



Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Connecting People to Shape the Future

Nałmuq̄in / **Xʷčxʷcut** / **Miistakistsi:**
Kootenai (Giant) Salish (Rocky Mountain Range) Blackfoot (The Mountains)

Integrating Culture, Community, and Conservation

Did We Hear You? Conference Summary Draft Report



Preface

The purpose of this draft summary is to capture the knowledge shared and generated during the plenary sessions and small group workshops at the 2nd Annual Conference of the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent. We have tried to capture the essence of each large session and break-out session – the breadth and the depth of the ideas that were discussed.

Please take a few minutes to review this draft summary.

- Did we accurately capture the key ideas and themes?
- What did we miss?
- Do you have anything to add to the break-out workshops that you did not attend?
- How, if at all, would you like to amplify on the ideas and themes captured here?

Feel free to send the principal editor, Stephan Edwards, further suggestions and ideas. A complete draft, in narrative form, will be distributed within two weeks after the conference.

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Plenary Session # 1 – The Value of Place: Perspectives of First People

The objectives of this session were to allow all Tribes, Bands, and First Nations to address the following topics: (1) discuss the traditional uses and value of particular places in the Crown of the Continent; (2) highlight the significance of native “place names”; and (3) identify specific places where we might work together to preserve and protect such places by integrating culture, communities, and conservation. The outcomes of these presentations and discussion seem to fall into two different categories:

The Value and Importance of Place Names

- Place names:
 - Describe a sense of self, belonging, and purpose
 - Reveal *values* and why places are important for historical, cultural, spiritual and/or other reasons
 - Relate to native/tribal understanding of the landscape
 - Cannot be precisely categorized, but are “holistic,” with multiple meanings, and sometimes multiple names, for the same place
 - Evoke a sense of (social) responsibility
 - Convey native people’s “sacred kinship with life”
 - Communicate importance of spiritual connection (*e.g.*, prayer) to landscape
 - Build a common identity
 - Represent a “cultural path” that is connected to history, as well as to the present and the future
 - Express a sense of place, family, kinship roles, and deep history
- Place names in native languages – which in some cases may communicate ideas that cannot be readily conveyed in English – shape an understanding of the place itself
 - “Our language holds the secrets of our heritage”
- Changing place names is a way of asserting a claim to the place and creating boundaries

Working with Native People

- When approaching tribes:
 - Communicate what you want and when you want it
 - Listen, listen, listen!
 - Face-to-face communication is critical
 - Allow ample time for discussion
 - Be yourself/personal
 - Be aware of tribal governmental structure and process
 - Fill-up your gas tank and hit the road!

- Build relationships by acknowledging cultural differences
 - Identify common ground and build “community” – a combination of “common” and “unity” – based on shared humanity
 - Culture
 - Conservation
 - Preservation/protection
 - Legacy/special character of this place
 - Modify existing practices (such as “adaptive management”) to more closely align with and reflect tribal values
- Be aware of shared interest of larger territory
 - Multiple layers of interest
 - All connected areas not necessarily included within boundaries “drawn” on a map
- Acknowledge the diversity of cultures and sets of values
 - Identify and focus on “root values”
 - Find consensus over time
- Sharing knowledge
 - Respect intellectual property (e.g., stories told, plants for food/medicine)
- Acknowledge sacred kinship, relationship to nature and role of humans in this place
 - Role of prayer

Plenary Session # 2 – Resilience, Restoration and Resolve: Advancing Adaptive Management in the Crown

This panel conversation explored the challenges and opportunities to design and implement adaptive management strategies throughout the Crown region. Some common themes emerged:

What is Adaptive Management?

- Like Monty Python “And now for something completely different”
- “Seems like common sense”
- “Tribal nations have been doing this for thousands of years”
- Shift from adversarial to collaborative discussion – this is *adaptive*
- Try something new – e.g. shifting fragmented weed controlled projects on public land to integrated project planning and support with private and public management
- Move beyond silos and foster iterative decision-making.
- Adaptive management is inclusive by nature.

- Not as simple as it sounds – takes time and other factors make issues complex (e.g. restoring bull trout in Flathead Lake – plus drought, climate change, wildfires etc., and impacts to the Lake system)
- Three types of knowledge should be included in the conversation
 - expert/scientific (physical and social sciences)
 - community-based (values and experience)
 - decision-makers (responsibility)
- Not the same as collaboration but go hand in hand
- Reflection is an important process in adaptive management

Challenges

- Trust – not everyone can get past this issue
- Implementation & Restoration
 - Often have to act without *knowing*, can't wait to gain knowledge in some cases – need to base on what we know
 - Monitoring – IMPORTANT part of adaptive management – government has a short attention span – need to hold them accountable
 - Monitoring needs to be integrated into the process BEFORE implementation or risk that it will not happen
- Time Scales - time lags between implementation and understanding consequences of actions
 - How do we bring what we LEARN back into the management adaptive cycle?
 - If things are not going according to plan but who should act, by when, how is it paid for?
- No “call to arms” – usually need to have a crisis to get mobilized. But how do we become proactive?
- Lack of system to deal with cumulative effects, and act when reaching limits
- Learning – need to be supported by local knowledge (perhaps a bottom-up processes?)
- Elected leaders must approve everything – bureaucracy can be an obstacle

Capacity for Adaptive Management

- Are there times where regulation is more appropriate than adaptive management?
 - Regulation seems to provide some certainty – appropriate when people are behind it or on what you want to achieve
 - Regulation may not be accepted – people will resist if they are not part of the conversation
 - Regulation is “arrogant” – assumes you know what is best
 - Regulation may be necessary to make sure best practices are implemented – lack of money is often an excuse

- People have an appetite for adaptive management but need leadership to provide the framework and opportunity
 - Politicians not likely to lead because they don't like "prickly" processes
- Adaptive management can improve relationships

Workshop # 1 - "My adaptive management is bigger than your adaptive management!" The original questions that participants were asked to investigate were: what is adaptive management; how do we do it; and who does it? The group consensus in this workshop was that the definition of adaptive management was addressed during the plenary session that preceded the workshop. Conversation turned to the challenges that face the practice of adaptive management and opportunities for new ideas.

- Barriers
 - Access to funding and funding does not match direction
 - Bureaucracy
 - no incentive to do the right thing
 - not very flexible
 - measured on outputs such as building bridges, completed projects, etc.
 - Political friction
 - Scale (large vs. small)
 - Uncertainty (particularly climate change)
 - Science and policies come from the top down, one size fits all strategies
 - Adaptive management tools are not accessible to public
 - Unsure how to interpret, e.g. spread sheets not useful to public
 - Issues must be controversial to gain attention and action
- What's Working
 - Adaptive management fills knowledge gaps
 - Can aide with uncertainty and the feeling of being "stuck" (try something new!)
 - Builds trust and relationships
 - Brings in multiple perspectives and diversity
 - Success leads to further adaptive management
 - Inclusion of local knowledge
 - Talking with broader community is positive and constructive
 - Collaboration leads into adaptive management, not the other way around
- What's Missing
 - People have to care

- Public understanding of monitoring
 - Need leaders to build consensus
 - Needs people to encourage the leaders
 - Climate change scenarios – need conversations about what might happen
- Opportunities
 - More public involvement to pressure government
 - Education
 - Citizen science involvement
 - Deep engagement and true listening
 - Market
 - For-profit marketing for good initiatives
 - To explain critical issues (e.g., wolverines)

Workshop #2 – “Best thing about standards -- so many to choose from!” This workshop asked participants to discuss the following issues: How can we create a dashboard of indicators for adaptive management in the Crown? What are the best indicators? What are we going to measure and adapt to, and how do we measure success? Discussion centered on how to identify values and discover indicators and measurement tools for those values.

What do you value in the Crown of the Continent?

- Wild-lands that are peaceful and quiet
- Habitat connectivity/Ecological integrity/Biodiversity/Intact wilderness/Native wildlife
- Water quality
- Public access
- Human connection to their local wild land, merging of cultural and personal value, First Nations’ Cultural resources and their involvement, Spiritual value, direct engagement of local people in land use planning
- Economically and ecologically sustainable communities
- Iconic/existence value – outsiders’ appreciation; vicarious enjoyment by people who may never use it, Freedom to protect and care for the Crown

What is connected to those important values that can be measured?

- *Wild-lands that are peaceful and quiet, Habitat connectivity, Ecology integrity, Biodiversity*
 - Road density (Mi/Mi²) (Km/Km²)
- *Human connections*
 - Levels of human use permits, trail maintenance, number of car passes/admissions

- Number of homes with view-sheds of area
- Value survey/economic survey
- Community health
- Number of groups working on conserving areas (fluctuations in membership)
- *Economically and ecologically sustainable communities*
 - Responses to development proposals
 - Official community plans (bear awareness, recycling programs)
 - Demographic trends (e.g., Age distribution, % unemployment, health, local economy/availability of local goods)
 - Economic engine for community (multiplier), number of “green jobs” & locally owned businesses, type & diversity of industries (extractive vs. non-extractive), Economic business “loops” within community, sustainability/longevity of businesses, financial/ business statistics (bankruptcies, foreclosures), number of businesses that internalize environmental costs (ranking systems)
 - Production of wealth based on local resources, availability of local goods & services
 - Employment (per capita), percent of year round job, economic trends
 - Water/energy security - dependence on non-local energy/water resources
 - Availability of local energy; availability of local water (quality and quantity)
 - Number of students who graduate and stay in MT
 - Number of native plant purchase at local nurseries
- *Using landscape as it is*
 - Sustainable design & planning, number of community gardens, per capita waste (tons)
 - Transportation – number of pedestrian, bikers, walk-ability of community
 - Carbon footprint
 - Diversity of year round jobs
 - Diversity of culture, population
 - Habitat, invasive species, keystone/umbrella species - % trends, what is the baseline? Target? (e.g., percent of wetlands, flat plains being protected, fisheries, farm land, water quality) Importance of trends
 - Cradle-to-cradle (the closed system), Elimination of waste stream
- *First Nations’ cultural resources and involvement*
 - How engaged are First Nations? Preservation of First Nations cultural resources, percent of tribal members who speak native language, percent of tribal place names, public presence of tribal place names (e.g., signage, maps), percent of First Nation reservation owned/managed by tribe, number of First Nations’ co-management relationships (non-reservation, “public lands” management authority), involvement in decision making

- Employment indicators
- Amount of natural resources (wildlife, plants) connected to cultural resources
- Implementation of Indian Education Act, number of students who graduate
- Public health indicators
- *Water quality*
 - Temperature, eutrophication (algal biomass), diversity/presence/composition & structure of aquatic/biotic communities (native, non-native, invasive), turbidity
 - Run-off/intensity/lag time of water events, percent of impervious surfaces
 - Water permit/legal protection, percent development of first and second order streams (e.g., industrial footprint in headwaters)
 - Physical structures surrounding watersheds (woody debris)
- *Public access*
 - Density & types of trails/roads, handicap access, percent of private lands allowing public access, number of access easements, number of staging areas, proximity of access to urban areas/population, type & number of days access is allowed
- *Native wildlife*
 - Distribution, relative abundance, status, trends (monitoring)

Workshop #3 – “We don't have time for adaptive management, we have more pressing issues!” This workshop pressed participants to think beyond the boundaries of adaptive management and address the following question: What other tools are available to meet cultural, community, and conservation goals in the Crown of the Continent? The discussion here focused on tools that are already in place that can be used immediately. The participants also seemed to agree that these tools and approaches are not inconsistent with adaptive management.

These tools include:

- Using cooperatives to build leaders
- Making monetary incentives to influence decisions or actions
- Bringing together existing information to produce necessary information
- Build trust with local land owners
- Educate donors through human contact
- Don't get caught up in process that slows down action
- Understand the relationship between the components of management actions
- Develop trust and social capital
- Produce results and outcomes that increase incentives
- Use rural development tools

- Use existing research/data
- Build inclusive partnerships

A key theme that arose was the idea of managing the tension that is inherent within the decision making process. Taking a proactive approach instead of a reactive one allows for stakeholders to acknowledge the tension and work through it progressively. Learning about other cultures, communities, and approaches to conservation is a slow process. However, economic pressures often demand that communities need to implement adaptive management tools before they are fully developed – this was identified as another challenge. Further, a lack of access to and availability of information needed to make decisions and take action quickly is also a problem.

Workshop #4 – “Have I got a High Definition, Big Screen adaptive management tool for you!”

Participants in this workshop discussed how to address the outreach and extension elements of adaptive management, and thereby increase support and commitment for these kinds of projects. Outreach projects should consider these factors to ensure their long-term success.

- In the initial stages of outreach
 - Know short-term and long-term objectives
 - Know your audience AND the project’s purpose thoroughly
 - Lead outreach projects with stories that outline shared values
 - Establish early the need for a solution
 - Also ensure that you have the capability and flexibility to reach that solution
 - Provide specific assurances of the fairness of the outcomes
 - Make it personal!
 - Show, don’t tell
 - Choose the most appropriate messenger
- Once the outreach project is underway
 - Acknowledge any mistakes and learn from the experience
 - Emphasize that you can also make new mistakes, but that you are willing to learn from those as well.
 - Learn also from success
 - Recognize that people don’t like uncertainty and change
 - Offer the process as a tool of empowerment – this builds ownership of the outcomes
 - Ask for input from outside your comfort zone
 - Expand the communication circle – talk and listen to people who disagree with you
 - Be authentic, and acknowledge the humanity in others

- Once the outreach project is complete
 - Share long-term credibility and success with others
 - Ask for follow-up and future commitments

Friday, September 23, 2011

Plenary Session #3 – Linking National and Regional Policy Initiatives to the Crown of the Continent

This plenary session opened a window onto the various governmental initiatives and programs that address issues in large landscape conservation. It was an opportunity for participants to quiz a panel of program managers and politicians about opportunities for collaboration and future projects

Notes file corrupted in Word – collecting notes from other sources

Small Group Workshops – Learning More about Policy Initiatives

The purpose of these break-out sessions was to illustrate examples of place-based initiatives in various regions of the Crown, and offer participants opportunities for collaboration and for building on-going working groups to implement strategic plans.

Workshop #1 – Government-to-Government Relations

- County Government Initiatives and Challenges
 - Example of Missoula County – how do we address issues in rural communities in an urban-dominated County?
 - Community Councils – advisory boards that help direct rural projects
 - Serve as liaison to County gov't
 - Education about county gov't initiatives
 - Overlap with rural initiatives from other gov'ts and agencies create more opportunities for communication
 - Fed, state, county, tribal

- Establishing consistent meeting schedules enhances communication, avoids misunderstandings
 - Examples: Missoula Open Space Initiative, Whitefish Community Council
- Milltown Dam
 - On the surface a model for intergovernmental cooperation
 - But, tribal government was not involved
 - An example of why identifying key players is important – project was at a standstill until the Tribes were invited
 - Knowing which roles to play within the relationship is important [“what hat do I wear?”]
- How do you talk to the Tribes?
 - Build relationships by paying attention to protocols
 - Make PERSONAL contacts
 - Remember that in many ways tribal gov’t is just the same as any other bureaucracy, but it has its differences
 - Formalize relationships (Missoula County has a MOU with Flathead Reservation)
 - When do you talk to the Tribes? → As soon as you think of it!
 - Don’t come to the Tribes with a decision already made, include them in the decision making process
- Montana is at the forefront of collaborative problem-solving in conservation issues
 - How do we export the Montana model (e.g., Blackfoot Challenge)
 - Not always about conservation, collaborative efforts can address a wide range of community issues.
 - How can we recast our understanding of these processes to be more inclusive?
 - Having the right stakeholders at the table
 - Keeping stakeholders engaged, continue to maintain relationships
 - Example: Flathead Basin Commission, Crown Managers Partnership, etc.
- Is the field too crowded?
 - How much collaboration can government programs stand, or have the resources for?
 - Do we lose focus?
 - The Roundtable
 - A network of networks
 - Too much talk, not enough action?
 - Involve elected officials, involve industry
 - What happens to the resources?

- Do they trickle down? How do we balance fairness and competition for those resources?
- How does the Roundtable work well for government?
 - Networking
 - Policy discussion
 - “Gaps analysis”
 - Reallocation of resources
 - Creating relationships
 - Additive value: demonstrating effectiveness and needs
 - Leverage of critical mass

Workshop #2 – Canadian Initiatives

- What can we do on the Eastern side of the Crown that can coordinate with other areas
- Are there initiatives outside the region that we can look at and adopt?
- Landowner concerns
 - Porcupine Hills – no police, fire, town - just 25 families – concern of people taking interest in the public lands around them – recreational users of ATV’s are a large concern
 - Environmental damage – creek crossing and no enforcement for damage
 - Proliferation of weeds from activities – hikers enjoy oxtail daisies – no idea of problem
 - Hunter access on private lands –
 - Not stewards – e.g. having fires during fire bans – not taking precautions - enforcement??
 - Is threatening local livelihoods – realizes people have right to be there.
 - First Nations use – but not by traditional territory (from Quebec)
- ATV Issues
 - New public lands act regulations – fines are increased, vehicles can be confiscated – no longer just warnings – need stronger regulations and enforcements – is a real problem
 - Designated trails – rotating use – try to eliminate random use!
 - Problem with public lands – argument that public land rights are the same as private but will open a door that can’t be closed –
 - Designated trails are in place in the Crown Forest district – but still lots of illegal trails are often used – how do we enforce?? – how do we get to the

- point where there is local stewardship – where peers will hold people accountable
- Do we need to sign in to public land to track people? Need permits? Does that limit other activities??
 - Education – what is acceptable?
 - *Crowsnest Quad Squad* – has done some work on getting trail systems in place
 - Group of people that are responsible ATV owners – build bridges across riparian areas, enforcement, safety – setting standards
 - Has worked a bit with the Castle working group as well
 - ATV users blurring the lines between public and private lands
 - Local ranchers enforce use in area – have vested interest
 - Displacement effect – move to another area
 - Multi-tiered system that involves the community is needed – can't just have regulation or government responsible – top down and bottom – up – keep adding layers to get to where we want to be
 - Is the government able to enforce more?
 - Can't have an ASRD officer behind every tree
 - Trail cams??
 - BC – Public process (SHRIMP)
 - Still haven't agreed on licensing – has brought Albertans into BC that don't want to license to ride in AB
 - More coordination between AB & BC needed to prevent this (displacement)
- Hunting right and use of First Nations
 - Have permits and rules for First Nations use outside tribes on tribal lands.
 - General rule – take what you need, but abuses occur – only species that are on season
 - Hard to keep track – don't have a paid staff to monitor those who abuse the system
 - Only 2 field officers
 - How do you do land use planning in rural areas?
 - Has been up to municipalities so far – that's why Alberta Land Stewardship Act and regional planning trump to keep interest focused
 - Municipal plans must be approved regionally once implemented – some negotiation will be needed
 - Development on property must consider outside bounds and uses

- Hope for this to be supportive of municipal planning – not meant to be constrictive but keeps character and focus in region
- Balancing act between profit and conservation – want to keep it as is
- Drilling on crown lands in the Crown of the Continent
 - Property rights in subsurface in place for over 100 years
 - When land use plan in effect – options for remuneration on companies
 - Gain compensation- sell back
 - Amend plans for drilling
 - Only in place once plan is in place – NOT BEFORE
 - Need for balance – want people to do it right
 - Shell – they are regulated – Logging companies don't seem to be held to the same standards
 - They are – have a different set – but above ground rights vs. below ground
 - Shell had to do a rare plant survey to build road – why not the logging company that has plans to log the same area?
 - Government – Shell and timber companies can be held accountable where ATV users are more difficult
 - ALSA should help promote outcomes that balance environmental protection and socio-economic values (jobs and industry)
 - Difficult at a regional level – progressive and takes time
- What role do you see the COC (and preserving its integrity) play in the socio-economic development in communities?
 - Crowsnest Pass – issues from weekenders coming in – feel they are utilizing the area in all the wrong ways (“Mountain Freedom”)
 - Feels COC integrity is essential for the future socio-economic integrity of area – tourism will likely play a large role in their future- therefore dependent on the integrity of environment
 - High traffic use – 8 wildlife kills per day – high concern
- BC – Coal industry expanding , Forestry not as well, Pulp and Paper also doing well – stability for work
 - Area rich in biodiversity as well – “better than Banff” – hunting opportunities and wildlife viewing opportunities
 - Important to maintain integrity here as well

Workshop #3 – America’s Great Outdoors and Farm Bill

- *America’s Great Outdoors (AGO)*
 - Workgroups (7)
 - 5 key landscapes, Forest Service lead agency
 - How can you change government to be more effective in large landscape conservation? How do you initiate bottom-up ideas within the tribes/local communities?
 - Opportunity to involve community to better the federal process?
 - Document created with four recommendations for the feds to change behavior
 - One of the four, way that the federal government can invest in place-based collaboratives, and how to invest in organizations that expand their capacity to collaborate with other groups
 - Investment in groups to further capacity for collaboration.
 - Process
 - Planning process must outline 6, 9, and 12 month outcomes and how are the federal government defining “outcomes?” Funding/ meetings/ document writing?
 - Changes depending on the project, a way to track progress.
 - Difficult to come to those definitions within a short period of time, must keep working and collaborate to communicate progress.
 - Capacity building for what outcomes? Is it about social capacity or biodiversity?
 - Is there expected to be new funding?
 - AGO 27 action items
 - They don’t apply everywhere, which of the 27 fit within the Crown? What will rise to the top?
 - All 27 fit in some way. 12 are really strong fit
 - support existing programs that emphasize place based learning
 - implement interagency process
 - align investment of federal LWFC funds
 - aligning fed programs that provide technical /financial assistance
 - integrate large, landscape conservation into federal land management plans and actions
 - cultivate support for tribal, local, private, lands
 - build climate change adaptation and mitigation into federal land management
 - work with state partners to share info
 - incorporate wildlife corridor conservation and restoration into fed. agency plans, programs, and actions
 - coordinate and leverage investment of fed funds to conserve, restore wildlife corridors with other public and private wildlife conservation entities

- reduce fish passage barriers in America's streams and rivers on federal lands
 - Venues identified to share this info and plan to consult local stakeholders
 - This conference, 2012 Crown Managers forum, and Western Governors Association
 - How about the role of the tribes? Very little input so far.
 - We have an idea that is really good, but maybe not politically supported. A question of balance.
 - Bottom line: Forest Service is going to follow through with this involvement, but we need to realize that we need to hone in on what is going to work in the Crown of the Continent.
- *Farm Bill*
 - Overview:
 - Wide array of programs; field based organization and have offices in nearly every county.
 - Farm Bill, uncertainty for the next bill especially in terms of budgeting.
 - Conservation programs look pretty solid as far as funding goes, projects in 2012 fairly good.
 - Easement programs:
 - reserved- for manipulated/degraded wetlands (30 or perpetual easements)
 - farm and ranchlands protection – for working farm or ranch, would stay as such, but would have a perpetual easement - competitive sign-ups/ application process
 - contracts with the landowners themselves, must be involved and easily overlooked
 - then planning begins, except if there are special initiatives
 - ranking period for problems (high priority, low priority, etc.) and funded as such
 - financial benefit: for stream work funding was substantial and was a major partner in river restoration. Immediate benefits. Direct conservation delivery. Lots of ways to leverage the funding.
 - Programs in the Blackfoot
 - Working lands conservation project
 - Blackfoot Challenge
 - boots on the ground, assistance on the ground on how to do conservation on the ground is critical.
 - Success of Blackfoot Challenge
 - had a plan, without boundaries (physical)
 - conservation was inclusive of the entire landscapes, not just one acre at a times
- *Future farm bill—the great unknown....*

- Resources advisory committee:
 - will they be funded in the future?
 - different branch of forest service, that comes out of the national side. It's a question mark.
 - Landowners assistant council
- Funding on a multiyear level?
 - Parts of the project comes piecemeal during the project.
 - 5 year contracts, you can space the money out.
 - More so annual than other agencies.
- *State / Private Programs*
 - For Health Protection (insect and disease projects)
 - allows opportunity to impact a larger land based/ cross boundary projects
 - Corporative Fires (training, equipment, etc)
 - funding for private and state land fire issues
 - Farm bill established most of the programs, and established that the state forestry program is the partner. This does not mean they cannot build partnerships outside of the forest service.
 - Forest legacy program
 - MFW department partnered
 - In the Crown legacy funds have been used to acquire 40,000 acres
 - Watershed Corporative
 - Invasive Species Corporative
 - cannot be used on federal land
 - Urban and Community Forestry (state DNRC main partner)
 - broad authority and can do a lot of things
 - covers planting trees, energy conservation, improving storm water run off, assistance with community gardens, restoration in urban areas, helping communities with sustainability
 - opportunity to management sources of pollution
 - Accessible through the Montana DNRC
 - 50% of all budgets (these programs) is taken off the top and the states compete for that money (competitive grants)
 - can deliver more services to the ground by leveraging funding through this program
 - where there are already goals and process in place, much easier to make programs to happen.

Workshop #4 – Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- The strength of the Great Northern is the advisory team that represents many different interests.

- Climate issues drove the original project
 - In the North American interior, LLC's are dealing with more immediate impacts.
 - Energy development (from Western states governors).
 - Adaptation strategies
 - How you talk about climate change (e.g., long-term drought) is important. More immediate pressures is focus of GNLLC.
- So, how do you talk about climate change?
 - So much consensus about scientists, but little consensus among people. Not terribly surprising thinking about other issues such as evolution.
 - Organizing message (Rachel Carson's message through garden clubs) is important. Mixed messaging because uncertainty, temporal time frame.
- Working on conservation framework, looking at foundational documents and putting sideboards on
 - 10 or fewer priorities that stretch across the landscape.
 - One issue is how many people look at conservation through a landscape lens.
 - Learning exercise, what does this mean? How much history of working across jurisdictions – that is new . working at new scales and levels of complexity.
- Communities in LLC's?
 - Conservation delivery can't be done without buy-in with community-based groups.
 - Can we emulate the Blackfoot Challenge 400 times all over the Great Northern?
 - Other aspect is having regional leaders. Clearly need link to community based model, trying to have on steering committee but clearly there is a disconnect there.
- What lessons are being picked up/learned along the way in large landscape conservation (i.e. Y2Y to Roundtable/LLC's etc)?
 - Lessons organizing from unit to ecosystem.
 - Can learn lessons about shifting from ecosystems to landscapes.
 - Innovation/diffusion model applied to landscape conservation. Early adopters, mainstream adopters, etc.
- How should the Great Northern engage in the grassroots?
 - Clear end-product that draws the interest of local groups.
 - Mission: cumulative effects modeling over the landscape? Specifically, what is the focus?
- It takes time to get to know the environment, and the people around us, to develop collective thinking.
 - Education is important, and also great way to access other communities. People love to talk to college students, who are good messengers for conservation sharing their learning through peers.
 - Taking younger students and getting a cultural immersion on tribal lands.
 - "Scientists' community":

- One remaining concern: we are not necessarily reaching people who are skeptical of scientists and feds. Message is against public media, and public discourse. Public discourse is so massively against what LLC is trying to do.
- One new catch term: resilience. Most people can agree that resilience is a good thing.
 - In order to engage in community, you need to go speak their language
 - If the Great Northern was just to service those groups that connect to the groups that connect to the community, but rather connect to community-based groups who then connect to community. Reach to those leaders in the community / community-based groups.

Moving Forward: Creating a Portfolio of Investments for Adaptive Management

The final break-out sessions of the Roundtable were designed to build on the knowledge generated over the previous day and a half and help participants from each quadrant of the Crown work together to develop “portfolios” of investments in adaptive management. Montana West Side and British Columbia elected to merge their workshops.

Montana West Side/British Columbia

- Organizing from the bottom up
 - Finding connectivity and synergies in the landscape among organizations
 - Time frames - life time (thinking longer term)
- Who’s **NOT** here?
 - Undergrad groups, youths, high school students
 - More elected officials – what do we offer them? (possible agenda to lure them in)
 - Business leaders/ Economists
 - Landowners (large and small)
- Opening of civil dialogue
 - Events beyond the conference, embed roundtable at the local level
 - Multimedia projects, documentary, t.v. time, social media, blog
 - Narratives that connect to conservation success
 - Outreach through other organizations (e.g. Humanities MT)
 - Clarifying communication structures

Connecting stories

- Internal communication in the round table
- Communication outside the roundtable

A place to tell stories ahead of the next roundtable: Newsletter, website, social media, blog

- Who are you?
- What are your successes?

- Describe your collaborations
- Next steps
- Pulling out patterns from the stories

Must articulate carefully why people should come, targeted, recruitment at the community level, participants need to do this invite a friend.

- Clarify structure – how does the Roundtable support my organization?
- Connect this issue back to stories
- Placed based (conservation) stories
- Be clear about how the stories work to define the landscape

What is transferable? What are the stories we can learn from? What can be “amplified”?
“It helps to have a point”

- Creating common outcomes
- Move beyond conservation, environment, or natural resources
- Should we tackle other issues too? Social issues? Job? Sustainability?
- What is connectivity? The landscape
- What else is out there? Who is successful at bringing diverse stakeholders together; e.g. east Kootenay

Bridging large scale perspective to local projects, to tell stories about what worked or what did not, how to move forward, define goals.

- Weeds, invasive aquatic species (flora and fauna)
- Involving local communities is KEY, allocation of resources, social events help
- Using successful projects as examples; spread them far and wide
- Discuss what the community wants?
- Organize the roundtable around themes.... (Maybe not geography?)
- Tell the story of the stories e.g. tribal perspective on the landscape, no separation between “natural” and “cultural” resources

Issues/Themes to address

- Weeds, invasive species, wilderness areas (protection)
- Securing resources for conservation initiatives
- Land Use Planning
- Water quality (inputs and outputs)
- Water quantity
- Link between healthy environment and healthy community
- Fire
- Human impacts on the landscape
- Protecting and preserving for future generations
- Cultural heritage and protection

Where do we go from here???

- Collecting stories
- Future meetings
- Community dialogue
- Can we make this more personal
- Collective action with diverse participants has leverage
- How can we build inclusivity
 - Three ideas – (1) gather stories and define needs or; (2) pick a theme and move forward; (3) identify success and help multiple organization/ community learn from them
- Poll participants on which theme are the most important?

Montana East Side

- Three ideas to explore
 1. Inventory – land, water, community, culture
 - Existing
 - Emerging – building capabilities
 2. Collaborative projects and opportunities
 - w/in the quadrant
 - transboundary
 - crown-wide
 3. Community conversation
 - Who do we involve?
 - Building on existing partnerships
 - What is value-added?
- Who is involved? Identify gaps and create opportunities for dialog
 - Elk Foundation
 - GNP/Crown Managers Partnership
 - MT Dept. of Transportation and Tourism
 - Crown of the Continent Education Consortium
 - U of M
 - Community conversations
 - MT Scenic loop
 - Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance
 - Watershed groups
 - Front Range Conservation Education Group
 - Weed Roundtable

- Water Rights Compact (Blackfeet)
 - Hands of Harvest
 - Crown Geotourism
 - Front Range Art Association
 - Crown Conservation Initiative
 - Sweet Grass Economic Development
 - SIYEH Development Corp.
 - Cattle Women
 - Choteau Economic Development
 - Augusta Economic Group
 - Sportsmen’s Groups
 - Conservation Easements
- What are their commonalities?
 - Use
 - Shared values
 - Stake and interest in what happens
 - Tie to the landscape
- How about Process?
 - Objectives
 - Draw up projects?
 - Or, build on what’s happening already?
 - RTCC objectives build on what’s already happening, should it do more?
 - Is there an advantage to creating longer links?
 - Important to facilitate communication
 - Some organizations have the tools, some identify the needs or issues
 - RTCC provides a “resource warehouse”
 - Context of larger picture
 - Match supply and demand
 - Knit together smaller projects in the larger landscape
 - Avoids derailments
 - Are there any “easy” projects to tackle? (Low hanging fruit)
- Portfolio?
 - Ecotourism/cultural organizations/sustainable communities
 - Split by quadrant – regional
 - A way to prioritize work on the ground
 - Diversify funding
 - Each has a goal/focus/plan
 - Measured outcomes as yields

- Stories behind those outcomes help develop a sense of place
 - Tribal perspective?
- Community Conversations
 - Quadrant-wide
 - Geotourism map as example
 - Who else to involve? Who are the stakeholders?
 - Political leadership
 - Agencies

Alberta

- Opportunities and Needs for Adaptive Management and Collaboration
 - Opportunities
 - Cross-jurisdictional
 - Cross-watershed
 - Sharing process design
 - Goals and objectives
 - Plans and strategies
 - Needs
 - Community education
 - Capacity building
 - Understanding options and alternatives
 - Help citizens link to the landscape!
 - Frame the message to get it out effectively
 - Core issues
 - Traditional and alternative energy
 - Tourism and geotourism
 - Agriculture
 - Recreation
 - Tools
 - albertasouthwest.com
 - support, build and enhance regional education and outreach
 - tailor a mechanism to facilitate dialogue on particular issues, like wind energy
 - Climate Change?
 - How to address this issue?
 - Creating future scenarios

- Discussions about adaptability and resilience
 - How do we get landowners and managers on board?
 - Education
 - Incentives
- For the future
 - Mapping and analysis of various layers to help determine gaps and opportunities for working together
 - Coordinate and connect existing resources
 - Identify key values and ecological features
 - Integrated land/water planning
 - Watershed stewardship
 - Headwaters protection
 - Public outreach and education
 - Public consent and license