



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Value of region's public lands is focus of virtual forum**

People interested in promoting sustainable economic growth and protecting the public lands in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Ontario are invited to a virtual forum 10 to 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 23.

Our Keynote speaker is from another National Geographic, Geotourism Destination, Crown of the Continent's Project Coordinator, Sheena Pate. Sheena will share how industry, community, and government create economic development in the area where Alberta, British Columbia and Montana meet in the Rocky Mountains. Pate also serves as the current president of the National Geotourism Council.

The forum is sponsored by the Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP). The Partnership works across the woods and waters where Minnesota and Ontario meet. Its purpose is to build vibrant and resilient communities that value and protect public lands. Heart of the Continent region stretches from Duluth north along Lake Superior to Thunder Bay and Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, west to International Falls and Fort Frances, and south along St. Louis County's western border. Land managers from Quetico Provincial Park, the Superior National Forest and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will speak about how HOCP enhances their work.

"It is important to understand how big the economy of the Heart of the Continent region is, and how hugely reliant we are on each other for our successes," said Chris Stromberg, HOCP Coordinator. "It is surprising how interconnected we truly are and the things that we could be doing together to create our future, through shared initiatives."

Additionally, James Dion, past representative of the National Geographic Society feels strongly that "Heart of the Continent Partnership project underscores the importance of connecting the

local trans-border communities, smartly sharing the region’s tremendous scenic, historic and cultural assets, and helping them thrive together not just for now, but into the future.”

Please join the Heart of the Continent Partnership (HOCP) to find out more about the public lands we share, and how these lands support our nature and economy. The webinar is intended for anyone who wants to protect and conserve the area, has a tourism-based business, or is interested in region-wide sustainable economic development.

Please join us by registering at <https://conta.cc/2PI0bUN>. The forum will have presentations and time for questions and discussion. We want to share our successes as well as what we are working on. We also want to hear from you, so bring your ideas and questions! Join us in moving forward with our commitment to cross-border collaborations through shared discussions.

Event Details:

Heart of the Continent Partnership

Online Forum: SHARED LANDS STRONG FUTURE

Friday, April 23, 2021 from 10:00AM - 11:30AM CST

**REGISTER** <https://conta.cc/2PI0bUN>



## CONTACT

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