



## *One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape*

**October 13-14, 2016  
Fernie, British Columbia  
Canada**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	3
<b>Conference Highlights</b> .....	4
<b>Evaluation</b> .....	16
<b>Appendices</b>	
Conference Attendees .....	17
Roundtable Conference Agenda.....	21
Conference Co-Sponsors .....	29
Crown Café .....	30

Elk River Valley, Fernie  
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## Executive Summary

A splendid and diverse group of people from all corners of the Crown of the Continent met up in their common backyard of Fernie, British Columbia to share information and tools about common challenges, changes and opportunities across the landscape. More than 150 people gathered at the Fernie Mountain Lodge Best Western on October 12-14, 2016 for a tribal roundtable meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent – *One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape*. Key features of the conference included:

**Wednesday, October 12 Tribal Roundtable Meeting.** Over 40 natural resource managers from the six tribes and First Nations in the Crown – Blackfeet, Kanai, Piikani, Siksika, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, and Ktunaxa – created the agenda for this all-day meeting to share information, tools, success stories, and challenges for key natural resource issues in the Crown of the Continent.

**Crown Cafe.** These quick updates from agency, business, academic, conservation, tribal, local government and private land partners throughout the Crown highlighted projects, successes, and collaborative efforts. They introduced people to each other and built collective energy and understanding of Crown issues.

**Panel and breakout sessions - Community.** Discussions about community centered on geotourism. In “Is the Sky the Limit? Geotourism in a Changing Climate” Jeff Mow, Matt Folz, Bev Thornton and moderator Norma Nickerson addressed the increasing number of tourists, impacts on natural resources and how climate change is forcing changes and adaptations in the tourism industry. Breakout sessions focused on cultural tourism, local government, industries that compete with tourism, and marketing of the entire Crown of the Continent region.

**Panel and breakout sessions - Culture.** Friday morning opened with a philosophical discussion about the conflicting national cultures of Canada, the U.S. and First Nations. History, landscape and culture shape our worldviews and inform our approaches to conservation. Crown “thought leaders” Ian Dyson, Michael Jamison, and Leroy Little Bear led us on this intellectual journey. Small group panels about hunting and angling culture, faith and conservation, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge explored the links between culture and conservation. shared college campus culture and personal motivations for conservation, and a panel on the Iinii Initiative closed the conference.

**Panel and breakout sessions - Conservation.** A natural resources panel addressed ways climate change is impacting culture, community and conservation in the Crown. Melly Reuling (climate change overview), Ann Schwend (water), Bob Harrington (fire) and Paulette Fox (biocultural diversity and climate change) examined our changing landscape. A breakout session about the creation of a Landscape Conservation Design for the Crown further examined natural resource issues in the context of climate change.

**Evaluation.** Participant evaluations were very favorable, with special appreciation for tribal and youth perspectives, but also asked for more time for discussion, less content and broader representation from small business and government decision-makers.

## I. Conference Highlights

Thursday, October 13, 2016

### Welcome and Overview

*Jo-Anne Fisher* of the Ktunaxa Nation, *Wayne Stetski*, Member of Parliament for the Kootenay-Columbia region, and *Dan McSkimming* from the City of Fernie welcomed participants. Jo-Anne read opening remarks from *Kathryn Teneese*, Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation Council who welcomed attendees to Ktunaxa territory and appreciated the broad representation at the meeting. She wrote, “It is vital that we all work together to find common ground and understanding in all the work we do.” Our shared landscape, she wrote, “is the only one we have.” Wayne Stetski expressed gratitude for the Ktunaxa’s care of the landscape, appreciated the good work from good people in the room, and encouraged participation in politics. Moderator *Shawn Johnson* from the Roundtable Leadership Team shared the history of the group and talked about the “One Backyard” theme, which expresses the goal of the Roundtable to establish a shared landscape identity and stewardship.



*Wayne Stetski, MP of Kootenay-Columbia*



*Jo-Anne Fisher, Ktunaxa Nation*

### Crown of the Continent Traverse

Steven Gnam shared photographs and stories from his 600-mile run/peak scramble along the spine of the Crown of the Continent. Last year, he traveled with long distance runners Michael Foote and Michael Wolfe from the Rattlesnake Wilderness at the southern end of the Crown to Banff National Park, above the northern boundary. Steven and the two Michaels moved like wide-ranging wildlife species across the landscape and were subject to many of the same obstacles and challenges.



### Crown Café



The Crown Café is a highly valued opportunity for participants to stand up and share their latest innovations and ideas with other attendees in short 1-2 minute sound bites. These quick updates from agency, academic, conservation, tribal, local government, agency and private land partners throughout the Crown highlighted projects, successes, and collaborative efforts. Updates from Roundtable participants at the Crown Café can be found in

Appendix C.

### **Panel Discussion: Is the Sky the Limit? Geotourism in a Changing Climate**

*Norma Nickerson*, University of Montana Institute for Tourism and Recreation, moderated this panel and reviewed how geotourism sustains and enhances the geographical character of a place.

*Jeff Mow*, Glacier National Park superintendent, spoke about the National Park Service's 100-year anniversary and the celebrations and community events they planned. Climate change was an important educational component of these events. In September, they helped organize the *Hands Across Borders* workshop where leaders from 28 transboundary conservation initiatives shared experiences and stories. Jeff also highlighted the record visitation experienced in 2016. Over the past two years, visitation has increased by 52% due to the Centennial, lower gas prices,

unrest overseas, exchange rates, and Chinese tourism. Although the Park was more crowded, visitors reported more positive comments than in the past. There are efforts to explore issues related to visitation levels, new transportation, communication technology, climate change, land use practices and public investment in the Park. The Park is working with local communities to enhance visitor experience and alleviate pressure. Engaging the message outside of Park boundaries is an important part of Park tourism.

*Matt Folz*, who works with Xanterra, also participates in *Climate Smart: Glacier Country*, a collaborative partnership in the Flathead Valley that brings people together to develop awareness and solutions to climate-related challenges. The group has assembled working groups to address: (1) education and outreach; (2) transportation; (3) natural resources; (4) sustainable economic development; (5) community self-reliance; and (6) the built environment.

They are working together because the economy is connected to the landscape. Climate change is not just a geologic change; it is also an economic change. As all of these sectors face new pressures, passion for place can drive projects, and projects protect this place.



*Bev Thornton* of the Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance collaborates on economic initiatives like farming, ranching, alternative and renewable energy. These initiatives contribute to the geotourism experience and are interconnected. The Crown of the Continent Geotourism Map celebrates the geographical character of a place -- its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture and the well-being of its residents. The map includes sightseeing, ecotourism, agritourism, local cuisine, indigenous tourism, and heritage. Many are building brands together around sustainable businesses, fun and authentic experience. Unsustainable tourism brings degradation of place, lower quality experiences, loss of distinctiveness, and erosion of nature and culture. Geotourism is aimed at sustainability and tries to retain authenticity, so that people take time to enjoy where they live. Waterton Park and surrounding communities are likely to experience increased tourism in 2017 when entry to all national parks will be free in Canada. As much as she wants people to come and enjoy the parks, we want them to have great experiences. Culture, community, conservation and climate are the connected to that experience. From a management perspective, we should anticipate what is going to happen, regulate it, and communicate it to visitors.

Norma summarized by noting that when people are attached to a place, they are more likely to be supportive by donating money or volunteering, and so we need to create place identity. The Parks share borders with tribes and should work closely with them. By bringing destination marketing organizations together, they can partner on ways to share stories through arts and history. Climate is forcing changes and we should manage the visitation in the Park and increase the opportunities outside the Park.

## Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts

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### ***Cultural Tourism***

“Indian Country is Open for Business” states a Montana Tourism slogan. This session discussed how tribes and First Nations in the Crown are planning for tourism and exploring the tensions of both celebrating and protecting culture. *Heather Sobrepena* of Montana Tourism described her work using tribal tourism as a tool for economic development on reservations, in a way that preserves cultural respect and sovereignty.



*St. Eugene Resort, Ktunaxa Nation*

*Margaret Teneese*, archivist for the Ktunaxa Nation, followed with the story of the St. Eugene Mission, which was originally a mostly-residential school for the Ktunaxa where they experienced cultural suppression and the loss of their language. The Ktunaxa reclaimed the school and renovated it with cooperation from other First Nations and built a 5-star golf resort, hotel and casino. Margaret emphasized the transformation of the school building where so much culture was lost, to a tribally run enterprise that houses a museum of Ktunaxa culture. *Rich Janssen* of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Natural Resources Department described the cultural tourism draw of the tribes’ natural resources on the reservation: the Mission Mountains, Flathead Lake, and the Bison Range. Outdoor recreation is a significant economic factor on the reservation and many people come to hike, hunt, fish, and boat. The tribe balances revenue with solitude in wilderness, and visitation with grizzly bear contact and conflicts. *Lea Whitford*, a planner with the Blackfeet Tribe, spoke about efforts of Blackfeet Country Tourism to expand campgrounds and visitor facilities to target new visitors. Externally, the Blackfeet are establishing partnerships with other communities and the Park; internally, they are establishing a Blackfeet Parks and Recreation Department. Making money through cultural attraction is complex, but it can work with honest, authentic communication.

### ***Local Government and Competing Industries***

Three mayors from mountain towns in the Crown discussed the unique challenges and successes experienced balancing tourism with other industries. *Jean Curtiss*, a Missoula County Commissioner, moderated the session, and each community leader discussed strategies for paying for infrastructure and services used seasonally by large numbers of tourists in municipalities that have relatively small resident populations and tax bases. Whitefish and Fernie benefit from a 2% resort tax. Whitefish mayor *John Muhlfeld* spoke about how his community recently increased its tax to finance watershed protection projects and easements on Stoltz timberlands. Mayor *Blair Painter* noted that many Crowsnest Pass residents work away from home, often in coal, oil and gas, or other extractive industries. This municipality struggles with protecting a key wildlife corridor and offering economic opportunities with a new coal mine north of town. Both Whitefish and Fernie have mobilized passionate residents to develop town amenities such as extensive trail systems, rich arts and cultural events, and other resources disproportionate to the population base. Fernie city councilor *Phil Iddon* explained how these then attract more tourists to these towns. Crowsnest Pass is challenged to gain a more cohesive sense of identity and recognition as a tourist destination.



## ***Hunting and Angling Culture***

*Chip Weber*, Flathead Forest Supervisor, moderated this panel to explore how hunting and angling culture has historically inspired conservation and currently shapes new conservation projects and perspectives. *Pat Tabor*, president of Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, spoke about the role of outfitters in

conservation. Outfitters contribute significantly to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget, are often stewards of natural resources, and can document landscape changes. There has been a 50% decline in outfitter numbers due to increasing regulations, permit costs and high cost of living near wilderness areas. *Bill Hanlon* was introduced to hunting and fishing at an early age and mentored by a tough, Italian hunter. He linked hunting and fishing with connection to wilderness. This inspiration led him to start the BC Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the fastest growing conservation group in the country. Stories in the woods, he said, inform conservation. *Todd Tanner*, an outdoor writer, runs a conservation organization called Conservation Hawks, which focuses on problems facing sportsmen, such as climate change. He told a grizzly bear viewing story of a small, well-meaning group of people making a series of small, bad decisions, which turned into a life-threatening situation and likened this scenario to how we are handling climate change.

## ***Faith and Conservation***

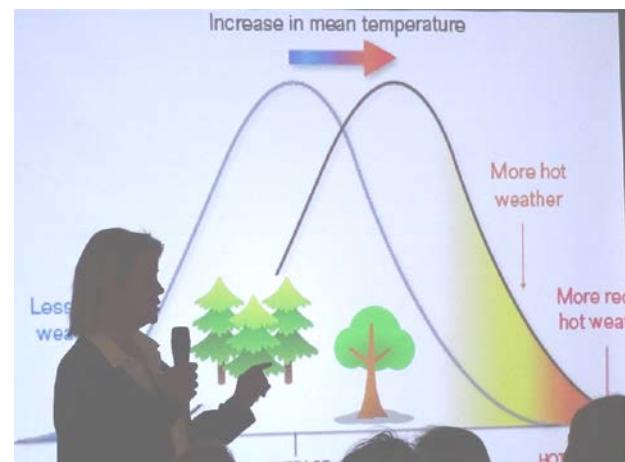
*Sue Higgins*, Center for Large Landscape Conservation; *Abby Huseth*, Faith and Climate Action Montana; and *Laura Lynes*, The Rockies Institute led a rich conversation on how the faiths and spirituality can lead to how we protect landscapes. A common theme, as emphasized by the many tribal members participating, is that scientific and traditional knowledge are complimentary and the backbone of ecology, but that we often get mired in language and trust. Sometimes systems thinking (taking things apart to analyze and categorize) gets in the way of holistic knowledge (putting things together). There is hunger for these conversations – about how the faiths and spirituality can ground conservation work in important values -- but we need to find a common language and shared energy. What the tribal spiritual leaders, Christians, Mormons and Nones (spiritual people with no religious affiliation) in the room shared was a reverence for the landscape and a desire to continue this conversation intentionally to find common ground for shared response to a changing landscape. Conversation is moving forward.



### **Panel discussion: Natural Resource Influences on Culture, Community and Conservation**

*Yvette Converse* of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative moderated this panel of natural resource experts who discussed the impacts to culture, community and conservation in the Crown of the Continent region. The four speakers spoke about climate change, water, wildfire and biocultural diversity.

*Melly Reuling*, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, pointed out that the Crown is seeing more hot days over the summer and less snowpack. This dynamic is related to a 2-degree average annual temperature increase, which has significant implications on ecosystems. She reviewed the differences between mitigation and adaptation and explained that adaptation actions are probably the better strategy in the long run. An example would be how some ranchers are managing bison over cattle as bison better at surviving a range of climate conditions. Melly stressed the importance of proactively planning for climate change.



*Ann Schwend*, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), stressed that the Crown is headwaters for many of the West's water systems. The timing and availability of water is changing – we are seeing earlier spring runoff, more flashy floods, warmer water temperatures and less snowpack. To respond to these changes, we must find more ways to naturally store water and develop strategies to supply water to places where it may be in short supply in the future.

*Bob Harrington*, Montana DNRC, talked about wildfire response. Driven by fuels, weather and topography, the nature of wildland fires is changing. Bob mentioned how the political fallout from forest fires is different from other expressions of climate change as the impact is quick and severe. As fires become more severe there are more days throughout the year that see fires, but the same level of resources to deal with those fires, so some places just won't see a response. Bob noted a recent study that suggests about 55% of forest fire increases are due to climate change.

*Paulette Fox*, Kanai Nation, shared that biocultural diversity consists of the relationships between language, culture and ecology. Because of the deep practical and spiritual relationship

many indigenous people have with their landscape and natural surroundings, it's hard for indigenous people to express their paradigms in a single format. Paulette drew from the old saying, "what we do to the land, we do to ourselves." She explained that language, land and life form a triangle around the many relationships in one's life.



*Ktunaxa youth drummers performed after dinner on Thursday night.*

Friday, October 14, 2016

### **Panel: National Cultures and Conservation**

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*Kim Davitt* of the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent introduced this philosophical panel, which examined how national cultures – American, Canadian, and Tribal – inform our approaches to conservation and partnerships. The panelists were three of the really good thinkers in the Crown landscape: *Michael Jamison*, Senior Program Manager for National Parks Conservation Association; *Ian Dyson*, a Senior Manager for Trans-boundary Outcomes at Alberta Environment and Parks; and *Leroy Little Bear*, an active consultant and professor emeritus at the University of Lethbridge.

*Michael Jamison* emphasized that it is most important to first talk about our cultural differences and the places we disagree. As an example, he spoke of the way the U.S. and Canada were approaching climate change very differently; America looks regionally at climate adaptation and Canada focuses on global policy and climate mitigation. Michael discussed America's inheritance of Descartes and the Manifest Destiny, and how science was transposed to nature. He discussed the need to marry scientific and traditional knowledge, which are both predictable and complementary, because the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This combination isn't necessarily going to happen, but our future hinges on a deliberate process.

*Ian Dyson* examined Canada's "kinder and gentler" apocalypse for native people and the establishment of a parliamentary system based on English and French political systems. He described Canada's "sleeping with the elephant" relationship with America, typified by the populations of each country -- 33 million in Canada and 300 million in America. Canada's population hugs the border, and though Canada has vast stretches of undeveloped areas, America has three times the number of protected areas. Ian explored the arrogance of humanism but also what unites us: human responses to environment. He concluded that we need to find a common

interest and then do something good with it. Together.



*Leroy Little Bear* reflected on indigenous culture in Europe and America and the European notion of the Crusades that God made everything for the benefit of man. This notion was brought to North America. Leroy looked at polarities and broad differences in Tribal and Western cultures. Indigenous people think from a state of flux. Westerners have more static thinking. Native people believe everything is made up of energy forces; Westerners believe it's made of matter. For native people, everything is animate; for Westerners, everything is inanimate except "You and I". For native people, everything is related and made of relationships; Westerners value certainty. Native people value renewal and place; Westerners value nouns and time.

### **Panel: Culture of Partnerships**

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Moderator *Stella Swanson* shared the Elk River Alliance's broad experience in establishing collaborative relationships among diverse groups with a shared interest in the Elk River watershed. She introduced this panel about how partnerships are driving conservation in southeast British Columbia. Stella asked panelists why they engaged in partnership and what they got out of it.

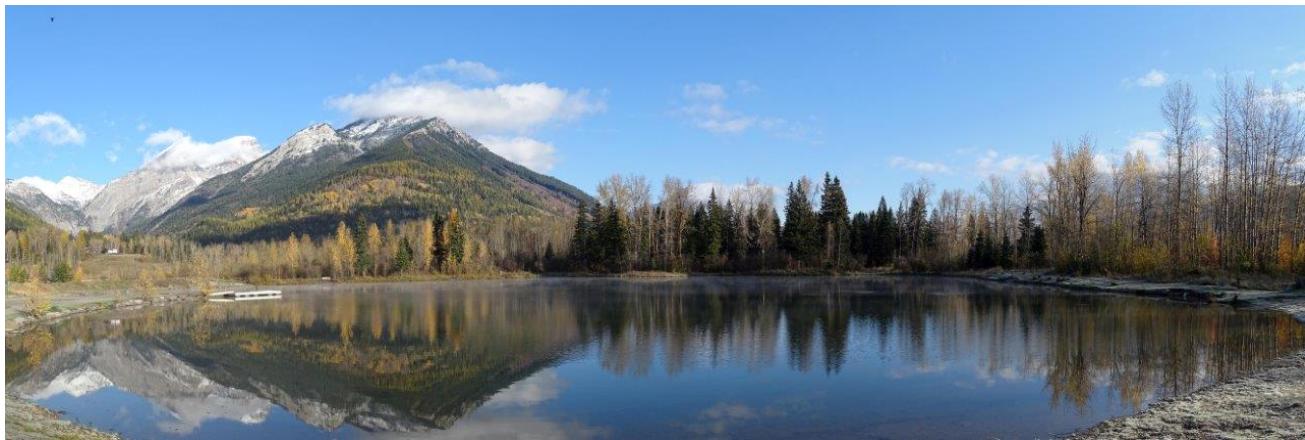
*Kevin Podrasky* of Teck Resources, one of Canada's largest diversified mining companies, relies on partnerships to help the company with its sustainability strategy and a "net positive improvement." To attain this conservation goal, Teck has partnered with many organizations and tribes, most notably the Ktunaxa, to purchase large tracts of former industrial timberland, address water quality, and work on species-specific partnerships such as the Peace Northern Caribou Committee.

*Bonnie Harvey*, a stewardship specialist with the Ktunaxa Tribe, spoke about the historic wounds and cultural genocide from the residential school system and how aboriginal title gives the Ktunaxa a right to use the land and say how it is used. She indicated that meaningful consultation can lead to improved outcomes and spoke about how the partnership with Teck Resources led to a diet study on the role of game meat and wildlife management for Ktunaxa food security.

*Kari Stuart-Smith*, of the Canadian Forest Products, Ltd. in interior British Columbia, says that Canfor has a relationship protocol with the Ktunaxa to identify areas of high conservation value. They have also worked with Wildsight on "effectiveness monitoring" to see if protection of high-value areas is working. Kari believes that partnerships are critical to Canfor's social license in the region. Wildsight is a non-profit in the Ktunaxa territory with a goal to instill a conservation ethic.

*John Bergenske*, Wildsight's Program Director, said that the focus is often on water, wildlife, and wild places. All programs are tied to partnerships to accomplish outreach, citizen science, the national selenium task force, mountain caribou recovery, and many others.

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## **Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts**

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### **Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

*Lea Whitford*, Tribal Liaison for the Crown Roundtable, moderated this session which explored different ways of knowing and how tribal culture greatly influence indigenous approaches to conservation.

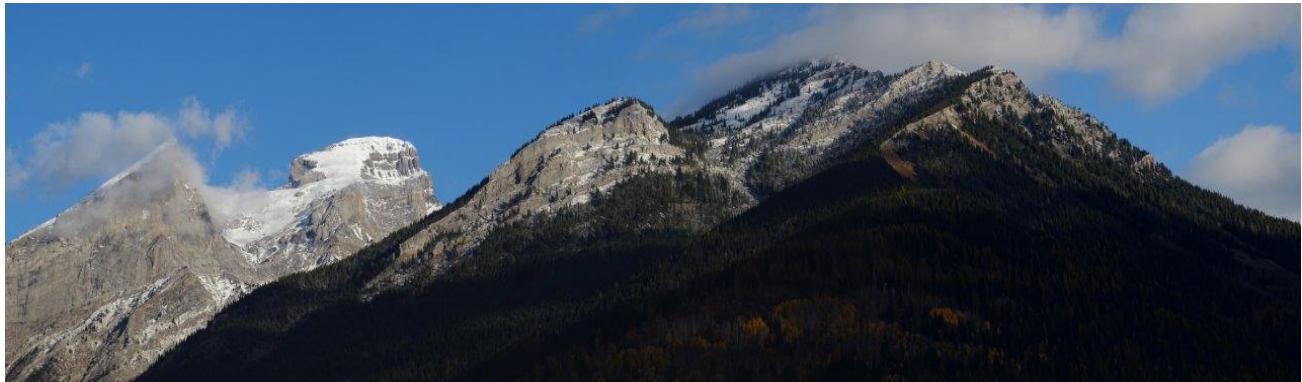
*Germaine White*, of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, described her project “Living Landscapes: Culture, Climate Science, and Education in Tribal Communities.” Its premise is that to have flourished for millennia, Native American tribes had to possess a profound understanding of their homelands. These connections continue to be vital for wellbeing of the people. Climate change is disproportionately affecting tribes and their lands because they are heavily dependent on their natural resources for economic and cultural identity. Moose, for example, are an important part of their culture, but moose populations are on the decline due to climate change. Tribes depended on fish, but fish are facing changing water temperatures and climates and the clash of European and native cultures resulted in fire exclusion on the land, which greatly changed landscape ecology. Traditional knowledge improves our understanding of how to adapt in the face of climate change. The project will develop a college-level, culturally based course and a high school learning unit on climate change with companion social networking software. All principles integrate traditional ways of knowing and understanding (Native Science) with western scientific knowledge.

*Bonnie Harvey* of the Ktunaxa Nation explained that for thousands of years, the Ktunaxa people have depended on the native plants and animals of the region and remain caretakers of the land. Ktunaxa stewardship is grounded in spirituality, connection, and a covenant with the Creator and the land. The seasons, landscape changes, and natural processes guide their calendar.

*Terry Tatsey*, Blackfeet Tribal councilman, told a story about leading cultural sensitivity training in Alaska. He helped tribal members create rules and bylaws for conservation. The natives wanted sustenance from the



land so the government changed the language of the laws so that natives could participate in the subsidy system. It is difficult to put a monetary value on the plants you collect and the moose you use throughout the year. But if they do not collect these resources, they will be compensated to buy their groceries. Alaska natives could not harvest anymore because the resources were not there. They agreed to put monetary values on these resources to help revive wildlife and plant populations. Through the process, they found that important moose habitat was degraded because of lack of conservation regulation. They worked together and agreed to not harvest from the area and to restore habitat. Moose started returning to the area. This is a success story of accessing both traditional and scientific knowledge to revive an area and restore animals back to that landscape. Terry advised a focus on programs that conserve resources that are important to people.



### **A Landscape Conservation Design**

*Yvette Converse* of the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative moderated this breakout session about a new conservation-planning model for the Crown.

*Erin Sexton* from the University of Montana further explained that the LCD is a way to knit together the many entities in a region. Instead of each region or agency having a goal for grizzly bears within its jurisdiction, the LCD process allows all bears to be addressed and for data layers to have a common template.

*Michael Whitfield*, Heart of the Rockies Initiative, described how Landscape Conservation Design process is working within the High Divide planning area, which connects with the Crown. Through the High Divide Collaborative, stakeholders are coming together to hear one another's concerns, build a platform of trust, and then to find common ground as the stakeholders craft their vision for the future of the landscape. Once the stakeholders have agreed to shared goals, HOTR and others are providing data and mapping to help stakeholders better understand the current situation and to visualize what their goals mean and where there are tradeoffs. The stakeholders deploy a community based, bottom-up approach to address key issues. The Collaborative emphasizes a deep level of stakeholder engagement in full collaboration. Michael contrasted this stakeholder driven approach to what is often called collaboration but is really just post decision notification or token input seeking. The hope is that this deep engagement will lead to widely supported and durable conservation strategies and outcomes.

*Melly Reuling* of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation added that the goal is not to develop a plan for everyone but to collect, store, and share common information for our respective mandates and plans. The process also allows for collaboration, shared values, and common planning standards.

## **Marketing the Crown**

*Jenn Thomsen* of the University of Montana opened this panel with these questions: 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 explored Crown of the Continent marketing campaigns, friendly small towns, and the merging of economic development and tourism.

*Pat Tabor*, of the Crown of the Continent Discovery Center in West Glacier, shared several photos from the Crown of the Continent Discovery Center and the interactive displays. He suggested that sustained geotourism is very important to visitors to the area and they are definitely hungry for information and generally supportive of local businesses, interpretation and resource protection. As a member of a gateway business community, he believes in the need to increase visitors to areas outside of the parks and in shoulder seasons.

*Sheena Pate* discussed marketing from the perspective of the Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council and its partnership with National Geographic. She has successfully connected some businesses with conservation efforts (promoted a soft footprint) and marketed the Crown through the National Geographic branded website and physical mapguide.

*Wendy Van Puymbroeck*, Manager of Business Development and Special Projects for Kootenay Rockies Tourism, discussed why her organization benefits from participation at the Crown of the Continent scale, how Parks Canada will expand tourism opportunities in 2017 with free admission to national parks, and various strategies for sharing information about gateway communities with park visitors. Partnerships matter, and a new program in partnership with Destination BC facilitates dialogue with government, communities, businesses and other sectors in matters related to tourism development strategies within the province. Discussion addresses the tools, resources, and process for inclusion in the maps and guides and how industrial tourism fits within geotourism marketing. Attendees also discussed how to interpret First Nations and Native American sites as well as marketing strategies for international versus domestic travelers.



## Panel: Student Culture and Conservation

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*Peter Gurche*, a graduate student at the University of Montana, assembled students and recent graduates from a variety of colleges and universities in the Crown (*Rachel Cramer* and *Elena Nikolaeva*, University of Montana; *Krissy Chief Moon*, Blackfeet Community College; *Livia Plara* and *Carmen Vadillo*, College of the Rockies; and *Riah Kelly*, Mt. Royal University) to discuss the way students are engaging in conservation work today. They discussed the possible shifts seeing conservation work as an activism-based effort, where rallies, civil-disobedience, and grassroots level activity were mainstays, to a more professionalized field best carried out by established NGOs and agencies in a top-down approach. The students responded that the environmental movement hasn't made a full pivot from one paradigm to the other, but rather that it has diversified and now includes a variety of approaches. Some students are called to organizing and activism, while others feel more at home in established organizations. This is a good thing, panelists felt--a greater diversity of entry points into conservation work means a greater diversity (and number) of young people who will get involved. Social media, they believed, could be both a benefit to and detraction from engaging meaningfully.

Though millennials are often seen as social media devotees, the response from the panel was even-handed. Most saw the practicality of using platforms like Facebook and Twitter for outreach, and one even mentioned that she used social media every day to promote the farmer's market she works for. However, this sort of application was seen as completely distinct from personal use of social media, which for most of the panelists was something they avoided. The greatest concern that panelists had was that social media could result in "scrolling-culture," where users are desensitized by hundreds of posts and are only drawn in by the most sensationalized headlines with the most dramatic images. Finally, panelists addressed whether climate change, as the most sweeping and difficult environmental challenge the world has ever faced, motivates or discourages the next generation. The response was that it does both, often within the same individual. Most of the panelists felt that it was impossible to not be moved to action by the consequences of unchecked climate change, and that it was also impossible to not be sometimes overwhelmed and discouraged by the difficulty of making change. Holding this contradiction within oneself is seen as perhaps the most difficult and also the most important task for the next generation of environmentalists.

## Panel: The Iini Initiative

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*Keith Aune* of the Wildlife Conservation Society moderated this panel which explored how starting with cultural values can drive a conservation process. Keith began by stating that the training of western science leads us away from each other. He quoted John Burroughs: "the longest journey we may all take is between our head and heart." Bison and humans is an ancient tale, with an important historical and cultural context. We almost lost bison, but their return is bringing people back together. Common interest has transcended boundaries and borders. They have found that the most important components of their campaign have been connecting youth, dissolving boundaries, healing the land, tribal sovereignty, tribal priorities, and cultural and spiritual connections.

*Leroy Little Bear* of the Kanai Nation and University of Lethbridge believes science is about sustainability, and buffalo embodies the ecology of an important system. Elders say that Kanai culture is dependent on and related to bison. Youth need bison to connect to their traditions.



First Nations realized they need to help bring bison back and create a treaty with partnerships of human ancestors and also with the animals. First Nations people from around the globe are signing on to this treaty. The Iinii Initiative gives bison the role of teacher and addresses culture, landscape, economics and research.

*Leona Tracy* is Navajo but married into a Blackfeet family. She currently coordinates the Iinii Initiative and is interested in the intersection of culture and food. She helped the Navajo learn how to harvest bison – to cook meat low and slow, appreciate the delicacies of heart, tongue and liver, make blood sausage and use the marrow for energy. She spoke about bison as bio-engineers, resilient and adaptable. Food security, she said, is a huge part of tribal sovereignty.

*“After 7 years, there is a new air of connection and the need to build trust around a shared language. I feel inspired, informed and motivated following this meeting.”*

*Terry Tatsy* of the Blackfeet Business Council gave a history of bison and the Blackfeet. He helped incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into Blackfeet Community College curriculum. It is a more integrated approach that helped keep people engaged in college when they were losing interest. Bison reintroduction on the Blackfeet reservation integrates many different subjects.

To close the meeting, *Shawn Johnson*, member of the Roundtable Leadership Team recapped and integrated the two days of topics and Leroy Little Bear gave a closing prayer.

## II. Evaluation

The post-meeting evaluation provided valuable feedback with overall “very good” ratings. There was significant appreciation for the National Cultures panel, the First Nations perspectives shared in many of the panels and presentations, and student participation. Participants valued philosophical and historical perspectives, “having the hard conversations,” and the opportunity to hear 1-2 minute updates from everyone during the Crown Café. Once again, the conference agenda was too tight for many participants and constructive feedback included the need for fewer presentations, more time for each topic, longer breakout sessions and more opportunities for discussion.

*“Try to keep the Roundtable as organic, informal, and engaging as possible so it doesn’t turn into a ‘regular’ conference.”*

Conference participants suggested that they’d like to see more time given to topics, more opportunities for interaction and networking, and “roundtable” discussions. They’d also like opportunities to take field trips and get outside. There were many suggestions about topics for next year’s conference. Several participants agreed that it would be interesting to explore the points of disagreement in the region and have the hard conversations. Others would like further probing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and First Nations-led sessions about natural resources. Others would like to broaden the climate change topic to include impacts in our daily lives and lifestyle choices, explore wildlife issues, and learn more about local, small business sustainable practices.

## Appendices



### Attendance List

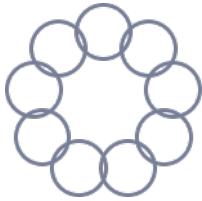
Ian	Allaway	<a href="mailto:ian.allaway@umontana.edu">ian.allaway@umontana.edu</a>	Missoula	MT	University of Montana
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# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

*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, 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**

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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

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 2016 CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM**

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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

**7th ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**  
“One Backyard: Celebrating a Shared Landscape”

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 **CONFERENCE CONVENES: WELCOME**  
Wayne Stetski, MP for the Kootenay-Columbia  
Mary Giuliano, City of Fernie  
Jo-Anne Fisher, Ktunaxa Nation

10:20 **One Backyard: the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**  
Shawn Johnson, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy

10:30 **The Crown of the 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 **Crown Café**  
*Quick updates about Crown news from conference participants, including Crown-wide student initiatives.*

11:45 **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

12:45

## LUNCH

1:45

### **Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts** (45 minutes each) Introduced by Kim Davitt, Roundtable Coordinator

*(Choose 1 – start at 2:00)*

#### **1. Cultural Tourism: “Indian Country is Open for Business” (Ballroom #1)**

*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

Margaret Teneese, Archivist, Ktunaxa Nation

Moderator: Heather Sobrepena, Montana Tourism

#### **2. Local Government and Competing Industries (Ballroom #2)**

*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 Giuliano, Fernie mayor

John Muhlfeld, Whitefish mayor

Blair Painter, Crowsnest Pass mayor

Moderator: Jean Curtiss, Missoula County Commissioner

#### **3. Hunting and Angling Culture (Morrissey Room)**

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

Todd Tanner, Conservation HAWKS

Bill Hanlon, BC Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Patrick Tabor, Montana Outfitters & Guides Association

Moderator: Chip Weber, US Forest Service

#### **4. Faith and Conservation Discussion (Café)**

*Faith and spirituality encourage us to think outside ourselves and are driving stewardship efforts and political activism in the Crown. Join others in thinking about how scientists and faith groups can continue to work together, share information and communicate.*

Sue Higgins, Center for Large Landscape Conservation

Abbey Huseth, Faith and Climate Action Montana

Laura Lynes, The Rockies Institute

2:45

## BREAK

3:00	<p><b>Natural Resources Influences on Culture, Community and Conservation</b>  <i>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.</i></p> <p><b>Climate change in the Crown</b> – Melly Reuling, Center for Large Landscape Conservation</p> <p><b>Water implications of a changing climate</b> – Ann Schwend, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation</p> <p><b>Wildfire implications of a changing climate</b> – Bob Harrington, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation</p> <p><b>Biocultural diversity and climate change</b> – Paulette Fox, Harmony Walkers, Kanai Nation</p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Yvette Converse, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative</p>
4:00	<p><b>Small Group Conversations: What does 2 degrees mean in your work and life?</b>  <i>Find your small group for a roundtable discussion and discuss the impacts of climate change and how the Crown community can respond.</i></p> <p><i>Question 1: What challenges and obstacles are you facing?</i></p> <p><i>Question 2: What information and tools do you need from your colleagues?</i></p>
5:00	<b>BREAK</b>
6:00	<p><b>Socializing and No-Host Bar</b>  <i>Poster input to follow up small group conversations.</i></p> <p><i>Display of Mt. Royal students' research.</i></p>
6:30	<p><b>Dinner</b>  <i>Ktunaxa Drummers at 7:30</i></p> <p><i>Showing of documentaries Our Last Refuge: The Badger Two Medicine Story (24 min.) and Wild Bison: The Long Trail Back (10 min.) at 8:30</i></p>

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

7:30	<b>Coffee and Pastries</b>
8:00	<p><b>Preview of the Day (Ballroom)</b>  Shawn Johnson, Facilitator for the Roundtable, Center for Natural Resource and Environmental Policy</p>

8:15	<p><b>National Cultures and Conservation</b>  <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Canada - Ian Dyson, Alberta Environment and Parks</i>  <i>United States - Michael Jamison, National Parks and Conservation Association</i>  <i>Tribal Nations - Leroy Little Bear, University of Lethbridge</i>  <i>Moderator – Kim Davitt, Crown Roundtable</i></p>
9:15	<p><b>The Culture of Partnerships</b>  <i>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.</i></p> <p>Kevin Podrasky, Teck Resources  Bonnie Harvey, Ktunaxa Nation  Kari Stuart-Smith, Canadian Forest Products, Ltd.  John Bergenske, Wildsight  Moderator: Stella Swanson, Elk River Alliance</p>
10:15	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>
10:30	<p><b>Culture, Community and Conservation Breakouts</b> (45 minutes each)  Introduced by Kim Davitt, Roundtable Coordinator  <i>(Choose 1)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Traditional Ecological Knowledge – TEK (Ballroom 1)</b>  <i>This session explores different ways of knowing and how tribal culture greatly influences the approach to conservation.</i>  <i>Germaine White, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</i>  <i>Melissa Weatherwax, Blackfeet Community College</i>  <i>Moderator: Lea Whitford, Roundtable Tribal Liaison</i></li> <li><b>2. A Landscape Conservation Design for the Crown (Ballroom 2)</b>  <i>Yvette Converse, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative</i>  <i>Michael Whitfield, Heart of the Rockies</i>  <i>Melly Reuling, Center for Large Landscape Conservation</i>  <i>Erin Sexton, UM Institute for Ecosystems</i></li> <li><b>3. Marketing the Crown (Morrissey Room)</b>  <i>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.</i>  <i>Pat Tabor, Crown of the Continent Discovery Center</i>  <i>Wendy Van Puymbroeck, Kootenay Rockies Tourism</i>  <i>Sheena Pate, Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council</i>  <i>Moderator: Jenn Thomsen, University of Montana</i></li> </ol>

11:15

### **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 an effective or distancing tool? We will hear from students from tribal colleges, community colleges and universities in the Crown region.*

*Rachel Cramer and Elena Nikolaeva, University of Montana*

*Brandon Fish, Blackfeet Community College*

*Carmen Vadillo, College of the Rockies*

*Riah Kelly, Mt. Royal University*

*Moderator: Peter Gurche, University of Montana*

12:15

### **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.*

*Terry Tatsey, Blackfeet Business Council*

*Mike Bruised Head, Blood Tribe Councilor*

*Leona Tracy, Iinii Initiative*

*Moderator: Keith Aune, Wildlife Conservation Society*

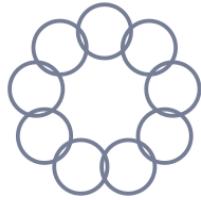
1:15

Summary, Closing Prayer, and **LUNCH**

2:00

**Conference Adjourns**

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# Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Connecting People to Sustain & Enhance Culture, Community, & Conservation

## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORS

**Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks**

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East Kootenay Invasive Species Coalition

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Glacier National Park Conservancy

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*\*Bold indicates partner-level sponsorship*



## Crown Café

*Updates from the participants at the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent conference  
Thursday, October 13, 2016*

**Victoria Cox** – Mt. Royal University – Students have compiled research from 2000-2015 in the Crown of the Continent region and have annotated 220 resources. This compilation can be found on the Crown Managers Partnership website at <http://crownmanagers.org/crown-research/>

**Chip Weber** – Flathead National Forest – The Flathead is going through Forest Plan revision. Recommended Wilderness is one of the key issues. The Forest is also planning a large landscape-scale project: the Blackfoot-Swan Restoration Project on 1.5 million acres.

**Ryland Nelson** – Wildsight – Ryland’s goal is to complete the Waterton International Peace Park and add areas to the Crown. He’s also working on Roadwatch BC (<http://www.roadwatchbc.ca/>).

**Stella Swanson** – Elk River Alliance – This group is working on watershed-scale processes around flooding and hydrology. More found at <http://www.elkriveralliance.ca/>

**Juliet Craig** – Kootenay Conservation Program – This large partnership in SE British Columbia is working on stewardship. There are partner profiles on the website and their annual meeting is Nov. 25-26 in Creston and focused on tools for private land conservation.

**Jeff Mow** – Glacier National Park – GNP is working on a transboundary Dark Skies Initiative. Well-attended Dark Skies parties in the summer.

**Connie Simmons** – Y2Y – Advocating for a full scale restoration management plan for the recently-designated Castle Parks in SW Alberta. Also promoting restoration and wildlife connectivity on Highway 3 in the Crowsnest area.

**Debo Powers** – North Fork Preservation Association – Working to protect watersheds, wilderness and wildlife, with special focus on Flathead Forest Planning, the Whitefish Range, and prohibitions of grizzly bear hunting.

**Sue Higgins** – Center for Large Landscape Conservation – Sue is working on an effort to connect science and faith/spirituality in the Crown landscape. She has held workshops with faith leaders and is completing an assessment of tools related to climate change adaptation for their use. Sue also spoke about Abby Huseth’s work with Faith and Climate Action Montana.

**Julie DalSoglio** – EPA – Working on transboundary water quality in Lake Koocanusa and selenium water quality standards. A larger transboundary group needs to organize to address this issue.

**Larin Gunther** – Oldman Watershed Council – Working on SW Alberta planning efforts. Offered flash drives for a documentary about living downstream. You can view the trailer here <http://oldmanwatershed.ca/film-trailer>

**Krissy Chief Moon** – Blackfeet Community College/Blood Reserve – Krissy is the Loon Ranger and surveys loons on the Blackfeet reservation every summer. She is a dual citizen and hopes to bring similar programming to the Blood Reserve. She's looking for volunteers in July for Loon Days.

**Nic Milligan** – Teck Resources – Teck recently signed an agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation. It was a four year process guided by the Ktunaxa stewardship covenants. Teck is closing the Coal Mountain operation in 2017 and beginning a reclamation process.

**Britney Barnett** – MT Conservation Corps – Britney is MCC's youth coordinator and working with middle schoolers on backpacking trips. She's looking for new ideas and partnerships for youth.

**Laura Lynes** – The Rockies Institute – The Institute is working with the Blood Tribe on climate adaptation planning and education. They are attending the Climate talks in Marrakesh in October.

**Aubrie Lorona** – Crown of the Continent Discovery Center – The Discovery Center is located in West Glacier. They are building an exhibit about the Crown region to spread the wealth of tourism and to educate visitors.

**Pat Tabor** – Montana Outfitters and Guides Association – These are interpreters and stewards of the land. His presentation later in the day will examine the role of outfitters and guides in education and conservation.

**Mary Riddle** – Crown Managers Partnership – Focusing on invasives, 5 needle pines, fire, climate change, and connectivity. They are supported by various government agencies and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. Their annual forum will be in Choteau March 14-16 and focus on drought management.

**Loren Bird Rattler** – Blackfeet Nation – Loren is working on an agriculture lands management plan that incorporates holistic management, conservation efforts and proposes tribally owned parks and forests. It includes cultural practices and connects stories with plans. Loren is looking for partners to help fill research and science gaps.

**David McIntyre** – Livingston Landowners – Working on planning efforts in Southwest Alberta.

**Matt Hart** – Vital Ground Foundation – This regional land trust based in Missoula is guided by grizzly bear habitat needs, facilitates conservation easements, and reduces bear-human conflicts.

**Wayne Stetski** – MP for Kootenay-Columbia region, former regional manager for BC Parks – Need more people who care about the environment in politics. Think about expanding your career to politics.

**Carl Prinzing** – Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly – Expanding Crown Rotary group participation in the Assembly. Interested in Park designation for the Flathead.

**Yvette Converse** – Coordinator of the GNLCC – Works in partnership to support numerous conservation efforts in the Crown and broader Greater Northern LCC region.

**Todd Larsen** – East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council – Focusing on invasive species. The group has formed partnerships with Alberta, Montana and BC and is working on the transboundary Flathead border.

**Jim Williams** – MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Working on landscape level conservation easement in the Whitefish Range. They need partners.

**Sheena Pate** – Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council – The group is celebrating their 10 year anniversary. The Council promotes Crown stories. You can visit the map guide at <http://crownofthecontinent.natgeotourism.com/>

**Leona Tracy** – Iinii Initiative – The Blackfeet Nation has welcomed bison back. The Buffalo Treaty was recently signed in Banff. Oil and gas leases were cancelled in Badger Two Medicine.

**Lacy Robinson** – Y2Y – Working on a collaborative, transboundary group in the Cabinet Purcells and interested in what's working best in the Crown.