

Crown of the Continent
Ecosystem Education
Consortium

October 11, 2007 Fall Meeting
West Glacier, Montana



Enroute – Blackfeet
Sculptures!

Fantastic early morning light



The Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium (COCEEC) is a voluntary association of individuals, organizations and agencies whose goals and activities involve education or interpretation of the cultural and biophysical attributes of the Crown of the Content Ecosystem.

COCEEC is dedicated to providing a bio-regional focus to education within the Crown Ecosystem.

The following organizations took part:

Flathead Audubon Society, Alberta Environment, Crown of the Continent Research Learning Centre, Glacier National Park, Summit Nature Centre, Alberta Parks, The Glacier Institute, Waterton Lakes National Park.

We were treated to a special tour of the Glacier Park native plant nursery and a presentation by Kate Kendall on the latest Grizzly Bear DNA work in the Glacier area.



Glacier National Park Native Plant Nursery Tour
led by Sonja Hartmann.



Louella Cronkite
Alberta Environment

Janice Smith
Parks Canada

Anna Lee-Carswell
Parks Canada

Heidi Eijgel
Alberta Parks

The Canadian's looking on with interest – dedicated volunteers and staff work in the greenhouse doing various tasks associated with starting and propagating native species of plants.

I wonder what's
in the bag?!



Why bear scat of
course, complete
with adequately
scarified seeds
ready for planting!

Parks Canada staff checking on whitebark pine seedlings from Waterton! Glacier National Park provides seedlings and plants to Waterton Lakes National Park for reclamation projects.



The Northern Divide Grizzly Bear project – presentation by Katherine Kendall

A non-invasive sampling method is used in this study which spans 32,438 km² (8 million acres) of land under multiple ownership within the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem in Northwest Montana. Objectives included: population estimation and development of a genetic library for the NCDE.

From USGS website



The Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project



In addition to the traditional lured Bear fences to collect hairs for DNA analysis, Bear rub trees were located and watched via remote cameras. The hair collected include bears that have never visited lure sites.

Two amazing totals - 200 volunteers and over 200 employees were recruited to collect data and the minimum total of 545 bringing the number up to 563 unique bears were identified.

personal communication by research biologist

Photo from USGS website

<http://nrmsc.usgs.gov/research/NCDEbeardna.htm>

**Crown of the Continent
Research Learning Center**





Canadians visit the Crown of the Continent Learning Research Centre in Glacier National Park- a centre for Citizen Science Projects such as the Common Loon Monitoring Project.

A meeting of parks – Glacier National Park and their sister park in Mongolia, Alberta Provincial Parks taking the picture, Waterton Lakes National Park providing commentary and Alberta Environment keeping us in the flow!

Citizen Science Loon
Monitoring Project
Coordinator Jami Belt

Bille Thomas,
Administrative
Assistant

Director of the Glacier Learning
Research Centre, Sallie Hejl



Research Learning Centres in the National Parks Service

- Connect scientists with parks and science with people
 - Facilitate use of parks for scientific enquiry
 - Support science based decision making
- Communicate the relevance of research knowledge
 - Provide access to research knowledge
- Promote stewardship through partnerships

**What a great way to coordinate stewardship,
build partnerships and create champions for our parks!**

Jami talking about Loon Monitoring and the Crown Invasive Alien Species Publication.



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TROPICAL PLANTS



"There's a \$100 bill in here!"

**Let's remember
safety first,
last and always.**

Susan Sindt talks about the fire ecology staff information binders and interpretive trail development she's been working on . . .





Office of the Central
Research Learning Center

Where's Charlie?



Founding members of the Canadian tri-departmental group load up for the trip back.



Next meeting April 3rd, 2008 at
Pine Butte Guest Ranch!

Coming soon to Canada – 2008
Fall COCEEC Meeting!