

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Crown Managers Partnership, Transboundary Conservation Initiative:
Implementing a Landscape Conservation Design for Landscape-Scale Conservation
Priorities and Landscape Stressors Across the Crown of the Continent

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Student Participation: no

Effective Dates: 3/1/2017 - 12/31/2022

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Mary Riddle, Glacier National Park, PO Box 128, West Glacier Montana
59936 (406) 888-7898, (406) 888-7904 mary_riddle@nps.gov

Investigator: Erin Sexton, Senior Scientist, University of Montana, Flathead Lake
Biological Station, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, Montana; 406-250-8518;
erin.sexton@mso.umt.edu

Project Abstract: In 2001 managers of twenty-two land management agencies in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem formed the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP). The two national parks form the core of the CCE that includes the area where Montana, British Columbia and Alberta share common boundaries. This project will enable the 22 members of the Partnership, which includes Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, to more effectively carry out its mission to cooperate in management the worldwide significant and unique shared resources of the CCE and continue work on the Transboundary Conservation Initiative (formerly known as the ecological health project for the Crown). Activities of the CMP are organized by the steering committee of which Glacier National Park currently serves as the Chair. The steering committee develops and presents a work plan to the full CMP for discussion and is approved annually.

The Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) is linking managers, researchers, conservation organizations, and regional partnerships to implement a Landscape Conservation Design, for a suite of conservation priorities and landscape stressors across the transboundary Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE). The CMP's priorities for this time period include bull trout and westslope cutthroat, five-needle pines, invasive species (both aquatic and terrestrial plants), fire, meso-carnivores, and connectivity for wildlife. In the coming year, we will work with partners and stakeholder to develop a Landscape Conservation Design framework for the Crown of the Continent, incorporating each of the individual priorities and stressors, and working with our landscape partners to 1) Develop a planning framework, 2) Evaluate baseline/reference condition, 3) Develop a framework for identifying goals and desired future conditions, 4) Incorporate geospatially explicit data and analysis in all stages, and 5) Implement in an adaptive management framework.