



Envirothon NB 2008 Scenario



Introduction

In the wake of today's increase in demand for outdoor recreational activities there is also an increasing concern for environmental conservation. Outdoor recreation in natural areas alters the natural environment making proper management essential. This requires managing existing resources to minimize environmental stress. Preservation and use must be balanced, while resolving conflict between competing users.

New Brunswick has a variety of parks and protected areas: national parks, provincial parks, Class I and II Protected Natural Areas, along with research and experimental forests. Each jurisdiction has a unique relationship with recreation based on the type of recreational activity, the impact, the total number of recreational users (overall and within each activity) along with each area's respective philosophy of preservation and/or conversation.

Provincial parks, for example, are committed to the philosophy of healthy by nature: "the Healthy Parks, Healthy People" initiative has been successfully introduced as a means of promoting the strong and obvious links between healthy people and healthy parks, and the mental and physical benefits of spending time in parks". The provincial park mandate is to provide the public with as wide a spectrum of educational and recreational opportunities as possible while maintaining the ecological integrity of each park. At the other end of the preservation continuum are Class I Protected Natural areas which do not permit any public access and require complete protection.

The Scenario

The government of New Brunswick, in collaboration with the University of Moncton (U de M), has designated **Brayonne Research Forest (BRF)** as a model of forest research and recreational partnership in the northwest region of the Province (see attached map). Public meetings and consultation sessions have been held by the Brayonne Research Forest management staff to solicit input from local recreational organizations.

Your Challenge

As the management team of BRF you are charged with preparing a recreational plan to accommodate the various recreational groups in the area which will be integrated into the overall research plan for the BRF.

The following recreational clubs must be accommodated and each requires a trail system within the BRF, along with other necessary support services to meet the demands of their membership

<u>Club</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Ste. Marie ATV and Snowmobile Club	- 150 members
North Face Mountain Bikers	- 20 members
Madawaska Hunting & Fishing Club	- 150 members
Clearwater Canoe Outfitters	- 30 members
Saint John River Birdwatchers	- 15 members
Erable Cross Country Ski Club	- 30 members

Your recreational plan should:

- Reflect the fact that the BRF's prime function is research, demonstration, and education.
- Indicate the impacts (positive and/or negative) of each recreational club's activity on BRF's natural resources, including special areas, and any mitigating measures necessary.
- Indicate the impacts (positive and/or negative) of each recreational club's activity on the natural resources of the surrounding land tenures (town, First Nation community, private woodlot.) and any mitigating measures necessary.
- Trails and other key additions should be indicated on the map and explained as part of your presentation.

Remember:

The focus of the recreation topic is the impact of recreation on natural resources - not the impact of the natural resources on recreation.

BRF

- total area is 1000 hectares
- 50 kilometers from town of St. Jacques (20,000 population)
- 80% forested
- 25% of forested area has research blocks identified.
- Deer Wintering Area (DWA) in northwest adjacent to Aksawadam Maliseet First Nation community

Aksawadam Maliseet First Nation

- 150 residents
- traditional uses of the BRF area have been hunting and fishing, fiddle heads, black ash for baskets, medicinal plants.

Ste. Marie de Madawaska

- retirement community of 200 residents

Private woodlot

- 100 hectares of managed forest
- owner harvests firewood and pulp and sawlogs
- 3 hectares of sugar maple production
- 5 hectares of Christmas trees