**Summary of AMI Mid Term Reports**

The 2014 AMI Program is progressing nicely with most of our 16 funded projects well into the implementation of their work. The AMI Initiative is by definition a broad and inclusive program aimed at building resilience around Crown communities, conservation and culture. Of the projects underway, we have lots of work on collaboration and sharing lessons, which we feel is critical for effective large landscape work.

We have been having well attended monthly calls with the AMI project leaders and we have had 6 excellent project presentations on those calls, with more scheduled to come. Of the 16 total projects funded, we have 4 tribal projects from two tribes. Our largest grant was for $70,000 to the “Linking Collaboratives” project and there are several projects funded at the $5000 level. Projects are all at different stages of adaptation implementation, from awareness building to planning to actual on the ground monitoring and restoration.

One of our original 17 projects, TEK with the Blackfeet Community College, withdrew their application due to personnel changes. Funds from that project ($10,000) will be used partly to fund attendance costs for a Crown Tribal Workshop that will be held before the Annual Crown Conference the morning of Sept 10th.

Below is a very short summary of the projects and some highlights of from their mid-term reports submitted June 1st.

1. **Linking Collaboratives Across the Crown**: The goal of this project is to strategically link “individual collectives” by connecting various Crown wide initiatives (CMP, CCCI and SWCC) working on climate adaptation and collaboratively identify 1-3 priority pilot adaptation actions aimed at conservation targets to initiate implementation over. REPORT: The March “Big Tent/ Taking Action” workshop provided a broad inventory of priorities for consideration and included many AMI grantees and others. This project is also funding Erin Sexton and Anne Carlson to continue serving on the Scientific Advisory Committee for CCCI and for Anne Carlson to serve on the CSKT Climate Adaptation Oversight Committee. Another meeting is being planned for the fall and will focus on the priority projects identified.
2. **Engaging Communities in Ecosystem Monitoring:** Goal is to engage and inform local communities about climate and natural resource issues through citizen science monitoring and the development and use of a science curriculum in schools. REPORT: To date, monitoring sites have been established, and equipment purchased and in some cases installed. A curriculum is being developed with teachers and science education specialists. The bulk of the monitoring will start to happen later in the summer. This model being established is interesting to others in the Crown and could be applied crown-wide.
3. **Beavers as a Tool for Climate Change Adaptation:** Beavers keep water on the landscape benefiting both landowners and managers. REPORT: We plan to build upon efforts to engage land owners/managers and watershed stewards in considering beaver reintroduction by developing a workshop and researching barriers to reintroduction. Workshop being developed will educate people about the benefits of introducing and keeping beaver on the landscape and will be presented in Oct, outreach throughout the Crown is underway.
4. **Planning for landscape, lifestyle and livelihood:** Community participation in the Whitefish Range Partnership will deliver community-driven land-use recommendations for the Whitefish Range as part of the USFS planning process. REPORT: The WRP has delivered a unanimous agreement to the US Forest Service that recommends increased suitable timber base, increased motorized and non-motorized recreation, increased wildlife habitat protections, increased recommended wilderness, designation of new recreation areas, and includes the language of the North Fork Watershed Protection Act (NFWPA). In 2014, multiple WRP members, including NPCA staff, began their multi-year participation in the Flathead National Forest’s formal stakeholder process, educating other members about the WRP agreement and advocating for its inclusion in the USFS draft forest plan. This group is continuing to meet and work together on project level implementation of their goals.
5. **Helping Wildlife to Cross Highway 3:** Keeping landscapes and wildlife populations connected by promoting and facilitating road crossings across highway 3 in Alberta. REPORT: Unfortunately this project did not get additional funding to match the AMI funds and has therefore changed its activities somewhat. They will now implement a technical workshop and strategy session in BC on how to implement a community based approach for improving wildlife and human safety along highway 3. The 1.5 day workshop will be held in the fall.
6. **Enhancing Resilience of Native Plant Communities through Weed Management**: Supporting the Weed Roundtable in carrying out collaborative volunteer-oriented weed management along the Rocky Mountain Front portion of the Crown. REPORT: We have made several changes in the way we will have commercial applicators collect data and will make efforts to better train commercial applicators on how to judge weed infestations to better decide what management options will be used. Our intent is to refine and export these techniques into other drainages on the Rocky Mountain Front. How this links to other areas of the Crown will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The establishment of biological controls may have a profound effect on other areas of the Crown that are presently infested with spotted knapweed that the insects may be able to access. We will the need to pass on the expected outcomes to other land managers and convince them that this will be the most effective and economical way to impact infestations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed
7. **Implementation of the Headwaters action plan:** Improving the health and resilience in the headwaters of Oldman Watershed of Alberta through community planning, engagement and implementation. REPORT: The AMI grant to the OWC assists in helping the OWC build on the momentum and collaboration of multiple projects to have a larger cumulative impact for headwaters health, resilience to climate change, and sustainability. coordination of this work by the Planning Manager has resulted in the following actions: review of public and stakeholder comments amendments and clarification to the Headwaters Action Plan, prioritization of priority actions, and creation of a steering committee. We have much to learn from the work completed by other Crown initiatives related to westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout in relationship to resilience to climate change, and how management actions can help with this goal.
8. **Reforming Forest Management in the Canadian Crown:** Addressing the impacts of forestry and forest land use activities on adaptation to climate change. REPORT: We intended to have one workshop for all three jurisdictions but due to the difficulty in finding a date that works for the key industry, government and ENGOs in all B.C., Alberta and Montana we have decided to hold two workshops – one in B.C. and one in Alberta. Although with this strategy we will not be able to facilitate the discussion between B.C. and Alberta, it will allow us to focus the learnings from Montana and discussion in the workshop within the context of each province. Although this has so far been challenging and has led to some changes in strategy and timeline, we are confident that we will be able to run the workshops in both provinces.
9. **Tribal and First Nations Collaboration for Adaptation:** Locating and identifying a person or persons from each of the seven tribal nations around the Crown to collaborate on Roundtable and climate adaptation activities. REPORT: I am working with Sue Higgins to ensure Tribal groups are invited and included in the Conference. We are going to offer a morning session for Tribal participation the first day of the Conference. I have been in contact with Blackfeet, Blood and Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes to determine potential contacts to pass on information. I am also working on a resource list of Tribal programs/organization that may want to build partnerships with the COTC roundtable. Tribal leaders/program directors etc. change often so keeping up with the changes is challenging.
10. **Leadership Training for Sustainable Business:** Educating public and private organizations on the resource capacity limits in the Crown and engaging businesses on implementing on-the-ground adaptation strategies for climate change. REPORT: Sheena H. Pate has replaced Dylan Boyle as the project lead, taking Dylan’s former position as a full time staff person with the Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council (CCGC). In the next few months they will work to supplement & adapt the Yellowstone Business Partnership curriculum products to develop a Crown-specific program for business sustainability. They will also recruit a Crown leadership team to serve as experts and presenters in the Business Sustainability Program to be launched in 2015.
11. **Cross Cultural Capacity Building for Climate Adaptation planning for the Blackfeet**: Increasing cross-cultural capacity of indigenous and non-indigenous groups to collaborate on climate adaptation in the Crown through working with the Blackfeet Nation. REPORT: The objectives of this project are to conduct a pilot study 1) to identify the necessary protocols for collaboration between the Blackfeet Nation and government and non-government agencies active in the CoC, and 2) to identify the priorities of the Blackfeet Nation in climate change adaptation. The outcomes of this project will include both written and presented material on the priorities of, and protocols for working with the Blackfeet Nation. To date we have conducted 25 in-depth interviews with community members and we are now in the process of transcribing these interviews for coding and analysis. The interviews were longer than anticipated, sometimes lasting over five hours, and represent a considerable amount of data to transcribe.
12. **Identifying Cultural and Resources Priorities in the CSKT:** The CSKT climate adaptation plan has been developed and is ready for implementation. This project identifies and supports the collaborative implementation of this plan. REPORT: Although a formal mid-term was not submitted by the CSKT, they have organized a climate change oversight committee and are having monthly meetings to work towards prioritizing climate implementation actions. The meetings are inclusive and collaborative and they have identified whitebark pine as one of the priority items to work on.
13. **Supporting Collaboration of Tribes and First Nations:** Tribal partners are critical to the health of the Crown, this project will brings Tribes and First Nations together to share stories, ideas and opportunities to better manage their resources. A half-day workshop will be organized by Lea Whitford the morning before the Annual Crown Conference. Costs of attending will be covered by funds from this project.
14. **Capacity Building through Collaboration:** Exploring the value of collaboration in large landscape conservation by working with the AMI project leaders. REPORT: This is a small project that is underway and we expect a report that will help us evaluate our efforts.
15. **Trans-boundary Education Initiative:** Developing and implementing an experiential teaching, learning and research initiative for university students in Canada and the US focused on the Crown Ecosystem. REPORT: Enrollment in the joint field course is currently at 8 students with fall registration yet to be concluded. Projects that aid adaptive management in the Crown of the continent for graduate student completion are being solicited from the Crown Managers Partnership and CCCI NGOs. Our project will be linked to the Crown Manager’s Partnership ecological health project and the Crown Roundtable by providing research and outreach capacity needed to advance those projects that should, in turn, link to many other partners acting within the Crown of the Continent.
16. **Southwest BC Invasive Species Management:**  The East Kootenay Invasive Plant council uses preventative and eradication measures in SE British Colombia to deal with invasive plants and animals by using a pooled-resource delivery. REPORT: EKIPC has developed a work plan for the 2014 season that incorporates critical funding from the Adaptive Management Initiative for a previously under-supported region. Due to seasonal weather conditions, access is limited to the Flathead Valley region until snow is melted and roads are cleared (July). EKIPC has completed a contract with Blacktail Resources Ltd. to deliver chemical and/or mechanical treatments to priority weed species in the region once it is accessible. EKIPC has also employed two outreach staff that will highlight the importance of invasive species management within the East Kootenay and beyond.