

2. Roads and Access

Roads , highways, primary, secondary and tertiary can have both positive and negative implications relative to economic, social and environmental considerations. These implications will also impact communities already accessed both inside and outside the planning area through increased traffic both coming from and going to the ESLUP area. While it is recognized that isolated communities should be given priority for road access if they so wish it , previous examples should be studied to ensure the implications are known and addressed/ mitigated. Also at issue is the development of roads into areas in which there is a lack of knowledge about the values being accessed and the impact access and the influx of people can have on these values. Eg. Wildlife, fisheries, water quality, traditional gathering sites, spiritual sites There appears to be conflicting policies within government departments over issues such as access planning, access management, use, control, and decommissioning , community consultation, and standards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Decisions to provide access to isolated communities should be based on the isolated communities desires not on others and the MBMF will support community wishes.

2.2 Road management plans need to be developed for all roads prior to construction regardless of road standard . These plans would include standard options, location options, environmental impact mitigation plans, decommissioning plans and access restriction plans. The process of road management planning needs to have a thorough public consultation process built in.

2.3 Road location planning should occur in conjunction with Hydro Bi-Pole planning.

2.4 New business opportunities related to road construction, maintenance and increased traffic will result. Local communities and people should be helped and given priority for these jobs and business opportunities.

2.5 New roads will increase hunting pressure on wildlife. Co-management wildlife systems need to be researched, piloted and implemented prior to road construction.

2.6 New roads particularly a primary access road will require increased policing, signage and safety features.

2.7 Case studies of the impact road access has had on other remote communities should be conducted or the information gathered to help understand both positive and negative environmental and social impacts access would have and to prepare mitigation measures where needed. * Note this recommendation also applies under the Research and Development Section

3. Planning Process

Issues related to Planning Process include both the ESLUP itself and subsequent development plans and environmental assessments or impact statements. eg. New or expanded Forest Management Licences and forest management plans, Highway development plans, Hydro transmission lines, cottage developments , parks. With respect to the ESLUP there is a lack of confidence in government to accept and implement or implement in a timely fashion the recommendations ultimately developed by the Round Table and accepted by the Government. There is an issue related to the integrity of the planning process itself and subsequent planning processes in ensuring “ meaningful” consultation and communication. There is an issue about ultimate accountability for the plan and how the plan will be implemented and by whom. There is an issue about the need for community planning prior to large scale development planning.

It is evident that the Round Table cannot fully complete its task as outlined in their Terms of Reference by the June 2004 deadline. At issue then is how or if future development plans can or will proceed with an incomplete ESLUP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Manitoba Gov't should formally and publicly respond to the recommendations of the East Side Round Table indicating which recommendations they will accept, reject or modify and how. This response should also include an implementation plan and schedule with responsibility clearly indicated eg. Who is responsible for implementation of what, how is it to be done, when is it to be done and what if any are the financial implications and costs.

3.2 The East Side Land Use Plan should be considered a “ living document “ and as such should include defined review and revision periods and processes. The Round Table should be maintained and be given the responsibility to conduct these reviews and make recommendations on revisions. Reviews and recommended revisions by the Round Table should be made public and be guided by a communications strategy. Recommendation 3.1 should be followed as well for plan review and revisions.

3.3 Prior to future plans eg. Revised LUP, forest management plans, hydro plans , highway plans etc local communities should complete land use plans for surrounding areas of their interest so that areas of traditional and current use or importance are well documented and used in future consultation processes. Adequate resources to complete these plans in a timely fashion should be provided presumably by the Federal and Manitoba Gov'ts with assistance of appropriate NGO's and developers.

3.4 The Manitoba Gov't working with First Nations and Northern Affairs communities or their representative organizations should develop clear consultation protocols, guidelines, policies and responsibilities for use not only for Gov't agencies but for developers as well. It is recognized that these protocols etc will recognize differences between treaty

rights, First Nations and others. Already established consultation processes should be considered and reviewed.

3.5 The East Side Plan has to provide clear and broad objectives within which other plans can fit and contribute. The objectives must be measurable so that proper reviews and reporting can be done.

4. Treaty and Aboriginal Rights

All of the area covered by the ESLUP is also covered by Treaties with First Nations. Recognition and definition of Metis peoples rights is developing from current court cases. The majority of people that live in the area covered by the ESLUP are either Treaty Indian or Metis under the Indian Act. The existing rights of these people can be impacted by industrial developments, parks policies, and the increased presence of non-treaty people in the area once and if road access is developed either by negative impacts on the environment eg water quality, wildlife habitat , overharvesting of fish and game or policies that prevent , infringe or inhibit the undertaking of these rights.

Past experience is that aboriginal people have not participated broadly in the benefits of economic development activities in their traditional territories and Treaty Lands nor have they been actively involved in the planning and decision making around such developments to ensure that these benefits accrue and that their concerns for their rights and the environment around them are protected.

There is concern among Treaty people that non-treaty people are uninformed about the Treaties, the areas covered by them and the rights guaranteed under them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 General public and treaty people themselves have poor knowledge of history and the treaties and aboriginal rights. Education system and curriculum in Manitoba should be reviewed to ensure the history, treaties and aboriginal rights are taught from an early age.

4.2 The Manitoba Government needs to complete, finalize and release its Consultation Policies and regulations with respect to First Nation and Metis people as soon as possible.

4.3 Guidelines need to be researched, developed and implemented on the gathering, use and application of Traditional Knowledge in resource and land use planning.

5. Research and Development

While much is known about the environment in the very southern part of the planning area eg. Woodland caribou from MBMF research, a new and improved forest inventory, land use mapping at Hollow Water and Black River, as one moves further north the information gaps and uncertainty are likely to increase. A good example of this is the outdated forest inventory over most of the ESLUP area (north of FML #1). Forest inventories are used as the basic data base for many existing and developing forecasting models and decision support systems when making predictions about wood supply, habitat supply, biodiversity, . Even with good forest inventories and inventories/ understanding of other values, we still face the potential impacts of climate change on the forest, other values and communities. Our understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation measures is rudimentary at best. Policy making and land use decisions made today need to consider the implications of climate change and as we learn more , policy and land use decisions will need to adjust. While policy and land use decisions change with public values, public values need to be influenced by good information and science. The MBMF recognizes that we will never know all we would like to before land use decisions are made and as such embrace the concepts of adaptive management and a precautionary approach. These concepts require and are based on continued learning, monitoring, research and development , and adjusting while moving forward with land use decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 A structure and process is needed to prioritize research and development needs for the area that would include and involve local communities in helping to set priorities and to provide local knowledge. An east side R &D panel should be established to guide research and ensure continuity and completion of programs and projects. This panel could also ensure that research is being used appropriately in making policy, guidelines and land use decisions and perhaps more importantly conveying to decision makers where uncertainty exists and how to apply the adaptive management and precautionary approach.
- 5.2 Best management practices for access management to address biophysical and socio-economic impacts should be prepared and implemented.

6. Parks, Protected Areas, Parks Planning, Parks Use

Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative is a government program dedicated to building a network of protected areas that contains the biological diversity found in Manitoba's varied landscapes.

Manitoba's commitment to establish a network of protected areas began in 1990, when the province committed to World Wildlife Fund Canada's Endangered Spaces Campaign. Manitoba's Protected Areas includes provincial and federal parks and ecological

reserves. The following maps show the extent of current protected areas, areas of special interest that may become protected and the degree to which enduring features have already been captured by EcoRegion. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Manitoba Government and AMC, MKO and the Southern Chiefs Organization outlining a consultation process.

At issue is the length of time the process of designating protected areas is taking and the fact that the process will continue after the deadline for submission of the East Side Plan. As well there is likely to be disagreements over the amount, extent and location of lands designated as protected areas and parks where development activities such as logging, mining, and hydro are prohibited. The Province has indicated that First Nations, industry, northern and rural communities and other interest groups are being consulted in the process of designating protected areas. Climate change is predicted to cause an increase in forest fires and insect and disease in this part of Canada.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The current protected areas consultation process is being conducted by the gov't on a stakeholder by stakeholder basis. Attempts must be made to bring all the stakeholders together and strive for consensus while recognizing that communities directly impacted should be given a higher standing in the process.

6.2 There is a good deal of confusion over the terms, types etc of protected areas and implications to eg. Treaty Rights or community desires for road access. More effort is required to clarify the terms, types, permitted uses and implications of protected areas and have this information imparted to the stakeholders and communities.

6.3 Individual protected areas once established should be reviewed periodically eg. every 10 years to assess whether their objectives are being met particularly in light of potential climate change impacts, maintenance of ecological processes, surrounding land uses and life and property in the area. This formal periodic review should be supported by continued monitoring efforts that involve and employ local people.

6.4 The potential impacts of climate change predicted to create drier conditions and therefore increased natural disturbance such as fire, insect and disease do not appear to be considered when designating protected areas or activities that can occur in them. All protected areas should be reviewed against these potential impacts with appropriate strategies developed. eg. Fire Smart Program in Jasper National Park

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My contribution of 2000-11-14 entitled "Research and data needed for long-term plan (LTP) for East Side (Eco-Region 90)" gave a brief listing of the types of basic data needed for this project. On the maps displayed in the Norquay Building at the "East Side Lake Winnipeg Preliminary Planning, Phase One" preliminary discussion on Wednesday 2004-05-26 I was disappointed that I did not find any maps that displayed the following categories of basic information that need research:

Runoff of various drainages (amounts, seasons, water quality, especially comparisons of logged vs. unlogged watersheds).

Rivers (rapids, falls, classification of white-water types, mapping of portages).

Index species for types of forest floor vegetation.

Rare, Endangered, Threatened species of plants, distribution, occurrence.

Nesting Colonies, staging and migration routes of birds.

Nests of Eagles, Ospreys, Great Grey Owls, Shrikes, etc.

Distribution of Whitetail Deer, Moose, Caribou, Bear, Wolf, Marten, Fisher, Cougar, Lynx, Wolverine, Woodchuck, Skunk, Coyote.

Caribou fawning areas, rutting areas, winter ranges (especially topographic and vegetation characteristics of thinly-stocked, black spruce bogs used for early-winter range).

Moose, calving areas, rutting areas, winter ranges.

Wolf, known pack ranges, dens.

Cougar, known sightings, dens.

Wolverine, known sightings, dens.

First approximations of sites for:

Wilderness areas.

Research Reserves (including year-round caribou reserves).

Additional sites for Provincial and/or National Strict Reserves.

Heritage Rivers (Present and future designations).

Eco-tourism potential/present bases, sites, routes, special areas for such activities as overland dog-team trips, snowshoe or ski trips, or river trips.

Non-Timber Forest Products:

Suitable sites/areas for:

Diamond willow, known sites categorized by species of hosts and fungi, age-classes and stocking of host species for picture frames, lamp standards and walking canes.

Blueberries, Saskatoons, categorized by stocking and size of sites.

Paper Birch, number of stems of different size-class diameters, stocking and sizes of patches for sustained yield of stems for tables, chairs, bedsteads, picture frames, lamps. Proximity of birch "sugar bushes" to sites suitable for evaporation and transport routes.
Distribution of species of ferns suitable for fiddlehead harvest.

Because this display is a first approximation the sites would necessarily be rather coarsely-defined. Because the above categories of needed data constitute critical information for sustainable activities, their acquisition and research should receive highest priority, much higher than consideration of tradition-bound, non-sustainable economic activities such as exploitation of mature trees for pulp and lumber. The key to success is for individuals to sell the craft/art/knowledge activity rather than the raw materials.



William O. Pruitt, Jr.

East Side Planning Initiative (ESPI) Open Houses

Please check location of Open House

<input type="checkbox"/> Thompson	May 18/04
<input type="checkbox"/> Lac Du Bonnet	May 20/04
<input type="checkbox"/> Winnipeg	May 26/04

A number of issues and opportunities have been identified in preliminary discussions with First Nations, local communities, industry and environmental organizations. These include Aboriginal and community development, the Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative, consultations on land and resource allocations, existing land uses and new development proposals, forestry, transportation, tourism and recreation, hydro and mining. A summary of these discussions can be found on the ESPI Website at...

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eastsideplan>

Copies can be order free of charge by calling (204) 945-8734, (204) 945-4380, or 1-800-214-6497 (toll free).

Now it's Your Turn! We want to know...

1. **What you believe are the important issues and opportunities that may influence the East Side Planning Area's ability to improve future community economic conditions and quality of life for people?**

COMMENTS: This is our last chance to plan a
truly sustainable future for a large region
of Manitoba.

2. **What ^{do} you feel are the key issues and opportunities that need to be addressed to preserve the future environmental health of the East Side Planning Area?**

COMMENTS: Opportunity to devise an economic
system wherein monetary income is divided
among the participants directly instead of arriving
to a very few large exploiting companies which
then apportion it out according to their own ideas
of value of the work performed.

3. How ^{do} you think the future development and use of the East Side Planning Area's resources should be planned and managed?

COMMENTS: First step in planning resource use is to have a system of teaching all inhabitants the principles and practices of: ① true ecosystem-based management ② timing of ecological succession recovery periods of various types of exploitation so that true amortizing times of various uses become widely known.

4. What other issues do you feel need to be identified for further discussion?


COMMENTS: Real consideration (and small-scale experimentation) of alternative uses and/or proposals for many kinds of resources. Example: How much income from 10 groups of ecotourists per year, every year in perpetuity compared to income from a single cutting of logs for pulp in rotation of 50+ years compared to income (value of carbon stored) only after 150 year regeneration period?

Your views will help us to better appreciate the issues and needs to be addressed by the broad area plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

You can leave your comments with staff at this Open House or send them your comments (add additional sheets as necessary) to **East Side Planning Initiative**, #405-326 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3C 0J5. You can also fax your comments to Mr. Bill Anderson at (204) 948-2948, or e-mail them to banderson@gov.mb.ca.

We would appreciate receiving your comment by Wednesday, June 16, 2004.

Thank you for your views!


DR. W. O. PRUITT
220 WILDWOOD PARK
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
CANADA R3T 0E3

Transportation Manitoba Naturalists Society

In considering the Issues involved in the East Side Planning Initiative a week ago I decided to get in touch with an eminent Member of my organization, the Manitoba Naturalists Society. An individual whose work has been referred to by the Secretariat representatives, on several occasions and an individual who has done extensive research on the East Side. There are actually a couple of members of the Manitoba Naturalists Society on the Round table, good and valuable choices. However, it is my opinion that the Secretariat erred in not also appointing this individual to the Round Table. Probably an error that is still not too late to rectify as the ESPI enters another phase of its planning work. This individual is a member of the Manitoba Round Table. I didn't know there was an omnibus Round Table, but there is, and this fellow is on it. I speak of a Dr. Bill Pruitt of the Taiga Research Centre.

In checking with Bill as to his ideas regarding the issues surrounding the East Side Plan I found he had some valuable ideas that have gone unconsidered, at least in any real way, in this whole planning process. Bill suggests the real impetus to considering a road going up the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, is would serve the logging industry. That as far as today's standards go we would be much better served by an alternative method of transportation. Bill stated that with today's science there is an alternative. The alternative is Hovercraft. And this apparently is not pie in the sky thinking. Hovercraft have been around for 50 years and they are a commercially viable alternative. But probably not for logging. However, we heard from Jean Tellier in our Treaty Rights workshops, what happens when you build a road for the purposes of a single industry. She expressed that there is a reason that industry doesn't build a road that is built to the standards necessary to allow public transportation. It's not economically viable. Roads are very expensive. Expensive enough that no one can say when this road will be built. It is pretty clear that it won't be built without Federal/Provincial agreement. It is not clear, at all, that there will ever be Provincial/Federal agreement.

The potential economies of Hovercraft could make the difference as to whether or not transportation would come to the East Side and certainly should make a difference as to when. At least this warrants thorough consideration. This is something I would see as private run with a subsidy from the government, in lieu of the government building a road. Should they decide at some point to build the road, then the subsidy could end and the Hovercraft could be an interim provision. Likely the road would never be built.

There may be some question as to how Hovercraft would operate in the terrain of the East Side. I think the Alaska Hovercraft printout (<http://www.lynden.com/ahv>) indicates that the Hovercraft would have no difficulty operating in the East Side. Again at least this would seem to warrant thorough consideration.

There are quite a variety of Hovercraft available and the full range of specific needs can be met. I refer you to print outs from Hummingbird Transportation (<http://www.hummingbirdhovercraft.com>).

Hovercraft are something that have many success stories in Scandinavian countries and Europe as well as all other parts of the world. I refer you to print outs from Hovertravel (<http://www.hovertravel.co.uk>) and Aérotrain et Naviplanes (<http://aernav.free.fr/Index.html>).

Consideration should be given to what Hovercraft up the East Side would mean to tourism. This would certainly be a world class attraction. Especially in conjunction with United Nations Biosphere Reserve status.

And perhaps most importantly, when the "What we Heard" document was compiled, 25% of the statements expressed concern about the social and cultural threats posed by a road. Use of Hovercraft would give the people of the East Side maximum ability to monitor if not pretty much control what comes and goes from their area.

Les McCann
Manitoba Naturalists Society

MANITOBA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
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July 2, 2004

Manitoba Conservation
East Side Planning Initiative
405 – 326 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0S5

Dear Sirs:

Please find enclosed the position of the Manitoba Trappers Association with regard to the East Side Planning Initiative

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

J.H. Corky Peterson.
President

MANITOBA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 518, Lac du Bonnet, MB R0E 1A0
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Recommendations for the East Side Planning Initiative
Broad Area Plan

The Registered Trapline system or RTLs were brought about by close cooperation between government and trappers. It was a system designed in the 1940's to eliminate destructive competition and a system whereby traditional native hunting and trapping grounds could be preserved by introducing planned fur harvesting over most of the north.

This system has proven effective over the past half century for successful regulation, monitoring and harvest, while maintaining furbearer populations which are sustainable.

The area covered by the Broad Area Plan comprises 298 registered traplines within 11 Community Trapline Sections. As many as 800 trappers have held license on these lines in any given year. As an example, total fur harvest from the East Side area for 1986-87 season was \$1,256,816.

Trapping, hunting fishing and gathering for personal use is an inherent right of aboriginal peoples. Commercial fur harvesting, that is, the selling of pelts, is an important traditional occupation for many people of the East Side.

The following is the position of the MTA as a representative organization of the trappers and the fur harvest industry of Manitoba. The Manitoba Trappers Association is a predominantly volunteer organization formed in 1972 to represent the interests of the trappers in the Province of Manitoba, and the protection of the fur industry.

The Manitoba Trappers Association supports the principle of the East Side Planning Initiative process. However, the rights and privileges of trappers should not be compromised by any initiative or development that might take place on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, or elsewhere in the province.

No infringement on the economic viability of trapping or fur harvesting should result through the creation or establishment of protected areas, federal or provincial parks.

Any development such as roads, or other linear disturbances should not negatively affect trappers, and the trappers' tenure should be honoured.

When proposals, developments or occurrences take place which may affect the integrity of the fur harvest industry, the trappers' organizations should be respected as a community of people with a common interest. In this regard they should be involved in the full process of communication and consultation before implementation of any significant development

It is the expectation of the MTA that we will continue to participate in the ongoing East Side Broad Area Plan development and implementation process. Further, that we will be able to represent the interests and concerns of trappers as the future of the East Side of Lake Winnipeg evolves.

Stuart Jansson, MTA Director Zone 1 and ESPI: ESAC/SWG/PCI

Carl Monkman, MTA Director Zone 7 and ESPI: ESAC/CWG

Cherry White, MTA Administrator and ESPI: RT/SWG