



## **Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**

*Connecting People to Sustain and Enhance Culture, Community and Conservation*

### **9th Annual Conference “Connecting Land and Culture”**

**September 24-26, 2019  
Kwataqnuq, Polson, MT**

#### **About the Annual Conference**

This year’s conference will focus on strengthening the land-culture connection. Together over the next three days we’ll look at how a handful of currently pressing topics are playing out in the landscape, and then provide the space to have conversations that work through the tensions — and explore the opportunities — that each of our diverse collaborators represent.

#### **What we’re doing here in Polson**

- Exchanging new information and ideas regarding culture, community and conservation
- Connecting people and organizations working on similar issues within our landscape
- Fostering a sense of regional identity and stewardship for the Crown
- Exploring a hand-full of specific, relevant, and currently challenging issues in-depth

#### **About the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**

The Crown of the Continent region is a remarkable, ecologically intact ecosystem rich in tribal history, natural resources, and thriving communities. This 18-million acre region is challenged by climate change, loss of traditional knowledge, growth, and development. The Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent addresses these challenges by providing a forum for collaboration and networking among Tribes/First Nations, land management agencies, local governments, private land partnerships, academia, conservation groups, businesses, and industry.

Large landscape conservation is participatory and inclusive and the Roundtable connects people to enhance the culture, communities, and conservation of the region. Our transboundary, large landscape effort provides a platform for diverse perspectives to share information, build knowledge and capacity, celebrate success, and catalyze new efforts and partnerships. The Roundtable seeks to achieve a shared vision for people and nature in the region. For more information, please go to [crownroundtable.net](http://crownroundtable.net).

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-roundtable-on-the-crown-of-the-continent-tickets-63277068415>

**9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA**  
**“Connecting Land and Culture”**  
September 24-26, 2019 - Kwataqnuq, Polson, MT

**Tuesday, September 24: Tribal Management Issues**

- 10:00 AM      **Conference welcome booth opens**  
Registration tables in entrance way  
*Speakers: please have your presentations ready to upload at this time*
- 12:30 PM      **CONFERENCE CONVENES: Welcome, Prayer & Introduction**  
Rich Janssen, Director Nat. Resources, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)  
Honor Guard, Veteran Warrior Society, *Presentation of Colors*  
Ronald Trahan, Chairman, Tribal Council, CSKT  
Clayton Matt, Director of Tribal Services, CSKT  
Steven Small Salmon, Salish-Qlispe Elder
- 1:30            **BREAK**
- 1:45            **Tribal Management Issues in the Crown: Panel 1 – Climate Change/Resilience**  
*A speaker from each tribe determines the most important aspect of climate change to bring up to the group. Each person speaks for 10 minutes, then there is an open discussion with a moderator (Germaine White, CSKT).*
- Panelists:  
Termaine Edmo, Blackfeet Environmental Office, Blackfeet  
Mike Bruised Head, Kainai Environmental Protection Association, Kainai
- 3:15            **BREAK**
- 3:30            **Tribal Management Issues in the Crown: Panel 2- Water**  
*A speaker from each tribe determines the most important aspect of Water to bring up to the group. Each person speaks for 10 minutes, then there is an open discussion with a moderator (Casey Ryan, CSKT).*
- Panelists:  
Rich Jansen, Director Natural Resources, CSKT  
Jim Clarricoates, Cultural Resources Liaison, Ktunaxa Nation Council - Lands and Resources, Ktunaxa  
Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Environmental Office, Blackfeet  
Mike Bruised Head, Kainai Environmental Protection Association, Kainai
- 4:45            **Crown Café I**  
*Roundtable conference participants sound off about their organization and current happenings, needs, etc. Open mic with each person getting 3-5 minutes to talk about their work or key issues.*

5:30 Dinner provided by the conference at conference center

7:00 **Movie Feature w/ Panel Discussion**

*"In the Spirit of ?Atatice?: The Untold Story of the National Bison Range."*

Showboat Cinemas, Address: 416 Main St, Polson, MT 59860 Phone: 406.883.5606

The 30-minute film shares the true story long told by Tribal elders but not widely shared until now. Audiences will learn how the unthinkable came to pass in the nineteenth century as buffalo, slaughtered to the edge of extinction, began to fade from the landscape until a Pend d'Oreille (Qlispe) man named ?Atatice? and his son helped the bison survive by bringing buffalo calves over the Continental Divide and starting a herd on the Flathead Indian Reservation. In the face of devastation, one man did what he could and made a world of difference for us all.

The film depicts the Salish (Selish), Pend d'Oreille (Qlispe) and Kootenai (Ksanka) peoples' ongoing struggles, against the backdrop of seismic disruptions to their communities and cultures, to prevail in their efforts to care for the buffalo. Using a cross-section of Tribal members to relate their history, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and filmmaker Daniel Glick produced *In the Spirit of ?Atatice?: The Untold Story of the National Bison Range* to unveil a narrative that continues to reverberate today.

Panelists:

Tom McDonald, CSKT, NRD, Division Manager of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation

Brian Upton, Attorney, CSKT

Robert McDonald, CSKT Communications Director

Roy Bigcrane, CSKT, Salish Kootenai College

Moderator: Rich Janssen, Department Head, Natural Resources, CSKT

## **Wednesday, September 25: Natural Resource Management Issues**

7:30 Coffee and Pastries

7:45 Good Morning & Coming Together - Vernon Finley, Kootenai Culture Committee

8:00 Connect with Your Roundtable Partners – Introduction to Bingo Activity & Prizes

8:30 **Session I (60 minutes each, select 1)**

**Tourism & Recreation: Reflections on the Crown**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion*

**"Current State of Tourism in the Crown"**

Norma Nickerson, Director, Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, University of Montana

*The many faces of tourism are alive and well in the Crown of the Continent. From “people” closures in the national parks to community growth, the visitor industry provides the opportunities for small businesses, challenges with visitor behavior, and concerns with open space. Dr. Norma Nickerson will present data related to all sides of the industry.*

**“Tourism and Protected Areas: Lessons from Afar”**

Keith Bosak, Professor, University of Montana

*This talk will focus on lessons learned from experiences with sustainable tourism initiatives around the world and how some of those lessons might be applied in the Crown.*

**Holistic Health: Landscapes of Justice: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Conservation**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion exploring how conservation groups and tribes can build partnerships that not only advance conservation goals but also address and mitigate historical injustices. Through a discussion on the issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity in conservation we will explore how conservation-oriented projects can better maximize beneficial outcomes. The talk will connect conservation and non-profit work to the social determinants of health, illustrating how projects that work towards the goals of Indigenous leadership and capacity building benefit everyone.*

Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Climate Resilience Program Manager, Center for Large Landscape Conservation

Dr. Brad Hall, Institutional Researcher, Blackfeet Community College and Interim Chair, Blackfeet Nation Institutional Review Board (BNIRB)

**Natural Resources: Native Fish Keepers**

Barry Hanson, CSKT, NRD, Fisheries Program

**Connectivity: Beyond Parks - Habitat Montana**

Jim Williams, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Kris Temple, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Alan Wood, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

9:30            **BREAK**

9:45            **Session 2 (60 minutes each, select 1)**

**Tourism & Recreation: Tourism on Tribal Lands**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion*

**“Native Lands as Tourism Economics”**

Ed Des Rosier, Owner/Operator, Sun Tours

*Exploration of business opportunities. Recognition of Blackfeet presence in Tourism. Blackfeet Interpretation and sharing of accurate information with visitors.*

## **Holistic Health: Landscapes, Resources, and Well-Being**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion*

### **“Holistic Thinking About Landscapes and Health”**

Graham Gaither, Land/Water Conservation Planner, Blackfeet Agriculture Resource Management Plan

*The talk will focus on how Piikani (Blackfeet) lifeways and values inform the planning of the Tribe's resources, from water, land, plants and animals to agricultural resources and cultural artifacts. Each of these components has a direct correlation to the health of the Blackfeet people. This talk will inform the audience as to how all of these components are being conserved to reignite the passion and lifeways of the Piikani people.*

### **“Healing on the land”**

Kim Paul, Project Director, SAMSHA Native Connections; Director, Piikani Lodge Health Institute

*In honoring Amskapi Piikanii beliefs we are incorporating culture, language and ceremony into healing cultural camps. This way of healing, based on our connections to the land, are helping to build our future with a strong foundation of Blackfeet ways of knowing. These camps will be presented as part of a larger project for the health and well-being of the Piikanii people including livelihood development and tourism.*

## **Natural Resources: Mushroom Madness**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion on the management of commercial and personal-use mushroom harvesting following the fire season of 2017. It will cover some of the biology of morel mushrooms, but more of the aspects of the challenges associated with managing for the influx of people interested in picking morels.*

Steve Brown, Regional Geospatial Group Leader, USDA Forest Service

## **Connectivity: Roads and Wildlife**

Dale Becker, CSKT Wildlife

10:45      **BREAK**

11:00      **Crown Managers Partnership Project Overview**

*Introduction to the CMP and Showcase of a Panel of CMP Projects*

### **“Overcoming Jurisdictional Boundaries in a Shared Landscape with Shared Issues”**

Mary Riddle, Co-Chair of the Crown Managers Partnership and Chief of Planning for Glacier National Park

### **“Native Salmonids”**

Brian Marotz, Fisheries Biologist, MT Fish Wildlife and Parks  
Anne Carlson, The Wilderness Society

### **“Five Needle/ Whitebark Pine”**

Melissa Jenkins, USFS

“Terrestrial Invasives”  
Dawn LaFleur

12:30 **Lunch / Roundtable it over Lunch w/ Great Discussions Format (Shawn Johnson)**

AFTERNOON

### Field Trips

(Select 1 of Bison Range or Dam, *or* select either-or-both of People’s Center and Boat Tour – details on signup sheets)

#### National Bison Range

Tour: 1:45- 5

*Formal discussion and self-guided drive*

Led by Amy Coffman, Refuge Manager & Amy Lisk, Biologist of the National Bison Range Complex, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bus will depart at 1:45 and be parked in front of Resort and can hold 16 people.

An additional 14 people can drive themselves to: Visitor Center, 58355 Bison Range Rd, Charlo, MT 59824

#### Selis Ksanka Qlispe Dam

Tour: 2:00 - 4:30

*Cultural significance, ecological impacts, and a guided tour inside the dam’s engineering*

Led by Casey Ryan, CKST Natural Resources Dept., and Victor Montoya of Energy Keepers Inc.

Bus will depart at 2:00 and be parked in front of Resort.

#### Boat Tour

Tour 1: 2:00 - 3:00

Tour 2: 3:30 - 5:00

*Salmonids, current issues, science, challenges*

Led by Erin Sexton & Phil Matson of Flathead Lake Biological Station, Univ. of MT

Meet at Resort Dock 10 minutes prior to departure

#### People’s Center & Museum

Tour: 3:30-5

*Cultural tour and interpretation*

Led by Maggie

Drive yourself to: 56633 Highway 93, Pablo, MT 59855 Phone: 406.675.0160

6:00 **Happy Hour**

6:30 **Dinner**

Keynote: Tony Incashola, Sr. Salish-Qlispe Culture Committee Director

### **Thursday, September 26: Community Issues**

7:30 **Coffee and Pastries**

7:45 **Good Morning & Coming Together**

8:00

### Session 3 (60 minutes each, select 1)

#### **Tourism & Recreation: Supporting Recreation into the Future**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion*

##### **“Whitefish Trail: Economics of Frontcountry Recreation”**

Diane Conradi, Founder and Director Montana Access Project Whitefish Legacy Partners with Alan Myers-Davis

*The Whitefish community's investment in trails close to town, public access to protected, open lands and a high-quality well-maintained trail network pays dividends. A 2018 study concluded the community investment in conservation, recreation and education is generating a return of \$6.4 million per year.*

##### **“Montana Outdoor Heritage Project”**

Cole Mannix, Associate Director, Western Landowners Alliance

*The Montana Outdoor Heritage Project (MOHP) is a state-wide conversation taking place this summer surrounding the need for increased state conservation funding related to working lands, wildlife, state parks, and outdoor recreation.*

Marne Hayes, Business for MT Outdoors

Moderator: Sheena Pate, Project Coordinator, Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council

#### **Holistic Health: Reimagining Soil Conversation to Support Healthy Communities**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion. A small yet powerful movement of informed farmers, ecologists, food enthusiasts, and chefs are choosing better health through foods grown using sustainable and regenerative practices. While research gaps exist, emergent data clearly shows that these foods have direct and indirect benefits for human and environmental health including superior nutritional value and beneficial impacts on immunity and gut health, thus chronic disease. Small communities represent unique opportunities for enhanced localized health and economic development through ecologically diverse farming practices.*

Leah Webb, MPH, Author and Food Educator, Deep Rooted Wellness

#### **Natural Resources: Climate Change Impacts in Montana**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion. The talk will cover current climate patterns and projections for western Montana. Climate change impacts will focus on water, agriculture and forestry.*

Bruce Maxwell, Co-Director and Professor Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Montana State University

9:00

**BREAK**



9:15

## Session 4 (60 minutes each, select 1)

### **Tourism & Recreation: Transboundary Tourism in the Crown**

*Presentation followed by moderated discussion. The nature of climate change, tourism, and wildfires are highly variable from year to year and managers and their organizations are increasingly being forced to be flexible and adaptable in the face of uncertainty. Engagement of partners will be foundational to navigating the challenges moving forwards.*

Jeff Mow, Superintendent, Glacier National Park  
Sal Rasheed, Waterton Lakes National Park

### **Holistic Health: Holistic Health of Human and Natural Systems Panel Discussion**

*Moderated discussion regarding land trusts' role in community and landscape health. This panel is an opportunity for land trusts to talk about their role both locally and on a landscape-scale, and to showcase the unique projects they work on to support the needs, health, and social/ecological issues of the communities they serve.*

Paul Travis, Executive Director, Flathead Land Trust  
Richard Klafki, Canadian Rocky Mountains Program Director, Nature Conservancy of Canada  
Regan Plumb, Kaniksu Land Trust

Moderator: Emily Harkness, Project Coordinator, Heart of the Rockies Initiative

### **Natural Resources: Huckleberries and Pollinators**

Tabitha Graves, USGS  
Janene Lichtenberg, Salish Kootenai College

### **Connectivity: Preserving Connections on Private Lands**

John Steuber, State Director/Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services  
Gary Burnett, Executive Director, Heart of the Rockies Initiative  
Paul Jones, Wildlife Biologist, Alberta Conservation Association

10:15

**BREAK**

10:30

Bingo prizes announced

11:00

**Roundtable It – Looking Ahead** (Shawn Johnson)

In small groups, participants reflect on the central theme of the conference – and how they can move this forward with their work.

12:00

**Closing Prayer**

*Colors Removed, Honor Guard* - CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

12:30

**Roundtable Leadership Team Meeting**