

Crown of the Continent Roundtable: Common Values, Parallel Actions

October 22, 2008

The Public Policy Research Institute conducted interviews with invitees to the Crown of the Continent Roundtable to help inform, invigorate, and jump-start the conversation. This report synthesizes interview responses from the following 26 people: Len Broberg, Anne Dahl, Bill Dolan, Ian Dyson, Bob Ekey, Ernie Ewaschuk, Racene Friede, Larry Frith, Rick Graetz, Renny Grilz, Bee Hall, Corleen Martin, Clayton Matt, Rich Moy, Chloe O'Loughlin, Robert Rasmussen, Mary Riddle, John Russell, Mary Sexton, Jerry Sorensen, Chris Stagg, Wayne Stetski, Jim Stone, Gary Sullivan, Steve Thompson, Kevin Wirtanen, and Don Wilson. Prior to circulating, we did not have time to complete and include responses from 10 additional roundtable invitees: Cathy Barbouletos, Evan Berger, Dave Baranack, Lex Blood, Perry Brown, Dusty Crary, Neal Darlow, Patrick James, Dave Pryce, Ray Warden, and John Weaver.

What is most valuable about the Crown of the Continent? (Question # 1)

Most respondents identified *intact diverse ecosystem* as the most valued asset of the Crown of the Continent followed by *critical wildlife habitat, headwaters to the nation, large acreage in public ownership with protections in place, and strong community values*. Other values identified by respondents include water supply and water quality, legal protections on the landscape, tribal homeland and culture, and that there is still a chance to conserve these assets. Many commented that these values are inter-related.

Short Summary Statement: The Crown today is a world renowned intact ecosystem with strong community values that support conservation of culture and ecosystem values on both public and private lands, making long-term conservation and restoration of the landscape possible.

Longer Summary Statement: The Crown is a large, functional, diverse, intact ecosystem because so much is in public ownership (~80%) and managed for culture, community and ecosystem values that include conservation of critical wildlife habitat (including water). There are strong community values in preserving this area as reflected in public land ownership and management, as well as private lands conservation where several large ranches have conservation easements and there is community support for conservation of private lands to maintain the intact ecosystem and rural community lifestyle. The Crown is one of only eight areas worldwide still intact, with the same assemblage of species as 200 years ago. Folks feel that there is an excellent opportunity in the Crown to conserve and restore what we do have and to add to it; and that this world-renowned intact landscape coupled with strong community values makes private-public lands conservation possible and, if packaged right, fundable.

There were also some unique perspectives shared regarding the Crown and how it is used. The Crown is:

- Our Tribal homeland with traditions and culture;
- Our rural communities that are each unique and different from more urban areas;
- Forestlands that provides a sustainable timber supply for our timber industry;
- Headwaters and the source of all the freshwater supply to the Saskatchewan, Canadian Prairies, all downstream rivers and lands feed by glacier runoff;
- A robust ecosystem that provides services people want - productive land, biodiversity, and

- recreation;
- A unique geography that draws people to the area especially for recreation;
- A sustainable tourism industry destination.

What are the most important issues facing the Crown? (Question # 2)

The largest number of responders identified *fragmentation of the rural landscape* as the biggest issue facing the Crown of the Continent. However, responders spread out their priorities among a variety of issues - including the need to sustain livable communities and vibrant economies. One respondent summed it up nicely by pointing out that it depends on the spatial scale you are talking about --- at a global scale it is climate change; at the sub-regional level it might be energy; and at the local scale it might be growth management. Also science, politics, and economics are the three drivers of what is important.

Short Summary Statement: There are multiple short-term and long-term issues facing the Crown of the Continent. These issues are inter-related and include fragmentation of the rural landscape from subdivision, energy development, and road construction; reduced water quality and quantity; habitat degradation from short-term recreational overuse; need for energy supply to meet human demands; need for sustainable economy; desire to maintain community values in the face of change; threats to loss of tribal culture and sacred lands; long-term global climate change; diplomatic friction between Canada and US over water use, energy development, and border security; and the lack of understanding about the importance of the Crown ecosystem and lack of framework for coordinating efforts.

Perspectives:

- Fragmentation of the Crown landscape is the priority issue we need to address short-term. We need to look at the human imprint and what growth is most appropriate. We need to look at the inter-related issues that cause landscape fragments (loss of connectivity of critical wildlife habitat and corridors, habitat degradation, noxious weeds, loss of biodiversity, reduced air and water quality, etc) from human activities such as land development, energy development, roads and transportation networks, and climate change. What tie these issues together are the threats to protecting our currently intact ecosystem.
- Climate change is perhaps to greatest long-term threat to the Crown ecosystem. However, we need to deal with the shorter-term issues associated with potential fragmentation of the landscape from residential sprawl/splattering, energy development, and the transportation networks (highway expansion, roads for development; motorized recreation). And climate change is difficult to rank because addressing the larger issue of climate change can't be done by just taking action within the Crown. We are not the only ones that contribute to climate change so it is hard to rank.
- We need to be addressing all these risks and issues simultaneously in the Crown including: fragmentation of the landscape, loss of critical wildlife corridors and security areas, climate change, energy development, lack of Crown-wide partners, lack of understanding and visibility of the Crown as a region, transportation network, noxious weeds, diplomatic friction, and economic stagnation.
- Much more attention needs to be given to the Crown's economy and regional economic potential; without some type of reasonable economic growth, most people will never get to the idea of environmental preservation; and a good economy can promote conservation and stewardship. Economic stagnation is more of an economic concern due to inevitable changes occurring (among ranching, timber, etc) so we need to find ways to adapt to the fluctuating economy. A specific timber industry risk is the proposed park extension to Akamina-Kishenine Recreation Areas that would shut-down the timber industry on the now-tenured public timberlands in southeastern British Columbia. It is important to maintain ranching as a viable economic activity, because the alternative which is subdivision can adversely affect the ecosystem.

- We need to make sure we find balance between nature and economics. The Crown has some stagnating and some fast growth areas. In growth areas, concerns that too fast growth will cause problems. Energy development is linked to stagnation of economy. There are boom and bust times with resource industry. Energy development can be a benefit if we use more modern techniques of energy development and make it work hand in hand with natural resource management to address issues. Concerns about locating energy development in critical Crown habitat areas (wind energy on the Front, mining in headwaters of Flathead) when there are other sites in less sensitive areas. We need to manage recreational access to meet growing recreational demand while also ensuring environmental safeguards.
- Water quality and quantity is central to maintaining the ecosystem health. Glacier snow melt provides the freshwater supply to the headwaters region and beyond. Threats identified included climate change, uncontrolled recreational use in erosion-prone areas, and proposed mining in the headwaters of the Flathead.
- Our greatest risk is looking at issues in isolation. For example, there are all sorts of ramification if we generate more water use. We may be looking at drastically changed forestry practices or no forestry; increasing trees may place limits upon grasslands and shift the species from grassland to forest dependant species --- our ecosystem is dynamic and interrelated.
- Diplomatic friction between Canada and the US, especially since 9/11, exists over key issues including water use on the St. Marys River, energy development in southeastern British Columbia Flathead and Elk Valley, and border security. We need to find common-ground.
- Lack of understanding about the Crown and the importance of functioning ecosystems and the lack of a framework for coordinating efforts impede community support and involvement in shaping the future of the Crown and impede collective action.
- Loss of tribal culture and sacred lands are most at risk. Former tribal lands that are now in federal ownership could be sold to private buyers. And the husbandry of the land itself (through poor management and use resulting in poor water quality, noxious weeds, and inappropriate recreational) can forever affect our landscape.

What most needs to be done in the Crown during the next 1-4 years? (Questions 3 and 4)

There were numerous suggestions as to what needs to be done in the Crown. The following strategies are not listed in any order of priority, and are numbered only to help facilitate communication and understanding. They are organized by “region-wide” and “sub-regional” needs and interests.

REGION-WIDE NEEDS AND INTERESTS

1 - Create an Information Sharing System

- Create a method to share information about the ongoing work of organizations in the Crown.
- Communicate ongoing research to avoid duplication and to inform public and decision-makers.

2 - Organize and Coordinate Ongoing Efforts

Regional Framework & Work

- Build on current momentum and existing circles/initiatives/projects/efforts.
- Identify players needed region-wide as well as by specific issues.
- Develop a framework for cooperation among communities, NGOs and governments to ensure coordination among groups with an interest in the Crown.
- Find way to coordinate regional Crown effort through a “crown institute” or a “center of excellence for the Crown” using universities to provide a more neutral setting for diverse

- interests.
- Find a sponsor who will coordinate effort and let thoughtful approach emerge. Let relationships evolve, start slowly, developing relationships, bring the right people together to talk, allow the power of a working together approach evolve. The temptation is to plan, or have plans; this should only be done when the relationships have been forged and there are working solutions- this may take more time.
- Conduct more and better forums that bring stakeholders together through region-wide network of all interests.
- Raise funds from different sources to organize and keep forum open to diverse parties.
- Focus on a specific region-wide project like the CMP ecological health indicators project.

Communities of Interest Circle-Building Work

- Organize different sectors to work on common problems and opportunities; and multiple sectors to work collectively on larger issues; and coordinate to make sure our local and regional efforts are linking and furthering collective action:
 - Create separate landowner group (circle) to advise larger Crown group.
 - Create and coordinate environmental NGO (circle) work in the Crown
 - Create and coordinate research circle, post results on website, etc.
 - Bring together land acquisition/easements under Crown umbrella.
 - Government join with private sector for cooperative resourcing (getting data, getting information out about values, etc.); identify roles; divide up work to be done; avoid competition or duplication; inventory who is working in the Crown to understand how NGOs, universities, CMP and others can best contribute to a viable ecosystem.

Community Work

- Organize “communities of place” into a coherent sector/circle (start Nov08) to protect and promote the Crown and figure out how to keep it going; do something along the same lines as CMP, conservation community, COCEEC.
- Develop ties between similar communities to share workload (maybe based on geography, size).

Government Work

- Government Agreements/Commitments: Develop an agreement that is signed by the major government partners to protect the ecological health of the Crown: US, Canada, Montana, Alberta and BC.

3 - Facilitate Education, Outreach, and Regional Identity

- Continue existing outreach efforts such as Geotourism MapGuide Project, COCEEC, etc and find permanent sponsor for MapGuide Project.
- Develop strong community values that give visibility to and support the Crown.
- Promote more active outreach across borders and jurisdictions.
- Create better public awareness about the importance and values of the Crown to secure buy-in from local businesses and communities.
- Create 3-5 page white paper for administration, Congress:
 - Elevate profile of the Crown, politically, so it is recognized as a national treasure;
 - Ensure stakeholders understand/appreciate economic value of the Crown as landscape of international draw.
- Identify what is the “est” (rarest, biggest, top values) of the Crown (within the landscape) and then focus on that—e.g., highest concentration of rare and endangered species. Then get this information out to decision-makers and the public who influence decision-makers.
- Brand the region as crucial wildlife habitat/corridor in the face of climate change (as Y to Y did).

4 - Analysis, Shared Vision, Strategic Planning, & Strategies

- Complete gap analysis for work underway, needs and shortfalls in key areas.
- Identify key indicators of ecosystem health and government agreement on ecosystem health indicator monitoring, using good science to guide impact of proposed fragmentation (roads,

settlements, industrial activities), since we cannot address issues and identify what values we are at risk of losing.

- Build regional identity and circles of interest in the Crown. Folks need to explore/agree that there is value added to local efforts by creating regional vision without grand conspiracy.
- Create venue for stakeholders to develop shared vision for the Crown.
- Find a comfort zone between regional vision and localized efforts; find commonality and strike balance in marketing strategy for this huge landscape.
- Develop strategic plan with long-term vision and implementation actions.
- Implement Strategic Action Plan using gap analysis and plan developed in year 1, e.g., Saskatchewan Prairie Action Plan.
- Develop a land protection strategy for both public and private lands protection.
- Identify connectivity corridors throughout the Crown.
- Determine what is most important about the crown, prioritize them, and establish limits on those things that have a negative effect on the priorities.
- Develop a recreation plan to balance recreation with ecosystem protection.

5 - Land and Water Resources Management & Protection:

- Land protection strategy for both public and private lands for what needs to be protected and restored to maintain connectivity in the face of climate change, including wilderness boundary expansion, special management areas, restoration forestry activities, and acquisition of private lands critical to ecosystem habitats.
- Permanently protect lands that provide for large carnivore movements throughout the Crown, but particularly across the international boundary.
- Keep the Crown from succumbing to landscape fragmentation (e.g., renewal wind energy on Rocky Mountain Front east of Hwy 89) working through private property rights and economic compensation.
- Prevent landscape fragmentation by insuring that working landscapes remain healthy and viable through huge increase in funding for tools such as purchased easements, collaborative weed efforts, and watershed councils to deal with water demands
- Work with large private landowners to affect conservation on a large scale before land becomes further fragmented.
- Work with private landowners who have critical wildlife resource lands on conservation opportunities.
- Finalize the Montana Legacy Project (Plum Creek sale of 320,000 acres for conservation/community forest; support private land acquisitions/easements initiatives as they are major parts of the Crown.
- Continue work with multiple industry sectors (ranchers, Plum Creek, energy developers in the North Fork of the Flathead) on cooperative efforts.
- Build the capacity of individual sectors/circles and create opportunities to work across sectors where it makes sense.
- Work at community level to ensure long-term conservation on private lands compatible with community goals.
- Find ways to sustain/elevate conservation funding to achieve objectives, perhaps through visibility and marketing.
- Federal agencies need to take a more active role on the threats and issues looming on their borders (i.e., growth and development adjacent to Glacier Park and National Forests).
- Identify and protect at-risk populations of native fish.
- Recognize there are gaps in private conservation such as energy proposals in the BC Flathead.
- Better management, husbandry of the lands including maintained management of fish and wildlife.

6 - Land Use Planning and Regulation

- Focus on sprawl, wildlife urban interface, buffer zones.
- Method to enforce present management rules.
- Guide subdivision and other development activities that encroach on critical wildlife habitats.

Need Flathead county commission to approve subdivisions based on “critical lands assessment” whereby developed is directed away from critical habitat (wetlands, wildlife corridors, etc).

- Use and use controls/planning to reign in development at a regional level.
- Develop and approve streamside setback regulations.

7 - Balanced Economic Approach & Sustainable Tourism

- Conduct a balanced economic analysis/assessment of future growth and economic opportunities in the Crown.
- Develop a more balanced approach to timber management on federal lands to free up timber for wood products use.
- Promote sustainable tourism; Use GNP centennial to bolster tourism and issues facing the park; tie together campaigns for GNP and YNP marketing/branding.
- Secure Forest Sustainability Certification (FSC) for remaining Tembec lands in the Crown.
- Resolve issue regarding the future of timberlands in Akamina-Kishenina Recreation -Park Expansion Area, as these lands are critical to the sustainability of Tembec’s operations and certainty is needed.

8 - Climate Change Management

- Rally agencies, communities, universities and conservationists behind idea of climate change management, adaptation, mitigation and conservation action in the looming era of rapid global warming.

SUB-REGIONAL NEEDS AND INTERESTS

1 - Flathead-Transboundary Campaigns, Protection of BC Flathead and AB Castle Region

- Protect the Castle Mountain/River region in Alberta by designating as a primitive area as part of Watertown National Park to address unregulated recreational ATV use. In interim get ASRD to enforce existing regulations
- Develop an agreement between Montana and British Columbia that protects the BC North Fork/Flathead from all forms of mining /energy development.
- Secure Akamina-Kishenina Recreation -Park Expansion Area
- Create a new national park adjacent to Waterton and wildlife corridor from new park to other rocky mountain parks (Banff, Jasper)
- Fill missing hole in Peace Park.

2 - Wilderness Boundary Expansion

- Protect wilderness study areas by creating more permanent wilderness status

What are you and others doing to meet Crown needs? (Questions 5 and 6)

Respondents identified key groups focusing crown-wide, as well as insights about their own and other organizations involved in the Crown.

Respondents identified the following Crown-wide groups: The Crown Managers Partnership (CMP), Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium (COCEEC), Crown of the Continent Geotourism MapGuide Stewardship Council, Lincoln Institute Crown Workshop March 07, Crown Roundtable November 08, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative.

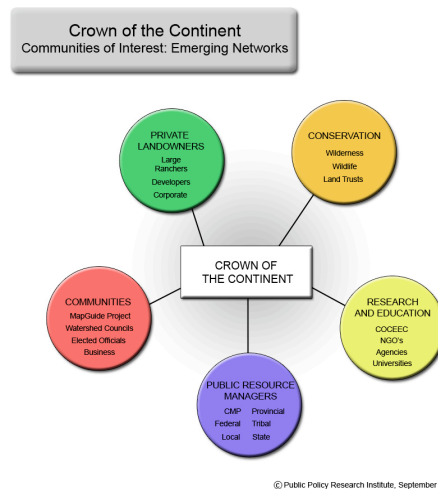
Respondents identified and described activities of over 25 NGOs, land trusts, watershed groups, communities, local governments, tourism organizations, business/industry, first nations, and government

agencies working to address issues in the Crown. (See Attachment A for list and description of the organizations and their activities)

Also see the PPRI Crown Directory of Organizations for a more complete list of organizations working in the Crown: <http://www.crownofthecontinent.info/>

Who needs to be at the table to help implement cooperative actions? (Question # 7)

The response to this question was wide-ranging. In sum, nearly everyone seems to agree that the question of who needs to be at the table depends on what specifically is being done. So, the first question - what are we going to do -- will determine the second question - who needs to be involved. That said, the following “communities of interest” were identified by one or more of the respondents:



In addition to these “communities of interest,” a couple people also suggested the need to engage philanthropic and others funders, the Congressional Delegation, the Western Governor’s Association, major industries/corporations, the scientific community, and lobby/advocacy groups.

The Directory of Organizations prepared by PPRI/LILP in 2007 and the recent list of NGOs prepared by CMP provide information on many specific communities, organizations, and agencies.

As a general matter, interviewees also seemed to agree that it is best to find people that are enthusiastic champions of the proposed work, and people that can bring resources (people, time, money, information, etc.) to the table. As one respondent said, “Identify and work with individual leaders that have vision, passion, and capacity.”

What opportunities do you see for working together? (Question # 8)

The interview responses can be grouped into four general tasks and/or opportunities:

1 - Build and Share Knowledge

- BASELINE - Gather and make available baseline information about the Crown and organizations.
- VALUE OF THE CROWN - Communicate to people how environmental values reinforce and support community and economic interests.

- BRANDING - Undertake active outreach to raise awareness and build regional identity; identify a “brand” and promote/market the region accordingly.
- WEB PORTAL - Create a common website - or at least one that would link to others (MapGuide, COCEEC, CMP, PPRI/LILP, etc.) - to serve as a repository of Crown information, serve as a virtual network, and help facilitate communication and understanding.
- CONFERENCE - Convene an annual conference to exchange information, celebrate success, and develop joint initiatives.
- ROUNDTABLE - Maintain this multi-jurisdictional, multi-sector Roundtable as a way to share interests, understanding, and knowledge; build trust, communication, and agreement on common values, vision, and actions.
- FIND A COMMON VOICE AND LANGUAGE - Find a common voice, there is strength in numbers who can work together with a unified message to decision-makers. Speak the same language.

2 - Build Capacity to Work Individually and Collectively

- DIALOGUE, NETWORK, AND FRAMEWORK – Maintain an ongoing dialogue among diverse stakeholders in the Crown. Develop a framework to coordinate parallel efforts underway in the Crown. Work together across all sectors to build trust, communication, and understanding. Build on existing directories, web sites, and networks; but try to make things a bit more intentional and systematic.
- COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST - Help create and sustain different “communities of interest”, helping them build capacity to work together, exchange information, forge a common vision, implement joint activities, etc. Communities of interest including:
 - Public resource managers through CMP
 - Education community through COCEEC and the Transboundary Project
 - Gateway communities through Geotourism Council
 - Private land owners through a new circle
 - Conservation (including the land trusts within the region) through a new circle
 - Research through a new circle
 - Communities through a new circle
- GOVERNMENT COORDINATION - Forge MOUs among government agencies
- Engage older people within the region.

3 - Develop a Common Vision, Plan and Policy Initiatives

- STRATEGIC PLAN - Develop a strategic plan for the Crown that articulates common vision, goals, aspirations and creates a platform for joint activities.
- IDENTIFY PROJECTS - Identify different types of project - region-wide, sub-regional, and local. Need to find projects that meet people’s needs and interests. Need an action plan that recognizes parallel ongoing efforts within a regional framework.
- COMMON THEMES - Realize that the common theme here is the environment. A healthy environment is the foundation for stable communities, vibrant economies, and a functioning ecosystem. So whatever the one project is, it should be framed in the context of the environment. Recognize that economic vitality is critical to the region.

4 - Develop and Implement Projects

- Start with one project, do a good job, and build on that success and momentum.

- Promote and support vibrant economies in the necklace of communities around the Crown (the Geotourism Project is a good example of this; might build on this and explore the viability of creating some type of high-tech network within the region).
- Coordinate land conservation & management; build on existing initiatives, such as the Legacy Project; coordinate the work of land trusts in USA and CAN; develop a joint campaign.
- Jointly create indicators of ecological health.
- Establish COC as an international laboratory for climate change.
- Take on a regional weed control project.
- Cooperate on important studies and management activities.
- Focus on land use planning and regulations.

What are the greatest obstacles to working together, and suggestions for overcoming these obstacles? (Question # 9)

Obstacles

- Lack of regional identity and shared sense of the region
- Lack of a compelling reason, a catalyst for working together
- Lack of time and resources
- Lack of communication across jurisdictions and sectors
- Competing missions, mandates, turf and political agendas
- Distance and large scale of the Crown geography
- Already engaged in many other activities and commitments
- US Government road-blocks

Suggestions

- Continue what we are doing - networking meetings, trying to understand each others needs, trying to figure out how to coordinate concerns into one kind of approach, managing what is happening to minimize problems to water quality/ecosystem; integrity. There is value in networking, face to face meeting. We need to more effectively engage tribes.
- Not sure there is an obstacle. It is perhaps more an issue of your priorities and choices. Participation must be meaningful and benefit people and resources. Look at how do people value the Crown, and how can we (or anyone) best meet our interests and values.

Other Thoughts (Question # 10)

➤ Why have other Crown-wide efforts not succeeded?

There have been meetings over the past 2 decades, but nothing sustainable has emerged. So, should we develop a unified vision of the Crown and start branding the Crown as a place (building a regional & national identity) because it is a big place. Is there a compelling reason for local folks (Blackfoot, Swan, Flathead, Front, Fernie, Pincher Creek, etc) people to identify with the larger landscape of the Crown, like folks are doing in the Greater Yellowstone? Or, should we focus our limited time/resources on the projects we have going?

➤ Let's get organized!

Very important for those with an interest in the Crown to understand what each interest group and agency are doing to avoid duplication and realize synergy. A lot of parallels, many folks doing things, hope this effort (COC Roundtable) brings this all together. Tribes doing things, Rocky Mountain Front

proposing legislation, concern that these parallel efforts may run over each other and cause conflicts, so need to coordinate these efforts, because if there is conflict among groups working in the Crown, then federal government has excuse to ignore our concerns. There is strength in numbers.

➤ **What are some potential models to learn from?**

Interviewees offered the following observations:

- 3 Models for a Crown-Wide Network with Diverse stakeholders at the table:
 - Private (NGOs/foundation) create and lead
 - Public Government (CMP), weakness because seen as largely government driven process.
 - Private/Public partnership- with key NGOs/CMP agencies yearly pull together Network meeting
- Options for organizing Crown Network- Structure Design
Objective: to involve wide stakeholder interests: NGOs, industry, agencies, local governments to come together to share information at Crown scale. Needs to have long-term leadership/sponsorship commitment. 1) Divide the Crown into regions (2-4 tables), but be careful not to divide into BC, AB, US. Instead, perhaps divide into watersheds of the Continental Divide, as ranches on West have more in common N/S, etc. 2) Keep at Crown-wide (high scale), may not be as inclusive, but drill down overtime to reach wider communities/stakeholder.
- Evolution of CMP example of how Crown Network might evolve
CMP- reason for forming and greatest value is hosting yearly networking/information meeting among government agencies working in the Crown. Leadership - Peace Park provided initial leadership to sponsor annual form and monthly executive committee. Then sponsorship rotated among other CMP founding members. Evolution - CMP started with information exchange among government agencies. Then expanded annual meetings to include themes (landowners, weeds, fire, large carnivores, water, etc) with invitees to present on these themes. Then CMP (which is a by-invitation only group of agencies) began inviting “guests”, folks who are an interest in the themes. Then this July, CMP invited a network of NGOs and other leaders who share CMP goals to meet. CMP is now exploring how to involve other stakeholders, public forums, network forums in CMP activities.
- Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (PCAC) includes agencies, NGOs, landowner groups, all interested in prairie, with 5 goals w/key objectives. Partners complete action plan that spans 5 years. Now involved in implementing 3rd action plan.

In addition to the suggestions offered by the interviewees, PPRI/LILP will offer the following principles and models during the roundtable:

- Working Across Boundaries: Principles for Regional Collaboration
- Sierra Business Council
- Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan
- Ecosystem Charter for the Great Lakes

ATTACHMENT A

What are you and others doing to meet Crown needs?

(Questions 5 & 6)

Below is a list and description of the organizations working in the Crown and their activities to address risks and needs:

Crown-Wide Organizations

Crown Managers Partnership (CMP), started in 2001, is a voluntary network of 21 participating agencies including representatives from the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, the state of Montana, federal governments, and First Nations. They work together to coordinate management across jurisdictions to maintain a healthy ecosystem in the Crown. Participants work to build awareness of common interests and issues, shape relationships, and identify collaborative tasks for the future. (Staffed by Miistakis Institute). **Work Plan:** is serving as an information starting and an interagency network through CMP Forums; is creating awareness of the Crown between government agencies and serving as a Crown interagency network; is working on Ecosystem Health Indicators; has a Crown Website and a GIS metadata Portal; is working on quickly disseminating important information; and is cooperating on important studies and management activities. CMP- has struggled, over the years have expanded from government-only group to include others starting with Local governments. Have begun inviting stakeholder folks to annual forum to expand forum to link w/public audience to give greater COC profile with agencies/publics we serve.

Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium (COCEEC) was founded in 1995 to bring a bioregional focus to education in the Crown of the Continent. This group of educators and representatives of agencies and private organizations meet semi-annually and represent the ecosystem from Waterton and Castle-Crown region in southern Alberta, Canada to Missoula, Montana. COCEEC has been active in supporting ecosystem-focused curriculum, workshops, and projects. (Volunteer Effort)

Crown of the Continent Geotourism MapGuide Stewardship Council (MapGuide) was created in 2006 to advise National Geographic during the development of the Crown of the Continent MapGuide. It includes community leaders, public land managers, food and hospitality sectors, native peoples, conservation and civic groups, landowner groups, historic preservation societies, artisans and artists, eco-tour operators, and others who support geotourism principles. The role of the stewardship council is evolving and expected to oversee the dynamic MapGuide web site and printed MapGuide, promote sustainable tourism practices, educate local communities and new residents about the Crown of the Continent, and support place-based stewardship initiatives. (Staffed by NPCA) **Work Plan:** Based on Council meeting October 29-20, 2008.

Lincoln Institute for Land Policy (LILP) and Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) Crown of the Continent Project - Beginning in 2006, LILP/PPRI has served as a forum to bring together all jurisdictions, sectors, and communities of interest in the Crown. The resource manual and other materials for this Roundtable highlight the work of this project to date.

Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)- Joint Canadian-U.S. network of over 800 organizations, institutions, foundations, and conservation-minded individuals who have recognized the value of working together to restore and maintain the unique natural heritage of the Yellowstone to Yukon region and the quality of life it offers.

Non-Profit Organizations (NGOs)

Alberta Stewardship Network (ASN) - administers grassroots grant to on-the-ground stewardship groups doing stewardship work. A lot of the "hot spot" areas are in the Crown and so ASN will support local grassroots stewardship initiatives in the Crown.

Alpine Artisans - sub-regional Seeley/Swan/Ovando artists working to create a “cultural arts corridor” that supports and promotes the idea of the Crown

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPWS) - Working to protect the flathead and other portions of the BC part of the Crown ... through advocacy, government relations, campaigns, etc. - working to change the BC government agenda.

Castle Crown Coalition (CCC) - Promote protection of Castle River Area; organize hikes, clean up operations, weed pulls

Cows and Fish Program (CFP); Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society - Working with communities and producers on riparian awareness

Crown Scenic Loop - project promoting the significance of the Crown.

Foothills Restoration Forum - Restoration of foothills fescue grasslands, but having difficulty reclamation/re-establishment of rough fescue grass.

Land Stewardship Centre of Canada (LSCC) - In Foothills area looking at different forms of conservation easements to encourage farmers to do a better job at producing ecological goods and services, like bid system used in Australia with RFP and bid to achieve certain water objectives like water quality, ecological integrity and biological diversity.

National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) - Staffs the Geotourism MapGuide Project and Council; Advocates and works in support of International Peace Park (GNP/WLNP) thinking strategically and working at transboundary level including N. Fork Flathead river/transboundary issues. (ongoing role); Rallies all interests behind climate change management (new focus); is sparking a conservation community circle to achieve better coordination and communication among NGOs, and then to connect with overlapping interest circles (new focus).

The Wilderness Society (TWS) - Working on public land strategies for protecting lands along the Rocky Mountain Front and the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo national Forest. Working with TNC and TPL on the Plum Creek acquisition, particularly the Swan. Also work with local communities on Wilderness Boundary expansion in conjunction with special management area designations and forestry restoration projects like the successful Clearwater Stewardship Project and the Project Blackfoot-Clearwater Stewardship Project.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) - Facilitating stewardship contracting

Sierra Club, Roundtable Group & Castle Special Place Working Group & Watershed Groups - Working on increased protection of public lands, weed control, livestock/predator interactions.

Sonoran Institute (SI) - Helping communities on Rocky Mountain Front deal with growth issues. We're about healthy landscapes, vibrant communities and resilient economies. Facilitating communication among community members and others, networking.

Southern Rockies Management Committee

Trout Unlimited (Big Blackfoot Chapter) - undertaking stream restoration projects

Waterton Biosphere Committee (WBC) - Involved with Chinook Area Land Users Association (CALUA), Chief Mountain Lands Group (out of Cardston), Watertown Lakes National Parks and SALTS. Completed a cumulative effects study focusing on WLNP, Pincher Creek municipality, County of Cardston, Blood Indian tribal lands, Peignan reservation, forest reserve north of Watertown Park. This Chief Mountain Cumulative Effects Study links up with the Southern Foot Hills Study to the north. Folks trying to address oil and gas activities.

Wildsight (Wild) - Wildsight works to protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable communities

Land Trusts (also nonprofit groups)

Take conservation easements on private lands on the Crown including TNC, NCC-Alberta and British Columbia, Montana Land Reliance, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Five Valleys Land Trust, Vital Ground, Flathead Land Trust. MT Association of Land Trusts serves as state-wide association for land trusts in MT.

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) -Alberta Region - Conserves land through acquisitions and conservation easements in Alberta and British Columbia. NCC - Alberta Region owns 90,000 acres (40,000 acres in the Crown); hold conservation easements on 90,000 acres (30,000 acres in the Crown); Largest land trust in Alberta and in the Crown. Worked with Weston Foundation-Eastern CA to donate \$40 million for Waterton area work. Other Work: 1) involved with land management on lands we own or manages through conservation easements for management of grazing, riparian areas, weeds, etc.; 2) Facilitates education by arranging for partners (like Cows & Fish or watershed groups) to talk with landowners about land management or to demonstrate on the ground management projects; 3) Looks at partnership with agencies/industry for long-term management or funding and outreach. E.g., exploring what role can NCC

help facilitate with Crows Nest Pass- working with industrial/agency owners to conserve their lands; 4) involved in a conservation planning process to identify high conservation priority lands to be used to target TNC conservation. TNC Draft Plan being developed to include priority areas with a 5-year business plan is being developed for 6 areas/ 4 of which line within/or partially within the Crown. Crows nest pass portion to be completed this fall; others to be completed within 3-years. Should have map to be able to share with Roundtable. **NCC British Columbia Region** also engaged in land holdings and conservation easements. **The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Community based conservation within landscapes surrounding the Crown Core; Partnering on disposition of Plum Creek Timber Lands through Blackfoot Community Project (89,000 acre timberland buy out) and Montana Legacy Project (320,000 acre timberland buyout). **Trust for Public Lands (TPL)** - Partnering with TNC on Montana Legacy Project, pulling on strengths of partnership together (expertise, staffing, funding) to achieve large landscape conservation. Branching out to partner with local land trusts, to make this as integrated a process as possible. Work with communities & landowners to identify conservation opportunities that will result in real estate transactions (ownership/CE) that will eventually be transferred to government or other land trusts. **Alberta Land Trust Alliance (ALTA)** - 11 land trusts formed alliance and put together a map of landscape important to different agencies, are identifying areas where there are gaps and helping form local land trusts, and build capacity in smaller local land trusts. **Heart of the Rockies** - Coordinates land conservation and plan for additional land to conserve.

Watershed Groups

Blackfoot Challenge (BC) - Working to conserve the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Blackfoot River Valley (the southern end of the Crown); Serving as a watershed roll model for other WS groups; Building coalition with adjacent partners and private landowners (Swan, Seeley Lake, the Front); Providing a forum for landowners across the West to identify issues, funding, solutions in cooperation with USFWS/Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Clearwater Resources Council (CRC) - working with BC and SEC are working on their collaboratively with Swan - Ecosystem Center as much as possible.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) - Working on critical lands assessment as a way to reduce environmental consequences of population growth and poorly planned development (ongoing); continuing WQ monitoring and other activities, technical environmental reviews of pending coal mining applications in British Columbia (ongoing); Participating in CMP (ongoing). New Focus: 1) Developing an Agreement that is signed by the major government partners to protect the ecological health of the Crown: US, Canada, Montana, Alberta and BC; 2) Developing an agreement between Montana and British Columbia that protects that BC Flathead from all forms of mining; 3) Protection of the Castle Mountain region in Alberta by designating as a primitive area as part of Watertown National Park; 4)

Guide subdivision and other development activities that encroach on critical wildlife habitats. Flathead affected by subdivisions. Need county commission to approve subdivisions based on "critical lands assessment" whereby developed is directed away from critical habitat (wetlands, WL corridors, etc). 5) Develop a framework for cooperation among communities, NGOs and governments. Explore options- unclear about how to create framework.

Swan Ecosystem Center (SEC) - Working more closely with our neighbors, the Clearwater and Blackfoot Valley communities in Montana on common issues that affect our part of the Crown. We are limited by time constraints.

Rocky Mountain Frontlanders - Landowners trying to form group on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Communities and Local Governments

Several community groups are trying to get the Forest Service to free up more timber; some communities working on rural land use planning. Public entities/elected officials are becoming more familiar and engaged in collaborative efforts.

Council of Pincher Creek - Have objective to reduce destruction from ATV, lobby Alberta government to change approach, enforce existing laws or change the Dept responsible through Legislation

Municipal District of Crowsnest Pass - totally encompasses headwaters of Castle River)

Tourism Organizations

Glacier Country Region Tourism Commission (GCRTC) - Created by the state of Montana specifically to market visitation to Western Montana, funded in part by the state accommodations tax and by various marketing partners. Marketing efforts are directed by a board of Western Montana business people, all of

whom are in tourism. Advertise and publicize Western Montana to millions of potential visitors. Distribute a travel guide that helps visitors plan their vacation, maintain our website that receives 800,000 visits annually, operate a call center that averages thousands of inquiries a month, send direct and e-direct pieces to a database of more than 50,000 people eight times each year and create unique co-op opportunities for targeted markets. Geographically, Glacier Country includes Flathead, Glacier, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders counties, plus many of the state's most treasured landscapes: the Bitterroot Valley, the Blackfoot Reservation, the Cabinet Wilderness, Flathead Lake, Glacier National Park and the Seeley-Swan.

Travel Montana (TM) - Adopted Geotourism Charter and Map Guide Project and are promoting geotourism.
Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVB), & Tourism Region Councils - promote tourism.

Business-Industry Partners

Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) - Manage land and timber responsibly for value return to shareholders. Key accomplishments in the Crown: Conservation sales and Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan (NFHCP) and Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Agreement (SVGBA). Key activities: The Legacy Project (sale of 320,000 acres to TNC). Manage our lands in accordance with SFI, NFHCP, and SVGBA. Trying to survive in wood products business. Hope to cooperate with others on land management and land use planning.

Tembec Timber Company (Tembec)- Values being a leader in Environmental Stewardship, which is demonstrated through our commitment to FSC Certification. Between 2001-2006, all Tembec crown tenured lands certified. Working on certification for all Tembec private managed forest ownership in Crown (Elk Valley) - 250,000 acres. Tembec is the only industrial sized operator in BC to get FSC certified. Tembec is partnering with environmental/conservation groups through this process.

First Nations Tribes (FNT)- There are seven tribal reserves or reservation within or adjacent to the Crown. The tribal Councils adopt traditional principles and values into all facets of tribal operations and services; fulfill the obligations and responsibilities entrusted to the Chief and Council by the membership; and provide sound environmental stewardship to preserve, perpetuate, protect and enhance natural resources and ecosystems. The Tribal Nations include the Blackfeet, Blood, Peigan, Salish-Kootenie, Tobacco Plains, and Ktuanxa Nation Council.

Blackfeet Tribe (BF)- Managing Elk populations through reintroduction project ~6 years ago; meeting with other groups who share common goals of keeping the land pristine.

Government Agencies

Watertown Lake National Park (WLNP) - Participates in CMP, COCEEC, Prairie conservation, other British Columbia network and management processes with regard to education, outreach in raising awareness of the regional issues and interests in the Crown. E.g. WLNP involved in environmental assessment of Klein Mine as it related to the northern portion of COC, to describe our interests and expectations. Also involved in park education/interpretation programs, public stakeholder meetings/presentations delivering the COC message. Also want to guide subdivision and other development activities that encroach on critical wildlife habitats. Flathead affected by subdivisions. Need county commission to approve subdivisions based on "critical lands assessment" whereby developed is directed away from critical habitat (wetlands, WL corridors, etc). Developing a framework for cooperation among communities, NGOs and governments. Explore options-unclear about how to create framework.

Glacier National Park (GNP)- Working with other land managing agencies through the Crown Manager's Partnership to identify areas where large carnivore movements occur; Monitoring water quality and aquatics in the Flathead Drainage; Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA) Wildlands/Connectivity Project; Managing Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Alberta Environment (AE)- Assures the effective stewardship of Alberta's environmental systems to sustain a high quality of life.

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD)- Works with Albertans across the province to ensure a balance between the economic, environmental and social values of our province. We fight forest fires, manage fish and wildlife, oversee the development of Alberta's forests, and manage the use of public lands.

British Columbia, BC Ministry of Environment (BCME)- Participating actively in the Crown Manager's Partnership and the Flathead Basin Commission. Managing the Fish and Wildlife and Park values in the BC part of the Crown to ensure a healthy ecological future.

MT DNRC - involved all around; continue to work on Plum Creek deal; continue to work with communities, conservation groups, interest groups, and maintain ties to traditional industries
- Use conservation easements tools more strategically ... DNRC is one of the largest landowners other than the feds and Plum Creek (may even be larger than Plum Creek) - at least on the US side; Also timber and fire awareness.

MT FWP - Easements and Land Acquisition Program

MT Governor's Office - Secured a signed agreement between Alberta/MT; Negotiating with British Columbia on stopping mining activities

MT Congressional Delegation - supporting efforts to protect Crown resources

USNRCS - bringing conservation and landowners together

USBLM - invasive species control across boundaries

USFS - undertaking stewardship contracting

USFWS/Partners Program - Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Assisting private landowners with conservation projects. USFWS is trying to secure additional federal funds for conservation easements and habitat restoration & enhancement work on private land.

USGS - studying climate change and put in research request for larger climate change project.

Western Governors Western Wildlife Habitat Council - newly created council to map wildlife corridors:

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/meetings/am2008/wildlife08.pdf>

International joint Commission (IJC) - Created by Canada and US to recognize that each country is affected by the other's actions in lake and river systems along the border and to cooperate to manage these waters wisely and to protect them for the benefit of today's citizens and future generations. Operates under the Boundary Waters Treaty Act of 1909 that provides the principles and mechanisms to help resolve disputes and to prevent future ones, primarily those concerning water quantity and water quality along the boundary between Canada and the United States.

Universities and Research Organizations

Miistakis Institute (MI) - Founded in 1995 to connect science with conservation practice and to assist local communities and decision makers in addressing conservation management challenges. Miistakis builds bridges between people, their perceptions and their information about this landscape. Miistakis is a non-profit corporation affiliated with the University of Calgary that undertakes and supports pure and applied research respecting the ecosystems of the Rocky Mountains and surrounding regions. The Miistakis Institute staffs the Crown Managers Partnership

Transboundary Policy, Planning, and Management Initiative (TB)- In 1999, the universities of Calgary and Montana established a joint Transboundary Initiative. At UM, the initiative is housed under the college of Arts and Sciences Environmental Studies Program (ESTV) and at UC under the Faculty's Environmental Design EVDS) and its affiliate Miistakis Institute. One of the first university-level, landscape-based transboundary research and educational collaboratives, engages students and faculty in broader governmental, tribal, industry, and NGO communities in solution-oriented processes to achieve shared conservation goals.

UM Pubic Policy Research Institute (PPRI): Created in 1987 to facilitate natural resource decision through teaching, publishing, and public engagement in facilitating regional collaborative efforts across the country and the Crown of the Continent as a case study.

UM Mt. Forest and Conservation Experiment Station (UMF)- hosting Climate Change Workshop December 08

UM Department of Geography, UM Press, Crown of the Continent Initiative (UMG): Newly set-up program at UM working to produce and distribute an email magazine/newsletter and book on the Crown; Teach classes at UM, as well as convene periodic public classes, symposium, programs to teach and learn about the Crown; and summarize and disseminate research information about the Crown. Above activities engage students in Crown writing, research, and education.

Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCSC) - It implements and supports comprehensive field studies that gather information on wildlife needs and then seeks to resolve key conservation problems by working with a broad array of stakeholders. Major issues addressed to date include protected-area design, wildlife monitoring and recovery, ecosystem restoration, integrated landscape management and community-based conservation.

Foundation - Several foundations support stewardship work in the Crown.