

Soper Heritage River

Kimmirut, Nunavut Ten Year Review

April 2004

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Canadian
Heritage
Rivers
System



Le Réseau
des rivières
du patrimoine
canadien

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Executive Summary

It has been ten years since the Soper River was designated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for its outstanding natural heritage, recreational opportunities and integrity values. This decade has seen little direct change on the river but major changes within the new territory of Nunavut. The integrity of the river remains at a high level, very similar to the integrity values and opportunities that existed at the time of designation.

The lower Soper River was included in the area designated as Katannilik Territorial Park. This area constitutes approximately half the Soper drainage basin. Most of the developmental activity has been focused in this area.

In 1999, responsibility for managing the river shifted from the Government of the Northwest Territories to the Government of Nunavut. This has been a smooth transition. The operation and management of the river have remained consistent throughout this transition period with the promise of new management initiatives in the near future.

Activity on the Soper River has increased over the last ten years. Even though there has been an increase in the number of visitors, guiding companies and recreational services, there has been no apparent degradation of the river environment. Air charters in summer have increased as has the amount of snowmobile traffic in winter. Emergency shelters were built in the lower river valley. Canoeing and camping along the river are very popular and people often hike along the river and into the surrounding hills.

Management of the river and the park are undertaken with a high degree of community consultation with the people of Kimmirut through the Tourism Committee. The Kimmirut



Tourism Committee and the Kimmirut Hunters and Trappers Organization have both indicated that the community has great interest in the condition and management of the Soper River. Not only is it an important area for tourism, it is also an important cultural area. Sandy Akavak, a Kimmirut elder whose family lived in the upper watershed prior to moving to Kimmirut in the 1950's, confirmed the existence of traditional hunting blinds and campsites in that area.

Community members often confuse the Heritage River status with the area that is designated as Katannilik Park, and frequently interchange the two. There are indications that the Heritage River status has been somewhat overshadowed by the area's status as a park.

Visitor Centre facilities were constructed in Kimmirut and a full time manager has been employed to administer Katannilik Park, and this has been of direct benefit to the care and attention the Soper River receives.



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Research on the vegetation and wildlife in the area around the river has been undertaken in the past ten years. The willows of the Soper Valley continue to be a source of interest. Polar bears have become an issue over the last five years with a non-fatal attack on park users occurring in the summer of 2002.

Environment Canada installed a water monitoring station on the river to collect data on flow rates, but these services have been inactive for the last couple of years due to funding constraints.

Interest in mineral resources was high in the mid 90's but no mineral developments are proposed for the watershed. At the moment a study is underway to determine the feasibility of developing a port in Kimmirut and a road to Iqaluit. In May 2003 a proposed route through the Soper Valley was not considered attractive according to a government-hired engineering consultant working on the project.

Joint Park Management Committees (JPMC's) are a requirement of the Nunavut Land Claim

Agreement and the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement. With prospects of a JPMC being formed for Katannilik Park, there are increased potential opportunities for preserving the ecological integrity of the river as a whole. Mineral and road development are potential future threats to the watershed and will continue to be monitored. Polar bear and other wildlife research, along with monitoring vegetation and the quality of the river are immediate needs.

Many of the initiatives outlined in the management plan have been attempted and often completed. There have been times when circumstances have changed and the original plan was not workable, therefore the plan was altered to complete the same objective. There were, however, some initiatives that were not completed, and since these were basic in nature to the management and conservation objectives, this affected benchmarks and the ability to determine changes in the heritage and cultural values over time.



Purpose of the Report

As a method of maintaining the integrity of Canada's Heritage Rivers, the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) adopted a review policy to monitor rivers after they have successfully completed the nomination and designation process. The monitoring process begins with a 10-year review of the river values that were considered when the river was nominated and designated, and also reports on changes that have taken place in the quality of those values, the attitudes of stakeholders in affected communities, and the progress of management plan objectives since the river's designation as a Heritage River.

In the past ten years changes have been made to the ways that CHRS considers rivers for Heritage River status. New frameworks of the heritage and cultural values for rivers consider the general characteristics of the rivers, rather than only their outstanding or significant features. These changes were adopted in part to enable government managers to direct resources to rivers and river values of national concern, and also to assist

CHRS in identifying strengths and gaps in the System.

This report was initiated to comply with CHRS requirement for a ten year review, and to assess the values which permitted the Soper River to be designated as a Canadian Heritage River. Specifically, this report will:

- consider each of the nomination values individually to assess any change that has occurred over the past ten years,
- attempt to establish the reason for the change,
- present any trends or developments that may cause concern for the integrity of the nomination values in the future,
- report on management plan objectives,
- present natural heritage and cultural values for the Soper River as per the new framework.

There will be a discussion of the new frameworks for natural heritage and cultural values, and the differences, if any, from the Soper River's CHR designation values.

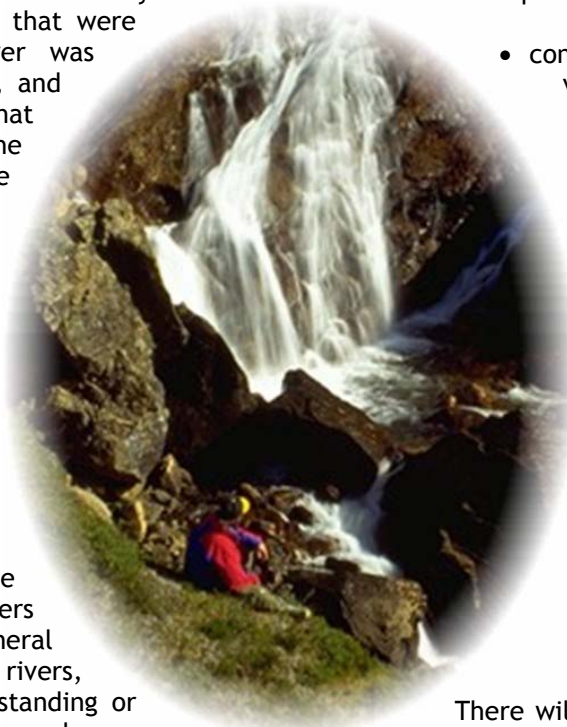


Figure 1

Canadian Heritage Rivers



River Facts

- located on south Baffin Island, Nunavut
- highest elevation - 670 m above sea level, lowest elevation - sea level
- over 100 km long
- drainage basin - 2500 sq. km. including two major tributaries - the Livingstone and the Joy Rivers
- adjacent community - Kimmirut, Nunavut
- flows through metamorphic rock dating back 1,740 million years
- intense folding in granite bedrock, intrusions of limestone, schists and quartzite, deposits of lapis lazuli and mica
- landmarks - Mt. Joy (610 m), Mt. Moore (535 m)
- excellent examples of river terraces
- micro-climate enables lush vegetation; willow trees grow to 3.6 m.
- evidence suggests Pre-Dorset people (4,000 years B.P.) depended on the river and valley resources
- extensive use by native people in recent times is clear



Figure 2

Soper River Watershed

SOPER RIVER 10 YEAR REVIEW

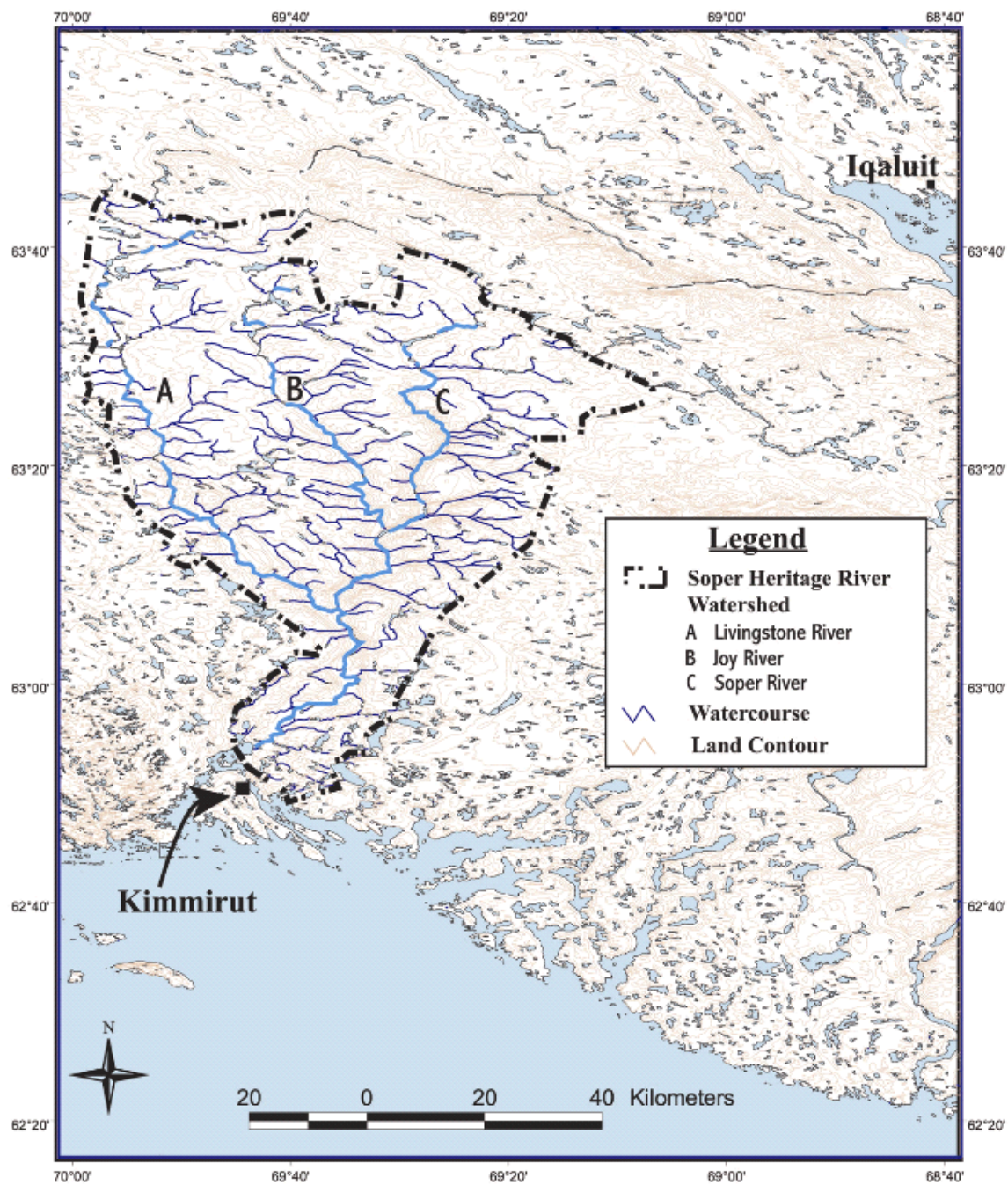
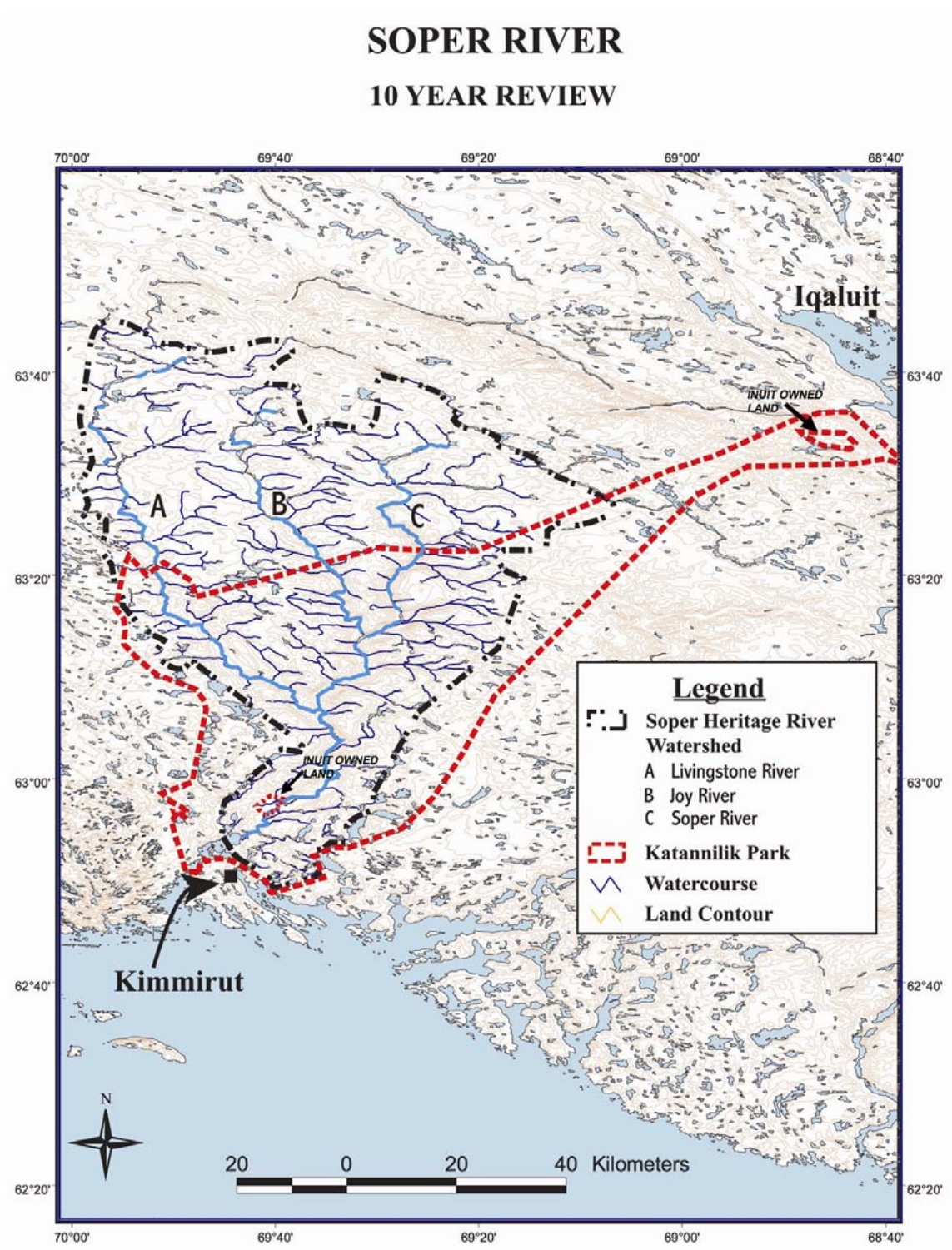


Figure 3

Soper River Watershed & Katannilik Park Boundary



Background

History

The south Baffin region was surveyed in the early 1980's as part of a territory-wide study of tourism potential in the Northwest Territories. In 1982 the Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Report was released identifying the Soper River valley, various coastal points, and the community of Kimmirut (known until 1996 as Lake Harbour) as potential destinations worth developing for tourism. A few years later the community's newly formed Tourism Committee approached the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Economic Development & Tourism to initiate discussions on developing tourism destinations in and around the community. Until that point the Soper River valley had been used by some southern-based outfitters for canoeing trips, with little involvement of or benefit to the community.

Throughout history the valley has repeatedly played an integral part in the historic moments of the community, and in the post-European contact history of the area. For centuries its location made it an ideal travel route for Inuit who wanted to travel overland to the Frobisher Bay area, or further inland to Nettling Lake, where south Baffin Inuit would periodically go to gather and camp. Its various resources have been used throughout that time to sustain the Inuit in their travels. To Inuit the river has always been known as Kuujuaq - 'big river' - and throughout the south Baffin region the Inuit still call it by that name. "Soper River" was only adopted as the 'official' name after J. Dewey Soper spent considerable time exploring and

mapping the river in 1930/31. The official name is used little by local Inuit.

In the post-European contact era the mica deposits around the Soper valley attracted the first commercial activity, which, because of the numbers of Inuit that already gathered at that point, attracted the Anglican Missionaries in 1911, and was quickly followed by the Hudson's Bay Company post in 1913. The HBC's interest in Kimmirut extended into the valley as it was a rich source of arctic fox furs.

The valley also played an important part in the decline of Kimmirut as a regional center in the 1950's and 60's. As the U.S. Army base was being built on Frobisher Bay it attracted large numbers of Inuit interested in working to gain southern/European goods. Inuit from the camps surrounding Kimmirut flocked to the base through the Soper River valley, many intending to return, but finding it much easier to stay. In 1961 the population of Inuit along the south Baffin coast had been reduced from 250 or so to approximately 70 people.

Nomination

Twenty-five years later the Soper was to play an important role in developing a stronger, more diversified economy and retaining community residents who might otherwise leave for jobs in Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay). The discussions that were initiated by the Lake Harbour Tourism Committee in 1985 led to a great deal of community consultation, and a strategy for supporting a local tourism industry while at the same time considering the concerns of the community. An essential part of the plan was the nomination and designation of the Soper River as a Canadian Heritage River.



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The role of the Soper River within the CHRS, as set out in the nomination document, is as follows:

- To provide, within a river environment, excellent representation of the natural and cultural heritage of Canada's arctic islands and the first representation of these islands in the system;
- To protect and highlight a river environment that provides outstanding representation of major geological periods and examples of complex geological structures that are more readily observed here than in southern Canada;
- To highlight an outstanding river environment which exemplifies the natural ecosystem and geological history of the southern Baffin region;
- To represent an area of importance for historical themes in the development of the Canadian Arctic and for cultural activity potentially dating back to Pre-Dorset time;
- To encourage protection, future scientific research, and public understanding of the full range of natural and cultural heritage values of this northern region with a focus on the Soper River;
- To provide outstanding recreational opportunities for river travel (by raft, kayak, canoe, and motorboat) and associated upland hiking, camping, viewing and nature study, in a remote eastern arctic wilderness setting.



partially satisfied all of the values and guidelines. A full accounting of these Values and how the Soper River satisfied them can be found in the following figure 4.

Further to the CHRS designation, the strategy for tourism development in the area included the establishment of a territorial park encompassing the lower Soper River Watershed. Prior to the CHRS nomination being completed, land selections of the Agreement-in-Principle between Canada and the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) had taken place and the residents of Kimmirut, with the expectation that it would become a territorial park, did not select the land in question.

Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve, with separate but overlapping goals and objectives was established in 1993, and a park management plan developed. It incorporated all of the objectives that the Soper River Management Plan had presented earlier as part of the CHRS process, but also recognized that only roughly half of the CHRS designated watershed was contained within the boundaries of the park.

A Decade of Change

In the last ten years there has been a great deal of change in the arctic political landscape, especially with the creation of the new Nunavut Territory. Also, the department within the government changed from 'Economic Development & Tourism' to 'Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development' to the 'Department of Sustainable Development' and most recently the Department of the Environment, which is responsible for renewable and non-renewal resource management under the Government of Nunavut. In this report the current name of the government and the department will be used unless it makes a material difference to the facts.

The CHRS nomination criteria being used when the Soper River nomination document was originally prepared, focused significantly on outstanding and significant features. The Soper contained examples of many of these criteria. There were four Natural Heritage values and four Human Heritage values, as well as integrity guidelines for both. There were also two Recreational Values. The Soper fully or



Soper Heritage River Nomination Values - 1992

Natural Heritage Values	
CHR Requirement	Corresponding Characteristics in the Soper River Basin
1. <i>“Is an outstanding example of river environments as that are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth’s evolutionary history which are represented in Canada.”</i>	exposed Precambrian landscape, evident metamorphic folding and faulting, exposed minerals such as graphite, garnet, soapstone, mica quartz and feldspar; upper regions of the drainage basin evidence the glaciation of the Wisconsin glacier nearly 8,300 years B.P.
2. <i>“Is an outstanding representation of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological and biological processes.”</i>	the designated area represents the entire river basin; eroded valley walls, tributary waterfalls and canyons, landmark mountains & river terraces; maintains an arctic oasis with a wide variety of wildlife and botanical species.
3. <i>“Contains along its course unique, rare or outstanding examples of natural phenomena, formations or features, or areas of exceptional natural beauty.”</i>	an example of a meromictic lake, emptying into a reversing falls; river terraces are considered outstanding in quality and number; scenery is outstanding; the extent and character of the relief is significant as are the cliffs and innumerable waterfalls and tributaries along the valley walls.
4. <i>“Contains along its course habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals.”</i>	diversity and numbers of plant and animals species; willow trees growing to 3.6 meters; peregrine falcon nesting sites.
Human Heritage Values	
1. <i>“Is of outstanding importance owing to its influence, over a period of time, on the historic development of Canada.”</i>	significant impact on the aboriginal people in their settlement, activity and transportation patterns; hunting and fishing contributed significantly to their well-being; evidence of Dorset and Pre-Dorset cultures extends the timeline beyond recorded history.
2. <i>“Is strongly associated with persons, events, movements, achievements, ideas or beliefs of Canadian significance.”</i>	closely associated with J. Dewey Soper who is a well known Canadian naturalist; river resources played a role in the Hudson’s Bay Company’s decision to locate their trading post at Lake Harbour/Kimmirut; precipitated the development of the area as a trading center.
3. <i>“Contains historic or archaeological structures, works or sites which are unique, rare or of great antiquity.”</i>	partially satisfies this criterion. No specific significant sites have been identified in the Soper River valley, however it is known that resources exist in the area.
4. <i>“Contains examples or concentrations of historical or archeological structures, works or sites which are representative of major themes in Canadian history.”</i>	partially satisfies this criterion. Tent sites are common along the Soper River, but they have not been adequately studied. Mining activity is significant at the territorial level.
Recreational Values	
1. <i>“Possesses an appropriate combination of recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience.”</i>	diversity and quality; unique ability for inland boating experience; concentration of lush vegetation and abundant wildlife; readily accessible waterfalls, willow growth, and mineral deposits. Continued use of area by Inuit maintains historical integrity
2. <i>“Capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss or impact on natural, historical and aesthetic values.”</i>	consistent with wilderness character; whole river corridor is capable of increased recreational use



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It is also worth noting that the Soper River is situated within the Nunavut Territory. As such, that part which is not territorially owned as Katannilik Territorial Park falls under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The federal legislation and policies that govern the area are those of the Ministry of Indian & Northern Affairs. The entire Soper River drainage basin is also within the Nunavut Settlement Area and is subject to the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

Part of the purpose of this report is to present the Soper River in light of the new Heritage and

Cultural Framework prepared by CHRS over the past decade. The frameworks do not change the selection guidelines set out by the CHRS in 1984. Instead, they provide clearer definition for meeting those guidelines. The Cultural Framework states “The purpose of the framework is to help conserve a balanced representation of Canada’s cultural river heritage for its future management and interpretation from a national perspective.” How the Soper River is represented in the CHRS through this new framework is illustrated in Figure 5.



Soper Heritage River New Framework Values - 2002

Natural Values Themes	Cultural Heritage Values Themes
<p><u>Theme 1: Hydrology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water Content..... ✓ ➤ Seasonal Variation..... ✓ ➤ Drainage Basins..... ✓ ➤ River Size..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 2: Physiography</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hydrogeology..... ✓ ➤ Geological Events..... ✓ ➤ Physiographic Regions..... ✓ ➤ Topography..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 3: River Morphology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Valley Types..... ✓ ➤ Lakes and Ponds..... ✓ ➤ Waterfalls and Rapids..... ✓ ➤ Fluvial Landforms..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 4: Biotic Environments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aquatic Ecosystems..... ✓ ➤ Terrestrial Ecosystems..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 5: Vegetation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significant Plant Communities..... ✓ ➤ Rare Flora..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 6: Fauna</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significant Animal Populations..... ✓ ➤ Rare Fauna..... ✓ 	<p><u>Theme 1: Resource Harvesting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fishing..... ✓ ➤ Shoreline Resource Harvesting..... ✓ ➤ Extraction of Water..... ✗ <p><u>Theme 2: Water Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commercial Transportation..... ✗ ➤ Transportation Services..... ✗ ➤ Exploration and Surveying..... ✓ <p><u>Theme 3: Riparian Settlement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting of Dwellings..... ✓ ➤ River-based Communities..... ✗ ➤ River-influenced Transportation.... ✗ <p><u>Theme 4: Culture & Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spiritual Associations..... ✓ ➤ Cultural Expressions..... ✓ ➤ Early Recognition..... ✗ <p><u>Theme 5: Jurisdictional Use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conflict & Military Associations..... ✗ ➤ Boundaries..... ✗ ➤ Environmental Regulation..... ✗
	<p>Recreational Values</p>
	<p>To date, a New Framework based on the thematic structure has not been developed for Recreational Values.</p>

✓ - the theme is represented in the Soper River watershed
 ✗ - the theme is not represented in the Soper River watershed



New Cultural and Natural Frameworks

The purpose of this ten-year review is also to discuss the Soper River in the context of current CHRS designation criteria. As illustrated in Figure 1, the nomination documents presented to the CHRS in 1992 provided evidence that the Soper fully or partially met all 10 of the different value statements that were used at that time to evaluate the merit of a river and its heritage significance in Canada. These values still form the basis of evaluating rivers nominated to the CHRS, but new framework documents have been developed and tested over the past 10 years, and are now being applied to the evaluation process. These two frameworks - one Cultural and one Natural - are so encompassing that a brief discussion of their structure and purpose is necessary to understand how they apply to the nomination and designation process.

It is first essential that the CHRS program be understood. It is a co-operative program between the various agencies and levels of government across Canada. Parks Canada is the lead agency in CHRS and has a seat on the Board, but their presence does not afford them

any greater influence over CHRS policies than any other board representatives. Similarly, each of the other territorial and provincial representatives on the Board provides a regional perspective. Each of these jurisdictions has its own priorities with respect to nominating rivers to CHRS. Through coordination, the overall goal is to have each of these jurisdictions consider the national perspective in the development of the system.

The Cultural and Natural Heritage Frameworks



developed over the past decade have similar objectives and were designed to be used in tandem. The purpose in each case was to conserve in the CHRS 'a balanced representation of Canada's cultural/natural river heritage for its future management and interpretation from a national perspective.'



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The objectives were threefold:

1. To provide a standardized approach for member-governments to identify, document and evaluate the river's cultural and natural heritage values;
2. To provide member-governments with a method of assessing how, from a Canadian perspective, rivers in their jurisdictions can contribute to the CHRS; and
3. To provide the CHRS with an objective and consistent tool to measure river heritage represented by the CHRS, and encourage resources to be applied appropriately.

Each framework went through a revision process after a three-year trial period. The basis of each framework is a thematic approach to descriptions of the values. The Cultural Framework, completed in December 1999, consisted of sixty elements. These were grouped into five themes which were then divided into fifteen sub-themes. The Natural Values framework was completed in March 2001, and consisted of six themes, eighteen sub-themes, and one hundred and ninety elements.

The Natural Values Framework, Second Edition provides the following list of additional applications for the framework:

- a common vocabulary for CHRS documents, discussions and interpretation of selection guidelines;
- assessment of possible nominations against existing Canadian Heritage Rivers;
- assessment of the state of the System;
- identification of gaps in the System;
- defining management priorities on designated rivers;
- structure monitoring studies.

The Cultural Framework, version 2, adds that the framework will help highlight those values that are unique or rare (through infrequent representation) in Canada's river heritage and therefore define them as having greater relative importance in setting nomination and management priorities.

Figure 5 on page 12 shows how the Soper River is represented by the Sub-Theme level in the new Cultural and Natural Heritage Frameworks.



10 Years of CHRS

A Review of Natural and Human Heritage Values and Recreational Opportunities

NATURAL HERITAGE

Geological History

The Heritage values identified in the Soper River nomination document present areas that are significant and/or unique in the nomination area. The geological history identifies the 1,750 million year old granite base as representative of the Canadian Shield - which is important in describing Canada as it represents almost 50% of Canada's land mass. Lapis lazuli deposits, mica and limestone



outcroppings are also significant in their rarity and concentration. Each of these values has remained unchanged in the ten years since the designation of the Soper River.

Fluvial/Glacial Features

The effects of the glaciers on this area of Baffin Island are evident through the depth of the valley below the plateau level above. The melting of the glaciers has left a deeply incised valley with sand deposits in terraced plateaus throughout the valley. These and the navigability of the river for fifty km inland from the coast have created a visual opportunity to appreciate the natural scenery. Waterfalls along the valley walls are still unimpeded and follow the same seasonal flow of meltwater to rain to winter freeze. None of these values have changed.

Biological Species, Populations and Habitats

There is no reason to believe that the general vegetation identified in the Soper River nomination document has suffered significant impact in the past ten years. In general, global warming could affect changes in the abundance and locations of some of the plant communities, and the altitude to which vegetation provides continuous coverage in the valley, but none of these changes have been observed. It should be noted however, that to date there is no formal monitoring system in place

to observe changes in vegetation.

Observations of the willow 'forests' that exist in two locations in the Soper Valley indicate that they have thrived in the past ten years. This indicates that there is either a climatic change that is beneficial to the willows, or that



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the negative impacts of wildlife and human presence have decreased. It should be reiterated that these observations were not scientific and may not bear out under a scientific process. Tests on the age of the existing willows were conducted by a dendrochronology lab, resulting in ages for two samples of thirty-seven and sixty-six years. Also noted were periods of drought and above average growth. Further tests may be undertaken on the willows in the context of their microclimatic environment.

Observations have revealed that the diversity of wildlife in the valley has changed and continues to go through natural fluctuations. Wolves were plentiful between 1997 and 1999, after which their presence was less noticeable. Polar bears, which according to traditional knowledge were not present in the valley have been observed, or evidence of their presence observed, on an annual basis in five of the last six years. In 2001 a group of four hikers was attacked by a polar bear while they slept at the Soper Falls campground. The bear was subsequently tracked but not found. The campers sustained serious injuries and were treated in hospital and medicated to Ottawa. The attack has resulted in increased training and awareness campaigns for park visitors, and additional attention to facility location and design. An interdisciplinary task force was set up by the Department of Sustainable Development to review all of the training and literature that dealt with polar bears and territorial parks. It is uncertain as to what led to the confrontation, whether it was a shift in human activity or in polar bear activity, but it has been recommended that resources be put into studying polar bear activity in the south Baffin. Initial management plans did not indicate that this would be necessary on the basis of traditional knowledge and scientific evidence at the time.

There have been no other observations with respect to the diversity of wildlife in the Soper River nomination area.

Natural Beauty

Fleming Hill, located at the south end of the Soper River just before it empties into Soper

Lake, is a popular hiking destination as it gives a panoramic view of the valley to the north and Soper Lake, the reversing falls, the ocean coastline and Big Island to the south. There is no expected or observed threat to the natural beauty of the Soper River Valley.

None of the other natural beauty values originally identified has sustained any change since the nomination of the river. There has been no noticeable change in the erosion rate of the steep, sharply defined valley walls that dominate the river corridor, nor has there been any change in the abundant waterfalls that follow the valley from the headwaters to the mouth.

The two main waterfalls, Soper Falls and Cascade Falls, are located at infrastructure facility locations. These facilities were designed to encourage visitors to stay longer. Both of the features seem to have maintained their natural beauty despite the increase in annual visitors and activity, though there has been some dissatisfaction expressed with the Katannilik Park sign, which was erected alongside Soper Falls. For others it offers a unique photo opportunity and frequently appears in vacation albums.

The reversing falls, located as the Soper Lake empties into the ocean, is now more accessible due to a new road built by the hamlet. The road enables residents to travel and camp at the reversing falls throughout the summer more easily. This has increased the traffic, but it does not disturb much of the rock and sand that fills the area, or the quality of the water since it is a mixture of salt and freshwater and is rarely used by campers. However, the boundary of both the Soper Heritage River Designated area and Katannilik Territorial Park is the waterline next to the falls. The hamlet has jurisdiction over the land down to the water. To date there have been no facilities developed for garbage and comfort, and this may impact both the land and water in the future.



HUMAN HERITAGE

Native History

The south Baffin coast offers abundant resources for the study of Pre-Dorset, Dorset and Thule cultures. Since the Soper River drains along this coast and is the only navigable river along the coast, it is natural that these resources would continue inland. The more lush vegetation of the valley (as compared to the coastline) hinders viewing of the artifacts and archeological sites, making it necessary for a trained eye to recognize the site. The previously identified sites in the valley have sustained some damage because it is difficult to monitor and enforce regulations regarding the disturbance of artifacts. A poster developed with the Inuit Heritage Trust and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will help to re-enforce the regulations prior to entering the valley and may mitigate the impacts of higher visitation. Planned onsite signage may again re-enforce the regulations, but at the same time will detract from the natural beauty of the valley, and draw attention to archeological sites that may have previously gone unnoticed.

A site along the south Baffin coastline is being re-evaluated for its possible connection to the Vikings, and to support a theory that there was long-term contact between the Dorset culture and the Norse. If supported this would add a new chapter to the Pre-European contact story of the Arctic, and potentially open a new segment for tourism development and the subsequently required interpretation. Patricia Sutherland, a well-known arctic archeologist is doing the research in conjunction with the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Twentieth Century Inuit History/Legends

An oral history project undertaken in 1993 resulted in a great wealth of information that was subsequently used in the interpretation panels of the Kimmirut Visitor Center. Interviews were conducted with elders and themes were drawn together for the cataloguing.

European Contact



The history of contact with Europeans has been interpreted in a number of ways in the development of the tourism industry in the past ten years. A section of the Visitor Center is devoted to the timeline of the area, and illustrates and details the post-contact era. This era is interpreted in a community brochure, which is free to all visitors and residents.

Sustained Contact

The role of the HBC, Anglican Church and RCMP are explored in the community brochure mentioned above. All three of these organizations are still present in the community. Their continued presence lends itself well to interpretation and a sense of history.

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Buildings associated with all three institutions are in jeopardy in various ways. The oldest of the HBC buildings is slated for removal, as it is a safety hazard in the community. Other HBC buildings that are still in use will remain. The Anglican Church does not have the funds to adequately repair and maintain the church built in 1942 on the original site, and its limited ability to house the growing population of the community is fueling suggestions for it to be replaced, if funding is ever located.

The RCMP post on the east side of the harbour is currently vacant and was selected as Inuit-Owned-Land. The loss of any of these buildings/sites would be detrimental to the Human History, Enduring Contact era of the community.

Lake
Harbour/Kimmirut



The community has maintained a predominantly Inuit population and the subsequent Inuit lifestyle. The growth of the community has been slowed by the availability of jobs in Iqaluit, and the economic forces have decreased the demand for Inuit carvings, once the mainstay of the local economy. The small size of the community has reinforced its charm to visitors and increased its desirability, especially since most visitors first travel through Iqaluit, which because of its size, does not lend itself as well to the hiking/walking traveler.

Traditional lifestyles continue to be the goal of most of the residents, and many use a wage income to support this. Elders who may have previously been unable to continue with traditional activities (since often neither the elders nor the lifestyle are self-supporting) can continue due to Elders Benefits resulting from the Land Claim.

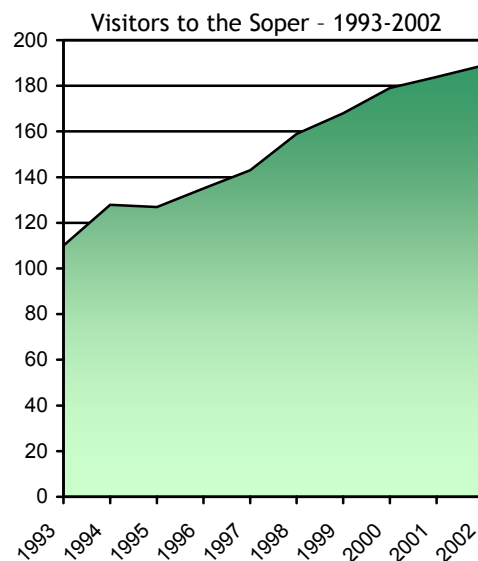
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation in the Soper Valley has been spearheaded by the development of Katannilik Park. The entire infrastructure in the valley

has been the result of the establishment of the park, which was in turn supported by the status of the Soper as a Canadian Heritage River. Marketing for the park has been accompanied by marketing the river as a Heritage River, and the management plan for the CHR was incorporated almost completely into the Katannilik Park Management Plan.

Visitation has increased steadily since the CHR Designation of the Soper River. Numbers increased from 110 in 1993 to 158 in 1998 - an average of 9% per year. Growth slowed after 1998 to an average of 6.3% per year. Benefits to the community increased significantly, and the trend is expected to continue as the local industry continues to mature.

Some of the outfitters that lead trips into the valley prefer to market their packages on the basis that it is a Heritage River, while others use the Park status as the marketing tool. Many of the tour operators are based in Iqaluit, while others are based outside of Nunavut in both Canada and the United States. Most if not all operators work with the community services to support them as much as possible. Benefits to the community increased through the years as well - from \$421 spent per person in 1993 (both directly and through their tour operator) to \$1465 per person in 1998.

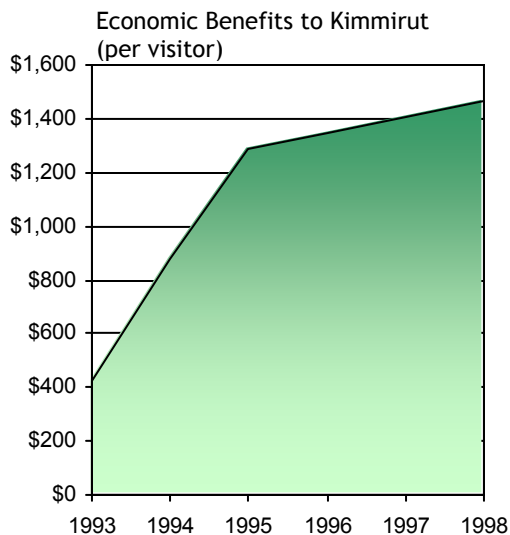


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The type of visitor has shifted from a government or employer-funded junket toward a more dedicated, self-funded hiker/canoer. There are also larger numbers of visitors coming from Iqaluit and traveling without outfitted groups. This may be due to the population of Iqaluit shifting toward a more educated, primarily government workforce with a larger disposable income, who still want to be in touch with the land.

Some training of Inuit guides from the community was undertaken. Outfitter training was offered in 1993 and in 2000, and training for interpretive/cultural guides in 1995. Job training opportunities have been provided through a Visitor Center program that paid young Inuit from Kimmirut to accompany guided groups through the valley. This program continued from year to year. Additional effort is required in this area if the residents of Kimmirut are to attain the maximum benefit.

The development of distinct activity areas has been slower than expected, but much of the infrastructure for the traveling visitor is in place. A proposed group facility designed to retain visitors in the park at the Livingstone River Activity area has not been completed. The right of first refusal clause in the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement has added a new dimension to this type of development and may take additional time to bring to fruition.



The Cascade Activity Area has a group shelter capable of sleeping twelve to sixteen persons for long periods of time. It is not as accessible as the Livingstone River area since the landing strip originally proposed for use was deemed to be too short for landings and take offs by the main airline servicing the area.

Signage for hiking trails has not been completed as a signage manual for all Nunavut parks was only completed recently. With these guidelines in place the signs may be installed in the next couple of years, if budgets permit.

Interpretation facilities in Kimmirut were completed in 1997 and have met with great reviews. They feature three main areas - the Arctic Oasis focusing on the Soper River, the Timeline of Change illustrating the changes in the local culture over the past 1000 years or so, and the Cultural History of the Kimmirut area. These facilities are staffed in the summer by interpretive officers from the community, and used year round as park management offices and for community meetings and gatherings.

Marketing and public information has progressed adequately to supply information to those who want and need it for their visits. In addition to the first video produced in 1993 highlighting the Soper as a Canadian Heritage River, two other productions were completed at that time as companion videos. The first focused on the history of Kimmirut through the eyes of Sandy Akavak, an elder who grew up in the present community and adjacent Soper Valley, and the second catalogued the historic photographs collected as part of the oral history project, and provided commentary on each one.

In 1997 a video was completed for use specifically in the Visitor Center video displays. It reflected the valley and the community from the perspective of the establishment of Katannilik Park. A fifth production was completed as part of the 'Great Canadian Parks' series, airing for the first time in February 1999. All of these videos are available for sale through the Visitor Center.

A merchandising program was undertaken in 1996 and has been quite successful. It includes



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t-shirts and sweatshirts of various designs, wind pants, fleece pants, fleece jackets, and caps with multiple designs. The merchandise was equally successful with local residents as well as tourists and other visitors from out of town.

The Park/CHR is included in the *Nunavut Handbook*, which was originally published in 1993 and revised in 1999. Numerous articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines throughout the country and internationally, often as the result of a familiarization or media

tour provided in conjunction with the park management. Two different guidebooks were produced, one for hikers following the Itijjagiq Trail from Iqaluit to Kimmirut, and the second for use by paddlers on the Soper. The latter detailed the locations of rocks, eddies, rapids, etc. and the best and safest way to enjoy the river experience. Both guidebooks and a *Planning Your Trip* brochure are available for sale through the Kimmirut Visitor Center and the Unikkaarvik Center in Iqaluit.



Events, Actions, Research & Studies

1992 - Water Measuring Station

A water measuring station was installed on the Soper River by Environment Canada in 1992, to monitor the water level of the river throughout the spring, summer and fall. Environment Canada made semiannual trips to the station to set the station up for the summer and to winterize it. Data relayed by satellite could be accessed daily by contacting Environment Canada. It was useful in planning maintenance trips and informing outfitters of conditions before entering the valley. The structure and its functions do not impede the river in any way.

The service was discontinued due to budget cuts in 2000, but the structure remains in the valley. Plans to remove the structure have been temporarily put on hold at the request of the Government of Nunavut, so that continued funding could be sought.

1993 - Establishment of Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve

Through the establishment of Katannilik Park in 1993 as a territorial government initiative, it became feasible to undertake the ambitious action plan outlined in the Soper River Management Plan. The Parks Division was able to justify budgetary requests for the capital and infrastructure on the basis that a larger, multi-phase initiative with broad-based community support was behind the request. Also, since the park would become territorial owned land, the government was comforted in knowing that its investment would not be subject to outside interests. The park and its infrastructure was part of the

community's Economic Development Strategy, which was consistent with the government's goals for community-based economic development. This further supported the Department of the Environment's required budgetary submissions.

1993 - Building Park Infrastructure

In 1993 a series of seven emergency shelters, a larger group shelter and a campground were built in Katannilik Park. They replaced two



older shelters that had already existed along the trail between Kimmirut and Iqaluit. Three of the emergency shelters, the group shelter and the campground are within the Soper River drainage basin and therefore within the CHR boundary.

The new infrastructure has met a need for increased safety along the corridor from Kimmirut to Iqaluit. Local residents frequently use the shelters in summer and winter, as do hunters and snowmobile 'commuters' to Iqaluit/Kimmirut. The larger cabin is used by

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local residents but more frequently by visitor groups. Visiting tour groups use the campground almost exclusively, although local residents must pass through it to launch their boats to go up the river.

1993 - 2002 Increased Visitation

Through the establishment of Katannilik Park and the accompanying marketing and infrastructure initiatives, the number of visitors to the Soper Valley has increased dramatically in the past ten years. In 1992, the first year visitation numbers were recorded, there were forty-three visitors to the park. By 2001 the number had increased to 135 visitors in a bimodal distribution - a spring season from February to May, and a summer season from June to September. These numbers do not include community users.

The type of visitor shifted over time from a soft-core tourist - one traveling on business or at someone else's expense - to a hardcore tourist - one who was paying for his own travel. There were also some variations in group versus



independent travelers though no trends could be discerned. Most visitations that are organized by tour operators are for canoe trips or hiking. Snowmobile travelers far outnumber either of these user groups, and they are mostly local people that do not use a tour operator.

1994 - 2003 Iqaluit-Kimmitut Snowmobile Race

In 1994 Katannilik Park management took steps to ensure that the annual race was run in a manner consistent with the mandate of the

Park and the CHR Management Plans. Working with volunteers, management was able to ensure that the race proceeded each year (there were previous years when the race was not held), and in addition to adhering to environmentally friendly practices, monitored the safety and legal aspects of the race. Recently Nunavut Productions has operated the race with park management participating in the planning and execution. Promotional pieces will be advertising the race on APTN, Canada's Aboriginal Television Network, and major sports networks in the fall and winter of 2003/2004.

1996 - 2002 Land Selection Meetings/Mining Interests & Exploration

Interest in the area ignited in 1996 with the release of the first of three new maps from the Geologic Survey of Canada (GSC) indicating potential for base metals and diamonds in the Meta Incognita Peninsula. In February of 1996, 1997 and 1998 the maps were released and each summer up to four different mineral exploration companies based their operations out of Kimmitut to explore the area. Some of that exploration was within the Soper Watershed. Throughout that time and in particular in 1996, helicopter traffic around the Soper River increased.

Despite the community not selecting the land along the Soper River for Inuit Owned Land, a clause in the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement reopened the discussion in 1998. Numerous community meetings were held to ascertain the community members' opinions on re-selecting some or all of the land, based on the renewed interest in the area by mining companies. The issue has gone unresolved for some time, as there was no established protocol to follow in the NCLA or the IIBA.

Embedded in the issue was the potential to develop a deposit of lapis lazuli within the valley and very close to the river itself. The Inuit of Kimmitut selected this small parcel of land with mineral rights, and it was and still is within their privilege to develop it. Some core samples of the area were extracted, but no plans have been announced to develop the site.



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1996 - 1997 Katannilik Park Center

An Interpretive Center was built in the community of Kimmirut to house the management and administration of the park and CHR. Interpretive displays highlight the historical and cultural significance of the Soper River. A park manager began in Kimmirut in 1993 but worked out of a different building until the Interpretive Center was completed in 1996.

1997 - 2001 Polar Bear Sightings/Attack

Traditional Knowledge of the Soper River indicated that polar bears were not present in the valley. However, in each of the 6 years from 1996 to 2001, there had been one bear sighting, or conclusive evidence of a bear along the Soper River. Until 2001 the encounters/evidence had not impacted the management of the area, but in August 2001 a polar bear attacked four campers staying at the Soper Falls campground. There were serious injuries sustained but no deaths. Despite a long search the bear was never found.

The management plan did not consider bear encounters adequately, but as a result of this attack registration procedures were revamped and more stringent preparedness sessions were incorporated into the procedures. This is one of several recommendations resulting from an independent review conducted after the attack. Another recommendation called for additional and more intensive training of Park and Visitor Center staff.

1998 - 2000 Science Camps

As a program for Kimmirut youth, science camps were successfully run in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2003. The camps introduced 30+ youth ranging in age from 10 to 18 to basic science techniques in biology, geology and hydrology. The camps were also very successful in acquainting the youth with the Soper River in the summer, as many of their ancestors would have known it. Many of the youth had only traveled through the valley in winter.

1999 - 2001 Willow Tree Research

The stand of willow trees that thrives in the Soper River Valley has attracted the attention of dendrochronologists and researchers. In 1999 two samples taken from the smaller stand of willows were dated at approximately thirty-seven and sixty-six years, despite a diameter of 2 - 2 ½ inches. Research on the willows is ongoing.

2000 - Overland Road and Deepwater Port

In 2000 information surfaced that the Government of Nunavut was exploring the potential for a road between Iqaluit and Kimmirut, to access the deepwater of Baffin Island's south coast. Though still very much in the feasibility stage, there have been community meetings to discuss the issue and gauge the attitude of Kimmirut residents.

The proposed road would likely cross over some portion of the Soper River - over the head waters if the road took a broad westerly route, or more easterly along the Katannilik Park boundary. Since both the major tributaries of the Soper, the Joy and Livingstone Rivers, enter the Soper from the west, any road would almost certainly impact the hydrology and potentially flora and fauna of the river. It would also further impact the river by increasing access to this currently remote area, and all of the subsequent impacts of that access. The residents of the community are interested in continuing with the feasibility study, and have suggested exploring building the road to the east of the Soper River to minimize any impact.

Recently, Tony Wachmann of SNC-Lavalin, the engineering company hired to complete a preliminary study on the subject submitted a draft report to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Government & Transportation. In it, three to five options were covered for the road, among them routes that cross the Soper River. Wachmann stated that the option of building through the Soper River corridor was not attractive since it was a park. There was no mention of areas of the Soper drainage basin that lie outside Katannilik Park.



Soper River Management

Overview

At present the lower Soper River is managed through the mandate of Katannilik Territorial Park. As territorial land it falls fully under the jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut to manage its resources. A management plan for Katannilik was prepared, incorporating all of the requirements of the Heritage River Management Plan prepared for the CHRS. The Department of Environment in the Government of Nunavut is responsible for this portion of the Soper through its Parks & Conservation Areas Section, headquartered in Iqaluit.

The Parks & Conservation Areas Division, through its Conservation Areas mandate, also manages the balance of the Soper drainage basin outside Katannilik Park. Direct authority still rests with the federal government through the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs. As stated in the Soper River Management Plan developed in 1992, effective management of the area would require 'extensive cooperation between a variety of agencies'. This continues today since the Government of Nunavut, Government of Canada (through the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Municipality of Kimmirut each have jurisdiction over some area or aspect of the Soper River drainage basin.

Resource management was a function identified in the management plan as having numerous activities to be completed. The quantity aspect of water monitoring was successfully undertaken soon after the plan was adopted, however, water quality testing has never been initiated. Identification of flora and fauna in the Soper Valley was

completed for the nomination document, however, neither flora nor fauna were completely inventoried, nor critical ecological sites documented.

A self-registration system was used for 10 years, and has recently been revamped to an assisted registration system to improve visitor monitoring. Only overnight visitors to the park are required to register and there is no registration fee. Day users and traditional users i.e. hunters and harvesters, are not required to formally register, but numbers are estimated and trends in use are observed. Brochures designed to provide visitor information were also developed early in the management program. A general brochure entitled '*Planning your Trip*' was available in 1993 along with a booklet detailing the hiking trail between Iqaluit and Kimmirut. Later, the guide was also available in Inuktitut. A companion guide dedicated to canoeists, rafters and kayakers was produced in 1996 in English and Inuktitut. Following the creation of Nunavut in 1999 a new video entitled *Safe & Sustainable Travel in Nunavut* and literature on



Polar Bear Safety and Firearms Legislation in Parks have been produced.

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Hiking trails were identified in the subsequent Katannilik Park Management Plan however many of these remain undeveloped. Trail signage was delayed pending the completion of a Nunavut Park Program, a Nunavut Parks Signage Program, and Nunavut Parks Facilities Program. The latter two have recently been completed, but the Nunavut Park Program remains a work-in-progress. It is expected that trail development will accelerate in the coming years.

Emergency cabins in the lower Soper Valley i.e. Katannilik Park, and along the overland trail were completed in 1993. A larger group facility was completed the same year, as well as a campground. All of these were identified in the Katannilik Management Plan. A cabin complex at Livingstone River has not been built to date. The delay is a result of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. It requires an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement before contracts for Park developments can be put to tender. The IIBA was only recently signed.

A park manager based in Kimmirut runs the day-to-day operations. In doing so he monitors activity in the Soper valley, enforces regulations, hires staff for seasonal positions, and liaises between community (local residents and municipal government) and territorial government in Iqaluit and elsewhere as it relates to the Soper River.

Under provisions of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, traditional activities are permitted in the all areas of the Nunavut Settlement Region, except those that are privately owned. Katannilik Park and the entire Soper River Basin are included under this provision and as such

continue to support traditional harvesting activity.

The Kimmirut Tourism Committee, influences the management of the park through consultation and advice to the local manager. The committee is chaired by an elected hamlet councilor and consists of 5 to 7 residents chosen by the chairperson and confirmed by the council. In this way the committee is able to represent the community at large and ensure that community interests are addressed in policies and regulations utilized in the management of both Katannilik Park and the Soper Heritage River.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

- Proposed Katannilik Territorial Park

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) was signed with the Federal Government in 1993 providing Inuit with ownership and decision-making rights of lands within Nunavut. In 1999, when Nunavut was officially declared a Territory, it brought about a change in jurisdiction and triggered the necessity of negotiating a park Inuit Impacts and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). In September 2000, formal negotiations for an IIBA began between the Government of Nunavut, represented by the Department of the Environment, Nunavut

Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the three Regional Inuit Organizations. NTI is the organization in charge of administering the Land Claims Agreement along with Inuit representatives from the three regions of Nunavut. In 2002 the territorial parks IIBA negotiations were completed and this has had



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great impact on the process for managing parks.

There are seventeen articles in the IIBA from the Land Claims Agreement that provide for the involvement of Inuit in the development and management of territorial parks and conservation areas. In this respect, the Agreement assures Inuit have access to park lands, and it establishes the foundation for a park system that will contribute to the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the territory.

Article 8 deals specifically with parks, both national and territorial and Article 9 deals with the conservation areas. Both of the articles outline provisions for significant Inuit participation in economic activities to build tourism expertise and support business development.

There are two articles that refer specifically to Katannilik Park, which was being established as a Territorial Park Reserve in 1993, at the same time as the Land Claims Agreement was being signed. Articles 8.3.10 and 8.3.11 are briefly described below.

As outlined in Article 8.3.10 of the NLCA, Inuit have the right of access to minerals within the Katannilik Park.

Article 8.3.10

“In the event that the proposed Katannilik Territorial Park is established prior to the date of the ratification of the Agreement so as to enclose the Inuit Owned Parcel LH-5/25k, such establishment shall in no

way limit the rights of access flowing to the Designated Inuit Organization (DIO), as a consequence of its ownership of the minerals, at common law and as recognized by the Agreement, but the rights of access are subject to any conditions in an IIBA respecting the protection of the environment and the integrity of the Park.”

Stone carving is an important aspect of the local economy in Nunavut and the people of Kimmirut have indicated an interest in being able to quarry carving stone within the boundary of Katannilik Park.

As indicated in the IIBA, the only way to change this right is through the Inuit Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IIBA), and only when protection of the environment or the integrity of the park are at risk. This would require a completely new round of negotiations and compensation if specific rights were lost.

The local residents are not the only ones interested in minerals in the south Baffin area.

Over the last few years, prospecting by the mineral industry has increased in the vicinity of Kimmirut and the park. The Territorial Parks Act, which was inherited from the Northwest Territories, permits mining activity within territorial parks, but it is also dependent on the park management plan. While quarry and mining interests exist as significant threats to the Soper Heritage River Watershed and Katannilik Park, neither the local carving industry nor the mineral industry have proceeded with extraction plans for development.



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Inuit right of access to Katannilik Park is described in Article 8.3.11, as follows, and refers to parcels of Inuit Owned Land within the park but outside the Soper Heritage River Watershed.

“In the event that the proposed Katannilik Territorial Park is not established prior to the date of ratification of the Agreement, the DIO shall have the right to acquire, as Inuit Owned Lands in the form described in Sub-section 19.2.1 (b), any or all of Inuit Lands Identification Parcels LH-25K-01, LH-25K01 (SS01) and LH-25N-01 as shown on the two maps titled Lands Identification Parcels on deposit with the registrar in exchange for an equal amount of Inuit Owned Lands within the South Baffin Land Use Region as defined in Schedule 19-3.”

The Claims Agreement neatly folds Heritage Rivers into the same category as Conservation Areas. Under Article 9, Heritage Rivers fall, by definition into the category of conservation areas and are subject to similar obligations and responsibilities as parks. Article 9 directly references Article 8. Discussions are underway for the development of an IIBA that will involve negotiations for each Heritage River individually. Or as an alternative, the negotiation of an “umbrella” IIBA will provide a basic negotiating framework for all Heritage Rivers with an appendix that describes the specific features and qualities unique to each river. It will be interesting to see if these negotiations bear a similarity to the Parks IIBA.

A new management process has come into existence with the finalization of the Parks IIBA. Article 8.4.11 and 8.4.13 outline the requirements for planning and management of parks through special committees.

Article 8.4.11

“A joint Inuit/Government parks planning and management committee

(“the Committee”) shall be established through an IIBA when requested either by Government or a DIO. The Committee shall consist of an equal number of members appointed by the appropriate DIO and the appropriate territorial or federal Minister responsible for Parks. There shall be separate committees for Territorial and National Parks.

Article 8.4.13

Management plans for Parks shall be developed within five years of the establishment of a Park or of the date of ratification of the Agreement, whichever is the later date, by the Canadian Parks Service for National Park and by the Territorial Government for Territorial Parks. Such plans shall be based on the recommendation of the Committee, where such a Committee is established, taking into account the recommendations of other interested persons or bodies. Upon review by the Committee, Park management plans shall be forwarded to the Minister for consideration and approval. Park management plans shall be reviewed and may be revised as provided in the plan.”

On successful completion of the IIBA, the Parks and Conservation Areas Section initiated the process for establishing these committees as outlined in the above articles. The Parks and Conservation Areas Division is in the process of creating the Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee, which represents all of Nunavut and brings together representatives from across the territory to deal with parks issues of common interest. In addition, Community Joint Planning and Management Committees will be set up in the near future, to provide a forum for the voice of the community to come forward and influence the management of parks in close proximity to their community.



Figure 6

Soper River Management Initiatives*

*source - 'Function', 'Action' and 'Time Frame' were derived from the Soper Heritage River Management Plan, pg 46-48.

Function	Action	Suggested Timeframe for Completion**	within suggested timeframe			current status		
			fully completed	partially completed	not completed	completed	ongoing activity	notes
Resource Management	• monitoring of visitor use & impacts	1992-94	✓				✓	
	• initiation of water quality & quantity surveys	1992-94		✓				
	• inventory of flora and fauna	1992-94		✓			✓	
	• identification of critical ecological sites/habitats	1992-94		✓			✓	
	• development of guidelines concerning siting, design, and materials for facilities and signs	1992-94			✓		✓	
	• conduct of archaeological surveys in advance of facility development	1992-94		✓			✓	1
	• identification of key points of interest along hiking routes	1994-97	✓					
Visitor Information	• production of informational brochure	1992-94	✓					
	• establishment of self-registration system	1994-97	✓				✓	2
Boating	• development of docks and boat storage	1994-97		✓			✓	
Hiking	• identification of routes and trail standards for trail network	1992-94			✓			
	• identification of stream crossings and systems to be used (bridges, cables, etc.)	1992-94		✓			✓	
	• identification of requirements for basic trail signs	1992-94			✓		✓	
	• layout and construction of trails as required	1994-97		✓			✓	3
	• design, production, and installation of trail signs	1994-97			✓		✓	
Camping	• identification of locations for designated campsites	1992-94		✓			✓	4
Winter Activities	• identification of off-peak events and recreational opportunities of interest to visitors	1992-94		✓			✓	

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Function	Action	Suggested Timeframe for Completion**	within suggested timeframe			current status		
			fully completed	partially completed	not completed	completed	ongoing activity	notes
Interpretation	• identification of requirements for interpretive trails, on-site signs	1992-94			✓		✓	
	• development/installation of interpretive trails, on-site signs	1994-97			✓		✓	
	• preparation of plan for Soper House Visitor Centre	1992-94	✓					5
	• implementation of Soper House plan	1994-97			✓	✓	✓	5
Operations	• preparation of annual operational plans	1992-94	✓				✓	
	• establishment of communications system for public safety	1994-97			✓	✓		6
Marketing	• development of marketing strategy	1992-94		✓			✓	7
	• identification of existing services and of potential tourism business opportunities consistent with management plan	1992-94		✓			✓	
	• implementation of marketing strategy	1994-97			✓	✓		7
Facility Development	• preparation of plan for emergency shelters at Soper Lake, Livingstone River, and Cascade Creek	1992-94		✓				8
	• installation of emergency shelters	1994-97		✓				
	• preparation of plan for Group Shelter, Cascade Creek	1994-97	✓					
	• preparation of plan for Cabin Complex. Livingstone River	1994-97		✓			✓	9
	• development of Group Shelter, Cascade Creek	1997-present	✓					
	• development of Cabin Complex, Livingstone River	1997-present			✓			9

**Timeframes were listed in the Soper Heritage River Management Plan according to the following criteria:

- S/T - Short Term - 1992/93 - 1993/94
- M/T - Medium Term - 1994/95 - 1996/97
- L/T - Long Term - 1997/98 and beyond

Completion status was measured against these criteria.

Notes

1. Archaeological surveys have only been completed in very limited areas and for specific projects. None of the area outside the Katannilik Park boundary has been surveyed for archeological purposes.



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2. A self-registration system was developed and successfully utilized from 1994 to 2001. At that time it was revamped into an assisted registration system to provide greater security for visitors.
3. To date no trail construction has been required.
4. A campsite was identified and facilities installed for users at Soper Falls. Similar comfort stations i.e. toilets, and waste facilities were built in the Cascade Creek area adjacent to the Group Shelter, however no tent platforms were installed. Other than these two locations no other areas have been formally designated for camping. Most visitors camp at or near the emergency shelters, although this was not the intent of those facilities and no comfort stations or tent platforms were built. A campground near the community of Kimmirut is currently being constructed.
5. Plans to use Soper House as the main interpretive facility in the community were set aside when the building's size limitations became evident. A new building has been constructed in the same vicinity and in the same style that better meets the interpretive objectives of the management plan. Soper House and the nearby warehouse are used by Nunavut Parks' staff and the department maintains the structures. In December 2003 Soper House was officially opened as an Art Gallery operated by the local Arts & Crafts Society.
6. Initially the communications plan proposed installing a radio in each of the seven emergency shelters in the Soper Valley and along the trail to Iqaluit. This number was reduced to three then two radios, and then the radios removed entirely due to their unreliability in sending and receiving signals. Technology advancements since 1992 have made it possible for visitors in the wilderness to carry satellite phones and establish contact at any time. These phones are becoming available to rent for this purpose, and are also becoming the preferred method of emergency communication.
7. Long-term and comprehensive marketing of the Soper Heritage River were somewhat impeded by the delay in signing an Inuit Impacts and Benefits Agreement (IIBA) with the Inuit of Nunavut. Marketing projects were approved on a year-by-year basis through the Department of Finance in the Government of Nunavut and through Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), the organization responsible for administering the land claim on behalf of the beneficiaries. The Katannilik Park IIBA was signed in 2001.
8. Shelters have been constructed along the Itijjagiq Trail and at two locations in the Soper Valley however, no emergency shelter was constructed at the Soper Falls campground area.
9. Concepts and drawings have been developed for the cabin complex at the Livingstone Falls area, however there have been delays in developing the projects for at least three reasons: a) the Nunavut Land Claim requires that Inuit have the right of first refusal on all major park related developments and contracts, b) the Government of Nunavut required a trend showing the economic benefits' justification for any capital expenditure on the project, and c) the Department of the Environment wanted justification that established the need and retained the resource integrity of this activity area before proceeding.



Community Consultation

Input from the major stakeholders, primarily residents of the community of Kimmirut, was collected through a variety of methods. During the course of the research phase, a community visit enabled meetings with individuals, groups, and the community as a whole.

Comments received through these meetings were largely positive. Support for the activities on the Soper River was usually linked to the



economic benefits that the community residents received. Shelters that were installed in the river valley were frequently used by residents either while hunting, or traveling to Iqaluit by snowmobile. Hunting resources did not seem to be affected by any of the activities, either traditional or tourism related. There were still plenty of caribou year-round, especially between January and April.

There is more spring activity in the valley as there are more travelers to and from Iqaluit. Often they are traveling through Kimmirut to some of the fishing areas along the coast. The annual snowmobile race also attracts participants from the community and increases the traffic in the valley for that day.

There was some concern that the water monitoring station was not collecting data anymore, as this was useful to tourists in the summer, and to park management. There was interest in having community residents operate the structure to reduce costs and re-activate the monitoring facility.

Often throughout the interviews residents would refer to Katannilik Park when our questions were about the Heritage River. Even when redirected to the Heritage River residents often indicated that they thought more frequently of Katannilik Park than the Heritage River. It seems that the Heritage River has been overshadowed by the park.

From the residents' perspective, funds are derived more from the park than from the CHRS status. Much of the infrastructure has been built by the Government of Nunavut based on the area's status as a park. In addition, most residents and visitors presently stay within the lower portion of the river valley - the part that is within the park boundary. The fact that over half of the watershed is beyond these limits is irrelevant. Few people in the community have visited the upper portion of the river; therefore it does not often come to mind. In a sense - out of sight, out of mind!

Some residents that are knowledgeable about the upper Soper River suggested involving the school and students in the cultural aspect of the Heritage River program.

Visitors are enthusiastic and enjoy their time in the scenic Soper River Valley. Kimmirut residents are proud the river attracts visitors and are glad to share this part of their land. The residents attribute much of the interest in the Soper to the Heritage River status.



Summary

The Ten-Year Monitoring Report on the Soper River has reviewed the significant events and changes within the watershed and assessed them in terms of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System natural and cultural values and recreational opportunities. The river has not suffered the effects of increased recreational activity from canoeing, kayaking, rafting and hiking expeditions, nor has the development of facilities such as emergency shelters or the use of two natural areas that air charter companies feel comfortable landing on compromised the river's integrity. Increased polar bear sightings, which were not initially considered a problem, is an issue that the Parks and Conservation Areas Division is addressing. It is one of the more significant issues to be dealt with by park management.

Future development, in terms of road and mineral activity, has not progressed to the point where threats to the river are evident; however ongoing consultation with authorities is essential to monitor this situation.

Increased consultation will occur with the community to ensure economic development through tourism continues to grow without any detrimental effects on the river.



Ten Year Monitoring Review of the Soper Heritage River



Recommendations

The Soper River and the other rivers in the watershed were designated as Canadian Heritage Rivers on the basis of their outstanding natural, cultural values and recreational opportunities. It is important to promote the care and protection of these qualities, to ensure the Soper River Watershed maintains its Heritage River designation and to maintain the quality of the river environment. To this end, limited wildlife and vegetation research has occurred within the watershed along with more extensive research on the economic benefits of tourism over the last ten years. The following recommendations are intended to continue these efforts and to promote new ones as part of the management program for the river.

Natural Values

To ensure natural values are maintained it is proposed that more research and monitoring be conducted within the Soper Heritage River Watershed. Specific emphasis needs to be placed on polar bears to understand their movement and to avoid conflicts with humans. Caribou are the dominant species within the watershed, and their numbers and condition need to be monitored in an effort to ensure the population numbers remain high. Other key indicator species such as lemmings and birds also need to be monitored on a continual base in order to establish good

baseline data that can be used to follow changes in the environment and wildlife.

It is recommended to continue research on vegetation within the willow communities, as this is a unique feature of this area. In addition, for comparative purposes, other plant species need to be monitored in other locations within the watershed to determine the effects of climate change. Because of the increase in visitation, it is



important to begin monitoring the main areas of visitor use, such as shoreline habitat along the Soper River and in the vicinity of the park shelters. Measures to mitigate problems can then be undertaken if habitat degradation is occurring due to over-use.

It is recommended that water monitoring continue within the Soper River Watershed. Data needs to be collected on the physical

Ten Year Monitoring Review of the Soper Heritage River

changes to the river as well as documenting the quality of the water to ensure the continued health of the river. New threats to the upper portions of the watershed have increased the need for baseline data on water quality. This data will also indicate changes beyond water quality, providing insight into the health of the valley ecosystem as a whole.

Cultural Values

Preliminary research over the past ten years has indicated there are significant cultural or archaeological values that require more research and documentation. Research of these cultural features, especially in the upper watershed is recommended.

Recreation Opportunities

Economic development opportunities related to tourism have been explored and implemented over the last ten years, the community has indicated great interest in continuing to develop tourism. A

continuation of the tourism economic initiative will benefit the community and will ensure the Soper River Watershed is maintained through community interest.

Heritage River Management

Management of the river needs to be implemented beginning with the upgrading of the Soper Heritage Management Plan. A review of the plan is required to incorporate changes that have occurred over the last ten years and to deal with new circumstances, such as the Kimmirut Road and Port Study that are being introduced as Nunavut continues to evolve. In addition, a group needs to be responsible for the river management not only within Katannilik Park but also within the Soper Heritage River Watershed. With the signing of the IIBA, new committees will be established in Nunavut. It is recommended that the new Community Joint Park and Management Committee include in its mandate the responsibility for overseeing the management of the Soper Heritage River Watershed.



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Appendix information is derived from the original Nomination Document, and the checklist used to report Annual Report.

Natural Heritage

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

- *“is an outstanding example of river environments as they are affected by major stages and processes in the earth’s evolutionary history which are represented in Canada. This would include rivers which best represent the major periods in geological time in which the surface of the earth underwent major changes and stream modification”*
- *“is an outstanding representation of significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological, and biological processes. As distinct from the periods of the earth’s development this focuses upon ongoing processes in the evolution and form of the river and its associated plant and animal communities”*
- *“contains along its course unique, rare or outstanding examples of natural phenomena, formations or features, or areas of exceptional natural beauty”*
- *“contains along its course habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals. This would include areas where outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance are found”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
1.1 Heritage Values		
1.1.1 Geological History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,740 million year old granite representative of Canadian Shield <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ world significant Lapis Lazuli site; Mica • limestone outcroppings 	
1.1.2 Fluvial/Glacial Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • longest and only navigable river along Baffin Island's southern coast • deep valley cutting 305m below plateau in middle reaches • clearly defined river terrace 20-30m above river 	



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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Glacial Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • close to center of Wisconsin Glaciation 8,300 yrs. B.P. • glacial drift in upper watershed <p>Hydrology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incised channels lower reaches, poorly defined upper reaches • Snowmelt (June), Rain (July/August 4.7cm/yr) limited canoe season • frequent, spectacular waterfalls & rapids, major by Arctic standards <p>Soper Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal range of Hudson Strait among the highest in the world (10.6m) • 3 channels from Soper Lake, all reversing falls • - "meromictic" lake, mix of salt & fresh water. 	
1.1.3 Biological Species, Populations & Habitats	<p>Vegetation representative of Canadian Eastern Arctic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four distinct plant communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dwarf shrub/heath tundra ○ grasslands tundra ○ bedrock/hill summit ○ snowpatch 	



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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Vegetation uniquely lush to 245 m and continuous to 305 m, perhaps due to 3 - 4 month frost free growing season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • willow bushes to 3.6 m (1931, 1981) • abundant/diverse wildflowers in July/August • large berries 	<p>1999 - samples of the willows were sent to a dendrochronology lab in Edmonton where they were dated. Two samples measuring approximately 2 inches and 3 inches in diameter were aged at 37 and 66 years. Additional interest has been shown in the willow growths by University of Guelph and the University of Pennsylvania. Preliminary reports have been done on the willows, and reconnaissance trips to further assess the potential for a large scale study were made into the Soper Valley on foot and by plane in summer 2001.</p>



Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Wildlife diversity and concentrations: Concentrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Baffin Caribou Herd, collared/brown lemming, Arctic hare, fox, wolf & ptarmigan • Peregrine falcons nesting area 	<p>2001 - a dead peregrine falcon was found north of the nesting area. It was not determined if the falcon was one of the nesting pair. Since peregrines are known to be sensitive to disturbances in their nesting areas, increased visitation is seen to be somewhat of a threat to this species in the Soper Valley.</p> <p>2001 - a polar bear attacked four campers at Soper Falls. The bear was never caught. Originally Polar Bears were not thought to frequent the Soper Valley, between 1997 and 2001 a bear or evidence of a bear was seen each year. The question remains as to whether there are more bears than before, or more people to see and report them.</p>
	<p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major ptarmigan habitat • snowbunting, Lapland longspur, sandpipers, horned lark, plover, pipet, Canada Goose, red-breasted merganser, red-throated/common loon, 	
	<p>Fish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arctic Char, Greenland Cod in Soper Lake 	

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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
1.1.4 Natural Beauty	<p>Dominant Landmarks - Mt. Joy, Mt. Moore, Fleming Hill</p> <p>Diverse Arctic Landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky coastline, sandbars, broad lower valley, incised upper valley, numerous waterfalls/rapids, ice scoured uplands <p>Viewscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate relief throughout for scenic vistas • Falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livingstone River ○ Cascade Creek ○ Soper and Joy Rivers • Soper River mouth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Channels ○ Limestone chutes ○ Reversing falls ○ Tidal Relief 	



Human Heritage

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

- *“Is of outstanding importance owing to its influence, over a period of time, on the historic development of Canada through a major impact upon the region in which it is located or beyond; this would include its role in such significant historical themes as native people, settlement patters and transportation”*
- *“Is strongly associated with persons, events, movements, achievements, ideas or beliefs of Canadian significance”*
- *“Contains historical or archeological structures, works or sites which are unique, rare or of great antiquity”*
- *“Contains outstanding examples of concentrations of historical or archeological structures, works or sites which are representative of major themes in Canadian history.”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
1.2 Human Heritage Values		
1.2.1 Native History	Ancestral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Dorset/Dorset/Thule sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4000 years old ○ inland & coastal 	2002 - re-surveys a Dorset and Pre-Dorset site on the coast (known as the Nanook site) have introduce the theory that it may have been the site of a longterm Viking camp. This would add addition depth to the pre-European contact history of the area, and require additional interpretation. Patricia Sutherland, a well-known arctic archeologist is doing the research in conjunction with the Canadian Museum of Civilization

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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
1.2.2 Twentieth Century Inuit History/Legends	Travel Corridors in the Soper River Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dog sled/snowmobile route follows the valley • corridor connects Kimmirut to central Baffin Island • second route veers west to Markham Bay outpost sites Traditional settlements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inland and coastal sites • Oral history and traditions 	1993 - 2003 - An annual snowmobile race through the Soper River Valley may have had an impact on the conservation of the area. The involvement of Park Management in planning and operation of the Race ensures that Management Plan objectives are met.
1.2.3 European Contact	Hudson’s Bay Company Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supply ship and local development Whaling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Whaler “SS Active” Mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mica • Graphite • Lapis lazuli 	
1.2.4 Enduring White contact	Anglican Mission HBC - second post in the eastern arctic RCMP Federal Government Employees i.e. Dewey Soper	
1.2.5 Lake Harbour/Kimmirut	Predominantly Inuit population Traditional lifestyle Historic buildings	The population of the community of Kimmirut continues to be 90% Inuit. Traditional lifestyles are continuing with the availability of Elders Benefits from the land claim agreement. As traditional activities generally require cash purchases to sustain them, many elders were not able to continue due to a lack of income or pension.

Recreational Values

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

- *“possess an appropriate combination of recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide a capability for an outstanding recreational experience:*
 - *recreational opportunities include such activities as boating, hiking, swimming, camping, wildlife viewing, and human heritage appreciation;*
 - *natural values include natural visual aesthetics, that is, diversity and quality of scenic beauty and physical essentials, such as sufficient flow, navigability , rapids, accessibility and suitable shoreline”*
- *“be capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss or impact on its natural, historical or aesthetic values”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
1.3 Recreational Values		
	<p>Activities listed in nomination documents as areas for potential development: River Touring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation • 50 km canoe/kayak/raft trips • abundant camping spots along the river terraces • extensive local use 	<p>Visitation to the Soper River has increased steadily since 1992 - from approximately 47 visitors to over 160 in 2001. The types of visitors have shifted from those paid to travel for work, to those who were paying for their own expenses for a vacation. Fewer government/corporate visitors entered the Soper Valley. Benefits that the community has derived from each visitor has also increased steadily. The bulk of the visitors to the Soper River valley enter by charter plane to the landing strip at Mt. Joy, and canoe down to Kimmirut. Some are chartering in and hiking out, while some of the hikers will enter the valley from the south, hike for a few days, then return to Kimmirut to catch a plane out. Day trips have been provided by new operators since 2002 increasing the number of day users.</p>

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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Fishing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greenland cod • arctic char <p>Wildlife Viewing, Nature Study & Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abundant and diverse opportunities 	<p>Ice fishing for cod in the Soper Lake is an annual activity for residents and school children from Kimmirut. It is also frequently used to entertain VIP's on trips to the community. Char fishing is seasonal at the reversing falls and the Soper Falls.</p> <p>Much of the visitor use of the Soper River is combined with wildlife viewing and nature study. Artists, photographers and film makers have traveled into the Valley, both as an secondary activity, and as a primary activity.</p>
	<p>Heritage Appreciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inuit culture • Historic sites in the valley/along coast <p>Guided Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 trained guides/1 outfitter in Kimmirut, few in Iqaluit • motorized canoe tour upstream from Kimmirut • boat tours of the Soper River • coastal boating for wildlife viewing and historic sites • visits to mining and soapstone quarries 	<p>There has been some success recently with having Inuit guides accompany some of the canoeing trips into the Valley. The main duty of these guides is to provide cultural interpretation. Science Camps held in the valley have assisted in the retention of Traditional Knowledge.</p> <p>Recreational canoeing was not a traditional activity so there was a skill shortage in a tourism activity that held a great deal of potential. Some skills are being developed to complement the abundant guiding skills that exist. The community has chosen to use the Hunters and Trappers Organization as the primary outfitter, who then hires qualified guides. Ocean trips are very popular with visitors and increase the economic benefit to the community.</p>

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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	Hiking in the Valley and uplands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife viewing, nature study, exploration 	Some hikers travel from Iqaluit through the uplands while others make side trips from the valley.
	Winter Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross country skiing (spectacular views, low level difficulty) • travel by dog team and snowmobile over Arctic landscape 	Cross country skiing has proven to require a fairly high skill level but is undertaken by a few. Dog team trips are also popular, but snowmobile traffic between Kimmirut and Iqaluit has increased dramatically. The annual snowmobile race has become a highly anticipated and attended event.
	Development of Significant Visitor Use Activity Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area surrounding Soper Lake • Livingstone Falls and surrounding area • Area from Mt. Joy to Cascade Creek 	The most developed area to date is the Soper Lake. A Campground at the Soper Fall is a few feet from Soper Lake and is used by visitors and residents since the Falls is a natural travel route. A road built to the reversing falls has opened that areas to recreation and camping by local residents. The Cascade Creek area is the location of a large group cabin capable of sleeping 12-16 people. It is frequently used by canoe groups and sometimes hikers. The Livingstone Falls area has not been developed. It has the best access since one of the landing strips is located there, but a proposed group lodge facility has not yet materialized. There has been some discussion around relocating the group shelter to the Livingstone Falls site since it has better access.



Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Interpretation and Outdoor Activity Programs and Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unikkaarvik Center in Iqaluit • Kimmirut Visitor Center • Archeological Sites • Interpretation of European Influences • Inuit and ancestral cultures & lifestyles • Other 	<p>Unikkaarvik Center features the Soper River/Katannilik Park map and video, and is also the location for registering to enter the Park. Staff at the Visitor Center are trained to orient groups and individuals before they start out.</p> <p>Kimmirut Visitor Center was completed in 1997 and features a large map with both the Katannilik Park boundary and the CHRS boundary on it. It is a second registration center as well as de-registrations.</p>
	<p>Public Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive Publications • Regional Tourism Association • Publications 	<p>Two guide books have been published - one focusing on the Ittijagiaq Trail from Iqaluit, and the second devoted to the river travel. The Park was included as a destination in the Nunavut Handbook, published originally in 1993 and revised and updated in 1999. An online version provides the same information. The Nunavut Parks website provides a great deal of information and links to the Canadian Heritage Rivers site.</p>
	<p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily jet service to Iqaluit from Montreal/Ottawa • Charter air service from Iqaluit • Two landing sites in the Valley • From Kimmirut - foot/boat/snowmobile access to the river • Itijjagiaq trail overland from Iqaluit 	<p>A new Inuit owned company, Unaalik Air, has purchased all of the Twin Otter aircraft from First Air and operates the scheduled and charter flights in and out of Kimmirut and the Soper Valley. New outfitting companies have also been established that hire Unaalik to charter their clients in and out of the Valley.</p>

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Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
	<p>Tourism, Visitor Services, Public & Private Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full service center in Iqaluit - regional center • Kimmirut <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local boat and air charters • Trained guides and outfitters • Two retail outlets • Basic supplies available • World class Inuit art • Accommodation - Kimik Co-op Hotel • Proposed lodge - Soper Lake 	<p>With the designation of Iqaluit as the capital of Nunavut the infrastructure there has increased and been upgraded. It still enjoys twice daily flights to the south, and frequent flights to Rankin Inlet/Yellowknife. Kimmirut has developed a home-stay program to handle the tourism industry. It has proven to be very successful and the preferred accommodation in the community. The proposed lodge on Soper Lake did not materialize.</p>

Natural Integrity Values

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

- *“rivers should not have any man-made impoundments within the nominated section”*
- *“all key elements and ecosystem components must be unaffected by impoundments located outside the nominated section”*
- *“natural values for which the river is nominated must not be created by impoundments”*
- *“the river’s outstanding natural heritage features and key elements of ecosystems must be unimpaired by human land uses”*
- *“the river’s water must be uncontaminated to the extent that its natural aquatic system is intact”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
2.1 Natural Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no man made impoundments when nominated • no upstream or downstream impoundments at nomination • hunting and trapping were the only uses when nominated • intact natural aquatic ecosystem 	

Historical Integrity

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

- *“in every case consideration should be given to the state of preservation of the river environment relative to its visual appearance during the historic period in which the waterway is considered to be of outstanding importance”*
 - *“most if its regime should have the same visual appearance as it had during the period of the river’s historical importance; and”*
 - *“most of the artifacts comprising the values for which the river is nominated must be unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses”*
- *“neighbouring land uses must not seriously affect the historical experience offered by the river environment”*
- *“the biophysical quality of the water must be suitable for non-contact recreation”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
2.2 Historical Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general appearance as compared to historical/natural eras • historical values not affected by impoundments • minimal human impact on river’s artifacts/structures from planned river uses • water suitable for heritage appreciation in non ‘water-contact’ activities 	

Recreational Integrity

No statement in the Nomination document addressing Recreational Integrity of the Soper River

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
2.3 Recreational Integrity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• river can support fairly intense recreational use; insignificant impact to date• shoreline uses have minimal impact: hunting/trapping are the only land-based use• water quality suitable for contact recreation	

General River Integrity

Nomination Statements as taken from the Soper River Nomination Document:

“a river and its immediate environment must meet general integrity guidelines for designation to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System”

- *“they should be of sufficient size and contain all or most of the key inter-related and inter-dependent elements(elements are defined as resources or groupings or resources identified as having values essential to the nomination of a river) to demonstrate the key aspects of the processes, features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding value”*
- *“they should contain those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the species, features or objects to be protected”*
- *“the quality of the water should be such as to provide for the continuity and/or improvement of the resource upon which ‘value’ to the system has been determined”*

Criteria	Baseline Condition of Values in 1992	Changes from Nomination, Threats to Nomination Values (if any) and Measures taken to Mitigate Impact
2.4 General Integrity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecosystem - entire watershed • CHRS status and Nunavut Land Claim compatible • Land selections for land claim based on CHRS and Park establishment • Katannilik Territorial Park established for additional protection • No major development planned, pristine wilderness the goal • Water quality suitable for drinking • Establishment of other water quality monitoring and goals 	<p>Newly released maps from the Geologic Survey of Canada have created interest in the area by mining companies. Some exploration has been done, but no proposals to develop sites have been submitted. A road between Kimmirut and Iqaluit is being considered, which would potentially cross some parts of the Soper River watershed. There are no immediate indications that this road will be built, but the Parks and Conservation Areas Section is monitoring the situation.</p>



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Kuujuaq/Soper, Kimmirut - a Canadian Heritage River Community Visit Discussion Sheet

When did the Kuujuaq become part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System?

In 1991, the community of Kimmirut approved the Territorial Government's recommendation to nominate the Kuujuaq as a Canadian Heritage River. And the document was signed by the Mayor of Kimmirut, and representatives from the Territorial and Federal Government.

What is the Canadian Heritage Rivers System?

The Federal Government's Department of Heritage, is part of Parks Canada. They are responsible for designating special rivers in Canada. In Nunavut there are three rivers that are part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System: the Kazan, Thelon, and the Kuujuaq and the Coppermine River is in the process of being nominated.

Why is the Kuujuaq a Canadian Heritage River?

The Kuujuaq has been recognized by the Federal and Territorial Governments as a special river because of the natural environment, the cultural heritage and the recreational opportunities of the river.

The Kuujuaq is the first river in the eastern arctic to be recognized, some of the reasons for designation of the river are:

- It is a beautiful place and represents the land of south Baffin Island
- The many special qualities: the land, the natural environment, the mountains, the willows, the river, the waterfalls and the lake and wildlife, the caribou, char, ptarmigan and other animals.
- The Inuit heritage from long ago and today with the river valley being an important dog team and skidoo route
- The importance of the river to Inuit life because it is a place to hunt, fish, trap, travel and camp
- The Kuujuaq is a great place for wilderness recreation for the community of Kimmirut and for tourists - it is a great place for people to go boating, kayaking, canoeing, camps, hiking.



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What does it mean for the Kuujuaq River to be part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System?

1. Special Recognition

The Kuujuaq has been recognized by the Federal Government as a special place in Nunavut - and information about the river appears in government brochures (Nunavut Handbook), newspapers and travel magazines (Up Here) on the TV (Great Rivers of Canada) and on the internet. People all over Canada and the world learn about the river.

This presents great opportunities for promoting tourism and economic development in the community. Guide training, outfitting, equipment rentals, home stays, arts and craft - many activities for people to develop in the community that are related to the river.

2. Protection and Preservation of the Kujjuaq River

There is a management plan that was written involving the community in the steps to take care of the river. The community can continue to have a voice in the management of the river through the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Annual Reports prepared by the Department of Sustainable Development. A committee in Kimmirut can make concerns and interests known about development and use of the river and work with the Territorial Government to find solutions to these problems.

3. Monitoring the River

As part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program to care for the land and the river, the community of Kimmirut can become involved in monitoring the river through such activities as:

- Water quality monitoring
- Water measuring station
- Wildlife and fish research e.g. on char, cod, caribou, birds

Participating in the research and monitoring could lead to career opportunities.

4. Who is the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is administered by Heritage Canada. Heritage Canada does not directly provide funds the Heritage River. The Heritage River designation gives the river special status that can help when applying to other agencies for funds to manage and protect the river. E.g Environment Canada, DIAND,

The Department of Sustainable Development, under the Conservation Areas, Parks and Tourism Division is the key contact with Canadian Heritage Rivers.



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Soper Heritage River – Ten Year Review Kimmirut Community Visit Report - October 21 to 25, 2002

During phase two of the project, the study team visited Kimmirut to conduct community consultation to inform the community of the purpose of the Ten-Year Monitoring Review and to record their interests, concerns and recommendations on management of the Soper Heritage River Program.

During the consultations information was collected in a variety of ways, including an Open House, Focus Groups and meetings with individuals.

Newsletter

- A Newsletter was distributed containing information on the purpose of the project and served to announce the project and to invite to participation in the various meetings and interviews that were held in the community.

Open House

- Early in the visit an Open House was held to introduce the project to the community. It was an opportunity to ask people about the role the Soper Heritage River plays in their lives, as well as to record information on changes that have occurred over the past ten years and the new directions the communities wishes to see put in place to achieve the Heritage Rivers goals and objectives.

Radio Program

- One evening we participated in the community radio program to describe purpose of the Soper Heritage River Ten-Year Review and to encourage people to respond to a series of prepared questions on the Soper Heritage River.

Focus Groups

- Community organizations were invited to participate in focus groups to express their thoughts on the Soper Heritage River. These meetings were organized to address the issues and interests of the community and to obtain



Ten Year Monitoring Review of the Soper Heritage River

Sandy Akavak

Benefits of the Heritage River are:

- Visitor centre, monitoring process, protection of the natural environment, tourism, tourists buying carvings, chance to interact with tourists and to learn about other
- Gives more cultural support to Inuit – to emphasize culture – so both local people and visitors have opportunities to learn about culture.-
- Supports community group that makes cultural tools and activities – have traditional demonstrations – making tools and clothing – an opportunity to both learn and to teach from each other
- Wants to see a cultural program developed – from a local perspective there is a lack of local cultural activity – older people may not recognize the importance of their contribution – even story telling – gives elders a sense of involvement and makes them enthused about their interests. (traditional canvas tent making – traditional clothing project) – funds to support Inuit – cultural heritage CHRS open doors for funding opportunities.
- Sandy does not see any change in the river – has not heard bad comments about the river
- Sandy's ancestral home is in the upper watershed area beyond the park boundary – blinds and Inushuit are in this area – good area for hunting but now people from Kikkirut mostly stay in the river valley as there is lots of wildlife there – this will change as animals move and people hunt continually in the area- Sandy's family traditionally lived in this area hunting caribou – walked through the valley and set up camp in the upper area near the lakes – important caribou hunting area (extensive cultural inventory of the upper area is required now to record life of the early Inuit in this area – very important consider the possible road developments that may occur here) – Sandy indicated that he would like to preserve and protect cultural resources in this area. – get school kids involved in cultural aspect of Heritage River program – Sandy's family ties to people in Cape Dorset – in summer would hike to Grinnel lake to hunt caribou – all along the coast there are campsites
- Billy Akavak has taped interviews of Sandy's traditional knowledge - there is a library – video library of stories of the area –
- Other stories - Long cave where person was grabbed by a polar bear - - old campsites, Thule sites, kayak stands



Ten Year Monitoring Review of the Soper Heritage River

- Good idea to have people know about the river valley
- Protect the berries

Tourism Committee

- Organizes cultural demonstrations – pay for guide, interpreters – buy sewing and carvings – sense of pride in teaching cultural activities to the tourists.
- Home stay – hostess tourism: stay – sometimes there are language barrier problems
- Would like to see fund put in place for interpretive research in the community and in the park and funding for guide instruction training programs – funding source may be Culture Language Elders and Youth
- Tourism is a very part-time business because of short season – brings in a little extra money
- Hostel would provide local jobs and business
- Advertising brings in tourists – need facilities and services to respond to the needs
- HTO may have numbers on the tourists traveling on the river – need to determine if the numbers of tourists are increasing – park advisory committee can notify government if there are too many tourists coming to town – so they can deal with this situation (facilities and services)
- Scheduling conflicts – when tourists arrive for home-stay the local people often go out on the land are unwilling to stay to face their obligations – unwilling to change their life for the tourist.
- Building a lodge at Livingston Falls is one potential solution

Martha HTO

- General approval of the management and condition of the river - - see the wildlife act as a guardian of the river –
- Understands that without community support the Heritage River Designation can be removed
- 50-60 tourist visit the community during july/aug – HTO organizes traditional dinners, slide show, boat trip beyond Kimmirut – each year the numbers increase
- Metsie – elder- have monthly get togethers
- Qia contacts Mathew Akavak, Salamonie Shiu
- Soper Lake – Martha suggests mini toilets for this location - people like to camp here – is it within an easy hiking distance
- Campground being built near town – tourists can leave bags at the airport



Open House

- The Open House was attended by a number of members of the Tourism Committee.
- About fifteen to twenty people visited the open house on Wednesday afternoon – a number of them work in tourism and outfitting –
- Indicated that the tourism outfitters and guides (Wanapitei) – hired local guides to participate in the summer river program
- Home stays are one of the direct benefits of the guided and independent river travelers and hikers that visit the Soper Valley – and can be a problem when the operators do not fulfill their obligations to the tourists
- Skidoo groups from Iqaluit – the Iqaluit Skidoo Club have 2 to 3 trips per season to Kimmirut
- Spring snow mobile race from Iqaluit
- Baffin Correction Centre has camps in the area and uses the shelters as it travels through the park.
- Water Station – no one has monitored the water station for three years as Environment Canada does not have funding.
- Wants to ensure there is a way to maintain the quality of the river (not just the water) but the river environment is important
- The tourism committee members indicated they wanted the Canadian Heritage Rivers status to remain as it will help to protect the area from being ruined.
- Kayaks – (people from Iqaluit chop down the willows to use the branches for making kayaks ??? not quite certain about the extent or timing of this activity.
- Tourism Committee)
- Support the CHRS program and use of the river for tourism
- Suggest that no littering signs be placed at the cabins
- Cabins are a great benefit for people traveling between Iqaluit and Kimmirut – people depend on the shelters rather than having to take care of themselves
- Shelters can freeze up from heat and condensation
- Water monitoring is not operating as the Water Survey of Canada has run out of funding
- Want to see the community working together to take care of the river and make certain the community is aware of the importance of the river to tourism – want to be working together from within the community
- Rea – taking groups of tourists down the river –helps him see and understand the tourists fascination with the beauty of the river valley – gives him pride that they can enjoy this area – was a good experience –was a friendly place and it was to good to see it is a place people want to visit



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information related to the objectives of the Heritage River Review. We meet with the Hunters and Trappers Organization, the Elders groups, Nunavut Tourism members/outfitters and guides, Hamlet of Kimmirut Economic Development Officer, senior administrative offices and Mayor and Hamlet Council.

Joe Arlooktoo Mayor

- Indicated that the Soper River and Katannilik Territorial Park helped promote tourism in Kimmirut
- The group shelter was used continuously by the people in the community – an asset to camping activities
- Indicated the group shelter could be heated for travelers and hunters to use
- Last September QIA had conducted community consultations on tourism – working with the CLARC – Martha Padlak, HTO; Mikijuk, QIA; Joe Arlooktoo, Mayor; Simione Akpik, elders
- Changes to the river are specifically the lower water levels in the summer due to lack of rain. – wonders why the tourists use the river in July when the levels are low – as temperatures cool, in the fall and approach freezing water levels rise – (rainy period)
- There are no great changes – lots of caribou – people go hunting all year round – Jan. to Apr. caribou hunting
- Rivers water quality is the best water around – people get ice from the river for their tea
- Changes in numbers of tourists – more spring snow mobile activity – travelers to Iqaluit – also there is the annual snow mobile race which is attracting participants from other communities
- More people from Iqaluit go fishing in the South Kimmirut area – hamlet tries to get people to keep it clean
- The community is not involved with the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program – other than through the tourism committee – talk to tourism committee chair.
- Wants to see more tourism developed from the community managed by people from the community
- The mayor did not indicate any concerns about proposed developments affecting the community or the river (at this point the Kimmirut Road and Port Study was only announced and had not proposed any routes) – in general people are curious and open to hearing about the project.



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May 9, 2003

Kimmirut-Iqaluit road would avoid Katannalik

Consultant says Soper River valley "not a very attractive route"

JIM BELL

A proposed Kimmirut-Iqaluit road would not pass through Katannalik territorial park, an engineering consultant working for the Nunavut government said last week.

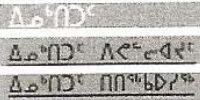
"It's not a very attractive route because it is a park. It's one of the restrictions on any road route in that area," Tony Wachmann of SNC-Lavalin said in an interview.

The department of community government and transportation contracted Wachmann's firm to produce a preliminary study looking into the possibility of a road linking Iqaluit to a deep-water port that would be built at Kimmirut.

Last month, the City of Iqaluit's economic development committee wrote a blistering letter to Wachmann, saying they're adamantly opposed to an Iqaluit-Kimmirut road – partly in the belief that such a road would destroy Katannalik Park.

The park's principle feature is the sheltered Soper

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River valley. Governments and tourism operators have promoted it as an adventure travel destination for more than 10 years.

Classifieds

Wachmann, however, says that any road route would avoid Katannalik.

Poll

He did say, though, that his study looks at "three or four or five potential different routes." The Iqaluit end would connect with existing roads near the Iqaluit airport.

Do abused and neglected children receive enough protection in Nunavut and Nunavik?

He added that Lavalin's document is not a "feasibility" study.

Yes

"We call it a conceptual scoping study," Wachmann said. "It's to give an idea of the potential of the project. It's not an in-depth review. It's based on existing information."

No

That includes aerial photographs, topographic maps and satellite imagery, Wachmann said.

Vote

But it will include a rough estimate of the cost.

This online poll is provided solely for the entertainment of our readers. It reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate and its results do not necessarily represent the opinions of the public as a whole or the publishers and staff of

Although Wachmann didn't offer any dollar figures, it's expected that an Iqaluit-Kimmirut road would cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The length of such a road would be about 160 kilometres, but would vary depending on the route.

Wachmann said Lavalin's study, still in draft form, has been submitted to the GN.

After GN bureaucrats fine-tune that work, it will be up to Peter Kilabuk, CG&T's new minister, to decide when and how to release the document.

Nunatsiaq News.

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Contacts & Methodology

Information for this report came in two forms. The background information that provided a sense of context for the report was available from a variety of printed sources. These were important in explaining the CHR System and its role, and the changes that have taken place within that organization in the last 10 years.

Personal contacts made with residents of Kimmirut were essential in collecting community level observations and perceptions of a decade Heritage River status. Contact was made in a variety of ways over the course of the data collection:

- Individual interviews were conducted with specific residents and a special effort was made to contact them. These were generally people who had expressed opinions during the nomination process of the Soper River and/or who held positions in the community responsible for some aspect related to the Soper as a Heritage River.
- Newsletter, outlining the key points of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System and providing questions to stimulate discussion for the Ten-Year Monitoring Review
- Group consultations were held with Boards or Committees who were considered stakeholders in the Heritage Rivers status.
- Open House was held in the Visitor Center in the afternoon and evening to solicit opinions and feedback from interested residents.
- Local Phone-in Radio Show held over 3 hours in the evening invited residents to express opinions on the Heritage River status and convey any concerns they might have.

Kimmirut Residents:

Joe Arlooktoo
Moonie Lyta
Martha Lyta
Mathew Tikivik
Anugakuluk Qimirpik
Martha Qimirpik
Itee Temela
Quju Padluq
Pitsiula Michael
Pea Michael
Nakashuk Michael
Nikki Michael

Mialia Lyta
Oodluriak Temela
Kilabuk Korgak
Neevee Korgak
Tommy Akavak
Donny Pitsiulak
Paul Manning
Jeannie Padluq
Ottokie Aningmiuq
Jude Ortiz
Kyra Fisher
Namonai Ikkidluak



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Akulujuk Judea
Iola Ikkidluak
Jamesie Kootoo

Billy Akavak
Gela Pitsiulak

Additional Contacts

Various Guides and Outfitters

Matty McNair - Northwinds Arctic Adventures

Salamonie Shoo Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Qikiqtalliq Inuit Association

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Inuit Heritage Trust

Doug Stenton, Department of Culture Language Elders and Youth

Department of Communities, Government and Transportation

Tony Wachmann SCN Lavalin

Canadian Water Services

Geoscience Canada



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