



Executive Office of the President
Office of Management and Budget



Executive Office of the President
Council on Environmental Quality

Dear Secretary/Administrator:

The President strongly supports constructive and timely approaches to resolving conflicts when they arise over the use, conservation, and restoration of the environment, natural resources, and public lands. Consistent with the August 2004 Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation, the accompanying Memorandum on Environmental Conflict Resolution sets forth basic principles for engaging federal agencies in environmental conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving. The statement further directs agencies to increase the effective use of environmental conflict resolution and build institutional capacity for collaborative problem solving. It provides a useful compilation of mechanisms and strategies that can be used for achieving those goals.

Over the past few years, several agencies have adopted some of these mechanisms and strategies and have reported progress on improving negotiated outcomes and the implementation of agreements. We applaud the leadership those agencies have demonstrated and urge agencies that have not begun developing and implementing such approaches to begin that process.

Your support is critical to the success of the Administration's goal to increase the effective use of environmental conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving. We urge you to actively pursue the appropriate mechanisms and strategies enumerated in the accompanying policy statement. Thank you for your support in this important undertaking.

Joshua Bolten
Director
Office of Management and Budget

Date: 11/28/05

James L. Connaughton
Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality

Date: 11/29/05