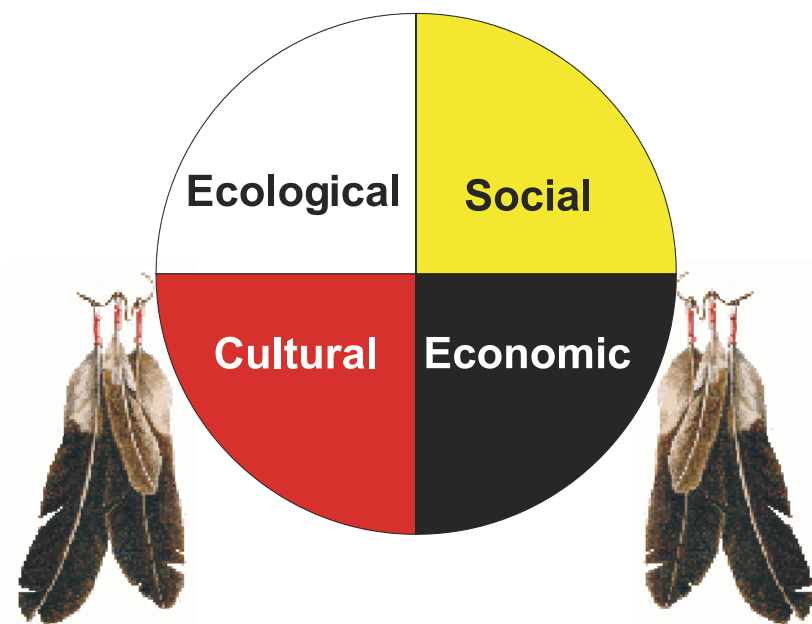


# Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan



February 2012



Saskatchewan  
Ministry of  
Environment



## Minister's Message

The Integrated Land Use Plan for the Misinipiy planning area represents the culmination of years of hard work, from all those who share an interest in this part of the province. The 3,119,793 hectares that are included within this plan are an integral part of province's environment. Nearly 10,000 people live in this area, many of whom are members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. This plan ensures those individuals a balance between environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Water, especially the Churchill River, is very important to the history and future of the area. Water is an integral part of Lac La Ronge Indian Band's culture, providing transportation and food. The translation of the Cree word Misinipiy is "big water", which emphasizes the relationship the Churchill River has to this plan. It is one of Saskatchewan's great natural legacies and is a globally recognized waterway. Provisions for further detailed planning will be completed to add 365,000 hectares of new protected areas. This will add to the province's Representative Areas Network. Pink Lake will become the largest provincially protected area in the province, at 333,000 hectares. Regulatory changes will be initiated to protect these areas under The Ecological Reserves Act.

The land use plan provides a framework to guide land and resource management decisions for more than three million hectares of forest land in northern Saskatchewan. The plan classifies the area into three zones – Protected, Sensitive and Resource Management zones – and identifies detailed objectives and management actions for each, including guidance about which activities may occur in each zone.

The Government of Saskatchewan remains firmly committed to a process of active community and stakeholder engagement. I recognize that we could not have produced this plan without the assistance of our clients and partners and I do want to extend my sincere appreciation to members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the environmental community, mining sector, forestry sector, municipal representatives and other stakeholders who remained steadfast in their commitment to conclude a plan for the Misinipiy area.

I look forward to implementing the direction and priorities defined in the Misinipiy ILUP.



---

Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Environment

## **Preface**

The Misinipiy ILUP was prepared by the Ministry of Environment (the ministry) in accordance with the provisions of *The Forest Resources Management Act*. Although this planning process included co-ordinating input from other ministries the Misinipiy ILUP only pertains to land and resource management under the mandate of the Ministry of Environment. The ministry recognises their important role of setting a good example for others by acting as model stewards. The ministry is also in a strong position to promote stewardship efforts with its partners and clients. This plan lays a foundation for collaboration and partnership and realizes the objectives contained in this document will in large measure, rest on the strength of those who will take on the implementation of the plan's responsibilities.

The LLRIB has developed a set of principles as written in their Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use, October 26, 2005. These principles, as well as LLRIB's economic development plan, have guided many of the recommendations within this document. The band is also embarking upon development of a more detailed traditional land use study using the principles they have adopted to guide use of traditional lands.

Nothing in this plan is intended to abrogate or derogate from the existing Aboriginal or treaty rights of Aboriginal Peoples in Saskatchewan, as recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982. The provincial government has a legal duty to consult and accommodate First Nations and Métis communities on matters that have an impact on Treaty or Aboriginal Rights. Although this planning process included consultation with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and this document provides broad information about interests in the area the Province will continue to consult on individual matters in order to meet its consultation obligations.

## **Acknowledgements**

The ministry would like to thank those organizations and individuals who participated throughout the planning process. This plan could not have been produced without the assistance of those who took the time to share their knowledge, ideas, wisdom and insight. Many spent long hours preparing for and participating in local and regional advisory board meetings – a process that spanned more than seven years.

Since this plan was initiated in 1999 more than 250 attendees have spent time participating in more than 225 local and regional advisory board meetings. The Ministry of Environment is indebted to those individuals who remained committed to attending the advisory board meetings and devoted their time to make a positive contribution to the process. In particular, the LLRIB Land Use Planning Task Force and community members, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Saskatchewan Chapter), Canoe Saskatchewan, Métis interests, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, Saskatchewan Mining Association, Cottage Owners Association, Saskatchewan Ecotourism and many other public participants. The ministry respects the privacy rights of advisory board members and other public participants, and has not included a list identifying individual contributors. Regrettably, several

contributors to this plan have passed away since planning began. To their families and friends, the ministry extends sincere gratitude for the contribution provided by these dedicated individuals, and the positive impact they made during the planning process.

In addition, a number of provincial government ministries and branches were also instrumental in providing input and guidance to the objectives and actions contained in this plan. The Ministries of Energy and Resources, First Nations and Métis Relations, Municipal Affairs, Agriculture, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Highways and Infrastructure, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Health and SaskPower all participated in the planning process to varying degrees and will continue to play a role in working with the ministry to implement many of the actions contained in this plan.

Finally, the ministry would like to extend sincere appreciation to the members of the LLRIB for their passion, commitment and dedication in working with government to produce this plan.

## Dictionary of Acronyms used in the plan

BAP	Biodiversity Action plan
COR	Commercial Outdoor Recreation
CRU	Churchill River Upland
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
EBM	Ecosystem-based management
FMA	Forest Management Agreement
FNFS	First Nations Forestry Service
FNMR	Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations
FRMA	<u>The Forest Resources Management Act</u>
FRMR	<u>The Forest Resources Management Regulations</u>
FSIN	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation
HRIA	Heritage Resource Impact Assessment
ILUP	Integrated Land Use Plan
INAC	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
KMLP	Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership
LLRIB	Lac La Ronge Indian Band
MER	Ministry of Energy and Resources
MHI	Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NFSC	National Forest Strategy Coalition
NFS	National Forest Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLMC	Northern Labour Market Committee
NSTA	Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NWWG	National Wetlands Working Group
PBCN	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

RAN	Representative Areas Network
SARA	<u>Species at Risk Act</u>
SCDC	Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre
SIAS	Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Training
SIIT	Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology
TPCS	Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
TLE	Treaty Land Entitlement

Note: A glossary of terms is provided in Appendix 1.

# Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>11</b>
1.1 Why Do We Need A Plan for the Misinipiy Area? .....	11
1.2.1 <i>Integrated Land Use Planning</i> .....	13
1.2.2 <i>Ecosystem-Based Management</i> .....	14
<b>2 Background &amp; Context</b> .....	<b>15</b>
2.1 History of the Planning Area .....	15
2.2 Ecological Description of the Boreal Shield Forest.....	15
2.2.1 <i>Landscape, Geology, and Vegetation</i> .....	16
2.3 The Planning Area Today .....	17
<b>3 The Integrated Land Use Planning Process</b> .....	<b>17</b>
3.1 Developing the Misinipiy ILUP.....	17
3.1.1 <i>Public Involvement and Review</i> .....	17
3.1.2 <i>Local Advisory Boards</i> .....	19
3.1.3 <i>Regional Advisory Board</i> .....	19
3.1.4 <i>First Nations and Métis</i> .....	20
3.1.5 <i>Lac La Ronge Indian Band</i> .....	20
3.1.6 <i>Government Ministries and Agencies</i> .....	21
3.1.7 <i>Stakeholders, NGOs and Interest Groups</i> .....	21
<b>4 Key Issues Affecting the Misinipiy planning Area</b> .....	<b>21</b>
4.1 Economic & Social Issues .....	22
4.1.1 <i>Economic Development</i> .....	22
4.1.2 <i>Community and Reserve Expansion</i> .....	24
4.1.3 <i>Employment, Education, and Training</i> .....	25
4.2 The Churchill River Corridor.....	27
4.3 Forest Management.....	29
4.4 Wildfire Management .....	30
4.5 Traditional Use.....	31
4.6 Planning Area Boundary.....	32
<b>5 The Zoning Framework</b> .....	<b>33</b>
5.1 Information Gathering .....	35
5.2 The Three Land Use Planning Zones.....	36
5.2.1 <i>The Protected Zone</i> .....	36
5.2.2 <i>The Sensitive Zone</i> .....	38
5.2.3 <i>The Resource Management Zone</i> .....	41
<b>6 Integrated Management Actions</b> .....	<b>42</b>
6.1 Biodiversity.....	42
6.1.1 <i>Consideration for Species at Risk</i> .....	44
6.2 Habitats .....	46
6.2.1 <i>Aquatic Habitats</i> .....	46

6.2.2	<i>Terrestrial Habitats</i> .....	47
6.3	Fisheries .....	49
6.3.1	<i>Fish Populations</i> .....	49
6.3.2	<i>Fish Allocation</i> .....	50
6.4	Wildlife .....	51
6.4.1	<i>Wildlife Populations</i> .....	51
6.4.2	<i>Wildlife Allocation</i> .....	52
6.5	Exotic and Introduced Species .....	54
6.6	Sustainable Forestry .....	54
6.6.1	<i>Timber Harvesting</i> .....	55
6.6.2	<i>Reforestation</i> .....	57
6.6.3	<i>Insects &amp; Disease</i> .....	58
6.6.4	<i>Non-Timber Forest Values</i> .....	58
6.7	Human Heritage .....	59
6.7.1	<i>Heritage Property Issues</i> .....	59
6.7.2	<i>Access Issues</i> .....	61
6.7.3	<i>Access for Traditional Travel</i> .....	63
6.7.4	<i>Access for Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles</i> .....	64
6.8	Mineral Resources .....	65
6.8.1	<i>Exploration for New Mineral Deposits</i> .....	66
6.8.2	<i>Decommissioning &amp; Reclamation</i> .....	67
6.8.3	<i>Sand &amp; Gravel</i> .....	69
6.9	Recreation .....	70
6.9.1	Recreational Development and Maintenance .....	70
6.9.2	<i>Recreational Cabin Development</i> .....	71
6.9.3	<i>Commercial Outdoor Recreation</i> .....	72
6.10	Wild Rice .....	73
<b>7</b>	<b>Plan Implementation and Assessment</b> .....	<b>74</b>
7.1	Government Involvement .....	75
7.2	Implementation Process .....	75
7.3	Provisions for Amending the Misinipiy ILUP .....	76
7.4	Dispute Resolution Process.....	77
<b>8</b>	<b>Appendices</b> .....	<b>78</b>
Appendix 1	Glossary of Terms .....	78
Appendix 2	Misinipiy ILUP Maps .....	83
Map 1:	Boundaries .....	84
Map 2:	EcoZones .....	85
Map 3:	Forestry Licences.....	86
Map 4:	Wildfire Management Actiosn .....	87
Map 5:	Fur Blocks .....	88
Map 6:	Zone Structure .....	89
Appendix 3	Excerpt from 2005 LLRIB Land Use Policy .....	90
Appendix 4	Zone Activities .....	93
Appendix 5	Lac La Ronge Indian Band Council Resolution .....	96
Appendix 6	N-9 Trappers Block Resolution .....	97

## Executive Summary

The Misinipiy planning area encompasses 3,119,793 hectares and is home to almost 10,000 people, many of whom are members of the LLRIB. Situated in northern Saskatchewan, the Misinipiy planning area extends from Wapawekka Hills in the southeast, Besnard Lake in the southwest, near Watham Lake in the northeast and as far northwest as the Key Lake mine.

The purpose of the Misinipiy ILUP is to provide objectives and potential actions to guide government agencies, interested parties and partners on land use management activities that affect the health of resources within the Misinipiy planning area. Development of an ILUP for the Misinipiy planning area was initially driven by a commitment to Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership (KMLP) (the business arm of the LLRIB) and Zelensky Brothers Forest Products for a long-term licence to harvest Crown timber by way of a Forest Management Agreement (FMA). However, as time went by, emphasis on forest resources lessened and the focus shifted to mining, mineral exploration and use of the Churchill River system. Please refer to map 1, Appendix 6 to view maps of the Misinipiy planning area and the LLRIB's traditional territory.

After more than seven years of collecting and analyzing information from extensive public consultation, the ministry has produced a plan that balances the management of provincial resources with ecosystem health. Combining traditional knowledge with science, the plan follows fundamental principles of ecosystem-based management (EBM) by:

1. focusing on the long-term view;
2. concentrating on ecosystem health and integrity;
3. making decisions based on science, traditional knowledge and human values;
4. involving those affected by the decision, with an interest in the outcome;
5. using adaptive management to learn from experience; and
6. looking at the big picture.

The ecosystem-based management approach is fundamental to the Misinipiy plan. It promotes a systemic approach by considering whole systems – landscape, plants and animals, soil and water and people and their interactions. The goal of ecosystem-based management is to maintain the ecological integrity of the land so that human needs and values can continue to be realized in a healthy environment.

The Misinipiy area is very special to the people who live in the area and to those who travel to this area to recreate. The ILUP reflects significant consultation with northern indigenous people and recognizes both the LLRIB Strategic Plan as well as the band's Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use (2005). Both documents articulate the band's vision for economic diversification, environmental health and the need to focus on a future that offers a range of opportunity for band members. In particular, the Misinipiy plan recognizes the band's interest in securing a FMA, and their desire for greater responsibility in managing the resource base in their traditional territory. This plan supports the government's

established policy of promoting economic development in the North, and is in keeping with government commitment to promote First Nation partnerships and capacity building through integrated resource management and stewardship of the natural resource base.

*The ministry seeks to promote partnerships and enable capacity building opportunities with First Nations and Métis through ecosystem-based management and stewardship of natural resources. Resource conservation and respecting treaty rights will take precedence over other demands on the forest resources.*

During extensive community involvement, advisory boards from eight northern communities discussed a wide variety of issues that are reflected in the plan. The plan calls for action in a number of areas and contains goals, objectives and actions that together, make up an overall management plan for the area.

This plan reflects comments obtained during the 225 local and regional advisory board meetings held since 1999; the formal two-month public review period; suggestions made during two public open house meetings; comments received from the public, as well as internal provincial government review. In addition, this plan was subject to an independent Peer Review, conducted by Geospatial Consulting Inc., the purpose of which was to ensure the plan met the intent of the legislation.

*Detailed objectives and actions represent a balance of interests that promote environmental health and highlight opportunities for sustainable economic and social development. The objectives and actions described in the plan reflect current science and traditional knowledge. During consultation, participants stressed that environmental health and sustainable economic growth are interdependent – a vision supported by the ministry through several provincial actions and commitments.*

The Misinipiy plan promotes an integrated approach to management of the land base. The plan addresses issues of importance to residents, special interest groups, industry and government alike. The Misinipiy ILUP integrates with two other ILUPs; the Amisk-Atik ILUP to the east and the draft Pinehouse Dipper ILUP to the west. Similar to the other ILUPs, the Misinipiy plan identifies the need to further develop a plan to conserve the Churchill River corridor; it reflects the importance of effective wildfire management; addresses forestry values, social and economic issues; provides for traditional use; speaks to planning boundary issues; and reflects the importance of aquatic resources, wetland values, human and cultural heritage, mineral and recreational values. These issues are the management responsibility of a range of government departments and branches. Given the number of issues and the diversity of interests involved, the plan promotes an integrated ecosystem-based management approach.

The Misinipiy plan is based on a consistent zoning framework developed by the ministry and found in other ILUPs. It establishes three distinct land use zones:

1. Protected Zone - identifies areas within the planning boundary that are worthy of protection;
2. Sensitive Zone - recognizes a wide range of values that are sensitive to disturbance; and
3. Resource Management Zone - promotes sustainability and responsible use, while providing clear direction for resource development.

The plan contains detailed objectives and management actions for the Protected Zone, Sensitive Zone and the Resource Management Zone. The land use actions focus on achieving a specific set of actions but are premised on the same governing principles: to plan for the sustainability of all resources, to adopt an integrated approach to managing the resources of the Misinipiy planning area and to focus on maintaining and enhancing the local quality of life.

The Misinipiy ILUP represents the first step in a process that continues to be evolutionary. Responsibility for plan implementation will rest primarily with the ministry who intends to establish a committee comprised of area representatives. This group will be actively involved in assessing the plan and providing ongoing recommendations to the ministry. Good decision-making is based on sound information (both science and traditional knowledge) and an accurate, reliable knowledge base. The ministry's natural resource management approach recognizes that ecosystem health is important to secure long-term economic, social and cultural prosperity. Maintaining the ecological integrity of the Misinipiy planning area is our most important goal.

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Why Do We Need A Plan for the Misinipiy Area?**

As a publicly owned and managed resource, Crown lands provide benefits to all. They provide recreational opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation and offer employment and income to those who derive their livelihood from the resource base. Public land in general, provides a variety of benefits and opportunities to a range of users.

Crown lands are an integrated ecosystem of trees, plants, animals, air, water, soil and people, all dependent upon one another to varying degrees. Sustainable resource management requires good planning. Good planning starts with clear, concise and well-understood objectives for future conservation, protection, land and resource use.

This plan is aligned closely with the Canada Forest Accord, signed by the Minister of Environment in June 2004. This Accord commits the province to work toward sustainable forest management, guided by the National Forest Strategy (2003-2008), which sets out strategic directions and specific commitments intended to move Canada toward the goal of achieving sustainable forests. As a member of the National Forestry Strategy Coalition, Saskatchewan supports the principle that “the long-term health of Canada’s forest will be maintained and enhanced, for the benefit of all living things, and for the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of all Canadians now and in the future.”

The strategic objectives that are articulated in the Canada Forest Accord are supported in various land use plans that have been prepared by the ministry for specific areas of the province (e.g. Amisk-Atik and Pasquia Porcupine). The intent of each plan is to provide general direction for the management of provincial Crown lands and resources within the boundaries of the planning area.

*In addition to promoting economic development in northern communities, this plan provides a framework for integrated resource management by providing support to our First Nations and Métis to take a more active role in the allocation and wise use of our resource base. In keeping with the province’s Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), the plan for the Misinipiy planning area acknowledges the importance of conservation and sustainable use and the critical importance of leaving for “future generations a nurturing and dynamic environment rich in its biodiversity.”<sup>1</sup>*

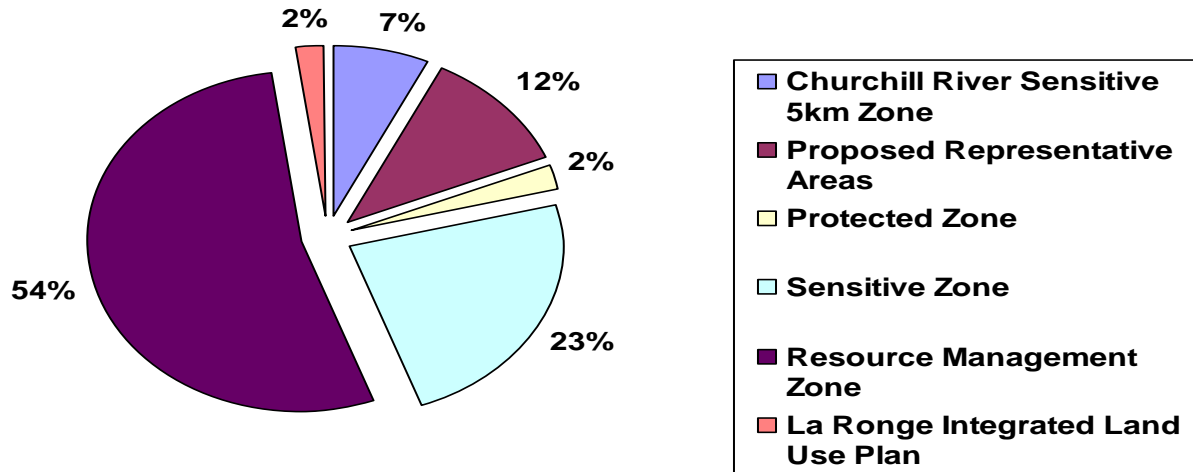
The Misinipiy ILUP contributes to the province’s Biodiversity Action Plan by promoting the completion of a system of protected areas that are representative of the Province’s terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The Biodiversity Action Plan identifies a provincial target of 12% protection to ensure that the wide range of Saskatchewan’s natural features and diversity are conserved. Currently, 8.7% (5.9 million hectares) of the province is protected through the Representative Areas Network (RAN). The Misinipiy ILUP proposes that three new sites be added to the RAN: two are proposed for protection as ecological reserves: Pink Lake (333,000 ha) and Foster Lake (23,000 ha) with the third site at Geikie River (9,000 ha) proposed for designation under The Parks Act.

Of the Misinipiy ILUP planning area land base, approximately 2% has been designated as protected through various legislation. When combined with the land base proposed for designation within the RAN, more than 14% of the planning area will be protected.

---

<sup>1</sup> Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan’s Future, 2004 P. 7

Viewed comprehensively, the plan provides the following land base allocation:



This is discussed more fully in Section 6, where the objectives and actions associated with the three zoning categories are outlined in more detail.

### ***1.2.1 Integrated Land Use Planning***

Integrated land use planning is a process that is based on the principles of Integrated Resource Management (IRM). Planning decisions are made that take into account the health of the whole forest ecosystem to meet environmental, economic and social objectives. Integrated Resource Management promotes a holistic and balanced approach by considering a broad range of interests, whether they are value or resource driven.

Integrated land use planning establishes a formal process for public engagement and provides guidelines for the allocation and protection of resources and values associated with the planning area. It also establishes a process for plan implementation and monitoring.

Integrated Land use planning follows a standard seven-step process:

- Plan Initiation
- Information and Data Gathering
- Meetings
- Draft plan Preparation
- Draft plan Review
- Draft plan Revision and Approval
- Plan Implementation and Assessment

Additional efforts were made in the case of the Misinipiy plan to engage the northern communities and to work closely with members of the LLRIB to ensure the interests of northerners were appropriately reflected.

### ***1.2.2 Ecosystem-Based Management***

The ministry has adopted an ecosystem-based management approach to planning and resource management. Ecosystem-based management is defined as “the integration of ecological systems and human activities to maintain or enhance the health and integrity of an ecosystem, including ecosystem function and structure.” The key principles of ecosystem-based management are:

- focus on the long-term view – ecosystems must be sustained for the long term well-being of all life;
- concentrate on ecosystem health and integrity – work within the ecological potential of sites and landscapes to ensure that ecosystems can renew themselves to the greatest degree possible;
- make decisions based on science, traditional knowledge and human values – use the best available scientific and traditional knowledge as a foundation for decision making. Ecological goals must be integrated with economic and social goals;
- involve those who will be affected by decisions or who have an interest in the outcome – work together with citizens, landowners, local governments, aboriginal communities, interest groups, businesses, industry and other agencies to identify problems and opportunities and find common solutions;
- use adaptive management by learning from experience – adjust our thinking and actions as we gain better understanding;
- look at the big picture – treat air, water, land and living things as interconnected parts of an ecosystem. Think about the effects of proposed actions at several geographic scales and through time.

There is general recognition that ecosystems are very complex, and more work in this area is necessary because we are only beginning to understand the complexity and value of natural systems. Scientific research is revealing important links between human health and environmental quality, and the role of the environment as a foundation for a healthy economy and its contribution to social well-being.

By recognizing linkages among the economy, people and the environment, integration of these values through ecosystem-based management reflects the need to consider all resources, their value and use in policy development, planning and decision-making. By managing our activity on Crown lands, we can do the best possible job of keeping the resources healthy while supporting a range of sustainable human enterprises.

## **2 Background & Context**

### **2.1 History of the Planning Area**

The Misinipiy planning area has a rich and vibrant history. Settlement was influenced in large part by the extensive natural resources found in the planning area, and in particular, the rivers and waterways that provided a focus for the Woodland Cree who settled there, and later, for fur traders who established trading posts and larger settlements along the banks of the Misinipiy (Churchill) River and Lac La Ronge.

The establishment of missions in the planning area served as an introduction to European culture and religion for many of the native Cree people. In later years, these early missions promoted the establishment of permanent settlements, resulting in the emergent settlement pattern we see in the planning area today. Regardless of the existing settlement pattern, there has been a long-standing cultural and spiritual value system that has permeated the planning area, and a deep-rooted connection between the people and the land.

The planning area has a long history of fish and wildlife use, primarily for the sustenance of the First Nations and Métis people. It was recognized at an early stage, however, that the hunting, trapping and fishing resources of the area were not limitless and there was a need to diversify the economy by promoting agricultural practices, hence the rationale by the ancestors of the LLRIB for selecting the farming and hay lands associated with the Little Red Reserve – a site that was selected in 1897. The Little Red Reserve is not included in the Misinipiy ILUP. Over the years, advancements in technology have made the area more accessible, and in the 1930s, the ability to promote fly-in fishing opportunities resulted in the introduction of a resource-based tourism industry. The members of the LLRIB continue to rely on the resource base as a means of economic growth and prosperity.

### **2.2 Ecological Description of the Boreal Shield Forest**

The Misinipiy planning area consists predominantly of boreal forest, lakes, rivers and wetland habitats encompassing an area of 3,119,793 hectares. The planning area is comprised of hundreds of clear lakes connected by more than 10,000 km of rivers and streams, providing habitat for abundant fish populations. Geographically, the planning area includes the Wapawekka Hills in the southeast, Besnard Lake in the southwest, near Wathaman Lake in the northeast, and up to the Key Lake Mine in the northwest corner. The location of the planning area and communities is illustrated in Appendix 2, Map 1.

The planning area consists of three Ecoregions:

- Churchill River Upland Ecoregion (part of the Boreal Shield Ecozone);
- Mid-Boreal Upland Ecoregion (part of the Boreal Plain Ecozone); and
- Mid-Boreal Lowland Ecoregion, (part of the Boreal Plain Ecozone).

The Churchill River Upland (CRU) lies entirely on the Precambrian Shield, has undulating topography with clear, cold lakes. Bogs and fens occur in the low-lying areas, connected by abundant streams and rivers. The uplands are rocky with thin shallow soils, developed from morainal and glacial fluvial deposits. The CRU contains the second largest nesting population of bald eagles in North America, second only to Alaska.

The Mid Boreal Upland (MBU) is characterized by rolling and undulating uplands and plains. This ecoregion commonly contains a mosaic of forests, open and treed fens, bogs and water. Most of the MBU is characterized by loamy grey soils, however near the shield, soils are often sandy and poorly drained. This ecoregion contains most of the lands that have historically been used by the forest industry in the province.

The Mid Boreal Lowlands (MBL) consist of nearly level low-lying topography. This ecoregion is dominated by fens and other peatlands. In the northern portion of the ecoregion, peatlands with open cover consisting of tamarack and black spruce are the dominant vegetation cover. However, sandy glacial deposits and limestone outcrops are also common.

### ***2.2.1 Landscape, Geology, and Vegetation***

The landforms and underlying geologic deposits of the planning area were formed by a succession of glacial and interglacial periods. Precambrian-aged sedimentary, volcanic, and intrusive rocks underlie most of the planning area. A northeast-trending structural pattern predominates. The geologic domains have the potential to contain a variety of base metals, gold and other precious metals. Of particular note are the La Ronge Domain, a dominantly volcanic belt which contains numerous gold and base metal deposits and the Wollaston Domain, a sedimentary belt which contains base metal deposits. At the southern end of the planning area, younger flat-lying Phanerozoic-aged sedimentary rocks overlie the Precambrian Shield. These contain deposits of coal and a variety of industrial minerals such as silica sand and kaolin clay. A thin veneer of young glacial deposits, consisting of tills and stream and lake-deposited material covers the bedrock over much of the planning area.

The planning area consists of a variety of tree species including white and black spruce, jack pine, tamarack, trembling aspen and white birch as well as peat lands (treed and open bogs and fens) and boreal wetlands. The forest mosaic provides habitat for a wide variety of animals, birds, invertebrates and other wildlife species. For the most part, the planning area is characterized as a hardy, adaptable and moderately diverse environment that has evolved over thousands of years. Substantive stand-changing events including wildfires, insects, disease, wind events, severe droughts and other extreme weather conditions have prevailed over time. These natural disturbances are part of the life cycle of most boreal plant species, which have evolved to thrive under a wide range of climatic and soil conditions.

In general, the productivity and diversity of the boreal forest increases from north to south in the planning area. The topography on the shield is more rugged than off the shield. Glacial sediments dominate south of the shield while rock defines the surficial geology of the Precambrian Shield, and the stature of vegetation cover reflects the changes in nutrient and moisture-holding capacity of the underlying soils.

## **2.3 The Planning Area Today**

The Misinipiy planning area is home to nearly 10,000 people, with over 70 per cent of the permanent residents being of Aboriginal descent, most of whom are members of the LLRIB. Dene and Métis people also reside in the planning area. A majority of the LLRIB's population in the planning area live on 18 reserves, 16 of which are within the planning area, including Kitsaki, Grandmother's Bay, Lac La Ronge, Sucker River. Communities within the planning area include Stanley Mission, Brabant Lake, Air Ronge, La Ronge, and Missinipe. In addition, eight reserve land areas within the planning boundary are inhabited seasonally by members of the LLRIB.

The vast size and scope of the planning area present a varied landscape and the presence of the Churchill River as well as numerous lakes and rivers make this area attractive for wilderness recreation and a variety of camping, canoeing, hiking and snowmobile pursuits by residents and visitors alike. The Misinipiy planning area offers an attractive lifestyle to the people who live here. Many derive their livelihood from traditional pursuits including hunting, fishing and trapping. Unemployment however remains a concern for many local communities and residents.

## **3 The Integrated Land Use Planning Process**

### **3.1 Developing the Misinipiy ILUP**

The Misinipiy ILUP is the result of more than seven years of consultation, data collection and analysis. The planning process was designed with northern community residents in mind and as a result, the ministry undertook extensive consultation throughout the northern communities to enable community members to obtain information and to actively participate in the identification of issues and management actions.

At the outset, the initial planning process began with meetings and community consultations with members of the LLRIB. In addition, discussions were held with the northern communities, other government agencies, NGOs and special interest groups. Local Advisory Boards were created to encourage community-based input. A Regional Advisory Board was also established with representation from a broad spectrum of special interest groups and government. The consultation process is discussed in more detail below.

While many of the issues raised have been identified in this plan, there were a number of operational or 'on-the-ground' concerns that will be addressed through ongoing discussions that will be undertaken as part of implementation of the plan.

#### ***3.1.1 Public Involvement and Review***

Throughout the planning process, the ministry made extensive efforts to engage the northern communities in the area. The consultation process for the Misinipiy ILUP was a unique and dynamic exchange of information that included Cree translation services and provided meaningful opportunity for input into the plan as it evolved.

The Ministry of Environment conducted more than 225 formal meetings throughout the northern communities. In addition to soliciting input from northerners, special interest groups and NGOs, the ministry completed a number of one-on-one meetings to allow various stakeholders to comment on specific areas of interest, and to provide feedback on some of the developing actions.

From the outset, the focus has been to produce a plan that reflects the interests of planning area residents and stakeholders, and one that embodies the spirit and principles of ecosystem-based management. Understanding the issues and concerns of the stakeholders has enabled the ministry to produce a balanced plan that supports ecosystem integrity, environmental sustainability and wise resource use. Securing this insight from constituents has been an ongoing effort throughout the planning process. The following table summarizes the key stages in developing the plan and the public consultation and engagement efforts that have been made in this regard:

<b>Planning Stage / Development</b>	<b>Extent of Public Consultation</b>
Terms of Reference	Each community was directly involved in editing and approving terms of reference for local and regional advisory boards.
Issue Identification	Local and regional advisory boards provided specific information about the issues important to their community.
Recommendations	Local and regional advisory boards provided specific recommendations to address the issues previously identified, which were then expressed in the plan actions.
Identify Resource Values	Local and regional advisory boards provided specific information identifying resource values throughout the planning area, which were then captured in the zoning framework. Much help was received from elder interviews.
Zone Boundary Establishment	Zone boundaries were reviewed and adjusted based on information provided at local advisory boards and elder interviews.
Draft plan Edits (Versions 1, 2, 3)	Local and regional advisory board members and the general public provided edits to three versions of the draft plan.

A public review of the draft plan was held from January 23 to March 17, 2006 for a total of 54 calendar days, and was advertised in several newspapers, local radio, the ministry's website, and posters distributed in each community where advisory board meetings had taken place. The draft plan was mailed out to more than 150 members of advisory boards, interest groups, and the public. Various government departments and branches were emailed the draft plan. Extra copies were made available at the government office in La Ronge, and the LLRIB offices of councillors located in La Ronge, and in Stanley Mission, Grandmothers Bay and Brabant Lake. The draft plan was placed on the ministry's website and available for download. The ministry gave clear instructions that comments were welcome and could be provided to the Forest Service office in Prince Albert by March 17, 2006.

Community involvement and consultation will continue after the Misinipiy ILUP is approved. The ministry remains committed to an ongoing process of community engagement and intends to create a committee comprised of area interests to assist with plan implementation and monitoring. In addition, this plan calls for the development of a comprehensive land use planning process to be initiated for the Churchill River 5 km corridor, within the Sensitive Zone. The ministry is also committed to initiating this planning process and engaging northerners in the planning process and will also continue to engage and actively support the participation by members of the public, special interest groups, First Nations, business, northern communities, and others in the implementation of the Misinipiy ILUP.

### ***3.1.2 Local Advisory Boards***

From the start of the planning process, the ministry focused on producing a plan for the people. To this end, Local Advisory Boards were established in eight northern communities in the planning area, with regularly scheduled meetings held over the six-year period during plan development. Meetings were held in La Ronge/Air Ronge, Hall Lake, Stanley Mission, Grandmothers Bay, Missinipe, Brabant Lake, and Sucker River. Detailed minutes of each meeting were recorded and the discussions emerging at the community level resulted in many significant contributions to this plan.

As noted above, many issues that were raised have been addressed in this document. More detailed concerns and issues that reflect ‘on-the-ground’ concerns however, are more appropriately addressed at other stages of planning. These operational issues are of critical importance and the ministry has prepared a Compendium of Operational Issues for the Misinipiy planning Area that will be provided to those directly involved in plan implementation. In this way, all issues of concern will be appropriately addressed.

### ***3.1.3 Regional Advisory Board***

In addition to the Local Advisory Boards, a Regional Advisory Board was also created. The Regional Advisory Board (RAB) consisted of representatives from each of the northern communities (Town of La Ronge, Village of Air Ronge, Village of Pinehouse) industry representatives (ecotourism, outfitting, mineral exploration, wild rice growers, trapping, mining, forestry, tourism and commercial fishing), and other interest group representation (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Canoe Saskatchewan, Native Women of Fish River, youth representation and the La Ronge Wildlife Federation). A number of government agencies also participated as observers, offering technical information when required, including Ministry of Energy and Resources (MER), Government Services and Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations (FNMR).

There was considerable debate at the Regional Advisory Board meetings on a number of issues, and the planning process took a number of unique turns over the course of the plan’s development. The Regional Advisory Board met over a four-year period and discussed a number of fundamental matters including the Terms of Reference for the RAB, the level of plan detail, the responsibilities of RAB members and the degree of protection needed for the

planning area. The group was unable to reach a consensus and further RAB meetings were put on hold in early 2004.

### ***3.1.4 First Nations and Métis***

The Province of Saskatchewan seeks to establish a new relationship with aboriginal people in the province. This relationship, first and foremost, is a political one between the elected provincial government and the political organizations and associations representing Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis. It is a government-to-government relationship that is based on an affirmed commitment to build new, equitable partnerships with aboriginal people in the province – one that has mutual trust and respect for aboriginal leadership and protocol as its foundation.

This plan could not have been prepared without the extensive support provided by the Chief and Council of the LLRIB, and the participation, dedication and commitment of those band members who participated on the Local Advisory Boards and the Regional Advisory Board. While the preparation of the Misinipiy ILUP involved a number of First Nation and Métis organizations, the support provided by the LLRIB deserves special mention.

### ***3.1.5 Lac La Ronge Indian Band***

The LLRIB played a pivotal role in the development of the Misinipiy ILUP. Chief and band council were actively involved in discussions with government officials and Ministry of Environment staff and there were many members of the band who participated in community level meetings and who played an active role at the Local Advisory Board and Regional Advisory Board tables.

The band developed and shared its Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use and during the preparation of the Misinipiy plan, and made a commitment to complete a Strategic plan for the band – a first in its history. The Strategic plan articulates the band's values, vision and priorities for the future. The Misinipiy ILUP has been prepared with this vision and strategic thinking in mind.

Aboriginal communities in Canada and abroad have completed various types of traditional knowledge and land use studies as part of their efforts to protect many of their traditional sites for future generations. These studies have identified land used for hunting, fishing, trapping, plants, burial sites, and sacred areas. Local and traditional data collected by the LLRIB provided essential information for the development of the Misinipiy ILUP.

The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to focus on ways to support the band in achieving its long-term vision. Committed to collaboration, partnership and capacity building, the ministry will work with the LLRIB to promote development of a Forest Management plan in the planning area and will facilitate a FMA to allow the band to manage the resource base.

In addition, the ministry will pursue opportunities to work in partnership with the LLRIB on future planning of the Churchill River Corridor within the Sensitive Zone. This initiative is in keeping with the band's long-term desire to take a more active role in actions occurring within their traditional territory.

### ***3.1.6 Government Ministries and Agencies***

The Misinipiy planning process involved a number of provincial government ministries and Crown Corporations. The ministry took the lead in developing the ILUP, gathering information and drawing on a knowledge base from a wide range of resource management specialists.

Ministry of Energy and Resources attended Advisory Board meetings and worked with staff at the ministry to identify potential mineral deposits and reviewed the plan's progress in light of its mandate and legislative responsibilities. The Ministries of First Nations and Métis Relations, Government Services, Agriculture, Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Highways and Infrastructure, SaskPower, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, and Health were also involved in a variety of capacities. Some ministries attended Advisory Board meetings at the start of the planning process while others were available to provide ongoing advice and guidance. Still others participated in plan review.

### ***3.1.7 Stakeholders, NGOs and Interest Groups***

The development of an ILUP for the Misinipiy planning area also involved a number of financial stakeholders (those who have a financial interest in the land base), NGOs and special interest groups. Mining interests, the forestry sector and the interests of environmental groups have continued to emphasize the importance of finding a balance in the plan. The environmental community in particular, represented by a number of organizations and individuals, have emphasized the critical importance of ecosystem-based management as a fundamental guiding principle for the plan.

It is worth noting that many of the environmental groups participated as volunteers, such as Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, and Saskatchewan Canoe Association on the Regional Advisory Board and devoted countless hours to attend meetings across the province. The environmental community has played a pivotal role in bringing forward, a deep-rooted appreciation for the importance of environmental health and ecosystem sustainability.

## **4 Key Issues Affecting the Misinipiy Planning Area**

The Misinipiy Planning Area is unique. Rich in resources, the area offers an abundance of recreational, economic and resource-related opportunities. This part of the province has a high population of aboriginal people, and among them, a high proportion who derive their livelihood from traditional pursuits like hunting, trapping and fishing. While there are forestry interests, mineral dispositions, and a well-established tourism sector, many people

here continue to live off of the land. Managing the land sustainably with an emphasis on ecosystem integrity is critical given the traditional uses that prevail here. Consideration of all forest resources, and not simply for industrial purposes or exploitation, is required and paramount.

## **4.1 Economic & Social Issues**

Perhaps the most critical issues facing the planning area are the economic and social challenges faced by the aboriginal people. Within the planning area, some communities face an unemployment rate of 85 per cent. This data is supported by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) whose research suggests the current socio-economic conditions within First Nations communities will not be adequate to support their future or the future of Saskatchewan. Additional population projection data completed for the band suggests that most of the future band growth will occur near existing reserves. As one of the fastest growing populations in Saskatchewan, the need for economic diversification is of paramount concern to the elected leaders.

### ***4.1.1 Economic Development***

The planning area has a long history of resource-based economic development. The LLRIB currently holds a Term Supply License (TSL) that includes areas inside and outside their traditional lands and allows the band to harvest timber within the terms of the Kitsaki/Zelensky TSL agreement. This TSL is an interim license that, while recognized as a source of employment and income for local members and residents, also acts as a bridging mechanism to enable the LLRIB to secure long-term forest management tenure with a FMA.

As noted by the LLRIB:

“The TSL and completion of the FMA present a very real opportunity to secure collateral for major economic development projects. The acquisition of the TSL has provided the required equity for large projects that are currently recognized and accepted by banking institutions. Banking institutions view these agreements as a long-term tenure over the resource that is critical for long-term sustainable business viability. Without it, development of resources on and off reserve is virtually impossible.” (LLRIB, 2005)

The LLRIB is interested in pursuing a FMA with the province, and as a first step toward managing the resource base. In light of this, the band has formulated a set of Principles For Traditional Land Use, focusing on the following key practices:

- The balanced use of natural resources so that the use of traditional lands is balanced and provides benefits to band members and band partners in development. To this end, the band will strive to protect the relationships and natural condition of the land, lakes, rivers, plants, and animals. They will balance the needs of spiritual and cultural pursuits, hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting of medicinal and food plants, recreation, and commercial and industrial development.

- The sustainable use of traditional lands. To this end, the band has articulated the following in its Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use:

“We believe that our traditional lands and the resources they contain are a heritage from our ancestors and must be maintained as a legacy for our children and all future generations.” (LLRIB, 2005)

As a component of managing forest resources the LLRIB has taken the opportunity to establish the Heritage Trust Fund Agreement. This Trust Fund is has been set up as a long term asset for use and benefit of the Band. The establishment of this trust fund directs the forest company to pay a set dollar value per cubic meter harvested into a trust account. It is hoped that this fund will assist in band development and provide an opportunity to achieve greater financial independence. Successful businesses operating in the planning area can provide positive examples for other potential ventures. Government can also play a role in encouraging economic development by identifying opportunities and encouraging partnerships.

**Objective:**

1. To support the vision of the LLRIB to develop a FMA as a first step in managing the resource base.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Initiate discussions with the LLRIB to develop the FMA.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	Ongoing
Encourage the development of value added processing such as: traditional tannery, fish processing, cannery and tree nursery.	<b>LLRIB</b> , Ministry of Environment	2013/2014

#### **4.1.2 Community and Reserve Expansion**

Within the Misinipiy planning area, the population of the LLRIB is growing. According to the latest provincial census, First Nation communities are among the fastest growing populations in Saskatchewan, and the population of the planning area reflects many of the provincial trends, namely that the aboriginal population in Saskatchewan is projected to increase from 135,000 people in 1995 to 434,000 people in 2045 (FSIN, 1996). It is clear that the population base of the LLRIB is also growing. Census data compiled for the band as of November 2007 has the band population at 8,440. In some communities, growth is occurring so rapidly that expanding the boundaries of these communities may be necessary to accommodate the growing population.

The following table lists the LLRIB population statistics (November 2007):

<b>Community</b>	<b>Population</b>
La Ronge	1733
Kitsaki	664
Little Red River	279
Hall Lake	494
Sucker River	341
Grandmother's Bay	363
Stanley Mission	1562
Total On Reserve	5436
Total Off Reserve	3004
<b>Total band Membership</b>	<b>8440</b>

Community expansion is of particular concern for some of the larger communities such as Sucker River and Stanley Mission, where the shortage of available land for new housing may restrict this new growth. While the ministry must protect the environment from permanent deforestation - and communities from wildfire – the ministry must also recognize local communities and their expansion needs. The jurisdiction and responsibilities of the federal government in regard to treaty issues must also be respected.

#### **Objective:**

1. Continue to manage the resource base for all users while recognizing the needs of the LLRIB to resolve community and reserve expansion issues.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Initiate land and infrastructure committees (if they do not already exist) in each community to assist with orderly future development.	<b>LLRIB</b>	2012/2013
Consider Fire Smart actions in community expansion plan in order to protect against potential damage from wildfire.	<b>LLRIB, Ministry of Environment</b>	2012/2013

#### ***4.1.3 Employment, Education, and Training***

To achieve employment objectives, the ministry understands that the development of a skilled labour pool is closely tied to education (the acquisition of basic knowledge) and training (the acquisition of an enhanced set of skills). In combination, skills training and education create the foundation for capacity building, and thereby contribute in a significant way to establishing an employment base for the future.

Although the ministry has limited authority to actively address employment and educational issues through the land use planning process, the plan promotes economic diversification and, as such, needs to be closely aligned with those agencies that have a specific mandate for education and training. Providing employment opportunities to northern residents will result in the retention of young people which is a significant concern to band members and will contribute to community stability. Education is the key to economic, cultural and social development. Governments have to be supportive to ensure success.

The LLRIB has already established its own post-secondary education department that offers courses on reserves through the First Nations University of Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of Regina. In recent years, satellite courses have also been offered through the Saskatchewan Communications Network, with individuals successfully achieving university credits and degrees without having to travel outside of their community.

The demographics for the LLRIB indicate that a high proportion of the band membership is under the age of 25. In addition, future growth projections suggest that most of the band growth will occur on reserves. For these reasons, employment issues are a prime concern for band leadership and management. Considering the long-term scope of the Misinipiy plan, the ministry recognizes the need for more long-term, year round (full time) employment, and supports the ongoing efforts of the Northern Labour Market Committee (NLMC). The NLMC addresses training and employment needs in the northern administration district, focusing on jobs in the forestry, mining, oil sands and commercial fishing sectors.

The NLMC also plays an active role in meeting training needs in the Misinipiy planning area of Saskatchewan. Co-chaired by FNMR, the NLMC is one of several labour market committees supported by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour across the province. Northern training institutions (*e.g.*, Northlands College, SIIT) and many resource industries are all members of the NLMC.

At present, there are several training programs that exist in La Ronge, including the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT), Northlands College, Mikisiw School, the Métis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc., and apprenticeship training through the LLRIB. In addition, the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Training (SIAST) has partnered in the past with other training facilities to provide specialty programs.

At present the Lac La Ronge Indian Band provides well over 1500 jobs to the planning area. In keeping with the long-term strategic vision required for these objectives, the LLRIB’s Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use provides a resource development plan guided by a number of fundamental principles, including a key proviso that looks “to fully educate, train, and counsel our people so that they may participate in the development of our natural resources and our economy.” In addition, the role of Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership “encourages and supports education and training to prepare people for employment and economic opportunities.” KMLP is also committed to maximize aboriginal employment in Kitsaki and band enterprises through a training oriented work environment that encourages on-the-job skill development and training.

It is clear there are many agencies and organizations that have a role in education and training for northern residents, suggesting that the employment, education and training needs of northern residents must be viewed strategically, with initiatives carried forward to support the long-term employment goals of the LLRIB and of all northern residents. Capacity building, enhanced skills development and the alignment of an education system that affords local people the opportunity to study in advanced fields will lead to diversified employment opportunities. Positioning northern residents to effectively meet the opportunities of the future requires this long-term vision.

**Objectives:**

1. Support the LLRIB and other northern communities desires to diversify the economic base by improving job creation and employment opportunities within the planning area.

Actions	Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)	Initiation Timeline
Provide, as possible information to assist northern organizations in identifying priority areas with respect to education and training needs and initiatives that are related to resource-driven employment opportunities.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , FNMR, NLMC, NSTA, LLRIB	Ongoing

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Encourage the LLRIB, Métis, and local business leaders to work cooperatively with FNMR to develop actions to improve job creation and employment opportunities.	<b>FNMR</b> , LLRIB, NLMC	Ongoing
Encourage LLRIB, Métis, and municipal communities to participate in the ongoing activities of the NLMC.	<b>FNMR</b> , LLRIB, NLMC, Ministry of Environment	Ongoing
Promote resource management training and employment opportunities in the planning area through local training initiatives.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB, FNMR, NLMC, NSTA	Ongoing

## 4.2 The Churchill River Corridor

The Churchill River is a world-recognized waterway in the heart of Saskatchewan’s boreal forest. A significant system of lakes and tributaries, the Churchill River offers exceptional fishing, canoeing and recreational opportunities and provides access to spectacular vistas and wilderness experiences. In its entirety, the Churchill River flows west to east for 2100 km through the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba before emptying into Hudson Bay. Within the Province of Saskatchewan, it is frequently described as the backbone of the massive Churchill River drainage basin that covers some 72,000 square kilometres. The Cree name for the Churchill River is “Misinipiy” or Great Water. The river is aptly named, given that it drains about one quarter of the province and includes eleven of Saskatchewan’s fifteen largest lakes including Reindeer Lake, Wollaston Lake and Lac La Ronge, each more than 400 square km in area.

The Churchill River has figured prominently in Saskatchewan’s history. A major exploration and fur trade route, the Churchill River continues to traverse the landscape and the traditional territory of Saskatchewan’s First Nations. For many, the Churchill River weaves across their homeland. For others, it offers a source of recreational relaxation and rejuvenation. Traditional fishermen find sustenance in the waters of the Churchill, hunters and trappers earn their living along its banks and on the surrounding land base, while modern day adventure enthusiasts pursue their interests in canoes, kayaks or on foot.

In 1995, a government proposal was presented to designate the Churchill River as a heritage river system, affording it Canadian Heritage River status. Widespread concern was expressed by northern communities in particular, that they had not been properly consulted. As a result, the proposal to designate the Churchill as a heritage river was abandoned and has not been pursued since that time.

The historic and modern day significance of the Churchill River is recognized in particular by the LLRIB who view the river system “as a heritage resource for future generations of its people.”

The Churchill River is a resource both worthy and in need of protection. Any initiative that focuses on the future management of the Churchill River system must involve the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

To date, managing values along the Churchill River has been conducted in an *ad hoc* manner, without the benefit of a comprehensive plan or a secure funding base to provide basic services such as campsite maintenance or garbage pickup along shorelines outside of the Lac La Ronge Provincial Park. At this time, initiatives focusing on the Churchill River are undertaken on a piecemeal basis as a result of individual or collective interests.

In 2004, representatives from Stanley Mission and Grandmother’s Bay as well as the ministry formed the “Churchill River Advisory Committee” and met twice for the purposes of developing a plan to manage the Churchill River that crosses the traditional territory of the LLRIB. These communities are recognized for their strong ties to the Churchill River along with their ongoing role in its management. The initial planning area identified by the Churchill River Advisory Committee consists of a delineated corridor that runs approximately 5 kilometres on either side of the Churchill River from Nipew Lake in the west to Frog Portage in the east (outside of the Misinipiy planning Area). Community members are continuing to promote a more focused conservation effort along the length of the Churchill River in the hope that a more comprehensive management effort will emerge and the Churchill will offer an even greater focus for promoting tourism in the area. The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport continues to be involved in planning for those areas of the Churchill River that are within the Lac La Ronge Provincial Park, and outside of this planning area.

In recognition of its historical and modern day significance, the Misinipiy ILUP has designated the Churchill River Corridor as a Sensitive Zone, establishing a 5 km zone on either side and along the length of the river. The Misinipiy ILUP calls for a comprehensive plan to be prepared for the Churchill River Sensitive Zone. Until a more comprehensive plan is completed, the recommendations included in this ILUP will guide activities and uses in the Churchill River Corridor. Implementation efforts will focus over the long term on developing an understanding between the province and the LLRIB concerning ongoing resource stewardship of the river corridor.

**Objective:**

1. Promote and maintain the integrity of the Churchill River Sensitive Zone.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Develop a comprehensive land use plan for the Churchill River Sensitive Zone. In developing the plan, consult with and engage LLRIB, stakeholders and other interests.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2012/2013
Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the LLRIB about future planning or use of the Churchill River Corridor (Sensitive Zone).	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	2012/2013

### 4.3 Forest Management

There are a number of items that relate forest management practices within the Misinipiy planning area. Some of the concerns expressed by northerners during the preparation of the Misinipiy ILUP, perhaps most notably, the impact of timber harvesting and resource allocation on traditional uses, stem from past practices and are concerns that are deeply rooted in history.

In order to gain understanding among residents and interest groups, the ministry has demonstrated that current forest management practices have improved significantly. As discussed earlier, completion of the Misinipiy plan and the inclusion of actions to provide the LLRIB and its members with the opportunity to be engaged in decisions about management of the resource base honours a commitment made to the band in 1998. Both the Province of Saskatchewan and the LLRIB view the Misinipiy plan as a first step toward LLRIB economic self-sufficiency, a foundation to build capacity, and a Forest Management plan that will implement the principles of ecosystem-based management.

A Forest Management Plan (FMP) prescribes the goals, objectives and actions to guide forest management activities. An FMP for the Misinipiy area would adhere to the principles of sustainable resource management, adaptive management, and community consultation. The FMP would establish desired future forest conditions, complying with principles and objectives of the Misinipiy ILUP, provincial legislation, regulations, standards, policy and guidelines. In compliance with the requirements of *The Environmental Assessment Act*, companies developing a forest management plan must also complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prior to signing a FMA.

In partnership with government, the LLRIB will share both the responsibilities and inherent benefits associated with managing the forest resources. As proponents for a FMA, the band will be responsible for ensuring that on-the-ground forest management practices comply with all applicable policies, legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines. Through the FMP, the band will be required to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the forest, and will need to ensure that its actions are in keeping with this plan, and with the expectations of

its members. For its part, the ministry will continue to be responsible for compliance and enforcement, and will take an active role in working with the band to ensure all required practices, including those identified in the Misinipiy ILUP, are adhered to.

There are currently 366,270 hectares licensed as a Term Supply License (TSL) to the Kitsaki/Zelensky partnership, in and adjacent to the planning area. Please refer to Appendix 2, Map 3 – Forest Licences for a visual delineation of the extent of current forest licence boundaries in and adjacent to the Misinipiy planning area.

**Objective:**

1. Encourage and support the efforts of the LLRIB to develop a Forest Management Plan.

Actions	Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)	Initiation Timeline
Encourage the LLRIB to develop a Forest Management Plan, leading to a FMA.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	2012/2013

**4.4 Wildfire Management**

In response to the devastating fires that swept the province in 1995, Saskatchewan embarked on an extensive public consultation process to update the existing wildfire management policy. A new Wildfire and Forest Insect and Disease Management Policy Framework was approved in 2003, which established the protection priorities used to develop the provincial wildfire management actions. These actions focus on protecting human life, communities, the commercial forest and major public infrastructure.

Saskatchewan’s Wildfire Management Strategies direct the province’s wildfire suppression responses. Many factors are taken into account in combating wildfires, including: lives at risk; what zone the wildfire is in; the chances of suppression success; potential costs of suppression; the value of what is being threatened; the complexity of fire behaviour as influenced by weather, topography and fuels; availability of resources; other suppression priorities and demands; whether the area will benefit ecologically and last but certainly not least, the possible danger to fire crews. A map of the wildfire zones is located in Appendix 2, Map 4.

The province is divided into select fire zones: Community Full Response Zones; High Value Commercial Forest Full Response Zones; Modified Response Zones and Observation Zones. The provincial objectives relating to fire management continue to focus on those values that are most important to people, but the emphasis is on allowing fire to play a more natural and beneficial role on the landscape, and managing extreme costs that have become aligned with fire management jurisdictions across continental North America, and globally. The ministry

believes healthy, vibrant forests that are naturally renewed by fire or through forest harvest that mimics natural fire, are in the best interest of northern residents, businesses and the province.

The majority of the Misinipiy planning area, (all land lying north of the Churchill River) is within the wildfire Observation Zone. In this Zone, fire is generally allowed to play its natural role on the landscape. Areas below the Churchill River are protected as Full or Modified Response Zones, with all communities identified for Full Response, the highest level of protection. Threatening fires occurring within 20 kilometres of communities are managed with efforts focusing on initial attack and sustained action until the fire has been suppressed.

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to provide an appropriate level of fire response, as identified for the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Develop wildfire suppression plans that will balance the protection of human life and property with ecological impacts. This should provide opportunity for input by First Nations, residents, land users and interested parties.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	On-going
Promote and support the involvement of First Nations and Métis in fire fighting efforts.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	On-going
Invite FMFP to attend future land use planning meetings to foster a better understanding and facilitate input into fire management planning process.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	2012/2013

**4.5 Traditional Use**

There is a well-established association between the aboriginal people of the planning area and the land. There is a long-standing history and tradition of resource-based development and today there are many planning area residents whose ties to the land continue in the form of traditional lifestyles. By definition, traditional use refers to the following key elements:

- Trapping and fur conservation opportunities.
- Use of remote cabins to maintain a traditional lifestyle.
- Harvesting plants, animals and fish for sustenance, medicinal and spiritual purposes.

- Unrestricted access throughout their traditionally occupied territory.
- Protection of sacred sites.

Many of the planning area residents are concerned that existing non-traditional uses and future development of forest resources might affect their lifestyle. Finding a balance between uses and users of the resource base is critical. Also critical is the need to practice sustainable use. This plan recognizes the importance of local traditional ecological knowledge and the importance of providing ongoing access to desirable areas including hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, burial and ceremonial sites through the maintenance of an environmentally sensitive network of roads, trails and portages.

The ministry recognizes the importance of maintaining traditional use opportunities in perpetuity, in the context of ensuring treaty rights while meeting obligations to manage Crown land and forest resources for the benefit of all residents. To this end, considerable success has already been achieved by the LLRIB and the ministry in developing and expanding inventories of traditional use locations and in finding solutions to balance traditional uses with non-traditional uses.

Please see Appendix 2, Map 5 for more information on trapping blocks in the planning area.

**Objective:**

1. Support traditional lifestyles in accordance with the values articulated by the LLRIB elders, leadership and membership.
2. Recognise that the LLRIB views certain plant and animal products of the forest as essential for maintaining physical and spiritual health, not just as a potential commercial resource.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Consult with the LLRIB to ensure traditional uses are not adversely impacted by proposed developments.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB, TCPS	Ongoing

**4.6 Planning Area Boundary**

The original boundaries of the Misinipiy planning area were changed at the request of the LLRIB Council to be more closely aligned with the traditional territory of the band. There is a boundary-related issue involving the traditional lands of the Lac La Ronge Indian and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN).

The LLRIB and the PBCN agreed that the Fur Conservation Areas associated with each First Nation are not consistent with their respective traditional territory boundaries. Despite a Band Council Resolution by the PBCN proposing a boundary change, this matter remains

outstanding and may require future alignment of the Misinipiy ILUP planning area boundaries to better match traditional territory boundaries, once these have been clarified.

The Misinipiy ILUP is influenced by and in turn influences the plans that have been prepared for adjacent geographies. With respect to the Misinipiy planning area, adjacent plans include the Amisk-Atik IFLUP, the Pinehouse Dipper ILUP, the Park Management Plan for Lac La Ronge Provincial Park and the La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan. From a land use planning perspective, the province has an interest in ensuring that any issues that transcend planning area boundaries are identified and addressed in a consistent manner.

**Objective:**

1. Ensure the plan is administered in a consistent manner by identifying any trans-planning area boundary issues and ensuring all actions are consistent from one planning area to another.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Adjust (if necessary) planning area boundaries of the Misinipiy ILUP and the Amisk-Atik ILUP based on the outcome of negotiations between the LLRIB and the PBCN.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB, PBCN	2012/2013
Coordinate communication activities in plans adjacent to the Misinipiy ILUP to ensure management goals and actions do not conflict.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS	2012/2013
Initiate negotiations with Government and the current FMA holder to include the N-5 and N-6 Fur Blocks within the Misinipiy planning area.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	2012/2013

## 5 The Zoning Framework

The Misinipiy ILUP is based on a three-fold zoning typology: a Protected Zone, a Sensitive Zone and a Resource Management Zone. A map outlining the boundaries of the three zones is found in Appendix 2, Map 6 – Zone Structure.

A three-step process was used to establish the zoning framework:

Step 1: Information Gathering. Land value locations were identified across the land base.

Step 2: Boundary Establishment. Concentrated value areas were grouped.

Step 3: Zone Definition. Management objectives were defined for each zone and permitted land uses were identified in keeping with the defined objectives.

The zoning framework enables the ministry to determine the most suitable activities that can occur, keeping in mind the demands on the land base from uses and users and the need to promote the principles of ecosystem-based management. The zoning framework mirrors a consistent approach utilized by the ministry in other land use plans and will enable decisions to be made for the planning area to:

- Maintain areas in a natural state and promote environmental conservation for long-term study;
- Protect Aboriginal rights and traditional uses, and ensure treaty commitments are maintained;
- Protect public interests for recreation, angling, and hunting with consideration for all citizens; and
- Allow opportunities for resource development, providing societal and economic benefits for citizens and the province.

The zoning framework establishes a blueprint for the future of the planning area and promotes the following key values:

- clean air and water;
- a renewable source of forest products;
- abundant wildlife and fish habitat, and sustainable populations;
- crucial minerals for fuel, science and manufacturing;
- employment needs for local populations through business opportunities;
- traditional lifestyles;
- a variety of recreational opportunities; and
- visual aesthetics.

The recommended zoning framework and the specific objectives and management actions for each zone provide the foundation for the plan. The objectives for each zone reflect the specific values that were articulated by northerners and planning process participants. A brief description of each of the three zones follow.

### **The Protected Zone**

Within the Misinipiy planning area, the Protected Zone comprises approximately 433,000 hectares. A total of 12 per cent of the planning area is proposed for new designations within the province's RAN (approximately 365,000 ha). In total, once the three proposed sites have been appropriately designated, over 14 per cent of the land base in the planning area will fall into the Protected Zone. Traditional uses are permitted within the Protected Zone.

The Pink Lake and Foster Lakes sites are proposed for identification as representative area ecological reserves while the Geikie River site is proposed for protection under *The Parks Act*. Once approved, the Pink Lake site, at 333,000 hectares in size, will be the largest

protected area in the province. Other areas in this zone are already protected under various other pieces of legislation, including *The Ecological Reserves Act* and *The Parks Act*, including the Wapawekka Hills Representative Area, the Hickson-Maribelli Lakes Pictographs Lakes Pictographs Protected Area, and several provincial recreational sites and heritage properties. The Lac La Ronge Provincial Park is not part of the Misinipiy planning area.

### **The Sensitive Zone**

The Sensitive Zone, including the 5 km corridor on either side of the Churchill River, constitutes 954,000 hectares or 30 per cent of the planning area. Within the Sensitive Zone, resource development may be permitted where it does not conflict with other management objectives and where identified values will not be adversely impacted. Traditional uses are permitted in this zone.

It is intended that a comprehensive plan will be developed for the Churchill River corridor, recognizing that the long term intent will be to protect the natural elements of this ecosystem while supporting other activities.

### **The Resource Management Zone**

The remainder of the planning area - a total of 56 per cent including the La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan, or approximately 1,731,000 hectares, is zoned under the Resource Management Zone. Here more intensive development of timber and other resource-related development is permitted on the basis of resource sustainability. It should be noted that while resource development is permitted, development proposals will be evaluated for compliance with existing legislation, regulation, policies and land use plans (i.e. La Ronge Integrated Land Use Plan). The Resource Management Zone is not 'open' to broad scale development and all proposals will take environmental, social and economic impacts into account. Within the Resource Management Zone, traditional uses are permitted.

Any activities that are permitted to occur within each of the three zones must be in compliance with all applicable provincial and federal legislation, regulations, standards, policies and guidelines.

It is conceivable as new information becomes available that the zoning framework may be amended from time to time. The process for amending the plan is discussed in more detail in Section 7.

## **5.1 Information Gathering**

Information gathering was by far the most critical stage in developing zoning for the plan. Information for the zoning framework was collected from a variety of sources that included local traditional ecological knowledge from interviews with members of the LLRIB, inventories of known values from within the ministry and values from other government departments and stakeholders.

In addition to local and traditional knowledge, information was secured from Regional Advisory Board mapping sessions, Local Advisory Board mapping exercises and reviews of initial maps, heritage information, registered and unregistered recreational canoe routes and areas, known locations of fish and wildlife habitat values, special areas, land disposition information, RAN enduring features, watershed data, Churchill River view shed (extent of land that would be seen from a canoe on the river), mineral resource potential, mineral claims, prospecting permits, mineral leases, current boundaries of protected areas, estimated commercial forestry potential, and stream networks.

The data gathering stage enabled planning staff, through extensive community consultation and personal interviews, to evaluate and assess existing information sources while enabling local residents to identify and define values they deemed important. Values identified by northern residents included but were not limited to: burial and spiritual sites, fish spawning areas and important fishing locations, cabins and hunting grounds, camping sites, trails, woodland caribou calving grounds, and First Nation settlements of archaeological and cultural significance. Each of the identified values were digitized and mapped by the LLRIB, shared with the ministry (agreeing that the location of these values would remain confidential), with the information dataset remaining in the band's possession. The methodology used to delineate zones and the rationale for defining the three zones is discussed in detail below.

## **5.2 The Three Land Use Planning Zones**

### **5.2.1 The Protected Zone**

Traditional uses including hunting, trapping and fishing are permitted. Resource extraction and development, including forestry and mining are generally not permitted.

#### ***Primary Objectives:***

- ***To protect and manage natural, recreational, and cultural values of the area.***
- ***To permit activities compatible with a wilderness setting and the long-term protection of ecological values.***

The Protected Zone covers approximately 433,000 hectares or just over 14% of the planning area. The plan includes identification of 365,000 hectares for new protective designations, a step that also supports the Province's RAN objectives. The Protected Zone identifies areas that are to be afforded maximum protection because of their natural, cultural heritage and/or recreational values as defined in the RAN.

Within the Protected Zone traditional uses such as trapping, hunting, and fishing are permitted; however, logging, mining and energy exploration and development are prohibited. It is intended that existing commercial activities (e.g. any that are established as of the date of approval of this plan) including their renewal and/or transfer of ownership, will be continued and maintained even though they may now be occurring within a protected zone.

Within the planning area, there are sites that have been identified and protected under various pieces of legislation including the Wapawekka Hills Representative Area Ecological Reserve, the Hickson-Maribelli Lakes Pictographs Protected Area, as well as several provincial recreational sites and heritage properties. The total area protected by these designations is approximately 68,000 ha or 2% of the planning area.

Saskatchewan's RAN defines an overall plan aimed at conserving representative, unique landscapes and enduring features across the province. A key role of representative areas is to serve as benchmarks or long-term reference points that can be used to measure the impact of management practices being applied outside of the network. Generally, ecological benchmarks should be large areas of high ecological integrity, with little or no historical or currently intensive use that allow natural disturbances to continue. Wildfire, insect and disease infestation and other natural disturbances will only be controlled where it threatens public safety or external resources.

The RAN's overall target is to conserve 12 per cent of Saskatchewan's total area in representative landscapes, ideally with designations occurring in each of Saskatchewan's 11 Ecoregions, each with unique characteristics of geology, soils, climate, plants and animals. The landscapes protected by the RAN program will help to conserve Saskatchewan's native biological diversity, to be used as benchmarks or control areas against which ecological health (in areas outside of the representative area sites) can be measured. Wildfire is also recognized as a function of the natural environment, and it will be essential that wildfire be allowed to continue unimpeded (when possible) within the Protected Zone to perform its role as agent of change in the boreal forest.

The RAN program prescribes a comprehensive assessment process for the selection of potential RAN sites. At the time a site is considered for designation under the program, the full economic potential of the area may not be fully known. Detailed consideration is given to existing land use and activities that are occurring on the land base. Land that has been extensively developed or areas with poor ecological value are not generally considered acceptable RAN sites. Setting aside RAN sites imposes limits on the development potential, as mineral and petroleum resource development is not generally permitted to occur, however, in some areas special exceptions have been made with consideration to total impact on the ecology.

The Misinipiy ILUP is largely composed of the CRU Ecoregion - currently one of the least represented Ecoregions in the province, with only 4.9 per cent of this Ecoregion currently protected. The Lac La Ronge Provincial Park (outside of the Misinipiy planning area) and other representative area ecological reserves along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border provide most of the protection. The addition of the Pink Lake, Foster Lake and Geikie River proposed representative areas would significantly improve provincial protection of this Ecoregion, as 333,000 hectares are identified for protection in the proposed Pink Lake site, the Foster Lakes include approximately 23,000 ha and a further 9,000 hectares are identified for protection in the Geikie River site. In total, the plan provides for 365,000 hectares to be formally designated for protection within the provincial RAN.

The proposed Pink Lake site is representative of the range of natural ecosystems that occur within the CRU Ecoregion. Six different enduring feature combinations are present within this considerable site, including rock outcrops, fluvio-glacial and glacial moraine soils. The proposed Geikie River site is 27,357 hectares in total (of which 9,000 are located within the Misinipiy planning area), and represents five enduring features that occur within the CRU Ecoregion. The majority of the Pink Lake site is found within the Misinipiy plan area; however most of the Geikie River site proposal extends beyond the planning area boundary to the northeast.

Regulations to formally designate these sites will provide some flexibility for certain uses although it is intended that existing uses will be continued, and future uses will be consistent with ILUP objectives for protection.

**Objective:**

1. Designate the proposed representative areas in the planning area for protection and thereby support the objectives of the Province’s RAN.

Actions	Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)	Initiation Timeline
Undertake steps necessary to formally designate the proposed Pink Lake, Foster Lakes and Geikie River sites for protection using the appropriate legislative tool.	<b>Ministry of Environment, TPCS</b>	2012/2013

**5.2.2 The Sensitive Zone**

Traditional uses including hunting, trapping and fishing are permitted. Resource extraction and development is only permitted where it can be demonstrated by the proponent that the proposed development will not adversely impact on or conflict with other management objectives or the protection of identified values. Development in the Sensitive Zone may be subject to public review and comment.

**Primary Objectives:**

- *To protect identified environmental, cultural, social, recreational and human values.*
- *To maintain or enhance natural aquatic and terrestrial populations.*
- *To maintain or enhance water quality.*
- *To permit access for hunting, fishing and other forms of recreation.*
- *To permit resource development where appropriate.*

The Sensitive Zone highlights those areas for which the conservation of one or more resource value (e.g. habitat, recreation) is a priority. Within this zone, resource development may be permitted where it can be demonstrated by the proponent to the satisfaction of the ministry that it does not conflict with other management objectives generally or with the protection of identified values.

In the Sensitive Zone, traditional uses are permitted to occur. Some commercial development, including commercial forestry and mining, may be permitted but must first identify any values of special interest and indicate how those values will be protected. Commercial forestry will be subject to site-specific guidelines being developed by the proponent and may be subject to public review and consultation, in keeping with the provisions of *FRMA*. Negative impacts on special values must be identified and mitigated in an acceptable manner before developments in the Sensitive Zone will be permitted to occur.

Proposals for resource development within the Sensitive Zone may be subject to an environmental impact assessment in keeping with the provisions of the legislation. Environmental impact assessment is a planning process designed to consider the range of impacts of a proposed development and is used to protect human health and well-being, the environment, and to ensure the integrity of the natural system is maintained.

Within the Misinipiy planning area, the delineation of the Sensitive Zone was based on values identified by northern residents and are based largely on local and traditional knowledge. In addition, information on identified historic sites, sensitive environmental values, recreational sites, aesthetically pleasing vistas, fisheries and wildlife values were also used to identify specific values and the Sensitive Zone was delineated to capture as many of these values as possible.

The Churchill River corridor lies within the Sensitive Zone. Given its historical importance to the Province of Saskatchewan and the significant role it continues to play, preparation of a comprehensive plan for this corridor is contemplated. The province will actively seek engagement and cooperation from others, including the LLRIB, in future planning and management affecting the Churchill River. Further planning for the Churchill River is important for many reasons:

- The significant aesthetic values associated with the Churchill River.
- The important human values associated with the river corridor and aligned in particular with the history of the LLRIB.
- Its role as a historic and significant trade route to western Canada.
- The fact that the Churchill River system drains about one quarter of the province and occupies 72,000 square kilometres.
- Eleven of Saskatchewan's fifteen largest lakes are part of the Churchill River system, including Reindeer Lake, Wollaston Lake and Lac La Ronge, all over 400 square km in area.
- Its support of the forests of the Boreal Plain, home to the threatened woodland caribou as well as home to one of the largest inland populations of Bald Eagles in

North America and the largest number of species of breeding songbirds in North America north of Mexico.

The Churchill River corridor would benefit from a systematic approach to management. It is a whole connected ecosystem and a comprehensive planning approach is needed along its length so that future land use decisions are coordinated. Until such time as a comprehensive land use plan is prepared for the Churchill River corridor, the list of permitted uses in the Sensitive Zone will be limited to uses existing as of the date of approval of this plan as well as traditional uses as shown in Appendix 4.

Most recreational and non-commercial activities that have traditionally been enjoyed in the area will be permitted to continue provided they pose little threat to the natural ecosystems and the identified values that are worthy of protection.

The Churchill River figures prominently throughout Saskatchewan's history. It is appropriate, given the importance of the river to the province that the people of Saskatchewan and in particular the LLRIB through whose traditional territory the river flows, should be involved in future management of the Churchill.

Developing a comprehensive land use plan for the Churchill River corridor will ensure the interests of all are considered and that the values associated with the Churchill River will be conserved into the future. For northern residents, there have already been efforts underway to create a "Churchill River Advisory Committee", with representation from Stanley Mission, Grandmother's Bay and the Ministry of Environment. Primarily concerned with aesthetics along the shoreline, the group met several times and were interested in developing a comprehensive plan for that portion of the Churchill River that crosses the band's traditional territory.

A comprehensive land use plan should identify values to be protected, the approach to be taken to manage the area and the opportunities to more actively engage northern residents and members of the LLRIB. The LLRIB has articulated a desire to take a more active role in decisions impacting the resource base within their traditional territory. While details concerning implementation and monitoring will be developed during the land use planning process, it may be appropriate to contemplate the development of a MOA between the province and the LLRIB.

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain the integrity of the Churchill River (5km) corridor within the Misinipiy planning area's Sensitive Zone.
2. Support the LLRIB to take a more active role in future planning activities that may impact the resource base within the Churchill River Sensitive Zone.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Establish a committee with representation from the LLRIB, government ministries, NGOs and special interest groups to participate in developing a comprehensive land use plan for the 5 km Churchill River corridor.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2012/2013
Negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the LLRIB about future planning or use of the Churchill River Corridor	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	2012/2013

Within the Misinipiy planning Area, the Sensitive Zone covers approximately 954,000 hectares or 30 per cent of the planning area, including the Churchill River corridor.

### 5.2.3 *The Resource Management Zone*

Traditional uses including hunting, trapping and fishing are permitted. Resource extraction and development (forestry, mining) are supported on the basis of sustainability.

#### **Primary Objectives:**

- *To allow for development of forest resources on lands determined to be capable of supporting sustainable use and harvesting;*
- *To explore for and develop mineral resources and;*
- *To promote resource-based and adventure tourism operations.*

The Resource Management Zone identifies those areas that, on the basis of sustainability, can provide for development of timber, minerals and other resource-based products.

Within the planning area, traditional uses are permitted. Resource development activities are subject to all applicable legislation, regulation, policies and guidelines. Within the Resource Management Zone, investments in resource development will be encouraged and other resource values, though recognized, will be managed in a way that considers the resource development priority of this zone. The Resource Management Zone includes approximately 1,731,000 hectares or 56 per cent of the planning area.

The La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan is a separate, more detailed land use plan for 63,000 ha of Crown resource land located along a corridor near the community of La Ronge (See Map 1). The La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan should be referenced for details on appropriate land use activities within this area as this detail is not duplicated within the plan for the Misinipiy area.

## 6 Integrated Management Actions

The Misinipiy ILUP was developed using a standard zoning approach. The land base is divided into three zones – a Protected Zone, a Sensitive Zone and a Resource Management Zone.

This plan provides a results-based framework for how the ecosystem will be managed. The following section contains objectives and actions that have been defined for the different values in the planning area. While these objectives and actions are defined based on the value identified, they are premised on the same governing principles that form the basis of this plan, namely to:

- plan for the sustainability of all resources;
- adopt an integrated approach to managing the resources of the Misinipiy ILUP; and
- focus on the maintenance and/or enhancement of local quality of life.

For planning area residents and in particular for the members of the LLRIB, there are many factors that have come to influence (and in turn be influenced by) the relationship between the people and the land. There is a long-standing history and an intimate connection of band members to the land and many continue to derive their livelihood from the resource base.

The land use actions that have been developed recognize this important connection and the critical need for environmental integrity. The actions have been written to recognize the interests of government and the local people. The actions have been written to achieve a balance between traditional and non-traditional lifestyles and to recognize the important inter-linkages between environmental health, economic advantage and social impacts.

### 6.1 Biodiversity

Concerns with biodiversity stem from the “Earth Summit”, a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. One of the salient outcomes of that conference was the signing of the Convention on Biodiversity, with Canada taking a leadership role as the first industrialized nation to sign the international agreement. Canada’s response to the convention was the development of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 1995, which established long term goals and actions for achieving biodiversity conservation across Canada.

The ministry has a lead role in this area and the province has responded to the national strategy by issuing its Biodiversity Action Plan (*Caring for Natural Environments: A Biodiversity Action Plan for Saskatchewan’s Future*) designed to guide efforts across all sectors over a five-year period from 2004 to 2009.

Simply stated, biodiversity refers to “the variety of life.” As the Biodiversity Action Plan states:

“Biodiversity includes all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms... and the ecosystems and ecological processes of which they are a part.”

Maintaining nature's rich variety of species, with all their genetic diversity and complex interactions with the physical environment is critical for the conservation and sustainable use of functioning ecosystems. Immediate threats to biodiversity include: habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive exotic species, pesticides and pollution, over-harvesting and global warming. The key to maintaining biodiversity lies in adopting a long-term view of resource use. It also depends on all sectors of society considering and recognizing not only social and economic consequences of their actions but also the environmental consequences (BAP, 2004).

The Misinipiy ILUP supports the province's Biodiversity Action Plan in several ways:

- it promotes the adoption of ecosystem-based forest management planning with the forest industry;
- it uses natural disturbance patterns in planning forest management activities to maintain ecosystem processes, functions and structures;
- it supports the continued implementation of the RAN to ensure adequate representation of the province's natural ecosystem;
- it promotes working with First Nation and Métis people as part of renewable resource management decision-making processes; and
- it advocates ongoing monitoring of the planning area to guard against the growing threat of invasive exotic species and environmental degradation.

The planning area consists of many diverse vegetation and animal communities that contribute to biodiversity through functioning boreal ecosystems. Commercial development and other human disturbances could have long-term impacts, reducing biodiversity. Biodiversity may also be influenced by natural disturbance such as wild fires, insects, disease, wind, and extreme climatic conditions such as drought.

Ecosystems are inherently complex and as a result of this complexity and the interrelationships between various ecosystem components, a precautionary approach is necessary. This plan recognizes this complexity and is premised on the principles of ecosystem-based management. As a working document, this plan promotes the ongoing collection of data and enhancements to our information base. As our knowledge increases, the application of this new knowledge will become an integral part of the management approach and actions that emerge in response.

### **Objectives:**

1. Maintain or enhance biodiversity.

Actions	Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)	Initiation Timeline
Ensure all commercial and other resource development proposals demonstrate how they will maintain or enhance biodiversity.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Ensure environmental impact assessments consider how long-term cumulative adverse effects of human and natural events will be minimized with respect to their impact on biodiversity.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Continue to support the province's commitment to the RAN by protecting areas based on representation of enduring features as well as sensitive sites, historical sites, cultural sites, tourism and other values.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

### 6.1.1 Consideration for Species at Risk

The Misinipiy planning area is rich in biodiversity with abundant plant and animal populations. Species that are not abundant, or considered 'at risk', are protected under provincial and federal legislation that formally recognize and designate species at risk. These are the federal *Species At Risk Act* (SARA), and Saskatchewan's *The Wildlife Act*, and *The Wild Species At Risk Regulations*.

The ministry maintains the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SCDC), established for the purpose of gathering, interpreting and distributing standardized information on the ecological status of provincial wild species and communities. Information on species occurrences is collected across the province and maintained in the SCDC to track species occurrence and to identify species for official designation. The SCDC lists species as S1 (extremely rare), S2 (rare) or S3 (rare-uncommon). Analysis of the SCDC data within the Misinipiy planning area indicates 91 records (sightings) of 51 species that are considered sensitive but which are not officially designated as species at risk. With ongoing updates to the list, the SCDC website (<http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/ftp.htm>) is the most current source of information.

The following species are designated under SARA, and are known or suspected to inhabit the planning area. In the absence of intensive surveys for species at risk, this should not be considered a complete list of all species at risk within the planning area. Designations in SARA include species that are listed across Canada, and that may not be present in Saskatchewan ecosystems.

- The Woodland Caribou (Boreal Ecotype) is designated “threatened” under SARA. “Threatened” is defined as “a wildlife species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.”
- Northern Leopard Frog is designated a “special concern species” under SARA. “Special concern species” is defined as “a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.”
- Short-eared Owl is designated a “special concern species” under SARA.
- Whooping Crane (suspected to be present during migration only) is designated “endangered” under SARA and *The Wild Species at Risk Regulations*. “Endangered” is defined as “a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
- Anatum Peregrine Falcon (suspected to be present during migration only) is designated as “Threatened” under SARA.

Under SARA, when a wildlife species is listed as a species of special concern, a management plan for the species and its habitat is developed that includes measures for species conservation. When a wildlife species is listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened, a strategy for its recovery is prepared. Along with the recovery strategy, designation of the species into one of the categories of “Extirpated”, “Endangered” or “Threatened” will provide the species with legislative protection. Although woodland caribou is not officially designated within provincial legislation, a recovery strategy has been established to guide actions for the species and its habitat.

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain or improve habitat and populations of all species at risk.
2. Identify and document sensitive species occurring within the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Liaise with other government ministries (both federal and provincial), NGOs and ecologists to stay abreast of new or developing issues affecting species at risk.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , DFO	2012/2013
Ensure that management plans and recovery actions for species at risk guide land use management.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Apply species at risk conservation measures to all forms of land use activity.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	2013/2014
Continue to support development of species at risk initiatives, e.g., “ <i>Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou in Saskatchewan</i> ”.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

## 6.2 Habitats

### 6.2.1 Aquatic Habitats

The Misinipiy planning area supports a diversity of aquatic habitats and species. Successful aquatic and wetlands habitat conservation relies on promoting abundant and representative habitats, healthy sustainable populations, and sustainable allocations. Habitat value is measured by the ability of land and water to provide necessary food and shelter for aquatic wildlife, with the planning area supporting a wide variety of essential habitats, important to maintaining the current proportion and distribution of aquatic habitats.

Healthy habitats are necessary for species survival at sustainable population levels. To manage aquatic ecosystems effectively, and to sustain healthy and diverse populations of aquatic and riparian flora and fauna, it is essential to understand and to be able to describe the features and characteristics of aquatic habitats accurately and precisely. The province is working on development of a system for classifying aquatic habitats. A standard Canadian wetland classification system has been developed by the National Wetlands Working Group.

Wildfire and other natural agents of change that occur in the forest can and do profoundly influence aquatic habitat, while human-caused changes such as timber harvesting, mining, hydro-electric development, commercial, residential and recreational development, road access, construction and maintenance, and other associated human activity can also dramatically impact aquatic habitat. Some species are not well adapted to these human-induced agents of change.

Landscape level change resulting from timber harvesting, or a combination of several kinds of activity can result in declines in fish population levels and species diversity, because each individual species require specific aquatic habitat types. In the short term at least, populations of some species may flourish at levels beyond those anticipated. Other species, however, struggle to recover and eventually do so if the change is not permanent. Generally, human induced impacts can be reduced or avoided with appropriate planning and by adhering to provincial standards and guidelines.

## Objectives:

1. Maintain aquatic habitat to support sustainable fisheries populations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Ensure that any activity influencing aquatic habitat values is undertaken in strict accordance with provincial and federal standards and guidelines.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , DFO	Ongoing
Identify critical aquatic habitat and areas of specific concern.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , DFO, LLRIB, DUC	Ongoing

### 6.2.2 *Terrestrial Habitats*

Wildlife populations respond to changes to terrestrial habitat such as wildfire - some wildlife species migrate away, some move in, and others remain. All are adapted to these changes as part of the fire-dependent ecosystem. For some species such as woodland caribou and wolverine, the planning area is considered small in terms of landscape requirements at a population scale. This means that species with large landscape scale habitat requirements can be affected by activities occurring within and adjacent to the planning area, and the ministry needs to consider the effects of natural and human-caused activities within the planning area on those species.

Woodland caribou make extensive year-round use of semi-open to open bogs where forage is abundant. Caribou habitats are generally bogs, fens and open canopy jack pine sites on thin infertile soils. Any stands of commercial value on woodland caribou range tend to be lowland black spruce sites and upland jack pine sites. Generally speaking moose and white-tailed deer prefer the more productive forest soils are along the portion of the southern boreal forest.

Timber harvesting, mining, hydroelectric development, commercial, residential and recreational development, road access, construction and maintenance, and other associated human activity are examples of disturbance that can dramatically impact wildlife habitat. These disturbances, or changes to wildlife habitat, can cause changes in home ranges, movement, reproductive success, escape response, and physiological state. Not all species and ecosystems are equally affected by roads but overall, the presence of roads is highly correlated with changes in species composition, population size, and hydrologic and geomorphic processes that can also shape aquatic and riparian systems.

The cumulative effects of human activities including timber harvesting, increased access, and resource extraction industries, can have significant impacts on wildlife populations and

species diversity. Some species will benefit from the change, especially those adapted to earlier successional habitats, and fragmented habitats, while others will be negatively impacted, particularly those with large spatial requirements, late successional habitat needs, low reproductive potential, or specialized niches. Some wildlife thrive with disturbance, others are intolerant and sensitive. The impact of the landscape disturbance on wildlife depends on the permanency, magnitude, and type of disturbance, as well as the ecological and the biological ability for wildlife species to cope with change. Generally, these human-induced impacts can be reduced or avoided by appropriate planning and management to conserve wildlife habitat values.

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain habitat to support sustainable wildlife populations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Ensure that any activity near known critical wildlife habitat values is undertaken in strict accordance with provincial standards and guidelines.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Identify critical wildlife habitat and areas of specific concern to habitat ( <i>e.g.</i> , Woodland Caribou calving areas, raptor nests). Note: recording local knowledge from all sources is fundamental to the success of this action.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	2012/2013
Review present policies and guidelines where necessary, using all available knowledge to ensure adequate direction is provided to maintain healthy wildlife habitats into the future.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	2012/2013

## 6.3 Fisheries

### 6.3.1 Fish Populations

Communities within the LLRIB are already promoting conservation and adopting a community-based resource management and conservation ethic. In Stanley Mission, concerns with declining fish population levels resulted in band members voluntarily agreeing to and upholding a five-year ban on net fishing in fish spawning areas. The results thus far have proven positive.

Healthy fish populations enrich the ecosystem by contributing to its biological and genetic diversity. They are also essential to providing for human needs including: sustenance, economic opportunities, recreation and appreciation. Since most of the Misinipiy planning area is undeveloped, current population levels of fish can be attributed mainly to the natural environment. Population-limiting causes such as: habitat modification from forest fires, and human influence from exploration/mining, limited timber harvesting, access, fishing, and wild rice harvesting also impact current population numbers.

Some fish populations are cyclical, influenced by complex relationships relating to disease, food supply and predator/prey interactions. Understanding these factors will improve with more research and will help to maintain current and future aquatic populations within natural ranges.

#### Objectives:

1. Maintain the long-term health of fisheries populations in the planning area by promoting healthy aquatic ecosystems and in-stream flow requirements for fish.

Actions	Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)	Initiation Timeline
Apply findings contained in species management plans, improve knowledge of fisheries population dynamics and identify factors affecting habitats and populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Enforce protective measures to ensure industrial, commercial development and recreational activities do not negatively impact fisheries populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Develop partnerships and encourage information gathering and research related to aquatic habitat and fisheries populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

### **6.3.2 Fish Allocation**

Fish may be made available for allocation in response to the needs of sport fishing and commercial fishing, after species conservation and sustenance needs have been met. Based on present criteria used to determine allocation levels, the fish resources of the Misinipiy planning area are considered fully allocated. Over-harvesting of certain aquatic species has largely been addressed through regulations that prevent people from taking too many fish for sport or personal consumption.

The ministry is committed to ensuring current allocations are fair and that fish populations remain sustainable. Although demand for greater access to commercial outfitting opportunities has increased, the ministry recognises that current traditional access to fisheries resources must be maintained, while also ensuring that resource conservation protects present and future populations.

To ensure sustainable long-term allocation, fish populations are currently prioritized in order of:

1. conservation of the resource;
2. obligation to fulfill treaty and Aboriginal rights;
3. non-commercial (recreational) use;
4. commercial net fishing and outfitting.

This list represents the existing order of priorities. It should be noted that northern community members would prefer to see the following order of priorities established:

1. conservation of the resource;
2. First Nations' subsistence use;
3. non-commercial use by provincial residents;
4. non-commercial use by non-residents; and
5. commercial uses.

While the ministry recognizes these changes have been requested, the existing priority order will remain in place at this time. The ministry is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of fisheries management in Saskatchewan that will, through a collaborative, inclusive process, assess the current priorities with consideration to legal, public policy, and resource management requirements.

Groups with different values and priorities often find themselves competing for the same resources, resulting in conflict and at times over utilization of fish populations. The ministry recognizes the importance of subsistence in relation to treaty obligations, as long as sustainable healthy populations are maintained.

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain sustainable fisheries allocations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Incorporate local and traditional knowledge into fisheries management actions, setting species and size limits.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	Ongoing
Enhance enforcement efforts to address those who ignore existing regulations and are involved in illegal harvesting activity.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Continue to review criteria to set sustainable harvest limits and modify as required.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

**6.4 Wildlife**

**6.4.1 Wildlife Populations**

Healthy wildlife populations enrich the ecosystem by contributing to its biological and genetic diversity. They are also essential to providing for human needs including: sustenance, economic opportunities, recreation and appreciation. Since most of the Misinipiy planning area is relatively undeveloped, fluctuations in population levels of wildlife can be attributed mainly to natural environmental causes such as habitat modification from forest fires and some human influence from exploration/mining, limited timber harvesting, access development, trapping and hunting.

The current recovery strategy for boreal woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Saskatchewan identifies a large portion of the Misinipiy planning area as critical woodland caribou habitat. Federal law supersedes provincial laws for *Species At Risk Act* listed species, of which the woodland caribou – boreal ecotype is listed as threatened. The Misinipiy ILUP actions reflect the ministry’s compliance with recommendations of the provincial and national caribou recovery plans. More information pertaining to species at risk appears in the section entitled “Consideration for Species at Risk.”

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain the long-term health of wildlife populations in the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Apply findings contained in species management plans, improve knowledge of wildlife population dynamics, and identify the factors affecting habitats and populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Enforce protective measures to ensure industrial, commercial development and recreational activities do not negatively impact wildlife populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Develop partnerships and encourage information gathering and research related to migratory bird and wildlife populations.	<b>Ministry of Environment, DUC, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

#### 6.4.2 *Wildlife Allocation*

Based on present criteria used to determine allocation levels, over-harvesting of game species has largely been addressed through regulations and penalties that deter people from taking too many animals for sport or personal consumption. Wildlife populations must be healthy to be capable of withstanding reasonable harvest pressure. Allocations of wildlife for sport hunting whether for resident, non-resident or outfitting use, will be granted with consideration given to ensuring conservation and treaty obligations have also been addressed.

The ministry is committed to ensuring current wildlife allocations are fair and populations remain sustainable. Although demand for greater access to commercial outfitting opportunities has increased, the ministry recognizes that current traditional access to wildlife resources must be maintained, while also ensuring that resource conservation protects present and future wildlife populations.

To ensure that sustainable long-term allocations are maintained, wildlife resource allocation is based on the following order of priority:

1. conservation of the resource;
2. obligation to fulfill treaty and aboriginal rights;
3. non-commercial (recreational) use;
4. commercial outfitting.

This list represents the existing order of priorities. It should be noted that northern community members would prefer to see the following order of priorities, which is similar to

the provincial priority listing, but with further refinement of the priority for recreational access by provincial residents over non-residents:

1. conservation of the resource;
2. First Nations' subsistence use;
3. non-commercial use by provincial residents;
4. non-commercial use by non-residents; and
5. commercial uses.

While the ministry recognizes that these changes have been requested, the existing priority order will remain in place at this time.

Groups with different values and priorities often find themselves competing for the same resources, resulting in conflict and/or over-utilization of wildlife. The ministry recognizes the importance of all of the above priorities.

**Objectives:**

1. Maintain sustainable wildlife allocations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Incorporate local and traditional knowledge into wildlife management actions, hunting seasons, and species limits. Determine the requirements of aboriginal sustenance.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Enhance enforcement efforts to address those who ignore existing regulations and are involved in illegal poaching activity.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Review the criteria to set sustainable harvest limits, considering local and traditional knowledge of wildlife populations, and modify as required.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

## 6.5 Exotic and Introduced Species

There is a need to understand the potential impacts of introduced species. At the time of writing, there were no issues identified within the planning area attributable to the introduction of exotic species. However, it is important to take a long term and strategic approach to guard against the negative impacts of introduced species, such as Canadian thistle. It is recommended a guideline be developed to focus on the importance of ongoing monitoring to ensure exotic and introduced species do not become a concern.

### Objective:

1. Guard against the negative impacts of exotic and introduced species.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Monitor the planning area for exotics and introduced species.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

## 6.6 Sustainable Forestry

Forest sustainability refers to maintaining the natural diversity of the land base in perpetuity. A sustainable forest is one that is healthy, providing valuable habitat for flora and fauna, while allowing an acceptable level of harvesting opportunity for timber and non-timber forest products. Sustainability includes prioritizing the successful regeneration of healthy forests after timber harvesting or natural disturbances.

To address concerns of forest sustainability, the ministry has been developing clear standards that will guide forest management and sustainability according to current and accepted principles. When implemented, the provincial standards will provide many benefits to forest industry, government and the people of Saskatchewan. Industry will have a set of standards that are results-based, fair, measurable, and yet flexible enough to address regional variations and allow for business innovation. Government will be better able to fulfill its mandate of maintaining the sustainability of forest resources for present and future generation, identify provincial concerns with reforestation knowledge gaps, and propose appropriate actions. The public will have data and a greater level of comfort knowing that their forests are being managed sustainably.

### Objectives:

1. To maintain the growing potential and productivity of forest lands being managed for fibre production.
2. To maintain healthy functioning forest ecosystems for future generations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeframe</b>
Regenerate harvested areas to ensure they remain healthy functioning ecosystems.	<b>Ministry of Environment, FMA</b> holders	Ongoing
Ensure that planning for new forestry developments considers all values including the sustainability of the Boreal Shield ecosystem.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Promote principles of ecosystem-based management within all levels of planning and resource development.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

**6.6.1 Timber Harvesting**

The potential for timber harvesting in the Misinipiy ILUP depends on several factors. One of those factors involves the current global forest industry outlook, which suggests there is unlikely to be any significant harvesting of forest resources north of the Churchill River any time soon. Planning is another factor. In keeping with the principles of ecosystem-based management, a forest management plan must demonstrate sustainability of not only timber but of other forest values. A forest management plan (FMP) will include an assessment to sustainability for the area under management, and include forest estate modeling to determine the sustainable rate of forest harvest for a period of approximately 200 years. Modeling can then be adjusted to reflect non-timber based objectives of the FMP. Once the forest estate model prepares a selected management strategy, the FMP is finalized for a term of up to 20 years.

At this time, the majority of the planning area is not available for commercial timber harvesting. A detailed forest inventory has not yet been developed, as a forest management plan has not been completed for the area. The ministry cannot speculate on the possible timber harvesting levels that may be permitted in the presently unallocated forest within the planning area. The costs and revenues associated with timber harvesting are not considered in the determination of timber harvesting levels; economic viability is the responsibility of the FMA holder.

Timber harvesting opportunity is, however, influenced by the potential for access into the forest. Access issues discussed in this plan illustrate that roads built to access merchantable timber (or for any other purpose) are also important for hunting and angling opportunities, and may lead to a greater impact on fish and wildlife populations. Although financial costs of access construction can be very high, the benefits available for not only timber harvesting but for many other forest users must be weighed against the potential impacts to other environmental values, such as fish and wildlife or tourism. The allowable harvest of timber

may also be reduced due to environmental protection considerations, removing area and volume from allowable harvest calculations for forest stands protected by provincial legislation, regulations, standards, policies or guidelines.

Boreal species have evolved to regenerate with natural disturbances, specifically wildfire. Knowledge of natural disturbance effects on the environment provides forest managers with the ability to emulate these natural processes with improved timber harvesting methods. Carried out correctly, timber harvesting can support both environmental and economic objectives. A key contributor to the local and provincial economy, forestry can also provide inherent benefits to the forest ecosystem and society when undertaken with other forest values in mind.

When timber harvest activity is being considered, the interests of other uses and users must be taken into account. Consulting with the public and affected stakeholders on the land base is important, particularly to those who have adjacent personal or business interests. The ministry continues to encourage all proponents to actively seek input, advice and guidance from users of the land base as an essential first step in considering any harvest activity.

In the Misinipiy ILUP, tourism is recognized as a significant contributor to the economy. Visual aesthetics are of particular concern to local residents as well as the tourism industry that rely on intact vistas as a means of promoting the area. Visual aesthetics play a critical role for those who are in the business of selling a wilderness. Vistas are also important for outdoor recreation enthusiasts who place high value on maintaining the visual integrity of an area. The ministry recognizes the visual impact of timber harvesting activities on the land base is an important issue that must be considered when identifying potential harvest areas.

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage timber harvesting that recognizes and reflects the principles of ecosystem-based management.
2. Follow provincial standards and guidelines for forest operations.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Ensure principles of ecosystem-based management are followed in order to consider all ecosystem values and values of society, in addition to economic factors when calculating the allowable harvest of timber for a forest management plan in the Misinipiy ILUP.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Incorporate traditional knowledge when developing timber harvesting standards and guidelines.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Consult with and engage the general public and interested stakeholders (particularly those adjacent to any proposed harvest area) in development of forest management plans to resolve important issues, <i>e.g.</i> visual quality objectives.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Promote timber harvest in areas where there is a high risk of intense fires, to reduce the loss of organic material in the forest.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Encourage traditional models of regeneration and the application of traditional ecological knowledge with respect to regeneration.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

**6.6.2 Reforestation**

One of the primary aims of sustainable forest management is to re-establish appropriate tree species after the harvest of timber, and achieve ecosystem characteristics that existed in the pre-harvest condition. Failing this, undesirable forest conditions may result such as a poorly stocked forest that must compete with undesirable shrub or weed species that also support poor environmental conditions. Reforestation is accomplished by applying seed, planting seedlings or allowing natural disturbance processes such as wildfire to occur. When successful, these regeneration activities enhance the long-term sustainability of forests, forest ecosystem health and favourable environmental conditions for other species, and the economic viability of future forestry operations. Reforestation is usually the most expensive component of a forestry operation, since the investment does not produce an economic return until the trees are mature and considered merchantable; in Saskatchewan, tree maturity is achieved in upwards of 80 to 100 years, depending on species, growing conditions, and impact from other natural conditions.

The analysis of forest sustainability is carried out as directed by Section 27 of *FRMA*, which requires that a licensee carry out detailed activities according to provincial regulations, requirements from the Forest Operations Manual, Provincial Regeneration Standards, guidelines, and additional terms of the forest license, that ensure specific requirements for reforestation and sustainability will be met. Regeneration standards are a component of the silvicultural prescription, a detailed operational plan that describes appropriate species selection and stocking levels, stand establishment requirements (including timelines), and requirements for specific free-growing assessments. Also included in the silvicultural prescription is an identification of desired stand goals throughout the rotation, identification of ecological site attributes, knowledge and use of inherent silvicultural characteristics of all

species suited to the site, and matching these elements to produce a prescription that meets management objectives.

**Objectives:**

1. To ensure that reforestation occurs after timber harvesting.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Apply the provincial regeneration standards to all areas where timber is harvested.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

**6.6.3 Insects & Disease**

Increased levels of insect and disease infestation can be attributed to the removal of wildfire as an ecological agent of change. Some insect infestation control has taken place around Besnard Lake, however most of the planning area does not receive insect control measures because frequent fires help to keep insect populations at natural levels. The ministry justifies the expense of control measures based on the value of the forest for timber harvesting and the desire to maintain healthy ecosystems.

**Objectives:**

1. Guard against the negative impacts of insects and disease.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Monitor the effects of insects and disease on ecological system health in the planning area.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Take measures to control infestation where timber and societal values justify treatment.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

**6.6.4 Non-Timber Forest Values**

Non-timber forest products include almost anything that might be collected from the forest other than trees including berries, moss, mushrooms, medicinal plants, peat moss, tree sap and bark. Many species have medicinal value. Harvesting these products provides economic benefits and food for northern residents and other visitors.

Both traditional and commercial harvesters want non-timber forest product areas protected from negative impacts however most locations are rarely documented or shared, putting these areas at risk because they may be impacted by commercial development activities. Poor harvest techniques of non-forest products can also affect the potential for future crops by damaging habitat and regeneration opportunity.

**Objectives:**

1. Promote environmental protection while providing opportunities for harvest of non-timber forest products (NTFP).

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Conduct a study of NTFP with high use, comparing economic value of NTFP to other developments ( <i>i.e.</i> , forest production).	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , Ministry of Agriculture, LLRIB	2012/2013
Conduct an inventory of sites that are important to the production of NTFP.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , Ministry of Agriculture, LLRIB	2013/2014

**6.7 Human Heritage**

**6.7.1 Heritage Property Issues**

As previously explained, the boundaries of the Misinipiy ILUP area are aligned with the traditional territory of the LLRIB, which encompass the majority of the planning area. Heritage properties are physical remains and evidence of historical activity, and include campsites, trading posts, abandoned trappers’ cabins, historic mining towns, and archaeological sites containing artifacts such as tools and other objects made of stone, bone, clay, wood or metal. Pre-contact period campsites, hunting and gathering sites, ceremonial sites, burial sites, ancient rock paintings or “pictographs” and old fur trading posts are examples of specific heritage sites that may be protected under Section 63 and 64 of The Heritage Property Act.

The provincial government has an important role in ensuring that irreplaceable and non-renewable heritage properties are protected. Through careful and sensitive resource management, heritage resources will continue to provide educational, social, and economic benefits to present and future generations. The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport is responsible for managing provincial heritage resources and for administering various protection provisions under The Heritage Property Act. These include heritage resource impact assessment (HRIA) regulations, easements and covenants, the issuing of permits to

authorize surveys, collections, excavations or other activities and provincial and municipal heritage property designation.

Heritage properties can be highly vulnerable to disturbance or destruction from land development. There is concern that proposed developments will not be properly reviewed and that heritage properties will be damaged. The increased visitation to known heritage properties can result in a need for greater maintenance, *e.g.*, cutting grass, fixing docks, and removing garbage, to ensure public safety and to protect heritage properties. A commitment to protect heritage sites must be recognized prior to approval of development projects.

Maintaining the privacy of these heritage properties is very important to aboriginal people to ensure protection from disturbance and to retain their cultural and historical identity. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the administration of development applications on Crown resource lands and uses the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport to assist in screening for conflicts with heritage sites. In the future, government hopes to continue to work cooperatively with the LLRIB to include the spatial and physical location information of important traditionally occupied territory held by the band in the review of development proposals. With emphasis on protection and stewardship, increased knowledge of heritage properties will be necessary.

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has documented several hundred heritage properties throughout the area. As well, the LLRIB’s inventory of traditional knowledge contains many additional sites.

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage the protection of heritage properties in the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Establish an agreement to share inventories of known archaeological sites, traditional use locations and traditional travel routes, with respect to the need to maintain confidentiality about the specific location of key sites.	<b>TPCS</b> , LLRIB, Ministry of Environment	2012/2013
Facilitate sensitive development of certain heritage properties for public education and enjoyment.	<b>TPCS</b> , LLRIB, Ministry of Environment	2013/2014
Ensure protection of heritage properties by discouraging destructive human activities, structure development and/or improvements.	<b>TPCS</b> , LLRIB, Ministry of Environment	Ongoing

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Improve public awareness of important heritage properties.	<b>TPCS</b> , LLRIB, Ministry of Environment	Ongoing
Prior to commercial/industrial development, screen proposals and if warranted, order a heritage resource impact assessment to be carried out by the developer.	<b>TPCS</b> , Ministry of Environment	Ongoing

### 6.7.2 Access Issues

Given the location of the planning area and the associated environmental concerns in relation to human impact on forest resources, the issue of access development must be considered when making critical resource management decisions. Although the majority of the planning area is relatively inaccessible by road, with limited access to the majority of the land base north of the Churchill River, there are approximately 350 km of maintained access roads in the planning area, most of it gravel with several old roads and trails accessible only by snowmobile and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Major road access includes portions of provincial highways with Highway #102 being the only highway providing access across the Churchill River within the planning area, servicing northern communities and developments. This limited access currently restricts the impact from human uses including both recreational opportunities and resource extraction.

In some instances, roads, trails and portages are in good condition due to regular maintenance. In other cases, maintenance may not be significant or access roads and trails may have been abandoned showing signs of vegetative overgrowth. While there is no need at present for new primary access roads in the planning area, it is important to recognize that the existing road network must be maintained to allow for year-round access. As the demand for additional access increases, decisions on access development will need to consider the impact this will have on area residents, resource use, and the environment overall.

Roads of all kinds cause six general effects: wildlife mortality from road construction, wildlife mortality from collision with vehicles, alteration of the physical environment, alteration of the chemical environment from road salts etc., spread of exotic species and increased use of the area by humans. Roads and trails become permanent features on the landscape and may have several impacts on wildlife including:

- establish movement barriers for some species (*e.g.*, woodland caribou);
- corridors for enhanced movement and access by predators (*e.g.*, wolves and humans), resulting in increased predation risk on all ungulate species;

- stress wildlife (especially in winter) by displacing them from habitat they may normally occupy, into areas that may be suboptimal habitat (*e.g.*, reduced forage quality, increased predation risk, reduced cover for security or thermal cover).

Winter is a season where some species are particularly vulnerable because they are in an energetically/nutritionally stressful period. Activities that displace them into poorer habitat or that add energetic stress can have a significant negative impact on a local population, depending on the magnitude and permanency of the disturbance.

When development proposals are considered, access issues must be considered and may result in access restrictions in order to address other identified values. The ministry is currently working on a strategy for access management in forested and protected areas. An important component in developing an access management policy is ensuring that the public and affected stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the decision making process. Adequate consultation is essential to increase public awareness of what is being proposed and for finding solutions that meet the needs of all parties.

The ministry reviews new access route proposals before approval, applying provincial policies, standards and guidelines as appropriate, and requiring that impacts on other users be addressed. The ministry encourages multi-use proposals that share the costs of access construction and maintenance and which also reduces new road development which increases land base fragmentation. For example, access routes that already exist and are well designed should be used rather than creating new access routes.

The decision to maintain or close roads is often difficult to resolve because of the many diverse public and private interests. A critical factor in the argument for continual maintenance is that the cost associated with ongoing upkeep must be justified.

All numbered highways within the planning area are maintained by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure who may also require companies using the roads to contribute to maintenance responsibilities. Poorly maintained access routes can cause environmental damage such as water siltation and should either be maintained or closed.

**Objectives:**

1. Support a system of access routes in the planning area that addresses user needs and that support the principles of ecosystem based management.
2. Plan access to minimize development and the human footprint and encourage multi-use of linear corridors whenever possible.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Complete an inventory of access routes within the planning area. This inventory should identify main thoroughfare and destination trails, and closed loop trapping trails.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MHI</b>	2013/2014
Develop a system to review and approve proposals for new access development that will consider all resource users and resource values that may be impacted.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MHI</b>	2013/2014
Develop an access management policy/plan that considers needs for present access, maintenance and possible impacts to affected resource users and the environment.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	2013/2014
Ensure provincial guidelines for road and stream crossings are enforced to protect water quality.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MHI, DFO</b>	Ongoing
Ensure temporary access routes are decommissioned and regenerated as quickly as possible, as per provincial standards and guidelines.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

### **6.7.3 Access for Traditional Travel**

An extensive network of trails and portages provide access between water bodies throughout the planning area. Although these access routes provide important access for recreation, most trails and portages were initially established by First Nations and Métis people to access their traditional land. For many First Nations and Métis people, these traditional travel routes are their only source of access to traplines or other traditional uses. Most traditional travel route information is considered confidential with the inventory held by the LLRIB. This can pose problems for the ministry and other agencies that assess commercial development proposals. If travel routes are not known, specific values along such routes are difficult if not impossible to preserve.

Traditional travel routes and other seasonal trails within the planning area may access sensitive wildlife habitat or other sensitive values such as spiritual, heritage, and cultural locations. Traplines and traditional hunting areas may also be affected, with traditional travel routes providing opportunities to access traplines, recreational or commercial dwellings,

potentially exposing them to damage. Trappers also use these main trails in addition to their own closed-loop trap line trails. However some trappers have experienced problems with main trail users accidentally using trapping trails, and feel that access to these trails should be restricted because the increased traffic affects wildlife activity. The ministry currently provides signs for trappers to identify their trapping trails in an effort to avoid these conflicts.

Traditional resource users have used several actions to limit access across these lands, and to reduce the disturbance to animals on their traplines and hunting areas. These actions include: infrequent use of winter trails, keeping trails narrow, inclusion of natural barriers such as lakes, rivers, creeks, etc., and an established protocol for travelling through someone's hunting and trapping territory that is based on mutual respect, restraint from encroaching on others territories, regular communication, cooperation and sharing.

**Objectives:**

1. Support and encourage the identification and protection of traditional travel routes within the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Promote consultation between all users of traditional travel routes to accommodate their interests wherever possible.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Encourage the LLRIB to continue their inventory of traditional travel routes.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Encourage closed loop trapping trails to be appropriately signed.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Recognize traditional travel routes and other seasonal trails through the planning area are sensitive information and should be kept confidential to First Nations and Métis residents of the area and government staff, where appropriate.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing

**6.7.4 Access for Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles**

In the Misinipiy planning area, like many other areas of Canada, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are used to travel off-road into remote areas for trapping, hunting, fishing, recreation and commercial activities including mineral exploration. As technology has improved and snowmobiles and ATVs have become more comfortable, not only is the planning area seeing an increased use in these types of vehicles, but areas are being accessed

that were once considered too distant or remote to reach. Access to such new areas has at times resulted in conflicts between those who support motorized recreation and those who are more in favour of non-motorized recreation. Recognizing the diversity of perspectives is important as is providing an opportunity to support a variety of uses and users.

There are many examples of stewardship efforts within the planning area that involve the active participation of motorized recreation enthusiasts. Organized recreational snowmobilers have established winter trails that they actively maintain although at the present time, there are no designated snowmobile trails in the planning area. Local riders utilize existing trails and do some clean up and maintenance for the benefit of all users.

Trappers also use these main trails in addition to their own closed-loop trails to maintain trap lines. However, some trappers have experienced problems with main trail users accidentally using trapping trails. The ministry currently provides signs for trappers to identify their trapping trails in an effort to prevent inadvertent impact to traplines.

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage motorized recreation in the planning area on identified trails, in keeping with plan objectives and principles of ecosystem-based management.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timelines</b>
Support educational efforts that focus on responsible motorized recreation. In particular, support efforts that encourage all riders to ride responsibly, stay on trails, respect wildlife and other values and promote new trails through an open consultation process.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , trappers	Ongoing
Ensure that issues pertaining to snowmobile and ATVs are addressed in access management plans developed in the planning area.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

**6.8 Mineral Resources**

Mining is the principal industry in the north. Globally, Saskatchewan is the world’s largest producer of both potash and uranium. Other mineral commodities that are produced in the province include coal, gold, base metals (e.g., copper, zinc) and a variety of industrial minerals such as salt, sodium sulphate and clay. There is also significant potential for the future production of other commodities, notably diamonds and rare elements. Of particular note is the La Ronge Domain, a volcanic belt that contains numerous gold and base metal deposits, and the Wollaston Domain, a sedimentary belt containing base metal deposits. The Key Lake uranium mine is located at the far northwest corner of the plan area. South of La

Ronge at the southern end of the planning area, younger, flat lying, sedimentary rocks overlie the Precambrian rocks. These contain deposits of coal and a variety of industrial minerals such as silica sand and kaolin clay.

Due to this mineral endowment, many areas remain under active exploration and development. While the known values and locations of metals, minerals, and sand and gravel in the planning area are incomplete, mineral dispositions indicate the areas of current interest, particularly for gold and uranium. Mining activity is scattered throughout the planning area and includes sand and gravel resources that are used for road and construction-related materials for projects throughout the planning area, as well as exploration and evaluation of undeveloped base and precious metal deposits.

The mining industry is comprised of three distinct activities:

- exploration to identify and assess new mineral deposits;
- development to extract those deposits; and
- decommissioning and reclamation.

Mineral exploration and development are temporary uses of the land. Initial mineral exploration focuses on large geographic areas where the activities have minimal environmental impact. Successive stages of exploration focus on more specific areas of land where some impact on the land can result. These work stages are regulated and rehabilitation of work sites is required. Where a mineral deposit is discovered, it must be thoroughly evaluated through a feasibility study that meets legislated standards. When the mineral deposit is determined to be economic for commercial extraction, an extensive environmental assessment, permitting and approvals process is necessary before mine development may occur. This includes an approved rehabilitation plan that is supported by a financial assurance posted by the company.

### ***6.8.1 Exploration for New Mineral Deposits***

Saskatchewan's mineral exploration expenditures are significant, totalling \$150 million in 2005 with \$93 million spent in the north (Saskatchewan Industry and Resources 2005-06 Annual Report). From a mining perspective, the town of La Ronge is a major service centre providing goods, services and personnel to northern mines and providing support and services to the exploration industry in the region. From a government perspective, FNMR also promotes economic development and encourages job creation in the north.

Exploration and mining provide an important source of employment for all communities of the planning area. The Ministry of Energy and Resources estimates that for every \$1 million in exploration activity, 3 jobs are created in northern Saskatchewan. In 2007, expenditures on hard rock mineral exploration levels are estimated at \$277 million. An estimated \$1 billion in equity market investments in Saskatchewan mineral exploration companies will translate into continued high level activity in the province for at least the next couple of years.

Mining proponents agree that environmental standards must be met. They also express concern that land use restrictions will reduce economic exploration and mine development opportunities. Legislation regulating mineral exploration and development is enforced by the Ministries of Environment, Energy and Resources and other agencies as appropriate. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for administration of surface activities, while the Ministry of Energy and Resources administers subsurface activities for the province. Other provincial and federal agencies also have a role.

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage environmentally responsible mineral resource exploration and development.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Examine the permitting process to facilitate mineral exploration opportunities.	<b>MER, Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Engage mineral exploration, mining companies, affected communities and residents when making land use decisions.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MER, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Continue to support, as appropriate, development of training and employment-related partnerships for residents within the planning area.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MER, FNMR, LLRIB</b>	Ongoing
Ensure exploration activity complies with current legislation, regulations, policy and guidelines.	<b>MER, Ministry of Environment, DFO</b>	Ongoing

**6.8.2 Decommissioning & Reclamation**

Decommissioning and reclamation constitute the final stage in the establishment of mine sites. Decommissioning and reclamation follows resource extraction and is concerned with site restoration and the safe storage of any mine waste. Site decommissioning and proper reclamation is a critical stage as long-term environmental damage can result unless these activities are carried out properly. Guided by stringent environmental requirements, the ministry, mining companies and other agencies take their responsibilities for reclamation seriously.

Saskatchewan’s mining industry is guided by a number of statutes designed to safeguard the environment. Mining is a temporary activity that occurs on the land base, and leaving the

environment intact is an important guiding principle for the mining sector today. In the past, environmental protection measures were not as stringent as they are currently. Today, environmental protection is a concern for industry insiders as well as the general public. In keeping with *The Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations*, every new mine must have an approved preliminary decommissioning plan and financial assurance in place prior to being given approval to operate.

In Saskatchewan, the decommissioning and reclamation of abandoned mine sites is guided by the Abandoned Mines Assessment Program which inventories and inspects all abandoned mines to identify existing and potential risk to public health, safety or the environment. These mines operated primarily in the 1950s and 1960s at a time when environmental regulations were much less stringent than they are today. Although this program ensures that all abandoned mines and exploration sites in northern Saskatchewan that pose potential environmental and public safety concerns will be assessed, the high costs of completing adequate reclamation is evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Objectives:**

1. Reclaim all mining surface areas, following development activity, to a state that supports free-growing native vegetation, including the original tree species.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Ensure mine development and associated decommissioning and reclamation activity adheres to established government policy, guidelines and legislation for environmental protection.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MER,</b> DFO, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	Ongoing
Actively promote decommissioning and reclamation of all abandoned mine sites within the Misinipiy ILUP area as expeditiously as possible, considering available resources and the priorities established under the Abandoned Mine Assessment Program.	<b>Ministry of Environment, MER</b>	Ongoing
Continue to monitor and enforce the proper decommissioning and reclamation of active mine sites in the planning area.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

### 6.8.3 Sand & Gravel

In Saskatchewan, the development of sand and gravel resources on Crown land is governed by *The Crown Resource Land Regulations*.

Within the Misinipiy ILUP, a number of planning-related issues affect the exploration and development of new sites and the reclamation of existing sites. These issues include the effect of sand and gravel pits on the environment, on safety, difficulties for local communities to access sand and gravel, lack of development planning and reclamation and the lack of exploration for new sand and gravel pits.

Recent policy changes, such as forgiveness of permit fees on material used for infrastructure development, have begun to address the issue of local communities having difficulty securing access to sand and gravel. Since November 2003, it is worth noting that all communities including First Nations and Métis communities have been able to secure sand and gravel surface leases by signing a letter of guarantee to ensure adequate reclamation. Individuals or commercial sand and gravel surface lease holders are required to post a performance bond and must reclaim the affected area to the ministry's satisfaction within six months of completing excavation before the bond is released.

#### Objectives:

1. Encourage development of sand and gravel resources in the planning area.
2. Actively promote reclamation of completed sand and gravel sites.
3. Actively promote consistent application of new reclamation standards to both existing and new sand and gravel sites in the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Ensure new sand and gravel surface lease locations meet environmental, aesthetic and/or safety concerns.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Ensure reclamation plans are in place and approved before issuing dispositions for new sand and gravel surface leases as per provincial standards and guidelines.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Require existing leaseholders to adopt new reclamation standards.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing

## 6.9 Recreation

### 6.9.1 Recreational Development and Maintenance

The Misinipiy planning area is abundant in wildlife and fisheries resources, outdoor recreation opportunities and scenic qualities that make the region a popular destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, both residents and non-residents alike. The tourism industry is growing, and this trend is expected to increase in the future.

Meeting the needs of the recreation-based sector often presents inherent challenges, given the need to balance the supply of quality camping experiences with public demand. Limited financial resources, the impact that new sites will have on the environment as a whole and the remote location of much of the area requires that trade offs be made.

Meeting existing and potentially increased demand for more recreational campsites as well as offering a variety of outdoor recreational experiences must also be considered in light of the demands that will be placed on existing facilities including docks, launches, fire pits, washrooms, picnic tables, and sewage disposal facilities. Within the planning area there are presently eleven government-maintained camping areas concentrated along Highway 102 from La Ronge to Dickens Lake. Privately operated camping facilities are available at Besnard Lake and on the Montreal River in Air Ronge. Some outfitters may accommodate overnight camping upon request.

In 1985, Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources proposed a parks system plan that would “provide a balance between provision of recreational opportunities and the protection of important natural heritage resources” (SPRR, 1990). This plan was updated in 1990. Most of the wilderness campsites in the planning area are user-maintained, placing the onus for site maintenance on the users directly. As a result, some of the more popular sites are showing signs of over-use. It should be noted that all designated recreation sites are maintained to some degree through out the year. At present there is no limit on the number of users allowed to camp in the wilderness. There is also no ability to track the amount or extent of use.

#### Objectives:

1. Encourage outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Evaluate maintenance requirements of existing recreational facilities in the planning area to establish a priority schedule.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2013/2014

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Identify new potential recreational locations and facilities to enhance and optimize outdoor recreational opportunities.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2012/2013
Undertake education regarding outdoor recreation ethics and in particular, waste management.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	Ongoing
Incorporate Fire Smart actions throughout recreational facility maintenance and design.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	Ongoing

### **6.9.2 Recreational Cabin Development**

Demand for cottage properties has been growing, primarily among the local population but also from those who reside in other parts of the province and outside of Saskatchewan. At present, prospective cottage owners must either purchase an existing cabin or apply for a remote lease north of the existing “Zone A” frozen zone boundary. The cottage resale market is enjoying a boom and given that the current demand for recreational cottages exceeds the available supply, costs have increased so that cabins close to La Ronge are no longer affordable for many residents.

With the development of the plan, the time is right to identify and evaluate the potential for new cottage subdivision development within the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District. In addition to alleviating the demand for cottage lots, an additional supply of cottage properties would provide additional recreational cabin opportunities and supplement the local economy. Rather than open the entire planning area to new cottage development, it is suggested several lakes serve as pilot projects for the organized development of clearly identified sites. These potential sites would have to comply with the provisions of the plan and with the governing principles and management actions that have been identified for the planning area.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Support the current Zone A freeze while evaluating the potential for organized recreational cabin development within the planning area.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
<p>Assess the demand for new recreational cabin development in the planning area.</p> <p>Evaluate the potential and opportunity for development of new recreational cabin lots within the planning area on selected lakes on a pilot project basis.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment,</b> Ministry of Municipal Affairs, LLRIB</p>	<p>2012/2013</p>
<p>Involve other stakeholders in developing a plan for orderly recreational cabin subdivision development.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment,</b> Ministry of Municipal Affairs, LLRIB</p>	<p>2012/2013</p>
<p>As part of the subdivision review process consider appropriate water supply and wastewater options.</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Environment,</b> Ministry of Municipal Affairs, LLRIB</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

### 6.9.3 Commercial Outdoor Recreation

The term Commercial Outdoor Recreation (COR) refers to a wide range of non-consumptive outdoor recreational pursuits, including: ecotourism, adventure tourism, indigenous tourism and cultural tourism. All COR facilities are subject to the Ministry of Environment’s policies for commercial development. Of particular relevance is the province’s policy entitled “COR Activities and Developments on Crown Resource Land” which provides direction for COR activities and development on Crown resource land. This policy does not apply to commercial outfitting (*i.e.*, sport fishing and sport hunting).

The growth of the ecotourism sector nationally and internationally suggests that commercial outdoor recreation may be an area of focus in the future. There is a need to plan for and support the expansion of the commercial outdoor recreation market and to look at the planning area with regard to potential opportunity. At the same time, it is important to recognize the environmental implications and the need to closely monitor overall environmental impacts and implications.

#### Objectives:

1. To promote commercial outdoor recreational activities that are compatible with long-term environmental sustainability objectives.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Conduct an inventory of existing commercial outdoor recreation operations to determine the potential for new development opportunities.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2012/2013
Identify the impact of commercial outdoor recreation operations on ecosystem based management objectives, and develop remedial measures to mitigate and/or eliminate any net negative impacts.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , TPCS, LLRIB	2012/2013
The Ministry of Environment work with individuals interested in pursuing traditional ecotourism to provide information on permitted activities and required approvals.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , LLRIB	2012/2013
Conduct research on the nutritional value of traditional foods.	<b>LLRIB</b>	2012/2013

## 6.10 Wild Rice

The commercial harvesting of wild rice provides important economic benefits to residents of the Misinipiy planning area. There are an estimated 106 wild rice permits and licences issued on 158 water bodies in the planning area. Maintaining organic certification, appropriate use of wild rice cabins, water levels, water traffic through wild rice fields and the impacts of wild rice farming on fish and wildlife populations are other areas of concern that are managed through application of *The Wild Rice Regulations*, updated in 2005.

Objectives:

1. To support the growing and harvest of wild rice in the planning area, while monitoring effects on the aquatic environment.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Ensure any new developments or activities using chemicals adjacent to wild rice fields do not affect the organic certification of wild rice.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b> , Ministry of Agriculture	Ongoing

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Ensure leaseholders maintain clear pathways through wild rice fields and water traffic is not impeded by uncontrolled growth.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Continue to carry out research regarding effects of wild rice on plants and animals in northern lakes.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	Ongoing
Undertake education and awareness activities with respect to the needs of wild rice growing and the importance of not disturbing these areas until they mature properly on an as-needed and ongoing basis. Educate the public about their role and the importance of not trespassing over wild rice fields, which can result in crop damage.	<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Wild Rice Licensees and Permit Holders</b>	2012/2013

## 7 Plan Implementation and Assessment

The Misinipiy ILUP will be implemented by a number of provincial government ministries. The Ministry of Environment will lead implementation of the plan, working with its clients and partners to achieve the land use objectives and management actions identified herein. Many of the actions require a collaborative effort; the ministry will continue to work closely with members of the public, the LLRIB, stakeholders and business interests as well as special interest groups and NGOs to move forward on recommended activities. In addition, and as noted at the very outset of this plan, many of the philosophies and longer-term directions will be further refined in other planning mechanisms.

While the involvement of all are welcome and will continue to be encouraged, the ministry will create an advisory group to formally assist the ministry with implementation and ongoing assessment and monitoring of the plan. The plan must be reviewed every five years to ensure the objectives and actions remain current. In addition to the formal five-year review, efforts identified in this plan will be regularly monitored and assessed.

Members of the advisory group will meet to review implementation plans and to provide advice and guidance to the ministry. This group will also provide an opportunity for First Nations, Métis and communities in the planning area to continue to work with the province to implement the direction forthcoming from the Misinipiy ILUP.

## Objectives:

1. To work collaboratively to uphold the principles, objectives and management actions identified.
2. To actively encourage the ongoing participation of government agencies at all levels (including First Nations and Métis representatives), special interest groups and organizations, as well as local residents and members of the interested public in the implementation and assessment of the approved Misinipiy ILUP.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Form an advisory group to assist with implementation of the plan.	<b>Ministry of Environment, LLRIB</b>	2012/2013

## 7.1 Government Involvement

Implementation of this strategy will rest on the active involvement and leadership demonstrated by the province through its various ministries, agencies and boards. With a number of actions requiring collaboration and partnership, it will be critical to ensure cooperation between all levels of government (Federal, Provincial, Municipal, First Nations and Métis). Following through to begin work on the management actions is the key to upholding the fundamental governing principles and the key objectives of the plan.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Agencies (Lead Agency Bolded)</b>	<b>Initiation Timeline</b>
Distribute the actions and zoning framework from the approved Misinipiy ILUP to all relevant government ministries and agencies.	<b>Ministry of Environment</b>	2012/2013

## 7.2 Implementation Process

Experience has shown that plans will be implemented by those who have been involved in their development. Throughout the development of this plan, there has been extensive support, involvement and participation from the LLRIB, northern community members, government ministries and agencies, special interest groups (in particular the environmental community) and members of the public.

The Misinipiy ILUP has identified a number of objectives and actions. Implementation and assessment of the plan will be based on the following governing principles:

- All levels of government, the general public, First Nations and Métis, and NGOs will be encouraged to participate throughout the land use planning process, including plan implementation, review and assessment.
- Adaptive management is promoted in order to continually improve the knowledge base and understanding of the ecosystems within the Misinipiy ILUP.
- Implementation and long term planning will be carried out in accordance with applicable legislation, policy and guidelines and follow the principles of ecosystem-based management so as to not compromise the opportunities of future generations. In particular, the plan will recognize and promote the following interdependent principles of ecosystem-based management:
  - focus on the long-term view
  - concentrate on ecosystem health and integrity
  - make decisions based on science, traditional knowledge and human values
  - involve those who will be affected by decisions or who have an interest in the outcome
  - use adaptive management by learning from experience
  - look at the big picture
- Those involved in plan implementation and assessment will recognize and value the perspectives and interests of all participants.

As with most planning initiatives, the human and financial resources required to implement actions are allocated according to priority and some actions may not be initiated immediately. Actions identified for responsibility by a lead ministry or agency should be included in their operating work plan for the following year. In some cases it will be necessary to complete the implementation of one action item prior to the initiation of another. As with other projects, resources allocated to implement the actions in the plan will be evaluated on an annual basis within ministry work plans.

### **7.3 Provisions for Amending the Misinipiy ILUP**

The Misinipiy ILUP has been a work in progress since 1999. Over this time period, a great deal of information and data has been gathered – hard scientific data on the land and resources of the planning area as well as local traditional ecological knowledge.

One might assume that we have all of the answers about the planning area. While we do know a great deal about the planning area, science continues to evolve, as does our understanding of the linkages between various components of the ecosystem. As new information comes to light, there will be opportunity to amend and update this plan.

Regular and ongoing monitoring of the plan will be undertaken to evaluate the impact of change as it affects the planning area, its resources and its people.

Whether an amendment is initiated to implement new or updated policy information or is proposed as a result of the intended five-year review, the process to amend the plan will include opportunities for the public and interest groups to be involved.

#### **7.4 Dispute Resolution Process**

Land use planning is inherently complex. The process requires that the interests of a range of uses and users be considered. At times, the use of the resource base can lead to differences of opinion between participants and require the application of dispute resolution techniques. Dispute resolution techniques are used often very effectively, to find win/win solutions that satisfy all parties.

Generally speaking, there are two different approaches to handling conflicts or disputes: preventative-based actions and resolution-based actions.

Preventative-based actions are those that focus on early engagement – the objective being to eliminate conflicts or concerns from arising in the first place. Having an effective communications strategy and an established process for engaging stakeholders and residents early in the planning process is an essential way of preventing conflicts and concerns from arising.

For everyone involved in developing land use plans, some preventative-based approaches to consider include the following:

- Ensure there is appropriate representation and participation of stakeholders from communities within the planning area, designating equal responsibility for each representative (or their alternate) to attend each meeting, and to participate meaningfully in discussion and decision-making.
- Encourage participants to listen attentively to others, and understand that other participants' interests are equally valuable to their own.
- Encourage all participants to provide information and engage in discussion in a clear, understandable, respectful, and rational manner.

In the event that a conflict or conflicts cannot be resolved through discussion, there is a formal dispute resolution process. The following process describes the resolution-based approach that is in place:

- Resolution should begin with collaborative problem-solving processes with consensus as a desired outcome.
- The formation of a regional advisory group for the Misinipiy planning area will assist in resolving disputes and also provide a framework for managing future conflict.
- The settlement of the dispute (consensus recommendation) would then be forwarded to the appropriate Cabinet Minister(s) for approval.
- If full agreement is not achieved within the regional advisory board setting, areas of agreement and disagreement should be recorded, including potential options, and forwarded to appropriate Cabinet Minister(s) for resolution.

## 8 Appendices

### Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

**Adaptive Management:** Management practices that are monitored, evaluated and adjusted (as required), based on current knowledge and understanding.

**Archaeological Heritage Resources:** Sites, structures, objects or other evidence of past human activity, which can be used to reconstruct and explain the life ways of indigenous and early historic peoples.

**Benchmark:** Something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured.

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes diversity within species and between species and diversity of ecosystems.

**Boreal Forest:** One of three main forest zones in the world, located in northern regions and is characterized by the predominance of conifers.

**Deforestation:** Permanent removal of forest cover and withdrawal of land from forest use, whether deliberately or circumstantially. Forest Management does not result in deforestation, except where permanent roads and landings are built.

**Ecological Integrity:** The structure and function of the ecosystem are unimpaired by human caused stresses; the native species are present at viable population levels.

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

**Ecosystem-based Management:** Ecosystem-based management is a process that integrates biological, social and economic factors into a comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainability, diversity and productivity of natural resources.

**Eco-tourism/Eco-outfitting:** Is respectful, environmentally responsible travel to relatively undisturbed and uncontaminated natural areas, with the objectives of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenery, wild plants and animals, and cultural features.

**Enduring Features:** Enduring features are used to guide site selections in the RAN program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities. Enduring features are defined based on four specific factors: the origin of the parent material: this relates to the method by which material such as soil, gravel or rocks was deposited (i.e. wind, water, glacial melt water). Soil development: how soils were formed through various factors like climate, soil organisms, the nature of the parent material, the topography of an area, and time. Surface form: physical landscape features such as eskers or potholes. Slope: refers to the steepness or grade of the surface terrain.

**First Nations:** Refers to individuals who are registered as status Indians and governed by Canada through provisions of the *Indian Act*.

**Aboriginal rights:** as defined by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**Forest:** 1. **Ecology:** Generally, an ecosystem characterized by a more or less dense and extensive tree cover. More particularly, a plant community predominantly of trees and other woody vegetation, growing more or less closely together. 2. **Silviculture/forest management:** An area managed for the production of timber and other forest produce, or maintained under woody vegetation for such indirect benefits as the protection of watersheds, the provision of recreation areas, or the preservation of natural habitat.

**Forestry:** Generally, a profession embracing the science, business, and art of creating, conserving, and managing forests and forest lands for the continuing use of their resources, material or other. The profitable exploitation of the resources intrinsic to forest land. "The science, the art and the practices of managing and using for human benefit the natural resources that occur on and in association with forest lands."

**Forest Management Agreement:** Agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and a forest company to give the company long-term access to timber as well as management responsibilities on a specific area of land.

**Forest Management Plan:** a forest management plan required to be approved by the minister pursuant to clause 38(1) or 45(a) of *FRMA*.

**Forest Products:** means all vegetation on or from forest land or waters on or associated with forest land, whether alive, dead or cut, and includes trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses, mosses, fungi and any parts or components of that vegetation.

**Forest Resources:** means all resources and values associated with forest ecosystems, whether biotic, abiotic, social or economic, and includes animals, vegetation, land, water, air and recreational, spiritual and heritage values but does not include any Crown mineral within the meaning of *The Crown Minerals Act*.

**Habitat:** The environment in which a population or individual lives; includes not only the place where a species is found, but also the particular characteristics of the place (e.g., climate or the availability of suitable food and shelter) that make it especially well suited to meet the life cycle needs of that species.

**Harvest:** means to cut, pick, gather, collect, accumulate or remove forest products by any means.

**Hectare:** a metric measure of area (10,000 square meters), equal to 2.471 acres.

**Integrated Resource Management:** A holistic approach to resource management that entails the management of 2 or more resources (e.g., water, soil, timber, pasture, wildlife, and recreation) and that integrates the values of the community into the design of policies or projects to use and sustain these resources in perpetuity.

**LLRIB:** refers to Indian people registered as members of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

**Minister:** means the member of the Executive Council assigned responsibility for the Ministry of Environment.

**Mitigation:** To reduce the severity of, or eliminate negative impacts resulting from a particular activity.

**Métis:** Refers to decedents of mixed relations prior to the signing of the treaties of Canada (native and European).

**Non-timber forest products:** Any commodity obtained from the forest that does not necessitate harvesting trees.

**Old-growth forest:** A forest dominated by mature or over mature trees that has not been significantly influenced by human activity. The stand may contain trees of different ages and various species of vegetation.

**Operating plan:** means an operating plan required to be approved by the minister pursuant to clause 38(1)(b) or 45(b) of FRMA.

**Overmature:** Tree or stand that has passed the age of maturity where the rate of growth has diminished and the trees are weakened.

**Planting:** Establishing a forest stand by setting out seedlings, transplants, or cuttings.

**Prescribed burn:** the controlled application of fire to naturally occurring vegetative fuels, under specified environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, to achieve specific silvicultural objectives, such as brush and hardwood control, production of high quality browse, exposure of mineral soil for pine seed germination, or reduction of fuel hazards.

**Productive Forest Land:** Land capable of producing merchantable stands of timber within a 'reasonable length of time'.

**Prohibited use:** A development or land use activity that is not allowed in a land use planning area.

**Provincial Forest:** means any Crown resource land designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to section 12 of *FRMA*.

**Reforestation / Regeneration:** The renewal of a forest or stand of trees by natural or artificial means.

**Representative Area:** A representative area is a sample or piece of a particular landscape identified because of its important land-forms, wetlands, soils, plants, animal resources or cultural values. Representative areas are intended to allow for natural processes to occur. They can also serve as test sites that can be studied and monitored to measure how well we are managing natural resources and ecosystems elsewhere in the province.

**Riparian Area:** An area of vegetation found between aquatic (rivers, creeks, lakes, sloughs, potholes, hay meadows and springs) and terrestrial (upland) ecosystems.

**Soil Disturbance:** is an area in which forest floor vegetation and/or tree stumps are removed exposing organic or mineral soil.

**Species Diversity:** Species diversity or species richness refers to the variety of organisms found within an area. Species diversity is influenced by a variety of ecological and environmental processes that include habitat size, disturbance regimes, habitat heterogeneity, invasion history, and soil moisture regimes. The response to change in habitat is different in different populations. The life-span and reproductive rates of mice, deer, birds, and bear, and that of white spruce, pine, lichens or grasses all differ and will respond differently to disturbances and change over time and space.

**Spruce budworm:** An insect that damages spruce and fir trees. Eggs of the spruce budworm are laid on branches by an adult moth. Young budworms feed primarily on the new growth of the tree branch, but also eat older needles. Defoliation results, killing the tree.

**Stand:** A community of trees possessing sufficient uniformity in composition, age, arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from the forest or other growth on adjoining areas, thus forming a silvicultural or management entity.

**Strategic Guidelines and Actions:** Strategic Guidelines are statements of policy or procedure that determine a course of action, including a rule or set of rules that provide guidance on what to do in a situation. Strategic actions describe organized activities or tasks that accomplish an objective.

**Subsistence gathering:** means gathering on Crown land of any forest product solely for the ceremonial, consumptive or medicinal use of: (a) the person gathering; or (b) a member of that person's immediate family; but does not include gathering of trees, other than dead or down trees for fuelwood pursuant to section 17 of *FRMA*.

**Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is an approach by which human activities account for long-term health, wealth, and equity, through respect for the tolerance of the environment, of the economy and of social acceptance, including fairness toward future generations. Because such an encompassing and value-laden approach lends itself to

interpretation and to varied applications, the adoption and evolution of sustainable forms of development hinge on public acceptance, and therefore on the public's trust in decision-making. It also brings a further requirement to incorporate society's changing views and values into decisions about planning processes, research priorities, forest practices, manufacturing practices, marketing and consumption.

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

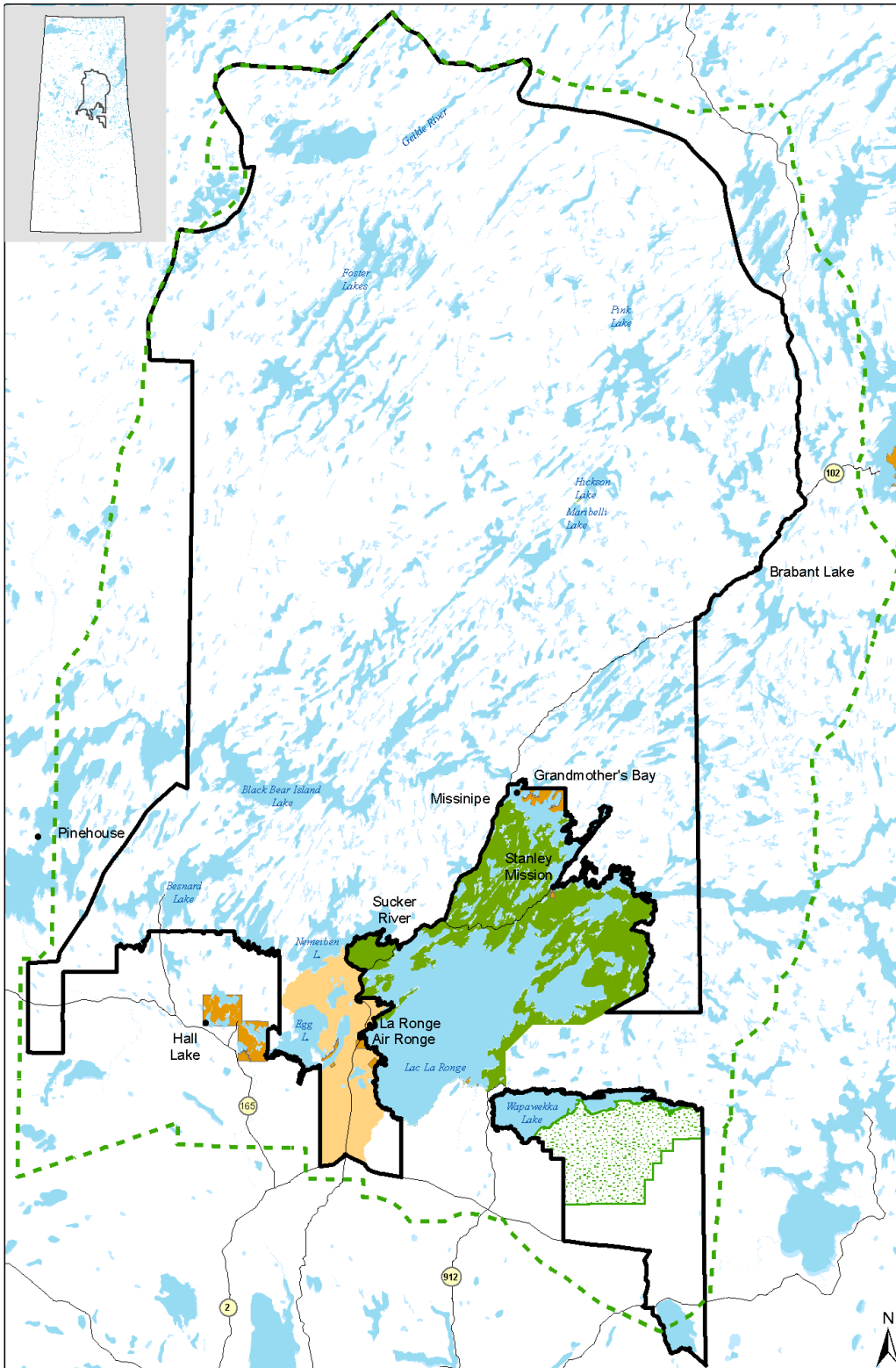
**Term Supply License:** means a licence granted by the minister pursuant to section 42 of FRMA.

**Value-added product / Value-added production:** Adding value to a product by further processing it. Examples of value-added wood products include joinery stock, windows, doors, kitchen cabinets, flooring and mouldings. Value-added pulp and paper products include such items as packaging, diapers, coated papers, tissue, business papers and stationery, and other consumer paper products.

**Visually Sensitive Areas:** Landscape areas that are visible from communities, public recreation areas and major travel corridors, including roadways and waterways, and any other areas identified through the planning process that.







**Watershed:** An area of land that is drained by underground or surface streams into another stream or waterway.

## **Appendix 2 Misinipiy ILUP Maps**



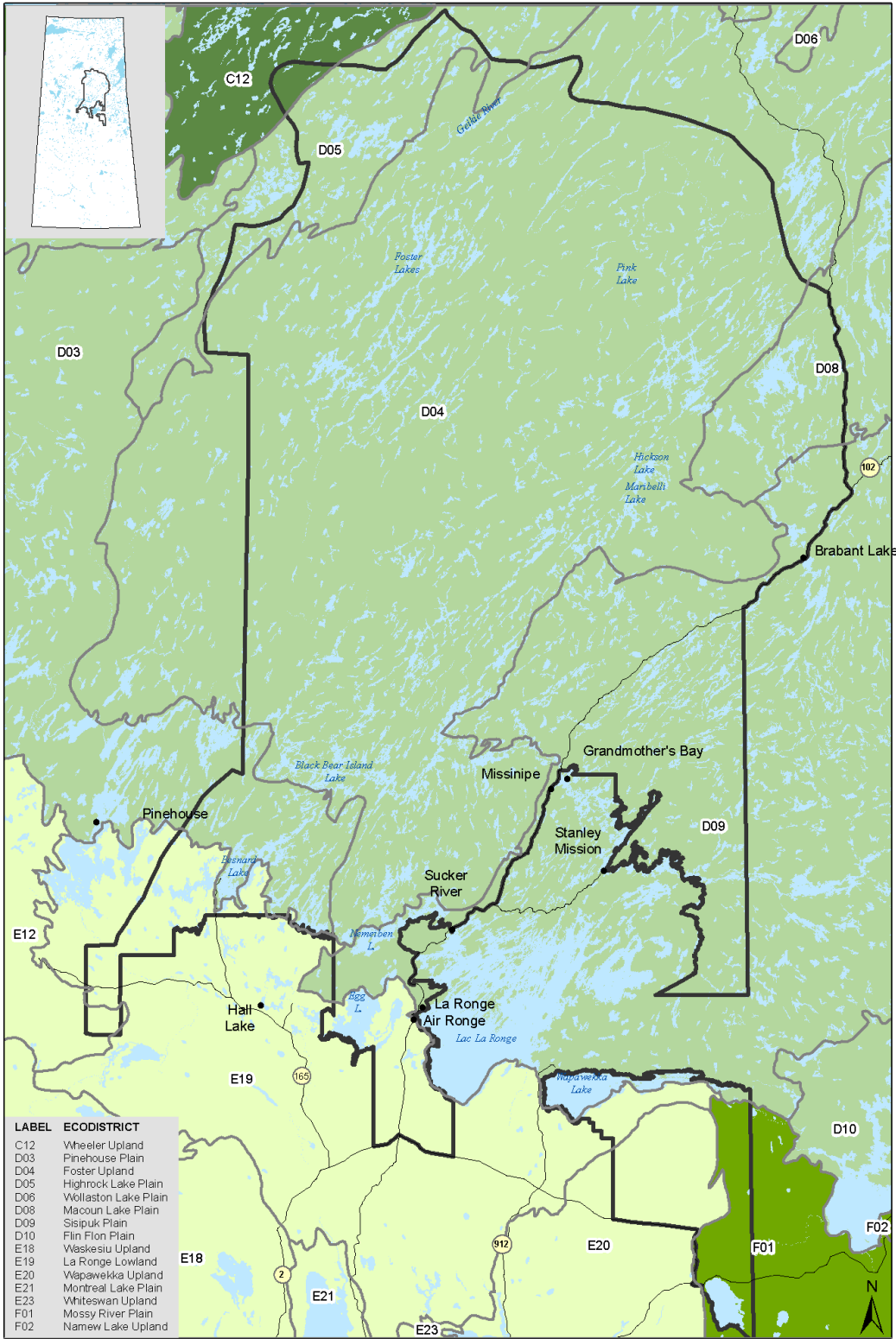
### Misinipi Integrated Land Use Plan

Map 1 - Boundaries

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Indian Reserve Land                |  Lac La Ronge Indian Band Traditionally Occupied Territory |
|  Lac La Ronge Provincial Park       |  Misinipi Planning Area                                    |
|  Wapawekka Hills Ecological Reserve |  La Ronge Integrated Land Use Management Plan Area         |

February 2008  
 Updated: August 2009  
 Geomatics Services Branch





LABEL	ECODISTRICT
C12	Wheeler Upland
D03	Pinehouse Plain
D04	Foster Upland
D05	Highrock Lake Plain
D06	Wollaston Lake Plain
D08	Macoun Lake Plain
D09	Sisipuk Plain
D10	Flin Flon Plain
E18	Waskestu Upland
E19	La Ronge Lowland
E20	Wapawekka Upland
E21	Montreal Lake Plain
E23	Whiteswan Upland
F01	Mossy River Plain
F02	Namew Lake Upland

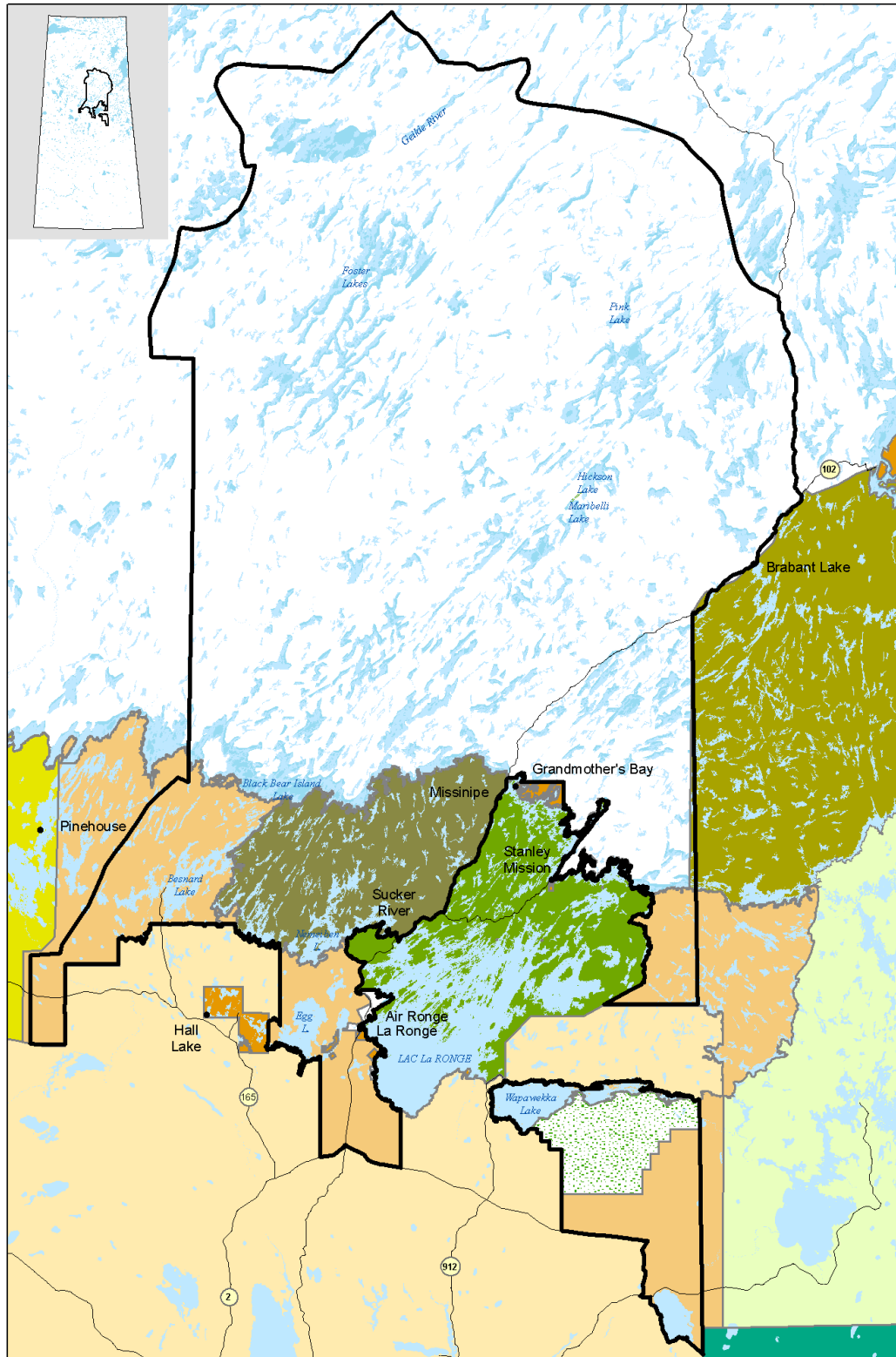
### Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan

Map 2 - Ecozones and Ecodistricts



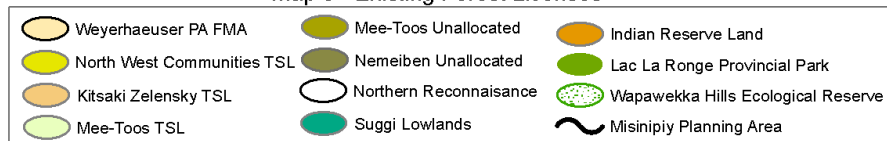
February 2008  
 Updated: August 2009  
 Geomatics Services Branch





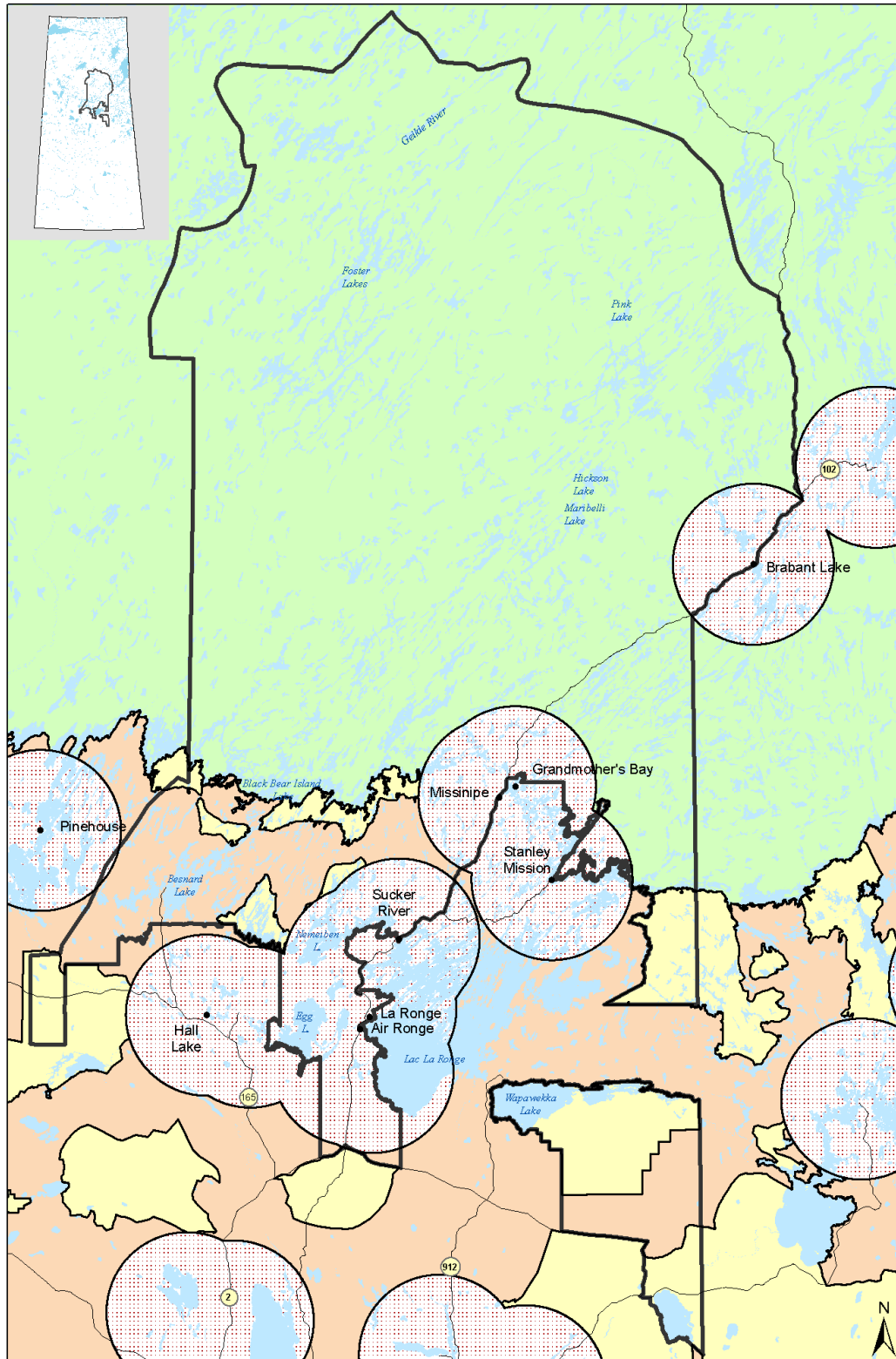
### Misinipi Integrated Land Use Plan

Map 3 - Existing Forest Licenses



February 2008  
 Updated: August 2009  
 Geomatics Services Branch





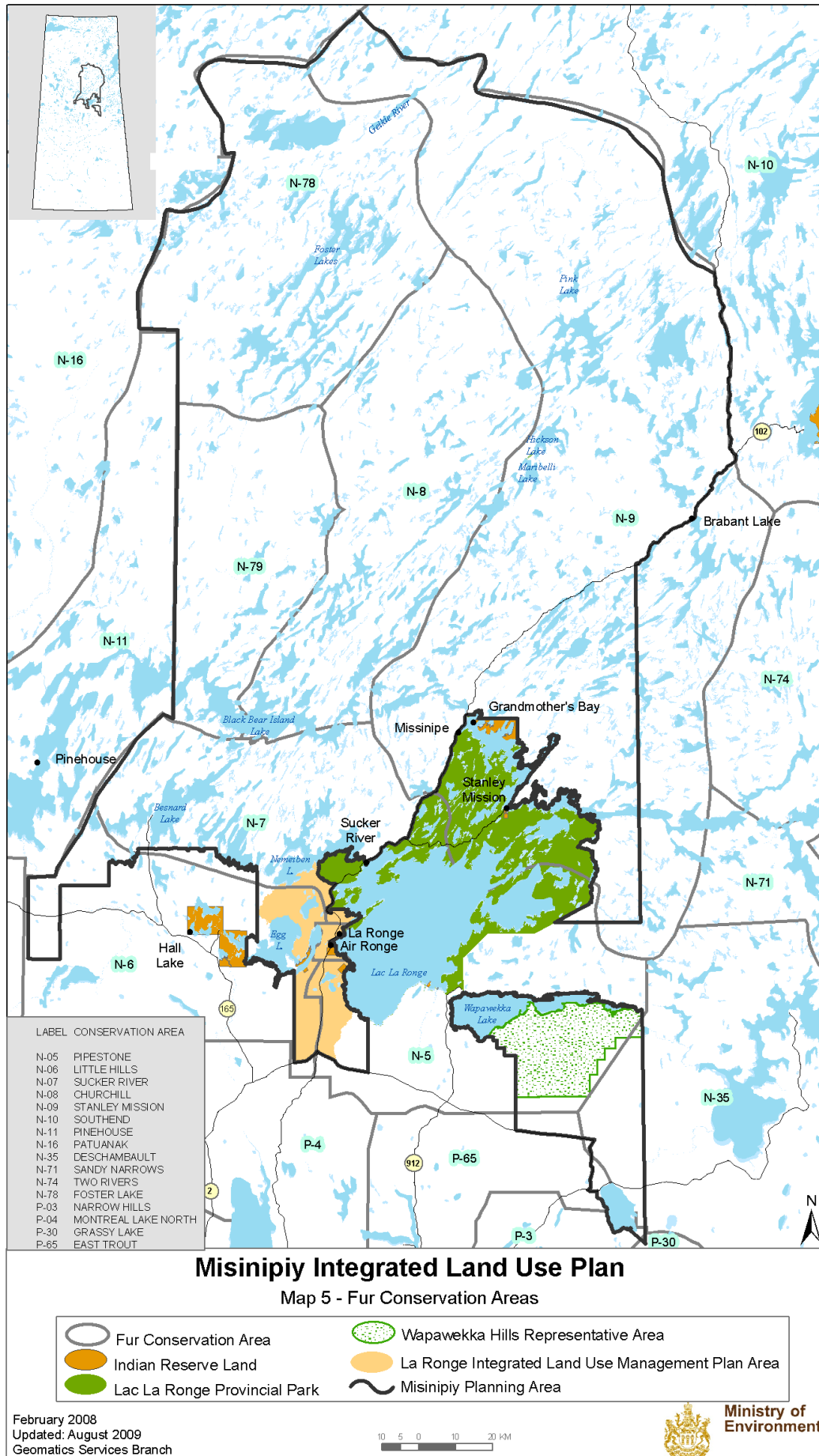
### Misinipi Integrated Land Use Plan

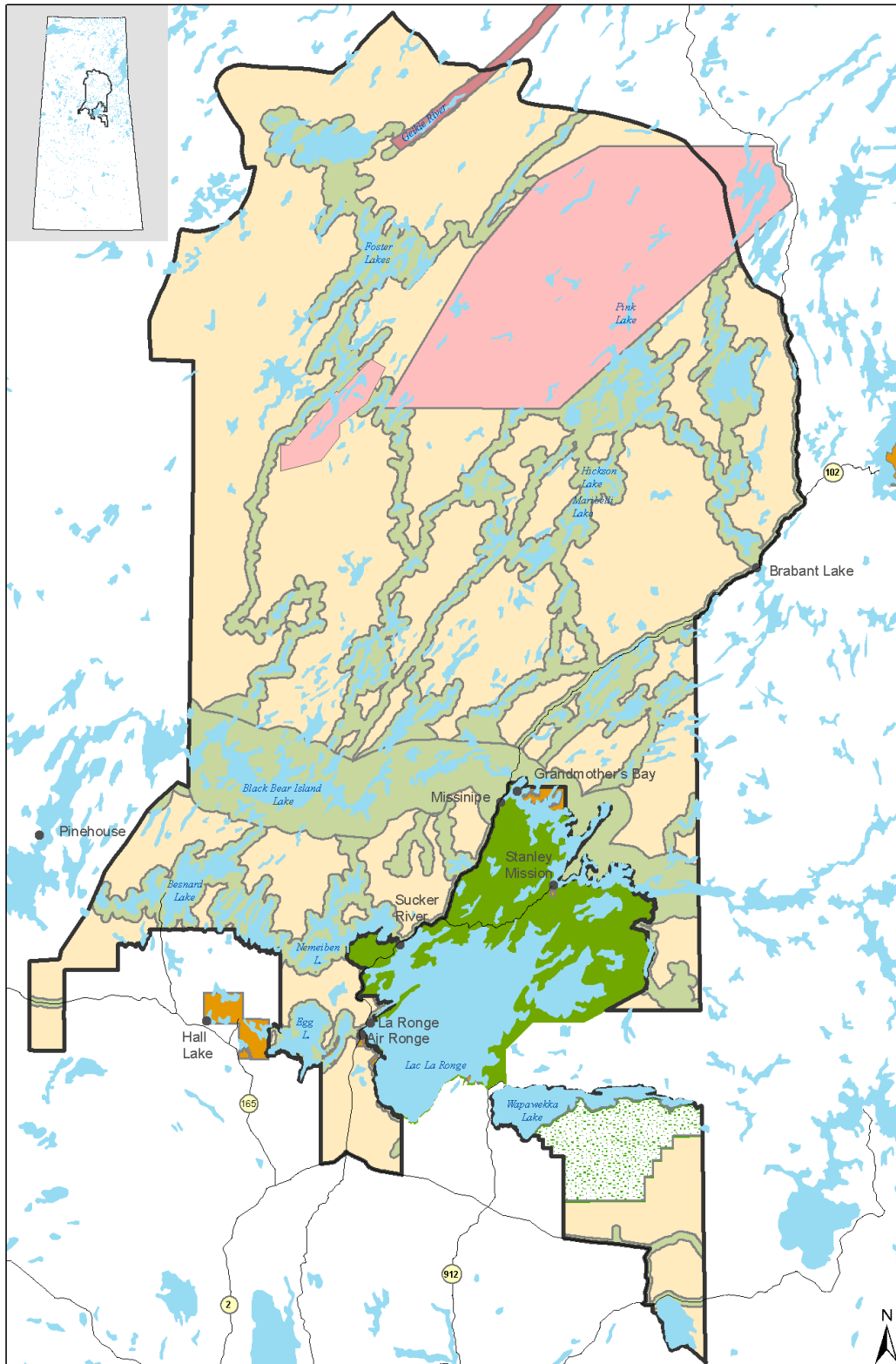
Map 4 - Wildfire Management Zones



February 2008  
 Updated: August 2009  
 Geomatics Services Branch

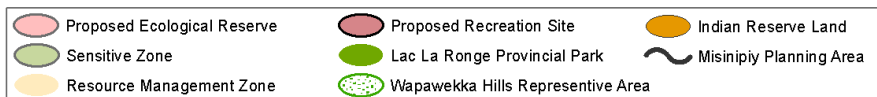






### Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan

Map 6 - Zone Structure



February 2008  
 Updated: August 2009  
 Geomatics Services Section



### **Appendix 3 Excerpt from 2005 LLRIB Land Use Policy**

The LLRIB is the political and administrative body whose traditional land covers the majority of the planning area. The band's business arm, Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, is a proponent for business development and employment. The band (and its members) is active in the planning process, providing significant knowledge and input as an active and passionate advocate for their traditional lifestyle and culture, and as a proponent seeking greater responsibility in the area of integrated resource management.

*Note: The following section is an excerpt from the original document, LLRIB Policy on Traditional and Contemporary Land Use, dated September 30, 2005.*

#### Major Land Use Issues

Key land use issues include the following:

1. The authority of the band to administer and manage the use and development of their Traditional Lands within the North Central Land Use Area. Such management would encompass: protection of its ecology; sustainable use of wildlife, timber, and NTFP; water and mineral resources; and ongoing controlled access to areas and sites of spiritual and cultural significance.
2. Development of a FMA that is guided by Traditional Knowledge and Values.
3. Economic Development in accordance with the band's Development Philosophy, encompassing:
  - a. A commitment to a healthy environment;
  - b. Protecting the traditional cultural pursuits of its members;
  - c. Planned Commercial Enterprises; and
  - d. Continuing support for existing Subsistence and Commercial Uses (hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering of plant products such as berries, mushrooms, and wild rice).
4. Development of a full range of tourism projects appropriate to specific areas, including tourism focused on ecology, culture, regional and aboriginal history, nature and photography, and all levels of wilderness adventure.
5. Ongoing, controlled access to desirable areas (including hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, burial, and ceremonial sites) through maintenance of an environmentally sensitive network of roads, trails, and portages.
6. Conservation of the environment, encompassing: air and water quality; protection of the Boreal Shield Ecozone; biodiversity of forest plants, fish, and wildlife; sustainable

commercial and industrial development; waste management; and areas of restricted access.

7. Resolution of Traditional Lands boundaries.

Status of band – Government Engagement Toward Establishment of an FMA within Traditional Lands

The LLRIB and the Province are engaged in a dialogue leading toward the establishment of a FMA within the band's Traditional Lands. The progress being achieved is demonstrated by several key points in the correspondence between Chief Tammy Cook-Searson and David Forbes, Minister of Saskatchewan Environment.

1. Points from the letter of Chief Tammy Cook-Searson to Minister Forbes on May 03, 2005:
  - a. Much of the band's Traditional Lands are within the land use planning boundaries.
  - b. Chief and Council support the band's vision of balanced traditional uses and sustainable economic development of the resources within the Traditional Lands.
  - c. The band will continue the policy of working in partnership with Department of Environment planners towards the completion of the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan.
  - d. We see a FMA as a unique opportunity to manage our Traditional Lands in a way which balances traditional use and economic development. This will be of benefit to our band membership, our partners, other northerners, and Saskatchewan citizens in general.
2. Points from the letter of Minister Forbes to Chief Tammy Cook-Searson on May 25, 2005:
  - a. The Government has been committed to providing First Nations and Métis an opportunity to manage large tracts of forest land for the benefit of their communities.
  - b. The North Central Land Use Plan was initiated to ensure that this commitment was in balance with the environment and the economic needs of the communities.
  - c. The planning area was initially just the former Weyerhaeuser Licence Area, but was expanded at the band's request to include most of its Traditionally Occupied Territory, allowing for even more flexibility in balancing the many interests in the area, including the protection of the Churchill River and other special waterways.
  - d. The North Central Land Use Plan provides the strategic framework for the FMA.

- e. The Government is committed to working with the band and its communities to ensure that they are very much a part of the management of the forest in their Traditionally Occupied Territory.
- f. The key to achieving your goals and ours is a balanced strategic framework that stresses that both environmental and economic sustainability are very connected in the North Central Land Use Area.

### Summary

It is the belief of the LLRIB that our goals and aspirations for the social and economic development of our people can best be achieved by working through the structures and relationships established by our treaty in partnership with the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan. And in order to achieve self-determination, our band requires a Land and Resource Base within our Traditional Lands. As has been detailed in this Paper, the band specifically wishes to work in collaboration with all stakeholders to secure a FMA and pursue the sustainable development of our resources.

## Appendix 4 Zone Activities

The following table is provided to define uses permitted and not permitted in the land use zones found in Section 6, further defining the Protected, Sensitive and Resource Management Zones.

This table provides the most common examples of land use activities and is not intended to represent an exhaustive list. This list represented the uses that are compatible and with each land use zone. However this list is **not** to be considered authorization or approval for activities that require licences, permits or other land dispositions. If you have any questions about approvals please feel contact your local Ministry of Environment office.

The requirements for activities not listed in this table will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the review and approval of activities will be consistent with the zone objectives.


Code	Description of the Requirements for Each Activity
P	Activity permitted however in many cases a license, permit or disposition is required
P1	Authorization requires applicant to accommodate other sensitive values
EA	Existing activities are allowed to continue as per present allocation
NP	Activity not allowed
NP1	Activity not permitted however exception may be identified through a management plan and/or legislation
N/A	Activity not applicable to the area
EIA	Activities approval process often includes an Environment Impact Assessment

Land and Resource Uses	Management Zone	Sensitive Zone	Protected Zone						
			Ecological Reserves Act			The Parks Act			Heritage Property Act
			Wapawekka Hills	Proposed Pink Lake	Proposed Foster Lakes	Proposed Geikie River	Hickson-Maribelli Lakes Pictographs Protected Area	Provincial Recreation Sites	Heritage Property
Dispersed outdoor recreation: walking, hiking, backpacking, skiing and camping	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Trapping	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Traditional Resource Use Cabins	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P1
Hunting	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Land and Resource Uses	Management Zone	Sensitive Zone	Protected Zone						
			Ecological Reserves Act			The Parks Act			Heritage Property Act
			Wapawekka Hills	Proposed Pink Lake	Proposed Foster Lakes	Proposed Geikie River	Hickson-Maribelli Lakes Pictographs Protected Area	Provincial Recreation Sites	Heritage Property
Angling	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Commercial Fishing	P	P	EA	EA	EA	EA	N/A	N/A	N/A
Own use harvesting of non-timber forest products (non treaty or aboriginal)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	N/A
Commercial harvest of NTFP	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	N/A
Outfitting including baiting of wildlife	P	P	EA	EA	EA	EA	EA	EA	N/A
Exercising of treaty and aboriginal Rights	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Linear and access development: road, trail or utility	P	P1	NP1	NP1	NP1	NP1	NP1	NP1	NP
Existing Wild Rice production	P	P	EA	EA	EA	EA	N/A	N/A	N/A
Development of new wild rice growing areas	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forest Management Agreement	P EIA	P EIA	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	P1
Commercial timber harvesting	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Forest renewal programs	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP1	NP1	NP
Suppression of wildfire	P	P	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
Fire salvage logging	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Low impact mineral exploration	P	P	NP1	NP	NP	NP1 EA	NP	NP	NP
Intensive Mineral Exploration	P	P1	NP1	NP	NP	NP1 EA	NP	NP	NP
Mine development and operation	P EIA	P1 EIA	NP1 EIA	NP	NP	NP1 EA EIA	NP	NP	NP
Grazing and livestock containment	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Recreational cottage subdivisions	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP1	NP

Land and Resource Uses	Management Zone	Sensitive Zone	Protected Zone						
			Ecological Reserves Act			The Parks Act			Heritage Property Act
			Wapawekka Hills	Proposed Pink Lake	Proposed Foster Lakes	Proposed Geikie River	Hickson-Maribelli Lakes Pictographs Protected Area	Provincial Recreation Sites	Heritage Property
Residential or recreational cabin leases	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
New or expanded outfitting	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Commercial lease to support tourism or commercial ventures	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	P1	NP
Water Control Structures and Hydroelectric projects	P EIA	P1 EIA	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Research and educational activities	P	P	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
Research study plots requiring major disturbance	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Game ranching	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Extraction of sand, gravel, and construction material	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
New Shoreline development	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP1	NP
Introduction of non-native fish species (i.e. sport fishing)	P1	P1	NP1	NP1	NP1	NP	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aquaculture	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	N/A	N/A	N/A
Institutional lease	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP1	NP
Industrial lease	P	P1	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP

# Appendix 5 Lac La Ronge Indian Band Council Resolution

 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Chronological no. / No consécutif  
**BCR L.R. #2009/10 - 029**  
 File reference no. / No de référence du dossier

## BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION RÉSOLUTION DE CONSEIL DE BANDE

NOTE: The words "from our Band funds" "capital" or "revenue", whichever is the case, must appear in all resolutions requesting expenditures from Band Funds.  
 NOTA: Les mots "des fonds de notre bande" "capital" ou "revenu" selon le cas doivent paraître dans toutes résolutions portant sur des dépenses à même les fonds des bandes.

The council of the Le conseil de					Cash free balance - Solde disponible	
<b>LAC LA RONGE INDIAN BAND</b>					Capital account Compte capital	\$
Date of duly convened meeting Date de l'assemblée dûment convoquée	D - J <b>08</b>	M <b>09</b>	Y - A <b>2009</b>	Province <b>SASK.</b>	Revenue account Compte revenu	\$

DO HEREBY RESOLVE:  
 DÉCIDE, PAR LES PRÉSENTES:

**WHEREAS** The Ministry of Environment has been working on the development of the "Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan" since 1999; and

**WHEREAS** the Misinipiy planning areas includes a majority of Lac La Ronge Indian Band's Traditional Occupied Territory; and

**WHEREAS** during the past 2 years the Lac La Ronge Indian Band has worked with the Ministry of Environment and conducted a review of the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan with Band elders and membership; and

**WHEREAS** as a component of the Band Review an Elders Gathering was held June 2nd to 5th, 2009. During this gathering Elders had opportunity to discuss the plan amongst themselves and with members of the appointed working group. At completion of a presentation on the plan, elders present voted unanimously to support the Land Use Plan; and

**WHEREAS** the Chief and Headmen in 1889 agreed to share our traditional lands and resources; and

**WHEREAS** the Lac La Ronge Indian Band traditional lands and resources have sustained and maintained our membership since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS** the Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief, Council and Elders wish to retain benefits from our traditional lands and resources for present and future generations of our members and citizens; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chief and Council commit to work in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan for the better management of our traditional occupied lands and resources; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is acknowledged by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and the Government of Saskatchewan that the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan is a "Living Document" and that our knowledge will accumulate over time; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that "nothing in this plan is intended to abrogate or derogate from the existing aboriginal or treaty rights of Aboriginal Peoples in Saskatchewan, as recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982"; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lac La Ronge Indian Band endorses the Misinipiy Integrated Land Use Plan September 2009 in partnership with the Ministry of Environment to ensure appropriate implementation and appropriate share of benefits to our band membership.

*Quorum*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*Sammy Cook-Staddon*  
 (Chief - Chef)  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

*[Signature]*  
 (Councillor - Conseiller)

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY - RÉSERVÉ AU MINISTÈRE					
Expenditure - Dépenses	Authority (Indian Act Section Autorité (Article de la Loi sur les Indiens)	Source of funds Source des fonds <input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Revenu	Expenditure - Dépenses	Authority (Indian Act Section Autorité (Article de la Loi sur les Indiens)	Source of funds Source des fonds <input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue Revenu
Recommending officer - Recommandé par			Recommending officer - Recommandé par		
Signature _____ Date _____			Signature _____ Date _____		
Approving officer - Approuvé par			Approving officer - Approuvé par		
Signature _____ Date _____			Signature _____ Date _____		



**Lac La Ronge  
 Indian Band**



Appendix 6 N-9 Trappers Block Resolution

NORTHERN FUR CONSERVATION AREA  
N-9 FUR BLOCK: Stanley Mission, Grandmother's Bay and Brabant Lake  
SPRING TRAPPERS MEETING  
STANLEY MISSION BAND HALL

RESOLUTION

May 29, 2009

Misinipiy Land Use Plan

WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan has proposed and has been working (drafting) on a land use plan inside the N-9 Fur Block boundaries of the Northern Fur Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS the N-9 Fur Block and Zones were established by the Government of Saskatchewan with the assistance of the elders and past trappers of these communities of that **time and age** and these boundaries are still respected by trappers; and

WHEREAS the Fur Block and Zones were established to promote and respect each trappers' trapping territory and to encourage conservation and respect of the environment; and

WHEREAS a Trapper's Council was established that consists of a chairperson, secretary and zone representatives. The mandate of this council is to promote trapping, conservation and respect among trappers within their respective territories. The Trappers Council meets twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, to discuss new and ongoing trapping issues; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Misinipiy Land Use Plan and its content does not overrule the trappers of the N-9 Fur Block Trappers Council and their resolutions. This council was put in place to promote trapping and conservation that deals directly with land use (trap-line) issues

MOVED BY: Peter McKenzie

SECONDED BY: Solomon Hardlotte

CARRIED:

Adam Charles  
Adam O. Charles  
Chairperson

Brian Hardlotte  
Brian Hardlotte  
Secretary Treasurer

John P. Roberts  
John P. Roberts  
Zone 15 Representative

Jude Ratt  
Jude Ratt  
Zone 1 Representative

John P. McKenzie  
John P. McKenzie  
Zone 17 Representative

Abel Charles  
Abel Charles  
Zone 16 Representative

Gideon Mckenzie  
Gideon Mckenzie  
Zone 10 Representative