



Atikaki Provincial Park & Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River

Management Plan



Protecting
& Managing
our Future

Manitoba 



Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan



This management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park
and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River was prepared in consultation
with park users under the authority of The Provincial Parks Act.

Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister
Manitoba Conservation

April 2008

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Park Description

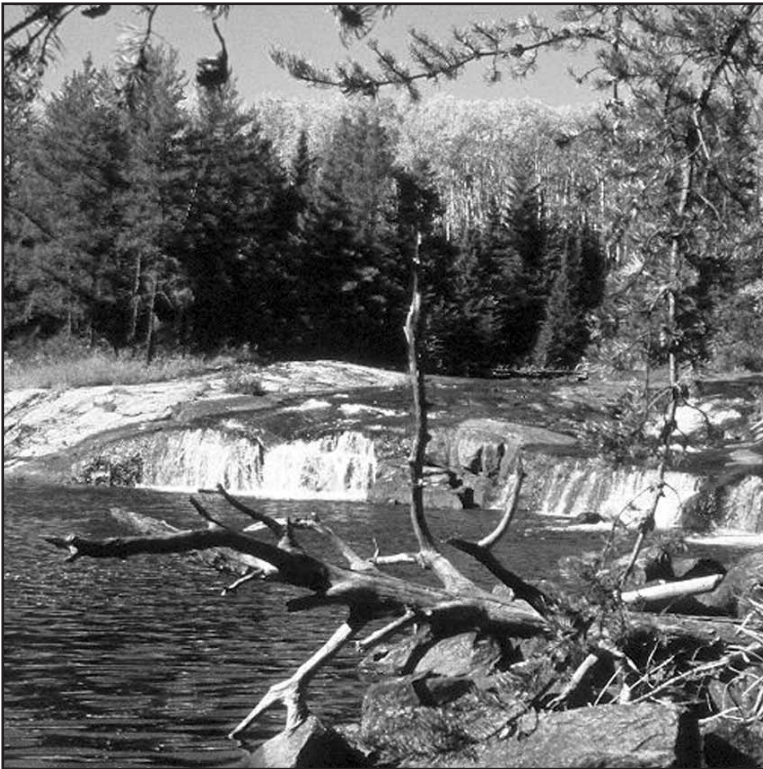
A classic Canadian pristine wilderness of boreal forest, granite shield and wild rivers, Atikaki Provincial Park became a jewel in Manitoba's Provincial Park system in 1985.

Atikaki is part of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region (Natural Region 4C). (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997) Natural regions are broad areas that share similarities in geography, climate and vegetation. The Lac Seul Upland extends eastward from the eastern shore of

Lake Winnipeg into northwestern Ontario. It includes Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario. The area is characterized by a rugged Precambrian shield landscape of rock outcrops and granite cliffs interspersed with a complex of bogs, fens, marshes, rivers and riverbottom forest.

Its southern boundary was adjusted in 1997 when an area containing several mineral claims was removed and eventually designated as South Atikaki Provincial Park. The area of Atikaki Provincial Park is 3,981 km² (1537 sq. mi.).

Atikaki encompasses a wide diversity of central boreal upland landforms and plant and animal communities. It features four river corridors, including the Manitoba portion of the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.



Natural Features

Atikaki is underlain by Precambrian shield bedrock. Soils are thin, with extensive rock outcrops. The Pigeon, Leyond, Bloodvein and Gammon rivers drain the area and there are resulting expanses of wetlands underlain by organic soils. Significant natural heritage features identified for the Bloodvein River include cliffs, waterfalls and cascading rapids. Evidence of faulting along the river and its marshes is considered nationally significant. (Canadian Heritage Rivers System, 1998)

The park is florally diverse with representation from prairie and eastern deciduous forest species at the limits of their range. Atikaki may encompass the warmest and driest environment in Manitoba's boreal forest. Prairie plants grow here, including prairie spikemoss and prairie rush, species not normally found in shield terrain.

Atikaki is Ojibwe for “land of the caribou”. The park is home for a segment of the boreal population of Woodland Caribou, providing both winter and summer habitat. This population of Woodland Caribou is listed as threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act (Species At Risk Act, 2002). Threatened species are considered likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to their decline. Protection of this caribou habitat in the park can be key in the conservation of that segment of the population.

In addition to woodland caribou, the park supports marten, lynx, black bear, moose, timber wolves, fisher, bald eagles, turkey vultures, great grey owls and a myriad of waterfowl.

The park also supports a number of noteworthy aquatic species. Northern pike and walleye form the mainstay of the recreational fishery. Lake trout are also sought by anglers and occur in Aikens, Eakins and McMurray Lakes. The chestnut lamprey, whose only known occurrence in Canada is in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, has been reported in both the Bloodvein and Pigeon Rivers. It is listed as a species of special concern under the Federal Species at Risk Act because of its fairly narrow distribution in Canada, as well as its low abundance and sensitivity to habitat degradation. (*Species Risk Act, 2002; Lanteigne, 1991*)

With such an array of representative and unique natural features that have not been impacted by commercial industrial activities Atikaki is an outstanding example of the southern Precambrian forest and the ecological and biological processes that maintain that forest and the species within it. This significance is enhanced when considered in relation to neighbouring Nopiming Provincial Park and the adjoining Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario.

Cultural Features

Aboriginal people have been using the Atikaki area for thousands of years, migrating seasonally between it and Lake Winnipeg. As their home, Atikaki and the surrounding area exemplify a traditional human land use that has sustained both a culture and an environment. Though both the culture and the environment have evolved over time the relationship between the two remains strong. This is illustrated by Atikaki as a cultural landscape and by unique cultural features. Intact rock cairns and some of the best and most representative prehistoric red ochre rock paintings or pictographs in the province are found along the Bloodvein River.

Human heritage themes represented by the Bloodvein River also contain elements, which are considered outstanding cultural heritage resources. (Parks Canada, 1977) The pictographs along the Bloodvein River are foremost among these. Although a secondary fur trade route, the Bloodvein did facilitate trade between First Nations people and the Hudson's Bay Company. The remains of a site thought to be an early fur trade post and one of an early commercial fishing operation testify to this commercial trade.





There is little or no historic record of mining or forestry operations in the area and while mineral exploration has occurred over the years, forestry activities have not. Both are now excluded from the park.

Recreation

Fishing for pike, walleye and trout, as well as hunting for moose and black bear are popular and long established recreational pursuits in Atikaki. These activities are promoted mainly through the following facilities: 4 lodges, 15 outcamps, 4 portable camps consisting of tents, 14 commercial auxiliary facilities consisting of boat, motor and fuel caches and some with shelters and storage sheds, and 4 private recreational cabins and one private fishing club (Map 1).



A major focus of Atikaki is its superb opportunity for wilderness canoeing. Rivers like the Bloodvein, Gammon and Pigeon provide more than 1,000 kilometres of outstanding interconnecting whitewater routes that offer a diversity of experiences from quiet lakes to roaring rapids and falls. The Pigeon River also offers an opportunity for whitewater rafting that has been said by some to be comparable to the experience found on the Colorado River.

1.2 First Nations

Atikaki has been used, and continues to be used, by the Bloodvein, Hollow Water and Little Grand Rapids First Nations for physical, social, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being. Traditional uses include spiritual, ceremonial, social and recreational activities, as well as hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and wild rice harvesting. The treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities within Atikaki Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected.

1.3 Park Administration and Operations

The administration and operation of Atikaki Provincial Park is the responsibility of Manitoba Conservation. Manitoba Conservation's Eastern Region, based in Lac du Bonnet, is responsible for the enforcement of legislation, response to emergencies such as forest fires and is the primary contact for First Nation communities, lodge operators and outfitters, trappers, commercial and recreational fishers, hunters, etc. The region's Integrated Resource Management Team (IRMT), consisting of natural resource officers and fisheries, forestry, lands, parks and wildlife managers, is responsible for reviewing, approving and monitoring land use activities such as forestry and mineral operations, as well as the delivery of field programs including resource management programs. Park administrative facilities in the park include a fire tower, cabin and boathouse on Sasaginnigak Lake.

Manitoba Conservation is also responsible for ensuring the compliance of the parks commercial operations (lodges, outcamps, portable camps) with environmental legislation. *The Environment Act* covers matters such as solid and liquid waste disposal and gasoline handling and storage, while *The Public Health Act* covers matters such as dwellings and buildings, water supplies, food handling, etc. Inspections of facilities are carried out regularly. Safety regulations for operations offering hunting, fishing, wilderness canoeing and whitewater rafting, fall under *The Tourism and Recreation Act*. Non-compliance to regulations can result in suspension or cancellation of privileges.

1.4 Park Classification

Provincial parks are classified to identify their role in the provincial park system. Atikaki is classified as a wilderness park, in which, the preservation of representative areas of a natural region is the main purpose. (*The Provincial Parks Act, 1993*) Logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric power are prohibited.

1.5 Park Purpose

The purpose of individual provincial parks is identified in *A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks*. (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997b) Atikaki's purpose is to:

- preserve physical features and biological communities representative of the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region
- provide opportunities for a range of outdoor recreational experiences from canoeing and whitewater rafting, that depend on a pristine environment, to lodges and outcamps
- promote public appreciation and understanding of the park's natural features and cultural heritage.

1.6 Land Use Categories

Land Use Categories define the main purpose of broad areas within the provincial parks. Atikaki is categorized into wilderness and access land use categories (Map 2).

Wilderness land use categories protect representative or unique natural landscapes in an undisturbed state and provide recreational opportunities that depend upon a pristine environment. Logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric power are also prohibited in a wilderness land use category. Over 99 percent of Atikaki or 396,265 hectares of the park, have a wilderness land use category.

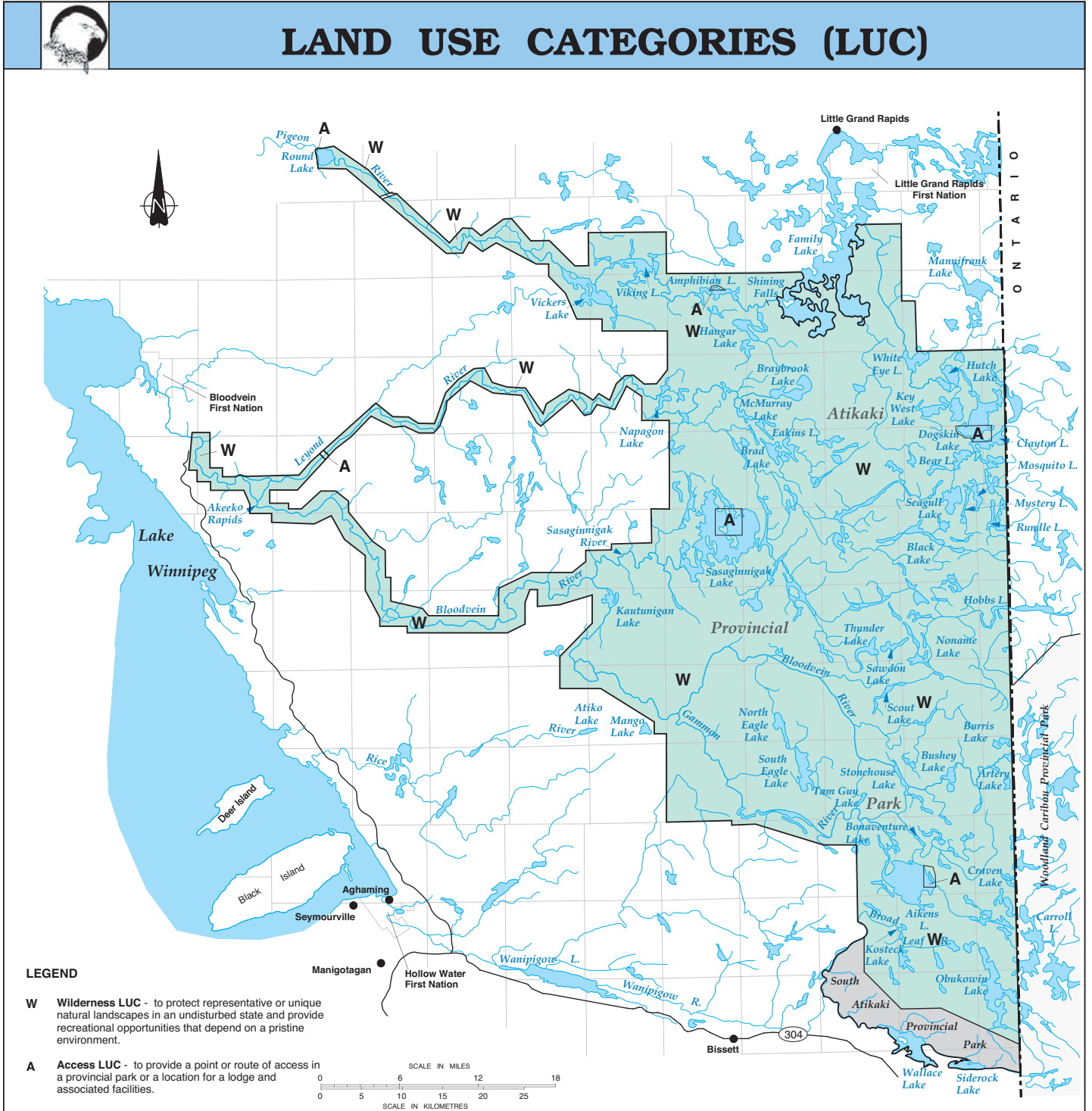
Purposes of Provincial Parks

(5) In accordance with park classifications and land use categories, the purposes of a provincial park system include the following:

- (a) to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- (b) to preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources;
- (c) to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

(*The Provincial Parks Act, 1993*)

LAND USE CATEGORIES (LUC)



The park system plan states that Atikaki's wilderness land use category:

- protects significant areas of upland and lowland coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests, and peatlands in an undisturbed state
- protects habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, including woodland caribou, wolverine, fisher, sturgeon, chestnut lamprey, bald eagles, great grey owls, prairie rush, white water-lilies and rattlesnake plantain orchids
- provides wilderness recreational opportunities including canoeing, wildlife viewing, white-water rafting, hunting and fishing

Approximately 1,865 hectares or less than 1 percent of Atikaki has an access land use category. The main purpose of the access land use category is to provide a point or route of access in a provincial park or a location for a lodge and associated facilities. The land is also protected in terms of no logging, mining or hydroelectric development when in a wilderness park. Atikaki's access land use category:

- accommodates lodges on Aikens, Amphibian, Sasaginnigak and Dogskin Lakes

1.7 Atikaki's Contribution to Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative

Through its Protected Areas Initiative, Manitoba works towards a system of protected areas that will represent the biological and landscape diversity of the province. Within these protected areas, logging, mining, hydro-electric development, oil and gas development and other activities that significantly and adversely affect natural habitat are prohibited. Manitoba has adopted an enduring features approach to assess representation. Natural regions and smaller landscape units encompassed therein have been identified based on their unique combinations of climate, physiography, surficial geology and soils. Atikaki is located in the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region (Natural Region 4C).

Atikaki provides adequate representation for landscape units consisting of extensive areas of exposed bedrock of the Precambrian Shield and areas where glacial till, made up of a jumble of gravel and rocks of various sizes, cover the bedrock with a veneer of variable thickness. Low areas dominated by peat deposits are moderately represented by the park.

1.8 The Atikaki-Woodland Caribou-Accord First Nations World Heritage Site Initiative

In 2004, Poplar River, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Pikangikum First Nations along with Manitoba and Ontario were successful in having a site encompassing Atikaki included on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage. Its inclusion on this list means that it is a priority site for potential nomination to the World Heritage Committee. The site includes the traditional areas of the four First Nations as well as Atikaki and South Atikaki Provincial Parks, Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and its four park additions, and the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

When Canada signed the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage it recognized its duty to humankind as a whole to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of this heritage. Inscription of the site as a World Heritage Site would underscore its outstanding universal values and commit Canada, as the member state, to the duties of the Convention.

Subsequent to the release of Canada's Tentative List, the First Nations, Manitoba, Ontario and Parks Canada formed an assembly to begin working on this initiative. This assembly will coordinate the planning and management of the site, and the preparation of a nomination of the site to the World Heritage Committee.

2. PARK MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Park management guidelines are identified under the following headings: natural resources, cultural resources, recreational use, development of facilities, interpretation and regional integration. Special management consideration focuses on the park's major river corridors.

2.1 Natural Resources



Conservation of Biodiversity

Lands within Atikaki Provincial Park are still in a pristine wilderness state principally because of the absence of industrial resource use. Towards the conservation of ecosystems and the maintenance of biodiversity, protection from industrial resource use will continue through *The Provincial Parks Act* (1993), which prohibits logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro electric power in wilderness parks. Given the extent of protected area contributed by Atikaki to the Natural Region 4C, it is considered likely that the park's ecological integrity can be maintained over time. (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997*b*) In this way Atikaki is an example of the ongoing ecological and biological processes in the boreal forest ecosystem.

In addition to the regulatory protection offered by designation of Atikaki under *The Provincial Parks Act*, certain management initiatives and programs on lands surrounding the park also aid in the conservation of its biodiversity. Land use planning through the Ecosystem Based Management Pilot Project (EBM) and the East Side Planning Initiative (ESPI) are two such initiatives.

The EBM Pilot Project was initiated in 1997 to address ecosystem functional relationships and public values concerning ecosystem states, services and goods in natural region 4C. (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997*c*) A series of reports were published in 2002 concluding the pilot project.

In 2000 Manitoba announced the Broad Area Planning Initiative for the east side of Lake Winnipeg, which was later renamed Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin. This initiative was to develop a land use plan for the area extending from roughly Pine Falls to Oxford House. The land use plan is to help maintain the ecological integrity of the area, respect and advance the social, economic,

cultural and traditional needs of the communities there, and to respect treaty and Aboriginal rights. The initiative involved an extensive public participation process in the planning area. In 2004 a Status Report was prepared outlining the results of the public participation and setting direction for the continuation of the planning process.

Intent:

- To maintain Atikaki's role as a core protected area in Natural Region 4C, the Lac Seul Upland portion of the Precambrian Boreal Forest Natural Region, and ensure that the ecological and biological processes of its ecosystems may continue to function.

Guideline 2.1.1 - Potential disturbances to Atikaki from adjacent land use activities will be minimized through existing planning and review processes that will take into account ecosystem values of Natural Region 4C and the park's role as a protected area. Review processes are primarily the responsibility of the regional IRMT.

Fire management

Fire has been the major controlling force in vegetation dynamics and distribution throughout central Canada's forest and prairie landscapes. The fire-dependent communities of central North America have evolved with, and adapted to, fires started by lightning and by our human predecessors. (Parks Canada, 1997)

Current policy (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1998) establishes priorities for fire suppression; those being firstly, threats to life and secondly, threats to significant property values including forestry and other resource values. In the event of multiple fire starts, or when adequate resources are not available to man-up in all areas, low, medium and high fire suppression priority areas have been identified. While threats to life are the foremost priority, Atikaki is within the low priority area except for the Pigeon, Leyond and Bloodvein River corridors west of the main body of the park, which are in a high priority area due to high forestry values.

Atikaki is an area where fire can still be a controlling force in the ongoing ecological and biological processes of the boreal forest ecosystem. A fire/vegetation management plan that considers the ecological implications of fire suppression could help ensure that these ecological and biological processes continue.

Guideline 2.1.2 - Manitoba's current fire program policy will continue to guide priorities for suppressing fires in the park. Within this fire program, a park specific fire plan incorporating ecological values will be investigated.



Wildlife and Fish Management

Atikaki's abundant wildlife include woodland caribou, marten, lynx, black bear, moose, timber wolves, fisher, bald eagles, turkey vultures, great grey owls and a myriad of waterfowl. Aquatic species include lake trout, northern pike and walleye.

Woodland caribou range within Atikaki as well as beyond the park boundary. Fall concentrations of caribou have been identified south of Kautunigan Lake. Sasaginnigak Lake is particularly significant habitat as a calving area as well as a summering area for non-breeding cows and breeding and non-breeding bulls. It is also significant to note that caribou used this lake from at least as early as 1920 and most likely much earlier. *The Federal Species at Risk Act* lists the boreal population of the woodland caribou as threatened. Threats to this population, whose range extends from Yukon and British Columbia to Labrador and Newfoundland, include habitat destruction, intense hunting, disturbances by humans including construction of roads and pipelines, as well as predation by wolves, bears and coyotes. (*Species At Risk Act, 2002*) A working group, consisting of both government and non-government personnel, has been formed to implement a Caribou Management Strategy for the east side of Lake Winnipeg, including the park.

The Species At Risk Act also lists the chestnut lamprey as a species of special concern in that it is particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events that contribute to increased siltation and pollution. (Ibid) In Canada, this species is found in some Saskatchewan and Manitoba rivers, including the Bloodvein River in Manitoba. Studies of this species have not been undertaken on the Bloodvein.

Aikens, Eakins and McMurray Lakes are the only natural lake trout lakes in Atikaki. (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1993) Studies of Eakins and McMurray Lakes have determined that they are oligotrophic in nature in that they are relatively low in nutrients and cannot support much plant life. They are consequently, particularly sensitive to exploitation levels. As a conservation measure, Aikens, Eakins and McMurray Lakes have been designated High Quality Management Waters which restricts the possession limit of lake trout to one fish and requires that all lake trout over 65 cm (26 in) must be released.

Guideline 2.1.3 - Manitoba Conservation will continue to work with its partners in the implementation of the Caribou Management Strategy for the east side of Lake Winnipeg for the protection of the species and its habitat requirements in Atikaki.

Guideline 2.1.4 - Research to identify management requirements and programs for fish and wildlife in Atikaki will be encouraged.

Wild Rice Management

Wild rice harvesting is a significant industry in Atikaki and is managed through existing legislation and policy. Bloodvein, Hollow Water and Little Grand Rapids First Nations each hold wild rice block licenses that give their communities the exclusive rights to the wild rice growing within broad areas, identified in their respective licenses by Director of Survey Plan. In addition, five private parties hold individual wild rice licenses that give them the exclusive right to the wild rice growing on specific lakes. Current practice prohibits water level manipulation and the use of chemicals and fertilizers.



Guideline 2.1.5 - Management of wild rice in Atikaki will comply with the following:

- (a) Water level manipulation and the use of chemicals and fertilizers will be prohibited.*
- (b) New individual licenses will not be issued.*

2.2 Cultural Resources

Atikaki has been home to a succession of hunting-gathering people and contains archaeological evidence of occupation dating back thousands of years. Pictographs, rock paintings made from natural pigments, are found throughout the park and usually depict people and animals. Some of these are provincially and nationally significant.



During the fur trade era, Atikaki was part of a region known as Le Petit Nord or Little North. Furs were usually taken to Berens River, Little Grand Rapids, Knox Lake and Red Lake, Ontario but there may have been temporary trading houses established in what is now the park.

It is illegal to destroy, damage or alter a heritage object, or search, excavate or export heritage objects without a permit. (*The Heritage Resources Act, 1985*) Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism maintains an inventory of heritage sites and objects found in the province and regularly undertakes heritage assessments on proposed developments.

Intent:

- To protect the cultural resources of Atikaki.

Guideline 2.2.1 - Heritage resources will be managed as follows:

- (a) Research to identify heritage resources will be supported.*
- (b) Reference in park's literature to the location of specific sensitive heritage resources will be avoided to minimize possible vandalism.*



2.3 Recreational Use

Atikaki plays a unique role in the provincial park system because it is the only wilderness park in southern Manitoba and is relatively accessible to major population bases.

Visitors to Atikaki include guests staying at lodges or outcamps; anglers and hunters flying into any of the park's lakes or rivers; rafters and canoeists travelling with outfitters or on their own; and local people snowmobiling to some of the lakes in the southern part of the park. While they may be looking for different types of experiences in their visit, all recognize the importance of maintaining Atikaki's wilderness character and exceptional natural beauty. For example, lodge operators depend on the opportunity to market Atikaki as a true wilderness experience, while canoeists, anglers and hunters appreciate the quiet tranquility that only a wilderness park can offer. Because not all users will necessarily be able to achieve their desired experience in all parts of the park, optimal experiences may best be achieved through the separation of uses and users. Separation of motorized and non-motorized uses is fundamental to the provision of quality non-motorized recreational experiences.



Operators involved in ecotourism businesses are required to submit an annual report which asks for information such as the types of services they provide, number of clients, physical conditions of the rivers, lakes, canoe routes, campsites, etc. (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1999*b*) Manitoba Conservation has conducted an exit survey of canoeists since 2001. The survey is distributed on the Bloodvein ferry, which is used by a portion of the canoeists who travel the river. It provides an indication of users' satisfaction with their recreational experience and reports on impacts to campsites and portages. This information, along with information provided by backcountry patrols conducted by Manitoba Conservation, provide a cursory understanding of the amount of commercial and non-commercial canoeing and wilderness camping that is going on in the park. Additional information will be helpful to more accurately monitor recreational activities. This information will help ensure that desired quality wilderness experiences can be determined, achieved and maintained and that resource user conflicts and site impacts that detract from these experiences are controlled.



Intent:

- To provide visitors on the lodge and outcamp lakes the opportunity to experience a high quality fly-in wilderness fishing, hunting or vacation experience with modern accommodations. Visitors should be able to expect to experience closeness to nature, a low degree of interaction with other users, and comfortable and convenient facilities that are in harmony with the site.
- To provide visitors to special management zones along the major river corridors the opportunity to experience a high quality wilderness canoeing experience. Visitors should be able to expect to experience closeness to nature, a degree of self-reliance and challenge, solitude and a low degree of interaction with, and evidence of, other users.

Guidelines 2.3.1 - Use of motorized vehicles will be limited to those necessary for the park's principal recreational activities, and for its permitted commercial activities. Aircraft, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and power-driven boats will be the only motorized uses permitted in Atikaki.

Guidelines 2.3.2 - The use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Atikaki will be permitted as follows:

- (a) Snowmobiles and ATVs may be used for hunting, trapping and the maintenance of lodges, outcamps and cabins.*
- (b) Development of recreational snowmobile and ATV trails will not be permitted.*
- (c) Permits may be issued for snowmobile access to the Manitoba portion of Obukowin Lake utilizing the access route from Siderock Lake.*

Guideline 2.3.3 - A Special Management Zone (Map 3) will be identified along the major river corridors to provide high quality, wilderness canoeing experiences. Within this zone:

- (a) Aircraft landings and take-offs will not be permitted from June 1 to September 15, except for emergencies, park management, uses associated with wild rice operations and access to Kautunigan Lake, which is designated as a pick-up and drop-off point.*
- (b) Powerboating will not be permitted from June 1 to September 15 except for emergencies, park management and uses associated with wild rice operations.*
- (c) Aircraft and powerboat use will be permitted for activities associated with the private cabin and commercial boat cache within this zone. Negotiations for the removal/relocation of these developments will be pursued (see guidelines 2.4.5 and 2.4.7).*
- (d) Powered white-water rafts may be permitted on the Pigeon River component of the zone.*

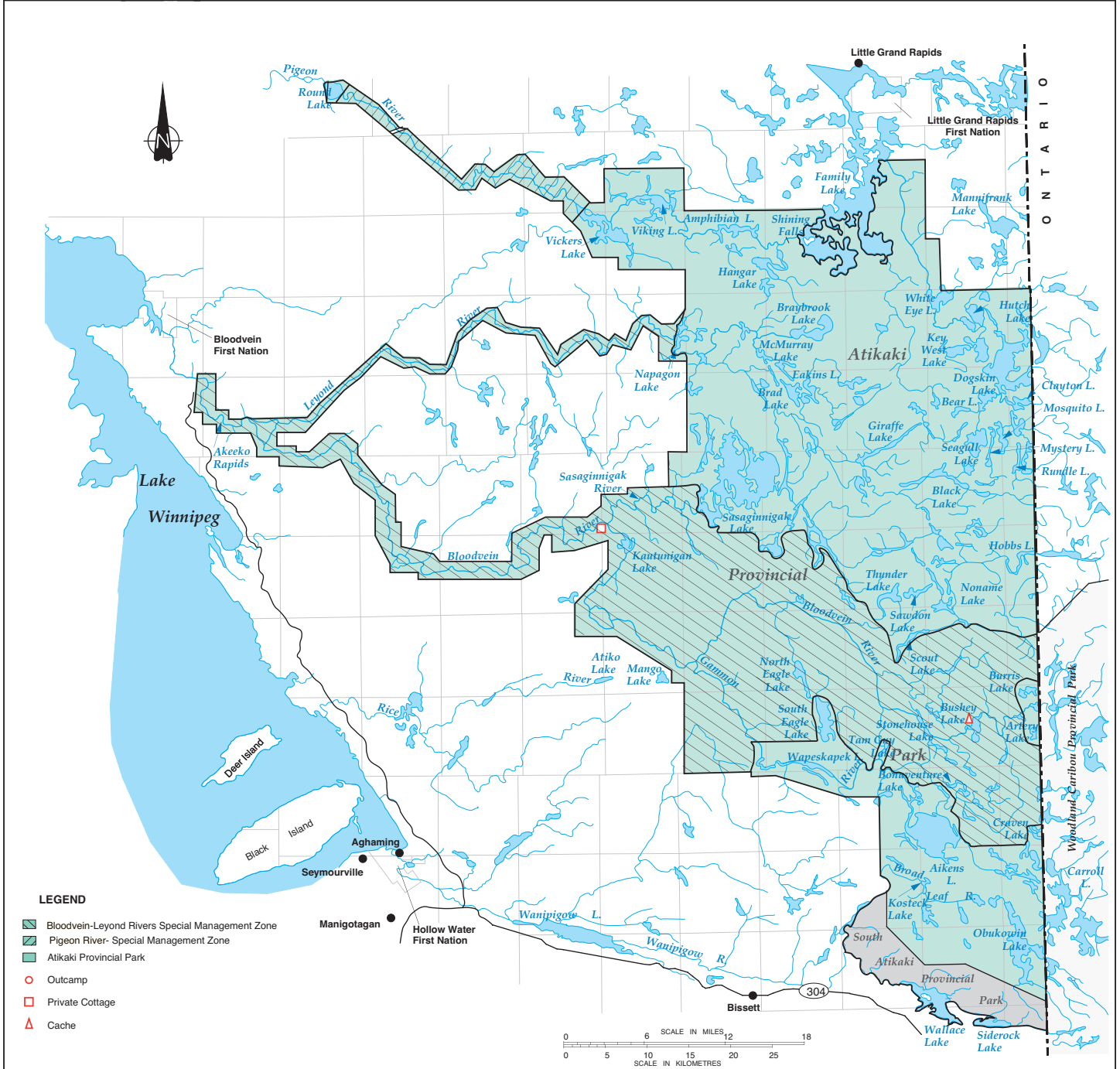
Guideline 2.3.4 - Manitoba Conservation will develop and employ a wilderness recreation management system to enable rapid and consistent assessments of the quality of visitor experiences and extent of physical impacts on portages, campsites, etc., so that appropriate management actions can be undertaken. Management actions could include:

- (a) Increasing public education on low-impact/no trace camping;*
- (b) Site management including designating campsites and temporarily closing heavily used ones; and*
- (c) Managing use levels by implementing registration or reservation systems, as well as placing limitations on group size and length of stay.*

MAP 3



SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES



2.4 Development of Facilities in the Park

Much of the development in Atikaki pre-dates park establishment. Facilities for commercial use include lodges and outcamps, as well as portable camps consisting of tents, and auxiliary facilities consisting of boat caches, shelters or storage sheds. Facilities for private use include trapper's cabins, wild rice camps and recreational cabins, including one belonging to a private fishing club that dates back 30 years. There are also several unlicensed private boat caches.

These lodges, outcamps, portable camps and boat caches are central to providing the fishing, hunting or vacation experience that many park visitors seek. Many of these facilities have been upgraded or expanded to meet the market's demand for higher calibre or larger facilities. It is anticipated that there will be continuing change as the market for these recreational experiences continues to evolve.

It is recognized that these types of developments can have a negative impact on other visitors seeking a wilderness experience and little evidence of other users. Their permanent nature also raises the potential for negative impacts to wildlife in the park. This potential impact is especially important for caribou calving islands on Sasaginnigak Lake and for the lake trout populations in Eakins and McMurray Lakes. Consistent with the concept of having little evidence of other users in the Special Management Zones, Manitoba Conservation has worked for many years to reduce the number of developments along the Bloodvein River. Between 1990 and 2007 three outcamps were purchased and removed from along the river.

By carefully managing developments in Atikaki, the park will be able to continue offering high caliber wilderness experiences for both lodge guests and wilderness canoeists while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Intent:

- To ensure that the development of facilities in the park is done in a manner that reflects the needs of the lodge/outcamp visitor.
- To manage development in the park to avoid conflicts between different groups of wilderness recreationists
- To minimize the impacts upon the environment as a result of developments within the park

Guideline 2.4.1 - Development will not be permitted on Eakins or McMurray Lakes

Guideline 2.4.2 - Lodges:

New lodges will not be permitted. Expansion of Aikens Lake, Amphibian Lake and Dogskin Lake Lodges, or construction of satellite outcamps, may be considered on the same lake as the lodge to a total maximum of 8 beds. Expansion of Sasaginnigak Lodge may be considered on the island where the main lodge is situated,

to a maximum of 8 beds. Plans for expansion must be submitted to Manitoba Conservation within 3 years of the effective date of this Management Plan. Factors such as the level of existing development, environmental impact and mitigation and water quality objectives will be considered in reviewing expansion proposals. Construction must be completed to a lock-up stage within 5 years of the effective date of this Management Plan. To protect the long-term wilderness integrity of Atikaki Provincial Park, no further expansions beyond this single window of opportunity will be permitted.

Guideline 2.4.3 - Outcamps:

New outcamps may be considered outside of the Special Management Zones if an operator is willing to relinquish an existing outcamp, or as part of a lodge expansion as described in guideline 2.4.2.

Guideline 2.4.4 – Portable camps:

Portable camps, consisting of tents only, will be considered for hunting and wild rice operational requirements. The following conditions will apply:

- (a) Portable camps for hunting allocations may be erected no more than two weeks prior to the hunting season and must be dismantled within two weeks after the season.*
- (b) Portable camps for wild rice operations will be permitted to replace old wild rice structures and must be dismantled after the season/harvest.*

Guideline 2.4.5 – Auxiliary Facilities (Boat, Motor and Fuel Caches):

- (a) Existing auxiliary facilities be permitted. New auxiliary facilities will be considered outside the Special Management Zones if an operator is willing to relinquish an existing auxiliary facility.*
- (b) Negotiations will be undertaken for the removal of the boat cache on the Bloodvein River at Bushey Lake.*
- (c) Caching of private boats or equipment will not be permitted and such will be removed when found.*

Guideline 2.4.6 - Trappers' cabins:

Trapper's cabins are recognized as necessary structures in the park. They will be managed in co-operation with the requirements of individual trappers and in accordance with general permit conditions applicable to trapline cabins in provincial parks.

Guideline 2.4.7 - Private cabins:

Existing private cabins and clubhouses will be permitted outside Special Management Zones. New private cabins or clubhouses will not be permitted. Negotiations will be undertaken for the removal of the existing private cabin on the Bloodvein River.

2.5 Regional Integration

First Nations and Local Communities

Atikaki is home to the Aboriginal people living there. The park and the surrounding lands exemplify the human and cultural interaction with the environment that has endured for thousands of years. Both traditional interactions and more modern interactions with the land are part of the lifestyle of the people of the nearby First Nations. Interactions with the land as a Provincial Park include concerns about protecting traditional sites and land uses, and developing economic opportunities, especially around tourism. There are also concerns about enforcement of regulations designed to protect the land and the wildlife. The treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples to pursue traditional uses and activities with Atikaki Provincial Park are acknowledged and respected.

For the town of Bissett, Atikaki is an important component of the community's tourism service industry, especially its air carrier services. This is a very significant portion of the town's economy.

Intent:

- To work with local First Nations and local communities to engage their meaningful involvement in park management.

Guideline 2.5.1 - Manitoba Conservation will:

- (a) encourage and facilitate regular communications with Bloodvein, Hollow Water, and Little Grand Rapids First Nations and with the Town of Bissett to share information about park management initiatives, review park management proposals and incorporate local and traditional knowledge in park management decisions*
- (b) work with First Nations and with the local communities, and develop partnerships as appropriate, as they pursue long-term tourism and other economic opportunities associated with the park.*

Interprovincial Wilderness Area

A number of issues affect lands in Manitoba's Atikaki Provincial Parks and Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as a result of their sharing a common provincial border. While certain resource sectors have agreements such as the fisheries Memorandum of Understanding, (Manitoba Natural Resources and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1987) issues such as access, recreational use and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River could also benefit from a cooperative management approach.

Intent:

- To derive potential benefits for Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Provincial Parks through a coordinated approach to park management, resource management, marketing, park promotion, and other areas of common interest.

Guideline 2.5.2 - Manitoba Conservation will seek a formal commitment with Ontario to establish an interprovincial wilderness area involving Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Provincial Parks (Map 4).

World Heritage Site

In 2004 an area encompassing Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Provincial Parks and the traditional lands of Poplar River, Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Pikangikum First Nations was included on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage. Inclusion on this list means that work will be done to further assess the area's potential for nomination as a World Heritage Site. Should a nomination be successful, Atikaki would be part of the protected area core within a larger site that would be recognized for its natural and cultural features of universal value.

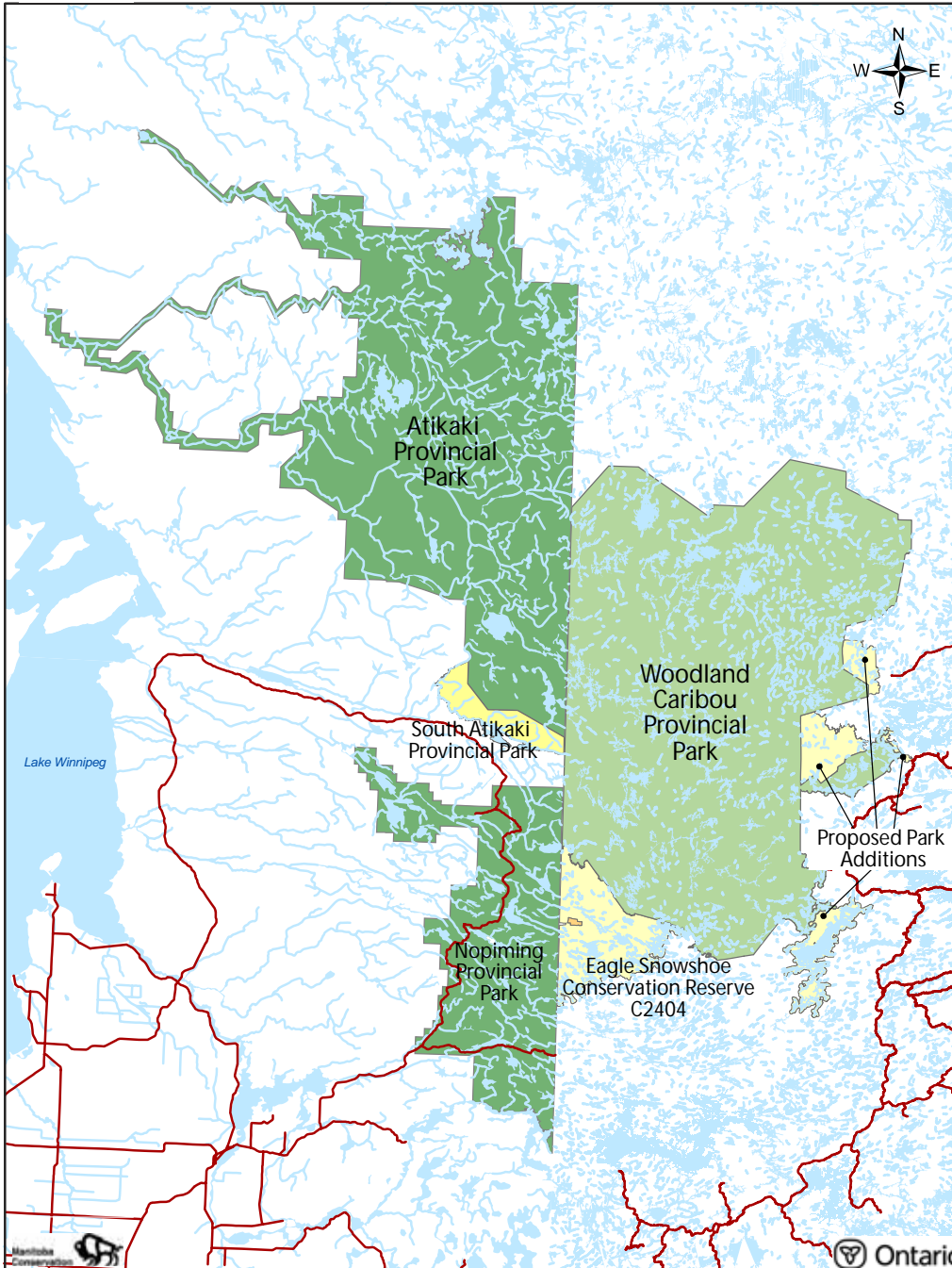
Intent:

- To recognize the outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and the traditional human use of the environment by the Aboriginal people of Atikaki and the surrounding area.

Guideline 2.5.3 – Manitoba Conservation will work with Ontario and the communities and First Nations surrounding the Park to investigate and pursue a nomination for inscription as a World Heritage Site.



PROPOSED INTERPROVINCIAL WILDERNESS AREA



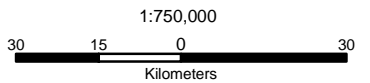
Legend

- Primary Road
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Patent Land

Note:
This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, location features, nor as a guide to navigation

Source of information:
Ontario data is derived from the Natural Resource Values Information System, which is compiled from field survey data, historical records, stakeholder information, reports from the public, and data from other ministries. Manitoba data and logo were supplied by Manitoba Conservation.
Produced by pgd on January 21, 2004

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2.6 Interpretation

Atikaki's remoteness precludes the more familiar methods of interpreting its features such as on-site interpretation and amphitheater programs. Manitoba Conservation continues to publish and sell maps of the Kautunigan and Sasaginnigak canoe routes. It also distributes a map illustrating canoe routes and regional facilities. It includes information on the park's natural and human history, rock paintings, canoeing, camping, whitewater activities, angling and fly-in lodges. A video on Atikaki Provincial Park is shown at amphitheatres in other provincial parks.

Intent:

- To increase the visitors' awareness of the natural and cultural values of Atikaki Provincial Park and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.

Guideline 2.6.1 - Strategies for interpreting natural and cultural features will continue to be developed. Strategies that will be investigated include:

- (a) orientation and interpretive displays and materials at key entry points, tourist lodges and communities surrounding the park.*
- (b) interpretive training and information for commercial operators in the park.*
- (c) specific brochures and publications dealing with selected management and interpretive issues as required, i.e. the production of an educational video on the woodland caribou.*
- (d) presentations on an Internet Website.*
- (e) the development, in co-operation with non-government organizations, of publications for use on the rivers, such as waterproof maps.*

3. THE BLOODVEIN CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER GUIDELINES

Background Information

The Bloodvein River flows from its headwaters in northwestern Ontario to Lake Winnipeg. It is characterized by rugged boreal forest and granite shield wilderness and is the centrepiece of Atikaki Provincial Park, and of Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) recognizes outstanding rivers of Canada for their natural, cultural and recreational values.

The 200-km reach of the Bloodvein River, from the Ontario border to its junction with the Leyond River, was nominated to the CHRS in 1984 (Manitoba Parks Branch, 1984) for its human and natural heritage values, and for its recreational values (Map 5). A management plan was prepared in 1986 which set out guidelines to maintain the river's wilderness character and enhance its natural, cultural and recreational values. The plan enabled the Bloodvein River to be designated in 1987 as Manitoba's first Canadian Heritage River. In 1998 the Ontario section of the Bloodvein River from its headwaters to the Manitoba border was also designated. This 106-km section is located entirely within Ontario's Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

In 2000, a monitoring report (Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch, 2000) was completed for the Manitoba portion of the Bloodvein, which assessed the current conditions of the values, and integrity for which the river was nominated. It set out a chronology of significant events, actions and research/studies that have affected the river since designation. It discussed the degree to which elements of the management plan implementation program have been achieved. The report concludes that the river's outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values that warranted its designation as a Canadian Heritage River remain as valid today as in 1987.

On-going monitoring of these values occurs each year, with Manitoba Conservation submitting a Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Annual Report Checklist. (*See Appendix 1*)



Canadian Heritage Rivers System

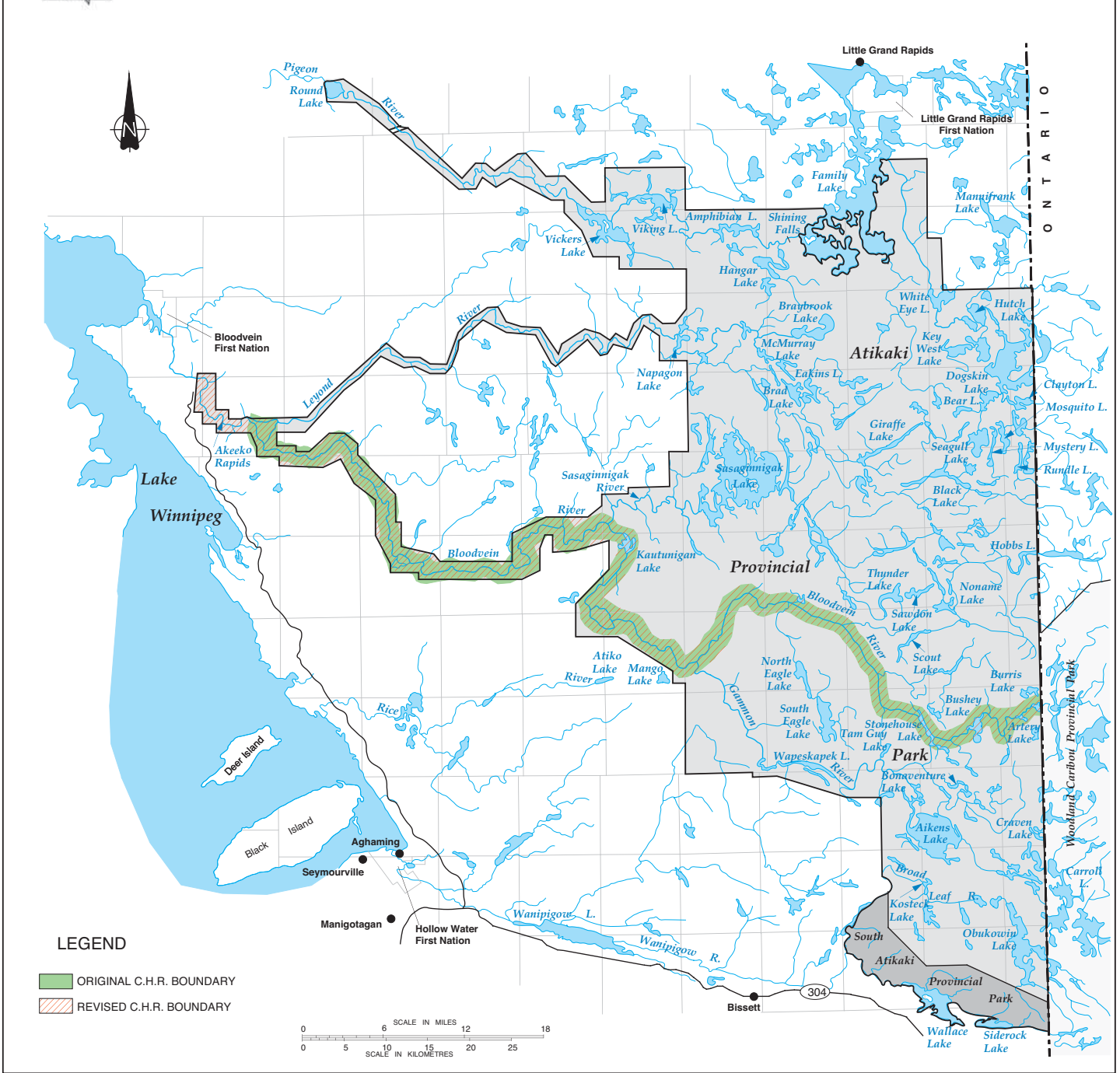
The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a public trust organized in 1984 as a cooperative program of the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada with the primary objective of giving natural recognition to the outstanding rivers of Canada and to ensure their future management such that:

- the natural heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted;
- the human heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted; and
- the opportunities they possess for recreation and heritage appreciation are realized by residents of and visitors to Canada.

Source: Canadian Heritage Rivers System Strategic Plan 1996-2006



BLOODVEIN CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER



Manitoba Conservation is committed to continuing to manage the Bloodvein River in a manner that will conserve the natural and cultural values for which it is nominated to the CHRS, and to realize the recreational potential for which it was nominated. The management policies, legislation, and guidelines Manitoba will employ are described below in relation to the CHRS natural and cultural theme frameworks and the Manitoba CHRS recreational theme framework.

3.1 Management Area Description

The 1986 Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan established a management area consisting of a corridor 2 kilometres in width and extending from the Manitoba/Ontario boundary to the junction of the Bloodvein and Leyond Rivers.

This corridor does not coincide with the park boundary in length nor in width, resulting in some confusion in defining the designated areas. The small revision to the Heritage River boundary necessary to have it coincide with the park boundary does not affect the Bloodvein's representation of CHRS values.

Intent:

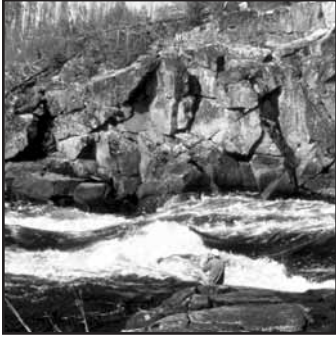
- To identify the management corridor for the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River and to have the corridor coincide with the park boundary.

Guideline 3.1.1 - The boundary of the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River will be a 2 kilometre wide corridor from the Ontario border to the junction of the Sasaginnigak River. From the junction of the Sasaginnigak River to the west boundary of the park the corridor shall conform to the park boundary (Map 5).

The following examines the three nomination value categories; natural, human heritage, and recreational, and indicates which guidelines, policies and legislation are intended to ensure their sustainability.

3.2 Natural Values

Many natural values of the Bloodvein River are conserved by virtue of it being located largely within Atikaki Provincial Park and hence within a protected area. Atikaki is classified as a wilderness park and through legislation in the *Provincial Parks Act* (1993) and management policies of *A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks* (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997b), this designation ensures preservation of this representative area of the Precambrian boreal forest natural region. Further conservation afforded the Bloodvein is the restriction in Wilderness Parks on logging, mining, or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas, or hydroelectric power. Being located within a protected area, however, is not sufficient protection in and of itself for conserving the natural values of the Bloodvein as a Canadian Heritage River. As such, guidelines within this Management Plan address those specific natural themes integral to the Bloodvein's CHRS designation.



Hydrology

The Bloodvein River is part of the Nelson River-Hudson Bay drainage basin and is connected to the Nelson River via Lake Winnipeg. Maintaining high water quality in the Bloodvein is important, both in preserving the pristine wilderness experience along the river corridor and in contributing to water quality downstream. Guideline 3.1.1, increasing the length and width of the CHRS designated river corridor, will help protect the riparian zone and enhance water quality by providing a buffer from deleterious substances associated with forestry and other resource operations occurring near the park. Guideline 2.5.2 regarding cooperative management with Ontario will ensure that the hydrological health of the Bloodvein is considered in both provinces and will include the river's headwaters in Woodland Caribou Provincial Wilderness Park.

Intent:

- To maintain the current very good level of water quality of the Bloodvein river.

Guideline 3.1.2 - Work will continue with Environment Canada to ensure that the Bloodvein River will continue to be monitored on a regular basis to detect any changes in water quality. The Canadian Water Quality Index will continue to be used to measure the water quality of the Bloodvein River.

Biotic Environments

The Bloodvein River corridor includes some of the most diverse and complete representation of landforms and boreal forest plant and animal communities of any area in Manitoba or Canada. The corridor has over 11,000 years of undisturbed biological evolution, free of non-native species. Maintaining the integrity of these significant biotic environments is important. To this end, guidelines 2.1.1 and 2.1.5 direct the regional Integrated Resource Management Teams to minimize potential disturbances from adjacent land use activities and to take into account the ecosystem values of Natural Region 4C and the park's role as a protected area.

Wild rice marshes are located east and west of Kautunigan Lake. Numerous low, reed lined shorelines and adjacent larch and black spruce bogs are also found. Specific protection for wild rice marshes is stipulated, prohibiting water level manipulation, the use of chemicals and fertilizers, and the issuance of new individual harvesting licenses. Investigation of a park specific fire plan incorporating ecological values into fire suppression decisions is outlined in guideline 2.1.2, and is intended to help maintain the integrity of the Boreal Shield Ecozone.

Vegetation

Concentrations of unusual plant species including Tessellated Rattlesnake Plantain Orchid, ferns, Prairie Rush, Spike Moss, Marsh Marigold, Prickly-pear Cactus, White Beak-Rush, Narrow Leaved Panic Grass, Bristly Buttercup, Bur Oak, Maple and Ash are identified natural heritage nomination values of the Bloodvein River. Previously referenced guidelines, 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, which minimize potential disturbances from adjacent land use activities and incorporate ecological values into fire suppression decisions, are intended to ensure protection of these unusual plant species.

Fauna

The Bloodvein River and Atikaki park region is rich in fauna, with numerous species of mammals, birds, and fish. Mammal species include Moose, Black Bear, Timberwolves, River Otter, Lynx, Fisher, Woodland Caribou, Cougar, Ermine, Mink and Coyote. The region is inhabited by one of the largest Woodland Caribou herds south of James Bay. Fifty six bird species including; Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Loons, Great Gray Owls, Pelicans, Cormorants, Bonaparte Gulls, Falcons, Canada Geese and various ducks are similarly associated with the Bloodvein and Atikaki park region. Rare mammals and fish – those listed or being considered for listing under the *Species At Risk Act* – include the Woodland Caribou, Wolverine, Chestnut Lamprey and Lake Sturgeon.

Previously referenced guidelines that minimize potential disturbances from adjacent land use activities, incorporate ecological values into fire suppression decisions, and maintain the integrity of wild rice marshes serve to protect the rich diversity of fauna that live in the Bloodvein River and Atikaki Park region. Additionally, guidelines are also included in the management plan, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, which commit Manitoba Conservation to continuing work on the Caribou Management Strategy, to protect the species and its habitat, and to support research on other species of fauna to identify their management requirements. Committing to such research ensures that monitoring of the various species and their habitats is maintained and that natural heritage values are protected.

3.3 Human Heritage Values

As with natural values, many of the human heritage values of the Bloodvein River are conserved because the river is located largely within Atikaki Provincial Park. Legislation in the *Provincial Parks Act* (1993) and management policies of *A System Plan for Manitoba's Provincial Parks* (Manitoba Natural Resources, 1997b) ensure preservation of the Precambrian boreal forest natural region and by extension the human heritage values associated with the Bloodvein River. However, being located within a Wilderness Park is by itself not sufficient protection for conserving the human heritage values of the Bloodvein and, accordingly, the following guidelines address those specific human heritage themes material to the Bloodvein's CHRS designation.



Resource Harvesting

Archaeological evidence of numerous historic Aboriginal fishing sites occurs along the Bloodvein River. To conserve and protect both the known sites and those that have yet to be discovered, guideline 2.2.1 of this management plan indicates that research to identify heritage resources will be supported and that reference in park's literature to the location of specific sensitive heritage resources will be avoided to minimize possible vandalism.

Indications of historic and contemporary trapping of beaver and other fur-bearing aquatic animals are found along the river. Eight existing traplines are located adjacent to the river corridor and evidence of historic trapping activities exists. From an historical perspective, the aforementioned guideline 2.2.1 would ensure that such evidence of historic trapping would be conserved.

Hunting of woodland caribou by local First Nation community members occurred historically and may have been associated with crossing places along the river corridor. Hunting of waterfowl and gathering of eggs, by local First Nation community members have historic and contemporary associations with the river corridor. For the protection of woodland caribou and its habitat requirements, guideline 2.1.3 indicates Manitoba Conservation's commitment to continue to work with its partners in the implementation of the Caribou Management Strategy for the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

Resource gathering, such as the collection of seeds and roots of edible or medicinal plants and Aboriginal wild rice harvesting continues today. Wild ricing blocks are allocated for harvest along the Bloodvein corridor to the Little Grand Rapids and Bloodvein First Nations. At present, only small stands of wild rice occur in shallow lakes and back bays along the river, including stands east and west of Kautunigan Lake. Prehistoric Aboriginal settlement sites or campsites located near wild ricing stands have been identified. These sites may be conserved, as referenced earlier in guideline 2.2.1, through the support of research and the omission in park's literature to their locations.

Riparian Settlement

Archaeological evidence of numerous pre-historic Aboriginal shoreline encampments, fishing sites and trappers' cabins is known along the river. Artifacts associated with Aboriginal hunting-gathering, subsistence, and habitation include stone arrows, spear points, and stone cutting and scraping tools. Cultures associated with these artifacts include the Shield Archaic, Laurel, Mistikwas, Selkirk, Cree and Ojibway. Guideline 2.2.1 again provides that research to identify such heritage resources will be supported and that reference in park's literature to the location of sensitive heritage resources will be avoided.

Culture and Recreation

Two major and five minor Aboriginal pictograph sites have been identified along the Bloodvein River corridor. Some of these pictograph sites have spiritual and symbolic significance related to spirit dwelling and vision quests, with others being paintings of people using rivers that represent a method of legend and storytelling. They are considered the best representation of pictographs in the province, with the original Canadian Heritage Rivers System nomination value identifying those related to spirit dwelling and vision quests as being of national significance. Guideline 2.2.1 again provides that locational reference in park's literature to these sensitive sites will be avoided and that research on them would be supported.

3.4 Recreational Values

As with both natural and human heritage values, many of the recreational heritage values of the Bloodvein River are realized because the river is located largely within Atikaki Provincial Park. Unlike natural and heritage values, however, recreational values are prescribed through a Manitoba framework for river related recreational values. (Parks Canada, 1997a)

Boating

Excellent whitewater canoeing opportunities are associated with the Bloodvein River, with numerous falls and rapids being the highlight of many wilderness trips. With 225 kilometres of exceptional wilderness canoe route on the Bloodvein and hundreds of kilometres of connecting routes, extended canoe trips are common.

Recognizing the Bloodvein as Manitoba's best location for offering a reasonably accessible, high quality, wilderness canoeing experience, guidelines 2.4.5 and 2.4.7 stipulate the removal of a private cabin and boat cache from the river to improve its wilderness atmosphere. This is a continuation of a program started in 1990 to remove built structures from the river.

Guideline 2.3.3 addresses the need to provide a non-motorized area to help provide the best possible wilderness atmosphere for canoeists. This guideline prescribes, for the Special Management Zone encompassing the Bloodvein River, a June 1 to September 15 general prohibition for aircraft landings and take-offs and for powerboating. Exceptions for emergencies, park management, and wild rice operations are noted. Similarly, exceptions for uses associated with the private cabin and commercial boat cache are noted, but within the context of negotiations for their removal or relocation.

To further manage the integrity of the wilderness experience, guideline 2.3.4 commits Manitoba Conservation to developing and employing a wilderness recreation management system. Potential management actions include increasing public education on low-impact/no trace camping, designating campsites, temporarily closing heavily used campsites, implementing registration/reservation systems, or placing limitations on group size and length of stay.



Angling

Excellent sport fishing occurs on the Bloodvein River, with opportunities to catch walleye, pike, channel catfish, whitefish and lake trout. Small populations of sturgeon are found within the corridor, however, sport fishing for this species in Manitoba is done strictly on a catch and release basis. Opportunities for extended angling vacations are available and fly-in fishing outcamps are located on Artery Lake and elsewhere in the park.

Management to help conserve the fishery on the Bloodvein is prescribed in various guidelines. Guideline 2.1.4 is directed at protection of the fishery itself and commits Manitoba Conservation to encouraging research to identify management requirements and conservation programs. Guideline 2.1.5 prohibits water level manipulation and the use of chemicals and fertilizers in relation to wild rice operations, which will also help to protect fish habitat. Similarly, guideline 3.1.2 commits Manitoba Conservation to continue to work with Environment Canada to monitor the Bloodvein River to detect changes in water quality.

Water Contact Recreation

With very good water quality, the Bloodvein River is suitable for water contact recreation activities. Chief amongst these is swimming, which many visitors enjoy while on wilderness trips. Guideline 3.1.2 ensures water quality by committing Manitoba Conservation to continue to work with Environment Canada to monitor the Bloodvein River for changes in water quality. Similarly, the previously referenced guideline 2.5.2, seeking a formal commitment with Ontario to establish an interprovincial wilderness area, will ensure a comprehensive planning approach and enhance conservation of the headwaters and water quality of the river. Lastly, guideline 3.1.1, indicating a 2 km corridor and conformation to park boundaries, will help protect water quality and associated contact recreation opportunities.

Water Associated Activities

The Bloodvein River corridor offers visitors the opportunity for backcountry wilderness hiking. As well, extended portage trails are enjoyed by visitors during wilderness canoeing trips on the river. Thirty wilderness campsites have been identified within the Bloodvein corridor. It is noteworthy that no existing campsites have been officially designated or improved by Manitoba Conservation in order to maintain a primitive wilderness experience for visitors.

Outfitted and non-guided, remote, fly-in, fall moose hunting and spring bear hunting occurs along the Bloodvein corridor. Subsistence hunting of moose, bear, ducks and geese by local First Nation community members also occurs. Guideline 2.3.3, addressing management within the Special Management Zone, will affect recreational spring bear hunting occurring after June 1st, notably that associated with aircraft or powerboat transportation. The motorized restriction is intended to enhance the recreational experience for wilderness canoeing, the river's premier recreational activity.

Winter Activities

Dog sledding and limited snowmobiling occurs on winter trails established by local trappers accessing their traplines. Guideline 2.3.2 addresses the use of snowmobiles and ATV's and indicates they may continue to be used for activities such as hunting, trapping and the maintenance of lodges and outcamps. However, recreational snowmobile and ATV use will not be permitted near the river and trails for their use will not be developed. Restricting motorized traffic will help to maintain the tranquil nature of the Bloodvein River corridor.

Natural Heritage Appreciation

Rich in diverse wildlife and vegetation, the Bloodvein River corridor offers excellent opportunities for nature study and photography of rare birds and animals in a natural setting. Other varied natural features include rock formations, rapids, and waterfalls. Appreciation of these abundant natural attributes is integral to the visitor experience of the Bloodvein River.

Guideline 2.6.1 speaks to developing strategies for interpreting natural features. Possible actions include creating orientation and interpretation materials for key locations; interpretive training and information for commercial operators; producing publications and videos on select management and interpretive issues; creating a park website; and working in conjunction with non-government organizations to develop materials such as waterproof river maps.

Through guideline 2.5.2 and the proposed establishment of an interprovincial wilderness area with Ontario, benefits would include a coordinated approach to park management, resource management, marketing, and park promotion. Development of interpretive materials in these areas will enhance appreciation of the natural heritage of the Bloodvein River.

The potential inscription of Atikaki and adjacent areas as a World Heritage Site as described in guideline 2.5.3 will also enhance people's appreciation of the natural heritage of the Bloodvein River by giving it the highest level of international attention.

Cultural Heritage Appreciation

With a rich cultural landscape, the Bloodvein River corridor offers very good opportunities for interpreting pictographs and heritage sites. Visitors are afforded the chance to experience a cultural landscape reminiscent of pre- historic Aboriginal land use and occupation along the river corridor.

Enhancing opportunities to experience cultural heritage features in a pristine cultural landscape, the previously referenced guideline 2.6.1 sets out development strategies for interpreting such features. This again may be accomplished through the creation of interpretive materials, interpretive training and information for commercial operators, publications and videos on management and interpretive issues, and the creation of a park website.

Guideline 2.5.3 commits Manitoba to work towards a nomination of the Atikaki-Woodland Caribou - Accord First Nations Site for inscription as a World Heritage Site. If successful, this will bring a global level of appreciation and recognition to the cultural values along the Bloodvein River. It will be recognized as a cultural landscape where land use is representative of a culture and its human interaction with the environment.

Appendix 1 - The Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Annual Report Checklist

This checklist is submitted to CHRS annually to report any changes in the values for which the Bloodvein River was nominated to the system, and any activities which might affect those values.

1. Changes in Condition of River Values

Natural Heritage Values:

- Hydrology
- Physiography
- River Morphology
- Biotic Environments
- Vegetation
- Fauna

Human Heritage Values:

- Historic sites
- Water Transport
- Riparian Settlement
- Culture and Recreation
- Jurisdictional Use

Recreational Values:

- Boating
- Angling
- Water Contact Activities
- Water Associated Activities
- Winter Activities
- Natural Heritage Appreciation
- Human Heritage Appreciation

Resource Integrity:

- Natural Integrity
- Cultural Integrity
- Recreational Integrity

2. Implementation of the Management Plan

Natural Resources Management:

- Conservation of Biodiversity
- Fire Management
- Wildlife and Fish Management
- Wild Rice Management
- Water Quality Monitoring

Cultural Resources Management:

- Supporting research

Recreational Use Management:

- Vehicle Management
- Special Management Zones
- Wilderness Recreation Management System

Development of Facilities in the Park:

- Lodges
- Outcamps
- Portable Camps
- Auxiliary Facilities
- Trappers' Cabins
- Private Cabins

Regional Integration:

- First Nations and Local Communities
- Interprovincial Wilderness Area
- World Heritage Site

Interpretation

- Develop strategies

Date: _____

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