



Garth Lenz

Protected Areas Community Fact Sheet

Why do we need Protected Areas?

Changes are coming quickly to our forests and waters as a result of logging, roads, hydro dams and mines. These changes can mean new economic opportunities for communities, but the forests, rivers and lakes must also be treated with care. We want to be sure that what is here today will also be here tomorrow and for seven generations after that.

People need places to hunt, trap and fish, safe places to collect berries and plants, clean places for fish and wildlife to grow, and places that help remind us of the power of creation.

Protected Areas can be places where we can go to keep our bodies, minds and souls strong.

We want to think carefully where logging and mining should happen in the forest, and also decide on areas that should be left as they are.

In planning, the name for places “left as they are” is Protected Areas. These are areas where no logging, mining, dams or roads are allowed.

Benefits of Protected Areas

There are many reasons why a part of the land should be set aside in Protected Areas. They provide homes for fish, ducks and other wildlife.



They are also important for the people who depend on these sources for clean drinking water, fishing and hunting. Country food and local fresh water keep people healthy. We can respect the living things that provide this food by making sure they have shelter and places to care for their young.

The struggle to find a balance between the ways of the past and new ways of using the land is happening in many cultures. New uses of the land must leave room for traditional activities so that the land can still be enjoyed by the next generation in the same way as it has in the past.



Peter Ferguson



Learning About the New Ways

Protected Areas also provide us with a place for learning. We can see what logging and mining are doing to the earth by comparing them with areas where these activities are not allowed.



USFWS

We can use this knowledge and experience to adapt how we use the land and resources. Protected Areas also help us to make sure that all living creatures, from the biggest to the smallest, continue to exist. Protected Areas are like Noah's Ark. They provide spaces that ensure all creatures survival in a changing land.

Respecting Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

In the past, there have been different experiences for aboriginal communities and Protected Areas. People haven't always understood the importance of Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Protected Areas. These rights are protected through the Canadian Constitution, and aboriginal rights to hunt, trap and fish in Protected Areas has been confirmed by the Supreme Court.

Aboriginal communities should be closely involved in the design and management of Protected Areas to make sure their interests and knowledge of the land is included and that they benefit from the areas.



Peter Ferguson



ONTARIO NATURE - FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS

355 Lesmill Road, Toronto, Ontario M3B 2W8

Tel: (416) 444-8419 Toll free: 1-800-440-2366

Fax: (416) 444-9866 Email: info@ontarionature.org

www.ontarionature.org



401 Richmond St. W. Suite 380

Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

Phone 416-971-9453

Fax 416-979-3155

Email: info@wildlandsleague.org

Web site: www.wildlandsleague.org