

Public Review - Extension of provincial Park Reserves

In December, 2001, a number of Park Reserves were created in central Manitoba. They are:

Goose Islands Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipegosis -	15 ha.
Grand Island Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipegosis -	940 ha.
Kinwow Bay Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipeg -	8,400 ha.
Pelican Islands Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipeg -	130 ha.
Pemmican Island Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipegosis -	22 ha.
Sturgeon Bay Park Reserve -	Lake Winnipeg -	14,490 ha.

Goose Islands and **Pemmican Island** were placed in Park Reserve status because of their colonial nesting bird activity and to ensure a review of their possible inclusion in the Manitoba Lowlands National Park proposal with First Nations communities in the area.

Grand Island was placed in Park Reserve status as a result of the Grand Rapids Forebay Agreement with Chemawawin First Nation.

Kinwow Bay, Pelican Islands and Sturgeon Bay Park Reserves were established to provide needed representation of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region 5a, with the support of Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation.

The purpose of Park Reserve designation is to conserve an area's natural, cultural and recreational values while public views on the future of the land, including a final designation, are discussed in a public consultation process. This public review is meant to enable everyone with an interest in the area to review/provide current information respecting present area use and allocations, compatibility of uses, user expectations, implications of changing existing boundaries or land use practices, or comments respecting highest and best use for the Park Reserve land base, and contribute to the process of developing a framework for long-term area management. Park Reserves last for five years, but can be renewed.

Additional time to identify and review Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation community ideas for the **Kinwow Bay, Pelican Islands and Sturgeon Bay Park Reserves** and with Pine Creek First Nation regarding the **Goose Islands Park Reserve** is needed, and review to date has identified other First Nations interests in these areas. It is considered very important that further review with these other communities be held as well. Therefore, it is proposed that these Park Reserves be renewed as is, so that consultation over the five year extension can identify and address all existing and forecast use and include all Manitobans.

Review by Parks Canada of **Pemmican Island** has determined that the ability of the site to support colonial nesting birds, and the general suitability of the site for national park purposes, is limited. During discussions of Park Reserves on Lake Winnipegosis with First Nations to date, Manitoba has received a request for Park Reserve status for **Cormorant Islands**, a documented colonial nesting bird site. Accordingly, Manitoba is proposing that Park Reserve status for the 22 hectare Pemmican Island site not be renewed, that the 170 hectare Cormorant Islands site be added to a renewed **Grand Island** Park Reserve – and that a permanent provincial designation for this combined site continue to be pursued in consultation with Chemawawin First Nation.

Your comments respecting the proposal to extend the existing Park Reserve designations and enable this continued consultation are requested. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information on specific uses and values along with your point of view respecting the future of this area. If you would prefer to respond electronically, or to speak to someone respecting any aspect of this process, please call Rick Wilson at (204) 945-4365 or email parksystem@gov.mb.ca. Your response before November 14th, 2006, would be appreciated.

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