

Proposal to Amend the Pimitotah Land Use Plan and Pimitotah Traditional Use Planning Area Regulation: **Report on Consultation**

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Overview

On September 25, 2014, Bloodvein First Nation proposed an amendment to the *Pimitotah – To Care for our Land: Bloodvein First Nation Land Use Plan* (the “Plan”) under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*. The proposed amendment includes a prohibition on logging in the Pimitotah Traditional Use Planning Area. All other aspects of the Plan remain unchanged.

The Plan and implementing regulation (the Pimitotah Traditional Use Planning Area Regulation, MR 197/2011) were approved on December 7, 2011.

MR 197/2011 would be amended to reflect an amendment to the Plan.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship is responsible for administration of the Act and receives requests from First Nations and aboriginal communities to designate planning areas by regulation and approve management plans by order in council under the Act.

Under the Act, at least 90 days before an order is made to approve a proposed amendment to a land management plan, an opportunity must be provided to First Nations, Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the public to review and comment on the proposal.

Public notice of the Plan amendment and regulation amendment proposal was provided on October 18, 2014. The closing date for comments was December 17, 2014.

The entire Pimitotah planning area is included in the nominated area for a Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site. The proposed amendment supports the Pimachiowin Aki initiative by meeting requirements for site protection and management established by UNESCO.

No logging currently takes place within the Pimitotah planning area, and the broader Pimachiowin Aki nominated area.

Aboriginal, Stakeholder and Public Consultation Efforts

A variety of consultation methods were employed to ensure that First Nations, Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the public were provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal, including: mailouts, newspaper advertisements, meetings and an electronic registry.

Direct Mail-Out

Notice of the proposed plan amendment and of a 90-day public review period was provided on October 7, 2014 to the following First Nations:

Berens River
Black River
Bunibonibee
Garden Hill
God's Lake
Hollow Water
Little Grand Rapids
Manto Sipi
Norway House
Pauingassi
Poplar River
Red Sucker Lake
St. Theresa Point
Shamattawa
Wasagamack; and
Pikangikum

Mail-outs were also sent to a targeted group of communities, organizations and associations with interests in the Crown land and resources in the Pimitotah planning area:

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Association of Manitoba Municipalities
Island Lake Tribal Council

Keewatin Tribal Council
Loon Straits Community
Manitoba Cottagers Association
Manitoba Floodway and East Side Road Authority
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak
Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association
Manitoba Métis Federation
Manitoba Model Forest Inc.
Manitoba Trappers Association
Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Pimachiowin Aki Corporation
Princess Harbour Community
Southeast Tribal Council
Southern Chiefs Organization Inc.
Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin
Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation

The Bloodvein First Nation Chief and Council and Lands Coordinator are copied on the letters.

Electronic Registry

Information about the proposed Plan amendment was posted on the electronic public registry on the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Lands Branch website:
http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/lands_branch/public_registry.html, also accessible via a link from the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship main website:
www.manitoba.ca/conservation).

A comment sheet was made available at
http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/lands_branch/public_registry.html and
www.manitoba.ca/conservation to seek public input on the proposed amendment. People were asked to indicate if they agreed (yes/no) with the proposal to amend the Plan and to record any comments or concerns regarding the proposed amendment. Opportunities were provided to submit written comments by mail, email and fax to: Pimitotah Land Use Plan and Regulation amendment, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Lands Branch, Box 25, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, MB, R3J 3W3 Email: eastsideplancomments@gov.mb.ca, Fax: 204-948-2197.

Newspaper Advertisement

Public notice of the proposal was issued through print media advertisement placements in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on October 18, 2014, and in the *Grassroots News* (a bi-weekly publication) on October 21, 2014 which read as follows:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Share Your Views on amending the Pimitotah Land Use Plan

.....

Bloodvein First Nation has proposed an amendment to the Pimitotah Land Use Plan under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*.

Bloodvein First Nation is proposing that a prohibition on logging is enacted in the Pimitotah Traditional Use Planning Area.

Land management planning is part of the Manitoba government's commitment to protect and preserve the cultural and natural values of the area east of Lake Winnipeg. It is a process in which First Nations play a significant role in developing and implementing strategies for the use, management and sustainable development of land and resources.

Make Yourself Heard - Comment Sheets Available Online

The proposed Pimitotah Land Use Plan amendment, Regulation amendment and comment sheet are available at: www.manitoba.ca/conservation, or by calling Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship at 204-945-6784 or (toll free) 1-800-214-6497. You can also mail, e-mail or fax your comments to:



Pimitotah Land Use Plan and Regulation amendment

Manitoba Conservation and
Water Stewardship, Lands Branch
Box 25, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3
Email: eastsideplancomments@gov.mb.ca
Fax: 204-948-2197

All comments must be received no later than December 17, 2014



Summary of Comments

Two (2) separate responses to the proposed amendment were received. Both responses were submitted via email.

Lindy Clubb, Mixedwood Forest Society, Oct. 19, 2014 – expressed support for the proposal, citing the importance of protecting caribou habitat and implementing a holistic approach to ecosystem management.

Jasmine Langhan, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), Dec. 17, 2014 and Jan. 9, 2015 - requested more information on the proposal, and a formal, funded consultation process “*to ensure that the MMF is in a position to adequately inform itself and the Manitoba Metis Community as to the significance of the plan and any impacts that may occur as a result and measures implemented for Metis accommodation*”. Additional information and an invitation to meet with Department staff and the Bloodvein First Nation Lands Coordinator were provided by the Department in a letter to the MMF dated December 30, 2014, in an email and telephone call to the MMF on January 6, 2015, and in a letter to the MMF dated March 26, 2014.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the proposal to amend the *Pimitotah – To Care for our Land: Bloodvein First Nation Land Use Plan* under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act* be approved, and that the Pimitotah Traditional Use Planning Area Regulation, MR 197//2011 be amended to reflect an amendment to the Plan.