

Proposed Trans-Boundary Workshop

Workshop Concept

The environment doesn't respect human boundaries. Watersheds, wildlife, air quality, invasive species...all parts of the environment transcend multiple boundaries on any given landscape. These boundaries are real and can impact the environment and our human objectives for it, especially at the edges of jurisdictions.

Traditionally, such issues have been addressed sector-by-sector and or in a transactional and contractual manner. However, collaborative, broad-scope, large landscape conservation initiatives with commonly-desired outcomes are evolving in North America. Some of the best examples on the continent are in our backyard – the trans-boundary Crown of the Continent Ecosystem and the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative. In southern Alberta, native grassland and watershed initiatives include the Government of Alberta's South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and partnership initiatives, such as the Prairie Conservation Forum's Prairie Conservation Action Plan; and the Milk River Watershed Council of Canada's trans-boundary State of the Watershed report and forthcoming watershed management plan.

Alberta partners would like to hold a joint workshop to explore the interest for a broader trans-boundary partnership with our Montana and Saskatchewan colleagues. The workshop objectives are:

1. Become familiar with the broad scope of work and accomplishments of large landscape conservation trans-boundary collaboratives.
2. Review the status of existing trans-boundary grassland initiatives with a focus on successes, challenges and outcomes.
3. Discuss existing jurisdictionally-based environmental, land use and natural resource management priorities and challenges. Identify potential topics where new or enhanced trans-boundary collaboration may result in better outcomes.
4. Confirm interest in pursuing additional topical trans-boundary issues or a broad grassland trans-boundary large landscape collaborative.

Note: The grassland trans-boundary collaboration will not supersede or replace any existing successful bilateral initiatives currently in place.

Desired Workshop Outcomes:

- ✓ examine a suite of interests relevant to trans-boundary conservation in each of the jurisdictions and have a broader understanding of trans-boundary interdependencies and initiatives,
- ✓ identify and assess potential areas of mutually-desirable importance for new or enhanced trans-boundary work; and
- ✓ collectively agree whether there is interest in pursuing a broader trans-boundary collaborative effort.

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