PROPOSAL IN BRIEF

CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

ROUND 2

CONSERVATION AREAS INITIATIVE

This initiative is led by Fisher River Cree Nation (FRCN), Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation and Peguis First Nation in partnership with the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS).



CONSERVATION AREAS INITIATIVE



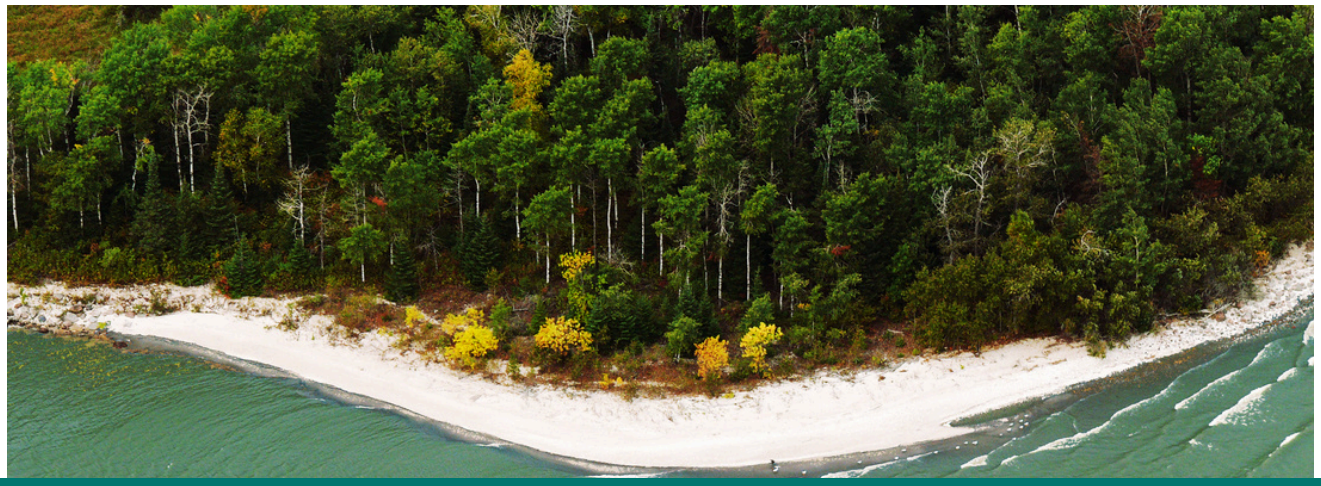
Important to Note

The areas proposed for conservation in this document provide a starting point for further discussions with local communities, rights-holders, commercial stakeholders, and all regional people.

All maps and information are provided for discussion and information purposes only, and will be subject to change based on feedback received. In some cases, a detailed understanding of the areas of interest to industries and groups operating in the region will be essential.

Feedback received will be summarized and presented to the project partners (FRCN, Kinonjeoshtegon & Peguis First Nations) before a final proposal is submitted to the Manitoba government.

We look forward to further discussions with all who have interests in our shared area.



The goal of the Conservation Areas Initiative is to protect the health of the southeastern Interlake's thriving natural landscape so it can continue to provide sustainable economic opportunities and to support our cherished lifestyles and cultures.

To ensure the health of regional people and wildlife, it is essential that we protect an adequate quantity of natural habitats and ecosystems within our area.

The Conservation Areas Initiative seeks to establish a balanced approach which reflects the values and interests of local communities, rights-holders and stakeholders. This will allow us to maintain the health of our region so that the people and wildlife of our shared lands and waters can enjoy a sustainable and healthy future.

How We Developed The Proposal

- Interviewed 20 Elders to develop a Knowledge Holder Summary.
- Held meetings with Elders and band members at the beginning of the project and at key milestones throughout the engagement process.
- Met with 27 regional communities and stakeholders to discuss the initiative and seek to understand their values and priorities.
- Conducted a Round 1 Public Survey (455 responses).
- Commissioned a Carbon Report of the study area to understand climate benefits.
- Developed a Community Voices brochure, highlighting perspectives of regional residents.
- Compiled a list of regional species of concern.
- Conducted extensive research to:
    - assess the conservation value of different areas within the region
    - identify existing conservation priorities (such as watershed management plans)
    - align the proposal with best practices in conservation knowledge/practice

Our Guiding Priorities

Water Health

We seek to protect our regional water resources and the landscapes that maintain them, while recognizing the centrality of water to Indigenous communities and all people.

Nature and Habitat

Wherever possible, we will prioritize the preservation of natural areas over costly - and often ineffective - remediation of degraded areas, with a focus on preserving critical habitats.

Culture and Lifestyle

Recognizing the fundamental importance of land-based practices and activities to Indigenous communities and our regional neighbours, we will seek to center these values in our recommendations.

Sustainable Development

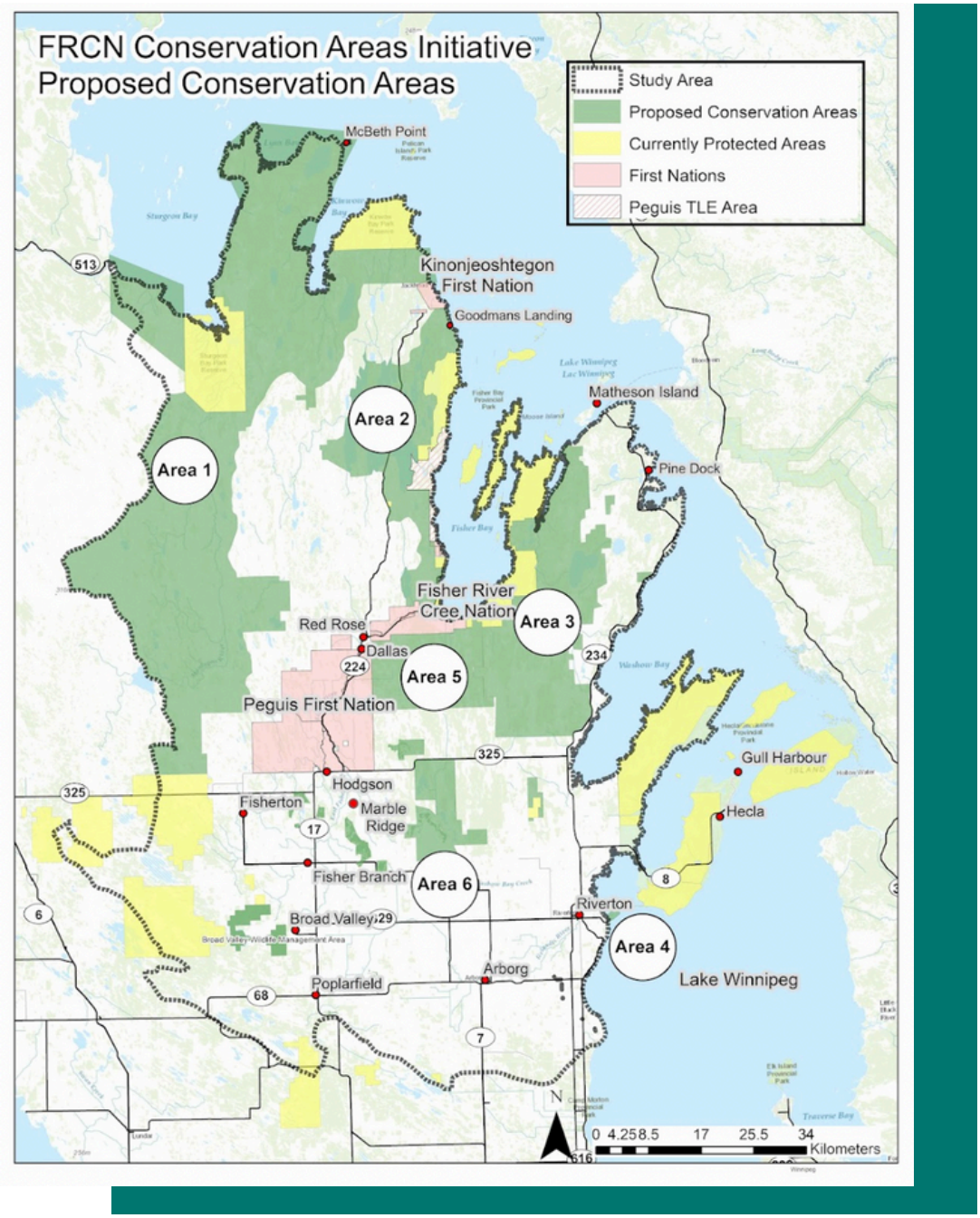
We seek to promote sustainable development of our region's natural features and resources, ensuring that today's opportunities do not become future liabilities.

Climate Change Mitigation

Understanding that carbon sequestration is critical to mitigating the impacts of climate change, we will prioritize the conservation of high-carbon areas of the region, to ensure that they continue to perform this ecological function indefinitely.



Areas We Are Proposing For Protection



The map above shows all areas being proposed for designations that will ensure they remain in a natural state. Descriptions of each area are provided below. The types of protections and boundaries considered for each area will be informed by our discussions during Round 2.

For further details, and to provide your feedback, please visit www.frcnconservation.ca.

Area 1 North Basin to Mantagao Lake

1,988 sq kms

This large area connects Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park to Kinwow Bay Provincial Park in the north and extends to the Mantagao Wildlife Management Area in the south. The High Rock Lake Area of Special Interest and proposed Ecological Reserve are included here, as well as hunting areas and traplines used by local communities.

Area 2 Fisher Bay West Section

374 sq kms

This area includes protections along the west shores of Fisher Bay, from FRCN to Kinonjeoshtegon, connecting to the existing Fisher Bay Provincial Park and extending further west around Lake St. George and Lake St. Andrews. Goodman's Landing is also included here, which is an important access point for regional fishers. Protections around Goldeye Lake are also proposed. Any protections considered near reserve lands will require further discussion from those nations.

Area 3 Washow Bay Peninsula

560 sq kms

Proposed protections for this area could involve expanding Fisher Bay Provincial Park, extending protections around Moose Lake, ensuring that contiguous moose and other wildlife habitat is preserved, and/or establishing official protected status for Moose Creek Wildlife Management Area. Our hope is to limit further developments on the peninsula, allowing more of the area to return to a 'natural state' while ensuring continuous habitat for moose and other wildlife.

Area 4 Sandy Bar/Icelandic River

4 sq kms

This area is small but significant, running south from the mouth of the Icelandic River down to the Sandy Bar Beach, including the sand spit that extends out into Lake Winnipeg. In addition to being a popular fishing spot, this area is also an Important Bird Area, and would extend to the protected portion of the sand bar within Hecla/Grindstone provincial park. Adding protections to Sandy Bar would ensure that this area remains a popular fishing and birding area.

Area 5 Fish Road Area

219 sq kms

The Fish Road area is an important connection between FRCN and Bifrost/Riverton/Arborg and a valuable medicine picking area. Upgrading this road is a known priority for FRCN and other communities in the area, for reasons of safety and accessibility. Connecting the Fish Road area to the Fisher Bay Provincial Park and Moose Creek WMA would help to ensure that nature here is connected and uninterrupted for wildlife movement. Other agricultural and community harvesting areas are located here, and will need to be considered when determining final boundaries of protected areas.

Area 6 Southern Wildlife Management Areas and Surrounding Alvars

204 sq kms

Several Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in this area maintain healthy habitats and pockets of wilderness that are highly suited for permanent protection. We propose revising the legal regulations of these WMAs - Lee Lake WMA, Washow Bay WMA/David B. Tomasson WMA and Broad Valley WMA - to ensure they remain natural areas. We are also proposing protections for the globally rare alvar regions found in the area.

To learn more and share your thoughts, please visit:

frcnconservation.ca

SCAN ME

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KINONJEOSHTEGON FIRST NATION

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