



Public Consultation

Extension of the Chitek Lake Provincial Park Reserve

In 1998, following a request by Skownan First Nation, a Park Reserve was created in the Chitek Lake area in the central Interlake region about 350 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg. The Park Reserve is 100,300 hectares in size, and includes the heart of Skownan First Nation's traditional area of use.

The Chitek Lake Park Reserve designation recognizes the high natural values and cultural significance of the intact natural condition of the lands surrounding Chitek Lake. These lands are the primary range of Manitoba's only herd of free ranging Wood Bison, a threatened species, and are at the heart of the only area in the province where five ungulate species share the same land base. A Backcountry Land Use Category was established for the majority of the designated land in order to conserve the area's values and maintain it free from logging, mining or the development of hydro-electric power while allowing a wide range of existing uses, such as hunting, trapping, commercial fishing and traditional activities, to continue. This protection from development is afforded while consultations with Skownan First Nation, the public and other interested parties are carried out regarding the future of the land, including a final designation for the Park Reserve.

The Park Reserve expires September 30, 2004. Following consultations this summer regarding the proposal to establish the area as a provincial park, Skownan First Nation has requested further time to consider the proposal. Therefore, it is proposed that the Park Reserve be renewed as is, to enable an extended consultation with Skownan First Nation to take place.

Please contact us by September 17, 2004 if you have any comments on the proposal to extend the existing Park Reserve designation for this area. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information on specific uses and values along with your point of view respecting the future of this area. If you would prefer to respond electronically, wish any further information, or would like to speak to someone respecting any aspect of this process, please call Rick Wilson at (204) 945-4365 or email parksystem@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you for your continuing interest in Manitoba's provincial park system.