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WOOD BUFFALO National Park

June 1982

**PARKS CANADA IS PLANNING
FOR THE FUTURE OF WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL
PARK AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

**PARCS CANADA SOLLICITE VOTRE COLLABORATION
AUX PLANS D'AVENIR QU'IL EST EN
TRAIN D'ELABORER POUR LE PARC NATIONAL
WOOD BUFFALO.**

No. 6

**KENETAWAYMITINAN TA WECHEHEAK OMA
KAWAY WEASCHEKIAK OCHE WOOD
BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



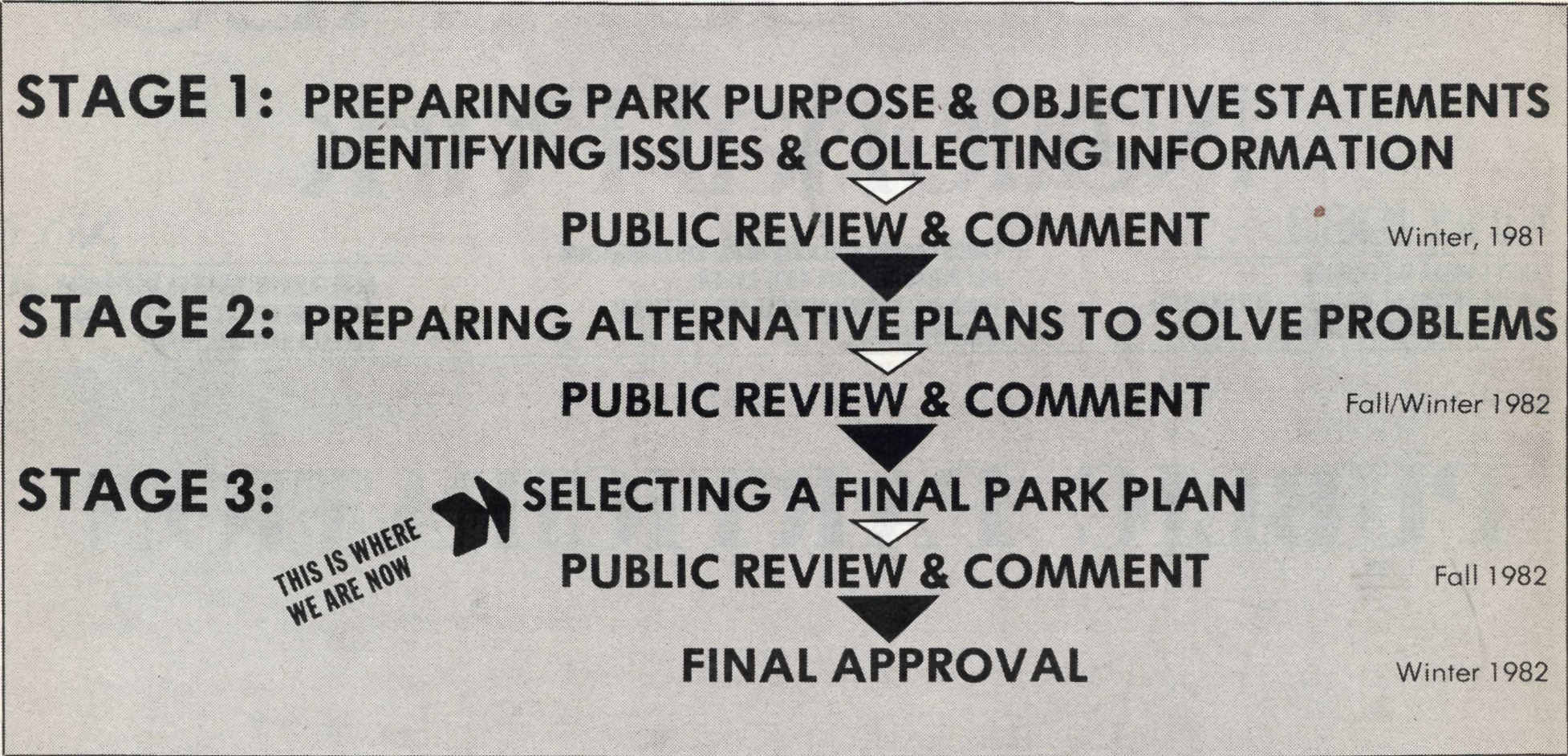
**A summary of
your comments on the
Alternative
Plan Proposals**

This is the sixth in a series of information newsletters published by Parks Canada to help you, the public, participate in the long range management plan for Wood Buffalo National Park.

In addition to printing newsletters, Parks Canada hosted two sets of public meetings, with the first set held in the fall and winter of 1980-1981. At this time 800 people gave their ideas and suggestions for the management of the park and their comments were compiled and combined with other technical and historical information to form the basis for alternative plan proposals. The alternative plan proposals were then presented for your review in the fifth newsletter and at a second set of public meetings held last fall and winter.

The purpose of this sixth newsletter is to let you know how the public responded to the alternative plan proposals and to bring you up to date on the Wood Buffalo National Park management planning process.

THE PLANNING PROCESS



Parks Canada has a commitment to preserve the wilderness quality of Wood Buffalo National Park and, within this overall planning principle, is dedicated to providing the best possible level of visitor use and enjoyment of the park. These general terms of reference are basic to each aspect of the management planning process, and have been endorsed by the public as a whole. The first five newsletters elaborate further on these ideas as they relate to the various steps in the planning process, (illustrated above).

The alternative plan proposals were developed within the framework of the terms of reference and, for the most part, three alternatives were presented on each issue to be dealt with under the park management plan. Alternative 1 emphasized the maximum protection of park resources and limited park development to those areas presently accessible. Alternative 2 stressed increased development and management, while alternative 3 was directed at more access and facility development within the park.

This sixth newsletter marks the end of the second stage in the management planning process. The planning team is now reviewing your comments and preferences for the various alternative plan proposals and is developing a draft of the final management plan. This draft plan will be developed within the framework of the park purpose and general plan principle and will consider: public opinion, Parks Canada policy and regulations, costs, visitor benefit, environmental concerns, and national/regional relationships. As illustrated in the planning process diagram, it is anticipated that this draft management plan will be presented for your review by the fall of this year. Based on your comments, appropriate changes will be made to the draft plan before it is presented to the Minister of the Environment for his approval in the winter of 1982.

OMA ACHIMOASINAKON WECHIKATEW TANSI AYSENOWUK ETATAKWOW OMA KA WEYASCHIKATIC PARK. KAKIYO MAMONKATIWA PIKISKWUNUK. KAKI MAMOPITCHIK, EKWAK TATO UNAHI PIKISKWUNA KAKI MUSINAKATIKIK AWUSPIK ACHIMOASINAKANIC WEHONAWOWA MUINAKATIWA CHAPUSISE UNKI KAKI WECHITASATOW, EYAKWANIK OHI KA MAMONKATIKIC PECHISKONA. KISPIN KINOTIC KISKITINAWOW KIWAPICH EYAKWONICK OKA KA KAKWAY CHINOWUCK. EYAKWANICK OKA KWAYISK KAWITA MAKAWUK TANSI OMA KAWAY ASCHIK WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK OCHA - OHI WIHONA:

The Local Liaison Committee is made up of 7 local representatives from communities and/or organizations surrounding the park. Because these communities are directly affected by the management plan, it is very important that local residents be kept informed and are able to participate in the planning process. The Local Liaison Committee was put in place to help keep you informed and to offer direction and comment to the planning team. Committee members are:

Jackson Whiteknife	Fort Chipewyan
Margaret Vermillion	Fort Chipewyan
Rene Mercredi	Fort Smith
Cathy MacDonald	Fort Smith
Simon Nanooch	Garden Creek
John James Antoine	Peace Point
Sharon Dragon	Pine Point

Throughout the planning process, the Local Liaison Committee has met to review public comment and set priorities for the planning team. At a review held in Fort Smith in February, committee members invited concerned community leadership to participate in discussions with the planning team. The recommendations of this group are presented elsewhere in this newsletter.



Public review and comment:

Alternative Plan Proposals

— What The Public Said —

After the preparation of the alternative plan proposals and review by the Local Liaison Committee, the proposals were published in the fifth newsletter which was inserted in all local newspapers, sent out to all surrounding communities, and mailed to the some 1500 names on the Parks Canada mailing list. A schedule of public meetings was set up for the 13 communities directly and indirectly impacted by the park management plan. One public meeting was held in each of the following Alberta communities: Garden Creek, Peace Point, Fort McMurray, High Level, Fort Vermilion, Fox Lake, Jean D'Or Prairie, and Calgary and in the N.W.T. community of Pine Point. Due to special interests and concerns, two or more meetings were held in Fort Chipewyan and Edmonton in Alberta and Fort Smith and Hay River in the N.W.T.

Public meetings began in Peace Point on November 3, 1981 and terminated in Hay River on January 8, 1982. A total of 233 people participated in these public meetings, while 133 individuals and groups chose to return the fifth newsletter with their written comments. Eighty-seven newsletters were completed by Fort Smith residents, with the remaining newsletters arriving from points as far east as New Brunswick and west as Victoria, B.C.* Nine briefs and letters were also received from groups and individuals in northern and southern Canada. The Government of the Northwest Territories, Fort Smith Region, the Government of Alberta and the Canadian Wildlife Service also submitted briefs. Lutra Associates Ltd. of Yellowknife was again responsible for co-ordinating and compiling all public input relating to the alternative plan proposals.

Because comment on the alternative proposals came from many different locations in Canada and in order for you to understand the feelings of these different geographic locations, public comment has been summarized in four parts. These four parts are: **LOCAL COMMUNITIES** which include regular park users and communities directly adjacent to the park. Comments received from Fort Smith, Fort Chipewyan, Peace Point, Pine Point, Hay River, and the Little Red River Band communities of Garden Creek, Fox Lake, and Jean D'Or Prairie are included in this section.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES refers to comments from those northern communities which do not at present have direct access to or regularly use the park. Yellowknife, Fort McMurray, High Level, and Fort Vermilion are included in this section.

SOUTHERN CANADA includes all public input received from outside the Region, through the public meetings held in Edmonton and Calgary and the written comment received from all across Canada.

OTHER COMMENT includes recommendations and direction put forward by the Local Liaison Officers.

For your information, the alternative plan proposals have been reprinted from Newsletter 5. We urge you to consider the comments made by your area and by the public in general, as they will have a major impact on the development of the draft of the final management plan.

* Selected quotes from these newsletters are included following reprinted alternatives.

REGIONAL AND INTERNAL ROADS

ALTERNATIVE 1

ALTERNATIVE 2

ALTERNATIVE 3

Highway 5

Parks Canada will encourage the proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories to surface Highway 5.

Parks Canada will encourage the proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories to surface Highway 5. Minor route modifications to improve visitor enjoyment would be designed and funded by Parks Canada.

Parks Canada will encourage the proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories to surface Highway 5.

Loop Road

Improved maintenance will be undertaken on the loop road. It will remain at a fair weather road standard.

Would be upgraded to all weather standard. Parks Canada would give support to a crossing of the Slave River that would have minimal impact on the park and all weather access to Fort Chipewyan. The upgraded loop road would form the north part of this route.

South and east portions maintained at current standard, with improved maintenance. The west side would be upgraded.

Winter Road

Will remain on its present alignment. Parks Canada would support a provincial proposal to relocate the winter road to the east side of the Slave River, thereby reducing the number of ice crossings from 3 to 1.

Would remain on existing alignment with minor improvements. Relocation as in Alternative 1 supported as in Alternative 1 and 2.

Would remain on existing alignment. Relocation would be supported as in Alternative 1 and 2.

New Roads

No additions to existing road system.

No additions to existing road system.

Parks Canada accepts, in principle, the construction of an all-weather road from Alberta Highway 58 to Peace Point for regional transportation network purposes. This is subject to the findings of current studies on the Peace River Corridor. As the road is not required for park purposes, Parks Canada will not fund the construction or subsequent maintenance of the road but may contribute to design costs to ensure that any potential route is environmentally acceptable.

"I think the general feeling of a lot of people in the Fort Vermilion area is really that road access to the park through Highway 58 is what is wanted and desired for the use of the park."
- Fort Vermilion Public Meeting

"Alternative 3 would enable a package of development programs that would surely harm the wilderness character of the park."
- Alberta Newsletter

"Whenever we have a road, automatically you get the social problems and that's what the people don't want."
- Garden Creek Public Meeting

"The road should have gone through a long time ago. My opinion of this is, it will benefit the people of Fort Smith, Fort Vermilion, and Peace Point."
- Fort Smith Newsletter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities generally approved of alternative 2 for Highway 5, the loop road, and the winter road because this proposal allowed for much needed upgrading of existing routes within the park. Many people complained that the present road conditions are a deterrent to a good local tourist trade. Fort Chipewyan noted that Parks Canada will be forced to relocate the winter road anyway if the Slave River Hydro Project is approved.

Alternative 3, new roads proposal, generated distinctly positive and negative reaction among local residents and perhaps was the most controversial issue of this second stage of public comment and review. Fort Smith was the strongest proponent of this proposal largely from the perspective of improving the local economy. The Little Red River Band communities of Garden Creek, Fox Lake, and Jean D'Or Prairie were adamantly opposed to the construction of this road due to the potential for negative impact on their established lifestyle. Although Peace Point is directly affected by this proposal, residents there had no position on the new road proposals.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

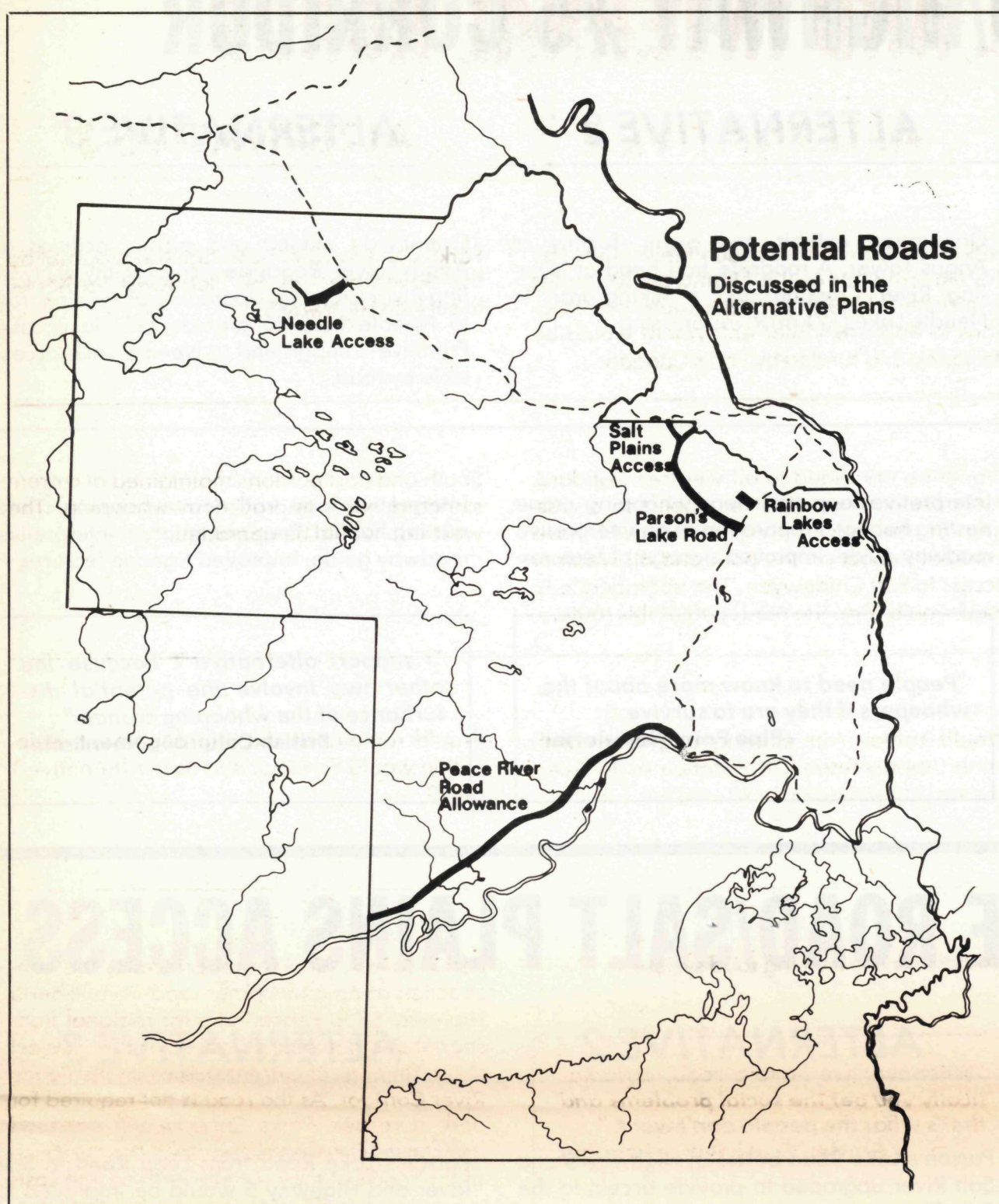
Other regional communities supported southern access to the park. Fort McMurray preferred access north from their city while Fort Vermilion strongly supported the extension of Highway 58 to Peace Point. Increased tourism, easier access to the park, and the potential for more enjoyment of the park were stated as supporting rationale for the construction of southern park access roads. Alternatives 2 and 3 were generally supported for Hwy. 5, the loop road, and the winter road and comments were essentially similar to those made in the local communities.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada tended to opt for alternative 1 proposals with acceptance of alternative 2 as the maximum position. Southern comment was largely based on the desire to protect the wilderness and the resources of the park. The new roads proposal of alternative 3 was strongly rejected as such a proposal would definitely pose a threat to the quality of the park.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** preferred the 2nd alternative for the loop road and the 3rd alternative for the winter road. The Committee also recommended that travel shelters be constructed along the loop road.



RAINBOW LAKES

ALTERNATIVE 1

Access

The existing 6 km trail would provide access to the lakes. Additional trails would be developed to the Salt Plains.

Facilities

A small primitive campground would be developed adjacent to one of the lakes. Non-motorized craft transported to the lakes by users will be permitted.

Fish Stocking

Will not be carried out.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Access

The existing trail will be retained and upgraded. Additional trails would be developed to the Salt Plains north of the lakes.

Facilities

Development of a small primitive campground. Canoes would be provided at the lakes under a concession agreement.

Fish Stocking

Will not be carried out.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Access

A low standard road (6 km) will be constructed along the cutline to the proximity of the lakes. Additional trails would be developed.

Facilities

A 5-site primitive (walk-in) campground will be developed adjacent to one of the lakes. Non-motorized water craft only will be permitted.

Fish Stocking

Will be carried out on a continuing basis.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Only 3 local communities addressed the management of the Rainbow Lakes. Lengthy discussion in Fort Smith indicated a general approval for the alternative 3 fish stocking proposal. Local residents could not come to any agreement as to whether the lake should be accessible by road or by trail. Proponents of road access felt that it would be easier for the elderly and would open up another area for local recreation use. Residents preferring trails felt that the quality of the area might deteriorate if accessible by vehicle. Similar concerns were expressed regarding the development of a canoe concession at the lake. Hay River and Pine Point residents favoured alternative 3 for the management of the Rainbow Lakes.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

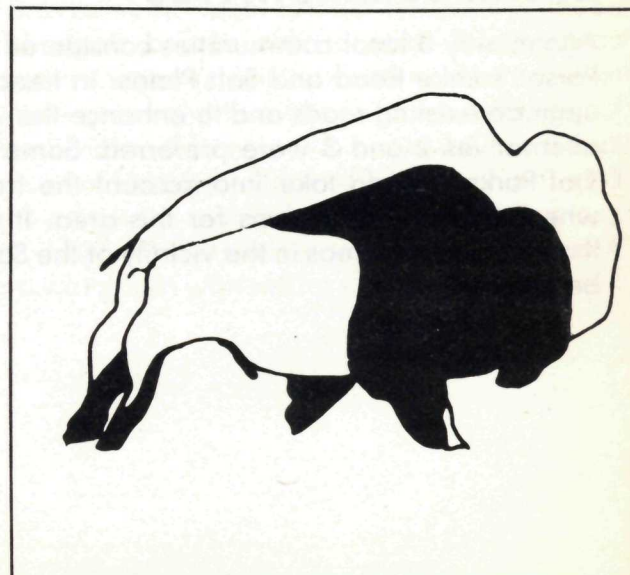
Although there was limited opinion from other regional community residents, there was some indication that aspects of all proposals were acceptable.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada comment sought to limit development in this area and general preference for alternative 1 was stated. Many individuals commented that additional facilities, fish stocking, and road access should be avoided at all costs.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** supported alternative 3 proposals for road access, fish stocking, primitive campgrounds and non-motorized boat use.



NORTH END/HIGHWAY #5 CORRIDOR

ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2	ALTERNATIVE 3
Facilities Orientation exhibit and roadside picnic facilities at Angus Tower with short interpretive trail. Roadside picnic facilities constructed at Nyarling River Crossing.	Orientation exhibit and picnic facility at Angus Tower. A roadside trail head at Nyarling River Crossing and a hiking trail to Needle Lake (12 km) River Crossing.	Orientation exhibit and picnic facilities at Angus Tower. Roadside picnic facility at Nyarling River Crossing. Upgrading of existing trail to Needle Lake to provide vehicle access. Primitive campground at Needle Lake accessible by road.
Interpretation Improved signage of facilities along Highway 5. Preparation of an interpretive roadway guide (booklet or pamphlet).	Interpretive loop trail near whooping crane nesting habitat. Preparation of an interpretive roadway guide. Improved signage of features.	Interpretive loop trail near whooping crane nesting habitat. Preparation of an interpretive roadway guide. Improved signage features.
"Build something for tourists or visitors and they will come. If you don't develop this region, nobody will come to visit." - Fort Smith Newsletter	"People need to know more about the whoopers if they are to survive." - Pine Point Newsletter	"I support alternative 1 because the other two involve the potential disturbance of the whooping cranes." - British Columbia Newsletter

PARSON'S LAKE ROAD/SALT PLAINS ACCESS

ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2	ALTERNATIVE 3
Access Parson's Lake Road maintained at existing standard - fair weather use only. Footbridge over Salt River. Parks Canada would work co-operatively with Government of the Northwest Territories to improve Mission Farm road for alternative access to Salt Plains.	Parson's Lake Road between Highway 5 and Salt River upgraded to provide access to the Salt Plains viewpoint. Parks Canada would work co-operatively with Government of the Northwest Territories to improve Mission Farm Road and would support construction of a Salt River bridge to create an interpretive loop drive.	Parson's Lake Road from Loop Road to Salt River and Highway 5 would be improved to permit all-weather use. Interpretive features would be signed.
Facilities No specific proposals for facilities.	Canoe launch at Salt River. Interpretive exhibit at Salt Plains overlook (no direct access to Salt Plains).	Canoe launch at Salt River. Interpretive exhibit at Salt Plains overlook. Trails/boardwalk along margins of Salt Plains for interpretive purposes.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Again, only 3 local communities considered the management of the Parson's Lake Road and Salt Plains. In keeping with local desire to upgrade existing roads and to enhance the visitor's park experience, alternatives 2 and 3 were preferred. Some concern was expressed that Parks Canada take into account the fragility of the Salt Plains when implementing plans for this area. It was also recommended that more picnic areas in the vicinity of the Salt Plains overlook should be considered.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Due to the potential for increased interpretation in this area, other regional communities gave their support to both alternatives 2 and 3.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada also supported increased interpretation as proposed in alternatives 2 and 3 but with the proviso that the fragile area of the Salt Plains be left undisturbed.

OTHER COMMENT

The LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE preferred alternative 2.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities generally agreed that more interpretation at the north end of the park was necessary in order to enhance visitor experience. Likewise, more facilities were requested for Hwy. 5 such as picnic and rest spots. Although alternative 3 seemed generally acceptable to the three local communities which chose to comment on the North End, there was some reticence about supporting trail access near the whooping crane nesting habitat. The Hay River Dene Band was the only group to state open support for road access to Needle Lake. The Band felt that road access would facilitate access to their trapping areas.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Limited comment from other regional communities showed a general acceptance of alternative 2 and 3 but these communities also echoed local concern for trail access near the whooping crane nesting habitat.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Since alternative 1 did not promote access to the whooping crane nesting habitat, this proposal received the most support from southern Canada. Likewise, both alternative 1 and 2 received support as neither promoted the development of road access to Needle Lake.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** supported alternative 1 for interpretation and alternative 3 for facilities in the North End of the park.



PEACE-ATHABASCA DELTA

ALTERNATIVE 1

Access

Limited access - single motor boat access corridor, available to licensed guides and outfitters only. No general motorized public access. No restriction on use of navigable waterways (Quatre Fourches, Athabasca River, etc.).

Facilities

Boat docking and launching facility at Moose Island. Primitive campsites at Sweetgrass Station. Improvements to portage - Peace River to Sweetgrass Creek.

Interpretation

Interpretive guide (booklet) to the Peace-Athabasca Delta prepared. Interpretive exhibit developed at Moose Island and Embarras Portage.

"The notion that only a licensed guide could take someone in is objectionable, we feel in principle."

- NPPAC Edmonton Chapter

"They should not be allowed in the Delta without somebody guiding them. Somebody from Parks is okay but anybody else say from Smith, McMurray, or Edmonton to go into the Delta, they have to have a guide."

- Fort Chipewyan Public Meeting

"I suggest that there would be very few people who could afford to pay a guide to go in and observe nature."

- Fort Smith Public Meeting

ALTERNATIVE 2

Access

Less Restricted Areas - sizeable part of the delta available for use by licensed guides and outfitters - no general motorized public access. No restrictions on use of navigable waterways. River transport provided by guides or outfitters will be encouraged.

Facilities

Boat docking and launching facility at Moose Island. Primitive campsites at Sweetgrass Station, Egg Lake and Dog Camp. Improvements to portage from Peace River.

Interpretation

Interpretive guide (booklet) to the Peace-Athabasca Delta. Interpretive exhibits at Moose Island, Sweetgrass Station and Embarras Portage.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Access

Major water bodies open for use by guides and outfitters only. No restrictions on use of navigable waterways.

Facilities

More intensive development of Moose Island docking and launching area to include a small semi-serviced campground. Primitive campsites as described in alternative 2. Portages developed and improved as in alternative 2.

Interpretation

Interpretive guide (booklet) to the delta prepared. Interpretive exhibits, Fort Chipewyan, Moose Island, Sweetgrass Station and Embarras Portage.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

were generally satisfied that all the proposals provided adequate protection to this environmentally sensitive area. With the exception of Fort Chipewyan, local communities felt that a compromise on the requirement for guides/outfitters should be made, especially with respect to local resident use of the Delta.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

stressed the interpretation in the Delta but were reluctant to support the requirement for guides and outfitters. General support was given to alternative 1 and 2 if a compromise on the guide requirements was made.

SOUTHERN CANADA

comments also tended to support alternative 1 and the interpretation proposals of alternative 3, but again with the proviso that a more reasonable approach has to be taken to the requirement for guides and outfitters. Many people chose to elaborate on this concern, stating that guides should not be required for passive recreation such as photography.

OTHER COMMENT

was in keeping with northern and southern opinion on the management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta. The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** was supportive of alternative 2 with no restrictions for local residents and the docking facilities proposed under alternative 3.

PINE LAKE RECREATION AREA

ALTERNATIVE 1

ALTERNATIVE 2

ALTERNATIVE 3

Day Use Area

New day use area developed on prime shoreline area, at north end of present cottage subdivision. This land would become available with expiry of the cottage lot leases.

No new day use facilities and areas will be developed unless the existing facilities become over-used. New facilities will then be developed on the site of the north block of cottages which will be removed to permit development of the new day use area.

Retention of existing day use are for both campers and day users. Development of small day use sites with picnic tables, garbage cans and toilets on east side of Pine Lake. They will be accessible by hiking and boating.

Campgrounds

Retention of existing 36-site campground. Walk in primitive campground developed at south end of the lake.

Retention of existing 36-site campground with development of an additional loop based on demand. Walk-in primitive campground developed at south end of Pine Lake.

Existing 36-site semi-serviced campground retained. Additional campsites developed based on demand. Location of new campsites to be discussed in public meetings in local communities during design phase of new campsites. Walk-in primitive campground developed at south end of Pine Lake.

Group Camp

Minor upgrading. Additional maintenance to improve facility.

As in Alternative 1.

As in Alternative 1.

Boat Use

Only non-motorized boats and boats with electric motors will be permitted.

Motor boats permitted except on south bay with 10 horse power limit imposed.

Motor boats permitted except in south bay. No horse power limit.

Interpretation

Existing level of interpretation will be maintained. Development of display exhibit to orient visitors.

As in Alternative 1.

As in Alternative 1.

Trails

No additional trail developments in Pine Lake area.

As in Alternative 1.

Trails system extended to include access to east side of Pine Lake, proposed day use areas and a short loop trail east of the group campground.

Fish Stocking

None.

Conducted on an ongoing basis.

As in Alternative 2.

"I'm hoping that alternative 1 is not chosen but if it is, that's a very poor selection."
- Fort Smith Public Meeting

"Alternative 3 is the best. Funnel activity to an area that is already destroyed, overused and abused."
- Alberta Newsletter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities of Hay River and Fort Smith offered a variety of comment on the alternative plan proposals for the Pine Lake Recreation Area. Essentially, there were two concerns expressed by local residents: the location of the current campsite and the location of a day use area at the north end of the current cottage subdivision. Specifically, residents stated that people do not go to the lake to camp in the bush. The notion of developing a day use area north of the current cottage lots was stated to be unacceptable due to the sharp drop-off point at the beach area and the fragility of the cliffs. There was general support for alternative 3 with alternative 1 favoured for boat use. Access and facility development was strongly supported for the east side of Pine Lake.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities had little to say on this issue but did state a preference for alternative 1 for boat use and alternative 2 for the overall development of Pine Lake as a recreation area.

SOUTHERN CANADA

It was understood in southern Canada that Pine Lake is already the focus for people-oriented activity and therefore, development in the park should be kept to this area. Although there was expressed understanding of northern recreation needs, southern Canadian comment tended to support alternative 1 proposals.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** recommended that vehicle access to the east side of the lake be proposed; that the current day use are be expanded; that campsites be relocated closer to the lake; that fish stocking be continued, and that motor boats not be allowed on the lake. This group also recommended that lifeguards be employed for the swimming areas.

PINE LAKE COTTAGES

ALTERNATIVE 1

The existing leases would not be renewed. The sever and remove clause would apply. Financial assistance (\$1,500) would be provided to leaseholders to ensure environmental damaged caused by the removal of improvements is minimized.

"The most acceptable proposal is alternative 1. Notwithstanding pressure from lessees, it is not appropriate for a National Park to have private cottages for a privileged enclave."
- Alberta Newsletter

ALTERNATIVE 2

Existing leases would not be renewed but tenure would be continued through non-assignable, non-renewable licenses of occupation granted to existing leaseholders. Parks Canada would work with the cottagers to establish conditions and standards for the cottage subdivision. This licence of occupation would provide for continued use of the cottages, however, would not provide the same legal privileges as a lease. Licenses of occupation would be renewed for 5 year terms until Parks Canada requires the land. Parks Canada would not provide financial assistance for the removal of improvements for the cottage lots when the tenure ends.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Life tenancy would be granted to existing leaseholders through non-transferrable leases. Parks Canada would work with the cottagers to establish conditions and standards for the cottage subdivision. Parks Canada would not provide financial assistance for the removal of improvements from the cottage lots when the tenure ends.

"Rather than cutting the dog's tail off an inch at a time, I think I would opt regrettably for alternative 1. Sooner or later the park will finally foreclose on our leases and the agony of going through a protracted procedure to achieve this end would be more painful for me and my family than a dog with a three foot tail."
- Hay River Newsletter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities have been particularly sensitive to this issue throughout the planning process due to the vested interest of many local residents. Alternative 3 was preferred. Some people argued that the cottagers are a valuable asset to the park as they maintain the Pine Lake area and provide interpretation to visitors. It was also pointed out that local trappers are permitted to use park land. A local resident favoured alternative 1.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities had little comment except to essentially support the middle position offered in alternative 2.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada strongly rejected alternative 2 and 3 as both were felt to prolong the problem of private use of public park lands and would also open up the situation to more abuse. Alternative 1 was supported almost unanimously among southern residents as it is in keeping with Parks Canada policy and the maintenance of a wilderness park. A minority of southern comment indicated that if trappers are supported, cottagers should be too and that a system of annual lease renewal might be workable.

OTHER COMMENT

The LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE supported alternative 3.



AIR ACCESS

ALTERNATIVE 1

Air access would be restricted to park management purposes with no provision being made for public access and landing. Park trappers would require approval for flights as per the current W.B.N.P. game regulations. Charter pilots would be responsible for securing authorization.

"An understanding of the reality of wilderness is negated by air access."
- Alberta Newsletter

ALTERNATIVE 2

Public overflights and air access would be permitted when accompanied by a licensed guide or outfitter. Designated flight lines and landing sites will be specified in the guide's licence and each trip will be authorized by a back country use permit. Park trappers would require approval for flights. Charter pilots would be responsible for securing authorization.

ALTERNATIVE 3

The general public will be allowed to use commercial charter aircraft for overflights and to gain access to designated landing sites. Approved park concessionaires would not be required as guides. A flight plan must be filed as a back country use permit. Park trappers would require approval for flights. Charter pilots may obtain "standing approval" for such flights.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Comment from local communities was mixed and very limited on the issue of air access. Alternative 1 was essentially preferred as it is supportive of traditional land use. Some people commented that the public should not be able to fly in and land anywhere they want as this will disturb the wildlife and the people who live off the land. It was also suggested that a general policy of minimum altitudes over areas such as the whooping crane habitat might also be sufficient restriction. Many people also expressed concern and rejection of the idea that guides and outfitters would be required.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities provided little comment on air access. Some comment from High Level suggested that alternative 1 was desirable as it offered protection to park resources and did not threaten the livelihood of Little Red River Band members.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comment stated a preference for alternative 1 as this proposal attempted to maintain the wilderness environment and would ultimately avoid wildlife harassment and problems incurred in search and rescue. There was also sufficient comment to suggest that because traditional resource harvesting did not include the use of aircraft in the past, it should not be supported now.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** preferred alternative 1.

WATER ACCESS

ALTERNATIVE 1

Specific facility proposals (i.e. Moose Island boat launch) will be developed as described elsewhere in this plan. Parks Canada will work co-operatively with the Province of Alberta to develop a boat launch facility at Fort Fitzgerald.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Boat launch at Hay Camp improved, signed and promoted.

Interpretive river guides prepared and made available to boaters.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Limited spur roads to Peace River from the proposed Peace River road. Park residents encouraged to provide service to river users. Water travel in the park interior will be encouraged by allowing air access to interior lakes and by providing written route guides.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Comment from both local communities and other regional communities was limited, with no real preference indicated for any of the proposals.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comment recommended the combination of all 3 alternatives, with the emphasis being placed on interpretation.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** felt that concerns regarding water access had been adequately dealt with under the Peace-Athabasca Delta.



ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONAL FACILITIES

ALTERNATIVE 1 / ALTERNATIVE 2

ALTERNATIVE 3

Fort Smith Facilities

New combined park administration, visitor reception centre and fire control building constructed in Fort Smith.

Warden Patrol Facilities

Patrol cabins upgraded to permit more frequent and regular patrols. Fort Chipewyan office maintained.

Orientation/Interpretation

Facilities/services centres in Fort Smith with minor facilities/services provided in Fort Chipewyan.

Hay Camp

Retained as fire control base.

Fort Smith Facilities

As in Alternative 1.

Warden Patrol Facilities

New warden station developed at Garden Creek. Fort Chipewyan office maintained. Warden service partially decentralized to districts.

Orientation/Interpretation

The same as Alternative 1. Orientation facility developed at Garden Creek. This proposal is related to a Peace River access road.

Hay Camp

Retained as fire control base. Modest improvements made to serve as a facility for outdoor education programs during fall months.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities generally supported the proposals put forth under administration and operational facilities. Special emphasis should be placed on the decentralization of warden service and the year round use of Hay Camp. Many concrete proposals were put forth as to how Hay Camp could be better used, e.g. as a conference centre, a branch of the regional museum, etc. It was also suggested that, in addition to these proposals, a warden should be stationed at Angus Tower.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities also generally supported these proposals but suggested that the development of facilities at Garden Creek should not be contingent on the construction of the Peace River road.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Although there was general support in southern Canada for the proposals presented here, a number of people flatly rejected alternative 3 as they opposed construction of the Peace River road.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** supported the decentralization of warden patrol facilities, the construction of a new facility at Fort Smith and year round use of Hay Camp.

LAND USE ZONING

ZONE 1: Alternative 1, 2, and 3 (Special Preservation)

1. Whooping crane nesting area. Active management of this resource will continue.

2. Four areas of the Peace-Athabasca Delta
 - a) the Birch River Delta
 - b) the bison calving ground on the north arm of Lake Claire
 - c) the complex of resources of the Hilda-Welstead Lake-Gull River area
 - d) peregrine cliffs near Fort Chipewyan

3. The Salt Plains

4. The Karst Landscape - including caves, sinkholes and hydrology
5. The bison calving area and archaeological sites of Lake One

6. The gypsum cliffs, peregrine nesting sites, archaeological and cultural resources of the Peace Point area.

7. Peace River Meanders

9. Upland Tundra Ecosystem (plateau of the Caribou Mountains)

10. Berry Creek, Caribou Mountains

11. Neon Lake with its sulphur spring sources

12. Frontal slopes of the Birch Mountains

13. Sulphur springs at Buffalo River

14. Oriented Lakes

**CEMETARIES/
BURIAL GROUNDS**
will apply generally.

These areas will be accurately mapped and will receive special protection.

"I'm pleased to see some zone 1 but I'm not convinced that you need to keep hikers and canoeists out of so much of the park."

- Alberta Newsletter

ZONE 2: (Wilderness)

ALTERNATIVE 1

Zone 2 represents the bulk of the park area.

ALTERNATIVE 2

The major part of the park is designated zone 2. In the Peace-Athabasca Delta, Zone 2 areas are smaller than in alternative 1.

ALTERNATIVE 3

The bulk of the park area is designated Zone 2.

ZONE 3: (Natural Environment)

ALTERNATIVE 1

Parson's Lake road corridor. Guide/outfitter access in Peace-Athabasca Delta.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Parson's Lake Road exclusive of upgraded northern portions. Expanded guide/outfitter access routings in Peace-Athabasca Delta.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Rainbow Lakes access corridor. Water surfaces of Peace-Athabasca Delta.

ZONE 4: (Recreation)

ALTERNATIVE 1

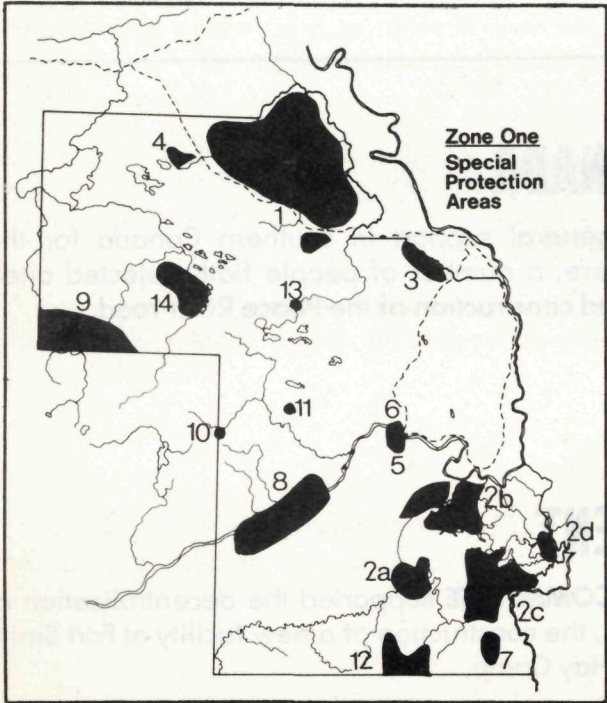
Major rivers and channels. Loop road and associated developed areas (e.g. Pine Lake recreation area). Peace Point road terminus/launch ramp. Highway 5 corridor and adjacent developed areas.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Areas described in alternative 1 plus upgraded northern portion of Parson's Lake road.

ALTERNATIVE 3

Areas previously described plus full length of Parson's Lake road and the Peace River road corridor.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities did not clearly state a preference for any of the above proposals. In fact, discussion largely centred on the planning principle for the development of the park management plan. Many local residents questioned the principle that Wood Buffalo National Park should be planned within the framework of a wilderness park. In this regard, comment from Fort Smith disputed the large land areas which are designated zone 1, 2, and 3, and the minimal amount of park land designated as zone 4, recreation. Fort Chipewyan offered specific information on burial grounds which should be mapped.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities put forth little comment on the zoning of the park, other than to state that more zone 3 areas are required.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comment encouraged that more importance be placed on the zoning of park lands to ensure the appropriate level of preservation. However, it was said that more defined boundaries must be specified before decisions can be made. There was a high level of support for alternative 1 and a number of recommendations made for additional areas to be included in zone 1 for special preservation.

TIMBER BERTH 408

ALTERNATIVE 1

The timber lease would be continued through a series of short term renewals. This would involve three 5-year terms and one 6-year term. Renewals would require detailed operational plans and would be subject to the environmental assessment and review process (EARP) requirements. Environmental and local benefit conditions would be specified for each term. Through discussions between Parks Canada and the timber company, the protection or acquisition of certain representative forest stands within the timber berth will be sought. The purchase of such stands at a mutually agreeable price may be pursued.

ALTERNATIVE 2

The lease agreement will continue to 2002 through an initial 5-year interim agreement and a subsequent 16-year term. Detailed operational plans would be required for each term. They would define environmental and local benefit conditions specified by Parks Canada. The environmental assessment and review process requirements would have to be met. Protection of representative stands would be pursued in discussions with the timber company.

"Parks Canada could have and should have taken a tougher stand upon negotiation of the 1981 expired lease."

- Alberta Newsletter

"There's some way you must be able to change that, if the communities, the people want to use the timber of the area... it's not written in stone yet."

- Peace Point Public Meeting

"I think by having a review every 5 years, it gives everybody an opportunity to re-evaluate their position and for that reason I think that alternative 1 is better."

- High Level Public Meeting

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities did not discuss these proposals but instead dealt with the issue of domestic use of park timber resources. Fort Smith, Fort Chipewyan, and Peace Point in particular, felt quite strongly that Parks Canada should allow local residents to harvest, at least, the burnt timber in the park, for local domestic use.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities generally disagreed with the commercial harvesting of timber resources in the park and preferred at best to get rid of the operation or very tightly control it as it basically serves no public and/or local interest.

SOUTHERN CANADA

These sentiments were echoed in southern Canada, with people supportive of alternative 1 as the absolute maximum position. Generally, people in southern Canada expressed regret that a commercial timber harvesting operation was permitted in a national park in the first place.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** recommended that local residents be allowed to use park timber for domestic use.

BISON MANAGEMENT

PARKS CANADA DID NOT PREPARE ALTERNATIVES ON THIS ISSUE BUT RATHER ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

The prime objective is to allow the park bison herd to be naturally regulated without the influence of man. Active manipulation of the herd will be avoided as much as possible. Active management of the herds or their environment would only be undertaken if man-caused events resulted in the population dropping to a very low level.

To safeguard against even the most remote potential threats to public safety of health, existing agreements with Agriculture Canada regarding the Animal Disease and Protection Act and Regulations will be maintained.

Discussions will be held between Parks Canada and the Alberta and Northwest Territories governments to designate a livestock-free buffer zone adjacent to parts of the park boundary. Research into the diseases which affect the bison will be undertaken to better understand the part that they play in the regulation of the size of the herd and to develop potential disease-control techniques.

Management techniques which apply stress to the bison (round-ups, inoculation programs, collecting specimens, etc.) would only be used when essential and only after review

by Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Agriculture Canada.

Public information programs will inform the public of research and management programs.

Low impact monitoring and surveying of the bison herd will continue.

The ecology and management of the bison will continue to be a major theme of the park interpretation program.

Bison will remain as a protected species and no harvesting will be protected.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Because no alternative proposals were stated for the management of the bison, few people in northern and southern Canada chose to comment. The three local communities which commented, spoke of the requirement to allow for the domestic use of bison.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities largely discussed the relationship of bison and disease to domestic livestock surrounding the park.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comments generally supported Parks Canada's statement suggesting that more research is definitely required.

OTHER COMMENT

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** recommended the domestic use of bison for local residents through a lottery system or through a family quota system.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

ALTERNATIVE 1

In the short term the existing modified fire exclusion policy now in use described in alternative 2 would be followed. However, a long term objective would be to implement over time a fire management policy which would approximate the natural fire regime. This would involve fire suppression, containment/observation fires and prescribed fires (fires that would be permitted to burn under certain conditions and with pre-determined limits). This policy would be implemented through a detailed fire management plan based on technical information and resource values including resource use areas, park facilities and boundary obligations. With the implementation of this policy, the planned use of fire would serve as a resource management tool.

ALTERNATIVE 2

The current modified fire exclusion policy now in use would be continued. Fire would not be used as a resource management tool. The goal would be to:

- minimize man-caused fires
- minimize the negative impacts on the park resources from all wildfires
- ensure safety to human life and park infrastructures.

Initial attack, could be carried out with no use of prescribed fires.

A fire management plan will be prepared and used to implement this policy. It will outline fire management zones and appropriate expenditure ceilings, the detailed procedures for the management of wildfire within the park and will contain an escape fire analysis procedure to be used when required. Overhead teams will be trained and used to fight "project fires".

"Fire must be considered as a management tool although recent burns will preclude its use for a long time."

- British Columbia Newsletter

"Alternative 1 will eventually reign as the best interest. Implement it now!"

- Alberta Newsletter

"Alternative 2. Somebody should be taken to task for the large area of WBNP burned in 1980 as we have lost some of the most beneficial area that is accessible to us in WBNP."

- Fort Smith Newsletter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

skirted the alternative plan proposals for fire management and dealt with the administrative problems related to fire control. Jean D'Or Prairie residents stated quite emphatically that there was little sense in having a park if it is allowed to be burned.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

generally agreed that there was not enough understanding of fire management to comment.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Some comment strongly supported alternative 1 while other people commented on the need for more financial information before good decisions could be made. Other comments suggested that a fire management policy should first preserve and protect valuable park resources. There was some suggestion that if WBNP took the lead in developing a progressive fire management policy, this would have positive implications for all Canadian forests.

HUNTING, TRAPPING & DOMESTIC FISHING

ALTERNATIVE 1

Certain areas of the park in which no hunting or trapping will occur would be designated through consultations between the park hunters and trappers and Parks Canada. These protection zones would be located in each major habitat type to ensure the survival of wildlife populations, both to attain resource protection objectives and to help sustain the hunting and trapping lifestyle of park resource harvesters. Then these areas have been mutually agreed upon, they will be described in the park game regulations.

Setting aside such areas would bring this park up to the international standards for parks in which traditional resource harvesting occurs. These standards are defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and require certain park areas to be completely protected from resource harvesting.

ALTERNATIVE 2

Certain aspects of the game regulations such as quotas and length of seasons would be amended where necessary to ensure the survival of wildlife populations both to attain park resource protection objectives and to help sustain the hunting and trapping lifestyle to park resource harvesters. This closer monitoring of the impact of harvesting on wildlife populations will require additional research, yearly censuses and other measures to provide more accurate information upon which to base wildlife management decision.

Other management arrangements such as the designations of "family areas" and setting up areas where no trapping and hunting will occur, if requested by the hunters and trappers themselves, would be introduced on a pilot project basis. If proven successful, wider application would follow.

"You're trying to stop hunting and trapping and then you're giving the people areas where its burnt and there's nothing left to trap."

-Peace Point Public Meeting

"The more I hear about this, I think we're slowly losing. In 10 years, maybe 15 years time, I don't think anybody will be able to use the park anymore."

- Peace Point Public Meeting

"Alternative 1 involving the notion of setting aside areas makes sense to us. If my impression that the planners and the hunters and trappers are beginning to reach some kind of consensus about what to do is correct, then it is certainly very encouraging."

- NPPAC Edmonton Chapter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Hunting, trapping and domestic fishing generated much discussion especially in Native local communities, but clear community positions were not put forth on either of the alternative plan proposals. Generally, local residents preferred to maintain the status quo on this resource use suggesting that each of the proposals contained the underlying objective of phasing out hunting and trapping in the park. Local communities made strong representation to have decisions about any possible changes to hunting and trapping made at the community level.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

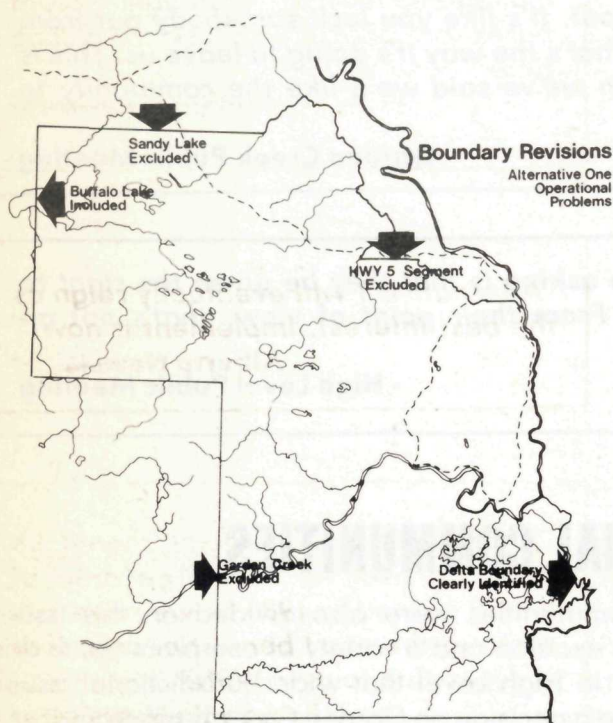
Other regional communities indicated a preference for alternative 1 and suggested that this type of resource use should probably be phased out at some point in the future.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian residents generally supported alternative 1 as the maximum position. A variety of comment suggested more research, less commitment to hunting and trapping, and more protection of park wildlife resources.

PARK BOUNDARY CHANGES

ALTERNATIVE 1



The park boundary will only be altered to resolve operational and administrative problems:

- Parks Canada will move towards including the entire surface of Buffalo Lake within the park.
- Parks Canada will alter the park boundary to exclude the portion of Sandy Lake now within the park when the Territorial Parks Branch indicates a need to have jurisdiction over the entire lake for the purpose of developing a Territorial park.
- Parks Canada will strive to establish a new boundary along the south side of Hwy. 5 between Lobstick Creek and the Salt River.
- Parks Canada will strive to establish a fixed, identifiable boundary between the mouth of the Embarras River and the Riviere des Rochers in the Peace-Athabasca Delta.
- The Garden Creek settlement will be excised from the park.

"The park area is currently large enough, even too large. The exclusion of Sandy Lake, Garden Creek and Hwy. 5 wouldn't affect the park significantly."

- Fort Vermilion Newsletter

ALTERNATIVE 2

The park boundary may be altered to increase the area of the Caribou and/or Birch Mountains protected within the park. Those alterations will not result in significant changes in the size of the park. Land exchanges will only occur between parklands and lands immediately adjacent to the park.

The park boundary may also be altered where possible to replace existing straight line boundaries with comparable natural boundaries.

Where still applicable, the minor operational problems associated with the boundary will be resolved as defined in alternative 1. The basic concept for this alternative is shown on the adjacent map. Variations of this alternative in keeping with the overall concept are possible.

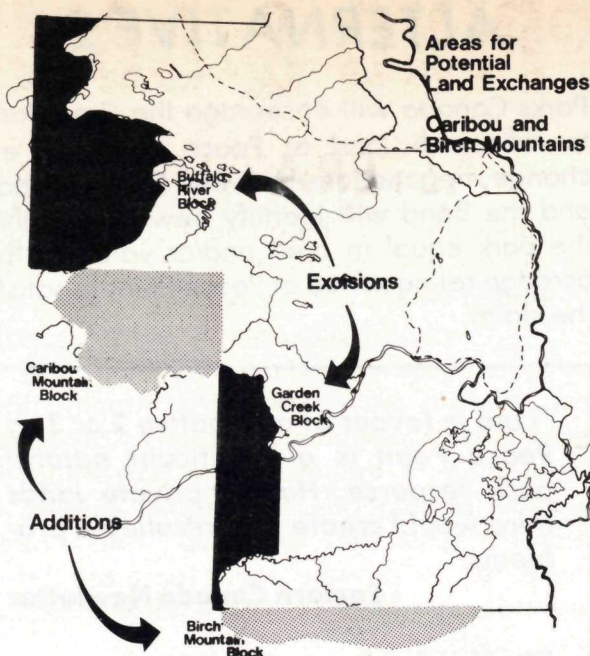
Existing parkland identified here for excision are important portions of the park essential for park purposes. They can only be relinquished if even more important lands can be added to the park in exchange.

"I wouldn't want to see any overall loss in the area of the park. No special resources is not a good enough reason for removing land. All protected land is invaluable."

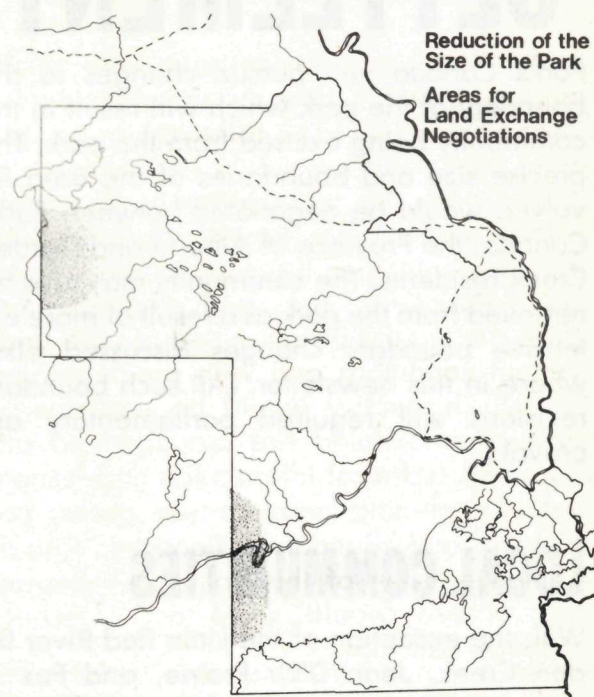
- Alberta Newsletter

"Alternative 1 is the most logical way to go from the people's management standpoint."

- Pine Point Newsletter



ALTERNATIVE 3



The park boundary may be altered to reduce the size of the park. Those areas of the park required to protect the resources that enable the park to fully represent the northern boreal plains will be maintained intact. The reduction of the park may take place within the context of land exchange negotiations with the government of Alberta and with D.I.A.N.D. and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Two areas of the park shown on the adjacent map are identified where net losses of park land may be acceptable. Precise boundaries of these areas can only be determined during the course of land exchange negotiations.

Area 1 south of Buffalo Lake contains no known resources not represented in the Oriented Lakes region further to the east.

Area II centred on Garden Creek contains no known resources not represented by parklands further down river in the Peace River valley.

Losses of parkland will only be acceptable if other lands, cultural resources or values located elsewhere and of at least equal value to Parks Canada can be added to the national park system in exchange.

Where still applicable, the general objectives of alternatives one and two, operational problem resolution, the establishment of natural boundaries and the increased protection of the Caribou and/or Birch Mountains will also be pursued.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Hay River Dene Band supported alternative 1, as the exclusion of the Buffalo Lake block would also remove their trapping areas from the park and more importantly from the protection now afforded by the park. Local communities also commented that the park is too big and not accessible enough, and therefore, supported alternative 3 in order to reduce the amount of land currently under the control of Parks Canada. It was suggested that Sandy Lake should be excluded for use by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Although there was a preference in the other regional communities to combine alternatives 1 and 2, it was also suggested that all alternatives could be combined to benefit the people directly involved. Comments from High Level suggested that the park should not be reduced in size and that Garden Creek should be maintained within the park because of its unique quality and lifestyle compatibility with the park environment.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comment was generally non-committal. Essentially, people wished the status quo to be maintained with no reduction in the size of the park and no change to the degree of representativeness of park resources and special features. For these reasons, many comments indicated that none of the proposals was acceptable.

OTHER COMMENT

The Local Liaison Officers did not comment specifically on the individual boundary change proposals. They did however express concern over the proposal to excise the community of Garden Creek from the park.

GARDEN CREEK SETTLEMENT

Parks Canada will pursue changes to the boundary of the park which will result in the community being excised from the park. The precise size and boundaries of the area involved would be negotiated between Parks Canada, the Province of Alberta and Garden Creek residents. The community may also be removed from the park as a result of more extensive boundary changes discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. (All such boundary revisions will require parliamentary approval.)

"We would suggest that you consider the status quo with better control and maybe better relations with the people who live there."

- NPPAC Spokesman, Edmonton Public Meeting

"It's just like you're taking the community out. It's like you lock somebody out from your door. You leave them out in the cold. That's the way it's going to leave us. This is why we've stated our position before when we've said we'd like the community to stay in the park."

- Garden Creek Public Meeting

"I think all the people in Garden Creek are asking is that they be given the right to continue living as they have been living. From their point of view, that's not an unreasonable request."

- High Level Public Meeting

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

With the exception of the Little Red River Band communities of Garden Creek, Jean D'Or Prairie, and Fox Lake, local communities suggested both excision of the settlement from the park and the requirement for Garden Creek residents, themselves, to decide their own future. The Little Red River Band's position remained that they wished the community of Garden Creek to stay within the park under a lease of occupation or as a reserve within park lands. It is noteworthy that Little Red River Band members spent much time and resources to lobby their position throughout this stage of the planning process.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

The other regional communities were also divided on this issue. People suggested both excision and a variety of compromises to this situation. It was noted in High Level that wider jurisdictional issues should be settled before a decision on Garden Creek is made.

SOUTHERN CANADA

In southern Canada, comment also ranged from support for excision to the settlement of other jurisdictional issues to further negotiation with Garden Creek residents themselves.

LAND CLAIMS

ALTERNATIVE 1

The land claim will be settled on the basis of the original terms agreed to between Parks Canada and the Cree Band. The Peace Point and Embarras River claims will be unaltered. The 1,020 acres outstanding will be selected adjacent to either of those sites.

"Parks Canada shouldn't be making recommendations on how the Federal Government should settle their land claims."

- Peace Point Public Meeting

ALTERNATIVE 2

Parks Canada will encourage the Cree Band to relinquish land at Peace Point. In exchange, negotiations between Parks Canada and the Band will identify new sites within the park equal in area and/or value to the acreage relinquished at Peace Point to satisfy the claim.

"I am in favour of alternative 2 or 3 as Peace Point is a significant natural park resource. Having private lands here would create uncontrollable problems."

- Eastern Canada Newsletter

"Get land claims settled! How can you plan for the future of the park with this uncertainty?"

- High Level Newsletter

ALTERNATIVE 3

Parks Canada will increase the total area of the parkland involved in the claim beyond the 43,000 acres originally specified in exchange for the Cree Band relinquishing its claim to all of Peace Point. The overall size of the total claim finally agreed to will be determined through negotiations between Parks Canada and the Cree Band and will involve a detailed assessment of the park resources at Peace Point.

The location of the new claim must be the acceptable to Parks Canada. Areas in the south-east corner of the park, adjacent to the existing Embarras claim are favoured by Parks Canada.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities did not state a clear preference for any of the alternative land claim proposals. The Cree Band of Fort Chipewyan/Peace Point was upset that Parks Canada was even putting forth positions on land entitlements and generally felt that this action was not acceptable. The Band further stated that the settlement of land entitlements is much more important than the park management plan and land entitlements should be settled prior to the development of a park management plan.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities showed some support for alternative 1 but were more concerned with the protection of park resources and the need to get land claims settled immediately.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadian comment indicated support for aspects of all proposed alternatives. There was much concern, however, regarding the future of Peace Point and its accessibility to the general public in the future.

POSITIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Regional Tourism

• Major Facilities

Commercial accommodation, major recreation and highly developed visitor services will not be provided inside the park. Parks Canada will encourage the development of such facilities/services by the private sector, or other government agencies, in adjacent communities.

• Guiding/Outfitting

Parks Canada will continue to actively encourage the development of local outfitting and guiding ventures which provide appropriate visitor opportunities and services.

Where Parks Canada requires a visitor service to be provided by a concessionaire or outfitter, a call for proposals will be issued and the successful operator chosen by Parks Canada through a review and evaluation of the proposals.

Business licences, under which outfitters operate, are subject to annual renewal.

• Research

Parks Canada will contribute to a regional tourism study and assist in developing a regional tourism plan.

• Promotion

Parks Canada will continue to promote the use of the park by providing information and orientation to the public, government agencies and community groups.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities were generally supportive of all Park's Canada's position statements on Regional Tourism. However, increased tourist facilities in the park, more research monies, and more promotion and better quality park promotion were cited as immediate requirements. Fort Chipewyan requested more local control and local preference policies as supportive mechanisms to developing guiding and outfitting businesses. A number of specific suggestions were made in Fort Chipewyan as to the type and level of services which could be available through local communities.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities essentially identified a need for more park promotion.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada commented that although Parks Canada's positions were commendable, there is a need to provide more resources and training to developing guiding and outfitting services. There was a specific suggestion that monies saved from fire fighting could be rechannelled into the development of local tourism businesses. It was also suggested that different kinds of research have to be undertaken in the future and that this research should occur before the park is promoted further. It was also recommended that all park promotion be "soft-pedalled" and geared toward hikers and campers. Southern comment noted that promotion of the park will not help if there are too many restrictions on the tourist.

Slave River Hydro Project

Parks Canada cannot accept any negative environmental impacts on park lands that may result from a dam on the Slave River. Any such lands must be excised from the park. Proposals to remove land from the park must satisfy the environmental assessment and review process and then be recommended by the minister responsible for Parks Canada to Parliament. Parliamentary approval is required for any boundary alterations.

Parks Canada will not recommend to Parliament that any part of the delta be excised from the park as it is vital to park objectives. Therefore, a dam on the Slave River must not alter the hydrology and ecology of the delta. Park lands other than delta lands that are affected by the dam must be excised through EARP and the approval of Parliament.



"I agree with your argument. If somebody trespasses on my property, I'll just move my property so he won't trespass any longer."

- Pine Point Public Meeting

"I would again object to any excising of part of the Delta from the park."

- High Level Newsletter

"Under no circumstances should park lands be flooded by the Slave River Hydro Project and we applaud Parks Canada's determination to oppose any negative impact in the critical Peace-Athabasca area."

- Eastern Canada Newsletter

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

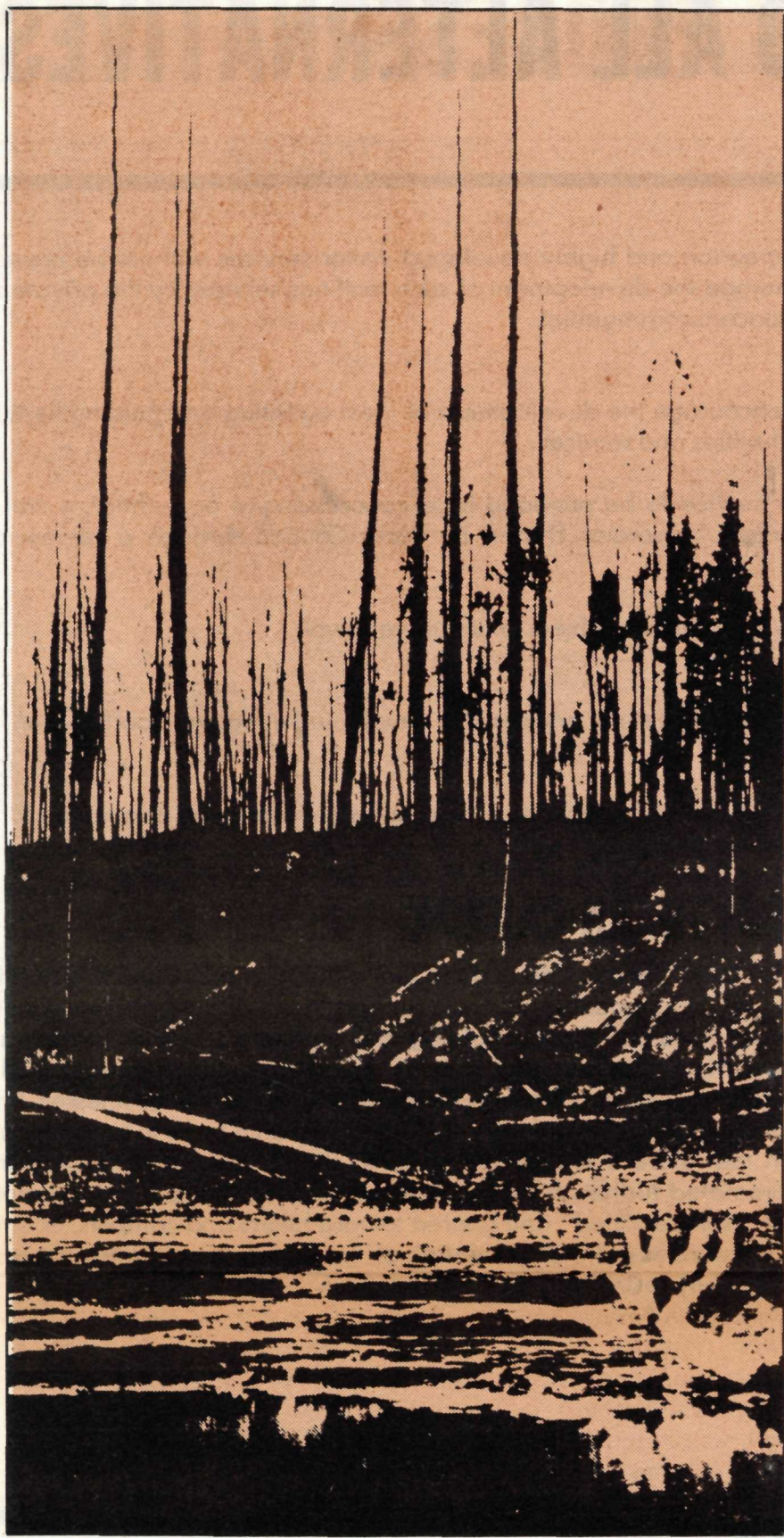
Local community discussion on the Slave River Hydro Project largely focussed on the potential for environmental damage to the area. A lack of current information on the project among local communities prevented many people from stating positions on the proposed dam.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

In the other regional communities, Yellowknife comment generally supported hydro electric developments in the North while High Level residents rejected the excision of Delta lands for hydro electric developments.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canadians were strongly opposed to the Slave River Hydro Project and emphatically stated 'no dam'. Excision of park lands for this project was not acceptable to them, and some comment criticized Parks Canada for their position on the issue.



COMPENSATION TO TRAPPERS FOR LOSSES FROM FOREST FIRES

Parks Canada will not provide compensation to park trappers for losses sustained because of forest fires. Efforts will be directed toward assisting park trappers to obtain benefits from provincial or territorial loss compensation programs.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES, and SOUTHERN CANADA

Local communities, other regional communities, and southern Canada generally supported Parks Canada's position statement on compensation to trappers. Local communities stated that they preferred to deal with the Government of the N.W.T. on compensation as the Alberta provincial government has virtually no support programs established.

PEACE-ATHABASCA MONITORING

A lead role will be assumed by Parks Canada in the development of a co-operative environmental monitoring program for the Delta.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Of the local communities which responded to this statement, Fort Chipewyan and Peace Point were very adamant. Both communities preferred active management of the Delta to restore water levels in the area. These communities recommended that weirs be placed on the Quatre Forche River and at Hilda Lake and the weir now on the Coupe be removed.

SOUTHERN CANADA

Southern Canada suggested that Parks Canada take a more direct responsibility for restoring this area to pre-Bennett dam conditions.

OTHER COMMENTS

It was stated that this responsibility must be assumed immediately as the monitoring of this area is urgently needed. The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** supported the recommendations put forth by Fort Chipewyan and Peace Point.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

No form of commercial fishing will be permitted within the park. Both walleye and goldeye populations can be considered as seed sources for fish populations commercially exploited outside of the park.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities of Fort Smith and Hay River were supportive of this Parks Canada statement. The Hay River Dene Band was particularly concerned that commercial fishing activities outside the park were having a negative impact upon the fish populations in Buffalo Lake. Fort Chipewyan rejected Parks Canada's position on commercial fishing and stated that fish are becoming increasingly more important as a food source.

OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Other regional communities had little comment on commercial fishing within the park other than to suggest that Parks Canada should either cut out all resource harvesting or allow it all. If some harvesting is allowed, then a limited fishing industry should be permitted around Fort Chipewyan.

SOUTHERN CANADA and OTHER COMMENTS

Southern Canada essentially supported Parks Canada's position on this issue while other comments offered by the **REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE N.W.T.** suggested that an inventory of fish resources be done first to ensure the effective management of this resource.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Local communities offered both comment and criticism on the management planning process. Some people were dissatisfied because all the suggestions and ideas put forth in the first stage of the planning process had not been included in the alternative plan proposals. A number of local communities commented on the requirement for more local control of park management planning processes and subsequent decision making. Concern was also expressed that perhaps a 'numbers game' was being played with the north losing out to southern interest groups. There was also a suggestion that at this point in the management planning process, consideration should be given to planning for the implementation of the final plan and the feasibility of retaining members of the Local Liaison Committee as advisers to oversee the implementation.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OTHER REGIONAL COMMUNITIES, and SOUTHERN CANADA

Local communities, other regional communities, and southern Canadian residents all noted that participation was somewhat less in this second round of public meetings than had been the case in the first round. However, it is also recognized that although public participation was less, the quality was quite high. It is worth noting that participation in this second round was somewhat affected by external issues such as the constitutional/aboriginal rights question, and the unavailability of many local resource users.



OTHER COMMENTS

The **LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE** in conjunction with the leadership of the Fort Chipewyan Cree Band, the Little Red River Band and the Fitz/Smith Native Band resolved through a Band Council Resolution, that "Wood Buffalo National Park cease and desist further discussions, plans and decisions until all surrounding communities have determined the implications and status in regard to the proposed management plan." This resolution was put forth because it was felt that the WBNP Management Planning Program did not reflect the needs of surrounding communities and was not considerate of treaty, hereditary, and aboriginal rights. It was further resolved that the respective Ministers of the Environment and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs meet to discuss these issues with local people.

In replying to the Joint Band Council Resolution the Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks Canada pointed out that since the establishment of Wood Buffalo National Park in 1922, successive federal administrations have undertaken to recognize the spirit and intent of Treaty 8 by providing access to resources for people dependent upon them for their subsistence and/or livelihood. Parks Canada believes the Management Plan Alternative Proposals reflect the ongoing nature of traditional activities that have occurred in this park. The Draft Management Plan now being prepared will likewise recognize the spirit and intent of Treaty 8.

It is the intention of Parks Canada to continue with the Management Planning Program for Wood Buffalo National Park. The Parks Canada officials who are developing the Wood Buffalo National Park Management Plan are aware of the potential ramifications of a land claim settlement. Should the settlement of this land claim necessitate Parliament amending the Schedule of the National Parks Act to excise certain areas from Wood Buffalo National Park, it follows that this Plan would have to be altered since the said areas would no longer fall under the jurisdiction of the National Parks Act. Until such circumstances occur, however, Parks Canada will continue to administer this park in accordance with its legislative mandate.

Parks Canada recognizes the importance of the Native Bands continued participation and encourages their involvement in the Management Planning Program.



WHAT'S NEXT?

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN THIS SERIES WILL OUTLINE THE DETAILS OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK. THIS SEVENTH NEWSLETTER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED PRIOR TO THE THIRD AND FINAL STAGE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS. THIS NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL FOLLOW THE FORMAT OF THE FIFTH NEWSLETTER IN THAT IT WILL BE A 'MAIL-BACK' PAPER ON WHICH YOU MAY WRITE YOUR VIEWS ON THE FINAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. A SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.



FURTHER INFORMATION

It is not too late to get on the mailing list and become a part of the planning process. You can receive copies of the five previous newsletters which discuss the issues, provide information about the park, discuss public opinion during the first stages of the planning process, and outline the alternative plan proposals, by mailing the card below to:

**WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK,
MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM
BOX 750,
FORT SMITH, N.W.T.
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Parks Canada will be commencing a management planning program for Nahanni National Park in the near future. If you are interested in receiving information on this program please check the box at right and include your name and address in the space below. ☐

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