Being Relevant

Regional Trans-boundary Collaboration in the Rockies
Not Just Another Place...
Not Just Another Place...
Not Just Another Place...
Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

- Large, intact ecosystem
- High profile setting
- Unique attributes
- Peace Park at core
- Highly valued
B.C. Hot Spots

- Natural resource economy
- Cabin Creek
- B.C. planning
- Protected Areas Agenda

[Images of logos: Tembec, CPAWS, Nature Conservancy Canada, Canada]

[Map highlighting areas with a question mark]
Montana Hot Spots

- Agency history
- Protected Areas
- Rocky Mountain Front
- The Flathead
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crown Pressures</th>
<th>- Climate Change</th>
<th>- Environmental Quality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Invasive weeds</td>
<td>- Water Quality, quantity, fisheries, aquatics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Fire Management</td>
<td>- Wildlife habitat – fragmentation and loss</td>
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<td>- Urban and rural residential development</td>
<td>- Degradation of ecosystem goods and services</td>
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<td>- Tourism and recreational use</td>
<td>- Cultural/traditional use</td>
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Limited Resources and Capacity
Crown Managers Partnership Genesis

20th Century:

• International Peace Park

21st Century:

• A broader partnership
In this thing together....

• The environment doesn’t recognize jurisdictional boundaries;

• There is a need for cooperation and stewardship in a world of shared resources; and

• Canadians and Americans have an enduring interest in peace, goodwill and a willingness to work together cooperatively.
Crown Managers Partnership History

Cranbrook 2001:

- Cumulative effects of human activity
- Increased public interest in land
- Recreational and visitation demands
- Shared data and monitoring
- Maintenance and sustainability of shared wildlife populations
Crown Managers Partnership History

- April 2002, Whitefish: Cumulative Effects
- April 2003, Pincher Creek: ALCES
- Feb 2004, Cranbrook: Fire
- March 2005, Kalispell: Invasive plants
- March 2006, Lethbridge: Watershed Partnerships
- March 2007, Cranbrook: Ecological Health
- March 2008, Whitefish: Carnivores
- Feb 2009, Pincher Creek: Biodiversity
- April 2010: Fernie: Climate Change
- March 2011 Polson: Aquatic Invasive Species
- March 2012: Lethbridge: Tribes and First Nations
CMF Steering Committee 2012

- Mary Riddle (Chair): Glacier National Park, MT
- Bill Dolan: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, AB
- Dennis Madsen: Waterton Lakes National Park, AB
- Len Broberg: University of Montana, MT
- Mike Quinn: University of Calgary, AB
- Tom Bell: B.C. Ministry of Environment, B.C.
- Caryn Miske: Flathead Basin Commission, MT
- Erin Sexton: Flathead Lake Biological Station, MT
- Jimmy DeHerrera: Flathead National Forest, MT
- Steve Fry: Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT
- Travis Ripley, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, AB
- Ian Dyson, Alberta Environment, AB

Coordinator: Sasha Harriet
**CMP Modus Operandi**

**Structure:**
- Cooperative agency partnership (CMP doesn’t manage, agencies do)
- Participants: federal state and provincial agencies, tribes and First Nations, educational institutions
- Steering Committee

**Guidance:**
- Strategic Plan
- Annual Forums based on themes
- Annual Workplan
- Projects
A Better Way Forward?

Environmental Quality:
• As good as it gets

Land Use Challenges:
• Chronic and continuing hot spot

Jurisdictional Challenges:
• Complex and trans-boundary

Response:
- Assure environmental quality
- Manage growth pressures
- Common outcomes align
Vision: An ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

Mission: A diverse group of agencies working together to achieve the vision by:

• Building an understanding and awareness of the ecological health of the Crown ecosystem
• Building enduring relationships and collaborating across mandates and borders
Other Projects

• Invasive Plants Guide
• Aquatic Invasive Species Guide
• Map Project

• Alberta-Montana MoU
Other Crown Initiatives

• Crown of the Continent Educational Consortium

• Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council
Other Crown Initiatives

• America’s Great Outdoors

• Crown of the Continent Initiative
Great Northern LCC

- Initiated April 2010
- Includes Alberta’s Eastern Slopes
- Functioning Steering and Advisory Committees
- Developing a Strategic Conservation Framework: Vision, Mission, conservation priorities
- Three sub regions: Rocky Mountains, Columbia Basin and Sage-Steppe.
Crown Roundtable (CRT)

- Initiated 2009. Has adopted CCE boundary identified by the CMP
- Early Alberta engagement by Hon Evan Berger
- All parties active in the CCE
- CMP has 2 reps on Leadership Committee
- Focus on Kresge Grant project funding.
What is the CMP?

A forum for promoting collaboration amongst willing regional managers:

- Environment, land use and natural resources
- Protected areas and working landscapes
- Threats: Invasives and Climate Change

Cultural perspectives, Social values, Economic drivers

A high profile area where the various jurisdictions can demonstrate the value of a collective approach: manage pressures, alignment, lower risk, leadership.
CMQ Opportunities

- Demonstrate collective stewardship capacity – raise our collective institutional game
- Coordinated approach to address “Crown-wide” challenges
- Reduce duplication and improve communication
- Learn from each other (successes and failures)
- Enhanced capacity: institutional, science and management
- Provide assurance of regional environmental quality.
CMP Experience: Learnings

• It takes time. Reputation. Relationships. Institutional comfort level.

• Applied focus – find a way forward (ALCES, RLAP, EH)

• Strategic alliances – external horsepower/commitment

• Right sizing organizational capacity

• Seize opportunities for expanding the tent.

• Doing work across multiple jurisdictions and boundaries – “We were made to suffer”
Managing for Ecological Health

... at a regional scale
Vision:

An ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

“We will collectively develop defined measures of ecological health and the adaptive capacity to meet them, across borders, amongst jurisdictions and with stakeholders by the end of the decade.”
Ecological Health Project

- Long-term, multi-faceted project aimed at defining a level of ecological health that can inform agencies’ management;

- Multi-year strategic priority for CMP;

- Establish on indicators-based, environmental outcomes approach
Indicators of Ecological Health

- Landscape
- Biodiversity
- Water quality
- Exotics
- Climate
- Air quality
Managing for Ecological Health

- Defining Health
- Taking steps
- Examining trends
- Setting targets / thresholds
- Directing management

Managing to a desired state
- Knowing where we’ve been
- Knowing where we’re going

Describing the state of the CCES
- What health matters in the CCES

Crown Managers Partnership
EH: Supporting Components

- EHP
- Agencies
- Indicators
- Stakeholders
Ecological Health Project

Annual Crown Managers Forum:

• 2007 - Defining Ecological Health Indicators
• 2008 - Landscapes and Wide-ranging carnivores in the CCE
• 2009 - Biodiversity in the CCE
• 2010 - Climate Change in the CCE
• 2011 – Aquatic Invasive Species
• 2012 – Connections to the Land – Exploring a Cultural Indicator for the EHP
**Indicators**

- **Air quality**
  - Assemble current ambient state and provincial guidelines;
  - Compile a dataset of AQ monitoring readings in the CCE;
  - Convene a workshop of AQ experts:
    - AQ issues and trends
    - Potential management response
    - Desirable AQ outcomes;
    - CCE wide monitoring network?

- **AIS:**
  - Summarize learnings from Forum. Map known infestations
  - Evaluate preventative strategies and i.d. response protocols
  - i.d. AIS CCE outcomes and response protocols to implement.
Indicators

• Climate Change
  • Consider risks of climate change when recommending standards, thresholds and triggers for all other indicators.
  • Beyond EHP: collaborate with other parties on climate change adaptation.
Landscape Analysis

- Assemble common trans-boundary geospatial datasets
- Inventory resource condition at the scale of the CCE and establish indicators to measure change to the landscape over time
- Evaluate inferences between landscape metrics and ecological health.
- Identify supplemental work required for remaining EH themes.
The Partnership

Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network

Steering Committee

CMP

NPS

U of C

US FWS

Dept of Geography

Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Landscapes Working Group
Greg McDermid (U Calgary)
Tracy Timmins (U Calgary)
Laura O’Gan (NPS ROMN)
Justin Wilkes (AB Env)
Erin Sexton (UM FLBS/CMP)
Develop a suite of comprehensive transboundary geospatial datasets and maps representing various attributes of the landscape at the CCE scale and applicable to the assessment.

- Baseline datasets at the scale of the Crown:
  - Roads
  - Census
  - Streams, Watershed, Riparian Buffer Zone, Road-stream Crossing
  - Land cover, phenology
  - Fire, insects
Data-base: Inventoried and synthesized all of the freely available geospatial data within the CCE for the land cover, phenology, disturbances, hydrology and roads

First series of baseline data maps

Two Reports:

- **CMP Landscapes Data Review Report** – A Review of Baseline Geospatial Datasets for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Landscape Project

- **NPscapes Products**: Presenting examples of maps and statistical tables derived through NPscape (2010)
Number of dwellings per dissemination block of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem
Density of road and stream intersection per km² within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem
Fire perimeters within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem
Roads example: it might look simple...

State and Provinces Roads  Statistics and Census Roads  Comparison Gaps
Stakeholders

- Openness
  - Website;
  - Knowledge dissemination;
  - Annual Forums;
  - Expert engagement

- Responsiveness
  - Correspondence
  - Meetings

- Collaboration (CRT)
  - Awareness of EHP amongst CCE players
  - Test ideas and recommendations with CCE players
  - Can CCE players undertake projects or activities in support of EHP?
Questions?