

## **Crown of the Continent Roundtable: Statement of Purpose**

October 15, 2008

### **Background and Rationale**

The future of landscape conservation and regional stewardship in the Crown of the Continent relies in large measure on the simple fact that over 100 government agencies, non-government organizations, and place-based partnerships are working in the region. Each effort - whether regional (i.e., Crown-wide) or sub-regional - came into existence because of a government mandate or because a conservation or stewardship need/opportunity was not being addressed. And, each initiative continues to operate because it has mobilized the right people around a compelling purpose, and has found sufficient financial support to continue its work.

While the efforts of each agency or initiative are important to conservation and stewardship in the Crown, no initiative works in a vacuum - all interact with at least some of the other region's initiatives. Based on the observations at the conference convened by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (LILP) and the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) in spring 2007, along with our research on regional and sub-regional efforts in the Crown, conservation and stewardship efforts in the region could be improved by convening a sustained forum to engage multiple stakeholders - exploring how the various programs and initiatives can work together to support individual and collective efforts. The attached "strategic map" further outlines and explains this rationale.

### **Purpose**

In response, LILP and PPRI are convening a two-day roundtable to:

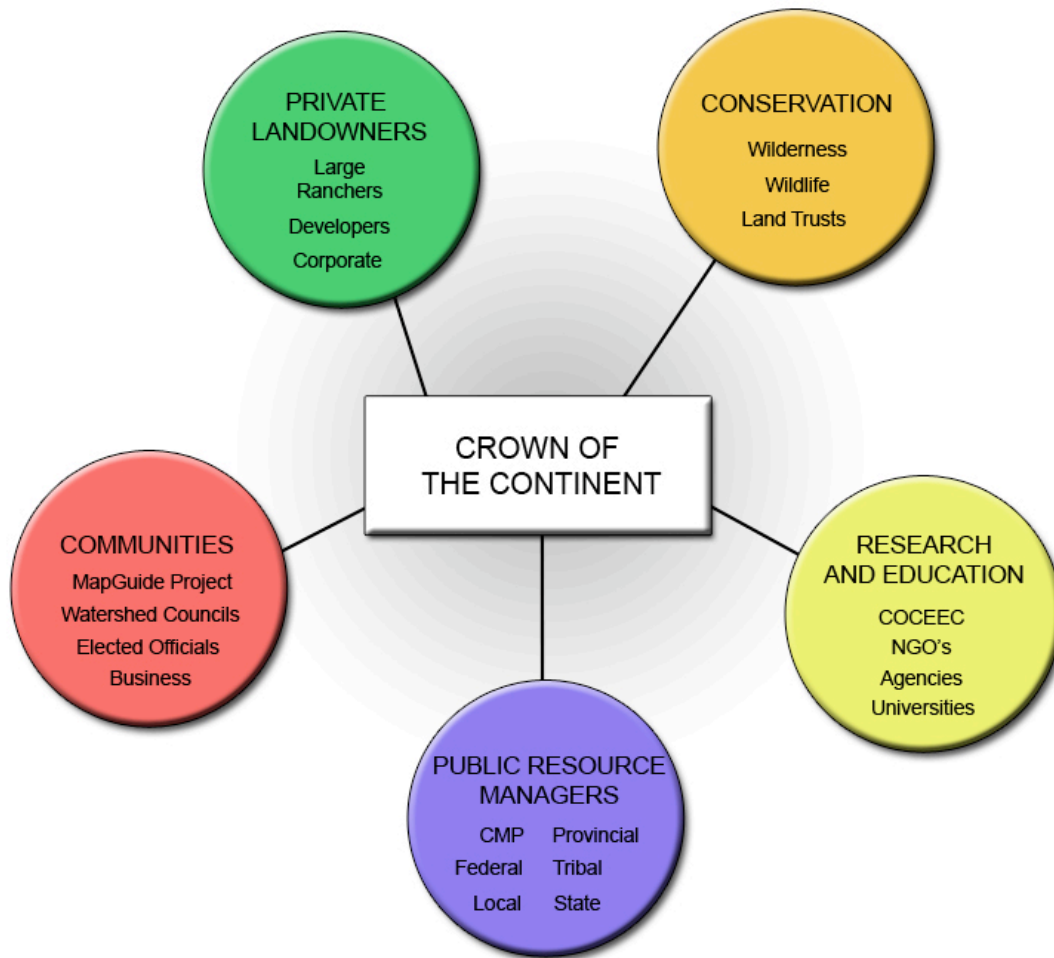
1. Share individual interests and objectives;
2. Identify common values among the diversity of stakeholders;
3. Explore opportunities to advance common interests; and
4. Craft an agenda for effective action.

Our goal is to engage a representative group of public land and resource managers, private land-owners, and key stakeholders - including conservation groups, local elected officials, and the research and education community to engage in a candid and constructive conversation for two days. The attached diagram provides a picture of the various "communities of interest."

The role of LILP and PPRI is to catalyze, coordinate, and convene - not to duplicate existing efforts. The future role of LILP and PPRI will depend on the outcomes of this roundtable.

# Crown of the Continent

## Communities of Interest: Emerging Networks



## CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

### Crown of the Continent:

10 million-acre intact ecological crossroads, headwaters to 3 oceans, critical habitat for grizzlies & other endangered species.

### Cultural & economic

crossroads—US, Canada, 4 First Nations, 2 provinces, 1 state, many counties & towns.

83% is public lands: 35% of that is protected as national park or designated wilderness.

## WHAT WE HAVE TO WORK WITH

Three or more region-wide initiatives: more than 50 place-based initiatives; 400+ diverse, motivated people already working across borders.

An emerging sense of regional identity thanks to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, Geotourism Project, etc.

International recognition of Crown values—World Heritage Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Funding & in-kind partners include federal, state, & provincial agencies, foundations, many NGOs.

## PROBLEMS FACING THE CROWN

Urban growth—subdivision, sprawl, energy development, diminishing character of place & quality of life (Calgary, etc.)

Economic stagnation or instability in rural communities and private land.

Land & habitat fragmentation, genetic isolation of endangered species, loss of wildlife migration corridors.

Climate change, drought, wildfires, transboundary threats to water quality and supply.

Noxious weeds, massive bark beetle infestations.

Diplomatic friction rising to cabinet-level between US & Canada over water, energy development and industrial development.

Lack of a sustained, Crown-wide forum to engage multiple jurisdictions, sectors, and stakeholders in solving problems and implementing proactive actions.

## OUR CORE STRATEGIES

Create opportunities to work together at the scale of the Crown; build on and do not duplicate other efforts.

Convene selected leaders to explore opportunities and strategies to work together.

Help mobilize, support, and build capacity of different "communities of interest" -- CMP, Conservation, Communities, Research and Education, and Private Land Owners.

Support individual and collective efforts to the extent possible via research, education, and collaborative problem-solving.

Create practical products that support individual and collective efforts -- e.g., a publicly-accessible GIS data base.

Build and share knowledge from other landscape-scale conservation efforts to inform and invigorate efforts in the Crown

## WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

### Short Term

Sustained conversation among multiple communities of interest.

Shared sense of regional identity, vision, and action.

Action plan to support individual and collective efforts.

Practical products to support regional stewardship.

### Ultimately

Broad-based support for on-the-ground, stewardship throughout the Crown region.

Improved natural resource, community development, & economic policies, actions, & process.

Innovative model for landscape conservation.

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy &  
Public Policy Research Institute

Crown of the Continent  
Strategic Map  
September 18, 2008