

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Calgary
Effective Dates: 8/1/2009- 6/30/2014
Funding Amount: \$5,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: In 2001, managers of twenty-two land management agencies in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem formed the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP). 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 managing the worldwide significant and unique shared resources of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem and engage the public. The two national parks form the core of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem that includes the area where Montana, British Columbia and Alberta share common boundaries. Activities of the CMP are organized by a steering committee that develops and presents a work plan to the full CMP for discussion and approval annually. The current work plan addresses four strategic foci (improve public understanding of the Crown ecosystem, raise awareness, promote collaboration among CMP agencies and organizational strength). The specific projects include the ecological health project which involves identifying and monitoring resource indicators to assist CMP managers in their knowledge of the ecological health of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem and continuing to provide educational outreach through the Crown Managers Partnership website and maintenance of the metadata portal. Members of the CMP serve on the Steering Committee, develop and present the work plans each year and provide data and funding to the CMP. The Miistakis Institute for the Rockies at the University of Calgary has a long history with the CMP providing research and other support.

This proposal will contribute to the joint effort with British Columbia and Alberta federal and provincial agencies and tribes to determine ecological health in the crown of the continent ecosystem. It will also support efforts to expand educational outreach to the public by updating and improving the CMP website and metadata portal.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due Date for Final Report and/or Other Products: June 30, 2014

- September 30, 2010 - Support the Ecological Health Project by funding collection and management of remote sensing data: vegetation, roads, human structures (buildings, well sites, cut blocks, pipelines, etc), level of use on roads, rivers, vegetation types and structure and forest/non-forest, across the transboundary Crown of the Continent ecosystem.
- September 30, 2010-Improve, update and maintain the CMP website which provides educational outreach on authoritative and compelling information on issues, trends, management approaches and research initiatives and findings, continue access to the metadata portal and establish a separate link for Steering Committee Members and participating agencies that provides access to presentation materials, meeting notes, etc.

Keywords: Crown Managers Partnership, Glacier NP, Waterton Lakes NP, University of Calgary, Miistakis Institute of the Rockies, Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

