

Protected Areas – Manitoba Chronology 1990 - 2007

At a minimum, protected areas prohibit, through legal means, logging, mining (including aggregate extraction), and oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric development. Protected areas with this minimum level of protection still remain open for activities such as hunting, trapping or fishing. As well, protected areas respect First Nation's rights and agreements such as the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement.

Manitoba Conservation http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pai/what_is.html

1990

- March 1990 commitment by Premier to establish representative network of protected areas for all of Manitoba's natural regions. Commitment includes agreement to 'no development' protection standards and to undertake review of landscape/natural region system for design of protected areas.
- Same commitment made publicly during 1990 election
- Manitoba Parks Branch undertakes study for national federal-provincial parks council regarding parks across Canada and whether they are protected from development. Manitoba parks system has extensive industrial development, no regulatory standard to bar development. Management plans zone parks using non-public decision-making process. A national report shows that Manitoba has the least protected land in Canada.
- Only crown land protected from development by regulation in Manitoba: ecological reserves and Riding Mountain National Park

1991 – 1993

- Review of existing *Manitoba Parks Act*, consultation regarding Manitoba Natural Lands and Natural Places
- Clean Environment Commission recommends end to logging in Nopoming Park. Logging continues.
- New *Parks Act* tabled, over 200 submissions for third reading hearings. Protection standards imbedded in new act for specific land use classifications (zones). Resource management and recreational development stay in new *Act*. Public review of any changes for existing parks system now required.
- *Parks Act* includes protection standards, regulation for interim protection, establishment of parks reserves
- Interim protection for Wapusk national park under *Wildlife Act* (Churchill wildlife management area)
- Tri-council Ministers' national resolution for establishment of protected areas networks.

1994

- First *Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas*
- First package of candidate sites, including 4 northern parks
- *Action Plan* does not include representation methods or design standards

- Order in Council regarding 4 northern parks, December
- Manitoba's natural region and landscape types system in place
- Whitehorse Mining Initiative endorses completion of protected areas networks

1995

- Government announcement of 4 northern parks, February
- Meaningful consultation with affected First Nations lacking
- Release of mapping and details to media by WWF, with MLA E. Robinson
- WWF states in press conference affected communities not adequately consulted
- Protected areas grade released during election, no bonus for northern parks. Grade remains a 'C-'. MKO Grand Chief addresses press conference to state problems with parks designation, especially in terms of treaty land entitlement agreement in principle.
- Manitoba NDP makes election commitment to preserve Manitoba landscapes to "wilderness standards ... within natural regions of the province."
- Resource permits/licenses continue to be issued in parks, some land use classifications.

1996

- Government of Manitoba re-commits to establishment of protected areas, support for WWF Endangered Spaces goal, previous commitments, requests identification of actions feasible in southern Manitoba
- Change in Executive Council Staff who deal with protected areas and land use
- Louisiana Pacific forest licensing hearings include protected areas analysis
- Wapusk National Park agreement signing ceremony (protected since 1993)
- Wildlife management areas (WMA) technical review for upgraded management and protection standards begin
- Tall grass prairie preserve lands have Crown mineral right withdrawn.
- First WMAs see changed regulation, upgrades to protected status
- Public consultation re: application of new *Parks Act* finishes
- Ongoing discussions between WWF and MKO re: conservation principles
- Provincial and federal government boundaries for Lowlands national park released

1997

- Change in both land use ministers, with direction for protected areas decisions
- All outstanding crown mineral rights for existing protected areas withdrawn, done annually after 1997
- New *Parks Act* proclaimed with upgrades to provincial parks and protected lands, using new land use classifications: result in 750,000 ha fully protected lands in old parks.
- *Conservation Agreements Act* proclaimed June 1997.
- Two of four northern parks permanently protected with community consent, other two protected on an interim basis to allow for community consultations.

- MKO and AMC executives review principles and approach from WWF/MKO discussions for a government-to-government protected areas MOU.
- Second batch of WMAs protected
- Areas of Special Interest for potential protection designed / mapped by Parks Branch
- Tolko forest licensing hearings include protected areas analysis

1998

- Annual distribution of public consultation maps by sector for Areas of Special Interest begins
- Signing of MOU between government of Manitoba and First Nation Grand Chiefs that identifies First Nation role in: identifying, establishing and managing protected areas. Working group under the MOU established.
- New *Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas*, includes ecological principles, design methods, etc
- Third batch of WMAs protected
- First nominations of protected land from First Nations: Poplar River and Skownan First Nations
- Mining sector technical reviews of Areas of Special Interest begin
- Updated boundaries for Lowlands national park released by Manitoba and federal government

1999

- Chitek Lake and Poplar / Nanowin River park reserves established in spring, both First Nation nominations
- Long Point park reserve – candidate for national park – also established, without WWF knowledge or First Nation consent
- Fourth batch of WMAs protected
- Election, change of government
- Manitoba NDP makes extensive protected areas and environmental election commitments.
- Long Point protection allowed to expire with WWF support
- Chitek Lake and Poplar River park reserves established in spring, and renewed by new government at end of the year.
- Minister Lathlin extends First Nations protected areas MOU
- Additional First Nation nominations for protected lands received from Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Mining sector technical reviews of Areas of Special Interest continue

2000

- Hudwin Lake, Birch Island and Fisher Bay park reserves protected
- Hudwin Lake Park Reserve expires fall 2000
- Fifth batch of WMAs protected
- Additional First Nation nominations for protected lands received

- Manitoba government releases new *Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas*, includes ecological principles, protection standards, design methods, etc.
- End of Endangered Spaces Campaign, summer 2000, Manitoba leads all jurisdictions in the proportion of lands protected during 1990s
- Protected areas advocacy continues through Canadian Nature Federation, Wildlands Campaign
- Pembina Valley Park process announced (fall). Premier's remarks at reception endorse protection standards and clearly indicate that establishing protected areas/protected parks is a non-partisan program for all Manitobans
- Three-day technical session with Tembec for protected areas establishment held, with over 25 areas endorsed for protected status
- Mining sector technical reviews of Areas of Special Interest continue. WWF Canada multi-year project established to provide technical support for mining sector consultation and technical reviews for new protected areas

2001

- Pembina Valley Park protected under Parks Act (fall)
- Park Reserves established: Goose Island, Grand Island, Kinwow Bay, Pelican Islands, Pemmican Island, Sturgeon Bay, Walter Cook's Upland Caves
- Final batch of WMAs protected (system review and upgrades largely completed)
- Discussion about similar review and upgrade for community pastures, opportunity to protect grazing rights, acknowledge producers, take further protected lands steps in southern Manitoba
- Community consent from Sayisi Dene for permanent protection of Caribou River park received
- Mining sector technical reviews of Areas of Special Interest continue

2002

- *Sustaining Manitoba's Forests*, East Side Planning Initiative Terms of Reference, and 2002 Budget Papers endorse continued commitment to establish protected areas.
- Permanent protection regulation for Caribou River Wilderness Park, spring
- No new park reserves established
- Park reserves designated in 1997 expire, September 2003
- Trappist Monastery protected permanently
- Manigotogan park reserve renewed using development land use classification.
- South Atikaki park reserve consultation extended, stated intent to renew using development classification, despite environmental, forestry, mining support for increase in protected land
- East Paint Lake park reserve protection extended
- Amisk park reserve protection/designation expires
- Mining sector technical review of Areas of Special Interest continues. CNF, WWF Canada, and Nature Conservancy Canada participating (over 9 million acres approved for protected status to date)
- No new protected lands

2003

- Full protected status for Criddle/Vane Homestead park reserve waiting on confirmation regarding protection from mining (June 2003)
- S. Atikaki Park established in spring 2003 (previous S. Atikaki park reserve.) Land use classifications allow development. Policy decision to ban forestry operations. Manitoba Conservation to take steps for a regulation that will confirm back country classification for those lands able to move to protected status. Mining sector consultation has identified lands inside the park for protection from development. (June 2003)
- Amisk Park Reserve protection renewed, May
- Review of community pastures for protected lands options begun
- Second year with no new protected lands, or park reserves established as of June 2003 despite over 100 Areas of Special Interest under review for protected status
- *Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas* extended for one calendar year
- Minister confirms First Nations protected areas MOU protocols, indicates intention to renew the MOU
- Mining sector technical review of Areas of Special Interest continue

2004

- Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park protected, February
- Bell & Steeprock Canyons protected under *Forest Act*, May
- Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve interim protection renewed, June
- Rivers Provincial Park protected, June
- Chitek Lake Park Reserve interim protection renewed, September, commitment to make permanent
- Duff Roblin Park Reserve designated, and Manigotagan River Provincial Park protected, December
- Inclusion of Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) tall grass prairie lands in protected areas network, new Memorandum of Agreement with NCC, June
- Two new Ecological Reserves (Little George Island and Jennifer and Tom Shay ER)
- Consultation with Tembec to review Areas of Special Interest in their forest management area, east side
- Mining sector technical review of Areas of Special Interest continues

2005

- Tall grass prairie sites owned by Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS) formally recognized by Government of Manitoba, August, through a Memorandum of Agreement, August. Crown mineral rights to most of these lands withdrawn in 1997 and included in the annual Manitoba Protected Areas Grade since that time.
- Designation of three new Ecological Reserves (Brokenhead Wetland ER, Birch River ER and Armit Meadows ER)
- Memorandum of Agreement signed with Ducks Unlimited, December
- Birch Island and Fisher Bay protection extended, November
- Extended designation of the Fisher Bay and Birch Island park reserves for an additional five years, November
- Manitoba Wildlands annual protected audit release, November

- Mining sector technical review of Areas of Special Interest continues

2006

- 'Green and Growing' policy released by Manitoba government – ignores existing public policy and commitments for protected areas networks, January Over 100 candidates for protected areas idling in the lands system for province
- Logging inside Tolko license in these candidates accelerating
- New support to be provided to advance UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination, March
- Delta Marsh WMA protected, June
- Hilltop WMA and Onanole WMA addition fully protected in late 2006, with withdrawal of Crown mineral rights
- Woodland caribou listed under the Manitoba Endangered Species Act, June 2006, includes protection of habitat
- Mining sector technical review of Areas of Special Interest continues; almost 10,000,000 acres in Manitoba supported for protected status by industry
- Manitoba Wildlands annual protected areas audit, October
- Wellington Wildlife Management Area protected
- Interim protection for six park reserves renewed – Goose Islands, Grand Island, Kinwow Bay, Pelican Islands, Pemmican Island, Sturgeon Bay – and 170 hectares is added to Grand Island, December

2007

- Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg sign an MOU to protect important waterways and natural areas within City of Winnipeg through Protected Areas Initiative, June
- Renewal of Walter Cook Caves Park Reserve for five years, June
- New park reserve – Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve established, July – Crown Mineral rights not withdrawn by regulation under *Mines Act* as of September 25, 2007
- Expiration of interim protection regulation 152/2002 (<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2002/pdf/152-p020.02.pdf>) for East Paint Lake Park Reserve, September 10, 2007. This park reserve is no longer protected from development.
- Protection or extension of lease agreement for protection for 15 ha of land in addition to existing Beaudry Park. As of September 2007 announcement, no indication of whether this protection represents extension of existing lease agreement for Taillieu river bottom forest property or other lands. Parks Act regulation in place (Provincial Parks Designation Regulation amendment 118/2007 <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2007/pdf/118-p020.07.pdf>), but no regulation to withdraw Crown Mineral Rights as of September 25, 2007.
- Existing parkland within Nopiming Provincial Park (186 ha) re-classified as 'backcountry' (protected). These lands have been under discussion for a decade, including for an addition to protected lands twice the size of what was announced by Minister. Parks Act regulation in place (Provincial Parks Designation Regulation amendment 118/2007 <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2007/pdf/118->

[p020.07.pdf](#)), but no regulation to withdraw Crown Mineral Rights as of September 25, 2007.

- Expansion of Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park from current size of 173 hectares to over 480 hectares, with 355 hectares protected in backcountry category. Parks Act regulation in place (Provincial Parks Designation Regulation amendment 122/2007 <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/2007/pdf/122-p020.07.pdf>), but no regulation to withdraw Crown Mineral Rights as of September 25, 2007.
- Loss of protection for East Paint Lake Park Reserve as these lands incorporated into existing Paint Lake Provincial Park as (unprotected) recreational development lands.

LINKS:

Protected Areas Grades & Audit:

http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_grades.htm

Protected Areas Announcements:

http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_announce.htm

Protected Areas Map Gallery:

http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_maps.htm

World Heritage Site:

http://manitobawildlands.org/lup_whs.htm - top

Protected Areas Initiative, Manitoba Conservation – Manitoba’s Network of Protected Areas:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pai/mb_network/index.html

Parks Branch, Manitoba Conservation – Public Consultations:

http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/public_consult/index.html