

Title and description:

The Prince Albert Model Forest Archaeological Predictive Modelling Project Part I: Archaeological Overview, Field Studies And Results; T. H. GIBSON and P. McKEAND; 1996; Western Heritage Services Inc.; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; 67 pages

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INTRODUCTION

In 1991, Mistik Management Ltd, Weyerhaeuser Canada, Forestry Canada and Saskatchewan Heritage Branch collaborated to establish the Cultural Resources in Integrated Management Planning (CRIMP) committee. The purpose of CRIMP was to incorporate cultural resources into the integrated forest planning process for management of nearly seven million hectares of land in the western Commercial Forest region of Saskatchewan. The CRIMP study focused on completing a heritage audit of forest harvesting activities, developing a predictive model of site locations based upon intensive archaeological survey of six survey target blocks, and developing a method of integrating field data into the forest management process. The study was conceived and undertaken by Western Heritage Services Inc. (WHSI). At the completion of the project in February, 1995 (Finnigan et. al. 1995), results were permanently integrated into the forestry management planning process of the CRIMP member forestry companies.

Of particular import to the Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF), CRIMP successfully developed a working site predictive model, called the West-Central Saskatchewan Commercial Forest Site Location Model. It was based on a selected range of ecological and geographic variables found in west-central Saskatchewan. PAMF recognized the potential of this model in helping to document and explain changes in land use within their study region, by aboriginal people prior to contact with Europeans, and after that contact when significant changes took place. Unfortunately, the west-central model could not be applied to the central portion of Saskatchewan's commercial forest (particularly in the Model Forest area) since it had not been field-tested in that particular environmental and geographic setting.

FIELD STUDIES

PAMF requested that WHSI extend the model into the Model Forest region, using the research approach and methods and developed for the CRIMP study. Two target areas in the PAMF area were selected for detailed archaeological study to derive comparative modeling data (Figure 1). One was a 12 x 12 km block surrounding Kingsmere Lake locality, in Prince Albert National Park. Another was to encompass the Wasquesieu and Crean Rivers, flowing into Montreal Lake. Unfortunately, extremely dry conditions rendered the two rivers unnavigable during planned assessment times. A substitute 10x 10 km area, located on the northwest side of Candle Lake at Hanin Creek, was substituted.

Both target areas had received a small amount of archaeological study in the past. Since Kingsmere Lake was located within Prince Albert National Park, some heritage inventory work had resulted in identification of about a dozen potential heritage resources, the majority dating to the post-European contact "historic period". However, no systematic survey had been undertaken. Since the block was quite large and assessment time was limited, emphasis was placed on assessing the shoreline on the main lake, plus connecting small lakes. As well, existing trails were given detailed inspection. No shovel testing was undertaken on any part of the test block; only naturally or previously occurring subsurface exposures were examined. This closely followed the assessment method undertaken for the CRIMP study.

Part of the Hanin Creek modeling block had been examined in 1993 by a crew from WHSI as part of on-going forestry heritage resource impact assessments. The area had been actively harvested by Weyerhaeuser Canada, and initial reconnaissance revealed several archaeological sites, representing the first recorded in the interior of that region, away from Candle Lake. Since that field work, more harvesting had been undertaken, as well as some fireguard building along Hanlin Creek. These activities provided good exposure for the kinds of survey and assessment needed for discovering sites for modeling purposes.

Kingsmere fieldwork was undertaken in mid-September 1995 by Bill Ferris, Shelley McConnell and Peggy McKeand, supervised by Terry Gibson. Hanin Creek fieldwork was undertaken in mid-October by Peggy McKeand and Maureen Rollans, the latter as field supervisor. Each field study was approximately 5 days duration.

Section I of this document provides details on the archaeological reconnaissance and results obtained from each study block. It constitutes a final report for satisfying permit obligations pertaining to heritage resource impact assessment permits issued by Parks Canada (for Prince Albert National Park) and Saskatchewan Heritage Branch.