

Canadian Heritage
Rivers System

Bloodvein River Monitoring Report 07



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“We envision a system of Canadian Heritage Rivers that serves as a model of stewardship – one that engages society in valuing the heritage of rivers and river communities as essential to identity, health and quality of life.”- [CHRS Strategic Plan 2008-2018](#)

Bloodvein River Monitoring Report 07

Prepared for:

Manitoba Conservation
Parks and Natural Areas Branch

**Woodland Caribou
Provincial Park**
Ontario Parks
Ministry of Natural Resources

Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

Prepared by:

Candace Newman
Park Biologist
Woodland Caribou Provincial
Park, Ministry of Natural
Resources

Doug Gilmore
Park Superintendent
Woodland Caribou Provincial
Park, Ministry of Natural
Resources

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Executive Summary

1

The objective of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Monitoring Report for the Bloodvein River (Manitoba/Ontario) is to assess the current conditions of the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage values against the original nomination values identified in the CHRS Bloodvein River nomination documents. In 1984, the Government of Manitoba nominated its 200 km segment of the Bloodvein River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. Two years later, Ontario nominated its segment of the Bloodvein River to the Canadian Heritage River System, thereby recognizing the entire length of the Bloodvein River from Peisk Lake in Ontario to Meekisiwi Rapids east of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. Working together, the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario strive to promote, conserve, and manage the river through provincial and inter-provincial conservation and management efforts.

This Monitoring Report covers the period 1998 to 2007.

There have been no significant changes or threats to the natural heritage values for which the river was nominated. The 2007 management plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the upcoming management plan for Atikaki Provincial Park, as well as a proposal for a Manitoba-Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area will positively contribute to additional promotion, preservation and management of the Bloodvein River.

There have been no significant changes or threats to the cultural heritage values for which the river was nominated. The Bloodvein River and surrounding environment are included in a UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination bid led by local First Nations and the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario. This will positively contribute to additional promotion, preservation, and management of Bloodvein River cultural heritage values.

There have been changes to some recreational heritage values for which the river was nominated. In general the changes relate to reducing mechanized travel and land occupations that negatively impact on the wilderness experience. Access to the river was improved at the headwaters. Non-mechanized recreational use of the river increased.

There were no changes to the river integrity values except for the removal of several commercial outcamps in Manitoba as a means of

improving the wilderness canoeing experience along the river.

Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources are making continuous efforts to enhance and preserve river integrity and heritage values for which the river was nominated, thereby promoting a clean, wilderness experience for travelers and a sustainable environment for natural and cultural elements. The following significant actions have been taken:

- The number of outcamps and boat caches have been reduced.
- All river trip segments are shown as canoe routes on the Atikaki Park map published and made available for public distribution by Manitoba Conservation.
- A study of existing campsites along the western segment of the river was conducted.
- Portages within the western segment of the river have not been improved or signed by Manitoba conservation in order to maintain a primitive-wilderness condition.
- The upper reaches of the Bloodvein River have been added to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park to complete the protection of this important Canadian waterway.
- Parts of the backshore of the Bloodvein River corridor have been protected in a series of nature reserve zones.
- A project to develop designated campsites along the Ontario portion of the river is underway. This project includes a cultural research partnership with area First Nations. The resulting campsites will be located so as to avoid conflict with significant caribou calving or nursery areas, archaeological and cultural sites.
- A road access point has been established at Lund Lake providing more direct access to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River.
- Air access has been removed from the Bloodvein River except for landings permitted at Lower Artery Lake and at tourism facilities.
- Canoe route map for the Ontario portion identifies the location of portages and provides information on backcountry etiquette.
- Nurturing the development of a cultural tourism opportunity for First Nations as part of the economic renewal of their communities.

Based on the findings of this monitoring report the Bloodvein River is worthy of continued designation as a river of national significance within the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

L Le rapport de contrôle préparé par le Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien (RRPC) pour la rivière Bloodvein (Manitoba/Ontario) a pour objet d'évaluer l'état actuel des valeurs patrimoniales naturelles, culturelles et récréatives par rapport aux valeurs initiales reconnues dans les documents de mise en candidature de la rivière Bloodvein au RRPC. En 1984, le gouvernement du Manitoba a proposé d'inclure dans le RRPC le tronçon de 200 km de la rivière Bloodvein qui parcourt son territoire. Deux ans plus tard, l'Ontario a fait de même pour son propre tronçon de la rivière Bloodvein, reconnaissant ainsi la totalité de la rivière, du lac Peisk, en Ontario, jusqu'aux Meekisiwi Rapids situés à l'est du lac Winnipeg, au Manitoba. Ensemble, les gouvernements du Manitoba et de l'Ontario lancent des initiatives provinciales et interprovinciales visant à promouvoir, à conserver et à gérer la rivière.

Le présent rapport de contrôle couvre la période comprise entre 1998 et 2007.

On ne relève aucun changement ni aucune menace d'importance en ce qui concerne les valeurs patrimoniales naturelles qui ont motivé la mise en candidature de la rivière. Le plan de gestion 2007 du parc provincial Woodland Caribou et le prochain plan de gestion du parc provincial Atikaki, ainsi que la proposition relative à la désignation d'une zone interprovinciale de nature sauvage Manitoba-Ontario, contribueront de façon positive aux efforts de promotion, de préservation et de gestion de la rivière Bloodvein.

On ne relève aucun changement ni aucune menace d'importance en ce qui concerne les valeurs patrimoniales culturelles qui ont motivé la mise en candidature de la rivière. Certaines Premières nations locales et les gouvernements du Manitoba et de l'Ontario ont amorcé un processus de mise en candidature visant à faire inclure la rivière Bloodvein et le milieu ambiant dans le patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. Cette démarche contribuera de façon positive aux efforts de promotion, de préservation et de gestion des valeurs patrimoniales culturelles de la rivière Bloodvein. Certaines des valeurs patrimoniales récréatives qui ont motivé la mise en candidature de la rivière ont subi quelques changements. En général, ces changements se rapportent à la réduction des déplacements mécanisés et des occupations du sol qui nuisent à l'expérience vécue dans la nature sauvage. L'accès à la rivière a été amélioré en amont. L'utilisation récréative non mécanisée de la rivière a augmenté.

Il n'y a eu aucun changement dans les valeurs liées à l'intégrité de la rivière, à l'exception de la fermeture de plusieurs camps de pêche commerciaux au Manitoba, dans le but d'améliorer l'expérience de canotage en milieu sauvage le long de la rivière.

Manitoba Conservation et le ministère des Richesses naturelles déploient des efforts soutenus pour rehausser et préserver les valeurs liées à l'intégrité et les valeurs patrimoniales qui ont motivé la mise en candidature de la rivière, afin d'offrir aux visiteurs une excellente expérience en milieu sauvage, de promouvoir la durabilité de l'environnement et d'en maintenir les éléments naturels et culturels. D'importantes mesures ont été prises dans ce sens:

- Le nombre de camps de pêche et de caches de bateaux a été réduit.
- Tous les parcours de la rivière sont indiqués comme itinéraires de canotage sur la carte du parc Atikaki qui est publiée et distribuée au grand public par Manitoba Conservation.
- Une étude des sites de camping existants qui sont situés le long du tronçon ouest de la rivière a été effectuée.
- Les portages du tronçon ouest de la rivière n'ont pas été améliorés ni signalisés par Manitoba Conservation afin de préserver l'état primitif du milieu sauvage.
- Le cours supérieur de la rivière Bloodvein a été incorporé dans le parc provincial Woodland Caribou pour assurer la protection complète de cette importante voie d'eau canadienne.
- Des mesures de protection accrue sont appliquées à une partie de l'arrière-plage du couloir fluvial de la rivière Bloodvein en tant que réserve naturelle dans le parc provincial Woodland Caribou.
- Un projet visant la création de sites de camping désignés le long du tronçon ontarien de la rivière est en cours d'élaboration. Ce projet comprend un partenariat de recherche culturelle avec les Premières nations de la région. Les nouveaux sites de camping seront situés à l'écart de toute zone importante de mise bas ou de croissance des caribous, et à l'écart des sites archéologiques et culturels.
- Un point d'accès routier a été aménagé au lac Lund pour permettre d'accéder plus directement au cours supérieur de la rivière Bloodvein.
- L'accès par voie aérienne à la rivière Bloodvein est maintenant fermé, à l'exception des atterrissages qui sont permis dans la partie inférieure du lac Artery et aux installations touristiques.
- La carte des itinéraires de canotage du tronçon ontarien signale l'emplacement des portages et fournit des renseignements sur les règles à respecter dans l'arrière-pays.
- Les Premières nations pourront exploiter différentes possibilités de tourisme culturel dans le cadre du renouveau économique de leurs collectivités.

D'après les constatations du présent rapport de contrôle, la rivière Bloodvein mérite de conserver sa désignation de rivière d'importance nationale au sein du Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Over 11,000 years ago glaciers scoured the Manitoba/Ontario midlands as they receded north creating a network of rivers and lakes across the northern regions of these two provinces. Today, within this network, lies the Bloodvein River, a river system over 300 kilometres long from its headwaters in northwestern Ontario to its mouth in Lake Winnipeg within central Manitoba. Located off the historic trade and settlement routes, the river evolved with minimal impact from humans, and, today, hosts some of the most unique plant communities and animal populations found within Canada. The Bloodvein River is part of the Nelson River-Hudson Bay drainage area, rising 400 metres above sea level in some places, and contained within the vast wilderness of the Canadian Shield. The river rests across two wilderness provincial parks, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park to the east in Ontario, and Atikaki Provincial Park to the west in Manitoba.

Today, the Bloodvein River is recognized as a Canadian Heritage River with the western segment being designated in 1987 and the eastern in 1998. The provinces of Manitoba and Ontario identified the river as a site of outstanding Canadian heritage value, rich in natural, cultural and recreational values. Examples include woodland caribou, wolverine, lake sturgeon, great blue heron; evidence of traditional aboriginal activities, pictographs and areas of spiritual significance and opportunities for high quality wilderness canoeing, camping, fishing, nature observation and wildlife photography. Both provinces have agreed to work together to maintain the national significance of the river. This report marks the first of these joint efforts, in which the heritage values for the entire Bloodvein River are jointly assessed and presented.

1.2 Recent Recognitions

Since designation, the Bloodvein River has been subject to various land use and river management actions. There has been minimal conflicting land use that has negatively influenced the river corridor and original nomination values. There have been considerable management efforts, from both provinces, to ensure that preservation, promotion, and enhancement of the river's original nomination values occurs. In August 2007, the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan was approved and released. Within this plan management actions are clearly stated. They include "... activities which may affect river [Bloodvein River] values will be monitored", and "Ontario Parks will report any changes in the condition of the river and values for which it was designated to the CHRS Board through the annual CHRS report". The management plan recognizes the importance and value of the Bloodvein River System, and presents implementation priorities that seek to promote and protect the rivers heritage values. In Manitoba, the Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan has been completed and is currently awaiting approval. In the Atikaki Management Plan, a series of guidelines drive management of the Bloodvein River corridor and enhancement of the original nomination values. In addition to the direction these two management plans bring to the Bloodvein River, a recent collaboration between four First Nations and the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario will include the Bloodvein River and surrounding area in a UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination and will bring national and international attention to the outstanding Canadian heritage value housed throughout the river corridor. By the inclusion of the Bloodvein River in the Woodland Caribou and Atikaki Park Management Plans and in the UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination, the river demonstrates its national heritage significance, thus reflecting a strong, Canadian value.

2.0 Methodology

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Following nomination of a river system to the CHRS, the river must be monitored annually and at least every ten years, a ten-year monitoring report must be created and submitted to the CHRS Board for review.

Assessments are guided by Selection Guidelines and Integrity Guidelines. According to the CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines (September 2000), a "... outstanding Canadian heritage value is obtained when it has been determined that a river is an outstanding representative of, or unique in, Canada or a province or territory". An 'outstanding representative' is determined according to three sets of Selection Guidelines:

Natural Heritage Values;
Cultural Heritage Values; and
Recreational Heritage Values.

In addition to meeting specific Selection Guidelines, a river and its immediate surrounding environment must meet Integrity Guidelines. The Integrity Guidelines are divided into Natural, Cultural and Recreational Integrity Values, within which, the river must possess all of the stated values.

This report presents the results of data collection, review, and assessment for each Selection and Integrity Guideline. Data collection included review of the nomination, park plans, research studies, and projects, as well as interviews with Park staff, and meetings between Manitoba Conservation and Ministry of Natural Resources personnel.

Collected, reviewed, and assessed data are summarized into separate sections, and the contents of each section are described below.

Chronology of Significant Events and Actions: Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research

This section includes a chronological summary table of the significant events, outreach and education projects, research and studies that occurred during the reporting period. The table includes significant events that occurred along the Bloodvein River, and also events that were found to positively or negatively change, or pose a threat to the river's nomination values.

Condition of Bloodvein River Natural Heritage Nomination Values

This section reviews the importance of the river based on a series of Natural Heritage Values. An outstanding Canadian natural heritage value is recognized when the river is affected by the major stages and processes in the earth's evolutionary history, contains representations of significant geomorphological and biological processes, contains unique and rare examples of biotic and abiotic phenomena, and contains habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals. A table outlines the values according to themes, sub-themes, and elements defined by the CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines (September 2000), and identifies whether changes or threats to the values have occurred.

Condition of Bloodvein River Recreational Values

This section reviews the importance of the river based on recreational value in relation to recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience. Recreational opportunities include water-based activities. Natural and cultural appreciation are considered part of the water-based experience. A table outlines the values according to activities defined by a Manitoba Recreational Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers and identifies whether changes or threats to the value(s) has occurred.

Condition of Bloodvein River Integrity Nomination Values

In addition to meeting the Selection Guidelines, Integrity Guidelines must also be met, and in this section are categorized into Natural Integrity Values, Cultural Integrity Values, and Recreational Integrity Values. River Integrity Values are identified for the Bloodvein River System and are summarized in a table that includes both positive and negative influences on nomination values.

Review of Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives

Objectives outlined in the Manitoba Bloodvein Heritage River Management Plan (1986) included a management program. This section identifies whether the 'program elements' have been achieved or not achieved since the designation of the Bloodvein River to the CHRS. In addition, objectives outlined in the Resource Management Strategy (1998) published by the Ministry of Natural Resources are used to assess 'degree of achievement' for the eastern segment of the river. This section then summarizes the 'degree of achievement' for the entire Bloodvein River.

3.0 Assessment of Heritage Values and Management Plan Objectives

This section of the report includes an assessment of the original nomination values as well as the Management Plan (MB-1986) and Resource Management Strategy (ON-1998) objectives identified for the Bloodvein River following nomination to the CHRS. The contents of this section include:

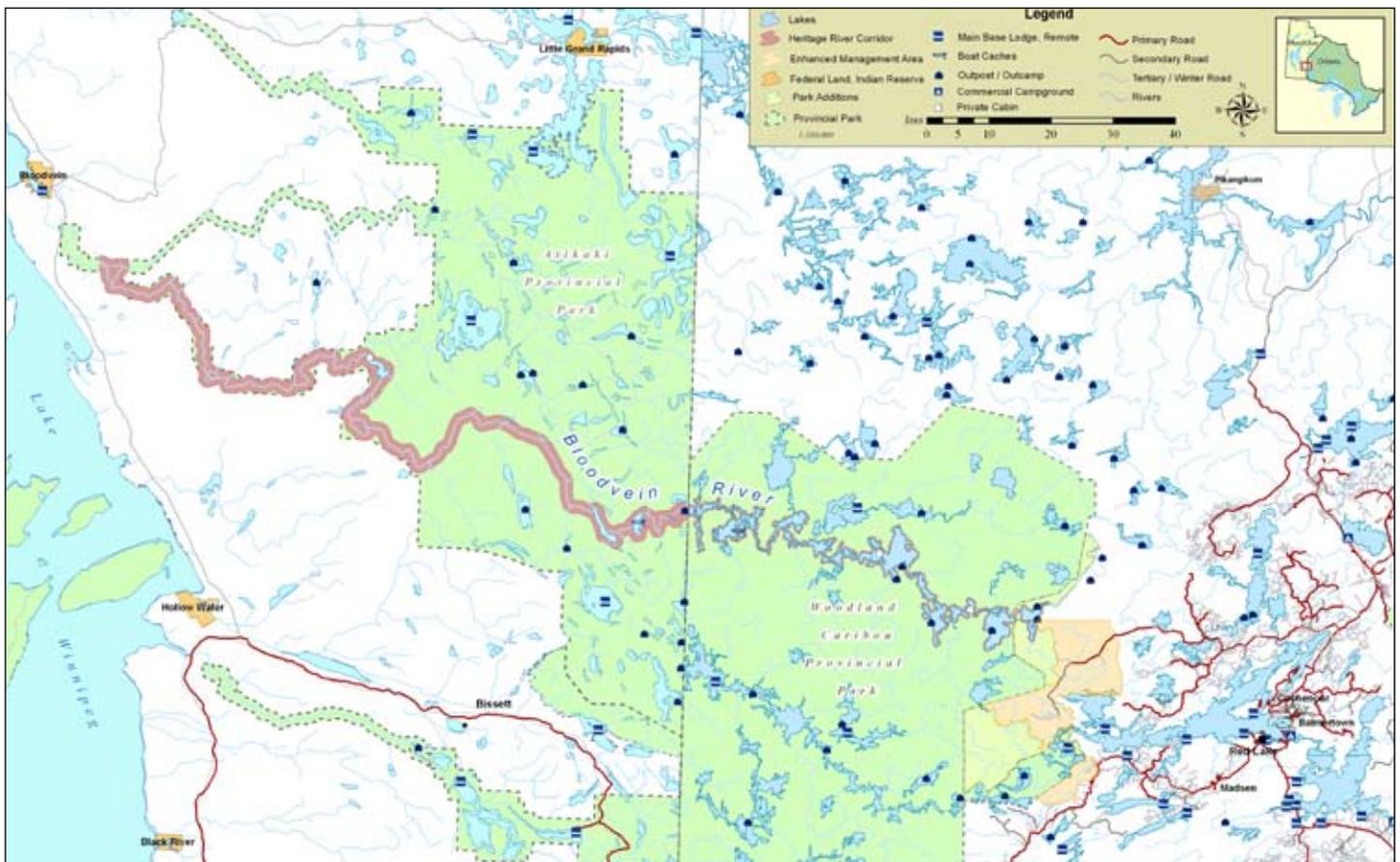
- A chronology of the significant events and actions, which include outreach and education projects, studies, and research that have included or influenced the Bloodvein River System.

- An assessment of original CHRS nomination values including natural, cultural, and recreation values, and river integrity values.
- An assessment of management objectives and ‘program elements’ identified in the 1986 Bloodvein Heritage River Management Plan and those ‘program elements’ achieved or not achieved.

Results from this section are used to determine the current condition and status of the values and objectives, and whether the Bloodvein River warrants continued designation as a Canadian Heritage River.

Map 1

Bloodvein River (Manitoba/Ontario)





3.1 Chronology of Significant Events and Actions: Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research

The reporting period has been marked by many significant events which have included or influenced the Bloodvein River System (Table 1).

Throughout the western segment of the Bloodvein River (Manitoba) there has been considerable effort by Manitoba Conservation to promote and preserve the wilderness environment of the river corridor. Along the river, an outcamp has been removed, reducing the associated negative impacts on the physical environment; River Stewards have been hired, promoting the significance of the river to water-based travelers; boat caches have been removed, reducing the amount of mechanized travel in the area. These efforts combined, preserve the river's recognized heritage values and improve the wilderness recreational opportunities and experiences for river users. In addition, studies have been conducted along the river corridor to assess species populations and the status and condition of campsites.

Along the eastern segment (Ontario) of the Bloodvein River, the Ministry of Natural Resources has also conducted efforts to promote and preserve the Bloodvein River wilderness environment. Although outpost camps and one commercial boat cache exist a restriction on motor size has been implemented which contributes to maintaining the rivers natural heritage values that are unique to this area. The river provides hunting and fishing opportunities for First Nation communities who

continue to have a strong relationship with the land today. With this relationship comes a desire to maintain a balance in natural resource use. In addition, archaeological research in partnership with First Nations is being conducted to enhance our knowledge of Canada's history and to gain a better understanding of the traditional roles and responsibilities held by past and present First Nation communities. Such studies help in forming a cornerstone to the development of ongoing positive relationships between Universities, Government and First Nation Communities, and in promoting the value of the Bloodvein River outside of conventional western knowledge networks.

In 2007, the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan was approved and released, and efforts to implement management priorities are underway. The Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan has been completed and is awaiting approval. Both plans recognize the importance and value of the Bloodvein River to Canada's Heritage Rivers System, and both identify ways to continue and to enhance promotion and preservation of the river. Also in 2007, four First Nations and the Manitoba and Ontario governments have established a non-profit corporation as part of their goal to achieve international recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for lands east of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba and in northwestern Ontario. The area covers approximately 42,000 square kilometres and includes the entire Bloodvein River System. The area would be protected as an Anishinabe cultural landscape, and would be called the Pimachiowin-Aki World Heritage Site.

Table 1

Chronology of Significant Events and Actions: Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research

Year	Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information requested of local ecotourism operators by Manitoba Conservation and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources identify services provided, physical conditions of the rivers, lakes, canoe and portage routes. This information provides a cursory understanding of the amount of commercial and non-commercial canoeing and wilderness camping that is occurring along the Bloodvein River System.• Manitoba Conservation continues with woodland caribou monitoring efforts along the Bloodvein River
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atikaki Interpretative Park Map revised and published by Manitoba Conservation. Map includes people in the landscape and natural history information, and activities such as canoeing, camping, angling, fly-in lodges, and cultural information about rock paintings.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecosystem-Based Management Pilot project undertaken by Manitoba Conservation concludes with a Science Team final Report titled “Ecoregion 90: Social and Economic Landscape” and a Values Team Final Report titled “Ecoregion 90: Traditional land Use and Occupancy Study”.• Woodland Caribou Park Management Planning process launched.• Atikaki Wilderness Survey initiated by Manitoba Conservation. Survey investigates group size and skill, canoe route, camp site condition and quality, and portage condition. Survey was been conducted annually until 2006.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archaeological research conducted along the Bloodvein River System by Pikangikum First Nation, Lakehead University and Ontario Parks. Findings document mix of ancient and more modern aboriginal dwellings and traditional activities.• Bloodvein River Academic Expedition: Laurentian University students record the GPS coordinates of campsites. Data unveils campsite location and ancillary notes on campsite condition and quality.• Four First Nations and the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario seek to achieve international recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for an area that spans both provinces and includes the Bloodvein River. The site is placed on Canada’s tentative list of World Heritage Sites.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• River Stewards Program initiated by Manitoba Conservation for the purpose of informing travellers about the natural and cultural history of the Bloodvein River System, as well as providing direction, and maintaining pathways and camp sites.• The Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre is opened. This facility will offer opportunities to inform and promote the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.

Table 1 – cont’d

Chronology of Significant Events and Actions: Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research

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Year	Outreach and Education Projects, Studies, and Research
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a video and curriculum materials by Manitoba Model Forest Committee. The video “Shadows of the Forest: Managing Woodland Caribou” tells the story of Manitoba’s Woodland Caribou and the work that is being done to manage their habitat sustainably. Curriculum materials include “Interactions Within Forest Ecosystems: A Grade 7 Science Unit” and “Sustainable Forest Ecosystems: A Senior 2 Science Unit” that bring sustainable forest ecosystems lessons to the classroom through innovative presentations and learning sessions. Materials explore natural characteristics and processes that exist and operate along the Bloodvein River System.• Manitoba’s Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou is released and seeks to maintain current local caribou populations and to promote recovery of declining populations.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitment by Manitoba for construction, upgrades, and extension of the Rice River Road to the Bloodvein River First Nation. The road was originally constructed for use in logging operations by Pine Falls Paper Company, now owned by Tembec, and will be the main stem for the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Detailed socio-economic, environmental analyses of costs and benefits of potential routes for this all-weather road system have not yet been undertaken.• Removal of outcamp in Manitoba along the Bloodvein River System. The purpose is to continue a program of removing all built structures to enhance the wilderness experience for hikers and canoeists. A single outcamp remains on Lower Artery Lake, and inspection of the outcamp by Manitoba Conservation personnel ensures that Atikaki Park commercial tourism operations comply with environment and public health standards.• Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan is approved and released to the public. The goal of the plan is to protect the outstanding wilderness landscape, natural features and cultural resources, and to provide high quality recreational and educational experience for visitors.• Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan is completed and submitted for approval. The plan provides direction for managing the Wilderness Park, and focuses on protecting habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, providing wilderness recreation opportunities, and promoting public appreciation and understanding of the park’s natural features and cultural heritage.• In the Atikaki and Woodland Caribou Park Management Plans Manitoba Conservation and Ontario Parks commit to a coordinated approach by establishing an Inter-Provincial wilderness area, which includes the Bloodvein River. Areas of cooperation include research, resource management, marketing, and management of recreational opportunities.• Ontario Parks and Lac Seul First Nation begin an archaeological and cultural heritage research project with community Elders that were born and lived on the Bloodvein River. Ontario Parks have asked the Elders for advice and direction on the placement of the Heritage River P which has yet to be erected.

3.2 Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

Since the initial Monitoring Report of the Bloodvein River (1987-2000), there have been minimal changes in the abiotic and biotic phenomena, features, and processes existing and operating throughout the Bloodvein River. Changes in the Natural Heritage Values have been assessed against the Natural Heritage Values Selection Guidelines (March 2001). These guidelines state that “Outstanding Canadian natural heritage value will be recognized when a river and its immediate environment:”

- Is an outstanding example of river environments as they are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth’s evolutionary history which are represented in Canada; or
- Contains outstanding representations of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological and biological processes; or

- Contains along its course unique, rare, or outstanding examples of biotic and abiotic natural phenomena, formations or features; or
- Contains, along its course, habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals, including outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance.

Hydrology, Physiography, River Morphology, Biotic Environments, Vegetation, and Fauna are the themes assessed in this report, and positive or negative influences on each theme are noted in the ‘Changes’ column of Table 2. To identify changes in Vegetation and Fauna, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) species database was used. In addition, data available from Environment Canada (National Atlas of Canada), including the Species at Risk database, were used to provide location specific information.

Table 2

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Values	Changes or Threats to Nomination Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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1. Hydrology

Sub-Theme 1.1: Drainage Basins

1.3.2 Hudson Bay: Nelson Drainage Basin

- The Bloodvein River is connected to the Nelson River System via Lake Winnipeg.
- The Bloodvein River is a tributary river and designated Stream Number 2.

- No changes or threats.

- Water quality testing by Environment Canada initiated in 1991. Water sampling station location approximately 8 kilometres east of the Bloodvein First Nation community outside of the designated river corridor.

Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

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CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
Sub-Theme 1.2: Seasonal Variation			
1.2.10 Peak flow June; Low flow Dec-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low flows also occur in October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real-time hydrometric data area available for the Bloodvein River. An active station is located above the Bloodvein Bay and measures water levels for a 9090 square km basin. Measurements are taken continuously and communicated using the GOES Satellite to a receiving station in Manitoba. Within the last year, water levels ranged between 28.5 and 31 m, with the lowest level occurring March and the highest level occurring in May through July.
Sub-Theme 1.3: Water Content			
1.3.5 TDS 51-100 mg/l; Insignificant sediment load 0-50 mg/l (<5.0 JU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bloodvein River drains undeveloped Precambrian Shield watershed contents to Lake Winnipeg. Contribution to total nitrogen and total phosphorous is considered minor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	
Sub-Theme 1.4: River Size			
1.4.1 Small Rivers < 85 (m3/sec); Total Length of River < 500 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average annual flow volume determined above Bloodvein Bay at 59.9 cubic metres/second, while average annual runoff is estimated between 200-399 mm/year. River length measures 300 km. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	

Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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2. Physiography

Sub-Theme 2.1: Physiographic Regions

2.1.3 Canadian Shield – James Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bloodvein river is surrounded by characteristic features of the Canadian Shield that are apparent in major uplands and plateaus. The Ontario section of the river exhibits lacustrine glacial deposits along the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative portions of the lacustrine glacial deposits in the eastern section of the river (ON) are protected within nature reserve zoning (2007).
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Sub-Theme 2.2: Geological Processes

2.2.2 Faulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fault zones create massive rock faces, outcrops and rock features, and result in rapids and falls along the river system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	
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Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

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CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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Sub-Theme 2.3: Hydrogeology

2.3.4 High Porosity Thin Soils and Barrens; Impervious Igneous and Metamorphic

- The corridor comprises a complex of granitic bedrock outcrop features and structures.
- Includes Kenoran rock thought to be some of the oldest in North America (+2,600 million years old).
- Soil types include till veneer and till blanket.

- No changes or threats.

Sub-Theme 2.4: Topography

2.4.2 Height above sea level 0-400 metres; Gradient moderate 1-2 m/km

- The gradient throughout the river corridor approximates 1.5 metres per kilometre.

- No changes or threats.

3. River Morphology

Sub-Theme 3.1: Valley Types

3.1.4 V-shaped valleys, vegetated slopes, rounded/flat interfluves

- Characteristic of the middle reaches of the Bloodvein. Downward erosion has obscured glacial actions and created winding rapid streams with narrow floodplains.

- No changes or threats.

Table 2 – cont’d

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
Sub-Theme 3.2: Channel Patterns			
3.2.10 Lake Chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of separate lakes linked by a main river stem. Characteristic of the upper reaches of the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes. 	
Sub-Theme 3.3: Channel Profile			
3.3.10 Cascade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 112 sets of rapids/falls within the Manitoba section and 6 sets of rapids and falls in the Ontario section. Cascading rapids and falls include Canyon Rapids, Chap Falls and Stonehouse Rapids in Manitoba and Larus Falls in Ontario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes. 	
Sub-Theme 3.4: Fluvial Landforms			
3.4.12 Caves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosional ‘holes’ cut into bedrock channels by swirling vortex of rock sediments and particles. Usually occur with sudden drops or directional changes in the river channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes. 	

Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

15

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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4. Biotic Environments

Sub-Theme 4.1: Aquatic Ecosystems

4.1.1 Riverine System

- Middle zone is positioned along the Bloodvein River plain and includes an area of sediment transport, broad seasonal water temperature regime, and variable discharge.
 - Lowland zone located in the Playgreen Lake Lowland includes sediment deposition.
- No changes.

4.1.4 Wetland Systems – Marshes

- Wildrice marshes located sporadically along the river.
 - Numerous, low, reed lined shorelines and adjacent larch and black spruce bogs. Marshes are seasonally flooded or inundated by standing or moving waters.
- No changes or threats.
 - Commercial wild rice licences are relatively inactive.

Table 2 – cont’d

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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Sub-Theme 4.2: Terrestrial Ecosystems

4.2.9 Boreal Shield

- The Bloodvein River corridor includes some of the most diverse and complete representation of landforms and boreal forest plant and animal communities of Ontario and Manitoba.

- No changes or threats.

5. Vegetation

Sub-theme 5.1: Significant Plant Communities

5.1.2 Aquatic/Riparian Plants - Location

- Prairie Rush, Floating Marsh Marigold, Tesselated Rattlesnake Plantain Orchid, Ferns, Spike Moss, Prickly-Pear Cactus, White Beak-Rush, Narrow Leaved Panic Grass, Bristly Buttercup, Bur Oak, Maple and Ash.

- No changes or threats.

- In 2000 a life science inventory (update) was performed at the rivers headwater lake (Peisk Lake) as part of the pre-park planning process.

5.1.6 Vascular Plant - Location

- Prairie species and complexes (e.g. prairie crocus, spike moss - ON) are found along the Bloodvein River System, an unusual location for these plants relative to the normal distribution of the species in the ecozone in which the river is located.

- No changes or threats.

Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

17

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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Sub-theme 5.2: Rare Plant Species

5.2.1 Aquatic/Riparian Plants
– Regionally Rare Species

- Prairie Rush

- No changes or threats.

6. Fauna

Sub-theme 6.1: Significant Animal Populations

6.1.5 Population Size – Mammals

- Includes moose, black bear, timber wolves, river otter, lynx, fisher, woodland caribou, cougar, ermine, mink, white-tailed deer and coyote.
- Bloodvein region inhabited by one of the largest groups of woodland caribou south of James Bay.

- No changes or threats.

- Moose population surveys in Ontario regularly performed on 5 year intervals. Survey area includes the Bloodvein River watershed. Last survey was performed in 2006.
- Wolverine research performed between 2003 and 2005 in Ontario involved collaring of animals of which one used the headwaters of the Bloodvein River as part of its home range. Aerial surveys documented use of the Bloodvein River area by wolverine.

6.1.9 Population Size – Birds

- Bloodvein regions are inhabited by many bird species including turkey vultures, bald eagles, loons, great gray owls, pelicans, cormorants, Bonaparte gulls, falcons, Canada geese and various ducks.

- No changes or threats.

Table 2 – cont'd

Assessment of Natural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Natural Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
Sub-theme 6.2: Rare Animal Species			
6.2.1 Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSEWIC designations include Chestnut Lamprey (Special Concern) – 1991; Lake Sturgeon (Endangered) – 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats 	
6.2.2 Mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSEWIC designations include woodland caribou (Vulnerable) – 2002; wolverine (Special Concern) – 2003. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou calving and nursery surveys carried out in Woodland Caribou Park between 2001 and 2004 included surveys along the Bloodvein. Nursery activity is confirmed.
6.2.3 Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSEWIC designations include Peregrine Falcon (Special Concern) – 2007; Great Blue Heron (Special Concern) – 1997. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats 	

3.2.1 Condition of Natural Heritage Values

No significant changes, as a result of human land use, human interaction or natural occurrences, including forest fires have been identified which negatively affect the natural heritage values of the Bloodvein River. The assessment presented in Table 2 suggests that the river continues to represent a remote, scenic wilderness environment characteristic of the Boreal Shield ecozone. In addition, the river corridor includes a wide diversity of flora and fauna, complete representations of landforms, plant communities, and animal populations, as well as unique and rare species that can only be found within or nearby the river.

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The following actions have been identified as positively contributing to, or will contribute to, additional promotion, preservation, and management of Bloodvein River Natural Heritage Values:

- Approval of the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan. The plan identifies the national value of the river and identifies management implementation strategies.
- Completion and submission for approval of the Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan. The plan identifies specific management projects to conserve and manage the Bloodvein River.
- Agreement to a Manitoba/Ontario Inter-Provincial Wilderness Area. Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources have agreed to cooperative and collaborative efforts in the areas of research, resource management, marketing, and management of recreational opportunities.

3.3 Assessment of Cultural Heritage Values

There have been minimal changes in the cultural heritage values, such as resource harvesting, water transport, and riparian settlements throughout the Bloodvein River System. Changes have been assessed against the Cultural Heritage Values Selection Guidelines (January 2000). These guidelines state that “Outstanding Canadian cultural heritage value will be recognized when a river and its immediate environment...”

- Is an outstanding importance owing to its influence, over a period of time, on the historical development of Canada through a major impact upon the region in which it is located or beyond; or
- Is strongly associated with person, events or beliefs of Canadian significance; or
- Contains historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are unique, rare or of great antiquity; or
- Contains concentrations of historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are representative of major themes in Canadian history.

Resource Harvesting, Water Transport, Riparian Settlement, Culture and Recreation, and Jurisdictional Uses are main themes identified in this report, and positive or negative influences on each theme are noted in the ‘Changes’ column of Table 3. The Jurisdictional Uses theme has been removed from this report because the sub-themes and elements of this theme are not well represented in the Bloodvein River System. To assess the information data were gathered from Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources, specifically from events and actions that occurred within Atikaki Provincial Park and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.



Table 3

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2000) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Culture Heritage Values	Changes or Threats to Nomination Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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1. Resource Harvesting

Sub-theme 1.1: Fishing

1.1.1 Aboriginal Prehistoric Fishing

- Archaeological evidence of numerous historic Aboriginal encampments and fishing sites along the river.

- No changes or threats

Sub-theme 1.2: Shoreline Resource Harvesting

1.2.1 Trapping of fur bearing animals

- Historic and contemporary beaver trapping along the river.
- Several traplines are located adjacent to the river corridor.
- Remnants of old trapline cabins, as well as cabins currently in use, exists along the river corridor.

- No changes or threats

1.2.2 Collection of aquatic plants

Aboriginal wild rice harvesting occurs. At present, only small stands occur in shallow lakes and back bays long the river. The Bloodvein River corridor (MB) includes one wild ricing block allocated for wild rice harvest to the Bloodvein and Little Grand Rapids First Nation's. Wild ricing licences (ON) have not been active within the reporting period.

- No changes or threats

Table 3 – cont'd

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Values

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CHRS Natural Framework (2000) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Culture Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
1.2.3 Hunting of birds and land animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic and contemporary hunting of animals along entire river corridor by local First Nation community members. • Historic and contemporary hunting of ducks and geese along entire river corridor by local First Nation community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats 	

2. Water Transport

Sub-theme 2.1: Commercial Transportation

2.1.2 Historic human-powered freight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloodvein River corridor used as a historic travel route by First Nations people (archaeological and oral evidence). Bloodvein River corridor utilized as a secondary fur trade route from Lake Winnipeg to the English River system. • Bloodvein River corridor continues to be used today by First Nations people practicing traditional activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats 	
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Table 3 – cont'd

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Values

CHRS Natural Framework (2000) Themes, Sub-themes and Elements	Bloodvein Culture Heritage Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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Sub-theme 2.3: Exploration and Surveying

2.3.4 Surveying expeditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official survey of the Manitoba/Ontario border occurred across the river in 1922. Documented in Dept of Mines journal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats 	
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3. Riparian Settlement

Sub-theme 3.1: Siting of Dwellings

3.1.1 Shoreline seasonal dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One private cabin at Bloodvein-Sasaginnigak River junction. Outcamp/outpost camps and trappers' cabins appear along the Bloodvein river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. One private dwelling in Ontario scheduled for phase out (removal) in 2009. 	
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Table 3 – cont'd

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Values

23

CHRS Natural Framework
(2000) Themes, Sub-themes
and Elements

Bloodvein Culture Heritage
Value(s)

Changes or Threats to
Nomination Value(s)

Significant Actions,
Research or Studies

Sub-theme 3.2: River-based
Communities

3.2.1 Permanent shoreline
Aboriginal settlements

- Evidence of Aboriginal hunting-gathering, subsistence and habitation: artifacts include pottery, arrows and spear points, stone cutting and scraping tools. Cultures include the Shield Archaic, Laurel, Mistikwas, Selkirk, Cree and Saulteaux.

- No changes.

- Report titled 'Human Heritages Values of Rivers in Manitoba' included additional human heritage value background research by V. Petch (1993).
- Stage 2 archaeological assessments completed or ongoing for Knox, Larus, Murdock and Peisk Lakes.
- PhD student (Jill Taylor Hollings) performing research along the Bloodvein River in partnership with Ontario, Manitoba and local First Nations.

4. Culture And Recreation

Sub-theme 4.1: Spiritual
Associations

4.1.1 Sacred or Spiritual Sites

- Aboriginal pictograph sites have been identified along the river corridor. Some of the best representation of pictographs in both provinces.

- Additional pictographs discovered along the river corridor since designation to the CHRS.

- Report by V. Petch identified additional pictographs along the river corridor.

3.3.1 Condition of Cultural Heritage Values

No negative changes or threats to the Cultural Heritage Values have occurred or been identified. The assessment presented in Table 3 suggests that the river continues to be of outstanding importance to the historical development of Canada, the national significance of Canadian rivers, and contains a rich collection of historical and archaeological structures that are unique and of great antiquity.

The following actions have been identified as positively contributing to, or will contribute to, additional promotion, preservation, and management of Bloodvein River Cultural Heritage Values:

- Continual discovery of archaeological evidence along the Bloodvein corridor.
- Development of relationships with First Nation communities and project collaboration with Elders and community representatives.
- The Bloodvein River and surrounding environment being included in a UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination bid led by the Accord First Nations and the Governments of Manitoba and Ontario.



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3.4 Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

In addition to meeting specific natural and cultural heritage values, recreational heritage values (Table 4) must also be met to address Canada's Heritage Rivers System guidelines. Along the Bloodvein River, there have been minimal changes in recreational heritage values. Changes have been assessed against the Recreational Heritage Values Selection Guidelines stated in the CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines (September 2000). The guidelines state that "Outstanding Canadian recreational value will be recognized when a river and its immediate environment possess a combination of river-related recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience".

- Recreational opportunities include water-based activities such as canoeing and other forms of boating, swimming and angling, and other activities such as camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and natural and cultural appreciation which may be part of a river-touring experience.
- Natural values include natural visual aesthetics, and physical assets such as sufficient flow, navigability, rapids, and accessibility and suitable shoreline.

Boating, Angling, Water Contact, Water Associated Activities, Winter Activities, Natural Heritage Appreciation, and Human Heritage Appreciation are the themes which are used to guide assessment of changes in recreational heritage values for the reporting period. Data were collected from Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources databases.



Table 4

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

25

Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements

Bloodvein River Recreational Values

Changes or Threats to Nomination Values

Significant Actions, Research or Studies

1. Boating

1.1 Whitewater canoe, kayak and raft

- Numerous falls and rapids provide excellent whitewater kayaking and rafting opportunities on the western section of the Bloodvein River.

- An increase in recreational canoeing, kayaking and rafting on the Bloodvein River since designation has been noted by Parks and Natural Areas Branch (MB).
- At present, an estimated 1,500 river recreational users travel the corridor per year. The increase in use poses no threat to recreational values

1.2 Extended canoe tripping (motor and non-motor)

- The Bloodvein is an exceptional wilderness recreational canoe route extending from the headwaters in Ontario to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. The Ontario section holds the flatwater opportunities and the western section holds the whitewater opportunities.

- No threats.
- The Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan has identified a road access point which will provide an easier and more affordable access to the headwater area of the Bloodvein River.

2. Angling

2.3 Extended angling vacation

- One fly-in fishing outcamp remains on the Manitoba portion and six outpost camps are found on the Ontario portion.

- Removal of outcamp in Manitoba has reduced fishing along the river and improved the wilderness experience for backcountry travelers.

Table 4 – cont’d

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements	Bloodvein River Recreational Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
2.4 Fly-in fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality fly-in fishing is connected to the extended angling vacation offered by facility based tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote boat caches will be removed or relocated in Ontario to enhance the backcountry wilderness experience. 	
2.5 Ice fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice fishing occurs on some lakes in the Ontario section. Users are predominately of local origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direction in the Woodland Caribou Park plan identifies a phase out of snowmobile use on Larus, Murdock and Knox Lakes over ten years. Snowmobiling will continue on Peisk Lake. 	
2.6 Specific Species			
2.6.1 Walleye, Perch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent fishing opportunities for walleye which is a highly sought after species. 		
2.6.2 Pike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent fishing opportunities exist throughout the river and large pike are sought after fish. 		
2.6.5 Smallmouth bass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smallmouth bass now the focus of some anglers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smallmouth bass stocked (unauthorized) in a watershed lake of the Bloodvein River have now been captured in Barclay and Mary’s Lakes. 	

Table 4 – cont'd

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

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Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements	Bloodvein River Recreational Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
2.6.6 Sturgeon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small populations of sturgeon are found within the Manitoba section of the river corridor but are not a targeted species by anglers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
2.6.7 Channel catfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There may be limited opportunities for channel catfish in the lower reaches of the river but it is not a targeted fish species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
2.6.8 Whitefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whitefish are not a targeted species for fishing but may be caught incidentally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	

3. Water Contact

3.1 Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent water quality suitable for contact recreation including swimming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
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Table 4 – cont’d

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements	Bloodvein River Recreational Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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4. Water Associated Activities

<p>4.1 Trail use (hiking, walking, cycling)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent hiking opportunities and portage trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the existing campsites or portages located along the corridor have been officially designated or improved by Manitoba conservation in order to maintain a primitive wilderness condition and experience for river users. • Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is currently developing a designated campsite map for the purpose of preserving caribou calving sites and archaeological historical sites. • Regular backcountry patrols, including upriver canoe trips, by Manitoba conservation personnel have identified no maintenance or management problems identified with existing campsite use by river users.
<p>4.2 Camping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote, semi-primitive wilderness camping opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camper etiquette info developed and published on the reverse side of the Woodland Caribou canoe route map as well as the annual Information Guide.

Table 4 – cont'd

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

29

Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements	Bloodvein River Recreational Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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4.3 Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outfitted and non-guided remote, fly-in moose hunting and bear hunting opportunities are offered on the Manitoba section. Along the eastern section (ON) hunting by non-natives is not permitted, except at Peisk Lake.• Subsistence hunting of moose, bear, woodland caribou, ducks and geese by local First Nation community members occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
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5. Winter Activities

5.1 Snowmobiling / dogsledding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backcountry snowmobiling – no established trail system(s).• Winter trails established by local trappers accessing traplines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No threats.• The approved Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan is phasing out snowmobiling in Larus, Murdock and Knox Lake over 10 years. Snowmobiling will still occur on Peisk Lake.	
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6. Natural Heritage Appreciation

6.1 Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent opportunity for nature study and photography of birds and animals in a natural setting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
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6.2 Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to view plants not normally found in this eco-zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes or threats.	
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Table 4 – cont'd

Assessment of Recreational Heritage Values

Manitoba CHRS Systems Study (1997) Themes, Sub-Themes and Elements	Bloodvein River Recreational Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
6.3 Vistas/Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean and beautiful wild area. • Scenic viewing from river includes frequent viewscapes, wildlife, flora and varied natural features including rock formations, rapids and waterfalls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of outcamps, boat caches and motorized boat use along the western section (MB) of the Bloodvein River. • Japanese photographer (Hide Otake) has documented various areas of the Ontario section of the river.
6.4 Geological features/water features		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	

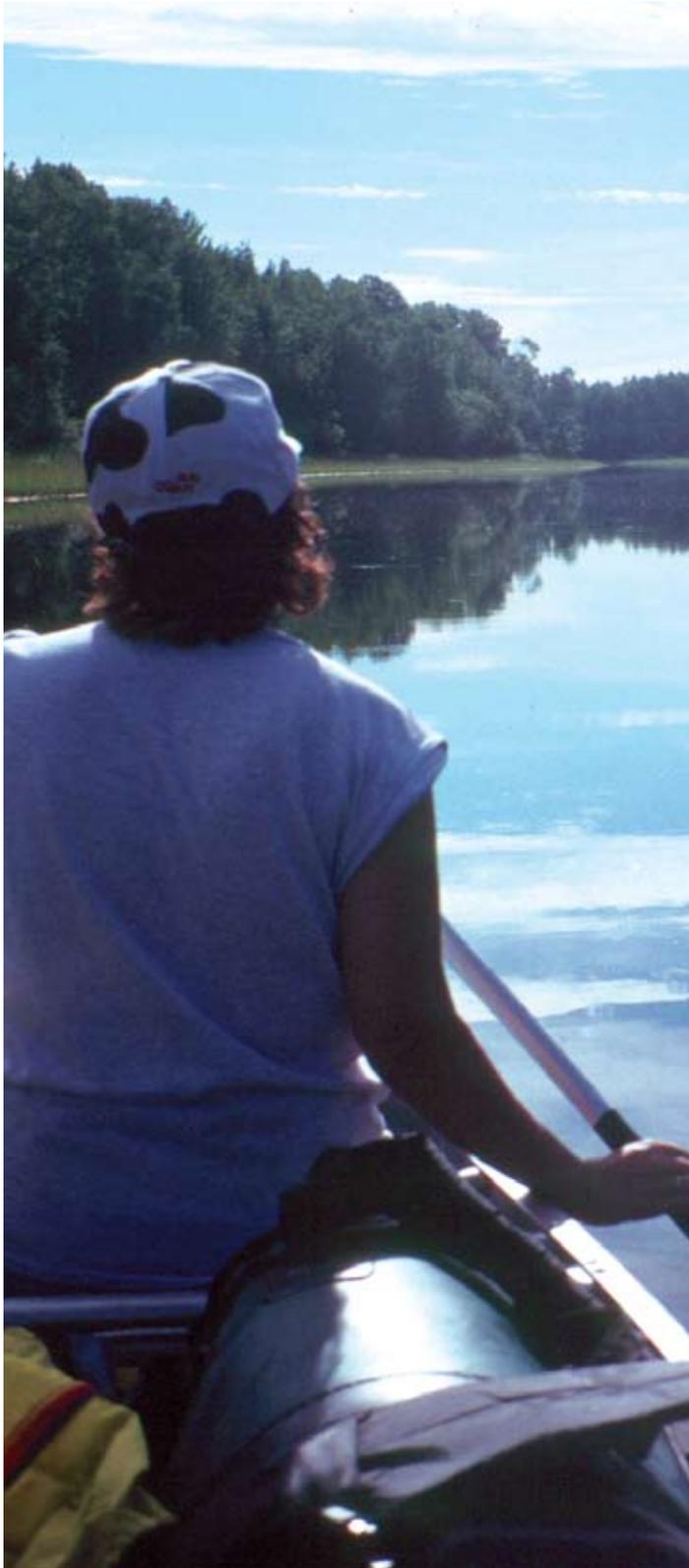
7. Human Heritage Appreciation

7.1 Historic sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent opportunities for viewing pictographs and known historic sites as well as experiencing a cultural landscape reminiscent of prehistoric Aboriginal land use occupation along the river corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Caribou Park displays information for general consumption at the Red Lake Heritage Centre. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park has a partnership with area First Nations to work together to interpret and educate the general public about Aboriginal lifeways and culture.
7.2 Cultural landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of pictographs throughout the Bloodvein River System. The river represents from an archaeological perspective, an intact situation which not only shows signs of current cultural use but also of past use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No threats. Working with area First Nations on numerous projects. An opportunity is developing to better understand this cultural landscape. 	

3.4.1 Condition of Recreational Heritage Values

The Bloodvein River continues to offer exceptional recreational opportunities to its river users for purposes of canoe tripping, white water canoeing, rafting experiences, as well as pristine wilderness experiences and unique natural and cultural characteristics. The river continues

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to experience more travellers with over an estimated 1,500 people travelling the river each year. In addition, the river provides First Nations communities with significant traditional and recreational pursuits that include trapping, fishing, and hunting.

There have been minimal impacts as a result of current land use or recreational use on the Bloodvein corridor. One notable impact, however, is the increase in visitors, and the expected continual increase in visitors as accessibility increases. The parking area near Lund Lake (ON) provides a more direct route to the river's headwaters and the proposed improvement of the Rice River Road (MB) provides greater accessibility. Although these changes provide travellers with more direct routes to the river, monitoring programs will provide information on the volume of travellers and traveller impact on campsites and portages. Then, if necessary, management actions can be implemented, such as the quota based entry system identified in the Woodland Caribou Park Management Plan.

Within the reporting period, there have been a number of positive impacts that are preserving and enhancing of Bloodvein Recreational Values:

- Within the western segment of the river, one outcamp has been removed, thereby reducing the impacts associated with human development.
- Along the eastern section of the river the Woodland Caribou Park Management Plan identifies the removal or relocation of remote fly-in boat caches and the reduction of aircraft landings to reduce the motorized use along the river.
- Monitoring river use, campsite quality, and wilderness experience, Manitoba Conservation conducts a monitoring survey every other year, and the next survey is scheduled for 2008.
- River Stewards, a program initiated by Manitoba Conservation, will be stationed along the Bloodvein River to inform travelers about the natural and cultural aspects of the river corridor.
- Archaeological sites continue to provide information about historic settlements, dwellings, and traditional lifestyle practices. This information continues to enrich the cultural and recreational landscape throughout the corridor.

3.5 Assessment of River Integrity Values

In addition to meeting specific natural, cultural, and recreational heritage values, a river must also meet Integrity Values. These values apply to the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage values, and a river must possess all of the integrity values within each category (Table 5).

Themes that are used to guide assessment of changes in integrity values for the reporting period are taken from the CHRS Integrity Guidelines outlined in the CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines (September 2000). Data were collected from Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources databases. In this report, Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Integrity Values are assessed.

Table 5

Assessment of River Integrity Values

CHRS Integrity Guidelines (1991)	Bloodvein River Integrity Values	Changes or Threats to Integrity Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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3.3.1 Natural Integrity Values

In addition to meeting one or more of the above guidelines, for a river to be judged to have outstanding Canadian natural heritage it must possess the following natural integrity values.

<p>The river is of sufficient size and contains all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the natural processes, features, or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding natural value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river corridor includes the headwaters in Ontario to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. • The river corridor includes all of the natural heritage value for which the river was initially nominated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Integrity Values continue to be explored and studied by both Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
<p>The river contains those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the species, features or objects to be protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem components contained within the river corridor remain virtually unaffected by human land use. Natural occurrences include fire and blowdown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	
<p>There are no man-made impoundments within the nominated section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No man-made impoundments affect the river corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes or threats. 	

Table 5 – cont'd

Assessment of River Integrity Values

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CHRS Integrity Guidelines (1991)	Bloodvein River Integrity Values	Changes or Threats to Integrity Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
All key elements and ecosystem components are unaffected by impoundments located outside the nominated section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impoundments occur within the watershed outside the nominated river corridor. All key elements of the boreal shield ecozone remain unaffected by land use within the nominated corridor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	
Natural values for which the river is nominated have not been created by impoundments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the river's outstanding natural features have been created by impoundments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes or threats. 	
The water of the nominated section of river is uncontaminated to the extent that its natural aquatic ecosystem is intact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality considered 'good', according to Environment Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No threat to original integrity value. 	
The natural aesthetic value of the river is not compromised by human developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding natural wilderness features and key ecosystem elements of the Bloodvein River System are representative of the 'wild river theme'. Evidence of human land use and occupation on the river corridor includes one commercial outcamp and one private cabin on the western section of the river and commercial outpost camps on Larus, Murdock, Knox and Peisk Lakes in the eastern section. Other development includes trap cabins, portages, 2 summer cottages (patent land and land use permit), campsites and shorelunch sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of outcamps along the Bloodvein River System (MB) enhances the aesthetic integrity. Improving the all-weather road for the east side of Lake Winnipeg, and access close to the headwaters in Ontario may affect overall river integrity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed improvements to road access on the east side of Lake Winnipeg will see extensive construction and upgrades to provide improved access and reduced transportation costs for area residents. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan provides more direct access than previously provided to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River System.

Table 5 – cont'd

Assessment of River Integrity Values

CHRS Integrity Guidelines (1991)	Bloodvein River Integrity Values	Changes or Threats to Integrity Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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3.3.2 Cultural Integrity Values

The nominated area is of sufficient size and contains all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding cultural value.

- The river includes the headwaters in Ontario to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba.
- The river corridor contains historical, archaeological, and aboriginal significance.

- No changes or threats.

- Archaeological research in partnership with First Nations will provide a complete picture of the cultural significance of the area.

The visual appearance of the river enables an appreciation of at least one of the periods of the river's historical importance.

- The river's natural appearance reflects a period of prehistoric occupation by Aboriginal people prior to European contact and the fur trade era in Canadian history. The rivers appearance also represents the current occupation by First Nations people.

- No changes or threats.

The key artifacts and sites comprising the values for which the river is nominated are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses.

- Historical cultural artifacts identified along the river corridor are unaffected by impoundments or human land uses.

- No changes or threats.

The water quality of the river does not detract from the aesthetic appearance or the cultural experience provided by its cultural value.

- The pristine wilderness nature of the river's waters are of exceptional quality and do not detract from the aesthetic appearance or the cultural experience.

- No changes or threats.

Table 5 – cont'd

Assessment of River Integrity Values

CHRS Integrity Guidelines (1991)	Bloodvein River Integrity Values	Changes or Threats to Integrity Values	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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3.3.3 Recreational Integrity Values

The river possesses water of a quality suitable for recreational activities, including those recreational opportunities for which it is nominated.

- The quality of the river's waters are exceptional for the recreational activities for which the river was initially nominated including outstanding wilderness appreciation, wildlife viewing, canoeing and white water rafting, and supporting activities (camping, swimming, fishing)

- No changes or threats.

The river is capable of supporting increased recreational uses without significant loss of, or impact on its natural, cultural, or aesthetic value.

- At present, an estimated 1,500 river recreational users travel on the corridor each year. The increase in use currently poses no threat to recreational integrity.

- Minimal changes, but no threats.

- Monitoring programs are in place by Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources to oversee river use and to make management decisions where necessary. Ontario will implement quota based entry system when warranted.

3.5.1 Condition of River Integrity Values

The Bloodvein River possess all of the natural, cultural, and recreational integrity values outlined in the CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines (September 2000). In addition, there are no major conflicting land use activities, and there have been no identified natural, cultural, or recreational threats that would negatively impact the integrity of the Bloodvein River.

As noted in the Natural Heritage Value section, and also noted in the Natural Integrity portion of Table 2, there have been no significant changes or threats to the natural integrity of the river corridor. The river corridor includes a wide diversity of flora and fauna, complete representations of landforms, plant communities, and animal populations, as well as unique and rare species that can only be found within or nearby the river. In addition, the two park management plans seek to preserve this integrity through implementation strategies that manage the rivers plant species, animal communities, and wilderness landscape.

As noted in the Cultural Heritage Value section, and supported in this section of the report, there are no threats to the Cultural Integrity of the river. No negative changes or threats to the Cultural Integrity Values have occurred or been identified. Rather the river contains a rich collection of historical and archaeological structures that are unique and of great antiquity. In addition, research efforts that investigate historical settlements and dwellings increasingly involve First Nations community members, thereby enhancing the knowledge network about the cultural landscape.

As noted in the Recreational Heritage Value section, the extent of river use is increasing. With this increase there is the associated increase in campsite and portage use. Backcountry travelers however, are transient, so no permanent land use or occupation is expected with this land use throughout the corridor. The only permanent sign of land use and occupation on the river occurs at the outcamp and private cabin (MB), outposts, private cabin and trap cabin locations and, except for the private cabins these continue for the purposes of commercial tourism and the pursuit of traditional activities.

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3.6 Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives

Following nomination of the Bloodvein River to the CHRS, a management plan (1986) was developed for Manitoba Conservation and a Resource Management Strategy (1998) developed for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The Manitoba document set out both short-term and long-term development, management and conservation programs. Ontario's document provided a strategy for the long term conservation and appreciation of the superb natural and cultural heritage values and recreational opportunities.

These documents established the boundaries of the management area (corridor) to include one kilometre from either bank of the river in Manitoba and 200 metres from either bank in Ontario.

In this report, the 'degree of achievement' reached by Manitoba's Parks and Natural Areas branch and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is identified relative to those documents. These documents will be replaced by the 2007 Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan and the upcoming Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan for the next CHRS reporting period. The new plans will present revised objectives and strategies for managing the two parks and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.



Table 6

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Manitoba	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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1. Type Of River Equipment

For the Manitoba section of the Bloodvein River, non-mechanized canoe use is proposed. Every effort should be made to relocate power boating off of this section.

Achieved

- The number of outcamps and boat caches have been reduced. One outcamp, one private cabin and one boat cache remain.

2. River Trip Segments

Separate river trip segments are proposed as major river recreation use corridors. Of this number, only two are based solely on the Bloodvein River. The remainder include use of lakes and rivers which flow into the Bloodvein or come in proximity to it. These trip segments include:

Achieved

- All river trip segments are shown as canoe routes on the Atikaki Park map published and made available for public distribution by Manitoba Conservation.

- Manitoba/Ontario border to Leyond River;
- Manitoba/Ontario border to Kautunigan Lake/Sasaginnigak Lake;
- Sasaginnigak lake circule route via Kawaseechewonk Lake;
- Wallace Lake/Aikens Lake to Stonehouse Lake
- Wallace Lake/Aikens Lake via the Gammon river; and
- Sasaginnigak Lake to Leyond River.

Table 6 – cont’d

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Manitoba	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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3. Campsite Development

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated campsites are proposed for the Bloodvein River. A total of 66 small sites are proposed in a scattered fashion along the river. In addition, a total of 15 group campsites are recommended. The latter are located in the Lower Artery Lake to Sasaginnigak River Stretch. | Partially Achieved | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A study of existing campsites along the western segment of the river was conducted in 2004 by Laurentian University. This study provides a platform from which future baseline and monitoring studies will develop.• None of the 30 existing campsites located along the western segment of the river have been officially designated or improved by Manitoba Conservation. The purpose is to maintain a wilderness experience for travelers. River Stewards and Park Patrols have identified no maintenance or management problems with existing campsites. |
|--|--------------------|---|
-

4. Portage Development

- | | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portage monitoring and maintenance is a critical determinant of registering on-site impact of use.• Portage signage should be considered and erected for the Bloodvein River System.• Portage development should reduce visible impacts of modern maintenance practices. | Un-Achieved | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None of the 56 portages within the western segment of the river have been improved or signed by Manitoba Conservation in order to maintain a primitive-wilderness condition. River Stewards and Park Patrols have identified no maintenance or management problems with existing portages. |
|--|-------------|--|

Table 6 – cont'd

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Manitoba	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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5. Organized Tripping

Two types of organized tripping are proposed:

Achieved

- Organized groups who travel down the river together (Scouts, clubs).
- Groups that utilize the services of an outfitter, who may provide a complete or partial wilderness canoeing package.

- Organized groups currently conduct canoe trips on the Bloodvein River System. Few outfitters provide a complete or partial wilderness canoeing experience.

6. Access And Egress

The proposed management option recommends that access to the Bloodvein may be portage/connecting lakes/streams or fly-in.

Achieved

- River access is by connecting rivers and lakes through Manitoba and Ontario. Lakes with float plane access include Lower Artery Lake and Sasaginnigak Lake. Egress from the Bloodvein is via the ferry connecting the Bloodvein First Nation community to Matheson Island across Lake Winnipeg.
- The proposed upgrading to Rice River Road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg will provide improved access.

7. Other Visitor Services

Registration:

Staffed registration points are not proposed. Instead, self registration is recommended at Wallace Lake, Aikens Lake, Buriss Lake, Lower Artery Lake (for inbound Ontario canoeists), Kautunigan Lake and Sasaginnigak Lake.

Un-Achieved

- No formal registration system has been established by Manitoba Conservation, and no permits are required for users to access the Bloodvein River within Manitoba. Because of increasing recreational use and access, monitoring strategies are being implemented.

Table 6 – cont'd

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Manitoba	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
Control of Use:		
Consideration should be given to the eventual need to ration use of the Bloodvein River.	Un-Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for control of use are being considered by Manitoba Conservation, while surveys of recreational use of the corridor is being conducted. The last survey was conducted in 2006. Planned for 2008, are an Atikaki Wilderness and Canoe Survey by River Stewards.
Administration:		
The Bloodvein Heritage River will be administered from Lac du Bonnet. No on-site administration facilities will be provided.	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atikaki Provincial Park, and the western segment of the Bloodvein River System, is presently administered and maintained by the Regional Parks Manager, Natural Resources Officers (NRO's) and Parks Staff out of the Manitoba Conservation office in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.
8. Preliminary Interpretive Concept		
<p>Development of an interpretive concept for the Bloodvein River is integral to the achievement of the major goals for river management. Through interpretation of river resources, a greater understanding and appreciation of the wilderness and heritage values of the Bloodvein can be fostered amongst both river users and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methods: Written guides... should include detailed maps of the river corridor as well as written text. 	Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atikaki Park map and brochure illustrating canoe routes and natural and cultural heritage features published and made available for public distribution by Manitoba Conservation. The Bloodvein River is the subject of published recreational canoeing guide books illustrating canoe routes, heritage features, natural features, campsites and portages. Guide books include "Canoeing Manitoba Rivers – Vol. 1 South" by J. Buchanan and "Wilderness Rivers" of Manitoba by H. Wilson and S. Aykroyd.

Table 6 – cont'd

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

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Province of Manitoba

Degree of Achievement

Significant Actions, Research or Studies

Visitor Target Groups:

The interpretive program will be directed towards the following groups:

- Experienced wilderness canoeists;
- Less experienced canoeists seeking to increase wilderness skills;
- Outdoor education groups or special interest groups;
- Canoe groups with trip origins in Ontario with orientation/information needs;
- Non-wilderness canoeists seeking information or awareness;
- Distant potential users seeking information or awareness;
- Local users and residents with information awareness needs; management information needs; public participation needs; commercial development and joint management regime information needs.

Achieved

- No specific marketing is undertaken by Manitoba Conservation to identify specific target groups. However, published park maps and brochures for Atikaki Park are prepared for broad distribution to the general public.

Interpretive Themes:

Five main interpretive themes and storylines are proposed.

- The idea of wilderness;
- Geological history and phenomena;
- Flora
- Fauna;
- Cultural history;

Achieved

- The stated interpretive themes have been incorporated into products such as the interpretive park map, and an Atikaki Park information package for lodges.

Table 6 – cont’d

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Ontario	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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Summary of Information Program:

“... information including descriptions of recreation opportunities and skill/equipment requirements, will greatly assist in developing a river user group who is aware of park attributes. Thus information distribution will be an important element of the management planning program.”

Achieved

- Information about the Park and recreation opportunities is supplied through Park maps and brochures.

1. Conservation/Protection

To conserve and protect the superb natural and cultural values of this nationally significant watershed which is representative of the distinctive geophysical, ecological and human history of the region.

Achieved

- The upper reaches of the Bloodvein River have been added to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park to complete the protection of this important Canadian waterway.
- Parts of the backshore of the Bloodvein River corridor have been protected in a series of nature reserve zones. This zoning provides added protection to the representative or unique features by prohibiting development such as cabins and campsites. Three nature reserve zones have been established and include a wetland of rich sedge meadows and a hardwood swamp, good examples of porphoritic granites, a bur oak savannah and rich lacustrine silts and clays which support the largest percentage of hardwoods in Woodland Caribou Park.
- A project to develop designated campsites is underway. These campsites will be located so as to avoid conflict with significant caribou calving or nursery areas, archaeological or cultural sites.

Table 6 – cont'd

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Ontario

Degree of Achievement

Significant Actions, Research or Studies

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2. Recreation

To provide opportunities for Canadians and visitors to enjoy the outstanding recreational value of the Bloodvein River and to appreciate the variety of experiences provided along the waterway.

Achieved

- The approved management plan confirms the future activities to be provided on the Ontario portion of the Bloodvein River. Facility based tourism will accommodate wilderness users interested in roofed accommodation. Backcountry opportunities will provide wilderness users with a more traditional approach to wilderness adventure.
- A quota based entry system will ensure the Bloodvein River does not become over-crowded, lessening the users experience and potentially putting the landscape at risk.
- Portages are maintained by park staff providing safe yet primitive connections along the waterway.
- A road access point has been established at Lund Lake providing more direct access to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River. Air access has been removed from the Bloodvein River except for landings permitted at Lower Artery Lake and at tourism facilities.
- Woodland Caribou Park performs a user survey of visitors following a trip to provide trip details and interesting experiences from which to improve the experiences of future clients.
- Canoe route map identifies the location of portages and provides information on backcountry etiquette. Annual Information guides promote outfitting services and update the park user with current park information relevant to their trip planning.
- The Bloodvein River is promoted in Ontario through the Ontario Parks Guide and website, at trade and adventure shows, museum displays and in magazine articles.

Table 6 – cont'd

Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Province of Ontario	Degree of Achievement	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
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3. Appreciation and Interpretation

To support continued appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Bloodvein River for the range of users and to promote the significance of the Bloodvein River as a Canadian Heritage River.

- Partially achieved.
- Relationship with area First Nations has been established. Full achievement will be realized as products are available for delivery.

- Interpreting, educating and appreciating the significant landscape of the Bloodvein River in Ontario will be done in partnership with area First Nations. We consider this area a cultural landscape, one that has been modified and holds special meaning for people. In our developing relationship with our First Nation partners, Elders often recall stories and legends of all living things and of the relationship to their daily lives. One of the objectives of this partnership is to nurture the development of a cultural tourism opportunity for First Nations as part of the economic renewal of their communities.

4. Intergovernmental Cooperation

To promote and encourage cooperation between Ontario and Manitoba which will ensure enhanced protection, conservation and appreciation of the waterway and its watershed to benefit both provinces.

Achieved

- Representatives from Manitoba and Ontario met in 2007 to continue their approach to form an Interprovincial Wilderness Area which would see the Bloodvein River as an important link between the two provinces. This cooperation would focus on research, resource management, marketing and management of recreational opportunities.

4.0 Summary

3.6.1 Conclusions for the Bloodvein Heritage River Objectives: Degree of Achievement

Results from Table 6 suggest that both Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources are making continuous efforts to enhance and preserve river integrity and heritage values for which the river was nominated, thereby promoting a clean, wilderness experience for travelers and a sustainable environment for natural and cultural elements. Results also suggest that continuous efforts strive to promote remote recreational canoeing, heritage appreciation, and remote wilderness experiences. Although several management objectives remain to be achieved, they will be addressed by managing agencies in the future.

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In 2007, Manitoba Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources met in Lac du Bonnet to discuss implementation strategies for the establishment of an inter-provincial wilderness area encompassing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and Atikaki Provincial Park, with the possible addition of adjacent parks and protected areas. The two government departments are committed to work together to conserve the ecological integrity of the area while respecting and maintaining their separate jurisdictions. Cooperation between the two governments would involve many aspects of park management and operation, including research, resource management, marketing, and management of recreational opportunities. Such actions reflect the Governments commitment to manage and preserve the pristine wilderness character of the Parks and the Bloodvein River.

This report has provided an assessment of the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage values, and integrity values for the entire Bloodvein River. Results suggest that the heritage values have changed minimally and that there are no threats or negative impacts. Results also suggest that the integrity of the river has remained stable between the time of the initial monitoring report (MB-1987-2000) and this report.

Future management efforts are identified in the implementation priorities of the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park management Plan. The Atikaki Provincial Park and Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River Management Plan has been completed and is awaiting approval Both plans target promotion and preservation of the heritage values that are housed within the river corridor. Future efforts to manage and promote the pristine wilderness character of the Bloodvein River are imbedded in the Inter-provincial Wilderness Area initiative and the UNESCO World Heritage Site proposal.

Based on the results, presented in this report, the entire Bloodvein River, which is over 300 kilometres long and extends from its headwaters in northwestern Ontario to its mouth in Lake Winnipeg within central Manitoba, is worthy of continued designation as a river of national significance within the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.



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Personal Correspondence

Claire Quewezence, Assistant Park Superintendent, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources.

Ken Schykulski, Head of Management Planning and Heritage Rivers, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, Manitoba Conservation.

