
CMP Annual Report - 2011/2012

Introduction

The 'Crown of the Continent' ecosystem is one of North America's most ecologically diverse and jurisdictionally fragmented ecosystems. Encompassing the shared Rocky Mountain region and immediately adjacent landscapes of Montana, British Columbia and Alberta, this 28,000 square mile / 72,000 square kilometer ecological complex spreads across two nations; one state, two provinces; and includes numerous aboriginal lands, municipal authorities, public land blocks, private properties, working and protected landscapes.

The Crown is internationally recognized for its biodiversity and landscape form. This varied landscape sees a likewise varied range of wildlife species and vegetation communities, including a full complement of large carnivores and ungulates. The valleys in the Crown of the Continent serve as important wildlife movement corridors, representing one of the last areas in the world with such large-scale connectivity.

The long term ecological integrity of the Crown is challenged because the ecosystem faces intensification in all areas of human activity, including urban and rural residential expansion, increased and diversifying recreational use, intensified demands for resource use and extraction, and the growth of the physical infrastructure needed to support all of these. These pressures exist at different intensities in different locales throughout the Crown. The effectiveness of responding to these issues is complicated by jurisdictional fragmentation.



Since 2001, government representatives from over twenty land and resource management agencies in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem have gathered to explore ecosystem-based ways of collaborating on shared issues in the transboundary Crown of the Continent. Participation has included federal, aboriginal, provincial and state agencies or organizations.

A Vision for an Ecologically Healthy Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

The Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) is now operating under its most recent Strategic Plan, completed in the fall of 2011 and will provide direction for the CMP until the end of 2015. The plan commits the CMP to create an informed and collaborative regional approach to achieving an ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. In addition, the CMP will collectively develop defined measures

of ecological health and the adaptive capacity to meet them, across borders, amongst jurisdictions and with stakeholders by the end of the decade.

CMP Steering Committee

The Crown Managers Partnership is coordinated through an Interagency Steering Committee (Steering Committee) from their members, which has included representatives from aboriginal agencies; Federal, Provincial and State agencies; the Universities of Calgary and Montana; and the Secretariat. The Steering Committee strives for representation from a variety of agencies, geographic areas and resource management sectors, and any CMP agency can be represented.

The Steering Committee takes its direction from the Partnership through the Annual Forum, and implements that direction through annually reviewed Strategic Plans and Annual work plans. Steering Committee responsibilities include:

- Design and implementation of the strategic and annual work plans;
- fund development to support the CMP's work;
- promotion of the CMP, both within and outside of their own agencies;
- oversight of the Secretariat, and any other entities operating on the CMP's behalf; and
- maintenance of the Steering Committee membership.



The CMP Steering Committee met 12 times in 2011/12. Nine of those meetings were conference calls (May 16, June 1, July 11, August 25, October 11, November 18, December 15, January 12 and February 27). Three of those meetings were face-to-face meetings in various places around the Crown region (April 18 in Cardston, AB, September 8-9 in Glacier National Park, MT and January 30 in Cranbrook, BC).

The Steering Committee in 2011/2012 consisted of the following representatives:

- Mary Riddle - Glacier National Park, MT (Chair)
- Bill Dolan - Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, AB
- Daryl Wig- Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, AB
- Jimmy DeHerrera, Flathead National Forest, MT
- Ian Dyson - Alberta Environment, AB
- Caryn Miske - Flathead Basin Commission, MT
- Erin Sexton - Flathead Lake Biological Station, MT
- Tom Bell - BC Ministry of Environment, BC
- Len Broberg - University of Montana, MT
- Mike Quinn - University of Calgary, AB
- Greg McDermid - University of Calgary, AB
- Dennis Madsen - Waterton Lakes National Park, AB

- Steve Frye - Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT
- Sasha Harriott - Secretariat - AB

Secretariat Support

The Steering Committee, on behalf of the Partnership, delegates the day-to-day management and coordination of CMP activities to a standing Secretariat. The Secretariat operates under the on-going direction of the Steering Committee.

In 2011/2012, the responsibilities of the Secretariat have included the following:

- General coordination and facilitation of the CMP;
- Agenda development, facilitation and meeting summaries for all Steering Committee meetings and the annual forum;
- Financial management for the CMP;
- Re-design of the CMP website;
- Development and distribution of the CMP newsletter;
- And coordination of internal and external communications, including the web site, communications to the Partnership, and communications within the Steering Committee.

Key Accomplishments for 2011/2012

- Revision and completion of 2011-2015 CMP Strategic Plan. The revised Strategic Plan will be a guide to improving and/or maintaining ecological health in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.
- Continuation and evolvement of the Ecological Health Project. The Ecological Health Project continues to move forward and is supported by a strong relationship between the University of Montana, the University of Calgary and United States National Park Service.
- Revision of the CMP website. The new website will provide easier navigation for users and improved information updating by switching to a content management system that can be maintained by the secretariat.
- The 2012 CMP Forum: Connections to the Land - Tribes and First Nations in the COC, held in Lethbridge, Alberta was a success. The content and discussions of the Forum were contributed by Tribes and First Nations in the Crown of the Continent. The outcome of the Forum was a commitment to moving forward by all parties towards developing cultural indicators for the Ecological Health project.

The 2012 Crown Managers Forum

The 12th annual Crown Managers Forum was hosted in Lethbridge, Alberta on March 19-20, 2012. The Forum brought together land and resource management agencies from across the three jurisdictions of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem to discuss collaborative ecosystem management issues.

The 2012 Forum was focused on First Nation and Tribal connections with the Crown of the Continent landscape and resources. The CMP Steering Committee invited representatives from the Piikani, Kainai and Ktunaxa First Nations, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes as well as archaeologists, representatives from the National Aboriginal Land Management Association and representatives from the Wildlife Conservation Society to present on a variety of topics surrounding Tribal and First Nation cultural values in the Crown of the Continent.

Objectives of the Forum included:

- 1) Bringing together CMP partner agencies with a particular emphasis on Tribes, First Nations in efforts to form a partnership focused on developing cultural indicators for the CMP Ecological Health Project;
- 2) Provide a formal and informal networking opportunity for various jurisdictions in CCE;
- 3) Report on and seek direction from the partnership on key aspects of the CMP work plan and function.

New to the forum this year was a field trip for partner agencies at Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. Participants of the guided tour were treated to a two hour session led by an interpreter of the local history around Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and the cultural significance to the local Tribal and First Nation peoples.

The Crown Managers continue to engage and include the public in their annual forum beginning with the opening presentation by Dr. Brian Reeves a local archeologist, titled: *Creating the West*. Public attendance was also encouraged for the workshop on March 20, where participants were welcomed with an opening prayer from Allan Pard, a Tribal Ceremonialist from the Piikani Nation, Chief Charles Weaselhead from the Blood Tribe also welcomed participants and Graham Statt, Deputy Minister from the Alberta Government provided a few opening words to participants.



As well as the regular features of the Forum (Steering Committee report to the Forum, agency updates, and confirmation of direction from CMP to Steering Committee), the 2012 Forum featured several presentations and a panel discussion concentrated on cultural indicators for the Ecological Health Project. These discussions helped provide direction for the 2011/2012 CMP work plan and input into the Ecological Health project. (See appendices for the 2012 Forum Agenda).

A series of presenters focused their presentations on a variety of topics including: trans-boundary conservation and buffalo restoration (Keith Aune and Leroy Littlebear), First Nations Land Management in Canada (Leona Irons), Kainai Land and

Resource Management (Okan Hungry Wolf and Elliot Fox), Guiding Growth on the Flathead Indian Reserve (Janet Camel), Flathead Lake and bull trout management (Barry Hansen), bull trout restoration and education (Germaine White), Ktunaxa language retention (Melanie Sam and Don Sam) and Ktunaxa connections between culture, economics and natural resources management (Herman Alpine).

Kathryn Teneese, Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation Council, was the dinner speaker on the night of March 20th. She shared her perspective on the Ktunaxa peoples and overall Tribal and First Nations connections to the land.

Projects

Ecological Health in the Crown of the Continent:

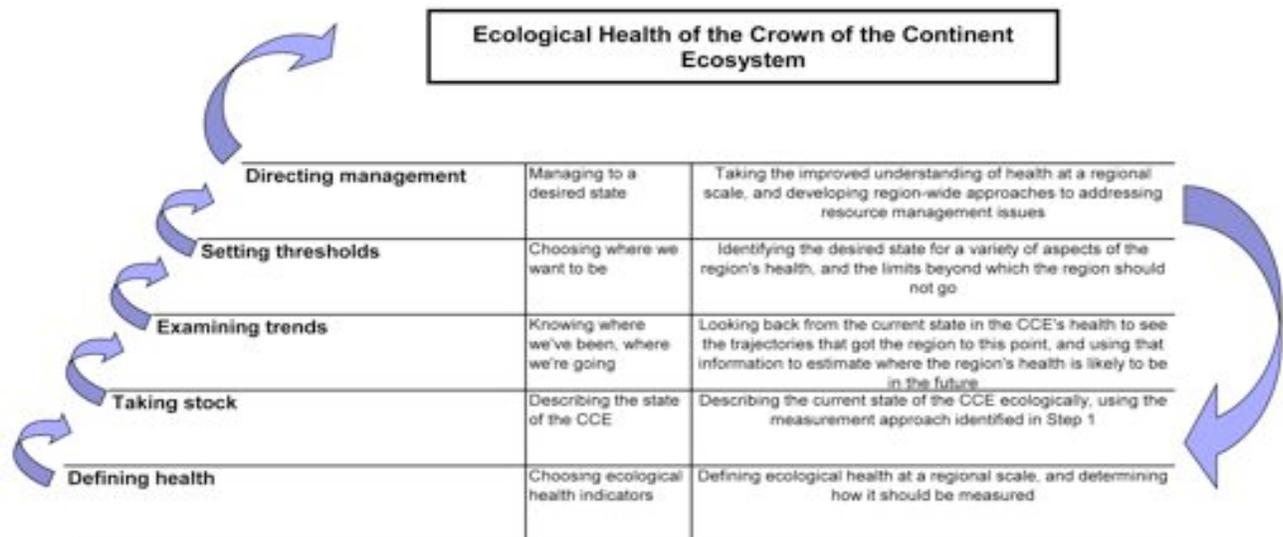
The Crown Managers Partnership is comprised of science and resource managers who voluntarily come together in an effort to encourage coordinated management of our shared trans-boundary environment, landscapes and natural resources. The CMP has adopted a Strategic Plan whereby the vision of an ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent is achieved by management actions of multiple agencies each exercising their own jurisdiction with common goals in mind.

In accordance with our vision, the CMP's strategic priority is the "Managing for Ecological Health Project" and we have identified six broad indicators to describe ecological health in the CCE: **Landscapes, Water quantity and quality, Biodiversity, Invasive species, Air quality and Climate**. The CMP is collaborating with university and agency partners on credible science-based approaches to identify the current condition of the ecological indicators (baseline) and to track and document changes over time (trend). In evaluating ecological health indicators the CMP takes a two-pronged approach. Initial emphasis is placed on Landscape Analysis, based on the assumption that land use practices and patterns influence multiple ecological health indicators. The benchmark work of the Landscape Analysis will be augmented by further supplemental analysis of individual ecological health indicators.

Managing for Ecological Health Adaptive Management Framework

The CMP Adaptive Management Framework entails the following:

1) Select indicators of ecological integrity; 2) Establish a **baseline state by which to measure change over time (trend)**; 3) Identify with the broader community the **desired state for the CCE**; and 4) **Direct collaborative management** across jurisdictions to achieve the desired state (Figure 1).



2011/2012 Ecological Health Project Activities

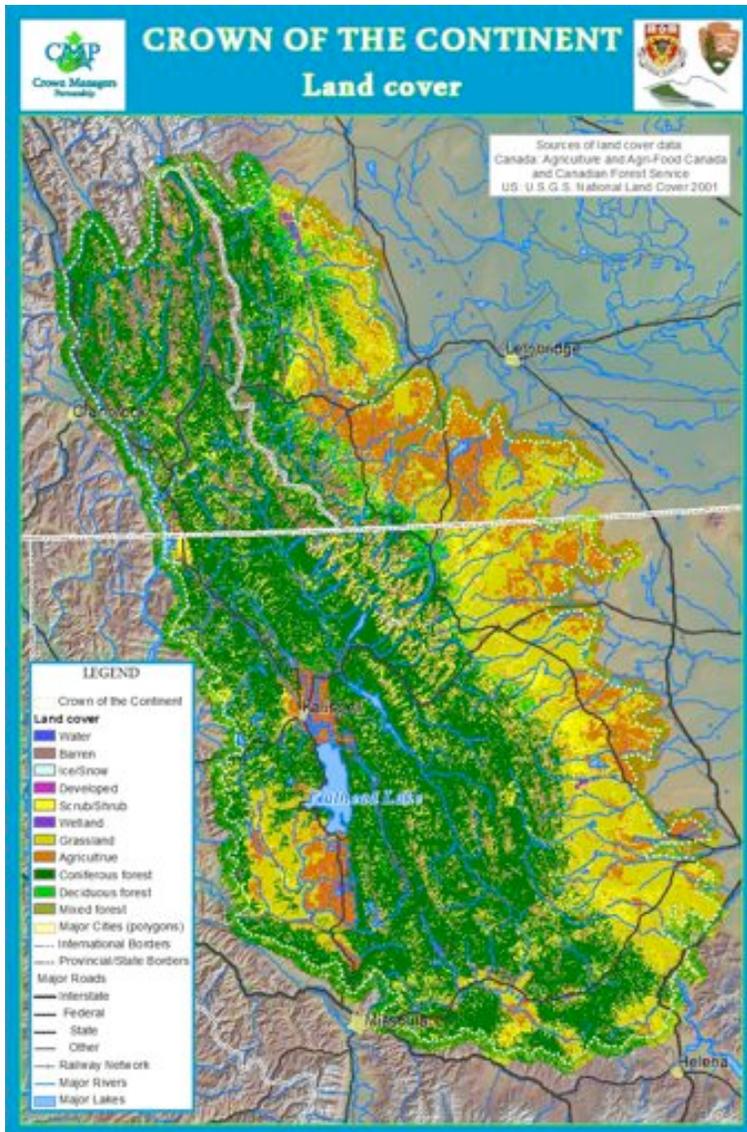
Landscapes Indicator

The CMP continues to partner with the National Park Service Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network, the University of Calgary Geography Department, the University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative to acquire and develop geospatial datasets to track cumulative changes in habitat and human use footprint consistently and reliably across the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The Landscape Analysis has three primary objectives:

- 1) Data integration and synthesis: assemblage of trans-boundary geospatial datasets for the CCE that will inform the Ecological Health Indicators. This work was completed in 2010 and is documented in the 2010 *Crown Managers Partnership Landscapes Data Review Report - A Review of Baseline Geospatial Datasets for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Landscape Project*. Crown Managers Partnership, 248p. (<http://www.crownmanagers.org/publications/>)
- 2) Describe baseline condition and analyze trend. This work is on-going and the current suite of baseline metrics can be viewed at <http://www.crownmanagers.org/baseline-maps/>
- 3) Conduct a Sensitivity Analysis that reveals the propagation of errors and uncertainty in the compiling of base map geospatial products. The first year of work on this analysis is complete and a paper is being drafted for journal submission in 2012.

- **January 31st, 2012 CMP Transboundary Data Workshop with CCE Grizzly Bear Biologists and Managers**

The CMP Steering Committee, Landscape Analysis Team and bear managers and biologists from around the CCE met in early 2012 to share the trans-boundary geospatial datasets of the Landscape Analysis, receive feedback on the usefulness of the data, and identify opportunities for collaboration around grizzly bear habitat and management. Presentations and Proceedings from this workshop can be viewed at <http://www.crownmanagers.org/presentations/>.



II Invasive Species Indicator: The CMP collaborates with America's Great Outdoors

In 2011 the Presidential America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative selected the Crown of the Continent as an AGO priority landscape and identified a number of opportunities for agency/community collaboration. One of those that had a direct tie to the CMP was the invasive species issue (data collection and response plan). Developing a crown wide presence/absence database and coordinated response plan would greatly enhance the Crown's ability to respond to these threats. Together, the AGO Agency Group and the CMP have identified noxious weeds and aquatic invasive species (AIS) as two priority issues that will greatly benefit from coordinated action across jurisdictions.

- ***Terrestrial Invasive Species - Noxious Weeds***
Work on noxious weeds began with the CMP 2005 Annual Forum on Invasive Plant Management in the Crown of the Continent and the subsequent creation of the Crown Invasive Plan Network. In 2009 a field guide titled *Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent* was published. This guide was revised in 2011

and can be downloaded at <http://www.crownmanagers.org/publications/>. Building on this capacity, the CMP and AGO are working to establish a comprehensive geospatial database of noxious weeds in the CCE with the following objectives: 1) Identify priority species and treatment areas at a landscape scale, 2) Identify new invaders throughout or jurisdictionally within the CCE and 3) Assist all land managers and stakeholders in identifying new threats just outside their jurisdictional boundaries. This work will continue in 2012 and 2013 with the data collection, compilation and mapping effort and a Forum in early 2013 to share the collective and identify next steps for working collaboratively to address noxious weed invasion throughout the CCE.

- ***Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)***

Following up on the 2011 CMP Annual Forum on Aquatic Invasive Species, the Crown Managers Partnership initiated a collaboration with America's Great Outdoors, the Flathead Basin Commission, the State of Montana and the Province of Alberta to lend support for implementation of a prevention and response plan for aquatic invasive species in the Crown. Work on this indicator thus far focuses on assembling collaborative agency partners throughout the Crown, properly funding and installing new Inspection Stations at strategic locations around the CCE and developing objectives around working with Customs and Border Patrol Agents to implement AIS inspections at the border and substantially increase protection from AIS in the CCE.



III A Cultural Resource Indicator of Ecological Integrity

In 2011 the CMP initiated conversations with the Tribes and First Nations of the Crown of the Continent about the importance of incorporating a Cultural Resource Indicator into the Ecological Health Project. The CMP recognizes the inherent connection between cultural and natural resources, particularly from the perspective of the indigenous peoples of the CCE, and is looking to the leadership of the Tribes and First Nations of the CCE to collaboratively develop this indicator. This discussion culminated in early 2012 with the Crown Managers Partnership Annual Forum, *Connections to the Land, First Nations and Tribes in the Crown of the Continent*. The Forum concluded with a shared commitment by the CMP and Tribe and First Nations Representatives to together develop the Cultural Resource Indicator, and a framework for moving forward with this discussion.

Funding Summary

The following funding summary provides the actual revenues and expenditures managed by the Miistakis Institute of the Rockies on behalf of the Crown Managers Partnership for the period of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

CMP 2011/2012 Financial Summary**Revenues**

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Carry Forward | \$45,079 |
| Parks Canada - Waterton Lakes National Park | \$10,000 |
| Alberta Environment | \$9,472 |
| State of Montana | \$9,524 |
| Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation Forum | \$20,000 |
| | \$4,407 |
| In-kind Contributions | \$250,000 |
| Other Contributions | |
| United States Parks Service | \$350 |
| Alberta Environment | \$2,065 |
| Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation | \$1,475 |
| Alberta Sustainable Resource Development | \$275 |
| Flathead Basin Commission | \$380 |
| Total Revenues | \$353,028 |

Expenses

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Secretariat Contract | \$19,514 |
| Secretariat Expenses | \$1,231 |
| Miistakis Fiscal Agent | \$5,000 |
| Strategic Plan Layout and design | \$923 |
| Ecological Health | \$15,687 |
| 2010/2011 Forum | \$199 |
| 2011/2012 Forum | \$6,073 |
| Website | \$540 |
| In-kind Expenditures | \$250,000 |
| Other Expenditures | |
| GNP Field Camp Rental | \$350 |
| Strategic Plan Printing | \$2,065 |
| Grizzly Bear Workshop Meal | \$551 |
| Conference line | \$1,200 |
| 2012 Speaker Travel Expenses | \$380 |
| Total Expenditures | \$302,982 |

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Surplus | \$50,046 |
|---------|----------|

In-kind assistance includes CMP member agencies' contributions of time and travel to Steering Committee and planning committee meetings, logistical support for events, meeting space, provision of data and background information, etc. It is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 per year.

Conclusion

Moving forward into 2012/2013, the CMP will continue to pursue an ecologically healthy Crown of the Continent ecosystem. To stay informed of progress on CMP projects and for information on the 2013 CMP Forum, visit the website at www.crownmanagers.org.



Appendix A: 2012 Crown Managers Forum Agenda



**Connections to the Land:
Tribes and First Nations in the Crown of the Continent
2012 Crown Managers Forum
March 19, 20, 21, 2012
Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, Alberta**

AGENDA

March 19, 2012

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Afternoon 4:00 p.m. | Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Tour (CMP member agencies) Hotel room check-in |
| 5:30 – 7:00 | Forum registration |
| 7:00 p.m. | Introduction to the Crown Managers Partnership – Bill Dolan Opening Speaker – Dr. Brian Reeves “Creating the West” |

March 20, 2012 (open to public)

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 7:30 – 8:30 | Forum registration |
| | <i>Introductions and CMP Overview</i> |
| 8:30 - 9:00 | <u>Welcome and Introductions</u> Welcome and Prayer – Allan Pard, Piikani Traditional Ceremonialist Welcome: Chief Charles Weasel Head, Blood Tribe Welcome: Graham Statt, Assistant Deputy Minister – Parks Division, Tourism, Parks & Recreation |
| 9:00 – 9:20 | <u>Overview of the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP), Ian Dyson - Alberta Environment and Water, Caryn Miske – Flathead Basin Commission</u> |
| | <i>Morning Session: First Nations and Tribal Land Management</i> |
| 9:20 – 10:00 | <u>Exploring Trans-boundary Conservation through Blackfeet Dialogue: A Case for Restoring linnii - Inter Tribal Bison Council - Keith Aune & Leroy Little Bear</u> |
| 10:00– 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | <u>Building capacity for First Nations Land Management in Canada: NALMA - National Aboriginal Land Manager’s Association - Leona Irons, Executive Director</u> |
| | Appendix 1. |
| 11:10 – 11:50 | <u>Kainai: Land and Resource Management - Elliot Fox and Kansie Fox, Blood</u> |

11:10 – 11:50 Kainai: Land and Resource Management - Elliot Fox and Kansie Fox, Blood Tribe Land Management Department

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Session: Tribes and First Nations Culture

1:00-1:40 Finding Common Ground: Guiding Growth on the Flathead Indian Reservation – Janet Camel, Land Use Planning Director

1:40 - 2:20 Jocko River and Bull Trout Restoration Education Project: Germaine White, Information and Education Specialist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

2:20 – 3:00 The Role of Flathead Lake in Bull Trout Management: Barry Hansen, Fisheries Biologist, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

3:00– 3:20 **Break**

3:20 – 3:40 Ktunaxa Language Retention: Efforts, Challenges and Our Future, Melanie Sam, Director, Traditional Knowledge and Language, Ktunaxa Nation and Don Sam, Instructor Ktunaxa 101, Ktunaxa 102, College of the Rockies.

3:40 – 4:00 Ktunaxa Relationship to the Land: Connections between Culture, Economics and Natural Resources Management, Herman Alpine

4:00 – 5:00 Panel Discussion: Ecological Health and Cultural Values

Participants:

Allan Pard, Piikani, Blackfoot Nation

Herman Alpine, Ktunaxa

Melanie Sam, Ktunaxa

Annabel Crop Eared Wolf, Coordinator, Blood Tribe, Tribal Government and External Affairs

Dorothy First Rider, Senior Researcher, Blood Tribe, Tribal Government and External Affairs

5:00 **Adjourn Day 1**

7:00 PM **Dinner Speaker: "Connections to the Land: A Ktunaxa Perspective" Kathryn Teneese**