



## Cooperative Conservation National and Regional Conference and Workshop Support

05-275

### Background:

President George W. Bush signed an Executive Order in August 2004 titled *Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation*. It instructs Federal agencies that direct environmental policies and programs to work with local and state governments, non governmental organizations, tribes, and various other individuals in order to promote cooperative conservation.

It also instructs the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality to organize and host a White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation with several federal agencies co-hosting and participating in the event. Participants in the conference all came together in St. Louis Missouri on August 29, 30, and 31 to discuss the cooperative conservation concept.

### Objective:

The overall purpose of this project was to develop new relationships and promote cooperative conservation with non-federal organizations through hands-on planning and participation in the WHCCC.

### Summary of Approach:

The Department has been at the forefront of cooperative conservation and has already been working with a wide array of stakeholders on conservation issues. The WHCCC provided an important opportunity to elevate the visibility of DoD's conservation activities and agenda. High level, high quality conference planning and participation was critical in order to increase national recognition of DoD's conservation programs, as well as to maintain current relationships and build new ones. Active participation in developing the conference agenda and supporting the event also highlighted and boosted current projects the Department is working on such as the Southeast Partnership and conservation buffer initiatives, which bring together vastly different stakeholders to accomplish one common goal.



### Benefit:

Bringing together key stakeholders and decision makers can broaden cooperative conservation efforts by facilitating the exchange of information and advice for successful partnerships, as well as generating ideas for future conservation and environmental policies and initiatives. Furthermore, increased cooperative conservation enhances and integrates public and private land stewardship, in addition to enhancing on-the-ground conservation results and progress.

### Accomplishments:

The Cooperative Conservation National and Regional Conference and Workshop Support provided the grounds to expand state, tribal, and local communities' role in cooperative conservation. In effect, it ensured a cooperative approach to the use of public lands, improved certainty and incentives for stakeholders, and provided the means to measure and monitor results of cooperative conservation. Furthermore, it encouraged and rewarded leadership, innovation and technology, and accelerated cooperative conservation as a way of doing business

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