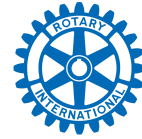




Glacier National Park
CONSERVANCY



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada



Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent

Gary Tabor

gary@largelandscapes.org

406.586.8082

<http://www.crownroundtable.org>

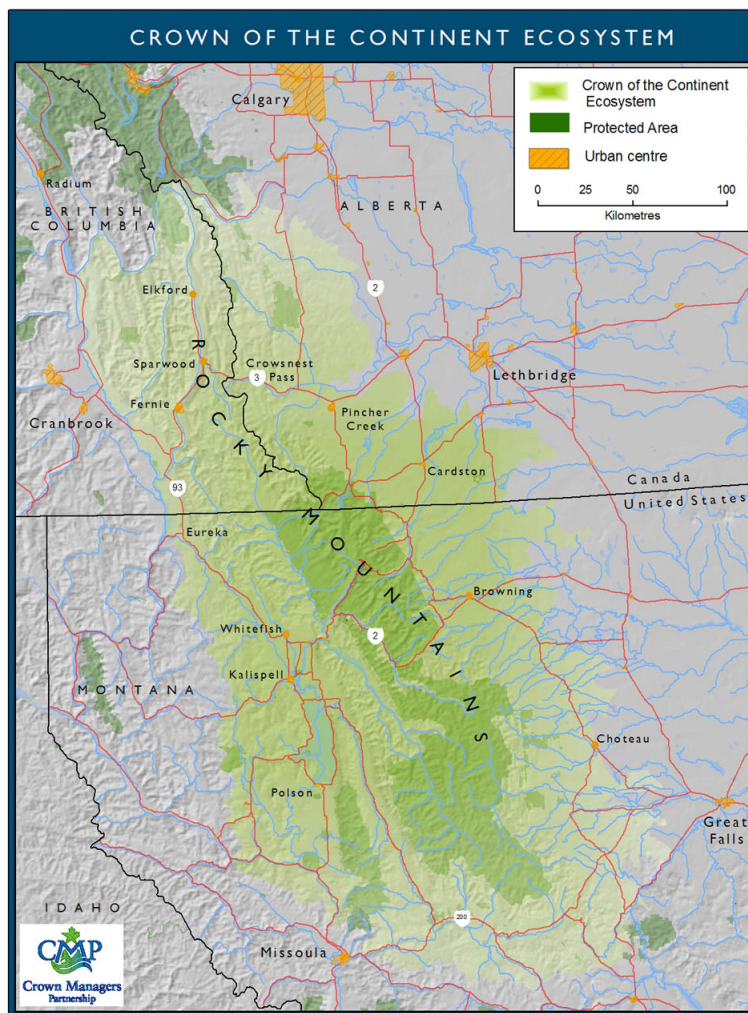
Matt McKinney

matthew.mckinney@umontana.edu

406.459.5166

United States (Montana) and Canada (Alberta and British Columbia)

Size: 7.3 million hectares; 73,000 km²



Participants in coordinating the ongoing transboundary cooperation:

NOTE: This list includes only members of the Roundtable's Leadership Team. Many other groups are involved in the many activities of the Roundtable.

National Government:

- US Forest Service
- US National Park Service
- Alberta Environment and Parks

Local Government:

- Missoula County

Tribes:

- Blood Tribe
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Blackfoot Nation

Protected area administration:

- Crown Managers Partnership which includes US and Canada federal, provincial and state managers.

International NGOs:

- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- Rotary Club International

National NGOs:

- Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy

Local NGOs:

- Oldman Watershed Council
- Blackfoot Challenge

Intergovernmental organizations:

- Crown Managers Partnership
- Crown Conservation Initiative
- Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council

National Corporations:

- Teck Coal

Local Small Businesses:

- Private Landowners

Community-based Organizations:

- East Kootenai Invasive Plant Council
- Flathead Land Trust

Universities:

- University of Montana
- Mount Royal University, Alberta

Objectives: The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent is a transboundary US-Canada forum to bring together people who care about the ecosystem that surrounds Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the first globally designated peace park. It is based on the

observation that the future of the region is being shaped by the impacts of climate change and habitat fragmentation. Glacier National Park is projected to lose all its glaciers in the next two or three decades and thus changing the hydro-ecology of the landscape. There are over 100 government agencies, non-government organizations, and community-based partnerships working in the ecosystem.

Through workshops, an annual conference, and collaborative projects, the Roundtable:

- Works across 7.3 million hectares; 73,000 km² (18 million acre) region
- Is open to all perspectives, interests, and communities
- Focuses on connecting Conservation, Culture and Communities
- Connects people, facilitates communication and dialogue, and catalyzes action
- Supplements other related ecosystem-wide initiatives
- Promotes sustainable communities and landscapes.

Values and importance: The landscape of the Crown of the Continent contains a diverse, functioning, relatively intact ecosystem; a geographically unique natural area containing the headwaters of three major continental water systems (the Columbia, Missouri and Saskatchewan basins); habitat for a diverse array and a significant number of native flora and fauna; home for charismatic mega fauna, especially the grizzly bear that is strongly identified with this area; and a natural landscape with breathtaking scenic vistas, wilderness, quietude, and dark skies that inspire a connection between people and nature. The Crown is a rare and special place where prairie, inland rainforest, Rocky Mountain vegetation regions come together.

Aspects of transboundary cooperation: The Roundtable started as an idea about how to bring together a wellspring of diverse interests who were connected to the landscape but not to each other - working landowners, federal and state resource managers, businesses, tribes, watershed groups and municipalities. Over time, the Roundtable has made great strides to organize these diverse and collective interests to address conservation, culture and community through collective impact strategies. Identifying and including stakeholders and encouraging communication and collaboration is the backbone of these efforts to promote and support ecosystem management.

Stage in the process: Ongoing collaborative leadership among stakeholders assisted by a coordinator/facilitator, all guided by and agreed-upon an institutional Charter with a governance Terms of Reference which defines roles and responsibilities of stakeholders through an informal governance structure.

Date Established: The groundwork for the Roundtable began in 2007. The Roundtable itself was launched in 2010.

Official Protected Area Designation:

- Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada – 1895 (50500 ha)
- Glacier National Park, US – May 11, 1910 (410077 ha)
- Waterton Glacier International Peace Park – June 18, 1932
- Waterton Glacier International Peace Park UNESCO Biosphere Reserve - 1979

- Waterton Glacier International Peace Park UNESCO Heritage Designation – 1995
- Bob Marshall Wilderness, US National Forest – 1964 (406,000 ha)
- Scapegoat Wilderness, US National Forest – 1972 (97,100 ha)
- Great Bear Wilderness, US National Forest – 1978 (116,000 ha)
- Akamina – Kishinena Provincial Park, British Columbia – July 13, 1995 (10,921.5 ha)
- Castle Provincial Park, Alberta -2015
- Castle Wildland Provincial Park, Alberta -2015

The Catalyst: The vision of the Roundtable was catalyzed by the observation that the future of the Crown of the Continent is being shaped by climate change and habitat fragmentation in surrounding areas. The scale of these threats challenged existing jurisdictions to respond effectively and thus a large landscape solution was established.

History:

1. Backbone Support – Collaborative leaders to plan, manage, and support the activities of the Roundtable through facilitation, data collection and reporting, and technology and communication support; convene monthly meetings of the Leadership Team and working groups to review the status of projects, examine trends, and refine strategic priorities as appropriate; prepare meeting summaries and other documents as appropriate; and work in consultation with all partners to accomplish Roundtable activities and deliverables.
2. Funding for Backbone Support
3. Project Funding – In this case, funding for the Roundtable’s Adaptive Management Initiative was essential to engaging diverse interests, working on common needs and interests, and building a stronger sense of regional identity and purpose.
4. Leadership Team – People that represent diverse interests but also are willing to identify and pursue super-ordinate goals and aspirations. Continuity among Leadership Team members, as well as integrating new members with fresh ideas and energy.

Barriers, challenges, obstacles, or constraints:

- A broad geographic scope – challenges of scale, representation, equity
- Multiple jurisdictions (mandates, laws, policies, cultures)
- Limited capacity
- Competing factions
- Competing goals

Governance and Management Structures

- **Cooperative relationship:** The Roundtable operates as an informal partnership guided by a Charter and Terms of Reference adopted in 2010.

- **Legal basis for cooperation:** No legal authority. The Roundtable is a consultative body.
- **Governance structure:** Consensus-seeking decision-making process.
- **Cooperative management arrangement:** Guided by an institutional Charter, a strategic plan developed collectively by partners and Terms of Reference

Results: Tools the Roundtable has developed and used to promote communication, transparency and collaboration include:

- website
- a monthly newsletter
- facilitated monthly Leadership Team calls
- facilitated monthly calls of Adaptive Management Project Leaders
- organizing an semi-annual Leadership Team Retreat
- an Annual Conference of all stakeholders
- a common program focus with the development of plans for climate adaptation
- establishment of themed affinity groups
- conservation finance mechanisms
- landscape level advocacy for public and private land resources.

Lessons Learned

What Enables Us:

- Relationships
- Leadership
- Compelling possibilities
- Interest and activity in this space
- Real, tangible needs
- Competition
- A willingness to start slow and learn as we go
- A defined purpose
- Shared leadership across sectors and jurisdictions
- A workable governance / decision-making structure
- A compelling set of goals and strategies
- A sense that we can do more together
- National/international recognition

What Sustains Us:

- A growing network of people and organizations
- Successes at various scales and across jurisdictions
- Momentum (learning, building new relationships, making new connections)
- Enough capacity to serve as the glue

- Consistent leadership
- Relevance

For More Information

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone
Kim Davitt	Coordinator	Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent	kimdavitt@yahoo.com	406-552-2544
Matt McKinney	Co-founder	Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy	Matthew.mckinney@umontana.edu	406-459-5166
Gary Tabor	Co-founder	Center for Large Landscape Conservation		

Remarkable Beyond Borders: People and Landscapes in the Crown of the Continent
<http://naturalresourcepolicy.org/docs/remarkable-beyond-borders.pdf>

Please view a short film at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-U6vXf0VP3GEadJn5iu54g>

Also, this publication provides a good synopsis of the Adaptive Management Initiative in the Crown: <http://largelandscapes.org/media/publications/Adapting-to-Change-in-the-Crown-of-the-Continent.pdf>