



**BC-MT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
TRANSBOUNDARY FLATHEAD WORKPLAN
FLATHEAD EXECUTIVE GROUP
*MEETING MINUTES***

Thursday May 15th, 2014 | Waterton Lakes Community Center | Waterton, Alberta

MEETING OBJECTIVES/DESIRED OUT-COMES

- (1) Brief review of progress to date, following directive from the Flathead Executive Group in Leavenworth, WA, May, 2013
- (2) Brief review of September, 2012 meeting of the Flathead Work Group, focused on the development of an adaptation plan for the Transboundary Flathead Aquatic Ecosystem
- (3) Summary of work to date and products being developed to inform the adaptation plan for the Transboundary Flathead Aquatic Ecosystem
- (4) Confirm direction from the Flathead Executive Group for 2014-2015
- (5) Confirm next steps for the Flathead Work Group in 2014-2015

MEETING SUMMARY

I INTRODUCTIONS – (see Table I for participants)

- The meeting began with introductions of individuals, including what agencies they represent and their responsibilities with respect to the transboundary Flathead River Basin

II BACKGROUND

The BC-MT MOU is a framework for collaboration on three primary areas:

- 1) Environmental Protection
 - 2) Climate Action
 - 3) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative is convening the Flathead Executive Group to implement the following provisions of the BC-MT MOU relevant to the Transboundary Flathead:
 - 1) Environmental Protection- Land, Water, Fish and Wildlife
 - 2) Climate Action
 - 3) Information-Sharing

III OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR BC-MT MOU

- Flathead Executive Committee will provide overall direction and implementation priorities
- Flathead Working Group (Regional Managers and Biologists) implement the Work Plan within respective jurisdictional contexts

IV SUMMARY OF WORK TO DATE

- Convened Flathead Working Group September, 2012
- Developed Five-Year Transboundary Flathead Work Plan for implementation of the BC-MT MOU
- 2010-2013; GNLCF funded Strategic Science in support of the BC-MT MOU
 - Predicting effects of climate change on aquatic ecosystems (Muhlfeld, Hauer)
 - Capacity funds to Province of B.C. for priority information on priority species in the B.C. Flathead
 - Flathead River Watershed Assessment (NetMap) (Benda, Watson, Heller)
 - Capacity funds to State of Montana for Demonstration Landscape Assessment Project
 - Large Carnivore Fine-Scale Linkages Study (Servheen)
 - Wolverine and grizzly bear transboundary movement research (Servheen)
- Pilot Transboundary Flathead River Aquatic Adaptation Strategy (see Figure 1.)
 - Stream temperature and precipitation modeling for species thermal vulnerability
 - Invasive hybridization by non-native trout
 - NetMap – Decision Support Tool for Managers with spatially reference data

V DISCUSSION – items for Flathead Work Group meeting

- **Confirmed the co-chairs of the Flathead Executive Committee as John Tubbs, State Of Montana and Paul Rasmussen, Province of British Columbia**
- The group agreed to rotate the location of the Flathead Working Group Meetings – B.C. Next
- **Discussed opportunities for exploring aquatic invasive species management** (pure WSCT in B.C. threatened by non-native trout moving north)
- Discussed opportunities to **interface with the US Forest Service Forest Plan Revision Process**

V NEXT STEPS

- **Convene Flathead Technical Group in the Fall, 2014** to review data and products supporting the Aquatic Adaptation Framework
- **Initiate discussion around potential for a pilot for the terrestrial wildlife components** of the MOU and Flathead Work Plan
- **Continue feedback with Flathead Executive Committee** (linked to GNLCF Steering Committee meetings)
- **Test implementation at the regional management level**

BACKGROUND

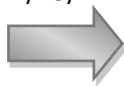
| | <i>agree</i> | <i>plan</i> | <i>do</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Explicitly covered under BC-MT MOU framework for collaboration | Transboundary Flathead Workplan approved 4/15/12 | GNLCF providing coordination to implement these provisions of the Flathead Workplan |
| Environmental Protection | X |  | X |
| Climate Action | X | | X |
| Renewable & Low Carbon | X | | by the Flathead |



FIGURE 1: FRAMEWORK FOR AQUATIC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY FLATHEAD UNDER THE BC-MT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

TABLE 1. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

(*participated via teleconference)

(**invited but did not attend)

| Name | Title | Agency |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Katie Blake* | BC Conservation Coordinator | Nature Conservancy of Canada |
| Yvette Converse | GNLCC Coordinator | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Bryant Fairly** | Executive Director, US Relations and Partnerships | BC Office of the Premier |
| Lori Faeth** | Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs | US Department of the Interior |
| Blair Hammond | Manager, Ecosystem Conservation | Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada |
| Linda Hannah** | BC Coordinator of Conservation Projects | Nature Conservancy Canada |
| Matthew Heller | Data Manager/GIS Administrator/Cartographer | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Faye Krueger** | Deputy Regional Forester | US Forest Service Region 1 |
| Madeline Maley | Acting, Regional Executive Director | BC Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations |
| Clayton Matt** | Natural Resource Section Head | Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes |
| Karen Mollander* | Regional Director of Environmental Assessment and Planning | US Forest Service |
| Jeff Mow** | Superintendent, Glacier National Park | National Park Service |
| Tom Olliff | Coordinator, GNLCC | National Park Service |
| Dan Peterson | Director, Resource Management | BC Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations |
| Paul Rasmussen | Regional Executive Director, Kootenay Boundary Region | BC Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations |
| Erin Sexton | Coordinator | UM Institute on Ecosystems |
| John Tubbs | Director, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation | State of Montana |
| Mike Volesky | Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks | State of Montana |
| Noreen Walsh | Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Ray Warden** | | Ktunaxa Nation Council |
| | | |
| Greg Watson | Chief of Office of Landscape Conservation- Mountain Prairie | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Chip Weber** | Forest Supervisor Flathead National Forest | US Forest Service |
| Tammy Whittington** | Deputy Regional Director | US National Park Service |
| Mark Zacharias** | Assistant Deputy Minister | BC Ministry of Environment |