



January 18, 2006

RE: Nopiming Provincial Park Proposed Land Use Category Change

Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative recently completed a protected areas planning exercise in Forest Management License #1 (FML-1) in Natural Region 4c. An outcome of this process was a proposal to change a land use category (LUC) within a portion of Nopiming Provincial Park from the current Recreational Development LUC to a Backcountry LUC. Open houses were held on November 8 (Winnipeg) and November 9 (Pine Falls) to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the proposed land use category change, in accordance with Section 9 of *The Provincial Parks Act*.

The proposed change in classification in the northwest corner of the park would result in an increased level of protection of a provincially rare landscape feature and its associated ecosystem. The proposed area encompasses the rare GD/R2 (glaciofluvial surficial deposits with hardrock/acidic soil) enduring feature. This area is an elevated landform dominated by jack pine trees with scattered marshes and black spruce/tamarack bogs, and is surrounded on three sides by lakes. A Backcountry LUC would mean that this area would be protected from logging, mining, hydro, oil and gas development, and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat. The LUC change would not affect the present uses of the area including hunting and trapping activities, and would enhance nature-oriented recreational experiences in the park.

The public has overwhelmingly responded in favour of the proposed change. Many individuals viewed this as a positive change for Nopiming Provincial Park, and stated that they would like to see this level of protection expanded to more of the park. The public expressed their concerns regarding logging and mining activities within the park's boundaries and felt that a management plan was needed for the park. Those in attendance also expressed that they would not like to see additional cottage lots developed in the park. Many people also took this opportunity to express the view that there should be no commercial/industrial development within provincial parks.

With the help of this feedback, a recommendation is being advanced regarding the proposed land use category change.

Thank you for your interest in the planning of Manitoba's network of protected areas.