



Newsletter

February 1987

Background

The Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) is an incorporated non-profit independent national forum established in 1982 to encourage selection, protection and stewardship of a comprehensive system of ecological areas in Canada. It draws its membership from federal, provincial and territorial government departments, non-government organizations, universities and private citizens. CCEA will work toward completing a Canadian system of ecological areas by providing a forum for communication between interested agencies and individuals. To this end, issues of concern to the Council will be reported in a regularly distributed newsletter, this being the first issue.

Letter from the Chairman

Receipt of this newsletter heralds another expansion of Council's activities. The newsletter is designed to inform members, other interested people, organizations and jurisdictions about Council's activities and plans. It will also bring news of activities undertaken by related organizations which may interest you as a member of Council.

Distribution is intended to occur twice a year (approximately December and June). Size will vary with available material but will generally be in the range of four to eight pages. Since distribution is to be widespread not only will it include Council members but also Ministers of participating departments/agencies and head offices of like-minded organizations.

Newsletters, being timely and relatively cost efficient to produce and distribute, readily serve as major outreach vehicles. Ours is no exception. It will, I expect, help to expand Council's membership, promote understanding of ecological areas, continue Council's encouragement of the envisioned nationwide system of protected ecological areas and generally help us all to achieve Council's objectives.

By design, the newsletter will contain brief, contemporary articles but not papers of a scientific, management or similar nature. This is not meant to imply that papers do not deserve publication and distribution but rather that they are deserving of treatment different from that found in a newsletter.

My personal congratulations to the Editorial Board (Peter Lee, Richard Revel, Bill Henwood and Diane Griffin) and all who have helped to prepare this issue. You have done a fine job. I am looking forward to succeeding issues with enthusiasm tempered only by the realization that, to make the newsletter work, I must count myself among the regular contributors. I invite you all to join me as contributors and look forward to your company.

Ross Thomasson Canadian Council on Ecological Areas

COUNCIL NEWS

Committees and Working Groups

In 1982, Council established three standing Committees: Education and Information; Scientific and; Management and Administration. As well, Working Groups have been established to tackle specific short-term tasks.

Diane Griffin, Coordinator of the Education and Information Committee, reports that this is the year for the second biennial report of Council, targeted for distribution by summer. She is also producing a display that is ultra modern in design, light weight, and easy to ship and assemble. It will complement the existing CCEA brochure and can be used in either a manned or un-manned display situation. To arrange bookings, please contact Dalton Muir, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E7 (819)997-4991. A new feature for this year is the CCEA awards program. Potential recipients are pioneering ecological areas legislators; citizens or groups who successfully lobbied for site protection or policy development; agencies or individuals who have established ecological areas, or have raised public consciousness regarding such areas by innovative educational or publicity programs; individuals who have done innovative scientific research in ecological areas and; individuals who have demonstrated outstanding private stewardship. It is anticipated that the first awards will be announced at the CCEA annual meeting in Manitoba. For further information, contact Dalton Muir or Diane (at Island Nature Trust P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K4 (902)892-7513).

Dr. Paul Keddy, Co-ordinator of the Scientific committee, is continuing to document research conducted within Canadian ecological areas. To date, the committee has compiled a list of research from national Parks, British Columbia Ecological Reserves, Sable Island, Delta Marsh, Polar Bear Pass and Algonquin Provincial Park. The Committee is particularly interested in: 1) one clear high profile example of a specific study with significant economic spin-offs; and 2) example where an ecological area served as a control against which environmental impacts were measured. The committee is still addressing its potential role and function- whether to take a passive role and address scientific questions posed by Council or an active role and provide direction on scientific areas which CCEA should be addressing. Dr. Paul Keddy can be contacted at the Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, 30 Somerset Street East, Ottawa. K1N 6N5. (613) 564-3447.

Past Meetings and Representations

Several Council members (i.e. Ross Thomasson, Stewart Hilts and Tom Moull) attended the thirteenth annual conference of the Natural Areas Association in Missouri, October 21-24, 1986. This association somewhat resembles the CCEA in objectives, operations and organization and describes itself as an organization

"for those committed to the concept of natural areas protection and stewardship. . . to communicate, exchange ideas, report research results, and keep abreast of news and information relating to natural areas". The association publishes a quarterly Natural Areas Journal (at a cost of \$15.00 U.S. per annum, available from The Natural Areas Association, 320 South Third Street, Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A. 61108), and sponsors annual meetings. It is non-profit and draws its 800 members from resource professionals, scientists, naturalists and interested individuals from the national, state, local and private sectors of the United States and Canada.

Council made representation to the Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy Workshop held in Yellowknife, September 30 - October 2, 1982. Council's written submission encouraged the protection of marine/fresh-water areas for genetic conservation, research and educational purposes and supported the establishment of a network of areas which reflect the full ecological diversity of aquatic environments. Results of the workshop are expected to be publicly available.

1987 Annual General Meeting Arrangements

The upcoming annual meeting of CCEA will be held from Saturday to Monday August 8-10 in Winnipeg. Arrangements have been made to meet at the Fort Garry Campus of the University of Manitoba. Accommodation will be available on campus.

At present the agenda consists of jurisdictional and committee reports during Saturday morning and early afternoon. The balance of Saturday afternoon will be devoted to workshops on topics such as ecological areas for research and environmental monitoring, use of ecological areas in genetic preservation and endangered species/ecosystem management. Saturday evening starts with a cocktail hour followed by a banquet and an address by an appropriate Manitoban.

On Sunday attendees will visit two of Manitoba's ecological reserves with time provided for informal get-togethers, renewal of friendships, establishment of new friendships and tidying up of workshop issues. Monday morning will hear reports of the workshops and consider resolutions arising from them. The afternoon is reserved for a business meeting to elect directors, discuss policy issues and provide direction to the board.

Weekend timing and use of campus facilities have been arranged to minimize participant costs. There is, however, a strong probability that a registration fee, about thirty dollars, will be implemented to help defray banquet, field trip and facility costs.

Look forward to receiving a detailed announcement and tear off registration form early in June.

Publications

The CCEA has published two reports which are publicly available:

- Report of the Biennium: 1982-1984. Canadian Council of Ecological Areas (CCEA), Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E7. (\$5.00).
- The Status of Ecological Reserves in Canada: 1985. By Pierre M. Tachereau. Published by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas and the Institute for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University. (\$8.00 available from IRES, 1312 Roulie Street, Halifax, N.S. B3M 3E2).

Atlantic Meeting on Ecological Areas

On November 13-14, 1986, ten government and non-government representatives from four provinces met in Amherst, Nova Scotia, to discuss ecological areas in Atlantic Canada. The group intends to pool its efforts on a regional basis in an attempt to make more efficient use of manpower and information resources. It will develop selection criteria and develop a list of priority ecological areas on a regional basis. The group and the CCEA executive are exploring ways of encouraging regional initiatives. The Atlantic group hopes to strengthen its input to the CCEA as a result of improved interprovincial communication. For more information, contact Dr. Bob Ogilivie, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6 (902)429-4610.

Newfoundland Donation

Newfoundland's Culture, Recreation and Youth's Minister Bill Matthews has again contributed substantially to the CCEA. "It is encouraging that a province with limited means places high priority and invests \$2200 in developing a scientific basis for renewable resource administration." stated Council chairman Ross Thomasson. "When complete the national system of ecological areas that council foresees will be a rich source of information, making possible a truly national consensus on appropriate land use, planning and management by responsible jurisdictions."

New Society

In October, 1986, The Canadian Society for Landscape Ecology and Management (CSLEM) was created. Its formation is a significant step forward in the field of ecologically based land planning and management in Canada. An interim Secretariat provided by Environment Canada has been established to provide support for the working groups and committees of the Society, undertake organization of symposia, and publish bulletins and eventually a national journal.

For further information, contact Clayton Rubec, CSLEM Secretary, Canadian Society for Landscape Ecology and Management, c/o Lands Directorate, Environment Canada, Ottawa KIA DE7 (819)953-1447.

NEW ECOLOGICAL AREAS

British Columbia

On December 10, 1986, the new three-hectare Katherine Tye Ecological Reserve was created by British Columbia order-in-council to secure one of only four small populations of the phantom orchid, Eburophyton austinae (Gray) Heller, in Canada. The land for the reserve was assembled by the Nature Trust of B.C. and made available on a 99 year lease basis. Mrs. Katherine Tye, now 87, in whose honour the reserve is named, generously donated almost one half of the land. A member of the Chilliwack Field Naturalists has been appointed as volunteer warden to watch over the well-being of the reserve.

This new reserve brings the total number to 116 in B.C. Further information can be obtained from Hans Roemer, Acting Coordinator, Ecological Reserves Program, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks, 4000 Seymour Place, Victoria, B.C. V8V IX4 (604)387-4596.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Environment Minister Tim Embury, announced on September 15, 1986, designation of Saskatchewan's first ecological reserve, Assiniboine Slopes. The reserve occupies about 2.5 sections of Crown land straddling the Assiniboine River. The site has an unusually high level of ecological diversity which represents the Parkland Ecoregion, Aspen-Bur Oak Ecodistrict. For further information, contact Don Elsaesser, Land Protection Branch, Saskatchewan Environment, 3085 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S OBI (306)787-6209.

In 1986 Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources Minister Colin Maxwell, announced the creation of Saskatchewan's first wilderness park and the first new provincial park in the province since 1973. The new Clearwater Provincial Park includes 187 kilometres of the Clearwater River and valley comprising almost 900 square miles. Extensive, non-motorized wilderness recreation will be encouraged and facilities will be limited. The area has also been included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in 1986. For further information, contact Wayne Schick, Parks Branch 3211 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6 (306)787-2849.

Northwest Territories

The first National Wildlife Area in Canada's far North was established in September 1986, on the east coast of Bathurst Island, Northwest Territories. The Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area will be protected by regulations under the Canadian Wildlife Act. The area is described as an Arctic oasis with a rich ecology. It will be managed co-operatively by Environment Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories, acting on recommendations of an Area Advisory Committee. As well as being an IBP (International Biological Programme) site, Canada designated it as a Wetland of International Importance under the terms of the Ramsar Convention. For further information, contact Doug Gillespie, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa (819)953-1421.

Quebec

At the August, 1986, CCEA annual meeting in Montreal, M. Robert Middlemiss, Quebec Department of Environment, announced the establishment of Quebec's 14th Ecological Reserve - Marcel Raymond Ecological Reserve. The site, along the coast of the Richelieu River, was named in memory of a well-known Quebecois botanist. It was selected partially to protect forest stands of silver maple and the rare swamp white oak. For further information, contact Andre Bouchard, Jardin botanique de Montreal, 4101 est Sherbrooke, Montreal HIX 2B2 (514)872-1435.

DAVID MUNRO RETIRES

At the August, 1986 meeting of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, David Munro retired as founding chairman of Council. Mr. Munro was instrumental in the formation and evolution of the CCEA, providing effective and efficient leadership for several years. His chairmanship gave Council the credibility and national recognition it needed. David's achievements preceding involvement with the CCEA included Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and receiver of the Roland Mitchener Conservation Award. David continues his involvement in conservation issues, being the 1986 chairman of the Canadian World Conservation Strategy Conference. Since retirement from Council, several council members report seeing David at airports, hotels and meetings across Canada, furthering his significant contributions to conservation.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

P.E.I. Island Nature Trust

The P.E.I. Island Nature Trust has four people working this winter on its landowner contact program. Landowners of candidate natural areas are being re-contacted after a two year period. Staff will also contact landowners adjacent to beaches where the endangered Piping Plover is known to nest, and landowners adjacent to scenic heritage roads to seek their co-operation in maintaining buffer zones in addition to what will be protected within the highway rights-of-way.

The Island Nature Trust has recently purchased a portion of Courtin Island, which has one of the largest Great Blue Heron rookeries in North America and several osprey nests. The Trust has a vigorous fund raising program to finance the purchase of property. Research is being conducted into conservation easements, establishment of a provincial conservation lands fund, "untaxing of nature", and an income tax refund check-off program. For further information, contact Diane Griffin, Executive Director, Island Nature Trust, P.O. Box 265, Charlottetown, P.E.I. CIA 7K4 (902)892-7513.

New Brunswick Nature Trust

A group of New Brunswickers, under the leadership of Hal Hinds, is in the process of establishing a New Brunswick Nature Trust. This arose out of a natural areas inventory that was conducted by a group of senior citizens under a New Horizons program grant to the Federation of New Brunswick Naturalists. This will be Canada's third nature trust, following in the footsteps of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island.

Nova Scotia Nature Reserves Liaison Committee

An academic support committee has been established in Nova Scotia to assist with the selection of ecological, nature and biosphere reserves. The Nature Reserves Liaison Committee was established under the impetus of Dr. F. B. Goldsmith of University College London, a well-known forest ecologist and former member of ACER. The committee will also provide expertise in the preparation of management plans and work to encourage nature protection and reserve designation and increase public awareness.

WILDLIFE '87

Wildlife '87 - Gaining Momentum is the theme for celebration of a century of wildlife conservation in Canada. Although the focal point is the creation of the first bird sanctuary by the Canadian Government in 1887, it is really a jumping-off point for future progress. During 1987, new protected wildlife habitats will be designated throughout Canada by the federal and provincial governments, as

well as private agencies. All agencies are encouraged to use the Wildlife '87 logo and to use the official designations of natural wildlife areas, ecological reserves, parks and other natural areas as occasions to celebrate this centennial during 1987. For further information, contact your local committee or contact Wildlife '87, National Steering Committee, P.O.Box 8644, Station 'L', Edmonton, Alberta T6C 4J4 (403)467-7649 OR Secretary - Wildlife '87, National Committee, Canadian Wildlife Service, 17th Floor, Place Vincent Massey, Ottawa KIA OE7 (819)953-1404.

OTHER NEWS

South Moresby

Negotiations toward establishment of a new National Park in the South Moresby area of British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands were given a big boost in September 1986, at a meeting of Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan and the B.C. Minister of Environment and Parks, Austin Pelton.

The two Ministers expressed their desire to sign a Federal-Provincial agreement as soon as possible and agreed that a solution must be found by the end of 1987. A major obstacle to establishing a National Park at South Moresby has been removed by Mr. McMillan's offer of \$25 million and interest as the federal Government's share of compensation for the forest lands of Pacific Rim. Once the two governments have reached a preliminary understanding on the terms of an agreement, Environment Canada and Haida representatives will meet to discuss Haida involvement in park planning and management. For further information, contact Jim Collinson, Environment Canada, Parks, Hull (819)997-9525, OR Vince Collins, B.C. Environment and Parks, Victoria, B.C. (604)387-1309.

Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Long Point, located on the north shore of Lake Erie, Ontario, and Riding Mountain National Park, in Manitoba, were granted formal recognition as biosphere reserves by the Bureau of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme at its meeting held in Paris in April, 1986. There are currently 252 biosphere reserves in 66 countries, four of which are in Canada, including Mont-Saint-Hilarie, in Quebec, and Waterton Lakes National Park, in Alberta. For further information, contact Monique Lacroix, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, 99 Metcalf Street, P.O.Box 1047, Ottawa K1P 5V8 (613)237-3400.

National Marine Parks Policy

Federal Environment Minister, Tom McMillan, approved the National Marine Parks Policy on September 26, 1986, setting the stage for selection, establishment and management of national marine parks in Canada. The long

term goal of the policy is to represent each of Canada's 29 marine natural regions in the national parks system.

There are currently five national marine park proposals at various stages of consideration, one in each of the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, two in the Atlantic and one in the Great Lakes. For further information contact Bruce Amos, Environment Canada, Parks, Ottawa KIA IG2 (819)994-2435.

National Parks Act

A new package to amend the National Parks Act will result in its first significant alteration since enactment in 1930. There are 37 amendments in total, and the major components are:

- authority to establish Ellesmere Island National Park reserve pending resolution of native claims;
- authority to establish Grasslands National Park when final agreement is reached with Saskatchewan and clear title is transferred to Canada;
- fines for poaching increased from \$500 to \$150,000 and/or six months imprisonment;
- voluntary payment of fines
- enables creation of National Parks Citizens Heritage Fund;
- authority to negotiate self-government for Banff and Jasper,
- townsite expansion control for Banff and Jasper,
- establishes boundaries for five ski developments and prohibits expansion beyond these boundaries;
- ability to legislate boundaries of wilderness areas in national parks.

For further information, contact Michael Porter, National Parks Policy and Legislation (819)994-2690.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Three rivers were included in the Heritage Rivers System in 1986: Ontario's French River (110km); Yukon's Alsek River (90km) and; Saskatchewan's Clearwater River (187km). The System is a co-operative program established in 1984 between the federal government and, to date, six provinces (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and the two territories. The objectives of the System are to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada and to ensure long-term management which will conserve their natural, historical and recreational values. There are presently 12 sections of rivers totalling 2,170 km now included in the System. For further information, contact The Secretary, Canadian Heritage Rivers System, c/o Environment Canada-Parks, Ottawa, Ontario KIA 1G2.

Proposed Ellesmere Island National Park Reserve

On September 20, 1986, Federal Environment Minister, Torn McMillan, and Northwest Territories Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Tagak Curley, signed an agreement setting out the terms and conditions for establishing Ellesmere Island National Park Reserve. The proposed reserve will protect an area the size of Great Britain, 39,500 square kilometres of Canada's most northerly lands. The area includes glaciers, fiords and Lake Hazen, the largest lake north of the Arctic Circle.

Formal authority to establish the national park reserve by proclamation, pending the resolution of native land claims, is included as one of the new amendments to the National Parks Act. This agreement will lead to Canada's 32nd National park or reserve.

Along with conservation, dedication of the park was prompted as much by Canada's drive to show sovereignty over the remote reaches of its north. The announcement follows an unauthorized trip by an American icebreaker through the Northwest Passage in 1984. For further information, contact Gordon Hamre, Tourism and Parks, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, N.W.T. (403)873-7905 OR Murray McComb, Northern Park Proposals, Environment Canada, 10 Wellington Street, Ottawa KIA 1G2 (819)994-2300.

Canadian Environmental Advisory Council

The Canadian Environmental Advisory Council under the chairmanship of Torn Beck of Calgary acts as an advisory group to the Federal Environment Minister, Torn McMillan. The group is currently studying the new National Parks Amendment Act, the Environmental Protection Act, and the Water Policy for Canada. Two CCEA members, Dr. Stan Rowe and Diane Griffm, are appointees to this Council.

Manitoba's New Initiatives

Recent months have seen Manitoba's Ecological Reserves Program evolve into the Ecologically Significant Areas Program. This is a major change to broaden the scope of activities. The change does not lose sight of Ecological Reserves since they form a major part of the broader program and provide rigorous protection to key areas.

The expanded program permits recognition of the ecological significance of privately owned areas and of Crown areas where some use occurs that does not impact or threaten the ecological significance of the area. Recognition of these areas will not impact their ownership, administration or management. The approach provides a way of co-operating with conservation minded persons and

groups recognizing their contributions without restricting traditional uses of recognized areas.

The last few months have seen development of "hands across the border" initiatives. Contacts have been established with colleagues in the Natural Areas Programs of North Dakota and Minnesota regarding the Manitoba portions of significant areas in the U.S. It is still early days for this aspect of Manitoba's programs but there is optimism that areas of joint significance will be recognized in the near future.

Proposed Ecological Reserves for Alberta

The Alberta Government announced on December 17, 1986, its intention to establish four ecological reserves. These would be Alberta's first such reserves. The announcement follows recent recommendations made to the government by the Advisory Committee on Wilderness Areas and Ecological Reserves. Under the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Act, the intent to establish an ecological reserve must be announced at least 60 days prior to the effective date of establishment in order to allow for public review. For further information, contact Larry Duchesne, Alberta Recreation and Parks, 6th Floor, Standard Life Centre, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5J 3N4 (403)427-8758.

FEATURE - National Update on Conservation Strategy Activities

CCEA member Doug Pollard co-authored an important document "World Conservation Strategy - Canada: A Report on Achievements in Conservation". This report was part of the Canadian contribution to the successful May, 1986, conference in Onawa on implementing the World Conservation Strategy. Conference chairmanship was provided by former CCEA chairman David Munro and was co-sponsored by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the United Nations Environmental Programme, the World Wildlife Fund, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and Environment Canada. Since that conference, several initiatives have provided impetus for the development of provincial/territorial conservation strategies. Following is an update of these initiatives.

Alberta - The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Environment Council of Alberta has been the driving force towards a Conservation Strategy for Alberta. Following publication of a Prospectus document, 16 sectors were identified for which background papers are required prior to the preparation of a draft strategy. Work is continuing on a volunteer basis through PAC, with participation from a variety of industrial, conservation, education, and professional groups, as well as some provincial government agencies. The hope is that the ultimate draft strategy will be the basis for province-wide public hearings sometime in 1988.

British Columbia - A small group of volunteers in B.C. has spearheaded the plans for a B.C. strategy. They plan to publish a draft proposal for the development of a strategy in the next month or so, and will circulate it for comments to groups and individuals who have expressed an interest in the project. If there is widespread public support for the plan, the group expects to begin fund-raising efforts and hold workshops to discuss the plan and increase public awareness.

Manitoba - The Manitoba Environmental Council is expected to be very much involved in the preparation of a Strategy for Manitoba. The council is organizing a trip to northern Manitoba this summer to hold a series of information meetings with residents. The goal is to get their ideas of how a strategy for the province should be done, and to find common ground with those in the south. Manitoba's Environment Minister is chairing the recently-named Task Force on integrating development with conservation in Canada, which will be looking at long-term planning and solutions; it is expected that much of the Manitoba effort towards a conservation strategy will be associated with the task force.

New Brunswick - Volunteer representatives from New Brunswick will be meeting in January with Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Federal Department of Environment representatives to discuss plans for launching a strategy project for New Brunswick. A Prospectus document is expected to be published in March, followed by a workshop to adopt the prospectus and co-ordinate plans for getting groups together to actually develop a strategy.

Northwest Territories - Following publication of the Report of the Task Force on Northern Conservation in 1984, there have been several initiatives by both Territories and the federal government. Federal efforts have included work on a marine strategy as well as co-operative work with N.W.T. and Y.T. on an Inuit Circumpolar conference. The N.W.T. is looking at ways to protect natural ecosystems and hopes to develop an integrated management system for natural resources. Current plans are to hold a workshop this spring on a strategy for the N.W.T., followed by an international workshop in the fall. The circumpolar work is based on trying to achieve sustainable development in the north and the symposium will be held following a series of workshops, all culminating in an Inuit and Circumpolar Conservation Strategy, possibly by spring of 1988.

Nova Scotia - After meetings with several environmentally related government and NGO's (non-government organizations), it was decided that the Land Resources Co-ordinating Council, as a NGO, should be the lead body to develop a conservation strategy for Nova Scotia. The Institute for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University will be the technical arm of the project. The next step is to acquire from government, volunteer, and private sector agencies an inventory of their activities which are supportive of the goals and principles of the World Conservation Strategy. Links will be made when these are completed, and funding is now being sought to hire a facilitator to work with the different groups and hold public information meetings about the project.

Ontario - Having published the document "Towards a Conservation Strategy for Ontario" in 1986, the Conservation Council of Ontario has attempted to keep the project as a priority item for the provincial government. This report made a series of recommendations with implications for a number of government departments, and an inter-ministerial committee is now considering options for the next phase of the project. A meeting with Ontario government representatives is planned for early in 1987 to decide on the next phase.

Prince Edward Island - With support from the provincial government, plans for a P.E.I. strategy have progressed rapidly. A Co-ordinating Committee was struck comprising interested individuals from various backgrounds, and five main areas were identified: landscape protection, coastal zone management, wildlife and water management, soil conservation, and water quality and pollution control. Working groups, each chaired by one of these individuals, were formed and all have now prepared a report with recommendations for both policy and specific projects. These are being consolidated, and the goal is to have a strategy ready for the government by the end of February. A public document is expected to be released by the end of March.

Quebec - The conseil consultatif de l'Environnement has been communicating with the minister with the hope that the Department of Environment and the Council together will prepare a brochure or booklet describing the WCS and its application to Quebec. The Council hopes this can be ready for publication by the spring, at which time they would like to begin holding public meetings in various centres around the province, talking with people about developing a strategy for Quebec.

Saskatchewan - Although Saskatchewan is participating in the Wild West project sponsored by World Wildlife Fund Canada, the province does not have any activities underway which are directed towards a provincial conservation strategy.

Yukon Territory - A paper outlining the framework for a Yukon Conservation Strategy is now being prepared to define the elements that should be in a YCS to be consistent with the World Conservation Strategy as well as identify the elements that should be in local strategies to be developed in Yukon communities. A local strategy is already in progress for the community of Old Crow, following meetings with the band council to identify appropriate issues. The draft strategy will be reviewed by the Old Crow community and is expected to be the prototype for other local/community strategies to follow. Other specifics which will contribute to a YCS include (1) development of a protected areas systems plan, and (2) work towards a development assessment process for rationalizing review procedures and land use decision-making.

Both Territories continue to work with each other and with the federal government on a marine conservation strategy and northern conservation issues

generally. A conference is planned for Banff in September on "Sharpening the Tools for Sustainable Development", focusing on circumpolar issues. Yukon also plans to have representatives at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Alaska later this year to look at Alaska/Canadian initiatives regarding northern activities.

Federal - Since their report was published in May, 1986, most of Environment Canada's focus has been to encourage the provinces and territories in their efforts to develop strategies. Environment Canada has a representative active in the P.E.I. work. Finally, the recently announced National Task Force on Environment and the Economy will be looking at actions taking place in Canada in response to the WCS and making some recommendations in this regard. (They will also be responding to the Brundtland Commission submissions.)

To obtain a free copy of the report "World Conservation Strategy Canada: A Report on Achievement in Conservation", write to Joy Overtveld, Environment Canada, Policy and Strategic Planning Branch, Ottawa KIA OE7 (819)952-1489.

Future newsletter submissions should be sent to either:

Mr. Peter Lee, 4th Petroleum Plaza South, 9915 108th Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C9. or Dr. Richard Revel, Faculty of Environmental Design, 10th Floor Earth Sciences Building, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta. TIN 1N4.(403) 220-7437.

CCEA Objectives

1. To promote public understanding of and support for the establishment of a comprehensive Canadian system of ecological areas;
2. To facilitate the exchange of relevant information among governments and other interested organizations;
3. To advise and assist governments and others interested in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive Canadian system of ecological areas and in its integration with land-use planning system",
4. To prepare guidelines on the selection, establishment, protection and management of ecological areas, and on evaluation and upgrading of the relevant data base;
5. To evaluate and report on the selection, designation, protection, management and use of established and proposed Canadian ecological areas;
6. To establish useful relationships with international organizations and organizations in other countries having similar interests and concerns;
7. To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects,