



Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes & Crown Managers Partnership Landscape Conservation Design Workshop Invitation

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) and the Crown Managers Partnership (CMP) are pleased to invite you to join the next installment of our Landscape Conservation Design (LCD) workshop series. We hope you will join us **October 20–22, 2026, in Polson, Montana**, as we continue building a vision of caring for this land together in Crown of the Continent.

The Crown of the Continent is an interconnected landscape spanning approximately 18 million acres across Montana, Alberta, and British Columbia. This geography supports remarkable ecological diversity, cultural heritage, and communities whose livelihoods depend on healthy, resilient ecosystems. While many Tribal, agency, university and NGO organizations have made significant investments in conserving individual species and habitats, the Landscape Conservation Design seeks to connect these efforts into a voluntary, cross-jurisdictional framework that reflects our collective knowledge and shared stewardship priorities.

This in-person workshop will initiate a Crown of the Continent Working Group focused on the vegetative interconnected ecological systems of **whitebark pine, forest, grasslands, and shrublands**. The workshop will weave Indigenous Knowledge and western science to strengthen our understanding of interconnected species and landscapes.

The success of the Landscape Conservation Design depends on the diverse knowledge, expertise, and experiences of partners across the region. **Your perspective is essential** to ensuring that the Landscape Conservation Design reflects both the ecological and cultural complexity of the Crown and the many people who steward it.

This vegetation workshop on forest, whitebark pine, grasslands, and shrublands is second in a series engagement process supported through the America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (AERI). Our first workshop focused on riparian, aquatics, and wetlands. Additional landscape focal features including fisheries, carnivores, and ungulates will be scheduled for a later date. Together, these workshops will contribute to a voluntary conservation

framework that helps partners identify shared conservation opportunities, strengthen relationships, align monitoring efforts, and improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities throughout the Crown of the Continent.

Crown Landscape Conservation: History and process

These workshops build upon the Crown of the Continent [Landscape Conservation Design](#) process that began in 2019. LCDs provide a framework for anyone caring for the lands and waters to understand the context of their decisions and activities – helping all caregivers achieve their own missions while sustaining values and ecosystem function at broader scales. In other words, to help land stewards understand where their time and resources can be collectively applied and coordinated to preserve and protect the landscape.

The Crown LCD is actively working towards centering and weaving Indigenous Knowledge into a traditionally western process of developing an LCD. We have done this through hosting community-based Listening Sessions with Tribal Elders and Knowledge Holders, including visual facilitation in our workshops, and centering our relationships with the land and the people in the Crown of the Continent. The Crown LCD Vision emphasizes the interconnectedness and relational pieces of an LCD:

“Together, we care for an interconnected landscape where people, waters, plants, animals, and all our relations thrive. Within this landscape, the full potential of all beings is supported today, in honor of the past, and for future generations. We approach this relational work with respect, reciprocity, and in consideration of relevance, responsibility, and for full representation of all our relatives.”

Convening together in person provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships, learn from one another, and collaboratively identify conservation strategies and actions that reflect the above CMP LCD vision. Specifically, the workshops are designed for participants to work towards the following six outcomes:

1. Build on our learning of Indigenous worldviews and value systems in the development of the LCD and beyond.
2. Increase our understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Holders’ guidance regarding the ways we engage in our relationships with tribes moving forward.
3. Continue to strive towards a solid model of partnership while implementing the LCD.
4. Have greater understanding of the 6Rs, (Respect, Relationship, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Representation) as a foundation for the emerging

landscape plan; and how these values and actions can be integrated into efforts of conservation.

5. Through our contributions in the LCD working groups and their communities, participants continue the journey of developing relationships with each other and the landscapes we are connected to.
6. Develop a working draft of an LCD plan for grasslands, shrublands, and forests that includes collaborative actions and monitoring activities that reflect the 6Rs—to be later refined and implemented by the CMP Vegetation Working Group.

Draft Workshop agenda outline (subject to change):

Day 1 – Invitation for an Invocation - Reflecting on our relationships with each other and our connection with the landscapes

- Using the 6 R's to get to know each other and our landscape relatives (Respect, Relationship, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility, Representation)
- Breakout Exercise 1 – Signs of Health – Discuss varying ways of knowing a place or system is healthy.
- Discuss LCD Phase II modelling of opportunistic areas for conservation action to update and improve.

Day 2 – Caring for our lands and relatives – Discuss and outline an approach to coordinate actions that support the conservation of our collective values on the landscape.

- Breakout Exercise 2 – Discuss threats to our grasslands, shrublands, forested vegetation, and whitebark pine?
- Breakout Exercise 3 – Discuss cultural, ecological, and social conservation strategies needed to reduce threats?
- Breakout Exercise 4 – Discuss specific management actions that advance the conservation strategies and where on the landscape they could occur?

Day 3 (half day) - Coordinating the Crown of the Continent Landscape Conservation Design Vegetation Working Group next steps – working groups meet in small groups to coordinate continued shared stewardship.

- Refine, organize, and supplement Breakout Exercises with additional information
- Establish working group leaders/chairs and schedule your next working group meeting

- Outline goals, objectives, and potential products the working groups want to achieve (e.g. *begin developing an action plan for the strategic and management actions, identify where signs of health information from exercise 1 can be applied to monitoring the action plan, identify key actors and partners to lead strategies or specific management actions, etc.*)

We hope you will join us in Polson this October as we continue shaping the future of conservation across the Crown of the Continent. Registration, detailed agenda, lodging recommendations, and more details can be found at <https://www.crownmanagers.org/workshopslcd>.

Sincerely,

Crown Managers Partnership Steering Committee

Mike Durglo, Jr. (Co-Chair) – <i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>	Dawn LaFleur – <i>Glacier National Park</i>
Kate Wilson (Co-Chair) – <i>Bonneville Power Administration</i>	Casey Lewis – <i>Western MT Conservation Commission</i>
Janice Alpine – <i>Ktunaxa Nation</i>	Amy Lisk – <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
Jamie Bruha – <i>Government of Alberta</i>	Arin MacFarlane – <i>AB Environment and Protected Areas</i>
Anne Carlson – <i>Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance</i>	Tami MacKenzie – <i>USDA Forest Service</i>
Shawn DeFrance – <i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>	Nora Manners – <i>Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association</i>
Bill Dolan – <i>Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association</i>	Noah Matheny – <i>Crown Managers Partnership</i>
Madelyn Eagle – <i>Crown Managers Partnership</i>	Phil Matson – <i>Flathead Lake Biological Station</i>
Termaine Edmo – <i>Blackfeet Nation</i>	Mike Muñoz – <i>U.S. Forest Service</i>
Elliot Fox – <i>Kainai First Nation</i>	Kim Pearson – <i>Parks Canada</i>
Danie Frevola – <i>Flathead Lake Biological Station</i>	Dave Roemer – <i>Glacier National Park</i>
Bonnie Harvey – <i>Ktunaxa Nation</i>	Erin Sexton – <i>Flathead Lake Biological Station</i>
Rich Janssen – <i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>	Sierra Umphrey – <i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>
Valerie Kurth – <i>MT Department of Natural Resources</i>	Tad Wehunt – <i>U.S. Forest Service</i>
	Chad Willms – <i>Government of Alberta</i>

Landscape Conservation Design Analysis Team

Mike Durglo, Jr. (Co-Chair) – <i>Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes</i>	Gwen Lankford – <i>Contractor - CSKT</i>
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