

# Ecosystem Services

The Crown of the Continent is a place of natural bounty. The region's forests, grasslands, and fossil fuels provide the raw materials for economic opportunities in the timber, agriculture, tourism, and energy sectors. In addition, the region's landscape provides hugely valuable, though largely intangible ecosystem services like air and water purification, flood and drought mitigation, soil generation, nutrient cycling, and biodiversity preservation, among others.

The Miistakis Institute at the University of Calgary is working with regional partners and scientists to assess the value of ecosystem services in the Crown of the Continent. The ability to assess and begin to provide an economic value to the region's ecosystem services will help people, organizations, and governments in the region compare the economic investment needed to preserve and restore natural systems with the cost of built infrastructure that would need to be constructed if those natural services are degraded or lost. As that analysis moves forward, Miistakis will implement outreach programs and communication strategies to disseminate the results.

