



Aboriginal Peoples & Landscape Level Planning

Challenges and Best Practices

Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith, R.P.F.

Faculty of Forestry & the Forest Environment

Lakehead University

Conflicting World Views



Need for
reconciliation
&
co-operation




Natural boundaries of treaties, sort of...

Commencing at a point on the Pigeon River route where the international boundary line between the Territories of Great Britain & the United States intersects the height of land separating the waters running to Lake Superior from those flowing to Lake Winnipeg; thence northerly, westerly & easterly along the height of land ... to the point at which the said height of land meets the summit of the watershed from which the streams flow to Lake Nepigon; thence northerly & westerly, or whatever may be its course, along the ridge separating the waters of the Nepigon & the Winnipeg to the height of land dividing the waters of the Albany & the Winnipeg; thence westerly & north-westerly along the height of land dividing the waters flowing to Hudson's Bay by the Albany or other rivers from those running to English River & the Winnipeg to a point on the said height of land bearing north forty-five degrees east from Fort Alexander, at the mouth of the Winnipeg; thence south forty-five degrees west to Fort Alexander, at the mouth of the Winnipeg; thence southerly along the eastern bank of the Winnipeg to the mouth of White Mouth River...; thence by the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude to the Lake of the Woods, & from thence by the international boundary line to the place beginning.



Different Language

- “Management” of land a foreign concept
- “The people”—Anishinabe, Innu
- “The land”—Aski, Nitassinan, Eeyou-Istchee
- Nuu-chah-nulth: “the people all along the mountains and sea”
- People defined by the land, at one with the land, responsible for keeping & using the land—a gift from the Creator
- Place names as lessons about the land

A vertical grey line runs down the left side of the page. A small blue circle is positioned on the line, to the left of the 'BEST PRACTICES' text.

“The Elders teach us it is our job to protect and care for this land for our children and grandchildren.”

Poplar River First Nation

BEST PRACTICES



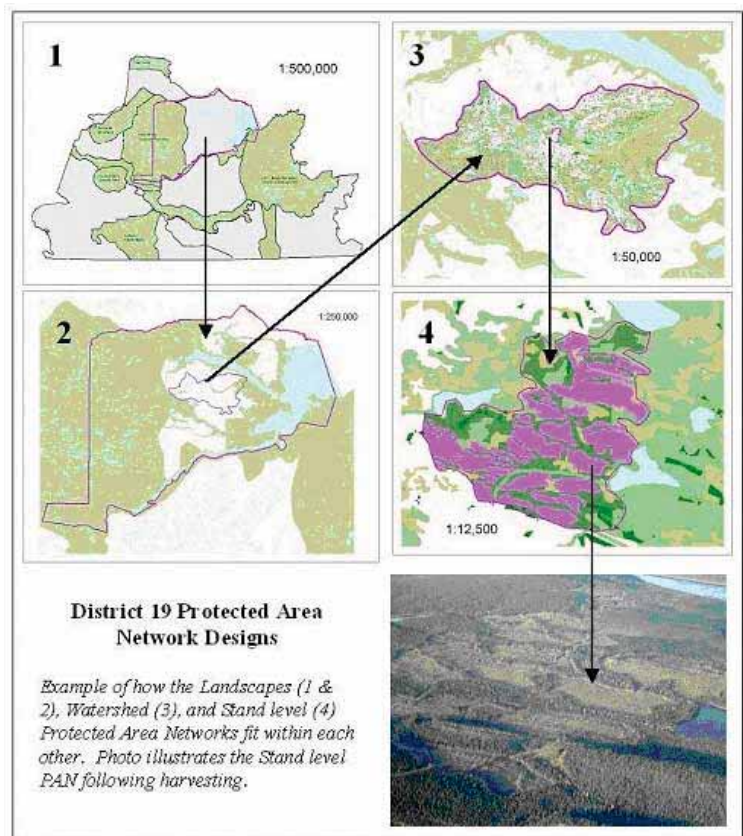
Common best practices

- Traditional land use & occupancy
- Traditional knowledge & teachings
- Melding western science with TEK
- Combine use/economic development, conservation, values & rights while...
- Asserting responsibility for stewardship
- Involve negotiated agreements with government
- Natural boundaries: traplines, watersheds

Innu



- Ecosystem-based plan
- Protected Area Network
- Forest Guardians



Nuu-chah-nulth



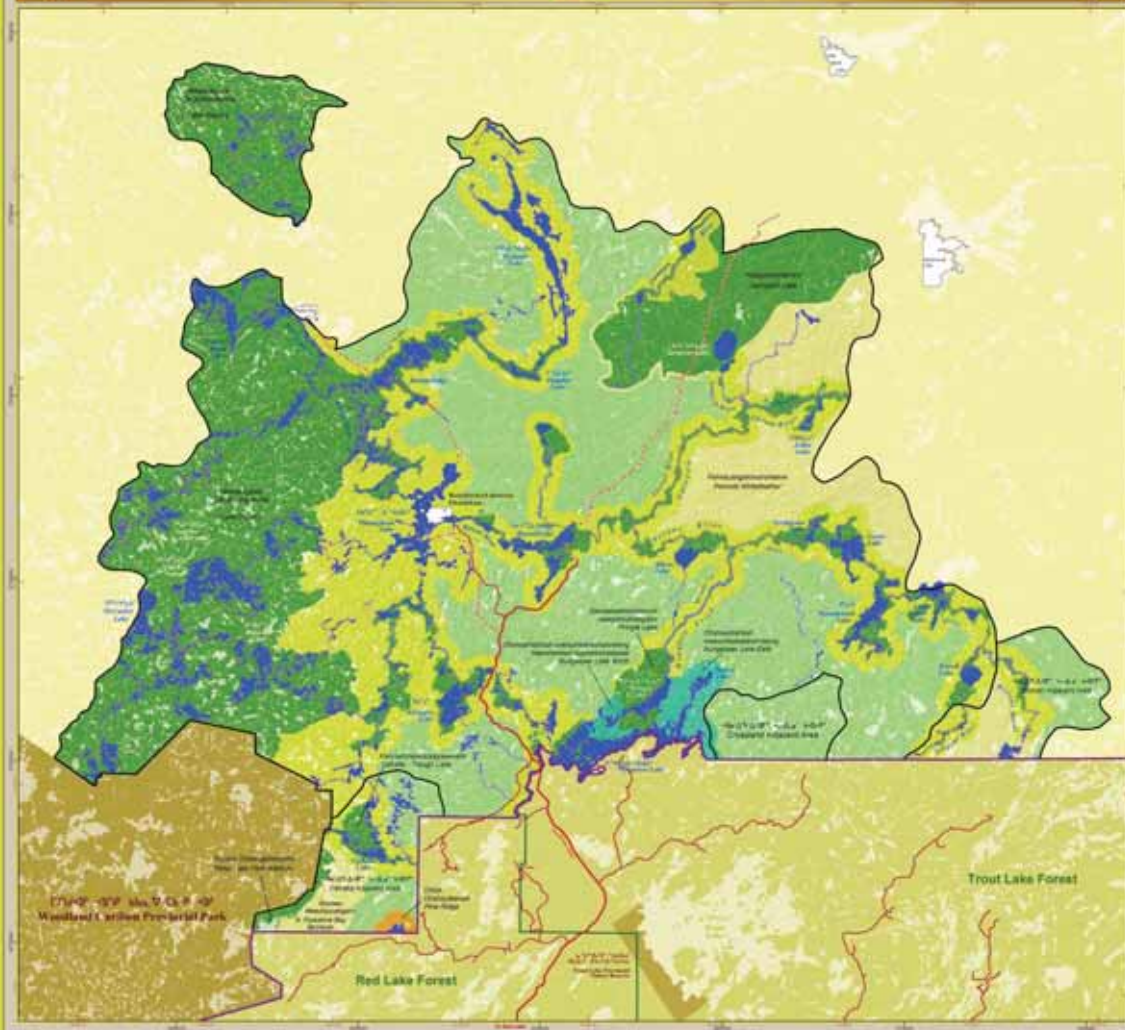
- Land claim in BC—Aboriginal title
- Interim Measures Agreement
- Clayoquot Sound conflict
- Clayoquot Scientific Panel—ecosystem-based management
- Comprehensive Planning Board—no decisions without Nuu-chah-nulth consent
- Development of Iisaac Forest Resources Management

James Bay Cree of Northern Quebec



- Provincial-First Nation agreement: Paix des Braves, 2002 & James Bay & Northern Quebec Agreement, 1975
- Sharing of revenues derived from mining, hydroelectric development & forestry carried out on traditional lands
- \$50 million/year over 50 yrs
- Cree-Quebec Forestry Board
- Restrictions on logging to protect traplines

Area Dedications Map






Legend

- Wilderness Area
- Provincial Park
- Recreation Area
- Environmental Management Area - Forest
- Environmental Management Area - Fish and Wildlife
- Environmental Management Area - Recreation
- Environmental Management Area - Carbon Storage
- Wildlife Habitat

Scale

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000

Inset Map



Logos



North Arrow



Alberta Environment



Province of Alberta

Wilderness Areas

Provincial Parks

Recreation Areas

Environmental Management Areas

Wildlife Habitat

Wilderness Areas

Provincial Parks

Recreation Areas

Environmental Management Areas

Wildlife Habitat



Poplar River First Nation, Manitoba

“Unlike other past, present & future users, the Poplar River Anishinabek have our very being, & future well being defined by our place on this land.”

- 862,000 hectares of Traditional Territory, including all 15 traplines of Poplar River Trapline District



Algonquins of Barriere Lake

- Mitchikanibikok Inik: “the people of the stone fence or stone fish weir”
- Trilateral agreement, 1991: First Nation-federal-provincial; 10 000 km²
- Traditional land use studies, socio-economic baseline data, forest inventories
- Integrated resource management plan based on Brundtland concept of Sustainable Development

Because of our relationship as a Treaty partner, we thought we would live in friendship and co-habitation in sharing the land with our Treaty partner. A two-way partnership.

But obviously, from the Ontario Government's perspective: the Treaty simply meant that we surrendered everything except what is within the small boundaries of the reserve.



ACKNOWLEDGING DIFFERENCES; SEEKING SHARED PLANNING

Resistance



Larstrow's Winter Morning on Athabasca River
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/larspics/2164922442/>



Keepers of the
Athabasca call for
moratorium on
Alberta oil sands
development

Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca
Chipewyan Dene First Nation 2008



Government as facilitator

- Principles for consultation: full, informed and free consent
- Negotiations: equal partners at the table
- Signed self-government agreements leading to protocols, MOUs &/or co-management
- Co-operation between federal & provincial levels of government to uphold state's "fiduciary obligation" to Aboriginal peoples
- Promote learning between 2 cultures



Considering landscapes anew

Many of the landscapes in Canada that are not fully industrialized are working landscapes modified by Aboriginal peoples.

In industrialized landscapes there is still Aboriginal traditional knowledge.

What can we learn from Aboriginal concepts of land and relationships on the land?



References

Algonquins of Barriere Lake

Canadian Forest Service. 1997. Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Aboriginal People, Parts 1 and 2. <http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/articletopic/96>

Grand Council of the Cree of Northern Quebec. Paix des Braves. <http://www.gcc.ca/issues.php#paixdesbraves>

Innu Nation <http://www.innu.ca/>

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

<http://www.nuuchahnulth.org/tribal-council/welcome.html>

Poplar River First Nation http://www.poplarriverfirstnation.ca/poplar_river_land.htm

Pikangikum First Nation Whitefeather Forest Initiative

<http://www.whitefeatherforest.com>