involve ngos the more they can help bring in young people, teach realization of the importance of these landscapes.</p>	3
<p>Get to know your neighbors, your ranchers and others. They're not your enemies – your friends! Have to understand that person, respect their uses, look at overall planning and involve each other.</p>	4
<p>Part of a group where people can just get together, go do things, it doesn't cost money and they don't have to tell somebody ahead of time if they'll show up. Just come and enjoy the outdoors, feel safe.</p>	1

<p>Concerns me – costs \$20 to get into national park for vehicle. Excluding large group of people by charging so much. Nonprofits that bring kids out – gotten so expensive for busses that they can't afford to bring inner-city kids out anymore. Out of inner city and into wilderness. Problem – national forests, even non-profits, have to buy \$100 permit to bring groups of people in. Why can't forests get together and have one annual fee to take groups out? If you want to get people out, you've got to make it easy.</p>	2
<p>If there was some program or some money from the fed gov, matching funds, would help get them out in the outdoors but it's getting harder and harder. Have to get money somehow. Get funding so don't have to charge so much – keeping some people out. Maybe we need more national parks.</p>	3
<p>Most of our NGO funding comes from grants. We have a program for disadvantaged kids – if can find funding for that kind of a fund, can reach even more kids out to Dinosaur Ridge, which is next step to the wilderness.</p>	1
<p>Educate kids about surroundings and then take them a step further. Funnel money through non-profits who know how to use it and what to use it for.</p>	3
<p>Most of us live in urban environments, so I feel the government should focus more on urban landscapes. Have an office about landscapes where people live. Provide funding source for urban projects. Full funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund over a period of time. Think there's a need for seeing how city connects to the country and vice versa. CCC Effort in Depression – in this environment, maybe 20 and early 30-year-olds could get involved with their kids, provided with an employment opportunity.</p>	3

<p>Encourage federal government to expand partnerships with organizations that get young people working on land, eliminate fiscal barriers to relationships, and increase funding for organizations like ours that get kids outdoors. Consider whose assets can help solve problems. Youth unemployment is huge. People in 20s needs to work and go to school – Youth Conservation Corps.</p>	3
<p>An obstacle is that the Forest Service has requirements for us. We want to provide education and motivation to get people out there, but because we're non-profit, it's cost-prohibitive and Forest Service agencies are mandated to have the permitting. That's become a real stopper for us. Need to provide transportation to get people out there, make not so many hoops to jump through.</p>	2
<p>Important that this initiative, that our lives, try to influence positively citizens to value public lands and resources because they are our life support system. "The lands have to come first – or else." We're not self-sustaining by any means, need to keep our life support system. Natural reserves and connections between them and us. Whatever we can do to heighten the way public values and understands what wilderness is all about – promote designations of new wilderness areas.</p>	2

<p>Encourage funding for wilderness management. Get people out there – whether volunteers or professionals, need more funding. Facilitate communication between society and wilderness groups - education, guides and outfitters, conservation groups, land managers, etc. Use wilderness as key outdoor touchstone. Place volunteers in field to assist wildlife agencies.</p>	3
<p>Angler education works. Take kids fishing.</p>	1
<p>Get kids out there, get them active. Find ways to bring local groups and government together to make that happen. Federal government role may be limited – must be ground up. Get kids started early.</p>	3
<p>Partnerships need to focus on environmental education. Funding opportunities for this education, programs. Remove the gray, replace the green. Bark beetle kill – need to take a look at. Will just take away opportunity we’re looking for, connected to climate change. Connect dots – recreation with preventative healthcare, obesity crisis. Next crisis will be emotional (when troops return). Insurance companies need to play a role in helping the government care.</p>	3
<p>Market, promote, reach kids – mobile marketing like Ipod apps. Give them the tools using the tools they know. Niche marketing. Be forward thinking – they don’t read newspapers.</p>	4
<p>Bring disparate groups together under one umbrella. Federal government needs to consider flexibility in how they direct land and water conservation fund dollars and other grand funds to consider states that are getting it right so can implement great ideas to overcome challenges. Lack of awareness of benefits and how to access outdoor activities. Government should help say what opportunities and how to get involved – gap analysis. Benefits – education and media campaign similar to “This is your brain on drugs” – get outdoors, America – inundate Americans. UPAR funds that help inner-city parks that are failing, rescue fund. Bring back UPAR!</p>	3