
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA,
UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF
ALBERTA, CANADA,
RESPECTING THE CROWN MANAGERS' PARTNERSHIP**

Preamble

For this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Province of Alberta and State of Montana (the "Participants") recognize: 1) the environmental values of this signature landscape called the 'Crown of the Continent', 2) that both sovereigns exercise jurisdiction over separate portions of this landscape, 3) our joint support for the vision and objectives of the Crown Managers' Partnership, and 4) the need to collaborate and work together to build positive and productive working relationships on cross border issues within the Crown ecosystem. The Government of Canada, the Government of the U.S.A. or the Province of British Columbia may also become Participants of this MOU at any time by notifying the existing Participants, in writing.

In a spirit of promoting closer relations between the Province of Alberta and the State of Montana the Participants recognize:

- a) that Canada and the United States, and the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia and the State of Montana share a common border and portions of the Rocky Mountains known as the Crown of the Continent;
- b) that the Crown of the Continent ecosystem is one of North America's most ecologically diverse and jurisdictionally fragmented regions;
- c) that the Crown of the Continent has been recognized for its aesthetically stunning landscapes, large tracts of pristine lands, and rich biodiversity and that portions of this region are recognized internationally as Biosphere Reserves and a World Heritage Site;
- d) that the Participants share similar challenges in protecting the ecological integrity and health of those portions of the Crown of the Continent under their respective jurisdictions while at the same time sustaining communities, jobs and quality of life, meeting increased recreational and tourist demands and preserving the rich ecological heritage of the region;
- e) that the Canadian and United States governments created the first International Peace Park between two nations in 1932 encompassing Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada and Glacier National Park in the United States to commemorate the goodwill, cooperation and long-time friendship between our two great countries;
- f) that there are cost-effective benefits to share staffs and information which in turn strengthens and broadens our friendships and facilitates close consultation and cooperation on trans-boundary issues;
- g) that the Crown Managers' Partnership (CMP) was created in 2001 consisting of government agencies from Canada, the United States, the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, the State of Montana, and Indian Tribes to address the many challenges to the Crown of the Continent's long-term ecological health; and
- h) that the CMP strategic vision is "*An ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent ecosystem*" and its mission is to work together to achieve this vision by:
 - building an understanding and awareness of the ecological health of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem;
 - executing individual agency mandates in alignment with the CMP's vision; and
 - building enduring relationships and collaborating across borders.

To improve understanding, raise awareness and promote collaboration on the management of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem, the Participants wish to pursue the following:

- a) learn from each others' best management practices and the world-class expertise found within both jurisdictions;
- b) support trans-boundary travel in the interests of continuing dialogue and pursuit of joint projects;
- c) improve data sharing, data collection and standardization of methodologies across borders;

- d) ensure a sustainable flow of economic, social and environmental benefits and preserve the ecological values of this outstanding landscape; and
- e) collaborate with environmental, land and resource management government agencies at the field and regional levels and encourage coordinated responses to common trans-boundary issues.

The Participants wish to assist the CMP as follows:

- sustain the CMP as an effective and vibrant partnership;
- support the CMP goals and Strategic Plan and the accomplishment of its objectives;
- maintain effective interagency collaboration and cooperation in designing and pursuing joint initiatives for addressing regional and trans-boundary management issues;
- promote agency and public understanding of the many significant amenities of this special place;
- develop a shared, regional approach to understand and protect the ecological health of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem; and
- commit to support the CMP project entitled "Managing for Ecological Health." This project will proceed through the following sequential steps:
 - describe the current ecological health conditions of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem;
 - understand past and future trends for the various ecological health parameters and their environmental implications;
 - identify the desired ecological health condition for the Crown of the Continent in consultation with the broader community and stakeholders; and
 - collaborate and adapt environmental and natural resource management strategies to achieve the desired ecological health condition.

Financial Responsibilities

Each Participant is committed to provide \$10,000 per annum for three years (U.S. dollars) commencing 2007/08 to support the CMP collaborative arrangements and projects provided that ultimately, funding decisions will reside with each Participant. The Montana Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council will periodically review and make recommendations on future funding levels.

Coordination Bodies

The coordinating bodies for this MOU are Alberta Environment and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. For clarity, legal responsibilities for decision-making will continue to rest with the appropriate agencies of each Participant.

Duration

This MOU is effective upon signing and will be reviewed annually by the Participants. This MOU will remain in effect for a term of 3 years and will be automatically renewed on a yearly basis thereafter. Each Participant has the right to terminate the MOU at anytime upon 30 days advance written notice.

Amendment

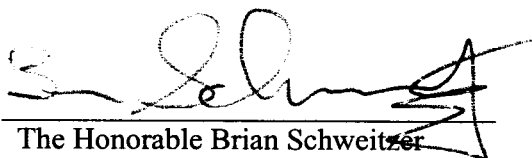
Any provisions set out in this MOU may be amended or waived by mutual agreement of the Participants in writing.

Signed in the City of Edmonton, Alberta.

This day of October 29, 2007.



The Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier
Province of Alberta



The Honorable Brian Schweitzer
Governor
State of Montana
