

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan



**Saskatchewan
Environment**

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

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Braaten, Randy	

Dumas, William
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Dye, Dwayne
Elderkin, Ira
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Fenske, Al
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Frey, Gord
Germann, Carlos
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Goodyear, Michael
Gourlay, Jan
Gourlay, Rod
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Gunville, Marie
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Hanna, Margaret
Happ, Gil
Hathaway, Bev
Hawes, George
Hayes, Greg
Hemstead, John
Highway, Francis
Howard, Bruce
Howey, Casey
Hynes, Cathy
Idah, Moses
Ivanochko, Gerry
Ives, Trevor

Jessop, Daryl
Jessup, Marla
Joa, Bruce
Jobb, Howard
Johnson, Doug
Jones, Brent
Jones, Clyde
Kemp, Val
Ketilson, Kirsten
Kidd, Rob
Kinnear, Jack
Koopman, Richard
Krayetski, Jeanette
Kudel, Terry
Kuffner, Chad
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Lane, Steve
Lauterer, Charlie
Lefebvre, Nadine
Lemke, Bob
Lentowicz, Carl
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Lundquist, Donna
MacAuley, Dorothy
MacAuley, Dale
MacLean, Winston
Maczek, Paul
Markham, June
Matthews, Llewellyn
Mathieson, Stuart

McDermott, Dave
McIntosh, Rory
McKay, Donna
McKeachnie, Dan
McLaughlan, Michael
McLean, Bill
Merasty, Gilbert
Michel, Napoleon - Elder
Michel, Chief Ron
Molnar, Zoltan
Morin, Rod
Moore, Rob
Morin, Garry
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Nelson, Larry
Newton, Cam
Nicholson, Val
O'nabign, Madonna
Oberik, Larry
Ohlsen, Ted
Olexson, Todd
Olson, Otto
Olson, Ron
Osler, Ed
Omoth, Kevin
Oystryk, Les

Parenteau, Brenda
Pearson, Doug
Pearson, Elvena
Pease, Velma
Peeters, Merv
Petryshyn, Johnny
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Postle, Judy
Radke, Darlene
Ray, Bruce
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Ray, Clifford
Reed, Bob
Reid, Karen
Rempel, Reg
Richard, Frank
Rinholm, Dwayne
RJ's Motel, Management/Staff
Rocky View Lodge, Management
and Staff
Rogers, Murray
Rowlett, Carol
Sawchyn, Bill
Schick, Wayne
Schisler, John
Schwann, Pam
Seib, Naomi
Seib, Greg
Sette, Chief Pierre
Sewap, Henry
Sewap, Angus
Sewap, Pierre

Skipper, Linda
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Stafford, Will
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Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgments	i
List of Tables	1
List of Figures	2
Executive Summary	3
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Purpose of This Management Plan	8
1.2 Management Plan Format	13
1.3 Goals, Objectives, and Principles of the Management Plan	14
1.4 Public Involvement and Land Use Planning Processes	17
1.4.1 Ongoing Participation of Local and Regional Advisory Boards ..	18
1.5 Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Approval Process	18
1.6 Legal Implications of this Land Use Plan	19
1.7 Relationship to Other Land Use Plans	20
CHAPTER 2: LAND USE MANAGEMENT AREAS	22
2.1 Zoning Framework	22
2.2 Management Areas Identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area	22
2.2.1 Protected Management Areas	23
2.2.2 Sensitive Management Areas	23
2.2.3 Resource Management Areas	40
CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	45
3.1 Environmental Protection	45
3.1.1 Air Quality	46
3.1.2 Water Quality	46
3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection	47
3.1.2.2 Stream Management	47
3.1.3 Solid Waste Management	48
3.1.4 Water and Sewage Infrastructure and Services	49
3.1.5 Vegetation Control	49
3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management	50
3.3 Heritage Resource Management..	51

3.4	Traditional Land Use	51
3.4.1	Traditional Resource Use Cabins	52
3.5	Fisheries Management	55
3.6	Wildlife Management	57
3.6.1	Road Corridor Game Preserves.	58
3.6.2	Woodland Caribou	58
3.7	Forestry	59
3.7.1	Forest Fire Protection	61
3.7.2	Insect and Disease Management	63
3.8	Resource Development.	64
3.8.1	Mineral Exploration and Mine Development	70
3.8.2	Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development	70
3.8.3	Infrastructure Development	71
3.8.3.1	Roads	72
3.8.3.2	Electrical Services	73
3.8.3.3	Other Infrastructure Issues	73
3.8.4	Recreational Cabin Development.	74
3.8.5	Wild Rice Development	76
3.8.6	Agriculture Development	77
3.8.7	Hydro Electric Development.	78
3.9	Recreation	84
3.9.1	Camping.	84
3.9.2	Snowmobiling	85
3.10	Tourism	90
3.11	Economic Development	92
3.12	Enforcement	92
3.13	Education	94
3.14	Compensation	95
3.15	Consultation	95
3.16	Monitoring	97
3.17	Integration of Planning Processes	98
CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND TIMELINES		99
CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES		113
5.1	Plan Implementation	113
5.2	Monitoring the Plan	114
5.3	Amending the Plan	114
5.4	Dispute Resolution Strategy.	115
List of Appendices		117
Glossary		118
Reference List		125

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1.1 Goal and Objectives of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan	14
Table 1.2 Plan Principles	15
Table 2.1 Common Operating Guidelines for all Sensitive Areas	27
Table 2.2 Operating Guidelines for Specific Activities in Sensitive Areas	28
Table 2.3 Special Considerations for Specific Areas	33

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1-1 Amisk-Atik Planning Area	11
Figure 2-1 Amisk-Atik Management Areas	25
Figure 2-2 Special Management Areas - Amisk Lake & Missi Island	41
Figure 2-3 Community Areas of Influence in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area	43
Figure 3-1 Traditional Resource Use Permits in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area ...	53
Figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals.	67
Figure 3-3 Churchill River Possible Future Hydro Development Area	82
Figure 3-4 Snowmobile Trails in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area	87

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan covers approximately 4.4 million hectares of forested land in northeastern Saskatchewan. This plan will provide a framework for resource management and use in the planning area. The plan will provide direction for processes that will be ongoing throughout plan implementation: recommendations for public involvement; options for resolving conflict among resource users; strategies for monitoring and evaluating plan effectiveness once it is implemented and procedures to accommodate plan revision.

The land use plan has been developed according to the principles of Integrated Resource Management (IRM). Planning decisions have been made by looking at the health of the whole ecosystem and its various components---soil, water, plants, animals, and humans---to meet a variety of environmental, social, and economic objectives. Integrated resource management allows a broad range of uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. Protection of the ecosystem and economic development through sustainable resource use are key elements of proposed recommendations. The Land Use Plan is an evolving tool to guide activities within the planning area. Revisions to the plan may be made to accommodate new information.

The Management Plan, the core of the land use plan, is organized into the following sections:

- C Chapter 1 sets out the goal, principles and objectives of the plan and provides planning and public involvement processes that have been and will be followed.
- C Chapter 2 introduces the management areas (zones) and framework design with related operating guidelines for activities reflecting different resource uses and management needs.
- C Chapter 3 highlights management strategies and Regional Advisory Board recommendations and action items developed through consultation with people in the planning area.
- C Chapter 4 provides a summary of Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board recommended actions and implementation time frames.
- C Chapter 5 presents information regarding implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the management plan. A mandatory five-year public review and continued involvement of the Regional and Local Advisory Boards will

encourage ongoing public involvement that may be required to accommodate new knowledge and changing conditions.

Two supporting documents, Background Document for plan development, and Appendices are also available.

The goal, principles and objectives establish the plan foundation. The goal provides overall direction as to the final results of plan implementation. Principles are basic beliefs that guide conduct and help determine the appropriate management decision. Objectives give more specific direction setting definite targets that contribute to meeting the plan goal.

The plan goal is:

To manage the use of the land and renewable and non-renewable resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area in an integrated and environmentally sound manner to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.

Land Use Management Areas (Zones) indicate areas where certain activities may or may not take place. Management areas divide the planning area into smaller land use management areas (zones), or areas which reflect different resource values, uses, and management needs. This is intended to minimize conflicts between non-compatible users, and to ensure that where activities occur, the health of the ecosystem is maintained. The plan recommends three Land Use Management Areas:

- C **Protected Areas**, are management areas and sites with the greatest level of restrictions on use to ensure a high degree of protection of specific resources. The objective of this type of management area is to avoid disturbance of significant, unique, endangered, or rare resources.
- C **Sensitive Areas**, consist of natural and cultural resources that are sensitive to disturbance. The objective of this management area is to provide the special management required to minimize impacts to resources and the environment, while allowing social and economic benefits to people utilizing the planning area.
- C **Resource Management Areas**, are those areas that will allow sustainable and integrated development of a variety of activities. The objective of this management area is to accommodate environmentally sound ventures by providing direction and guidance that minimizes conflict and negative environmental impact.

Land Use Strategies identify issues and the Land Use Plan recommendations to address these issues. Regional Advisory Board recommendations provide

management strategies that are supported by recommended action items with suggested implementation time frames for the apparent responsible parties.

- C **A Strategy for Environmental Protection** based on sustainable resource allocation and integrated resource management that ensures the preservation of traditional lifestyles for people living in the area.
- C **A Strategy for Heritage Resource Management** ensuring impact assessment required by the Heritage Property Act is completed prior to approval of new development projects.
- C **Recognition of Traditional Land Use** and the importance and value of activities such as trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, gathering and the preservation of the lifestyle of Aboriginal and northern peoples.
- C **A Strategy for Fisheries Management** that will ensure sustainable allocations, preserve habitat, provide increased opportunity and funding for economic development, and recognize local knowledge through consultation with affected resource users.
- C **A Strategy for Wildlife Management** that will maintain ecosystem health, provide economic opportunity, preserve traditional lifestyles, and be based on sustainable resource management principles.
- C **A Strategy for Protection and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems** discusses issues and solutions related to harvesting, renewal and use of timber and other forest products, guidelines for roads and other linear developments, and protection of forest resources from fire, insects and disease.
- C **A Strategy for Mineral Exploration and Mine Development** that will minimize impacts and provide protection and sustainability to the environment, and involve extensive public consultation prior to major developments.
- C **A Strategy for Infrastructure Development** that speaks to essential requirements for public infrastructure including roads and electrical service to support economic development opportunities for the planning area.
- C **A Strategy for other Developments and Land Dispositions** that includes a recreation cabin development proposal, wild rice, hydro electric and agriculture considerations.

- C **A Strategy for Recreation and Tourism** that proposes improvements to facilities and recognizes important outdoor recreation activities.
- C **A Strategy for Economic Development** that will provide opportunity to Amisk-Atik residents while preserving the traditional life styles of Aboriginal people.
- C **A Strategy for Education, Monitoring, Enforcement, Compensation, and Consultation** that involve local people in all aspects and recognize we all share the resources of this land, and it is important to establish a level of trust and respect among different resource users.

The **Implementation Strategies for Plan Administration** are those that should be followed in order for resource management agencies to start implementing the plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the plan are essential to see that resource management goals are achieved, and to be able to change, revise and update the plan effectively if plan objectives are not being achieved. Public involvement and dispute resolution processes are important components to the success of the land use plan.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning area covers approximately 4.4 million hectares (ha) of forested land in northeastern Saskatchewan (See Figure 1-1). The name, 'Amisk-Atik', reflects both the geography of the region, and the strong traditional ties of Aboriginal peoples to the planning area. The land and natural resources of this area are used for a variety of purposes, including tourism, outdoor recreation, trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, forestry, mining and mineral exploration. Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural developments are also apparent in the region. Ecological, aesthetic, cultural, heritage, spiritual, scientific, and economic values and benefits come from the use of this land rich with resources.

The Forest Management Agreement (FMA) to be developed by the partnership of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and a selected Industrial Forest Company will allow the Partnership to harvest and manage timber resources in the planning area (This partnership will be referenced throughout the document as the Forest Company).

The estimated total annual Harvest Volume Schedule for the planning area is 787,000 cubic meters of softwood and 256,000 cubic meters of hardwood. The Harvest Volume Schedule is the maximum sustainable timber volume that can be harvested each year, as determined or approved by the Minister. These estimates were calculated for those forest lands which are considered timber productive, are currently supporting a forest, and are not within designated protected areas or Indian Reserves. Actual harvestable volumes will be likely less, when operational constraints, merchantability constraints, environmental constraints, and the needs of other users and values are considered. See section 3.5.2.1 of the Background document for additional information on the Harvest Volume Schedule.

The residents of the Amisk-Atik Planning area recognize the need for the development and implementation of a management framework that will guide decision-making for land and resource use. The natural environment must be protected while still allowing for development opportunities that will enhance the social and economic condition of the area. A land use management plan will guide orderly and sustainable development, as well as conserve the area's resources. Ecosystem health and ecological sustainability will be maintained or improved by the concerted action of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan and other acts, regulations, policies, permits and licences (see Appendix 9: Provincial and Federal Legislation and Appendix 10: Provincial and Federal Related Policies and Guidelines).

The three components of this Integrated Forest Land Use Plan are the Management Plan, Background Document, and Appendices. The Management Plan contains Regional Advisory Board Recommended Strategies to address identified issues for the

use of Amisk-Atik land and resources (see Appendix 1: Management Issues and the Planning Process). The Background Document gives a general description of the Amisk-Atik planning area and the land use planning process that has taken place.

The intent of Chapter 1 is to provide an overview and general understanding of the contents of the plan. This chapter highlights the purpose and format of this management plan, outlines its goals, objectives, and principles, and familiarizes the reader with the planning and public involvement processes that have been and will be followed.

1.1 Purpose of This Management Plan

The purpose of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan is to provide general direction for the management of the provincial Crown land and resources found in the planning area. As a coordinating document, this land use plan will not only provide a framework for land and resource management, but it will also provide direction for such management concerns as public involvement, options for resolving conflict among resource users, and the development of strategies for monitoring and evaluating the plan's effectiveness once it is implemented. The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan serves to maintain the area's ecosystems by ensuring that a) renewable resource uses are sustainable; b) non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound; c) biological diversity is maintained; and d) negative impacts from all uses are minimized. The land use plan does not set or change resource allocations. However, the public consultation process does recommend the Minister study and review specific existing resource allocations.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan has been prepared to address the increasing demand on the area's land and resources that are of importance not only to the Amisk-Atik region, but also to the province as a whole. The plan considers all uses and values in the creation of land use strategies and attempts to minimize conflict among users. If area residents and other individuals are to continue to receive multiple benefits from the area, all of its land and resources must be maintained in a sustainable fashion. The diversity and productive capacity of all components of the land base must be maintained, while the resources can still be used to provide a wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, or Amisk-Atik IFLUP, applies to all provincial Crown land found within the planning area's boundaries. While the plan's guidelines do not address the specific management needs of either private titled land or individual subdivisions, it provides a mechanism for coordinating the management of these areas with that of the larger planning area. The land use plan does not apply to either the reserve lands of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Indian Band or the municipal lands situated within the corporate limits of communities or on any other

federally administered Indian reserve lands. However, a cooperative approach has been taken to ensure that the guidelines presented in this management plan are complementary to the management and development needs of these local communities.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan acknowledges the following:

- C Treaty and Aboriginal rights will not be compromised in any way through the implementation of this plan.
- C All developments within the planning area must address environmental and other resource concerns. The land use plan and its guidelines will not replace the need for environmental assessments of resource developments. The Environmental Assessment Branch of SE is responsible for ensuring that all plans for future development activities are fully evaluated before commitments are made to proceed.

This land use plan has been developed according to the principles of **integrated resource Management**. Planning decisions have been made by looking at the health of the whole ecosystem and its various components— soil, water, plants, animals, and humans— to meet a variety of environmental, social, and economic objectives. Integrated resource management basically allows for a broad range of uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. Protection of the ecosystem and economic development through sustainable resource use are key elements of proposed recommendations.

Amisk-Atik Planning Area

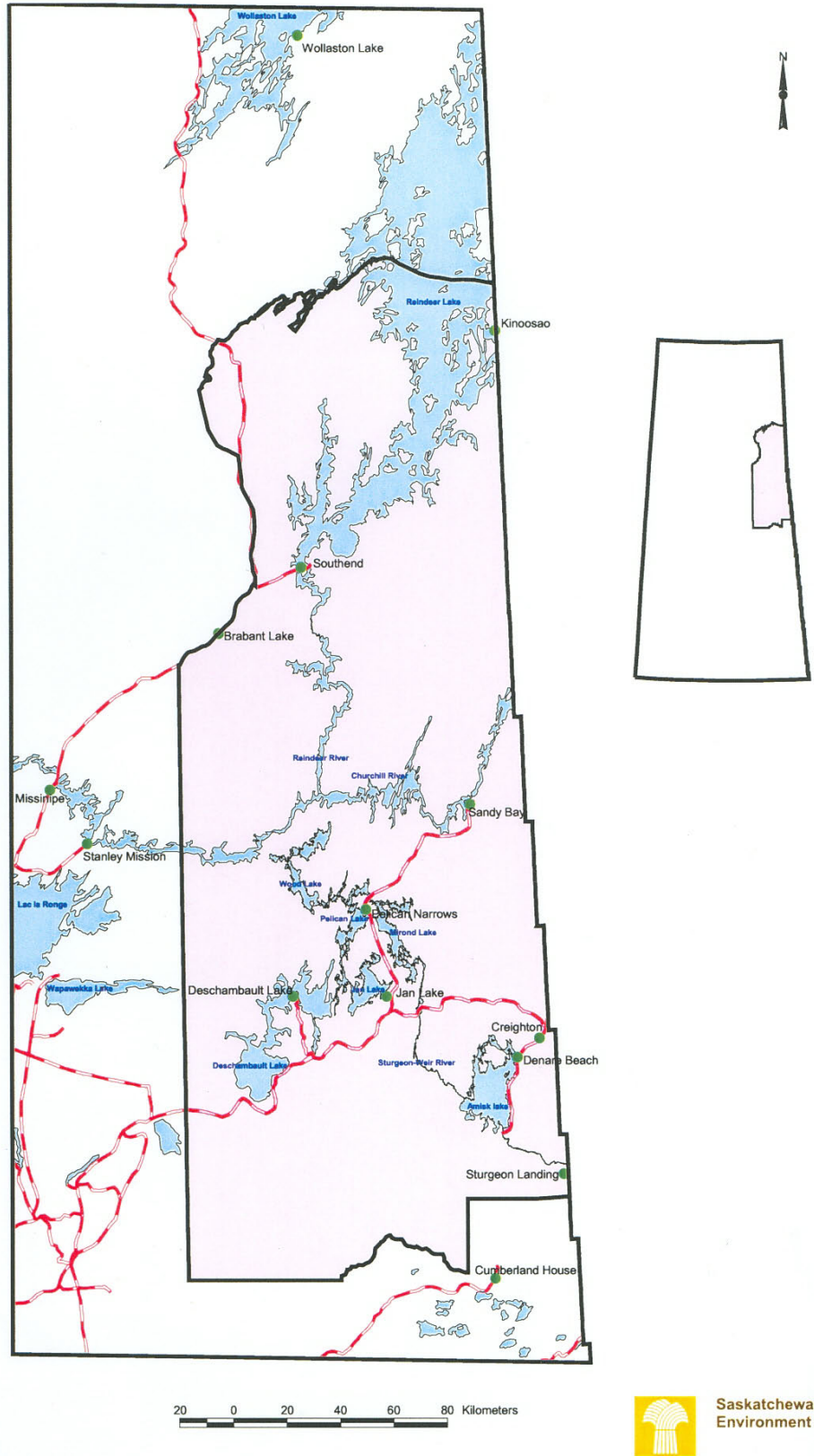


Figure 1-1



1.2 Management Plan Format

The format used to organize this document provides an overview of the general management requirements of the provincial Crown land and resources found in the planning area. This land use plan does not provide the level of detail that is presented in management tools such as provincial policy and legislation, lease agreements, and more detailed plans such as ecosystem and vegetation management plans. The intent has been to create a management plan that can be used not only by land and resource managers, but also by members of the general public.

This management plan has been organized into the following sections:

Chapter 1: As an introductory section, Chapter 1 is intended to provide a brief overview of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. This chapter also outlines the goals, objectives, and principles of the management plan. In addition, it describes the public involvement and planning processes that have been used in the development of this plan.

Chapter 2: The land use management areas (zones) that have been established in the Amisk-Atik planning area are presented. This chapter also introduces the framework that has been used to identify these management areas and the related general activity guidelines.

Chapter 3: Land and resource issues were identified by the Regional and Local Advisory Boards to be addressed through the planning process (see Appendix 1: Management Issues and the Planning Process). Chapter 3 highlights the management strategies, Regional Advisory Board recommendations and action items, that have been developed by people in the planning area working as part of the Regional Advisory Board and Local Advisory Boards.

Chapter 4: This chapter provides a summary of Amisk-Atik Regional and Local Advisory Board action items and implementation time frames. They are in order of expected implementation.

Chapter 5: Information is presented regarding the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this management plan, which has been designed as a document subject to ongoing implementation and review by the Regional Advisory Board and the Local Advisory Boards and a mandatory five-year public review. The continued involvement of the Regional and Local Advisory Boards will help to ensure that members of the public have continued input into the management and development of the area. The plan must remain flexible, seeking out and accommodating new knowledge and changing conditions.

1.3 Goals, Objectives, and Principles of the Management Plan

The basis of this land use management plan consists of a number of components, including an overall goal and various objectives and principles. The goal provides the broad general direction for the plan, while the objectives are more specific in nature and provide greater focus as to the expected results of the land use planning process. Principles are basic beliefs that guide the decision-making efforts for land and resource management. Table 1.1 represents the goal and objectives of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, while Table 1.2 outlines the plan's principles. These principles and objectives have not been presented in any specific order of priority.

Economic and social development (including employment opportunities for local people) is important in the land use planning area, is reflected in the goal statement, and will be defined in the guiding principles statement which applies to the entire planning area. Specific issues will address economic development and social concerns.

Table 1.1: Goal And Objectives of The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

<u>Plan Goal and Objectives</u>	
Plan Goal:	To manage the use of land and renewable and non-renewable resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area in an integrated and environmentally sound manner to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.
Plan Objectives:	The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan will:
C	Apply the principles of integrated resource management to all resource management activities in the planning area.
C	Develop clear land use guidelines that promote orderly development. These guidelines will specify the following: (1) what uses are allowed; (2) where these uses are allowed; and (3) limits on development.
C	Promote the integration of planning processes between the existing jurisdictions in and adjacent to the planning area.
C	Help resolve conflict among users through education, negotiation, separation of incompatible land uses, and other options to be considered.
C	Provide a mechanism for ongoing public input into implementation of this land use plan.
C	Develop standards to evaluate existing and future land uses.

C	Develop inventories 1) of ecologically representative or unique species, 2) of important cultural, heritage, and recreational sites and, 3) for better management of forest resources.
C	Provide a mechanism and procedure to implement, evaluate, and revise the land use plan from time to time.
C	Support the maintenance of aesthetic values by forest users, for the benefit of all.
C	Encourage through open dialog, the multiple use of the forest.
C	Promote public education initiatives directed to the intelligent and environmentally aware use of the forest and its resources.
C	Identify additional planning, study, or research needs.
C	Encourage local employment and use of local goods, services, and businesses.

Table 1.2: Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan

	Plan Principles The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan will:
C	Seek to maintain the health of the area's ecosystems by ensuring that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - renewable resource uses are sustainable; - non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound; - encourage the opportunistic use of resources to avoid unnecessary wastage; - biological diversity is maintained; and - negative effects from all uses are minimized.
C	Provide the opportunity for public consultation at all stages of plan implementation, monitoring and assessment. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board will be consulted and kept informed of developments in the planning area.
C	Promote the needs and wishes of the communities and people living in and adjacent to the planning area and the people of Saskatchewan in general.
C	Support sustainable resource use and developments that provide benefits to residents living in the Amisk-Atik area.
C	Respect Aboriginal Rights, the Treaty rights of First Nations people, and the rights of all stakeholders.
C	Consider all values when making management decisions. Values may include, but are not limited to, ecological, social, economical, cultural, and spiritual.

- C Where appropriate, will make suggestions for the fair treatment of all resource users, fair distribution of access to resources, and fair distribution of resources.
- C Encourage industries to work together in development of infrastructure and sharing of resources, and where appropriate, suggest specific directions to industrial forestry operations.
- C Support land and resource uses that are sustainable environmentally, economically, and socially.
- C Support existing business ventures and encourage the creation of new ventures in the planning area.
- C Recognize and be consistent with current legislation and policies, and recommend changes where appropriate.
- C Be flexible to adapt, when required, to new circumstances and information.
- C Respect and value traditional resource uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. They are essential to the quality of life and lifestyle of northern people .

1.4 Public Involvement and Land Use Planning Processes

Public involvement has been an important component of the process used to develop this management plan. The Regional and Local Advisory Boards were established to work in an advisory capacity with the provincial government to prepare this document. Chapter 6 of the background document describes the creation of the Regional and Local advisory boards. Members of the Regional Advisory Board were responsible for organizing meetings, assisting in planning public meetings, preparing consensus recommendations, and editing the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Appendix 1 outlines the general land use planning process. Appendix 2 lists the people who participated as members of the Regional Advisory Board and Appendix 3 contains the Terms of Reference used by the Regional Advisory Board.

The role of the Regional Advisory Board for the Amisk-Atik IFLUP is to advise the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment, as to public opinion on resource management issues. SE retains the responsibility for allocating resources, implementing policies, and enforcing Acts and Regulations.

A number of provincial government departments provided necessary expertise when the advisory boards addressed specific topics, including fisheries, woodland caribou management, mineral exploration, mine development, and forestry. Recommended strategies, actions, special considerations and guidelines were developed by the Regional Advisory Board with the assistance of regulatory authorities and professionals such as biologists, foresters, land use planners and ecologists. Determination of the allowable harvest of timber for the planning area was an important component of the land use planning process. See section 3.5.2.1 of the Background document for information on the Harvest Volume Schedule.

The basic planning process that was used to develop the Amisk-Atik IFLUP consists of the following steps: (1) initiating the plan; (2) developing the plan (identifying and discussing issues, proposing recommendations for action, and developing a zoning framework); (3) reviewing and revising the plan. The Amisk-Atik IFLUP is to remain flexible and adaptable, therefore implementation and monitoring are critical ongoing steps. The participation of the public is required in the successful achievement of each of these steps. To ensure openness, the intent is for the Regional Advisory Board to participate, in an advisory capacity in plan implementation, monitoring, and amendment processes.

Appropriate and effective methods for public input are necessary for land use planning and implementation on an ongoing basis. A process is required to provide continued access to information, to identify common interests, and to provide avenues for joint problem-solving. Chapter 5 provides a more detailed discussion about how this planning process was adapted to the Amisk-Atik planning area and how public

involvement was, and will continue to be, a constant contributing factor throughout this planning effort.

Appendix 4 contains a summary of all the Regional Advisory Board meetings held in the development of this plan, and a listing of all the Local Advisory Board meetings held in the communities within the planning area to gather input, guidance, and recommendations for the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

1.4.1 Ongoing Participation of Local and Regional Advisory Boards

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will rely on the Local and Regional Advisory Boards being structures well into the future. Local and Regional Advisory Boards provide valuable and ongoing input and direction. The implementation, monitoring, assessment, and amendment of the Amisk-Atik IFLUP depend on the ongoing participation of the community boards.

The land use plan provides a policy framework to guide resource management in the planning area. SE will make every effort to maintain the advisory capacity of the Local and Regional Advisory Boards to advise the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment. SE will ensure the boards are kept informed of proposed developments as directed by the Amisk-Atik IFLUP.

Proponents will be given direction by SE regarding consultation requirements, with affected resource users, Local and Regional Advisory Boards, and communities.

The Regional Advisory Board is expected to meet four times per year during initial implementation of the Land Use Plan (or as needed). Ongoing consultation with a Local Advisory Board or the Regional Advisory Board may be initiated by the boards themselves, SE, or as directed by the Amisk-Atik IFLUP.

Recommended Strategy
SE will work to maintain and establish Local and Regional Advisory Boards and assist the boards to develop terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future.

1.5 Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Approval Process

Section 14 of *The Forest Resources Management Act* (FRMA) states that “The Minister shall ensure that an integrated forest land use plan is prepared for every management unit for the purpose of co-ordinating policies, programs, and activities to guide and regulate existing and potential uses of land within that management unit.”

Nothing in a plan lessens or reduces the amount of forest products made available to existing licensees under a licence granted prior to approval of the plan.

The completed draft land use plan was submitted for government technical review and public review. An independent review of the plan advised the Minister as to how effectively the plan met the requirements of section 15 of the FRMA. The plan may be approved by the Minister of Saskatchewan Environment. Approval does not elevate the plan's legal status beyond what the Act has conferred.

1.6 Legal Implications of this Land Use Plan

This Land Use Plan is a general statement of intent and provides the Public the opportunity to partner with Government in the management of the land and resources in the planning area. It is acknowledged that the Land Use Plan does not override existing provincial law or legislation. If this Plan is inconsistent with provincial legislation or regulations, the existing legislation or regulations continue to govern. Approval of the Plan does not elevate the Plan's legal status beyond what the relevant legislation has conferred.

This Land Use Plan does not alter the legislative authority of the provincial legislature or the regulation-making power of executive government, including the authority to manage, conserve and regulate natural resources. The Plan does not affect the ability of the Government of Saskatchewan to enforce the provisions of provincial legislation or regulations within Saskatchewan in a manner and to the extent considered appropriate. The Land Use Plan does not cancel, repeal, abolish or detract from the exercise of any statutory power of the Government of Saskatchewan.

This Land Use Plan is intended to respect the principles of administrative law. The Plan is not intended to be used or interpreted in such a way as to fetter the Minister's discretion or delegate the Minister's authority beyond the level authorized pursuant to existing legislation. Public consultation was critical in the development of the plan and provides the Minister with local knowledge and public input to create recommended actions and strategies that support protection and sustainable use of land and resources.

The implementation of various items in this Land Use Plan is subject to annual government budgeting approval procedures as set out in *The Financial Administration Act, 1993* and any other relevant statute or regulation. This Plan does not override, fetter or avoid such government budgeting processes.

This Land Use Plan does not remove the requirement to obtain licences, permits or other government authorizations which may be required pursuant to any legislation. This Land Use Plan does not affect or replace the environmental assessment requirements which may be triggered on a particular development by *The Environmental Assessment Act*.

This Land Use Plan is not intended to add or detract from existing Aboriginal or Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada that are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

1.7 Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area is situated in Northeastern Saskatchewan. It is bordered to the North by the Athabasca Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the south by the Pasquia-Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the east by the Saskatchewan-Manitoba provincial border, and to the west by the North-Central Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. The North Central and Athabasca land use plans are being developed, while the Pasquia-Porcupine plan was approved in November 1998.

The Regional Advisory Board recognized that activities in one plan area could influence processes in the neighboring plan area. Many of the recommendations from the Pasquia-Porcupine plan were taken into consideration in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. Some recommendations were adapted to meet area needs and included in the Amisk-Atik management plan. In the same way, the adjoining North-Central, Athabasca, and Amisk-Atik land use plans have and will continue to give consideration to neighboring planning areas during their development, implementation, and if required, amendment processes. Traditional use areas for people in the communities of Southend, Kinoosao, Brabant Lake, and Deschambault Lake occur in more than one planning area. Resource users share traditional use areas. Special consideration will ensure that the opportunity for consultation is provided to resource users and communities during development of the Integrated Forest Land Use Plans.

It should be noted that Fur Conservation trapping areas N-9, N-10, N-35, and to a lesser extent N-5 extend across the boundary between the Amisk-Atik, North-Central and Athabasca land use plans.

Deschambault Lake members of the N-35 trapping area were actively involved in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. At the public meetings held to review the Amisk-Atik land use plan, members from N-9 trapping area formally requested that all of area N-9 be transferred to the North Central planning area. Trappers from N-5 and N-9 fur conservation area's formally expressed their interest in participating in the North-Central planning process. The community of Southend expressed their interest that all of Reindeer Lake should be included in the Amisk-Atik plan area. Ongoing consultation with all the affected parties, resource users and communities to resolve their interest concerning the Amisk-Atik planning area will continue. See also, section 3.17, Integration of Planning Processes.

Recommended Strategy

SE will assist the public, resource users, Local and Regional Advisory Boards involved in the development of land use plans, and provide the Public opportunity to provide input and participate in the development of Integrated Forest Land Use Plans for the protection and sustainable use of land and resources.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will continue to consult with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Chief and Council, and other affected resource users in efforts to resolve requested changes to the Amisk-Atik planning area.	Immediate/ongoing	SE All affected resource users

CHAPTER 2: LAND USE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the land use management areas that have been identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. A brief discussion is also presented on the framework used to establish these areas.

Zoning is a planning tool that is used to divide a larger defined area into smaller land use management areas which reflect different resource values, uses, and management needs. Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the specific land use management areas that have been identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.

2.1 Zoning Framework

A zoning framework is a management tool that is generic in nature. The same framework or type of management area can be used for different planning areas by “customizing” that framework to address the unique management and planning needs of an individual planning area. Allowed and not allowed activities can then be established to meet the specific requirements for individual planning areas that are in the same category. The framework that has been used for this management plan has established three Management categories: ***Protected Management Areas*** , ***Sensitive Management Areas*** , and ***Resource Management Areas***.

These management areas have been developed using a framework that consists of different categories of management. Each type of area plays its own unique role in the overall achievement of the goals and objectives of the land use plan. Varying degrees of protection and development of the planning area’s provincial crown land and resources are provided by the specific types of management areas. Land use management areas generally indicate where certain activities may or may not take place. Zoning is also intended to minimize conflicts between non-compatible users and to ensure that, where activities occur, ecosystem health is maintained. A zoning framework assists in ensuring that social, economic, and environmental benefits are optimized when making decisions on allocation of land and resources.

2.2 Management Areas Identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

The framework noted above has been “customized” for the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. The discussion below provides a brief overview of the specific land use management areas that have been identified for this plan. Again, it is noted that Treaty and Aboriginal rights will not be compromised within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning Area.

2.2.1 Protected Management Areas

Protected areas are management areas and sites with the greatest level of restrictions on use to ensure a high degree of protection of specific resources. The objective of this type of area is to avoid disturbance of significant, unique, endangered, or rare resources. Examples of protected areas or sites include the following:

- Ⓒ areas of cultural significance such as archeological sites, burial sites, historical sites, and trails or travel routes;
- Ⓒ environmentally unique areas; and
- Ⓒ areas proven to contain endangered species.

Protected areas and sites have been identified in the planning area. Seven representative areas designated as Ecological Reserves meet the requirements of the Representative Areas Network Program. They are Seager Wheeler RA, Amisk Lake RA, Sturgeon-weir RA, Jan Lake RA, Mari Lake RA, Perry Lake RA, and Halldorson Bay RA. Areas recommended as protected sites include Meridian Creek and Frog Portage.

Over 500 recorded archaeological heritage sites exist in the planning area. Fifty of these are “sites of a special nature”. These sites include mainly ancient rock paintings and burial sites and are afforded special protection under section 64 of the Heritage Property Act. All other recorded (and yet undiscovered) archaeological heritage sites which have potential scientific, economic, public, cultural, or other value are also protected.

Appendix 5 provides detailed management plans for the protection areas and a description of the proposed protected sites. Allowed and not allowed activities established by the management plans are supported by existing regulations and policies set by Government Departments of the Province of Saskatchewan.

2.2.2 Sensitive Management Areas

Sensitive areas are highly valued traditional resource use areas consisting of natural and cultural resources that are sensitive to disturbance. Any development or activity that would occur in a special management area may have precautions, constraints, or conditions designed to minimize any impact on resources and affected resource users. For example, sensitive areas in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area provide special management guidelines for watersheds, protection of Woodland Caribou, protection of fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning, aesthetic zones, sustainable allocation and resource use, and preservation of traditional lifestyles.

Sensitive management areas minimize impacts to resources and the environment, while allowing social and economic benefits to people utilizing the planning area. Government regulation and policy for the resource management area are also

applicable to the sensitive areas established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Operating guidelines for sensitive areas give special emphasis to and reinforce existing regulations and policies applied to the resource management area.

Operating guidelines identify allowed activities for specific types of developments and utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources within the sensitive areas. Table 2.1 provides common operating guidelines required for sensitive areas. These operating guidelines are to be applied to all sensitive areas in support of existing government Acts and regulations.

Table 2.2 identifies operating guidelines required for specific activities in sensitive areas. These operating guidelines are to be applied to all sensitive areas specific to a particular activity or planned development.

Special considerations required for specific sensitive areas are detailed in Table 2.3. These sensitive areas were identified through public consultation with affected resource users and communities.

AMISK - ATIK MANAGEMENT AREAS

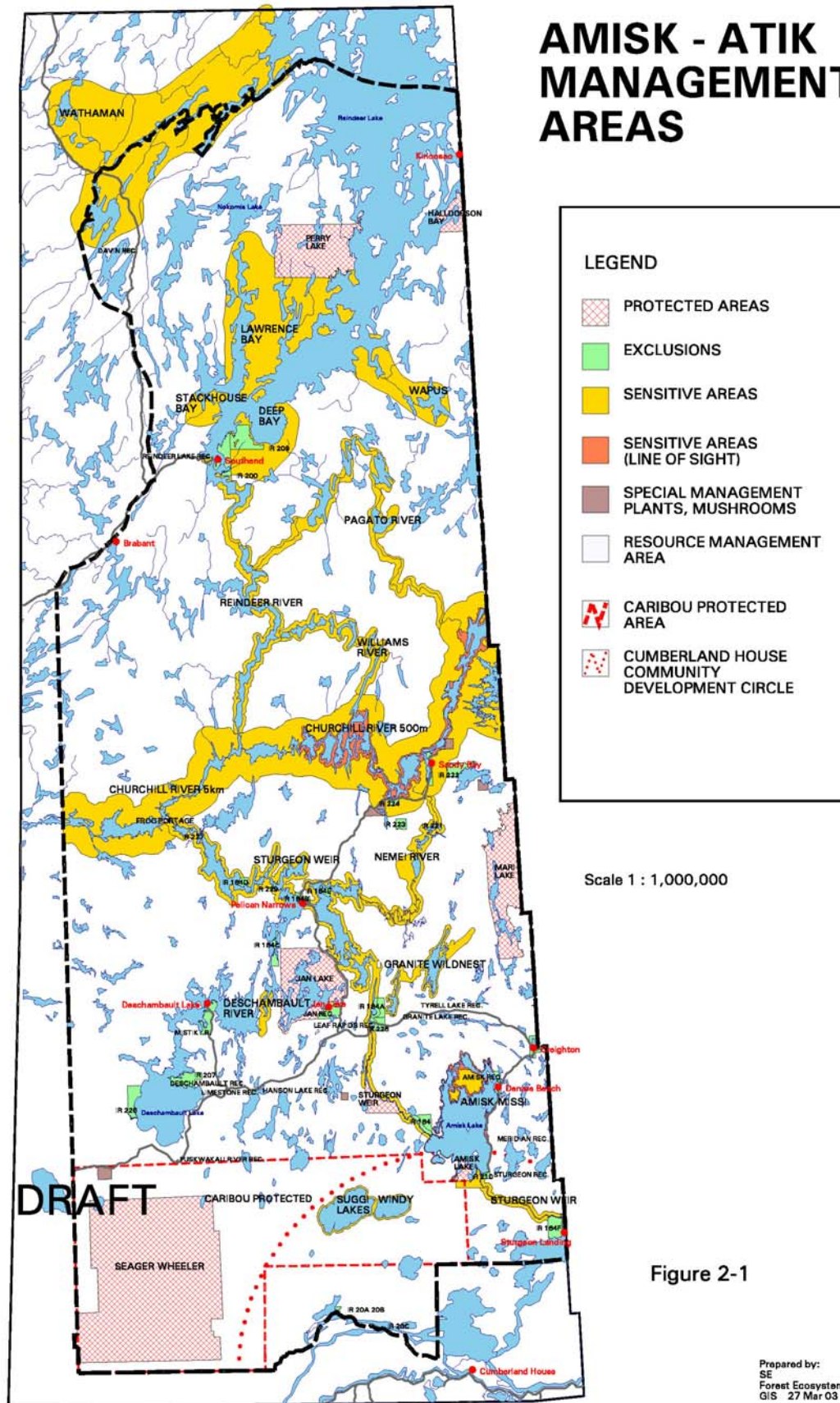


Figure 2-1

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 27 Mar 03

Table 2.1 Common Operating Guidelines for all Sensitive Areas

Development of new trails only when required. Maximize the use of existing trails. Existing roads and trails are to be incorporated into integrated and comprehensive access development plans.
New developments should not create permanent access to lake shores and the banks of major rivers. Temporary access is preferred. The number of stream crossings approved must minimize impacts to water quality and water resources. Limiting access will reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources and help ensure sustainable resource use and allocation.
Waste management required by regulation or as defined in operating guidelines. A waste management plan is required, subject to review and approval by SE.
Developments permitted based on approved comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles and sustainable resource use and allocation.
Any legal requirement for compensation to be negotiated with affected and third parties.
Buffer widths and areas will be defined in operating guidelines. Buffer size requirements may be changed by SE or through consultation with local people.
Consultation with affected resource users, affected communities and the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board may be required prior to and throughout project development. SE required to ensure proponents for major development projects provide meaningful opportunity for consultation.
Social and economic benefits and opportunities should be provided to Amisk-Atik communities and local people whenever possible.
The environment must be protected. Developments required to minimize air, water, land, and noise impacts. Traditional land use and lifestyle are to be recognized within and prior to all approved development processes.
Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. The impact should be considered at an appropriate ecological scale prior to SE approval.
To protect the ecosystem, assessment may require that special planning and management be done at the eco-site level. Detailed study and analysis of very small portions of the planning area may be required to protect critical habitat or ensure the environment is protected.
Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure mandatory decommissioning of completed projects. SE will monitor and enforce applicable Acts and regulations.
SE will develop a process that will ensure reporting requirements and ongoing consultation by the proponent with affected resource users as individual projects develop and become operational.
Monitoring to be the responsibility of the proponent. SE will ensure mitigation of detrimental impacts be carried out in a timely manner.
Development on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size is not allowed. Activities related to traditional resource use are allowed. The EIA process may allow "mine structures" that would not negatively impact a small island. Comprehensive development plans for projects on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size must be submitted to SE for review and approval.
Approval for the introduction of exotic species will be controlled and monitored by SE to ensure ecosystem biodiversity is protected and maintained.

Utilization standards must ensure optimum economic benefits will be realized from the utilized resource. SE requires that the whole ecosystem and all resource values be given consideration to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.

A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Table 2.2 Operating Guidelines for Specific Activities in Sensitive Areas

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Traditional Resource Use
Traditional resource use, Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights of First Nations people are in no way limited by the zoning concepts established by the Amisk-Atik land use plan.
Applicable laws are enforced by existing government regulation and in special circumstances Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Band Council Resolution.
Recommended Operating Guidelines for Cultural Camps and Historic Site Development
Zoning created by Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommends limits, and does not allow new infrastructure in specified areas.
Development of cultural and historic sites will be as per existing regulations. Heritage resource impact assessment, particular to section 63 of the Heritage Property Act, may be required by the Minister.
Recommended Operating Guidelines for Archeological Sites
Development of archeological sites are as per existing regulations defined by the Heritage Property Act.
The Amisk-Atik planning area's rich Aboriginal history must be respected. Findings must be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities, local people and affected communities.
The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the local communities will be consulted prior to approval of proposed projects involving archeological discovery and development.
Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Outfitting Operations
Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations.
Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Wild Rice Operations
Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Fishing Operations

Commercial, domestic, and sport fishing activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Sand and Gravel Quarrying

Only seasonal motorized access will be allowed when conditions justify.

Comprehensive development plans to be submitted to SE for review and approval. Integrated resource management planning is required.

Safety considerations may require that berms be established. Posting signs to ensure public safety is the responsibility of the proponent and will be monitored by SE.

Access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the area. New developments require a 200 meter buffer from major access routes. Landscaping may be a viable alternative which could affect the buffer width required. SE consideration of special requests may alter the required buffer width.

Sand and gravel quarrying activity not allowed on islands; SE review of comprehensive development proposals may allow development for exceptional circumstances.

Reclamation and decommissioning of completed projects is required by the proponent.

Monitoring to be the responsibility of the proponent. Mitigation of detrimental impacts to be carried out by the proponent in a timely manner.

Access to new resources should provide economic and social benefits to local people and communities in the planning area whenever possible. Approved access to sand and gravel for locals and communities is subject to and will consider the public agency requirements of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation and Municipal Government prior to SE approval.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Commercial and Industrial Development

Campgrounds are permitted in designated areas.

Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles (Environmental Impact Assessment may be required by the Minister).

Commercial development on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size not allowed. Comprehensive development plans required prior to approval for developments on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size.

Resource allocations will be sustainable, consider all values and affected resource users. Utilization standards will ensure optimum economic benefits from the utilized resource.

Monitoring the effects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Recreational Activities

All forms and types of recreation are encouraged. Respect for surroundings will ensure that the values on the land and in the water, will be preserved now and for the future. Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Residential Developments (sub-division)

Development permitted in approved zoning areas based on comprehensive development plan review and approval.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Cabin Development

Existing cabins will be regulated, replaced, and allocated based on existing regulations.

Zoning created by Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommends limits and does not allow cabin development in specified management areas. See table 2.3 Special Considerations.

Traditional resource use cabin numbers and locations to be co-ordinated between SE and the affected fur blocks.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Forestry

Forest operations should restrict permanent access to lake shores and the banks of major rivers. The required stream crossings must minimize impacts to water resources. Temporary access preferred so that impacts to resources are reduced.

Mandatory reporting of all activities as required by applicable operating ground rules defined by the Annual Operating Plan, Term Supply Licence and Forest Management Plan Agreements.

Forest operations on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size are not allowed. Consultation with local people is required for planned harvest operations on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size. Line of sight and reduced visibility of harvest operations from the water are key factors identified in consultation with local people.

Consultation with local people for all annual operating plans and forestry developments are required by SE and the proponent. The Proponent will consult the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board on Forest Management Agreement (FMA) development plans.

Utilization standards as set out in the operating guidelines will be designed to balance ecological requirements, maximize fiber utilization, use all species, and provide opportunity for diversification.

Planned decommissioning of roads and landings and reforestation of harvested areas is required. Harvested sites that require planting will be initiated within two years of being harvested. Well stocked regeneration with the appropriate tree species for all harvested sites should occur within 10 years. Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure environmental protection requirements are met.

Monitoring the effects of forest management activities on forest ecosystem health should be a responsibility of the FMA holder. A process to provide the opportunity for local people to participate, provide input, and assist monitoring is required.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Mining

Monitoring the effects of mining developments on the environment should be the responsibility of the proponent. A process should provide local people the opportunity to participate and provide input to the monitoring process.

Environmental assessment may be required by the Minister.

The proposal should identify research activities required for initial and ongoing project operation and development.

Assessment for approval and development should consider all values and possible impacts to other resource values and the environment.

Financial assurance and performance bonds are required to ensure decommissioning of the site.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Mineral Exploration

Only seasonal motorized access will be allowed when conditions justify.

Comprehensive exploration plans to be submitted to SE for review and approval. Integrated resource management planning is required to ensure environmental impacts are minimized.

Mandatory reporting may be required. SE will assist development of a process that will ensure reporting requirements and ongoing consultation with affected resource users.

Projects carried out on islands should minimize impacts to islands. Line of sight and reduced visibility of exploration activity from the water are key factors identified in consultation with local people.

Monitoring the effects of exploration activities should be the responsibility of the proponent. A process for local people to participate, provide input, and query activities should be established.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for New Road Development

Existing roads and trails are to be utilized and incorporated into integrated and comprehensive access development plans.

SE may require the proponent to limit the number of people and type of activity allowed to ensure sustainable resource use. Road development may provide opportunities for new resource allocations and developments. Opportunities should provide social and economic benefits to local people whenever possible.

Decommissioning and reforestation must comply to operating guidelines and existing Government regulations.

Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure environmental standards protect the forest ecosystem.

Recommended Guidelines for Eco-Tourism Development

Limiting the number of people and type of activity allowed for new proposed developments to ensure environmental protection and minimize impacts to other resource users are minimized.

Requires SE review and approval of a comprehensive development plan. SE review and approval process to include consultation with affected resource users and the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board.

Development of infrastructure for eco-tourism purposes is not allowed on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size, however, eco-tourism activities are allowed. Comprehensive development plans are required for islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size.

Monitoring the affects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Guidelines for Agriculture Development

Waste management plans are required.

Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles (environmental impact assessment may be required).

Monitoring the effects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts to the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Guidelines for Conducting Research Activity

Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles. (Environmental Impact Assessment may be required by the Minster)

Monitoring the affects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

Table 2.3: Special Considerations for Specific Areas

(Areas defined on Management Area / Zoning Map (Figure 2-1), unless otherwise specified.)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Granite/ Wildnest	defined area around Granite and Wildnest lakes	500 m	Sensitive	*first opportunity for tree planting in the area requested by trappers in fur block N32 (Birch Portage) * consultation with trappers for proposed harvest operations and other developments
Suggi/Windy	defined area around Suggi and Windy lakes	500 m	Sensitive	*consultation with Cumberland House prior to approval of development proposals (important traditional use area)
Amisk Lake/Missi Island	defined area along shoreline of Amisk Lake and Missi Island	variable/ line of sight, see Figure 2-2 <i>Special Management Areas - Amisk Lake & Missi Island</i>	Sensitive	*harvest operations and proposed developments must not be visible from the water; line of sight restriction on all developments *rare and endangered plant areas identified for protection (important traditional use area)
Deep Bay	defined area along shoreline of Deep Bay on Reindeer Lake, running south and west to the community of Southend	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend on all proposed developments (important traditional use area)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Sturgeon-weir River South	defined area (corridor) along Sturgeon-weir River from Sturgeon Landing north to (Leaf Rapids) Highway 106	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *consultation with Sturgeon Landing, Creighton /Denare Beach, and local users *minimum buffer for all new developments is 200 meters, access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the river, SE consideration of special requests may alter the buffer width required. *agriculture developments not allowed *no new structures/seasonal camps only *source for Sturgeon Landing drinking water/ ensure water quality and supply *SE to monitor recreation use and establish a use threshold or limit the number of people, and establish development requirements for tourism *historical significance/ report all findings (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)
Sturgeon-weir River North	defined area (corridor) along the Sturgeon-weir River from Leaf Rapids (Highway 106) north to Frog Portage at the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *consultation with Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Deschambault Lake, and affected resource users *residential sub-division development permitted with comprehensive development plan approval *cottage developments not allowed on Wood, Trade, and Uskik lakes (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)
Reindeer River	defined area (corridor) along the river from Reindeer Lake south to the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *consultation with Southend and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Pagato River	defined area (corridor) along the river which joins the Reindeer and Churchill River systems	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake, Sandy Bay, and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Williams River	defined area (corridor) of the Williams River system running east of the Reindeer River through Gilbert and Pauline Lakes, then south through Guilloux Lake to the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay, Southend Reindeer, and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Nemei River	defined area (corridor) travel route follows the river and lakes; joins the community of Sandy Bay to Pelican Narrows	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Deschambault River	defined area (corridor) along Deschambault River; connects Deschambault Lake and Pelican Lake	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Deschambault Lake, Jan Lake, Pelican Narrows, and affected resource users (sensitive watershed/ traditional use area, historic travel route)
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from Wintego Lake to the Manitoba border	500 m on both sides of river	Sensitive	*line of sight, maintain visual integrity, no developments allowed in area without consultation with the community of Sandy Bay *consultation with Sandy Bay and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from 500 meters to 5 Km both sides of the Churchill River from Wintego Lake to the Manitoba border	500 m to 5 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from the western edge of the planning area at 104 degrees of longitude east to Wintego Lake	5 km, both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with all communities and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)
Stackhouse Bay traditional use area	defined area southern end of Stackhouse Bay, Reindeer Lake northwest of Southend Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Wapus traditional use area	defined area Wapus Bay on Reindeer Lake running southeast along Wapus River to Wapus lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Lawrence Bay traditional use area	defined area including Cowie Lake, Numabin and Lawrence Bay on Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	* consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Wathaman traditional use area	defined area including Wathaman Lake and river system running east to Vermillion Bay on Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake and affected resource users (important traditional use area)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Reindeer Lake flood zone	defined area includes all lakeshore land on Reindeer Lake below elevation 338.0 meters ASL	legally defined/ not defined on map	excluded from development/ liability issue	* SaskPower request to SE to not allow development below elevation 338.0 meters on lakeshore of Reindeer Lake (no liability to Government for structures flooded/damaged by operation of Whitesands Dam)
Community Areas of Influence	defined areas for all communities	variable, see Figure 2-3, <i>Community Areas of Influence</i>	integrate planning/ development	*consultation with all affected communities for long range planning of proposed developments
SaskPower Full Supply Line for Potential Hydro Development	area of the Churchill River/ map provided by SaskPower	See Sec.3.8.7 Hydro Electric Development.	Sensitive	* the prescribed zoning established by the Regional Advisory Board allows developments based on comprehensive development plan review and approval *comprehensive development plans for proposed hydro projects may be submitted to SE *SE will ensure impacts of new development to affected resource users, SasksPower and Industry are considered during review for approval process.
Cumberland House Community Circle	defined area/ 65 km circle around Cumberland House		general management area/ sensitive	*transfer of title for selected Crown lands to Cumberland House *selected lands in the area will complete compensation package for previous hydro development *consultation with Cumberland House required prior to SE approving developments in community circle

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Woodland Caribou Special Management Area	defined area within the Mossy River Plain and Namew Lake Uplands Landscape Areas of the Mid-Boreal Lowlands Ecoregion including Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area and the Suggi Lowlands.	5300 square kms	Sensitive	<p>*protect known or suspected caribou home ranges from adverse effects of development, following guidelines established by SE and RAB.</p> <p>*timber harvest operations only in winter.</p> <p>*follow guidelines established in an access management plan that minimizes road and trail development and ensures decommissioning through use of existing, or development of temporary roads and trails with restoration to natural conditions as soon as possible after use.</p> <p>*design forest harvest and silviculture plans to maintain, preserve and promote adequate foraging lichens.</p> <p>*protect critical caribou habitat from development - related disturbance(physical disruption, noise, etc.) with specific reference to fall rutting areas, winter and spring feeding areas, and calving locations.</p> <p>*protect ground water sources, fens and muskegs from drainage activity, contamination, minimize physical disturbance related to: surface and sub-surface excavation; and removal of organic matter (peat)</p> <p>*restrict conventional vehicle access for new developments.</p> <p>*SE communicate with, educate and involve the public in strategy to promote and monitor area for caribou.</p> <p>*manage landscapes to mimic natural disturbances</p> <p>*Government / Industry develop inventory of critical habitats.</p> <p>*whenever possible consider applying these guidelines to the entire Resource Management Area.</p>

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Areas designated for the protection of medicinal plants	areas requested and defined by medicine men and women in nearby communities		sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *preservation of the supply of medicinal plants, some rare and endangered *maintain easy access to known and valued plants *consultation with affected communities required prior to operation approval by SE. (important traditional use area)
Areas designated for the protection of traditional mushroom gathering	areas requested and defined by nearby communities		sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *maintain easy access to known and valued crop for traditional gathering *primarily for personal consumption, but also important benefits to local economy through public sale of product. *consultation with locals prior to operations approval by SE. (important traditional use area)
Areas designated to protect fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning	areas requested by nearby communities and resource users be submitted to SE; Band Council Resolution by the Chief and council of PBCN and consultation with all affected users required	as defined in the Saskatchewan Anglers Guide Areas posted by SE	Sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *seasonal protection of sensitive watersheds *specific dates are established to protect Fish stocks in defined areas *locations of existing fish spawn closures can be obtained from Regional Saskatchewan Environment offices

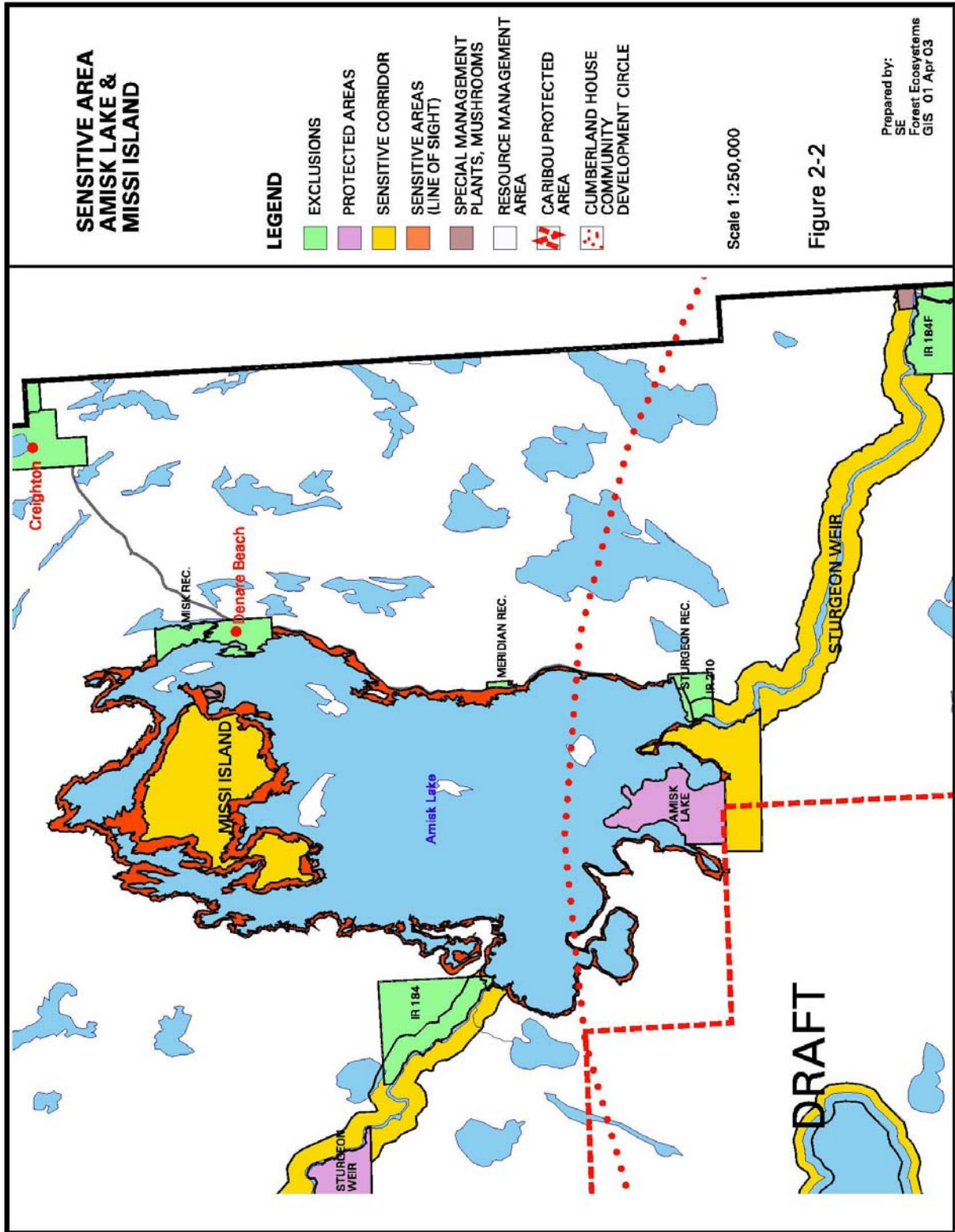
Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
<p>Game corridors along major access routes may be established to protect wildlife species</p> <p>Management for the protection of wildlife</p>	<p>Establishing game corridors may be initiated by SE in consultation with First Nations and affected resource users; Band Council Resolution by the Chief and Council of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and consultation with all affected resource users required</p>	<p>As defined in the Saskatchewan Hunting and Trappers guide</p> <p>Areas posted would be signed by SE</p>	<p>Sensitive</p>	<p>*corridors established for the protection of wildlife</p> <p>*restrictions on hunting</p>

2.2.3 Resource Management Area

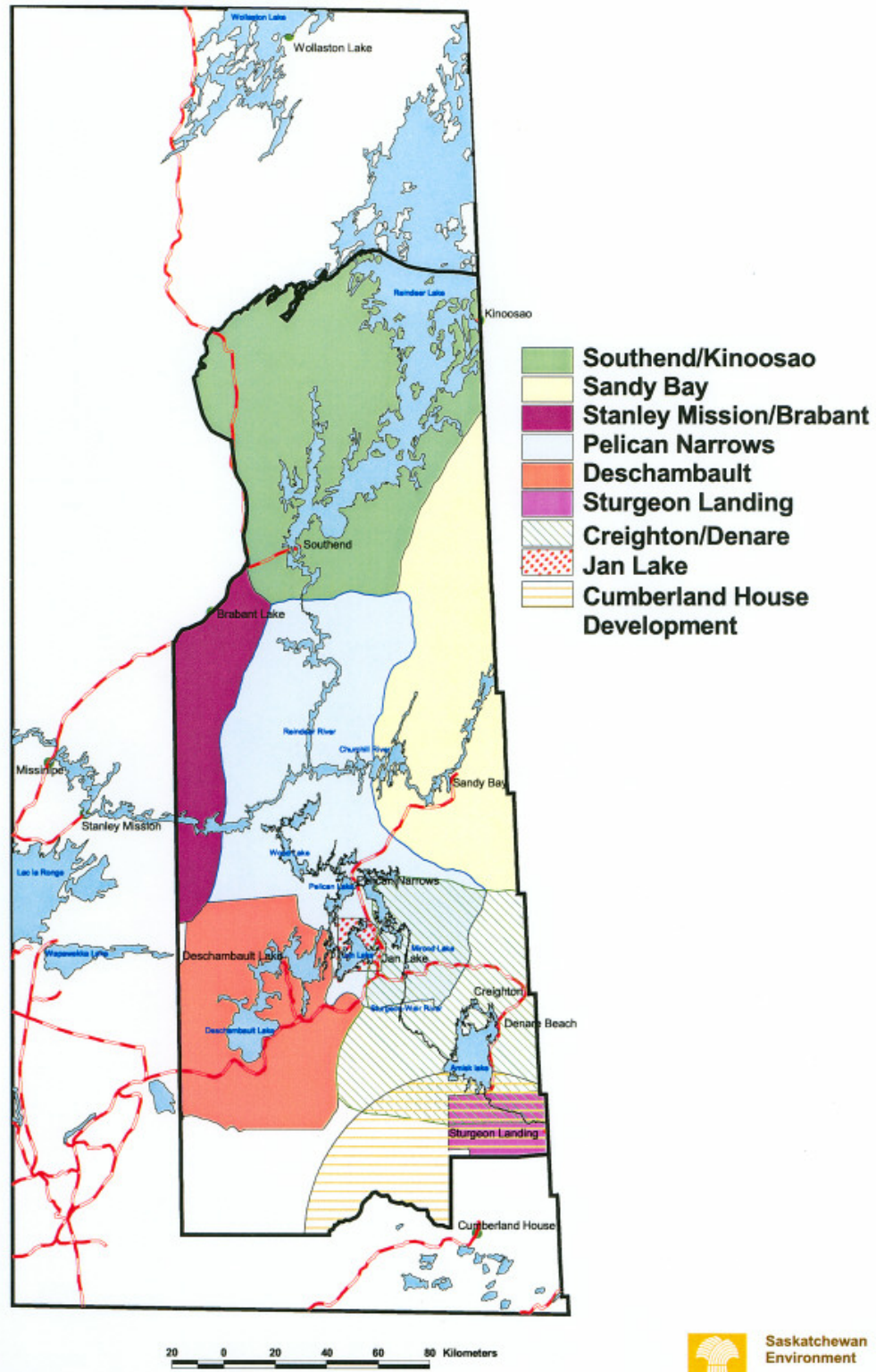
Resource Management Areas are those areas that will allow sustainable and integrated development of a variety of activities. The objective of this management area category is to accommodate environmentally sound ventures by providing direction and guidance that minimizes conflict and negative environmental impact. The majority of the planning area has been zoned as resource management lands. These lands can also be sensitive to disturbance. Therefore the common operating guidelines and activity guidelines applied to sensitive areas should receive consideration by SE during the review and approval of planned activities and developments in the resource management area.

Integrated and sustainable development and use of renewable and non-renewable resources in the resource management area are covered by existing regulations and policies as set out by Government Departments of the Province of Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise noted Government regulations and policy for the resource management area are also applicable to the sensitive and protected management areas established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Figure 2-2 Special Management Areas – Amisk Lake and Missi Island



**FIGURE 2-3
COMMUNITY AREAS OF INFLUENCE**



CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 Environmental Protection

Environment is one of the key components that determines the health of the human population. The physical environment considers both the natural and built subsets of our environment.

The natural environment includes water, air, land, plants, animals and other living organisms. The modified environment includes aspects of the environment that are created or substantially changed by humans. The impact of the physical environment on human health can be direct and physical, as is the case in environmental contaminants, or indirect and non-physical, when the state of the environment affects the way of life within communities, and their social and psychological well-being.

Lifestyle impacts on the condition of the environment, and so affects human health. Economic growth is required if human health and potential are to be maximized.

Maintaining a healthy physical environment requires collaboration with all sectors of society. True and total health is only possible where resources are available to meet human needs and where the living and working environment is protected from life-threatening and health-threatening pollutants, pathogens, and physical hazards.

Public consultation clearly identified a need for economic development to provide increased economic opportunity for present and future generations of people in the Amisk-Atik plan area.

Developments must protect the environment and be based on sustainable resource allocation and integrated resource management. Preserving the traditional lifestyles of northern people is a priority.

Recommended Strategy
The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board be involved and have the opportunity to review, comment, and make recommendations on proposed developments in the Amisk-Atik plan area, including projects within and outside the established environmental assessment process (Environmental Impact Assessment).
Establish a data base of sites in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area where contamination or concern regarding the health of the environment has been identified.
All Acts, Regulations, rules and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Qualified personnel establish and maintain a list of known contaminated sites in the plan area. Clean up of the contaminated sites to be prioritized. SE to enforce clean up by the responsible party. Contaminated sites to be cleaned up within one year of their occurrence.	immediate / or within one year of their occurrence	Party responsible for the pollution or SE
SE to consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible projects planned for the planning area.	ongoing	SE Proponent

3.1.1 Air Quality

The natural environment includes water, air, and land. Air quality is a key component for the health of the human population. The environment requires protection from life-threatening pollutants, pathogens, and physical hazards.

Recommended Strategy
All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced. Approved development projects to maintain ecosystem biodiversity and protect the environment.

3.1.2 Water Quality

The management and protection of water resources in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area must maintain water quality, continue to provide an environment which supports sustainable fish and wildlife populations, and ensure the continuance and preservation of people's traditional lifestyles. Changes in land use could affect natural patterns of runoff, rate of recharge of aquifers, natural basin storage, and the quality of surface and ground water supplies. Resource managers, individuals, and affected communities identified preservation of water quality and supply as a key ingredient and priority for sustainable economic growth and development for the planning area.

3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection

Recommended Strategy
Develop a public education process and implement a communication strategy identifying ground water as an important component of the ecosystem that requires protection.
The protection of water resources requires that all development projects conform to existing Acts and Regulations. Projects must be monitored. Regulations must be enforced.
Investigate the feasibility to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan to ensure and protect water quality for all resource users.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Add regulations and legal requirements to protect water quality to the Saskatchewan Anglers' Guide section identified as Protect Yourself - Protect Your Environment.	2002/2003 angling season	SE
Large reservoirs such as Reindeer Lake be monitored by conducting annual water quality assessments. Corrective measures to be taken to ensure environmental health and water quality are maintained.	2002/2003	SE Sask Water Corp
Develop a priority list of water bodies to be monitored, based on their proximity to planned and active projects. Consideration of the level of use by local communities and affected resource users is required.	2002/2003	SE Sask Water Corp

3.1.2.2 Stream Management

Recommended Strategy
Protection and special management of sensitive watersheds must be incorporated into the 20 year forest management plan and harvest plans for the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and selected Industrial Forest Company Partnership. Five spawning rivers at Deschambault Lake are designated as sensitive watersheds. They are Oskikebuk, Puskwakau, Ballantyne, Fisher Bay-Fisher Creek, and Hidden Bay. Other fish spawning closures have been identified through consultation with affected resource users, approved by Peter Ballantyne Band Council Resolution and will be included as sensitive watersheds once established in legislation. Applicable sensitive watersheds, river corridors, and areas designated to protect fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning that require protection and special management are itemized in Table 2.3.

If future hydro electric dam development occurs, it should only be approved subject to the condition that all timber is salvaged in advance from the flood zone required for the operation of the hydro electric facility.

Standards for construction, restoration and reclamation of stream crossings must be strictly enforced. Enforcement will include integrated planning, inspection during construction, and ongoing monitoring to ensure protection of the environment.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
During the review of major development proposals that include stream crossings, SE will provide the general public an opportunity to provide comments.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.1.3 Solid Waste Management

Recommended Strategy
Waste disposal sites be located and limited to the Resource Management Area as per the zoning established by the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board. Requests for exceptions regarding the zoning restriction require review of a comprehensive development plan and consultation with affected resource users .
Comprehensive development plans submitted to SE requesting approval to develop new waste disposal sites must include engineering requirements, environmental study and assessment.
Approved waste disposal sites located on Crown Lands be sold to the Municipality. Liability will be the responsibility of the proponent. The proponent will be monitored by SE and held accountable to ensure the environment is protected.
Applications from communities outside the Amisk-Atik plan area wishing to locate waste disposal sites in the planning area not be considered, unless there are no other options available.
Operating standards and guidelines for waste disposal sites be strictly enforced. Ongoing monitoring is required.

Recommended Action	Suggested Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Information and education on requirements to develop and maintain waste disposal sites will be available at SE offices.	2002/2003	SE

3.1.4 Water and Sewage Infrastructure and Services

The Amisk-Atik plan area has many residents who are responsible for and provide their own water and sewer infrastructure and service. Communities supply sewer and water services for many people. These facilities must be maintained so that the ecosystem is protected. Environmental protection is provided by the enforcement of existing Government Acts and Regulations.

Recommended Strategy
Recommend that a permanent full-time Public Health Officer be assigned to the Amisk-Atik plan area (e.g. Creighton). The Public Health Officer will continually monitor water, sewer, and health-related issues.

3.1.5 Vegetation Control

Vegetation control on access and power line right of ways is a necessity for reliable electrical service and the maintenance of highways and access routes. Control can be accomplished by the application of chemicals. The Regional Advisory Board recognizes manual cutting as a control method that is effective and often required to protect values at risk.

Recommended Strategy
A comprehensive plan for the application of chemical herbicide to control vegetation on right of ways must be submitted to Saskatchewan Environment for approval. Public consultation with local communities is required. Public notice for scheduled herbicide application is required. Chemical application to be strictly monitored; possible environmental impacts to be assessed.
Non-chemical vegetation control methods to be utilized to ensure protection of water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitats. The Regional Advisory Board identified that manual controls are preferred to chemical controls. Other options such as encouraging a preferred woody species or alteration of areas that must regularly be treated should be considered by SE. Whenever possible local people to be given preference for employment opportunities related to these vegetation control programs.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Comprehensive development plans for the application of herbicide must ensure that water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitat areas are identified and protected.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management

Biological diversity or biodiversity includes all species of plants, animals, micro-organisms and the ecosystems and ecological processes of which they are parts. Biodiversity is the spectacular variety of life on earth and the essential interdependence among all living things. It is a term to represent nature's variety, including both the number and frequency of ecosystems, species and genes (reference: Conserving Saskatchewan's Natural Environment: Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan, August 2000).

Forest operations based on sustainable and integrated resource management attempt to manage conditions that occur after natural events such as forest fires. Operating guidelines for activities such as timber harvest and mineral exploration supplement resource allocation limits that are sustainable and minimize impact to forest ecosystems. Pre-harvest planning, silviculture treatments, maintaining seral stages, age class distribution and species diversity all attempt to maintain the biodiversity of our forest ecosystems.

Conserving forest diversity and the integrity of forest and aquatic ecosystems is required if traditional resource use and quality of life for people in the planning area is to be maintained.

Recommended Strategy
20 year Forest Management Plans must strive to conserve the biological and ecological diversity of the Amisk-Atik planning area. Provision for ecosystem management to preserve genetics, landscape patterns, species variety, nutrient cycling, riparian zones, water resources, and aquatic ecosystem diversity must be developed and initiated for all forest operations.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE review of proposed harvest operation plans for the Amisk-Atik planning area will give due consideration to maintaining the biological and ecological diversity of forest ecosystems.	immediate/ongoing	SE
As it is completed, The Saskatchewan Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan August 2000, will be incorporated and applied to management of the Amisk-Atik plan area.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.3 Heritage Resource Management

A commitment to preserve heritage resources in the Amisk-Atik planning area must be recognized prior to approval of development projects. Heritage resource impact assessment is required by Section 63 of the Heritage Property Act. All land use and development plans that may impact heritage sites require a screening process to determine the appropriate terms and conditions for approval. The process may include carrying out heritage resource impact assessment or conservation measures as deemed appropriate.

Recommended Strategy
Cultural and spiritual values are immeasurably significant to First Nations communities. Medicinal plant and wild food gathering areas and historic ceremonial and religious sites, are examples of cultural and spiritual values to be respected and preserved.

3.4 Traditional Land Use

Traditional land use is vital to many residents of the Amisk-Atik land use planning area. The value of activities such as trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, and gathering of forest products for medicinal purposes, must be measured not only as a means of financial income, but as a lifestyle for many people. This way of life is an integral part of First Nations' culture and history, and must be preserved to allow future generations to continue the practices of their ancestors. Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized by this plan and will not be compromised.

To maintain this way of life, impacts resulting from new developments must be kept to a minimum. Consultation with resource users is essential to the success of continuing

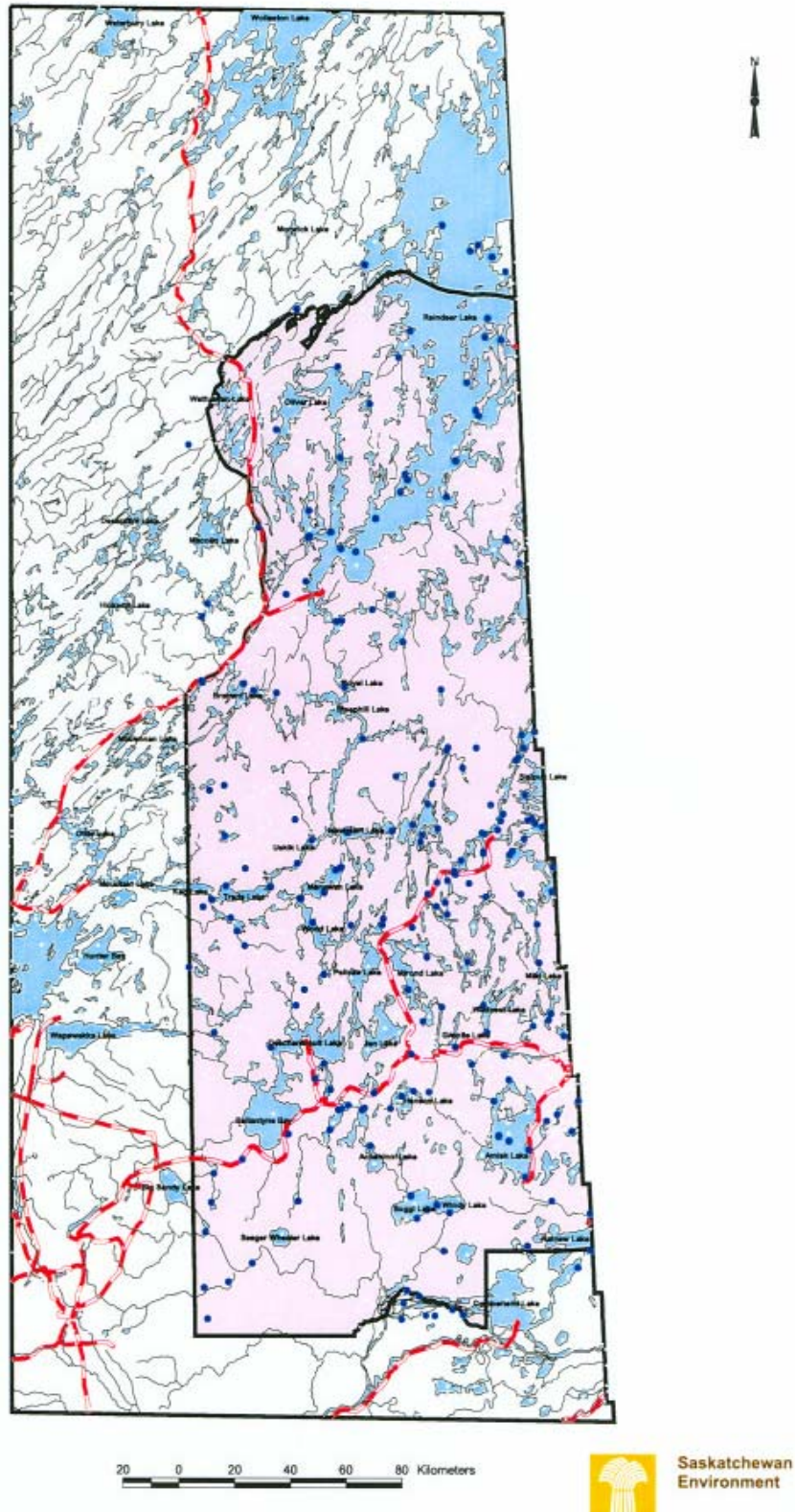
traditional land use while still allowing for new economic opportunities. (See Section 4.1.7 - Traditional Use and Occupation of the Land of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan Background Document.)

3.4.1 Traditional Resource Use Cabins

Communication will be important to reduce potential conflicts between traditional resource users and forestry companies as a result of increased harvesting activities in the planning area. Buffer zones around leases will need to be negotiated with individual trappers and fur blocks to minimize impacts while maintaining wind firm boundaries and aesthetics. Figure 3-1 represents existing traditional resource use leases in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area.

Recommended Strategy
Traditional resource use cabin numbers and locations permitted in the individual fur trapping blocks to be co-ordinated between SE and the local trapping association.

**FIGURE 3-1
TRADITIONAL RESOURCE USE PERMITS**



3.5 Fisheries Management

The health and sustainability of the fishery is crucial to the economy and economic viability of the Amisk-Atik region. Consultation with traditional and commercial users, outfitters, the tourism industry, and local communities provided the Regional Advisory Board with important issues for consideration. Other priority issues identified include the lack of current fish stock data, fish resource allocations, protection, harvest utilization, increased opportunity for economic development, recognition of local knowledge, and funding for improved fisheries management.

The Regional Advisory Board strongly emphasized the importance of increased research and fishery studies to ensure sustainable management. Fisheries work in the Amisk-Atik area has been minimal to date. Completing a minimum of two lake management plans per year is recommended. If possible the RAB feel this number should be increased so that required Lake management plans will be completed within a reasonable time frame.

Recommended Strategy
Recommend increased funding be allocated to enhancement and conservation projects where economic stability and sustainability of the fisheries resource are at risk, or where impacts from development have not been mitigated. Implementation would be subject to annual government budgeting approval procedures.
Develop a program, implement and establish a fish population data base for fish habitable waters in the Amisk-Atik planning area. The program focus should provide a framework for ongoing data collection, capability for analysis, data that is storable and accessible, and be available to all resource users.
Lake management plans for lakes and lake systems should develop critical fish habitat inventories, productivity assessment, enhancement requirements, fish harvest data, and water quality monitoring. Local knowledge acquired through public consultation processes should be recognized.
Involve all user groups in analyzing data and developing management recommendations directed at ensuring the sustainability of the fishery.
The entire process of allocating and maintaining quotas be investigated where the sustainable and desired economic stability of the fishery are at risk.
Government to investigate other fisheries management options and implement those options that provide quality fishing experiences for all fishers.
Investigate the feasibility to develop and implement a stocking program to enhance sturgeon populations in the Churchill and Sturgeon-weir Rivers. Assessment of the ongoing sturgeon stocking program involving Cumberland House and SE should be given consideration.
Initiate a program to conduct creel surveys involving Government and resource users, to provide information for improved fisheries management.
Major developments that involve stream crossings must allow the local public and affected resource users opportunity to review and provide comments to SE.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Finalize and establish fish spawn closures initiated through the Amisk-Atik land use plan process. Consultation with the public, affected resource users, and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation to be verified. Locations of existing and proposed fish spawn closures can be obtained from local SE offices.	2002/2003 angling season ongoing consultation may initiate additional closures	SE
Creel surveys should be conducted during the angling season. Locations and times to conduct survey be based on monitoring critical impacts to the fishery.	Initiate as required in 2002/2003 angling season	SE
A priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans should be established. A minimum of two lake management plans to be initiated / completed annually.	*priorities established 2002/2003 *management plans initiated 2003	SE
SE to continue to evaluate the process of allocating and maintaining quotas, and involve affected resource users in the ongoing assessment of fisheries allocations.	ongoing	SE
Investigate assistance available from University researchers to provide survey design, computer analysis, dynamic modeling for fish populations, and co-ordination of data use, for a system study of the major lakes in the planning area.	2002 / 2003	SE
Educate the public regarding the legal purchase of fish from commercial fishermen. The commercial fisher must provide the purchaser a receipt with information required.	ongoing	SE
Establish and maintain co-management Boards for established regions in the Amisk-Atik plan area (may be beneficial to utilize Local Community Advisory Boards developed by the land use planning process).	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.6 Wildlife Management

It is understood that sound wildlife management is crucial to maintaining ecosystem health. Wildlife provides a source of income for many people in the area, and potential impacts to the resource must be kept to a minimum. Trappers, traditional resource users, businesses such as outfitters, and the tourism industry all benefit from robust wildlife populations. Sightings of animals native to the area, such as bears, moose, and caribou, are an attraction to potential tourists. Another activity drawing people to the area is the popular sport of recreational hunting. Wildlife populations must be managed in a way that results in their sustainability. (See Table 2.1 *Common Operating Guidelines for Sensitive Management Areas (Zones).*)

Recommended Strategy
Impacts to traditional land and resource use should be minimized through ongoing consultation with trappers and First Nations representatives of the area in question.
Protect wildlife and wildlife habitat from disruption during the spring and summer birthing / hatching and rearing / fledgling periods.
Protect opportunities for sport hunting, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation by following Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommended guidelines. Integrated resource management should maintain ecosystem biodiversity and ensure sustainable resource use and allocation.
Protect riparian lake, river and stream margins from development. Amisk-Atik IFLUP recommended guidelines and strategies for sensitive areas and watershed corridors may limit development and allowed activity. Specific operating guidelines for forestry activities in riparian zones must be followed.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party
Restrict access to known moose and caribou calving islands in lakes and muskegs	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
Establish buffer zones free of development, around; known active raptor nest locations, with particular attention to bald eagles and osprey; around nesting colonies of colonial waterfowl species such as great blue heron, gull and tern species, double crested cormorants, pelicans, and known wolf and coyote den locations.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

Identify endangered species that occur in the planning area and follow guidelines established in recovery plans for those species.	immediate/ongoing	SE
Follow guidelines established by SE for protecting rare and endangered species of plants and animals.	immediate/ongoing	SE
Follow guidelines for road and trail construction that cause the least disturbance to wildlife.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.6.1 Road Corridor Game Preserves

Road corridor game preserves prohibit all people from hunting within 400 meters of a particular road. Subsequently, establishing road corridors on new roads will help to minimize impacts to wildlife populations.

Recommended Strategy
All new permanent roads have a road corridor game preserve applied, subject to community consultation, band council agreement, wildlife information, biologists' (SE) review.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Development plans for new roads (including game corridor restrictions) should be submitted to the RAB at the same time they are submitted to government for regulatory approvals.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.6.2 Woodland Caribou

Woodland Caribou are highly sensitive to disturbance of their habitat, therefore, it is important to provide protection for the animals and their environment. The caribou population in the Amisk-Atik area was recognized as vulnerable by the Government of Saskatchewan in 1993. In May 2000, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated the boreal population of woodland caribou an endangered species, category threatened. Saskatchewan Environment has accepted this designation and is currently developing a recovery plan. Action must be

taken during development to prevent further depletion of caribou populations. An outline of permissible activities in the Woodland Caribou Special Management Area can be found in Table 2.3.

3.7 Forestry

Timber harvesting is a major resource use in the Amisk-Atik area. While timber harvesting can be sustainable, natural regeneration does not always occur. Areas that do not regenerate reduce the sustainable timber supply and change the forest structure and composition. Other resource uses and values can be affected.

Besides timber, forest land provides other products such as mushrooms, berries, decorative floral products, and traditional medicines. Commercial interest in these products has occurred recently, indicating potential for growth and diversification in these areas.

Fire, insects, and diseases are natural and necessary elements of forest ecosystems. However, with increased use, the forest must be protected to a certain extent from some of these natural occurrences.

Some past timber harvesting practices have had negative impacts on the forest ecosystem— altered plant communities and wildlife habitats, soil compaction, disruption of nutrient cycling processes, effects on water systems, and harmful effects of improved human access to remote areas.

Clear-cut logging has received great public criticism and concern; however, some forest types (e.g. jack pine) regenerate poorly without a large opening in the tree canopy.

Methods other than clear-cutting cause their own problems, such as increasing the number of roads required to harvest the same landscape. This results in increased forest fragmentation.

Although some wildlife species may benefit from clear-cut harvest, others do not. Harvesting methods must be adapted to local conditions to protect critical habitats and maintain ecosystem biodiversity. A continuous adjustment of methods is necessary to conserve the range of species, habitats, and ecosystems across the landscape. Ecologically sound forest practices that imitate, to the extent possible, natural disturbances such as forest fires, are increasingly being recognized as essential to good forest management.

Not all forest uses are compatible with current harvesting practices. Clear-cut harvesting impacts the aesthetics of an area, negatively affecting other resource uses, such as tourism. Trappers are affected when harvesting close to their traplines alters developed access trails to known wildlife habitat. Applying principles of integrated

resource management, sustainable resource use, and maintaining biodiversity, can reduce environmental impacts and provide economic benefits that are worthwhile.

Recommended Strategy
Should it be necessary to designate personal use areas for fuel wood collection / fire wood, consultation with the partnership formed by Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the selected Industrial Forest Company, SE, and affected communities will identify preferred harvest sites.
There is recognition of the value of special forest products in the Amisk-Atik area. The Forest Company will make every effort to consult with users of special forest products when designing forest harvest plans. Sustainable resource use and allocation of forest resources for new ventures to be encouraged.
The Forest Company will work with cabin owners, outfitters, and other lease holders to mutually set harvest boundaries around leases that will ensure a wind firm boundary and maintain the visual integrity of the lease. Minimum buffer of 90 meters is required.
Additional SE personnel are required to support proper management related to the forest industry expansion in the Amisk-Atik area. Additional staffing to develop forest inventories, provide monitoring and enforcement, and support fish and wildlife management is required. Recommend the staffing of two additional forest technicians and a wildlife biologist.
Require completion of a new long-term forest land inventory in the planning area. The inventory would provide information beyond the requirements for operational forestry.
The allocation process for independent operators should be an open process, based on criteria that recognize traditional volumes, utilization standards, local contractors, performance appraisal, employment opportunities, and the ability to work with the Forest Company. Recommend annual five-year performance appraisals be required to ensure utilization standards are met, and that commitments agreed upon are met. Appropriate performance indicators should be put in place to ensure adherence to the spirit of intent of the proposals. Recommend this allocation process be initiated within the first year of The Forest Company TSL.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Prepare an access management plan with a well-defined public involvement process. All resource users to be consulted.	Within 1 st year of TSL ongoing	The Forest Company

Develop a plan for reducing and eliminating reforestation backlog. The plan should include actions to completely access backlog, and options for renewing areas, with priority given to areas with highest productivity potential.	Activity to begin immediately Target for completion of plan should be five years from the time the Land Use Plan is approved. Not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) forest stands are to be planted or treated within 10 years of Land Use Plan approval.	SE (consultation with the Forest Company)
Continue to work towards improving utilization standards (e.g. improved top utilization and deciduous/ hardwood utilization, etc.) while recognizing other forest values (e.g. brush for small animals). Examples of strategies would be reviewing forest policy, identifying new markets, etc.	ongoing	The Forest Company, SE, independent forest operators
Ensure that adequate data - forest inventory (forest inventory will be per agreement with FMA / SE), fish and wildlife populations, etc. - is collected to promote good management and maintenance of healthy forest resource populations.	immediate/ongoing	The Forest Company, SE
In addition to providing the TLE information to SE, ensure the Forest Company Partnership has current TLE maps and information so their planning is done with accurate information.		PBCN, The Forest Company
Initiate TSL process for assigning volumes to independent forestry operators in the Amisk-Atik area.	immediate	SE

3.7.1 Forest Fire Protection

Expanded use of forests and resources have increased the need for fire suppression and detection for values-at-risk such as human life, wild land fire-fighter safety, communities, timber and economically important resources.

Fire is a natural and necessary element of forest ecosystems. Wildfires contribute to the biodiversity and health of the forest by providing habitats and forage areas for wildlife (animals, insects, plants, bacteria, etc.). Burned forests produce natural ecosystems that are different than ecosystems produced by clear-cut timber harvesting. These burned forests are necessary for the survival of some plants and animals.

For economic reasons, not every fire can be fought with the same intensity. To sustain the overall ecological integrity, some areas must be left to burn. Therefore, a system of fire priority areas is needed, based on ecosystem health and resource and community values. An inventory of forest values and their relative importance will allow integration of fire management strategies in forest resource management. It is important that forest products be valued in relation to their significance to the residents and the overall well-being of the area.

Fire management chiefly assists in land or resource management objectives by three methods:

1. Suppression of wildfire - concentrating protection on values consistent with values-at-risk model and verified through land use plans;
2. Relaxed suppression - allowing for flexibility where called for; and
3. Prescribed Fire - using planned fire as a cost-effective resource management tool.

Efficient fire management delivery must be closely linked with values-at-risk and land use planning initiatives, in order to ensure that suppression and other fire management efforts are consistent with the resource management strategies of these plans. Participation is key to minimizing negative losses, while at the same time, maximizing positive outcomes. Land use objectives must be included in the values-at-risk model to better define where the suppression of fire management efforts should be emphasized.

Prescribed fire is a safe and efficient method that has been used for forest renewal, fire hazard reduction, improvement of wildlife habitat, sanitization of insect and disease infestations, vegetation management in provincial parks, improvement of range conditions, and for maintenance of forest ecosystems. A "prescription" identifies the safe burning conditions required to achieve the desired results for a given location. An ignition and containment plan are exercised with suppression resources in place to implement the burn. Follow-up studies are conducted to measure the success of achieving the resource management objectives.

Limited fire action is the practice of restricting or not applying fire suppression to the fullest extent possible when suppression resources are available to do so. Currently this occurs only when significant forest values are not threatened, usually in the modified protection zone. If land management objectives are defined on the landscape, limited suppression can provide for ecological or resource management benefits. This is not a "let burn" policy, although a decision may be made to allow a fire to burn a larger area than it might have if suppressed. The distinction is that it will be made only when predetermined conditions are met. The key is linking these practices with values-at-risk and the land and resource management objectives.

Basic priorities used to determine where to fight forest fires are as follows: human life, communities, structures and property, infrastructure and economically important resources.

Recommended Strategy
Strong emphasis to be placed on education and fire prevention, with a strong focus on informing resource users on how to prevent forest fires.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Create a fire priorities map for the Amisk-Atik area with ongoing consultation with local people and communities.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.7.2 Insect and Disease Management

The most significant forest insects of concern in the Amisk-Atik area are the Forest Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*), which feeds mainly on trembling aspen, and the spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) which feeds primarily on white spruce. In 2000, SE began a spray program to control spruce budworm in the Amisk-Atik area. Consultation with local communities and the Regional Advisory Board indicated that the people in the plan area are concerned about the potential harm severe outbreaks of these insects will have on the health of the forest. People in the Amisk-Atik area are in favour of control programs to manage these forest insect infestations. Consultation and public information sessions will continue to be vital to the success of the programs.

Dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium* spp.) is one of the more common forest diseases in the Amisk-Atik area. The most conspicuous symptom of dwarf mistletoe infection is the production of witches' brooms (bushy, compacted masses of branches and twigs), particularly on jack pine trees. The damage includes reduced growth, poor wood quality, and poor seed production. Heavily infected young trees will not reach merchantable size, which will impact commercial forest harvesting. The unsightly appearance of infected trees due to brooming is also a serious concern in communities and parks, in addition to increasing the fire hazard. Management of this disease is important in the Amisk-Atik area to ensure a viable forest industry and to minimize fire hazards in areas where little harvesting occurs.

Recommended Strategy

Prior to any infestation control programs, in particular to any spray program, local communities to be consulted and informed.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will consult the RAB and affected communities to determine the most effective means of informing residents of infestation control programs (in particular spraying).	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.8 Resource Development

Throughout the planning process, residents of the Amisk-Atik planning area spoke firmly of their interests to be kept informed and involved in future resource development of the land they call home. Government and industry also confirmed that involvement and advice from people who are impacted by development is a principle of the planning process and the plan.

Recommended Strategy
Wise use of the land base depends upon all users understanding their impacts on the land and on others. This plan requires administrators, residents and developers to be aware of and provide advice regarding proposed developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Encourage industries to plan together in the development of resource lands. This is an ongoing objective with potential benefits to all. The process should involve industry, Government and affected communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Saskatchewan Environment, as the administrator of the land base, will ensure that resource development proposals are reviewed by all interests that may be affected by the development.	immediate /ongoing	SE

All those representing an interest will confirm in writing to SE the types of developments they would expect to review.	immediate/ongoing	Department of Highways and Transportation, Sask Water, Sask Industry and Resources, Saskatchewan Mining Association, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, communities, others
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Many different types of development and associated land dispositions occur in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area. These include, but are not restricted to:

- ! Forestry
- ! Mining
- ! Mineral Exploration
- ! Sand and Gravel Quarrying
- ! Commercial and Industrial Development
- ! Recreational Activities
- ! Residential Development (sub-division)
- ! Cabin Development
- ! Cultural Camps and Historic Site Development
- ! Archaeological Sites
- ! Outfitting Operations
- ! Wild Rice Operations
- ! Fishing Operations
- ! Traditional Resource Use
- ! Road Development
- ! Eco-tourism Development
- ! Agriculture Development
- ! Research Activity
- ! Trapping

Operating guidelines for these activities can be found in Chapter 2 of this document, entitled, *Land Use Management Areas (Zones)*. Additional information regarding the various types of land and resource uses is located in Chapter 3 of the Background Document, *Value and Use of the Land and Resources of the Amisk-Atik Area*.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan zoning framework established three management area (zone) categories: Resource Management Area (Zone), Sensitive Management Areas (Zones), and Protected Areas (Zones). These management areas provide a framework for applying different management techniques and strategies. Varying degrees of protection and opportunity for the development of the planning area's provincial crown land and resources are provided by the management areas.

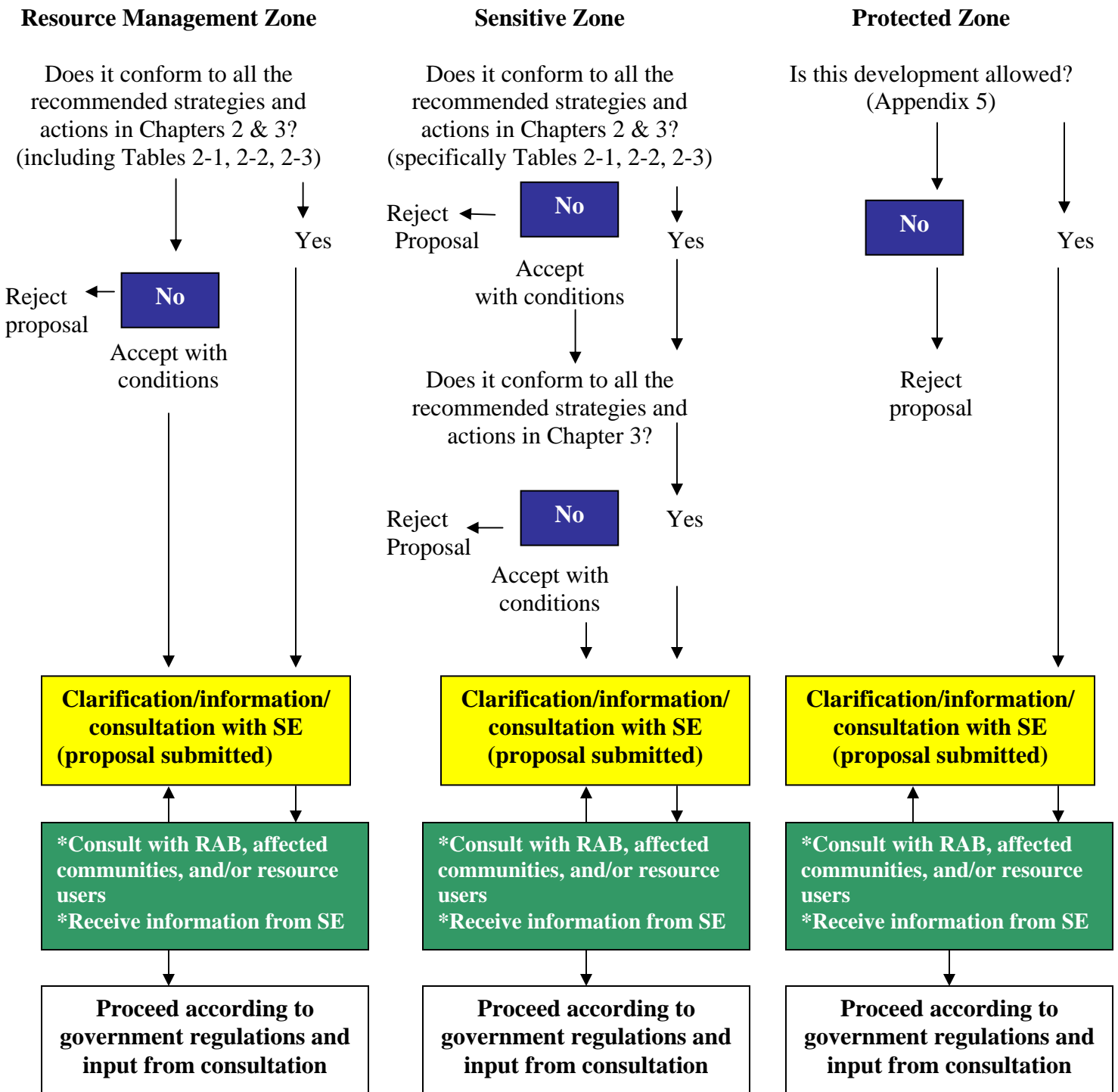
Proposals for new development or improvements to existing development must consider many values and possible impacts of the proposed development when submitting a

proposal to SE for review and approval. The requested development location in the planning area may have zoning restrictions. The availability of a sustainable resource allocation, impacts to other resource users, requirements to consult other resource users, and conforming to applicable Government Acts and Regulations are examples of conditions to be met and included within the development proposal. See figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals.

Additional clarification or information requests should be directed to Saskatchewan Environment Regional Offices. Offices familiar with the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning Area are located in Creighton, La Ronge, Pelican Narrows, and Southend.

Figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals

Where in the planning area is the development located? (see Figure 2-1)



Note: 1. all figure and table references in this decision tree are to the Amisk-Atik plan
 2. blue boxes, negotiation may be required; proposal may be rejected or accepted with conditions.
 3. yellow boxes indicate where SERM becomes officially involved.
 4. green boxes correspond to points where final consultations will occur to meet all requirements.

3.8.1 Mineral Exploration and Mine Development

With the various mining companies operating in northeastern Saskatchewan, mineral exploration and mine development are common activities in the area. Mining is the primary industry in the Amisk-Atik area, and provides numerous economic benefits to the region. Regional Advisory Board discussions centred around exploring and developing in protected and sensitive areas, ensuring impacts are kept to a minimum.

Protection and sustainability of the environment are two main factors to consider before a mining project begins. Minimal impacts to the environment occur during the exploration process. A mine development proposal requires a comprehensive environmental review, usually as a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as determined by SE, which assesses all environmental and societal impacts of the proposed development. Extensive public consultation by the mining company is a component of the EIA. The EIA must be approved by SE and the Saskatchewan Department of Northern Affairs prior to issuance of a surface lease that is necessary for mining to take place (See Chapter 2 for operating guidelines for mining exploration and development in sensitive areas; also see, Appendix 6, *The Mineral Industry in Saskatchewan*.)

3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development

Concerns regarding the policy and process to obtain sand and gravel resource allocations in the Amisk-Atik area were relayed to the Regional Advisory Board. Other issues identified include the requirement for integrated resource management planning, preservation of aesthetics, as well as monitoring and reclamation of existing sand and gravel pits.

Recommended Strategy
Saskatchewan Environment to contact the Department of Highways and Transportation before issuing proponents an exploration permit for sand and gravel. Highways and Transportation will provide SE their level of interest for first right of refusal decisions based on their management plan and requirements for sand and gravel resources in the immediate area. SE to provide the proponent relevant information to assist the proponent in assessing their willingness to proceed to the exploration stage. Highways and Transportation first right of refusal remains in effect.
The Department of Highways and Transportation, where practicable, may cost-share the development and utilization of sand and gravel resources with other potential users. Private contractors, forest companies, and the mining industry are examples of possible integrated resource management partnerships.
Access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the area. New developments require a 200 meter buffer from major access routes. Landscaping may be a viable alternative affecting the required buffer width. SE consideration of special requests may alter the buffer width required.
SE to enforce clear guidelines for the reclamation of sand and gravel pits to ensure proper management of developed sites.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The Department of Highways and Transportation to provide their management plan for sand and gravel resources in the planning area to Saskatchewan Environment.	ongoing	Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation
Monitor and annually document disposition holders (lease and/or permit) who have access to sand and gravel resources in the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE
All existing pits (sand, gravel, quarrying) within the proposed 200 meter sensitive area of the Sturgeon-weir River are to be decommissioned and the sites reclaimed as soon as possible.	immediate	SE, Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation
The gravel pit located at the Sturgeon-weir River, six kilometers down Matheson Road be reclaimed and decommissioned (specific to the 200 meter sensitive area /zone) as soon as possible; the Matheson Road be left accessible for the six kilometers up to the pit and the road closed from that point onward.	immediate	SE

3.8.3 Infrastructure Development

The main elements of public infrastructure required for these developments are highways and other public rights-of-way, electricity, and natural gas. Most citizens of Saskatchewan have long had adequate and well-maintained services in each of these sectors.

Improvements to infrastructure to support resource opportunities that will supply jobs and investment to the planning area are a concern of many northern people.

The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board would like a commitment from the Province that it will do its part to assist in the economic development potential of this area.

Recommended Strategy
Encourage industries to work together in development of infrastructure and sharing of resources. This is an ongoing objective with potential benefits to all. The process should involve industry, Government and affected communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible infrastructure projects planned for the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.8.3.1 Roads

The highway infrastructure in the Amisk-Atik area significantly impacts land use. Highways have functional classifications, which are influenced by average daily traffic, type or purpose of trip, length of trip, level and type of population center served. Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation have standards for upgrading specific roads. These standards consider the highway classification, function and traffic volumes.

In 2000 approximately 25 kilometers of Highway 106 from the Limestone access westerly was resurfaced. In addition the two bridges at Sturgeon-weir River were reconstructed. The main artery of the area, the Hanson Lake Road (Highway #106) is only rated for secondary load limits, with considerably lesser capacity in summer. The ability of mining and forestry companies to move raw materials to processing plants and finished products to market may be influenced by the quality of access available. This includes tourists who are a major segment of expected economic development.

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) has expressed interest in developing improved access to their reserves (e.g. Amisk Lake, Sandy Narrows) in the future. The Regional Advisory board acknowledges that this opportunity should be recognized and given due consideration.

Recommended Strategy
The Sturgeon-weir River bridge at Leaf Rapids was recently upgraded to allow for the passage of fully loaded "B-train" tractor trailer units on a year-round basis. All other bridges in the area should continue to be monitored and upgraded where necessary. Enough span and clearance over the river to ensure the safe passage of boats and canoes should be provided on recognized navigable rivers.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Study of the road network and road access needs in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning area by the Northeast Transportation Committee is ongoing. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board request the minutes of the meetings be forwarded to them care of: Land Use Planner, Amisk-Atik IFLUP, Sustainable Land Management, SE, Box 3003 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, SK.	immediate/ongoing	Saskatchewan Dept. Of Highways and Transportation.
Work together to develop a plan to control nuisance beavers and minimize the impact on roads	immediate/ongoing	The Forest Company, SE, Department of Highways and Transportation, Mining Association, Trappers Association, and Wildlife Association

3.8.3.2 Electrical Services

In northern Saskatchewan the reliability of the electrical system is affected by the length of the high power voltage line that supplies the communities. Due to the length of the lines and changing loads, voltage levels can vary greatly. Customers in the area are serviced from district offices. Service is often delayed due to the distances involved.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SaskPower development plans to meet the existing and projected future need of electrical services for industry, expanding towns and businesses in the Amisk-Atik planning area, should be provided to the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board and local communities upon their request.	ongoing	SaskPower

3.8.3.3 Other Infrastructure Issues

Infrastructure items of less immediate importance include rail line access and modern all-weather air service. The closest such airports are at Baker's Narrows, Manitoba, (30 km east of Flin Flon) and at La Ronge. Air service is becoming increasingly important in medical evacuation, the tourism industry and economic development. Currently there is limited accessibility by air to Southend and Kinoosao.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government to investigate where infrastructure development may be needed (e.g. regional air service facilities, specifically the airport at Pelican Narrows, and the feasibility of this becoming a regional fire-fighting tanker base / areas suitable for future recreational subdivision development).	Initial discussion 2002/2003 ongoing	SE

3.8.4 Recreational Cabin Development

For the past 20 years, the recreational leasing policy has not allowed the issuing of recreational leases in Zone A. Zone A is an area of the province that covers much of Saskatchewan's commercial forest from Manitoba to Alberta. Many residents from Creighton and Denare Beach would like the opportunity to apply for new recreational leases. These residents developed a proposal which would allow for new leases within Fur Conservation Area N-66 of the planning area. The new recreation leases to be developed fall within three categories; 1) Recreation leases within developed subdivisions, 2) remote recreation leases adjacent to lake shorelines, and 3) remote wilderness recreation leases that may not be adjacent to lake shorelines. The proposal is specific to Creighton and Denare Beach, as they are the only communities in the planning area that have voiced an interest in obtaining remote recreational cabin leases. Individuals from outside the planning area have also expressed limited interest in obtaining recreational leases in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area.

Essentially two viewpoints were raised by the residents within the Creighton and Denare Beach area regarding this proposed policy. The residents who are interested in remote recreational cabin leases are seeking the peace and tranquility that the cabin would provide. Some residents have expressed concerns about the impacts these new leases would have on the environment and the fishery. A record of the discussions surrounding development of a proposed policy is found in Appendix 8.

The Creighton and Denare Beach Local Advisory Board were unable to come to consensus on the strategy. The Regional Advisory Board felt a solution may be possible and challenged Saskatchewan Environment to develop a strategy that considers all viewpoints, minimizes impacts to resources and resource users, yet provides the opportunity for recreational lease development (see Appendix 7: Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines).

Recommended Strategy
The Zone A freeze on recreational lease development, in effect for Fur Conservation Area N-66, be lifted to allow for planned and orderly recreation lease development.
The proposed policy to allow recreational cabin lease development in the N-66 trapping block (see Appendix 7) be submitted for SE consideration and approval. The policy and associated guidelines will direct planned and orderly development of new recreational leases in Fur Conservation Area N-66.
SE to investigate the feasibility of expanding the number of recreation leases available at existing recreation sub-divisions at Jan Lake and Tyrrell Lake. SE will further investigate and inventory possible locations for development of recreation sub-divisions within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area.
SE to ensure adequate consultation with affected resource users minimizes impacts and considers all values prior to the selection of specific site locations for remote recreation lease development. The Regional Land Manager will ensure applicants meet lease guideline requirements and approve the application for lease issuance.
SE to develop a priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans. A minimum of two lake management plans to be completed / initiated annually (See fisheries management - section 3.5). Establishment of the priority list should give consideration of the requirement to assess and establish sustainable fish allocation levels for lakes within Fur Conservation Area N-66. Lakes where SE assesses the fishery fully allocated may not be available for recreation lease development.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE to ensure the proponent consults with all affected disposition holders (trappers, cabin owners, FMA proponent, ect.) and First Nations PBCN community (Denare Beach) prior to approving the recreation lease. SE to mediate a resolution to any concerns.	immediate/ongoing	SE
SE to inventory possible areas for the development of recreational sub-divisions and recreational lease sites that may or may not be adjacent to lakes. Existing access only, no new access allowed. Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. Proponent may request a specific site in the approved development area, subject to SE review and approval.	immediate/ongoing.	SE

SE to ensure proponents that submit a request to develop a recreation sub-division or remote recreation lease are informed regarding process and requirements to proceed.	immediate/ongoing.	SE
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3.8.5 Wild Rice Development

The Regional Advisory Board recognizes that the wild rice industry is important to the economy of the Amisk-Atik planning area. The number of producers has grown. Approximately 66 producers in the eastern region produced sales totaling \$553,878.00 in 1999. The eastern region produced 17% of total provincial sales in 1999.

In 1998 Saskatchewan produced 76% of Canada's wild rice crop. In 1999 Saskatchewan production increased to 80% of Canada's total crop. Saskatchewan's 10-year average for Canadian production is 63%.

Wild rice provides other benefits in addition to rice, such as fish habitat. The Regional Advisory Board discussions identified the need for scientific studies that would assess possible impacts. Research studies to identify possible short-term and long-term impacts and benefits specific to the growing of wild rice in the planning area should be initiated. The requirement for consultation with resource users affected or impacted by new introductions of wild rice was also identified. (See Chapter 2 for operating guidelines for wild rice activities.)

Recommended Strategy
Trappers to be included in the consultation requirement section of the wild rice lease policy. It should be mandatory that trappers be consulted prior to introduction of wild rice in their fur blocks.
Wild rice policy and procedures, particular to the cancellation of licences or unpaid licences, are to be actively implemented and enforced by SE.
Wild rice introductions should be approached as one would any other introduction of a plant species. The decision to introduce wild rice into lakes should reflect the potential benefits to local economies, but consider potential impacts to lake ecosystems and other resource users through consultation prior to wild rice introductions.
A detailed SE study is needed to assess the potential biological and social impacts that the introduction of wild rice might have on aquatic ecosystems. The study should include the possible displacement of sport and commercial fisheries, recreational use of lakes, water quality, possible detrimental impacts to fish habitat, wildlife and changes in fish communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Investigate the requirement to initiate detailed studies to assess possible impacts to lake ecosystems resultant from growing wild rice. Research should encompass and consider the growing of wild rice over short-term and long-term time frames.	2002/2003	SE SAF

3.8.6 Agriculture Development

Agricultural development and activity is limited in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Agriculture developments are encouraged as long as they do not negatively impact the environment or conflict with established management areas in the planning area.

Recommended guidelines suggest no introduction of exotic species and the Regional Advisory Board acknowledges that this is an important issue. Through the review of comprehensive development plans and public consultation, the RAB is confident economic development in agriculture will be feasible. (See Section 3.5.8 - Land Dispositions in Background Document.)

Recommended Strategy
Agriculture leases should be allowed subject to review of a comprehensive development plan and consultation with affected resource users.
Agriculture leases must be monitored to ensure conditions of the lease are met, the land is used for its intended purpose, and development does not negatively impact the environment.

3.8.7 Hydro Electric Development

Mr. Llewellyn C. Matthews, Senior Environmental Advisor for SaskPower, attended Regional board meetings and made presentations to the Regional Advisory Board regarding two areas for special consideration. Special consideration was requested for the existing Reindeer Lake flood zone and for potential hydro development areas on the Churchill and Reindeer Rivers. The areas identified for special consideration were reviewed by the Regional Advisory Board.

Area 1: Reindeer Lake Flood Zone

SaskPower requested the Regional Advisory Board to not allow development of new structures below elevation 338.0 meters above sea level (ASL) on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake. This area is the flood zone required for the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The SaskPower request would exclude developments from the area that may be subject to flood damage by the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The request makes explicit existing rights held by SaskPower. Any new development within the flood zone, such as docks, must be at the builders own risk, and neither the Government or SaskPower have any liability associated with damage due to fluctuating water levels. Developments required by resource users for activities involving the shoreline of Reindeer Lake can still occur adjacent to the flood zone. Granting the request would provide direction for a construction zone and reduce conflict and future requests for liability. This request for special consideration does not conflict with the zoning framework established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Recommended Strategy
New developments (e.g.,that require issuance of a lease) below elevation 338.0 meters ASL on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake will not be approved by SE. This area is defined as the flood zone required for the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The flood zone is identified as land below elevation 338.0 meters ASL on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake.

Area 2: Potential Hydro Development Areas on the Churchill and Reindeer Rivers.

SaskPower requested the Regional Advisory Board consider the possible impacts of approved developments to maintaining the option for future hydro development within an area identified by SaskPower. The area is identified as the full supply line (FSL) which delineates the maximum land area that could be flooded from a number of hydro development options in an area of high potential along the Churchill River. This FSL area was identified by SaskPower as an area with significant economic potential to produce hydro electricity for the Province of Saskatchewan. SaskPower requested that the Regional Advisory Board consider restricting developments in the FSL area to reduce possible compensation requirements and protect the provincial interest for hydro development if ever required and approved in the area. SaskPower supplied maps of

the FSL area (see figure 3-3). It should be recognized that the boundaries have been developed by interpretation of existing maps and therefore are approximate. The FSL area identified by SaskPower falls within a sensitive management area established by the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board.

SaskPower requested that the following developments not be permitted in the designated FSL area;

1. Permanent road bridges over the Churchill and Reindeer rivers. Southend Reindeer excluded;
2. Mining and mining infrastructure;
3. Industrial development such as pulp mills and saw mills;
4. Residential sub-divisions;
5. Permanent tourism and recreation infrastructure with a total replacement value greater than \$250,000;
6. Other permanent infrastructure, commercial or private, with a replacement value greater than \$250,000;
7. Crown land within the designated area not be sold.

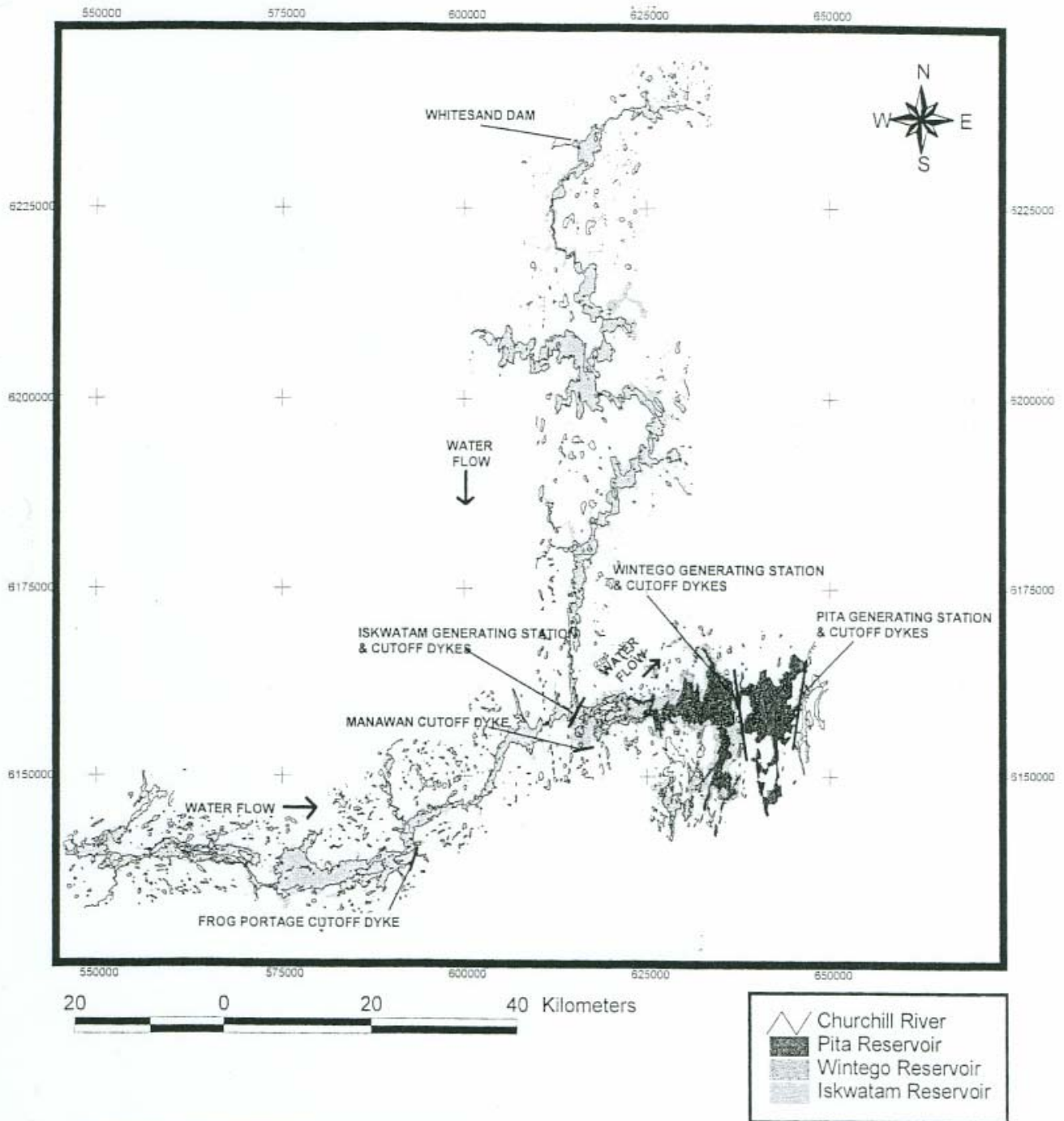
SaskPower stated they did not want to unreasonably restrict economic development in the area and; therefore do not object to other land use activities not listed above. It was also mentioned that if hydro development did proceed in the future, any permitted development in existence at the time would have to be compensated by the proponent.

The Regional Advisory Board felt the SaskPower request could impede economic development. The area requested for special consideration was identified as being within a sensitive management area proposed by the zoning framework for the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Sensitive areas were established to provide protection to special areas deemed sensitive to disturbance, and yet provide development opportunities for northern people. The Regional Advisory Board concluded through consultation that hydro electric development that would require development of new dams on the Churchill River was not presently desired by people in the planning area. It should be noted that Peter Ballantyne Cree nation has investigated hydro development as an economic development opportunity. It is also noted possible future projects would require an environmental assessment and public consultation process, and that possible future projects could provide significant local benefits. SaskPower acknowledged that any future hydro development would require local support before it could proceed. It was also noted there are no immediate hydro development plans by SaskPower. SaskPower's primary responsibility related to their request is to protect an area that has high potential for hydro development to meet the possible long term provincial electricity needs. The Regional Advisory Board felt the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommended zoning framework should not be altered to protect the potential for hydro electric development that may never be developed. The Regional Advisory Board recognizes that future hydro electric projects

may provide economic benefits for the people in the planning area. Future proposals should be given due consideration.

Recommended Strategy
At this time development of new hydro-electric dams on the Churchill River are not supported by the majority of people in the planning area. Development of additional electricity from improvements to existing infrastructure at Whitesand Dam and/or Island Falls or new projects that would not flood additional land should be investigated as important economic opportunities for the people in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Protecting the potential for hydro development by restricting other types of development in the SaskPower requested full supply line area may limit economic development opportunity for people in the planning area. The Regional Advisory Board proposes the Churchill River corridor be a sensitive management area and subject to defined operating guidelines approved within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.
Future consideration of development plans may include new hydro electric dam development proposals. Proposals should be reviewed on their own merit. All proposals for major development in the planning area must recognize and include a public consultation and involvement process. Public opinion should receive fair and deliberate consideration. Saskatchewan Environment to ensure existing Government Acts and Regulations for environmental assessment are applied and enforced.
The Churchill, Reindeer, Sturgeon-weir and other major rivers in the Amisk-Atik planning area are highly valued and utilized. Provincial boundaries, land use planning areas, multiple Government jurisdictions all impact management of these important watersheds. Ongoing consultation between Governments and all affected resource users should supplement Integrated Forest Land Use Plans to develop a comprehensive development strategy that would consider protection and resource development requirements involving these major river systems.

**FIGURE 3-3
CHURCHILL RIVER – POTENTIAL HYDRO
DEVELOPMENT SITES**



Take line contours and reservoir full supply levels interpolated from 1:50000 NTS map sheet data. Be aware of the accuracy limitations that this implies.

3.9 Recreation

The Amisk-Atik plan area provides unlimited opportunity for many forms of outdoor recreation. Recreational hunting and fishing, sightseeing, canoeing, boating, snowmobiling, camping and picnicking are a few of the activities that occur in the planning area. Existing Government Acts and regulations control and direct sustainable resource use, and protection of the environment for these activities.

Government and the tourism industry supply services and infrastructure enhancing recreational opportunity. The pursuit of recreational activities provides economic benefits to the tourism industry and the overall economy of the planning area. The Regional Advisory Board developed recommendations for two activities, camping and snowmobiling.

3.9.1 Camping

Recommended Strategy
Electrified campsites should be established at the existing recreation sites located at Sawmill Bay, Denare Beach, Sturgeon-weir, Jan Lake, and Limestone Point. Upgraded water supply systems should also be established for these sites.
Wherever possible, walking trails should be established and maintained at recreation sites (e.g. Limestone crevasses, Limestone Point, and Meridian Creek).
SE to upgrade and maintain existing recreation sites, boat launches, and docks in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Leaf Rapids is a popular, heavily utilized recreation site. The capability for additional sites exists. The number of sites should be expanded, based on optimizing the space that is available.
Establish trailer sewage dump sites at all Government campgrounds and recreation sites.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Initiate detailed studies, and prepare and implement a Recreation Site Upgrade and Development Strategy. Strategy should set priorities for sites to be improved or upgraded. A minimum of one site per year should be upgraded.	2002/2003	SE
A map of currently utilized back country campsites in the planning area to be developed to provide the public with information and locations for wilderness camping opportunities.	2002/2003	SE
SE to monitor recreational use and activity along the Sturgeon-weir River to determine recreation needs (designating campsites, etc.), or if there is a need to limit the number of people in the area.	ongoing observation / consultation with resource users	SE

3.9.2 Snowmobiling

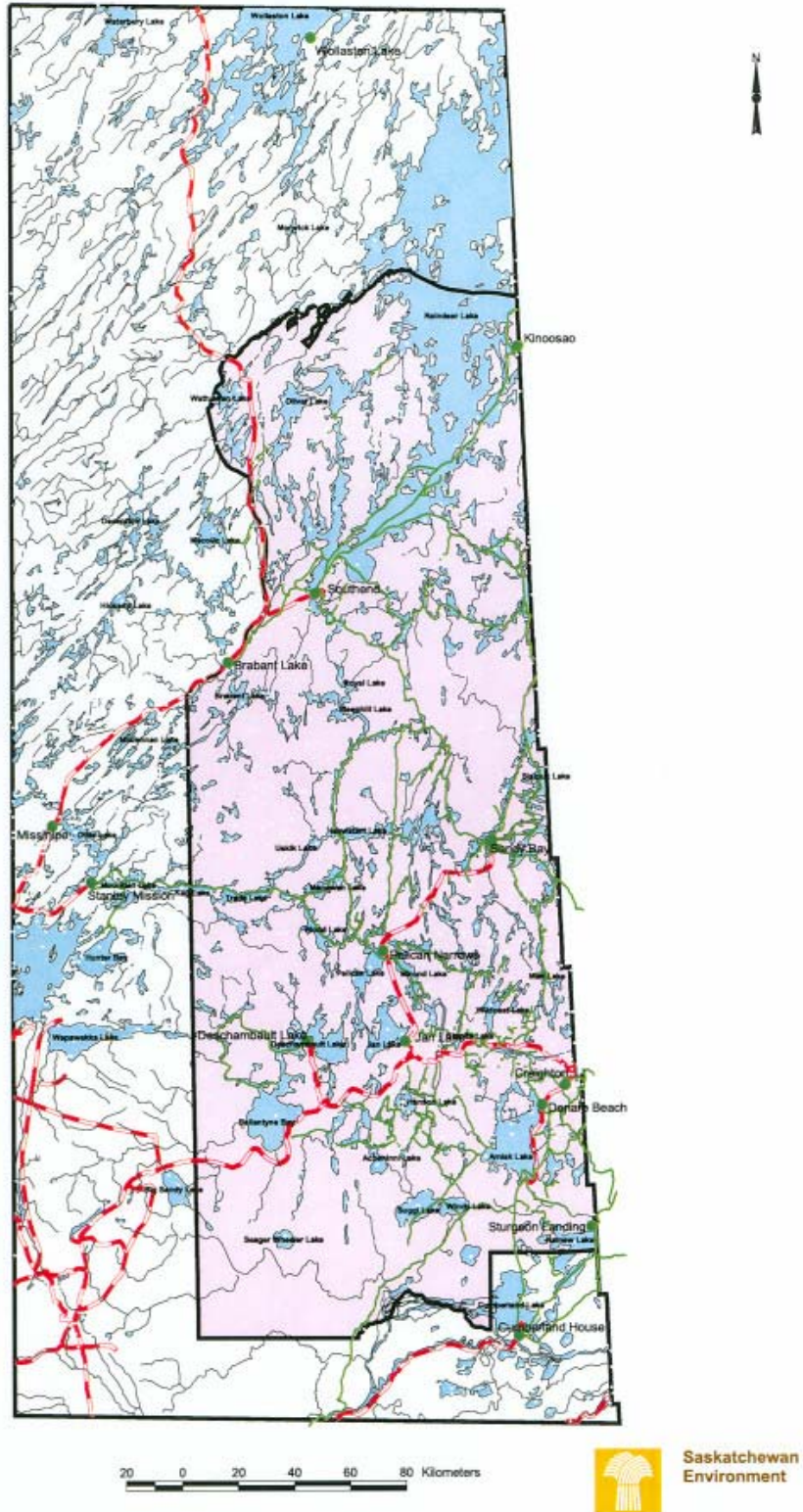
The Regional Advisory Board recognize that snowmobiling is a popular and increasing outdoor recreational activity that provides economic benefits to businesses in the planning area. Impacts to other resource users, promoting safety through education, and the requirement for consultation were issues the RAB considered.

Recommended Strategy
Any future development of snowmobile trails must include a comprehensive development plan, consultation with all affected resource users, and give due consideration to environmental concerns that ensure protection of the environment. Potential impacts to be considered on a site-specific basis.
Snowmobile clubs must be consulted by mining and forest companies where their activities will impact recognized trail systems. Consultation would include formal invitations to forest harvest plan review meetings and providing schedules for planned hauling activity by mining and forest companies. See Figure 3-4, <i>Snowmobile Trails in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area</i> .
Snowmobile clubs to inform and provide signs to trappers which indicate trap line locations, and encourage the public to use designated trails and groomed trail systems to reduce impacts to trapping operations.

SE to investigate development of a signed snowmobile trail to connect the communities of Southend, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, Jan Lake and Deschambault Lake to established southern snowmobile trail systems. Signing of the traditional travel routes would create opportunities for tourism. Consultation with affected resource users and communities is required.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Reduce impacts from snowmobiling activity to resource users by providing information and educating the public. Promote and ensure safety through consultation processes.	present/ongoing	Mining Industry Forest Industry Snowmobile Clubs Trapping Association SE

**FIGURE 3-4
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS IN THE AMISK-ATIK
PLANNING AREA**



3.10 Tourism

The tourism industry in the Amisk-Atik planning area is an important component of the area's economy. The industry provides economic benefits to Government, local businesses, and individuals. The industry is a major employer with the potential for expansion and new development. It is important not only to maintain, but to increase the economic benefits generated by the tourism industry. The industry is based on consumptive and non-consumptive use of the natural resources of the planning area. Consumptive resource use is based on sustainable resource allocation, integrated resource management, and protection of the environment.

The Regional Advisory Board identified increased promotion, reassessment of current resource allocations, and financial support by Government as key areas requiring action.

Recommended Strategy
The Saskatchewan Government should extensively promote northern Saskatchewan as a tourist destination; northern Saskatchewan is naturally beautiful, unique, and should be promoted as such for its excellent fishing, hunting, eco-tourism, recreational opportunities and services.
Aboriginal people need to play a greater role in the tourism industry. Whenever possible Government should encourage aboriginal participation and ownership by providing mechanisms including financial support, making resource allocations available, and providing grants for promotion of northern tourist businesses.
Establish tourist information booths at strategic locations in the planning area, to provide information related to available services for recreation, and promote tourism for the planning area.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The current resource allocation system, in particular fish resource allocation for lakes, needs to be reassessed to allow opportunities for new tourism operations; first opportunity and priority should be given to Aboriginal people (attention should be directed to the unused portion currently allocated to day-use lakes and allocations available to the tourism industry).	immediate	SE
Saskatchewan Environment to encourage agencies responsible for tourism to extensively promote tourism in Northeast Saskatchewan, particularly recreation facilities and services available in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Promotional material to be made available to the public at strategic locations in the planning area.	2002/2003	SE,
Complete the development of operating guidelines, allowed and not allowed activities for Eco-tourism operations.	2002/2003	SE

3.11 Economic Development

It is essential to Amisk-Atik residents that economic development opportunities benefit those living within the area. At present, there are limited employment prospects available in northeastern Saskatchewan. With the new mining exploration and forestry developments in the Amisk-Atik area, it is felt that people native to the region should be given priority for employment whenever possible. It is also important that revenue generated from industrial activity be redistributed locally.

Many Aboriginal people depend on the forest for traditional uses such as hunting, trapping, fishing, berry-picking, and gathering medicinal plants. The forest and its resources also have potential as the basis for economic development that could benefit both Aboriginal and northern communities where unemployment levels are high. While Aboriginal communities want to develop new business ventures and increase job opportunities, they also want to protect traditional lifestyles.

Recommended Strategy
Enhanced, efficient, and effective use of royalties and penalties generated in Amisk-Atik should be used to encourage social and economic development in the planning area.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government must outline, document, and communicate the Saskatchewan government's forest economic development vision/strategy for the North, and communities must clearly express their vision for the future to Government.	immediate/ongoing	SE
New developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area be encouraged to hire local residents for at least 50% of the new hires.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.12 Enforcement

The Amisk-Atik land use planning area covers approximately 4.4 million hectares of forest land. Much of the area is remote. Providing services to the public, monitoring and enforcement of allowed and not allowed activities on the land and water are difficult. The economy of the planning area is dependent on sustainable resource use and

protection of the environment. Enforcement of Government Acts and Regulations helps to ensure resource use is sustainable (See Appendix 9 - Provincial and Federal Legislation and Appendix 10 - Provincial and Federal Related Policies and Guidelines). The implications of major economic development projects in forestry, mining and exploration, will increase requirements for monitoring, enforcement, and consultation with affected resource users.

The Regional Advisory Board recommends that additional staffing in the planning area be hired to support the increased demands for enforcement and resource management.

Recommended Strategy
Two additional Conservation Officer positions be created for each of the communities of Creighton, Pelican Narrows, Deschambault, Sandy Bay, Southend Reindeer, and Cumberland House. Staffing the new positions to be based on employment equity so that a minimum of fifty percent are filled by local and/or aboriginal people. Government effort is recommended to provide northern and/or aboriginal people opportunity to access education and training to become Conservation Officers.
SE offices be established in Sandy Bay and Deschambault Lake. The offices to be permanently staffed, hiring based on employment equity so that fifty percent are local and/or aboriginal people.
A seasonal conservation officer and support staff be provided and maintained at the Jan Lake SE facilities.
Numerous leases of crown land occur in the planning area. Recommend that SE review and enforce the terms and conditions of crown land leases, commercial leases in particular. Enforcement of conditions on the leases should be strictly enforced.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE to investigate the feasibility of improving enforcement and public service capabilities in northern communities in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Establishing new SE offices and/or hiring additional staff should be considered. At a minimum, regularly scheduling Conservation Officer days in communities is recommended.	immediate/ongoing	SE

Review the terms and conditions applied to commercial leases and the conversion of lease policy to ensure flexibility, protection and enforcement capability for the management of crown lands.	Immediate/ongoing	SE
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3.13 Education

Sustainable resource management is essential to ensuring a healthy forest environment for future generations. Educating young people in the importance of resource management is critical to preserving the numerous resources in the Amisk-Atik area. Forestry should be a major component in local school curriculums so that children understand the significance of forestry development to the region.

The desire to train for and work in careers that lend themselves to the natural surroundings of the area is apparent. There is a recognized need to facilitate this by having resource management education readily available in local training facilities. In addition, on-the-job training is a valuable way to gain work experience. Public education through workshops and tours will be significant to ensuring a level of comfort and understanding about forestry development in the Amisk-Atik area.

Aboriginal traditional knowledge is valuable information to share and include in the education system. Providing an opportunity for elder knowledge to be incorporated into education programs (e.g. cultural camps) will help to encourage an appreciation for the forest and its many resources.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities (e.g., public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).	immediate/ongoing	SE The Forest Company
Incorporate resource management (e.g. Focus on Forests, Project Wet, Project Wild) and forestry education into the school curriculum in Saskatchewan, particularly in the Amisk-Atik planning area.	immediate/ongoing	Department of Education PBCN SE

3.14 Compensation

Compensation was an issue that was discussed frequently during the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. When a person perceives that his or her business or lifestyle has been impacted due to a development or use of the resources around them, there is an expectation of compensation, however, it was recognized that compensation must be based on a legal requirement. It must be recognized that we all share the resources of this land, and it is important to understand the significance of establishing a level of trust and respect among different resource users.

Most conflicts can be avoided by consulting with other users before proceeding with a development project. Every effort should be made to minimize impacts on other users, and for the parties involved to come to agreement. Where there is a legal requirement, compensation will be negotiated between the parties involved. Compensation may take the form of training, jobs, replacement of equipment or damaged property, or money.

The Regional Advisory board strongly expressed that the Minister ensure all issues are resolved prior to approving development projects.

Recommended Strategy
Recognition that all the resource users in the Amisk-Atik area are sharing the resource, and governments to encourage proponents and local people to work together with government to minimize impacts on each other. Legal claims for compensation to impacted resource users due to development should be negotiated between involved parties.
Government to ensure that where major economic development projects have the potential to impact resource users, individuals, or communities in the Amisk-Atik, that the impacts are both identified and mitigation negotiated by the proponent and the impacted parties.
Major economic development projects which have the potential to impact individuals in the Amisk-Atik area will be required to recognize those impacts; legal claims for compensation to be negotiated between parties involved.

3.15 Consultation

During development of this plan, the people living and working in the Amisk-Atik area identified their desires to be involved in resource management decision-making. Recognizing that SE has the mandate to manage human impacts on the environment and natural resources, the public can play a vital role in these processes by becoming involved.

Consultation with the public in the Amisk-Atik area is critical to ensuring the success of natural resource development projects. People living in the area want to be aware of what is happening around them. The majority of conflicts that occur arise as a result of a lack of communication and information exchange between SE, the proponents, and

the public. It is recognized that most problems can be resolved through consultation in the planning stage of a project, before a development is approved.

Strategies aim at improving consultation with the public, particularly in the initial review stages of development plans. It is noted that much of the consultation will be between the proponent and potentially affected resource users, often facilitated by SE.

Recommended Strategy		
Consultation with local communities on proposed activities within the Amisk-Atik is required (see Figure 2-3), and if conflicts are not resolved SE may establish a mediation process.		
Local advisory/co-management boards to remain in effect for each community in the Amisk-Atik area, and any new developments should be discussed with affected community boards prior to approval. Any large developments that will affect the Amisk-Atik area will require a more extensive review by more community boards through public meetings.		
SE to protect traditional resource use and cultural values by meeting with communities and bands to discuss resource management plans, and requiring other resource users to meet with communities and bands to discuss resource use plans.		
Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Provide contact information(contact list for trappers and disposition holders) to mining companies at the exploration permit stage to enable the required consultation: the companies will then report to SE on their consultation progress and make them aware of who has been contacted, if there are conflicts or concerns, and whether mediation is necessary.	Immediate /ongoing	SE
Require information from proponents (forestry, mining, ect.) that will inform the public of anticipated socio-economic factors in their proposals (numbers of jobs, time lines, wages, training packages/programs, ect.).	Immediate / ongoing	SE
SE (Shield EcoRegion Forestry staff) to develop and implement a consultation policy for commercial forest activities in the Amisk-Atik allowing the public opportunities to comment on forest operating plans. In particular, ensuring that other resource users in the immediate area have the opportunity to become involved during the review stage of the plans.	Immediate /ongoing	SE

3.16 Monitoring

The forest ecosystem is constantly changing, both from natural processes and from human activities. Some processes and activities and their effects on the ecosystem can be predicted, but many cannot. In light of this, a SE ecosystem health monitoring program and the Forest Management Effects Monitoring program have both been initiated. People in the Amisk-Atik area are concerned about the health of their environment, and have a desire to be involved in these government processes.

Recommended Strategy
The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board, co-management boards and local leadership should be kept informed of SE ecosystem health monitoring results on an annual basis.
Individuals and/or co-management boards may raise concerns about the environment and implementation of the Amisk-Atik land use plan. SE to address public concerns.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government to encourage the development of training programs for Amisk-Atik people to understand government and industry environmental monitoring programs and to enable people to participate.	Immediate /ongoing	SE Industry
SE to work with local communities and resource users to gather information on wildlife populations, and monitor health and movement of wildlife populations.	Immediate /ongoing	SE
Due to increased industrial activity in the Amisk-Atik area, SE, PBCN, The Forest Company, and local communities to work together to ensure agreement from all resource users.	When initiated / ongoing	SE PBCN Industry

3.17 Integration of Planning Processes

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest land Use Plan Area is situated in Northeastern Saskatchewan. It is bordered to the east by the Saskatchewan-Manitoba provincial border, to the south by the Pasquia-Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the North by the Athabasca Land Use Plan and to the west by the North Central Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. The North Central and Athabasca plans are in the early stages of development.

Opportunity to provide input to the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan was provided to the general public and the Local and Regional Advisory Boards involved in the development and implementation of the bordering land use plans. Public and technical review of the Amisk-Atik IFLUP Draft Plan provided the public and Government the opportunity for review and commentary.

Many of the recommendations from the Pasquia-Porcupine plan were taken into consideration in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. Changes to the Amisk-Atik IFLUP Draft Plan were required as the result of consultation with the general public and local representatives developing bordering land use plans. Ongoing consultation will promote the integration of planning processes in adjacent areas.

Completed land use plans, once approved by the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment, are living documents. Opportunity to annually evaluate and revise the land use plan will promote ongoing integration and provide the opportunity for consensus on issues affecting jurisdictions in and adjacent to the planning area. A formal review of the Land Use Plan by government, the public, and The Regional Advisory Board is required every 5 years.

Recommended Strategy
SE will ensure that the Athabasca Land Use Plan process will consult the communities of Kinoosao and Southend to provide them the opportunity to assist and mutually develop management strategies for their adjacent lands and all of the water and lands enclosed by Reindeer Lake. Until the Athabasca Land Use Plan is approved, the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan management strategies should be considered and applied to all of Reindeer Lake.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND TIMELINES

The Amisk-Atik Regional and Local Advisory Boards recommended actions have been grouped into four categories. Recommended Actions were grouped into categories by assessing implementation factors, specifically time frame and budgetary requirements.

Category 1: Recommended actions can be implemented immediately. Existing budgets and staff can accommodate Regional Advisory Board priorities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
<p>1.7 Relationship to Other LUP's SE will continue to consult with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Chief and Council, and other affected resource users in efforts to resolve requested changes to the Amisk-Atik planning area.</p>	Immediate / ongoing	SE all affected resource users
<p>3.1 Environmental Protection Qualified personnel establish and maintain a list of known contaminated sites in the plan area. Clean up of the contaminated sites to be prioritized. SE to enforce clean up by the responsible party. Contaminated sites to be cleaned up within one year of their occurrence.</p>	immediate/or within one year of their occurrence	party responsible for the pollution or SE
<p>3.1 Environmental Protection SE to consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible projects planned for the area.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
<p>3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Develop a priority list of water bodies to be monitored, based on their proximity to planned active projects. Consideration of the level of use by local communities and affected resource users is required.</p>	2002 / 2003	SE Sask Water Corp

<p>3.1.2.2 Stream Management During the review of major development proposals that include stream crossings, SE will provide the general public an opportunity to provide comments.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
<p>3.1.2.2 Stream Management All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects; monitored and enforced.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
<p>3.1.3 Solid Waste Management Information and education on requirements to develop and maintain waste disposal sites will be available at SE offices.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.1.5 Vegetation Control Comprehensive development plans for the application of herbicide must ensure that water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitat areas are identified and protected.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
<p>3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management SE review of proposed harvest operation plans for the Amisk-Atik planning area will give due consideration to maintaining the biological and ecological diversity of forest ecosystems.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
<p>3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management As it is completed, the Saskatchewan Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan August 2000, should be incorporated and applied to management of the Amisk-Atik plan area.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

<p>3.5 Fisheries Management Establish and maintain co-management boards for established regions in the Amisk-Atik plan area (may be beneficial to utilize Local Community Advisory Boards developed by the land use planning process).</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Northern Affairs Industry</p>
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management Educate the public regarding the legal purchase of fish from commercial fishermen. The commercial fisher must provide the purchaser a receipt with information required.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management Finalize and establish fish spawn closures initiated through the Amisk-Atik land use plan process. Consultation with the public, affected resource users, and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation to be verified. Locations of existing and proposed fish spawn closures can be obtained from local SE offices.</p>	<p>2002 / 2003 angling season ongoing consultation may initiate additional closures</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.6 Wildlife Management Restrict access to known moose and caribou calving islands in lakes and muskegs.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Proponent</p>
<p>3.6 Wildlife Management Establish buffer zones free of development around known active raptor nest locations, with particular attention to bald eagles and osprey; around nesting colonies of colonial waterfowl species such as great blue heron, gull and tern species, double crested cormorants, pelicans; and known wolf and coyote den locations.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Proponent</p>
<p>3.6 Wildlife Management Identify endangered species that occur in the planning area and follow guidelines established in recovery plans for those species.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.6 Wildlife Management Follow guidelines established by SE for protecting rare and endangered species of plants and animals.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>

<p>3.6 Wildlife Management Follow guidelines for road and trail construction that cause the least disturbance to wildlife.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.6.1 Road Corridor Game Preserves Development plans for new roads (including game corridor restrictions) should be submitted to the RAB at the same time they are submitted to government for regulatory approvals.</p>	<p>Immediate / ongoing</p>	<p>SE Proponent</p>
<p>3.7 Forestry Continue to work towards improving utilization standards (e.g. improved top utilization and deciduous / hardwood utilization, etc.) while recognizing other forest values (e.g. brush for small animals). Examples of strategies would be reviewing forest policy, identifying new markets, etc.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>The Forest Company SE Independent Forest Operators</p>
<p>3.7 Forestry In addition to providing the TLE information to SE, ensure the Forest Company Partnership has current TLE maps and information so their planning is done with accurate information.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>PBCN The Forest Company</p>
<p>3.7 Forestry Initiate TSL process for assigning volumes to independent forestry operators in the Amisk-Atik area.</p>	<p>Immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.7.1 Forest Fire Protection Create a fire priorities map for the Amisk-Atik area with ongoing consultation with local people and communities.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.7.2 Insect and Disease Management SE will consult the RAB and affected communities to determine the most effective means of informing residents of infestation control programs (in particular, spraying).</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Proponent</p>

<p>3.8 Resource Development Saskatchewan Environment, as the administrator of the land base, will ensure the resource development proposals are reviewed by all interests that may be affected by the development.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.8 Resource Development All those representing an interest will confirm in writing to SE the types of developments they would expect to review.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development Monitor and annually document who controls access to sand and gravel resources in the planning area.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development All existing pits (sand, gravel, quarrying) within the proposed 200 meter sensitive area / zone of the Sturgeon-weir River are to be decommissioned and the sites reclaimed as soon as possible.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation</p>
<p>3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development The gravel pit located at the Sturgeon-weir River, six kilometers down Matheson Road, be reclaimed and decommissioned (specific to the 200 meter sensitive area / zone) as soon as possible; the Matheson Road be left accessible for the six kilometers up to the pit and the road closed from that point onward.</p>	<p>immediate</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.8.3 Infrastructure Development SE will consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible infrastructure projects planned for the planning area.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.8.3.1 Roads Work together to develop a plan to control nuisance beavers and minimize the impact on roads.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>The Forest Company, SE, Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation, Mining Association, Trappers Association, and Wildlife Association</p>

<p>3.8.3.2 Electrical Services SaskPower development plans to meet the existing and projected future need of electrical services for industry, expanding towns and businesses in the Amisk-Atik planning area, should be provided to the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board and local communities on their request.</p>	ongoing	SaskPower
<p>3.8.4 Cabins SE to ensure the proponent consults with all affected disposition holders (trappers, cabin owners, FMA proponent, ect.) and First Nations PBCN community (Denare Beach) prior to approving the recreation lease. SE to mediate a resolution to any concerns.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.8.4 Cabins SE to inventory possible areas for the development of recreational subdivisions and recreational lease sites that may or may not be adjacent to lakes. Existing access only, no new access allowed. Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. Proponent may request a specific site in the approved development area, subject to SE review and approval.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.8.4 Cabins SE to ensure proponents that submit a request to develop a recreation subdivision or remote recreation lease are informed regarding process and requirements to proceed.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.8.5 Wild Rice Investigate the requirement to initiate detailed studies to assess possible impacts to lake ecosystems resultant from growing wild rice. Research should encompass and consider the growing of wild rice over short-term and long-term time frames.</p>	2002/2003 ongoing	SE Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food

<p>3.9.1 Camping SE to monitor recreational use and activity along the Sturgeon-weir River to determine recreation needs (designating campsites, ect.), or if there is a need to limit the number of people in the area.</p>	<p>ongoing observation & consultation with affected resource users</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.9.2 Snowmobiling Reduce impacts from snowmobiling activity to resource users by providing information and educating the public. Promote and ensure safety through consultation processes.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>Mining Industry Forest Industry Snowmobile Clubs Trapping Association SE</p>
<p>3.10 Tourism Complete the development of operating guidelines for Eco-tourism operations.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.11 Economic Development Government must outline, document, and communicate the Saskatchewan government's forest economic development vision/strategy for the North, and communities must clearly express their vision for the future to Government.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.11 Economic Development New developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area be encouraged to hire local residents for at least 50% of the new hires.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.12 Enforcement SE to investigate the feasibility of improving enforcement and public service capabilities in northern communities in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Establishing new SE offices and/or hiring additional staff should be considered. At a minimum regular scheduled Conservation Officer days in communities is recommended.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.12 Enforcement Review the terms and conditions applied to commercial leases and the conversion of lease policy to ensure flexibility, protection and enforcement capability for the management of crown lands.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>

<p>3.13 Education Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities(eg., public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).</p>	ongoing	SE, The Forest Company
<p>3.15 Consultation Provide contact information (contact list for trappers and disposition holders) to mining companies at the exploration permit stage to enable the required consultation; the companies will then report to SE on their consultation progress and make them aware of who has been contacted, if there are conflicts or concerns, and whether mediation may be necessary.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.15 Consultation SE (Shield EcoRegion Forestry Staff) to develop and implement a consultation policy for commercial forest activities in the Amisk-Atik allowing the public opportunities to comment on forest operating plans. In particular, ensuring that other resource users in the immediate area have the opportunity to become involved during the review stage of the plans.</p>	Immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.15 Consultation Require information from proponents (forestry, mining, etc.) that will inform the public of anticipated socio-economic factors in their proposals (number of jobs, time lines, wages, training packages/programs, etc.)</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.16 Monitoring SE to work with local communities and resource users to gather information on wildlife populations, and monitor health and movement of wildlife populations.</p>	immediate/ongoing	SE
<p>3.16 Monitoring Due to increased industrial activity in the Amisk-Atik area, SE, PBCN, The Forest Company, and local communities to work together to ensure agreement from all resource users.</p>	when initiated/ongoing	SE PBCN Industry

<p>Chapter 5: Implementation Strategies The Regional and Local Advisory Boards will set up terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future. SE will assist and make every effort to maintain Local and Regional Advisory Boards.</p>	<p>immediate</p>	<p>SE Local and Regional Advisory Boards</p>
<p>5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy Dispute resolution should begin with collaborative problem solving processes involving SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and/or Regional Advisory Board, affected resource users, and if applicable, the proponent requesting approval for development.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE Local and Regional Advisory Boards affected resource users Proponent</p>
<p>5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy At the local and Regional level SE staff will maintain consultation processes that prevent and resolve conflict involving environment and resource management issues. If local dispute resolution processes are not successful, SE will document the areas of agreement and disagreement for the parties involved, including possible options for resolution, and forward to the appropriate Minister(s) for resolution. Resolution must be within the framework of existing legislation.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>Affected parties SE Appropriate Minister(s)</p>

Category 2:

Recommended actions will be difficult to implement immediately. Additional staff, equipment, and funding may be required. Normal budgeting processes for additional funding will be required. Government priorities may have to be adjusted in order to fulfill actions. Public consultation suggests recommended actions in this category be given highest priority and implemented as soon as possible.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
<p>3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Large reservoirs such as Reindeer Lake be monitored by conducting annual water quality assessments. Corrective measures to be taken to ensure environmental health and water quality are maintained.</p>	2002 / 2003	SE Sask Water Corp
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management Creel surveys should be conducted during the angling season. Locations and times to conduct survey be based on monitoring critical impacts to the fishery.</p>	Initiate as required in 2002 / 2003 angling season	SE
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management A priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans should be established. A minimum of two lake management plans to be initiated / completed annually.</p>	Establish priorities 2002 / 2003 initiate management plans 2003 / 2004	SE
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management SE to continue to evaluate the process of allocating and maintaining quotas, and involve affected resource users in the ongoing assessment of fisheries allocations.</p>	ongoing	SE
<p>3.10 Tourism Saskatchewan Environment to encourage agencies responsible for tourism to extensively promote tourism in northeast Saskatchewan, particularly recreation facilities and services available in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Promotional material to be made available to the public at strategic locations in the planning area.</p>	2002/2003	SE

<p>3.10 Tourism The current resource allocation system, in particular fish resource allocation for lakes, needs to be reassessed to allow opportunities for new tourism operations; first opportunity and priority should be given to Aboriginal people. (attention should be directed to the unused portion currently allocated to day-use lakes and allocations available to the tourism industry.)</p>	<p>immediate</p>	<p>SE</p>
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Category 3:

Recommended actions can not be implemented immediately. Additional staff, equipment, and funding may be required. Normal budgeting processes for additional funding will be required. Public consultation suggests recommended actions in this category should be implemented once recommended actions of categories 1 and 2 have been realized. Government priorities may have to be adjusted to acknowledge ongoing consultations.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
<p>3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Add regulations and legal requirements to protect water quality to the Saskatchewan Anglers Guide section identified as Protect Yourself- Protect Your Environment.</p>	<p>2002 / 2003 angling season</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.5 Fisheries Management Investigate assistance available from University researchers to provide survey design, computer analysis, dynamic modeling for fish populations, and co-ordination of data use, for a system study of the major lakes in the planning area.</p>	<p>2002 / 2003</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.7 Forestry Prepare an access management plan with a well-defined public involvement process. All resource users to be consulted.</p>	<p>Within 1st year of TSL ongoing</p>	<p>The Forest Company</p>

<p>3.7 Forestry Develop a plan for reducing and eliminating reforestation backlog. The plan should include actions to completely access backlog, and options for renewing areas, with priority given to areas with highest productivity potential.</p>	<p>Activity to begin immediately</p> <p>Target for completion of plan should be five years from the time the Land Use Plan is approved. Not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) forest stands are to be planted or treated within 10 years of Land Use Plan approval.</p>	<p>SE (consultation with the Forest Company)</p>
<p>3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development The Department of Highways and Transportation to provide their requirements and management plan for sand and gravel resources in the planning area to Saskatchewan Environment.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Department Highways and Transportation.</p>
<p>3.8.3.1 Roads Study of the road network and road access needs in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning area by the Northeast Transportation Committee is ongoing. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board request the minutes of the meetings be forwarded to them care of: Land Use Planner, Amisk-Atik IFLUP, Sustainable Land Management, SE, Box 3003 Cental Avenue, Prince Albert, SK.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>Saskatchewan Dept. of Highways and Transportation</p>
<p>3.9.1 Camping Initiate detailed studies, and prepare and implement a Recreation Site Upgrade and Development Strategy. Strategy should set priorities for sites to be improved or upgraded. A minimum of one site per year should be upgraded.</p>	<p>2002/2003</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p>3.9.1 Camping A map of currently utilized back country campsites in the planning area to be developed, to provide the public information and locations for wilderness camping opportunities.</p>	<p>2002/2003</p>	<p>SE</p>

<p>3.13 Education Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities. (e.g. public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE The Forest Company</p>
<p>3.13 Education Incorporate resource management (e.g. Focus on Forests, Project Wet, Project Wild) and forestry education into the school curriculum in Saskatchewan, particularly in the Amisk-Atik planning area.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Department of Education PBCN SE</p>

Category 4:

Recommended actions will require significant funding. Recommended actions would provide social and economic benefits, now and in the future. The expectation of the Regional Advisory Board is that implementation of category 4 recommendations will take an extended period of time.

<p>Recommended Action</p>	<p>Suggested Implementation Time Frame</p>	<p>Apparent Responsible Party(s)</p>
<p>3.7 Forestry Ensure that adequate data — forest inventory (forest inventory will be per agreement with FMA / SE), fish and wildlife populations, etc. — is collected to promote good management and maintenance of healthy forest resource populations.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE The Forest Company</p>
<p>3.8.3.3 Other Infrastructure Issues Government to investigate where infrastructure development may be needed(e.g. regional air services facilities, specifically the airport at Pelican Narrows, and the feasibility of this becoming a regional fire-fighting tanker base / areas suitable for future recreational subdivision development).</p>	<p>Initial discussion 2002/2003 ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>

<p>3.11 Economic Development Government and Industry to encourage value-added opportunities in the Amisk-Atik area by identifying impediments to these new value-added industries and creating strategies to address them (e.g., road infrastructure, natural gas pipeline).</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>Government Industry</p>
<p>3.16 Monitoring Government to encourage the development of training programs for Amisk-Atik people to understand government and industry environmental monitoring programs and to enable people to participate.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>SE</p>

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

5.1 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan involves several critical components. These include monitoring forest users to ensure compliance with applicable legislation; ecological research and monitoring to evaluate forest management practices; monitoring and evaluation of the plan itself, including a comprehensive review and update every five years; and continued, effective, public involvement. Ongoing public involvement processes will support Government and Industry during implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Time frames for implementation of recommended actions are specified in the plan. Priorities for implementation have been established by the Regional Advisory Board. Implementation in some areas may require additional Government funding. Flexibility will be important to the successful implementation of the land use plan.

The Regional Advisory Board, public, and Industry will collaborate with SE and other Government agencies to ensure every effort is made to implement the land use plan in the true spirit of co-operation. Ongoing public consultation that recognizes and respects all resource users will be essential to successful implementation of the land use plan. The role of the Regional Advisory Board during the implementation of the plan will be primarily to ensure strategies and actions are being realized.

Recommended Strategy
Ensure the authority of the Land Use Plan is broad enough, with flexible timelines to implement recommended actions, so that all of its recommendations can be implemented.
Local Advisory Boards to meet a minimum of twice annually (or as needed) after implementation of the Land Use Plan (to be determined by each Local Advisory Board).
The Regional Advisory Board to meet four times per year during initial implementation of the Land Use Plan, and then a minimum of once each year (or as needed).
SE will provide the opportunity for the continuation of interagency and interest group co-operation and consensus building in the implementation of the land use plan (e.g., continue the Local and Regional Advisory Boards, adapting its membership and structure to ensure appropriate representation of users and communities within the planning area).

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The Regional and Local Advisory Boards will set up terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future. SE will assist and make every effort to maintain Local and Regional Advisory Boards.	immediate	Local Boards Regional Advisory Board SE

5.2 Monitoring the Plan

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan must be monitored and evaluated so that it can be revised whenever necessary to adapt to changing circumstances, to incorporate new information, and to adjust actions if plan goals and objectives are not being achieved. Plan monitoring and evaluation will involve SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and Regional Advisory Boards, communities, Aboriginal people, industry, affected resource users, and the general public.

Ongoing plan monitoring and evaluation will focus on the following components:
 (1) compliance with plan recommendations, the goal, principles and objectives; and
 (2) effectiveness of the recommendations in achieving plan objectives.

The results of monitoring and evaluation will be used to change recommendations. As results are made available, the public will have the opportunity to provide input as to how the plan should be amended.

5.3 Amending the Plan

Amendments to the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan may be required. These amendments will be subject to Section 16 of the Forest Resources Management Act, in that a formal public review every 5 years may result in requests to the Minister to amend the plan. The Regional Advisory Board and the public may provide input into this formal review. SE is responsible for preparing the written 5 year review of the land use plan. The public will be given the opportunity to provide comments on the document prior to revisions being made to the plan.

Special circumstances may require amendments to the plan prior to the formal 5 year public review process. SE staff, through consultation with affected parties will document the need for amendments to the plan and may adjust and apply policy accordingly until the formal 5 year public review process is in effect. These changes will then be incorporated into the next formal review. In this way, the plan will be flexible and remain effective.

Recommended Strategy

A formal review of the Land Use Plan done every five years by government, the public, and the Regional Advisory Board. Amendments to the Amisk-Atik IFLUP may be necessary in the interests of the conservation, development, enhancement, maintenance, management, protection or utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources on provincial forest lands. The Minister may amend the plan subject to a public review in accordance with any procedures set out in the regulations (Section 16 of the Forest Resources Management Act). These amendments would normally occur at the formal 5 year review.

5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy

Consensus decision making was used in order to reduce conflict during the development of this plan. The intent is to prevent conflict from materializing in situations whenever possible. Various mechanisms to help prevent conflict have been used in the planning process. Examples of these include integrated planning based on managing resources for a variety of interests and benefits, developing strategies to deal with conflict over resources, providing and maintaining the opportunity for public involvement, and recognition of the environmental assessment process required for major developments such as mining and forestry. Section 3.8, Resource Development, provides relevant information to proponents that will assist in preventing or reducing the potential for conflict to occur. It is recognized that it is not always possible to prevent conflict. It is important that a dispute resolution process is in place in the event that conflict does occur.

Recommended Strategy

As required SE representatives will mediate during discussions to promote understanding among different users and interest groups, and assist to resolve disputes involving recommended resource management strategies in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Dispute resolution should begin with collaborative problem solving processes involving SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and/or Regional Advisory Board, affected resource users, and if applicable, the proponent requesting approval for development.	immediate	Local Boards Regional Advisory Board SE affected resource user(s) Proponent

<p>At the local and Regional level SE staff will maintain consultation processes that prevent and resolve conflict involving environment and resource management issues. If local dispute resolution processes are not successful, SE will document the areas of agreement and disagreement for the parties involved, including possible options for resolution, and forward to the appropriate Cabinet Minister(s) for resolution. Resolution must be within the framework of existing legislation.</p>	<p>immediate/ongoing</p>	<p>affected parties SE Appropriate Minister(s)</p>
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Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 General Land Use Planning Process
- Appendix 2 Regional Advisory Board Members and Technical Planning Team Members
- Appendix 3 Regional Advisory Board Terms of Reference
- Appendix 4 Summary of Regional Advisory Board and Plan Development Public Meetings
- Appendix 5 Protected Management Areas and Protected Sites
- Appendix 6 The Mineral Industry in Saskatchewan
- Appendix 7 Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines
- Appendix 8 Discussions Resulting in the Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines
- Appendix 9 Provincial & Federal Legislation
- Appendix 10 Provincial & Federal Related Policies and Guidelines
- Appendix 11 List of Common Vegetation
- Appendix 12 List of Common Fish Species
- Appendix 13 List of Common Mammals
- Appendix 14 List of Common Bird Species
- Appendix 15 Saskatchewan's Provincial Park Land System
- Appendix 16 Treaty Land Entitlement Selections
- Appendix 17 Amisk-Atik Brochure
- Appendix 18 Summary of Technical Review Comments, Public Review Comments, and Independent Review Comments

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

GLOSSARY

adaptive management - management practices that are monitored, evaluated, and adjusted (as required), based on current knowledge and understandings.

advisory board - a diverse group of people from the local community who have dedicated time and energy to the completion of this land use plan. The board's function is to bring these people together and, through open discussion of land use issues, help one another understand others' concerns and land use management needs. Consensus-based recommendations have resulted from these discussions.

aesthetics - the natural beauty of the environment.

annual allowable cut (AAC) - an expression of the maximum volume of timber that may be harvested each year from an area of land.

annual operating plan (AOP) - a one year forestry plan prepared in conjunction with a licence; usually contains operating requirements.

agriculture - agriculture includes activities such as cultivation and production of crops, dairying, raising poultry, and gardening. Activity is not limited to commercial enterprises and can include raising animals such as horses for personal enjoyment.

base metal - any of the common and more chemically active metals, e.g. Copper, zinc, nickel.

benchmark - something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured.

berm - an artificial ridge or embankment, as used in decommissioning roads.

biological diversity (biodiversity) - the variety of different forms of life, including the variety of genes, species, and ecosystems.

biota - the animal and plant life of a region.

boreal forest - the forest of northern regions, dominated by spruce, fir, pine, larch, poplar, and birch.

browse - leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs, used as food by plant-eating animals.

B-train - a combination of vehicles composed of a tractor and a semi-trailer towing another semi-trailer, attached to a fifth wheel, mounted on the rear of the first semi-trailer.

clear-cutting - harvesting of all merchantable trees from an area of land.

co-management - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, co-management is a way for the Department and stakeholders to work cooperatively to undertake integrated resource management. Inclusiveness, or involvement of all stakeholders, is key to co-management. The department and stakeholders share planning and decision-making as well as ownership of the process. The form co-management takes depends on types and numbers of stakeholders, objectives of the process, resource-specific factors, allocation methods, or changing circumstances.

commercial development - developments to be used exclusively for any enterprise directed to and for the purpose of economic or material gain.

committee - the group invested with the authority and responsibility for plan implementation.

conifer - trees that bear cones and have needle-like leaves.

consensus - all those who have a stake in the outcome reach mutual agreement in sentiment or belief on actions and outcomes that resolve or advance issues related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Cretaceous - the geological period covering the time span of 65 to 135 million years ago.

Crown land - land under the tenure of the provincial or federal government.

cut-over - an area of forest land from which some or all of the timber has been recently cut.

deciduous - trees that drop their leaves.

development - the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on, or over land or the making of any material change in the use or intensity of use of any building or land.

dolomite - mineral or rock of calcium magnesium carbonate.

ecological integrity - the composition, structure, and function of the ecosystem are unimpaired by human-caused stresses, the native species are present at viable population levels.

ecological land classification (ELC) - a system by which land units are identified and mapped, based on ecological features such as climate, soil, and vegetation.

ecological region (ecoregion) - a relatively large area of land characterized by a distinctive regional climate as expressed by general patterns of vegetation, soils, water, and fauna.

ecosystem - an area of land or water, considered in relation to all of its components (soil, water, air, plants, animals, microbes) and the interactions among them. A forest stand is an ecosystem if it is viewed as an interacting system of all of these components, and not just as a group of trees.

ecosystem health - a natural balance of physical, chemical, and biological components that make up the ecosystem.

ecotourism - tourism based on experiencing and learning about natural ecosystems, based on education of and non-consumptive use of natural resources.

ecozone - a broad-scale ecological unit that is based on patterns that include climate, geography, and ecological diversity. The ecozone lies at the top of the ecological hierarchy.

endangered species - a species that faces threats that may lead to its extinction in a short time.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - a procedure outlining a development being proposed, its anticipated effects, alternative steps to be taken, and mitigation of undesirable environmental effects.

even-aged - describes a forest stand in which trees are of approximately the same age.

exotic - describes a species not native to a given area, introduced from elsewhere.

fen - a wetland with a peat substrate (>40 cm) and a very slow internal flow of water at or above the surface; providing some nutrients and oxygen; and supporting mosses, sedges, shrubs, and sometimes a sparse tree cover of mostly tamarack and some black spruce.

fertilization - application of fertilizers to increase productivity.

forbs - a non-grasslike herbaceous plant (lacking a woody stem).

full supply line - is the line depicting the high water level of the reservoir that would be required for the operation of a hydro electric project.

Forest Management Agreement (FMA) - agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and a forest company to give the company long-term access to timber as well as management responsibilities on a specified area of land.

geographic information system (GIS) - a computer system used to store and analyze map information.

hardwood - broad-leaved trees; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Hardwoods belong to the botanical group *Angiospermae* and are the dominant type of tree in a deciduous forest.

Harvest Volume Schedule (HVS) - the amount of wood fibre that can be harvested annually from the existing forest without jeopardizing long-run sustainability of the timber supply.

integrated resource management (IRM) - management of the whole forest ecosystem, which allows for a broad range of resource uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be involved in management planning.

intensive management - management with relatively high investment of time and money per unit area; intensive silviculture generally implies such things as intensive site preparation, use of genetically improved planting stock, weeding, thinning, or pruning.

landscape - an area of land which includes a variety of interconnected ecosystems. For example, an area with aspen forest on the uplands and sedge meadows in the depression.

loam - a soil containing a mixture of sand, silt, and clay.

mature - lesser vegetation, trees, stands or communities that are at the mid to seral stage in their development.

merchantable - describes a tree or stand that has attained sufficient size, quality, and/or volume to make it suitable (in economic terms) for harvesting.

metamorphosed - the process where a rock is changed through heat and pressure into a new, chemically different rock.

mitigation - to reduce the severity of or eliminate negative impacts resulting from a particular activity.

mixedwood - forest stand with both hardwoods and softwoods present in significant amounts.

not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) - describes productive forest land on which the forest has been cut or burned and not adequately regenerated; also referred to as not sufficiently regenerated.

Ordovician - the geologic period covering the time span of 440 to 500 million years ago.

partnerships - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, partnerships are formed between the department and stakeholders to work toward a common goal. Three kinds of partnerships, or combinations among them, are most often used: **consultative partnerships** - where there is discussion on an issue, plus shared responsibility for accountability, commitment, integrity, and outcome; **task partnerships** - where there is shared work in developing a product, program, or process; **sponsorships or contributory partnerships** - where shared finances result in a shared product or program.

partial cutting - any timber harvest in which only part of the stand is cut.

Phanerozoic - that part of geologic time represented by rocks in which life is abundant. 545 million years ago and younger.

planting - establishing a forest stand by setting out seedlings, transplants, or cuttings.

Precambrian - all geologic time, and its corresponding rocks, before the phanerozoic. 545 million years ago and older.

productive forest land (or timber-productive land) - land capable of producing merchantable stands of timber within a “reasonable length of time”.

protected area - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, a geographically defined area or site which is designated in legislation and restricted from general use by the public for a conservation purpose.

pruning - removal of live or dead branches from standing trees.

RAB - The Regional Advisory Board is a group of people designated to represent their communities and the wishes of their local advisory boards.

RAN - Representative Areas Network is composed of lands and waters selected and designated to represent the natural and ecological and biological diversity of the province and managed to retain that diversity. Sites within the RAN act both as reservoirs of biological diversity and benchmarks for comparison with the more heavily utilized landscape.

rare species - a species with a small population, but not necessarily declining or in danger of extinction.

regeneration - renewal of a forest stand (e.g. establishment of new young trees) by natural or artificial means.

resource - generally, any supply of something that can be useful for economic, social, cultural, or aesthetic purposes.

riparian zone - Riparian areas are the interface between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems which display sharp gradients of plant communities, ecological processes, and environmental factors. The riparian zone not only provides a corridor for the movement and maintenance of animals but largely influences the adjacent aquatic environment by absorbing solar radiation, retaining dissolved nutrients and terrestrial particulate inputs, and subsequently determining aquatic invertebrate and vertebrate populations. Proper delineation of riparian areas incorporates an assessment of vegetative, edaphic, topographic, and hydrologic criteria (Gregory et al 1991).

rotation - the planned number of years between the regeneration of a forest stand and its final harvest.

scarification - loosening the topsoil or breaking up the forest floor in preparation for regeneration by natural or artificial seeding or planting.

sedimentary - any rock composed of sediments, animal remains, or chemicals previously held in solution.

seeding - establishing a forest stand by sowing of seeds.

selection cutting - uneven-aged silvicultural system in which trees are removed individually or in small groups, continuously or at relatively short intervals.

shorelands - the land between high and low water marks that adjoins land to water.

silviculture - the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, growth, and quality of forest stands to achieve management objectives.

site - an area of land characterized by the climatic, soil, and biological factors that determine its suitability and productivity for particular tree species and vegetation types. For example, a dry sand plain which supports jack pine-lichen vegetation with low productivity.

site preparation - treatment (mechanical, chemical, fire, or hand) that modifies the site to provide favourable conditions for natural or artificial regeneration.

softwood - cone-bearing trees with needles or scale-like leaves; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Softwoods belong to the botanical group *Gymnospermae* and are the predominate tree type in coniferous forests.

stakeholders - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, people or groups with an interest or 'stake' in what the department does. Stakeholders include all people, groups, or organizations that are directly influenced by actions of SE, or whose actions have an influence on the department.

stand - a patch of forest which is fairly uniform in species composition and distribution of tree heights and ages.

subsistence use - use of forest resources (e.g. fish and game, food and medicinal plants, fuelwood and building timber) by local people for personal consumption.

succession - the sequence of stages through which an ecosystem develops, following some disturbance which alters part or all of the previous ecosystem. For example, after a fire burns a mature forest, the ecosystem passes through a series of successional stages leading up to a new mature forest.

sustainable development - a general approach to combining economic development with environmental protection that has been described as "...use of resources in a way that satisfies the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their needs".

sustainable management - management to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological integrity of forest ecosystems, while providing economic, social, cultural, and spiritual opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

term supply licence (TSL) - is a licence granted by the Minister of Saskatchewan Environment conferring the right to harvest specified forest products, pursuant to section 42 of the Forest Resources Management Act. The term for the licence is two to ten years.

threatened species - species that are declining in numbers, to the point that there is a concern about possible extinction of that species.

till - material deposited by glaciers and ice sheets without modification by any other means of transportation.

tourism - the enhancement of natural features by providing goods and services attracting visitors to the area.

traditional territories - lands that were historically used by particular Aboriginal peoples prior to European settlement.

uneven-aged - describes a forest stand in which intermingling trees differ markedly in age.

water bodies - collections of water such as lakes, sloughs, rivers, or creeks, and do not necessarily have to contain fish.

zero impact mineral exploration - mineral exploration activities that do not significantly disturb the natural landscape. This includes such activities as: geological mapping, prospecting, surveying, flagged reference lines, geochemical sampling by hand (soil, stream sediment, water, lake sediment, rock), and airborne and hand-held ground geophysical surveying. Excluded activities would include: cut reference and grid lines, road or trail construction, trenching or stripping activities, geochemical sampling and geophysical surveying with tracked or wheeled equipment, and diamond drilling.

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