

MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

MAIN RIVER

as a

CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

Parks and Natural Areas Division,
Newfoundland Department Of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
January, 2001

I am pleased to submit the *Management Plan for Main River as a Canadian Heritage River* for consideration by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. This plan clearly demonstrates the commitment of the Province to manage for the long term protection of the natural and recreational values for which the Main River was originally nominated to Canadian Heritage River System.

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Date

() Acceptance of the Management Plan

Chair
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Date

Honourable Shelia Copps
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Date

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Main River situated on the southern end of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, has been identified as one of the Island's most outstanding wild rivers. The river flows across the Great Northern Peninsula from the Long Range Mountains through expanses of undisturbed boreal forest to a lush and diverse grassland known as the Big Steady. From this level floodplain the river plunges through steep valleys before flowing into White Bay. The Main River, until 1986 had not been accessible by road and, as a consequence, maintained its natural integrity.

In 1984, Parks Canada, the provinces and territories, recognizing the need to preserve examples of Canada's most outstanding rivers from a cultural, natural and recreational perspective, created a national system of Canadian Heritage Rivers. During the late 1980's a series of planning actions and studies were undertaken to assess various rivers on the Island of Newfoundland in terms of their suitability for nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). Main River was rated as a primary candidate for heritage river designation based on its outstanding natural and recreational values.

By the autumn of 1990, a study of the Main River system resulted in the completion of a Background Report (LeDrew, Fudge and Associates 1989), documenting the significant natural, recreational and human heritage values of the Main River. This study concluded that the Main River was a suitable nominee to the CHRS based on its outstanding natural heritage values and diverse recreational opportunities.

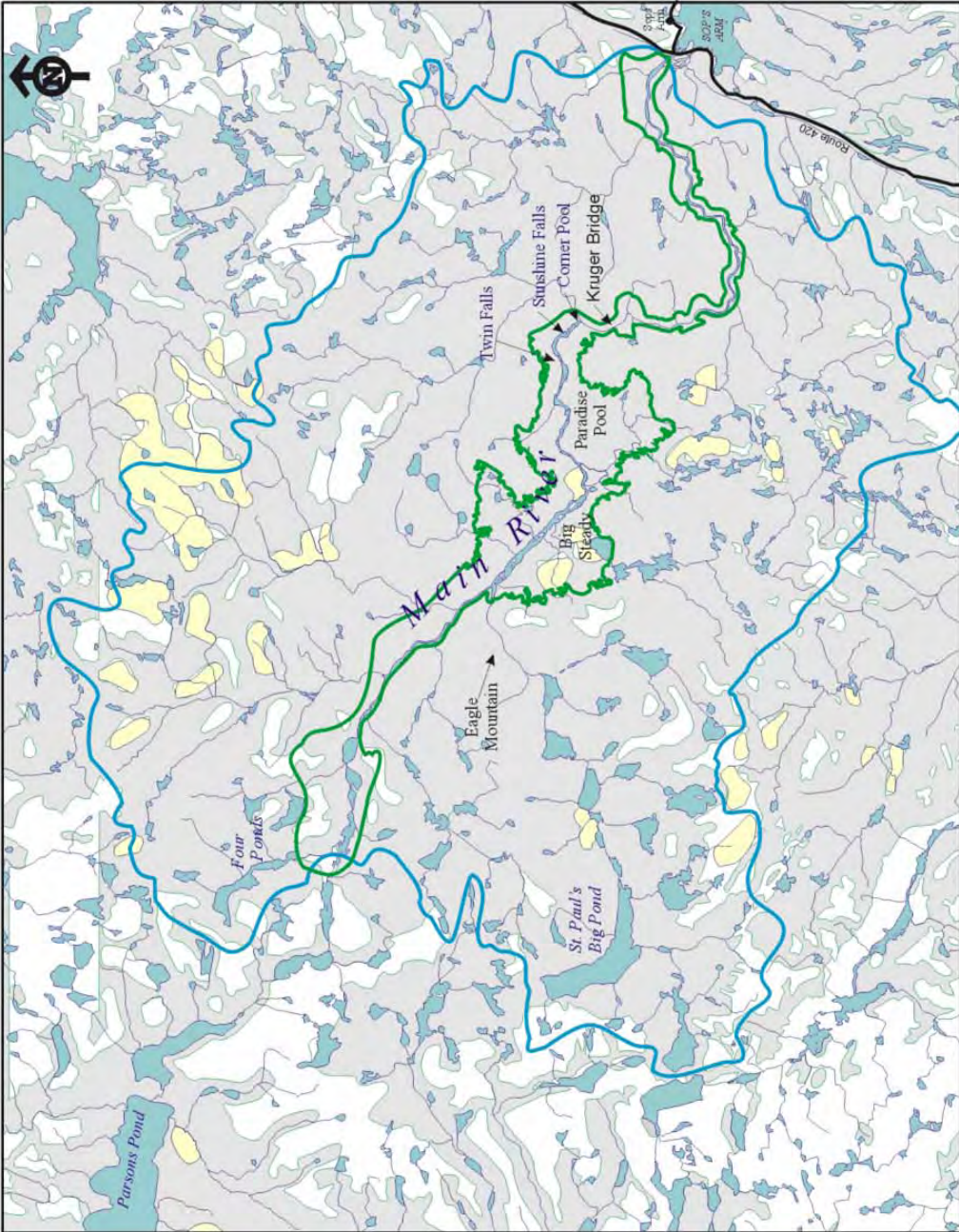
On January 8, 1991, the Minister responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (Parks and Natural Areas Division), nominated the Main River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Upon the nomination's acceptance by the federal minister responsible for Parks Canada, the Main River became the first "candidate" Canadian Heritage River in Newfoundland (Map 1).

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan for a candidate Canadian Heritage River (CHR) establishes the boundaries of the management area and sets out the policies and practices to be followed by the managing agency to ensure its development, management and use are consistent with the objectives of the System. CHRS guidelines require that a management plan be prepared for each nominated river.

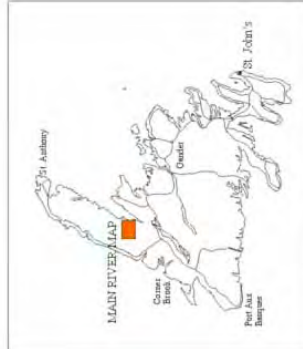
Each management plan contains:

1. A description of a management area encompassing the nominated section of the river;



Main River Nominated Corridor

-  Original Corridor Nominated
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Wetlands
-  Wooded Area
-  Non-Forested Area



-
2. Policies and practices for:
 - the conservation and interpretation of all heritage resources identified in the nomination document.
 - the realization of recreational and heritage appreciation. opportunities;
 - the maintenance of the natural integrity of the river including its key elements, ecosystems and water quality;
 - maintenance of recreational integrity;

 3. A commitment by the managing government to protect the river's nomination values. Accordingly, Parks and Natural Areas Division of the Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation as the lead agency and Parks Canada developed a terms of reference and commissioned the preparation of a management plan for the Main River. The approach consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 Preparation of Management Plan Concept Alternatives; and

Phase 2 Public Review of Phase 1 and Preparation of a final Management Plan.

The plan outlines how the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (TCR) will, within the nominated corridor, maintain the values for which the river was originally nominated. In addition, the plan will address the management of activities within the watershed, beyond the nominated corridor, to ensure that their impacts do not compromise the nomination values. Obviously, this watershed management component of the plan will involve the cooperation and commitment of a number of partners as described in some detail in the attached Stewardship Agreement(Appendix1).

This plan does not propose to undertake to manage the water resources of the Main River. The management is within the jurisdiction of the Water Resources Division of the provincial Department of Environment and Labour. Having said that, however, the Department is committed to ensuring that its water resources management objectives will be in keeping with the management plan for the Canadian Heritage River and will in fact enhance and strengthen this plan.

1.2 PRESENT STATUS OF MAIN RIVER

From the early to mid 1980's, Newfoundland and Labrador's Wilderness and Ecological

Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) were examining the ecological significance of the lands surrounding the Big Steady area of the Main River and seeking to protect it under the **Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act**. However, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) have held extensive timber rights within the Main River watershed since 1938 (Map 2). These rights were granted in the form of a long term licence from the Province. The licence is due to expire in 2037.

Plans by CBPPL to harvest within the Humber/Main River watersheds were announced in May, 1982 . By November 1984, logging operations were approved in principle subject to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and requiring consultation with WERAC. (Minute of Council 1242-84). By February, 1985 CBPPL was granted an exemption, through the Environmental Assessment Process (EAP), to construct an access road and build a bridge over the Main River. Within a year, the discussion, directed by Cabinet, between WERAC and CBPPL had failed to produce a mutually acceptable boundary for the ecological reserve.

In May 1987 WERAC submitted its proposal seeking Cabinet approval of an emergency ecological reserve on the Main River. This proposal required relinquishment of considerable timber rights held by CBPPL . As a compromise, Cabinet issued Minute of Council (949-87), which established a protected area corridor along the Main River encompassing 5,234 ha of land around the Steady as a core area and an additional, 2,382 ha of land upstream and downstream as a buffer zone for reducing the impact of development along the entire river. The buffer zone was a minimum of 100 m wide, but considerably wider along most of the river. No logging activity could take place inside this zone and timber rights were to be returned to the Crown. Additional land, totalling 2900 ha., in the headwaters and at the mouth of the river was added to the protected area corridor in 1990. The corridor submitted for heritage river nomination included 10,500 ha.

Forest harvesting operations began in the Main River in 1987, with the construction of approximately 20 km of access roads and a bridge across the Main River. Subsequently, the Province directed the company to temporarily relocate their operation to salvage the timber off the Upper Humber Region to the south where significant amounts of blow down and insect damaged timber had occurred. As a result forest harvesting operations were put on hold in the Main River watershed until 1997.

In 1996, CBPPL registered its Five Year Cutting Plans for Management District 16 (1997-2001) which included the Upper Humber and Main River area. This Plan and the two amendments to the Plan which followed have also been released from the EAP. A

more recent amendment, submitted in December, 1999, for an area north of the Main River was subsequently withdrawn by CBPPL. We are currently entering the fifth and final year of this plan. The planning process for the next five year (2002-2007) ecosystem management plan commenced in September, 2000 and will be completed and submitted under the EAP in June of 2001.

While the current Minute of Council recognizes the rivers unique wilderness characteristics, it is not the best mechanism for the future management of the river for several reasons:

- The Cabinet directive was intended to be a temporary measure to permit further examination of the management and regulatory options available to ensure protection of the river system.
- This temporary measure did not prescribe any process for obtaining public input. Public input in the establishment of protected areas in this Province is necessary prior to any adoption of park or reserve status.
- To adequately protect the Main River it is necessary to devise a management scheme which preserves the wilderness character of the river system yet is responsive to local use.

What is required, therefore, is a sound management framework to address land use and human activities through existing provincial legislation.

1.3 CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM

1.3.1 CRRS Objectives

To be designated as a Canadian Heritage River, a river must be an outstanding example of Canada's natural heritage, play a significant role in Canadian history, and/or offer excellent opportunities for recreation.

The objectives of the CHRS are to give national recognition to outstanding Canadian rivers and ensure their continuing management so that:

- the natural heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted;
- the human heritage which they represent is conserved and interpreted;
- and the opportunities they possess for recreation and heritage appreciation are realized by residents of and visitors to Canada.

The section of the Main River nominated comprises the main stem of the river extending from the Long Range Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. The river was nominated for its natural heritage and recreational opportunities as summarized in Table 1. These river features must be managed according to CHRS Objectives.

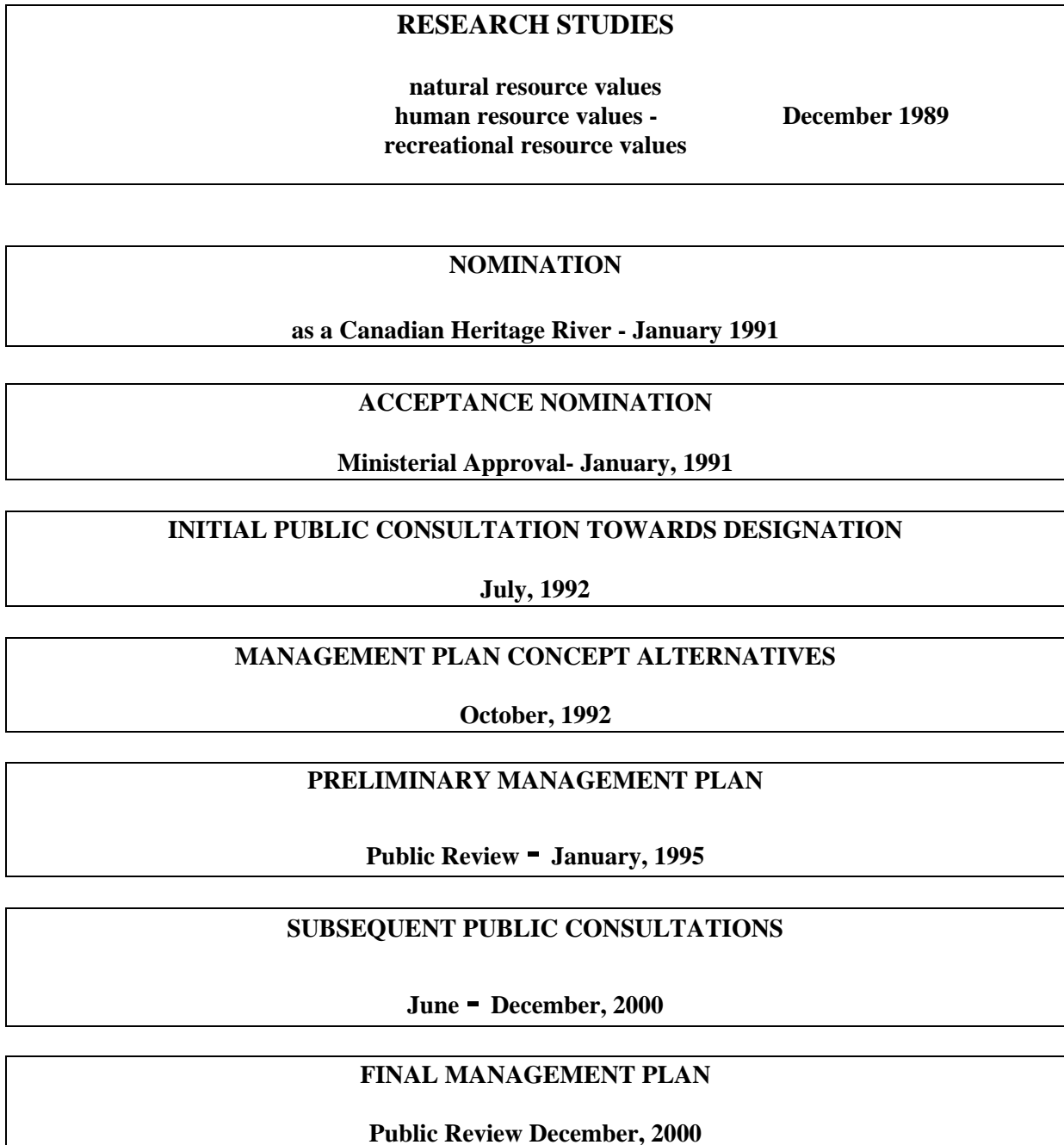
Table 1 Values of Main River Meeting CRRS Selection Guidelines

VALUES	GUIDELINES MET
<p>Natural Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains outstanding representation of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological and biological processes; • Contains along its course unique, rare and outstanding examples of biotic or abiotic natural phenomena, formations, or features; • Contains along its course habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals, including outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nominated section is of sufficient size to include significant representations of all the natural processes, features, or other phenomena which the river its outstanding value; • The nominated section includes those ecosystem components which contribute significantly to the provision for species in need of protection; • There are no human-made impoundments within the nominated section; • All key elements and ecosystem components are unaffected by impoundments located outside the nominated section; • The water in the nominated section is uncontaminated to the extent that its natural aquatic ecosystem is intact; and • The natural aesthetic character of the nominated section is free of, or not adversely affected, by human developments
<p>Recreational Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational opportunities include waterbased activities such as canoeing, and other forms of boating, swimming, and angling, and other activities such as camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and natural and cultural appreciation which may be part of a river-touring experience. • Natural values include natural visual aesthetics, and physical assets such as sufficient flow, navigability, rapids, accessibility and suitable shoreline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities including those recreational opportunities for which it was nominated. • The river's visual appearance is capable of providing river travellers with a continuous natural experience, or a combined natural and cultural experience, without significant interruption by modern human intrusions; and • The river is capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of, or impact on, its visual character.

1.3.2 CHRS Designation Process

The process leading to designation of a river to the CHRS is illustrated in simplified form in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: THE PROCESS FOR DESIGNATION OF THE MAIN RIVER TO CHRS



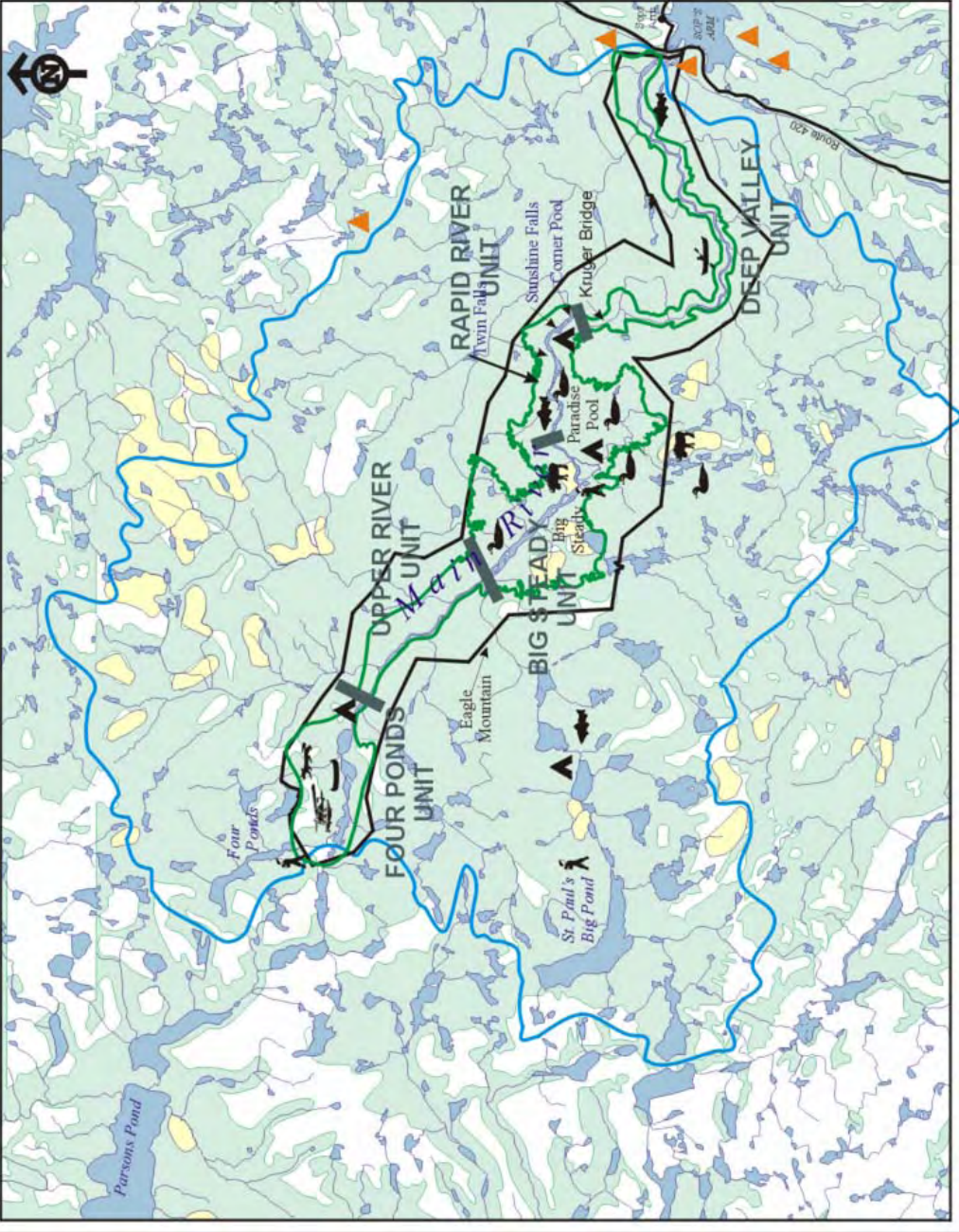
2.0 HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL VALUES OF THE MAIN RIVER

The heritage and recreational values of the Main River are described and assessed in terms of CHRS guidelines in the document: The Main River, Newfoundland CHRS Background Study, 1989. The particular values for which the river was nominated are described in the CHRS Nomination Document, 1991. The nominated corridor includes the boundary as approved by the Provincial Cabinet under Minute of Council 949-' 87 (August 19, 1987) and additional portions of Crown Land at the headwaters and at the mouth of the river. Below is a summary of the natural and recreational values of the river (Map 3) for which it was nominated and which must be addressed in the management plan.

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The Main River is situated on the southern end of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. It generally flows southeastward from the Long Range Mountains beyond the border of Gros Morne National Park. The river meanders through expanses of virgin softwood forests before it settles at a unique area of "grassland" known as the Big Steady. From here it plunges through a steep walled valley before reaching its final destination at Sops Arm in White Bay. Prior to 1987 the Main River watershed (1,048 km² in area), had been relatively inaccessible, thus, development had not seriously affected its integrity. As forest harvesting proceeds in the watershed, the number of forest access roads and level of access will increase. Controls will be required to ensure this does not detract from the heritage river corridor. Within the nominated section the Main River drops from an elevation of 400 m to sea level at an average rate of 65 m/km over its 57 km length (Parks Canada 1977).

The headwaters traverse four ponds sheltered by topography varying from rolling, forested hills to sparsely vegetated open spaces at the head of Parson's Pond River. On the west side of the watershed, the land drops into the Parsons Pond drainage system, leading to the west coast of the Peninsula. The total length of the headwaters section is approximately 6.5 km. The Main River then extends 10 km from the lowest of the four ponds in the headwaters to the 8 km long Big Steady. The Big Steady is an enriched floodplain of great beauty and serenity approximately 15 km² in size. Downstream from the Big Steady, the Main River follows a single, relatively straight channel with a gradient of 7 m/km through a deep valley, for approximately 8 km. After this stretch of whitewater, the Main River then traverses a heavily wooded steep-walled valley for 25 km, and ends at the delta at Sop's Arm, which leads into the Atlantic Ocean.



Areas of Natural and Recreational Significance

- Proposed Waterway Provincial Park
- Watershed Boundary
- Proposed Special Management Area
- Wetlands
- Wooded Area
- Non-Forested Area
- Moose Habitat
- Waterfowl Habitat
- Cultural Features
- Angling
- Pine Martin Habitat
- Floodplain Access
- Canoe Area
- Kayak Area
- Potential Campsite
- Hiking



2.2 NATURAL HERITAGE VALUES

All four natural heritage selection guidelines are met by the Main River. The most significant attributes of the Main River are its pristine landscapes, beautiful views, and abundance and variety of wildlife especially at the biologically significant Big Steady. Map 3 shows areas of natural significance on the Main River.

2.2.1 Geology

The Main River flows through the northern Long Range Mountains which consist of one billion year old gneiss, schist and granite belonging to the Grenville Province of the Laurentian Shield. These rocks formed the margin of North America in the Early Palaeozoic and were upthrust as part of the Appalachian Mountains about 400 million years ago, when North America collided with Europe and North Africa. The Cabot Fault system dating from the late Precambrian Era experienced major strike-slip activity during the Palaeozoic Era and created a line of sedimentary basins between the southwestern corner of the Island and White Bay. These activities have resulted in a variety of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks exposed and visible on the surface today.

2.2.2 Landforms

The most recent period of glaciation on the Great Northern Peninsula was from 25,000 to 12,000 years ago. The Main River developed after the final melting of the Laurentide ice cap which had blanketed the entire Peninsula and moved toward both coasts simultaneously. Subsequent lowering of the sea level, substantially increased the gradient of Main River and therefore contributed to the deepening of the river valley. The most pronounced gorges are found in the Deep Valley Unit, which extends for almost 20 km, reaches a depth of up to 100 m and narrows in places to as little as 15 m. This continual geomorphological change identifies this area as distinct from most other major river systems in Newfoundland which tend to rise in much lower headwaters ranges and travel further before reaching the sea.

Surface indications of the glacial period are visible in the deep deposits of till at the river mouth in the community of Sop's Arm, in the hundreds of massive erratics on the highlands and in river gorges, and in the occurrence of glacial polish and striations on outcrops.

2.2.3 Hydrology

The Main River is a relatively young watercourse (ca. 12,000 years) cutting through glaciated terrain underlain by more ancient erosion-resistant, crystalline basement rocks

consisting mainly of granite, schists and gneiss. The river flows from headwater ponds, in the Long Range Mountains in a southeast direction into White Bay, dropping almost 675 metres from the headwaters to its mouth. The watershed area is 1048 square kilometres. In the upper portion of the watershed the mean stream gradient exceeds 1 %. The Main River and its tributaries maintain a generally irregular, meandering course, despite the gradient. Stream gradient and velocities are high for the most part, with numerous rapids in the upper and lower reaches. Big Steady is relatively straight with low sinuosity. Despite the river's steep gradient, no barriers exist to deter movement of fish except during periods of very low water when fish cluster in deeper, cooler pools in the lower sections.

Main River is located in an area of relatively high precipitation. The mean annual runoff from the Main River watershed ranges from over 1400 mm near the headwaters to less than 1200 mm close to the mouth. The mean annual flow in Main River is 45 litres/second(l/s) per square kilometre. The highest runoff for the watershed occurs between April and June, and is due principally to the melting of snow accumulated during the winter months. The watershed receives an average of about 300 centimetres of snowfall annually, an amount close to the upper range for the island portion of Newfoundland. From April to June, the monthly average flows can be between 2 and 4 times higher than the mean annual flow. The winter months, from January to March, and the summer months, from July to September, are periods of relatively low flows, averaging 18 l/s per square kilometre. The monthly average flows during the low flow periods are between one-quarter and one-half of the mean annual flow.

There are approximately 30 streams which drain directly into the Main River; an additional 100 branches and 200 ponds contribute water flow to the main branches. The drainage density of the watershed is close to 1.3, one of the highest drainage densities for watersheds in the region. The high drainage density in combination with the steep gradient results in flood flow rates which are relatively higher than those for the region. The mean annual flood flow rate in the upper portion of the watershed exceeds 430 l/s per square kilometre compared to a regional average value of 300 l/s per square kilometre. Conversely, the minimum river flows are generally lower than normal for the region. The mean annual minimum daily discharge is lower than 3.4 l/s per square kilometre compared to a regional average value of about 4.7 l/s per square kilometre.

The water quality of Main River is generally close to normal for most physical and chemical parameters. The colour of the water tends to be higher (darker) than normal for the regional rivers (Water Resources Atlas of Newfoundland and Labrador, 1992) due to dissolved minerals and organic material contributed from the surrounding boggy terrain. Another consequence of the boggy terrain is that the pH of the water, which ranges from less than 5.5 to 6.5, is generally lower than the regional average value. The pH reaches

its lowest value during the month of May, when the river flow is highest due to melting of accumulated snow. It should also be noted that, on the basis of bedrock geology and total alkalinity measurements, the Main River watershed and the surrounding areas are highly sensitive to acid rain. The dissolved oxygen content of the water is generally within normal values, ranging from a low of 9 parts per million in August during the summer low flow period to a high of 14 ppm during the winter months.

2.2.4 Vegetation

The Main River watershed straddles two ecoregions, the headwaters and Big Steady area occur within the Long Range Barrens ecoregion and downstream the Main River flows through the Northern Peninsula Forest Ecoregion. The highlands in the headwaters area are characterized by exposed, scrubby dwarf shrub barrens with local areas of mostly unmerchantable forest; the remainder is characterized by open but productive balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) forest with abundant black spruce (*Picea mariana*). A description of each of these ecoregions are included in Appendix 2. When two distinct ecoregions come together it results in increased biodiversity, as it represents a transition between two major natural regions.

Old Growth Forest

Adding further to its ecological significance, is the fact that the Main River watershed marks the approximate southern limit of gap replacement forest on the Northern Peninsula. This is a unique forest type for the Island of Newfoundland. Typically in Newfoundland, and most of North America, boreal forests are subject to natural large scale disturbance, particularly fire, disease and insect damage. As a result of these large scale disturbances, large to medium gaps are created in the forest and in the case of Newfoundland it results in forest stand replacement within an average of 120 years. But on the eastern side of the Great Northern Peninsula a mixed balsam fir/ black spruce forest consisting of trees as old as 260 years occurs. The forest has small gaps and a multilayered canopy which makes it rare to uncommon, in comparison to the rest of the Canadian boreal forest. Why this forest persists on the eastern side of the Peninsula for much longer than the typical life span for a mixed balsam fir/black spruce forest in Newfoundland (i.e. 120 years) is not known. By ecological standards, based on structure and processes, this forest is considered old growth forest. Although, its appearance is significantly different than the image conjured up when one speaks of the old growth forest of western North America and the tropical rainforest.

The occurrence of this special forest type in Newfoundland is a recently documented phenomena, discovered in 1996 as a result of doctoral research work being undertaken by Fr. John McCarthy regarding forest ecosystems of the Northern Peninsula. The Main

River corridor will protect approximately 38 km² of this forest type and beyond in the viewshed corridor an additional 26 km² will be set aside. As part of the Province's recently announced Natural Areas Strategy, a candidate area, in an area north of Main River will be identified. This area will provide a good representative example of this special gap replacement forest type within a pristine watershed and will be recommended for long term protection as an ecological reserve within the Province's Proposed Natural Areas System Plan.

No rare or endangered plants are known to occur in the Main River watershed but some plants reach their northern and others their southern limits on the Main River. It is also possible that unusual arboreal lichen communities may be associated with these older forest stands. A rare and highly significant area of open meadowland is contained in the 15km² flood plain of the Big Steady, where floodwaters annually deposit massive amounts of fine organic sediments. On moderate to well-drained sites, this meadowland is characterized by vegetative species such as sedges (*Carex vesicaria*, for example) and fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). Bulrushes (*Scirpus cyperinus*) and blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) dominate the wettest sites at the river's edge. Throughout this community, other important cover species include grasses such as *Calamagrostis inexpansa* and bentgrass (*Agrostis borealis*). Frequent flooding and spring ice rafting keep mature forests in the Big Steady clear of most shrub undergrowth and permanent vegetative regeneration. This produces an ecological oasis with a natural parkland effect of open forest interspersed with spacious meadows found in only two other lowland areas on the Island of Newfoundland. The calm waters and lush alluvial vegetation of the Big Steady provide good habitat for a very high density of wildlife.

2.2.5 Wildlife

Avifauna:

While 90 species of birds are expected to occur within the Main River watershed, there have been no rare or endangered species reported. Yet, over 20% of the Eastern North American wintering population of Harlequin Duck (*Histrionus histrionus*), are known occur on the Northern Peninsula. In 1990 the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada listed the Harlequin Duck as endangered. Harlequin surveys have been conducted by helicopter and on foot along the main stem of the Main River and some of its tributaries without success. However, not all tributaries of the Main River have been surveyed. The Canadian Wildlife Service advises that while the habitat provided along the Main River and its tributaries is rated poor to medium quality for Harlequin, it is still considered potential habitat given its location.

The 90 or more species of birds using the Main River watershed vary as much as the

habitat, from Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) and Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) on the barren hilltops at the headwaters, to Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) in the relatively rich mixed woodland and estuarine environment at the mouth of the river. The diversity of avifauna in the Main River watershed is greatest in the Big Steady where there is an abundance of forest edge and wide open forest with a heavy but low undergrowth. It is primarily the extensive floodplain of the Big Steady that makes the Main River area so attractive for waterfowl species.

The Big Steady section of the Main River corridor, supports high densities of waterfowl: Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Mergansers and Common Goldeneye. Combined the waterways, riparian meadowlands, peatland and wet fir forest provide exceptional waterfowl habitat along the Main River corridor. Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) breed on nearby peatland and move broods into this area in late June and July to begin brood rearing and adult moulting. The Big Steady area provides the seclusion necessary for this period in the life of the Canada Goose when both young and adult are flightless. The Big Steady is also used as a fall staging site with migrants from outside the River joining local breeding birds.

While over 42 species of forest birds are reported for Newfoundland, the Main River area has not been well studied for song birds. One would expect given the diversity of habitat that many of these birds would occur in the watershed. In terms of raptors Bald Eagles, Osprey, Northern Goshawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier and Northern Hawk Owl are expected to occur based on past surveys in the both the Main River and Upper Humber watershed.

Mammals

The Main River watershed contains such a variety of habitats that most of the land mammals occurring on insular Newfoundland are found there. Very little large mammal research has been conducted specifically in the Main River area. Survey work which has been done, with respect to both the Gros Morne and Northern Peninsula caribou herds, indicate that there is no evidence that either herd use the Main River in great numbers. However, caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) from the Northern Peninsula herd are reported to use the upper sections of the Main River including the Big Steady where they are frequently sighted in summer and fall. Research indicates that these two herds are expanding, yet they have not yet taken advantage of the Main River watershed. If the present trend towards expansion continues a limited food supply may make the Main River area more attractive to these herds. Currently the depth and persistence of snow cover renders most of the area, from mid-fall to late spring, unattractive to caribou, with

the exception of the upland barren areas.

Moose (*Alces alces*) inhabit the entire area but are particularly plentiful and easily observed on the Big Steady where the lush meadows provide excellent grazing. The Main River falls within moose management area number 4 one of the densest populations for the Island. When the area was surveyed in 1996 it was estimated that the total population for the management area was 5000 animals. All indications are that the population are quite healthy and represents one of the highest densities of moose for the province.

Black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is also known to occur in the Main River valley. Exact numbers for the Main River watershed is not known. It is estimated that the Island's population is at about 6000. Every year approximately 120 bear licences are issued for Management Area #4 and on average two bears are taken per year.

Pine Marten

The insular Newfoundland population of pine marten (*Martes americana*) is considered endangered by The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). An attempt to build up or restock the Main River population was made in 1976 with the release of 11 animals. At least two confirmed sightings in the late 1980s at Big Steady indicate that the species was still living in the area. More recent research based on two years of live-trapping indicates that at least 35 individual marten occur within the Main River study area.

Snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), mink (*Mustela vison*), otter (*Lutra canadensis*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) and other mammals typical for most of the Island also occur in the Main River valley (refer to Appendix 2).

Fish

Like the other large rivers in Newfoundland, the Main River system and its headwaters and tributaries contain populations of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). The Main River system ranks as one of the best, given its outstanding concentrations of salmon, spawning and rearing habitat, and the extent to which salmon inhabit the entire system. Unlike most rivers there are no natural barriers to prevent salmon from entering the upper headwaters area and most tributaries.

The waters of the estuary at Sop's Arm are generally sheltered, with many scenic coves and islands. Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) and Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest around the mouth of the Main River, taking advantage of the run of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). Sop's Arm and White Bay seasonally contain large numbers of seals,

other species of fish besides Atlantic salmon, and a variety of sea ducks. Residents have reported seeing seals in the River in Spring.

2.2.6 Landscape

As one travels down the Main River rivers capes of exceptional aesthetic value and diversity abound. From the headwaters, located in the Long Range Mountains, one can view the west coast inlets and coastal plain to the west. Within the viewshed, the absence of clear-cut logging permits a view from the river of unblemished forested hillsides, lake shores and river banks which has probably changed little for several millennia. Views in the canyons are restricted but undisturbed forested hillsides can be seen along the river slopes. From the mouth of the river, the traveller can view the scenic coves, abandoned settlements and rugged coastal hills and bluffs of sheltered Sop's Arm and southern White Bay.

At the Big Steady, the river straightens, widens and is backed by flat grassland. Islands on the Steady are covered with open park-like vegetation; ancient birches and spruce attain trunk widths of up to 75 cm. One major inlet leads (the canoeist) away from Paradise Pool .into a series of pools and bays hidden from the river. In the Rapid River Unit, canoeists are treated to the unusual view of a gradient so steep that visibility down this reach is restricted. A narrow rock ledge, the only suitable camping spot in this reach, offers a magnificent view of a waterfall cascading into the Main River from a tributary on the right bank.

2.3 RECREATIONAL VALUES

The Main River is a renowned wilderness adventure waterway. It has the potential to offer a wide range of outdoor recreation activities in a relatively untouched environment. The Main River meets both CHRS recreational value selection guidelines.

It is the outstanding natural scenery, the variety of landscapes, opportunities for viewing wildlife and flora in a natural setting with little evidence of human development, combined with the qualities of the river itself, that makes the Main River a prime setting for high quality outdoor recreational pursuits. With respect to outdoor adventure, visitor satisfaction cannot be measured solely on the achievement of a predefined recreational goal (i.e. to kayak down a river, to catch a salmon, to hike a specific route, to snowmobile from one point to another). The quality of those experiences is not only linked to its successful fulfillment, but it is inextricably linked to the context in which it takes place.

In terms of adventure tourism, clients are looking for an experience which removes them

from the urban setting and transports them to a place where man's influence cannot be readily observed across the landscape. They are also looking for physically challenging and exciting adventures. They want to be able to travel to a place where they can observe wildlife in its natural setting, enjoy panoramic views and experience a variety of landscapes. The Main River meets this criteria. While one can break down to some degree the components or natural values that contribute to a high quality outdoor experience they must really be considered holistically, for it is the combination of many natural elements that create the uniqueness of the Main River.

2.3.1 River Touring

The Main River offers a multi-faceted river touring experience and is recognized as an excellent wilderness river by recreational canoeists. It is one of only three rivers in insular Newfoundland described for its recreational canoeing potential in Nick Nickels' Canoe Canada, (Nickels, Nick. 1976.), was canoed by the Parks Canada Wild Rivers Survey team in 1972. and has been widely acclaimed internationally and nationally as a significant whitewater canoe area. Members of the Newfoundland Canoeing Association have canoed, kayaked and rafted this river and rate it as the best that the province of Newfoundland has to offer for white water activities, scenic landscapes and wildlife.

The river's fast stretches interspersed with long stretches of flatwater or steadies, water unpolluted by industry, excellent salmon and trout angling, wildlife observation, natural beauty and uncommon habitat types combine to give a first rate wilderness experience. The experience is enhanced at the terminus of the river by evidence that the resources of the sea, coast and lower reaches of the river were exploited by prehistoric people for several thousand years and by English and French settlers for more than two centuries.

The river presents outstanding canoeing opportunities to challenge the most accomplished white water enthusiasts while not committing the canoeist to a journey lasting several weeks as is common with many wilderness canoeing experiences in northern Canada. The river can be descended in ideal water and weather conditions in 3-4 days; a slower trip allows increased appreciation of all that the area has to offer. To travel the entire length of the river canoeists must fly into the headwaters ponds. An alternative is to drive to the Kruger Bridge and canoe the last reach to Sop's Arm, which takes one to two days.

The river has great potential for kayaking and, below the Kruger bridge, rafting. During May and June the daily discharge rates create ideal conditions, and hence entrepreneurial opportunity, for these sports. The first commercial rafting trip in 1991 offered twenty three kilometres (23km) of white water adventure. Eastern Outfitters operate a guided rafting tour for one weekend each spring.

In terms of hydrology, the Main River is considered a very flashy river. The river can reach peak levels very rapidly in late May and early June, due to sudden increases in spring meltwater, combined with heavy spring and summer rains. During this period some caution must be exercised when selecting a camping spot in the floodplain area. Conversely, during particularly dry summers water levels can be extremely low requiring a significant amount of portaging for canoeists and kayakers as they progress down the river.

2.3.2 Camping

The former Sop's Arm Provincial Park, which is now privately operated, is located near the mouth of the Main River. The 10 ha facility offers 25 sites for tents and/or trailers and an additional 25 picnic sites. The campground is staffed from mid-June to early September. Canoeists and rafters make use of the many natural non-designated campsites along the banks of the river. Once the Proposed Waterway Provincial Park is designated under the Provincial Parks Act a Master Plan will be developed for the Waterway Park it will include the identification of backcountry campsites within nominated corridor, as appropriate. This will assist in directing recreational users to areas which can support this type of activity. This will also ensure that more sensitive areas along the corridor remain undisturbed.

2.3.3 Hiking

Potential is high for the establishment of a system of wilderness trails, that can be accessed by water, along the length of the Main River. There are presently some primitive trails along the banks of the Main River and anglers trails around some of the upper ponds and between Sop's Arm and the Big Steady. These, however, are of varying quality, are not marked or integrated into a complete system.

2.3.4 Nature Observation

The Main River offers extensive opportunities for nature observation and photography. Travellers on the river can observe, among other species, caribou, moose Canada -geese, several species of duck, bald eagle and osprey, black bear, beaver, otter, mink and lynx. The Big Steady floodplain area of the Main River watershed is ecologically unique in Newfoundland as it supports significant number and variety of wildlife species.

The variety and abundance of natural resources on the Main River also gives rise to an

opportunity for interpretation. The headwater ponds, the Big Steady, and Sop's Arm, the temporary rest spots, portage routes and campsites all exemplify the diversity of environments and the variety of uses that necessitates a means of public awareness for safety and education.

2.3.5 Angling

The Main River is a scheduled salmon river. Between 1953 and 1999, the number of salmon caught on the Main River has steadily increased reaching a peak in 1994 of 2,759 salmon. Since then the number has fluctuated around the 1000 mark. Brook trout are also found in the river, but since residents are not required to hold a trout licence the number caught in anyone season is difficult to estimate.

During this past season water level were high on the Main River for mid-June and there was a good first run of salmon. Water levels had dropped by July 5-12 and the second run of salmon did not occur. They simply did not return to the river.

Research indicates that freshwater production is very stable for salmon, but once the smolts leave the River and enter the Ocean mortality occurs. The cause of that mortality has not been determined. The Department of Fisheries and Ocean are investigating several avenues: Gill nets set for research purposes in the estuary of Cambellton, Notre Dame Bay, (east of White Bay), found that cod predation on smolts was occurring. Approximately 8-10 smolts were found on average in the stomach contents of cod. There have also been reports of seals being seen in rivers. In recent times significant fluctuations in ocean temperatures have occurred. Originally ocean temperatures dropped, but they are now increasing.

Anglers from Sop's Arm and the area around White Bay generally focus their angling efforts in the Big Steady and the lower reaches of the river. There are currently nine outfitting camps that offer salmon fishing in the Main River area. These operators concentrate their efforts mostly in the headwaters area and along a number of tributaries. The salmon season runs from June 7 to September 15. Only grilse (fish measuring 63 cm or less, from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail) may be retained on Class II Rivers, like the Main. ..

2.3.6 Hunting

Hunting activities in the Main River area principally involve pursuit of moose. Caribou, black bear, snowshoe hare, ducks, and geese may also be hunted. Several of the outfitting camps located primarily for angling also cater to big game hunters. Hunting of large game by local residents occurs primarily in the southwest region of the watershed. There appears to be very little hunting by local residents occurring above the Kruger Bridge.

However, if accessibility increases this will likely change.

Currently, a no trapping (dry-land) policy exists for the Main River area and will continue for the foreseeable future. Trapping will not, of course, be permitted in the Provincial Waterway Park.

2.3.7 Swimming

Swimming opportunities occur throughout the length of the river and the water is unpolluted. There are few sand beaches other than at the lower end of some of the headwaters ponds. Elsewhere the river banks are rocky and vegetated but swimming is possible if conducted with current, depth and subsurface rocks in mind. The Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park will identify areas suitable for swimming from a safety perspective. .

2.3.8 Boating

This activity is restricted to a number of the upper headwater ponds and may in times of high water level occur on the main channel of the river. Lack of accessibility currently limits this activity.

2.3.9 Winter Recreation

The Main River has potential for winter activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, winter camping, winter photography and ice fishing. A snowmobile trail now exists that heads westward from Sops Arm to Four Ponds with diversions along six of its tributaries. A number of outfitter participate in this activity from mid- January to late May. An advantage of this area is that the appropriate snow conditions persists for much longer than rest of the Island. Making it a prime destination for snowmobiling in Spring. High Country Ventures operates a snowmobiling tour from the Main River Lodge and has recently expanded to operate tours from the Eagle Mountain Lodge. This tour travels on the frozen Main River and its tributaries: for example, when the group journeys to the community of Harbour Deep it snowmobiles up Lens Brook; when it visits Parsons Pond it travels up Wood Pecker Brook. High Country Ventures also uses Kruger's logging road to Sop's Arm and the Warden's Trail to get from Eagle Mountain Pond to Main River. The tour group has catered to 200 people. The Snowmobile the Backcountry tour group reported that they have sold over 500 snowmobile packages and their route also includes the Main River area. This winter sport is also popular among residents of the region.

2.3.10 Ecotourism

While, the traditional hunting and fishing tourism sector is well developed, the ecotourism industry associated with the Main River is in its infancy. This provides the opportunity to develop a long-term integrated ecotourism plan that will ensure: activities are carried out in a sustainable manner, carrying capacities are kept in check, the quality of the experience is maintained and the product offering is diverse and attractive.

Recent market research points to dramatic growth in ecotourism travel. According to the Canadian Tourism Commission (1997) adventure travel and ecotourism together form one of the fastest growing sectors in the North America travel market. These travelers are no longer happy with traditional vacation choices. They are looking for new destinations in remote and unusual locations. Survey results by Statistics Canada (1993) show that adventure tourism outperformed the economy in all regions of the country creating revenues in excess of \$165 million. Furthermore, this research also indicates that this growth will continue.

According to recent tourism studies nature tourists spend more time in a particular area and spend more money during their stay. On average, a nature tourist travel party spends just under \$ 900 per trip, whereas non-nature tourist parties spend an average of \$470 per trip. The Product Market Match Study of 1996, identified Natural Heritage Tourism as the most important reason for discretionary travel to Newfoundland and Labrador, today and for the future. The study also noted that the major natural heritage product in the province is owned managed and operated by the Provincial and Federal government.

Main River is favourably positioned as a travel generator for a number of reason: its outstanding natural heritage values, its diverse high quality river-related recreational opportunities, its status as a Canadian Heritage River, its proximity to Gros Mome National Park (a World Heritage Site) and the recent national media attention it has received. Main River could be become a primary destinations for ecotourists visiting the Province, or it may encourage visitors to extend their stay in order to avail of this unique ecotourism opportunity.

Beyond these tangible economic benefits it provides an important contribution to the Province's goals of developing Newfoundland as a primary ecotourism destination, promoting rural development and fostering a good conservation ethic and stewardship at a local level. Without an effective marketing campaign it will not be possible for the communities of White Bay to capitalize on the ecotourism opportunities available at the Main River site.

2.4 HUMAN HERITAGE

Human heritage resources have not been thoroughly investigated along the Main River and only three archaeological sites are currently known. Evidence of early Inuit habitation dating to about 2100 years ago has been found near the river, while a site along the north side of the river, just west of Sop's Arm, has been attributed to the nomadic Beothuk culture. The sheltered bays and arms around the mouth of the Main River could also provide extensive potential for interpretation of the 4,000-year maritime tradition of the region (LeDrew, Fudge and Associates Limited 1989). There is also some documentary evidence of Viking finds although this has not been substantiated.

3.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN

This management plan describes how Parks and Natural Areas Division will ensure that the Main River is managed according to CHRS objectives. It is a statement of commitment which includes a set of principles and intended policies and actions for a prescribed management area. The management framework is based on existing legislative mechanisms and using recognized administrative structures. There have been many issues of concern identified during the management planning process for the Main River, some of these issues are directly related to the heritage river designation, but others are much broader in scope (ie. recovery of the endangered pine marten, protection of old growth forest, regulation of the forest harvesting in the province and the ecological integrity of Gros Morne National Park). To help understand how these issues are being addressed a flow chart is provided (Figure 2) that identifies the current planning processes underway. A number of these processes are discussed at various points throughout this document.

3.1 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

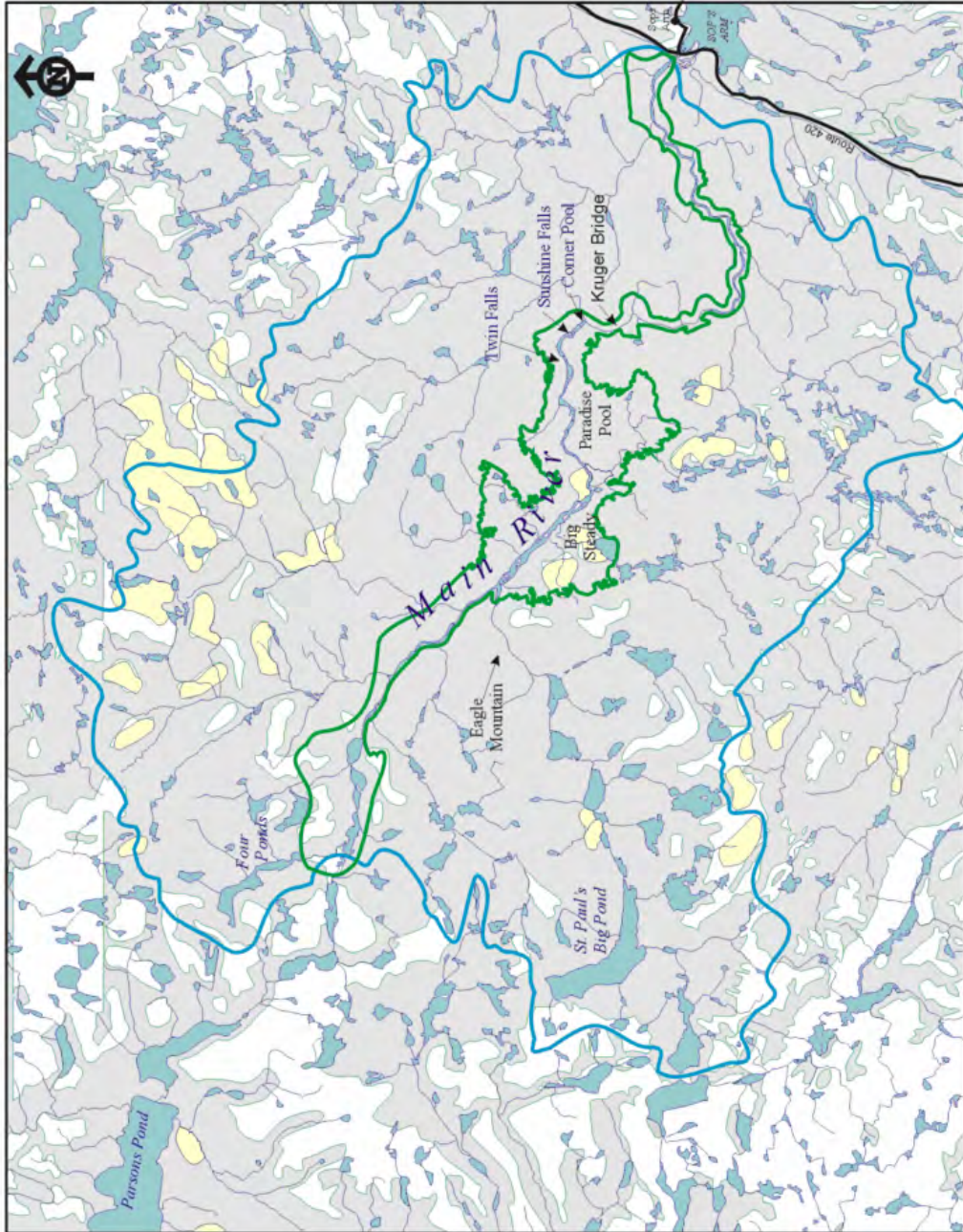
The legislative option that responds best to the future protection and management requirements of the Main River, as a Canadian Heritage River, is the Provincial Parks Act. As such, the nominated corridor will be designated as a Provincial Park (Waterway Park) and managed under the Provincial Parks Act (Map 4).

Designating it as a waterway park will preserve and protect the Main River for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while still allowing some existing land and water uses to continue. It will provide the ability to have a multi-thematic park, with the river remaining the focus. While some special provisions will be required for certain activities (e.g. hunting and snowmobiling) these are relatively few and will be accommodated within the existing legislation.

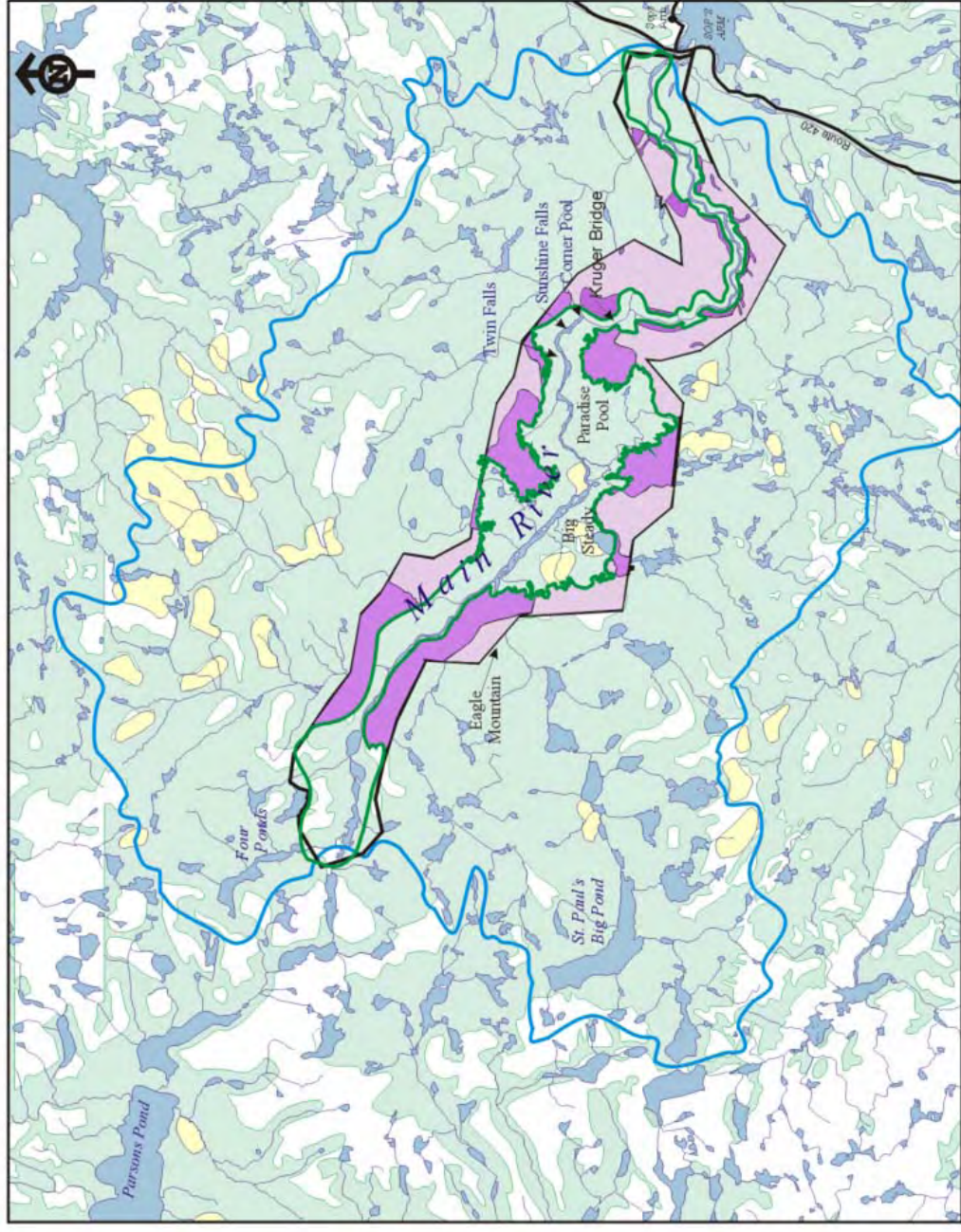
In addition, to ensure for viewshed integrity, provide control over visitor access and generally provide an environmental buffer for the nominated corridor a further legislative protection measure will be sought. The area which falls within the viewshed boundary, beyond the nominated corridor, will be proposed as a Special Management Area under the Crown Lands Act (Map 5). Within this area forest stands within the near viewshed that had previously been approved for cutting will now remain unharvested and are designated as no-cut zones. For those blocks in the far viewshed, CBPPL is committed to a harvesting approach that will preserve viewshed integrity from the vantage point of the Main River. These blocks are designated as modified harvest zones and proposed harvesting activities within them will be subject to review under the **Environmental Assessment Act, 2000**.

Main River Proposed Waterway Provincial Park

-  Proposed Waterway Provincial Park
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Wetlands
-  Wooded Areas
-  Non-Forested Areas



MAP 5

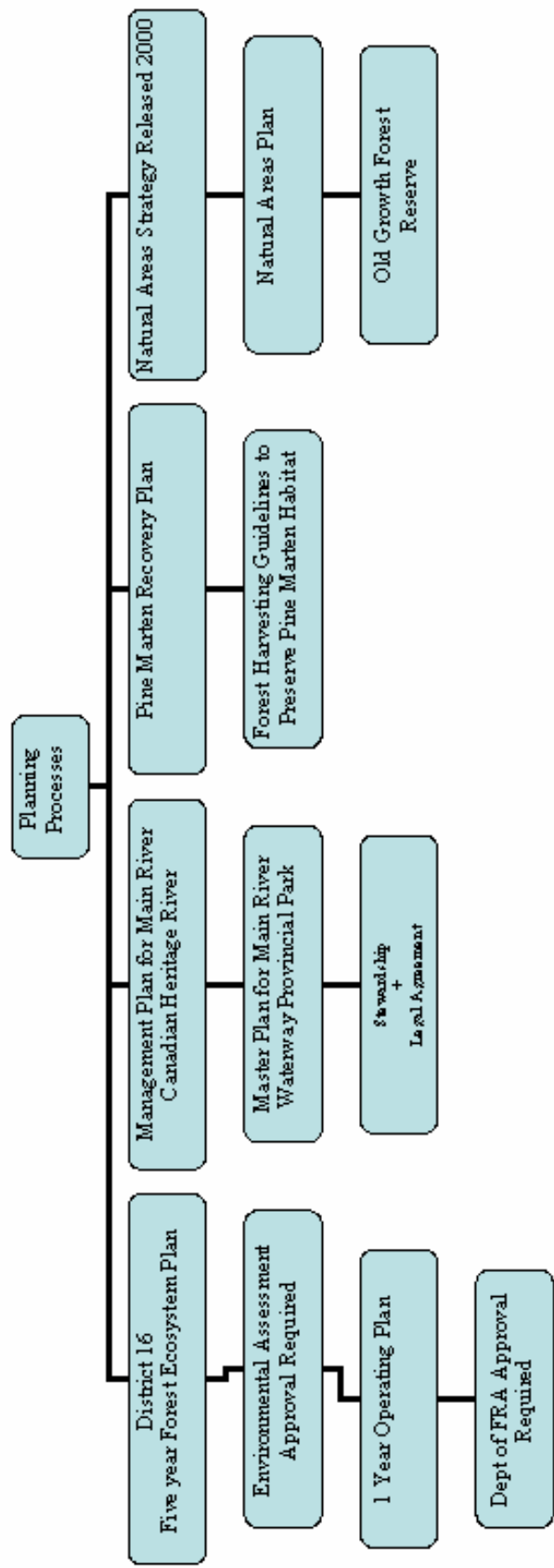


**Main River
Proposed Special Management Area**

-  Proposed Waterway
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Proposed Special Management Area
-  Wetlands
-  Wooded Area
-  Non-Forested Area
-  Modified Harvest Zone *
-  No - Cut Zone

* Subject to review under the Environmental Assessment Act, 2000





As a result of public concern that the buffer in the lower gorge area was too narrow (100 metres at some locations), a further expansion has been agreed to that will result in the buffer being extended to 300 metres along both sides of the gorge.

Finally, to ensure that activities which occur in the watershed area, beyond the Provincial Waterway Park and Special Management Area, do not negatively impact upon the integrity of the natural and recreational values for which the river was nominated, a stewardship agreement has been developed (Appendix 1). Measures to maintain and enhance the marten population in the watershed is also discussed in Section 4.2.8. This agreement is the result of extensive consultation and represents a strong commitment by the signatories who are the key stakeholders in resource management and development in the watershed. Additionally, some of these activities may be subject to review in accordance with the **Environmental Assessment Act, 2000**.

In addition to the above measures, the Proposed Natural Areas Plan will ensure the protection of a representative example of old growth forest from the eastern Northern Peninsula as outlined earlier in Section 2.2.4. The issues related to the ecological integrity of Gros Morne National Park is being addressed through a committee, established by the Province, consisting of representatives from Gros Morne National Park, CBPPL, the departments of FRA and TCR.

3.2 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the management plan is to maintain the integrity of the Main River Waterway Park. The Park will serve as an outstanding example of a river environment characteristic of the Island of Newfoundland and, in particular, of the Great Northern Peninsula. It will be managed in a manner that protects the natural heritage values of the river and facilitates opportunities for water and land based outdoor recreation, adventure, and ecotourism.

The objectives of the management plan are:

- to ensure that the integrity of natural and recreational heritage values of the Main River as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System are effectively conserved and protected in perpetuity;
- to ensure that the river's recreational uses are compatible with the protection of the river's natural heritage;
- to encourage development of sustainable recreational opportunities within the Main River watershed using the waterway park as a focus for related activities;

-
- to provide opportunities for increased natural history appreciation and interpretation of the waterway park and its watershed through adventure and ecotourism.

3.3 MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The formulation of management policies and measures for the Main River Waterway Park be guided by the following management principles:

3.3.1 Preserve River Corridor's Wilderness Character

Priority will be given to maintenance of the wilderness character of the waterway park. Landscapes within the heritage river corridor will be preserved. The establishment of the Special Management Area and associated modified harvest design will ensure that view shed integrity is maintained. Water quality will be monitored to ensure that it retains its pristine condition. As the attached stewardship agreement demonstrates co-operative management strategies will be implemented by the Division to ensure that adjacent land uses and resource development activities in the watershed are conducted in a manner which respect the wilderness character of the heritage river corridor.

3.3.2 Ensure Compatibility of Recreation Uses

Levels and types of visitor use in the waterway park will be limited to those which are not disruptive to the river's wilderness character. Recreational and tourism activities will be encouraged and facilitated, provided they are compatible with the conservation objective. Priority will be given to those activities which provide an opportunity to discover and experience the character of the natural environment.

Access to and levels of recreational and tourism use in the waterway park will be monitored and if necessary controlled in order to ensure a positive experience and to prevent negative ecological effects. A study will be initiated for the Park to determine its carrying capacity for recreational activities on the river and upon the lands that surround it. This will help the managers to determine the level of activity the environment will sustain before natural values are affected.

3.3.3 Ensure Sustainability of Resource Uses

Resource extraction such as mining and timber harvesting will not be permitted. This will ensure a sustainable natural environment for outdoor recreation and tourism. Adventure tourism operators and commercial outfitters will be permitted to use the resources within the waterway park as a means to secure economic benefits from park designation. No new outfitting facilities will be permitted in the park. Sport angling by residents and non-

residents will be permitted in the waterway park. Hunting will be permitted to occur in accordance with existing approved provincial wildlife management plans.

In the Special Management Area and larger managed watershed, resource uses will be managed to protect water quality and preserve the natural character of the river corridor through the cooperative efforts of Provincial and Federal government agencies who regulate resource use. The management process and commitments to achieve this end are described in the appended stewardship agreement.

3.3.4 Foster Local and Public Stewardship

Stakeholders and the public will be involved in the implementation of the plan. In order to encourage a sense of stewardship, Parks and Natural Areas Division will continue to seek input from representatives of local residents, outfitters and other interested members of the public on each major stage of the management plan development, implementation and review.

A Main River' Management Advisory Committee (as referenced in the Stewardship Agreement) will be established by Parks and Natural Areas Division and this will provide a forum for resource management specialists, the general public and local residents to become actively involved and aware of resource management issues for the River and provide advice to the managing agency. As well, Parks and Natural Areas Division will facilitate the formation of a locally based Friends of the Main River based on the existing model used for the Cape St. Mary's Ecological Reserve Friends group. This will help to build upon the existing sense of community stewardship for the river among the local residents.

3.3.5 Develop Ecotourism Opportunities

The Department of TCR will work with the communities of White Bay South to build upon their existing strategic economic plan to capitalize on the potential for non-consumptive adventure tourism in the Main River area. This will help to build upon community stewardship for the river and provide an opportunity to stimulate rural economic development

3.4 MANAGEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUES

In accordance with the principles stated above in section 3.3, and in order to fulfil the management plan objectives stated in 3.2, *upon* designation as a heritage river the Province will declare the Main River as our first waterway park. The area that surrounds the Waterway Park within the watershed boundary will simultaneously be declared a

Special Management area and the Stewardship Agreement will immediately come into effect.

The following policies and measures will be used for management of the heritage values of the waterway park:

3.4.1 Protection of Natural Values

Parts of the river management area will be zoned to ensure the most appropriate management of specific heritage or recreational resources. Zoning provides a means of administrative and development control so that a balance between acceptable uses in the park and the overall objectives of the CRRS can be achieved. Some of the more important considerations in park zoning include: wilderness character preservation, integrity of the viewshed, human activities and their impacts, protection of sensitive habitats, protection of wildlife resources and access and egress for park users.

The total area of the waterway park is 105 sq km. Because this area is just 10 % of the entire watershed, a Special Management Area of 95 sq. km has been established as an additional level of protection for the heritage river. As agreed to in the Stewardship Agreement, resource agencies that regulate resource management in the broader watershed will ensure that activities which occur are done in a manner consistent with maintaining the values of the heritage river corridor. Existing legislation with respect to the protection of water resources in the remaining 80 % of the Main River watershed will be enforced. Adequate buffers as recommended by the appropriate managing agencies (CWS, DFO and Provincial Wildlife) will be established on all tributaries and waterbodies in the watershed.

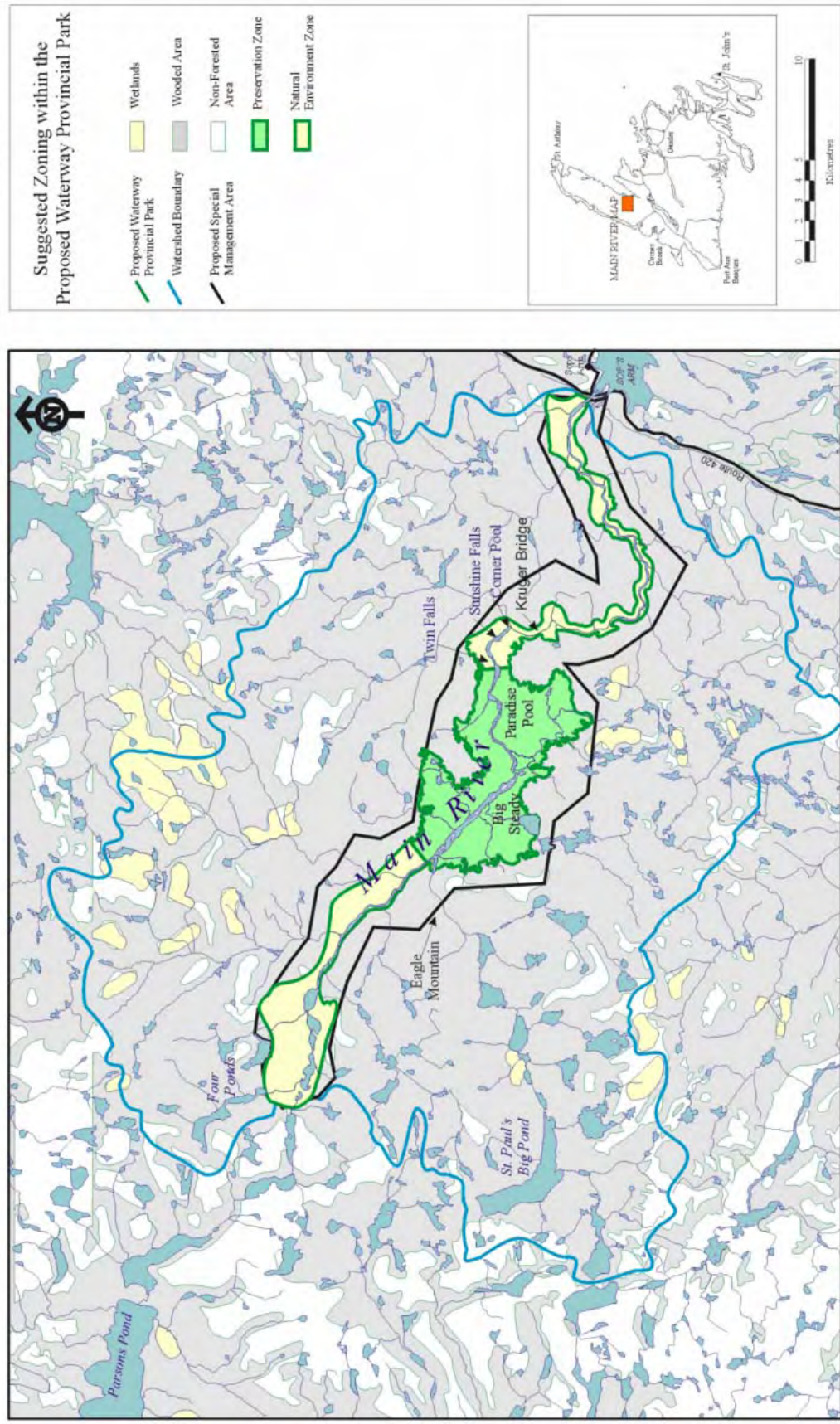
Two zones will be used to manage the Waterway Park (Map 6). These zones will help ensure the protection of natural heritage "and recreational values for which the river was nominated" to the CRRS while permitting effective management as a Provincial Park.

3.4.1.1 Preservation Zone

As shown on Map 6 the Preservation Zone designation is centred on the Big Steady complex located midway through the river system.

The objective of this preservation zone is to designate sections of land within the park for the primary purpose of preserving significant natural features and sensitive ecosystems. This zone will be managed solely as a natural area with no development of facilities other than a designated trail to ensure that

MAP 6



disturbance is kept to a minimum. Motorized access will not be permitted. Activities of a scientific and educational nature may be allowed. By concentrating the preservation zone around the Big Steady there will be increased protection afforded to the critical wildlife habitats(i. e. breeding and spawning sites), sites of special fragility, and special ecosystems of that portion of the river valley. By adding increased protection to the core elements of the natural environment of the Main River, the preservation zone will preserve the most sensitive natural heritage values for which the Main River was nominated to the CHRS.

3.4.1.2 Natural Environment Zone

The Natural Environment Zone for the Main River is shown in Map 6. The objective of the natural environment zone is to designate the remaining sections (upstream and downstream of Big Steady) of the waterway park for the purpose of managing the natural environment so that it can be appreciated and enjoyed through participation in outdoor recreation and tourism related activities. The appreciation and enjoyment of the park would be encouraged in this zone through participation in low intensity outdoor recreation activities. Development would be minimal and generally restricted to low impact developments such as trails, portages, remote camp and picnic sites and interpretive exhibits and signage. Motorized vehicles may be permitted in association with certain outdoor recreation activities (Le. snowmobiling and boating), conditional upon their compatibility with the environment in which they may be used. For example, power boats may be used on some ponds, such as Four Ponds, depending on their accessibility, size, and existing uses. The natural environment zone would be used to protect the general natural and recreational values for which the Main River was nominated to the CHRS.

3.4.2 Management of Resource Development

The Province recognizes that in order to maintain the natural and recreational values for which the river was originally nominated that no industrial development activities can occur within nominated river corridor.

3.4.2.1 Timber Harvesting Activities

Timber harvesting as the primary industrial activity occurring within the watershed, could clearly have a significant impact upon the River's natural and recreational values.

However, with the appropriate management strategies, legislative controls, clearly defined roles and responsibilities the Province believes that this activity can occur within the watershed without having negative impacts on the natural and recreational values for which the Main River was nominated.

The Province's approach to managing timber harvesting in the watershed is as follows:

No timber harvesting will be permitted in the nominated river corridor. Furthermore, in order to honour our commitment to maintain view shed integrity, there will be areas beyond the nominated corridor, that fall within the near viewshed area, which will be designated as no cut zones (Map 5). As a result of the most recent negotiations, CBPPL has agreed to not harvest these lands which had previously been approved for cutting in the current five year plan. This contribution by CBPPL will result in an additional 40 sq. km being removed from the company's current harvesting plans and is a significant contribution to protection of the nominated river corridor and the Provincial Waterway Park. It will not only preserve viewshed integrity but it will contribute to protection of natural and recreational values by setting aside additional undisturbed natural habitat as buffer from industrial activity.

CBPPL have also agreed to undertake a harvesting approach within the far viewshed of the Main River that respects viewshed integrity. The details and specific location of the harvest design will be reviewed in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act, 2000 and approved as outlined in the Stewardship agreement. The conditions of annual approval of the companies one year operating plans DY the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods will ensure that harvest plans are consistent with these commitments

Beyond the viewshed boundary, regulated timber harvesting within watershed boundary will not have an negative impact on the natural and recreational values of the nominated river corridor. Regulations and environmental guidelines help avoid negative occurrences, such as, a severe siltation event on a tributaries beyond the viewshed, poorly planned forest harvesting, or inappropriate forest access road development. A siltation event could be transferred downstream resulting in increased siltation levels on the main stem of the river, degrading water quality, salmon and trout habitat and the recreational experience for river travellers. Therefore, the Province and CBPPL are committed to ensuring that forest harvesting activities within the watershed are managed under a strong regulatory regime that ensures the natural and recreational values of the corridor are not compromised or degraded.

Some background information is necessary to understand how forest management within

the Main River watershed is currently regulated and controlled.

Determining areas of the Province which are suitable for timber harvesting and establishing the quantities of timber to be harvested, are the management responsibilities of the Department of FRA. In this role the Department of FRA develops a forest ecosystem strategy for each of its forest management districts. The Main River watershed is part of FMD 16. The timber limits held by CBPPI include approximately 70 % of the watershed. Pursuant to the Forest Strategy Document for District 16 the crown and companies holding timber rights in District 16 are required to prepare five year forest ecosystem plans that more precisely identify which forest blocks will be harvested, the number and location of required forest access roads, what forest management activities will occur and how all forest values will be considered throughout the life of the plan. During the development of these forest ecosystem plans the general public and interested government departments are invited to participate in the process. This helps to ensure that other forest values are considered and included in the plan. A District Ecosystem Management Planning Team Participant Handbook has been developed to guide the process and help members of the public understand and become involved in the process. These five year plans must be registered and reviewed in under the **Environmental Assessment Act, 2000**.

Following approval of the five year plan the company is required to produce annual operating plans that must be approved by the Department of FRA and submitted to the Minister of Environment and Labour before the commencement of each plan. A set of environmental protection guidelines, have been developed by the Province, to ensure that each annual operating plan meets these guidelines. In addition, any interested Department may review and provide comments to the Department of FRA regarding any aspect of the annual forest operating plan.

In order to maintain the health of the forest ecosystem the amount of wood removed yearly cannot exceed the growth of the forest. The Department of FRA sets an annual allowable cut (AAC) based on maximum sustainable harvest levels. The AAC is a commonly used term to express the quantity of wood that can be harvested sustainably, in a manner that preserves the young growing forest and allows for the harvesting of those stands that are deemed eligible for cutting. The last AAC for District 16 was calculated using the computer program FORMAN + 1 on a forest management district basis. This program utilizes existing forest inventory data and empirical predictions of forest growth (yield curves) to calculate the annual harvest. The AAC is calculated every five years, or sooner if necessitated by major changes to the forest occurring in the interim. The AAC for the next five year plan has not yet been determined but it will be based on the Woodstock and Stanley Model and will apply spatial analysis.

In 1996 , CBPPL registered its Five Year Cutting Plans for Management District 16 (1997-2001) which included the Upper Humber and Main River area. This Plan, and the two amendments to the Plan which followed, have also been released from the Environmental Assessment Process. A more recent amendment submitted in December of 1999 for an area north of the Main River was subsequently withdrawn by CBPPL. It is an area likely to be included for harvesting consideration in the next five year plan. We are currently entering the fifth and final year of this plan. The planning process for the next five year (2002-2007) ecosystem management plan commenced in September, 2000 and will be completed and submitted under the Environmental Assessment Process in June of 2001.

Since CBPPL's last five year plan was approved in 1996, the company has removed approximately of 89,858 cubic metres of productive forest from the Main River watershed (1998-8772 m³, 1999- 21,686 m³, 2000-59,400 m³). According to the plan an additional 101,900 m³ will be harvested in 2001. Combined harvest for the entire duration of the current five year plan is 191,758 m³. This represents 4.26 % of the total productive forest in the watershed (i.e. 4,500,000 m³).

Over the next decade CBPPL intends to continue to harvest productive forest on its timber limits within the Main River watershed (Map 7).

Based on the best available scientific advice provided by the relevant resource managers, the following measures will be included in forest management in the watershed.

- Due to concentrations of waterfowl, the Canadian Wildlife service has recommended that a 100 metre treed buffer be established extending along the river from the Big Steady area upstream to the headwaters. Below the Big Steady, a treed buffer of a minimum of 30 metres should be maintained for all stretches of the river and associated water bodies. This consideration has been incorporated into the design of the heritage river corridor and will be included in current and future forest harvesting plans.
- Thompson et al have done work in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest area and concluded that the deciduous component of the balsam fir forest is extremely important to forest bird species. The forest harvesting that will occur beyond the Waterway Park will leave deciduous species on the forest landscape. Overmature forests and productive sites are important habitat for certain species(e.g. Black-backed woodpecker) and are also essential in maintaining biodiversity. Consequently, the forest with an age of 120 + years preserved in the Main River Waterway Park and Special Management Area will make an important contribution to maintaining biodiversity for forest bird

species.

- In the case of larger clear- cuts, it is recommended that corridors of 70-100 ' metres and no greater length than 1 km be left between forest fragments of at least 100 hectares. It is recognized that clear- cut size and leaves will vary depending on local topography. Within the Waterway Park no harvesting will not be permitted and beyond in the viewshed boundary the harvesting approach will take this recommendation into consideration. It will also be crucial that deciduous species, snags, shrubs and dead trees are left standing when areas are harvested. This will be required by the Department of FRA throughout the viewshed boundary and watershed where ever harvesting occurs.
- DFO's advice on appropriate buffers along waterways to reduce impacts on aquatic species and their habitat is already incorporated into the existing environmental protection guidelines for forest harvesting and these will be strictly enforced. The design of the heritage river corridor surpasses the riparian buffer requirement. In recognition of the Main River as a special protected area CBPPL have agreed to increase the riparian buffer recommended for tributaries on scheduled salmon rivers, to provide a 100 meter buffer for all the major tributaries (Map 9) that flow into the Main. Beyond the protection of riverine and lacustrine habitat these buffer provide important travel corridors for wildlife species.
- The Environmental Protection Guidelines for Forest Harvesting, developed in cooperation with Provincial Wildlife, also require special measures be taken to avoid sensitive wildlife areas (e.g. calving grounds, waterfowl breeding areas, yarding areas for moose, eagle and osprey sites, bear denning sites, etc;).

The guidelines also provide measures to ensure water quality is not affected by forest harvesting. For example, riparian buffers, regulations regarding the siting and construction of forest access roads particularly as it relates to stream crossings and siltation control measures are specifically addressed in the guidelines and are upgraded based on experience and best practices.

Combined, these measures applied to harvesting in the watershed will mitigate impacts on the natural and recreational values of the Main River.

Forest Road Access

Within the nominated river corridor the existing road, built in 1987, which provides the main access for recreational experiences along the river will remain. No new roads will be permitted. Within the viewshed boundary, beyond the nominated river corridor, all

roads required for conducting modified harvesting will be regulated as off-limits to, motorized vehicles other than for use in forestry operations and related monitoring and compliance activities. After harvesting has occurred, these roads will be immediately deactivated and fully rehabilitated. Recognizing that in some locations, due to bedrock exposure and lack of soil development, that full rehabilitation will not result in forest regeneration but a return to natural soil barrens. Map 8 depicts existing and proposed forest access roads.

3.4.2.2 Mineral Exploration

New mineral exploration and mineral extraction activities within the Waterway Park and Special Management Area will be prohibited.

Mineral exploration within the watershed, but outside the park, will be subject to normal permitting and environmental assessment requirements. Any proposed mineral development will undergo environmental screening and approval in accordance with applicable environmental assessment processes.

3.4.2.3 Electricity Generation and Transmission

Hydroelectric power generation development projects and/or electric transmission development will be prohibited within the waterway park and special management area.

Proposed developments within the watershed will be assessed by government agencies according to existing government screening and the requirements of the **Environmental Assessment Act, 2000**.

3.4.2.4 Cottage Development

There are no private cottages within the heritage river corridor and special management area and none will be permitted. There are 3 existing commercial camps within the heritage river corridor they will be permitted to remain. Throughout the remainder of the watershed the Department of TCR will work with the Department of Government Services and Lands to draft a cottage development plan for the watershed area so appropriate control will be maintained and the natural values are not degraded.

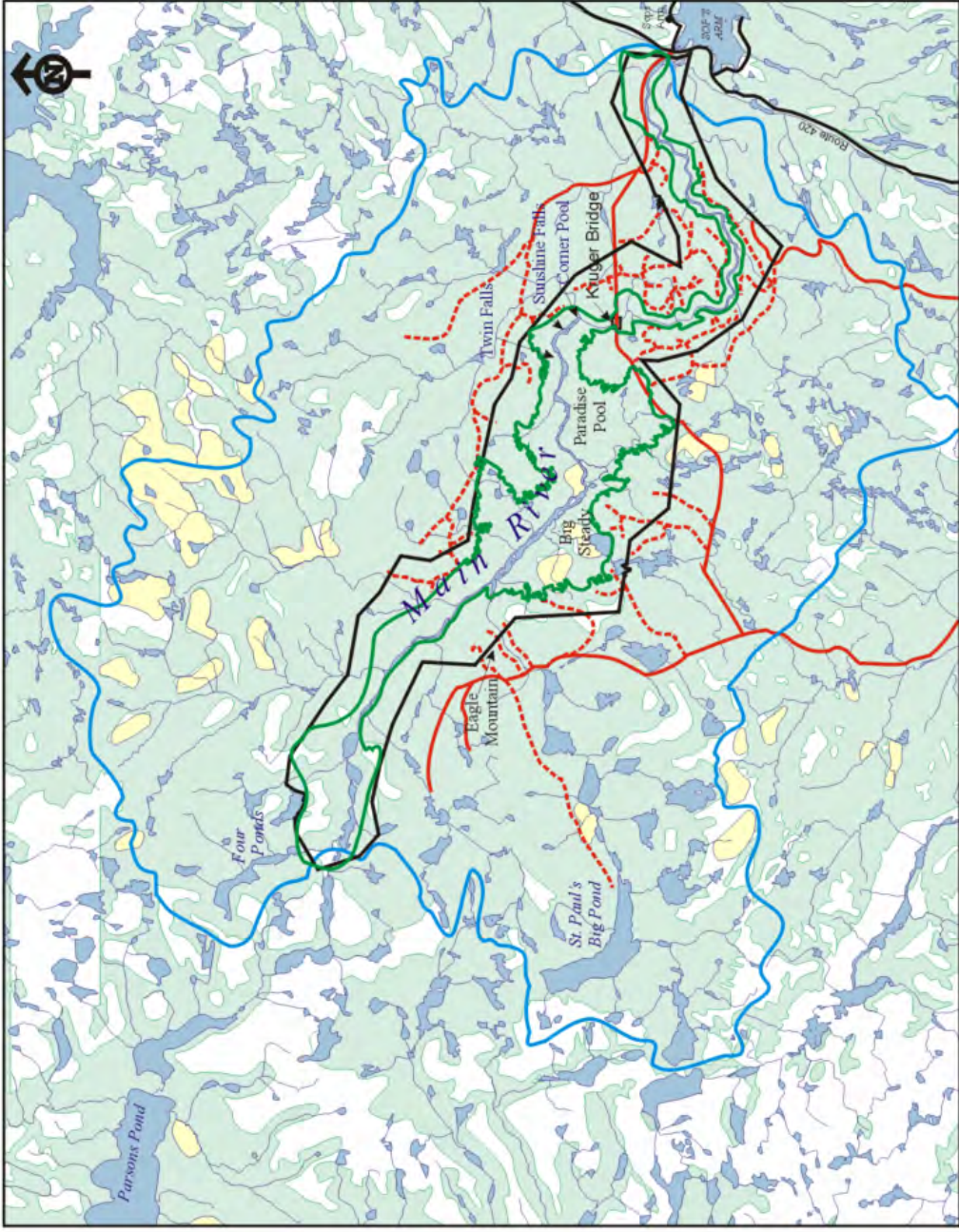
3.4.3 Control of Consumptive Recreation

It is believed that the coexistence of natural heritage protection and consumptive recreational use in the waterway park and the watershed as a whole can be achieved.

MAP 8

Proposed and Existing Forest Access Roads in the Main River Area

- Proposed Waterway
- Provincial Park
- Watershed Boundary
- Proposed Special Management Area
- Woods Roads (Existing)
- Woods Roads (proposed)
- Wetlands
- Wooded Area
- Non-Forested Area



It is vital that Atlantic salmon angling activities be accompanied by effective control and enforcement of regulations by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as by provision of appropriate trails, portages and campsites. Regular consultation with Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be undertaken to ensure that the appropriate measures are in place to ensure for conservation of the Main River's fish populations.

There is currently an active 3 year (1999-2001) Atlantic Salmon Management Plan for the Province. The Main River is part of Salmon Management Zone 3, the Northeast Coast, and falls within the category of a Class 2 River. That is it possesses the following characteristics:

- smaller to medium in size, where salmon spawning targets have been met on average since 1992,
- The river supports a medium population of salmon,
- the river has been subject to fluctuations in environmental conditions (ie. closures due to high water temperature and low water levels)
- rivers that are remote in location and angling effort
- rivers that have stable and high catch per unit of effort based on historical data.

For Class Two Rivers there is a four fish retention level. The current protocol requires the closing of the river if the water temperature rises to 22°C along with low water levels. The Daily Hook and Release for Class Two will be four fish released per day.

To provide some sanctuary for salmon that may become trapped in pools during low water levels, DFO have closed areas of the Main River to angling. For 300 metres above and below Wardens Pool and 300 metres above and 150 metres below Sunshine Pool the River remains closed to anglers.

A counting fence is operated on the Northwest Branch of the river by an outfitter but the fence wasn't operational in 2000 due to high water levels.

It is not known how many anglers fished the Main River during the past season but this information will be included with stubs from the licences that will be returned this fall. There are no river specific salmon licences in the Province, with the exception of the National Parks. One licence entitles a licence- holder to fish any scheduled salmon river.

As a precautionary measure a number of trout management actions have been instituted province-wide, namely, a 50% reduction in the bag limits, a shortening of the season in

both summer and winter, and increased enforcement efforts.

Hunting for big and small game species will be permitted throughout the waterway park provided that this activity does not negatively impact upon the natural and recreational values for which the river was nominated to the CHRS. All hunting activity must occur as prescribed by the **Wildlife Act** and will be monitored to ensure it does not interfere with the other activities for which the park is established. Where necessary, from a visitor safety perspective certain areas of the Park may be zoned as closed to hunting for certain periods of the year.

As already discussed, motorized access on any roads within the viewshed boundary will be restricted to persons involved in forest harvesting. No ATV's will be permitted in the Waterway Park.

3.4.4 Scientific Research and Monitoring

Scientific research within the waterway park will be encouraged and permitted. Parks and Natural Areas Division will issue Scientific Research Permits to qualified researchers to ensure field studies are conducted according to appropriate regulations. Monitoring of the river channel and corridor will be conducted on an ongoing basis by the Division to determine the impact of human use and natural processes on the flora, fauna and water quality of the park.

The Water Resources Division intends to continue to undertake water quality and hydrologic monitoring. This plan does not intend to duplicate those monitoring efforts which have been going on for many years, rather, it is intended that the monitoring proposed here will supplement and enhance that data collection and information dissemination work.

Although the Main River was not nominated to CHRS on the basis of human heritage values, further research may be undertaken by appropriate agencies as resources permit to determine if the area has significant historic and prehistoric resources. The Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park will recommend that a Historic Resources Overview Assessment be carried out for the Park. This involves an extensive document search, direct consultations and interviews, preliminary field reconnaissance to determine whether there is evidence to merit a more detailed archeological survey of the area.

Ownership of all archeological objects in the Province are vested in the Crown under the **Historic Resources Act**. The Act also requires that the Minister be notified of any new discovery within 30 days.

The Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park will recommend a detailed botanical

and avifaunal survey of the Heritage river corridor.

3.5 MANAGEMENT OF RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

The management of recreational and tourism use in the waterway park will be directed towards the provision of low density, back-country travel along the river. Involvement of the public in managing the use of the river will be encouraged in order to foster public stewardship and appreciation of the waterway park.

3.5.1 Camping

Riverside camping is recognized as a traditional activity associated with fishing and canoeing. The following policies will direct the management of this and other forms of camping in the waterway park:

- camping will be encouraged at designated sites;
- camping along the river will continue at low density and facilities kept to a minimum;
- maintenance standards for campsite and day use picnic site will be of a wilderness experience type
- a pack-in/pack-out policy will apply to garbage disposal
- group camping will be monitored and a party size restriction may be established to protect the environment and the experience of others.

3.5.2 Angling

Ecologically sustainable angling, especially for Atlantic salmon, within the waterway park and the rest of the watershed will be encouraged. This will be achieved through the cooperative efforts of Parks and Natural Areas Division and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The following policies will be promoted:

- if necessary, encouragement of a catch and release policy among all outfitters;
- enforcement of existing federal fishing regulations;
- monitoring of fish stocks, particularly large salmon;
- provision of additional protection for critical habitats within the park, such as Paradise Pool, and spawning areas in the headwaters.

3.5.3 Commercial Outfitting and Adventure Tourism

The province's outfitting industry is strictly regulated and there are controls on the number of outfitting operations which can occur in one area. In 1988 an 8 km buffer was established around each commercial big game outfitting camp. Within this 8 km buffer no other outfitting business or recreational cottage can be established. This was instituted in order to address resource conservation issues, enhance and protect the economic viability of the outfitting industry, ensure tourists receive a quality experience, address resident concerns and demands for fishing and hunting opportunities. Outfitters are not given the exclusive right to hunt and fish or own and control large tracts of lands. Residents are permitted to hunt, fish or camp within the outfitter's buffer zone, but not develop a cottage. In this manner outfitting in the watershed is controlled.

The Department of TCR will encourage the further development and promotion of non-consumptive adventure tourism in the nominated river corridor and Main River watershed.

Within the nominated river corridor and watershed boundary no new camps will be permitted. The three existing camps within the nominated river corridor will be permitted to stay.

Commercial outfitters will be permitted to access the waterway park for the purposes of sport angling and hunting. Commercial adventure tour operators will be permitted to access the waterway park to conduct tours and pursue business provided they adhere to pertinent park regulations. The control and future expansion of adventure tourism and commercial sport angling and big game hunting within the waterway park will be monitored and managed within the context of preserving the natural and recreational values for which the park was established.

Any potential environmental impacts of such proposals will be carefully reviewed by Parks and Natural Areas Division in relation to the management plan policies.

Access to the river will be through existing and possibly other entry locations provided in the future. A co-operative arrangement with outfitters and adventure tour operators will be sought to ensure that river access will be adequate.

3.5.4 River Based Recreation

Canoeing, kayaking and rafting will be encouraged but managed by such measures as:

- provision of information to potential river tourists on access and

river navigation by using real time data from the data collection platform located at Paradise Pool, operated by the Water Resources Division, to inform the public about varying water levels or flows to ensure that activities can be carried out safely, eg. Water levels are sufficient or flow of water is not adequate for any given activity.

- rerouting of portages where necessary to reduce biophysical stress on terrain;
- designating access points, trails, and portages;
- developing primitive campsites at key locations along the river;
- developing and publicizing codes of practice for campfires and garbage disposal; and
- issuing permits and/or licenses to control these activities within the waterway park.

Once a Master Plan is developed for the Waterway Park the planning of trails, campsites and other facilities and services will be identified where appropriate. The plan will seek to ensure that development will support recreational experiences in the corridor but not to a level that detracts from the naturalness of the experience, or surpasses the carrying capacity of the river environment.

3.5.5 Existing Access

The only vehicular access to the proposed waterway park is along the Kruger Inc. woods road which transects the Main River downstream of Corner Pool. It is anticipated that use of this road by the paper company will continue. Local residents also use the road to access the Main River and its watershed. The road provides easy access to the waterway park for future. No new roads will be permitted in the Waterway Park and any new roads in the Special Management Area will be decommissioned.

It may be necessary over time to restrict speed limits on this road, particularly for larger vehicles, to ensure the safety and enjoyment of park users.

3.5.5.1 All Terrain Vehicles

The use of all terrain vehicles in the Waterway Park and Special Management Area will be prohibited. No ATV trails will be permitted within the Provincial Waterway Park and Special-Management Area. The main road which leads from the community of White Bay to the Kruger Bridge will continue to allow motorized access to the River.

3.4.5.2 Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles will be permitted within the Waterway Provincial Park but known sensitive areas for wildlife during the winter period will be designated as off-limits to snowmobiles.

Snowmobiling within the park will be subject to the following policies:

- season for use of snowmobiles will be defined and information posted;
- snowmobile use will be monitored and, where damage to heritage values occurs, restricted to designated routes within the park;
- sensitive terrain (*e.g.* bogs) will be designated off limits.

3.5.5.3 Motor Boats

Motor boats will be permitted within the waterway park subject to the following restrictions:

- Motor boats used on the main channel of the Main River will be restricted to a maximum of 6 H.P. to ensure the wilderness experience of the river is not reduced;
- Motor boats used on any of the headwater lakes will be restricted to a maximum of 20 H.P.

3.5.5.4 Aircraft

The use of aircraft will be controlled as follows:

- landing/take off areas will be designated within the waterway park, but not at Big Steady;
- a minimum altitude of 300 meters will be enforced for aircraft flying over the waterway park except when landing or in emergency situations;
- fuel storage and handling will be controlled by designating fuel storage areas and enforcing existing regulations in the storage and use of fuels;
- aircraft docking facilities will be assessed and permitted where environmental assessment indicates minimal impacts.

3.5.6 Interpretation

Interpretation of the heritage values for which the river was nominated to the CHRS will be undertaken by Parks and Natural Areas Division. As resources permit, visitors will be provided with information on wildlife viewing opportunities. In addition:

- natural history interpretive programs will be provided to encourage an appreciation and understanding of the natural heritage values and to foster appropriate attitudes toward river use;
- learning opportunities using various media may be provided for visitors and others Interested in learning about the natural heritage and recreational values of the river;
- hiking trails to points of interest within the park will be maintained as resources permit.

3.5.7 Visitor Services

In order for the local communities of White Bay to take advantage of this unique opportunity it is essential that interpretive services are provided for a number of reasons:

- to foster stewardship for the site, within the adjacent community and surrounding region
- to familiarize the visitor with the site and to direct them to points of interest
- to make the experience value- added.
- because the ecotourist is concerned that sensitive sites not be damaged for the sake of tourism and the provision of guides ensures that visitors are directed in a manner that helps to minimize impacts on sensitive habitats.

Objectives of the Interpretive Guide Program

This represents an opportunity for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador to:

- create employment in a rural area of the province where unemployment is high.
- develop curriculum specifically tailored to interpreting the natural history of Main River for delivery in local schools.
- increased local community involvement and support for the Park and CHRS;
- increased public awareness and appreciation of the ecological values of the Park;
- increase protection for the site by providing a local presence at the Reserve that will deter inappropriate use and damage to the site;
- promote the site from an ecotourism perspective thereby contributing to

-
- economic development in the local area.
 - Meet the market demands of the ecotourism sector, by providing high quality interpretative program and scheduled guided program

The Main River product is **Unique, Genuine, Distinct, Significant and, Dramatic**. These are the unique selling points of the provincial marketing campaign. Parks & Natural Areas complement this program by focusing on the niche markets that would have a special interest: ego natural history enthusiasts, botanists, birders, river recreationists, anglers. Specific niches are much easier to reach through a targeted program and much easier to convert to buyers.

This type of clientele would possess the following characteristics

- high level of knowledge and interest in natural history
- high level of disposable income
- travel frequently or long distances to pursue their interest
- age range 40 +, generally no children at home
- are generally affiliated with some professional organization
- have high expectations for quality of service, accuracy of interpretation, ease of trip planning, want the opportunity to "experience" or participate in a place.

Nature tourism and ecotourism have recently become the high growth areas within the travel industry. Recent tourism studies note that nature tourists spend more time in a particular area and spend more money during their stay. On average, a nature tourist travel party spends just under \$ 900 per trip, whereas non-nature tourist parties spend an average of \$470 per trip. The Product Market Match Study of 1996, identified Natural Heritage Tourism as the most important reason for discretionary travel to Newfoundland & Labrador, today and for the future. The study also noted that the major natural heritage product in the province is owned, managed and operated by the Provincial and Federal government. given the proximity of Main River to Gros Morne National Park a World Heritage Site, it is likely that adventure tourists may be willing to extend their stay to experience the Main River. This is especially true given the recent national attention focussed on this site by the media.

Hence for a market development perspective, the main challenge is to reach the appropriate potential users and attract them to the site. Pending the financial resources, the focus of a marketing strategy would be as follows;

Increase Awareness for both resident and non-resident markets.

Resident:

- focus on placing advertisements in local print and broadcast mediums
- development of a mobile display including a slide show
- production of two full color brochures, one general lure piece and the

-
- second a saleable natural history piece.
 - development of a focused school curriculum package for implementation into the "Parks as Natures Classroom" program, which is implemented island wide.

Non-Resident.

Market Development will be focused on niche markets.

- internet promotion Utilizing the existing Parks & Reserve web site to promote the site.
- media awareness will be created by packaging text and visual images for a variety of media (magazines, newspapers, outdoor TV shows, radio shows) to encourage them to create a story on the site.
- advertising will include: VTT A Travelers Guide, the provincial Travel Guide, and the In-Province Tourism Campaign. Non-resident markets will be targeted through the purchase of advertisement placement with a variety of national and international magazines these will include;
 - Canadian Wildlife
 - Audubon
 - National Parks
 - National Wildlife
 - Seasons
 - Nature Canada

3.5.7.1 Orientation

The primary objective of visitor services will be to orient the visitor to the heritage and recreational attributes of the Main River Waterway Park. The existing Sop's Arm Provincial Park will serve as a staging area. It will act as a primary point of access to the river and could also become the location of a visitor center where users become oriented to and educated about the waterway park. Self-directed approaches, such as publications and display panels could be used to deliver messages on interpretation, recreational skills and park management.

3.5.7.2 Public Information

An information publication for park users will be developed by the Division. It will include a map and text that will enable users to safely explore and use the river. Information will be provided that will:

-
- direct river visitors away from sensitive habitat areas;
 - encourage low impact camping at dispersed sites;
 - promote a "leave no trace" user ethic;
 - advise visitors of safety hazards including severe weather conditions and river navigability problems;
 - stress the importance of respecting other users;
 - inform visitors about the commercial services (*i.e.* outfitters, off-site hotel/motels) and attractions that are available in the area;
 - acquaint visitors with the natural values as well as the recreational opportunities of the river and the skills required for minimum impact river travel.

3.5.7.3 Signage

A consistent sign system will be established to inform and direct visitors to facilities and services offered in the waterway park. This will involve the integration of provincial highway signs as well as Sop's Arm Provincial Park and CHRS signs. Campsites and portages along the river will be marked by unobtrusive signs. Some self-use outdoor, unobtrusive displays may be developed at natural sites for educational purposes.

3.6 MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3.6.1 Management of the Main River Provincial Waterway Park

As administrators of the **Provincial Parks Act**, management of the Main River Waterway Park will be the responsibility of Parks and Natural Areas Division. The Division will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the final management plan and for subsequent plan reviews. The Parks and Natural Areas Division staff will be responsible for the day to day management of the park as well as for enforcement of park regulations.

The Division will coordinate the ongoing input from stakeholders including all government agencies having responsibilities in the Main River watershed.

3.6.2 Cooperative Management of Watershed

Coordination of land uses within the Main River watershed will be arranged through the Interdepartmental Land Use Committee (ILUC), whose mandate it is to refer proposals

for land use to all governmental land use and resource management agencies. In addition, the provincial environmental assessment process will ensure the review of proposed developments within the park and the watershed as a whole.

The Main River Stewardship Agreement, in and of itself, is a clearly defined cooperative management approach for activities occurring within the watershed. The objective of the Agreement is: *to establish processes and commitments which will ensure the integrity of the natural, recreational and cultural values for which the Main River has been nominated for Canadian Heritage River Status*. More specifically, the Stewardship Agreement addresses: the management plan, viewscape, forest management, wildlife management, fisheries management, road decommissioning, science, economic development and ongoing consultation. Furthermore, the formation of a management advisory committee and the Friends of the Main River will foster cooperative stewardship for the River.

3.6.3 Management Plan Review

The Main River management plan will be reviewed according to provincial parks policy, on an ongoing basis. The review will normally include:

- evaluation of the previous management plan, including the status of its implementation;
- review of the planning process leading to the management plan;
- update of background information and data about resources and use;
- discussion of proposed revisions recommended by the public, interested agencies and other stakeholders.

4.0 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND VISITOR USE ISSUES

Two tasks were undertaken in order to ascertain the most significant issues that should be addressed in the management plan and to obtain the views of those individuals and agencies which could be affected by the management plan (i.e. stakeholders). Questionnaires were sent to a list of individuals in regulatory agencies and other interested groups and supplemental discussions were held in many cases to gain a clear understanding of issues and concerns. As well, three public open houses were held in the area (1992,1995 and 2000). This chapter presents the results of these consultations.

4.1 INFORMATION COLLECTION

4.1.1 Agency and Group Questionnaires

Comments and concerns were solicited from federal and provincial departments, industry, outfitters, and interest groups. Questionnaires tailored to the type of organization receiving the questionnaire, a brief letter explaining the history of the study, and a map showing the study area were sent on September 20, 1991. Covering letters and questionnaires were sent to forty individuals representing industry, government, and interest groups. A total of 27 responses were received (see Appendix 3).

Also, a visit was made to the Gros Morne National Park (GMNP) on Thursday July 16, 1992 and a discussion was held with Mr. Gary Pittman, Public Liaison Officer with the park concerning the Management Plan for Main River.

4.1.2 Public Open Houses

Public Open Houses were held in Sop's Arm on July 15, 1992 at the Community Centre, and in Corner Brook on July 16,1992 in order to review concept alternatives for a management plan and to receive comments and concerns from the public regarding the management of the Main River as a CHR(Appendix 4). Three concept alternatives presented were based on three different legislative mechanisms: Wilderness Reserve, Provincial Waterway Park and Ecological Reserve.

A second round of Public Open Houses were held in Deer Lake on June 6, 1995 and in Sop's Arm on June 7, 1995 to discuss the preliminary contents of this management plan (see Appendix 5). At that time, most residents of the area expressed support for protecting the river, especially from timber harvesting. Local residents want the river protected but also want assurances that popular pastimes such as hunting and snowmobiling will continue when the park is established.

On December 5 and 6, 2000 a third round of Public Open Houses were held in Pollard's Point and Corner Brook to review the revised preliminary management plan and proposed management regime for the Main River. Written comments were submitted at that time and are summarized in Appendix 6. In general, there was overall support for establishing the Main River as a heritage river and for the suggested management regime. However, the following concerns were identified: no cutting should occur within the viewshed boundary, the entire watershed should be protected and there should be stronger protection for pine marten. Two issues of public concern: protection of old growth forest and the ecological integrity of GMNP, were also raised but are beyond the scope of the heritage river designation. These two issues are being addressed as outlined in Section 3.1 through other ongoing processes, namely, the Province's Proposed Natural Areas Plan and the Working Committee on the Ecological Integrity of Gros Morne.

All open houses were organized and held by Parks and Natural Areas Division. An information package was sent to interested groups before the meeting and a preliminary management plan was made available at the open houses.

4.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This section describes and provides a brief analysis of the major issues identified in the Main River watershed. The issues are divided into two categories: Resource Management and Visitor Use.

4.2.1 Timber Harvesting

The Province (and its partners in the stewardship agreement) recognize that forest harvesting, as the primary industrial activity occurring in the Main River watershed, must be addressed in this plan. The proposed management regime must ensure that forest harvesting operations occur in a manner that does not jeopardize the natural and recreational values for which the Main River corridor was originally nominated. Section 3.4.2.1 outlines in some detail the approach to forest harvesting in the watershed.

4.2.2 Forest Road Construction

The logging road (20 km) and bridge that extends westward from Sops Arm have increased access to the Main River and its watershed. The associated bridge has become the focal point of a great deal of recreational activity including the launching of watercraft for downstream travel and the accessing of hiking trails. The road and the bridge have greatly increased the number of anglers utilizing the area. Since the building of the bridge the number of rod days has generally increased to a high of 3329 in 1994. One exception is the year 1989 when rod days reached a low of 540.

Significant woods road development was planned as part 1997-2001 plan. To date, approximately 30 kilometres of roads including main capital roads and secondary operating roads have been developed in the Island Pond and Four Ponds area. Existing and proposed roads are indicated on Map 8.

From a management perspective the cumulative impacts of forest access roads on the wilderness quality of the heritage river corridor must be addressed. Increased access to the river corridor can lead to increased hunting and angling pressure, both legal and illegal. Experience shows that access roads are often used as a focused area of illegal cabin development, litter, illegal domestic cutting and other environmentally undesirable activities. Main River has been nominated for its wilderness character and increased access will diminish the opportunity for a wilderness experience. Section 3.4.2.1 explains how this issue will be addressed in the heritage river corridor and the viewshed boundary.

4.2.3 Mineral Exploration

No new mineral exploration or mineral development will be permitted in the Provincial Waterway Park and Special Management Area.

4.2.4 Electricity Generation and Transmission

Potential hydroelectric sites have been identified on the Main River, including a 7.6 megawatt site at Parson's Pond in the headwaters and a 110 megawatt site near Sop's Arm. The 110 megawatt project would involve a large relatively high dam and would create a large reservoir with deep flooding extending up stream beyond the Big Steady. This development would clearly be in conflict with management objectives and the natural and recreation value selection guidelines for the Main River. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has indicated that it will not pursue the development near Sop's Arm. The sensitivity of this area, and its obvious potential for alternative uses were the paramount factors governing Hydro's decision. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has also stated that it would waive hydro development rights for the 7.6 MW development of Parson's Pond should the Main River become a CHR.

4.2.5 Rare and Endangered Species

The only rare species known to occur in the heritage river corridor is the Newfoundland pine marten. There have been no rare plants, birds or other wildlife species reported for the area. Canadian Wildlife Service has advised that since harlequin surveys have not been conducted on all tributaries of the Main, the area should be considered potential harlequin habitat. With the recent discovery of gap replacement forest in the Main River

there have been discovery of 7 species of spiders never before recorded for the Island. Further research may reveal rare species associated with the gap replacement forest that occurs within the heritage river corridor.

4.2.6 Identification and Protection of Archaeological Resources

Although there is a lack of rigorous research into human heritage resources in the region, the background study indicated that the potential archaeological sites may possibly be of high national significance at the mouth of the river and outside the nominated corridor on the islands in Southern White Bay. Comprehensive archaeological surveys are lacking, especially along the immediate shoreline of the river and particularly in the Sops Arm region where the possibility for archaeological sites is high.

4.2.7 Viewshed Maintenance

The outstanding natural viewscape as one travels along the Main River is one of primary natural values for which the River was originally nominated. This value adds enormously to any recreational experience on the river. In order to ensure that these viewscales are not negatively impacted by forest harvesting activity, the viewshed boundary has been defined (Map 5) and management actions to ensure for its integrity are outlined in Section 3.4.2.1

4.2.8 Wildlife Management

As outlined earlier, Main River is an area rich in wildlife. The existence of this natural value enriches any river experience by providing the opportunity to view wildlife in its natural setting. Big game hunting and fishing are activities offered by existing outfitting operators in the area and are activities in which local residents participate. In order to ensure that wildlife populations remain healthy, their needs will be addressed in the Master Plan for the Proposed Provincial Waterway Park and taken into account during the preparation of the five year forest ecosystem plan and annual forest operating plans.

The management agencies responsible for wildlife management are partners in the stewardship agreement and they have responsibility for producing sound wildlife management plans. Their advice has been sought with respect to wildlife management needs within the heritage river corridor, as well as in the watershed. This advice has been implemented in our management approach to forest harvesting, angling, hunting, ecotourism, etc; In addition, the Stewardship Agreement requires partners to share scientific advice as it becomes available. This ensures that Parks and Natural Areas Division, as the managing agency for the heritage river, is made aware on a timely basis of any adjustments to wildlife management policies within the heritage river corridor, or

the watershed, and will be able to provide input into to formulation of such policies.

Pine Marten:

The American marten (Newfoundland population) (*Manes americana atrata*) has been declining in numbers and distribution since the early 1900's and was assigned endangered status by The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) in 1996. A Newfoundland Marten Recovery Team consisting of marten research scientists, wildlife managers was formed in 1990 and a Recovery Plan was published (1995). Eventually the Recovery Team expanded to include stakeholders and others with an interest in marten recovery. The Recovery Plan defines recovery actions needed to protect and recover the species. Once found over much of the Island, the Newfoundland marten was considered sufficiently rare to prompt the closure of the trapping season for marten in 1934. It has never reopened. Forest structure usually found in mature to overmature boreal forest is considered preferred pine marten habitat.

In 1973 the pine marten study area was established in the Little Grand Lake area on the west coast of the Island. An attempt to build up or restock the Main River population was made in 1976 with the release of 11 animals. Since the early 1980's a significant amount (hundreds of thousands of dollars) of pine marten research has been undertaken on the Island. Over a two year period, live trapping results from ongoing marten research in the Main River study area indicated the presence of at least 35 individual marten in the Main River study area and it is estimated that over 50 animals may occur throughout the Main River watershed.

The Newfoundland Pine Marten Recovery Plan recognizes that there needs to be 3 core areas which can support a minimum effective population of 50 marten. The Little Grand Lake and Terra Nova areas have been identified as 2 core areas. While efforts have been underway at Terra Nova for the past 15 years, the marten population there has not reached more than 20. Beyond loss of habitat there are other issues that threaten marten survival: accidental trapping and snaring, predation, disease and possibly a depauperate prey base. .

The Province has: introduced a modified snare and trap, designed to reduce accidental capture of marten and attempted to introduce marten in certain areas. In addition, based on pine marten research by John Bissonette and others, the Province has been involved in testing modified harvest guidelines designed to help mitigate forest harvesting impacts on marten.

Productive marten habitat based on age of the forest is no longer seen as a key indicator. There has been a suggested change in the habitat definition. Stand structure is now considered the principal indicator. The Province is trying to establish a minimum

effective viable population of marten across the landscape. We are now into the second year of the four year modified harvest study. The Department of FRA negotiated with CBPPL a set of guidelines to allow a modified cut in the Main River area. The study requires that a pre-cut pattern is established and then researchers continue to monitor, the marten dispersion as selective harvesting continues (Map 9). The Model Forest is also interested in testing these guidelines with respect to their impacts on other species. There is a need to test and apply a set of harvest guidelines designed with marten needs in mind, so that good provisions can be adopted for conducting harvesting activities in marten habitat in general.

These guidelines are currently under review based on new research that suggests the existing guidelines may be inadequate to protect marten populations.

The Stewardship Agreement will address pine marten management. The Department of FRA and GMNP are conducting ongoing surveys to determine the extent of the marten population in the Main River area. Additionally, the Department of FRA is working with other stakeholders to determine guidelines to ensure proper habitat is maintained. The goal is to maintain, or enhance, the marten population in the watershed. Management strategies will be put in place utilizing the best science available, to ensure that this goal is met. The Management Plan for the Heritage River will act positively towards this goal. Initial estimates are that the Proposed Waterway Provincial Park and Special Management Area will contain enough habitat to possibly maintain home ranges for 15 to 20 marten.

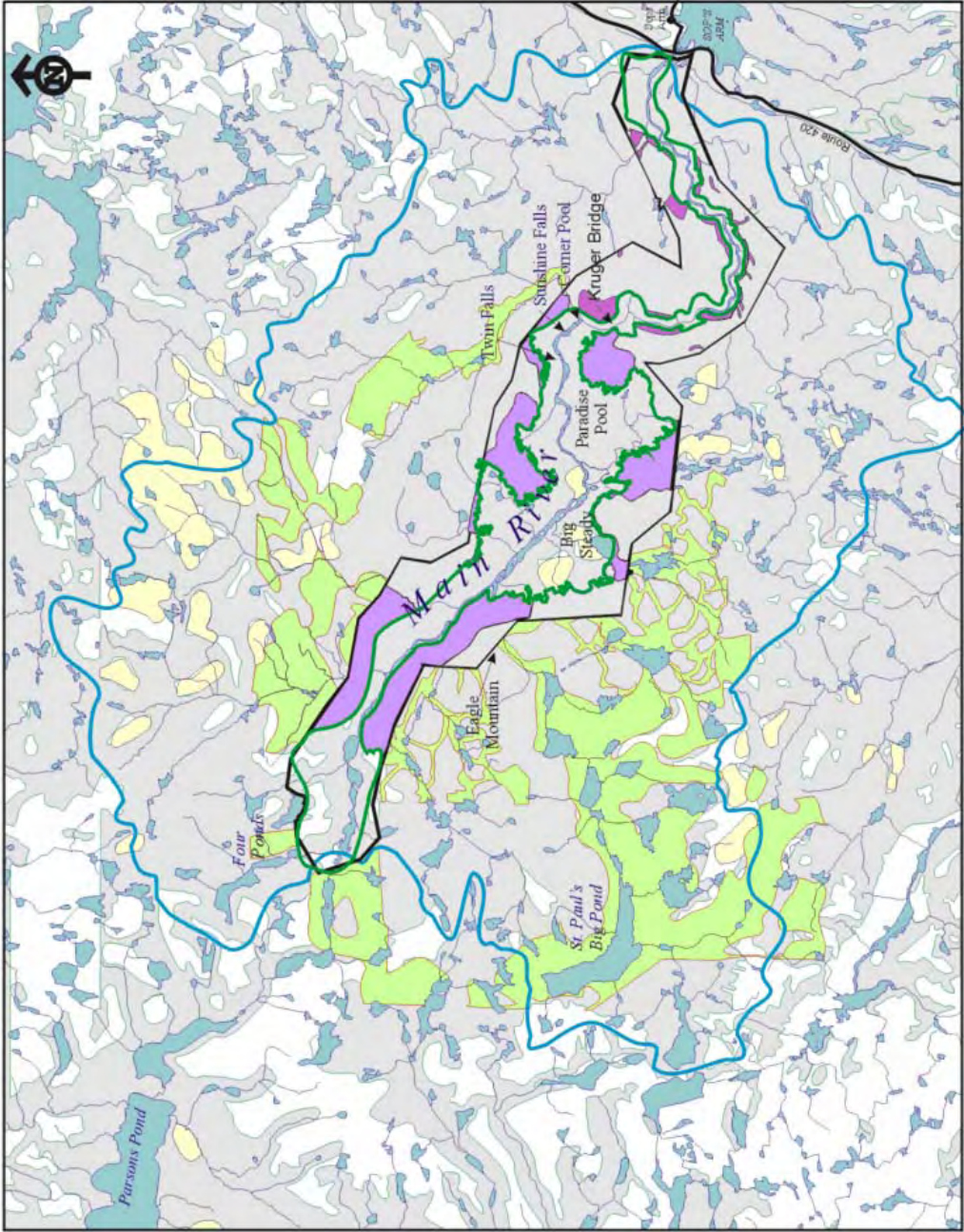
4.2.9 Outfitting and Ecotourism

While these activities do not have the same level of impact as most major industrial activity, if allowed to develop uncontrolled they could result in degradation of the very resources they depend upon (Le. healthy wildlife populations and relatively undisturbed natural environments). The Department of TCR review all proposals within the Province to establish outfitting operations. TCR, through the crown lands review process, can control the approval process for new camps. The Province has also set the following guideline: no camp may be located within a 8 km radius of any other big game outfitting camp. This requirement ensures that the number of operators in any one area does not exceed its carrying capacity.

The current level of consumptive adventure tourism is considered sustainable as the number of big game and salmon licences issued to each outfitter for sale to customers is strictly controlled. These numbers are in keeping with the limits set by wildlife management plans and salmon management plans. Currently there are 7 companies with a total of 13 camps in the watershed (Map 10), 11 are traditional hunting and fishing operations, the remaining two offer hunting and fishing but are also involved in

Altered Cutting Regime for Wildlife in the Main River Watershed

-  Proposed Waterway Provincial Park
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Proposed Special Management Area
-  Wetlands
-  Wooded Area
-  Non-Forested Area
-  Modified Harvest Zones
-  No Cut Zones
-  Wildlife Corridors



snowmobiling and this is a segment that is quickly growing. These companies employ a total of 40-45 staff members. The river system and adjacent land offer outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities. There are currently 3 legal commercial outfitting camps located in heritage river corridor. Two of these camps in the Big Steady belong to Eileen Hynes (Cow Head Outfitters) and the other is, the property of Angus Wentzell at Four Ponds, in the headwaters of Main River. These camps offer big game hunting and fishing. The 13 outfitting camps located in the Main River watershed may use the heritage river corridor from time to time. Access for clients is by fly-in only in the headwaters area.

List of Outfitters their Location and Activities

Angus N. Wentzell (1 camp)

Angus N. Wentzell's Hunting and Fishing Camps

Four Ponds

Activity: Hunting and Fishing Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout

Eileen Hynes

Cow Head Outfitters (3 camps)

Caribou Lake, Woody Lake and the Big Steady

Activity: Mainly Hunting and fishing

Sam Caines (3 camps)

Sam's Hunting Camp

1 St. Paul's Big Pond, and 2 located at the northern boundary of the watershed.

Activity: Hunting Moose, Caribou, Black Bear

Gene Manion (1 camp)

Main River Lodge

Eagle Mountain Pond area

Activity: Fishing Atlantic Salmon

Roger Keough(1 camp)

Leslie Lake

Activity: Mainly hunting with some fishing of Atlantic Salmon and brook trout

Brad Chaulk (1 camp)





High Country Ventures

Eagle Mountain Pond

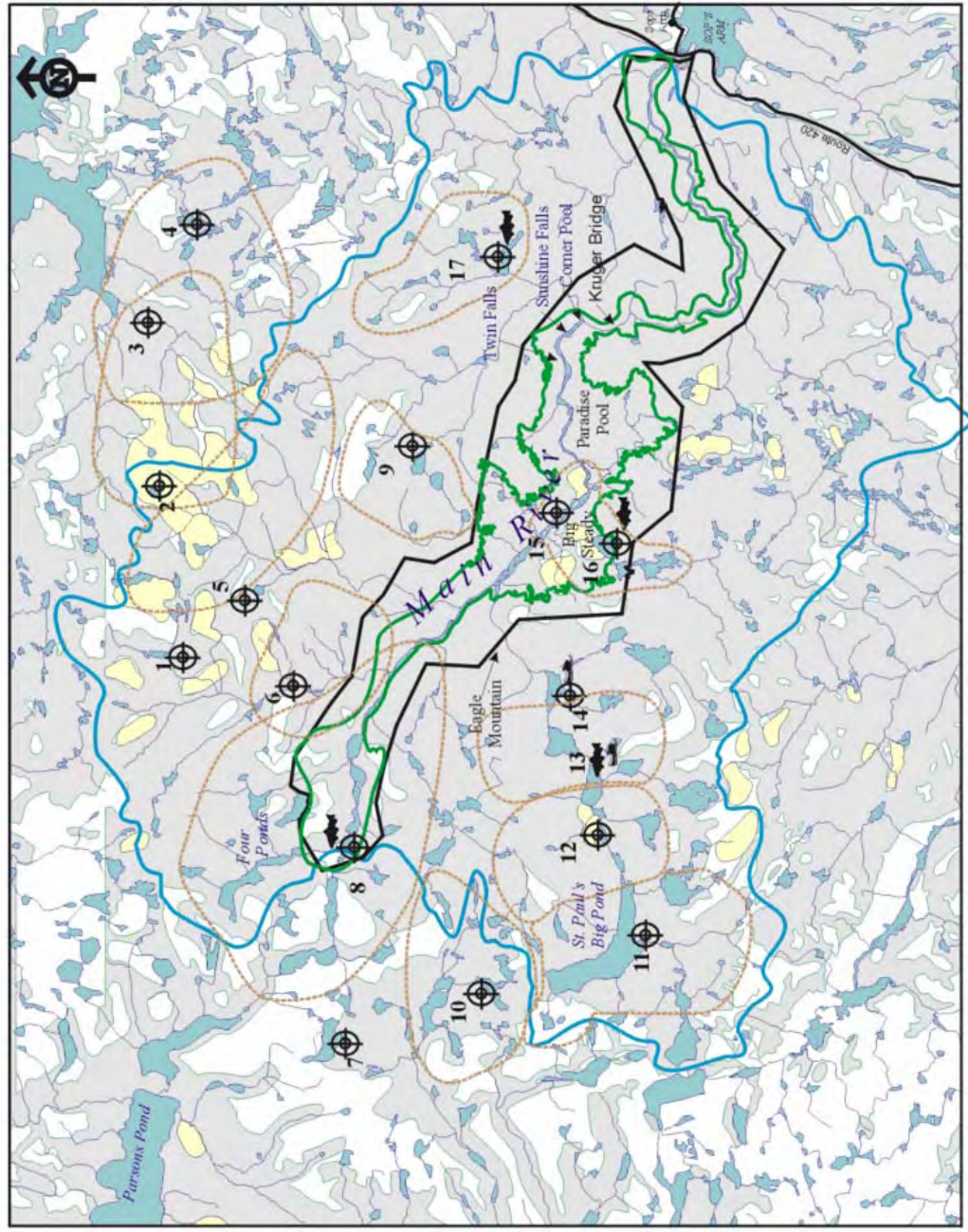
Activity: Big Game Hunting & Snowmobiling Tours

Outfitter Camp Locations in the Main River Watershed

-  Proposed Waterway
-  Wetlands
-  Provincial Park
-  Wooded Area
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Non-Forested Area
-  Proposed Special Management Area

-  Hunting Lodge
-  Outfitters Hunting Ranges
-  Fishing Lodge
-  Snowmobile Camp

- 1 Casse Hunting Camp
- 2 Payne's Hunting & Fishing
- 3 Payne's Hunting & Fishing
- 4 Payne's Hunting & Fishing
- 5 Casse Hunting & Fishing
- 6 White's Hunting & Fishing
- 7 Payne's Hunting & Fishing
- 8 Westcott's Hunting & Fishing
- 9 Hryse Outfitters
- 10 Payne's Hunting & Fishing
- 11 Casse Hunting Camp
- 12 Casse Hunting & Fishing
- 13 Manier's Fishing Lodge
- 14 Chaulk's Snowmobile Lodge
- 15 Hryse Outfitters
- 16 Hryse Outfitters
- 17 Keough's Outfitters



Adrian Walsh (2 camps)

Activity: Big Game Hunting

Adrian Payne (1 camp)

Activity: Big Game Hunting

Today most operators in the Main River watershed are involved in the traditional hunting and fishing market. But the potential for the future clearly lies with the non-consumptive ecotourism market. In the last 4-5 years there have been 2 companies increasingly involved in non-consumptive activities. X-plore Newfoundland, has done some kayaking and canoeing, as has Eastern Edge Outfitters.

If Main River is declared as a Canadian Heritage River, combined with the publicity it has already received, it could become a prime adventure tourism destination. Its 'unique old growth forest is a very attractive feature for ecotourists. Canoeing, kayaking and river rafting opportunities, hiking and nature interpretive tours are some of the potential activities that could be developed into vacation packages. There is certainly potential for learning vacations. It is also an ideal area for winter activities. The snow comes early and remains late in the season.. There is nowhere else on the Island that you can snowmobile and cross country ski in May. Potential for a four season development exists in this setting.

In the case of Main River, one can't forget the potential for scientific research associated with the gap replacement forest. This could attract provincial, national and international study and learning vacations could be developed around this activity. As this activity is currently not significantly developed it does not pose a risk if managed properly in the future.

Too many operators in one area may exceed the carrying capacity of the site. Operators who lack appropriate environmental ethics will not only alienate their customers that can inflict damage on the site (overusing sites, cutting of firewood, inappropriate disposal of litter and human waste, harassment of wildlife, indiscriminate use of areas for campfires, etc;).Furthermore, poorly trained river guides could put visitors at risk. Management actions will be instituted to ensure the proper development of the ecotourism industry in the Main River area.

4.2.10 Cottage Development

Within the heritage river corridor and special management area no private cottages occur. There area presently 3 commercial outfitting camps in the Proposed Waterway Park and Special Management Area that will be permitted to stay. The unplanned and indiscriminate encroachment of cottages and activities sometimes associated with these developments in wilderness areas can create environmental problems. For example, the

building of cabins in sensitive wildlife areas, inadequate sewage disposal systems located near water bodies, inappropriate disposal of garbage, the development of access trails, , cutting of firewood, etc.

4.3 VISITOR USE ISSUES

4.3.1 Angling

Angling for Atlantic salmon and other species represents an important recreational opportunity on the Main River for both residents and nonresidents. Evidence gathered from the stakeholder survey, the public open houses and interviews with outfitters indicated that overfishing and a reduced quality of experience were two issues to be addressed.

Historical data on fishing effort from 1950 to 1999, suggest that the number of rods days have risen from 400 to 3,393. There was a particular steep increase which coincided with the building of the forest access road and bridge from the community of Sop's Ann westward across the Main River and into the watershed.

In particular, there was concern regarding the effect on the salmon population of increased angling pressure and poaching activities especially in the vicinity of the Kruger Bridge. This had resulted in demand for stricter enforcement of existing regulations and greater control of access to popular angling sites along the river. During the 1994 angling season regulations by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans restricted the number of grilse (salmon less than 6 pounds or less than 63 centimetres) an angler could catch during the season to six; three before July 31 and three after this date. All salmon larger than the grilse had to be released if caught. In response to high exploitation rates, a quota of 350 fish for Main River was established in 1994 in conjunction with a watershed management plan developed by the local user group. This quota still remains in effect and will be reviewed at the end of 2001 when the current salmon management plan comes to an end.

With respect to trout populations in the Main River there is very little baseline information. Residents are not required to purchase trout license. Nonresident, however, are required to obtain a trout licence. There is currently no information to suggest a serious decline in the trout population of the Main River.

4.3.2 Hunting:

The pursuit of Moose is the primary hunting activity which occurs in the Main River area. To a much lesser extent other big game species such as caribou and black bear are hunted. Small game hunting, according to local wildlife officials, is restricted primarily to local residents in areas accessible by the existing Kruger road along the lower portion of the river. While conflicts could occur between different recreational groups (ie.consumptive versus non-consumptive), within the Waterway Provincial Park, the Master Plan will include measures, such as zoning, to reduce these potential conflicts.

The moose hunting season runs from mid-September to mid-December. Fortunately, this period does not overlap with the best season for river running activities (i.e. May to July). As Sunday is a day closed for hunting for any type of game in Newfoundland, this also offers a brief hunt-free period for other river users.

4.3.3 Canoeing and Rafting

The Main River offers an outstanding wilderness canoeing experience and is suitable for kayaking and white water rafting for at least two months of the year. Currently this activity is under-utilized but there is significant potential for future development.

Issues are related to possible terrain degradation due to launching and landing the crafts, indiscriminate and uncontrolled camping activities along the river shoreline, and litter accumulation. These will be addressed in the Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park and is described later in this plan. Safety is also an issue with respect to these type of recreational pursuits.

4.3.4 Motorized Transport

The use of personal motorized transport vehicles such as ATV's, dirt bikes, and motor boats has been increasing, particularly since the construction of the Kruger Bridge and the extension of the access road to and beyond the bridge. There is also the use of snowmobiles in winter across suitable terrain. One tour group offers guided snowmobile tours from the Main River Lodge. There is also a designated snowmobile trail that leads from Sop's Arm Park, follows the Main River and some of its tributaries and terminates at the headwaters at Four Ponds.

Increased use of personal motorized equipment could result in the following impacts:

- reduction in the wilderness quality of the heritage river corridor
- indiscriminate and unplanned cutting of trails;

-
- increased access to sensitive areas and potential degradation of terrain (especially wetlands);
 - increased pressure on fish and wildlife populations
 - disturbance to wildlife;
 - disruption of wilderness experience of non-consumptive users; and
 - accidental spillage of petroleum products, potentially affecting soil and water quality with consequent effects on flora and fauna.

Both rotary and fixed wing aircraft currently fly over and put down within the nominated corridor. Rotary aircraft are known to land at the Big Steady and both rotary and fixed wing aircraft land adjacent to outfitter camps in the headwaters. Uncontrolled aircraft use has the potential to cause many of the same problems potentially resulting from personal motorized transport. This issue will be addressed in the Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park and is discussed later under Section 4.

4.3.5 Hiking

There are presently unplanned hiking trails along the banks of the Main River. It is possible to hike into the Big Steady from the Kruger Bridge using these trails. Trails lead from the Kruger Road to the section of the river between Sunshine Falls and Paradise Pool. These trails are used frequently by local fishermen. If a Waterway Provincial Park is established and the Main River is designated as a Canadian Heritage River, use may increase especially in sensitive areas.

4.2.6 Camping

The indiscriminate location of campsites can result in environmental degradation and disturbance to sensitive sites. Currently visitor numbers to the Main River area are low but as more and more people visit the area and choose to camp there is increasing risk that they could negatively impact the natural values of the river by inappropriate siting of camps in sensitive area, unwise disposal of garbage and human waste, development of campfires, cutting of wood for campfires, etc;

4.2.7 Scientific Study

Given the occurrence of so many interesting natural features within the Main River area, it is likely that there will be increased interest in conducting scientific study in this area. While this is an activity that will hopefully lead to a better understanding of the ecology of the Main River area and improved management strategies, it can have environmental impacts. Some scientific research proposal may require the removal and/or destruction

of plants, animals, natural objects or palaeontological resources. Studies may require the manipulation of native plant communities, the establishment of exclosures, the capture and tagging of wildlife. While scientific study will be encouraged within the nominated corridor, it will be carefully reviewed before it is permitted to occur to ensure that it minimizes disturbance to natural values.

4.2.8 Services and Facilities:

The offering of services incongruent with the wilderness character of the heritage river (eg. A TV trails) or the inappropriate development and/or poor siting of facilities (e.g. a major visitor centre in the Big Steady area) could significantly detract from a natural high quality river experience. To ensure this does not occur, the Master Plan for the Waterway Provincial Park will require careful planning of all visitor services and facilities in the context of the environment in which it is to occur.

4.2.9 Visitor Access:

It appears that visitor access to the Main River is primarily in the form of vehicle access along the Main logging road from White Bay. There are also some trails developed from the road to popular angling locations in the Big Steady area and around some of the ponds in the headwaters area. Furthermore, a number of outfitters offer fly-in access only. There is no indication at this time that visitor access is a significant problem, however, as forest road access to the area continues this is clearly an issue which will need to be addressed.

Uncontrolled visitor access can result in increased pressure on the natural resources of the nominated corridor. The carrying capacity of the area could be surpassed and there would be little that the management agency could do to effectively regain control of it. Increased illegal angling and hunting could occur. A network of unplanned trails could become imposed on sensitive wildlife areas and are especially problematic when they lead to the use of off road vehicles. The environmental stresses associated with these machines are outlined above under Motorized Transport. The Master Plan for the Provincial Waterway Park will address trail development and visitor access.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

MAIN RIVER STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT

(Refer to Attached Correspondence)

APPENDIX 2

*ECOREGION DESCRIPTION:
NORTHERN PENINSULA FOREST & LONG RANGE BARRENS*

Ecoregion 4: Northern Peninsula Forest

topography:

- flat to undulating in west,
- hilly in east

elevation:

- sea level to <200 m in west
- sea level to - 450 m in east

climate:

- cool short summers, cold long winters
- short growing season:
<110 days in N, to 150 days in S
- precipitation 900-1000 mm



vegetation:

- forest on E coast and western valleys
- fires infrequent; bF dominant tree
- > 100 species are absent from, or restricted to S of this region
- Plateau Bogs occupy extensive coastal lowlands on west coast
- Limestone Barrens may occur along west coast, but are not as common or diverse as in Ecoregion 9 - Strait of Belle Isle
- Empetrum and Kalmia barrens common on east coast

bedrock:

- mainly acidic gneiss in east, limestone common in V and N
- serpentine only in White Bills near St. Anthony

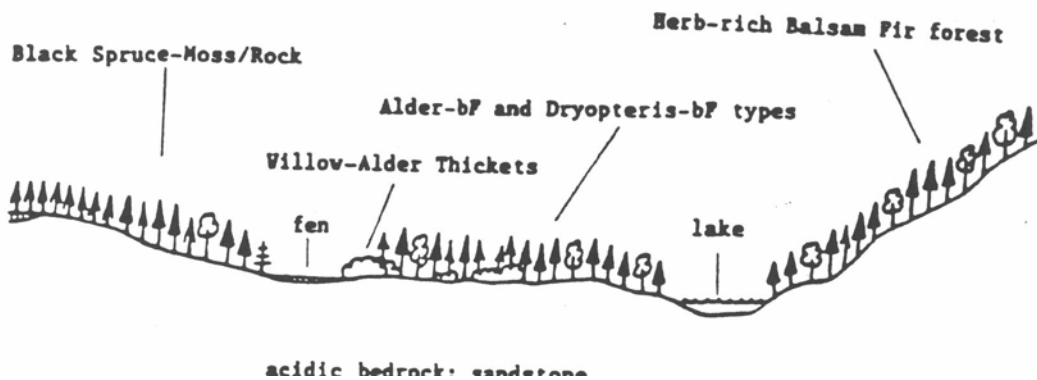


Fig. N-4.1 Characteristic landscape profile of the Beaver Brook subregion, underlain by acidic sandstone parent materials.

Ecoregion 4: Northern Peninsula Forest

Location:

- The forested and coastal portions of the Great Northern Peninsula, except for the tip of the peninsula are included in this ecoregion.

Physical characteristics:

- The Long Range Mountains separate much of this ecoregion into distinct east and west variants.
- In the west, altitudes are generally below 200 m and the topography is flat to undulating.
- In the east, elevations range from sea level to about 450 m at the slopes of the Long Range Mountains.
- Limestone underlies much of the north and western part of this region.
- A serpentine area, the White Hills, occurs near St. Anthony.
- Acidic rocks, mainly gneiss, occur under most of the remainder of this region.
- Soils are generally similar to those of the Western Newfoundland Forest ecoregion.

Climate:

- Summer temperatures are cool, similar to temperatures in eastern barren areas.
- Mean daily temperatures:
 - February average: ~ -8°C; minimum: -13°C
 - July average: +13°C to +15°C; maximum: +21°C
- The frost-free season is similar to or longer than that of Central Newfoundland.
- The vegetative season ranges from 110 to 150 days (north to south variation), the shortest of any forest ecoregion and the widest range.
- Precipitation is lower than other ecoregions, but due to the low summer temperatures and short growing season, there is no moisture deficiency.
- Observed precipitation: 900 mm to 1000mm.
 - Adjusted precipitation: 1300 mm to >1500 mm.
- Snowfall (<3 m to 3.5 m) is similar to most other areas of the island.

Vegetation:

- Mainly forested, except for the west coast, which is dominated by extensive bogs overlying
- Forests penetrate deep into the valleys of the Long Range Mountains.
- Forest fires are very infrequent, thus Balsam Fir is the predominant tree species.
- Black Spruce becomes an important component of the forests only at higher elevations.

- The most drastic, climate-controlled change in the flora of the island occurs in the southern part of this ecoregion.
- White Pine, Yellow Birch, Red Maple and Trembling Aspen are mainly absent, reaching their northern limit at or near the southern boundary of this ecoregion.
- Over 100 species of herbaceous plants are either completely absent or restricted to the southern part of the ecoregion.
- Speckled Alder swamps and alluvial thickets are replaced by thickets of Mountain Alder and/or willows (Salix spp.).
- Dense Red Osier Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera) thickets in wet forests and low willow (Salix vestita) thickets with tall White Spruce on infilled marl ponds are characteristic of the forested limestone areas in the northern parts.
- Oval-leaved Bilberry (Vaccinium ovalifolium) is common in many moist forests of this ecoregion, but is restricted to limestone soils in western Newfoundland.
- Extensive low plateau bogs occupy the coastal lowlands. They differ from other plateau bogs across the island in that these have large, nearly circular pools on the plateau, well developed drainage channels, and well-developed Cladonia (Reindeer lichen) patches which cover large areas of the bog surface.
- The heath moss (Rhacomitrium lanuginosum) is prominent in these bogs.
- Rocky dwarf shrub barrens dominate a narrow coastal strip along the eastern side of the peninsula; this zone becomes wider in the more exposed northern part of the ecoregion.
- Limestone Barrens may occur along the west coast, but these are not as common or floristically diverse as those in the Strait of Belle Isle Barrens (ecoregion 9).

Fauna:

- Five seabird colonies with over 500 breeding pairs occur in this region, the largest is a small island NW of Groais Island in White Bay, with 2,000 pairs of Black-legged Kittiwakes.
- Common Eiders are characteristic of only this region of the island. Islands in Hare Bay (Hare Bay Ecological Reserve) provide breeding habitat for Common Eiders. This population of Eiders, although low in number, is highly significant.

Four subregions can be recognized based on climatic and lithological variation.

4a. Coastal Plain subregion

- Flat coastal plain and western lower slope of the Long Range Mountains.
- Low Plateau Bogs occupy most of the coastal plain.
- Forests are restricted to the slopes of the mountains and an area on glacial till near Hawke Bay.

4b. Beaver Brook Limestone subregion

- Productive forests in sheltered lowlands N of the Long Range Mountains.
- Limestone underlies most of this area.
- This is the most climatically favorable subregion.
- Rich and calcareous fens are common.
- Ombrotrophic bogs are limited to the northwestern part.

4c. Northern Coastal subregion

- Exposed, rocky dwarf shrub barrens with local areas of poor forest.
- Serpentine barrens occur on the White Hills near St. Anthony.
- Climatically, the least favorable subregion because of the coldness of the surrounding ocean water.

4d. Eastern Long Range subregion

- Eastern lower slopes of the Long Range Mts. to about 450 m
- bF forests with some bS dominate.
- The forest is somewhat open, although productive; northward the altitude of the forest limit decreases and the forest becomes less productive due to increased exposure to cold winds off the Labrador Current.

Ecoregion 4: Northern Peninsula Forest

Animal Distribution

Land Mammals:

Barren Habitats:

Caribou (summer)

Forest and Shrub Habitats:

Moose

Pine Marten

Little Brown Bat

Lynx

Red Squirrel

Northern Long-eared Bat

Mink

Snowshoe Hare

Ubiquitous - occurring in a variety of habitats:

Black Bear

Meadow Vole

Coyote (recent introduction)

Red Fox

Masked Shrew

Ermine

Aquatic Habitats:

Beaver

Muskrat

Otter

Amphibians:

No amphibians occur in this province, although unsuccessful introductions have taken place.

Fish:

Common:

Threespine Stickleback

Ninespine Stickleback

Atlantic Salmon

Brook Trout

Rainbow Smelt

American Eel

Occasional: Arctic Charr

Rare: American Shad

Ecoregion 4:Northern Peninsula Forest

Characteristic Birds

Forest Habitats:

Bald Eagle	Osprey
Merlin	Ruffed Grouse
Spruce Grouse	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Gray Jay
Hermit Thrush	Yellow-romped Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler	Northern Vaterthrush

Shrubby or Thicket Habitats:

Willow Ptarmigan	Yellow Warbler
Mourning Warbler	Song Sparrow

Wetland Habitats - marshes, peatlands:

Northern Barrier	Short-eared Owl
American Bittern	Lincoln's Sparrow.

Aquatic Habitats - freshwater:

Ring-necked Duck	Common Goldeneye
Common Merganser	

Aquatic Habitats - saltwater:

Common Tern

Ecoregion 4: Northern Peninsula Forest

Major Seabird Colonies

1. White Island - (51°35'N/55°21'W)
Hare Bay 1:
Leach's Storm Petrel (400)
Black Guillemot (100)

2. The Sister Rocks - (50°59'N/55°32'W)

NE of Groais Island, White Bay 1:
Herring Gull (500),
Black-legged Kittiwake (400)

3. Island NW of Groais Island - (50°59'N/55°38'W)
White Bay 1:
Black-legged Kittiwake (2000)

4. Rouge Island - (50°54'N/55°46'W)

White Bay 1:
Leach's Storm Petrel (1000)
Herring Gull (500)

5. Ile aux Canes - [50°41'N/55°37'W]
(= Green Island), White Bay 1:
Herring Gull (400)
Common Eider (377)
Leach's Storm Petrel (300)
Great Black-backed Gull (200)

Ecoregion 8: Long Range Barrens

topography:

- mountainous highlands, plateaux.

elevation: - from 200 to >650 m.

climate:

- cool summers, cold winters
- snow cover persistent to April
- very short growing season
- precipitation:
 - northern subregion 1000-1150 mm
 - central subregion 1000-1300 mm
 - southern subregion 1250-1600 mm



vegetation:

- Barren predominates, including Kalmia, Empetrum and Alpine Heath
- Ribbed Fen and Slope Bog common
- most trees form tuckamoors, except in valleys
- snow-bed vegetation characteristic of northern subregion
- northern and arctic-alpine species widespread, but southern species absent

fauna:

- important Caribou area for Northern Peninsula and Humber herds

bedrock: - mainly acidic

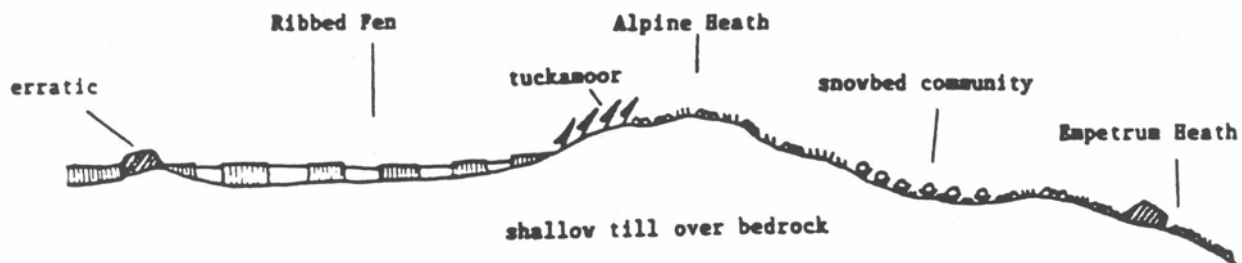


Fig. N-8.1 Typical profile of alpine area dominated by Ribbed Fen and Alpine Heath.

Ecoregion 8: Long Range Barrens

Location:

- This ecoregion is composed of the highland areas extending from the SV coast to the northern part of the Great Northern Peninsula.
- These highlands include three distinct barren areas, separated by continuous forest.

Physical Characteristics:

- Fire is of little importance, and has played no role in the formation of these barrens.
- bedrock is mainly acidic.

Climate:

- Cool summers and cold winters are typical of this ecoregion.
- Mean daily temperatures:
 - February average: -5°C to -8°C ; minimum: -12°C
 - July average: $+13^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$; maximum: $+19^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Vegetative season is very short.
- Observed precipitation:
 - northern subregion - 1000 mm to 1150 mm
 - central subregion - 1000 mm to 1300 mm
 - southern subregion - 1250 mm to 1600 mm
- Adjusted precipitation:
 - northern subregion - 1300 mm to >1500 mm
 - central subregion - <1200 mm to 1500 mm
 - southern subregion - 1600 mm to >2000 mm
- Snowfall can be in excess of 5 m, although mean annual snowfall levels vary from 3.0 m to >4.0 m. Drifting is extreme throughout the winter.
- Snow cover is permanent during winter, completely covering the landscape and persisting until late in the spring
- Winds are primarily from the southwest and west, thus these areas are the most severely exposed.

Vegetation:

- Mostly barren vegetation, with shallow ribbed fens and tuckamoor dominate the landscape.
- Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*) heath is the predominant dwarf shrub vegetation, and covers large areas.
- Pink Crowberry dominated Empetrum Heath covers exposed areas subject to active erosion.
- Arctic-alpine vegetation (*Diapensia* and *Loiseleuria*) is common on all highlands and exposed sites.
- Other arctic-alpine species are widely distributed, not being restricted to exposed hills.
- Snow bank species, *Phyllodoce caerulea*, Moss Heather (*Cassiope hypnoides*, Hountain Sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*), and Dwarf Bilberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*), lacking in other barren ecoregions, are common here in areas with persistent snow cover.

- Forests dominated by Balsam Fir occur only in deep, sheltered valleys.
- Extensive areas of tuckamoor, mostly of Black Spruce less than 1 m high, occur on slopes and in valleys_ but are absent from hill summits; characteristic of this ecoregion.
- Speckled Alder is completely absent, being replaced by Sweet Gale (Myrica gale) along brooks.
- Mountain Alder is common on wet and dry sites, but does not form alder swamps.
- Peatlands, primarily shallow, patterned fens and slope bogs, cover extensive areas.
- Northern and arctic-alpine plant species are widespread.
- Southern, Coastal Plain species are completely absent.

Fauna:

- Two major caribou herds occur in this ecoregion, the Northern Peninsula Herd, with a year round population and the Dumber Herd (summer range).
- Arctic Hare are mainly restricted to this ecoregion.

Ecoregion 8: Long Range Barrens

Animal Distributions

Land Mammals:

Alpine Tundra/Barren Habitats:

Caribou (spring to fall) Arctic Hare

Forest and Shrub Habitats:

Moose Lynx Snowshoe Hare
Red Squirrel Little Brown Bat Northern Long-eared Bat?

Ubiquitous - occurring in a variety of habitats:

Black Bear Red Fox Mink
Ermine Meadow Vole Masked Shrew
Deer House (near human habitation)
Coyote (recent introduction)

Aquatic Habitats:

Beaver Muskrat Otter

Amphibians:

none occur in this ecoregion

Fish:

Common:

Threespine Stickleback	Atlantic Salmon	Rainbow Smelt
Ninespine Stickleback	Brook Trout	American Eel

Occasional: Arctic Charr

Ecoregion 8: Long Range Barrens

Characteristic Birds

Barren or Tundra Habitats:

Rough-legged Hawk
Rock Ptarmigan

Snowy Owl
Savannah Sparrow

Forest Habitats:

Blackpoll Warbler

Northern Waterthrush

Shrubby or Thicket Habitats:

Willow Ptarmigan

Yellow Warbler

Wetland Habitats - marshes, peatlands:

Northern Parula
Common Yellow-throat
Swamp Sparrow

Short-eared Owl
Lincoln's Sparrow

Aquatic Habitats - freshwater:

Canada Goose

Greater Yellowlegs

APPENDIX 3

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES 1991

SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

NAME/POSITION	AFFILIATION	COMMENTS
R. Ian Goudie Wildlife Biologist	Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service	The Big Steady, (from the Big Steady downstream to the beginning of the gorge) , has been identified by the CWS under the Newfoundland and Labrador Habitat Protection Plan. User demand and pending access will likely severely reduce the waterfowl habitat quality along the Main River.
Dr. Grant Milne Chief – Policy, Planning and Economics	Forestry Canada	Mandate of Forestry Canada is forest research and forest sector development via federal/provincial agreements. There is no mandate or jurisdiction over provincial land use, policies or practices.
Timothy C. Anderson Head, Habitat Planning and Inventory	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	There are no planning initiatives for Main River at present. If the Main River were given reserve status, the potential for harmful disruption or destruction of fish habitat could be diminished.
Nicholas H. Coomber Chief, Cooperative Heritage Planning	National Parks Directorate, Canadian Parks Service, Environment Canada	Mandate for Gros Morne National Park could allow management of use and access to headwaters of Main River through the National Park, which in turn could face increased access from construction of new logging roads in the Main River watershed. Main River could experience uncontrolled snowmobile access from populated enclave in the National Park.
Charles LeBlanc Water Resources Engineer	Water Planning Management Branch, Inland Waters Environment Canada	No management proposal has been put on table for Main River. If the Main River becomes a designated CHR, and people become interested in promoting Main River by accommodating tourism, new construction will take place and modify the current aesthetics and ecosystem.
Anna Buffinga Manager Planning & Allocation	Department of Environment and Lands, Land Management Division	No plans to develop Crown lands in the area of Main River. As a proposed Park, the Regional Lands office does not accept any applications in this area.
Glenn Blackwood Resource Planning Supervisor	Department of Fisheries	This Department has no mandate for the Main River as the Department is directed on marine fisheries. However the future potential for the development of an eel fishery on the Main River is being considered.
Sandy Hickman Acting Director	Sport and Fitness Division, Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs	This Division has no direct involvement with any watershed, but feels that the preservation of natural features is important for recreation opportunities.
Dan Chaisson Outdoor Product Development Officer	Department of Development and Tourism	Mandate of this department is regulating hunting/fishing camps (commercial outfitting) in the Main River area. They could assist in achieving the objectives of managing the Main River as a Canadian Heritage River.
S.N. Clinton Director	Urban and Rural Planning, Department of Municipal Affairs	There are no active proposals to manage or protect the Main River area.
Robert D. Mercer Director of Forest Management	Department of Forestry and Agriculture	Forestry activity in the Main River area is planned for after 1995. Obviously, there would be no cutting within a Park area.

NAME/POSITION	AFFILIATION	COMMENTS
Ian C. Bell Land Use Planner (Western Region)	Department of Forestry and Agriculture	The Main River watershed is a remote site and has no implications with respect to future agricultural development.
Tony Blouin Director	Environmental Assessment Division, Department of Environment and Lands	The use of A TV s in the area, both by outfitters and remote cabin owners, has already caused and will continue to cause significant terrain degradation in a very sensitive area.
Dennis Minty Chief, Information and Education	Wildlife Division, Department of Environment and Lands	Main River is recognized as an ecologically and aesthetically significant area, with the Big Steady area of Main River of primary concern. There is approximately 200 ha of suitable habitat for nesting, staging and moulting of nine species of waterfowl. It is possible to use the <i>Wildlife Act</i> to control hunting and trapping activity.
Keith Boone Senior Planning Engineer, Generation and Rural	Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro	Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro would waive its rights regarding a proposed 7.5 MW development of Parson's Pond (in the headwaters) and has no plans at present to develop a proposed 110 MW development at Sop's Arm.
Keith Guzzwell Director, Environmental Matters	Newfoundland Canoeing Association	Main River is the best on the Island for whitewater activities, scenic landscapes and wildlife. Designation of Main River as a CHR can only help the Association's objectives to preserve the Main River system as it presently exists.
Thomas Humphrey President	Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador	The Council recommends placing quotas and/or a catch-and-release program for the entire Main River and increasing warden controls in the Big Steady, especially in June.
Don Clarke Enhancement Chair	Salmon Preservation Association for Waters of Newfoundland (SPAWN)	Hopefully, the Management Plan will contain measures that ensure the future of Atlantic salmon, (i.e., that sufficient numbers of salmon will return to main River to ensure proper seeding).
Mr. Barry May Company President	Tuckamore Wilderness Club	Province should protect the river first.
Jon Lien Chairman	Protected Areas Association of Newfoundland and Labrador	They are developing strategy plan for system of protected areas throughout the Province.
Sam Caines Owner/Operator	Sam's Hunting and Fishing Camps	Area around St. Paul's Big Pond (location of camp) is the only winter feeding area for moose.
Jim Price President	Eastern Edge Outfitters	Management Plan should include the non-consumptive-adventure tour activities, along with the hunting and fishing. The designation will make more people aware of the excellent opportunities the Main River can provide.
Gene Manion General Manager	Main River Lodge	Management Plan should include the NW branch of the Main River and perhaps all of its major tributaries. Ban all A TVs in summer and autumn months. Allow snowmobiling, but with reasonable controls, and allow angling and hunting on a controlled basis. Phase out Kruger Bridge after 25 years.
Pierre Meagher Owner/Manager	Eagle Mountain Lodge	Protection and control main concern and interest. Hope it will enhance protection required for poaching control, which is non-existent in their view
Eileen Hynes Owner/Operator	Cow Head Outfitters	If forest is allowed to be cut, the water in the Main River will be too low for salmon fishing.

NAME/POSITION	AFFILIATION	COMMENTS
George VanDusen Chief Forester	Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited	Proposed an ecological reserve along the Main River, within which they would not harvest timber. This proposal was accepted by NDEL, as was its EIS. The proposed Park follows fairly close to the designated corridor along the Main River, from Sop's Arm to the confluence of the St. Paul's Branch, just upstream of the Big Steady.
Frank Ricketts	Resident of Newfoundland	Management Plan should provide mechanisms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that CBPP undertake all of its activities within this watershed in a manner which minimizes disturbances to the existing ecology; and • Limit the level of environmental disturbance resulting from other human activity.

APPENDIX 4

NOTES FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS 1992

NOTES OF MEETING

Sop's Arm Public Open House Wednesday 15 July 1992

Attending:

Mr. Bob Halfyard, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Ms. Brenda Rowe, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Kevin Hunt, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Nicholas Coomber, Canadian Parks Service
Mr. Bevin LeDrew, Jacques Whitford Environment

- Comment: Local residents expressed their interest in using the area for hunting and sports. There was a general consensus to allow snowmobiles to access the highlands using the Main River.
- Comment: In relation to hunting, other local residents are concerned that access via snowmobile and ATV's will be excessively restricted. If restrictions are applied they should also apply to outfitters aircraft.
- Comment: Some local residents are opposed to any regulations that would restrict access by snowmobile to the river corridor. A request was made for snowmobile access for local residents and those travelling from the West Coast of the Northern Peninsula.
- Comment: It was commented that snowmobiles are the primary form of transportation.
- Comment: Local residents commented that snowmobile access is most important from January to April.
- Comment: A local resident pointed out that there are few ATVs in use in the area (*i.e.* other than snowmobiles) and that there would probably be no strong objection to a ban of non-snowmobile ATVs.
- Comment: Other residents pointed out that there are existing skidoo/ ATV trails already cut in the area and they did not want to see a new trail across Big Steady.
- Comment: There was concern by local residents that the protected corridor will significantly reduce logging areas and threaten jobs. The designation of the Main River will ultimately reduce jobs (*i.e.* logging) rather than create jobs.
- Response: The woods Superintendent for the area indicated that the nominated area is not part of Kruger's cutting plan.
- Comment: One local resident pointed out that tourism development as well as forestry can contribute to the local economy.

Comment: Who will enforce the regulations imposed on the protected corridor? The point was made that it would be difficult to protect the area unless enforcement officers are hired.

Comment: The forest, salmon resources and the tourist industry were noted as important resources in the area. A concern was expressed that the salmon resource "brings little into the area" as anglers from within the province utilize the river on a daily basis, do not camp, and leave little money in the local area.

Comment: It was pointed out that a tourism study of the area is presently being conducted by the White Bay South Development Association.

Comment: A local resident noted a concern with unauthorized camping along the Kruger road. A need was expressed to expand the existing park area to the other side of the river and make more camping spaces available as the park campsites are fully occupied during the peak season.

Comment: A local resident pointed out that certain areas (*e.g.* the south west branch which is "dotted with cabins" are "full" of garbage.

Comment: There was concern among local areas that the government will begin with a relatively small protected corridor gradually increasing its land claim while disregarding the interests of the local residents.

Comment: Local residents viewed a concern that Main River outfitters and sportsmen have government contacts and may use them to ensure access regulations to their advantage.

Comment: A local resident proposed the inclusion of certain areas of the river (*i. e.* Southwest Branch and the Northwest Branch) within the protected corridor as these areas have a relatively high concentration of outfitter cabins.

Comment: A local resident enquired as to when will the final decision on designation be made.

Response: A representative from Parks and Natural Areas Division stated that a decision would be made within 2 years.

Comment: What will happen to existing cabins along Main River?

Response: A representative from Parks and Natural Areas Division replied that legal cabins may remain but the government retains the right to be the first buyer.

Comment: Local residents enquired about how other CRRS rivers are regulated and if solutions for other areas are being applied to Main River.

NOTES OF MEETING

Corner Brook Public Open House Thursday 16 July 1992

Attending:

Mr. Bob Halfyard, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Ms. Brenda Rowe, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Kevin Hunt, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Nicholas Coomber, Canadian Parks Service
Mr. Bevin LeDrew, Jacques Whitford Environment

Comment: An outfitter on the Main River, pointed out that the Big Steady is an important part of the river for salmon during low water conditions. He is opposed to increasing accessibility to this area which could lead to poaching. It was pointed out that there are two illegal camps in the area. He believes that the river is greatly overfished and there is a need for increased policing. He stated that wardens cannot effectively enforce regulations since they do not work overtime and there is no financing for helicopter patrol. Mr. Manion suggested that outfitters could operate with a total catch and release regime in the area. The following comments were also made.

- Outfitters generally take care of the camps and the area surrounding them.
- Not opposed to wood harvesting. He also stated that vegetation in the area is unique.
- The river is a good CHRS candidate for the following reason: visual aesthetics; salmon; Geese; (abundant in the Big Steady area) and Green-winged Teal.
- The CHRS designation was strongly supported, provided it would include additional protection and enforcement for the area.
- The attitudes of tourists are changing. They are more interested in the visual beauty and the pristine nature of the area rather than in the concept of taking a trophy.
- Snowmobiles currently do not create a problem and that garbage is a far more serious matter. At present Sunshine Falls is littered with garbage and it, combined with other signs of human presence, appears to be growing. The outfitters are not opposed to continued use of snowmobile in the area.
- Motorized boats and helicopters are considered a problem in the Big Steady. This area has previously served as a staging area for immature geese.

Comment: Another local resident suggested that several of the main tributaries have significant natural features and should be included in the protected area.

Comment: One local resident wanted to know how much flexibility with regulations is there within the parks classification system.

Comment: It was generally felt that the construction of the Kruger Bridge was a mistake. The concept of removing the bridge was raised.

Comment: Mr. Ian Perry from Noranda and representing Newfoundland exploration pointed out that there is a dimension stone prospect in the area. As well there have been gold finds along Doucers Brook. This area may have some exploration leases associated with it.

Comment: Local residents questioned whether the province would have more say than it has now over salmon management by the federal government.

NOTES OF MEETING

Gros Morne National Park Thursday 16 July 1992

Attending: Mr. Bob Halfyard, Newfoundland Department of Tourism and Culture
Mr. Gary Pittman, Public Liaison Officer, Gros Mome National Park
Mr. Nicholas Coomber, Canadian Parks Service
Mr. Bevin LeDrew, Jacques Whitford Enviromnent

Comment: A couple from Sop's Arm have received ACOA funding for snowmobile tours as a form of adventure tourism in the area. As well, there has been ACOA funding provided for a new camp in Wrack Lake.

Comment: The idea was supported of forming a local organization for snowmobile users as a useful means to facilitate liaison.

Comment: Direct impacts from snowmobile are probably few and include noise and exhaust fumes. Poaching probably occurs with relatively low frequency as a result of snowmobiling. In fact caribou numbers are increasing in the area.

Comment: The garbage problem could be aggravated if existing outfitter camps expanded their use.

Comment: ACOA favours adventure tourism versus extractive (*i.e.* hunting and angling) type of ventures.

APPENDIX 5

NOTES FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS 1995

**CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER SYSTEM
MAIN RIVER PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
DEER LAKE, NEWFOUNDLAND JUNE 6, 1995**

Persons in attendance:

Parks and Natural Areas, Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation
Mr. Donald Hustins, Director
Mr. Robert Halfyard, Chairman
Ms. Brenda Rowe
Mr. Glenn Myrick

The purpose *of* this public open house at Deer Lake was to obtain insight into the public interest and concern regarding the Main River as a Canadian Heritage River. The meeting was attended by 3 gentlemen. Gene Manion (Outfitter), Sam Caines (Camp Manager for Mr. Manion). and Angus Wentzell (Outfitter).

Major concerns and comments expressed by the public are as follows:

These comments were made by Gene Manion:

In September 1995, road development will allow access to the upper portions *of* the corridor.

The Kruger bridge gets little or no use and they wish they never built it.
Even if it is damaged or destroyed, Kruger does not want to repair or rebuild it.

Sunshine Falls is closed for fishing this season by order of DFO. A "No Fishing" sign is to be put up near Comer Pool.

In 1994, 1900 salmon were killed on the Main. This season, a quota of 500 has been established.

There is a proposal for next season to divide the quota geographically, allowing half of the salmon to be caught north of Paradise Pool and the other half to be caught south of it.

It was noted that the south-west branch of the River, around Eagle Mountain Pond was the first river in Newfoundland to be designated solely as Catch-and-Release.

Mr. Manion went on to say that he will be forced to close his camp if the Dept. of Forestry begin to cut the timber that is just north of St.Paul' s Big Pond.

He is concerned that the whole area from St. Paul' s Big Pond north-east to the corridor will be

nothing but harvested forest and road systems.

Also, there was a general concern for the recently introduced Pine Marten north of St. Paul's Big Pond as well as the other wildlife in the region.

Angus Wentzell expressed concern for his camp in the upland barrens of the River and how he will be affected by the Forestry cutting and by the establishment of the Main as a CHRS.

**CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER SYSTEM
MAIN RIVER PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
SOP'S ARM, NEWFOUNDLAND JUNE 7, 1995**

Person's in attendance:

Parks and Natural Areas, Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation:

Mr. Donald Hustins, Director

Mr. Robert Halfyard, Chairman

Ms. Brenda Rowe

Mr. Glenn Myrick

The objective of this public open house at Sop's Ann was to gain insight into the public's interests and concerns in managing the Main River as a Canadian Heritage River. The meeting was attended by 44 people.

Mr. Hustins opened the discussion by describing Parks new name, then defined the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) and how it applied to the Main River.

He went on to say that once the River is nominated, the finalized Management Plan is presented to the CHRS and to the appropriate Provincial and Federal Ministers. The Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Ministers sometime in July.

Mr. Halfyard commented that our main intent is to protect the Main River and preserve its resources, not only for ourselves but for our children's children as well.

The Preliminary Plan accommodates local uses and activities (snowmobiles, fishing, hunting, etc.) but it also must allow for preservation.

It was explained that if the River is awarded Canadian Heritage River status, it would be protected under provincial law and also would be nationally recognized and promoted.

The focal point of the River could be Sop's Arm Provincial Park. There, information, brochures, etc. about the River can be distributed to increase public awareness of the Main and its aesthetic beauty.

Following this, Mr. Halfyard proceeded to run through the Main River handout that had been passed around. It was noted that the legislation would allow no foresting, private investing, hydro development, mineral extraction, or damming whatsoever.

There is a substantial amount of wildlife to protect.

Salmon fishing will continue as always but will be monitored by DFO accordingly.

Camping will be permitted and perhaps even some remote campsites will be established along the River in the future.

Comment: a local resident asked about Fall/Winter hunting in the corridor.

Response: Mr. Halfyard responded saying there would be no seasonal hunting because it would be a Provincial Park with Fall/Winter visitations.

Less than 2 % of the Island is protected by Parks and Natural Areas and even if the River is preserved, it will still be less than 2 % .

Outfitting activity will continue as is because most are outside the corridor.

There would be tremendous economic impacts if it becomes a CHR.

ATV's will not be permitted (especially in Big Steady). This is not a big issue anyway because of inaccessibility. Snowmobiling will be allowed but it must be responsible.

Motor Boats will be allowed in the deep Headwaters. The same is true for aircraft but neither are permitted in the Big Steady region.

We do not want ATV's or aircraft in the area because they could severely damage the pristine environment.

After Mr. Halfyard's presentation, the floor was open for questions/comments:

Comment: a local man asked who would patrol the corridor.

Response: It was hoped that the Sop's Arm Park officers could monitor some of the area. In the future, it was desired that local residents would be hired to do this job and possibly the seasonal staff could be hired on for longer periods. This depended on the available finances.

Mr. Halfyard commented that the most important step is to establish the protected corridor.

Comment: a local resident said the protected corridor will significantly reduce logging areas and jobs will be lost rather than gained.

Response: The public were reminded that there is no cutting going on inside the corridor. The Department of Forestry probably will never use the road or Kruger bridge again since it has very little use currently.

Mr. Hustins explained that right now, the road is not an issue for Parks. The only places where he road is of concern is where the Kruger bridge crosses the River and at the mouth of the River.

Comment: a gentleman remarked that the more access to the River, the more abuse it will receive

Response: locals and visitors have enjoyed the River before the road was ever there.

Comment: there is not enough room in Sop's Arm Provincial Park for anglers.

Response: Mr. Hustins replied that hopefully, with the popularity of the Main as a CHRS, there will be more funding available for more campsites. Mr. Halfyard added that we have to start somewhere in order to protect the area.

Comment: Is there allowable access via the Forestry road for people?

Response: People will be allowed to use the road for bringing out wood.
Mr. Halfyard mentioned that he expects that the 2 forestry roads will not be connected in the future.
He also added that he is not totally sure what Forestry plan to do with the Kruger bridge.

Comment: a local man pointed out that if the road was not there, most people would not use the River because of inaccessibility.

Response: Mr. Halfyard agreed and said that the road is a problem due to the fact that it allows for unfavourable access for poachers, etc.
Mr. Hustins interjected that obviously the quality of angling has declined since the road has been there, otherwise why would DFO close down Sunshine Pool. It was noted too that we are all responsible for the garbage found there.

Comment: It was said that it seems as if the Paper Company has first choice of the best areas of the River.

Comment: a man did not understand where any conflict was between Parks and Natural Areas and the Department of Forestry since Forestry are not interested in the timber in the corridor.

Response: Mr. Halfyard agreed and added that we must protect against and pressure Forestry away from the River. They are cutting too close to the corridor. There needs to be some sort of balance so that it is close enough for logging yet far enough from the corridor so that the River's integrity is not damaged.
There is also a need for "contacts" in the Sop's Arm area for future management. Mr. Halfyard mentioned the Benoit's Cove area and the significant amount of damage there due to the dragging of heavy equipment across river beds.
Mr. Hustins wished to know if the restrictions established were reasonable and if there were any alternatives.

Comment: a local resident said that logging was not an issue at all and that no one was disputing that point.

Response: Access to the wood is the issue and there must be an integration of pristineness and recreation.

Mr. Hustins said in other areas of Canada, logging companies have changed their cutting plans in order to avoid negative media/opinions and hoped the same would happen here.

Comment: a local man commented that the economic gains if the Main becomes a CHR would be great.

Response: Mr. Hustins added that these gains would not happen overnight. It will take time but it will happen through adventure tourism. There are unlimited possibilities.

Eventually, some snowmobile trails may be constructed to link Gros Morne to the area. It would be of enormous value to have the CHRS identification, allotting the Main River National and International exposure.

APPENDIX 6

Comments From the Public Open House 2000

NAME	COMMENTS
Bruce White 13 Balsam Avenue Corner Brook	I have followed the Main river issue with keen interest over the past number months. It is my opinion that the necessary tools are in place so that this area can be sustained both as a Canadian Heritage Site and also a site where commercial harvesting can be maintained. With proper stewardship, both functions can go hand in hand.
Justin Pittman Sop's Arm	Modified cutting will still destruct the Main river area. Machinery used to extract the wood will destroy the land and ground cover. There is no safe and clean way to cut in such a pristine area. The Main river will likely be my future employment, but if the trees are cut and there is nothing but roads, no one is going to want to go on my tours.
David Lockyer 74 Windsor Street Corner Brook	Excellent Plan!
Robert Duke 7 Fern Place Pasadena	Good Management Plan!
Fred Baggs 17 Raven Street Churchill Falls, Labrador	I understand that the pulp and paper industry needs to harvest lumber in order to continue making their business viable. But to go in and cut down such a pristine and unspoiled environment doesn't really make any sense to me. This area is home to an abundance of fauna, and most important one of the homes of the endangered pine marten. To destroy the home of this animal doesn't really make any sense. And the fact that government isn't totally against this whole idea makes me sick. In the end the government will probably look on it as a moneymaker and allow for the destruction of this area. Of course they will make it sound like there will be little impact, but of course, this will not be the case. Somebody needs to take a stand and have t his whole idea washed away with before it's too late. Find the wood somewhere else! Save the Main river!!!
Sherry Lynn Wiseman 29 Caumen Avenue	(Tourism) Tourist aren't going to come see what we don't have. (Pine Marten) The home of only a few of these species that are left. Keep their home the way it is. (The Land) It is amazingly beautiful and there is lots of potential for this land for tourist to see and hike through.
Trevor Beck 41 Hodder Drive Corner Brook	(Modified Cutting Area) Why do they have to cut there at all. You will still be able to see the porter trails and woods roads, which are just scars on the landscape. Comer Brook Pulp and Paper needs to realize that they can't cut down all the wood and leave us with cut-overs to hike through.
Blair Power 13 Bayview Heights	(Modified Cut Area) I'm completely against the idea, I think that if they need to cut why do they just not cut in another area in Newfoundland, or better yet who don't they just cut in another province. To my knowledge I know that Newfoundland is being shredded, everywhere you look there is logging roads and clear cut areas. Soon enough there is not going to be anything to cut. Another suggestion I'd like to make - why don't they use representation.

NAME	COMMENTS
<p>Cory Chubbs 71 Windsor Street</p>	<p>(Cutting in the Main river Area) To maintain the economic viability on 'the west coast of Newfoundland and to ensure the growth of the general economy for Newfoundland "Kruger" must be a part of that future. On the other hand, as an environmentalist for the mill we are developing and implementing the ISO 14000</p> <p>- Environmental Management System and are continually working toward responsible environmental stewardship. The environment should be maintained but peoples lively-hoods must be too, if not the people will move for work and then there will be on one to enjoy the beautiful landscape that we already have now.</p>
<p>Jeff Soper 427 Curling Street Comer Brook</p>	<p>(Stewardship Agreement) A stewardship agreement is not legally binding and can't ensure protection of the area adjacent to water park boundary. Get a stronger commitment from the company for no harvesting in this area. This should be very minimum.</p> <p>(Modified harvesting blocks) No harvesting in these blocks (for Pine Marten and aesthetic reasons and other ecological reasons).</p> <p>(Pine Marten) Main river contains one of the core populations of Marten on the island. Provision must be made to ensure that we don't lost any Marten.</p> <p>(Main river area is a very unique "Old" Forest) Stronger measures (conservation measures) must be put in place to protect the ecological integrity of the area.</p>
<p>Carolyn Staple 45 Atlantic Avenue Comer Brook</p>	<p>The designation of new leave blocks is an improvement. We're learning, slowly, but its not enough. It's wonderful to see the ideas of the proposed waterway provincial park; getting tourism related activities out there to show others what a wonderful, special place this is. However, the Main river will not be able to maintain its integrity. It win never be the same as long as any cutting is done in the watershed area. The modified harvest area, hmmm, what is that exactly? What techniques are CBPP using and what effect will their cutting have on the environment? If you cut off your finger, can you feel it in the rest of your body? Of course! We have to stop the cutting now before it's too late! It's already having an effect on this area, we may not be able to see it. Okay, I'm not just some hippie tree hugger that doesn't want any trees cut ever! But this forest and river, including the watershed, is an ecosystem unlike any other. This old growth boreal forest is unlike any other. Destroying it means destroying the home of many species that are old growth dependant. This means they are dependant on the existence of this place in the world in order to survive! <i>Are</i> we murderers? No! Please, we have to come together and help our environment! We've taken enough, we must have respect.</p>
<p>Justin T. Pittman Comer Brook</p>	<p>(Modified Cutting) The modified cutting plan is not modified enough. The entire area should be left alone. Enough damage has been done already. Newfoundland has a chance to become big with the Appalatia Trail and many other assets in tourism. Newfoundland's tourism industry should not let itself be limited by the cutting of the main river.</p> <p>(The Main) Save the main, Now! All of the main, Now! The tourism industry has promise in Newfoundland and in the long run it will improve our economy greatly, more than the pulp and paper industry. Along with the economic value of tourism in Newfoundland, the recognition of Newfoundland and its beauty with the rest of the world is something we should be thinking about. A flourishing future is on the way if we take care of what we got - our forest.</p>

NAME	COMMENTS
Trevor Kinden Little Rapids	Its encouraging to see CBPP working with other interest groups in achieving a plan for the main river that allows for benefits/uses of all interested groups. (Existing Roads) I feel that roads should not be decommissioned. The existing road system will allow easier access for people to the water park.
Carolyn Barnes 18A Pioneer Street Comer Brook	<p>(Modified Cut Area) I don't think that the modified cut area should be cut at all. In this case, selection logging for these extra trees, on top of clear cutting the rest of the watershed, would be more costly and take more time.</p> <p>(Job Loss) The logging industry is running out of trees, it is also extremely mechanized. The only reason Kruger can threaten job loss is because they know Newfoundlanders are in a depressed economic state. Again, short term gain – long term loss.</p> <p>I think that the media attention generated by the main river issue will bring to light the impractical and unsustainable logging practices of the pulp and paper industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. We have a long history of exploiting resources for short term gain. The annual allowable cut for the mills here is way too high considering the poor regeneration rate of the trees. If properly managed, the Main river watershed could support recreational and tourism activities for the long term. We have to think not about compromise but about why it should be cut at all. Kruger says they need the wood, but who do Kruger represent? The area should be managed and sustained by Newfoundlanders not by a company who isn't even from here. Again, this is a pattern in Newfoundland's history that a foreign company reaps the profits while residents suffer the consequences of destroyed habitat. Main river's nomination for the designation of a World Heritage River is a tremendous honour and clear-cutting the watershed would surely ruin this opportunity for recognition on a global scale of the beauty and ecological importance of our province.</p> <p>I am a student in the adventure tourism program here in Comer Brook, so, along with the environmental concern of the habitat destruction and overall demolition of this pristine area, I have a vested interest in seeing growth in the ecotourism and adventure tourism sector of industry in this province. The reality is that the forestry industry has to change and be replaced with more sustainable activities, such as the development of recreational areas for tourism, adventure and education. This could be in the form of a provincial park, small outfitting (locally owned) businesses, and wildlife and ecological reserves. Scientist Stephen Fleming who works with Gros Morne National Park is attesting that the main river watershed should be declared a significant biosphere. I think so too.</p>
Jim and Leone Dalley Corner Brook	Continue with this overall plan for main river. Good presentation and very informative. Kruger is proving to be a responsible corporate citizen in this area. I hope "all" shareholders continue to work together.
George Thurlow 11 Marcelle Avenue Corner Brook	<p>(2.2.1) The account of the geology is very broad-brush and lacks any mention of known mineral occurrences or assessment of the mineral potential. If mineral exploration is to be prohibited, surely the public should be given some appraisal of what compromises are being made.</p> <p>(4.4.2.2) The posters say that mineral exploration will not be permitted in the "viewshed". This section implies that exploration is prohibited only within the park.</p>

NAME	COMMENTS
Jamie Meyer Meyer's Minerals 36 Birchview Drive Pasadena	<p>(Stone Quarries) There is a small deposit of marble in the gravel pit at the intersection of the main river access road and Route 420.</p> <p>(4.4.2.2) "No new mineral extraction" would mean this marble would forever be lost... A general lack of appreciation of mineral potential and mineral exploration activity in and around the watershed.</p>
Bob Diamond Steady Brook	<p>This draft management plan significantly falls short of the commitments to protect the natural heritage values of the main river watershed as per the original nomination document.</p>
Anna Sheppard 144 West Valley Road Comer Brook	<p>(Watershed) Potential impact of clear-cutting the watershed outside the proposed park boundary needs to be discussed. As protection as it may be implemented may be rendered useless if there are impacts due to outside clear-cutting. If this has been addressed, where is it discussed?</p> <p>(Intrinsic Value) The value of the ecology in itself, regardless of its economic value to humans, is this of importance? If so, where is it discussed? If not, why not? Must ecology be discussed only in terms of its value to humans?</p> <p>(Page 43 - top) Who are the "relevant resource managers" and are they the sole contributors to forest management? If so, is it a weighted contribution? Ie. does it represent business, industry, government, NGO's? Does it consider all potential contributors?</p> <p>(Page 40) This contribution by CBPPL will result in () sq. km??</p> <p>(Modified harvest) which kind of harvesting? It is based on maintaining ecological integrity or on viewscape? Or both? Are they of equal value? Impact of snowmobiling up part of river on ecological integrity?</p>
Larry Marks 7 Tudor Street Comer Brook	<p>Appears to be a good compromise between the need to maintain the integrity of the natural assets of the main river area and the needs of the forestry sector. A good balanced plan that should address the concerns of all parties involved.</p>
Dallas Mercer	<p>This is a great plan.</p>
Patrick Tompkins 48 Goose Arm Road Deer Lake	<p>The proposed plan looks good but I feel there has been an over-reaction in the past of some individuals towards commercial activity in the area. Logging is carried out in the area adjacent to the Shelburne River in Nova Scotia and I believe that was the first river in that province to be designated as a Canadian Heritage River.</p> <p>I'm totally in favour of increasing tourism in this province but don't do it at the expense of established industry. If you do a cost benefit analysis of the forest industry in the area versus the benefits which may be derived from tourism, I'm sure that the forestry industry will come out far ahead. It seems that the only compromises being made are the concessions being made by CBPP.</p>
Matt Churchill 64 Raymond Heights Comer Brook	<p>Good compromise by all parties involved.</p>
Norm Whalen 34 Rennie's Mill Road St. John's	<p>The tiny proposed waterway provincial park is inadequate. As a minimum the watershed area should be protected and beyond this point no new cutting should be permitted in any of the watersheds.</p>
Cbes Parsons 63 North Street Comer Brook	<p>Excellent job.</p>

NAME	COMMENTS
Sabrina Baggs 32 Bayview Heights	<p>(Clear cutting of main river) What is wrong with the world today that everything is focused on how much money there is to be made and not stop to realize what an impact this will have and already has on our environment and ourselves! When will this insanity stop and how much damage has to be done before we realize that it was and is a huge mistake. What kind of future are we leaving our children. None! When all is said and done all we will have is our memories and the realization that once again we screwed up. Something must and something will be done. Save the main!</p>
Christine Campbell 30 Central Street Comer Brook 1	<p>(Snowmobiling) I believe the issue of snowmobiling in the proposed park needs to be more fully discussed. Surely, 200 plus snowmobiles on an eco-tourist excursion might have some impact on the environment? The proposed plan does not seem to be clear on the location and extent of protected areas - ie. areas off-limits for snowmobiling. Do we understand the effect of snowmobile traffic on hares, caribou and moose? If the waterways park is open to snowmobilers, with timber harvesting being conducted outside the park boundary, then where exactly is the area for "habitat protection"?</p> <p>The proposed park does not address the loss of old growth forest in the watershed. Once this forest is removed, it will not grow back (within the cutting regime of CBPP). We in Newfoundland are now able to keep intact a priceless ecosystem - once gone, we will only be able to regret our decision forever.</p> <p>(viewscape) The designation of a park based solely on a viewscape is hypocritical since such an area has no ecological meaning. If we are serious about protecting ecological integrity of the main, then why allow continued clear-cutting in the watershed? It is the watershed that needs protection, not simply the trees that are seen by tourists on the river. The present waterways park would seem to be creating a "ghetto" of old growth forest (and bog, since a lot of the park appears to be unforested) amongst a clear cut area of same growth forest. The management plan points out the lack of knowledge about the flora and fauna. Invertebrates are not mentioned yet - haven't 7 species of spiders, new to Newfoundland, been listed for this area? Also, the plan states that "no rare or endangered plants are known? For the main river area - again, pointing out the lack of scientific knowledge. Yet we are going to allow "managed harvesting" in the old growth forest without even knowing what is it we are losing.</p> <p>The waterways park, while a worthwhile endeavour, seems to be protecting no more habitat than previously listed by WERAC designation. The WERAC area also did not address the question of protection of the main river watershed. I believe the Canadian Heritage River designation, if that is what is being sought, should cover more than just viewscape, but encompass the ecological integrity of the area.</p> <p>Mention is made of Gros Mome National Park, but the waterways park is segregated from GMNP by an area that appears to be slated for clear cutting, hence, where are the habitat corridors or connectivity for wildlife?</p>
Peter Puddester 30 Lomond Street	<p>The main river be declared a Canadian Heritage River. That the area should be open to all who wish to use it. All parties involved should work in harmony for the betterment of the area.</p>
Wes Sheppard 10 Allen Road Corner Brook	<p>I am in full agreement with CBPP commitment in protecting the area to its full extent as a Heritage River. However, I fully support the area of concern to be used to the most economically way of protecting jobs and helping keep the communities involved stay alive due to employment. Also maintaining a supply of wood for the Corner Brook mill.</p>

NAME	COMMENTS
D Bath 5 Cobb Lane Corner Brook	The proposed plan appears to be an excellent balance and compromise between the various interest. The integrity of the river and viewshed has been protected and the minimized forest harvest does make a contribution to the economic and employment levels on the west coast.
Julia Briffett 53 Birchview Avenue Pasadena	(Forest management) It would be ideal to harvest in the watershed using modified harvest techniques instead of clear cutting.
Lome Oxford 62 West Valley Road Corner Brook	(Road Rehabilitation) If roads are left in place after harvesting they could be used after for ATV/snowmobile/hiking, therefore reducing the impact of these activities on the existing environment. . Snowmobiles will be used to find any route from one area to another if no roadway exists. This would also open the area for Newfoundlanders and not only those who can afford outfitters. (Corner Brook Pulp and Paper) CBPP has made "great" sacrifices to its management plan to help achieve heritage river status.
Tom Knight Box 2402, RR 2 Corner Brook	(Pine Marten) Unlikely that pine marten would inhabit this small area - perhaps if perfectly packed with male and female having strongly overlapping house ranges. (Modified harvest area) Not clear what modified harvesting is proposed and how damaging the harvesting will be. (No protection for tributaries of main) Tributaries largely exposed to clear cutting-problems for salmon and trout populations in terms of temperature and flash flooding-without buffers only partly migrative. (Area) Too small- protecting only a tiny fraction of the forest community. Unlikely to encompass all important Habitats, seasonal migration, etc. (Loss of connectivity) Insignificant links to other forested areas. A thick corridor with limited linkages for wildlife. (Viewshed) Not clear how viewshed is determined. What if one hikes to top of hill instead of standing in the river? My guess is you would see clear cuts - is this our view of a "Heritage River". (Road Networks) Increases access - hunting and fishing pressure - sharing etc. with subsequent impacts on marten, etc. (Economic impacts) No information available or alternatives to cutting possible benefits to other industries. (Information session) No substantive information provided - impossible to evaluate exactly what is proposed inside the viewshed boundary - doesn't seem like much will be different except some "modified" harvest.
Tom Higgins 20A Crestview Avenue	(Decommissioning of roads) Recommend that all roads be open to the public. (General) This plan seems to be very reasonable and practical as proposed by the signatories. I think everybody has to come to a common ground to ensure that the area is well managed for the benefit of all. It think people from all the stakeholders involved use reasonable and good judgement to reach a solution in the end. The environment, wildlife, jobs, etc. have to be protected and at the end of the day everybody is satisfied with the results. I wish to point out that just one or two stakeholders can control the outcome/ answers to this situation. Good Luck.
Blaine Companion 18 Gushue Place Corner Brook	Hoping that all parties would come to an agreement that is good for everyone.

NAME	COMMENTS
Michael Lacey Corner Brook	I support the proposal to designate main river as a waterway provincial park. However, the importance of the forest resource to the economy of this province must not be disregarded!! It is important that sustainable forest harvesting be permitted in this area to protect the jobs and economy of the west coast. All values must be considered, not just those of the environmentalists. I believe this proposal adequately addresses the concerns of all stakeholders, with significant concessions being made by the paper companies.
Brian Quigley 85 Valley Road Corner Brook	(Management plan) Very good plan, should satisfy all parties involved. (Selected harvesting) Good move by CBPP. Will lose a lot of wood but will protect the view nom the river. (Decommission of road) Do not agree, should be left for all walks of people to enjoy.
Jerry Ollerhead 20 Gibbons A venue Corner Brook	(Decommission of road) No roads built with our tax money should be allowed to be decommissioned. As a snowmobiling person and past president of the western sno-riders club I have been going to this area. I have snowmobiled to St. Anthony from Stephenville in the winter 1993. These roads would be a good asset if kept in place. (Forest cutting) The logging companies should be allowed to cut wood in the river area. There should be a buffer zone on both sides and on hills that can be viewed nom the river (main river). The buffer zone should be 200 meters along the river on both sides. (No park) The way to see putting a new park adjacent to Gros Morne Park will create more problems. Us Newfoundlanders will not be allowed to go to the area without the big bucks to hire an outfitter. Then there will be no employment for the loggers in this area. The government already have gotten rid of some of the provincial parks already.
Brendan Mitchell 19 Cobbs Lane Corner Brook	(Support for Main River Heritage Designation) I strongly support designating main river as a heritage river. The main river system provides a scenic outdoor recreation area that can exist for many stakeholders involved. As an employee of CBPP I endorse our company's recent compromise in its initial cutting proposal. We now have an opportunity to demonstrate that industry, government and other stakeholders can cooperate to meet the needs of those involved in this issue.
Shane Young Mount Moriah	(Main River Heritage Status) As an avid user of our natural areas inside and outside of main river I see the management plan as the means to sustaining the area's ecosystem in perpetuity. Modified harvesting in the viewscape will allow for harvesting of the wood for employment in the area, yet preserve the natural beauty for other forest users. The stewardship agreement signatories show that with commitment to a goal compromise can be reached. I totally support the river for heritage status and the efforts made by all parties
Lewis Keough	(Plan) I oppose this plan, there is no way that the main river will survive as a heritage river under this plan. (Roads) Nothing can be described as wilderness or heritage once a road is put there. This plan needs a lot more input from the public and the people who really know what's happening.

NAME	COMMENTS
Linda Brown Jackson's Ann	(Viewscape boundary) Absolutely no cutting within the boundary
Albert Randell Pollard's Point	(viewscape Boundary) Absolutely no cutting within boundary.
Bruce Randell 9 Reids Road	Eastern side of main river from Kruger Bridge to Sop's Ann should be widened to three kilometers.
Betty Randell 9 Reids Road Corner Brook	Extend buffer (gorge area) to 3 km (most eastern side near Sop's Arm) Designate main river as a heritage over.
Ray Brake Corner Brook	I think this would be beneficial to all stakeholders when this issue is resolved. Hopefully it will proceed without much conflict. I support the initiative very much. The session presented the issue very clearly. It shows that there was a lot of planning and thought put into this by many people.
Eli Bishop Pollard's Point	(viewshed) Total area should be left uncut to maintain the natural and recreational values necessary for heritage status. Modified is not natural CHR will not accept something altered.
Patricia Bishop Pollard's Point	(Viewshed) Viewshed area should be left in its natural state "no cutting". Modified is not natural.
Robert Kearley 4 Montgomerie Street Corner Brook	A well thought out proposal that incorporates all the interests of the various stakeholders.
Wendy House Jackson's Ann	(Viewscape Boundary) There should be absolutely no cutting in this area. Not only does it ruin the view of the river, but it also destroys many valuable aspects of our forest. The wildlife should have a safe, stable environment to live in. If we as humans don't provide that, or sustain that, for them who will? (Old Growth Forest) What more is there to say? It's unique, untouched. Leave it alone. The government should be ashamed of themselves for even thinking about allowing the destruction of such an amazing environment. (Tourism) This area offers remarkable grounds for tourism opportunities. Why cut down a forest and provide a maximum of two years work when you can supply work to hundreds and thousands of generations to come by creating jobs in adventure tourism. Don't abuse such a resource, use it wisely. Respect this area and sustain it for future generations. It is beautiful and should not be interfered with. I am proud to be a Newfoundlander and areas such as main river and the nearby forest are one of the reasons why. Don't ruin this area – use your head.
Jules Mirault	(Viewshed Boundary) Should not be cut, anything within this area should remain as it. (Tributaries) Eagle Mountain should not be cut. NOTE: ½ km buffer zone should be minimum if cutting along tributaries is permitted. (Cutting- the entire water shed) If these holding represent less than 1 % of this company's area then they should leave this

NAME	COMMENTS
<p>Roy Foster 30 East Valley Road Corner Brook</p>	<p>(Why main river hysteria?) Elitism in any realm, in human or natural resources, will always begin at the neglect of the remainder. Its heightened focus' may spell its doom.</p> <p>(Main River's beauty) Yes, it's such, but so is all of our natural ecology and resources on this island. Have you compared the rest.</p> <p>(Natural Resource) Natural and renewable are the forested areas of main river. Yes, they should be carefully managed, and maybe more so because of its untouched beauty. However, all forested areas must be equally managed.</p> <p>I support the "Heritage River" concept with some degree of reservation. NOTE: Some areas of the Canadian Rockies are over used by tourists! Why? I believe that our wood fiber belongs to all inhabitants of this island. It must be carefully and consistently managed to support our forest based industries that depend on it. I see no reason why tourism, in all forms, could not co-exist with the harvesting plans in this area. Its co-existence has been supported in all other areas of our province. Yes, it can co-exist much better. How? By more carefully managing all aspects of the forestry activity. I believe that's where the emphasis should be focused. If we approached the future with that goal it would positively affect all our forested areas on the island. Preservation only will not sustain it for future use. Keep the land, its people and resources in focus.</p>
<p>Jeff R. Browning Meadows</p>	<p>(Visitor uses) No snowmobiling</p> <p>(# 1) What species are old growth dependant?</p> <p>(# 2) How much old growth do they need to survive?</p> <p>(# 3) An EIS by 2005</p> <p>(# 4) I would like to hear from the main river coalition.</p> <p>(# 5 Stakeholders) All stakeholders</p>
<p>Randy Smith Sop's Arm</p>	<p>(Cutting) Cutting should take place such that only a small section of the river is affected perpendicular to the river.</p> <p>(Heritage River) To maintain status as heritage river wildlife qualities must be maintained not only viewscape qualities. Will wildlife qualities be lost when cutting takes place.</p> <p>(value) What is the value to the province and local economy as a tourist attraction (ICON) as opposed to harvesting for timber.</p> <p>(Future) If this wood is harvested in the next few years will we as a people regret the short term gain as we have with so many of our other resources.</p> <p>(The River) Will this harvesting affect the river flow. For those who know the river it is a flash river, even a small rainfall affects its water level. If cutting is allowed in the watershed area it is reasonable to assume the river levels will rise much faster causing erosion, wildlife death, etc. etc.</p> <p>(CBPP) If this amount of wood on the main river area is of such importance to CBPP Then it implies that wood is in short supply. If it is, should CBPP reduce production until new forest can be harvested? Is this something that will have to be considered after the main has been cut?</p>
<p>Crystal Regular Sop's Arm</p>	<p>(View boundary) There should be absolutely no cutting in this area or any other area on main river.</p>
<p>Luke Hedderson Jackson's Arm</p>	<p>(Viewshed) I feel that boundaries of the viewshed should be extended to 1 - 2 km wider than originally planned.</p>
<p>Jeremy Pittman Sop's Arm</p>	<p>(Swimming, skidooning, fishing) Because the water is so clean, the snow on the trees so nice and the fish are big.</p>

NAME	COMMENTS
Kevin Fitzgeorge 7 Marcelle Avenue Corner Brook A2H 2V8	<p>The Main river area is a beautiful section of Newfoundland. The controversy to harvest or not to harvest has been blown out of proportion. Harvesting does not go in and decimate an area overnight. Cutting is always done on a planned basis, over a period of time, as can be seen throughout this Island of ours. Harvesting is compatible with our wildlife, and we have plenty of examples of this. The river as a recreational venue is such for a very few - it is a wild river - with savage variations in level, which occur overnight. I approve of controlled, managed harvesting.</p>
Greg Wood Box 1726 Deer Lake Adventure Tourism Instructor College of the North Atlantic	<p>Save the Main - NOW. All of the main - NOW. The whole Watershed - NOW. The proposed heritage status of the Main river is a critical piece of the wilderness potential for the province. It will be a major draw for adventure tourism opportunities for hundreds of years. The proposed "compromise" for modified harvesting of the Main river Watershed is a violation of all common sense practices of ecology, and goes against any notion of wilderness that is being "pretended" by its proponents. To be anywhere NEAR using sound ecological practice in the management of the Main river, the complete watershed area should be protected from ALL harvesting. The areas which are currently cut over should be left to establish themselves naturally, and in perhaps 200 years the main river watershed will once again return to its majesty.</p> <p>As an adventure tourism instructor and operator, the economic potential for this area related to recreation and adventure tourism is immense. Kruger wants to cut the "modified harvest" area to accrue a \$20 million profit. Over 70 years (minimum regeneration period) that benefit will be worth less than \$300,000/year and the tourism value, as well as the research, uniqueness and intrinsic value of the area is worth 100 times that. This short-term gain for long-term pain is a serious problem, and the Department of Tourism, Department of Forestry, and every other government department must start to question its overall management practices, and its relationship with Kruger and CBPP.</p>
Don Ivany Jr. Box 2890, RR # 2	<p>(Process) This process is terribly flawed. Many groups represented on the Heritage Committee to prepare this management plan had absolutely zero input on any management issues contained within this plan. Some did not even see a copy of the draft plan until it was released to the public. I now because I represented one of the groups on this committee</p> <p>(Natural Heritage Designation) To allow this proposal to be approved and till consider that the natural wilderness qualities of this magnificent watershed will be protected - is to make a "mockery" of this concept and this Heritage Designation Program. There is no concrete or specific management agreements in this document just loose, vague, general statements.</p> <p>(Credibility) Given the lack of credibility of the provincial government and Kruger to protect Main river - allowing this plan to pass would be signing a death sentence for Main river.</p> <p>(Need for Further Work) If the National Canadian Heritage Board truly wants to allow for the natural wilderness qualities of this watershed to be protected you will send this proposal back to the drawing board.</p>

Appendix 7

Response to Comments from the Public Open Houses 20000

Response to Public Comments to the Draft Main River Management Plan

Comment	Responsible Jurisdiction	Response
<p>1. There is a need to protect the full viewshed from cutting and it must be included in permanent legislated protection.</p>	<p>Tourism, Culture and Recreation (TCR)</p>	<p>The full viewshed is protected through 3 protection measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the land within the designated Provincial Waterway Park, 2. the land within the no cut zones in the Special Management Area (The Department is examining adding these areas to the Waterway Park to enhance the protection of these areas.) 3. the areas identified as modified harvest within the far viewshed are subject to an agreement by all signatories of the Stewardship Agreement These areas will be considered for both ecological and recreational values for a modified cut The firm of Olson and Olson have been hired by CBPPL to evaluate the visual impact of the proposed modified harvest in the viewshed. By undertaking this exercise prior to harvesting, potential negative visual impacts will be identified and the harvest plan will be adjusted accordingly. <p>CBPPL has subjected its harvesting approach to the signatories to the Stewardship Agreement, and the approach must be consistent with the objectives of the Agreement. The objective of the agreement is to ensure the integrity of the natural and other values for which the corridor was nominated to the CRRS. Therefore, the harvesting approach must meet this high standard of acceptability before it can proceed. - not just allow a scenic view.</p> <p>Also the Special Management Area has been criticized as being non-statutory, thus weak. It is noteworthy, however, that the Stewardship Agreement is a contract among the parties and therefore strengthens the Special Management Area.</p> <p>Harvesting in the far viewshed will also be subject to the provincial Environmental Assessment Process and the District 16 Forestry Management Planning Process.</p>

<p>2. A wider buffer should be provided for the gorge area of the Main River. In the gorge area the no cut buffer narrows to 100 meters in some locations)</p>	<p>TCR/CBPP</p>	<p>To. respond to this concern a 300 meter buffer on either side of the river throughout the entire gorge area will be maintained. (It may also be added to the Waterway Provincial Park.- Refer 1.2 above).</p>
<p>3. There should be no modified cutting in the Viewshed</p>	<p>TCR/CBPP</p>	<p>As per the actions identified in item 1 the modified cut area will fully respect viewshed integrity, as well as, the natural and recreational values for the river identified in the nomination document.</p>
<p>4. Impact of harvesting in the watershed on long term outdoor adventure tourism opportunities and outfitting businesses due to loss of wilderness quality and displacement of big game.</p>	<p>TCR and Department Of Forestry and Agrifoods (F&A)</p>	<p>In the broader watershed, outside the Waterway Park and Special Management Area, other outfitters have expressed concerns about harvesting. There are 3 outfitters located within the Waterway Park. Their outdoor adventure products will be protected and enhanced by the existence of the Park and the Special Management Area. The Wildlife Agency does not foresee any negative impact on these outfitters due to logging in the watershed. The Departments of TCR and FRA and CBPP have started a dialogue with these outfitters to directly address their concerns.</p> <p>The District 16 Five Year Forestry Planning Process will consider the requirements for outdoor adventure values in its Five Year Plan (2002-2006). The Department of TCR will encourage the development of and promotion of non-consumptive and adventure tourism in both the Heritage River Corridor and the watershed by participating in the District Forestry 16 Planning Process, working with the communities of White Bay for the implementation of their economic development plan and working directly with the three existing camps within the corridor. No new camps will be allowed in the Heritage River Corridor.</p> <p>In addition , throughout the province there is an 8 km buffer around each commercial big game outfitting camp within which no other big game outfitting operations will be approved.</p>

<p>5. There is a need to protect the old growth forest of the watershed and Main River is the last chance.</p>	<p>TCR</p>	<p>Although the Waterway Park was never intended to be an old growth forest reserve, the management plan recognizes the importance of this feature. For purposes of CHR status, the I old growth forest which occurs within the Waterway Park and the no cut zones of the Special Management Area will be fully protected. The Provincial Government recognizes that old growth forest is unique and must be captured in a reserve of appropriate size. Old growth forest does not only occur in the Main River watershed it extends along the Eastern side of the Great Northern Peninsula from the Main River Watershed in the south up to the Cloud River in the North. As part of the Natural Areas System Plan a candidate area will be identified to represent the Northern Peninsula Forest Ecoregion. This site will contain old growth forest and will provide a representative example of this feature. This area will be more pristine than the area in the Main River watershed. Only 37% of old growth forest occurs in the Main River watershed, leaving 63% from which to choose a substantial old growth reserve. River corridors by their nature are the most productive areas of eco-regions and in this manner much of the productive and ecologically rich area of the Main River will be protected through the management regimes that have outlined for the corridor. Some old growth forest (38 sq. km) occurs in the Heritage River Corridor within which forest harvesting will be prohibited. In addition, within the Special Management Area 26 sq. km of old growth forest will remain unharvested in the no cut zones, and within the modified harvest zones in the far watershed a portion of old growth forest will be left uncut. Not all other areas of the watershed will be harvested. At least 30% of the watershed occurs beyond CBPPL timber limits and even on lands within the timber limits some areas due to inaccessibility will remain uncut. Combined this will result in a portion of old growth forest being protected in the watershed</p>
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<p>6. There is a need to protect the ecological integrity of Gros Morne National Park and preserve World Heritage Site designation for Gros Morne.</p>	<p>TCR, FR&A, Parks Canada</p>	<p>The nominated CHR-corridor was never intended to be a bridge to Gros Morne National Park. However, with the increasing concern about Ecological Integrity, the role which the Waterway Park might serve has become a point of discussion. The key concern about Ecological Integrity deals with harvesting plans in the broader Main River watershed, which is separate issue from the Waterway Park. A scientific committee has been struck by the Department of FR&A, Parks Canada and CBPP to address the issues associated with achieving ecological integrity of Gros Morne National Park. The Dept of TCR will support the multi-agency agreement that ensures for the ecological integrity of Gros Morne. Solutions will be incorporated in the 2002-2007 forest ecosystem plan for District 16.</p> <p>The Department of TCR is also examining the possibility of establishing a special management area that would serve as a protected corridor between the Main River Heritage Corridor and the northern boundary of Gros Morne National Park.</p> <p>The Dept. of TCR will welcome the involvement of Parks Canada in a science program to develop management strategies for the Protected Area Corridor as part of the Stewardship Agreement.</p>
<p>7. The Heritage River should be protected under the Ecological Reserves Act and not the Provincial Parks Act.</p>	<p>TCR</p>	<p>The Province has considered both options and decided that the very restrictive nature of the WER Act does not lend itself well to the occurrence of existing activities in the Main River area including outfitter operations, forest access road and the recreational demands of the river. The Provincial Park legislation, while providing a high level of protection from industrial activity would support recreational and interpretive activities along the river, such as primitive campsites, trails, interpretive signage, etc;</p>

<p>8. All major tributaries as well as the main stem should have permanently- protected buffers at least two kilometers wide.</p>	<p>TCR, CWS, DFO and FRA</p>	<p>In the development of the management plan, great care was taken in evaluating resource management regimes (fisheries, forestry, migratory birds, big game, small game, water quality) inside and outside the Waterway Park. The evaluation was aimed at identifying weaknesses in resource management strategies outside the Park which could have negative downstream impacts inside the Park. Such weaknesses, if present, could erode the nomination values.</p> <p>Within this analysis, the issue was raised, whether the regulatory buffers on tributaries were adequate to prevent siltation, extraordinary water flow, raised water temperatures, etc; The conclusion is that existing regulatory buffers are adequate to prevent downstream negative impacts on the Park. Nevertheless, the management plan recommendations takes a precautionary approach and goes above and beyond the standard buffer zones recommended for salmon rivers (100 meters) and their tributaries (20-50 meters).</p> <p>The main stem of the River will have a minimum buffer of 300 meters and at some locations 3 kms.</p> <p>All major tributaries that flow into the Main River will have a buffer of 100 meters on either side</p>
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<p>9. How the Stewardship Agreement will protect the natural and ecological values of the protected area corridor.</p>	<p>All Signatories</p>	<p>The stewardship agreement commits all signatories to the protection of the corridor and the values for which it is nominated. This agreement is a part of the Management Plan that is submitted to the Board. The Board has a role to monitor the adherence of all jurisdictions to their commitments in their plans based on the ten year monitoring reports.</p> <p>In particular, the stewardship agreement will ensure that all parties agree to the plans for the modified cut.</p> <p>CBPPL has agreed to utilize Olsen and Olsen design technology as identified by Parks Canada to help in the decision making for this exercise.</p>
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<p>10. There is a need to protect the endangered Pine Marten population.</p>	<p>FRA, TCR</p>	<p>The Protected Area Corridor will significantly contribute to the protection of the pine marten. It is estimated that the proposal will provide sufficient habitat to support 15-20 individual I marten. It is recognized that 50 marten are required to maintain an minimum effective population throughout the watershed. Therefore, the establishment of the Waterway Park and Special Management Area in and of itself will not accomplish this goal. The duty of the Department of TCR, as a park agency, is to ensure there are processes and commitments in the broader watershed that will ensure pine marten can be sustained as a value of the Waterway Park over the long term. The goal of the Department of FRA, as stated in the Stewardship Agreement, is to maintain, or enhance, the Pine marten population in the (Main River) watershed. Management strategies will be put in place using the best science available. In order to accomplish this, the Newfoundland Pine Marten Recovery Team, including independent pine marten researchers, provides advice to the Dept of FRA on how best to manage for marten needs. The Department of FRA is reviewing the current pine marten guidelines in light of more recent scientific information on the impact of harvesting on pine marten.</p> <p>The Dept. of FRA will ensure a balance between harvesting activity in the modified harvest zones of the Special Management Area and the habitat needs for pine marten. The pine marten habitat needs will be addressed in the harvest design approved through the Stewardship Agreement and the Five Year Forest Ecosystem Management Plan for District 16.</p> <p>Together these measures will ensure for protection of critical pine marten habitat and the Protected Area Corridor will serve as a core refuge.</p> <p>Parks Canada, CBPPL and FRA are presently undertaking a study to determine the extent of the pine marten population in areas adjacent to Gros Morne.</p>
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<p>11. Increased road access will negatively impact upon the natural and recreational values of the river</p>	<p>TCR/FRA/CBPP</p>	<p>All roads required to undertake the modified harvest within the Special Management Area will be completely decommissioned and rehabilitated immediately following harvest.</p> <p>No new roads, with the exception of these. temporary roads in the Special Management Area will be permitted.</p> <p>There will be no public access using motorized vehicles (as defined by the Highway Traffic Act) of temporary roads in the Special Management Area. These roads will strictly be limited to those persons involved in forest harvesting and enforcement activities.</p>
<p>12. When will the Stewardship Agreement be signed by all parties?</p>	<p>TCR/FRA/CB PPL</p>	<p>The Stewardship Agreement will be appended to the Management Plan.</p> <p>The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has approved the Stewardship Agreement and this automatically ensures the signature of Province. The Dept. of TCR will seek the approval of the other signatories before the Proposal is presented to the Board.</p>
<p>13. The 300 metre minimum altitude for aircraft may not be adequate due to Transport Canada Standards.</p>	<p>TCR</p>	<p>This item will be checked with Transport Canada and amended if required.</p>
<p>14. There was not adequate public participation for this planning process</p>	<p>TCR</p>	<p>Public meetings were initially held in 1992 and 1995 . In addition, public open houses were held on December 5 and 6 in Sop's Arm and Comer Brook and approximately 200 people were in attendance. In addition, TCR agreed to accept public comments up until December 18 and also committed to forwarding comments received from the public beyond that date to the CRR Secretariat for the Board's consideration. To date, 770 written submissions have been received and are summarized in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The Management Plan has been available to the public through the Dept. TCR's website since the second week of December.</p>

