

SOUTH WAPITI LOCAL PLAN

**DRAFT**

May 1986

Prepared by:  
Alberta Forest Service  
Fish & Wildlife Division  
Public Lands Division

FORESTRY

ENR Report Number: T/116

International Standard Book Number: 0-86499-360-9

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS REPORT, CONTACT:

Energy and Natural Resources Information Centre  
Main Floor, Bramalea Building  
9920 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

Telephone: (403) 427-3590

## PREFACE

This planning document was prepared by involved government agencies in recognition of the need for improved management of Alberta's lands and resources. It applies only to public lands within the South Wapiti planning area, and not to any private or federal lands.

The plan presents the Government of Alberta's resource management policy for the public lands and resources within the area. It is intended to be a guide to resource managers, industry and publics having responsibilities or interests in the area rather than a regulatory mechanism. Resource potentials and opportunities for development are identified with a view to assisting in the economic progress of Alberta. The plan is sufficiently flexible so that all future proposals for land use and development may be considered. No legitimate proposals will be categorically rejected. The provincial government is committed to serving Albertans; should a proposal not be in keeping with the provisions of the plan, every means will be taken to explore alternative means for accommodating the proposal in a more appropriate location, either in this planning area or on other public lands. The rejection of any proposals will only be done in writing by the associate minister or his designate.

A detailed outline for implementation will be provided for this local plan in order to identify the necessary implementation actions and roles. This implementation outline will also provide for the continuing review of the plan so that it may accommodate changing needs and situations. Wherever possible, the private sector will be provided the opportunity to be actively involved in the operational delivery of the plan.

While the plan identifies resource potentials and opportunities, the realization of these may require the dedication of major amounts of public funds. The plan will be used on the understanding that any actions required for implementation will only be undertaken as budgetary approvals are given in the normal way. The private sector will be given the first opportunity to provide any development required.

This plan has no legal status and is subject to revisions or review at the discretion of the Minister of Forestry.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Descriptive Synopsis

The South Wapiti planning area covers an area of approximately 200 km<sup>2</sup> (77 sq. mi.) and lies to the south west of the City of Grande Prairie (Figure 1). The Wapiti River bounds the area on the north and west sides. A legal boundary, the north side of Township 68, bounds the area on the south. The eastern boundary generally follows the western edge of the private land in the South Wapiti settlement. There are no private lands and no agricultural dispositions in the planning area.

The soil consists of lacustrine, morainal and aeolian deposits. A mixedwood forest predominates most of the area. There are large areas, particularly in the northeast portion of the planning area which are poorly drained. Much of this wetland has limited capability for agriculture.

Riparian lands along the Wapiti River and Pinto Creek have long been noted as important habitat for ungulates. As a result, the planning area is a favored destination for many big game hunters.

In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for agricultural land. Most of the demand is coming from local farmers who need to expand in order to make their operation more viable. The primary purpose of this plan is to identify lands which are suitable for agricultural development while retaining the multiple use character of the planning area as a whole.

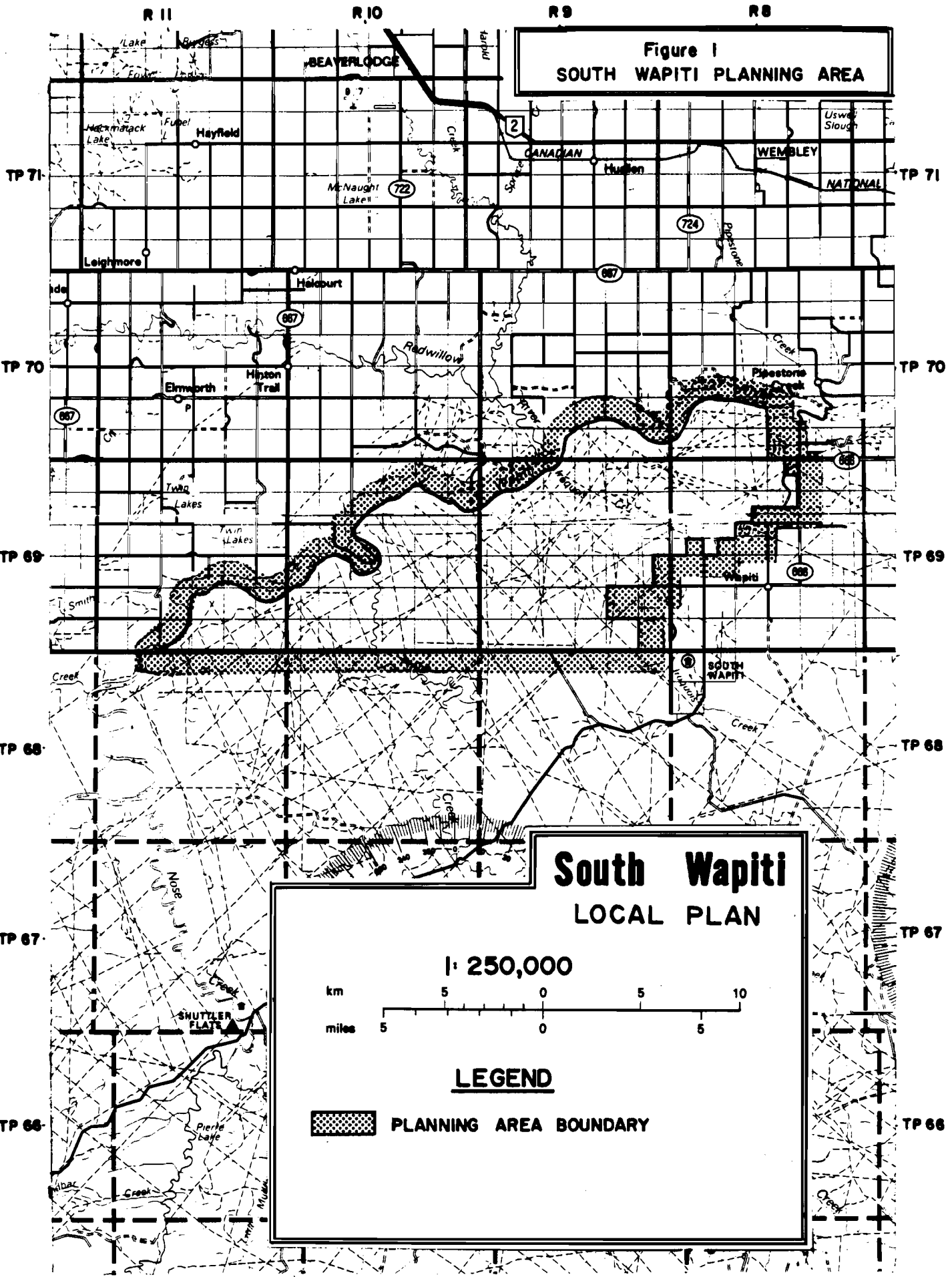
### 1.2 Planning Background

The South Wapiti area was identified as having potential for agricultural expansion in 1981 under the Accelerated Land Sales Program. Preliminary investigation at that time indicated that there was a good deal of competition between agricultural expansion and forestry/wildlife resources.

In March of 1985, the Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) identified this area as a candidate for a local plan. The plan was initiated April 1, 1985. Team members were appointed from Public Lands, Fish and Wildlife (F&W) and the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) with the AFS member acting as co-ordinator.

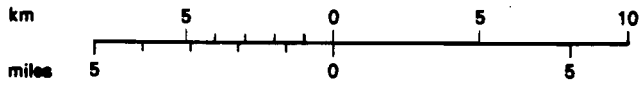
In 1981, Pedology Consultants were contracted by Public Lands Division, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, to conduct a detailed soil inventory in Twp 69, Rge 9 and 10, W6M [total of 6 080 a. (2 461 ha)]. The remaining lands which indicated agricultural capability were inventoried by Public Lands Division staff in the fall of 1984.

**Figure 1  
SOUTH WAPITI PLANNING AREA**



**South Wapiti  
LOCAL PLAN**

1: 250,000



**LEGEND**

 **PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY**

## **2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

The Government of Alberta is responsible for management of the provincial resource base and works to make the best use of all natural resources to provide maximum benefits for all Albertans, now and in the future. In achieving this objective, the planning team worked from four basic guidelines in integrating the management of the various resources of the area. The guidelines are as follows:

1. To plan to utilize and manage all the natural resources of the area to the benefit of all Albertans.
2. To prioritize uses which are of greatest economic and social value giving due consideration to the capability of the area.
3. To minimize any negative impacts which the use or development of any one resource may have upon other resources.
4. To promote optimum environmental quality by minimizing negative impacts which the use or development of any resource may have upon the natural environment.

### **2.1 Broad Resource Management Objectives and Guidelines**

The management objectives and guidelines which follow are applicable to the entire planning area. They are listed alphabetically by resource sector. Introductory statements precede the management objectives and guidelines. These give a synopsis of the overall status of the resource in the planning area. In some cases (i.e. agriculture) there are no broad objectives or guidelines following the introductory statement. This is because no single objective can be applied equally to all Resource Management Areas (RMAs).

#### **2.1.1 Agriculture**

In the Grovedale and South Wapiti communities, agricultural activity focuses on livestock production, cereal grains, oil seeds and forage production. Climate influences the type of agricultural activity in the area. The climate is marginal for reliable, annual, high quality production of crops over the long term.

Agriculture has been the stabilizing factor in the area economy since it was settled in the 1940s. Approximately 60% of the area is in some type of agricultural use. Agriculture will continue to develop and expand as new lands are opened for agricultural sales, grazing leases and farm development leases.

Identification of additional lands suitable for agriculture will help meet the needs of the community and will stimulate the local economy.

The livestock industry has also played an important role in the local economy since agriculture was first introduced. Approximately 50% of the total cultivated land is in hay each year, which accounts for the continuing increase in cattle numbers. The cattle industry is still in the early stages of development and the operators are always looking for additional lands capable of forage production. To meet a portion of this demand for expansion, for forage production or till cropping, public land capable of agricultural production must be made available.

### 2.1.2 Fisheries

The Wapiti River and tributary streams support arctic grayling, rocky mountain whitefish, walleye, bull trout, northern pike and numerous non-sport fish species populations. Several of these species migrate lengthy distances in the river and up tributary streams to overwintering and spawning sites. The most notable tributary to the Wapiti in the planning area is Pinto Creek. Iroquois Creek is the second largest tributary and, unlike Pinto Creek, has some of its headwaters in the planning area.

Angling is difficult in the large, fast-flowing and frequently turbid waters of the Wapiti and is usually confined to the upper reaches, or the tributary streams. Access to the Wapiti is limited in the planning area by the steep river breaks; however, access to Pinto, Iroquois and West Iroquois Creeks is good due to road crossings.

To date, the road crossings on the creeks are virtually the only impacts, as there have been no agricultural developments in the planning area. Some agricultural development has occurred along Iroquois Creek outside the planning area, and some large-scale timber harvesting operations are on-going in the headwaters of Pinto Creek.

Potential impacts on fish habitat within the planning area are siltation related to accelerated erosion, extreme high and low flows due to extensive land clearing and drainage projects, nutrient loading and pollution from agricultural chemicals.



Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To manage the aquatic resource to ensure that viable fish populations are maintained for recreation, subsistence and economic benefit.</p> <p>2) To develop and maintain the amount, distribution and variety of recreational fishing opportunities, and to maintain and provide access to the fisheries resources.</p> <p>3) To develop and maintain the habitat base necessary to support the fish resource demand.</p> <p>4) To support and assist non-government organizations with fisheries protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>2) Programs such as Fisheries Access Development, Fish and Game programs, and stocking will be used to maintain and enhance fishing opportunities.</p> <p>3a) Restrictions on resource developments (Ecological corridor agreements, buffers, etc.) may be applied in order to prevent impacts from poor water quality or high sediment loads on important fisheries habitat in the rivers and creeks.</p> <p>b) Source areas such as muskegs and wetlands to be protected from development (including drainage) to maintain water quality and flow regime.</p> <p>c) Programs such as Buck for Wildlife will be used to enhance or develop habitat.</p>

### 2.1.3 Heritage

No general descriptions, objectives or guidelines for heritage are given in this section of the report. Heritage is addressed in each of the three Resource Management Areas in this document.

### 2.1.4 Minerals

The planning area, part of the Deep Basin, has been explored extensively for petroleum and natural gas. Some reserves have been discovered. Reserves of other mineral resources have not been established, although there are significant gravel deposits in the vicinity of Section 22 - Twp 69 - 10 - W6M.

Gravel is scarce in the region; therefore, there is a need to protect and properly manage this resource.

There are no private lands in the planning area; all petroleum and natural gas development occurs on public land.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To provide opportunities for industry to define the extent of mineral resources and to develop or produce minerals in proven reserves.  2) To reserve parcels which have or are thought to have commercial quantities of aggregate.	1) Where possible, roads being constructed for mineral resource and development are to be confined to public road allowances.

**RATIONALE**

Minerals Guideline 1)--Roads that run at random are an encumbrance to a developing farm community as they cut up fields, require gates, etc. It is also important to keep roads on public road allowances in areas proposed for grazing dispositions as these provide unrestricted access for industry and the public.

**2.1.5 Recreation**

Recreation in the South Wapiti area is increasing, especially along the Wapiti River, Pinto Creek and oil company roads. Hunting, fishing, boating and canoeing are the major recreational activities. The oil company roads, pipelines and seismic lines opened up areas which were virtually inaccessible in the past and they have allowed for more public access.

The Wapiti River and Pinto Creek are the two major watercourses in the planning area. The Wapiti River supports most of the water recreation such as canoeing, kayaking and rafting. Access to the Wapiti River is better from its north side. There are approximately 50 private recreational cabins on the north side of the Wapiti River in Sections 16 and 21 - Twp 69 - 10 - W6M. Little intensive recreational use occurs in the planning area because of lack of facilities. However, random camping does take place along the Wapiti River. There is a D-Reservation on Pt. LSD 10 of Section 4 - 69 - 10 - W6M for a detention and assessment facility for juveniles which is operated by the Youth Assessment Center in Grande Prairie. This facility provides outdoor recreation for young people confined to this centre.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To ensure continued opportunities for extensive recreation which provide wildland recreation experiences.</p>	<p>1a) Continued public access to recreation on unoccupied public lands will be maintained; control will be only to the point necessary to prevent or mitigate environmental damage or to prevent the depletion of wildlife and fisheries resources.</p> <p>b) To promote access to occupied public land through the Use Respect Program.</p> <p>The Government of Alberta will take the foregoing guidelines into consideration when issuing dispositions for timber harvesting, grazing, trapping, and petroleum and natural gas development.</p>

### 2.1.6 Timber

There is no record of when the first timber harvesting took place in the planning area. It likely dates back to the 1940s by evidence of old logging activity. Early harvesting was carried out on a selection basis with only the largest trees being harvested under what was known as a stump diameter cut. In the past few years, the timber industry has provided a source of "off-farm" income for the residents of Grovedale and South Wapiti. Many of these people work for Canadian Forest Products and Proctor and Gamble.

There are no timber commitments in the form of Forest Management Agreements (FMA) or quotas in the planning area. An overall objective is to make the timber resource available for local resident use through short-term dispositions such as Local Timber Permits, Commercial Timber Permits and Deciduous Timber Permits.

The annual allowable cut (AAC) has not been calculated for the planning area. This will be done when the permanent forest land base is established under the auspices of this plan. The AAC will be based on Phase III inventory. Phase III maps have already been prepared.

Liquidation harvesting will be carried out on those lands slated for agricultural sale in the agricultural Resource Management Area (RMA). This harvesting will take place when the coniferous timber reaches commercial size.

Sustained yield forest management will be practised on lands identified as permanent forest lands. In this planning area, all lands lying in the Green Area or lands identified by timber reservation in the White Area. Reforestation will only be carried out on permanent forest lands as approximately 80 years is required to produce a forest crop.

In addition to the coniferous timber resource, there are large supplies of deciduous timber (mostly aspen). Until now, there has been little demand for this wood; however, interest is increasing as new methods of using this resource are being developed and used in Canada. It is anticipated that there will be a substantial market for deciduous timber within the foreseeable future, thus providing a boost to the local economy.

In conclusion, the forest resource has contributed to the economy of the area for many years and will continue to do so through careful long-range planning, so that lands are allocated for permanent timber production in association with other land uses which can co-exist with the growing of trees. Governments and industry must have assurance of a long-range, specified land base before they can employ expensive silviculture to maintain and enhance forest products and uses.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To manage the timber resource for sustained-yield on permanent forest land while promoting a high quality forest environment.	1a) Intensive forest management techniques will be used. b) Harvested stands will be reforested according to established reforestation policy.
2) To provide a sustained supply of wood fibre for industrial and local use now and in the future.	2) Timber harvesting will be planned according to the Timber Harvest Cut Block Design Manual (Henderson 1977) and annual operating plan ground rules in effect. Wildlife and environmental values will be recognized through modification of these conditions when found necessary through Alberta Forest Service (AFS)/Fish and Wildlife (F&W) consultation.
3) To protect the forest from damage including destruction by fire, insects, disease or other causes.	3) Salvage logging will be used after fire or infestation by insects or disease.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
4) To provide for other forest land use.	4) Grazing may be allowed in sustained-yield timber harvesting areas subject to restrictions or modifications. These restrictions will be determined by detailed operational planning to ensure successful timber regeneration.

### 2.1.7 Watershed

The Wapiti River forms the north boundary of the planning area. The valleys are narrow and are being actively modified by erosional forces. The Wapiti River has some hydro-electric potential. The watercourses generally provide a reliable water source throughout the summer. The City of Grande Prairie obtains its water supply downstream from the planning area.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To provide water for consumptive and non-consumptive uses.</p> <p>2) To strike a balance between the conflicting needs of different resource users.</p> <p>3) To promote soil conservation and watershed protection in order to maintain water quantity and quality</p>	<p>2) To strike an equitable balance between the conflicting needs of different resource users. Examples are conflicts between agricultural drainage and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- wetland wildlife habitat retention.</li> <li>-- maintenance of flow regime and water quality for fisheries and other resources.</li> </ul> <p>3a) To ensure resource management activities and other land use practices do not harm water supply, water quality and soils to the extent that on site or downstream water uses are diminished.</p>

### 2.1.8 Wildlife

Intense land use activities in recent years, primarily petroleum and natural gas exploration, have opened up portions of the planning area which were inaccessible not long ago. Owing to improved access and proximity to settlement, hunting pressure has increased many fold. The planning area supports six registered trapping areas, which provides winter employment for several residents. Some licensed guides operate in this vicinity.

Most of the planning area is high quality ungulate range. Small-scale logging operations have increased forage for wildlife in localized areas. Populations of moose are quite dense, while mule deer, white tailed deer and elk also occur. Hunting is important recreation and many local residents use game to supplement their family's meat diet.

<b>Management Objectives</b>	<b>Management Guidelines</b>
1) To manage the wildlife resource including furbearers to ensure that viable populations are maintained for recreation, subsistence and the economy.	1) Detailed inventories of wildlife habitat and populations will be necessary as part of the input to more localized wildlife management plans.
2) To develop and maintain the number, distribution and variety of opportunities for hunting and viewing.	2) To provide and maintain access to public land for wildlife users.
3) To develop and maintain the habitat base necessary to support the demand for wildlife.	3a) Development of the habitat base through Buck for Wildlife or other programs. b) Necessary modifications to, or restrictions on, resource development (including oil and gas, agriculture, timber harvesting, etc.) in order to ensure the maintenance of important wildlife habitats and to mitigate potential impacts on wildlife. Resource development may not be allowed in certain areas to ensure maintenance of local wildlife populations. Restrictions will be determined with the appropriate agencies.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>4) To develop and maintain operational field programs to prevent and control damage by wildlife to people and property and to minimize conflicts between wildlife and society.</p> <p>5) To minimize the impact of land use practices and resource development on fur-bearers and trappers.</p>	<p>5a) Agencies or companies responsible for land use practices and resource developments which have impacts on wildlife habitats will be encouraged to recognize concerns of trappers and take measures to mitigate activities adversely affecting their operations.</p> <p>5b) Public Lands and Alberta Forest Service will notify Fish and Wildlife before posting land for agricultural sale or lease so that registered trappers can be notified of resource area deletions. Fish and Wildlife will issue a letter to the senior trapper identifying the area deleted or affected, and including the effective date and details of the sale or lease.</p>

### **3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Three Resource Management Areas (RMAs) have been identified in the South Wapiti Planning Area: Agriculture, Pinto-Iroquois and River Corridors (Figure 2).

Specific management direction is detailed for each RMA. Jurisdictional and administrative responsibilities is taken into account and focused on portions of land with a similar management intent or set of resource priorities.

Each of the three RMAs has a specific area of emphasis.

The agricultural RMA emphasizes agriculture; Pinto-Iroquois RMA emphasizes multiple use; and River Corridors RMA emphasizes conservation.

For the main part, RMA boundaries do not follow White/Green Area boundaries. Areas of agriculture, multiple use and conservation emphasis can all be located in the White Area. Areas of agriculture emphasis will not be located in the Green Area.

#### **3.2 RMA - Outline of Format**

The following format will be used to describe each RMA:

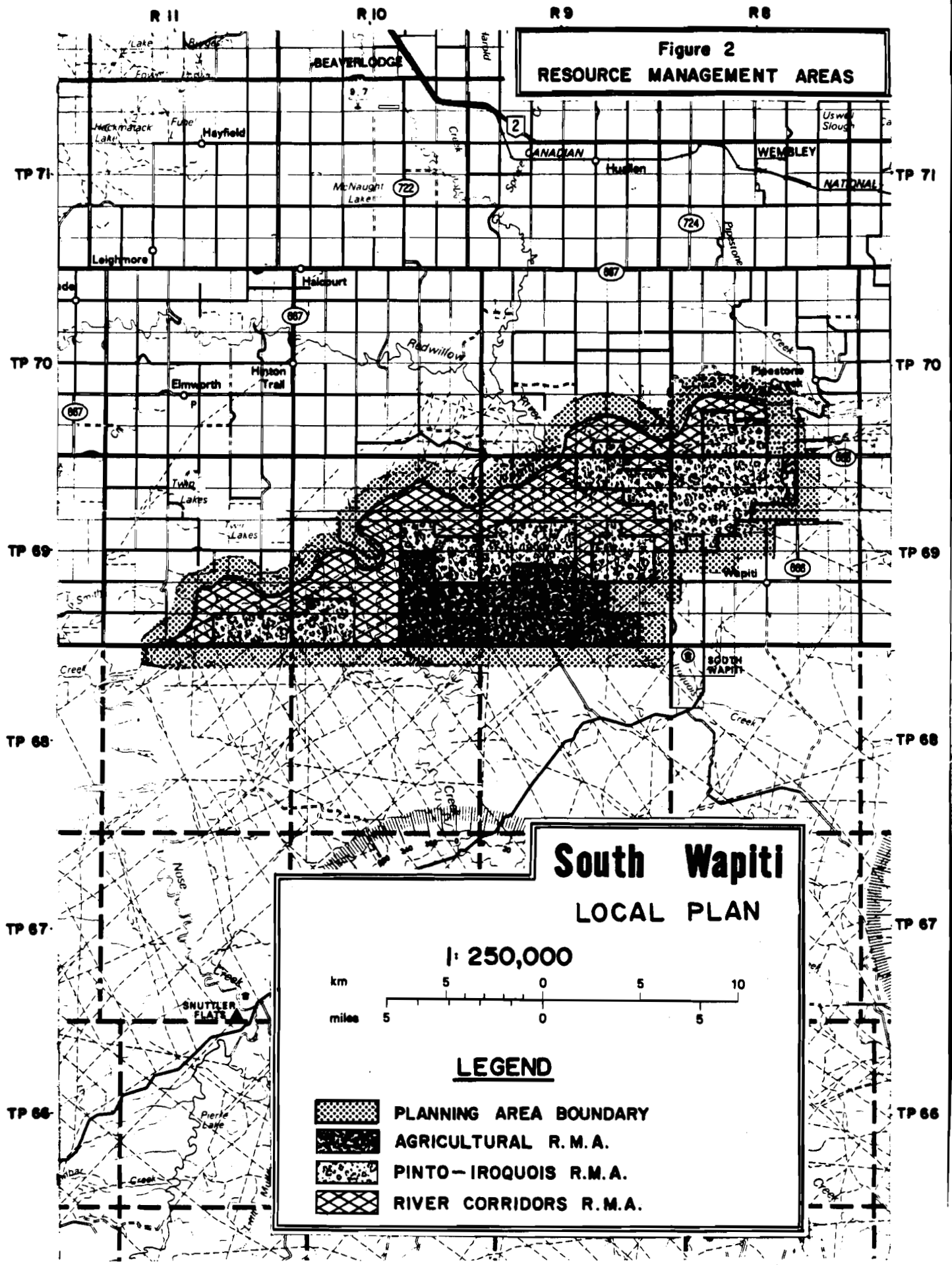
1. An introductory statement will give a summary of information on geographical features, topography, existing resources, vegetation, etc.
2. A management intent statement which expresses the resource management priority is written for each RMA. The priorities set in the intent statement are reflected in the objectives and guidelines which follow.
3. A list of criteria used to identify lands in each area of emphasis (RMA).
4. A resource use/management direction statement.
5. Individual resources are then dealt with in alphabetical order. Each resource receives a short introductory statement followed by objectives and guidelines. No priority is implied by the ordering of either management objectives or guidelines. Objectives and guidelines give



effect to the management intent statement. They provide direction to the operational level and ensure the effective integration of resource management activities by minimizing conflict.

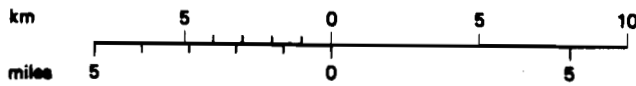
6. An implication statement for each resource is written. This will reflect how the management intent has impact on the resources. Impacts can be positive and/or negative.
7. The description of each RMA will end with a statement of justification.

**Figure 2**  
**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS**







**South Wapiti**  
**LOCAL PLAN**

1: 250,000



**LEGEND**

-  PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
-  AGRICULTURAL R.M.A.
-  PINTO-IROQUOIS R.M.A.
-  RIVER CORRIDORS R.M.A.

### 3.3 Agricultural Resource Management Area

#### 3.3.1 Introduction

Approximately 41 km<sup>2</sup> (16 sections), the Agricultural RMA is the smallest of the three resource management areas (Figure 3). It is south of the Wapiti River, east of Pinto Creek and west of Iroquois Creek. The relief is gently undulating to undulating on a glaciolacustrine plain.

The predominant soils are orthic and solonetzic gray luvisols, having a moderately fine to fine texture. Organic areas are scattered throughout with a concentration in the southwest corner of the RMA.

The well-drained uplands cover consists primarily of aspen poplar. Mature white spruce is prevalent in the older stands that escaped fire. The understory consists of young white spruce, rose and a variety of grasses. The climate of this region is continental with most precipitation occurring in summer.

The City of Grande Prairie is located approximately 48 km (30 mi.) north east of this RMA. The Hamlet of Grovedale is approximately 30 km (19 mi.) east. Thus far, agricultural activity in the South Wapiti area has been restricted to Twp 69 - 6 to 8 - W6M. Agriculture has consisted primarily of forage production, grazing and such crops as wheat, barley, oats and oil seeds.

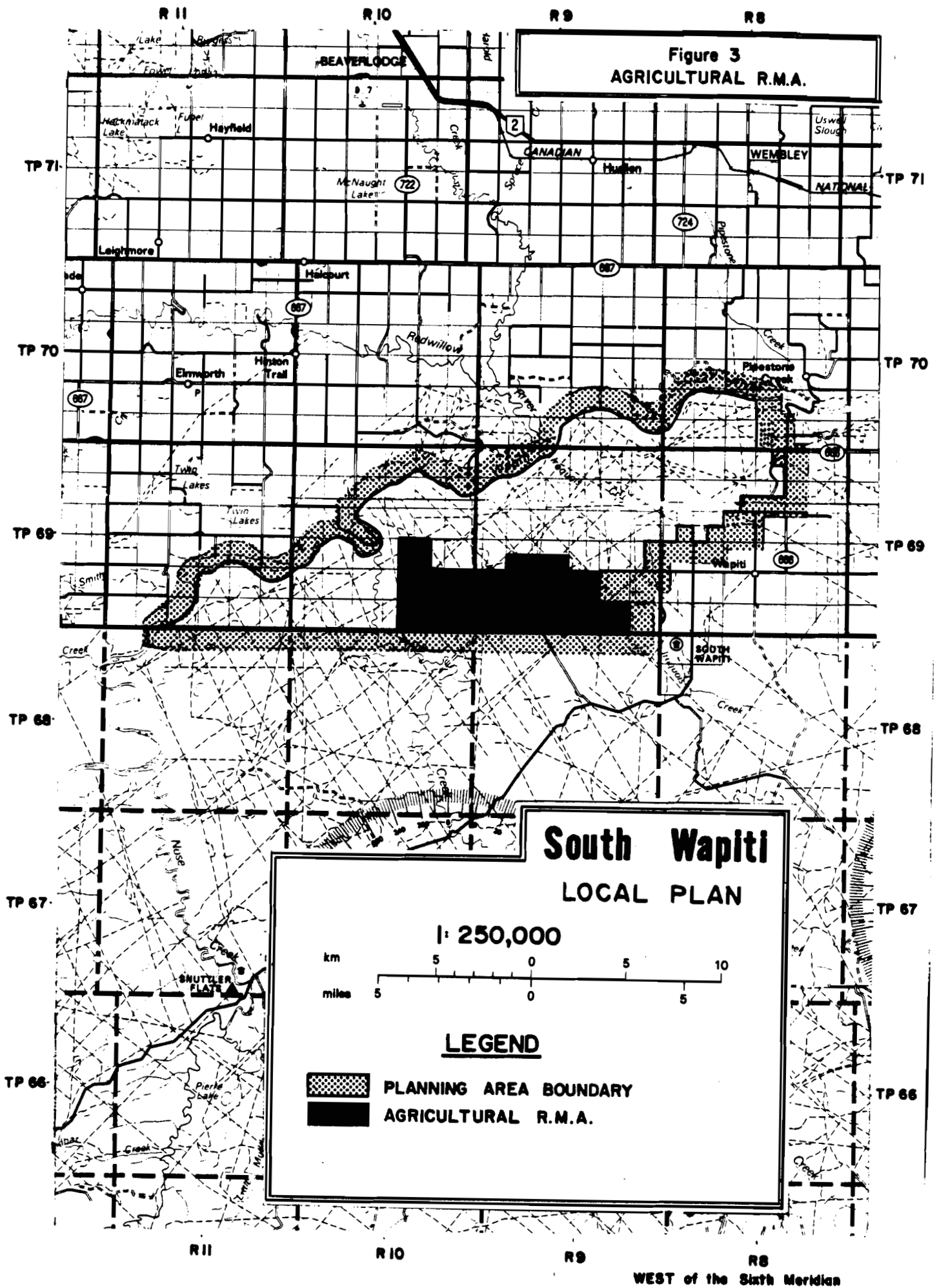
#### 3.3.2 Management Intent

Sustained agricultural use with priority given to the disposition of lands suitable for till cropping, forage production or grazing to meet agricultural expansion needs. Lands suitable for sale will be made available over time. Lands not suitable for sale will be placed under conservation reservation.

#### 3.3.3 Criteria

The following criteria were considered in identifying lands to be placed in this area:

- lands with the highest agricultural capability;
- lands with suitable topography and drainage;
- areas of high local agricultural demand;
- lands adjacent to existing farmland and close to established farm communities;
- readily accessible and developable lands.



**3.3.4 Resource Use/Management Direction**

Agricultural dispositions will have priority in all areas suitable for agricultural production. Other resource uses will be permitted where compatible with the primary agricultural use. They will be subject to existing guidelines and regulations (which in some cases may be restrictive or prohibitive).

**3.3.5 Objectives and Guidelines for Various Resources**

**1. AGRICULTURE**

This RMA contains public lands identified as suitable for agricultural sale. These lands will be made available primarily for private ownership under dispositions leading to title.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To make available for sale or lease public lands with a capability for agricultural production in order to meet a portion of the demand for agricultural land over time.	1) Public land will be made available for agricultural expansion in the following manner: -- all lands in the Agricultural RMA will remain in the White Area; -- arrangements will be made for the installation of necessary services (i.e. roads) to ensure the orderly development of new agricultural areas; -- ecological corridor agreements will be used to protect sensitive areas on lands intended for sale.
2) To increase the level of improved and unimproved grazing where potential and demand exist.	2) The carrying capacity of grazing dispositions will be increased where capability exists upon the approval of a range management plan. Management plans must take measures to provide for grass carryover and wildlife habitat.
3) To minimize any detrimental impact of agricultural expansion on areas identified as environmentally sensitive.	3a) Metes and bounds descriptions or legal subdivisions (LSDs) will be used to sell developable portions of the quarter. If metes and bounds descriptions are not practical, Farm Development Lease

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
	<p>3a) Continued....</p> <p>(FDL) without option to purchase could be issued on suitable parts of the quarter. Unsuitable parts of the quarter sandy soils, muskeg soils (not peaty) and areas of severe topographic constraints to development.</p> <p>3b) Quarter sections with less than approx. 60 ac. (24 ha) developable for agricultural purposes should be retained in public ownership for issuance of grazing lease or FDL without option, where appropriate.</p> <p>Lands reserved from sale in this RMA will be placed under a conservation reservation.</p>

**2. FISHERIES**

See the generally applicable fisheries management objective and guidelines on page 5.

**3. HERITAGE**

The Agricultural RMA is a flat upland area with no features to have attracted native people in the past. As a result, there are no specific management objectives or guidelines for this RMA in regard to historic resources. Alberta Culture will be asked to summarize archeological resources for the planning area and to provide a map indicating areas of high historical resource potential.

**4. MINERALS**

The Agricultural RMA has been extensively explored for petroleum and natural gas and some reserves of natural gas have been discovered. Oil and/or gas wells have been drilled in recent years and a high percentage have been producers. These wells are linked with a road network, with a main road gravelled.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage the assessment and development of known mineral resources.
2. To encourage the exploration for mineral resources in previously unexplored areas and formations.

Also see generally applicable minerals management objective and guideline on page 6 .

5. RECREATION

See the generally applicable recreation management objectives and guidelines on page 7 .

6. TIMBER

There are patches of commercial and regenerating coniferous stands throughout the RMA. Forest cover on better drained areas is predominantly aspen with smaller areas of mature and regenerating white spruce. Much of the aspen is of good quality as the age ranges from immature to mature and average volume per hectare is high. There are also areas of overmature decadent aspen of little commercial value.

Since the management intent for this RMA is sustained agriculture the coniferous timber must be liquidated as it reaches commercial size. Once liquidation is complete, the land will be posted for agricultural sale. Some isolated stands of regenerating conifer will be released to agricultural sale before they reach commercial size as it will not be practical to maintain them in a developing farm community for up to 50 years. Where there is young coniferous growth of significant area on the edge of the RMA it will be maintained in public ownership until it has been harvested. A timber liquidation plan is presented in the implementation section of this document.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To provide a supply of forest products for use by local residents.	1a) Lands of till-cropping capability which support adequate coniferous timber [i.e. minimum 860 m <sup>3</sup> (200,000 fbm) commercial and/or 20 ha (50 a.) young growth] will be held under reservation until the timber is liquidated at which time they will be made available for agricultural sale. See point 3 of Forestry Circular FLU 17 dated September 15, 1978.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>2) To salvage harvest commercial stands of aspen on lands proposed for agricultural development.</p>	<p>b) Where the merchantable coniferous volume is under 860 m<sup>3</sup> (200,000 fbm) on a quarter section, in some cases it will be possible to sell the timber by adding the value to the sale price of the land.</p> <p>2a) When a market exists, merchantable aspen is to be harvested from lands proposed for agricultural development (includes range improvement) before disposition. The aspen harvesting is not to hold up the disposition of land for more than two years.</p> <p>b) Aspen will be sold by Local Timber Permits (LTP) and Commercial Timber Permits (CTP). There will be open competition for CTPs in which both companies and individuals will be eligible to bid.</p> <p>c) If the Grande Prairie area is declared an aspen harvesting zone, the value of the aspen may be added to the purchase price of the land.</p>

## 7. WATERSHED

See generally applicable watershed management objectives and guidelines on page 9.

## 8. WILDLIFE

Not all lands within this RMA are salable. Lands reserved for conservation are important in maintaining dispersed habitat which provide opportunities for recreation, wildlife and water management. Upland and migratory birds, deer, moose, elk and furbearers use these areas and are important in sustaining local recreation and hunting. Wildlife populations in this RMA will depend on the amount and distribution of habitat maintained on private and public lands as well as other factors.



Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To maintain a mosaic of cover types to provide habitat for local wild-life populations on lands in this RMA not suited for agriculture.</p> <p>2) To maintain or enhance wildlife habitat on land retained in public ownership, protecting unique features such as mineral licks, wetlands and other important habitat.</p>	<p>See guideline 3a) and 3b) under agriculture on page 17 and 18.</p>

In addition to the foregoing see generally applicable objectives and guidelines on page 10 and 11.

**3.3.6 Implications**

Recording the anticipated consequences of the plan on resources within the planning area helps in interpreting what the plan is intended to accomplish. It also provides useful information for the approvals, monitoring and review stages of the planning process.

The potential implications arising from a plan of this nature are numerous. Not all are foreseeable and many are of limited consequence. Accordingly, only those implications considered to be significant have been identified by the representatives of the participating agencies. All implications are based on the assumption that the plan is adopted as written.

The implications are ordered alphabetically by resource sector.

Agriculture - 1. Increased servicing and access development will be needed and will require appropriate phasing as agricultural development occurs.

2. Approximately 53 quarter sections [2 975 ha (6 900 a.)] of public land having agricultural capability will be made available for settlement over a period of time. Some quarter sections have less than 64 ha (160 a.) suitable for agricultural development.

Fisheries and Watershed - Clearing of land in this RMA will increase the potential for soil erosion and subsequent siltation of watercourses, nutrient loading and pollution due to agricultural chemicals. These effects will be mitigated to some degree by retention of significant watercourses, muskeg and wetland areas in public ownership. Preservation of muskegs and wetlands is important as these source areas stabilize the flow regime, slowly releasing water to the watershed, as well as purify the water.

Minerals - 1. Transfer of land to many private land holders may cause additional expense, delays and complications to the petroleum and natural gas industry.

2. Extension of the municipal road network facilitates access for the petroleum and natural gas industry.

Recreation - With agricultural expansion there may be a reduction of hunting opportunities as a result of a loss of wildlife habitat. However, sufficient adjoining public lands will remain to provide recreational opportunities in the foreseeable future. Some wildlife thrive near settlements.

Timber - 1. Agricultural expansion will result in the loss of productive forest land. Most of the land going to agriculture is rated as having a high capability for producing wood fibre.

2. Much of the expanding agricultural community is near or adjacent to permanent forest lands. Forest fire protection for these types of communities is expensive and often ineffective. Land clearing and additional access will require more fire protection activity.

3. There will be some decrease in the amount of coniferous timber available to local residents. This cutback will probably not take place for approximately 10 years as timber will be liquidated on lands being made available for agriculture.

4. The community will benefit from harvesting established coniferous timber which is positive with regard to the timber resource. This same implication, is negative to agricultural development as it will mean a delay in the sale of some lands.

When larger markets do develop for deciduous timber, it is probable that farmers will be able to market some of this wood. This would help to defray the high cost of land clearing.

Wildlife - Approximately 41 km<sup>2</sup> (16 sq. mi.) of land falls within this RMA. Ungulate populations will probably decrease with the expansion of patent land. Hunting opportunities will decrease due to reduction in ungulate population and potential access restrictions on expanded patent lands. Recently logged areas (about 325 ha or 800 a.) which are producing high volumes of forage for wildlife have been included in this RMA due to agricultural potential. Two registered trapping areas will be reduced, affecting their viability. Configuration of the RMA produces a relatively large amount of fringe area, thus increasing the opportunity for problem wildlife encounters such as bear or wolf. Deer populations may increase in this RMA depending on cover and forage availability.

### 3.3.7 Justification

Disposing of a large area of public land to agriculture has a significant impact on other resources. There is, however, a large public demand for agricultural expansion in the Peace River Region. This demand is recognized by the Alberta government through the Accelerated Land Sale Policy. Identification of public lands suitable for agriculture was required in order to meet a portion of the expansion requirements of the farming community and to increase the viability of existing farm units. Undesirable effects on other resources have been minimized wherever possible.

## 3.4 Pinto - Iroquois Resource Management Area

### 3.4.1 Introduction

The Pinto - Iroquois RMA is 83 km<sup>2</sup> (32 sq. mi.) and consists of four geographically distinct land areas separated by the River Corridors RMA (Figure 4).

The most easterly area is characterized by aeolian deposits dominated by sand dune formations of shallow relief. Predominately coniferous forests cover the crest of the dunes. Bogs vegetated to willows, dwarf birch and sedges occur in depressions between the dunes.

The two central multiple use areas are more characterized by glacio-fluvial deposits and limited areas of lacustrine soils. The majority of the better drained areas are dominated by deciduous forests. There are numerous depressions with poor drainage.

The most westerly area is characterized by a morainal deposit overlain with a lacustrine veneer. This block contains the most productive forest soils of any of the multiple use areas. Unfortunately, it is small (13.5 km<sup>2</sup> or 5.25 sq. mi.) and difficult to access as it is surrounded by steep canyons and muskegs.

### 3.4.2 Mananement Intent

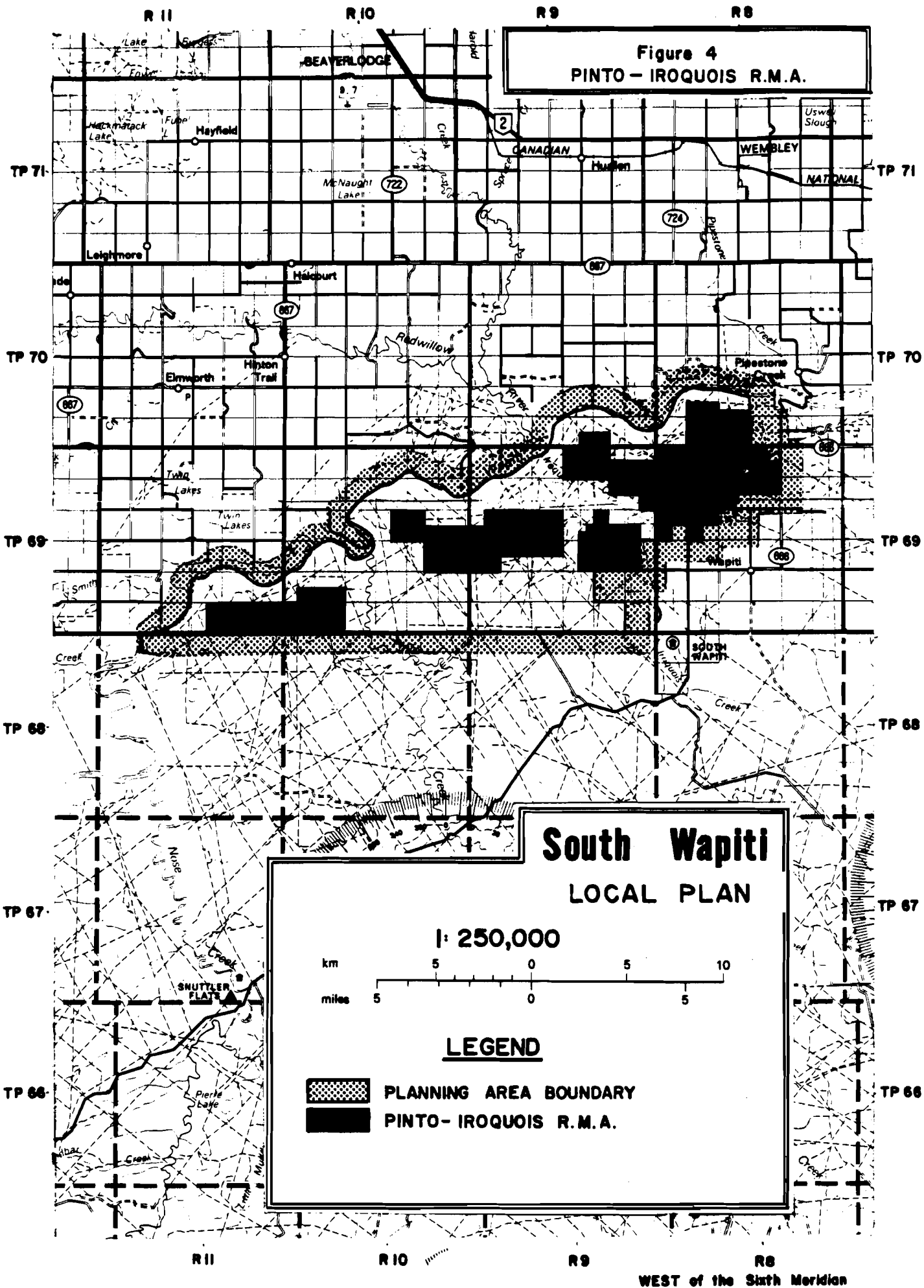
Utilization of the full range of available resources with emphasis on sustained-yield timber management, wildlife management, improved and unimproved grazing and extensive recreation.

### 3.4.3 Criteria

The following criteria were considered in identifying land to be placed in this area:

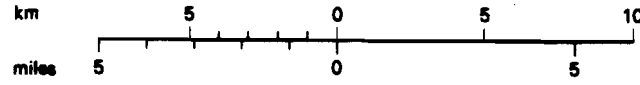
- lands with 860 m<sup>3</sup> (200 000 fbm) or more of merchantable coniferous timber per quarter section;
- lands with 20 ha (50 a.) or more of coniferous regeneration per quarter section;
- lands with both 860 m<sup>3</sup> (200 000 fbm) or more of merchantable coniferous timber and 20 ha (50 a.) or more of coniferous regeneration per quarter section;
- lands of high forest capability;
- areas of excellent ungulate range (two or more ungulates per square mile);
- upland and migratory bird and furbearer habitat;
- wildlife habitat with combinations of shelter, security and browse;
- lands with potential for improved and unimproved grazing.

**Figure 4  
PINTO - IROQUOIS R.M.A.**



**South Wapiti  
LOCAL PLAN**

**1: 250,000**



**LEGEND**

-  **PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY**
-  **PINTO - IROQUOIS R.M.A.**

It should be noted that large areas of land which did not meet the foregoing criteria were included in this RMA. That is, the land is not particularly suited to tree growth or wildlife production as the soil is very poor, but, on the other hand has limited potential for agriculture. These poor lands are characterized by low relief sand dune formations with bogs occurring between the dunes. The majority of the most easterly block (the largest of the four in this RMA) is composed of these type of soils.

**3.4.4 Resource Use/Management Direction**

Disposition leading to title will not be issued on public lands in this RMA. The only agricultural dispositions permitted will be improved and unimproved grazing. All other resource uses will be subject to existing guidelines and regulations (which in some cases may be restrictive or prohibitive).

**3.4.5 Objectives and Guidelines for Various Resources**

**1. AGRICULTURE**

A large percentage of the lands found in this RMA are poorly drained, which limits the agricultural potential. The southern portion is densely forested and therefore has a low carrying capacity for grazing in its natural state. There are some areas which are not stocked to coniferous timber and which have a high capability rating for improved grazing. Lands in this RMA will not be available for disposition leading to sale, but grazing dispositions will be permitted.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To provide supplemental range lands for the local community by increasing the amount of improved and unimproved grazing where potential and demand exist, while recognizing the value of other resources.	la) The carrying capacity of grazing dispositions may be increased where potential exists upon the acceptance of an approved range management plan. All grazing programs must recognize sustained yield timber management and wildlife values. b) Land will be retained under public ownership. c) Environmentally sensitive lands will be placed under conservation reservation.

## **2. FISHERIES**

See generally applicable fisheries management objectives and guidelines on page 5.

## **3. HERITAGE**

The remarks stated for the Agricultural RMA apply to this RMA. See page 18.

## **4. MINERALS**

The remarks and objective stated for the Agricultural RMA apply to this RMA. See page 18.

Also see generally applicable minerals management objectives and guidelines on page 6.

## **5. RECREATION**

See generally applicable recreation management objectives and guidelines on page 7.

## **6. TIMBER**

There is a wide variety of forest sites in this RMA. They range from sites of very low capability in the northeast to lands of high forest capability in the central and western portions.

The northeastern portion of the RMA is characterized by dune formations occurring on aeolian soils. Forest cover consists primarily of jackpine, black spruce and larch on and around the dunes. Bogs occur between the dunes and the vegetative cover consists mainly of sedges and brush. Forest productivity is very low but it will produce some pulpwood. At this time it is probably best suited for production of fence posts.

The central and western portions of the RMA are dominated by deciduous and mixedwood forest. There is a wide distribution of age classes in the coniferous timber with the majority of the growing stock being regeneration and young growth. The annual allowable harvest of coniferous timber will increase significantly over time.

There is mature and over-mature coniferous timber in the block to the west of Pinto Creek. This timber will need to be accessed by a winter road extending north from the Two Lakes Road along the west side of Pinto Creek. Existing oil roads cover all but 5 km of the required access.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To meet community needs for coniferous and deciduous timber through sustained yield timber management, while considering the requirements of other resource users.</p>	<p>1a) Timber sales will be limited to short-term dispositions such as LTPs, CTPs and Deciduous Timber Permits (DTPs)</p> <p>b) Areas of important wildlife habitat and environmental value will be recognized through the modification of harvesting programs and other forest management activities. Generally, timber management standard operating ground rules will apply. Fish and Wildlife will participate in the review of timber harvesting plans.</p> <p>c) A forest management plan will be prepared for areas reserved for sustained yield timber management. This will be initiated when the South Wapiti Local Plan is approved.</p>
<p>2) To manage and utilize deciduous growing stock to support the expanding requirements by industry in the Grande Prairie area.</p>	
<p>3) To reforest cutover areas.</p>	<p>3a) Forest land productivity will be maintained through reforestation in accordance with Timber Management Regulations (1984, under Forests Act, RSA, F-16, 1980).</p>

**7. WATERSHED**

See watershed management objectives and guideline on page 9 which are generally applicable.



**8. WILDLIFE**

A substantial portion of land in this RMA is good upland wildlife habitat. The cover is very diverse, enhancing species diversity and density. Average ungulate densities in this RMA are estimated at .6 moose per km<sup>2</sup> or 48 animals, .1 elk per km<sup>2</sup> or eight animals and .04 deer per km<sup>2</sup> or 32 animals. Total ungulate density is estimated at 1.1 animals per km<sup>2</sup>.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To ensure a mosaic of cover types in order to maintain or increase wildlife populations in this RMA.	1a) See agricultural guidelines 1a), 1b) and 1c) on page 26.
2) Maintain and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands. Protect unique features such as mineral licks, wetlands and other important habitats.	

See wildlife objectives and guidelines on page 10 and 11 which are generally applicable.

**3.4.6 Implications**

**INTRODUCTION**

Refer to page 21 for introductory statement to implications in the Agricultural RMA. Same statement applies here.

The following implication statements are ordered alphabetically by resource sector:

Agriculture - Approximately 29 quarter sections of land containing some 1 580 ha or 3 900 a. of potentially arable lands will be restricted from sale. A large portion of these lands are situated west of the Pinto Creek, which make them inaccessible because of the high cost of providing legal access across the creek canyon. Those lands east of the Pinto Creek could be issued for grazing dispositions.

Fisheries & Watershed - It is anticipated that grazing on land which is not environmentally sensitive will have little impact on watershed or fisheries resources.

Fish and Wildlife will work with the Alberta Forest Service to mitigate impacts of timber harvesting operations.

Minerals - Recognition of potential problems during operations and the use of mitigating procedures will reduce the probability of significant negative impacts occurring.

Recreation - There will be no serious effect on recreation in this RMA as all public lands will remain under public ownership and passive or intensive recreation will be permitted. There may be some restriction of access on grazing dispositions.

Timber - This RMA is suitable for timber production as the intent emphasizes sustained yield timber management on designated areas. Other resource users must recognize this priority. It will be very important to protect young growth conifer as this is needed to ensure a sustained supply of forest products for the local community.

Wildlife - There are approximately 83 km<sup>2</sup> or 32 sq. mi. in this RMA. Some competition for forage between wildlife and livestock may occur on those lands deemed suitable for grazing. Range improvement on grazing dispositions, and timber harvesting may further reduce wildlife habitat including furbearer habitat depending on area and configuration of improvements, and range management practices. Hunting opportunity may be affected by potential access restriction on grazing dispositions.

Potential for conflicts between wildlife and domestic livestock will likely be high due to the remoteness of the grazing area.

Fish and Wildlife will work with the AFS in the planning of timber harvesting operations to mitigate the impacts and maximize the benefits to the wildlife resource.

### 3.4.7 Justification

Multiple use areas ensure the continued availability of timber, wildlife, grazing, water, fisheries and recreation opportunities to meet existing demands in this region. In some situations, lands with agricultural capability are retained in the multiple use emphasis area. This is justifiable for the following reasons:

- (a) Most arable land is located west of Pinto Creek. The high cost of developing access across this canyon makes opening the land prohibitive.
- (b) Most arable land east of Pinto Creek in this RMA is only marginally suited to cereal cropping, but are better suited to forage and cattle production. Cattle production is an accepted use under the multiple use concept, therefore, it is not necessary to include these lands in the agricultural RMA.

## 3.5 RIVER CORRIDORS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

### 3.5.1 Introduction

The river corridors are 76 km<sup>2</sup> (29 sq. mi.) and are the most outstanding geographical feature in the planning area. They contain recreational and wildlife resources which are very significant locally. The Wapiti River is of provincial significance for boating and big game hunting.

The Wapiti River has a large V-shaped valley with steep walls and as much as 120 m (400 ft.) of relief. Terraces and recent floodplains occur adjacent to the river meanders.

Pinto Creek is characterized by a very sharp V-shaped valley which is subject to a great deal of natural slumping and erosion. It has the same relief as the Wapiti River.

The vegetation along the rivers and creeks is predominantly deciduous with a subdominant spruce cover which is gradually taking over by natural forest succession as the area has been free of fire for over 40 years. There are significant mature stands of white spruce on both banks of Iroquois Creek and the south bank of the Wapiti River.

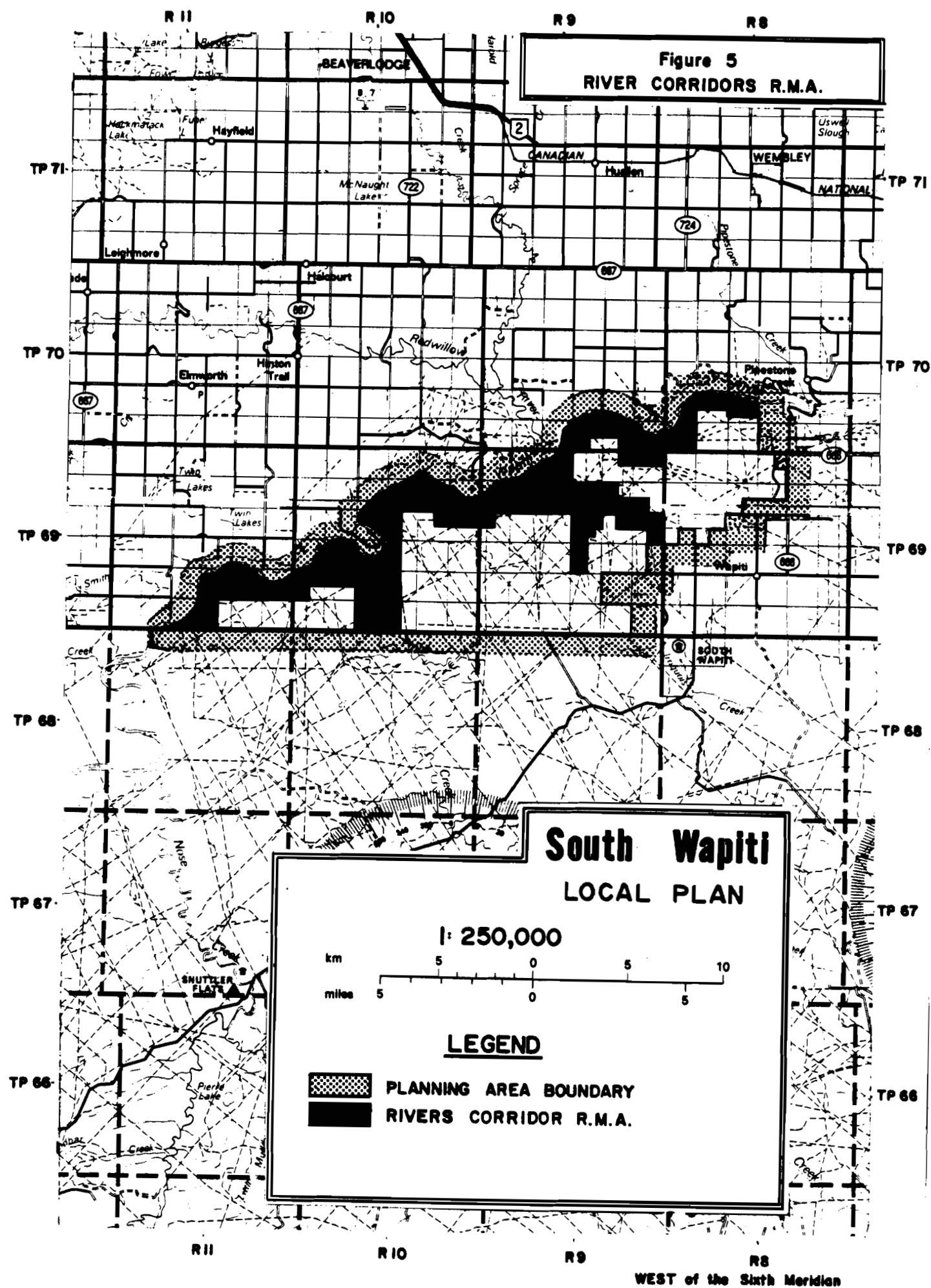
### 3.5.2 Management Intent

Multiple use management consistent with the conservation of environmentally sensitive resources. Priority will be given to ensuring the retention of recreational and esthetic values by: encouraging uses consistent with the existing character of the rivers; protecting lands supporting significant fisheries or wildlife populations; and preventing problems in riparian areas associated with construction or other development on lands where natural occurrences such as erosion, slumping and flooding occur.

### 3.5.3 Criteria

The following criteria were considered in identifying lands to be placed in this area:

- fluvial ecosystems, including banks, floodplains, outwash deposits, slumps, terraces, and valley and canyon walls.
- lands of high visual quality.
- lands of high recreation capability.
- areas of ecological significance.
- areas of particular habitat value including; key habitat such as ungulate winter ranges and travel corridors, areas of exceptionally high ungulate, waterfowl, upland bird or furbearer production; waters with one or more sportfish species; land with high potential for habitat enhancement.



**3.5.4 Resource Use/Management Direction**

Agricultural dispositions will not be issued in this RMA. All other resource uses will be subject to existing guidelines and regulations which in some cases may be restrictive or prohibitive.

The most common resource uses with potential to have adverse impacts are commercial and industrial developments, mineral exploration and development, timber harvesting, transportation and utility corridor developments and recreation. Recreation appears in the list as some recreation activities may conflict with the management intent of the RMA.

**3.5.5 Objectives and Guidelines for Various Resources**

**1. AGRICULTURE**

Most lands in the River Corridors RMA are poorly drained, inaccessible or situated on steep slopes of creeks and rivers. This land has very little potential for agriculture but is recognized as important wildlife habitat and/or an important conservation area in relation to maintenance of watershed integrity.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To recognize the value of other resources in this RMA.	1a) Agricultural dispositions will not be permitted.  b) Appropriate land use reservations will be placed on the land to obtain resource benefits within proper conservation guidelines.

**RATIONALE**

Agricultural Guideline 1a) - There are no agricultural dispositions in the River Corridors RMA and most of the land has low agricultural capability. It is important that this key wildlife area be kept in a near natural condition and free of agricultural dispositions (includes grazing) for the following reasons:

- to minimize conflicts between wildlife and cattle
- to maintain the present pattern of ungulate movements
- to ensure there be no behavioral competition with domestic animals
- to ensure the continued availability of quality habitat
- to ensure that hunters continue to have access to this valued hunting area. There is a high degree of conflict between grazing lessees and hunters in many areas of Alberta at the present time. In some cases, hunters are being barred from hunting destinations by grazing lessees.

**2. FISHERIES**

See fisheries management objectives and guidelines on page 5 which are generally applicable.

**3. HERITAGE**

The Wapiti River is considered to have a high potential for the discovery of historic sites.

Archaeological resources in northern Alberta are known to closely associate themselves with river environments. The plan does not promote any degree of development within the river valley and, therefore, will not have any significant effect on this resource.

Culture will be requested to provide a map which indicates areas of significant historical resource potential.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To protect historical resources (historic, prehistoric, paleontological) and to manage such resources for recreation, scientific or education purposes.	1) Resource uses causing surface disturbance may require historical resource impact assessments before development occurs, as outlined in the <u>Alberta Historical Resources Act (RSA, H8, 1980)</u> .

**4. MINERALS**

There has been very little oil and natural gas development in the steep portion of this RMA. There is a pipeline crossing the Wapiti River in Sec. 28-69-10-W6M and a road crossing on Pinto Creek in Sec. 4-69-10-W6M. Eleven wells have been drilled on the upland portion of the RMA.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To provide opportunities for exploration and continued development of the petroleum and natural gas resources of the RMA.	1) Minerals exploration and development will occur subject to consideration of wildlife, fisheries, terrain sensitivity and esthetics (out of line-of-sight of rivers). Companies will be notified of any special requirements by means of an addendum on crown mineral sales.

**5. RECREATION**

The river and creek canyons are the esthetic highlights of the planning area. They are a favored place for boating, hunting, fishing and sight-seeing. There are no recreation facilities for the public and there is little need for facility development at this time. Boaters do need overnight campgrounds; however, these should be located along the Wapiti outside the planning area. There is a campground operated by the County of Grande Prairie on the north bank of the Wapiti in Section 12 - Twp 70-8-W6M. This is only 3 km east of the planning area.

A day use facility on Pinto Creek is needed to meet the requirements of the local community. Guideline 1) below addresses this.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To provide day use facilities and primitive public recreational developments associated with boating, hunting, hiking and fishing.	1) Construct a day-use area and water access point where the Sulpetro Road crosses Pinto Creek in Section 4-Twp 69-10-W6M. Any development proposal must consider the Youth Assessment Center recreational facility which is in this area.  This road is very subject to slumping. A feasibility study on keeping it open for public use should be carried out before any construction takes place on recreational facilities.

**6. TIMBER**

Substantial commercial coniferous timber in the South Wapiti Planning Area is located in the this RMA with much being located on steep, fragile river and creek banks. The best commercial timber is located along the Wapiti River west of Pinto Creek. There is significant timber along both branches of Iroquois Creek.

Some forest harvesting will take place in this RMA. In addition to the supply of wood products, the forest also has many other attractions - wildlife habitat, its recreation use and adding to the scenic attraction of the rivers and creeks.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
<p>1) To meet a portion of resident needs for coniferous and deciduous timber through sustained yield timber management, while recognizing areas of important wildlife habitat and environmental value.</p>	<p>1a) Harvesting programs and other forest management activities will be modified as necessary in order to recognize areas of important wildlife habitat and environmental values. The following guidelines will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- timber will not be harvested where topography is too steep and unstable to permit logging using present harvesting systems. These stands will be specified in operating plans;</li> <li>-- a combination of selective and limited clear cutting will be permitted within 100 m of the valley breaks; and</li> <li>-- Fish and Wildlife will participate in the review of timber harvesting plans for clear cut areas over 4 ha (10 a.) in size.</li> </ul> <p>b) Timber sales will be limited to short-term dispositions such as LTPs, CTPs and DTPs.</p> <p>c) Forest land productivity will be maintained through reforestation in accordance with <u>Timber Management Regulations (1982)</u> under <u>Forest Act RSA, F-16, 1980.</u></p>

**7. WATERSHED**

See watershed management objectives and guidelines on page 9 which are generally applicable.

**8. WILDLIFE**

The large river and creek valleys are the esthetic highlights of the planning area. They provide a unique wilderness environment that traverses the entire region. They provide exceptional recreational areas which sustain a variety of wildlife and provide diverse hunting and recreation of provincial importance.



The valleys and immediate uplands provide the essentials for ungulate winter range, while both the valleys and uplands provide excellent summer range.

Migratory birds (in particular eagles, hawks, geese and shorebirds), and furbearers use the large river corridors extensively.

It is estimated that total ungulate densities in this RMA average 2.3 per km<sup>2</sup>. Moose populations are estimated at 1.2 per km<sup>2</sup> for a total of 88 animals, elk at .3 per km<sup>2</sup> for a total of 22 animals and deer at .8 per km<sup>2</sup> for a total of 58 animals.

Opportunities for large-scale habitat enhancement (e.g. prescribed burns) are limited due to the generally northern aspect of the valley slopes. Logging, if well planned, will increase the carrying capacity of the area.

Management Objectives	Management Guidelines
1) To maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and populations on public lands. To protect unique features such as mineral licks, wetlands and other important habitats.	1) Habitat for moose, elk and deer within or adjacent to the valley breaks and canyons may be enhanced by initiating habitat development projects under the Buck for Wildlife program. Projects could include prescribed burns, small clearings for forage etc.
2) The management and development of resources will take place in a manner which ensures that the river valleys and immediate uplands maintain their value for wildlife utilization, including ungulate winter range. Modifications to resource exploration, development or management activities will be necessary in order to ensure the maintenance of important wildlife habitat and to mitigate potential harmful impacts.	2a) See Timber guideline 1a) on page 36 and Agriculture guideline 1a) and b) on page 33. b) Application for resource development will be referred through Special Land Use in Edmonton for evaluation of environmental sensitivity. c) Companies are to be notified by means of an addendum on Crown mineral sales of the terrain sensitivity and the importance of wildlife and fisheries habitat.
3) To maintain or increase opportunities for utilization (consumptive and non-consumptive) of wildlife including furbearers and furbearing carnivores.	3a) Maintain the existing registered trapping areas. b) Consideration of establishing fishing access points on the Wapiti or Pinto; however, better opportunities are on the north side of Wapiti closer to a larger population base. c) Promote non-consumptive uses of the resources through educational programs.

### 3.5.6 Implications

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Refer to page 21 for introductory statement to implications in the Agricultural RMA. The same statement applies here.

The following implications are ordered alphabetically by resource sector:

Agriculture - Seven quarter sections of land (containing some 405 ha. or 1 000 a. of potentially arable lands), will not be made available for agricultural use. Grazing will not be permitted in this RMA.

Fisheries and Watershed - Key habitats will be protected by preventing dispositions or developments on environmentally sensitive lands. All valleys, canyons and relatively large watercourses within the planning area fall within this RMA.

Minerals - The effects on mineral activity are not expected to be significantly more restrictive than existing operating guidelines. Petroleum and natural gas activities will be evaluated and appropriate conditions will be determined on a site-specific basis. The delineation of areas of highest conservation value provides clearer land-use direction to the industry than previous directions.

Recreation - Provision of recreation opportunities will respect water quality considerations, wildlife habitat and conservation hazards.

Timber - Potential losses will be insignificant. Part of the zone contains steep slopes that would not be logged under existing operating ground rules. Soil sensitivity, technological constraints, and operating costs preclude harvesting on the steep canyon areas. Other areas of the zone will be operable. Some of the upland portions of this RMA, particularly along the Wapiti River west of Pinto Creek and along both branches of Iroquois Creek, contain considerable volumes of merchantable coniferous timber. These areas will be harvested under normal operating ground rules except within 100 m of the valley breaks where selective harvesting and limited clear cutting will apply. Wildlife and environmental values will be recognized by modification of these conditions through AFS - F&W consultation.

Wildlife - Key habitat including important winter range, travel corridors, mineral licks etc. will be well protected in this RMA. Absence of agricultural dispositions will reduce competition for forage, removal of habitat, restricted movement due to fencing and restriction of access for resource users. Present viability of traplines will be maintained. Small-scale timber harvesting will be managed to enhance wildlife habitat by providing food sources well interspersed with cover. Other industrial uses will be managed or restricted to maintain the integrity of the RMA.

**3.5.7 Justification**

Wildlife, fisheries, watershed and recreation resource potential are particularly significant in the River Corridors RMA. The demand for wildlife and fisheries resources is high. In view of this, a multiple use area with a conservation emphasis is required to ensure these important and highly susceptible resources are adequately safeguarded.

The adverse impact to agriculture and forestry will not be significant. Much of the RMA is too steep for agriculture and forestry. The upland portions will be made available to sustained yield forestry, but will not be available to agriculture.

#### 4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are policy-level issues which require addressing as a prerequisite to actualizing the intent of this plan. These issues have been identified by participants in the planning process as significantly affecting the interactions and relationships between various resource sectors and uses. They require resolution to assist the plan in providing direction and guidance for the use and management of public lands.

##### 4.1 Green/White Area Boundary

###### **RECOMMENDATION**

The existing Green/White Area boundary be realigned to include lands in the vicinity of and to the west of Pinto Creek in the Green Area (Figure 6).

###### **RATIONALE/DISCUSSION**

Realignment of the Green/White Area boundary will place the best quality timber lands lying outside the Agriculture RMA under the management of the AFS. The banks of Pinto Creek just to the west of the proposed boundary create a significant natural barrier between the two areas of interest.

The recommendation was made not to include any lands lying to the north of the Agricultural RMA in the Green Area as it would unnecessarily fragment the areas of jurisdiction between Public Lands Division and the AFS.

A ministerial order or order-in-council will be required to effect the boundary revisions.

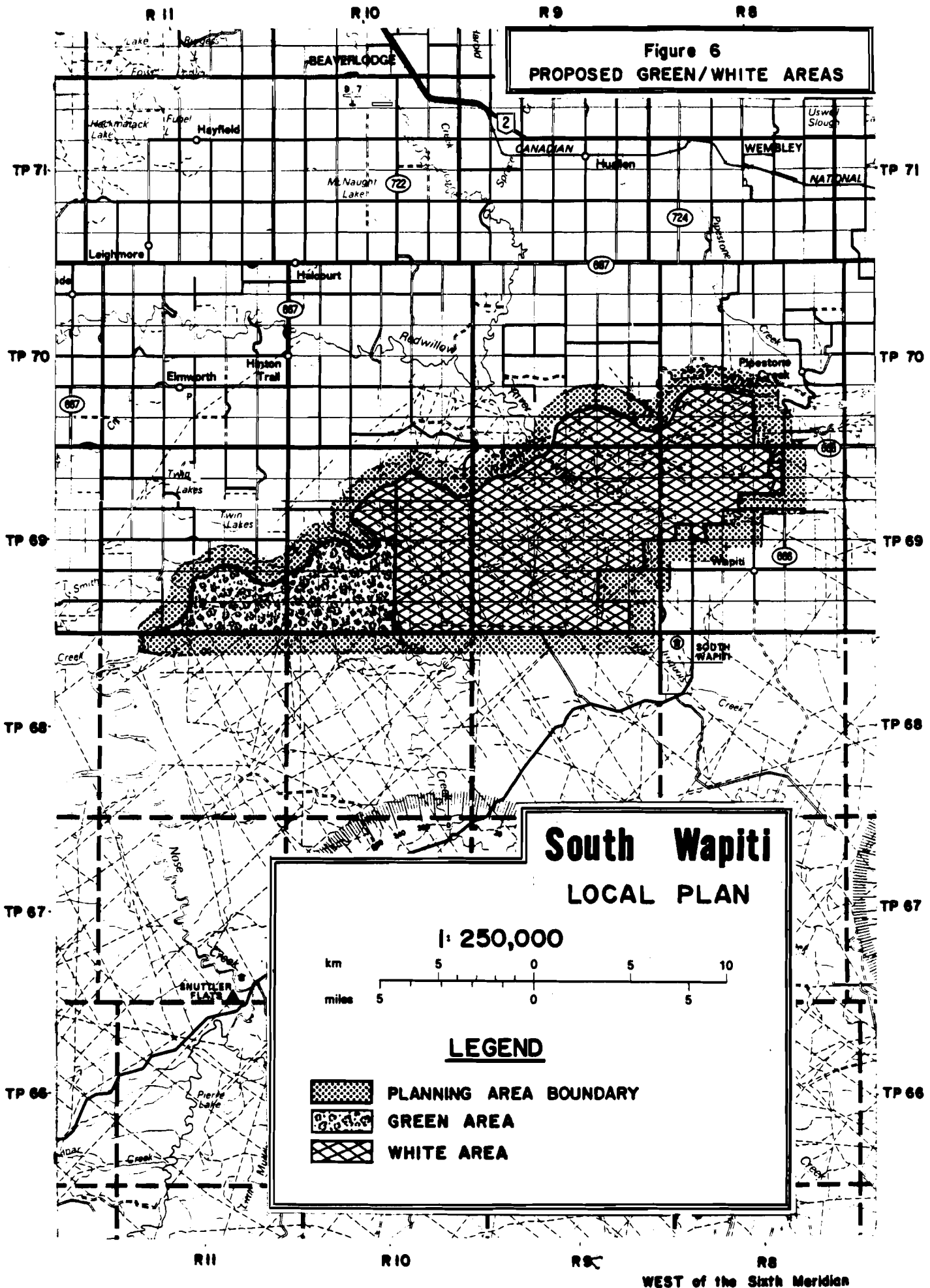
The following lands will require rezoning from existing White Area to Green Area:

###### **Twp 69 - 10 - W6M**

- all of sections 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9
- West 1/2's sections 3, 10 and 15
- All those portions of Sections 16, 17 and 18 which lie to the south of the Wapiti River

###### **Twp 69 - 11 - W6M**

- All of sections 1, 2 and 3
- All those portions of Sections 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 which lie to the south of the Wapiti River



WEST of the Sixth Meridian

## 4.2 Sustained Yield Timber Management in the White Area

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

Those lands identified and agreed upon for sustained yield timber management in the White Area portions of the Pinto-Iroquois and River Corridors RMAs be reserved for that purpose under indefinite reservations. The land will be managed as a public woodlot.

### **RATIONALE/DISCUSSION**

Traditionally, sustained yield timber management has not been practised in the White Area. Until now, timbered areas have been held under short-term timber reservations which have not provided the tenure necessary for effective management. This has generally led to a steady erosion and liquidation of woodlot lands. It has not been a practice to reforest cut-over lands in the White Area. As a consequence there have been many awkward jurisdictional splits between Public Lands Division and the Alberta Forest Service in an attempt to include all lands proposed for sustained yield timber management in the Green Area. There should be no reason why timber cannot be managed (includes reforesting of cut-overs) in the White Area provided that all interested parties agree to permit and honor indefinite timber reservations.

A large portion of both the Pinto-Iroquois and the River Corridors RMAs fall in White Area portion of the planning area. Timber management objective 1) for both these RMAs speaks of sustained yield timber management (See pages 28 and 36). This objective applies equally to lands in the Green and White Areas. In view of this, a listing of lands which require indefinite timber reservations will be provided in the implementation section of this plan.

### **Recommendation 2**

The reservation coding system for LSAS be expanded to include the following:

PNT .0222 - Sustained Yield Timber Management (White Area)

This code should have an indefinite tenure.

### **RATIONALE/DISCUSSION**

The existing reservation coding structure for LSAS has no provision for notating areas which have been set aside for sustained yield timber management in the White Area. A new code is required to effect foregoing recommendation 1).

A PNT .0222 reservation would only be applied under the authority of an approved Integrated Resource Plan, Local Plan or Regional Integrated Decision.

### 4.3 Leasing of Road Allowances

#### RECOMMENDATION

Leasing of road allowances which would restrict public access to public lands and waters should not be permitted. Where road allowances are leased, as a minimum, public foot access should not be restricted. Alberta Transportation to refer all applications to Department of Forestry for review.

#### RATIONALE/DISCUSSION

Public access in the planning area is not restricted at the present time. There are no agricultural dispositions, thus, we have the opportunity to maintain access to public lands to a higher degree than in many established farm communities. One way of ensuring continued public access is for Alberta Transportation to refer applications for the leasing of road allowance to Department of Forestry for review. If any given road allowance is required for public access (including all terrain vehicles or foot access) then the road allowance should not become part of the disposition. This should also apply to the leasing of road allowances adjacent to private lands.

The River Corridors RMA is particularly vulnerable to being sealed off from the public through the leasing of road allowances. This would defeat one of the purposes of this plan since one of the primary reasons for the River Corridors RMA is wildlife management, which includes the harvesting of wildlife through hunting and trapping.

## 4.4 The Issuance of Grazing Dispositions in the Green Area

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Grazing dispositions in the Green Area to be issued only as licences or permits pursuant to an agreement which states the rights of other resource users.

### **RATIONALE/DISCUSSION**

#### 4.4.1 The Problem

The issue of access and trespass on leases, licences and permits, let for various reasons on public lands in Alberta, is very controversial at present. Much of this complex issue centres around grazing dispositions. It is becoming increasingly apparent that holders of grazing dispositions have a land tenure that is very little short of private ownership. It allows them to prohibit other users such as fishermen, hunters, trappers, geophysical operators, gravel operators and loggers, from gaining access even though these users have legal entitlement in the form of licence or permits to use the various resources. There is conflicting interpretation of the law with regard to the right of leaseholder. The Alberta government's interpretation of the rights of leaseholders is:

The Petty Trespass Act makes it an offence to trespass on all posted Public Lands subject to any disposition except a grazing lease or grazing permit. Section 41 of the Criminal Code of Canada provides that a person in peaceable possession of real property can require a trespasser to vacate the property. The grazing lessee or permittee is considered to be a person in peaceable possession of real property.

The Petty Trespass Act does not alter the common law right of a grazing lessee to maintain an action against a trespasser. Further to this right of action, a grazing lessee is entitled to rely on Section 41 of the Criminal Code to use as much force as is necessary to remove a trespasser. A person physically resisting a grazing lessee exercising this right can be charged with assault.

Department of Forestry has encouraged both the holders of grazing dispositions and members of the public wishing to enter these lands to use the following five guidelines:

1. Foot access to grazing lease lands should be permitted at all times.



2. Motorized vehicle access to grazing lease lands should be permitted year round. During the main grazing season users of motorized vehicles should obtain permission from the lessee to enter leased lands where the lessee has posted signs on how he may be contacted.

At all times of the year, motorized vehicles should be restricted to established roads and trails.

3. All users are responsible for damages to forage, livestock, or improvements on grazing lease lands.
4. All access shall be at the risk of the user, except where a lessee fails to make known a hidden hazard of which he is aware.
5. To maintain good relations all users should, as a matter of courtesy, try to notify a lessee of their intention to enter leased lands.

Grazing lessees are not bound by these guidelines. If they so choose, they are legally entitled to take advantage of the common law rights and provision of the Criminal Code cited above. It is apparent that many grazing lessees are choosing to limit the access of others to their grazing dispositions.

#### 4.4.2 Implications

An increasing number of Albertans are being denied the right to pursue lawful activities such as fishing, hunting, etc. on public lands which are held under grazing disposition. Historically, Albertans have had free and open access to public lands. In the North American context, Alberta has been a leader in this area. This is a positive attribute of the lifestyle of Albertans and one which the government of Alberta wishes to maintain.

#### 4.4.3 Discussion of Recommendation

The government of Alberta and the cattlemen should agree to the rights of other resource users before any grazing disposition is let on public lands in the Green Area. Once agreement is reached, a licence or permit may be issued subject to the agreement. It should be noted that a lease has not been included as it cannot be legally subjected to an agreement.

During negotiations, the government should recognize that cattlemen may have a considerable investment on their grazing dispositions. It should also be recognized that cattlemen have the right to protect their investment, but this should not be done to the exclusion of other resource users.

Example:

- (1) Cattlemen should have the right to claim compensation for real loss
  - i.e. - damage to fences, buildings or any other improvements
  - loss of cattle through being shot
- (2) Cattlemen will need to exercise some control on other users entering the range lands during that period which the cattle are legally on the range.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 The Agricultural Resource Management Area

#### 5.1.1 Introduction

The following are prerequisites to the release of Public Lands in the Agricultural RMA for agricultural disposition:

- 1 The suitability of individual parcels for agricultural development have been determined by means of a detailed soil survey.
- 2 Legal access has been provided under existing policy.
- 3 Lands with 860 m<sup>3</sup> (200 000 fbm) or more of merchantable coniferous timber and/or valueable young growth have been liquidated.

In the case of grazing dispositions, the provision of access is not a prerequisite to issuing a disposition. Where salable lands are withheld from posting because of timber liquidation, grazing permits will not be issued.

#### 5.1.2 Timing and Phasing

The timing for the release of lands for agriculture will depend on the availability of legal access and on the phased liquidation of timber. Oil industry roads, some on road allowances, some not, provide access to the Agricultural RMA at this date. Industry roads are not considered legal access under present policy for settlement purposes. Funding for the upgrading and/or construction of roads, and building one bridge will be required to provide legal access.

##### Phase 1

Those lands without timber restrictions which are in proximity to existing settlement and adjoining industry roads will be posted first. This is contingent upon funds being available for upgrading existing industry roads and/or building additional roads and a bridge. A budget will be requested in 1987 to provide for legal access. Consideration is being given to approve industry roads for settlement purposes. Timber values, if any, will be added to the purchase price of the land.

##### Phase 2

To provide for the release of salable lands with coniferous timber for settlement. A timber liquidation schedule will be set under the following priorities (See figure 7).

**Priority 1** - Timber to be liquidated within one year of the date that the plan is approved.

List of Lands	Reservations Required	Comments
<u>Twp 69-9-W6M.</u>		
NE 2	PNT 0240.3	
E 1/2 3	PNT 0240.3	Most urgent to liquidate timber south of creek.
SW 6	PNT 0240.3	First priority for liquidation.

**Priority 2** - Timber to be liquidated within a three to 10 year period. Some lands will be ready for sale within three years after plan is approved, while others may not be for up to 10 years. The time required for liquidation depends on market conditions and the ability for local people to harvest the resource.

List of Lands	Reservations Required	Comments
<u>Twp 69-9-W6M.</u>		
SW 7	PNT 0230.3	Field check required. If regeneration is inadequate, release right away. Meanwhile, hold under reservation.
N 1/2 8	PNT 0230.3	Start logging within three years.
NE 9	PNT 0230.3	Start logging within three years.
SE 9	PNT 0230.3	Liquidate timber north of creek while logging NE 9. 26 ha (65 a.) of regeneration on quarter but a good portion will be protected by an ECA along creek.
SW 9	PNT 0230.3	

**Priority 3** - Timber to be liquidated over a period of time ranging from 10 to 50 years. Coniferous timber ranges in age from young growth to mature.

List of Lands	Reservations Required	Comments
<u>Twp 69-9-W6M.</u>		
N 1/2 & SE 7	PNT 0240.3	A lot of young growth spruce.
SW 8	PNT 0240.3	A lot of young growth spruce.
SE 8	PNT 0230.3	Young growth - not much merchantable timber.
NW 9	PNT 0240.3.100	Not suitable for sale. Grazing is a permitted use. No hurry for liquidation.
NW 10	PNT 0240.3	
E 1/2 10	PNT 0230.3	Young growth. Not much merchantable timber.
SW 17	PNT 0230.3	Young growth. Not much merchantable timber.
<u>Twp 69-10-W6M.</u>		
SE 1	PNT 0240.3	Timber ranges in age from 30 years to Commercial size. Hold for about 20 years.
NE 12	PNT 0240.3	Harvest in about 10 years then reassess young growth for value.

**5.1.3 Conservation Areas - Agricultural Resource Management Area**

1. A PNT 0131.3 is required on the following lands. This is a protective notation reserving the land from all agricultural dispositions for conservation reasons such as organic/poorly drained soils.

Twp 69-9-W6M

S 1/2 2, LSDs 4 and 5 of 3 and NE 4 --- PNT 0131.3

Twp 69-10-W6M

SW 1, S 1/2 and NW 2, NE 3 and SE 10 --- PNT 0131.3

2. A PNT 0131.3.710 is required on the following lands. This is a protective notation reserving the land from all agricultural dispositions for drainage problems (flooding) as identified by Environment's Weather Resources Branch.

Twp 69-10-W6M

E 1/2 LSD 3, E 1/2 LSD 6, E 1/2 LSD 11 & SW & E 1/2 LSD 14 of section 14-69-10-W6M

3. A PNT 0151.3.100 is required on the following lands. This is a protective notation for watershed which allows improved grazing.

Twp 69-10-W6M

SE 3 --- PNT 0151.3.100

4. A PNT 0131.2 is required on the following land. This is a protective notation on land which has organic/poorly drained soils. There is a no sale restriction; however, a farm development lease without option to purchase is permitted.

Twp 69-10-W6M

SE 1 --- PNT 0131.2 - 80 acres to be let under farm development lease by metes and bounds without option to purchase.

5. A PNT 0151.2 is required on the following land. This is a protective notation on land which requires watershed protection. There is a no sale restriction; however, a farm development lease without option to purchase is permitted.

Twp 69-9-W6M

LSDs 4 and 5 of Sec. 10 --- PNT 0151.2 - Will require restricted development sketch.

6. A PNT 0151.3 is required on the following land. This is a protective notation on land which requires watershed protection and no agricultural dispositions will be permitted.

Twp 69-9-W6M

LSDs 3 and 6 of Section 10 --- PNT 0151.3

7. A PNT 0131.100 is required on the following land. This is a protective notation on organic/poorly drained soils. An exception to the restriction is improved grazing.

Twp 69-9-W6M

NW 9 --- PNT 0131.3.100

8. A PNT 0164.3 is required on the following lands. This is a protective notation on areas with potential for arable posting. These lands will be posted in the near future. Timing of posting is subject to access development and timber liquidation.

Twp 69-9-W6M

N 1/2 2, LSD 3 and 6 of 3, N 1/2 and SE 3, S 1/2 and NW 4, all of 5, all of 6, all of 7, all of 8, S 1/2 and NE 9, N 1/2 and SE 10, S 1/2 16 and S 1/2 17 require PNT 0164.3.

**NOTES:** Ecological Corridor Agreements (ECAs) on creeks are required in NW 3, SE 4, SE 9, N 1/2 and SE 10 - all in 69-9-W6M. The creeks in the NE 3-69-9-W6M is to be deleted from the sale area by metes and bounds.

Twp 69-10-W6M

N 1/2 1, NE 2, NE 10, all of 11, all of 12, W 1/2 LSD 3, all LSD 4 and 5, W 1/2 LSD 6, W 1/2 LSD 11, all LSD 12 and 13, NW LSD 14 of section 14 and, E 1/2 15 require PNT 0164.3

PLAN OF

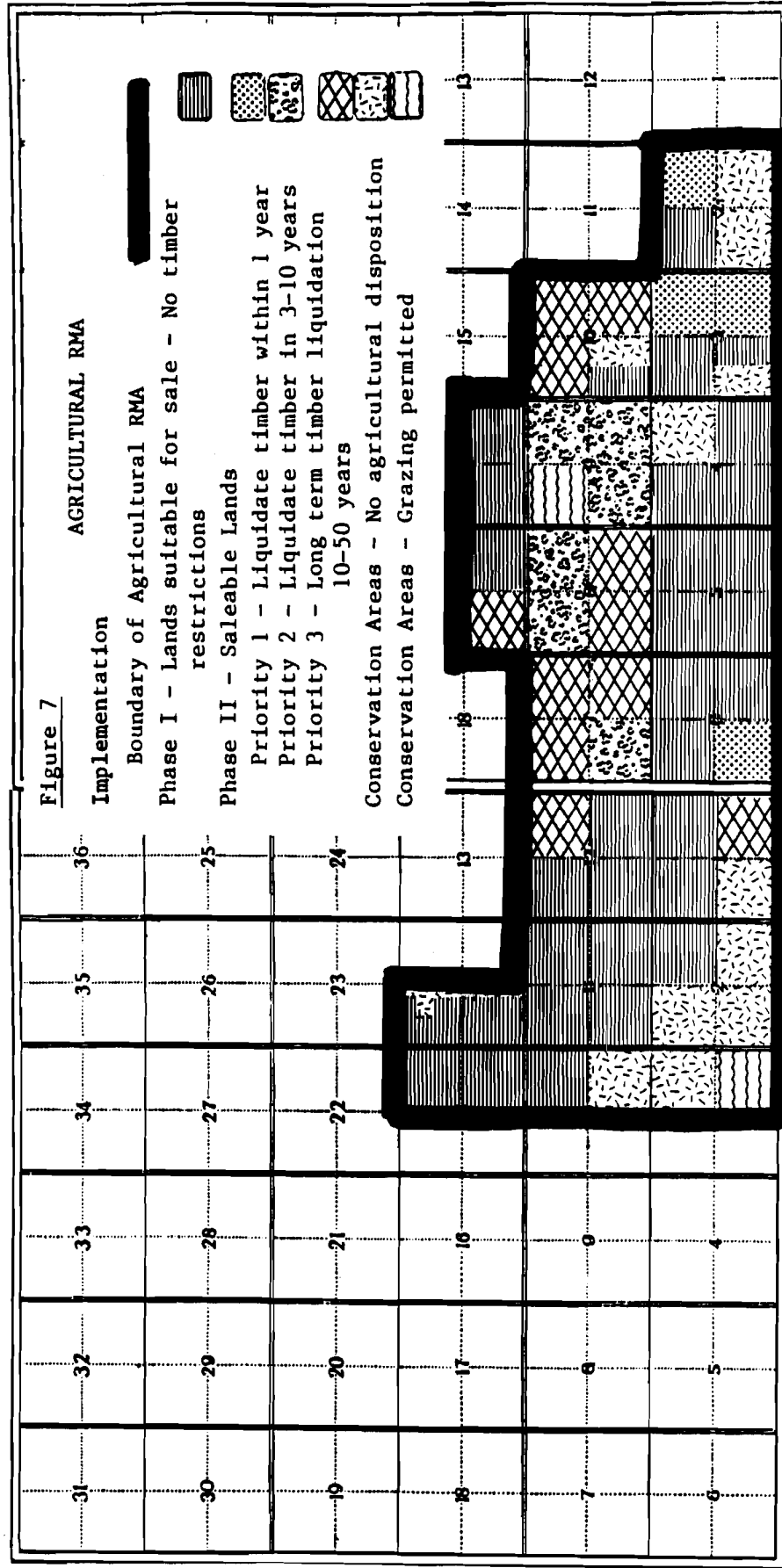
Township No. 69

Range 10 - W6M

PLAN OF

Township No. 69

Range 9 - W6M





## 5.2 Pinto - Iroquois Resource Management Area

### 5.2.1 Introduction

The Pinto - Iroquois RMA is a multiple use area and all lands will be retained in public ownership. The management intent provides for the utilization of the full range of available resources - refer to Page 24 of this document.

This RMA is subdivided into four areas as follows (See Figure 2 page 14 and Figure 8 page 55).

#### **Area 1**

A sustained yield timber management area where no agriculture dispositions, including grazing, are permitted. Agriculture has been excluded from this area for the following reasons listed in order of significance.

- a) Organic/poorly drained soils.
- b) Sandy soils.
- c) Areas where there is insufficient forage due to coniferous forest cover.

It should be noted that a large amount of land in this area is either non-productive or low capability forest site. There are blocks of moderate and high capability sites throughout, therefore, it was considered necessary to include all lands in a sustained yield timber management area. This will provide opportunity to reforest and manage the productive sites as harvesting takes place. It will be of little consequence to agriculture as the lands have been classed as not being suitable for that purpose.

#### **Area 2**

An improved grazing area where there will be no timber reservations. The highest and best use has been identified as improved grazing. There is no significant commercial timber. Some of the land is regenerated to coniferous species, but this can be dealt with under normal range improvement guidelines.

#### **Area 3**

A sustained yield timber management area where improved grazing is a permitted use. These are areas suited to a combination of improved grazing and sustained yield timber management. Land clearing for range improvement will be limited to areas not stocked to coniferous species.

#### **Area 4**

A sustained yield timber management area where unimproved grazing is a permitted use. Most of the land is stocked to coniferous trees, therefore clearing for range improvement will not be permitted.

### 5.2.2 Green Area Land

There is one multiple use area of 13.6 km<sup>2</sup> (5.25 sq. mi.) in the Green Area portion of the Pinto - Iroquois RMA. No timber reservations will be requested on these lands as a Green Area designation is sufficient for the purpose of sustained yield timber management. Also, no reservations in regard to grazing will be requested. Suitability for grazing will be reviewed upon application.

### 5.2.3 Fish and Wildlife Interests

No reservations are being requested by Fish and Wildlife in the Pinto - Iroquois RMA. Management objectives and guidelines stated earlier are sufficient to protect fish and wildlife interests.

Figure 8

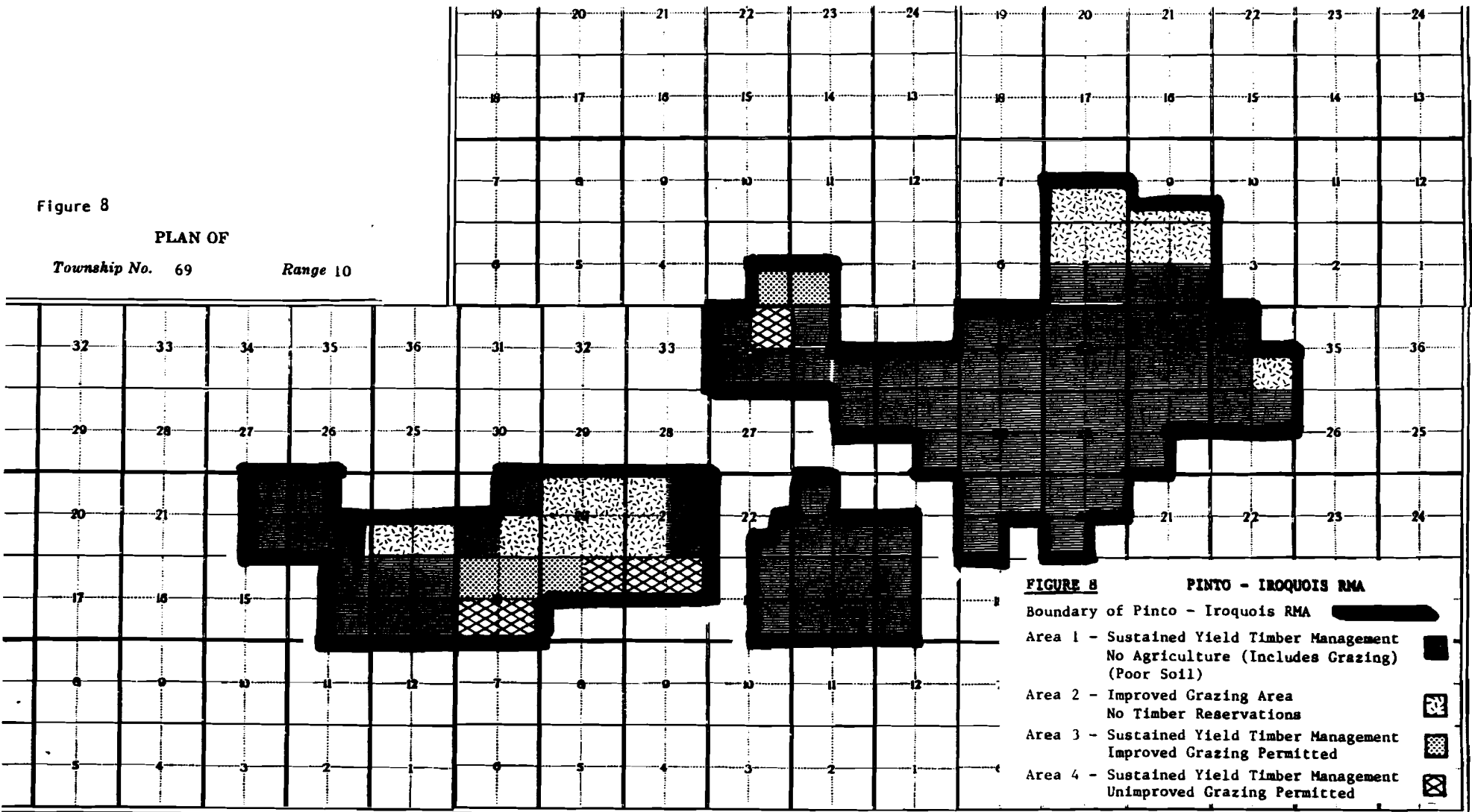
PLAN OF

Township No. 69

Range 10

Twp.  
70

Twp.  
69



**FIGURE 8** PINTO - IROQUOIS RMA

Boundary of Pinto - Iroquois RMA

- Area 1 - Sustained Yield Timber Management  
No Agriculture (Includes Grazing)  
(Poor Soil)
- Area 2 - Improved Grazing Area  
No Timber Reservations
- Area 3 - Sustained Yield Timber Management  
Improved Grazing Permitted
- Area 4 - Sustained Yield Timber Management  
Unimproved Grazing Permitted

Rge. 10

Rge. 9

Rge. 8

#### **5.2.4 Timing and Phasing**

No specific timing has been set up. A general approach will be as follows:

1. Grazing - Lands identified for grazing will be posted as demand warrants. It is expected that there will be considerable public interest demonstrated in available grazing areas soon after the plan is approved.
2. Timber - A timber management plan will be prepared for all sustained yield areas (including those in the River Corridors RMA) after the South Wapiti Local Integrated Resource Plan has been approved.

The timber management plan will be based on Phase III data which has already been finalized. The annual allowable cut along with a harvest sequence will be identified.

#### **5.2.5 List of Reservations to be Requested**

A reservation or combination of reservations will be requested on all lands in the Pinto - Iroquois RMA. A description of reservations plus a list of lands that they will be applied to follows. These reservations are considered to be a very important tool in implementing the plan and will assist in avoiding many referral problems in the future.

The approved South Wapiti Local Integrated Resource Plan will be used as justification for requesting the reservations.

#### **Description of Reservations.**

##### **1. Public Lands Division Reservations**

**PNT 0131.3** - A protective notation which states that no agriculture dispositions (including grazing) are to be permitted because of organic/poorly drained soils.

**PNT 0131.3.100** - A protective notation on organic/poorly drained soils which restricts agriculture to grazing and allows range improvement.

**PNT 0131.3.130** - A protective notation on organic/poorly drained soils which restricts agriculture to grazing permits only and allows range improvement.

**PNT 0112.3** - A protective notation which states that no agricultural dispositions (including grazing) are to be permitted because of wind erosion hazard. These are sandy soils.

PNT 0112.3.100 - A protective notation on (sandy) soil which has a wind erosion hazard. Agriculture is restricted to grazing and allows range improvement.

PNT 0112.3.110 - A protective notation on (sandy) soil which has a wind erosion hazard. Agriculture is restricted to unimproved grazing.

## 2. Alberta Forest Service Reservation

PNT 0221.3 - A protective notation that identifies the land as a potential public woodlot where no agricultural dispositions (including grazing) are permitted.

PNT 0221.3.100 - A protective notation that identifies the land as a potential public woodlot and restricts agriculture to improved grazing.

PNT 0221.3.110 - A protective notation that identifies the land as a potential public woodlot and restricts agriculture to unimproved grazing.

**NOTE:** The PNT 0221 code described above is deficient for the purposes of this plan. This plan actually defines "sustained yield timber management" areas for public woodlot purposes in the White Area as opposed to "potential public woodlot" which the reservation reflects at present. The existing coding system for LSAS does not provide for sustained yield timber management in the White Area. A policy recommendation has been made in regard to this concern - recommendation 2 page 42.

In the interim a PNT 0221 is being requested to hold the land.

**List of Reservations.** The reservations are listed under four different areas which are previously described on page 53.

Many lands will have a dual reservation by Public Lands Division and the AFS. There is no conflict in any of these reservations - they simply reflect that each agency has an interest or concern with regard to the land.

**Area 1: Sustained Yield Timber Management**  
**- no agriculture (includes grazing)**

- (a) PNT 0131.3 and PNT 0221.3 requested on following:

**Twp 69 - 8 - W6M**

N 1/2 and SW 19, N 1/2 and SW 20, N 1/2 27, N 1/2 and SW 28,  
All of Sections, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33; W 1/2 34.

**Twp 70 - 8 - W6M**

S 1/2 4 and S 1/2 5.

**Twp 69 - 9 - W6M**

W 1/2 13, N 1/2 and SE 14, NE 15, NE and SW 19, E 1/2 21,  
S 1/2 23, SW 24, N 1/2 and SE 25, NE 26, SW 34, W 1/2 and SE  
35, S 1/2 36.

**Twp 69 - 10 - W6M**

N 1/2 13, E 1/2 14, NE 22, W 1/2 and SE 23.

- (b) PNT 0112.3 and PNT 0221.3 requested on following:

**Twp 69 - 9 - W6M**

LSDs 1, 2 and 8 of Sec. 22; NW 23, NW and SE 34.

**Twp 69 - 10 - W6M**

SE 22.

- (c) PNT 0221.3 requested on following:  
(Forage is limited due to coniferous timber on these lands)

**Twp 69 - 9 - W6M**

SW 14 and SE 15.

**Twp 69 - 10 - W6M**

S 1/2 13.

**Area 2: Improved Grazing Area**  
**- no timber reservations**

- (a) PNT 0131.3.130 requested on following:

Twp 69 - 8 - W6M

SE 34.

- (b) PNT 0131.3.100 requested on following:

Twp 70 - 8 - W6M

N 1/2 4, NE 5, SE 8, LSDs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Sec. 9.

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

NW 21.

- (c) PNT 0112.3.100 requested on following:

Twp 70 - 8 - W6M

NW 5, SW 8.

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

SE 19, All of 20, SW 21.

Twp 69 - 10 - W6M

S 1/2 24

**Area 3: Sustained Yield Timber Management - Improved Grazing Permitted**

- (a) PNT 0131.3.100 and PNT 0221.3.100 requested on following:

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

NW 18.

- (b) PNT 0112.3.100 and PNT 0221.3.100 requested on following:

Twp 70 - 9 - W6M

SW 2, SE 3.

(c) PNT 0221.3.100 requested on following:

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

NW 17, NE 18.

**Area 4: Sustained Yield Timber Management - Unimproved Grazing Permitted**

(a) PNT 0112.3.110 and PNT 0221.3.110 requested on following:

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

N 1/2 16, NE 17, NE 34.

(b) PNT 0221.3.110 requested on following:

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

S 1/2 18.



## 5.3 Implementation - River Corridors Resource Management Area

### 5.3.1 Introduction

The River Corridors RMA is a multiple use management area with an emphasis on the conservation of environmentally sensitive resources. The fisheries and wildlife resources receive a high profile under the auspices of the RMA. Refer to the management intent statement on Page 31.

No agricultural dispositions will be permitted in the RMA. See agriculture management objective and management guidelines on Page 33. All lands will be retained in public ownership.

### 5.3.2 Timing and Phasing

No specific timing has been set up. A general approach will be as follows:

1. Fisheries - Management objectives and guidelines within previous sections of this plan address enhancement of the fisheries resource. Projects will be carried out in accordance with regional priorities for available funds.
2. Wildlife - Same as fisheries.
3. Timber - A timber management plan will be prepared for all sustained yield areas (including those in the Pinto - Iroquois RMA) after the South Wapiti Integrated Resource Plan has been approved.

The timber management plan will be based on Phase III data which has been finalized. The annual allowable cut along with a harvest sequence will be identified.

### 5.3.3 List of Reservations to be Requested

A reservation or combination of reservations will be requested on all lands in the River Corridors RMA. A description of the reservations plus a list of lands that they will be applied to follows. These reservations are considered to be a very important tool for implementing the plan and will assist in avoiding many referral problems in the future.

The approved South Wapiti Local Plan will be used as justification for requesting the reservations.

**Description of Reservations.** The following two reservations will be requested on tables which follow. A description of each reservation is provided here.

**1. Fish and Wildlife Division Reservation**

**PNT 0411.3** - A protective notation on ungulate winter range which states that no agricultural dispositions (including grazing) will be permitted.

This reservation will be applied to all lands (both White and Green Areas) in the River Corridors RMA.

**2. Alberta Forest Service Reservation**

**PNT 0221.3** - A protective notation that identifies the land as a potential public woodlot. No agricultural dispositions (including grazing) are permitted.

This reservation will be applied to all lands which fall within the white area portion of the River Corridors RMA. No timber reservations will be requested on that portion of the RMA which falls in the green area (See figure 6 on Page 41). A green area designation is considered to be sufficient for the purpose of sustained yield timber management.

It should be noted that all timber management activities in the River Corridors RMA are to be carried out in accordance with the objective and guidelines for timber harvesting noted on Page 36 of this report. Also note, that soil sensitivity, technological constraints, and operating costs, preclude harvesting on steep canyon areas.

**3. Public Lands Division** - will not be requesting any reservations in the River Corridors RMA.

**List of Reservations.** All lands in the White Area portion of the RMA have a dual reservation by F&W and AFS. There is no conflict in these reservations within the context of this plan. They are intended to reflect that both agencies have an interest in the land.

White Area Portion of the RMA - A PNT 0411.3 and PNT 0221.3 is requested on the following lands:

Twp 69 - 9 - W6M

W 1/2 15	All of Sec. 28
NW 19	All of Sec. 29
N 1/2, SW and LSD 7 of Sec. 22	Part Sec. 30 South of River
NE 23	Part of Sec. 31 South of River
N 1/2 and SE 24	Part of Sec. 32 South of River
SW 25	Part of Sec. 33 South of River
W 1/2 and SE 26	NE 35
All of Sec. 27	N 1/2 36

Twp 69 - 10 - W6M

Part Sec. 21 East of River	Part Sec. 26 South of River
W 1/2 22	Part Sec. 27 South of River
NE 23	Part Sec. 28 East of River
N 1/2 24	Part Sec. 34 South of River
Part Sec. 25 South of River	Part Sec. 35 South of River

Twp 70 - 8 - W6M

Part Sec. 6 South of River	Part N 1/2 Sec. 8 South of River
Part Sec. 7 South of River	LSDs 5, 6, 7, 8 and Part N 1/2 of Sec. 9 South of River

Twp 70 - 9 - W6M

Part Sec. 1 South of River	Part Sec. 4 East of River
N 1/2 and SE 2	Part Sec. 10 South of River
N 1/2 and SW 3	Part Sec. 11 South of River

Green Area Portion of RMA - A PNT 0411.3 is requested on the following lands:

Twp 69 - 10 - W6M

W 1/2 3	W 1/2 10
All of Sec. 4	W 1/2 15
NE, SW and Part NW Sec. 7 South of River	Part Sec. 16 South and East of River
N 1/2 8	Part Sec. 17 South of River
All of Sec. 9	Part Sec. 18 South of River

Twp 69 - 11 - W6M

W 1/2 3  
Part Sec. 4 South and East of  
River  
Part Sec. 5 South of River  
Part Sec. 9 East of River  
Part Sec. 10 South of River

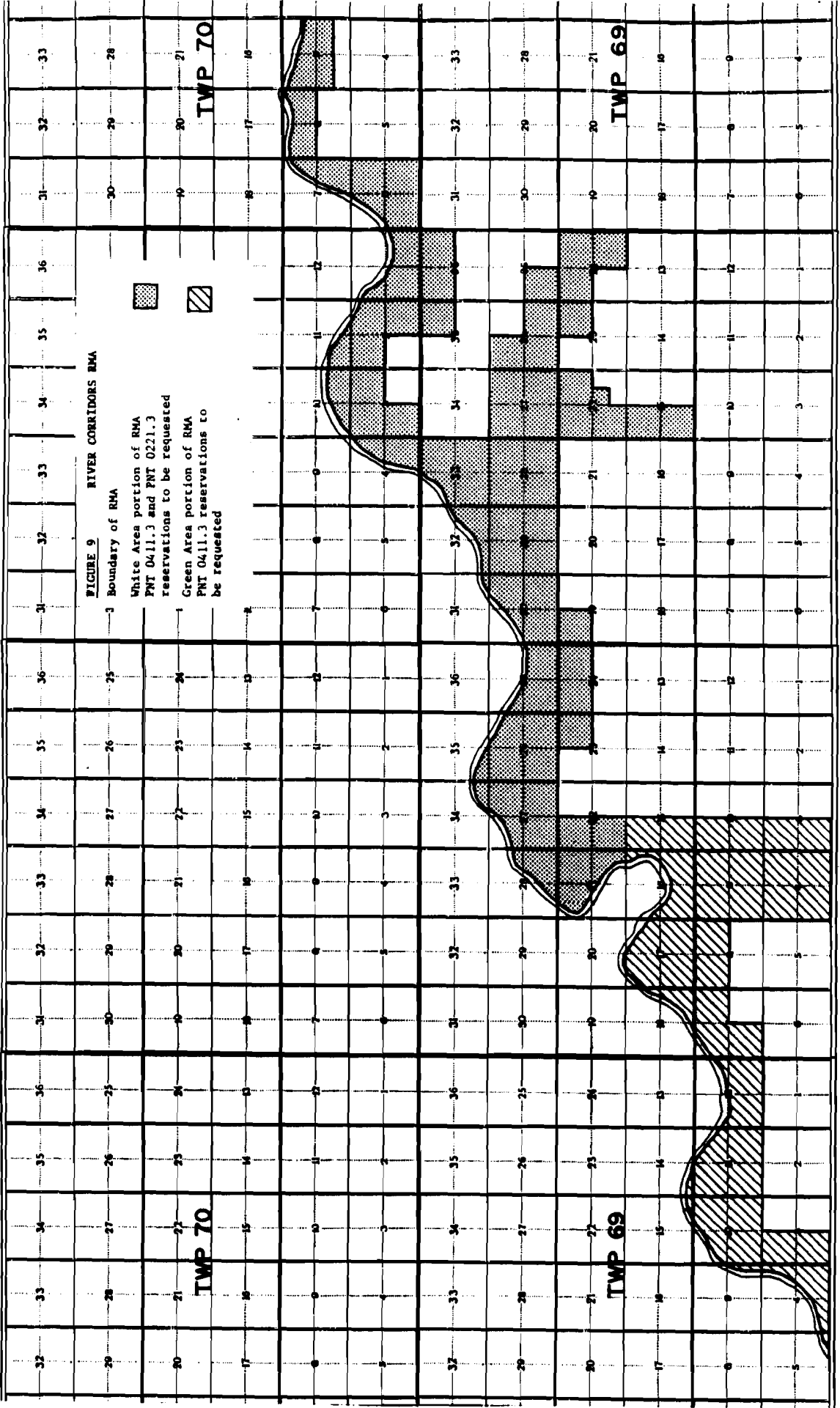
Part Sec. 11 South of River  
Part Sec. 12 South of River  
Part Sec. 14 South of River  
Part Sec. 15 South of River

RGE 11

RGE 10

RGE 9

RGE 8



**FIGURE 9**  
**RIVER CORRIDORS RMA**  
 Boundary of RMA

White Area portion of RMA  
 PNT 0411.3 and PNT 0221.3  
 Reservations to be requested

Green Area portion of RMA  
 PNT 0411.3 Reservations to  
 be requested

TWP 70

TWP 70

TWP 69

TWP 69

RGE 11

RGE 10

RGE 9

RGE 8