

could include emergency fire fighting, first aid, dangerous goods, presentation skills, emergency readiness, ecotourism, life skills, and proposal preparation.

6.2.5

Certification training programs be established for those occupations where certification is currently not required – e.g., tourism industry, timber harvesting, mining and commercial fishing.

6.2.6

The development of local enterprise and ownership be encouraged in addition to ensuring that there is local benefit, training and employment when the public or private sector is operating in the planning area.

6.2.7

The Government of Manitoba must support joint ventures / partnerships / local ownership creating the means for communities to gain benefits from resource initiatives and economic activities within communities and traditional territories. All economic development initiatives undertaken by the public or private sector within the planning area should ensure training and employment opportunities for local residents where possible.

6.2.8

First Nations, Métis and local community governments be given representation on Manitoba government boards, agencies, commissions and committees in order to gain more information and participate more actively with respect to planning and development issues that impact their traditional territories.

6.2.9

The Government of Manitoba commit to working with the ESFNC and First Nation governments to establish a natural resources management authority that would be operational within three years. The authority must be grounded on the principles of the seven generations and the structure and authorities of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission is offered as a desired model.

6.2.10


The Government of Manitoba actively engage the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and local communities in developing and enhancing their own conservation capacity and engagement in formal conservation practices and activities in the planning area.

6.3 Forest Resources

Mandate

“The east side round table provide advice on protecting the values of the boreal forest, its sustainability, and sustainable use including, but not limited to:



- 
- *maintaining biological diversity and ecological functions;*
 - *role in carbon storage;*
 - *non-timber forest products;*
 - *ecotourism; and*
 - *sustainable forest harvesting activities.*

The province not permit any major new timber allocation beyond the annual allowable cut, as determined by Manitoba Conservation within Forest Management License #1 and historical allocation levels in Integrated Wood Supply Area #1, subject to annual public review and pending completion of the Broad Area Plan.”

Forest resources on the east side are valuable. Commercial logging and processing operations constitute an important economic activity. The forest provides much more than wood; it is a habitat for hundreds of species and provides valuable ecological services (see Chapter 5.3). It is also the focus of interest for First Nations and the Métis Nation on the east side, because of their ancestral habitation of the area, their use of the forest for food, furs, medicines, spiritual and ceremonial purposes, and economic interests. The priority for the future will be on the sustainability of these values and services, and where there are commercial operations, on making the economic benefits available to local communities.

Tembec Industries Inc. is the principal private sector interest in forestry operations in the area. Its Evergreen Forest Management License Agreement operates on a 20-year term, and is renewed every 10 years for an additional 10-year term. This provides a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 years to the agreement.

The agreement assigns management and reforestation responsibility for Forest Management License #1 (FML#1) to Tembec, while the Government of Manitoba retains these responsibilities for timber sales in the Integrated Wood Supply Areas east and west (1 & 2) of Lake Winnipeg. Forest management operations in FML #1 are authorized through Environment Act licenses awarded to 10-year forest management plans. Since the expiration of the forest management plan in 1998, Manitoba has requested Tembec to seek *Environment Act* licenses on annual plans until the completion of the ESPI process.

Negotiations for an expanded harvest area to facilitate sawmill development are also on hold pending the completion of the ESPI process and the softwood lumber negotiations with the United States. Any expansion of the license area would require the renegotiation of the Forest Management License Agreement.

In the northern portion of the planning area, north of approximately the 53rd parallel, the forest inventory is over 30 years old. Absence of current data on timber species, volumes and operability limits commercial forest management

and planning in this large area. Also, absence of a transportation infrastructure in the northern half of the planning area severely limits commercial forestry activities.

One goal of the Broad Area Plan 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 stakeholders competing to have their interests met. Finding the right balance is an ongoing challenge. Forestry operations, local benefits, community growth and development and the transportation network are all linked. The development of an all-weather road north of Hollow Water First Nation to Bloodvein First Nation and beyond is seen by some as the key to expanding forestry operations further north. This will bring a full range of costs and benefits.

Ascertaining forest values is fundamental to this process. For example, the use of High Conservation Value Forest assessments is being adopted by numerous agencies and systems (such as the Forest Stewardship Council) as one means of determining significantly outstanding forests or forest attributes. The World Wildlife Fund-Canada has developed a checklist that facilitates a systematic assessment of high conservation values beginning globally and ending locally which could be used for the east side planning area. Subsequent management decisions would require the maintenance or enhancement of the defined attribute and a monitoring program would have to be established to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed.

A long-term threat to forest resources is an increased risk of large forest fires as the climate changes and the predicted drier summer conditions occur. This threat could escalate with increased recreation access in the future. Difficulties in accessing the more remote 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.

A principal concern repeatedly voiced had to do with the jobs and other economic benefits of forestry (and other resource activities) not staying in the communities. East side residents perceive that the economic benefits accrue elsewhere. Concerns were also frequently expressed that the best trees have already been removed, leaving only marginal timber for local residents to use.

Many comments addressed the lack of local and traditional ecological knowledge used when making decisions about resource uses, including forestry. Concerns included insufficient consultation, but also a lack of input on the cultural and spiritual value that local people place on the forest.

A common theme in the comments was that while local residents are pleased that they are being asked for their views, there is a belief that their input won't matter when decisions are made, or that decisions have already been made, and the community visits are just window dressing. There are also local demands for more training of young people in basic forestry practices and other resource development businesses.

“All communities in the southern portion of the study area have been developed around logging. We need logging and mining on the east side. Logging is much more environmentally sensitive today.”

(East Side Resident)



Generally, the comments from communities indicate support for development that is sustainable, as long as there is local input to the process and benefits accrue to communities directly.

Recommendations:

6.3.1

To ensure sustainable forestry practices are maintained on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, all commercial forestry activities are encouraged to operate according to standards and procedures established or recommended by management and forest certification systems.

6.3.2

When Manitoba renegotiates the FML #1, it does so through the East Side First Nations Council ensuring more timely opportunities for input. When stakeholders operate outside FML-1, such as within the Integrated Wood Supply Area #1, First Nations governments and the Métis Nation resident on the east side of Lake Winnipeg must be consulted and accommodated.

6.3.3

Provisions are needed for royalty, revenue sharing or other benefits for First Nation and Métis governments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg for timber removed from the planning area.

6.3.4

A comprehensive Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) should be completed for the entire planning area to guide the review of commercial forestry expansion, new developments, or new licenses proposed within the planning area.

6.3.5

Using assessment tools such as the High Conservation Value Forest method, identify and quantify the values contained within the forests in the planning area. Such an assessment could address environmental, social, health, Aboriginal and treaty rights, cultural, and economic factors. Models such as the Whitefeather example in Ontario could be used in developing forest plans for each First Nation, commercial forest interest, and local community.

6.3.6

The development of local enterprise and ownership should be encouraged, in addition to ensuring that there is local benefit, training and employment when companies based outside the planning area are operating within the planning area. There may be alternatives to selling timber within a local market, such as bartering, trading, etc., that should be explored.

6.3.7

Alternatives to conventional forest uses be explored and developed, such as using the forest for carbon storage, non-timber forest products, biodiversity services, and other non-forestry uses. For example, there may be economic value in the carbon storage capacity of the forest for emissions trading purposes.



6.3.8

Genetically modified or otherwise “improved” trees should not be used in the planning area, as there is a concern over the eventual decrease in genetic diversity that can result.

6.3.9

Affected First Nations, Métis and local governments and affected stakeholders should be consulted and accommodated prior to the planning or decommissioning of forest roads within the plan area.

6.3.10

Any permitted or licensed forestry development or activity must investigate, identify and mitigate impacts on other licensed or permitted activities such as trapping, wild rice propagation, lodges and outfitters, and others. The Government of Manitoba shall work with the East Side First Nations Council to establish a process to ensure sufficient communications between license holders and provide a mechanism to resolve any conflict or disputes that may arise due to competing licensed interests. Conflict resolution by a third party mediator could be a consideration.

6.4 Transportation

Mandate

“The east side round table provide advice and input on the options (e.g., north-south versus east-west route alternatives) in the east side transportation network study to be conducted by Manitoba Transportation and Government Services. Manitoba Transportation and Government Services work with the east side planning secretariat and directly with the east side round table to ensure the effective and efficient co-ordination of planning and communication activities in the planning area.”

“The east side round table provide advice on the proposed transportation assessment work plan of Manitoba Transportation and Government Services which will include the planning, consultation, upgrading and construction of the road to the Bloodvein community.”

In August 1999, Manitoba Transportation retained Dillon Consulting Limited to undertake a study to look at the feasibility of developing an all-weather road system to improve access to remote communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. All ESPI communities are located within the Manitoba Transportation study area. The study was to be a preliminary, cost-benefit assessment to determine if more comprehensive considerations of an all-weather road development in the study area were justified.

In a report prepared by Dillon Consulting entitled East Side of Lake Winnipeg All Weather Road Justification and Scoping Study (August 2000), two all-weather road route scenarios, with different points of origin, were evaluated. In one scenario, all east side communities would be connected from the south

“The construction and maintenance of a local airport would bring much needed jobs in the area as well as bring the costs of goods and services down to acceptable levels.”

(East Side Resident)

