Little Grand Rapids First Nation

Ni-Kes Final Draft Lands Management Plan

Manitoba Planning Area

May 2012

Prepared by Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Manitoba
Table of Contents

Acknowledgments 3
Dedication to Ni-Kes 4
Introduction 5
Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Guiding Principles 6
Current Land & Resources 13
Lands Management Direction 17
  • Traditional Use and Occupancy 19
  • Atikaki Provincial Park 19
  • Cabins 19
  • Climate Change 19
  • Commercial Trapping 19
  • Economic Development 20
  • Fire Management/Suppression 21
  • Fishing 21
  • Forestry 21
  • Fuel Caches 21
  • Garbage and Human Waste 22
  • Hunting 22
  • Mineral Exploration and mining 22
  • Monitoring 22
  • Moose Fall Harvest 22
  • Non Forest Timber Products 22
  • Special Sites 23
  • Tourism 23
  • Transportation 23
  • Waterways and Water Quality 24
Lands Management Plan Areas 22
Plan Implementation 28
Glossary and Sources 31
Figure 1 – Map – Planning Area 12
Figure 2 – Map – Land Use Areas 30
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following programs, people and organizations.

Funding Agencies
- Manitoba Heritage Historic Research Program
- Manitoba Sustainable Development Innovations Fund
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Community Economic Opportunity Program
- Ontario Forestry Futures Trust Program
- Canadian Boreal Initiative
- Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Inc.
- MacArthur Grant Foundation
- Manitoba Government
- Ontario Government

List of organizations
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation Chief and Council
- Whelan Enns Associates Inc.
- Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Secretariat

Special people who have contributed
- Dr. Peter Kulchyski
- Dr. Maureen Matthews

List of planning team members
- Augustine Keeper, Lands Planning Coordinator
- Winston Keeper Jr.
- Emil Keeper, Lands Planning Coordinator
- Martin Owens (Chief 2010 – 2011)
- Councillor Hilda Crow
- Councillor Wendy Leveque
- Jared Whelan
- John Irwin (retired)
- Joann Hebert
- Cheryl Prosser
- Alison Haugh (alternate)

And our Elders, whose ancestral and traditional knowledge has helped us understand our past and guide us in the future. Without their contribution we would not have been able to complete this plan.

To other people and organizations not listed here but who have helped us develop this plan, thank you for your contributions through your research and experience.
Dedication to
Ni-Kes

Dedication write-up to follow
Introduction

Little Grand Rapids First Nation is leading preparation of land use direction for areas of ancestral and traditional use in both Manitoba and Ontario. Although there are necessarily two separate planning processes, one with each province, Little Grand Rapids First Nation is planning with a holistic view, which will provide direction that will be meaningful for our traditional use area. However, the planning areas themselves do not define the Little Grand Rapids First Nation ancestral and traditional land use area.

We will continue to exercise our aboriginal, traditional, treaty and constitutional rights on the lands and water in our traditional area.


In Manitoba, Little Grand Rapids First Nation is working together with Manitoba Conservation to prepare a community based lands management plan for an area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

The boundary of our planning area based on our trap line section boundary. The partners in the “Protected Areas and First Nation Resource Stewardship: A Cooperative Relationship Accord”; Poplar River First Nation, Little Grand Rapids First Nation, Pauingassi First Nation and Pikangikum First Nation. (March 2002) have resolved to establish respective trap line section boundaries as planning areas.

The planning area does not represent our entire or exclusive ancestral, historical and traditional land use and occupancy area.

A primary reason for Little Grand Rapids First Nation to engage in planning is for the well-being of future generations. This draft lands management plan documents short and long term community priorities, desired use and principles to guide management of lands and resources. The final plan will reflect a consensus among the community members and with the Province.

The planning process has now arrived at the final draft stage and is the subject of consultation within the First Nation community, with Manitoba Government and with the public. The draft plan identifies existing and potential land use activities and proposes zoning to support those uses. All proposals reflect consideration of information and knowledge of the land, the resources, and the objectives of both the community and the Province.

Both local and broader scale contexts are considered, including those identified by the Manitoba Government. Your response to the Final Draft Lands Management Plan is welcome.

Meegwetch,
Little Grand Rapids Planning Team
Vision, Goals, Objectives and Guiding Principles
The people of Little Grand Rapids First Nation have been part of the land from time immemorial as long as the oldest elder of our community remembers. We believe and assert that we are part of the land. Our vision for the land is very much a vision for and of ourselves. The land and water of our traditional area is important to us.

We wish our traditional lands to be managed in a way so that our people as being part of the land, water and living things are sustained into the future. For that purpose we are engaged in the steps needed to arrive at a lands management plan for our traditional land in both Manitoba and Ontario.
Goals

The goals for managing and protecting the land within the Planning Area are to:

a) sustain the natural world for present and future generations by protecting traditional land from industrial development more specifically to restrict industrial logging in most of the planning area;

b) identify possible economic developments pursuant to the lands plan and economic strategy which may include but are not limited to mining, tourism, low impact energy developments and other like developments;

c) manage Little Grand Rapids First Nation ancestral and traditional lands in partnership with the Manitoba Government;

d) create a new economy and provide training, and jobs for our people while maintaining and protecting the health of our traditional land;

e) support and sustain ancestral traditional knowledge, traditional land uses, and access to these lands now and for future generations;

f) uphold and sustain our aboriginal and treaty rights under the Canadian Constitution and Treaty 5;

g) continue to participate in and support the Stewardship Accord signed March 2002 with Pauingassi, Poplar River, Pikangikum, (Bloodvein River 2010); and

h) work in support of the goal of a Pimachiowin Aki world heritage site nomination.

Objectives

The specific desired outcomes of lands management planning to are as follows.

- A land management plan that is also a communication plan to share information about the relationship of the people of Little Grand Rapids First Nation in all aspects with the land so that it is understood and sustained.

- Continued use of traditional lands and enhance traditional uses.

- The recording and sharing ancestral traditional knowledge.

- Identification of economic opportunities that is desired and compatible with this area.
• Harmonization of objectives of Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Government of Manitoba in Crown land use and natural resource management.

• Identification of protection zones and other land use designations.

• A plan with the Government of Manitoba that will support the requirements for a future world heritage site.

• Upholding of the objectives of the 2002 First Nation Stewardship Accord.

• Upholding of the objectives of the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Accord of 2007.

• Improvement of the relationship between the Government of Manitoba and First Nation communities who have traditional land use areas in Atikaki Provincial Park.

• Training of Little Grand Rapids First Nation members for key management and administrative positions in the future management of our traditional area.

• Creation of lands management staff positions in the community. These staff will work with Conservation and Water Stewardship staff in land use operations and protected areas management.

Guiding Principles

These principles guide the decisions and land use-planning direction for the lands management planning area in Manitoba:

• In addition to the principles in this section, Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Manitoba Government acknowledge that the preparation and implementation of this land management plan will respect Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and rights under the Canadian Constitution, in particular Section 35 and will be consistent with existing provincial legislation.

• Little Grand Rapids First Nation will respect the historical and continued shared use of its traditional area by neighbouring communities for traditional activities of: hunting, fishing, gathering, travel, etc. There has always been overlap in traditional use areas between communities. This will not change with the formal planning process.

• Little Grand Rapids First Nation traditional use and stewardship of traditional lands is respected and recognized. This is a foundation for:
  o informed use and management of lands and waters for present and future generations;
  o traditional use and resource stewardship traditions and the teachings and practices as part of a conservation approach (providing for care of the land); and
the continuity of the connection of First Nation people to the land.

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation has a duty and interest to use this land in a way that protects and enhances it for future generations.

- The land management plan and planning process will respect the connection between the people and land, and take into account ancestral traditional and local knowledge.

- Decision-making will rely upon a foundation of traditional values, ancestral teaching methods and knowledge, along with science, to provide the best knowledge currently available in terms of forests, land, water, wildlife, plants and fish management.

- The management plan will protect, respect and celebrate sacred and ancestral places and values.

- The requirement to protect cultural and natural heritage values from negative impacts.

- Recognition of the importance of encouraging training for youth in the future lands and resources management and opportunities, including building respectful, sharing relationships and relying upon the ancestral and traditional knowledge and teachings of elders.

- Recognition that water is the lifeblood of the land and the people. Protection of water sources is of the highest importance, as is management and protection of lakes and river corridors.

- Recognition that the area as it is part of the northern boreal forest and its ecological processes that have shaped the landscape for millennia. Support the ongoing health of the boreal forest and all living things including provision of healthy watersheds and a continuous supply of fish and wildlife habitat, including habitat for species at risk.

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation considers the Planning Area to be its ancestral lands: lands that it has used since time immemorial.

- Land uses can contribute to the growth of a healthy economy in Little Grand Rapids First Nation community and the province. Identification of opportunities in economic development initiatives that will benefit the First Nation will be encouraged.

- Respect for existing stakeholder interests including tourism and other activities.
  - Recreational and tourism uses that sustain healthy lands and waters, the culture and traditions will be encouraged.

- In the face of uncertainty or risk, the precautionary principle will be considered to make decisions about land and resource use and management. The ‘precautionary principle’
involves acting to avoid serious or potential harm to people or the environment where there is scientific uncertainty about likelihood, magnitude, or source of that harm\(^1\).

- The promotion of opportunities to mitigate climate change and store carbon.
- Incorporate adaptive management principles into new activities and resource management planning.
- Land use activities and management planning will recognize the need to consider broader geography, e.g., watersheds, cumulative effects of multiple activities, wide-ranging species needs, etc.
- This management plan and associated community research and planning products to be based on community ancestral and traditional knowledge belonging to Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

\(^1\) The Precautionary Principle Project [http://www.pprinciple.net/the_precautionary_principle.html](http://www.pprinciple.net/the_precautionary_principle.html) (accessed July 2009)
Current Land and Resource Uses
Current Little Grand Rapids First Nation land and resource uses

In the present day, Little Grand Rapids First Nation members spend time on the land and water participating in a variety of activities outside the community site that include traditional and contemporary uses. Examples include:

- hunting and fishing (personal and shared use), trapping (personal and shared community use; licensed, non-licensed),
- travel by canoe, boat, motorized vehicles, snowmobile, plane, floatplane, and vehicle within the community and on winter roads,
- guiding, camping, and staying in cabins,
- gathering medicinal plants (personal and shared use) and gathering non-timber forest products (e.g. berries, herbs, mushrooms for personal and shared use),
- cutting firewood,
- swimming in lakes and rivers,
- sacred sites and ceremonial sites,
- wild rice harvesting (for personal use), and
- ceremonies, events, and gatherings,

Hunting for woodland caribou is rarely planned and usually occurs by chance. Moose are preferred as a food source because of their reliability and the large quantity of meat that is obtained. Different species are hunted at different times of the year.

There are three main historic waterways that flow through Little Grand Rapids First Nation planning area, the Berens River, Keeper River and Pigeon River systems. These waterways are valued travel routes that have been used by the people of Little Grand Rapids First Nation since time immemorial.

Other land uses and tenure

There are a number of fishing and hunting lodges and outfitter camps in the planning area.

There is a winter road that comes from the west along Lake Winnipeg near Bloodvein First Nation. The hydro electric power line follows a similar route to the community.

The nearest community is Pauingassi First Nation. Other neighbouring communities are Poplar River, Berens River, Bloodvein and Hollow Water First Nations.

Atikaki Provincial Park is south of the town site for Little Grand Rapids First Nation. The Park overlaps several community trap lines.

There is new quarry withdrawal area pending as of January 2011, requested by the East Side Road Authority for the development of the proposed new all season road. There is one mining claim by Allan Johnson Lake.
Lands and Resources

This section provides a brief background on the hydrology, ecology, biology, species, geology and mineral potential in the planning area.

The planning area is situated entirely in the Boreal Forest Region. It is dominated by conifer stands, consisting primarily of jack pine and black spruce.

Waters are the lifeblood of First Nation communities that have existed here for thousands of years, depending on waters for fishing, travel, wild rice plantations, and drinking water. Healthy rivers and lakes are a cultural and spiritual necessity for First Nation communities. In the planning area water generally flows from east to west, drainage is generally towards Lake Winnipeg with many lakes, rivers, streams and rapids. Low falls occur where there are bedrock outcrops along rivers and streams.

The planning area is dominated by 2.7 to 3 billion year old granitic rocks of the Canadian Shield and a small area of ancient metamorphosed volcanic rocks (the Horseshoe Lake greenstone belt). Located west of the traditional area beyond the eastern shoreline of Lake Winnipeg are younger (400 to 500 million-year-old) rocks of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin, composed of limestone and sandstone.

Based on similar rocks elsewhere in Manitoba, the dominantly granitic rocks generally have low mineral potential. However, rare element minerals such as lithium, cesium and rubidium are mined in granitic rocks at Tanco mine near Lac du Bonnet. Parts of Precambrian Shields have potential to host diamondiferous kimberlite pipes, but there is currently no evidence for kimberlites east of Lake Winnipeg.

Previous work in the small greenstone belt located in the Horseshoe–Night Owl lakes area indicates there may be mineral potential for gold, silver, copper, and zinc. Preliminary interpretations indicated that pyrrhotite and gold mineralization identified in the clastic sedimentary rocks may be hosted by chemical sediments. Greenstones belts are known to have potential for gold, for example in the Bissett area. ²

Portions of the planning area require more detailed geological mapping to provide an accurate analysis of the mineral potential. The first priority in any new geological work would be the Horseshoe Lake greenstone belt.

In the area are bogs, fens, and swamp areas where organic (plant) material settles. Organic deposits include peat and some inorganic sediment. There is a thin layer of till that is not continuous over the landscape and may include areas of rock outcrop. Till is sediment, deposited by glaciers, generally consisting of well-compacted material that is layered and contains a

mixture of sand, silt, and clay particles and coarse fragments. Lacustrine sediments generally consist of layered fine sand, silt, and clay deposited on an ancient lakebed, near lakeshore, or on a beach.

The planning area is within the Sub humid Mid-Boreal Eco-climactic Region. The climate of the area is modified by the maritime influences of Hudson Bay, Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg. Little Grand Rapids First Nation experiences a warm summer with mean temperatures of 14°C and cold winters with a mean winter temperature of -14.5°C. Mean annual temperature for the area is -0.4°C and the average frost-free period ranges from 80-120 days. The region is considered to be sub humid to humid with 400 to 460 mm of precipitation. The growing season in the area is between 130 and 170 days.

Walleye, Northern Pike and Lake Trout can be found throughout the planning area.

Bird species include the spruce grouse, herring gull, and double-crested cormorant, as well as bald eagle, osprey, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, waterfowl, sharp-tailed grouse, willow ptarmigan, common nighthawk, raven, gray jay, hawk owl, among others. Geese, ducks and other waterfowl are seasonally hunted.

Wildlife include wolf, lynx, ermine, fisher, mink, moose, black bear, woodland caribou, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, wolverine, otter, marten, beaver, short-tailed weasel, red-backed vole, and least chipmunk.

Beaver and muskrat not only provide valuable furs, but also good meat for eating, as do rabbits and “bush chickens” (spruce grouse in particular). Otters, bear, wolf, fox, mink, fisher, ermine, wolverine, squirrel and marten are trapped for their furs.
Lands Management Direction
Lands Management Direction

These directions for lands management planning do not include Little Grand Rapids First Nation reserve.

*Although trap lines will be used as planning boundaries, these areas do not reflect the full extent of Little Grand Rapids First Nation traditional area.*

*Our traditional lands include areas beyond our registered trap lines where traditional uses, including travel, cultural activities and trade have occurred over time.*

*Little Grand Rapids First Nation will respect the historical and continued shared use of its traditional area by neighbouring communities for traditional activities of; hunting, fishing, gathering, travel etc. There has always been overlap in traditional use areas between communities. This will not change with the formal planning process.*

Little Grand Rapids Stewardship Board has been established consisting of equal number of representatives from Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Government of Manitoba. The Chief and Council work with the Board by providing comments and recommendations to the Board. One of the responsibilities of the Board is to review Crown land dispositions and allocations within the planning area.

Governments acknowledge that First Nations’ use and occupancy of lands and waters may extend beyond trap line areas. In many cases lands traditionally used by First Nations overlap with one another as a result of customary arrangements for access, use and kinship links. Discrete trap line areas show more recent land use patterns established since introduction by the government trap line systems in the 1940s and 1950s in both Manitoba and Ontario. The use of trap lines as planning boundaries allows for clear distinction of one First Nation planning area from another.

We will work with Manitoba or outside agencies to explore opportunities for joint research projects, gathering information and youth education projects relating to wildlife, fish and environment.

The recommendations and direction for activities in proposed protected areas should be consistent with First Nation stewardship and livelihood opportunities.

Development of tourism opportunities is an important goal which includes development of recreational hunting, fishing, camping and canoeing opportunities. Snowmobiling and all terrain vehicles are being used now and may continue to be used and specific areas may be designated in the future in the planning area.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation is recommending protected areas and land use areas within Little Grand Rapids First Nation planning area that contribute to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site nomination.
Traditional Use and Occupancy
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will continue to practice traditional activities throughout the planning area and ensure that all other land uses take into account traditional activities by the Little Grand Rapids First Nation.
- There are three locations that Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like to use for seasonal summer camps for community use. These are Whitefish Bay, White-eye Lake and Night Owl Lake.

Atikaki Provincial Park
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will work with Conservation and Water Stewardship to ensure that our First Nation has meaningful involvement in the management of Park lands within our traditional area.
- Atikaki Provincial Park will be managed through existing legislation polices and the park management plan. (April 2008)

Cabins – community or hunting/trapping
- Community members are asked to discuss the location of new cabins with the Stewardship Board.
- Existing locations of cabins will be reported to the Stewardship Board.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation may consider developing a community cabin policy.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will work toward finding the resources to accurately map locations of all cabins in the planning area.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation has the right to build community / hunting or trapping cabins in the planning area as an activity that is reasonably incidental to the exercise of an aboriginal or Treaty right.
- There is a significant concern about potential development along the future all season road and how it will affect our traditional activities. We would like to be consulted on new developments before a decision is made to have an opportunity to voice our concerns.

Climate Change
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Manitoba may consider opportunities to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and incorporate appropriate techniques in management planning;
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will investigate the options around protecting ecological processes and retaining the value of stored carbon in the Boreal Forest and ground.

Commercial Trapping
- Commercial trapping would continue in the planning area.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will work with Wildlife Branch, Conservation and Water Stewardship on the management of beaver populations.
- The Little Grand Rapids First Nation community wants additional control and input on the management of trap lines. We recognize that trapping of fur for sale is a commercial tenure system and is currently governed by regulations under *The Wildlife Act* and the
provincial fur policy. Consistent with existing Manitoba policies, we will propose a protocol for commercial trapping in which:

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation would approve any changes in head trapper for each Manitoba trap line.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation would pursue creation of a “Trapping Council” in the community.
- The “Trapping Council” would develop management policies consistent with Manitoba regulations.
- The “Trapping Council” would sell commercial trapping licenses as an approved vendor and would determine who the head trappers are for each district.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like all trap lines to be held by community members. If a trap line is not held by a community member, Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like it to be held in common by the community.

**Economic development**

- When the Ni-Kes Lands Management Plan is in effect, decisions under provincial legislation respecting the allocation, disposition or use of Crown land and Crown resources in the planning area, and new development in the planning area, must take the Plan into account.
- Proposed allocations, dispositions or use of Crown land and Crown resources in the planning area and new development in the planning area, will be reviewed by the Little Grand Rapids Stewardship Board.

**Endangered and threatened species**

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Conservation and Water Stewardship will discuss future management of endangered and threatened species in the planning area, including:
  - Woodland Caribou
  - Wolverine
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation, and Conservation and Water Stewardship and Fisheries and Oceans Canada will discuss future management of Sturgeon

**Energy Development and Energy Transmission Corridors**

- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will identify potential locations for energy development that are compatible with the lands management direction.
- Possible types of energy development include micro-hydro, wind, solar and geothermal.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will contribute to the development of additional management direction for any future energy development activities.
- Energy development may be considered for local Little Grand Rapids reserve use or in-place use for buildings in the planning area. (Community cabins, tourism operations etc.)
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation intends potential energy development to be for local reserve use or in-place use associated with community cabins or tourism operations; not for sale or export.
- Short transmission lines would be allowed to connect either micro-hydro, wind; solar or geothermal power generation to the reserve or buildings in the planning area.
• An objective is to minimize damaging the natural environment and use the shortest possible transmission line for in-place power generation.
• Manitoba Hydro and Conservation and Water Stewardship will consult Little Grand Rapids First Nation about upgrading the current 66 kV power line to a 115 kV power line to Little Grand Rapids reserve and continuing to Pauingassi First Nation, when or if this upgrade is planned or necessary.
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like to be consulted on new transmission line projects.

**Fire Management / Suppression**
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation will work with the appropriate provincial department to develop a fire management strategy, in the planning area, which will include Fire Smart Principles.

**Fishing**
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation is intent on continuing to exercise rights in relation to fishing. It is also important to sustain fish populations.
• Recreational fishing can continue in the area and through licensed tourism operations unless conservation measures are required.
• Work with government departments to setup a monitoring program for changes in fish population.
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like to review the issues surrounding fishing with live bait with Manitoba.
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation may work with Conservation and Water Stewardship to investigate and possibly set limits on fish harvesting.
• No fish harvested will be wasted.

**Forestry**
• Little Grand Rapids First Nation would like to operate community sustainable forestry operations for firewood and local building supplies.(e.g. a community saw mill)
• Community sustainable forestry would be allowed in the Enhanced Management Area and Commercial Area only.
• Working with the Forestry Branch of Conservation and Water Stewardship, we will develop guiding direction for the use of forest resources and locations for community sustainable forestry operations within the Enhanced Management Area and Commercial Area.
• The viability of community sustainable forestry will be reviewed in the future when the whole plan is reviewed by Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Manitoba and depending on changing economic conditions.
• Community sustainable forestry includes operations managed by Little Grand Rapids First Nation for the benefit of the community.
Fuel Caches
- Fuel caches for existing licensed operations would be maintained per the current licence. However, in the future, best practice will be reviewed and new conditions may be recommended for the operations.

Garbage and human waste
- Garbage and human waste guidelines will be developed to reduce and mitigate the impact on the community and environment.
- Human waste, garbage, and effluent in the planning area will be managed in accordance with Manitoba Provincial regulations.

Hunting
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will continue to exercise its’ rights in relation to hunting. It is also important to sustain wildlife populations.
- Recreational hunting can continue in the area and through tourist operations (outfitters, outposts, etc.) unless conservation measures are required.
- There will be no waste of animal or animal parts that have been harvested.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation may develop moose management and hunting guidelines for the community with Conservation and Water Stewardship.

Mineral exploration and mining
- Mineral exploration and mining for metals may occur in the Commercial Area
- Mineral exploration and mining would be prohibited in the protected areas.
- Mineral exploration and mining are prohibited in Atikaki Provincial Park.
- Mineral exploration and mining for other than metals may occur in the Enhanced Management Area.
- Additional management direction for any future mineral exploration and mining activities within the Commercial Area and Enhanced Management Area may be provided by Little Grand Rapids First Nation and Manitoba Government.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will pursue impact benefit agreements with any mining company we partner with in the future.

Monitoring
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will discuss with Manitoba setting up monitoring programs for hunting, trapping, observations of changing environment, visitors and possibly climate change.
- We would also like to investigate long term environmental monitoring. (water, soil, air, species, wildlife, fish)

Moose Fall Harvest
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation may review the annual moose fall harvest and recommend the development of policies regarding community moose fall harvest.

Non-timber forest products (NTFP)
- Little Grand Rapids will investigate future NTFP opportunities.
• Harvesting non-timber forest products in Atikaki Provincial Park for commercial use is prohibited.

**Special Sites (Cultural, burial, ceremonial etc.)**

- Special sites will be protected, and people other than community members are encouraged not to access the sites unless the sites are otherwise designated.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will identify those special sites they wish to have additional protection.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will discuss the option of protecting special sites under legislation, such as *The Heritage Resources Act*.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will ask all visitors to the planning area not to disturb cultural sites. If a site is located please inform Little Grand Rapids First Nation band office with an exact location (GPS) if possible.

**Tourism**

- Tourism activities should protect and respect aboriginal rights, treaty rights and uses of the land.
- Tourism should protect features of cultural and ecological significance, and the relationship of First Nation people to these features, and respect aboriginal ancestral traditional knowledge and traditional uses.
- A proposed tourism plan would recognize an interest in planning new community-based tourism initiatives and promoting First Nation-owned operations for new tourism ventures.
- We will show respect for existing stakeholder interests and build a positive relationship between existing tourism operations and Little Grand Rapids First Nation community.
- New and existing tourism establishments must operate in accordance with environmental standards and regulations and in some cases incorporate enhanced Best Management Practices (BMP’s) for water quality protection (i.e. septic systems).

**Transportation (winter, all season)**

- Winter roads and all season roads would be prohibited in the protected areas.
- Identify future route for all season road to Little Grand Rapids First Nation and to Pauingassi First Nation.
- A road corridor across the Pigeon River outside of the Atikaki Provincial Park would be allowed if this is the best option for a future all season road.
- Impacts on the Pigeon River protected area will need to be considered.
- All disturbed sites associated with the construction of the all season road should be decommissioned and reclaimed once the road is built and operating.
- Quarry sites that are needed for maintenance of the road would remain.
- Identify future location of airstrip closer to the community.
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation will contribute to an evaluation of risks and benefits associated with a future all season road. (e.g. habitat loss, cottage development)
- Manitoba will consult Little Grand Rapids First Nation on the route and activities (including construction) for the all season road.
- Activities allowed in Enhanced Management Area if they are associated with the all
season road construction, operation and maintenance and associated structures include, but are not limited to: crossing structure installation, replacement and maintenance, road bed construction and maintenance, right of way clearing and grubbing, geotechnical exploration; quarry development (mining, extraction, production of aggregate, development of access roads), borrow areas, work camps/maintenance yards, lay-down areas, snow clearing, and winter road decommissioning.

Waterways and water quality

- Protection of the water used by the community for home use for drinking, washing and cooking, is important to the community and guidelines may be developed to assist in keeping the waters clean.
- Strategic direction may be provided for protection and conservation of waterways and wetlands for both cultural resources and natural resources.
Lands Management Plan Areas
Lands Management Plan Area Descriptions

Little Grand Rapids First Nation respects the historical and continued shared use of its traditional area by neighbouring communities for traditional activities of; hunting, fishing, gathering, travel etc. There has always been overlap in traditional use areas between communities.

The Stewardship Board will review proposed Crown land and resource disposition and allocations and new development plans for this area and provide comments to Manitoba. Representatives of the Board will provide feedback to their respective organizations on the comments and recommendations that were forwarded to Manitoba by the Board. Little Grand Rapids First Nation is concerned that development, once the all season road is operating, may affect treaty rights and traditional activities if too many buildings are constructed within the planning area.

**Enhanced Management Area**

**Land Use Intent**

All traditional activities will continue within the Enhanced Management Area unless conservation measures are warranted and consultation has taken place with Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

In the Enhanced Management Area mineral exploration for metals would not be allowed. Any mining activity, such as aggregate and peat extraction, would be managed to protect wildlife and the landscape.

The existing transmission line and winter road corridor pass through the Enhanced Management Area and would be maintained which includes upgrading the distribution lines. Micro-hydro, solar, wind and geo-thermal energy development and distribution lines meant for these activities may be allowed. Transmission lines in excess of 115kV would not be allowed. Micro-hydro is hydro development that generates electricity in a manner that has minimal impact on natural water flow. Power generated should be for immediate use.

An all season road is planned through the area. Aggregate extraction would be allowed, mainly for the purpose of all season road construction. Quarry sites that are needed for maintenance of the road would remain. If new or additional utility lines for telecommunications are needed they would be permitted preferably in the same corridor as the all season road.

Large scale commercial forestry is prohibited but community based sustainable forestry would be allowed.

Wild rice harvesting may be permitted in this area.

Extra management precautions may be taken to protect habitat and waterways to reduce impact on all trap lines, hunting areas, cabins and special places. Specific guidance for the protection of woodland caribou and their habitat within this area may be developed.
Commercial Area
Land Use Intent

All traditional activities will continue within the Commercial Area unless conservation measures are required and consultation has taken place with Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

Mineral exploration for metals may be allowed within this area. Any mining activity would be managed to protect wildlife and the landscape.

The existing transmission line passes through this area and would be maintained which includes upgrading the distribution lines. Micro-hydro, solar, wind and geo-thermal energy development and distribution lines meant for these activities may be allowed. Transmission lines in excess of 115kV would not be allowed. Micro-hydro is hydro development that generates electricity in a manner that has minimal impact on natural water flow. Power generated should be for immediate use.

If new or additional utility lines for telecommunications are needed they may be permitted.

Large scale commercial forestry would be prohibited but community based sustainable forestry would be allowed.

Roads would be allowed in this area.

Extra management precautions may be taken to protect habitat and waterways to reduce impact on all trap lines, hunting areas, cabins and special places.

A 50 m buffer from the Ordinary High Water Mark along waterways will be considered for protection from development activities associated with mineral exploration and mining.

Management planning will provide specific guidance for the protection of woodland caribou and their habitat within this area.

Wild rice harvesting may be permitted in this area.

Protected Area
Land Use Intent

The Protected Area will be managed to allow and maintain traditional uses, protect cultural and natural lands, and natural resources. The maintenance and construction of community hunting and trapping cabins, the continuation of commercial trapping, the collection of non-timber forest products, rice harvesting and recreational activities will be allowed to continue within this area. The Protected Area will ensure natural habitat, animals, birds, fish, waterways and the environment are protected.
Commercial forestry, mineral exploration and mining, aggregate and peat extraction, exploration or development of petroleum resources, hydro-electric generation and transmission, peat extraction, winter roads and all season roads would be prohibited in the Protected area.

We would like to provide direction to manage float-plane landing areas.

**Pigeon River Protected Area**

**Land Use Intent**

The land use intent for this area is the same as the Protected Area.

The Pigeon River proposed all season road crossing will be carefully studied and reviewed with Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Government of Manitoba before construction begins.

Construction of the proposed all season road and the winter road would be permitted within the Pigeon River Protected Area. Activities required to develop and maintain the roads are allowed while ensuring that extra care is taken for the surrounding areas near construction/maintenance, marshalling and staging areas.

**Atikaki Provincial Park Area**

Atikaki Provincial Park is located to the south of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation reserve. The community and Conservation and Water Stewardship will work together on management of the park. The intent is that the protected areas and the Atikaki Provincial Park will complement each other in terms of habitat protection.

Management planning will provide specific guidance for the protection of woodland caribou and their habitat. The Park will be managed in accordance with the management plan for the Park and relevant legislation.

**Areas of Importance but not located on the Land Use Area Map**

**Special Sites**

Special sites are cultural, historical or spiritual sites located in the planning area. These sites are important and in some cases sacred to the community members. Traditional activities may continue as long as sites are not disturbed or destroyed. Through traditional land use and occupancy studies along with Manitoba historical records many sites have been identified. In some parts of the planning area there are groups of special sites that may need extra management and protection. These sites will be protected from industrial development and disturbance. Special permission may be required to visit these sites in the planning area.

**Examples include:**

- burial sites,
- birth sites,
- ceremony sites,
• rock painting,
• sacred stones,
• petroglyphs,
• Thunderbird Nests,
• historical sites,
• trading sites,
• meeting places,
• historical meeting areas, and
• sacred sites.

**Waterway Management**

Water is important to Little Grand Rapids First Nation. Waterways and wetlands will be managed to promote protection objectives associated with the cultural and ecological value of water systems. A 50m buffer from Ordinary high Water Mark around and along significant waterways that will be identified in the Commercial Area.

Extra management precautions will be taken to protect habitat and waterways to reduce impact in the Enhanced Management Area.

Cultural Waterways are shown as dark blue on the Little Grand Rapids First Nation Land Use Areas Map (below).
Figure 2 Land Use Areas
Plan Implementation
Planning Approval Process

Community Approval

The Little Grand Rapids First Nation Final Draft Lands Management Plan has been approved and is endorsed by the Little Grand Rapids First Nation.

There have been a series of community meetings, workshops and open houses to inform community members of the progress and content of the draft lands management plan.

We believe we have addressed all the concerns and questions from community members about the draft lands management plan.

Government of Manitoba Approval

Plan approval requirements under The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act:

- completed lands management plans must be forwarded to the Minister of Conservation (Section 11(1))
- the First Nation(s) or aboriginal community(ies) that requested the designation of the planning area must provide the Minister with written approval of the plan prior to the plan being forwarded to Cabinet for approval (Section 12(1)(a))
- First Nations and aboriginal communities that have traditionally used land in the planning area must have the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed management plan prior to the plan being forwarded to Cabinet for approval (Section 12(1)(b)) NOTE: Consultations under Section 35 of Canada’s Constitution may also be required at this stage if Treaty or Aboriginal rights are or may be affected (Draft Guidelines for Traditional Area Land Use Planning Related to Bill 6, 2009)
- the Minister may require the planning team to provide amendments to the proposed management plan prior to the plan being forwarded to Cabinet for approval (Section 11(4))
- the Minister must give public notice that a copy of the proposed management plan is available for review in the public registry at least 90 days prior to the issuance of an Order in Council approving a plan (Section 11(2))
- there is a 60 day public comment period in which written submissions regarding the proposed management plan can be submitted (Section 11(3))
- The Lieutenant Governor in Council (the Lieutenant Governor acting by and with the advice of Cabinet) may, by order, approve the proposed plan and specify its effective date.
- An Order in Council approving a community management plan is a formal Cabinet decision that is approved by the Lieutenant Governor.
Plan Implementation

The process of defining land use direction for Little Grand Rapids First Nation is an important step. Equal in its importance is the implementation phase, consisting of moving forward with the strategy to allow the community to realize its vision.

Little Grand Rapids First Nation Chief and Council have decided to implement the lands management plan under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*.

The Little Grand Rapids Stewardship Board has been established consisting of equal number of representatives from Little Grand Rapids First Nation and the Government of Manitoba. The Board will meet at least twice a year. During the first few years more meetings of the Board may be required to outline the Board’s responsibilities and develop policies or guidelines to ensure the direction in the plan is realized.

The Lands Management Plan is a living document. The Little Grand Rapids Stewardship Board may review the Plan in full every four years to evaluate the plan to see if the implementation is still focused on our shared goals, objectives and principles. If the plan does not meet expectations then consideration will be given to amending the plan.

One of the responsibilities of the First Nation Board members is to keep Chief and Council informed of Board activities and forward information about Crown land activities or developments that are proposed within the planning area to Chief and Council so they can review and provide comments to Manitoba through the Board process.

The Stewardship Board will review proposed Crown land and resource disposition and allocations and new development plans for this area and provide comments to Manitoba. Representatives of the Board will provide feedback to their respective organizations on the comments and recommendations that were forwarded to Manitoba by the Board. Little Grand Rapids First Nation is concerned that development, once the all season road is operating, may affect treaty rights and traditional activities if too many buildings are constructed within the planning area.

A first priority of the Stewardship Board is to develop a cabin policy. There is a significant concern that once the all season road is developed it will open up the area to people wanting to build cabins. There is concern that this may affect traditional activities and damage the natural landscape and wildlife habitat areas. By developing a cabin policy a plan can be prepared to ensure that any development will be done in a manner to protect wildlife and habitat as well as protecting traditional activities.

The Board will also look at developing policies for; commercial trapping, resource monitoring, waterway protection and fishing.
Glossary & Sources
Glossary

‘Pimachiowin Aki’ (‘Atikaki/Woodland Caribou/Accord First Nations’) world heritage site (WHS) nomination

**Micro-hydro** – Micro-hydro is hydro development that generates electricity in a manner that has minimal impact on natural water flow.

"Crown" means Her Majesty the Queen in right of the province;

"Crown lands" includes land, whether within or without the province, vested in the Crown, and includes "provincial lands" wherever that expression is used in an Act of the Legislature;

"disposition" includes an act of the Crown whereby Crown lands or a right, interest, or estate therein are granted, disposed of, or affected, or by which the Crown divests itself of, or creates a right, interest, or estate in, land or permits the use of land;

"mineral" means a non-living substance that is formed by natural processes and is found on, in or under the surface of the ground, irrespective of chemical or physical state and before or after extraction, and includes oil, gas, helium, peat, peat moss and substances that are prescribed as minerals under *The Mines and Minerals Act* but does not include agricultural soil, surface water or ground water other than ground water that is obtained from a well as defined in *The Oil and Gas Act*;

**Fire Smart Principles**

The Seven Disciplines of Fire Smart

1. Education – educating people living in the wildland/urban interface
2. Fuels Management – thinning, pruning, removing trees, species conversion/management.
3. Legislation – by-laws (no wood shake roofs, home sprinklers etc.) hydro power line clearing etc.
4. Development – guidelines can be set up by builders and developers for fire resistant building materials.
5. Planning – Wildfire Pre-Response Plans, Sprinkler Deployment Plans. Community planning - Road way widths, roadway access, emergency equipment turnarounds, green spaces etc.
6. Training – cross training municipal and wildland firefighters for urban interface firefighting.
7. Inter-Agency Co-operation - bringing all the stakeholders together.

*The seven disciplines of FireSmart are what all the various agencies build their FireSmart programs around.*
Sources

http://www.jstor.org/stable/667007


Manitoba Forestry Branch. undated. MAP – Manitoba Forest Management Units.
http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/forestry/forest-practices/pdfs/fmuonly.pdf

Manitoba Forestry Branch. undated. MAP – Manitoba Forest Sections.
http://www.manitoba.ca/conservation/forestry/forest-practices/pdfs/forsectonly.pdf

Manitoba Protected Areas Initiative. 2007. MAP – Manitoba’s Natural Regions.

http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/LCBrief-LUP_MWL.pdf
Maureen Matthews, D. Phil (Oxon), History, Culture and Anthropology Report for Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids, 2008


