

Appendix 8.15

Summary of Departmental Planning Activities

Summary Table

Overview, Summary, Assessment of Broad Area Planning

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Summary Table

Prepared for:
East Side Planning Initiative

Submitted by:

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Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Manitoba Natural Resources		East Side of Lake Winnipeg: Provincial Overview Plan, 1986. A plan to provide a consistent framework for land use on the East Side.	1986. Intended to cover a 20 year period, reviewed every 5 years. The 20 year time frame expires in 2006.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written plan document, available at the Manitoba Conservation Library. May have been distributed to Round Table members previously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review documents are absent. A process for review is absent. No evidence that the plan was the subject of public consultation. It is possible that the plan was never reviewed as intended. There is no assessment of the degree to which this plan was followed in making subsequent land use decisions on the East Side (ES). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan offers a useful background and starting point for the Round Table (RT) to consider in the development of its Broad Area Plan; Provincial government departments state their goals and objectives for the East Side; The Plan designates provincial land use zones and maps and describes the uses intended for the zones; The Plan contains an amendment process and implementation provisions, which could serve as useful models for the RT.
Manitoba Conservation		Manitoba's Ecosystem Based Management Pilot Project (EcoRegion 90) – a cooperative effort to develop the ecological capacity of the area, and to determine and incorporate public/societal values surrounding the ecosystem.	Initiated in 1997.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba's Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Pilot Project – Executive Summary (June 2002). Provides a summary of all three reports. Manitoba Ecosystem Based Management Pilot Project: Science Team Report (March 2002) (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # QH 77 C2 M365 2002). Delineated the biophysical characteristics of the ecoregion, and described some of the natural processes & human activities shaping the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teams could not complete the "lacing" or combining of societal values with ecological capacity to determine a vision and goals for the area. Based on existing data and a general overflight. Amount and scope of information was inadequate for broad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive work on EcoRegion 90 which encompasses the southern half of the ES Planning Area. Study showed strong support for preserving the natural integrity of the ecoregion, and a strong desire for wilderness preservation, minimal land disturbance

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Manitoba Conservation				<p>landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report of the EBM Values Team (October 2001). To determine values concepts for and within the region through (1) a broad survey ("Ecosystems and Forest Values Survey, Jan/Feb 2000") ; (2) workshops with harvesters, environmentalists/outdoor recreationalists and a combination of both; (3) community site visits and interviews in Poplar River and Little Grand Rapids First Nations. EcoRegion 90: A Social and Economic Description (July 1999, reprinted October 2001) (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # HT 395 C32 P434 1999). Description of social and economic characteristics of the region. Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Studies were also done for Poplar River, Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids First Nations to provide a "holistic understanding of the ways First Nation people use, value and protect various ecosystem components and the integrity of the natural system: (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # HT 395 C32 E368 2000). 	<p>area planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values research was not bridged with scientific research. Data reliability was questioned due to not being current and changing conditions (population & employment statistics were old). Harvest levels and intensity of use were not included in the study, just location of use. 	<p>(either by roads, timber harvesting, etc.), and a desire for the integration of First Nation values in ecosystem based management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resulted in 7 recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Formally adopt EBM principles as policy and apply them in Manitoba. Provide the leadership and logistical support to implement EBM. Apply a consistent ecological classification system. Continue to advance ecosystem (biophysical) science. Establish an ongoing values elicitation program. Examine broader application of community land use studies. Establish an ongoing program of social and economic descriptions.
		Development of a Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba.	COSDI was released June 1999. June 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementation (COSDI) Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on interviews, the COSDI report is not seen to be fully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations in Wide-area planning on the East Side of Lake

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Manitoba Conservation		<p>COSDI report includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Wide area planning based on natural areas such as watersheds;" • Improved public participation; • "Development of a protocol to ensure meaningful inclusion of Aboriginal communities in land and resource planning and decision-making processes; and • A review of the round table sustainable development strategies..." 	2000 - Accepted by Conservation.	<p>(http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/suresmb/pub/cosdireport.html)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release announcing COSDI report (http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2000/06/2000-06-29-02.html) 	implemented.	Winnipeg are to act as a pilot project for other regions of the province.
		Annual Reporting. Provides detailed summary information on each branch's annual activities, including projects, budgets and initiatives.	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba Conservation Annual Report 2002 – 2003 (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/annual-report/conservation/2003-report.pdf). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources to complete several initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is an important resource to Round Table and First Nations members.
Forestry Branch	Greg Carlson Wood Supply Forester 945-7952 gcarlson@gov.mb.ca	Wood Supply Analysis for forest management units 31 (FML-01) and 35. This is an update to be used to calculate Annual Allowable Cut in these management units in the future.	Ready in spring, 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New forest inventory data from 1997 air photos, groundtruthing and modeling. • No published reports available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No forest inventory is happening outside of the Forest Management License areas. The forest inventory that has been done in the remainder of the planning area is out of date. • Older forest inventory may not be reliable enough to use as a basis for forest harvesting planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry operations are a major economic activity in ESPI. • Available commercial volume is affected by protected areas and withdrawals for Treaty Land Entitlements; • Possible partnerships forming with First Nations on new sawmills in the area.

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Forestry Branch		Forest Practice Guidelines – Developing Standards for Sustainable Forest Management in Manitoba. The guidelines will be included in various forest practice guidebooks.	Released in 2003, valid until 2008. Due for release after Feb. 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Harvest Surveys Forest Practices Guidebook (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/forest-practices/fpp-contents.html). Forest Roads Guide Book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge of the effects of the expanding access road network on East Side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has the opportunity to make some policy on road building and access
		Forestry Management Strategy and Planning.	Released in March 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Steps: Priorities for Sustaining Manitoba's Forests (March 2002) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/reports/prioritiesdoc.pdf). Outlines 5 priorities and associated objectives for sustaining MB forests. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An objective under the Enhance Forest Stewardship priority is to include the large area planning initiative as part of the forestry sector's overall long term planning.
	Stan Kaczanowski Regional Forester, Lac du Bonnet office (204) 345-1453	Forest Management and Planning. Within FML 01, Tembec is responsible for forest management and forest renewal. This is the responsibility of the province in the two Integrated Wood Supply Areas (IWSA). The current agreement allows Tembec to have the first right of refusal for wood harvested within the IWSAs. Tembec includes the IWSAs in their annual operating and renewal plans.	Year to year planning and decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forest Use and Management Regulation</i> 227/88R (http://web2gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/f150-227.99r.pdf). This lists the general conditions over timber cutting. Anyone wanting to cut timber on Crown land requires a licence, timber sale agreement or a permit to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a possibility that forest management within the IWSA is different from forest management within the FML. No overall management plan for the IWSAs. No forest management plan for the area North of 53. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main activity within the IWSA East is done around Berens River, but the amount of timber cut is very low due to depressed market, lack of all weather road/high cost of transportation. There used to be a barge service, but it has since been discontinued.

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Parks Branch - Protected Areas Initiative	Yvonne Beaubien Acting Head of Protected Areas 945-5159 ybeaubien@gov.mb.ca	Creation of protected areas from identified Areas of Special Interest (ASIs), including eight North of the 53 rd parallel including the Poplar/Nanowin Park Reserve. "...focus of the PAI for the next two years will be to solidify the science and record keeping components of the program and to advance consultations to establish new protected areas." (Newsletter - 2003). One of the areas of focus is Tembec's FML-01 (Newsletter – 2003).	Creation of protected areas process is on hold due to ESPI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Action Plan for Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas (January 1, 2000 – January 1, 2003) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pai/actionplan.html) Update for Action Plan – Specific Goals for 2000 Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative – News – November 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus has been on other areas of the province, particularly Tall grass Prairie landscapes. North of 53, information is scarce. No further updates to the Action Plan beyond 2000 are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) staff is looking for guidance from the RT on the establishment of protected areas. The Round Table is looking to the Protected Areas staff for direction and recommendations on protected areas.
	Kelly-Anne Richmond Ecological Reserves & Protected Areas Specialist 945-4040 kerichmond@gov.mb.ca	Action Plan update is due by the end of 2003.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Technical Assessment Manual for Evaluating ASIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Technical Assessment manual is incomplete. More clarity is needed in the process for moving an ASI towards becoming a Protected Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarcity of information about resource and landscape values North of 53 limits making rapid progress on defining new protected areas.
		First Nations Public Consultation Process.	First MOU signed March 5, 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations Complete Memorandum of Understanding - MOU outlines agreement between Assembly of MB Chiefs (AMC), Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakinak (MKO) and the Dept. of Natural Resources (now Conservation) to develop a process of identification, establishment and management of a network of Protected Areas. (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pai/mou_complete1.html) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process was to have been completed by 2000. Consultation with First Nation communities prior to establishing new protected areas is required). 	

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Parks & Natural Areas- Ecological Reserves Program	Helios Hernandez Protected Areas/Ecological Reserves Specialist 945-4148 hhernandex@gov.mb.ca	Creating Ecological Reserves. Ecological reserves are the most protected sites, free from intensive recreational development and resource harvest. Between 1994 and 1999, over 50 sites were identified. In total, 16 ecological reserves have been created, 3 during the reporting period.	On hold due to ESPI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Ecological Reserves Act</i> and Designation Regulations (1987-1988) (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/e005e.php) Ecological Reserves - Five Year Report to the Legislature (April 1, 1994 – March 31, 1999) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/ecological_reserves/five_year_report/five_year_report.html) Ecological Reserve Brochure 2002. (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/ecological_reserves/brochure/ecolog.pdf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No areas specifically identified North of FML 01. Lack of information North of 53. Long time it takes to create an ecological reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar position to PAI above. Waiting to see what Protected Areas are created from the existing ASIs, and whether any ecological reserves will be part of those protected areas.
Parks & Natural Areas - Park Reserves	Rick Wilson, Head Park System Planning 945-4365	Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve Land Use Management Plan.	Park Reserve Status expires on September 30, 2004. An additional five years of Park Reserve Status has been requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poplar Rivers First Nation (FN) has hired Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram to develop a plan for the area. Currently, there are no documents on the plan in progress available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is scarce information on either the plan or the process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poplar Rivers FN taking the lead on this initiative. The Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve may serve as a demonstration of a planning process for the East Side. Poplar River FN should be invited to share their experiences with the Round Table (RT).
		Manitotagan River Park Reserve – transfer Park Reserve into a Provincial Park. Draft boundary (expand from 250 m to 750 m on either side of river); proposed designation as back country for most of the park, which would prohibit logging,	Park Reserve Established in 1997. 2001 – First Round of Public Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitotagan River Park Reserve Public Consultation – Round 1 Comments Manitotagan River Park Reserve – Proposed Provincial Park (December 2002 Newsletter). This newsletter contains a draft proposed management framework based on comments from Round One of the public consultations. Second Round of Public Consultations – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No published information since Dec. 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance from the RT on the proposal to designate it as backcountry could be sought.

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Parks & Natural Areas – Park Reserves		mining and hydro-electric development, and Recreational Development. Land Use Category is proposed for existing mining claims at Turtle Lake; classification as “natural... to protect the river’s water quality, natural values and backcountry experience”; and primary purpose statement: “To maintain the backcountry canoeing experience along the Manigotagan River, preserve the river’s water quality and protect the intact natural condition of areas representative of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region.”	2002 – Designation extended until September 10, 2007.	<p>comments were invited through the December 2002 newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultations with Bissett, Hollow Water FN and Black River FN are currently underway at their request. Archaeological review of the river done with Hollow Water FN representative in 2003 – the first time it was done. Information on the public consultation process (including newsletters) can be found online at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/ . 		
Parks & Natural Areas - Provincial Parks	Ken Schykulski Head, Management Planning & Heritage Rivers, Parks & Natural Areas Branch 945-6797 kschykulsk@gov.mb.ca	<p>Atikaki Provincial Park & Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Draft Management Planning process.</p> <p>The wilderness park is representative of the Precambrian Boreal Forest, has core habitat in winter and summer for woodland caribou, supports a variety of wildlife, plant and fish species, has highly significant archaeological sites and cultural value, and has exceptional wilderness</p>	<p>1985 - Atikaki Park established.</p> <p>1987 – Bloodvein became a Heritage River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloodvein Heritage River Management Plan (1986 - prepared for MB Parks Branch by Hilderman Witty Crosby Hanna and Associates – this Management Plan will be replaced once the current Park and Heritage River management plan is approved by Manitoba and accepted by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Bloodvein River Monitoring Report, 1987 – 2000 (Available online at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eas/atsideplan/pdf/Bloodvein_Report.pdf). Canadian Heritage Rivers System – Systems Study of Rivers in Manitoba. Prepared for Parks Canada by Hilderman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management planning process not complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wilderness classification prohibits logging, mining, and oil/gas or hydro-electric development. All weather access road will increase accessibility to this wilderness park and is of concern to the overall management plan. “Any changes to the management plan should be done in the context of the East

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Parks & Natural Areas – Provincial Parks		canoeing opportunities on the Bloodvein, Pigeon, Gammon & Leyond rivers, with the Pigeon known for white-water rafting.	1997 – Park boundaries were adjusted and South Atikaki Park Reserve was established. Draft Plan released September 2001.	<p>Thomas Frank Cram (1997).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Management Plan for Atikaki Provincial Park (October 1998 Newsletter) –prepared for 1st round of public review of issues – proposed as a wilderness park. Comments asked on 5 issues related to the proposed park – the wilderness experience; development of facilities; protection and management of natural and heritage resources; the South Atikaki Park Reserve; and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River. • Atikaki Provincial Park – Management Planning Program Report on Public Comments (December 1999 Newsletter) – this summarized the various comments received on the 5 issues. Next step was the preparation of a draft management plan. • Atikaki Provincial Park & Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River (CHR) – Draft Management Plan (September 2001). This draft plan provides background information on the park; and outlines park management guidelines under the headings of natural resources; cultural resources; the wilderness experience; development of facilities in the park; the Bloodvein CHR; traditional uses and future opportunities; interpretation; and interprovincial park. www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/management_plans/atikaki/atikaki.html 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several of the guidelines identify the need for further research or data collection. For example, “2.1.5 – Research to identify special management requirements and programs for species such as the chestnut lamprey will be encouraged.” “2.2.1 – Research to identify heritage resources will be supported.” “2.3.4 – Additional 	<p>Side Plan.” (April 2002 Newsletter)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the plan is approved, Manitoba will seek a formal commitment from Ontario to begin work on an inter-provincial initiative between Nopiming, Atikaki and Woodland Caribou (ON) Provincial Park. Ontario will also be conducting consultations on the management plan of Woodland Caribou Park before further work on an inter-provincial park goes ahead.

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Parks & Natural Areas – Provincial Parks		Atikaki Provincial Park & Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Draft Management Planning process.	Public drop-ins held in Lac du Bonnet & Winnipeg; public comments reviewed. Final Management Plan to be approved and distributed in 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Planning Program Report on Public Comments (April 2002 Newsletter) 	<p>information is needed to more accurately monitor recreational activities so that desired experiences can be achieved and maintained" (Pigeon River Special Management Zone).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further documentation since 2002. 	
		South Atikaki Provincial Park Planning Process. Recommended Park Purpose: "To maintain habitat for Woodland Caribou and the intact natural condition of the canoe route access to Atikaki, and accommodate a variety of nature-oriented recreational opportunities while respecting existing commitments to the mining industry." (Brochure of Recommendations)	Established in April 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press Release on South Atikaki Provincial Park (http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/press/top/2003/04/2003-04-29-05.html) South Atikaki Park Reserve – Proposed Provincial Park (Brochure of Recommendations) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/south_atikaki/phase2/brochure2.pdf) South Atikaki Park Reserve Public Consultation – Summary of Comments (2002) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/south_atikaki/phase2/comments2.pdf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing further has been done since it was changed from a Reserve to a Park in April 2003. 	
		Nopiming Provincial Park planning.	Interim Management Guidelines released in November 1982 and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nopiming Provincial Park Interim Management Guidelines. Available through the Parks Branch. (Also available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # FC 3365.N6.M3N6 1988) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work being done on Nopiming Provincial Park. There are Interim Management Guidelines and there is currently no work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines (1988) are intended to be used as interim guidelines until a management plan for the park is approved. Logging continues to

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Parks & Natural Areas – Provincial Parks			revised in 1988. March 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A System Plan for Manitoba Parks states that Nopiming is classified as a Natural Park with the purpose to “accommodate a diversity of recreational opportunities and resource uses”. The Land Use Categories are: Backcountry (19%), Recreational Development (19%), Resource Management (62), and Access (1%). 	being done on a Park Management Plan.	expand into the area however there is no finalized Park Management Plan. This use falls within the Resource Management land use category.
		<p>Management Plan for the Hayes River.</p> <p>Includes 480km of Hayes River northeast of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, 43 km of the Nelson River north from Norway House, and 67 km of the Echimamish River which connects the Nelson and Hayes rivers. Nominated for natural heritage, human heritage and recreational values. Concerns are road construction (including winter roads), mining, forestry and hydro-electric development and their impacts on the proposed area.</p>	<p>Nominated in 2000 as a Canadian Heritage River System</p> <p>Feb. 2002</p> <p>Released Sept. 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards a Management Plan for the Hayes River (January 2002 Newsletter) was released for review at open houses. (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/) Open Houses held. Have completed open houses to identify management issues. Report on Public Comments (September 2002 Newsletter) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/hayes_river/hayes_report_on_public_comments.pdf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advertised deadline for Management Plan completion. Hoping to have a draft sometime in mid 2004. Slow progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2002 Newsletter indicates that a draft management plan is to be prepared. When finished, public meetings will be scheduled to review the draft.

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Parks & Natural Areas		Relevant legislation.	July 27, 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Provincial Parks Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/p020e.php) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional assessment of the impact of parks and protected areas on the East Side has not been done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act is a powerful tool for regulating and restricting land uses.
			Feb. 28, 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provincial Parks Designation Regulation</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/p020-037.97.pdf) 		
			June 28, 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Conservation Agreements Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/c173e.php) • <i>Eligible Conservation Agencies Regulation 152/97</i>: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Manitoba Naturalists Society Inc., Manitoba Wildlife Federation, MWF Habitat Federation Inc., Rocky Mountain Elk Federation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. • <i>Conservation Agreement Forms Regulation 149/98</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for agreements to protect & enhance natural ecosystems, wildlife/fisheries habitat and plant or animal species. • Agreements between eligible agencies and landowners can be reached. • Mines and minerals can be excluded.
		Other planning documents	Released in 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks</i> (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # CA2 MNR Parks sp 1998) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks system not complete in northern portion of East Side area. Parks system for natural values in Southern part of the East Side planning area is complete. • There is still the need for work on areas to be set aside for cultural and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document is currently being revised as it is very out of date. It is expected to be released in spring 2004.

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Parks & Natural Areas			Released in 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Framework for the Natural Values of Canadian Heritage Rivers</i> (http://www.chrs.ca/Main_e.htm) • <i>Canadian Heritage Rivers System – Systems Study of Rivers in Manitoba</i>. Parks Canada. Prepared by Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram • <i>The Canadian Heritage Rivers System: objectives, principles, and procedures</i> (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call #GB 1229 C2 1984). 	<p>recreational values within the ESP area. These could be included in existing areas, or in new sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents not available on the web – difficult to find. • Available through the Park Planning, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, 200 Saulteaux, Winnipeg 	
Wildlife Branch		Wildlife Management Strategy. This work was done as part of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development initiative. It provided for public input into numerous policies and objectives on 9 policy areas: Environmental Enhancement & Protection; Allocation and Supply; Development and Use; Planning and Integrated Mgt.; Urban Environment; Public Awareness and Education; Human Health & Property Protection; Humane Treatment of Animals; and	1999 – workshops and presentation sessions held. Released April, 2000,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Strategy for Sustainable Development – What You Told Us (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/education/wytu.html) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific strategy applies to the East Side Planning Area. 	

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Wildlife Branch		Legislation & Administration. Forestry Wildlife Interaction.	Released in 1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Management Guidelines for Wildlife in Manitoba (A copy is available through the East Side Planning Secretariat). These guidelines were developed by an Interdepartmental committee to guide forest management activities and planning and forest renewal plans as they pertain to wildlife habitat and interaction. There are general guidelines on access roads, harvesting design and forest renewal. There are specific guidelines for species such as moose, and woodland caribou. The guidelines are to be incorporated into forest management plans. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidelines are still in effect however, they are currently under review and will be updated in the future.
Conservation Data Centre (CDC) (Website: http://web2.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cdc)	Jason Greenall, Botanist / Ecologist Conservation Data Centre 200 Saulteaux Cres 945-2912 jgreenall@gov.mb.ca	Storehouse of biodiversity information for the province.	Established in 1994.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://web2.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cdc/species/areasearch.php shows an Ecoregion Map which can be searched for list of species in each region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some field surveys are out of date. Plant species are shown on CDC website, but there is limited information on animal species. Data becomes older and less reliable the further north you go. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not currently focussed on planning but is a potentially important planning tool.
Manitoba's Species at Risk		Manitoba's Species at Risk Program (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/species_at_risk.html)	Started in 1977. Joined in 1978.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba signed on to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Joined the establishment of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as an independent body of scientific experts to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further inventories are needed, especially north of 53 to identify important and rare species or species at risk. A gap may exist between some provincial and federal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT needs to be cognizant of species at risk when considering land uses to avoid alienating critical habitats. Appendix A lists the species at risk as designated by

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Manitoba's Species at Risk			<p>Signed in 1988.</p> <p>Signed in 1996.</p> <p>Surveys done in 2001.</p> <p>Released 2002.</p> <p>1990</p> <p>1998</p>	<p>help identify species at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba signed on to the committee on the Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife's (RENEW) strategy. "Manitoba subsequently signed a federal provincial Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada (the Accord) with its accompanying Framework for the Conservation of Species at Risk; the Accord established a mechanism for co-operation among federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure that species at risk are protected throughout Canada." Rare Species Surveys of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 2001. Extensive surveys of rare species in southern Manitoba conducted between May and Sept. 2001. An Overview – Manitoba's Species at Risk – Brochure (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/pdf/sar_overview.pdf) Endangered Species Act (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/index.php#E) Threatened, Endangered & Extirpated Species Regulation 25/99 (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/reggs/pdf/e111-025.98.pdf) 	<p>designation of species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The East Side area was not included in this survey. Appears to be a lack of data, particularly in northern part of East Side. 	<p>Manitoba, COSEWIC and SARA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piping Plover is found in the Southern end of the East Side Planning Area. Species of significance

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Manitoba's Species at Risk						within the ESP area but not listed include the Great Grey Owl, pileated woodpecker and a few types of warblers.
Wildlife Branch – Birds	Ken de Smedt Species at Risk Biologist, Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch 945-5439 kdesmet@gov.mb.ca	<p>Canadian Important Bird Areas (IBA) program. IBA sites are recognized nationally and inter-nationally to promote long-term bird conservation. Local community conservation plans are drawn up which include the significant bird species, threats to the site, and conservation objectives for the IBA site.</p> <p>Partners in Flight Program (PIF). This is part of an international landbird conservation effort. PIF Manitoba is a partnership with Cdn. Wildlife Service, Delta Marsh Bird Observatory, Ducks Unlimited, Cda, MB Conservation Data Centre, MB Habitat Heritage Corp., MB Conservation, MB Naturalists Soc., and Wildlife Habitat Cda.</p>	<p>Published in 2001.</p> <p>Released in 1999.</p> <p>Released in 2003.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba Important Bird Areas – Brochure published by Manitoba Naturalists Society (http://www.manitobanature.ca/birder/iba.pdf) Partners in Flight Manitoba Conceptual Plan (June 1999) (www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/pdf/conceptualplan.pdf) Breeding Bird Survey Canada Newsletter Winter 2003 (www.cws-scf.ec.gc.gc/publications/bbsnews/2003/eng.pdf) Birds of Manitoba (book just published by the Manitoba Avian Research Council, Manitoba Naturalists Society) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2001, there are 11 IBA sites with associated Community Conservation Plans across the province. However, there are no identified IBAs with associated Community Conservation plans North of 53 on the map. ESP area has two small breeding bird survey routes, one around Bissett and one around Island Lake. This work is dependant on local individuals with interest in the subject. The last Partners In Flight Newsletter available is from Winter 2001. Data from bird surveys and sightings is patchy and scarce for most of the region, particularly north of Berens River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipestone Rocks – the only site within the East Side Planning Area has been identified as an IBA, with the hopes of becoming an Ecological Reserve. Conservation plans are to be developed by ecozone based on priority species.

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Wildlife Branch - Birds			Ongoing.	BirdMap Canada Interactive Mapping Tool (information on bird distribution and movements). Map is available at: http://www.bsc-eoc.org/birdmap_e.htm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive map provides information on the Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Counts, Range Maps and Band Recovery data. Gives consideration relating to migratory birds which could be used in creating forest management plans.
			Ongoing.	Environmental Assessment Guideline for Forest Habitat of Migratory Birds (http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/eval/forest/bground_e.cfm)		
Wildlife Branch – Mammals	<p>Dr. Vince Crichton Senior Scientist Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch 945-6815 vcrichton@gov.mb.ca</p> <p>Kelly Leavesley Regional Wildlife Manager 345-1427 kleavesley@gov.mb.ca</p>	Caribou management. Some of the information in the original Strategy was deemed to be inaccurate. The Department is working on updating this strategy for internal review, with a tentative public release anticipated for the spring of 2004.	Released May 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland Caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>) Conservation Strategy for Manitoba (http://manitobawildlands.org/web_docs/Woodland_Caribou_Final_Repo.htm) <i>Winter Habitat Use by Woodland Caribou in the Owl Lake Region of Manitoba</i> (2002 - Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Thesis Marinez, Isabel M.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected mostly on Owl Lake herd through radio collars. Less data on northern herd. Caribou habitat in north-central area will depend on outcome of Poplar/Nanowin Reserve. Woodland caribou are classified federally as a 'threatened species' but the provincial act does not classify them as such. There still remain large data gaps for the four sub herds of the Atikaki-Berens herd. Data on the Island Lake and Gunisao-Hudwin Lake herds is very limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two caribou ranges in the study area are considered to be at high risk. There is sufficient information on the Owl-Flinstone herd to guide the development of a management plan including forestry prescriptions and recreational development. Information for the Atikaki-Berens herd is insufficient to provide a solid base for planning. According to the May 2000 Caribou Strategy, the Island Lake, Gunisao-Hudwin Lake herds are considered to be at low risk. Caribou and moose

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Wildlife Branch – Mammals						management plans are ongoing but the department is awaiting input from the ESPI to ensure concurrence with their plans, and whether the ES Round Table identifies the priority of these species.
		Other activities: Wildlife Habitat Suitability Index Models for 19 key species were developed by the Manitoba Forestry/Wildlife Management Project. The species are chosen by importance and habitat needs. Forest inventory data is run through the habitat models to produce habitat maps. There are habitat models for 19 key species – beaver, woodland caribou, moose, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, ruby crowned kinglet, marten, red breasted nuthatch, barred owl, great grey owl, red squirrel, black and white warbler, magnolia warbler, yellow warbler, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, common yellow throat, and elk.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This modeling is only accurate if the Forest Inventory data is good. For areas outside of FML 01, the Forest Inventory data is 30 years old and incomplete. Thus habitat mapping outside FML 01 is less reliable. 	
	Glen Suggett 945-7763	Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) planning. WMAs can			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no WMA proposals within the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESPI may provide an opportunity for the

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Wildlife Branch – Mammals		be proposed from within government, or from outside sources such as ENGOs, communities, First nation groups, etc.			ES Planning Area.	<p>identification of WMAs in the East Side, particularly north of 53.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is felt that the southern area has captured wildlife within their designated areas.
	Dean Berezanski Furbearer Management Unit, Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch 945-7469 dberezansk@gov.mb.ca	<p>Hunting and Trapping program. Most emphasis is on big game animals, especially in the southern part of the East Side (moose, elk, deer and some bear).</p> <p>Commercial trapping database (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/hunt_trap/trapping_guide/furbearer.html)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Wildlife Act – Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation</i> (August 2003) (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2003/pdf/137-w130.03.pdf) <i>Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits</i> (original regulation 165/91) (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/w130-165.91.pdf) 2003/2004 Trapping Guide (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/hunt_trap/trapping_guide/pdf/trap2003_04.pdf) 2003 Hunting Guide (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/huntingg/index.html) 2003/2004 Trapping Season Schedule Collects data on commercial trapping such as fur bearers records, # of animals caught and sold, registered trapline information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-commercial trapping and harvesting data are not kept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trapping success for several species has declined (ermine, fisher, fox, mink and wolverine). Under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, once the First Nation has had their selected land confirmed, they may request an Exclusive Use Permit from the Crown Lands Branch. "Once the EUP is issued, First Nations have the authority to exclude all current and future uses of the permitted land, including trapping activities."
	Manitoba Trappers Association	Represents trappers in Manitoba.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishes a Trappers Magazine. Provides assistance and educational 		

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Fisheries Branch	Barb Scaife Bioeconomist bscaife@gov.mb.ca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortjaw cisco • Carmine shiner • Chestnut lamprey • Bigmouth buffalo Lake sturgeon – not identified yet but will be considered in 2004.				Carmine Shiner (completion 2004). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigmouth buffalo and chestnut lamprey are not considered at risk in MB by MESAC; however they are listed as Species of Special Concern under COSEWIC.
	Laureen Janusz Fisheries Enhancement Initiative Coordinator ljanusz@gov.mb.ca	Fisheries Enhancement Initiative Projects (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/fish/images/fei03.pdf)	1994 to present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 projects within ES, focused on walleye spawning habitat (Manigotagan and Little Black River area), and defining sturgeon habitat on Pigeon, Leyond & Bloodvein Rivers and Round Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Enhancement projects North of 53. 	
		Relevant documents.	Signed Sept. 2003. Released in 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada-Manitoba MOU on Fish Habitat Management (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/backgrou/2003/mb-mou_e.htm) • MOU for the Conservation and Orderly Use and Development of the Fisheries Resources in Identified Lakes and Lake Systems that Straddle the Ontario-Manitoba Border (MB Natural Resources and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This MOU is still relevant and includes several lakes and river systems within the East Side Planning Area, particularly Carrol Lake and the Gammon R. system, Moar Lake, Hayward, Warrington, Mantricia, Assapan, Bradburn, Obukowin and Garner Lakes. It is a conservation and allocation agreement

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		Cooperation between DFO and Manitoba Fisheries on the development of a database on recreational fishing, commercial fishing and big block licenses.	Currently under development.			<p>to prevent over-fishing and harmful development on the relevant water systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This cooperative effort is intended to help with fisheries related decisions.
Crown Lands	Brian Sheridan (204) 476-7063	Five areas on the ES are under examination as potential recreational cottage lot subdivisions, all of them in the southern portion. Proposed locations are under review within government. Subdivisions would be 10-20 lots each, some have existing road access and others would have all weather road access developed to them. Lots would be located on lakeshore, be approx. half acre, and be disposed of by public draw or lottery. Public demand for recreational property and residential lots is high.	Plans for new subdivisions are on hold pending Round Table broad area plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of the potential subdivisions was not made available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New access roads to cottage lots are a matter for the RT to stay aware of. Subdivisions may lead to increased demand for services, leading to changes in land uses over time. RT will need to know potential locations in order to properly consider land use recommendations.

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Sustainable Resource Management	Dale Sobkovich Resource Planner 945-6660 dsobkowi@gov.mb.ca	Crown Lands and ESPI mapping program.	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 ESPI maps have been produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supporting data for a few of the maps is not readily available. Base mapping in Northern Manitoba is incomplete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only information that has been digitised can be used.
Environmental Stewardship Division	Trent Hreno, Manager, Environmental Land Use Approvals 945-7080 threno@gov.mb.ca	<p>Forest Management plan review. Sustainable Forest Management Plan 2001 - 2010 reviewed.</p> <p>Annual Forest Management Plans. Department reviews, (on an annual basis) Tembec's operating and renewal plans.</p>	<p>Released in 2000.</p> <p>Annual review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Pine Falls Paper Co. Ltd. Sustainable Forest Mgt. Plan 2001-2010. Annual operating and renewal plan for Tembec. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These draft guidelines are on hold until Tembec's long-term plan is completed following the conclusion of the ESPI. They will either be re-done at that time, or re-issued to Tembec. Because the long term sustainable forest management plan does not exist, the approach is to renew the forest license on an annual basis pending the outcome of the East Side Planning Initiative.
Tembec Inc.	Mike Martell, V.P. Woodlands & Chief Forester (204)367-5271 Michael.martell@tembec.com	<p>Forest Management Licence 01 (FML01) operating and management planning. Provides specifications, terms and conditions for FML 01.</p> <p>Provides conditions related to: harvest, cutting layouts, road plans, soil disturbance, buffer</p>	On-going, annual licence pending RT planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2002 Local Level Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management for FML 01 – Tembec conducts pre-harvest surveys within FML 01. Road management plans (annual). Community-based planning initiative with Hollow Water FN – hope to expand to Sagkeeng & Little Black River First Nations in the long term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term Forest Mgt. Plan has been put on hold due to ESPI. Currently just seeking renewal of Annual Operating & Renewal Plans. Caribou mgt. strategy specific to Owl Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their FML is valid until 2008 – is a concern to the company that an evergreen agreement was not reached in 1998, and they are unsure whether the ESPI will be finished in time (see pg. 40 of

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Tembec Inc.	Vince Keenan, Silviculture Forester (204)367-5224 Jennifer Lidgett, Inventory & GIS Forester (204) 367- 5221 jennifer.lidgett@tembec.com	zones, bridges, pre-harvest and pre-road construction surveys, heritage resources, ditches, reforestation, etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tembec Operating and Renewal Plan 2004 (available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Public Registry, File #4572.00). • Tembec – Sustainable Forest Mgt. Plan 2001-2010 (available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Public Registry, File 4459) was returned to the company pending the completion of the East Side Planning Initiative. • Environment Act Licence No. 1557 E R (Licensee – Tembec Industries Inc.), revised December 21, 2001. Expiration date: January 1, 2005 (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library). • <i>Forest Use and Management Regulation 227/88R</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/f150-227.88.r.pdf). This regulation stipulates the general conditions over timber cutting on Crown lands. Cutting is done either by licence, timber sale agreement or permit. Integrated Wood Supply Areas (IWSAs) would fall under this regulation. 	<p>herd only as it falls within the southern part of FML 01. Some research is being done on ranges of other herds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Act License only applies to FML 01, not to IWSAs. 	<p>2002 Local Level Indicators document).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest must be done in accordance with the <i>Forest Management Guidelines for Wildlife in Manitoba</i> • Tembec has first right of refusal in the IWSA on the East Side which means that any wood cut within the IWSA must first be offered for sale to Tembec. The 2004 AORP identifies 2 potential harvesting blocks; however they are not planning to cut in the IWSA East during 2004. The proposed blocks are in case

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Tembec Inc.						<p>Berens River builds a sawmill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tembec is also committed to not exceed 40,000 cu. m. of harvest within IWSA East, which is significantly less than the historical level of 100,000 cu.m. as recommended in the ESPI Preliminary Report.
Manitoba Model Forest	<p>Mike Waldram RPF General Manager Manitoba Model Forest (204)367-5232 mikewald@mb.sympatico.ca</p>	<p>The Manitoba Model Forest is a large scale working model of sustainable forest management. It is 100 km north-east of Winnipeg. Stretching from Pinawa in the south to north of Hollow Water First Nation, Lake Winnipeg (on the west) to the Ontario border in the East.</p> <p>The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee is an initiative of the model forest and is a collaborative working group which is in the process of developing a woodland caribou management strategy for the Owl Lake Herd and the Atikaki-Berens River Herd. CFIR, under the direction of Doug Schindler, is doing the data analysis and will provide</p>	1992 to the present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users' Guide to Local Level Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management Experiences • Manual for Environmentally Responsible Forestry Operations in Manitoba • Habitat Suitability Index Models within the Manitoba Model Forest Area (Available at the Conservation and Environment Library – Call # QH 541.15.H34 P35 1994) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Forest Initiative is a strong potential partner and provides the ability to do research and clarify forest management issues within the planning area.

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Manitoba Model Forest		<p>a report in May or June 2004 to the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee. They are also developing a new woodland caribou habitat suitability index model for these herds.</p> <p>MBMF is a partnership of ENGOs, industry, government, First Nation communities and organizations, local communities, universities and economic development groups. "Since 1993, MBMF has completed over 200 research, development, education and communication projects [such as] charting woodland caribou migration patterns using GPS technology; enhancing forest resource inventories and building lasting partnerships between diverse forest stakeholders".</p>				
Industry, Economic Development and Mines – Mineral Resources Division	<p>Mines website http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/index.html</p> <p>Jim Payne, Assessment Geologist, Assessment &</p>	Mineral exploration and development.	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative – Mining Sector Consultation Process (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/exp-sup/min-pai.html) Manitoba Minerals Guideline – Building Relationships and Creating Opportunities – Guiding Principles for Success (March 2000) available on their website: (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/busdev 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searchable GIS maps are available. Maps allow the user to view active claims and mineral exploration licenses. See their website: http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/gis/index.html.

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Mineral Resources Division	Exploration Section 945-6535 jpayne@gov.mb.ca			<p>/guideline/index.html) The guideline outlines principles that reflect “a commitment to building and sustaining positive long-term relationships between the First Nations, Metis Nation, Northern Community Councils, the Minerals Industry and the Province of Manitoba”. Includes objectives on information sharing and open consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of Activities 2003 (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/file/roa03.html) Manitoba Mineral Inventory (MMI) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/file/roa02pdfs/GS-38.pdf) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected areas consultation process has resulting in pre-clearing some ASIs from a mineral development perspective.
		Diamond mining potential in Manitoba.	Database was launched Nov. 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba Geological Survey 2003: The search for diamonds in Manitoba: an update (in Report of Activities 2003) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/geo/file/roa03pdfs/GS-31.pdf) MB Kimberlite Indicator Mineral Database (http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/info/lib/min/newpubs.html#of2003-3) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing published data is to be brought together into an Internet map Serve service that will be available on the website. The purpose of this project is to identify “...regions suitable for kimberlite exploration.” Interpretative tool that provides information to the mining industry to help detect diamond deposits.
		Mining Related Legislation. “Issued through the Mines Branch of Industry, Trade and Mines, a mineral lease grants exclusive right to: Crown		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Mines and Minerals Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/m162e.php#18) <i>Exploration and Mining Guide</i> – Updated when there are regulatory changes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No provision for the establishment of Impact Benefit Agreements between mining companies and

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Mineral Resources Division		<p>minerals, and mineral access rights which include the right to work, mine and erect buildings as required for the efficient mining and production of minerals.”</p> <p>Prospecting activities</p>		<p>(http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/busdev/exp-guide/) See Appendix B for a brief description of the mineral exploration process.</p>	<p>First Nation groups or development corporations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal or regulatory requirement to contact First Nation communities in relation to mineral exploration activities – guideline principles recommend companies do so in the Manitoba Minerals Guideline. 	<p>Nation social and economic impacts and benefits related to the mining industry – including exploration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prospecting licence gives the licensee the right to bring any necessary equipment, supplies, personnel, machinery and temporary accommodation onto the land. • Any camps consisting of more than two mobile home units linked together require prior approval. • Permits are required to: build a new access road, change an existing road, change the use of land, place trees or plantings close to a road or town and discharge any liquids into ditches along roads.

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Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Mineral Resources Division		Sand and gravel operations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Lands Withdrawn from Prospecting Orders, Regulation 340/87R</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/m162e.php) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leasing rights for aggregate, (sand, gravel and limestone) have been withdrawn by Order of Minister, 20 Sept. 2002, along the Rice River Rd. extension on the recommendation of the Dept. of Highways.
Transportation & Government Services – Highways	Eric Christianson Director, Highway Planning and Design (204)945-0236	Planning to provide an all weather road access to East Side of Lake Winnipeg. Two reports are available, but only detailed planning is proceeding on the Rice River Road Extension. For the larger road network, consideration has been given to a North/South corridor and an East/West corridor coming in from Norway House. No progress has been made on the broader road network planning study. The "Regional Transportation Network Planning Study" identified in the report will not go ahead until TGS hears from the Round Table that some form of All Weather road network is acceptable; and until there is joint funding with the Federal Government.	On-hold pending recommendations of the Round Table.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-Weather Road, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Justification and Scoping Study: Executive Summary (August 2000) (http://www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/tspd/#elwpg) Work Plan to Develop an All-Weather Road Network for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, Final Report - Submitted by Dillon Consulting Limited and N. D. Lea (Submitted October 2001) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessment for upgrading of the existing Rice River Road to the community of Bloodvein is to be completed. Design report on road extension with details of preferred alignment, bridges, etc. is to be completed. Component 2 of this report is incomplete. This component is to do a Regional Transportation Network Planning study to identify preferred route options for an all weather road serving the major communities on the East Side north of Bloodvein. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic analysis showing benefit to cost ratios of 1.0 to 1.3 depending on the degree of future resource development There may be a perceived assumption that the Round Table could be a vehicle for planning and route selection of the all-weather road. Once the East Side Plan is complete, it will "be used in preparation of the environmental assessment documentation for the proposed All-Weather Road route." Submitted by Dillon Consulting Limited and N. D. Lea. Component 1 of this report: "Upgrade the

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Transportation and Government Services		<p>Rice River Road Functional Design Study. Undertaken by UMA Engineering for Manitoba Highways and Government Services. A series of stakeholder and public consultation meetings were held in 2003 on preferred route alignments, advantages and disadvantages of the extension and upgrading of the Rice River Road.</p> <p>2020 Manitoba's Transportation Vision – Remote Community Consultation process. Remote Community Consultation Presentation made to communities on the East Side</p>	<p>Public Consultations held in 2003. UMA study is to be completed by Spring of 2004 and final report submitted to Transportation and Government Services by Spring 2004.</p> <p>Feb. 2003</p>	<p>Community consultation comments are available at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/2020transport/info/documents/north_presentation.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only visited 3 communities on the East Side. 	<p>Existing Rice River Road and Extend it to the Community of Bloodvein".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is support at provincial and federal levels and uneven support among FN communities for all-weather road access. • Forecast of doubling the population in the ESP area in 20 yrs. means current transportation infrastructure may be unsustainable long term. • All-weather road access network is likely the single most important new resource development in the ESP area, with far reaching economic and cultural impacts on all communities, businesses and services. • Part of a province-wide transportation planning initiative. • Purpose of this public consultation was to develop a province-

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Transportation & Government Services		– Berens River (Feb. 3), Oxford House (Feb. 3), and St. Theresa Point (Island Lake Area – Feb. 24).				<p>wide long-term infrastructure plan, discuss northern transportation issues, and to give remote communities information on current transportation initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term goal is to “...construct all-weather roads, where feasible, to provide the greatest transportation and economic benefit to communities and region.”
		Recent licenses issued for construction of winter roads.	Licenses issued in December 2002 and February 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Lake, Oxford House, God’s Lake and God’s River Winter Road System Summary Report (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/en vapprovals/archive/archive02/summarie s/4868.html) (Environment Act License issued February 2003) • Garden Hill to Red Sucker Lake Winter Road (Environment Act License Issued December 2002) • Permits from Manitoba Conservation on the Public Record. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with long-term use of winter road network in the Northern part of the planning area.
Transportation & Government Services – Northern Airports	David Selby, Director Northern Airports & Marine Operations (204) 945-	Northern airport planning. Little Grand Rapids and Poplar River studies to identify possible locations for new airports have been conducted (by Stantec). Smaller studies such as	Ongoing as needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies are given to the communities when completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No system wide assessment of community need and plan to respond to it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports are an essential life-link to health centres in the South. It is possible that not all communities are properly served. The

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Transportation and Government Services - Northern Airports	3421 email: airports@gov.mb.ca	runway extensions are also undertaken by the department. Pauingassi has requested a study – which is just being initiated. Airport planning is done community by community, either at the request of the community or because of an issue. In Little Grand Rapids, the airport is located across the lake from the community; for Poplar River the community has grown around the airport and the airport can not be certified as it is too close to houses.				situation should be the subject of a regional study.
Intergovernmental Affairs – Land Use and Development	Doug Houghton Regional Manager 204-268-6058 dhoughton@gov.mb.ca	Land use planning at the community level. www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/land_use_dev.html The following northern communities have the ability to adopt development and land use plans under the Northern Affairs and Planning Acts: Aghaming, Bissett, Berens River, God’s Lake Narrows, Island Lake, Little Grand Rapids, Loon Straits, Manigotogan, Norway House, Oxford House, Princess Harbour, Red Sucker Lake, Seymourville. Only Bissett and Manigotogan	No current community planning underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Planning Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/p080e.php). Under the provisions of this Act, basic planning statements are adopted by the local community council. These then become a development plan and outline the objectives and policies for the development of the given area. • <i>Provincial Land Use Policies Regulation</i> 184/94 (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/index.php) The Land Use Policies “are intended to promote sustainable development [and] serve as a guide to Provincial and local authorities undertaking and reviewing land use plans.” There are policies for General Development, Agriculture, Renewable Resources, Water & Shoreland, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Planning Act</i> community planning only applies to municipalities, Local Government Districts, Parks and other Crown Land. • It is not clear if having a community plan is an advantage in terms of accessing infrastructure funds or provincial or federal programs. • There is no current community planning activity underway on the East Side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As other communities on the East Side grow, more interest may be shown in developing community plans. • Community plans may be a way of limiting or encouraging certain activities within a community, reflecting the community’s values. • Broad area planning activities need to acknowledge existing area plans and avoid conflicts.

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Intergovernmental Affairs – Land Use and Development		have community plans under the <i>Planning Act</i> and the <i>Northern Affairs Act</i> (see section below). Communities are “encouraged to adopt land use plans” according to the <i>Planning Act</i> and the <i>Provincial Land Use Policies Regulation</i> .		Recreational Resources, Natural Features & Heritage Resources, Flooding & Erosion, Highways and Mineral Resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Northern Affairs Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/n100e.php) 		
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs – Manitoba	Jim Perchaluk Community Support Services - North Central Region (204) 622-2152	Land Use and Development, Community Planning (see discussion of <i>Planning Act</i> above). Community planning is done through a community council. Community Council includes the elected council and the mayor (communities are listed above).	No current community planning underway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Northern Affairs Act</i> (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/csm/n100e.php) • Northern Affairs (Community of Bissett Basic Planning Statement) By-law No. 13/88 (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/n100-583.88r.pdf) • Northern Affairs (Community of Manigotogan Basic Planning Statement) By-law No. 14/88 (http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/pdf/n100-582.88r.pdf) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See discussion under the <i>Planning Act</i> above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is overlap between planning requirements of the <i>Planning Act</i> and <i>Northern Affairs Act</i>. • First Nations do not fall under the provincial <i>Planning Act</i> or the <i>Northern Affairs Act</i> for developing a community plan. • Seymourville is getting ready to start working on a community plan
	Ken Agar Director Agreements Management Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat 945-2510 kagar@gov.mb.ca	Treaty Land Entitlement Process - land selection process	1994 to the present - ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Transfer and Reserve Creation Process Manual, Nov. 1999 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1994, a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlement agreement was finalized with Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nations. With the exception of Garden Hill, these First Nations have completed their land selection and the

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs - Manitoba						<p>land has been set apart as reserve land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1997, the Manitoba TLE Framework Agreement was signed. God's Lake, God's River, Norway House and Oxford House were represented by the TLE Committee in the negotiations of this TLE settlement process. Land selections are currently underway. For a brief description of the TLE process, see Appendix C.
Environment Canada		Identification of Species at risk followed by the development of recovery strategies.	Act came into effect June 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Species At Risk Act</i> (Federal). Information is available at: www.sararegistry.gc.ca/gen_info/HTML/approach_e.cfm. This is a new Act and is in the process of coming into force. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists of species at risk differ between Manitoba and the federal government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a direct consequence for MB to respond to protecting species at risk (within 2 years of being identified) with recovery strategies.
		Weather Forecasting	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Data Online (http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/canada_e.html) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one weather station in the East Side Planning Area (located in Berens River). There are two stations just outside of the planning area (Victoria Beach and Norway House). All three stations are used for forecasting.

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Environment Canada		River Flow Data. There are five Hydrometric Stations located in the ES Planning Area (Weaver Lake at Outlet, Lake Winnipeg at Berens River, Round Lake at Outlet, Family Lake at Little Grand Rapids and Bloodvein River above Bloodvein Bay). There are also two lake level stations in Lake Winnipeg (at Matheson Island and at George Island).	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Surface Water Data (Water Survey of Canada) (http://scitech.pyr.ec.gc.ca/waterweb/formnav.asp?lang=0). "National Surface Water Data Archive contains daily, monthly, and/or instantaneous information for stream flow, water level, suspended sediment concentration, sediment particle size, and sediment load data..." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no Hydrometric Stations north of Poplar River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information can be searched online at http://scitech.pyr.ec.gc.ca/waterweb/formnav.asp?lang=0.
Manitoba Hydro	Wade Munroe Senior Environmental Assessment Officer 474-4710	Planning, getting approval for, and building a high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line (Bipole III) on the East side. Hydro started a series of community meetings on the East Side in March-April 2003, but stopped after visiting 5 communities, reserving further meetings until the ESPI Round Table held a set of community meetings. No further work has been done on the project.	Have new line in service by 2010 (likely cannot now be met).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several presentations on file from March – April 2003 giving details of Hydro's planning process and the stage Hydro was at in spring 2003 (on file with the ESPI secretariat). An internal system planning study led to the approval by the Hydro Board to proceed with Bipole III planning. Internal Hydro documents are not filed with the ESPI secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro is at the earliest stages of the process, and wants to complete community meetings. Studies to characterize the possible project area, potential routes, or support environmental assessment have not begun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Power reserve is still in place along shore of Lake Winnipeg, and prior rights to Hydro may influence future land use allocations within the reserve; EIA processes exist for assessing and mitigating effects of a HVDC line; The RT and First Nations Council need to decide if a hydro line is acceptable to the communities on the East Side, and make recommendations accordingly. Manitoba Hydro monitors water levels

Summary of Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area

Department or Corporation	Contact	Plan/Activity	Timeframe	Supporting Documents	Identified Gaps	Assessment or Comment
Manitoba Hydro						in some Northern Lakes. No monitored lakes located within the ES Planning Area. Information available at: (http://www.hydro.mb.ca/issues/water_regimes_northern.shtml)
Manitoba and Ontario First Nations Boreal Forest World Heritage Site Proposed Nomination		World Heritage Site proposed nomination.	Ongoing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accord between Poplar River, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Pikangikum (March/April 2002) to create a network of linked protected areas on ancestral lands (designated as a world heritage site). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to determine current status. • Not clear what is meant by 'protected' compared to its meaning in the <i>Parks Act</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear what impact this will have on East Side Planning.
Boreal Leadership Council – Canadian Boreal Initiative	Canadian Boreal Initiative (613)230-4739 www.borealcanada.ca email: info@borealcanada.ca	The Boreal Forest Conservation Framework (http://www.borealcanada.ca/framework_e.cfm). GOALS: Protect at least 50% of the region in a network of large interconnected protected areas; Support sustainable communities, world-leading ecosystem-based resource management practices and state-of-the-art stewardship practices in the remaining landscape. Members include: Alberta-Pacific Forest Ind. Ltd., CPAWS, Deh Cho First Nations, Domtar Inc., Ducks Unlimited, ForestEthics.	Initiated Dec.1, 2003.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is too early to tell what the impact of this initiative will be and how it influences East Side Planning.

Appendix A

Species at Risk as Designated by Manitoba, COSEWIC and SARA

	Common Name	Manitoba's <i>Endangered Species Act</i> Designation ¹	COSEWIC Designation ²	<i>Species at Risk Act</i> Designation ³
Mammals	Woodland Caribou		Threatened	Threatened (Boreal population)
	Grey Fox		Threatened	
	Mule Deer	Threatened		
	Polar Bear		Special Concern	
	Wolverine		Special Concern	
Birds	Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Burrowing Owl	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Piping Plover	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Eastern Loggerhead Shrike	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Baird's Sparrow	Endangered		
	Whopping Crane	Endangered		Endangered
	Least Bittern		Threatened	Threatened
	Peregrine Falcon	Endangered	Threatened	Threatened
	Ross's Gull		Threatened	Threatened
	Sprague's Pipit		Threatened	Threatened
	Prairie Loggerhead Shrike		Threatened	
	Ferruginous Hawk	Threatened	Special Concern	
	Short-eared Owl		Special Concern	
	Yellow Rail		Special Concern	Special Concern
Red-headed Woodpecker		Special Concern		
Reptiles	Northern Prairie Skink		Special Concern	

¹ Province of Manitoba, "Manitoba's Species at Risk Brochure," *Manitoba Conservation*. <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/managing/pdf/sar_overview.pdf> (11 February 2004).

² Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. "COSEWIC Assessment Results," COSEWIC. November 2003, <http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/pdf/english/sar_2003_11_e.pdf> (11 February 2004).

³ Canada Gazette. "Species At Risk Act," *Schedule 1 of the Species At Risk Act*. As for January 2003. <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/the_act/SARA_e.pdf> (11 February 2004).

Amphibians	Northern Leopard Frog		Special Concern	Endangered (Southern Mountain population)
	Great Plains Toad	Threatened	Special Concern	
Fishes	Shortjaw Cisco	Special Concern	Threatened	
	Carmine Shiner	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened (Eastern Population)
	Bigmouth Buffalo	Not at Risk	Special Concern	
	Silver Chub	Not at Risk	Special Concern	Special Concern
	Chestnut Lamprey	Not at Risk	Special Concern	
	Northern Brook Lamprey		Special Concern	
	Lake Sturgeon		Under review for threatened category in 2004	
Arthropods	Dakota Skipper		Threatened	
	Poweshiek Skipperling	Threatened	Threatened	
	Monarch		Special Concern	Special concern
	Uncas skipper	Endangered		
	Ottoo skipper	Threatened		
Molluscs	Lake Winnipeg Physa Snail		Endangered	
Vascular Plants	Small White Lady's-slipper	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
	Great Plains Ladies'-tresses	Endangered		
	Western Silvery Aster	Threatened	Threatened	Threatened
	Buffalograss		Threatened	Threatened
	Hairy Prairie-clover		Threatened	Threatened
	Western Spiderwort	Threatened	Threatened	
	Culver's Root	Threatened		
	Riddell's Goldenrod	Threatened	Special Concern	Special Concern
	Smooth Goosefoot		Special Concern	

Highlighted indicates the species does or may possibly exist within the ES planning area.

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) reviewed the following definitions in May 2003:

- Endangered – “A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.”
- Threatened – “A species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.”
- Special Concern – “A species of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.

Designations according to the Manitoba *Endangered Species Act*:

- Endangered – “Any native Manitoba species that is threatened to disappear throughout all or most of its Manitoba range. Endangered species are declared as such by regulation under the Act.”
- Threatened – “Any native Manitoba species likely to become endangered or at risk due to low or declining numbers in Manitoba if the factors affecting it do not improve. Threatened species are declared as such by regulation under the act.”

Designations according to the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*:

- Endangered species – “means a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
- Threatened species – “means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.”
- Species of special concern – “means a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.”
- This table reflects species listed in Schedule 1 only. “The Act establishes Schedule 1, as the official list of wildlife species at risk. It classifies those species as being either extirpated, endangered, threatened, or a special concern...Species that were designated at risk by COSEWIC prior to October 1999 must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1 of SARA.”⁴

⁴ Government of Canada. “Species List,” *Species at Risk Act Public Registry*. 26 January 2004. <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/default_e.cfm> (11 February 2004).

Appendix B

Mineral Exploration Process in Manitoba

- A prospecting licence and work permit are required to conduct mineral exploration work on Crown Land.
- Two key pieces of legislation are the *Mines and Minerals Act*, and the *Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation 64/92* which can be viewed at: <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/index.php>
- A mineral disposition in good standing under the Mines And Minerals Act grants the holder the legal right to access the surface of the land for mineral exploration and development. Legitimate mining use, access and development rights must be recognized and accommodated in land use and resource use planning initiatives.

Two avenues of approach: mineral exploration licence or mining claim

Mineral Exploration Licence:

- These licences do not require physical staking of the land.
- They can be renewed once if the required work conditions and money expenditures outlined in the Act and Regulations are met. For land in Zone A, the term is 3 years with a renewal of 3 years. For land in Zone B, the term is 5 years with a renewal of 5 years.
- Section 52(2) of the Act gives exclusive right to explore and 52(3) rights to use and occupy the surface of the land for prospecting and exploration
- This approach is often less expensive than a mining claim

Mining Claim:

- Most of the Crown land within the East Side Planning area is Unsurveyed Territory, which means that mining claims must be physically staked and then recorded with the Mines Branch.
- If the claim is in good standing, the claim's term is 2 years plus 60 days. It can then be renewed on an annual basis, in perpetuity, if the required work conditions and money expenditures outlined in the Act and Regulations are met.
- Section 73(1) of the Act gives exclusive rights to explore and develop the minerals (except quarry minerals) to the claim holder; and Section 74(1) allows the claim holder to use and occupy the surface of the land for prospecting or exploration, or for developing, producing or mining the minerals.

Advanced Exploration Projects:

- The definition of an Advanced Exploration Project, taken from the Exploration and Mining Guide, is:
Excavation of an exploration shaft, adit or decline; construction of an all-weather access road to the site; diversion, alteration or damming of a natural watercourse for purposes of bulk sampling, mine development or mining; or other similar activities that may be associated with an advanced exploration project. (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/itm/mrd/busdev/exp-guide/index.htm>)
- This is usually done under a mining claim status.
- Project plans and closure plans must be submitted at this stage for review by various government departments.

Mineral Lease:

- A mineral lease is granted to a holder of a recorded mining claim in good standing when the holder wants to move into mine production. Section 104 outlines the application for a mineral lease.
- Section 110(1) outlines the term for a mineral lease as 21 years; Section 110(2) outlines the renewal conditions, for another 21 years.

Appendix C

Treaty Land Entitlement Process (In Brief) on the East Side

- In 1994, a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) settlement agreement was finalized with Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nations. With the exception of Garden Hill, these First Nations have completed their land selection and the land has been set apart as reserve land
- In 1997, the Manitoba TLE Framework Agreement was signed. God's Lake, God's River, Norway House and Oxford House were represented by the TLE Committee in the negotiations of this TLE settlement process. Land selections are currently underway.

All East Side Planning TLE First Nations then follow the following process:

- During the selection process, a Community Interest Zone (CIZ) is established. The CIZ provides temporary protection of vacant Crown land in the vicinity of the TLE First Nations from further disposition, without the review of the First Nation, while the First Nation is in the process of land selection. CIZs apply to all dispositions of Crown land except: rights allocated prior to the Framework Agreement, staking of mining claims and conversion to leases, quarry permits for public purposes and surplus provincial land.
- Once selected, the lands will be reviewed to determine if they are eligible to be set apart as reserve. Provincial departments determine if there are any existing third party interests which would need to be accommodated (ie: Mines and Minerals; Roads, Highways and Airports; and water interests).
- Once approved, the land is transferred to Canada to be set apart as Reserve. A Crown Land Use Permit is issued for exclusive use to the First Nation prior to the setting apart as reserve land during the administrative steps required to transfer the land to Canada and the setting apart as Reserve.
- The lands are legally surveyed and mapped.
- A Provincial Order in Council transfers the land to Canada.
- Canada then signs a Privy Council Order which sets the land apart as Reserve land for the use and benefit of the TLE First Nation. It is then registered in the Land Titles Office and the process is complete.

Brian Wilkes and Associates

Provincial/Federal Natural Resource Planning Activities, East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Area:

Overview, Summary and Assessment for Broad Area Planning
February, 2004

Prepared for:

East Side Planning Initiative Secretariat,
405 – 326 Broadway,
Winnipeg , MB , R3C 0S5

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Introduction and Terms of Reference

The East Side Planning Initiative was launched in 2000 as a pilot project for broad area planning in the province of Manitoba . The East Side of Lake Winnipeg is a unique region of the province because it contains substantial tracts of boreal forest with little commercial development, and contains numerous communities that are not connected with all-season roads or the usual economic opportunities. As such the region possesses significant challenges for integrating economic, ecological, cultural and First Nations interests in capturing a vision for how development there should proceed.

Broad area planning is defined as integrated and coordinated planning that is based on the sustainability of the ecosystem. In order to conduct broad area planning in the East Side , the provincial government appointed a Round Table to advise the Minister of Conservation on development options and policy. To assist the Round Table (RT) in its work, there is now a need to assemble, evaluate and summarize information that is critically important to the planning process. Specifically, a listing and assessment is required of the plans and initiatives that have been developed by government and Crown agencies over the past five years that would have a direct and important bearing on the ecology or development of the East Side . (It is recognized that some of these plans have been placed on hold while the Round Table does its work.) It is also intended to identify the natural resources data used by the respective agencies in making these plans.

The kinds of plans referred to here are those that have been developed or contemplated by government and crown agencies, and that will bring significant change to the communities or landscapes of the East Side. These would include the crown land disposal plans and annual allowable cut decisions of the government, as well as plans for new road development and transmission lines being proposed by government or Crown agencies. The information and data that supports these plans also needed to be examined, and gaps identified.

The product of this assessment and gap analysis will provide an overview that will enable the Round Table to understand the range and types of development and social pressures being felt on the East Side, and the scope of developments being contemplated. This in turn will assist the Round Table to identify those development activities and plans that may be consistent with their vision and goals for the East Side, those that are not, and those that require more information before this judgment can be made.

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Methods

The method for establishing the list of plans and initiatives has involved contacting the key personnel in the departments and crown agencies involved, and to gather the information sought. The focus was on resource agencies. First Nation governments were not contacted at this stage of the review. The departments and agencies included: Highways; Conservation (Lands, Protected Areas, Wildlife, Fisheries, etc); Mines, Manitoba Hydro and Tembec. A questionnaire was

developed so that standard information was collected from each contributor. The results were inserted into a summary table, submitted as a separate document. The table includes the department or agency, the type of plan or initiative, the information available to support it, whether it is on hold pending the results of the Round Table planning, and comments on what additional information or decision-making is required before the initiative can be implemented. The table will be made into an accessible data base on-line. It must be stressed that due to time constraints, and because information was frequently difficult to obtain, the table may not be as in depth as hoped.

Also, in this narrative report, there is a review and assessment of the broad areas planning initiatives in British Columbia and Ontario, with specific reference to the strategic and operational level of detail they contain, and the information sources necessary to construct them. Both broad area planning initiatives have been presented and described in past meetings of the Round Table

The work has proceeded in consultation with the ESPI secretariat, with interactive participation and review as required as the work developed.

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Planning Processes

Planning is something we all do. From going on a holiday to making a shopping trip downtown, everyone engages in some sort of planning and decision-making. Planning at the broad area level, as being approached by the East Side Round Table, has basically the same steps as other kinds of planning, even though the process is much more complicated. These general steps are:

- Identify goals or objectives
- Gather information about the goals or objectives
- Identify alternative ways of achieving the goals or objectives
- Examine alternatives in the light of the background information available
- Decide which of the alternatives makes the most sense to you
- Implement the decisions
- Review the results to see if it achieved the goals or objectives
- Amend or adjust the plan accordingly from time to time

This is the same kind of approach being taken by the Round Table. The goals or objectives consist of the vision that Round Table members are developing for the future of the East Side. Information is being gathered to understand and support the goals and to assess alternative ways that the goals can be achieved. This includes extensive public involvement. The Round Table will eventually get to the stage where it decides what alternatives make the most sense, or meet the most interests, in order to achieve the goals and objectives. The recommended course of action will be the plan. Implementation policies will have to be elaborated, and the success of the plan will have to be evaluated at some future time.

On the East Side, the situation is made more complex because of the range of interests that need to be considered when deciding between alternative courses of action. In addition, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to whether outcomes will be as predicted for any given course of action. The participatory process that has been put in place is designed to identify and address the range of interests and come up with some satisfactory alternatives; similarly, it should help reduce uncertainty. Also, there is good evidence that when the people directly affected by a plan are part of the planning process, support for the plan is broader and its implementation is more effective.

There are several other examples of broad area planning or its equivalent elsewhere in Canada:

Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources undertook a "Lands for Life" land use planning program from 1997 – 1999. The planning process was led by 3 citizen Round Tables (RTs) with representatives from agriculture, angling and hunting, forestry, local communities, mining, Aboriginal interests, natural heritage, recreation and tourism sectors. The RTs were given government support teams for policy, planning and logistical support. General public input occurred when the RT recommendations were drafted. Unfortunately, most treaty organizations ignored or challenged the process.

The RTs identified the needs and interests of the various resource sectors and the public. This was followed by a list of objectives such as completing the park system, ending the forestry/land use conflicts, etc. Over 200 recommendations were drafted and reviewed by the general public.

Emphasis was placed on decisions, not lengthy discussions, recognizing that there was inadequate time to collect, analyze and evaluate all the necessary data. Timelines were extremely tight, and were often not consistent with aboriginal community consultation needs. Also, there was the need to separate political and rights issues from land use issues. The end result was a Land Use Strategy document, resource stewardship agreements, forestry accords, etc. All major stakeholders (industry, NGOs, etc.) endorsed the final result and Ontario is now implementing the Living Legacy program.

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management initiated a Strategic Land Use Planning process in 1992 that was endorsed by the government in 1993. The process involved six basic steps:

1. Initiating the plan – identify the participants and the key issues
2. Gather information – collect and analyze environmental, economic and social information
3. Develop a plan – develop resource management objectives, strategies and zones for various options
4. Build an agreement – aim for consensus on the resource management direction and desired option
5. Plan approval by Cabinet
6. Implement, monitor and adjust the plan over time.

BC's approach aims at balancing a sustainable environment with a sustainable economy. The process is open and community-based, with agreed-upon Terms of Reference and ground rules. The process recognizes the need for broad-based support for land use planning within a cooperative environment. It also recognizes the key roles that both political will and senior government leadership play in the long-term success of the process and any resultant plan.

This Strategic Land Use Planning process has resulted in 3 broad land use zones or categories for the province:

- Protected Areas – 12% of the province
- Integrated Resource Management Zones – 82% of the province divided into 3 sub-zones
- Enhanced: key purpose to increase timber values
- General
- Special: resource management integrated with conservation values where resource development is allowed but must be planned in concert with conservation values such as recreation, wildlife and tourism.
- Agriculture/Settlement – 6% of the province dedicated to the Agricultural Land Reserve, private lands and municipal/local government lands.

Much of BC has completed the Strategic Land Use Planning process, producing many types of regional land use plans. Achieving consensus among the competing land uses has been very difficult. First Nations may choose not to participate for various reasons, including treaty negotiations, which were not complete when the planning process was started in the early 1990s. Nonetheless, overall resource stewardship has improved as all communities (including industry) integrate environmental sustainability values within their resource development plans. One tangible result has been the approval of 421 new parks, recreation areas, ecological reserves and protected areas – which together take the province closer to protecting 12% of the land.

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Specific Issues In the East Side Planning Area

Past Plans

A plan for the East Side was prepared in 1986 by the then Ministry of Natural Resources. The plan was intended to cover a 20 year period, with a major review every 5 years. The planning area was smaller, and stretched between the north edge of Nopiming Park north to the 53rd parallel. The intent of the plan was much the same as the RT's – to guide future development. There is no indication that in the development of the plan there was a public process, or that the plan reflects the preferences of the people living in the area. Section 4.1.6 of the plan calls for sending the document to local communities and First Nations for comment, but there is no indication that this was done, or that there was a review process.

The plan contains statements of goals and objectives for the plan area by each relevant provincial government agency of the day, including Manitoba Hydro. These statements are quite general, and typically reflect the application of the agency mandate within the planning area.

At page 35 of the plan, a map is presented showing provincial land use zones designated within the plan area. Eight land use categories are described, and the land use guidelines within them are detailed. Most of the shore of Lake Winnipeg is shown as a Water Power Reserve, which overlaps several other land use zones. The plan intends to restrict land uses within this zone. Of interest are separate land use zones for caribou habitat, parks, major river systems, etc. The corridor along recreational rivers such as the Leyond and Bloodvein is established as 150 meters on either side. Most of the plan area outside of parks is designated as "Resource Management Area" (RMA), and subject to land use guidelines contained in an appendix (not found). Guidelines in the plan that apply within the RMA encourage mineral exploration and other mixed uses, including power lines or other types of infrastructure development.

This plan is important for several reasons. First, despite its weaknesses, it is a benchmark for planning on the East Side, and should be reviewed by the RT. It could be used as a starting point for developing a renewed vision for the future of the area, as a major step in the development of the Broad Area Plan. Second, it caused government departments to be clear about their goals and objectives for the area, within their mandate. This could be a useful exercise to do again today. Third, it outlines an implementation process, including provisions for plan amendment. An implementation process is an important piece that the RT should keep in mind in elaborating its Broad Area Plan.

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Parks and Protected Areas

Brief Review of Findings

The provincial Parks Act of 1993 is a powerful instrument for regulating and restricting land uses. In the East Side Planning Area, parks, protected areas and potential protected areas (areas of special interest, or ASIs) occupy much of the land area, thereby possibly restricting access and industrial uses. The protected river corridors along Bloodvein and Leyond rivers, and the proposed corridors along the Manigotagan, will restrict incursions in them in the southern portion of the planning area, and cause linear development such as roads or transmission lines to be moved west, close to or along the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

It is noted that First Nations are involved in developing their own approach to protected areas. For example, there is a 2002 accord between Poplar River, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Pikangikum First Nations to create a network of linked protected areas on ancestral lands, with the possibility of having the area designated as a world heritage site. It is possible that there is a difference between what First Nations mean by "protected", and what the Parks Act intends.

Recommendations of the East Side RT may influence the management plans of the parks and protected areas, but it may be beyond the scope of the RT to design protected areas. Staff in the protected areas program are seeking guidance from the Round Table on an approach to protected areas within the planning area. There may be a perception within the RT that the protected areas staff will be making these recommendations. Some clarity of the respective roles and expectations on both sides would be useful.

Information/Policy Gaps

- The parks and park reserves on the East Side have unfinished management plans. This presents an opportunity for the Round Table to have some input into the directions these management plans take.
- A clear process is not evident for moving the areas currently identified as ASIs to a protected area status.
- A process is not evident for developing management prescriptions for protected areas.
- How the communities and First Nations organizations on the East Side define "protected area" may differ from the definition given in the Park Act.
- Improved communications between the RT and the Protected Area staff of Manitoba Conservation, especially as it applies to expected roles, would be useful

Discussion on Planning

With all the parks, park proposals, and protected area proposals within the planning area, a regional analysis of the impact of this land use would be helpful (perhaps call it a cumulative impact statement). This would involve an assessment in a regional context of the extent to which protected areas are now sustaining biodiversity, affecting access and land use, withdrawing timber from commercial uses, and protecting other resource uses. This analysis could lead to a better understanding of how much more protection, as defined by the Act, is advisable on the East Side.

It may be appropriate for the RT to stop short of specifying protected areas. Rather, the RT's role could be to establish the priority that protected areas have within the East Side Broad Area Plan, and provide guidance as to whether the specific uses in them should meet the needs of local people. Further, the RT could encourage the provincial government to more quickly finalize the management plans for the various protected landscapes already designated on the East Side.

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Recreation and Crown Lands

Brief Review of Findings

The public demand for crown land for recreational and residential use is strong on the East Side . Road development and improved access will likely increase demand in the future. An approval process is in place to assess individual applications for the disposal of crown land parcels. The Branch's activity leading to planned dispositions is focused on recreational lots. This may be related to the government's news release of April 22, 2003 announcing that the budget provided for funding for 1,000 new cottage lots and 1,900 new campsites in the province. Five areas are being considered as potential lakeshore cottage lot subdivisions in the East Side , but planning is on hold pending the results of the Round Table's work. The subdivisions would be 10-20 lots, each lot approximately one-half acre in size, and would be disposed of by public draw or lottery. Where access to a subdivision does not now exist, it would be the Crown Lands Branch's intention to provide it.

Information/Policy Gaps

- The location of the five potential cottage lot subdivisions will be an important gap to fill so that the Round Table takes this into account in its planning;

Discussion on Planning

Crown land is valuable, and demand is strong on the east side. Incremental alienations of crown parcels into private hands may add up to major changes in land use over time. Some coordination between the plans of the Crown Lands Branch and planning proposals of the Round Table is advisable.

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All-Weather Road Network

Brief Review of Findings

Developing an all-weather road system on the East Side has been considered for several years. The current road development activity is upgrading the Rice River road extension into Bloodvein River community. This is proceeding without awaiting the results of the Broad Area Plan. However, a much larger planning study has been proposed to look at all-weather road access to other communities on the East Side . There are two conceptual approaches for road access: one involves a road link from the South up to Berens River and perhaps to Poplar River , and over to the communities on the northern edge of the planning area. The other involves a routing in from the west, from Norway House across the top of the planning area to Red Sucker Lake/Island Lake. A road system has been talked about, but to date there is no systematic information or community dialogue going on concerning taking it to the next step.

Information/Policy Gaps

- Regional Transportation Network Planning study for an all-weather road system has not begun.
- Clear understanding of community views on all-weather road network development, and what the range of concerns are;
- Environmental and social impacts of an all-weather road system within the planning area are not well understood.

Discussion on Planning

Without question, the development of an all-weather road system will create significant changes in the environment and communities on the East Side, and may well be the most important decisions affecting the future of the planning area. The improved access will mean more mobility for the residents of the communities, and access to resources, especially north of 53, where a lack of transportation infrastructure is a major limiting factor to development. Conversely, all-weather road access will open the area to increased development and habitat disturbance, which may not be desired goals of local communities. However, without the planning study, and the community meetings that will take place to get public input, very little can now be decided on all-weather access roads in the planning area.

The Round Table could, at a minimum, develop and recommend a process for conducting the planning study, and some guiding principles, so that when the funds to do it are available, firm guidance has already been given.

Seasonal, logging roads and temporary roads on the East Side should not be forgotten. These can provide access for people to reach new areas, where over time limited development may occur, or big game populations threatened. Access to lake shores may encourage recreational camps or cabins to be built, followed by demands for leases or other tenure arrangements, followed by a demand for services. This incremental development may in some circumstances slowly compromise future land use decisions or the ability to do effective planning. The Round Table could decide if this is a concern, and perhaps develop some policies with respect to seasonal roads.

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Forestry Operations

Brief Review of Findings

Forestry operations constitute an important economic activity on the East Side. The main focus for the future will be on the sustainability of the harvest, and on making the economic benefits available to local communities.

Tembec has the prominent place as the main industry doing logging and wood processing. The company was very open about their plans and management tools. Improved information flow, and possible partnerships on smaller ventures with local communities seems possible. Their 10-year management plan has not been updated pending release of the new wood supply analysis, and the results of the Round Table planning. Plans for sawmills in Berens River and Pine Falls are on hold, due largely to market forces such as market access and low wood prices.

An important environmental and economic decision for the East Side is the annual allowable cut. The cut stipulates the volume of timber harvested annually, triggers an expectation in the industry for a certain volume of wood to harvest and process, and has a bearing on how much forest remains to be harvested in subsequent years. How this decision is made should be important to the Round Table.

Information/Policy Gaps

- A new wood supply analysis will be available this spring for forest management units 31 (FML-01) and 35. This may change the annual allowable cut within this part of the planning area.
- Forest inventory for the remainder of the planning area is up to 30 years old and needs updating. Absence of current data on timber species and volumes may limit forest management and planning.
- Forest harvesting activities continue in Nopiming Park without completion of a management plan for the park, although there are interim land use guidelines dated 1988.
- Absence of a transportation infrastructure in the northern half of the planning area severely limits economic forestry activities.

Discussion on Planning

Government's intention is to achieve long-term sustainability of the forest as a habitat and a source of social and economic benefits. There are multiple users of the forest, and multiple interests competing to have their interest met. Finding the right balance is an ongoing challenge. The Round Table may hear different views on whether this balance is being achieved. Providing some policy guidance on how to better understand this balance may be a key role for the Round Table.

From a planning perspective, forestry operations, local benefits, community growth and development, and the transportation network are all linked. The development of an all-weather road up the East Side is the key to expanding forestry operations further north. This will bring a full range of costs and benefits. The Round Table has an opportunity to make recommendations on how to deal with competing land uses that may influence and be reflected in Tembec's 10-year management plan.

A long-term threat to forestry operations is an increased risk of forest fire as the climate warms and the predicted drier summer conditions occur. Again, access difficulties in the northern part of the planning area will restrict the response to major fires, but there could be considerable losses of forest as a result of global climate change.

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Hydroelectric Transmission Line

Brief Review of Findings

Manitoba Hydro wants to build a third high voltage line from its generating facilities in the north to markets in the south, and they are interested in building it down the East Side of Lake Winnipeg. The Hydro board has approved starting the process leading up to building the transmission line. This is not dependent on building more generating capacity in the north. The new line can be justified by Hydro in terms of recovering line losses from the existing lines, and duplication to achieve supply security.

Hydro started a series of public meetings in communities on the East Side last April. This is the first step in a multi-step process leading up to applying for a license to build the line. The meetings were suspended while the Round Table held its community visits. Hydro wants to coordinate its communications and public consultation activities with the Round Table's plans. The Round Table community visits have now been completed, and Hydro would like to re-start its public meetings schedule. Meanwhile, no additional work by Hydro has been put into the planning for the line.

Information/Policy Gaps

- A systematic gathering of local community views has not been completed, although Hydro plans to continue this.
- Information would be useful on how Hydro plans to use community views to affect its decision-making about the proposed HVDC line.
- Hydro is at the earliest stage of the design and approval process; all the studies needed to characterize the environment, select routes, and assess impacts have not started.

Discussion on Planning

At its presentations to the Round Table in 2003, Hydro has asked for an acknowledgement from the Round Table that a transmission line is an acceptable land use on the East Side, subject to siting principles and the licensing process. The Round Table has collected some expressions of community concerns and interests. Weighing the community interests and the costs and benefits of this land use may not be completely possible within the timeframe available to the Round Table. At a minimum, the Round Table could determine if a transmission line is an acceptable land use on the East Side, and establish siting principles or other conditions that take into account public input and also help meet other land use objectives.

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Mineral Exploration and Development

Brief Review of Findings

Mineral exploration and development within the planning area does not appear to be a significant barrier to achieving the Broad Area Plan. Exploration is going on to a limited extent, and the mineralized zones are already well identified. Excellent information sources, maps and reports are available on-line through the government web site. Exploration for diamonds is occurring in the northern part of the planning area, and extensively just north of the planning area boundary. Gold exploration is occurring just north of Red Sucker Lake. Concerns were expressed by that community during the RT visits that they had little involvement with the exploration company, and felt uninformed about the company's activities.

Of interest is a protected area screening initiative in the mineral sector. This involves a group of industry and other participants, who examine ASIs from the perspective of the mineral sector, and determine if a protected area in that location withdraws mineral resources significant to the industry. Where no conflicts arise, there is a green light from the sector. This process has successfully screened the ASIs within the planning area.

Information/Policy Gaps

- Mineral exploration companies are encouraged to liaise with local communities or First Nations, and some do this. An information gap still exists in some communities.

Discussion on Planning

Active mineral claims give certain land access and occupation rights to the holder. These need to be considered when alternative land uses are proposed. Where mineral exploration takes place on a First Nation's traditional lands, the Round Table may wish to provide some guidance on how relationships can be strengthened.

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Species at Risk

Brief Review of Findings

Several species occur near or within the planning area that are on either Manitoba's lists of species at risk (various levels of threat) and the federal lists under the Species at Risk Act or lists from COSEWIC. In some cases, these lists differ. The major difference is on woodland caribou, which is listed as Threatened by COSEWIC, but not mentioned by Manitoba. Knowledge of the distribution and abundance of species at risk is hampered by access, and infrequent surveys, especially in the northern half of the planning area. Data are scarce. Data that do exist are accessible through the Conservation data Centre.

Information/Policy Gaps

- The main gap is a lack of data on distribution and abundance of species. Additional inventory and species surveys are necessary before a better understanding of species at risk can be obtained.
- Coordination between provincial and federal lists of species at risk already occurs, but there continues to be differences in what species are deemed to be at risk

Discussion on Planning

Under federal species at risk legislation, recovery strategies are required for threatened species. The existence of species at risk in a specific location may limit or affect local land uses, but there is incomplete knowledge of where these areas are. The lack of information on species at risk on the East Side means that plans and land uses may proceed without a full understanding of the consequences to biodiversity. Guidance from the Round Table on minimizing the risk of this could form part of the Broad Area Plan.

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Wildlife

Brief Review of Findings

Wildlife can be divided into game, non-game and fur-bearer populations. The game and fur-bearers are the groups that get most of the attention. The population of key concern is caribou, which has limited populations and ranges on the East Side. These populations can be affected by logging and increased access. The herds in the Owl-Flintstone range and in the Atikaki-Berens range are thought to be at high risk; those further north are not. Manitoba does not list this species as threatened or of special concern. There is on-going research on these herds involving telemetry, habitat assessment and aerial surveys.

Commercial trapping data suggests that trapping success is declining for some species. The part of the planning area this applies to cannot be specified. There is a trapper compensation program operated by Hydro that would be available in the event that trapping losses are experienced because of disturbance from a transmission line.

Information/Policy Gaps

- More inventory information is needed on populations of moose and other game animals, especially in the northern part of the planning area.
- More support for caribou research is needed.
- No data are available for the number of animals trapped on non-commercial traplines.
- More surveys and wildlife inventories for non-game species are needed, especially in the northern part of the planning area.
- Local knowledge of wildlife is very important but probably underutilized in the management of wildlife

Discussion on Planning

The ungulates and fur-bearers are extremely important to the local people. Attention to improving inventory and population information will enhance management efforts. More hunting and disturbance pressure can be expected on animals like moose and caribou as human populations increase on the East Side, and access to new areas develops. Collaboration on wildlife management between local communities, First Nations and wildlife officials is key to sustaining wildlife populations at healthy levels. The Round Table could provide guidance on improving this collaboration.

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Fisheries

Brief Review of Findings

There is good information on commercial and recreational fisheries within the planning area. The annual angling guide gives creel limits for sport species of fish on specific lakes based on surveys or other information, with a view to sustaining sport fish populations. There are over 50 high quality management lakes within the East Side planning area. Some fish enhancement work is being done to improve spawning habitat for various species. Strategies to protect some non-game fish species are being prepared.

Information/Policy Gaps

- Provincial fisheries officials do not have full information on fish populations, and often rely on anecdotal information from fishermen and local people
- Lack of good information may unintentionally put some fish populations at risk of overexploitation.
- Commercial fishing potential exists in the larger lakes in the planning area but access to markets is a limiting factor. An all-weather road some time in the future may create more opportunity to market fish.

Discussion on Planning

Improved road access over time will increase the pressure on recreational fisheries. These often form the basis of important tourism and guide-outfitter businesses. The importance of this to local economies is often unappreciated. An all-weather road may influence the development of commercial fishing on larger lakes. Appropriate management will lead to healthy fish populations and sustainable fisheries. These elements need to be taken into account when recommending where to place the priority and funding on resource management.

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Conclusions

This report should be read along with the companion summary table. Out of necessity, these reports present an overview of the key resource concerns pertinent to the Broad Area Plan activity of the Round Table. In most cases, much more specific information is available at the sources and contacts presented in the table. In this regard, many documents found in the course of this work are filed at the East Side secretariat office.

A general conclusion can be drawn that natural resource data and information in the northern half of the planning area, north of approximately the 53rd parallel, is scarce. Planning and resource allocation there should proceed with caution. The opportunity exists to do good planning, but more information is needed. By contrast, the southern part of the planning area has better resource information, but also there have been numerous land use decisions there already. These narrow the policy and planning options for the Round Table to consider.

At the broad area plan level, the Round Table is likely to not get too specific, but rather stay at the strategic, policy level. Where there is insufficient information to address a specific issue, such as the absence of the planning study on an all-weather road system, the Round Table cannot wait for this before it makes recommendations. In cases where information is short, perhaps the best the Round Table can do is to provide policy guidance, or guiding principles, and identify the steps necessary to develop a more detailed approach. There is much opportunity for the Round Table to help set direction and clarify the long-term vision for the East Side. The important policy areas highlighted in this report and accompanying table include:

- The approach that should be adopted toward protected areas in the planning area, based on both technical and community concerns and goals.
- Whether or not the concept of an all-weather road network is supported, and encouragement given to governments to conduct the necessary planning study.
- Improve coordination with Crown Lands Branch so that recreational subdivisions and other alienations of crown lands fit the vision that the Round Table develops for the area.
- Recommendations or guidance to ensure that forestry practices are leading to sustainable uses of the forest, not only for wood products but also for other forest uses, such as biodiversity, recreation, and aesthetics.
- Whether or not a new transmission line is supported, and if so, the RT could recommend some guiding principles on siting and community involvement.
- Some guidance concerning achieving proper protection for species at risk.
- Some guidance concerning what priority should be given to important species of fish or wildlife, and what the management objectives for these species should be.

This report only deals with natural resources issues that were raised as important during the interviews. There are other areas to examine that could also be appropriate and useful to the Round Table. First, this summary does not include information available from the First Nations in the planning area. The addition of this information could substantially enhance the knowledge base, and aid in decision-making. Second, there is no assessment here of the economic opportunities that the natural resources in the area offer. The Round Table may want to consider a specific set of development directions, such as ecotourism or forestry development. Such considerations are not dealt with by this report, and a more focused economic or market analysis would be needed to support them.

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