



Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Connecting People to Shape the Future

2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 22-23, 2011 -- Polson, Montana

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Liked:

- Tribal framework and stories ***
- Connecting work with Initiatives
- Longer breaks
- Meeting new contacts/hearing about programs
- Getting enviros, tribes, land owners, elected officials, land managers, etc. all in the room, agreeing to protect this special place. That is rare. Congratulations.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Do pre-work to better connect people who may be able to help each other
- Nametags with larger font and organizations
- Adaptive management needed to be better connected to theme and purpose of conference, seemed grant funded *
- Engage local government and better tailor message to how they can engage** *
- Show people who don't have a conservation perspective how these issues are relevant, engage landowners and businesses *
- Get speakers to better focus on topics
- Carpool
- Engage display tables better/ serve coffee there
- More free time
- Would have liked to attend other break out sessions
- More networking time – want to meet and mix with people from other quadrants
- Get out on the land
- Clearer communication on the myriad of activities taking place. Example GNLCC, Kresge Grant, America's Great Outdoors, etc
- A little more summary of Crown organizations, activities, and recent accomplishments given at beginning of the conference
- Watch time/agenda management – some of us “older folk” need those biological breaks!
- Many of the speakers were boring. Really work hard on getting very good speakers, and coach them. Work with them to get the presentation right. Don't just invite them and hope that they turn out okay. Really spend a lot of time selecting carefully and helping them with drafts of their presentation until they get it right.

Next year's Conference:

- Examine how local government, private business and conservation work together
- Elected officials meet and share ideas
- Political representation from around the Crown
- Actual state of the Crown review – how are the land and its inhabitants doing?
Status report.
- More discussion about what's working and what's not
- What are the goals and how do we reach them
- Communities and local governments
- Major initiatives: progress report
A few great speakers and then lots of small group work.
- Play time – hikes, boat rides, and then back to the conference room
- At least one panel updating recent research at the landscape scale
- Panel /presentations from private/working lands: what is working for ranchers, farmers, land owners

Other:

- Hold events in Crown communities about weeds, water fire and document, share and educate. Bigger venue and build more attendance at conference.
- Henry Big Throat from Red Crow College and Laura Cooper from Rocky Mountain College both hoped to be a part of the conference next year, involve students, etc. Laura talked about potentially helping out on projects throughout the school year.

Thank yous

- It makes me feel good and confident to know that there are individuals and groups like you that are working hard towards preserving the gifts that were handed down to us from our ancestors for our children, grandchildren and those yet to come.
Again Thank You and have a wonderful year.

Tony Incoshola, CSKT

- *This was one of the greatest conferences I have been a part of, I loved the various Tribes and First Nations telling us their take on the Environment, to some I am sure it was the same old, same old, but most of it was very powerful, and very informative. Some was a little off the wall, but the take home message was very clear. As with all of us, Tribal or not, we love this place, as we all have said, it is the CROWN of the continent, it is our home, and we are ALL striving for protection, and enhancement. I can not thank you enough, and I would so love to hear more from the Lady that opened her talk with the song, about shook me out of my seat, but she was good, and had some very good points. I truly enjoyed the workshop groups as well. Thank You All so Much!!!*

Clint Folden, CSKT

Kim and the Conference Planning team-

What a wonderful opportunity to connect with folks across the region and learn about how they approach similar challenges. It was great to have the tribes so intimately involved and I greatly appreciate their contribution to the event. I wanted to share a few thoughts about the conference that I hope might help in planning for next year's event.

In the pre-conference planning discussions that I participated in, I repeatedly heard the participants say that it should **not** be the same conservation crowd talking to each other but that we should strive to address issues of importance to the citizens of the region and allow a space where they can discuss the changes the region is facing and how communities can address those changes.

When I saw the conference agenda I did not understand the emphasis on adaptive management and the presentation of this concept at the conference was not delivered in a way that I found it to be relevant beyond land management and conservation planning. As the tribal members said at the conference, "We do adaptive management every day, and have done so for generations." Another participant told me, "My community doesn't think in terms of adaptive management, the small businesses I deal with call it survival." The manner in which adaptive management was presented at the conference was focused towards natural resource conservation and land management but not cast in a way that was meaningful to those working in the realm of economics, land-use planning and local government.

We live in a changing economic and natural environment. Our communities will be stronger if we plan for a future that addresses economics and conservation simultaneously. Our region will be stronger if we can stop separating these issues and help people see the relevance of both in their daily lives. Future conferences should provide examples of how communities have increased economic and community vitality in a way that enhances the environment and promotes conservation of resources. Provide examples and opportunities for business, conservation and decision makers to sit down and find solutions that will enhance all of their interests.

It was mentioned that we would like to see more elected leaders at the conference. If you want to see local government representative at the table, the conference needs to address issues of importance to them. Everyday they deal with issues of environmental health, public safety, land use planning, parks, trails, roads....etc. Offering a forum to provide innovative solutions to some of these challenges will be beneficial to conservationists, local government and

business alike. Hosting a discussion about these issues, where people engage in a civil respectful manner will serve as an example of how our region can strengthen and grow because of our differences.

People will take the time to come to a two day conference if they feel that they will walk away with new ideas about how to be more effective in their work. The Roundtable presents a unique opportunity to bring together people in civil dialogue who have previously thought they were in opposition and help them find mutually beneficial solutions. Example: A session that brings together realtors, land developers, land trusts, land use planners and decision makers to discuss how they can work together to plan development that make good land use planning sense. Discuss how to make clustered development more appealing to consumers and how regulations can provide incentives for this type of development. This example might be a bit idealistic, but it is an example of the types of issues that communities are dealing with every day and the Roundtable can help facilitate such a discussion.

I hope that future Roundtable conferences can help us develop new strategies to work together in solving these problems. One participant said to me the first evening, "I really hope that the second day will be more grounded." That should be our goal for next year, to ground ourselves. The Roundtable can bring folks together to develop new solutions to long term problems in a way that will enhance many aspects of our communities.

Thank you for all your great work on this years event and I look forward to seeing what we can create for the future.

Sarah

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