

Developing Metadata Framework for Crown of the Continent Ecosystem *Final Report* December 15, 2007

Task Agreement Number: J1434070023 Project Number: UC-1

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Please see: <a href="http://www.rockies.ca/chameleon/cmp/">http://www.rockies.ca/chameleon/cmp/</a>

One of the main goals included in the CMP Strategic Plan is to improve data sharing and methodology standardization across the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The development of a metadata framework was identified as an efficient and effective way to address this goal by providing access to GIS metadata and reference materials available throughout the Crown region. The Miistakis Institute was retained to develop a web-based metadata framework.

The CMP data framework initial prototype is on line in draft form, and consists of a website portal designed to help share information -- or links to information -- with other partners in the CMP. All data included in the framework are spatially searchable, along with the normal keyword style of search. The system was designed to host various bibliographic records with a priority on grey literature, links to external web based information (i.e., links to existing reports on other websites), and metadata for spatial layers (with information on how to obtain these data).

The database currently searches approximately 11,000 records, in four different databases. All data included in the framework is spatially searchable where feasible, along with the normal keyword style of search. Recognizing that this represents the completion of the prototype, there are many databases that have been identified that Miistakis is currently working on to include in the Framework. These include Nature Bib, ENRIS database, STORET and publications from the Flathead Biological Station.



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The tool is continually refined based on agency user input, and use of the portal will be promoted amongst the agencies, including a presentation of the framework at the CMP Ecological Health Workshop on Jan 30/31 in Cranbrook, B.C. and at the CMP Forum on March 5/6 in Whitefish, Montana.

The following slide deck summarizes the major components of the metadata framework prototype. This prototype has been presented to the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) Steering Committee and a CMP sub-committee has been formed to identify priorities for the next phase of the Framework development.





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# Data framework

- CMP data framework consists of a website portal designed to help share information, or links to information, between partners in the CMP
- Currently many databases already exist within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem meeting the needs of their respective organizations
- The purpose of the web catalog is to provide an interface to search each of these individual databases across the internet allowing organizations to retain ownership and control of their respective datasets while improving access for all

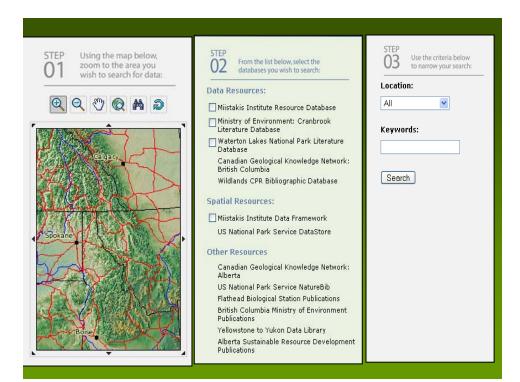
# **Operationalizing the framework**

- The CMP Data Framework is a web based search service designed to query GIS and Literature databases relevant to the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem
- The database currently searches ~11,000 records, in four different databases. On the horizon we expect to add at least three more databases
- All data included in the framework will be spatially searchable where feasible, along with the normal keyword style of search



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1	Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Fen Ecological System Concept Summary: This system occurs infrequently throughout the Rocky Mountains from Colorado north into Canada. It is confined to specific environments defined by ground water discharge, soil chemistry, and peat accumulation of at least 40 cm. Most fens in the Rocky Mountains are considered Inte URL: http://www.natureserve.org/getData/pdf/rocky_mtns/Rocky_Moun			
2	Water Conservation for Alberta: Techniques and Experiences Water conservation in Alberta is necessary because the expansion of water supplies using structural means is no longer financially feasible of politically expedient. The first selection of the report outlines some of the pressures on water resources in the province. The second details methods of wa URL: http://www.natureserve.org/getData/pdf/rocky_mtns/Rocky_Moun			
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3	Alberta Farmstead Water Quality Survey Executive Summary. Alberts's 50,000 farms access a variety of water supplies for which very little water quality information is available. With increased pressures to measure the impact of primary agriculture on water quality and the awareness of health issues related to RLL http://www.natureserve.org/getData/pdf/rodxy_mtns/Rocky_Moun			
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4	Canada - British Columbia water quality assessment of Elk River at highway 93 (1968-2000). Executive Summary The Elk River watershed is located in the southeast corner of British			

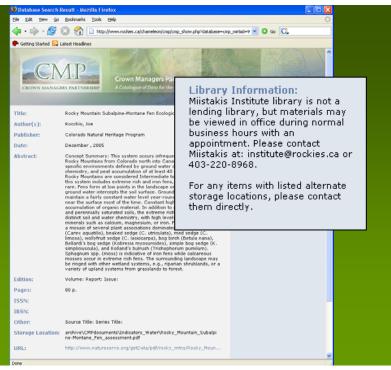
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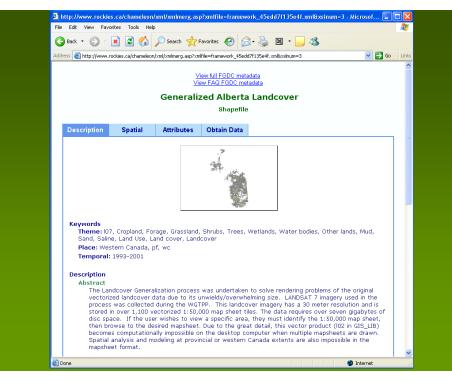
1 Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Fen Ecological System Concept Summary: This system occurs infrequently throughout the Rocky Mountains from Colorado north into Canada. It is confined to specific environments defined by ground water discharge, soil chemistry, and peat accumulation of at least 40 cm. Most fens in the Rocky Mountains are considered Inte... URL: http://www.natureserve.org/getData/pdf/rocky\_mtns/Rocky\_Moun...

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#### Next steps

The initial prototype phase of the project is complete. Phase II, as included as part of the Crown Managers Partnership 2007/2008 workplan includes the following steps:

- Design a process to obtain information from agencies as to what issues/needs the portal can address
- Meet with internal agencies representatives
- Promote ongoing use of the portal
- Refine portal functionality based on user input
- Identify additional databases which includes identifying additional data sources

A CMP Metadata Framework sub-committee has been formed (including Rich Moy, Bill Dolan, Erin Sexton, Tracy Lee and Ken Sanderson) to move forward with the next phase of the framework development. The following one-pager has been created to distribute to all CMP members to inform participants of the framework and to request databases and spatial datasets to include in the framework.



#### WE NEED YOUR HELP

A prototype of the system has been developed and we are now linking to resources through-out the Crown,.

If you are aware of a database or spatial dataset that could be included in the CMP Information Management System please contact:

> Ken Sanderson Miistakis Institute ken@rockies.ca

## Crown Managers Partnership Information Management System www.rockies.ca/chameleon/CMP

The *Crown Managers Partnership* has developed an on-line data framework to assist the partnership in managing spatial and reference information across this unique landscape.

The Crown Data Framework is unique because it links a transboundary Community of Practice (including resource managers throughout the Crown of the Continent) with a variety of content providers through the use of standards-compliant distributed technologies. The tool therefore does not house the resource information but links to and enables queries from multiple databases within the Crown. Data management follows an open standards approach to ensure that all information can be easily discovered, accessed and used. The data framework enables the consolidation and coordination of selected environmental and resource management related information held by resource management agencies in the Crown.

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On-Line interface of CMP Data Framework Tool

The design of the information management system will help demonstrate the value of distributed and local technologies to decision-making at several levels. The design of the system architecture incorporates the following tools and services;

- appropriate web service solutions to connect repositories of distributed geospatial (landform, vegetation, water, and soils), and land use data (protected areas, ecological status and thematic maps including species occurrences, probability surfaces, historical fire and flood regimes etc.).
- Incorporate a citation reference tool providing access to documents including reports, manuals, guides, status reports and research findings. These documents are usually created in-house and are typically hard to find and difficult to access.
- Provide a range of search types (geospatial, keyword and theme) and appropriate security measures.