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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we move toward an increasing intensive management of our public forests, unmanaged natural areas, where change is allowed to occur with little human interventions, are limited. As these areas function as controls, allowing for comparisons with managed landscapes, thus helping scientists and land managers to better understand the impacts of their management options across the landscape, they can play an important role in filling the knowledge gaps that presently exist. They also function as valuable ecological baselines or benchmarks against which we will be better able to measure how our predicted management strategies evolve in relation to the natural processes. They also provide an opportunity to assess change over a long time frame. In New Brunswick, we have relatively few large protected areas that can serve as these reference sites. Presently, only 1.4 % of the province can be classified as meeting these criteria. One measure of assuring that ecological benchmark areas are available for present and future generations is to systematically select representative sites for the seven ecoregions of New Brunswick.

The *Protected Areas Strategy Report* and the *Public Review Report* provide information on the potential candidate sites which could be selected to form the coarse filter component of a protected areas network for New Brunswick.

1.1 Historical Perspective

Since the early 1970s, various groups representing scientists, environmentalists, the Environmental Council, as well as citizens groups have recommended the establishment of a protected areas network for New Brunswick. These protected areas, they suggested, would have three important functions:

- 1) They would contribute to the conservation of New Brunswick's biological diversity;
- 2) They would serve as unmanaged benchmarks or controls against which changes in the province's natural environment could be measured; and
- 3) They would serve as outdoor laboratories and classrooms for comparative and baseline research and environmental education.

In 1997, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy asked Dr. Louis LaPierre to propose a strategy for developing a comprehensive network of protected areas for New Brunswick. The results of his study were published in a report entitled *A Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick*. This report contains background information, as well as a description of potential ecological areas for each of New Brunswick's seven ecoregions.

1.2 *Scope of the Report*

The report focused on identifying potential candidate sites for the coarse filter component of the protected areas network for New Brunswick. It was primarily confined to Crown Lands.

1.3 *Key assumptions that underlie the proposed strategy include the following:*

- The components of biological diversity can be maintained effectively in the long term by protecting examples of the physical environments in which they occur;
- New Brunswick's plant community diversity represents the diversity of physical environments found in the province because vegetation reflects underlying environmental variables (climate, geology, soils, etc.);
- The assemblage of species that make up many of New Brunswick's ecosites varies across the province;
- A majority of plant and animal species can be protected by conserving examples of the ecosystems they occupy without having to identify, inventory, and manage each species individually;
- Managed forestlands surrounding potential reserves should connect rather than isolate protected areas.

1.4 *Inventory and identification of potential protected areas*

Between June 1996 and September 1997, potential sites were identified. The degree of fragmentation and the percentage of biodiversity were calculated for each candidate site.

During the selection and design phase, three meetings were held with interested stakeholders to obtain their input and suggestions. Protected areas design guidelines, based on enduring features, as well as suggestions from the stakeholder groups, were used to generate the potential candidate sites which could serve as protected areas.

1.5 Major Recommendations

1. The Government of New Brunswick should make a commitment to adopt a Protected Areas Strategy by 2005. The strategy should include a three-scale approach incorporating a coarse filter, a fine filter and a bioregional perspective. The coarse filter approach should be focused on Crown Lands and the fine filter approach should focus primarily on private and industrial land holdings.
2. The Government should appoint a committee representing the major stakeholders to review the recommendations and submit an Action Plan for implementing the strategy by December 31, 1999.
3. The two existing national parks, Fundy and Kouchibouguac, along with Mount Carleton provincial park should form an integral part of the coarse filter component of the strategy. The three parks should comprise the major protected area for their respective ecoregion. However, as they do not currently represent all of the enduring features within their ecoregion, the strategy should ensure that the enduring features not contained within the park boundaries are included in the coarse or fine filter component of the strategy.
4. The proposed Loch Alva site captures the valley and ridge features, which are typical of the continental lowlands as well as the low coastal hills of the Fundy Coastal Ecoregion. It should be retained as a primary candidate within the coarse filter strategy. The proposed boundaries should be retained, however, the western boundaries may be re-evaluated following the economic impact assessment on the wood supply.
5. The proposed Grand Lake Meadows site captures the river valley bottomland and the upland features of a portion of the Saint John River Valley. The main features of this site vary from wetland meadows and alluvial floodplains to upland forests. The site also contains the province's largest wetland. It should be retained as an element within the coarse filter strategy due to the limited landbase that is available for protection within this ecoregion. However, the proposed site should be modified to exclude all private lands. Discussions should be initiated with the Canadian Forest Service and the University of New Brunswick to explore the possibility of including their land within the protected area. These lands could serve as a demonstration area for adaptive management strategies.
6. The extension to Mount Carleton Provincial Park captures the rugged mountains typical of the ecoregion. The topography of the area is somewhat less diverse than Mount Carleton Park but the site contains a greater soil and ecosite diversity, thus making these two areas very complementary from a representativity standpoint. The proposed addition to Mount Carleton Provincial Park should be retained. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to assess the economic impact on the wood supply. The potential for ecotourism should also be included in the economic analysis.

7. The proposed Kennedy Lakes site captures the hills and small mountains of the southern ecoregion, along with the ridges and valleys of the continental lowlands. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter. A comprehensive economic and ecological assessment of the proposed site should be initiated to assess the additional landbase that needs to be added to the existing conservation area in order to ensure that the major enduring features are retained. The protected core should be surrounded by a buffer where low impact forestry practices would be applied.
8. The Nerepis Hills site captures three distinct landscape types. The southern half is characterized by rolling hills and lakes. The northeastern portion contains the high elevation, Nerepis Hills. The northwestern portion contains the valleys of the Nerepis River and the Douglas Valley Brook. This site should be retained, however, the boundaries should be revised to capture the higher elevation and the valley of the Nerepis River. The revised boundaries would place a large portion of the protected area within the boundaries of Canadian Force Base Gagetown. Negotiations should be initiated with the Base officials to explore the possibility of developing a partnership with DND for the implementation of the Nerepis Hills protected area.
9. The proposed Caledonia Gorge captures the river gorges that are typical of the steeply sloping areas of the Fundy plateau. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter. An adaptive management strategy should be developed to ensure that an ecological link is maintained with Fundy Park.
10. The proposed Long Lake area should be dropped from the strategy as it contains a large portion of private lands.
11. The Canaan Bog area captures a highland bog complex, which represents the higher elevation inland areas within the Eastern Lowlands Ecoregion. It should be retained as it adds a significant component to the biodiversity that is captured within Kouchibouguac National Park. The size of the protected core should be revised to include the natural features that are not included within the boundaries of Kouchibouguac National Park. The protected core should be surrounded by an adaptive management area, which would focus on low impact forestry practices.
12. The proposed Armstrong Lake area should be removed from the proposed coarse filter strategy due to existing mineral claims. However, the enduring natural features that are unique to this area should be assessed for potential sites within the fine filter analysis.
13. The Jacquet River area should be retained as the representative area for Northern Uplands Ecoregion. It captures the hilly plateau and river gorges that are typical of the Northern Uplands Ecoregion. The site has a low level of fragmentation and it comprises the watershed for the region.

14. The Restigouche River and the Upsalquitch Forks should not be retained as a major component of the coarse filter strategy. However, the gorges should be re-assessed as potential candidates within the fine filter analysis if the Jacquet River Gorge is not retained within the coarse filter strategy.
15. Following a comprehensive analysis of the existing protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion, the proposed candidate sites should be reviewed to ensure that the final selection of sites for New Brunswick's coarse filter component do contribute to the network of protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion. The analysis should clearly define similarities and differences between the existing protected areas and the proposed sites within New Brunswick. The analysis should also identify the level of protection that is assured for the areas that contain similar enduring features.
16. A comprehensive economic analysis should be undertaken on all the proposed sites to assess the economic impacts of implementing the strategy, prior to making a final decision on a coarse filter strategy.
17. The Government should implement a moratorium on harvesting within the proposed protected candidate sites until a final decision on a strategy has been reached.
18. Forest harvesting and mining operations should not be permitted within protected areas.

1.6 Conclusion

The proposed Protected Areas Strategy implies that a network of protected areas, incorporating the seven ecoregions, would be required to collectively represent the range of ecosystem types that comprise New Brunswick's landscape.

Existing boundaries on most of New Brunswick's public and private conservation land units do not follow ecosystem boundaries. As a result, many existing protected areas, including our national parks, do not represent all of the enduring features within their ecoregion.

The key functions of the protected areas network outlined in this report would be to ensure biological representativity within each ecoregion and also increase our understanding of nature and thus help us become better managers of the landscape while maintaining a representative sample of our biodiversity. To ensure protection of the biological diversity within New Brunswick, the proposed protected areas network will need to be integrated within the working landscapes.

Finally, we agree that any policy decisions concerning the establishment of a Protected Areas Strategy within New Brunswick should be preceded by a full review of the economic costs and benefits associated with the development of a strategy.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first and most important acknowledgement goes to the scientific advisors, Dr. Graham Forbes and Dr. Stephen Woodley, for their insights, ideas, criticisms and perspectives on the protected areas strategy.

This report benefited from an enormous amount of information and field data. Field data for each site inventoried was supplemented with the firsthand knowledge of land managers from DNRE. We wish we had more time to tap the depths of this knowledge, but greatly appreciate their timely response to our many requests for information on the lay of the land, current conditions of forests and wetlands, recreational use and land use history. Our thanks go to all members of DNRE who helped with many facets of the inventory. Special thanks go to Vince Zelazny, Martin Marshall, Alan Dockerty and Inuk Simard.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the public review on the **proposed plan** for *A Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick*. The proposed plan was released by the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy on September 15, 1998 for public information, review and comments.

As mandated, Dr. Louis LaPierre held 20 public meetings across New Brunswick during January and February of 1999. Four hundred and sixty six submissions, including presentations made at the meetings, comments forwarded by telephone, e-mail, and mail were received during the public review process. The report summarizes the comments received, as I understood them. A number of quotations from oral and written briefs are included to give a flavor of the comments made.

The report makes recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy regarding the final strategy. Specific recommendations are presented throughout this report and they are regrouped in a consolidated format, in Appendix 1. These recommendations support in principle the proposal to establish a comprehensive system of protected areas within New Brunswick's seven ecoregions. The report also reflects the major issues and concerns expressed by many New Brunswickers who attended the public meetings or who forwarded their written concerns.

3.1 Background

The proposal to establish a comprehensive system of protected areas within New Brunswick's seven ecoregions reflects a growing realization that undisturbed natural areas continue to diminish in number and size as land development and resource uses continue to expand. The concern is that the relatively small number of permanently protected natural areas that currently exist in New Brunswick does not adequately represent and protect the biodiversity that exists within the province. Another concern is that the limited number of large relatively undisturbed areas that currently remains intact will be overtaken by future development, if action is not taken soon to protect them.

The basis of this concern is clearly evident in New Brunswick, with its relatively small landbase and its long history of resource development and land use. These Crown Lands will invariably be subject to continued pressures in the future for commercial resource development. While these concerns are relevant to New Brunswickers, they are also significant nationally and internationally. They have provided the rationale for wide-range initiatives for protecting biological diversity and, more generally, for finding new ways to achieve a more equitable balance between the environment and the economy as defined by the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Economy.

3.2 *New Brunswick's Commitment*

In November 1992, the Province of New Brunswick joined with the federal government, the other provinces and the territories in signing a statement of commitment to complete Canada's network of protected areas by the year 2000.

In April 1996, the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy invited Dr. Louis LaPierre to review the present status of protected areas in New Brunswick and develop a strategy that would serve as the basis for the protection of the province's biodiversity. Dr. LaPierre enlisted the support of Dr. Graham Forbes from the University of New Brunswick and Dr. Stephen Woodley from Parks Canada to assist him in developing the strategy.

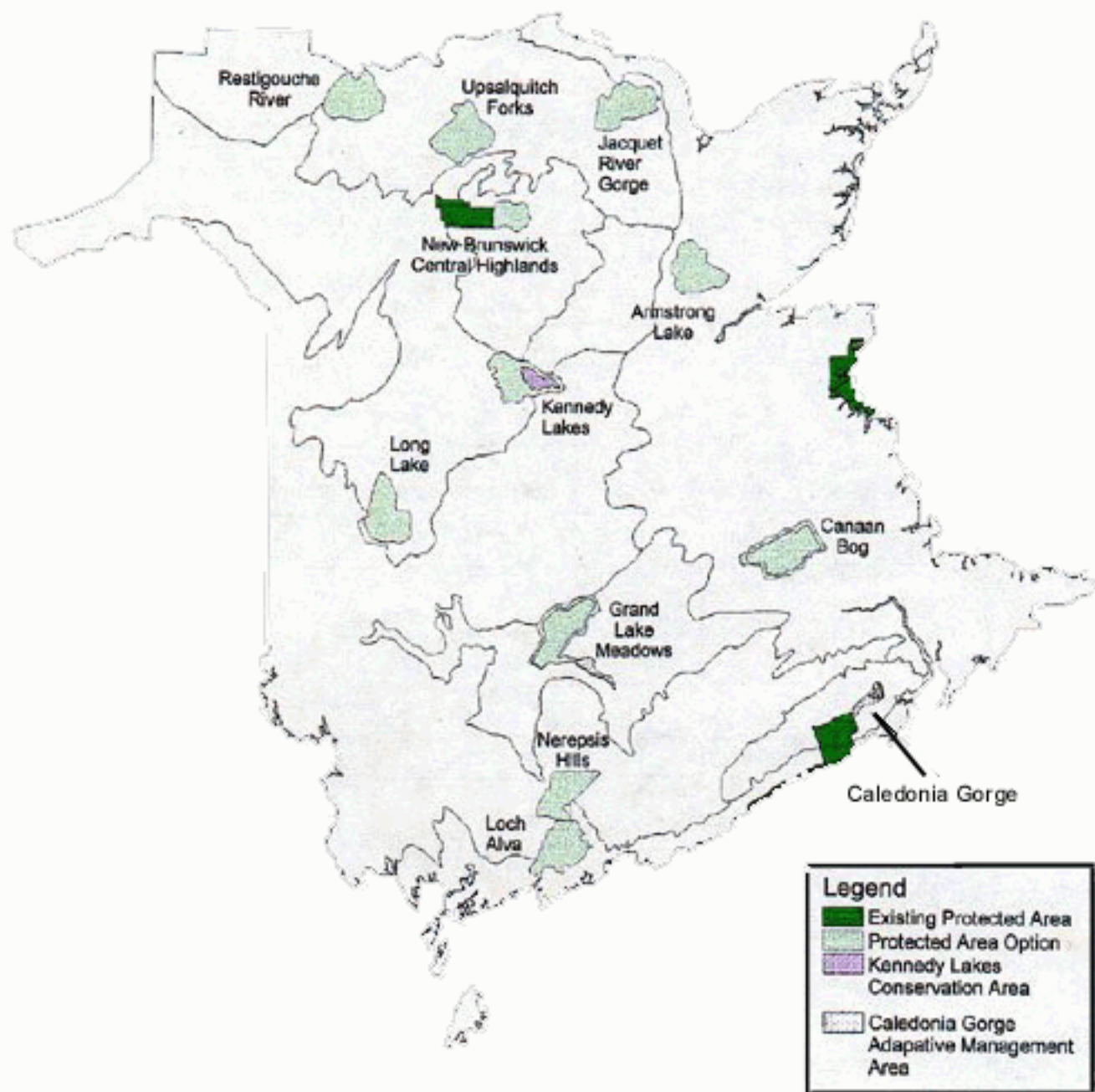
3.3 *The Protected Areas Strategy*

The Protected Areas Strategy was initiated in the Spring of 1996 with a preliminary inventory of the existing natural areas in New Brunswick. It then focused on identifying and assessing potential candidate coarse filter sites within the seven ecoregions. These areas were evaluated using enduring features criteria to assess their ability to serve as representative examples of New Brunswick's natural ecosystems. Each candidate site was evaluated for its potential to support the ecological processes and to serve as a control site for the ecoregion. In addition, each site was assessed for its potential to protect unique, rare or outstanding natural features.

Through the inventory and evaluation process, numerous potential candidate areas for protection were identified. After internal review and analysis, the proposed protected areas plan was released in September 1998 for public information, review and comments.

The planning process and the contents of the proposed plan are fully described in the planning document, which was released to the public prior to the public meetings. The 12 proposed candidate protected areas included in the proposal are illustrated in Figure 1.

Options for N.B. Protected Areas



3.4 Public Distribution of the Proposed Strategy

The Minister of Natural Resources and Energy announced that a public review of the proposed strategy would take place early in 1999 and that Dr. Louis LaPierre would conduct the review. Following the formal announcement and release, the public was advised of the proposal and its availability. A copy of the proposal was posted on the Web site. As well, copies were made available to individuals and organizations known to the Department of Natural Resources and Energy as having demonstrated interest in the subject of protected areas. The proposed strategy was also distributed to all members of the Legislative Assembly and to public libraries across the province.

Following this initial distribution, staff responded to requests for presentations at meetings from industry representatives, public organizations and community groups to discuss the proposed plan. The meetings were organized to provide an opportunity for interested parties to gain further background information regarding the proposal and to encourage active participation in the public review process. Twenty-four such meetings were held between January 20, 1999 and March 1, 1999.

4.0 THE PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

4.1 Public Meetings

Eighteen evening meetings and one afternoon meeting were scheduled at 18 locations across New Brunswick between January 20 and March 1, 1999. The schedule of meetings and locations is included in Appendix IV.

The full schedule of meetings was announced by notice in the province's major daily newspapers in December 1998. A second round of notices regarding individual meetings was placed in various local daily and weekly newspapers prior to the respective meeting dates. The schedule of meeting dates and locations was also posted to the Web site. Individuals and organizations who wished to make presentations at the public meetings contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Energy to reserve a time for their presentation.

4.2 Public Response

New Brunswickers responded to the opportunity to participate in the review process with interest and enthusiasm. In all, an estimated 6,000 individuals attended the 19 public meetings. Many people presented detailed and thoroughly documented briefs. Others came to listen and, after reflecting on what they had heard, then forwarded their comments via the Web site or the 1-800 line. Still others mailed in comments before and after the public meetings and attended the meetings in their areas out of obvious interest.

In total, 759 submissions were presented. Of these, 280 presentations were made during the public meeting proceedings and an additional 479 submissions were received by e-mail, mail, fax or courier, as of April 30, 1999.

The high level of public interest in the review process was demonstrated by the extent and quality of the response received overall and particularly by the participation at the public meetings. Most people came at the beginning of the session and stayed for the entire proceedings, which often were extended to accommodate those who wanted to speak. Many attended meetings at two or more locations. Many stayed on after the meeting concluded, to view maps and related background information or to discuss their ideas with Dr. LaPierre.

I was impressed with the quality of the presentations and submissions received, whether in the form of a detailed brief or comment from the floor. Most were thought provoking and of a very high caliber. Above all, the public in attendance expressed a high degree of respect for the divergent points of view expressed throughout the hearings.

This report presents a summary of the comments received. Because of the outstanding quality of the submissions, it is recommended that the considerable body of information assembled through the review process should be maintained as part of the public record. In this regard, I will forward the Department of Natural Resources and Energy a full set of submissions from the public meetings, as well as all the items of correspondence that were received during the public review.

4.3 Key Actions

Of the **50** actions that this report recommends, there are four (4) that should be acted upon immediately as they will provide essential information required to develop the network of protected areas.

1. A comprehensive analysis of the existing initiatives to protect biodiversity and other unique natural heritage on public, private and industrial lands should be undertaken to assess the natural features and the level of protection that is offered to existing sites within the seven ecoregions prior to the selection of the final sites for the coarse filter component of the strategy. This analysis should provide information on the features that are protected, identify the level of protection that is provided for each area and also identify the gaps within the existing network. This information could be used to prepare a list of potential sites and unique areas, which could help focus future initiatives by industries, individuals or organizations who would be interested in contributing to the fine filter component of the strategy.

2. The activities that have been initiated by the Northeastern Eco-Mapping Group should be continued. Presently, the group has agreed on the major boundaries of the Acadian Bioregion. In the coming months, relevant data on biodiversity and existing protected areas within the region should be available to the members of the working group. Once this information is available, a comprehensive analysis of the existing protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion should be undertaken. The data from this analysis should provide the necessary information for a critical review of the proposed protected areas. Following this analysis, we should be able to assess New Brunswick's contribution to the protection of the biodiversity within the Acadian Bioregion.
3. The recently acquired Georgia Pacific lands should be reviewed to assess their potential for the protection of our biodiversity and their capacity to provide compensation for forested areas that will be included in the Protected Areas Strategy.
4. The existing national parks, Kouchibouguac and Fundy, as well as Mount Carleton Provincial Park should form an intricate component of the province's Protected Areas Strategy. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to clearly identify their representativity of the biodiversity within their respective ecoregion.

5.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section summarizes comments received from the public presentations and submissions in reference to the proposed Protected Areas Strategy. Comments are grouped by major topics and, where appropriate, supplementary comments and recommendations of the public review are included.

5.1 *General Overview*

The public submissions represented a broad spectrum of opinions ranging from outright opposition to a total endorsement of the proposed concept for a Protected Areas Strategy.

A larger number of submissions from the forest industry, forest workers, small mill operators, civic leaders and business interests stressed the importance of the forest for their economic survival. They were unanimous in their opposition to the proposed Protected Areas Strategy. Many forest industry representatives indicated that the system of protected areas currently in place, consisting of the present network of protected areas, riparian zones, deer wintering yards and the mature coniferous programs, was sufficient and represented all what New Brunswick could afford.

The industrial forest sector mounted a province-wide campaign focused on the impacts of lost jobs and the impoverishment of rural communities should this strategy be adopted. Submissions supporting these objectives were presented at all of the 19 community meetings.

Environmental groups, along with many citizens, expressed strong support for the proposed strategy. They indicated that the present level of rotating protection being practiced on many of the protected areas was inadequate and that New Brunswick needed to enact a protected areas strategy in order to live up to its commitment for the protection of its biodiversity at the national level.

Many civic leaders and community development organizations expressed strong concerns over the potential economic impacts on their community should the province adopt the proposed Protected Areas Strategy. Most were strongly opposed to the project and they did not want the province to adopt any part of the proposed strategy. They all requested that an economic assessment be undertaken prior to the implementation of any part of the strategy.

Others expressed concerns that many of today's remaining potential natural areas may also soon become developed if specific actions were not taken to protect their natural character. These concerns were expressed by people with a wide range of interests and perspectives on land and resource use.

Many expressed feelings of long standing attachment to New Brunswick's wilderness, stemming from their recreational use of these areas for activities such as hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, nature appreciation and back country camping. Many expressed regret that wilderness areas that they had known, used and enjoyed were now lost.

Other submissions emphasized concerns about possible threats to the biological diversity of native species. Some referred to an increased understanding of ecological relationships based on the rapidly developing science of conservation biology. These submissions stressed that a comprehensive approach based on scientific principles is fundamental in the maintenance of biodiversity and the achievement of sustainability of land development and use of resources. Others expressed the need to ensure that we gain a better understanding of the distribution of our biodiversity within the Acadian Bioregion.

A number of submissions emphasized the economic benefits of protected areas, particularly for ecotourism. Some also suggested that efforts to establish a comprehensive protected areas system would demonstrate a commitment to environmentally sound and sustainable land use practices. This, in turn, would enhance the appeal of New Brunswick resource products in a marketplace that increasingly demands "green" products. However, many forest industry proposals stressed that ecotourism jobs could not replace the wage benefits provided by forestry jobs.

A number of submissions expressed a strong desire to have New Brunswick's contribution to the protection of our biodiversity assessed at the bioregional level.

All of the submissions expressed a strong support for a comprehensive economic study of the proposed strategy. They also agreed that the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy should not impose economic hardships on those who earn their living from forest resources.

The strong sense of respect that New Brunswickers hold for the land was a dominant theme throughout the submissions. So was a dissatisfaction with many existing land use and resource development practices. In this regard, a number of submissions suggested that Crown Lands should be managed according to the most exemplary standards possible and that these standards should include a wide range of objectives that would reflect the aspiration of all New Brunswickers.

Many of the public submissions supported the establishment of a system of protected areas for New Brunswick; however, the majority of presentations did not support the proposed Protected Areas Strategy. They indicated that we should have a made-in-New Brunswick solution that should include the protected areas and practices currently in existence within New Brunswick. They also expressed reservations on the number and size of the proposed areas. They were also opposed to the level of protection and the restriction imposed on the protected areas. However, all of the conservation and environmental groups expressed a strong commitment to have all 12 proposed candidate sites protected and, in general, they supported the rationale for the size of the proposed protected areas.

Various presentations expressed the need to develop a process that would lead to the development of a certification program for the province's Crown Lands and that this process include a Protected Areas Strategy.

Most of the presentations expressed an urgency to bring together the major stakeholders within a decision-making forum such as the Premier's Round Table or the Fundy Model Forest, in order to establish a Protected Areas Strategy that would ensure the protection of our biodiversity while respecting the specific nature of forest management in New Brunswick.

Many of the landowners expressed concerns with possible restrictions on local and traditional recreational uses of the candidate protected areas. Some were particularly apprehensive about the uncertainties associated with possible changes in the status of these lands and suggested that the candidate areas should simply be left as they are today.

Other submissions from those involved in the commercial resource sectors, while often expressing support for the principle of protecting natural areas, raised questions about the total number and area of lands that should be set aside for protection. They also raised questions about the economic implications of excluding commercial resource uses from protected areas, particularly mining. However, very few submissions expressed outright opposition to the concept of establishing protected areas.

5.2 *Comments*

I was highly impressed by the interest shown by New Brunswickers towards a sustainable forest stewardship policy on our public forestlands. This was demonstrated by those who spoke and wrote of their own experiences in New Brunswick and of the heritage that they hope to pass on to their children and to future generations. It was also evident from many of the presentations that forest plays a vital role in the economic structure of many rural communities across New Brunswick. Many New Brunswickers agreed that we need to develop a Protected Areas Strategy that will reflect the aspirations of all New Brunswickers.

5.3 *Recommendations*

1. The Government of New Brunswick should make a commitment to adopt a Protected Areas Strategy by 2005. The strategy should include a three-scale approach incorporating a coarse filter, a fine filter and a bioregional perspective. The coarse filter approach should be focused on Crown Lands and the fine filter approach should focus primarily on private and industrial land holdings.
2. The Government should appoint a committee representing the major stakeholders to review the recommendations and submit an Action Plan for implementing the strategy by December 31, 1999.
3. The recently acquired Georgia Pacific lands should be reviewed to assess their potential for the protection of our biodiversity and their capacity to provide compensation for forested areas that will be included in the Protected Areas Strategy.
4. The existing national parks, Kouchibouguac and Fundy, as well as Mount Carleton Provincial Park should form an intricate component of the province's Protected Areas Strategy. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to clearly identify their representativity of the biodiversity within their respective ecoregion.
5. A comprehensive economic analysis should be undertaken on all the proposed sites to assess the economic impacts of implementing the strategy prior to making a final decision on a coarse filter strategy.
6. Following a comprehensive analysis of the existing protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion, the proposed candidate sites should be reviewed to ensure that the final selection of sites for New Brunswick's coarse filter component do contribute to the network of protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion. The analysis should clearly define similarities and differences between the existing protected areas and the proposed sites within New Brunswick. The analysis should also identify the level of protection that is assured for the areas which contain similar enduring features.

6.0 COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIZE OF CANDIDATE SITES

6.1 *Public Concerns*

Many submissions from environmental groups and individual citizens supported the selection of the twelve designated sites as a minimum. They also supported the rationale for the size of the proposed sites. However, some groups indicated they were too small and that they will not adequately protect our natural diversity.

Many forest industry submissions expressed great concern with the number and size (25,000 hectares) of the proposed protected areas. They indicated that New Brunswick's forest industry would be devastated if these areas were protected as proposed. These submissions referred to shortages in current and anticipated wood supply in New Brunswick and to corresponding stresses within the forest industry and the local economy. The forest industry representatives consistently stressed the fact that the establishment of protected areas would lead to a reduction in the annual allowable harvest and that any reduction would necessarily lead to a loss of jobs and the closure of sawmills.

Some believe that large wilderness areas are not necessary and that they represent an extravagant expense that New Brunswick cannot afford, however, other presentations indicated that we have a moral obligation to ensure that future generations are not denied a right to benefit fully from their natural heritage and that this would argue in favour of protecting many large sites rather than a reduced number of smaller sites.

Many presentations from the forestry sector stressed that the present management strategies of riparian zones, deer wintering areas and mature coniferous areas were sufficient to ensure the protection of our biodiversity. Others, however, contend that such areas are not adequate to ensure an understanding and protection of our biodiversity as they do not provide for any long term protection as many of these areas can be rotated and included in the annual allowable cut cycle.

Certain presentations expressed the need to re-visit the scientific guidelines that supported the size of the proposed protected areas. Many expressed the opinion that the areas could be reduced in size and that an adaptive management buffer could be used to ensure the protection of a smaller core area.

Some requested a review of the proposed areas to evaluate the lost of representativity if the proposed areas were reduced to 10,000 hectares. Others expressed concerns that the proposed size of 25,000 was already too small and that a further reduction would certainly ensure a lost in the representativity of our biodiversity.

6.2 Recommendation

7. The Minister of DNRE should name a scientific panel to advise him on the implementation of a research agenda for the protected areas. The panel should have representation from industry, university, scientific and government. The panel could undertake a review of the science that supported the selection of large protected areas.

7.0 DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

7.1 Comments Summary

Numerous submissions commented favorably on the science-based approach used to identify the 12 candidate sites as representative examples of New Brunswick's seven ecoregions. They also recommended applying this approach in planning efforts aimed at evaluating the fine filter strategy. A few presentations criticized the method used; however, they did not provide any alternative methods.

A wide variety of suggestions were made regarding opportunities to further improve the representation of New Brunswick's many diverse ecosystems. Submissions pointed out that the proposal did not adequately represent a large number of natural areas and that protected areas were not proposed for certain broad geographical areas. Submissions also noted that there are many relatively small sites of natural significance and recommended that these be considered for protection. Particular note was made of isolated old forest stands and of species at risk.

Many submissions referred to the high proportion of private land and emphasized the importance of finding effective ways to protect and conserve natural values on private land. Some submissions suggested that private land acquisition would be necessary in some cases. Most submissions, however, expressed particular interest in the concept of private land stewardship and suggested that all reasonable steps be taken to encourage and support efforts to protect and conserve significant natural areas on private land.

Approaches based on scientific principles are essential to ensure that there is a sound rationale for the establishment and management of protected areas. Many recognize the need to continue to develop scientific methodologies and to build partnerships with the scientific community in developing the protected areas network.

8.0 FORESTRY

8.1 *Comments Summary*

Submissions from the forest industry expressed strong concerns about the number and size of the proposed protected areas. These submissions referred to shortages in current and anticipated wood supply in New Brunswick and to corresponding stresses within the forest industry and the local economy. The forest industry consistently stressed the fact that the establishment of protected areas would lead to a reduction in the annual allowable harvest and that any reduction would necessarily lead to a loss of jobs and the closure of sawmills. They also indicated that any loss of fiber would lead to severe economic impacts on the rural economy of New Brunswick.

Many industrial presentations stressed the point that New Brunswick was already in a deficit fiber situation and that it had to import close to 1.4 million cubic meters of wood annually in order to supply the fiber demand. Some presenters expressed concerns that the forest industry was not presently sustainable and that future reductions by neighbouring provinces could seriously affect the viability of certain local mills.

Submissions expressing concerns from an industry perspective highlighted the economic importance of forestry to New Brunswick's economy and suggested that the province cannot afford to forgo the economic benefits of forestry by designating large natural areas for protection. Forestry operations presently employ close to 29,000 people and contribute over 3 billion dollars to the economy of the province.

On the other hand, they also recognize that protected areas are important to the industry because they demonstrate that New Brunswick is practicing sustainable approaches to forest management. Some presentations indicated that potential job losses could be offset by the creation of ecotourism related jobs, however, many industrial presentations indicated that the ecotourism jobs would be low paying jobs in comparison to the forestry jobs and that they could never expect to replace forestry jobs. Submissions from other groups indicated that ecotourism would contribute as much to the economy as many silviculture related jobs.

Submissions from environmental groups and individual citizens supporting the concept indicated that there should be no commercial forestry operations within the protected areas. However, forest industry groups expressed an interest for selective low impact forestry operations within the protected areas, particularly on the peripherals of the protected areas.

Numerous submissions highlighted concerns for the natural integrity of watersheds and ecosystems, and for biological diversity in general. Particular concerns were expressed about the very few remaining stands of old forests in New Brunswick and the diminishing extent and continuity of forest cover required to provide adequate habitat to sustain wildlife populations.

A number of submissions indicated support for the federal and provincial commitments that have been signed regarding the conservation of our biodiversity and the completion of a representative system of protected areas. Many presentations stressed the relationship between fiber availability and employment level. This focus became a central theme in most, if not all, of the forest industry presentations. They claimed that between 1000 and 1400 hundred jobs would be lost if the strategy was adopted. Other presentations indicated that many forest jobs had been lost over the past years due to mechanization of the forest operations. Others indicated that industry projections of job losses were exaggerated, that they did not reflect reality, and that they did not reflect the jobs lost to mechanization of our forestry practices.

Some submissions also proposed limited or low-impact forestry activities within the protected areas so that economic benefits could be realized. Others expressed concerns about the possible spread of fire, insects and diseases from protected areas to surrounding forestlands. They requested that the protected areas be subjected to the same level of fire and insect protection as other forestlands. Other presentations indicated that the protected areas could offer an opportunity to better understand the dynamics of forest pest and fire within our forest ecosystems.

Certain presentations stressed the need to seek the certification of all Crown forested lands. The certification of forestry practices on Crown Lands could provide a unique marketing opportunity for New Brunswick in a global market that is developing a demand for certified forest products.

Some believe that large wilderness areas are not necessary and recommended that the forestry potential of candidate protected areas be evaluated in detail and subjected to a detailed economic assessment prior to any commitment by government. They argued that the present system of protected areas is sufficient.

Many presentations from the forestry sector stressed that the present management strategies of riparian zones, deer wintering areas and mature coniferous areas were sufficient to ensure the protection of our biodiversity. Others, however, contend that such areas are not adequate to ensure an understanding and protection of our biodiversity as they do not provide for any long term protection as many of these areas can be rotated and included in the annual allowable cut cycle.

Numerous presentations highlighted the importance of the forest industry on the provincial economy. Local civic representatives and economic development commissions all stressed the need to keep the entire present fiber from the forest. They were unanimous in their opposition to the Protected Areas Strategy. Other presentations indicated that alternative harvest allocation model should be used in assessing the AAC. They indicated that more recent forecast model would enable DNRE to more precisely calculate the yearly AAC.

Others indicated that we should develop and enforce a stronger policy toward the development of a value-added strategy. Some indicated that a percentage of the wood from Lands should be allocated to companies that agree to produce value-added products. They argued that the jobs created through the implementation of a value-added program would offset the job losses associated with the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy.

Industry presentations indicated that the forest industry was creating more jobs now than it had in the past, however, other presenters indicated that the annual harvest had increased significantly over the past years and that any job assessment should be reviewed with regards to a constant such as 1000 cubic meter of fiber cut per year.

Some presentations indicated that the government should review the present policy of fiber allocations on Crown Lands to companies that could be impacted by the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy. The recently acquired Georgia Pacific lands should be considered as a potential site for the reallocation of timber lease to affected companies.

8.2 Recommendations

8. Government should undertake a comprehensive economic impact analysis of implementing a Protected Areas Strategy. This analysis should consider:
 - historical trends of jobs created per 1000 meters of wood harvested annually;
 - the economic benefits that are supplied to society by forest ecosystems. These could include the provisions of water, fish habitat, etc.;
 - the impacts of forest subsidies in assessing the true cost of forestry jobs to adequately compare ecotourism jobs to forestry related jobs. These could include the cost of fire and insect protection, the annual support to silviculture operations on Crown Lands.
 - a comparison of the tourism jobs with the jobs provided in silviculture.
9. DNRE should review the possibility of allocating sustainable low impact forest management licenses within established buffer zones surrounding the protected areas. The fiber harvested and the products produced from these areas could form the basis for the development of a certification process for wood based products from New Brunswick.
10. Government should review the policy of fiber allocation from Crown Lands to companies that may be impacted by the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy. The recently purchased Georgia Pacific lands could be used to compensate for loss allocation due to the implementation of the strategy.

9.0 CENTRALIZED DATABASE

9.1 *Comments Summary*

Certain presentations expressed the need to acquire and maintain a comprehensive database to properly assess the existing biodiversity within the protected areas and to also monitor changes through time if we want to use the protected areas as benchmarks against which we could evaluate our management strategies. This database would also provide valuable information in assessing New Brunswick's biodiversity over the Acadian bioregion.

The Atlantic Conservation Data Centre, which is being established in Sackville, should be considered as a potential database site. It has the advantage of linking to biodiversity databases across provincial boundaries. It will also be in a position to develop standardized database protocols that will ensure that data collected within different political boundaries can be shared through an effective and efficient data exchange protocol.

9.2 *Recommendation*

11. The province of New Brunswick should evaluate the potential of the Atlantic Conservation Data Centre as a repository for the province's biodiversity database.

10.0 MINING

10.1 *Comments Summary*

Many submissions from environmental groups and the general public supported excluding mineral exploration and development from the protected areas. As with forestry operations, submissions expressed the belief that mining activity is not compatible with protected areas.

However, submissions from representatives of the mining industry and the business community expressed the view that mineral exploration and development can be compatible with protected areas, especially where small underground mine sites may be involved. These submissions contended that mineral development should in fact be permitted, particularly considering the economic importance of mining. Various options were proposed to accommodate mining activity, such as applying stringent standards. Concerns were also expressed that mineral developments could be restricted on lands adjacent to protected areas.

Submissions from industry stressed the economic importance of mining to the province of New Brunswick. Presently, close to one billion dollars are generated from the mining sector. A number of submissions contended that mineral potentials should have been given more consideration in the selection of the 12 candidate protected areas and that mineral potential should be considered in any such areas identified in the future. These submissions highlighted the need for including the mineral industry in any future activities.

The mineral industry also contended that they have the lowest impact of any resource extraction on the landscape. They indicated that mining is compatible with the concept of protected areas and that they should be allowed as an accepted activity within protected areas.

Industry representatives from the mining industry indicated that they needed to have access to the entire province as potential mineral deposits could be found anywhere. They also indicated that future technologies might enable them to detect deposit in areas that are not presently feasible.

Representatives of mining interests expressed concerns that special standards, which could be imposed within a designated protected area, are likely to make future exploration and development work impractical and that prospective investors could be turned away from the province. It was suggested that protected areas will lead to uncertainty about future decisions regarding development and, as a result, will make it difficult to raise investment capital. It was also emphasized that in the case of existing mineral rights, considerable investment has been made to date and that such investment could effectively be lost as a result of a protected area designation.

Other submissions expressed concerns about existing mineral claims within the candidate protected areas. Their concerns were that the continuation of existing claims would mean "business as usual" and controls to minimize the impacts of further mineral exploration and possible future development would be difficult to manage.

10.2 Recommendations

12. Existing mineral rights should be recognized while they are maintained in good standing; however, every effort should be made to establish the protected areas boundary in order to eliminate conflicts with mineral existing claims.
13. Government should undertake a comprehensive economic impact assessment on the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy on the mining industry.

11.0 RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND USE

11.1 Comments Summary

Submissions reflected a very strong interest in and attachment to the wilderness recreational opportunities associated with the candidate protected areas identified in the proposed plan. Views differ, however, over which recreational activities are considered appropriate within these areas. In particular, concerns were expressed that many activities that have historically been undertaken in the candidate areas, or that have become popular, may be restricted arbitrarily if these areas are designated formally for protection.

People expressed the greatest interest and concern about hunting and fishing, snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicle use, and the enjoyment of hunting and fishing camps. These concerns were held most strongly by residents of communities near candidate protected areas and by other traditional users of these areas.

Others stressed the importance of providing high quality opportunities for activities such as canoeing, hiking and the enjoyment of nature. These submissions emphasized the importance of minimizing potential impacts of recreational use on the natural environment, as well as of avoiding conflicts between different recreational activities.

Despite differing views on which recreational activities are appropriate in protected areas, there was widespread support for planning and consultation processes that provide for the effective input of all interested parties when decisions are being made about the management of individual areas. A great many individuals and organizations also offered to work in partnership among themselves and with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy in the planning, resource management, maintenance and monitoring of recreational uses within protected areas.

11.2 Recommendations

14. Protected areas in New Brunswick should be managed to accommodate a wide variety of traditional recreational activities while ensuring the ecological viability of the protected area.
15. Local management committees should be named for each protected area and they should play an important role in establishing the management plan for the protected area. The management committee should include the major user groups associated with the protected area.

12.0 HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING

12.1 Comments Summary

Many submissions strongly argued that hunting and fishing should be allowed to continue within the protected areas. Those in support of hunting emphasized that it is a traditional activity integral to the way of life of many New Brunswickers and particularly of those living in rural areas. Hunters and trappers expressed concern that a ban in protected areas would increase hunting and trapping pressures on other lands, including private lands. They felt that this pressure could lead to declines in wildlife populations and to further restrictions on hunting, fishing and trapping activities. Many expressed concerns on the restriction of motorized travel within the protected areas and the impact these restrictions may have on the hunters and trappers. They expressed a strong desire to have access to motorized all-terrain vehicles within the protected areas.

However, a few presenters considered hunting to be incompatible with the underlying principles and objectives of protected areas. We understand that hunting, fishing and trapping are highly valued traditional activities enjoyed by many New Brunswickers. At the same time, we also recognize that many people enjoy viewing wildlife and that many see parks and protected areas as places where other outdoor activities can be safely enjoyed.

12.2 Recommendations

16. Traditional, long established patterns of hunting and trapping should be permitted to continue within the protected areas. The nature and extent of hunting within individual areas should be determined through the local management committee in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.
17. Travel within protected areas for the purpose of hunting should be restricted to existing roadways and trails.
18. Sport fishing can be permitted to continue in protected areas. However, the nature and extent of fishing activities within individual protected areas should be established through area specific management planning by the local management committee in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.

13.0 OFF ROAD MOTOR VEHICLE AND SNOWMOBILE USE

13.1 Comments Summary

The opinion was expressed frequently by presenters representing the various all-terrain and snowmobile clubs that they should be allowed to travel within the protected areas, at least on existing trails.

Conversely, others expressed the opinion that there should be limited motorized travel in protected areas because of negative impacts on the environment or on the quality of the wilderness experiences of other users. Many submissions expressed particular concern about all-terrain vehicle use, with a number recommending stringent regulations and controls on this activity.

Those advocating the use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles in protected areas stressed that these vehicles facilitate access for other recreational purposes such as scenic viewing, hunting and fishing. Many have come to consider them essential for accessing established hunting and fishing camps.

Many supporters of these activities, particularly the members of the off road and snowmobile clubs, also expressed a willingness to accept some restrictions, such as limiting use to designated trails or relocating trail alignments to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, in the event of a possible future protected area designation.

A number of presentations from all-terrain vehicles and snowmobile organizations drew attention to the increasing popularity of these activities and to associated economic benefits of winter tourism. These organizations also emphasized that their activity was well organized and that codes of ethics have been developed for their members. Representatives from all of the all-terrain organizations indicated that they were willing to participate actively in the local management committees.

13.2 Recommendation

19. All-terrain and snowmobiling within protected areas should be permitted on established trails where it can be demonstrated that these trails are an essential link to a more extensive trail network. However, such use must not negatively impact on the ecological integrity of the area. New trails should not be established. The local management committee should review the potential use of all-terrain vehicles to access established hunting and fishing camps.

14.0 WILDERNESS TRAVEL AND ECOTOURISM

14.1 Comments Summary

Submissions demonstrated the high level of importance that many New Brunswickers attach to opportunities in the forests for activities such as hiking, canoeing, as well as related activities such as back country camping, wildlife viewing, nature photography and the enjoyment of natural areas. A number of submissions expressed a need for a network of natural areas that could be used to support the ecotourism industry. They also noted an opportunity, within the protected areas, for the creation of new jobs that could offset some of the jobs lost within the forest industry.

Submissions reflected wide interest in the potential long-term benefits of protected areas for ecotourism (or nature tourism). Many of these submissions expressed the view that ecotourism offers potential opportunities for community economic development in rural communities where traditional forest economic sectors are under stress or are in decline.

While supporting ecotourism, however, some also recognized that protected areas should be managed carefully so that promotion and use do not override primary objectives associated with protection. Concerns were expressed that the protected areas could become overused and deteriorated, unless effective standards and monitoring are implemented.

Many other submissions expressed doubt that economic benefits from ecotourism will ever replace the forestry related jobs.

14.2 Recommendations

20. Protected areas should be managed to accommodate ecotourism where appropriate. Management should be maintained at the highest possible standards to provide quality experiences and protection for the environment.
21. The facilities (e.g. hiking trails, wilderness tent sites) developed to accommodate wilderness activities and associated levels of use should be kept to a minimum and be monitored and controlled to ensure that quality experiences are provided and that environmental impacts are limited.

15.0 ROADS AND UTILITY CORRIDORS

15.1 Comments Summary

Submissions reflected the opinion that road development and utility corridors should not be included within the protected areas.

Many submissions expressed concerns about the negative effects of road development including habitat fragmentation, siltation of waterways and declines in wildlife populations.

15.2 Recommendation

22. Roads, hydro developments and utility corridors should not be established within protected areas.

16.0 ABORIGINAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

16.1 Comments Summary

Submissions from representatives of aboriginal groups reflected a deep respect for the land. Lands were referred to by the presenters as being sacred and essential to the spiritual life of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and of all aboriginal people. They expressed concerns with the objectives of the protected areas and the respect for treaty rights. They also expressed concerns with the consultation process and indicated that it was not suited to the customs and tradition of the aboriginal people.

They expressed strong reservation on the rights of native peoples to use the land for traditional activities such as hunting and gathering of food and other materials. Assurances were requested that aboriginal treaty rights would be recognized prior to the establishment of protected areas.

16.2 Recommendations

23. Established rights of aboriginal people should be addressed in management plans for protected areas.
24. Efforts should be made to plan and manage protected areas in consultation, co-operation and partnership with aboriginal people. They should be included on the local management committee boards.

17.0 PRIVATE LAND WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREAS

17.1 Comments Summary

A number of submissions expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of private lands within the protected areas. Particular concerns were addressed with private lands within the Grand Lake Meadows. The majority of the private landowners did not want to have their lands included within the proposed protected areas.

Some expressed concerns about possible future restrictions on the use of their properties, while others raised questions about possible future restrictions on access to their properties across Crown Lands. Similar comments, concerns and issues were also expressed by owners of properties adjacent to candidate protected areas.

17.2 Recommendation

25. Information should be available to adjacent landowners and to other interested parties within nearby communities regarding the status of the protected areas and indicate to the landowners that the use of their land will not be impacted by the establishment of a protected area.

18.0 CAMPSITE LEASES ON CROWN LANDS

18.1 Comments Summary

Some candidate protected areas include hunting, fishing and recreational camps on lands leased from the Crown. Submissions from the leasees indicated that these campsite leases are highly valued. Many stressed the historical and cultural traditions associated with hunting and fishing and general recreation at these campsites. Others stressed the stewardship role that leaseholders can play in monitoring and reporting on backcountry activities. Some proposed a more formalized relationship or partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy, whereby existing leaseholders would act as stewards within the protected areas.

Other presentations expressed concerns over the possible use of all-terrain vehicles to access their camps. They want to retain the right to use all-terrain vehicles in order to access their camps.

18.2 Recommendations

26. Existing campsite leases should be honored and allowed to remain in effect, subject to a high standard of compliance with the conditions of the lease agreement.
27. New campsite leases should not be issued within protected areas.
28. Campsite leaseholders should be encouraged to act as "stewards" of the protected areas within the site they lease. Consideration should be given to revising the lease agreement for campsites in protected areas to include provisions relating to stewardship as a condition of the continuance of these leases.

19.0 BUFFERS AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

19.1 Comments Summary

A number of submissions proposed that lands adjacent to the protected areas be considered as special management areas where compatible land use activities would be encouraged, including low-impact forestry. As proposed, special management areas or buffer zones would be intended to minimize the impacts of nearby intensive land uses on ecological processes within the protected areas.

Conversely, other submissions expressed concerns that the concept of buffer zones implies additional land and resource use restrictions outside of protected areas. This view equates buffers with an expansion of protected areas at the expense of other land and resource uses. The special management area or buffer concept recognizes that, in such cases, effective protection of designated areas can depend on land and resource use practices on adjoining lands.

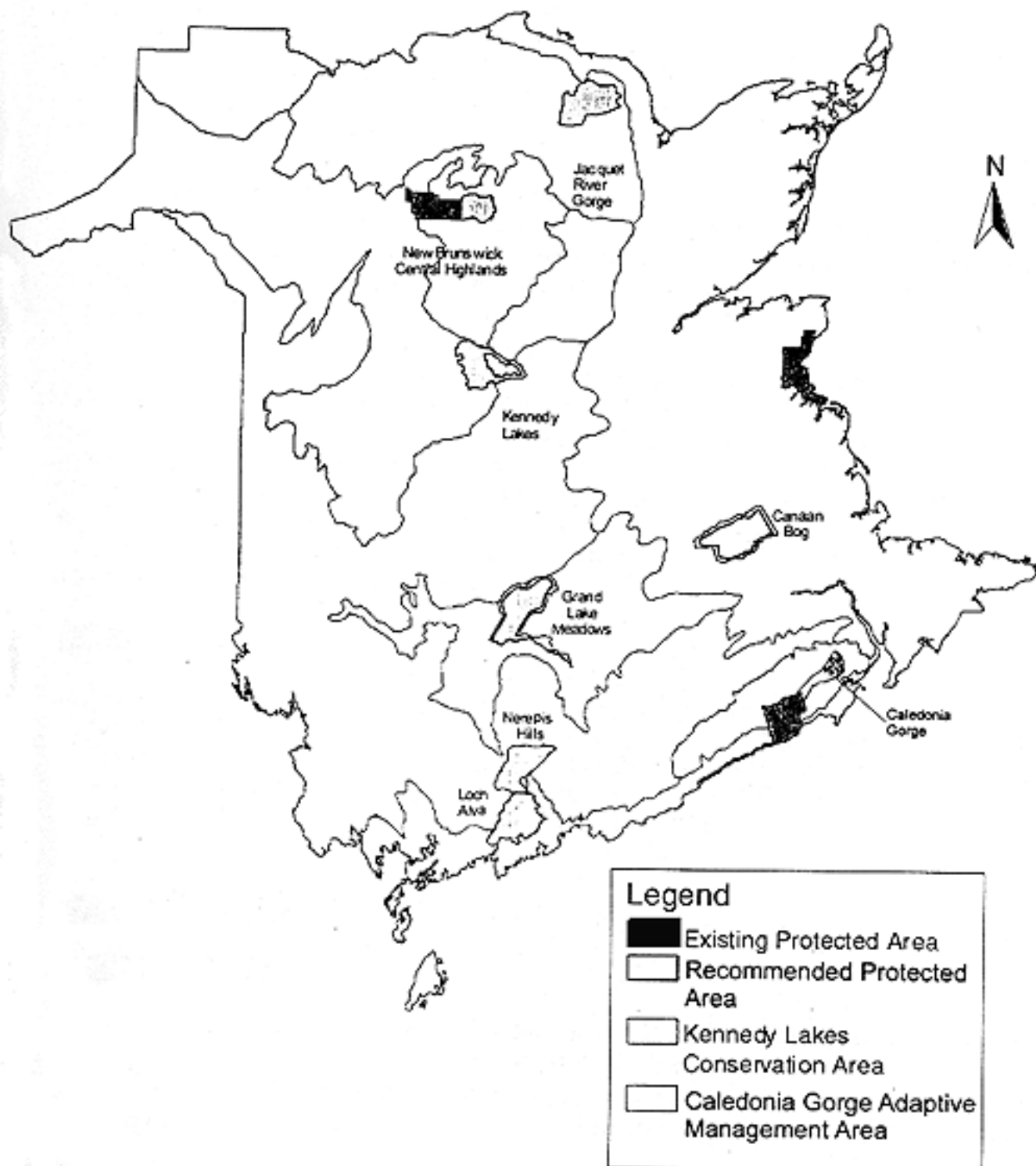
19.2 Recommendation

29. DNRE should ensure that the integration of protected areas with adjacent lands be considered during the preparation of management plans to ensure that the ecological integrity of the ecosystems across the landscape are maintained.

20.0 DESIGNATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROPOSED CANDIDATE SITES

After consideration of the comments and suggestions received in the course of the public consultation process, the following areas were retained as representative coarse filter options for the seven ecoregions. The recommendations should be submitted to the Stakeholders Committee for review prior to their retention as the final options for the coarse filter strategy. Figure 2, next page, identifies these options.

RECOMMENDED PROTECTED AREAS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK



20.1 LOCH ALVA

Comments Summary

The Loch Alva candidate site attracted more specific comments than any of the other candidate areas during the public hearings. Many submissions emphasized its natural values and exceptional wilderness travel opportunities. Submissions indicated a broad base of support for protecting the Loch Alva area from development. Industry representatives, (J. D. Irving Ltd.) expressed support for the area, however, they proposed boundary adjustments to reduce the proposed area to 18,000 hectares. Other boundary adjustments were proposed by other groups that were intended to expand the boundary of the candidate area by following alignments that reflect ecological considerations.

The submissions also included a wide range of additional comments and concerns regarding the compatibility of various recreational uses of Loch Alva, particularly by individuals with campsite leases. The use of all-terrain vehicles was also stressed as an important issue with the local residents. Numerous submissions from individuals and organizations indicated a strong desire to participate in future planning of Loch Alva.

There is extensive public sentiment in favor of protecting the Loch Alva area as one of New Brunswick's new largest protected area. This was evident from the large number of letters received in support of this area. We also recognize a desire by the local forest industry (J. D. Irving Ltd.) to support this area as a candidate site. We would suggest that the proposed boundaries be reviewed, however adjustment to the present boundaries should clearly define how the deleted enduring features will be captured within the overall strategy. Consideration should be given to maintain the proposed boundaries and adjust the J. D. Irving Ltd. AAC with allocations from the Georgia Pacific lands.

Recommendation

30. The proposed Loch Alva site captures the valley and ridge features, which are typical of the Continental Lowlands, as well as the low coastal hills of the Fundy Coastal Ecoregion. It should be retained as a primary candidate within the coarse filter strategy. The proposed boundaries should be retained, however, the western boundaries may be re-evaluated following the economic impact assessment on the wood supply.

20.2 GRAND LAKE MEADOWS

Comments Summary

Residents from the area expressed strong interests and concerns about the Grand Lake protected area proposal, particularly as it relates to the inclusion of private land holdings. Many indicated that the candidate areas effectively were their "backyards" and expressed concerns that protected area designations could mean the loss of traditional recreational access and use of these areas.

Current activities include hunting, fishing and the use of hunting and fishing camps. Submissions indicated that local residents and users of these areas believe strongly that their past record of activity has demonstrated that they have been good stewards of the land and that their future use should not be curtailed.

We recognize the basis of the very strong concerns held by residents of the community. Essentially, we understand that the Crown Lands included in these candidate sites literally form the "backyards" of many area residents and that these areas are used in various ways as part of day-to-day activities within the community. We also understand that many area residents are concerned that decisions that may affect them may be made without their involvement.

Recommendation

31. The proposed Grand Lake Meadows site captures the river valley bottomland and the upland features of a portion of the Saint John River Valley. The main features of this site vary from wetland meadows and alluvial floodplains to upland forests. The site also contains the province's largest wetland. It should be retained as an element within the coarse filter strategy due to the limited landbase that is available for protection within this ecoregion. However, the proposed site should be modified to exclude all private lands. Discussions should be initiated with the Canadian Forest Service and the University of New Brunswick to explore the possibility of including their land within the protected area. These lands could serve as a demonstration area for adaptive management strategies.

20.3 N.B. CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Comments Summary

Submissions recognized Mount Carleton and the proposed addition of the Central Highlands area for the outstanding opportunities that it offers for wilderness, hiking and scenic viewing. However, submissions from the forest industry emphasized the value this area has for fiber production. They also indicated that significant amounts had been invested in forest management infrastructures such as roads and plantations within this area.

Recommendation

32. The extension to Mount Carleton Provincial Park captures the rugged mountains typical of the ecoregion. The topography of the area is somewhat less diverse than Mount Carleton Park but the site contains a greater soil and ecosite diversity, thus making these two areas very complementary from a representativity standpoint. The proposed addition to Mount Carleton Provincial Park should be retained. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to assess the economic impact on the wood supply. The potential for ecotourism should also be included in the economic analysis.

20.4 KENNEDY LAKES

Comments Summary

A number of submissions expressed support for the protection of the Kennedy Lakes candidate site. Submissions stressed the significance of these areas to their natural, recreational and historic values. As this area is already partially designated as a conservation area, it is seen as an ideal candidate for inclusion within a Protected Areas Strategy.

Submissions from industry described the area as a significant fiber production area. They also stressed that considerable time and money had been spent in the development of infrastructures within the area.

Recommendation

33. The proposed Kennedy Lakes site captures the hills and small mountains of the southern ecoregion, along with the ridges and valleys of the continental lowlands. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter strategy. A comprehensive economic and ecological assessment of the proposed site should be initiated to assess the additional landbase that needs to be added to the existing conservation area in order to ensure that the major enduring features are retained. The protected core should be surrounded by a buffer where low impact forestry practices would be applied.

20.5 NEREPIS HILLS

Comments Summary

This area was identified as representing a unique area of New Brunswick's landscape. It is also included in an integrated ecotourism project for the area. A number of submissions from the forest industry expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of the Nerepis Hills and the impact it could have on the local wood supply.

Particular interest was expressed by DND in participating in the process. As a large portion of the area identified lies within the limits of Base Gagetown, Government should explore the possibility of developing a partnership with DND for the protection of this land.

Any adjustment to the proposed boundaries should include the possibility of compensation for lost allocation with the Georgia Pacific lands.

Recommendation

34. The Nerepis Hills site captures three distinct landscape types. The southern half is characterized by rolling hills and lakes. The northeastern portion contains the high elevation, Nerepis Hills. The northwestern portion contains the valleys of the Nerepis River and the Douglas Valley Brook. This site should be retained, however, the boundaries should be revised to capture the higher elevation and the valley of the Nerepis River. The revised boundaries would place a large portion of the protected area within the boundaries of Canadian Force Base Gagetown. Negotiations should be initiated with the Base officials to explore the possibility of developing a partnership with DND for the implementation of the Nerepis Hills protected area.

20.6 CALEDONIA GORGE

Comments Summary

The Caledonia Gorge should be retained as a representative example of river gorges that are typical of the steep sloping areas of the Fundy Plateau portion of the Southern Uplands Ecoregion. As this site is very steep, the vast majority is inoperable.

Recommendation

35. The proposed Caledonia Gorge captures the river gorges that are typical of the steeply sloping areas of the Fundy plateau. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter strategy. An adaptive management strategy should be developed to ensure that an ecological link is maintained with Fundy National Park.

20.7 LONG LAKE

Comments Summary

Residents from the area expressed strong interests and concerns about the Long Lake protected area proposal, particularly as it relates to the wood supply for Juniper Lumber and for the many campsite leases. Many indicated that the Long Lake area was part of their common heritage as families had held campsite lots over many generations. They expressed concerns that protected area designations could mean the loss of traditional recreational access and use of these areas.

Submissions indicated that local residents and users of these areas believe strongly that their past record of activity has demonstrated that they have been good stewards of the land and that their future use should not be curtailed.

Local forest industry representatives expressed strong reservation on the loss of the wood supply from this area. It was also noted that close to 50% off the proposed area were private land holdings.

Recommendation

36. The proposed Long Lake area should be dropped from the strategy as it contains a large portion of private lands.

20.8 CANAAN BOG

Comments Summary

Presentations from the forest industry stressed the importance of this area for their industry. The peat industry also indicated that mining leases were secured within the proposed protected area. Presentations from the environmental organizations stressed the need to protect this area as a vital contribution to the biodiversity of the coastal lowlands.

Recommendation

37. The Canaan Bog area captures a highland bog complex, which represents the higher elevation inland areas within the Eastern Lowlands Ecoregion. It should be retained as it adds a significant component to the biodiversity that is captured within Kouchibouguac National Park. The size of the protected core should be revised to include the natural features that are not included within the boundaries of Kouchibouguac National Park. The protected core should be surrounded by an adaptive management area, which would focus on low impact forestry practices.

20.9 ARMSTRONG LAKE

Comments Summary

Presentations from the forest industry stressed the importance of this area for the industry. The mining industry also indicated that this area was important to future mining developments. Presentations from the environmental organizations stressed the need to protect this area.

Recommendation

38. The proposed Armstrong Lake area should be removed from the proposed coarse filter strategy due to existing mineral claims. However, the enduring natural features that are unique to this area should be assessed for potential sites within the fine filter analysis.

20.10 JACQUET RIVER GORGE, RESTIGOUCHE RIVER AND THE UPSALQUITCH FORKS AREAS

Comments Summary

These areas were identified as representing a unique area of New Brunswick's landscape. Recognition was also given for their importance in protecting the headwaters of some of our great salmon spawning rivers. Many submissions from the forest industry expressed concerns regarding the impacts of these sites on the local wood supply. Particular interest was expressed by the communities' representatives in these areas concerning the impacts on the local economy. The designation of a protected area within this ecoregion will be difficult to achieve without causing some impacts on the wood supply due to the dependence of the entire landbase to supply fibre to the local mills.

Recommendations

39. The Jacquet River area should be retained as the representative area for the Northern Uplands Ecoregion. It captures the hilly plateau and river gorges that are typical of the Northern Uplands Ecoregion. The site has a low level of fragmentation and it comprises the watershed for the region.
40. The Restigouche River and the Upsalquitch Forks should not be retained as a major component of the coarse filter strategy. However, the gorges should be re-assessed as potential candidates within the fine filter analysis if the Jacquet River Gorge is not retained within the coarse filter strategy.

21.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED COARSE FILTER SITES FOR THE SEVEN ECOREGIONS

ECOREGION	PROPOSED SITE	COMMENTS
Central Highlands	Addition to Mount Carleton Provincial Park	This site captures the rugged mountains typical of the Highlands ecoregion.
Northern Uplands	Jacquet River Gorge	This area captures the hilly plateau and river gorges that are typical of this ecoregion.
Southern Uplands	Caledonia Gorge	This area captures the river gorges that are typical of the steeply sloping areas of the Fundy plateau.
	Kennedy Lakes	This area captures the hills and small mountains of the Southern Ecoregion, along with the ridges and valleys of the Continental Lowlands Ecoregion.
Fundy Coastal Region	Fundy National Park	
Continental Highlands	Loch Alva	This area captures the valley and ridge features that are typical of the Continental Highlands
	Nerepis Hills	This site contains three distinct landscape types. The southern half is characterized by rolling hills and lakes, and the northeastern portion contains the high elevation, Nerepis Hills.
Eastern Lowlands	Kouchibouguac Park	Kouchibouguac Park does not contain all of the major enduring features within its boundaries.
	Canaan Bog	This area captures the highland complex, which represents the higher elevation inland areas of this ecoregion.
Grand Lake Basin	Grand Lake Meadows (modified)	This area captures the river valley bottom and the upland features of a portion of the Saint John River Valley.

22.0 ADDITIONAL AREAS PROPOSED FOR PROTECTION

22.1 *Comments Summary*

The high level of public interest in protected areas resulted in various proposals for alternative sites. During the public presentations, other sites were proposed by various organizations. To properly assess the potential of these sites, it would be appropriate to undertake a comprehensive analysis of each site. Some of the areas that were presented as possible sites during the public review were Glazier Lake, Blue Mountain and the Stillwater Brook area.

22.2 *Recommendation*

41. A comprehensive review of the alternate sites proposed during the public meetings should be undertaken to assess their potential in meeting the objectives of the coarse filter component of the strategy.

23.0 COASTAL ISLANDS

23.1 *Comments Summary*

Although specific properties were not identified, coastal islands were mentioned in submissions as warranting consideration for protection. Submissions noted the recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and other natural values of coastal islands and expressed concerns at the lack of protected coastal areas in New Brunswick. A number of submissions suggested that future development pressures could be anticipated. Such pressures could lead to possible reductions in the natural character and value of these areas and in opportunities for public access. Submissions suggested that Crown owned islands are especially important and that step should be taken to ensure their protection.

23.2 *Recommendation*

42. A review of coastal islands should be undertaken in the process of a fine filter analysis to determine if they should be included within the protected areas system.

24.0 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION

24.1 *Comments Summary*

Some submissions recommended establishing landscape management strategies that would ensure the integration of core protected areas. This planning strategy should be established across the managed landscape outside the protected areas and would maintain adequate habitat structures to provide for the movement or migration of flora and fauna between designated core protected areas.

25.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION, INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

25.1 *Comments Summary*

Throughout the public review process, it was widely recognized that the establishment and management of a comprehensive system of protected areas in New Brunswick would require a co-operative approach that emphasizes consultation and partnership.

Numerous presenters expressed a strong desire to become involved in the development of a Protected Areas Strategy. Many also expressed an interest in participating in the management planning process.

25.2 *Public consultation*

25.3 *Comments Summary*

Submissions highlighted the importance of effective information and communication as the basis for fair and open planning and decision-making processes. Submissions reflected a strong and extensive public interest in participating in future planning processes involving protected areas. Many indicated that provision for effective input at the local level in particular is critical if protected areas planning is to prove successful. Individuals indicated concern that decisions would be made behind the scenes and that their opinions would not be heard or considered seriously. It was suggested that without effective local input, cooperation and support for the management and regulation of protected areas would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

Others expressed concern that planning and decision-making processes could become dominated by local interests and proposed that local concerns and priorities be balanced with provincial and national perspectives. Particular attention should be granted to the economic impacts on local communities prior to the establishment of any strategy.

25.4 *Recommendations*

43. A process should be developed to ensure meaningful public participation in the planning and management of protected areas.
44. Government should appoint a committee representing the major stakeholders to review the recommendations and submit an Action Plan for implementing the strategy by December 31, 1999.

25.5 Partnership and Private Land Stewardship

25.6 Comments Summary

Submissions from individuals and groups proposed various forms of community-based or user-group partnerships in regard to the management of protected areas. Examples of suggested partnerships were in reference to the monitoring of recreational use levels and of associated environmental impacts.

Many individuals and groups, particularly those residing in areas close to candidate protected areas, indicated that they were already informally participating in the management of candidate areas. These traditional users expressed a strong sense of stewardship for the areas that they have used and enjoyed over the years.

Owners of fishing and hunting camps emphasized the role that they have played as "stewards" or "guardians." They informally monitor activities in the vicinity of their camps and provide information and directions to visitors who are unfamiliar with the area. A number of campsite leaseholders proposed that this role be confirmed through a formal partnership arrangement.

Many submissions recognized the extent of private land ownership in New Brunswick and emphasized the importance of the interest and support of private landowners if protection and conservation objectives are to be achieved where private lands are involved. These submissions identified the importance of providing information to private landowners so that principles and concepts related to the protection of natural areas can be understood. A number of submissions also stressed the importance of addressing barriers, such as taxation, to the voluntary protection or conservation of lands by private owners.

25.7 Recommendation

45. The management structure, developed within the Protected Areas Strategy, should include a mechanism that will ensure that local interested parties are involved in the management of protected areas.

26.0 MORATORIUM ON FORESTRY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PROPOSED PROTECTED AREAS

26.1 Comments Summary

Various presentations from the environmental sector stressed the need to impose a moratorium on any future forestry activities within the designated protected areas until the final review by government. They indicated that a moratorium would be a very effective and essential measure within the overall protected areas planning process. A moratorium would ensure that ecological integrity of the proposed areas is not destroyed.

26.2 Recommendation

46. Government should place a moratorium on all the proposed candidate sites until a final decision on a strategy has been achieved.

27.0 MANAGEMENT PLANS

27.1 Comments Summary

Following the approval of a final strategy, many details will remain to be worked out at the local level as management plans are prepared for individual areas. Details that will require attention during management planning include such matters as the nature and extent of recreational access and other uses that shall be permitted within the protected areas.

We also recognize that there will probably be many divergent issues that will need to be addressed at the management planning stage. To ensure an integration of these divergent views, the management planning process should provide for effective public consultation, particularly with residents of local communities.

New Brunswick residents have a strong, personal and longstanding interest in many of the candidate areas and desire opportunities for active involvement in addition to consultation. Interested parties informed us that they want to work in partnership with government, in both the planning and the ongoing management of protected areas.

27.2 Recommendation

47. A high priority should be placed on the development of management plans for each protected area. Areas where outstanding public concerns are noted or where specific measures are required to protect natural elements should receive particular attention.

28.0 FUNDING OF THE PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

28.1 Comments Summary

Many presentations expressed concerns regarding the cost associated with the implementation and the monitoring of a Protected Areas Strategy. Some indicated that we could not afford to spend any money on a protection strategy, with all of the other that need funding. Others, however, expressed the view that innovative funding strategies could be developed in order to reduce the cost of implementing a strategy.

Various funding mechanisms have been devised and implemented around the world that serve to support public land trust. DNRE should review these models with the view of developing a suitable model for New Brunswick. Two interesting models are the Scottish Heritage Trust and the New Zealand Public Land Trust. Such a trust could be a public-private partnership, which would ensure funding for the management and research activities that would be conducted within the protected areas. The New Brunswick Protected Areas and Special Places Trust would be an entirely independent organization. It would receive no direct funding from government.

The trust could obtain funding through special projects such as:

- a provincial special place licence plate program;
- a hiking ticket for residents and tourists;
- a protected area stamp and painting program;
- user fees for forest industries and other groups who would use the protected area for certification purposes;
- a heritage trust protected areas certificate program that could be used for gifts, births and other special occasions;
- an estate and succession legacy program;
- charter membership could be sold to private citizens and corporations.

The objective of the trust should be focused on fostering a responsibility for all New Brunswickers to support a funding program that would ensure that natural areas are held in perpetuity for present and future generations to understand, use and enjoy.

28.2 Recommendation

48. Government, in adopting a Protected Areas Strategy, should consider developing a Natural Heritage Trust Fund that would ensure the funding of the management and research activities associated with the implementation of the strategy. Government should also explore the possibility for the Natural Trust of New Brunswick to manage this trust fund.

29.0 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

29.1 Comments Summary

It is recognized that the proposed Protected Areas Strategy can contribute significantly to provincial objectives regarding biodiversity conservation, sustainability of our forest, community economic development, environmental awareness and the promotion of certified forest management practices. It is also further recognized that these objectives involve many new ideas and concepts, and that these must be effectively communicated to the people of New Brunswick if we are to gain public interest, understanding, support and commitment for a Protected Areas Strategy.

29.2 Recommendation

49. Government should place a high priority on public information and education prior to the implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy. In particular, efforts should be made to demonstrate how New Brunswickers could and should become actively involved in supporting the strategy.

30.0 LEGISLATION

30.1 Comments Summary

Relatively large protected natural areas, which are intended to serve as representative examples of our ecosystems to protect our biodiversity, essentially reflect a new land protection concept in New Brunswick. We understand that many comments and concerns expressed in submissions regarding the strategy were based on perceptions and understandings of existing protected area designations such as national parks, provincial parks and ecological reserves. There will be a need to clearly define the standards of protection that will apply within the various candidate sites within a Protected Areas Strategy.

30.2 Recommendation

50. The Government of New Brunswick should enact new legislation to provide for the establishment and management of protected areas.

31.0 CONCLUSION

New Brunswickers share many divergent views over the development and implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy. One of the greatest concerns expressed was over the potential economic impacts. It is evident that prior to the implementation of any strategy, the government will have to undertake a comprehensive economic review of the impacts associated with the development of a strategy. In contrast to the economic concerns, it was evident throughout the public review that a large number of New Brunswickers want the government to implement a Protected Areas Strategy, however they want a strategy that will be tailored to meet the needs of New Brunswickers.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Government of New Brunswick should make a commitment to adopt a Protected Areas Strategy by 2005. The strategy should include a three scale approach incorporating a coarse filter, a fine filter and a bioregional perspective. The coarse filter approach should be focused on Crown Lands and the fine filter approach should focus primarily on private and industrial land holdings.
2. The Government should appoint a committee representing the major stakeholders to review the recommendations and submit an Action Plan for implementing the strategy by December 31, 1999.
3. The recently acquired Georgia Pacific lands should be reviewed to assess their potential for the protection of our biodiversity and their capacity to provide compensation for forested areas that will be included in the Protected Areas Strategy.
4. The existing national parks, Kouchibouguac and Fundy, as well as Mount Carleton Provincial Park should form an intricate component of the province's Protected Areas Strategy. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to clearly identify their representativity of the biodiversity within their respective ecoregion.
5. A comprehensive economic analysis should be undertaken on all the proposed sites to assess the economic impacts of implementing the strategy prior to making a final decision on a coarse filter strategy.
6. Following a comprehensive analysis of the existing protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion, the proposed candidate sites should be reviewed to ensure that the final selection of sites for New Brunswick's coarse filter component do contribute to the network of protected areas within the Acadian Bioregion. The analysis should clearly define similarities and differences between the existing protected areas and the proposed sites within New Brunswick. The analysis should also identify the level of protection that is assured for the areas which contain similar enduring features.
7. The Minister of DNRE should name a scientific panel to advise him on the implementation of a research agenda for the protected areas. The panel should have representation from industry, university, scientific and government. The panel could undertake a review of the science that supported the selection of large protected areas.
8. Government should undertake a comprehensive economic impact analysis of implementing a Protected Areas Strategy. This analysis should consider:

- historical trends of jobs created per 1000 meters of wood harvested annually;
 - the economic benefits that are supplied to society by forest ecosystems. These could include the provisions of water, fish habitat, etc.;
 - the impacts of forest subsidies in assessing the true cost of forestry jobs to adequately compare ecotourism jobs to forestry related jobs. These could include the cost of fire and insect protection, the annual support to silviculture operations on Crown Lands.
 - a comparison of the tourism jobs with the jobs provided in silviculture.
9. DNRE should review the possibility of allocating sustainable low impact forest management licenses within established buffer zones surrounding the protected areas. The fiber harvested and the products produced from these areas could form the basis for the development of a certification process for wood based products from New Brunswick.
 10. Government should review the policy of fiber allocation from Crown Lands to companies that may be impacted by the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy. The recently purchased Georgia Pacific lands could be used to compensate for loss allocation due to the implementation of the strategy.
 11. The province of New Brunswick should evaluate the potential of the Atlantic Conservation Data Centre as a repository for the province's biodiversity database.
 12. Existing mineral rights should be recognized while they are maintained in good standing; however, every effort should be made to establish the protected areas boundary in order to eliminate conflicts with mineral existing claims.
 13. Government should undertake a comprehensive economic impact assessment on the implementation of a Protected Areas Strategy on the mining industry.
 14. Protected areas in New Brunswick should be managed to accommodate a wide variety of traditional recreational activities while ensuring the ecological viability of the protected area.
 15. Local management committees should be named for each protected area and they should play an important role in establishing the management plan for the protected area. The management committee should include the major user groups associated with the protected area.
 16. Traditional, long established patterns of hunting and trapping should be permitted to continue within the protected areas. The nature and extent of hunting within individual areas should be determined through the local management committee in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.
 17. Travel within protected areas for the purpose of hunting should be restricted to existing roadways and trails.

18. Sport fishing can be permitted to continue in protected areas. However, the nature and extent of fishing activities within individual protected areas should be established through area specific management planning by the local management committee in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.
19. All-terrain and snowmobiling within protected areas should be permitted on established trails where it can be demonstrated that these trails are an essential link to a more extensive trail network. However, such use must not negatively impact on the ecological integrity of the area. New trails should not be established. The local management committee should review the potential use of all-terrain vehicles to access established hunting and fishing camps.
20. Protected areas should be managed to accommodate ecotourism where appropriate. Management should be maintained at the highest possible standards to provide quality experiences and protection for the environment.
21. The facilities (e.g. hiking trails, wilderness tent sites) developed to accommodate wilderness activities and associated levels of use should be kept to a minimum and be monitored and controlled to ensure that quality experiences are provided and that environmental impacts are limited.
22. Roads, hydro developments and utility corridors should not be established within protected areas.
23. Established rights of aboriginal people should be addressed in management plans for protected areas.
24. Efforts should be made to plan and manage protected areas in consultation, co-operation and partnership with aboriginal people. They should be included on the local management committee boards.
25. Information should be available to adjacent landowners and to other interested parties within nearby communities regarding the status of the protected areas and indicate to the landowners that the use of their land will not be impacted by the establishment of a protected area.
26. Existing campsite leases should be honored and allowed to remain in effect, subject to a high standard of compliance with the conditions of the lease agreement.
27. New campsite leases should not be issued within protected areas.

28. Campsite leaseholders should be encouraged to act as "stewards" of the protected areas within the site they lease. Consideration should be given to revising the lease agreement for campsites in protected areas to include provisions relating to stewardship as a condition of the continuance of these leases.
29. DNRE should ensure that the integration of protected areas with adjacent lands be considered during the preparation of management plans to ensure that the ecological integrity of the ecosystems across the landscape are maintained.
30. The proposed Loch Alva site captures the valley and ridge features, which are typical of the Continental Lowlands, as well as the low coastal hills of the Fundy Coastal Ecoregion. It should be retained as a primary candidate within the coarse filter strategy. The proposed boundaries should be retained, however, the western boundaries may be re-evaluated following the economic impact assessment on the wood supply.
31. The proposed Grand Lake Meadows site captures the river valley bottomland and the upland features of a portion of the Saint John River Valley. The main features of this site vary from wetland meadows and alluvial floodplains to upland forests. The site also contains the province's largest wetland. It should be retained as an element within the coarse filter strategy due to the limited landbase that is available for protection within this ecoregion. However, the proposed site should be modified to exclude all private lands. Discussions should be initiated with the Canadian Forest Service and the University of New Brunswick to explore the possibility of including their land within the protected area. These lands could serve as a demonstration area for adaptive management strategies.
32. The extension to Mount Carleton Provincial Park captures the rugged mountains typical of the ecoregion. The topography of the area is somewhat less diverse than Mount Carleton Park but the site contains a greater soil and ecosite diversity, thus making these two areas very complementary from a representativity standpoint. The proposed addition to Mount Carleton Provincial Park should be retained. A comprehensive analysis should be undertaken to assess the economic impact on the wood supply. The potential for ecotourism should also be included in the economic analysis.
33. The proposed Kennedy Lakes site captures the hills and small mountains of the southern ecoregion, along with the ridges and valleys of the continental lowlands. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter strategy. A comprehensive economic and ecological assessment of the proposed site should be initiated to assess the additional landbase that needs to be added to the existing conservation area in order to ensure that the major enduring features are retained. The protected core should be surrounded by a buffer where low impact forestry practices would be applied.

34. The Nerepis Hills site captures three distinct landscape types. The southern half is characterized by rolling hills and lakes. The northeastern portion contains the high elevation, Nerepis Hills. The northwestern portion contains the valleys of the Nerepis River and the Douglas Valley Brook. This site should be retained, however, the boundaries should be revised to capture the higher elevation and the valley of the Nerepis River. The revised boundaries would place a large portion of the protected area within the boundaries of Canadian Force Base Gagetown. Negotiations should be initiated with the Base officials to explore the possibility of developing a partnership with DND for the implementation of the Nerepis Hills protected area.
35. The proposed Caledonia Gorge captures the river gorges that are typical of the steeply sloping areas of the Fundy plateau. It should be retained as a component of the coarse filter strategy. An adaptive management strategy should be developed to ensure that an ecological link is maintained with Fundy National Park.
36. The proposed Long Lake area should be dropped from the strategy as it contains a large portion of private lands.
37. The Canaan Bog area captures a highland bog complex, which represents the higher elevation inland areas within the Eastern Lowlands Ecoregion. It should be retained as it adds a significant component to the biodiversity that is captured within Kouchibouguac National Park. The size of the protected core should be revised to include the natural features that are not included within the boundaries of Kouchibouguac National Park. The protected core should be surrounded by an adaptive management area, which would focus on low impact forestry practices.
38. The proposed Armstrong Lake area should be removed from the proposed coarse filter strategy due to existing mineral claims. However, the enduring natural features that are unique to this area should be assessed for potential sites within the fine filter analysis.
39. The Jacquet River area should be retained as the representative area for Northern Uplands Ecoregion. It captures the hilly plateau and river gorges that are typical of the Northern Uplands Ecoregion. The site has a low level of fragmentation and it comprises the watershed for the region.
40. The Restigouche River and the Upsalquitch Forks should not be retained as a major component of the coarse filter strategy. However, the gorges should be re-assessed as potential candidates within the fine filter analysis if the Jacquet River Gorge is not retained within the coarse filter strategy.
41. A comprehensive review of the sites proposed during the public meetings should be undertaken to assess their potential in meeting the objectives of the coarse filter component of the strategy.

42. A review of coastal islands should be undertaken in the process of a fine filter analysis to determine if they should be included within the protected areas system.
43. A process should be developed to ensure meaningful public participation in the planning and management of protected areas.
44. Government should appoint a committee representing the major stakeholders to review the recommendations and submit an Action Plan for implementing the strategy by December 31, 1999.
45. The management structure, developed within the Protected Areas Strategy, should include a mechanism that will ensure that local interested parties are involved in the management of protected areas.
46. Government should place a moratorium on all the proposed candidate sites until a final decision on a strategy has been achieved.
47. A high priority should be placed on the development of management plans for each protected area. Areas where outstanding public concerns are noted or where specific measures are required to protect natural elements should receive particular attention.
48. Government, in adopting a Protected Areas Strategy, should consider developing a Natural Heritage Trust Fund that would ensure the funding of the management and research activities associated with the implementation of the strategy. Government should also explore the possibility for the Natural Trust of New Brunswick to manage this trust fund.
49. Government should place a high priority on public information and education prior to the implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy. In particular, efforts should be made to demonstrate how New Brunswickers could and should become actively involved in supporting the strategy.
50. The Government of New Brunswick should enact new legislation to provide for the establishment and management of protected areas.

APPENDIX II

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. OBJECTIVE:

To develop a comprehensive *Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick* that will :

- Be based on grounded science principles;
- Identify functional ecological units within the context of the Acadian Forest;
- Be representative of the major ecoregions in Atlantic Canada;
- Protect our uniqueness within the Acadian Forest; and
- Consider the social and economic impact of establishing protected areas to the people of New Brunswick.

NOTE: The Strategy will not deal with the identification of marine conservation areas.

B. COMPONENTS:

The *Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick* will include :

- A vision statement;
- Stated objectives;
- Communication and information strategy; and
- Multi-year action and implementation plan.

C. STEPS IN THE PROCESS:

1. Historical review and inventory of protected areas (current and proposed) in New Brunswick;
2. Description and distribution of all types of protected areas in N.B. (GIS);
3. Analyse and assess the integration of the present areas within the context of the larger Acadian Forest;
4. Consider briefly what other jurisdictions have done across North America;
5. Identify the gaps and assess their impact;
6. Establish benchmarks using pre-disturbance regimes and major human activities on the landscape over the last hundred years;
7. Assess New Brunswick's uniqueness within the Acadian Forest, and identify those areas that should and could best be protected by the Province;

(Steps in the process, cont.)

8. Hold a series of public workshops to allow for public input and to explain the rationale for the proposed approach;
9. Develop a comprehensive integrated strategy for Government's consideration.

D. TIMEFRAMES:

- i) Completion of initial draft:** September 1997 (overview presentation to CCEA Conference by Dr. LaPierre).
- ii) Completion of final draft:** October 1997.

APPENDIX III

SUBMISSIONS

A. List of presenters:

FREDERICTON, JANUARY 20, 1999

1. Max Cater (Forest Products Association)
2. Roberta Clowater (NB Natural Areas Coalition)
3. George Colter
4. Frank Vandenborre
5. Hal Hins
6. Dr. Gordon Baskerville
7. Kevin Kavanaugh (World Wildlife Fund)
8. Dr. Ian Methven
9. Jessie Davis
10. Jamie Alexander
11. David Coon (Conservation Council)
12. J. D. Irving Ltd. (John Gilbert)
13. Jim Goltz (NB Federation of Naturalists)

WOODSTOCK, JANUARY 21, 1999

1. Charlie Dickenson (St. Anne-Nackawic Pulp Company Ltd.)
2. Lewis Stone (J. D. Irving Lt. / Deersdale)
3. Steve Crandlemere
4. Leland Daugherty
5. Paul MacFarlane (MacFarlane Forestry Services Ltd.)
6. Darrell Giggie (Village de Bristol)
7. Susan O'Keefe (Juniper Lumber Co. Ltd.)
8. Carleton Regional Development Commission Inc.
9. Lloyd Adams
10. Dave Winchester
11. Brian McLean
12. New Brunswick Outfitters Association
13. Floyd Burpee (ATG Operators)
14. Larry Nelson
15. Alan Honey (North Branch Conservation Society)

Documents submitted

16. Fred Somerville
17. Gary Graham
18. Afiena Kamminga

MIRAMICHI, JANUARY 25, 1999

1. Repap New Brunswick Inc.
2. Eagle Forest Products
3. Margaret Richardson
4. Tom Greathouse
5. Shawn Boisvert
6. Roland Walls (Mayor of Blackville)
7. Jean Guy Comeau
8. Lorne MacKinley
9. Newcastle Lumber Co. Inc.
10. Robert Tozer (Tozer Group of Companies)
11. John Harris
12. Steve Ginnish
13. Steve Reid

Documents submitted

14. Richard Landry

EDMUNDSTON, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1999

1. Marcel Violette (Violette Thinning Inc.)
2. Don Tardie (Fraser Papers Nexfor)
3. Roger Roy
4. Commission industrielle du Nord-Ouest Inc.
5. Denys Bourque
6. Gilles Roussel (Club d'ornithologie du Madawaska Ltée)
7. Roland Roy
8. Gilles Couturier
9. Aurèle Soucie
10. Yves Carrier (Fondation Glazier Inc.)
11. Produits forestiers Alliance
12. Robert Travers (Municipalité de Baker Brook)
13. Jacques Martin (maire, Ville d'Edmundston)
14. Adrien Charrette
15. Bernard Caron

KEDGWICK, FEBRUARY 2, 1999

1. Kedgwick Chamber of Commerce
2. Normand Haché (Fraser Papers Nexfor)
3. Luc Boucher (Coalition Stillwater)
4. Yvon Marquis (BATV Operators)
5. Bernard Rousseau (North American Forest Products)
6. André Potvin (Coop ô Naturel)
7. Alain Bélanger
8. Jean Yvon Chénard (Maple Syrup Coop)
9. Pat Emond
10. Clément Arpin (Les Ateliers Arpin)
11. Andrea Ednie
12. Danny Pelletier
13. Deniso LeBel
14. Adrien Charrette
15. Maurice Simon

Documents submitted

16. Patrick Boutin (Directeur des Approvisionnements, Groupe Savoie Inc.)

ST-QUENTIN, FEBRUARY 3, 1999

1. Michel Caron (Fraser Papers Nexfor)
2. Alain Bossé (Groupe Savoie)
3. Julie Paquet (UNB Environmental Society)
4. Gaetan Pelletier
5. Stanislas Dionne (Municipal Council of St-Quentin)
6. Eddie Park
7. Pierre Parent (North American Forest Products Ltd.)
8. Sylvio Thériault
9. Gérard Pelletier (Chambre de Commerce de Saint-Quentin Inc.)
10. Bertrand LeClerc
11. Gérard St Pierre
12. Roland Dufour
13. Patrick Boutin (Groupe Savoie)

PLASTER ROCK, FEBRUARY 4, 1999

1. Mike Boyd (J. D. Irving Ltd. / Deersdale)
2. Hector Losier (Carpenters's Union)
3. Jean Arnold
4. Terry Noble (Fraser Papers Nexfor)
5. Hoot Smith
6. Jody Jenkins
7. Wilmot Tomkins
8. Ronald Fournier
9. Donald Crabbe
10. Harold Crabbe (SWP Industries Inc.)
11. Jim Doherty
12. Philip Allen
13. Chris Allen

ST. STEPHEN, FEBRUARY 8, 1999

1. SWP Industries
2. Harry Bryan
3. Jason Fleming
4. John Cole

SAINT JOHN, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

1. Debbie Adshade
2. Peter Fenety
3. Nancy Sears
4. J. D. Irving Ltd. - Saint John
5. Stephen R. Clayden (NB Museum)
6. Frank Graham (NBATV)
7. George Rogers (Irving Pulp and Paper)
8. Terry Hebert
9. St. John Naturalists
10. John Stears
11. Patty Donovan (Quispamsis Environment Committee)
12. Jayme Fougere
13. Maureen Bourque
14. Hank Delchmann
15. William Whalen

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16. Leslie Bruce
17. John Calder

BATHURST, FEBRUARY 9, 1999

1. Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union - Local 120
2. NB Natural Areas
3. Bob Baker (Nepisiguit Salmon Association)
4. Dave Mason (Stone Container (Canada) Inc.)
5. Matthew Jonah
6. Maris Freimanis (City of Bathurst)
7. Gary Woods (Prospectors Developers Association)
8. Brenda Kelley
9. Alonzo St-Pierre (Forest Workers Acadie)
10. Hazen McCrea
11. Mendelt Pauw
12. Donald Pelletier
13. Gino Scichilone
14. Bob Butler (New Brunswick Mineral Industry)

SUSSEX, FEBRUARY 11, 1999

1. David Christie
2. J. D. Irving Ltd. (Bob Eastwood)
3. Brian Buchanan (NBATV Operators)
4. Marianne Coleman
5. Gary Hutchinson
6. Mark Connell
7. Larry Adair
8. Anna Holdaway
9. Peter Powning
10. Ron Goddard
11. Tim McCready
12. John McMillan
13. Stephanie Coburn
14. John Ramsey
15. Brian Roulston
16. Ian Thorne

CHIPMAN, FEBRUARY 15, 1999

1. J. D. Irving Ltd. (Jim Lawless)
2. Jim Goltz
3. John Herron, Fundy Royal MP
4. Village of Chipman
5. Gwen Martin
6. Barry Sullivan
7. Kyla Strange
8. Richard Tenderenda
9. Minto Village Council
10. Snowmobile Club (Hugh Crammond)
11. Jenn Thomas
12. Minto Regional Economic Commission (Brian Glenn)
13. Helen Elizabeth Seely
14. Murray Doherty
15. Leslie Robinson

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16. Harold Barton
17. Darrell Bishop

ROGERSVILLE, FEBRUARY 16, 1999

1. Protected Areas Coalition of Bouctouche (Michel LeBlanc)
2. Repap New Brunswick Inc. (Yvon Caissie)
3. Friends of Christmas Mountain (Luke Fryer)
4. Tara Swift
5. Arseneault Slashing Ltd. (Gérard Arseneault)
6. Marc Arseneault
7. Inka Milewski
8. Jacques Bourque
9. Ben Baldwin
10. Aquila Richard
11. Norman Richardson
12. Amelia Clark
13. Céline Surette (Écoversité, Université de Moncton)
14. Léophane LeBlanc et Éric Tremblay
15. Mark Purdon
16. Claude Ouellet (Eagle Forest Products)
17. Albert Richardson

DOAKTOWN, FEBRUARY 17, 1999

1. Steve Mason (Bowater Pulp & Paper Canada Inc.)
2. Mayor James Porter
3. Myles Russell
4. Martha Gorman
5. Repap New Brunswick Inc. (Joe O'Neill)
6. Michael Donovan
7. J. D. Irving Ltd. (Ian Taviss)
8. Steve Reid
9. Lee Ann Haggerty
10. Mike Thorne
11. Alex Mills
12. Claud Russell
13. Emily MacMillan
14. Tanya Canning
15. Christie Hunter Dixon
16. Sean Storey

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17. Francis Smith
18. Miramichi RDC

TRACADIE, FEBRUARY 18, 1999

1. Repap (Gérard Robichaud)
2. Robert Fawcett
3. Club de naturalistes (Roland Chiasson)
4. City of Tracadie-Sheila
5. Ulysse Doiron (Communication, Énergie)
6. Sabine Dietz
7. Gérard Arseneau
8. Duane Woods (Chaleur Sawmills)
9. NB Forest Products Commission (Clermont Richard)
10. Federation of Woodlot Owners
11. Jean-Yves Daigle (Association des producteurs de tourbe du Nouveau-Brunswick)
12. Dennis McGraw

FREDERICTON, FEBRUARY 23, 1999

1. Yvon Poitras
2. Fredericton Nature Club (William Mountan)
3. Hillary Veen
4. Halton Dalzell
5. Village of Stanley (Roger Ross)
6. Mike Pinnock
7. Marc Blancjard
8. Dale Gilbey
9. NB Prospectors and Developers Association (Elisabeth Spatz Diveto)
10. Jim Google
11. Dr. David MacLean
12. Reid Pert
13. Mel McKnight
14. Gerald Comeau
15. Dr. Tony Diamond
16. Dr. Mark Roberts
17. Brent Wilkins
18. Kim Mann
19. Jennifer Jamieson Sowers
20. Jamie Simpson

CAMPBELLTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1999

1. Restigouche Naturalists Club (Ann Savoie)
2. Doug Matthews
3. Chamber of Commerce (Paul LeBlanc)
4. Alcell Inc.
5. Restigouche Regional Economic Development Commission (Betty Ann Levesque)
6. Pat McCarthy
7. Daniel LeBlanc
8. Joseph Pitre
9. Donald LeBlanc
10. Hector Pitre
11. Gisèle Bélanger
12. Marc Gallant

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13. Paul Bourgoin

DALHOUSIE, FEBRUARY 25, 1999

1. Avenor Maritimes Inc.
2. Stephen Johnson
3. Ville de Dalhousie
4. Jean Dubé, MP
5. North American Forest Products (Patrice Drapeau)
6. Les Cèdres Balmoral (Jacques LeVasseur)
7. Kevin Landry

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8. Sandy Beckingham

MONCTON, MARCH 1ST, 1999

1. Marc Majka
2. Éric Goguen & Sons Ltd. (Jean Goguen)
3. NBATVF (Lorne Keith)
4. Blue Green Society (Deirdre McGahern)
5. George Cooper
6. Mark Spence
7. Les Amis de la Nature (Rose-Alma Mallet)
8. Kouchibouguac National Park (Éric Tremblay)
9. NB Aboriginal People Council
10. J. D. Irving Ltd. (Bob Pinette)
11. Vertige (École Mathieu Martin)
12. Adrien Léger
13. Communication, Energy and Paper
14. Gilles Bourque
15. Robert Moran (Rocan Forestry Services Limited)
16. Rob Walker (Cape Enrage Seabird Migration Monitoring Group)
17. John Seaborn (Irving Tissue Plant)
18. Association of Registered Professional Foresters of NB (Tom Sifton)
19. Laura Parker
20. Marc-André Villard (Université de Moncton)

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22. Patrick J. Augustine

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John White

99-03-17

Janet McNeil

99-03-18

Janet McNeil

99-03-26

Marcel David

99-03-29

David Irwin

Gene Boles

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Ken Reinsborough

Luc Gagnon

Vince and Martha for the NB Monthly

Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

99-03-31

Cheryl Davis

Kevin McNamee

99-04-02

Marcel David

99-04-03

Al Thompson

APPENDIX IV

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY	18	19	20	21	22	23
		8:30 10:15 13:30 19:00	Gov. depts. Wildlife gps Forestry gps Fredericton	Conserv. Gps Aboriginal gps Mineral gps. Woodstock		
	25	26	27	28	29	30
19:00	Miramichi					
FEBRUARY	1	2	3	4	5	6
19:00	Edmundston	Kedgwick	St-Quentin	Plaster Rock		
14:00	8	9	10	11	12	13
19:00	St. Stephen St. John	Bathurst		Sussex		
19:00	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Chipman	Rogersville	Doaktown	Tracadie		
19:00	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Fredericton	Campbellton	Dalhousie		
28	MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	
19:00	Moncton					

APPENDIX V

LIST OF PROPOSED CANDIDATE SITES FOR THE COARSE FILTER STRATEGY

ECOREGION	PROPOSED SITE	COMMENTS
Central Highlands	Addition to Mount Carleton Provincial Park	This site captures the rugged mountains typical of the Highlands ecoregion.
Northern Uplands	Jacquet River Gorge	This area captures the hilly plateau and river gorges that are typical of this ecoregion.
Southern Uplands	Caledonia Gorge Kennedy Lakes	This area captures the river gorges that are typical of the steeply sloping areas of the Fundy plateau. This area captures the hills and small mountains of the Southern Ecoregion, along with the ridges and valleys of the Continental Lowlands Ecoregion.
Fundy Coastal Region	Fundy National Park	
Continental Highlands	Loch Alva Nerepis Hills	This area captures the valley and ridge features that are typical of the Continental Highlands. This site contains three distinct landscape types. The southern half is characterized by rolling hills and lakes, and the northeastern portion contains the high elevation, Nerepis Hills.
Eastern Lowlands	Kouchibouguac Park Canaan Bog	Kouchibouguac Park does not contain all of the major enduring features within its boundaries. This area captures the highland complex, which represents the higher elevation inland areas of this ecoregion.
Grand Lake Basin	Grand Lake Meadows (modified)	This area captures the river valley bottom and the upland features of a portion of the Saint John River Valley.