



**Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**  
*Connecting People to Sustain and Enhance Culture, Community and Conservation*

## **7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA**

### ***“One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape”***

October 13-14, 2016

Fernie Best Western

Fernie, British Columbia

#### **About the Annual Conference**

The annual conference serves as one of the primary vehicles to achieve the core mission of the Roundtable—to connect people to enhance culture, community and conservation in the Crown of the Continent. During the past six years, this conference has moved around the Crown to feature and celebrate different regions. The organizing theme of the 7th annual conference is “One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape.” We will explore how the challenges and changes in our businesses, cultures, communities and landscapes are within our shared experience, transboundary in nature, and cause for partnerships and celebrations.

#### **Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

1. Exchange new information and ideas, connect people working on similar issues, and foster a sense of regional identity;
2. Celebrate the links among the culture, community, and conservation values of the Crown of the Continent and how people are working to enhance these values; and
3. Examine two compelling issues facing the Crown of the Continent – impacts and opportunities from visitors and how culture inspires conservation - and build our collective capacity to address them at a local and regional scale.

#### **About the Roundtable**

The Crown of the Continent region is a remarkable, ecologically intact ecosystem rich in tribal history, natural resources, and thriving communities. This 18-million acre region is threatened by climate change, loss of traditional knowledge, growth, and development. The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent addresses these challenges by providing a forum for collaboration and networking among Tribes/First Nations, land management agencies, local governments, private land partnerships, academia, conservation groups, businesses, and industry.

Large landscape conservation is participatory and inclusive and the Roundtable connects people to enhance the culture, communities, and conservation of the region. Our transboundary, large landscape effort provides a platform for diverse perspectives to share information, build knowledge and capacity, celebrate success, and catalyze new efforts and partnerships. The Roundtable seeks to achieve a shared vision for people and nature in the region. For more information, please go to [www.crownroundtable.org](http://www.crownroundtable.org).

## **Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent Teams**

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Len Broberg, University of Montana  
Mike Bruised Head, Blood Tribe  
Jean Curtiss, Missoula County  
Ian Dyson, Alberta Environment and Parks  
Stanley Grier, Chief, Piikani Nation  
Larin Guenther, Oldman Watershed Council  
Peter Gurche, student representative, University of Montana  
Rich Janssen, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Shawn Johnson, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy  
Todd Larson, East Kootenay Invasive Plan Council  
Stephen Legault, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative  
Nic Milligan, Teck Resources  
Jeff Mow, Glacier National Park  
Regan Nelson, Crown Conservation Initiative  
Fabian North Peigan, Piikani Nation  
Sheena Pate, Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council  
Melly Reuling, Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
Mary Sexton, landowner and consultant  
John T. Shannon, USDA Forest Service Northern and Intermountain Regions  
Jim Stone, Blackfoot Challenge  
Gary Tabor, Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
Paul Travis, Flathead Land Trust  
Melissa Weatherwax, Blackfeet Community College

### **SUPPORT TEAM**

Rosemary Burton, Fiscal sponsorship and finances  
Kim Davitt, Coordinator  
Lea Whitford, Tribal Liaison

### **LOCAL 2015 CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM**

Mary Guiliano, Fernie mayor  
Jikke Gyorki, Tourism Fernie  
Bonnie Harvey, Ktunaxa Nation  
Juliet Craig, Kootenay Conservation Project  
Todd Larsen, East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council  
Nick Milligan, Teck Resources  
Ryland Nelson, Wildsight  
Sheena Pate, Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council  
Nels Sherman, Fernie Alpine Resort  
Pat Tabor, Crown of the Continent Discovery Center/Swan Mountain Outfitters  
Bev Thornton, Alberta South West  
Wendy Van Puymbroeck, Kootenay Rockies Tourism

Lee Ann Walker, Elk River Alliance  
Lea Whitford, Blackfeet Tribal Planning

**SUPPORTERS** (bold indicates \$1,000 or more)

**Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks**  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs**  
**Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation**  
Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
**Cinnabar Foundation**  
**Columbia Basin Trust**  
Crowsnest Conservation Society  
East Kootenay Invasive Species Coalition  
**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**City of Fernie**  
District of Sparwood  
First Interstate Bank  
**Glacier National Park**  
Glacier National Park Conservancy  
**Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative**  
**Missoula County**  
**Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
North Fork Preservation Association  
**Oldman Watershed Council**  
**Teck Resources Limited**  
The Wilderness Society  
Island Lake Resort  
First Interstate Bank  
**National Parks Conservation Association**  
**O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation**  
Oldman Watershed Council  
**Plum Creek Timber Company**  
**Schickedanz West**  
**Sustainability Fund**  
Swan Valley Connections  
Trust for Public Land  
**U.S. Forest Service**  
Vital Ground  
Wilburforce Foundation  
**Wildlife Conservation Society**  
**Wildsight**

**7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**  
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October 13-14, 2016  
Fernie, British Columbia

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

10:00-5:00 Tribal Roundtable meeting.  
*Tribal natural resource managers from around the Crown of the Continent will meet to discuss climate adaptation, drought, policy and other issues of concern.*  
**Registration required (free of charge for tribal members), contact**  
[kimdavitt@yahoo.com](mailto:kimdavitt@yahoo.com)

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

9:30 am **Conference Registration Begins**  
*Sponsor tables in entrance way*

10:00 am **CONFERENCE CONVENES: WELCOME**  
Kathryn Teneese, Chairwoman, Ktunaxa Nation  
Wayne Stetski, MP for the Kootenay-Columbia

10:15 **One Backyard: the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**  
Shawn Johnson, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy

10:30 **The Crown on Continent Traverse**  
*As a follow-up to the kick-off at last year's conference, we'll hear about North Face world--class endurance runners Michael Wolfe and Michael Foote and photographer Steven Gnam's epic journey along the spine of the Crown of the Continent.*  
Steven Gnam, Steven Gnam Photography

11:00 **Profile of the Northwest Crown**  
*A social, economic, and ecological overview of southeastern British Columbia presented by College of the Rockies students.*

11:30 **Crown Café**  
*Quick updates about Crown news from conference participants, including Crown-wide student initiatives.*

12:30 **LUNCH**  
*Mentoring partnership for some attendees.*

1:30

**Is the Sky the Limit? Geotourism in a Changing Climate**

*Visitors to the Crown impact culture, community and conservation in the region. This panel will address the increasing numbers of tourists, impacts on natural resources, and how climate change is forcing tourism adaptations.*

Jeff Mow, Glacier National Park superintendent

Matt Folz, Climate Smart: Glacier Country

Bev Thornton, Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance

Moderator: Norma Nickerson, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation

2:00

**Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts (45 minutes each)**

Introduced by Kim Davitt, Roundtable Coordinator

*(Choose 1)*

**1. Cultural Tourism: “Indian Country is Open for Business”**

*This session will discuss how tribes and First Nations in the Crown are planning for tourism and explore the tensions of both celebrating and protecting culture.*

Ed DesRosier, Sun Tours

Harley Bastien, Buffalo Rock Tipi Camp

Moderator: Heather Sobrepena, MT Tourism

**2. Local Government and Competing Industries**

*In this breakout session, we will discuss the unique challenges and successes of mountain towns from Montana, Alberta and British Columbia wrestling with tourism and competing industries.*

Mary Guiliano, Fernie mayor

John Muhlfeld, Whitefish mayor

Blair Painter, Crowsnest Pass mayor

Moderator: Pat O’Herren, Missoula County Planning Director

**3. Hunting and Angling Culture**

*This breakout will explore hunting and angling culture as a historical precursor of conservation and current inspiration for conservation success stories.*

Bill Geer, Conservation HAWKS

Bill Hanlon, Fernie outfitter

Moderator: Chip Weber, US Forest Service

**4. Greening our Faiths**

*Faith and spirituality encourage us to think outside ourselves and are driving stewardship efforts and political activism in the Crown.*

Abbey Huseth – Faith and Climate Action Montana

Alan Setcher, rabbi from Whitefish (invited)

Moderator: Sue Higgins

- 2:45      **Natural Resources Influences on Culture, Community and Conservation**  
*This panel addresses how important natural resource management issues are being addressed in a changing climate and connect with people's experience of the landscape.*
- Climate change in the Crown – Melly Reuling, Center for Large Landscape Conservation*  
*Water, drought and flooding – Ann Schwend, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation*  
*Fire ecology – Bob Harrington, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation*  
*Biocultural diversity and climate change – Paulette Fox, Harmony Walkers, Kanai Nation*  
*Moderator - Yvette Converse, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative*
- 3:45      **BREAK**
- 4:00      **Small Group Conversations: What does 2 degrees mean in your work and life?**  
*Find your small group for a roundtable discussion, a walk on the Elk River trails, a stroll through town, or a drink in the bar and discuss the impacts of climate change and how the Crown community can respond.*
- 5:15      **BREAK**
- 6:00      **Local Foods Dinner and No-Host Bar**  
*Ktunaxa Drummers*  
*Poster input to follow up small group conversations.*  
*Display of Mt. Royal students' research.*

### **Friday, October 14, 2016**

- 8:00      **Preview of the Day (Ballroom)**  
 Shawn Johnson, Facilitator for the Roundtable, Center for Natural Resource and Environmental Policy
- 8:15      **National Cultures and Conservation**  
*The cultural histories of Tribes/First Nations, U.S. and Canada shape current approaches to conservation. This panel examines those national histories and cultures, as well as how the landscape itself creates conservation culture.*  
*Canada - Ian Dyson, Alberta Environment and Parks*  
*United States - Michael Jamison, National Parks and Conservation Association*  
*Tribal Nations - Leroy Little Bear, University of Lethbridge*  
*Moderator – Kim Davitt, Crown Roundtable*
- 9:15      **The Culture of Partnerships**  
*One of the important cultures driving conservation in the Crown are multi-stakeholder partnerships. This panel looks at how partnerships are driving*

*conservation in southeast BC.*  
Nic Milligan, Teck Resources  
Stella Swanson, Elk River Alliance  
Moderator: Erin Sexton (invited)

10:00      **BREAK**

10:30      **Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts** (45 minutes each)  
Introduced by Kim Davitt, Roundtable Coordinator  
(Choose 1)

**1. A Landscape Conservation Design for the Crown**

*Yvette Converse, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative*  
*Michael Whitfield, Heart of the Rockies*  
*Melly Reuling, Center for Large Landscape Conservation*  
*Erin Sexton, UM Institute for Ecosystems (invited)*

**2. Traditional Ecological Knowledge - TEK**

*This session explores different ways of knowing and how tribal culture greatly influences the approach to conservation.*  
*Germaine White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (invited)*  
*Melissa Weatherwax, Blackfeet Community College*  
*Moderator: Lea Whitford, Roundtable Tribal Liaison*

**3. Marketing the Crown**

*Is Geotourism marketing working? Do we want it to? Can you disperse visitors or are you just creating additional impacts across a larger landscape. This session will explore Crown of the Continent marketing campaigns, friendly small towns and the merging of economic development and tourism.*  
*Jenn Thompson, University of Montana*  
*Pat Tabor, Crown of the Continent Discovery Center*  
*Sheena Pate, Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council (invited)*  
*Moderator: Wendy Van Puymbroeck, Kootenay Rockies Tourism*

**4. Does Art Imitate or Change Conservation?**

*Artistic expression through painting and literature drives conservation in the Crown. This session explore literature in the transboundary Crown, cultural and landscape artistic expression, and a local conservation and art enterprise.*  
*Jeff Gailus, author*  
*Marisa Phillips, artist*  
*Moderator: Ron Allrech, Fernie Art Museum (invited)*

11:15      **Culture and Conservation: The Iinii Initiative**

*This panel discussion explores how starting with cultural values can drive a conservation process and how to mark progress with cultural ceremonies.*  
*Harry Barnes – Chairman, Blackfeet Business Council (invited)*  
*Mike Bruised Head – Blood Tribe Councilor*

*Leona Tracy, Inii Initiative*

*Moderator: Keith Aune, Wildlife Conservation Society*

**12:15      Student Culture and Conservation**

*How are students on college campuses around the region interfacing with conservation? Is there more or less student engagement around conservation issues? Is social media and effective or distancing tool? We will hear from students from tribal colleges, community colleges and universities in the Crown region.*

*Moderator: Peter Gurche, University of Montana*

**1:00      LUNCH and Summary Keynote**

*Landscape Identity: Why they come and what our cultures steward*  
Clayton Matt, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (invited)

**1:30      Conference Adjourns**

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