



An Action Plan for Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas



January 1, 2000 - January 1, 2003



Manitoba
Conservation



Dear Manitobans:

In 1990, Manitoba made a commitment to protect representative areas within each of our natural regions by the year 2000. While this task will not be finished by the end of 2000 as originally planned, we will have gone a long way, and we will continue to work towards this goal into the new millennium.

I am pleased to present this third edition of: "n Action Plan for Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas." This action plan reaffirms Manitoba's commitment to set aside protected areas for today's generation and for generations to come. It presents a vision for our network of protected areas, and describes our plans for the next three years to expand this network in partnership with all those who care for the land. The Action Plan also chronicles the success Manitoba has had in expanding the amount of protected areas since 1990. I invite all Manitobans to participate in this worthwhile endeavour to protect our natural landscapes.

*Hon. Oscar Lathlin
Minister of Conservation*



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Introduction

Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative is a program of the provincial government. All government departments with roles and responsibilities concerning land and resource use or allocation are committed to ensuring Manitoba's network of protected areas is completed. Protected areas encompass land, freshwater, and marine sites where industrial resource extraction, as defined in regulation, is prohibited. Today, Manitoba's network of protected areas is made up of a collection of different land designations including federal and provincial parks, ecological reserves, wildlife management areas and provincial forests. Private lands can also be part of Manitoba's network of protected areas. Much work remains to be done for Manitoba to reach its goal of adequately representing and protecting its natural regions from logging, mining,

hydroelectric development, oil and gas exploration and development and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat. The insert shows the existing protected areas in Manitoba.

This report consists of three parts. The first part, "Statement of Intent," describes the overall goals and principles by which the network of protected areas will be assembled. The second part is the "Strategic Plan." It lists initiatives that will guide our efforts to create new protected areas over the next three years. Four "Appendices" make up the third part of the report. They describe (a) the technical approach used to identify protected areas; (b) the history of protected areas in Manitoba; (c) how we will work with First Nations; and (d) the extent to which the initial objectives for 1996 through 1999 were met.



Statement of Intent

Manitoba intends to assemble a network of protected areas that conserves ecosystems and maintains the biodiversity found within the province. To do so, Manitoba will:

- a) Apply ecological criteria in selecting and designating new protected areas. These areas will be designed using science-based criteria derived from the principles of ecological representation and integrity. These areas will complement other conservation, endangered species and habitat programs (see Appendix A).
- b) Develop a Strategic Plan to guide the completion of a network of protected areas. The Strategic Plan that follows describes the methods to be used to assemble a network of protected areas, along with anticipated time lines and the protection measures to secure the protected areas.
- c) Complete the network of protected areas while allowing reasonable time to consult, build support and involve Manitobans in the identification and protection of Manitoba's biodiversity.



- d) Develop, as required, co-operative agreements with individuals, corporations and other levels of government to create management areas and corridors that represent portions of all of the enduring features in each of Manitoba's natural regions.
- e) Maintain the ecological integrity of existing protected areas including sites that contribute to, or have the potential to contribute to, ecological representation of natural regions. Protected areas standards are defined in legislation. All public and non-public areas in Manitoba that meet these standards, in a legal manner through a variety of recognized mechanisms, would contribute to the network of protected areas. Contributing public areas include appropriately designated federal and provincial parks, wildlife management areas, other wildlife lands, ecological reserves, provincial forests, and new

categories that may be established in the future such as marine protected areas. Contributing non-public areas could include privately owned lands with a binding conservation agreement, lands owned by a recognized conservation organization, First Nation lands designated by Band Council Resolution or similar mechanism, municipally protected areas, or other such sites.

- f) Develop and implement legislation and policies that provide opportunities or incentives to assist the private sector in protecting areas that contribute to natural region representation. Financial and procedural incentives will be considered for ensuring the long-term security of private property offered as protected areas. The province will actively support private actions resulting in the establishment of new protected areas.



Strategic Plan

Since 1996, Manitoba has developed and worked on implementing a Strategic Plan to create a provincial network of protected areas. The first Strategic Plan covered the period 1996-1998 and was distributed in early 1997. Later in 1997, a progress report listing 1996-97 accomplishments and an updated Strategic Plan for 1997-1999 was distributed. Appendix D provides a progress report on the extent to which the individual commitments in the 1997-1999 Strategic Plan were met by the end of 1999.

For the period of January 1, 2000 to January 1, 2003, new, broader goals have been developed to guide the work and define the focus of protected area activities. In addition, a listing of specific targets for the year 2000 will measure the success of our efforts. An update will be prepared annually, at the beginning of each year. It will report on the success of how the targets were met and the specific targets and goals for the coming year. Tasks for specific sites have been listed wherever possible, but most goals are general in nature as adequate time must be allowed for consultations with industry, First Nations, northern and rural communities and other interest groups. The challenge of working together with diverse groups and interests makes it difficult to predict which site will become the next addition to Manitoba's network of protected areas.

Our website www.gov.mb.ca/natres/pai contains information on the status of protection activities in Manitoba.



General Targets

2000-2003

Areas of Special Interest:

- Continue consultations on priority sites with aboriginal groups, industry and other groups and assess support for areas identified in all natural regions.

Park Reserves:

- Continue consultations with aboriginal groups, industry and other groups regarding existing park reserves, with an aim to moving them to appropriate permanent protected area designations. Emphasis will be placed on park reserves created in 1997 that expire in late 2002.
- Create new park reserves as a result of consultations, and begin the consultation process on their long term status.

Wildlife Management Areas and Related Wildlife Lands:

- Review and protect, in whole or part, any remaining areas that have yet to be evaluated.

Ecological Reserves:

- Consult on proposed ecological reserves recommended to the Minister of Conservation for designation.
- Gather information on new sites from local community and environmental groups.
- Submit additional sites to the Minister as they are approved by the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee.

Agro-Manitoba:

- Compile a database of existing conservation and protected lands in agricultural regions of Manitoba. (Natural Regions 5b to 12).
- Promote the *Conservation Agreements Act* to create new conservation agreements.
- Develop and maintain an up-to-date registry system for tracking protected land ownership status, particularly for private lands.
- Review and protect, in whole or in part, candidate Crown lands identified in 1994 for possible inclusion in the network of protected areas.

- Acquire and protect new lands for addition to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve through purchase or conservation agreements.
- Continue consultations with Conservation Districts, the agricultural sector, industry, municipalities, and First Nation communities to create protected areas in agricultural regions of Manitoba. (Natural Regions 5b to 12.)
- Identify and protect applicable lands owned by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation.
- Identify other conservation agencies as partners to establish new protected areas.
- Review and protect, where possible, in whole or in part, PFRA Community Pastures.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Develop a joint federal/provincial/territorial strategy to assess the feasibility of establishing marine protected areas.

Federally Managed Lands:

- Continue evaluation of federally managed Crown lands for contribution to the provincial network of protected areas.

Reports/Documents:

- Compile and maintain a comprehensive protected lands database for Crown and private protected lands.
- Review the Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations on protected areas.
- Produce the annual Strategic Plan update on accomplishments for the previous year and targets for the current year.

Applying Ecological Criteria to Establish a Network of Protected Areas in Manitoba

Appendix A

To be considered complete, Manitoba's network of protected areas will have to contain adequate examples that are representative of our diverse landscapes. Our approach relies on applying sound ecological principles and criteria. The technical application of these principles and criteria governs the identification of possible candidate protected areas, and forms the scientific basis for public consultations on protected areas. This appendix outlines the ecological principles used, the criteria considered in determining "representative" and "adequate," and how these principles and criteria are applied.

In Manitoba, as a minimum, a "protected" area must be closed by legal means to logging, mining, hydroelectric development, or any other activity that significantly and adversely affects habitat. For the purposes of assessing adequacy and representation, all areas that meet this criterion are included in the network of protected areas, regardless of who owns or manages an area. Existing protected areas include national parks, ecological reserves, and all or parts of some provincial parks, wildlife management areas, and provincial forests. Most recently, private lands have been included in the network where they have been acquired by conservation agencies. Also, conservation agencies and private landowners are able to place protective conservation agreements on land titles. These agreements are legally binding for subsequent landowners.

Ecological Principles

Manitoba has been divided into a set of 18 natural regions and sub-regions. Each region or sub-region has a broad common climate and physiography that differentiates it from the others. All of the plant and animal species that live in Manitoba collectively make up the province's biological diversity (or biodiversity). All biological organisms share a connection to the landscapes in which they are found, some more directly than others. Unlike plants and animals, however, soils and landforms are more stable over time and endure. When an ecological process such as fire passes through an area, the area's biodiversity is temporarily changed, but there is potential for it to return to its previous state because the soils and landforms remain. As a result, it is much easier to define these somewhat more permanent **enduring features**, than it is to identify the complex biological diversity that occupies a given site over time as natural ecological processes such as succession occur. For this reason, each natural region has been divided into smaller units based on soils and landform. Enduring features range from a few hectares to over a million hectares in size. Some of the smaller enduring features are of a size typical of stands or habitat patches. Similarly, some of the largest enduring features are of a size typical of landscape level disturbance events such as fire or flood. Representing enduring features in a system of protected lands, therefore, serves as a useful way of protecting the biological diversity of a natural region. The process of identifying the different combinations of soils and landforms, and of determining if they are adequately represented in Manitoba's network of protected areas, is called **enduring features analysis**.





Representation Criteria

Representation has become the underlying principle in designing networks of protected areas. “Representativeness” is a measure of the degree to which an individual protected area, or the network of protected areas, portrays the physiographic, and, by inference, the biological diversity of the natural region.

Representativeness is determined by applying the following four criteria:

1. Examples of all the terrestrial and aquatic enduring features considered characteristic of the natural region must be included in protected areas.
2. Protected areas must be considered to be ecologically self-sustaining.
3. The proportions and spatial arrangement of enduring features in a network of protected areas should reflect their relative proportions and spatial arrangement in the natural region.
4. The network must provide for genetic diversity by including protected areas in widely separated parts of large natural regions, particularly in those natural regions that span several degrees of latitude.

These criteria are applied equally. If the strict application of proportionality guidelines were to result in a determination that there is inadequate protection, the second criterion of ecological integrity would be violated and adjustments would have to be made, for example, by capturing more of the enduring feature in another protected area.

Assessing Representation

Assessing gaps in representation within a natural region begins by identifying all of the enduring features that characterize the region. The second step involves determining the extent to which these enduring features are already captured in existing protected areas in the natural region.

Manitoba has adopted the four level rating system proposed by the World Wildlife Fund Canada’s Endangered Spaces Campaign in 1995 (Table 1) to assess the level of representation of each enduring feature in existing protected areas. The four categories reflect differences in the proportion of each enduring feature that is captured, and the level of confidence that ecological integrity is likely to be maintained over time.

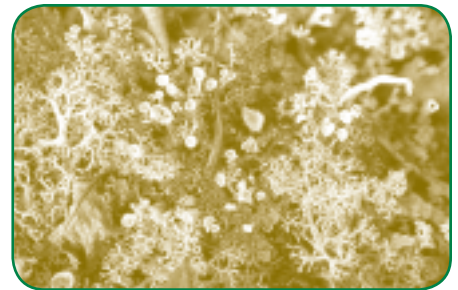


Table 1. Representation Categories for Enduring Features (adapted from World Wildlife Fund Canada)

Enduring Feature Rank	Description
Not Captured	No part of the enduring feature is included within the boundaries of a protected area.
Partially Captured	Only minor parts of the enduring feature are included within the boundaries of existing protected areas, and natural disturbances can only be maintained at the scales of stands or patches.
Moderately Captured	A significant portion of the enduring feature is included within one or several protected areas in a manner that disturbance-recovery cycles are maintained across a wide range of scales with the exception of landscape-scale disturbance events.
Adequately Captured	A sufficient proportion of the enduring feature is included in existing protected areas that ecological processes and integrity are likely to be maintained.

Enduring features are evaluated in the context of the protected area in which they are found. For example, complete protection of a unique but small enduring feature would not lead to a rank higher than “moderately captured,” unless it was found within a larger protected area where landscape scale ecological processes could still operate.

Since enduring features vary in size, configuration, and the number of times they repeat across a landscape, the following guidelines have been developed to help determine whether an enduring feature is adequately represented depending on its size. The impact of human activity is also considered.



Small Enduring Features (1-8,000 ha)

1. Adequate representation may require that the entire enduring feature be protected. This is particularly true for enduring features that are less than 1,000 ha. One thousand hectares is considered the minimum area necessary for the maintenance of plant and small animal communities.
2. For small enduring features that repeat across a natural region, it is preferable to have one or more complete units captured within a protected area.
3. The character of small enduring features is often determined by the nature of surrounding landscapes. Adequate representation of small enduring features, therefore, requires that the protected unit be embedded within a larger protected area, to prevent edge effects and to preserve the character of the enduring feature being evaluated.

Medium Enduring Features (8,000-400,000 ha)

1. Adequate representation may be achieved by setting aside a portion of the enduring feature in a manner that is consistent with guidelines related to edge effects, minimum size criteria, and spatial configuration.
2. For enduring features that repeat across the region, adequate representation may require that one complete unit is captured within a protected area. For enduring features at the

upper end of this size category it may be sufficient to capture a significant portion of the unit within a protected area.

3. Medium enduring features are less vulnerable to edge effects than small enduring features, and may sometimes lie along the inside boundary of a protected area.
4. The protection of adjacent enduring features may be required for adequate representation, if there are significant spatial linkages that determine the character of the enduring feature being evaluated.

Large Enduring Features (>400,000 ha)

1. Adequate representation may be achieved by setting aside a portion of the enduring feature in a manner that is consistent with guidelines related to edge effects and spatial configuration.
2. For enduring features that repeat across the region, adequate representation generally only requires that a significant portion of a single unit be captured within a protected area.
3. Large enduring features are much less vulnerable to edge effects than small or medium enduring features, and can thus generally lie along the inside boundary of a protected area.
4. Large enduring features often have other smaller landscape units embedded within them. The protection of adjacent enduring features is not usually required for adequate representation of the enduring feature in question, unless there are significant spatial linkages that help to determine its character.



Applying these Principles to Establish New Protected Areas

The establishment of new protected areas to help complete the network of protected areas involves enduring features analysis and applying the criteria and principles outlined above to fill gaps in representation. First, Areas of Special Interest (ASI) are selected for study, so that they represent all of the enduring features found within the natural region that are still needed to complete representation. Maps of ASIs have been available since 1998. Since then, these maps have been provided and widely distributed to industry, all First Nation communities, and various other communities and interest groups to focus discussion. They form the basis of Manitoba's consultation process. **ASIs have not been designated or protected in any formal manner until a formal decision is made to protect them, for example, as a park reserve.** They have been delineated using ecologically based scientific methods to identify enduring features not represented by the existing network of protected areas.

While enduring features analysis is a regional or "coarse filter" approach, "fine filter" considerations must be applied in setting boundaries when candidates for protection are designed from within the Areas of Special Interest. Fine filter factors that are considered include occurrences of rare and endangered plant and animal species or communities, areas of unusually high species diversity, extremely sensitive sites, and significant discrete wildlife resources or geological and physical features that affect biodiversity such as mineral licks, springs, waterfalls, etc. These occurrences can be identified from scientific surveys, as well as from local and traditional knowledge. Protected areas selected to represent natural regions



are intended to complement, not replace, endangered species programs or stewardship and conservation programs that address specific ecological problems or resource management needs.

Wherever possible, ASIs are chosen to avoid or minimize resource allocation conflicts and to protect undeveloped areas of significant size. The establishment of new protected lands will take into consideration the need for ecologically meaningful boundaries such as watersheds, lakes, rivers, landforms, animal ranges and other features. These types of boundaries are important for the preservation of ecological integrity and natural processes.

In most cases, ASI boundaries are flexible, and can be changed to respond to additional biological inventories and ecological knowledge such as new information from First Nations and industry. In a few cases, however, single or restricted occurrence enduring features are unique ecologically, and there is limited flexibility for boundary changes.

In those parts of Manitoba where intensive development does not permit the setting aside of large areas of protected land, other mechanisms to achieve representation will be explored. In particular, private lands and lands held by conservation agencies can make significant contributions. Emphasis will focus on sites where several adjacent public and private landowners have an interest in conservation and preservation. The intent will be to see if mutually reinforcing co-operative programs and projects can help secure relatively large areas that can qualify as protected. The Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, established in south-eastern Manitoba in 1992, serves as an excellent model to build upon.

The series of maps shown on the insert reveal the progress that has been made during the past decade in representing our natural regions by the growth in Manitoba's network of protected areas.

History of Protected Areas in Manitoba

Appendix B

In the early 1900s the first refuges were established in Manitoba to protect wildlife. Over time, the focus of conservation, preservation and protection efforts has shifted from “single species” to “wildlife habitat” and, most recently, to “landscape protection.” In 1930, Riding Mountain National Park became the first area set aside in Manitoba that still exists and meets the current definition of “protected,” (areas free of industrial and intensive development). It was not until 1976, however, when Reindeer Island became the first ecological reserve, that Manitoba began creating provincially designated lands that also meet current protection criteria.



At the outset of the World Wildlife Fund Canada’s Endangered Spaces Campaign in 1990, less than 1 percent of the province’s surface area met the Campaign’s protection standards - areas closed to logging, mining, petroleum, and hydroelectric development. Only Riding Mountain National Park and 12 ecological reserves, most of which are relatively small sites, met these requirements. In 1993, a large part of Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area was legally protected, becoming the first new category of provincial lands protected.

Thus began the process of significantly expanding the network of protected areas. The provincial park system was reviewed, and about 82 percent of its total land base was found to be designated as protected lands. Similarly, all or part of 32 Wildlife Management Areas were evaluated and legally protected, and approximately 24 other Wildlife Management Areas are still under evaluation. Four new ecological reserves have also been designated since 1990. In 1996, Manitoba, with the agreement of involved First Nations and the Town of Churchill, transferred to Canada the protected portion of Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area to establish Wapusk National Park near Churchill. Late in 1998, 8,400 hectares were protected in the Douglas Marsh located within Canadian Forces Base Shilo in southwestern Manitoba. This was one of the first times the Department of National Defence has participated in a provincial protected area initiative. This was also the first time the provincial *Forest Act* was used to create a protected area in a provincial forest. In 1999, two new park reserves with nearly 900,000 hectares of protected land were created at Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers. Early in 2000, three new park reserves were created at Hudwin Lake, Fisher Bay and Birch Island and 21 additional wildlife management areas/units were protected. As a result, by mid 2000, 8.5 percent of the province was designated as protected, as shown on the map of Manitoba’s network of protected areas. Numerous other sites are actively being evaluated for protection in the future.

Since 1990, Manitoba’s protected areas policy and legislative framework have continued to evolve. In 1992, the Natural Lands and Special Places Policy initiative laid the foundation for future work on protected areas. That same year, Manitoba provided a lead role as the



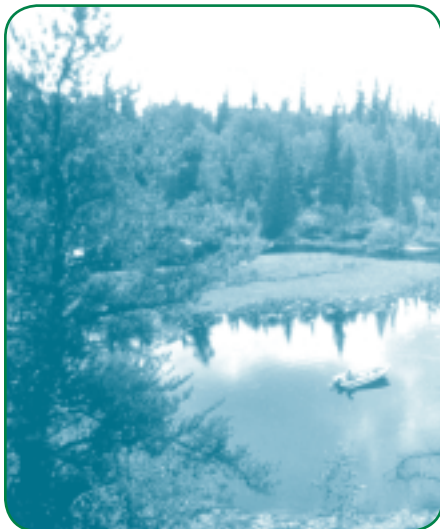
chair of the Federal-Provincial Parks Council of Ministers that assisted in the development of the Statement of Commitment to Complete Canada’s Networks of Protected Areas. A new *Provincial Parks Act* was passed in 1993 and implemented fully in 1997, allowing provincial parks to contribute to the network of protected areas for the first time. The first Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas was released in 1993, and a second edition was issued in 1997. A new *Conservation Agreements Act* was passed in 1997, and came into force in summer 1998. This Act allows interested private land owners to voluntarily apply long term and binding protection to land they own, thereby allowing these lands to contribute to the network of Manitoba’s protected areas. The first conservation agreement was signed in May 1999. In March 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with First Nations to undertake a co-operative consultation process on the identification, establishment and management of new protected areas. This Memorandum of Understanding was extended in March, 2000 for three years to 2003.

Manitoba and First Nations Co-operate on Protected Lands

Appendix C

On March 5, 1998 the Manitoba government, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) agreed to undertake a consultation process to ensure Manitoba First Nations participation in the establishment and management of new protected areas. Subsequently, the Southern Chiefs Organization supported the Memorandum, and advised it would participate in the process. The Memorandum of Understanding addressed the following significant points:

1. A working group consisting of First Nations representatives and Manitoba officials was established to co-ordinate the consultation process to identify and establish new areas to be protected.



2. New protected areas will be identified and designated only after full consultation with any affected First Nation(s). The objective and intent of Manitoba is to reach consensus regarding the establishment and management of a protected area with any First Nation(s) likely to be directly affected before designating a site as protected.
3. Protected areas which are established will not infringe upon any existing Aboriginal or treaty rights of First Nation peoples or rights under the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.
4. The Memorandum of Understanding will be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of any agreements between First Nations in Manitoba and government respecting lands, waters and natural resources.
5. The Province contributed \$35,000 to initiate the consultation process.

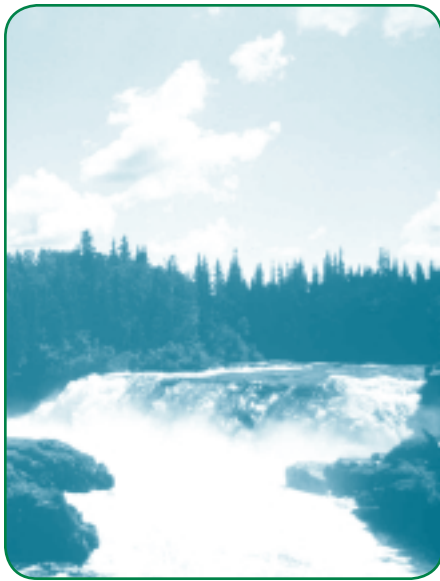
In the press release that accompanied the signing ceremony, AMC Grand Chief Rod Bushie stated, *“Manitoba First Nations have taken steps to ensure that any new protected areas are identified and designated only after full consultation with any affected First Nations and that the management of protected areas will be planned in consultation with affected First Nations.”* As well, MKO Grand Chief Francis Flett stated in the same press release that *“Through this partnership, the considerable traditional ecological knowledge of First Nations people will be incorporated in the process of selecting potential protected areas. As well, First Nations and Manitoba have agreed that First Nations people will continue to enjoy access to protected areas for the purposes of exercising rights under the treaties and the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Agreement.”*



After the signing, work began immediately to implement the Memorandum. In early 1999, the first two new park reserves were created for six months, following resolutions of support from two First Nation communities. By the end of 1999, the term of each of these two park reserves was extended for the maximum five year period to enable the detailed consultations, as called for in the *Provincial Parks Act*.

On March 3, 2000 Conservation Minister Oscar Lathlin extended the Memorandum for three more years to March 5, 2003. Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding are available through AMC, MKO, The Southern Chiefs Organization or Manitoba Conservation at the addresses listed in this Action Plan.





The Protected Areas Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ensures the direct participation of First Nations in identifying, establishing and managing new protected areas. Manitoba Conservation follows a Community Participation Process with directly affected First Nations. Through the MOU, other First Nations may also request to participate in discussions about new protected areas. Designating a protected area includes up to seven stages in the Community Participation Process.



<p>Stage 1: Notification & Information (Workbooks: January/99)</p>	<p>Introductory letters and workbooks, including a large wall-sized map, have been provided to all First Nations in Manitoba to assist in the decision-making process.</p>
<p>Stage 2: Information Session(s)</p>	<p>Information Sessions are provided by Manitoba Conservation to help community leadership and resource user representatives become familiar with the Protected Areas Initiative.</p>
<p>Stage 3: ASI Discussion & Decision-making</p>	<p>First Nations work together with Manitoba Conservation to complete decision-making about ASIs or other areas that would be supported or nominated for protection.</p>
<p>Stage 4: ASI Formal Support or Nomination</p>	<p>First Nation(s) support or nominate areas for protection by Band Council Resolution (or similar formal letter), with an attached map that clearly illustrates the area(s).</p> <p>AREA(s) MAY BE PROTECTED: After Stage 4, if no changes to ASI(s) are proposed.</p>
<p>Stage 5: Boundary Consultation</p>	<p>As a result of further consultations with resource sectors, changes to the supported or nominated area(s) may be proposed. Significant changes will be reviewed by the First Nation for support before the area is designated.</p> <p>AREA(s) MAY BE PROTECTED: After Stage 5, with First Nation support.</p>
<p>Stage 6: Protected Area Management Planning</p>	<p>Participation continues after a protected area is designated. Manitoba Conservation, in partnership with the First Nation(s), will develop a plan to manage the protected area.</p>
<p>Stage 7: Protected Area Management</p>	<p>First Nation(s) can participate directly in the on-going management of the protected area.</p>

Progress Report On Strategic Plan Goals

Appendix D

This Strategic Plan is a record of progress for the period of July 1, 1996 to December 31, 1999. Considerable groundwork was done during this time to identify ASIs throughout much of Manitoba, to assess existing designated lands for protection and to make new protected areas.



The record of progress is in two parts. The first part consists of a report on the status of each of the goals listed in the 1997-1999 Strategic Plan Update covering the period July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1999. The status for each stated goal is marked as “Complete,” “In Progress,” or “Delayed” depending on its status as of January 1, 2000. The second part consists of a report of other accomplishments on protected areas that were not foreseen when the Update was published in July 1997.



<p>1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proclaim the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> • Consult on the Provincial Park System Plan and identify candidate protected park areas • Update the Representation of Natural Regions map • Establish interim protection of National Park study areas in the Manitoba Lowlands • Consult stakeholders regarding the development of Conservation Agreement legislation • Place interim/permanent protection measures on existing lands within the Tall-Grass Prairie Preserve, in co-operation with associated landowners and non-governmental organizations • Complete consultations on the Provincial Park System Plan • Identify wildlife management areas that could contribute to Manitoba’s network of protected areas • Obtain approval to draft Conservation Agreement legislation • Circulate the Birch River study to the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the Park System Plan through Order in Council regulation • Identify several candidate sites in Region 4c using ecological criteria listed in this report that would significantly enhance natural region representation • Begin development of a System Plan for Ecological Reserves • Begin preparation of background information for a System Plan for Wildlife Management Areas • Review methodology of Natural Region Representation and Enduring Features Analysis within government, scientific community, industry and the environmental community • Identify lands through the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation that could contribute to the network of protected areas • Assess the feasibility of legal interim protection of the Manitoba Lowlands Park Proposal • Review draft conservation agreement legislation, and prepare for its introduction in the Legislature • Designate Palsa Hazel Ecological Reserve • Designate Lake St. George Caves Ecological Reserve • Circulate Whitemouth Island site as a potential Ecological Reserve • Identify and protect by regulation, in whole or in part, 10 Wildlife Management Areas • Complete the identification of candidate sites in Region 4a to 5b to significantly enhance regional representation • Update the two-year Protected Areas Strategic Plan 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>

<p>1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct preliminary consultations regarding candidate sites in Regions 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a and 5b • Identify candidate sites in Regions 1 to 3 using ecological criteria to significantly enhance regional representation • Identify additional Wildlife Management Areas that could be protected, in whole or part • Identify new lands to be added to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve • Place park reserve and protection status on all approved sites (Regions 4a-5b) as provided for under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>, and commence public consultation as outlined in the Act • Conduct preliminary consultations on candidate sites in Regions 1 to 3 • Circulate the Draft Ecological Reserves System Plan to the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee • Complete the Technical Report on Representation and Enduring Features Analysis • Begin an evaluation of federally managed Crown lands for contributions to Manitoba's network of protected areas • Acquire new lands identified for the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Delayed</p> <p>Delayed</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare regulations to enable 13 more Wildlife Management Areas, in whole or in part, to be added to Manitoba's network of the protected areas • Initiate a comprehensive protected lands database to co-ordinate and track down Crown and private protected lands • Review federal/territorial opportunities for marine protected areas • Complete update of the two-year Protected Areas Strategic Plan • Complete the Ecological Reserves System Plan • Complete consultation and assessment of those candidate sites under park reserve status in Regions 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a and 5b that should be continued for 5 more years • Invite municipalities, private landowners, and other land management agencies to voluntarily identify lands that could contribute to Manitoba's network of protected areas • Identify three candidate sites using ecological criteria in each of Regions 5c, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 that would significantly enhance natural region representation • Identify new lands to be added to the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve 	<p>Complete</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Delayed</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>Delayed</p> <p>In Progress</p>
<p>1999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct preliminary consultations on candidate sites in Regions 5c-12 • Place park reserve status on all approved sites with interim protection standards, and commence public consultations as outlined in the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> • Complete the update of the two-year Protected Areas Strategic Plan 	<p>Delayed</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>



Other Accomplishments

In the almost three years since the Strategic Plan Update reported above was distributed in mid 1997, there have been changes to the priorities and focus of the Protected Areas Initiative. These changes affected the anticipated success in meeting the initial targeted dates for completing various items in the Strategic Plan. The extent of consultations required for establishing new protected areas led to some of the delays. In some cases, however, opportunities arose that led to the creation of new protected areas and initiatives that had not been foreseen in 1997. The following section presents a list of these unanticipated protected areas that were created, and accomplishments completed or begun in 1998 and 1999. Each item is shown as “Complete” or “In Progress.”



1998

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Manitoba, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak concerning protected lands | Complete |
| • Proclaim the <i>Conservation Agreements Act</i> and pass enabling regulations | Complete |
| • Publish a report on the results of consultations recommending work continue on establishing Manitoba Lowlands National Park Proposal | Complete |
| • Complete First Nation consultation on potential designation of Whitemouth Island Ecological Reserve | Complete |
| • Continue consultations with First Nations, industry and other groups regarding ASIs in Regions 1 through 5 | In Progress |
| • In co-operation with the Department of National Defence, establish the Douglas Marsh Protected Area in Spruce Woods Provincial Forest as the first protected area designated under the <i>Forest Act</i> | Complete |
| • Continue a review of additional wildlife lands identified previously as candidates for protection | Complete |
| • Seek nominations for new candidate ecological reserves | Complete |
| • Review nominations with the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee to evaluate their suitability for recommendation as ecological reserves | In Progress |
| • Develop a process for implementing the <i>Conservation Agreements Act</i> | Complete |
| • Begin consultations on implementing the Manitoba Lowlands National Park Proposal report | In Progress |

1999

- Protect, in whole or in part, nine more Wildlife Management Areas
- Create Chitek Lake and Polar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves for the initial six month period allowed for in the *Provincial Parks Act*
- Designate Whitemouth Island Ecological Reserve
- Create the first Conservation Agreement
- Continue the review of remaining wildlife lands previously identified as candidates for protection
- Continue consultations with First Nations, industry and other groups, and assess the support for protecting identified candidate areas
- Conduct consultations with First Nations, industry and other groups regarding extending the new park reserves as outlined in the *Provincial Parks Act*
- Seek support for the creation of new park reserves
- Submit to the Minister 11 new sites recommended by the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee for designation as ecological reserves
- Begin a consultation process on the 11 new candidate ecological reserves
- Hold initial discussion with federal and territorial agencies on marine protected areas
- Continue consultations with First Nations, industry and other groups regarding final decisions on existing park reserves as required by the *Provincial Parks Act*
- Extend Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves for five years
- Seek information on new candidate ecological reserves from community and environmental groups
- Develop and obtain approval for a strategy and program for establishing protected areas in agricultural parts of Manitoba
- Continue work on preparing a technical report on Natural Regions Representation and Enduring Features Analysis

Complete
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 In Progress





How To Become Involved!

For more information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative or to obtain additional copies of this document: **"An Action Plan for Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas,"** please contact us at:

Protected Areas Initiative

Parks and Natural Areas Branch
200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

Telephone: 1-800-214-6497
Fax: (204) 945-0012
Email: pai@gov.mb.ca

You can visit our web site to get the latest information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative at www.gov.mb.ca/natres/pai. This site has information, maps and other documents to help you understand and participate in the establishment of Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.

All Manitobans are invited to become involved in the process of helping to complete Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas. Here are some of the ways you can participate:

- Tell us about areas you know of that have significant or unusual natural features or vegetation.
- Contact the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation at 784-4350 (Winnipeg) or 729-3501 (Brandon) if you own land that you may wish to protect through a conservation agreement.
- Contact your First Nation Chief or Councillor or the staff at AMC, MKO or the Southern Chiefs Organization to identify areas that you would like to see protected.
- Contact the Mining Industry Association of Manitoba or your mining industry representative to see how you can become involved.
- Contact the Forest Industry Association of Manitoba or your local quota holder association to see how you can become involved.

