

TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

CURRENT STRATEGIES

Aquatic Invasive Species

Crown-wide desired outcome:

- Prevent the introduction and establishment of zebra mussels, quagga mussels and Eurasian Water-milfoil in any surface waters in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.

Crown-wide strategies:

- Establish effective legislation and policy in all jurisdictions to enable mandatory watercraft inspections, listing of prohibited species, enhanced authority over conveyances and quarantine;
- Establish 'layered' seasonal boat inspection stations to prevent infected recreational or commercially hauled boats entering the Crown of the Continent ecosystem;
- Use a variety of extension methods and program tools to promote a consistent Clean, Drain, Dry message in all jurisdictions;
- Conduct regular sampling of surface waters in all jurisdictions using consistent protocols;
- Develop and coordinate rapid response strategies and
- Establish data capture and information-sharing protocols amongst jurisdictions in the Crown.

Landscapes

Crown-wide desired outcome:

- Sustain robust ecological function and species diversity by maintaining structurally intact native landscapes and assuring sustained viability of species connectivity pathways. Reduce highway mortality for ungulates and carnivores.

Initial strategies:

- Establish highway corridor crossings. Initial priority Hwy 3, Crowsnest Pass (2 in AB, 2 in BC). Secondary priority Hwy 2 Marias Pass;
- Reduce anthropogenic footprint in Alberta's Southern East Slopes;
- Assure wildlife connectivity in the transboundary Flathead;
- Retain viable wildlife connectivity across the AB/BC continental divide. Initial priority Livingstone/Elk. Secondary priority Castle/Flathead.

Native Salmonids

Crown-wide desired outcome:

- Sustain healthy populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout across the Crown of the Continent.

Initial strategies:**Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience by:**

- Conducting a conservation population assessment of native salmonids in the CCE;
- Replicating, restoring and/or translocating native salmonid populations to cold water refugia in priority trans-boundary watersheds east of the Divide.

Current status:

- Exporting successful bull trout translocations piloted in the North Fork of the Blackfoot to other landscapes.
- (If translocations are unsuccessful, a fourth conservation priority has been identified) Suppressing invasive rainbow trout in the Transboundary Flathead and export BMPs to other locales.

Terrestrial Invasive Plants**Crown-wide desired outcome:**

- Effective and coordinated measures are being deployed to control terrestrial invasive plants throughout the Crown and new invaders are prevented from becoming established.

Initial strategies:

- Four measurements of success:
 - Crown-wide inventory and monitoring;
 - Maintain weed free areas;
 - Monitoring and reporting of Early Detection/Rapid Response; and
 - Management without boundaries.
- Six priority action themes to advance the success measures:
 - Survey and Monitoring;
 - Prioritize (identify hot spots for action);
 - Develop External Communication and Increase Awareness;
 - Internal Communication;
 - Develop Common Management Approaches; and
 - Manage Vectors and Corridors.

Five Needle Pines**Crown-wide desired outcome:**

- To protect and restore functional whitebark and limber pine ecosystems by fostering transboundary collaboration and coordination to transfer sound scientific knowledge, leverage funding opportunities, and optimize restoration and conservation efforts within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.

Initial strategies:

- Catalyze a Formal “High-Five” Crown-Wide Working Group;
- Develop a Mitigation Strategy and Best Management Practices to Avoid Degradation or Loss of Five-Needle Pine;
- Launch a Crown-Wide Inventory and Monitoring Database;
- Draft (and Implement) a Crown-Wide Recovery Strategy;
- Develop Recommendations for Five-Needle Pine Restoration in Highly Protected Areas;
- Develop Recommendations to Guide Pro-Active Fire Management in Five-Needle Pine Forests; and
- Develop a Multi-Faceted Communications Strategy to Raise Awareness and Support for Five-Needle Pine Restoration and Conservation.