CANOEING AND KAYAKING IN SASKATCHEWAN

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this survey was to help inform the development of a plan for managing the impact of recreational and local use of the Churchill River Corridor and other backcountry parts of Lac La Ronge Provincial Park (LLRPP). The survey was designed to better understand canoeists' and kayakers' paddling experiences within LLRPP and to gather their perceptions of potential actions to manage recreation use within the park. The results also provide valuable information for organizations that provide canoeing and kayaking-related programs and services in Saskatchewan.

The sampling process was designed in a way to capture as many respondents as possible who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. As such, the results of this report should not be viewed as representative of the canoeing and kayaking population in Saskatchewan.

The results are presented separately for three different sub-groups of canoeists and kayakers, respondents who have: 1) Been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (Tripped LLRPP); 2) Been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP (Tripped, but Never LLRPP); and 3) Never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (Never Tripped).

Three approaches were used to invite canoeists and kayakers to participate in the study: 1) Direct Email Invitation; 2) Direct Mail Invitation; and 3) Website (open/public access). Based on the combination of these three approaches, a total of 666 respondents completed the survey.

The majority of respondents from each group of canoeists and kayakers reported being male, residents of Saskatchewan and employed full-time. The majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip reported having a bachelor's degree or higher and an annual household income of $80,000 or more. The average age of respondents ranged from 39 years for those who had never been on a canoe or kayak trip to 48 years for those who have been on a trip in or near LLRPP.

Respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP averaged 24 years of canoeing experience. Respondents who had been on a trip, but never to LLRPP averaged 10 years of canoeing experience and respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip averaged 5 years of canoeing experience. Two-thirds of respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP self-rated their experience on moving water as intermediate or expert. Smaller proportions of respondents from the other two groups of paddlers self-rated their experience on moving water as intermediate or expert.

A large majority of respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip reported receiving some training related to canoeing or kayaking. A smaller proportion of respondents who had never been on a canoe or kayak trip reported receiving some training related to canoeing or kayaking. The most frequently reported types of training received by all three groups were first aid/CPR, flat-water canoeing or kayaking, and swimming/water safety. Less than one-half of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip received training related to canoe tripping, backcountry survival, or leave no trace concepts.

Approximately one-third of respondents from each group of canoeists and kayakers have participated in a canoe or kayak competition or event. Over one-half of respondents who have been on an overnight trip, but never to LLRPP, belong to a canoe or kayak club. Smaller

proportions of respondents from the other two groups of paddlers belong to a canoe or kayak club.

Over one-half of respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP have been on six or more trips in the past five years. One-quarter of these respondents have been on 10 or more trips in or near LLRPP in their lifetime. A large majority of respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never to LLRPP reported having been on less than six trips in the past five years.

Respondents who have been on a trip in or near LLRPP typically preferred a primitive setting for an overnight canoe or kayak trip, while respondents who had been on a trip, but never in or near LLRPP most frequently preferred a semi-primitive setting. The majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP have been on an overnight trip on the Churchill River, South Saskatchewan River and North Saskatchewan River.

A large majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were aware that a portion of the Churchill River was located within LLRPP. Much smaller proportions of respondents from the other two groups were aware that a portion of the Churchill River was located within LLRPP.

Just over one-half of respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP supported limiting the number of people allowed in a party in order to help manage the impact of paddlers within LLRPP. Almost two-thirds of respondents who have tripped, but never to LLRPP, supported limiting the size of paddling groups. On average, respondents from all three groups who supported limiting the size of canoe parties indicated that the maximum number of people allowed in a canoe/kayak party should be 10 people.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support with several potential ideas to manage the impact of canoe or kayak groups within LLRPP. The large majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip supported requiring the use of designated campsites in high-use areas, prohibiting recreation use in areas that require regeneration and focusing the maintenance of portages on those that accommodate canoes and kayaks rather than other larger crafts (with the exception of Big/Little Stanley Rapids, Rapid River, and Potter Rapids). The majority of respondents from all three groups supported the idea of requiring all paddlers to register their trip.

Respondents were asked to rate the priority of several potential amenities and services to help manage the impact of canoeists and kayakers within LLRPP. The most frequently reported amenities and services identified as a priority by all three groups were: improved internet access to documentation and descriptions of canoe trip routes; and the implementation of a system for paddlers to check-in and check-out as a means to improve safety.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement that several amenities and services should be provided for canoeists and kayakers within LLRPP. The majority of respondents from all three groups of paddlers agreed that fire pits, pit toilets and bear caches should be provided at campsites within LLRPP. The majority of respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP also agreed that web-based and in-person orientations on survival and boat safety should be provided. A large majority of respondents from all groups indicated that they would use fire pits, pit toilets and bear caches if they were provided.

Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP within the past five years were asked a variety of questions about their recent trip to LLRPP. To better

understand respondents' perceptions of their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip, comparisons were made based on the location of their recent trip. The following two groups were created: 1) **Stanley Mission Area**, which includes respondents who visited or paddled by Nistowiak Falls, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, or the Pictographs near Stanley Rapids during their recent trip; and 2) **Other LLRPP Area**, which includes respondents who did not visit or paddle by Nistowiak Falls, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, or the Pictographs near Stanley Rapids during their trip.

The majority of respondents from both comparison groups described their canoe or kayak party as friends or family. The average canoe/kayak party size of respondents was five to six people and three canoes. Almost one-third of respondents who visited other LLRPP areas used an outfitter to organize their recent trip, while a smaller proportion of respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area used an outfitter. A large majority of respondents from both comparison groups indicated that their recent trip in or near LLRPP was self-guided.

Respondents from both comparison groups spent five nights on their entire trip. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area (4 nights) spent more nights on average within LLRPP compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas (2 nights). Over one-half of respondents stayed in the same campsite for more than one night during their recent trip in or near LLRPP.

Over one-half of respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area entered and exited at the same location, while almost three-quarters of respondents who visited other LLRPP areas entered and exited at the same location during their recent trip in or near LLRPP. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area most commonly entered and exited at Missinipe and Stanley Mission, while respondents who visited other LLRPP areas most commonly entered and exited at Missinipe and Devils Lake.

The most commonly identified information sources used by respondents from both comparison groups were topographic maps, previous trip experience, family or friends, and outfitters. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area were more likely to use friends or family, guide books, the Visitor Information Centre in La Ronge, Tourism Saskatchewan website, Saskatchewan Parks staff and Fresh Air experience, and less likely to use an outfitter compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas. The most helpful information sources identified by both comparison groups were previous trip information, topographic maps, and outfitters.

Respondents were asked to rate the desirability of several experiences and benefits to their recent canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. Respondents from both comparison groups provided similar desirability ratings. The two most frequently reported benefits reported by respondents from both comparison groups were: 1) Being at one with nature; and 2) To experience nature in a pristine setting.

Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area during their recent canoe or kayak trip reported lower levels of satisfaction with that recent trip than respondents who visited other LLRPP areas. Both comparison groups reported high levels of satisfaction.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with several factors that may have detracted from their recent canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. The three most commonly identified detractors indicated by respondents from both comparison groups were: 1) Litter or garbage around campsites; 2) Litter or garbage on riverbanks; and 3) Human waste. There were no significant differences by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip with the factors that detracted from their recent trip in or near LLRPP.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

A series of pristine lakes connected by rapids, waterfalls and short stretches of river make the Churchill River a spectacular natural setting. Canoeists, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and other visitors from all across Canada and the rest of the world are drawn to the area for its natural, cultural and recreational significance.

The Churchill River, which was once a major exploration and fur trade route in the north, features one of Saskatchewan's largest waterfalls, Nistowiak Falls and Saskatchewan's oldest building, Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Stanley Mission. The church sits on the shore of the river as it has since it was built in the 1850s by local people and Anglican missionaries. Long before the arrival of voyageurs the river was a travel route and meeting ground for First Nations people. The area has long been used as a source of well-being and sustenance for local people. The pictographs found on the rocky cliffs all along the Churchill River tell of earlier occupants and ancient traditions that remain today.[1]

Since 2005, the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS) and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Stanley Mission have been working cooperatively towards managing the river, the shoreline and Stanley Mission's historic Holy Trinity Anglican Church within LLRPP. A draft management plan has been developed for Holy Trinity Anglican Church to clarify responsibilities. Work has also been done towards the development of a plan for managing the impact of recreational and local use of the Churchill River Corridor and other backcountry parts of LLRPP.

In 2007, TPCS conducted a detailed inventory of the number and condition of backcountry campsites and pictograph sites along the Churchill River Corridor from Otter Lake to Stanley Mission to Nistowiak Falls. Similar inventories were conducted on other backcountry parts of LLRPP in the summer of 2008. The inventories highlighted several issues regarding the deterioration of some areas along the river corridor and backcountry within LLRPP, including concerns with human waste accumulation, the compaction/destruction of vegetation, a lack or fire-pits and fire wood, and a lack of education among some users.

The purpose of the present study was to help inform the development of a plan for managing the impact of recreational and local use of the Churchill River Corridor and other backcountry parts of LLRPP. The survey was designed to better understand canoeists' and kayakers' paddling experiences within LLRPP and to gather their perceptions of potential actions to manage recreation use within the park. The results also provide valuable information for organizations that provide canoeing and kayaking-related programs and services in Saskatchewan.

The survey instrument was developed based on a review of existing instruments and literature related to wilderness canoeing/kayaking and builds upon the actions already taken by the ministry towards the development of a plan for managing the impact of recreational and local use within LLRPP. The Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch and Parks Service of TPCS worked collaboratively with Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan, Fresh Air Experience, and Churchill River Canoe Outfitters to develop the survey instrument and recruit survey respondents.

[1] Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. *The Churchill River: A Very Special Place in Saskatchewan*. Retrieved February 12, 2009 from http://www.cpaws-sask.org/common/pdfs/Fact%20Sheets/Churchill_River_Sheet_final.pdf

This report is organized into seven different sections. Section 2 presents the methodology for the study. Sections 3 to 6 present the results for three different sub-groups of respondents: 1) Respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP; 2) Respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP; and 3) Respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip. Section 7 presents statistical comparisons based on the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. Section 8 describes the themes and sub-themes that emerged from the respondents "top of mind" responses about the Churchill River in Saskatchewan and Section 9 provides additional insights based on open-ended comments provided by respondents.

SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the primary purpose of this study, the sampling process was designed to capture as many respondents as possible who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. An effort was also made to survey canoeists and kayakers who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip to LLRPP.

As an incentive to participate in the survey, everyone who completed the survey was given the opportunity to enter a draw to win one of six Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The draw was made on December 4, 2009 and the GPS units were mailed to the six winners on December 17, 2009.

Three approaches were used to invite canoeists and kayakers to participate in the study: 1) Direct Email Invitation; 2) Direct Mail Invitation; and 3) Website (open/public access). Based on the combination of these three approaches, a total of 666 respondents completed the survey.

Direct Email

A total of 478 Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan members were directly emailed an invitation to participate in the online survey. Of those, 74 emails bounced or were undeliverable, resulting in 404 successfully delivered emails.

Three reminder-emails were sent to non-respondents at one to two week intervals from the initial email invitation. The email invitations and reminder emails all had an embedded link to the online survey. A total of 175 Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan members completed the survey.

Direct Mail Invitation

A total of 113 canoeists and kayakers, who registered their trip within LLRPP with the Parks Service (past three years), were mailed a paper version of the survey. Each survey was accompanied by a cover letter and postage-paid return envelope. Of those, five were undeliverable due to inaccurate contact information, for a total of 108 successfully delivered surveys.

Respondents had the option to return a completed paper survey in the postage-paid envelope or complete the survey online by entering the web address that was provided in the cover letter. Non-respondents were mailed a postcard reminder and replacement survey, two weeks and four weeks after the initial mail invitation, respectively. A total of 52 canoeists/kayakers who registered their trip with Parks Service completed the survey.

Website

A link to the survey was open to the public on the TPCS website from May 1st to October 31st, 2009. A total of 439 individuals completed the online survey via the link on TPCS's website.

The online survey on TPCS's website was promoted through a variety of mediums. Churchill River Canoe Outfitters encouraged its clients to participate in the survey through a directed email. Advertisements were placed in newsletters from Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan, Fresh Air Experience, and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. TPCS also encouraged other canoe and kayak vendors that provide services in or near LLRPP to promote the survey to their clients. A postcard to promote the survey was also developed and made available at the Visitor Information Centre in La Ronge and at a National Canoe Day Celebration (June 26, 2009) in Regina.

Information Sources
Respondents were asked to identify how they heard about the survey from a list of information sources. The three most frequently reported sources included: 1) Churchill River Canoe Outfitters (34.2%); 2) Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan (21.9%); and 3) Friends of Family Members (12.6%).

A small proportion of respondents (11.0%) indicated 'other' information sources, which commonly included other canoe outfitters and organizations.

Table 2.1 – How Respondents Heard about the Survey

	Percent of Respondents
Churchill River Canoe Outfitters	34.2%
Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan	21.9%
Friend or Family Member	12.6%
Other	11.0%
Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Website	9.6%
Fresh Air Experience	8.7%
Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Staff	2.1%
Visitor Information Centre (La Ronge)	1.4%

Presentation of Results
Due to the purpose of this study and the intent of the sampling design, the results of this report should not be viewed as representative of the canoeing and kayaking population in Saskatchewan, as an effort was made to capture as many respondents as possible who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP.

As such, the results are presented separately for three different sub-groups of canoeists and kayakers, based on whether respondents had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in their lifetime or on an overnight trip in or near LLRPP. The intent is not to provide a statistical comparison between the three groups, but rather to present the information in a way that fulfills the purpose of the survey and provides additional information useful to organizations that provide canoeing and kayaking programs and services in Saskatchewan.

1. **Tripped LLRPP** – includes respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (n=486);

2. **Tripped, Never LLRPP** – includes respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP (n=105);

3. **Never Tripped** – includes respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (n=75)

SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHICS

Age, Gender, and Aboriginal Status

The average (median) age of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP was 48 years (Range: 14 to 85 years). Two-thirds of these respondents (66.9%) were male.

The average age of respondents who had tripped, but never to LLRPP was 45 years (Range: 12 to 72 years). Less than two-thirds of these respondents (60.0%) were male. Respondents who had never been on a canoe or kayak trip averaged 39 years of age (Range: 13 to 69 years). Just less than one-half of these respondents were male (49.3%).

Table 3.1 – Age, Gender and Aboriginal Status

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Age (median[2])	48 years	45 years	39 years
Male	66.9%	60.0%	49.3%
Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit)	3.4%	5.0%	9.7%

Highest Level of Education

The majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, either in or near LLRPP (73.8%) or otherwise (61.9%), had a bachelor's degree or higher. A smaller proportion of respondents (38.7%) who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Table 3.2 – Highest Level of Education

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Less than grade 12	1.0%	3.8%	6.7%
Secondary school graduation or equivalent	4.9%	4.8%	8.0%
Some college	7.2%	7.6%	21.3%
Trades certificate/diploma	5.2%	7.6%	8.0%
Other non-university certificate/diploma	7.8%	14.3%	17.3%
Bachelor's degree	41.6%	36.2%	16.0%
Graduate or professional degree	32.2%	25.7%	22.7%

Employment History in or near LLRPP

A small proportion of respondents indicated that they are currently employed in or near LLRPP (Tripped LLRPP: 5.0%; Tripped, Never LLRPP: 0%; Never Tripped: 4.1%). A slightly higher proportion of respondents indicated that they are not currently employed in or near LLRPP, but have been in the past (Tripped LLRPP: 8.7%; Tripped, Never LLRPP: 7.6%; Never Tripped: 5.4%).

[2] The middle number in a given sequence of numbers, or the point below which fifty percent of the scores/responses fall.

Current Employment Status
The majority of respondents from all three groups were employed full-time.

Table 3.3 – Employment Status

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Employed full-time	65.6%	59.0%	64.0%
Self-employed	15.2%	19.0%	9.3%
Retired	11.1%	4.8%	4.0%
Employed part-time	9.7%	8.6%	10.7%
Full-time student	6.0%	15.2%	17.3%
Homemaker	3.1%	1.9%	2.7%
Part-time student	1.6%	3.8%	4.0%
Unemployed	0.6%	1.9%	1.3%

Type of Employment
A small proportion of respondents (16.0%) who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP indicated that they have been employed as certified canoe or kayak coach or instructor (Tripped, Never LLRPP: 5.7%; Never Tripped: 4.0%). A similar proportion of respondents (14.2%) who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP indicated that they have been employed as a canoe or kayak outfitter or guide (Tripped, Never LLRPP: 5.7%; Never Tripped: 0%).

Table 3.4 – Type of Employment

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Food and Beverage Services	16.3%	22.9%	30.7%
Certified Canoe/Kayak Coach or Instructor	16.0%	5.7%	4.0%
Canoe/Kayak Outfitter or Guide	14.2%	5.7%	0%
Other[1]	7.2%	5.7%	9.3%
Accommodations (e.g., cabin rental, hotel, etc.)	6.6%	9.5%	9.3%
Other Outfitter or Guide	6.4%	4.8%	1.3%
Other Recreation Services (e.g., boat rental, equipment rental, etc.)	5.8%	5.7%	5.3%
Provincial Park Employee	5.8%	3.8%	2.7%
Souvenirs or Merchandise	3.7%	3.8%	6.7%

[1] *No 'other' unique responses were commonly reported.*

Household Income
The majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip reported having an annual household income of $80,000 or more (Tripped LLRPP: 59.1%; Tripped, Never LLRPP: 54.0%). A smaller proportion of respondents (38.0%) who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip reported having an annual household income of $80,000 or more.

Table 3.5 – Household Income

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Under $20,000	2.8%	7.0%	8.5%
$20,000 to $39,999	8.9%	8.0%	8.5%
$40,000 to $59,999	14.3%	15.0%	18.3%
$60,000 to $79,999	14.9%	16.0%	26.8%
$80,000 to $99,999	15.7%	20.0%	19.7%
$100,000 to $124,999	14.5%	12.0%	5.6%
Over $125,000	28.9%	22.0%	12.7%

Place of Residence
A large majority of respondents from all three groups of canoeists and kayakers were residents of Saskatchewan. A higher proportion of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak (Tripped LLRPP: 21.2%; Tripped, Never LLRPP: 18.9%) resided outside of Saskatchewan compared to those who had never been on an overnight trip (2.7%).

Table 3.6 – Place of Residence

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Resident of Canada	95.2%	92.2%	100%
Saskatchewan	78.8%	81.1%	97.3%
Alberta	13.3%	9.5%	1.4%
Other Province	7.9%	9.5%	1.4%

Community Size
The majority of respondents from all three groups of canoeists and kayakers were from a community of over 50,000 people.

Table 3.7 – Community Size

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Farm or acreage	11.1%	4.8%	6.8%
Up to 499 People	4.5%	1.9%	0%
Between 500 and 1,999 people	6.4%	10.5%	6.8%
Between 2,000 and 4,999 people	3.7%	2.9%	8.1%
Between 5,000 and 14,999 people	5.1%	2.9%	8.1%
Between 15,000 and 50,000 people	8.0%	6.7%	12.2%
More than 50,000 people	61.1%	70.5%	58.1%

Secondary or Vacation Home near LLRPP
A small proportion of respondents (5.4%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP indicated that they had a secondary home in or near LLRPP (Tripped, Never LLRPP: 2.9%; Never Tripped: 6.8%).

SECTION 4: INVOLVEMENT IN CANOEING AND KAYAKING

Years Experience Canoeing and Kayaking

Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP had an average (median) of 24 years (Range: 1 to 70 years) of canoeing experience. Respondents who had been on an overnight trip, but never to LLRPP had an average of 10 years (Range: 1 to 55 years) of canoeing experience and those who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip had an average of five years (Range: 0 to 40 years) of canoeing experience.

Table 4.1 – Years Experience Canoeing and Kayaking

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Canoeing (median)	24 years	10 years	5 years
Kayaking (median)	4 years	5 years	2 years

Canoe and Kayak Ownership

Over three-quarters of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (80.1%) own a canoe or kayak. Almost three-quarters of respondents who have tripped, but never to LLRPP (70.5%) own a canoe or kayak, while one-half of respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (50.0%) own a canoe or kayak.

Experience on Flat-Water and Moving Water

Almost all respondents (97.1%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP self-rated their paddling experience on flat-water as intermediate or expert. A large proportion of respondents (90.4%) who had overnight tripped, but never to LLRPP also self-rated their paddling experience on flat-water as intermediate or expert. A smaller proportion of respondents (69.7%) who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip self-rated their experience on flat-water as intermediate or expert.

Two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP rated their paddling experience on moving water as intermediate or expert. Over one-third of respondents (37.0%) who had overnight tripped, but never to LLRPP rated their moving water experience as intermediate or expert. A smaller proportion of respondents (13.1%) who had never been on an overnight trip rated their experience on moving water as intermediate, with none rating their experience as expert.

Table 4.2 – Experience on Flat-Water and Moving Water

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Flat-water (e.g., calm lake)			
No experience	0.2%	1.0%	0%
Beginner	2.7%	8.6%	30.3%
Intermediate	41.5%	53.3%	50.0%
Expert	55.6%	37.1%	19.7%
Moving Water (e.g., white-water/river with rapids)			
No experience	4.3%	25.0%	54.1%
Beginner	28.9%	38.0%	32.8%
Intermediate	53.5%	29.0%	13.1%
Expert	13.2%	8.0%	0%

Highest Class of River Comfortable Paddling On

Respondents were asked to indicate the highest class of river they would be comfortable paddling on. Almost one-half of respondents (46.0%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP indicated they would be comfortable paddling on a class III river. Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never to LLRPP (43.8%) and those who had never been on an overnight trip (51.5%) most frequently reported being comfortable paddling on a class II river.

Table 4.3 – Highest Class of River Comfortable Paddling On

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Class I: Waves small and regular	4.9%	16.2%	36.4%
Class II: Rapids of medium difficulty, with clear and wide passages	38.1%	43.8%	51.5%
Class III: Waves numerous, high and irregular rocks, eddies and rapids with clear and narrow passages requiring precise manoeuvring	46.0%	32.5%	9.1%
Class IV: Long rapids with powerful and irregular waves. Narrow passages through rocks and boiling eddies, requiring precise manoeuvring	10.3%	7.5%	3.0%
Class V: Extremely difficult, long and very violent rapids following each other almost without interruption	0.6%	0%	0%

Participation in Canoe or Kayak Competitions or Events

One-third of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (34.8%) reported participating in at least one type of canoe or kayak competition or event. Similar proportions of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never to LLRPP (33.3%) and who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (29.3%) reported participating in at least one type of canoe or kayak competition or event.

Table 4.4 – Participation in Canoe or Kayak Competitions or Events

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Marathon Racing or Event	14.2%	11.4%	10.7%
Voyageur Racing or Event	12.6%	3.8%	2.7%
Sprint Racing	10.1%	18.1%	18.7%
Other[1]	9.7%	8.6%	8.0%
White-water Competition (e.g., freestyle, slalom, wildwater)	6.2%	2.9%	0%
Canoe Polo	4.3%	5.7%	2.7%

[1] *'Other' commonly included adventure racing, canoe jousting, and dragon boat racing.*

Membership in Canoe or Kayak Clubs
Over one-third of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (35.8%) indicated that they belong to at least one canoe or kayak club (Tripped Never LLRPP: 52.4%; Never Tripped: 37.3%).

Table 4.5 – Membership in Canoe or Kayak Clubs

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Saskatoon Canoe Club	16.9%	21.9%	16.0%
Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan	8.4%	12.4%	10.7%
Other[1]	9.7%	12.4%	5.3%
Canoe Kayak Canada	4.3%	3.8%	5.3%
Historic Trails Canoe Club	2.9%	0%	0%
Toon Town Kayak Club	2.1%	3.8%	0%
Wascana Racing Canoe Club	1.4%	8.6%	12.0%
Moose Jaw Canoe and Kayak Club	1.4%	0%	0%
Regina Marathon Canoe Club	1.2%	6.7%	1.3%
Pimiskatan Canoe Club (La Ronge)	1.2%	0%	0%
Regina Beach Canoe Club	0.2%	0%	1.3%

[1]*'Other' commonly included Bow Waters Canoe Club, Pimiskatan Canoe Club, and Paddle Canada.*

Training Received Related to Canoeing or Kayaking
Most respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (Tripped LLRPP: 92.8%; Tripped, but Never LLRPP: 90.5%) indicated that they had received at least some form of training related to canoeing or kayaking. A much smaller proportion of respondents who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip (69.3%) had received training related to canoeing and kayaking. Less than one-half of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip reported receiving training related to canoe tripping (49.0%), backcountry/wilderness survival (43.0%), and leave no trace concepts (36.8%).

Table 4.6 - Training Received Related to Canoeing or Kayaking

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
First Aid/CPR	76.7%	68.6%	42.7%
Flat-Water (canoe or kayak)	72.6%	65.7%	49.3%
Swimming/Water Safety	65.0%	61.0%	38.7%
Moving Water (canoe or kayak)	61.7%	41.0%	13.3%
Canoe/Kayak Tripping	49.0%	24.8%	1.3%
Water/Boat Rescue	46.9%	32.4%	18.7%
Boat Safety	45.1%	35.2%	29.3%
Backcountry/Wilderness Survival	43.0%	24.8%	9.3%
Leave No Trace Concepts	36.8%	23.8%	8.0%
Canoe/Kayak Trip Guiding	23.3%	11.4%	0%
Other[1]	4.9%	5.7%	1.3%

[1]*No 'other' unique responses were commonly provided.*

Sources of Training or Education related to Canoeing or Kayaking
The most frequently identified sources of training by respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were: 1) Certified swimming or water-safety course (64.7%); 2) Informal training (56.5%); and 3) Canoe/kayak coach or instructor (43.5%).

Table 4.7 – Source of Training or Education Related to Canoeing or Kayaking

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Certified Swimming/Water-Safety Course (e.g., Red Cross, Lifesaving Society)	64.7%	62.1%	50.0%
Informal Training (e.g., friend, family member)	56.5%	50.5%	34.6%
Canoe/Kayak Coach or Instructor	43.5%	31.6%	30.8%
Canoe/Kayak Club or Organization	35.5%	40.0%	44.2%
Outfitter	34.1%	13.7%	1.9%
Other Recreation Organization (e.g., Scouts, Faith-based organization)	26.2%	16.8%	15.4%
Elementary or High School Class or Club	25.9%	17.9%	17.3%
Other Educational Institution (e.g., university or college)	25.3%	15.8%	17.3%
Other[1]	12.9%	9.5%	13.5%

[1]*No 'other' unique responses were commonly provided.*

Certification Body that Provided Training
Respondents were asked to identify all of the certification bodies in which they have received certification from related to canoeing and kayaking. Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP most frequently reported the following certification bodies: 1) Red Cross (45.5%); 2) Paddle Canada (27.7%); and 3) Lifesaving Society (22.6%). Red Cross was the most frequently reported certification body by all three groups of paddlers.

Table 4.8 – Certification Body that Provided Training

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Red Cross	45.5%	40.0%	21.2%
Paddle Canada	27.7%	7.4%	3.8%
Lifesaving Society	22.6%	18.9%	9.6%
Canadian Coast Guard	10.2%	5.3%	3.8%
Other[1]	9.5%	11.6%	11.5%
National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP)	7.8%	6.3%	5.8%
Rescue Canada	2.4%	1.1%	0%

[1]*'Other' commonly included the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association, St. John's Ambulance, and the Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association.*

Awareness, Use, and Helpfulness of Documented Canoe Route Booklets
Over three-quarters of respondents (83.3%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were aware of the canoe route booklets. Of those respondents who were aware, a large proportion (87.1%) reported having used the booklets. Over three-quarters of those respondents (81.0%) who had used the booklets found them quite or very helpful.

Awareness and use of the canoe route booklets was much lower for respondents who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP.

Table 4.9 – Awareness, Use, and Helpfulness of Documented Canoe Route Booklets

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Aware of Booklets	83.3%	41.0%	32.4%
Use of Booklets[1]			
Past 5 Years	61.0%	37.2%	16.7%
Over 5 Years Ago	26.1%	16.3%	0%
Helpfulness of Booklets[2]			
Very Helpful	39.5%	--	--
Quite Helpful	41.5%	--	--
Somewhat Helpful	18.1%	--	--
Not Really Helpful	0.9%	--	--

[1]Of those who were aware of the booklets; [2]Of those who used the booklets; - - Too few respondents to report.

Number of Overnight Canoe/Kayak Trips in Past 5 Years
Over one-half of respondents (52.4%) who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP, reported having been on six or more canoe or kayak trips in the past five years. A large majority of respondents (84.0%) who had been on an overnight trip, but never to LLRPP reported having been on less than six trips in the past five years.

Table 4.10 – Number of Overnight Canoe/Kayak Trips in Past 5 Years

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
None	3.1%	22.0%	100%
1 Trip	8.3%	16.0%	--
2 to 5 Trips	36.2%	46.0%	--
6 or More Trips	52.4%	16.0%	--

River Setting Preferences for Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trip
Respondents who have been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip were asked to indicate the type of setting they prefer for an overnight canoe or kayak trip. A primitive setting was most frequently reported by respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (70.8%). Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP most frequently preferred a semi-primitive setting (41.9%).

Table 4.11 – River Setting Preferences for Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trip

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP
Primitive - undisturbed natural area; no facilities; very little or no contact with other people	70.8%	41.9%
Semi-Primitive - largely undisturbed natural area; only a few primitive facilities; little contact with other people	27.2%	48.6%
Semi-Developed - slightly developed natural area; moderate number of facilities and contact with other people; some access to services	1.6%	8.6%
Developed - developed area; modern facilities available; frequent contact with other people; services readily available	0.4%	1.0%

Aware that Churchill River is Located within LLRPP
A large majority of respondents (90.7%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were aware that a portion of the Churchill River was located within LLRPP. Smaller proportions or respondents from each of the other two groups were aware that a portion of the Churchill River was located within LLRPP (Tripped, Never LLRPP: 51.0%; Never Tripped: 45.9%)

Locations of Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trips
The most frequently reported locations of overnight canoe or kayak trips by respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were: 1) Churchill River (97.5%); 2) Other rivers (65.1%); and 3) South Saskatchewan River (64.7%). Respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP most frequently reported: 1) Other rivers (34.3%); 2) South Saskatchewan River (32.9%); and 3) North Saskatchewan River (28.6%).

Table 4.12 – Locations of Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trips

	Ever Tripped		Past 5 Years	
	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP
Churchill River	97.5%	27.8%	86.9%	21.8%
Other[1]	65.1%	34.3%	58.6%	28.6%
South Saskatchewan River	64.8%	32.9%	46.5%	27.5%
North Saskatchewan River	61.3%	28.6%	38.3%	20.5%
Clearwater River	39.3%	10.3%	21.2%	3.0%
Assiniboine River	9.8%	1.5%	4.0%	1.5%

[1] *'Other' commonly included the Sturgeon-Weir River, Paull River, and Cree River.*

SECTION 5: VIEWS OF POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Support for Limiting Party Size

Just over one-half of respondents (53.0%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP somewhat or strongly supported limiting the number of people allowed in a canoe or kayak group in order to help manage the impact of canoeists and kayakers within LLRPP. Almost two-thirds of respondents (63.8%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip, but never in or near LLRPP supported limiting the size of canoe and kayak groups and less than one-half of respondents (40.5%) who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip supported limiting group sizes.

On average (median), respondents from all three groups of canoeists and kayakers who supported limiting the party size of canoe and kayak groups indicated that the maximum number of people allowed in a party should be 10 people.

Table 5.1 – Support for Limiting Party Size

	Tripped LLRPP	**Tripped, Never LLRPP**	**Never Tripped**
Support for Limiting Party Size			
Somewhat or Strongly Support	53.0%	63.8%	40.5%
Neutral	19.3%	21.9%	35.1%
Somewhat or Strongly Oppose	28.0%	14.3%	24.3%
Suggested Maximum Party Size (median)[1]	10 people	10 people	10 people

[1]*Of those who somewhat or strongly supported limiting canoe/kayak party sizes.*

Support for Potential Management Actions

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support (from 1-Strongly Opposed to 5- Strongly Support) with several ideas to manage the impact of canoe or kayak groups within LLRPP. The large majority of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip somewhat or strongly supported requiring the use of designated campsites in high-use areas, prohibiting recreation use in areas that require regeneration and focusing the maintenance of portages on those that accommodate canoes and kayaks rather than other larger crafts (with the exception of Big/Little Stanley Rapids, Rapid River, and Potter Rapids).

The majority of respondents from all three groups supported the idea of requiring all paddlers to register their trip. Less than one-half of respondents (47.9%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP supported implementing a mandatory regulation that all leaders must have some form of canoeing skill before canoe trips would be approved. Over two-thirds of respondents from the other two groups of canoeists and kayakers supported this idea (Tripped, but never LLRPP: 67.6%; Never Tripped: 73.0%).

Table 5.2 – Support for Potential Management Actions

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Focus maintenance of portages on those that accommodate canoes and kayaks rather than other larger crafts (with the exception of Big/Little Stanley Rapids, Rapid River, Potter Rapids)	77.6%	76.9%	63.5%
Require the use of designated campsites in high-use areas	77.5%	85.7%	71.6%
Prohibit recreation use in areas that require regeneration	74.8%	80.0%	66.2%
Require all paddlers to register their trip	60.7%	74.3%	66.2%
Implement a mandatory regulation that all leaders must have some form of canoeing skill before canoe trips will be approved	47.9%	67.6%	73.0%

Values reflect the percentage of respondents who somewhat or strongly supported each action.

Priority of Amenities and Services to Manage Impact of Canoeists and Kayakers

Respondents were asked to rate the priority (from 1-Very Low Priority to 5-Very High Priority) of several potential amenities and services to help manage the impact of canoeists and kayakers within LLRPP. The most frequently reported amenities and services identified as a priority by respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP were improved Internet access to documentation and descriptions of canoe trip routes (47.0%) and implementation of a system for paddlers to check-in and check-out as a means to improve safety (41.8%).

The majority of respondents from the two groups who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP rated improved Internet access to documentation and descriptions of canoe trip routes and implementation of a system for paddlers to check-in and check-out as a means to improve safety as a priority.

Table 5.3 – Priority of Amenities and Services to Manage Impact of Canoeists/Kayakers

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Improved Internet access to documentation/ descriptions of canoe trip routes	47.0%	63.7%	62.9%
Implement a system for canoeists/kayakers to check-in and out as a means to improve safety	41.8%	58.8%	73.2%
Improved maintenance of portage trails	39.8%	51.5%	43.7%
Improved documentation/descriptions of canoe trip routes	36.2%	56.0%	45.7%
Increasing the number of designated sites/areas for camping	25.7%	34.3%	33.3%

Values reflect the percentage of respondents who rated each amenity/service as a high or very high priority.

Support for and Use of Amenities and Services

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement (from 1-Strongly Disagree to 5-Strongly Agree) that several amenities and services should be provided for canoeists and kayakers within LLRPP. The majority of respondents from all three groups of canoeists and kayakers agreed that fire pits, pit toilets and bear caches should be provided at campsites. The majority of respondents who have never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP also agreed that web-based and in-person orientations on survival and boat safety should be provided.

Respondents were also asked if they would use each amenity and service if it was provided at LLRPP. A large majority of respondents from all three groups indicated that they would use fire-pits, pit toilets, and bear caches if they were provided at campsites.

Table 5.4 - Support for and Use of Amenities and Services

	Agree or Strongly that Amenities Should be Provided			**Would Use the Amenity if Provided**		
	Tripped LLRPP	**Tripped, Never LLRPP**	**Never Tripped**	**Tripped LLRPP**	**Tripped, Never LLRPP**	**Never Tripped**
Fire pits at campsites	66.5%	87.0%	88.7%	91.7%	93.3%	96.7%
Pit toilets at campsites	60.9%	76.2%	78.9%	90.0%	91.1%	89.7%
Bear cache at campsites	51.5%	71.3%	71.8%	88.0%	84.9%	90.7%
Web-based orientation on survival and boat safety	48.5%	72.3%	78.9%	55.4%	77.2%	86.3%
In-person orientation programs on survival and boat safety	31.0%	56.9%	70.0%	24.1%	65.7%	75.6%
System for people to reserve campsites	27.0%	52.5%	67.6%	59.2%	73.3%	93.5%
Tent pads at campsites	25.9%	34.3%	41.4%	62.0%	67.5%	68.1%
Canoe resting racks along portages	23.2%	30.4%	50.0%	60.5%	62.3%	68.2%
Picnic tables at campsites	18.6%	41.2%	61.4%	70.7%	84.3%	94.2%

SECTION 6: USE OF LAC LA RONGE PROVINCIAL PARK

Visitation to LLRPP

Nearly all respondents (96.7%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP have visited LLRPP. Less than one-half of respondents from the other two groups had ever visited LLRPP. A large majority of respondents from all three groups who had visited LLRPP reported visiting the park between June and August.

Over three-quarters of respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP plan to visit LLRPP in the future and less than one-half of respondents from the other two groups plan to visit LLRPP in the future.

Table 6.1 – Visitation to LLRPP

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Ever Visited LLRPP	96.7%	46.7%	42.7%
June to August[1]	96.6%	81.6%	93.8%
September to mid-October[1]	41.1%	30.6%	34.4%
Late October to March[1]	18.3%	18.4%	25.0%
April or May[1]	23.2%	16.3%	31.2%
Plan to Visit LLRPP in Future	83.4%	40.0%	48.0%

[1]*Of those who have visited LLRPP.*

Recreation Activities Participated in at LLRPP

Respondents who had visited LLRPP were asked to indicate all of the recreation activities they have participated in at LLRPP. Respondents from the two groups who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip most frequently reported participating in canoeing, camping and swimming at LLRPP. Respondents who had never been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip most frequently reported participating in canoeing, day hiking, sport fishing, and picnicking.

Table 6.2 – Recreation Activities Participated in at LLRPP

	Tripped LLRPP	Tripped, Never LLRPP	Never Tripped
Canoeing	96.6%	51.0%	50.0%
Camping	80.9%	44.9%	40.6%
Swimming	53.2%	38.8%	43.8%
Sport/Domestic Fishing	41.1%	32.7%	46.9%
Nature Photography	38.1%	26.5%	43.8%
Day Hiking	37.0%	30.6%	50.0%
Campfire Activities	35.3%	20.4%	40.6%
Sightseeing/Driving to View Scenery	28.9%	30.6%	40.6%
Cultural or Historical Visit	26.2%	6.1%	21.9%
Motorized Boating for Recreation	23.4%	24.5%	43.8%
Learning about Nature (bird/wildlife viewing)	23.2%	12.2%	25.0%
Picnicking	22.8%	26.5%	46.9%
Kayaking	21.7%	14.3%	18.8%
XC Skiing	20.6%	22.4%	3.1%
Beach Activities	19.8%	12.2%	43.8%
Backpacking	16.6%	8.2%	6.2%
Spiritual/Restorative Activities	16.4%	8.2%	9.4%
Spending Time at Cottage	15.7%	20.4%	34.4%
Canoe/Kayak Race or Event	12.8%	4.1%	9.4%
Shopping	11.9%	8.2%	25.0%
Biking on Don Allen or Nut Point Trail	8.3%	10.2%	3.1%
Other Water-Based Activities	7.0%	8.2%	6.2%
Other Non-Water-Based Activities	4.7%	6.1%	9.4%
Waterskiing/Wakeboarding	4.3%	0%	9.4%
Snowmobiling	4.3%	4.1%	15.6%
Guided Tour	3.8%	2.0%	12.5%
Hunting/Trapping	3.0%	2.0%	6.2%
Tubing	2.8%	0%	3.1%

Number of Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trips in or Near LLRPP

Over one-quarter of respondents (27.4%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP have been on 10 or more overnight canoe or kayak trips in or near LLRPP.

Table 6.3 – Number of Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trips in or Near LLRPP

	Tripped LLRPP
1 Trip	19.5%
2 to 5 Trips	38.2%
6 to 9 Trips	14.9%
10 or More Trips	27.4%

Year of Most Recent Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trip in or near LLRPP

Over one-half of respondents (52.9%) who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP reported that their most recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP was in 2008 (31.2%) or 2009 (21.7%).

Table 6.4 – Year of Most Recent Overnight Canoe or Kayak Trip in or Near LLRPP

	Tripped LLRPP
2009	21.7%
2008	31.2%
2007	14.5%
2006	7.0%
2005	7.0%
2004 or prior	18.6%

SECTION 7: RECENT CANOE OR KAYAK TRIP TO LLRPP

To better understand respondents' perceptions of their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP, comparisons were made based on the location of their recent trip. This section presents the results of these comparisons, based on the following two groups. Only respondents who had been on an overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP within the past five years were asked questions about their recent trip.

1. **Stanley Mission Area** – includes respondents who visited or paddled by Nistowiak Falls, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, or the Pictographs near Stanley Rapids during their recent trip (n=172); and

2. **Other LLRPP Area –** includes respondents who did not visit or paddle by Nistowiak Falls, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, or the Pictographs near Stanley Rapids during their recent trip (n=222).

Size of Canoe/Kayak Party

There were no significant differences by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip with the size of their canoe or kayak party. The average (median) canoe or kayak party size of respondents' who visited the Stanley Mission area was six people and three canoes or kayaks. The average canoe or kayak party size of respondents who visited other LLRPP areas was five people and three canoes or kayaks.

Table 7.1 – Size of Canoe/Kayak Party

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Number of People in Party (median)	6	5
Number of Canoes/Kayaks in Party (median)	3	3

Type of Party

There was no significant difference by the location of respondents' recent overnight canoe or kayak trip with their type of canoe or kayak party. The majority of respondents from both comparison groups described their canoe or kayak party as friends or family.

Table 7.2 – Type of Party

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Friends/Family	65.1%	79.1%
School Group	12.7%	6.2%
Outfitted Group	4.8%	5.2%
Faith-based Group	6.6%	3.3%
Canoe/Kayak Club	7.2%	4.3%

Responses below 3% were excluded from the table.

Nights Spent on Recent Trip
Respondents from both comparison groups spent an average (median) of five nights on their recent canoe or kayak trip. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area (4 nights) spent more nights on average within LLRPP compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas (2 nights).

Table 7.3 – Nights Spent on Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Entire Trip (median)	5	5
Within LLRPP (median)	**4***	**2***
Proportion of Trip Spent in LLRPP	**79.4%***	**60.1%***

**Difference between groups statistically significant at the p<.05 level.*

Spent More Than One Night in Same Campsite
Over one-half of respondents stayed in the same campsite for more than one night during their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP (Stanley Mission Area: 51.2%; Other LLRPP Area: 58.8%). There was no significant difference by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip.

Equipment Rented during Recent Trip
Respondents were asked to indicate if they owned, rented or borrowed the various pieces of equipment they used on their recent canoe or kayak trip. Almost one-half of respondents reported renting or borrowing at least one piece of equipment during their recent trip (Stanley Mission Area: 45.9%; Other LLRPP Area: 41.9%). There were no significant differences by the location of respondents' recent overnight canoe or kayak trip with the proportion that rented, borrowed or own each piece of equipment.

Table 7.4 – Equipment Rented during Recent Trip

	Rented or Borrowed		Own		Didn't Use	
	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Canoe	38.6%	38.7%	59.1%	59.9%	2.3%	1.4%
Paddles	23.0%	23.8%	77.0%	75.7%	0%	0%
Kayak	15.3%	11.5%	24.7%	14.8%	60.0%	73.8%
Personal Flotation Device	13.4%	16.7%	86.6%	82.4%	0%	0.9%
Canoe Barrel or Pack	11.9%	10.1%	84.4%	85.1%	3.8%	4.8%
Cooking Gear/Fire Box	10.6%	8.5%	88.1%	90.5%	1.2%	0.9%
Global Positioning System	10.0%	6.1%	40.0%	41.4%	50.0%	52.5%
Tent	4.3%	3.8%	95.0%	96.2%	0.6%	0%

Use of an Outfitter to Organize Recent Trip
There was a significant difference (p<.05) with respondents' use of an outfitter to organize their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip by the location of that recent trip. A smaller proportion of respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area (20.5%) reported using an outfitter to organize their recent trip compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas (30.2%).

Use of a Guide on Recent Trip

There was no significant difference by the location of respondents' recent overnight canoe or kayak trip with their use of a guide during their recent trip. A large majority of respondents from both comparison groups indicated that their most recent canoe or kayak trip was self guided (Stanley Mission Area: 85.5%; Other LLRPP Area: 88.6%).

Table 7.5 – Use of a Guide on Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Self-Guided	85.5%	88.6%
Guided by Outfitter	7.0%	7.3%
Guide from Canoe/Kayak Club	4.7%	3.7%
Other Guide	2.9%	0.5%

Other Activities Participated in on Recent Trip

Respondents were asked to indicate all of the activities they participated in during their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. Respondents from both comparison groups most frequently participated in canoeing, camping and swimming. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area were more likely to participate in sightseeing and a cultural or historical visit compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas.

Table 7.6 – Other Activities Participated in on Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Canoeing	97.7%	97.7%
Camping	89.0%	86.9%
Swimming	68.0%	63.1%
Sightseeing	**65.1%***	**51.8%***
Sport/Domestic Fishing	51.2%	50.5%
Nature Photography	47.1%	45.5%
Cultural or Historical Visit	**41.9%***	**11.7%***
Day Hiking	38.4%	30.6%
Learning about Nature (bird/wildlife viewing)	34.9%	33.3%
Picnicking	16.9%	13.5%
Kayaking	15.8%	12.3%
Shopping	9.3%	5.0%
Motorized Boating for Recreation	5.2%	2.3%
Spending Time at Cottage	3.5%	5.9%
Backpacking	3.5%	3.6%

**Difference between groups statistically significant at the p<.05 level.*

Voyageur Certificate Program
There was no significant difference by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip with their awareness of the Saskatchewan Voyageur Certificate Program. Over one-third of respondents were aware that one could register their trip for an official Saskatchewan Voyageur Certificate (Stanley Mission Area: 36.0%; Other LLRPP Area: 36.5%).

There was a significant difference ($p<.05$) by the location of respondents' recent overnight canoe or kayak trip with their likeliness to have had someone in their party register their trip for a Voyageur Certificate. Of the respondents who were aware, those who visited the Stanley Mission area (36.7%) were more likely to have had someone in their party register their trip for a Voyageur Certificate compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas (21.9%).

Entry and Exit Point of Recent Trip
There was a significant difference ($p<.05$) by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip with the proportion of respondents who entered and exited at the same location. Over one-half of respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area (56.2%) entered and exited at the same location, while almost three-quarters of respondents who visited other LLRPP areas (71.9%) entered and exited at the same location.

There were also significant differences ($p<.05$) with both the entry and exit point of respondents' recent trip in or near LLRPP by the location of their canoe or kayak trip. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area most commonly entered and exited at Missinipe and Stanley Mission. Respondents who visited other LLRPP areas most commonly entered and exited at Missinipe and Devils Lake.

Table 7.7 – Entry and Exit Points of Recent Trip

	Entry Point		Exit Point	
	Stanley Mission Area	**Other LLRPP Area**	**Stanley Mission Area**	**Other LLRPP Area**
Missinipe (Otter Lake)	42.4%	51.0%	35.9%	63.0%
Stanley Mission	32.9%	0%	46.5%	0%
Devils Lake (Otter Rapids)	5.9%	25.7%	2.4%	24.2%
La Ronge/Air Ronge	5.3%	1.4%	7.1%	0.9%
Waden Bay	4.1%	0%	3.5%	0%
Four Portages	3.5%	0%	0%	0%
Nemeiben Lake	2.4%	4.8%	0.6%	0.9%
Other[1]	1.8%	10.5%	2.9%	5.5%
Lynx Lake	0.6%	4.3%	1.2%	2.7%
Mackay Lake	0.6%	2.4%	0%	2.7%

[1] *'Other' commonly included McLennan Lake and Paull River.*

Figure 7.1 – Map of LLRPP

Lakes and Rivers Passed during Recent Trip

Respondents were asked to identify all of the rivers they passed during their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area were more likely to pass the Churchill River, Nistowiak Lake, Mountain Lake, Drope Lake, and Iskwatikan Lake and less likely to pass Barker Lake compared to respondents who visited other LLRPP areas.

Table 7.8 – Lake and Rivers Passed during Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Churchill River	**76.2%***	**64.0%***
Otter Lake	59.9%	52.7%
Nistowiak Lake	**57.6%***	**1.8%***
Mountain Lake	**47.1%***	**5.9%***
Drope Lake	**2.4%***	**0.5%***
Iskwatikan Lake	**29.7%***	**0%***
Barker Lake	**16.3%***	**32.9%***
Other[1]	9.9%	14.0%

**Difference between groups statistically significant at the p<.05 level;*

[1]*'Other' commonly included French Lake, Ducker Lake, and Paull River.*

Use and Helpfulness of Information Sources

Respondents were asked to identify all of the sources they used to find out information about their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. The most commonly identified information sources used by respondents from both comparison groups were topographic maps, previous trip experience, family or friends, and outfitters. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area were more likely to use friends or family, guide books, the Visitor Information Centre in La Ronge, the Tourism Saskatchewan website, Saskatchewan parks staff and Fresh Air Experience, and less likely to use an outfitter compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas.

Respondents were also asked to rate the helpfulness (from 1-Not at all Helpful to 5- Very Helpful) of each of the information sources they used. The most helpful information sources identified by both comparison groups were previous trip information, topographic maps, and outfitters. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area were less likely to rate outfitters and guide books as quite or very helpful compared to respondents who visited other LLRPP areas.

Table 7.9 – Use and Helpfulness of Information Sources

	Used Source		**Helpfulness (Quite/Very Helpful)**	
	Stanley Mission Area	**Other LLRPP Area**	**Stanley Mission Area**	**Other LLRPP Area**
Topographic Maps	89.5%	84.4%	96.2%	96.4%
Previous Trip Experience	75.6%	72.6%	96.2%	98.0%
Friends/Family	**66.7%***	**52.6%***	81.4%	88.7%
Outfitter	**63.8%***	**77.2%***	**88.5%***	**98.6%***
Guide Book (Canoeing the Churchill, Northern Saskatchewan Canoe Trips)	**62.3%***	**49.4%***	**82.1%***	**94.7%***
Canoe Route Booklets	60.1%	52.2%	79.0%	80.2%
Other Internet	37.5%	26.6%	61.8%	74.3%
Saskatchewan Parks Website	27.7%	18.2%	53.6%	60.7%
Visitor Information Centre (La Ronge)	**25.5%***	**14.0%***	75.0%	--
Tourism Saskatchewan Website	**19.6%***	**10.2%***	--	--
Saskatchewan Parks Staff	**17.5%***	**9.0%***	--	--
Fresh Air Experience	**22.1%***	**12.4%***	--	--
Saskatchewan Parks Brochures/Flyers	9.7%	7.2%	--	--
Other[1]	6.8%	10.6%	--	--
Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan	6.6%	7.3%	--	--
Tourism Saskatchewan Brochures	2.2%	4.4%	--	--

**Difference between groups statistically significant at the p<.05 level;*

[1]*'Other' commonly included other maps and written materials;*

- - Too few respondents to report.

Motivation for Recent Trip

Respondents were asked to rate the desirability (from 1-Not at all Desirable to 5-Extremely Desirable) of several experiences and benefits to their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. Generally, respondents from both comparison groups provided similar desirability ratings. The two most frequently reported benefits reported by respondents from both comparison groups were: 1) Being at one with nature; and 2) To experience nature in a pristine setting. A smaller proportion of respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area (62.0%) during their recent canoe or kayak trip rated challenges that tested my abilities as quite or extremely desirable compared to those who visited other LLRPP areas (72.4%).

Table 7.10 – Motivation for Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Being at one with nature	94.0%	95.9%
To experience nature in a pristine setting	91.0%	94.0%
Greater connection with wilderness	89.3%	89.4%
Get away from life's usual demands	86.3%	91.6%
Feeling a sense of adventure	82.5%	86.7%
Opportunities to view wildlife	78.0%	78.9%
Develop or improve my own skills	75.4%	77.8%
Strengthened relationships with friends/family	74.1%	79.7%
Enhanced physical fitness	71.9%	73.1%
Gaining a sense of independence	66.7%	70.9%
Increased sense of competence	66.1%	73.6%
Help others develop their skills	65.2%	61.5%
Challenges that tested my abilities	**62.0%***	**72.4%***
Greater connection with Voyageur culture	47.0%	44.8%
Greater connection for ancient cultures	45.7%	40.8%
Greater connection with First Nations culture	41.9%	35.7%
Opportunities to meet new people	23.3%	18.6%

Values reflect the percentage of respondents who rated each item as quite or extremely desirable;
**Difference between groups statistically significant at the p<.05 level.*

Satisfaction with Recent Trip

There was a significant difference (p<.05) by the location of respondents' recent overnight canoe or kayak trip with their satisfaction with that recent trip. Respondents who visited the Stanley Mission area during their recent canoe or kayak trip reported lower levels of satisfaction than respondents who visited other LLRPP areas.

Table 7.11 – Satisfaction with Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Quite Dissatisfied	2.9%	0.5%
Fairly Dissatisfied	1.7%	0.9%
Neutral	1.2%	0.5%
Fairly Satisfied	5.8%	3.6%
Quite Satisfied	41.9%	33.3%
Completely Satisfied	46.5%	61.3%

Factors that Detracted from Recent Trip

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement (1-Strongly Disagree to 5-Strongly Agree) with several factors that may have detracted from their recent overnight canoe or kayak trip in or near LLRPP. The three most commonly identified detractors indicated by respondents from both comparison groups were: 1) Litter or garbage around campsites; 2) Litter or garbage on riverbanks; and 3) Human waste.

There were no significant differences by the location of respondents' recent canoe or kayak trip with the factors that detracted from their recent trip in or near LLRPP.

Table 7.12 – Factors that Detracted from Recent Trip

	Stanley Mission Area	Other LLRPP Area
Litter/garbage around campsites	71.4%	69.9%
Litter/garbage on riverbanks	65.3%	62.6%
Human waste	54.7%	56.8%
Overuse of campsites	54.5%	52.1%
Lack of safe/secure parking	45.8%	38.5%
Vegetation damage	40.9%	49.8%
Signs of vandalism	40.2%	39.7%
Unsafe/disrespectful behaviour of others	34.5%	31.0%
Oil or gas spills	27.0%	30.2%
Overuse of portages	26.7%	20.6%
Fish Waste	24.7%	32.4%
Disruptive or noisy campers	23.0%	24.1%
Bad weather	16.9%	19.5%
Too many people on the river	18.5%	20.7%
Erosion of soil	17.6%	22.4%
Lack of firewood	16.5%	15.1%
Poor quality campsites	14.4%	9.9%
Insufficient trip planning information	13.4%	14.5%
Campsites not clearly defined or designated	12.2%	8.1%
Insufficient skill/fitness of other party members	12.1%	11.3%
Difficult access to campsites	10.1%	8.0%
Nuisance wildlife	8.5%	12.7%
Own skill or fitness level was insufficient	6.1%	7.6%

Values reflect the percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with each item.

SECTION 8: TOP OF MIND

Respondents were asked "What three words or short expressions come to mind when you think about the Churchill River in Saskatchewan?" Most respondents (89.3%) provided at least one response to this open-ended question for a total of 1,757 unique response items. Responses were categorized into seven themes and 25 sub-theme categories.

Natural Environment

The largest proportion (38.5%) of response items were related to the Natural Environment theme. Response items in this theme were categorized into four sub-themes: 1) Aesthetic Beauty (21.6%); 2) Pristine, Natural and Unspoiled (13.0%), Rugged, Forested Landscape (2.6%), and 4) Wildlife (1.4%). Words or phrases commonly used to describe Aesthetic Beauty included: beautiful; awesome; and scenic. Pristine, wilderness/wild, and natural were commonly used to describe the Pristine, Natural, Unspoiled sub-theme and Canadian Shield, boreal forest, and rugged were commonly used to describe the Rugged, Forested Landscape sub-theme.

Experiences and Benefits

Over one-quarter of the total response items (28.9%) were related to the Experiences and Benefits theme. This theme was comprised of six sub-themes: 1) Fun, Challenging Adventure (9.0%); 2) Peaceful, Relaxing, Quiet (8.9%); 3) Historical/Heritage Significance (7.0%); 4) Connection to Place (2.3%); 5) Connection to Nature/Spirituality (1.4%); and 6) Bonding (0.3%). Fun, adventure, exciting, and challenging were commonly used words to describe the Fun, Challenging Adventure sub-theme. Commonly used words to describe the Peaceful, Relaxing, Quite sub-theme included: peaceful; quiet; and serene. Historic and voyageurs were commonly used to describe the Historical/Heritage Experience sub-theme.

Description of Water

A small proportion of response items (13.8%) described the water of the Churchill River. This theme was categorized into five different sub-themes: 1) Vast Waterway (4.4%); 2) Fast Moving Water (4.3%); 3) Clean and Clear Water (2.2%); 4) Diverse (1.6%); and 5) Other Descriptions (1.3%). Commonly used words to describe the Vast Waterway sub-theme were vast and big water. Powerful rapids and white-water were commonly used to describe the Fast Moving Water sub-theme.

Recreation Activities

A small proportion of response items (6.2%) were related to Recreation Activities, which were categorized into three sub-themes: 1) Canoeing/Paddling (3.4%); 2) Fishing (2.0%); 3) Other Recreation Activities (0.8%). Words or phrases that were commonly used regarding the Canoeing/Paddling sub-theme were: good/great canoeing; and paddling for all skill levels. Good/great fishing were commonly reported within the Fishing sub-theme.

Threats and Barriers

The Threats and Barriers theme (2.2%) was made up of three different sub-themes: 1) Crowded, Overused, Threatened (2.2%); 2) Requires Protection (1.7%); and 3) Barriers (1.5%). Crowded and overused were commonly used to describe the Crowded, Overused, Threatened sub-theme.

Accessibility

The Accessibility theme (3.9%) was categorized into two different sub-themes: 1) Isolated and Remote (2.7%); and 2) Accessible (1.2%).

Location
The final theme was Location (2.3%). This theme was categorized into two different sub-themes: 1) Geographic Location (1.5%); and 2) Places along the Churchill River (0.9%). North was commonly used to describe the Geographic Location sub-theme.

Table 8.1 - Top of Mind: Churchill River in Saskatchewan

	Number of Responses	Percent of Total Responses
Natural Environment	**676**	**38.5%**
Aesthetic Beauty	*379*	*21.6%*
Pristine, Natural, Unspoiled	*228*	*13.0%*
Rugged, Forested Landscape	*45*	*2.6%*
Wildlife	*24*	*1.4%*
Experiences and Benefits	**508**	**28.9%**
Fun, Challenging Adventure	*158*	*9.0%*
Peaceful, Relaxing, Quiet	*156*	*8.9%*
Historical/Heritage Experience	*123*	*7.0%*
Connection to Place	*41*	*2.3%*
Connection to Nature/Spirituality	*24*	*1.4%*
Bonding	*6*	*0.3%*
Description of Water	**242**	**13.8%**
Vast Water	*78*	*4.4%*
Fast Moving Water	*75*	*4.3%*
Clear and clean water	*38*	*2.2%*
Diverse	*28*	*1.6%*
Other Descriptions	*23*	*1.3%*
Recreation Activities	**109**	**6.2%**
Canoeing/Paddling	*60*	*3.4%*
Fishing	*36*	*2.0%*
Other Recreation Activities	*13*	*0.8%*
Threats and Barriers	**96**	**5.5%**
Crowded, Overused, Threatened	*39*	*2.2%*
Requires Protection	*30*	*1.7%*
Barriers	*27*	*1.5%*
Accessibility	**68**	**3.9%**
Isolated, Remote	*47*	*2.7%*
Accessible	*21*	*1.2%*
Location	**41**	**2.3%**
Geographic Location	*26*	*1.5%*
Places along the Churchill	*15*	*0.9%*

SECTION 9: ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS BASED ON OPEN-ENDED COMMENTS

There were two questions in the survey in which respondents could provide open-ended comments. Section 8 of this report describes the themes and sub-themes that emerged from the "top of mind" question. Respondents also had the opportunity to provide open-ended responses to the question "Is there anything else you would like to share?" This section provides additional insights related to canoeing and kayaking in or near LLRPP based on open-ended comments provided by respondents.

Based on the responses to the "top-of-mind" and "anything else you'd like to share" questions, respondents treasure their memories of canoeing on the Churchill River and other areas of Northern Saskatchewan.

The "top-of-mind" responses were overwhelmingly positive and provide a lot of descriptions that can be used to help promote Northern Saskatchewan to tourists who may or may not canoe or kayak. The Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch will work with the Parks Service and Tourism Division to disseminate this information internally and externally for the benefit of promoting tourism in Northern Saskatchewan.

The "anything else you'd like to share" responses were much more detailed and diverse. Many respondents took the time to more clearly articulate their connection to the North and their passion for protecting the wilderness experience for future generations. They also recognized that there were a few high-use areas that needed attention.

Based on survey responses to potential management options, there were a number of significant differences between respondents who had tripped in LLRPP and those who had not. When this information is combined with the open-ended comments, it suggests that taking modest management actions would make canoeing/kayaking in LLRPP more attractive to potential visitors.

The following "anything else you'd like to share" responses are divided into six emergent categories with selected quotes to illustrate the diversity of responses within each category.

Balancing Preserving the Wilderness Experience while Preventing Negative Impacts of Increased Use/Demand:

There is a great deal of support for keeping the area as pristine as possible. There is also a recognition that action must be taken to improve conditions at the busiest portages and campsites. However, respondents were concerned with over-regulation or other actions that would detract from the wilderness experience that makes this area a "treasure."

The Churchill River in and around Lac La Ronge Provincial Park is a wonderful area that deserves to be protected so we can all enjoy using it.

It is important to find a balance between preserving the wilderness experience along the Churchill in the park and handling the increased pressures of more people wanting that experience. Good luck.

I have been to Northern Saskatchewan for approx 20 trips. Most are outside Lac La Ronge Provincial Park. I feel Northern Saskatchewan is a world class destination for canoe tripping. I prefer the wilderness trips but accept that others want a less remote trip so need more safety and facilities. Please keep the remote areas wild and free of regulations.

I have been canoeing in this area for 25 years or more. Although there are more people in this area now than in the past, it is far from crowded. A group may not get the best campsite but there are plenty of second rate sights available. It is still too remote for most people and there is a high fitness level required to travel in the area. These factors limit numbers.

…The most important thing you can do for the Churchill is to preserve its wilderness character. To me, that means as few man-made intrusions as possible. Picnic tables - a definite no-no; toilet pits can be a necessary evil when enough people make use of a campsite during a season. Fire pits are not necessary - all sites that are used more than a few times will end up with fire rings built by users - manmade ones destroy the illusion of wilderness and the feeling of adventure. Best of luck with whatever course you take in the future!

I found some of the questions difficult because La Ronge has some very busy areas (Barker Island, Devil portage, Stanley Rapids) that I feel NEED facilities (pit toilets, fire pits, bear cache, tent pads?). However, I would not like to see all of those things in every campsite. Also, a booking system sounds good, but would be difficult to enforce, and may lead to a false sense of security (ex. A group pushes for a longer day because they have a spot booked and can just make it by nightfall. They arrive and another group is already camped there. What happens?) The over-used areas need attention, but I hope to not see policies that blanket the whole park.

…I feel the best way to protect the area is to limit the number of amenities and limit the access (i.e road building, boat launches, campsites) and target only specific areas for development. It would be better served to spread these out over several areas and promote all of them than to concentrate many people in one small area like Lac La Ronge P.P. Obviously this park has the highest demand since it is most accessible and closest to a large town, however if a mandatory reservation system and quota were put in place, other areas could be developed for recreation usage and promoted during the busy season.

…Seems to me the meat of the survey is when you start asking questions about limiting the number of people. Quetico Park in Ontario does this and I think it unfair. I've travelled in 25-40 person groups in La Ronge and am sure we were better for the environment that some of the 4 people groups. Governments always forget or ignore that type of friendly traveller. They just look a numbers and say no to the big group. This is exactly what has happened in NW Ontario. I love the Churchill River. I've been on it almost every second year since 1965. Please don't stop my group...

It is very important that we protect the fragile eco system of the Churchill River system. We must limit development and industries such as mining in or near the region. All it will take is one accident to destroy the beauty of what is the Churchill River eco-system.

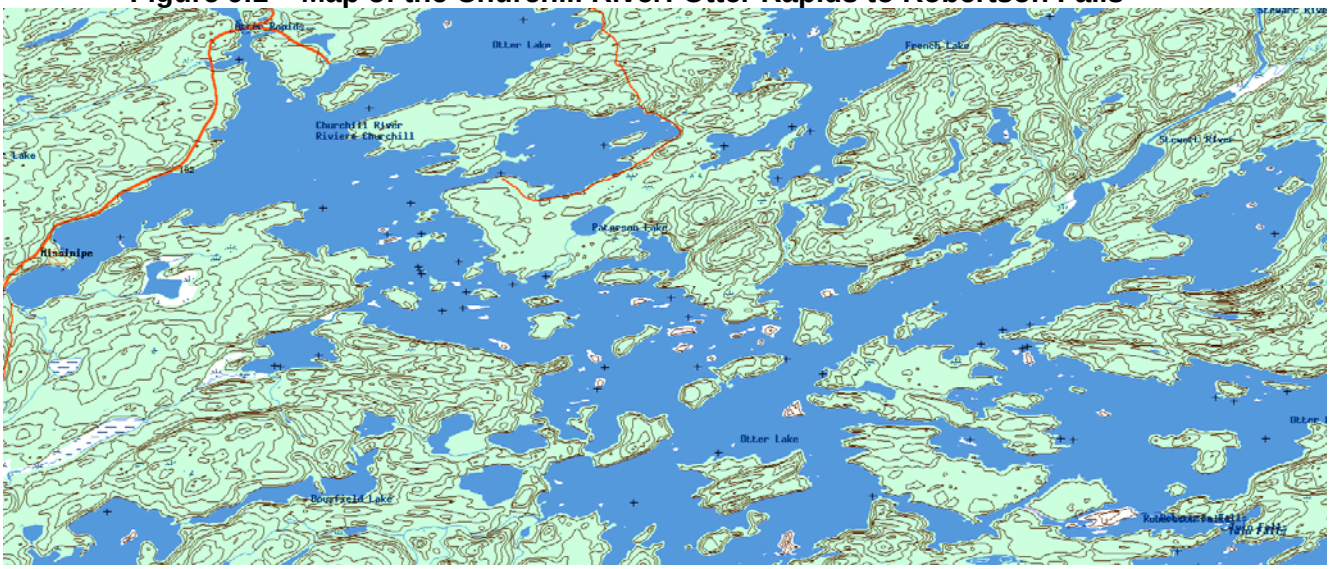
Eliminating Human Waste:

Many of the respondents indicated that human waste was a major issue at campsites and portages on canoe/kayak routes in LLRPP and other locations on the Churchill River. Respondents indicated that human waste factored into their decision on where to canoe/kayak. For some, they have chosen not to return to the Churchill area due to human waste.

Many respondents emphasized the need for education to encourage no-trace camping/canoeing. Respondents also recognized that other actions, such as pit or composting toilets, are needed at high-use areas. Respondents identified the need to consider the long-term implications of actions to address the issue of human waste will require consistent monitoring

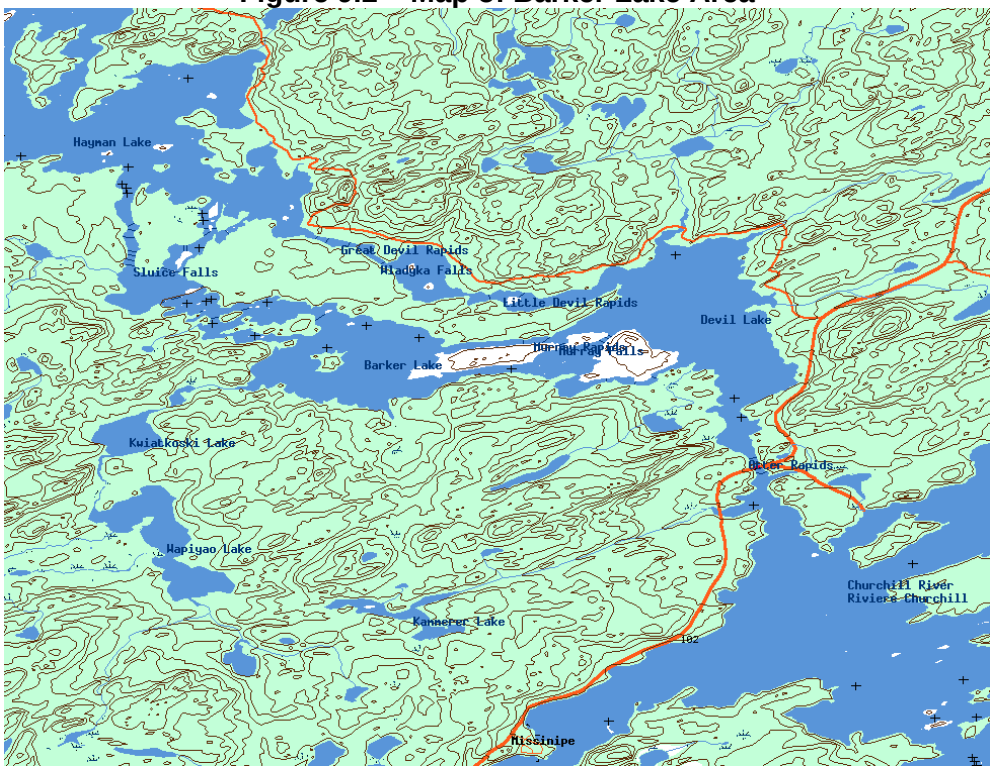
and/or maintenance. For example, several respondents stated that the pit toilets that were installed at Robertson Falls (see Southeast corner of map below) were appreciated and necessary. However, they stated that a pit toilet that isn't maintained in a high use area is not much use.

Figure 9.1 – Map of the Churchill River: Otter Rapids to Robertson Falls



A lot of respondents commented on the human waste and environmental degradation that has taken place in Barker Lake/Corner Rapids/Sluice Falls area (see map below). While it is outside of the LLRPP, respondents indicated that this unique, heavily used area needs basic services for the safety of visitors and to prevent further environmental damage (water and vegetation).

Figure 9.2 – Map of Barker Lake Area



A large reason we have stayed away from the Churchill and Lac La Ronge is it has become so busy and many of the campsites have become like toilets and garbage dumps. Many people, especially kids, don't respect who comes behind them if they are not educated on the subject.

The most disappointing part of our trip was seeing the uncontrolled human waste/toilet paper left around the edges of most campsites. The second most thing was seeing all the garbage lying around and along some of the portages. Both things took the edge off the wilderness experience. I would strongly recommend putting in some form pit toilets in campsites and have work parties travel portages every year to clean up the accumulated garbage.

The human waste problem is detracting from the overall experience. I have canoed in 8 Canadian provinces, and seen my share of toilet paper, but this trip (Besnard Lake Loop) was the worst spectacle. You must find a way to stop this. Suggestion: where there were "boomboxed" (mini-pits with toilet seat) the problem was not as bad. Free fishing license in exchange for the installation of a boombox could be an incentive for boombox installation. Proof of installation could come on the internet from a digital picture with gps grid location. With picture and GPS location, staff could verify validity of claim in less than a minute if GPS locations are kept on database. We have technology; let's use it. Other that the human waste problem, the canoe trip was awesome.

I have been on numerous canoe trips both in and outside of La Ronge Provincial Park. My greatest disappointment continues to be the sight of garbage on portages and campspots. Whatever you do please stress zero trace camping. Whatever you bring in bring out.

Quite simply these are my concerns: -group camping is out of control resulting in environmental degradation at some, but not all, campsites -canoe groups are massive -human waste is a huge issue at places like Robertson Falls -whilst I appreciate the "outhouse" attempt at R. Falls, I hope lessons can be learned there - how do you empty it? You don't! Seriously, the waste needs to be either removed or a composting toilet system used. It is full, and the entire campsite has reverted to a toilet paper wasteland where one must do the 'barnyard polka'. By and large I think most paddlers are very reasonable, at least the folks who have a lot of experience. Newbies do not know how to, quite bluntly, [dispose of human waste] in the woods. Nor do they know or practice the other elements of no trace-camping. Education is key, and previous education efforts have been helpful. I think we need more of it.

On question of pit toilets. There is one at Robertson Falls, and two years ago when I had my group there it was disgustingly filthy. If you are going to install them--then clean them.

The area between/including Devil's Lake up river to Sluice falls desperately needs attention, services, regulation and enforcement. Use has increased significantly in the last 15 years and the common camping areas are becoming heavily affected. Clean pit toilets are needed!!

I appreciate the survey and I hope the intentions of the survey will address the following: 1) designated outhouses at well used remote campsites around the Missinipe Barker Lake area. 2) Inclusion of the Churchill River - up river from Otter Rapids in the Lac La Ronge Park area as to be able to have jurisdiction and ability to manage the well used whitewater area within the province. 3) Perhaps provide firewood to designated high use areas at peak use areas to manage over use of firewood for what is typically an over use of fires for cosmetic purposes…

Attachment to Northern Saskatchewan:

A number of respondents took the opportunity to provide more details on how much they enjoyed their experience and the strong connection they had with Northern Saskatchewan. A few also indicated that they had voluntarily worked to improve portage trails and campsites along the Churchill River. One respondent suggested that a “Friends of the Park” group could be created to coordinate volunteer initiatives to improve the park.

We were so enthralled with our experience last year, that will be venturing out again in 10 days time!!!!!!

…I love the Churchill, I was married at Nistowiak Falls and met my husband at Otter Rapids at a Mosquito cup.

My husband & I have been canoeing in northern Saskatchewan every year since we first came here in 1984 --twenty seven canoe trips, 512 days--all documented in words and photos. You have great canoeing country--keep it that way -- it is our home away from home.

I love the peace and solitude available within Saskatchewan the canoeing wilderness. The peoples of Saskatchewan have always been some of the most gracious and friendly.

I love Northern Saskatchewan and other areas where the canoeing is serene and away from the large crowds. A working holiday that is peaceful and exciting.

We just moved to Saskatchewan, and can't wait to explore, both the province, and especially Lac La Ronge Provincial Park.

I loved my experience. It was my first time canoeing + my first time in northern Sask. I usually visit once a year in the south western portion of the province. I am so glad we took this trip. What a beautiful province Sask is! I loved showing my pictures to friends and family in Toronto. People had no idea!!!

Four Friends and I rebuilt the Great Devil and Little Devil Lakes portages in June 2008. We built bridges over the worst spots and re-routed other areas where it made good sense. Being very experienced in the bush , I think that the job turned out very well. Unfortunately, very serious health problems have prevented me from my planned trip this spring/summer to see how the work fared through the winter. I will need to hear the report from my friends who are planning a trip in August over the portages. Incidentally, we worked for 5 long, full days (and very buggy--black flies) to do the work at primarily our own expense. There was some minimal support from the Saskatoon canoe club.

I appreciate the survey and I hope the intentions of the survey will address… 4) The establishment of a ‘friends of the park’ group which could manage or support the management of the above concerns. I am willing to facilitate and participate in this initiative if needed.

Keep Canoe Route Maps and Other Information Current:

Several respondents commented on the need for updated canoe route maps and other information. The materials that are currently available are utilized and appreciated. Some commented that this updated information would improve their experience by increasing accessibility and safety.

…I always try to use the Canoe Routes books, but very outdated, last year many portages marked good, had not been used in a long time and were hard to differentiate between portage vs Deer trail

The canoe route booklets need to be re-visited periodically and updated (with dates of the updates given). This can be done easily on the web. Where the routes include pictograph sites there should be a message about the ethics involved in visiting the sites (no splashing with water for photography, no touching, etc.)

#1 Priority should be cleaning up the portages described in the guides. We have found some to be so overgrown they are non-existent. IF there is not enough of a budget to work on them all certain routes should be abandoned. We have had to shoot rapids with a full canoe before because we could not portage the gear safely.

I am planning a three -four night kayak trip with friends for next summer. I have been looking on the internet for trip information. I have yet to find maps on line and that would be helpful.

Topographic maps are heart of guiding any trip. These need to be updated. I did the Haultain River this summer and rapids and falls are marked incorrectly on maps. FIX this please!!!

Topographical maps that would go along with the canoe books would be the best way of providing safety for trippers

Services to Support Canoeing/Kayaking:

Several respondents also commented on different services that would improve awareness and attract more tourists to Northern Saskatchewan. These services included rentals, secure parking, vehicle transfers, shopping and advertising.

I would like to get more involved in kayaking but do not have the proper resources to do so. (ie. car attachments, proper equipment, nearby lakes/rivers etc.)

Canoeing and kayaking are great. Opportunities for rentals would be super at Lac La Ronge Provincial park for a reasonable rate.

We had a tough time locating good places to camp along the way from Otter Rapids to Nistoiak Falls. Could use some help establishing a few more and better marked areas that camping would be OK. Also, vehicles were vandalized at Stanley Mission. That needs to be dealt with or this route will never become as popular as it should.

We find the hardest part of organizing a trip is finding economical vehicle transfers. (from start point to destination)

Would hope you would keep the Churchill River system as primitive as possible and only employ a reservations system if the area gets too busy. Secure parking areas at access points if possible, hidden camera or such.

There are so many ways the local communities could bring in more tourists who canoe/kayak and overnight and there are some small services that would be nice and would be used (but enough to support those who create the businesses?) if advertised. The shopping experience that is so much a part of current culture - each of the communities i have been to has cool stuff.

Sask Tourism needs to do a much better job at promoting what we have here in this province, more like the Newfoundland commercials.

Government's Stewardship Role:

A few respondents identified the importance of government playing a role in the stewardship role to protect the wilderness in Northern Saskatchewan for future generations. Several also appreciated government's efforts to survey canoeists and kayakers to better understand what can be done to improve their experience while also protecting the natural environment.

Our lakes, rivers and forests are a gift. Govt must play a leading role in stewardship.

As a physical educator i believe the opportunity for students to spend time outdoors is invaluable. The government has recognized the need to offer educational opportunities like canoe tripping to students. Increased support will only increase the use of our beautiful province.

I have lived in the north in various locations - Pelican Narrows, Buffalo Narrows, Hudson Bay etc. and find that the are this survey describes is some of the best managed but also the highest traffic areas for canoers. Great to know that you are continuing to be stewards of this area.

I am excited that you are taking the time to research this area's use and what can be done to protect it.