

COCEEC

Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium Ecosystem Education Mini-Grant FALL 2010 Application Form

Application form must be completed and submitted by November 30, 2010 for consideration. Submit forms by email to **Lisa Flowers at** flowers@boone-crockett.org or by mail to PO BOX 598, Choteau, MT 59422. Preference will be given to Applications with 2 or more COCEEC Participants in good standing who will collaborate on a project. Questions, contact Lisa Flowers at 406-466-2078

Name of COCEEC Participant Groups who will partner: Flathead National Forest, Glacier National Park, Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center

Contact Information: Teresa Wenum and Tris Hoffman, Flathead National Forest – twenum@fs.fed.us; 406.758.5218; thoffman@fs.fed.us; 406.758.3510

Amount Requested (cannot exceed \$500): \$450

Would you be able to accept partial funding? Yes

Please answer the following questions briefly and clearly.

1. Describe the program or project for which this funding would be used and how it promotes understanding and/or conservation within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem:

This funding would go toward the second printing of *Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent* by Jami Belt, Dawn LaFleur, Melissa Sladek and Tim Gibbins. This weed identification booklet was originally published in 2009 as a Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center (CCRLC) effort with initial funding from a National Park Service grant and contributions from participating organizations, including Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park.

To help address the rapid spread of invasive plant species and the plants' negative impacts throughout the ecosystem, the Crown Invasive Species Plant Network (CIPN) - agency representatives from across the ecosystem make up this working group – identified a need to develop an invasive plant field guide specific to the Crown Ecosystem. Development, printing and distribution of the guide meets one of four goals addressed by the CIPN, "Support the design and production of education and outreach products across the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem."

The field guide presents comprehensive information about 42 different invasive plant (land and aquatic) species that land managers agreed posed the greatest threats. In addition there is brief information about 21 additional plants in the "Weeds to Watch For" section.

The first printing has been widely distributed across the ecosystem and used extensively in education and outreach efforts, including weed crew orientations, citizen scientist programs, local home and landowner associations, education trunks and teacher trainings. All efforts strive to stop the spread of invasive species through identification, reporting species location and understanding plant reproduction and dispersal strategies.

Most of the original 5000 copies have been distributed. The guide's popularity has prompted requests for additional copies to be used for continued education and outreach efforts across the ecosystem.

2. What is the timeline for this project?

The goal is to accomplish a second printing in 2011. To date several organizations have committed funds toward a second reprint that would print about 1400 copies. During the first half of 2011, CIPN agencies and other organizations within the ecosystem will seek additional funds to increase the total number printed. And any editing to the field guide would be accomplished during this time.

3. Describe how other COCEEC participant groups and individuals would benefit from helping to fund this request:

Crown managers, resource specialists and educators have touted *The Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent* as the best weed identification guide for the Crown of the Continent ecosystem—because of its' specific content to the area. Any COCEEC project or participant would benefit from having the guide available for field based employees, educators and residents. Mini-grant applicant agencies provide the guide to field based crew leaders, other interested employees, landowners, recreationists and teachers. The book is also used during field-based orientations and trainings with employees and citizen science projects.

4. To the degree applicable, describe how this project involves or encourages collaboration between different groups and/or individuals (agencies, schools, teachers, scientists?):

The original development and printing of the guide was in itself collaboration among agencies, educators and scientists. The increased demand for the book has come from area residents and agencies. As people are able to identify noxious weeds, find them in the field and understand the threat they pose to the ecosystem, there is increased interest in working together to manage and control the plants. An example is landowners in the North Fork of the Flathead River. The North Fork Landowners' Association has worked with Flathead National Forest, Glacier National Park and others to train a cadre of members that work with their neighbors to survey, monitor and help prevent the spread of invasive plant species through appropriate control methods. The *Invasive Plants of the Crown of the Continent* publication is a well worn tool for these active homeowners. The book is also extensively used with citizen science projects such as Glacier's "Invasive Weed Mapping Project."

5. If applicable, please describe any other sources and amounts of funding for this project:

The \$450 mini-grant request would print approximately 150 copies of the guide at a cost of \$3.00 each. Flathead National Forest will match \$100 and Glacier National Park will contribute \$2,000 for editing and distribution. Several organizations have contributed funding toward printing costs: Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes (\$700); Alberta Parks (\$500); Alberta Invasive Plant Council (\$500); British Columbia Ministry of the Environment (\$500); Regional District of East Kootenai, BC (\$500); Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia (\$500); Waterton Lakes National Park (\$900).

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