

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Crown of the Continent Ecological Indicators-Trend Analysis

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Calgary
Effective Dates: 7/20/2012 - 12/31/2017
Funding Amount: \$15,000[FY14: \$5,000; FY13:\$5,000; FY12: \$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). 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. 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 continue work on an ecological health project for the Crown. 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 ecological health project 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 monitoring of trends. The Miistakis Institute for the Rockies and the Geography Department at the University of Calgary have a long history with the CMP providing research and other support.

This project component 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. The Crown of the Continent Ecological Indicators Trend Analysis Project is focused on acquisition and synthesis of landscape-scale transboundary GIS data across the Crown ecosystem; production of large-area habitat and connectivity models for select wildlife species that are key indicators of terrestrial and aquatic integrity; conducting a trend analysis of these species; and the dissemination of knowledge, data products and geospatial tools to managers and collaborators through data portals and outreach programs designed to support effective conservation delivery.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: December 31, 2017

Keywords: Crown Managers Partnership, University of Calgary, Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, ecological health