



Seeley-Swan-Blackfoot Stewardship Summit

AGENDA

April 15-16, 2009

Double Arrow Lodge, Seeley Lake

OVERVIEW:

The Seeley, Swan and Blackfoot valleys of Montana are each practicing strategies related to collaborative place-based land management—striving to meet the “triple bottom line” of stewardship of our natural resources, strong economies and healthy rural communities. Recently, much as a result of these grassroots efforts, all three valleys are experiencing significant changes in land ownership patterns. At the same time, the economy of the region is also facing major transitions. The purpose of the Summit is to launch an annual event that brings the three watershed efforts together to leverage more success on our shared landscape. Meeting objectives include:

- To host a forum for key community, public agency, non-profit conservation, business and academic leaders to share resources, learn from one another and collaborate on long-term stewardship and restoration of public and private lands across the Seeley, Swan and Blackfoot valleys.
- To discuss both new and existing opportunities and tools to promote healthy economies and jobs related to stewardship and restoration.
- To identify priority resource issues for collaboration across the three watersheds and targeted action items for 2009-10 to share with our communities.

Wednesday, April 15

8:30-9:10 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions, Mary Mitsos, National Forest Foundation Stewardship Opportunities & Challenges: The Community Perspective

Community members will share about the issues facing their watershed, and opportunities and challenges to creating sustainable jobs for long-term stewardship of the natural resources and viability of rural communities.

- Melanie Parker - Swan Watershed
- Roger Marshall - Clearwater Watershed
- Jim Stone - Blackfoot Watershed

9:10-9:45 a.m.

Changing Landscapes & the Socio-Economic Implications for Communities

A county rural landscape scientist and university professor will provide background information on changing demographics, landownership and economic patterns, and the implications for communities and collaborative efforts to foster sustainable economies, ecologies and communities in the region.

Panel Moderator: Scott Tomson, Clearwater Resource Council

- Carly Walker, Missoula County Rural Initiatives
- Jill Belsky, University of Montana, The Bolle Center for People and Forests

- 9:45-10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:00-11:00 a.m. **Partnership Opportunities in a Changing Landscape & Economy: The National Perspective**
Federal decision-makers and partners will share their view on the most important needs and action items related to long-term stewardship of public/private lands. Key discussion points include funding sources and mechanisms for stewardship and restoration partnerships and how our watersheds can support their respective agency in 2009-10. (10 minutes each with Q/A)
Panel Moderator: Ali Duvall, Blackfoot Challenge
- Bruce Fox, US Forest Service
 - Greg Neudecker, US Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Craig Engelhard, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 11:00-12:00 p.m. **Partnership Opportunities in a Changing Landscape & Economy: The State/Local Perspective**
This panel will follow the same pattern of discussion as above, with key decision-makers and partners representing state and local perspectives. (10 minutes each with Q/A)
Panel Moderator: Anne Dahl, Swan Ecosystem Center
- Bob Harrington, MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 - Paul Sihler, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 - Pat O’Herren, Missoula County Rural Initiatives
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. **Partnership Opportunities in a Changing Landscape & Economy: The Non-Profit/Industry Perspective**
As key partners involved in the stewardship and restoration of lands with shifting ownership patterns, this panel will provide an opportunity to learn more about how our non-profit and industry partners can help implement a long-term vision for stewardship to benefit the natural resources and rural communities in each watershed. (10 minutes each with Q/A)
Panel Moderator: Roger Marshall, Clearwater Resource Council
- Caroline Byrd, The Nature Conservancy/Trust for Public Land
 - Al Christophersen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 - Loren Rose, Pyramid Mountain Lumber
- 2:30-2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45-4:00 p.m. **Discussion by Break-Out Groups**
Based on what we’ve heard, what are the top priorities for action? How can we accomplish these priorities to meet the “triple bottom line” (ecological/economic/social) in our communities and landscapes? What are the leverage points to work together?
- 4:00-4:45 p.m. **Summarize Discussion – Report Back**
- 4:45-5:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Overview of Tomorrow’s Goals - Mary Mitsos**
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. **No-Host Social Hour and Fajita Bar Dinner**

Thursday, April 16

8:45 a.m.

Coffee & Rolls

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Tools for Implementation of Stewardship: Meeting the Triple Bottom Line

Presentations will be shared on existing and new tools for stewardship, focused on contracts, grants and agreements. (10 minutes each Q & A)

Panel Moderator: Mo Hartmann, Northwest Connections

- Overview of Existing Tools – Carol Daly, Flathead Economic Policy Center
- Stewardship Contracts/Agreements – Michele Wasienko-Holland and Jerry Thompson, USFS
- Blackfoot Community Conservation Area – Ali Duvall, Blackfoot Challenge

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break/Snacks

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Developing Action Plans for the Coming Year & Working Together

Partners will break into groups and develop action plans based on priorities identified at the end of Day 1. We will identify information needs and ask what new tools are needed. Action groups will choose a leader and members who will work towards implementation.

11:30 – 12:15 p.m.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Share results of break out groups and seek interest from other members through sign-up process.

To access follow up materials from the event and for contact information for all sponsoring organizations please visit the following website, <http://www.northwestconnections.org/stewardshipsummit.html>. There will be a direct link to this page from the Northwest Connections website.