

Status Report to December 2009

# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2008-2012



Photo Credit: K. Ulliyot



## Minister's Message



I am pleased to provide a status report on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) Framework for Action 2008-2012. The status report highlights the Department's activities on actions undertaken from June 2009 to December 2009.

During the past six months, three new actions were initiated, five action items were completed and progress made on a number of others.

In celebration of the upcoming International Year of Biodiversity 2010, ENR is developing a special report on the State of Biodiversity. This report will examine the status and trends of our biodiversity to help us better understand pressures, such as rapid climate change, and plan for a sustainable future. The report is scheduled to be released in May 2010.

Climate change remains a very serious issue in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and the rest of the circumpolar world. The NWT Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy provides a coordinated approach to address climate change issues in the NWT. Progress has been made on all 39 actions identified in the Strategy including preparation of a draft biomass strategy, initial steps towards potential geothermal projects, and taking action to develop wind energy resources. A report on the status of all actions identified in the GHG Strategy will be prepared in 2010.

The decline of barren-ground caribou populations continues to be a major focus for the department. ENR is developing another five-year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy to cover 2011-2015. The draft strategy is scheduled to be reviewed with boards in the spring of 2010.

The Department continues to work with municipalities to develop Community Protection Plans that will minimize the risk and potential damage caused by wildfire. A review of ENR's strategic approach to forest fire management was completed and a Wildland Fire Management Program Review has been initiated.

A draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy was released in November 2009. An engagement process is now underway to gather feedback until March 2010. The final Strategy, to be completed in May 2010, will guide future water resources management and priority setting in the NWT. You may send your comments on the draft strategy, found at [http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/documentManagerUpload/Draft\\_NWT\\_Water\\_Stewardship\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/documentManagerUpload/Draft_NWT_Water_Stewardship_Strategy.pdf) to [nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca](mailto:nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca).

*Building a Path for Northern Science: GNWT Science Agenda* was completed and tabled in the Legislative Assembly in November 2009. The Science Agenda sets out the GNWT's science interests and provides direction on addressing these interests. More information on the Science Agenda can be found at:  
<http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/publications.aspx>

ENR continues to expand waste reduction initiatives and programs to reduce our impact on the environment. A Paper Products Diversion Initiative was initiated, actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic bags were put in place, and amendments were made to add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program. Single-use Retail Plastic Bag Regulations and amendments to the Beverage Container Regulations will come into force in early 2010.

And finally, with the fifth anniversary of the Beverage Container Program marked on November 1st, there was cause for celebration. The people of the Northwest Territories have returned over 100 million containers to depots and recycling services in communities in the NWT.

I encourage all NWT residents to continue their involvement in the protection of the NWT environment and the conservation of our valuable natural resources.

J. Michael Miltenberger

## 1. Governance

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
1.1 Consultation Framework for ENR	<i>1.1.1 Develop a consultation framework for ENR based on the GNWT's Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations</i>	ENR Consultation Framework	June 2009	June 2010	Preliminary work is underway to develop a path forward.
1.2 Land Use Policy Framework	<i>1.2.1 Report progress on ENR's participation in collaborative initiatives related to a land use framework, including landscape management activities and regional land use planning.</i>	Progress reports	June 2009 and then biannually		ENR participates in this initiative led by the Department of Executive. The draft framework is currently being reviewed.
1.3 NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS)	<i>1.3.1 Develop a preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT.</i>	Preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT	December 2009	June 2010	A report for the western NWT has been written and will be released with maps in the spring of 2010.
	<i>1.3.2 Prepare a Four-Year PAS Action Plan for 2010-2014.</i>	Four-Year PAS Action Plan: 2010-2014	March 2010		Implementation Action Plan to be released March 31, 2010.
	<i>1.3.3 Work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan.</i>	Implementation plan and status report	March 2010	March 2011	A meeting to form the management committee is expected to be held in 2010.
	1.3.4 Use ENR legislation, such as Critical Wildlife Areas, to sponsor candidate sites.	<i>Candidate site(s) process underway using ENR legislation</i>	December 2011		ENR met with Kátlódeeché First Nation in October 2009 to discuss expectations around their proposal. A meeting has been scheduled with Hay River Métis in January 2010 to inform them of the content of the proposal.

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1.4 Managing Landscape Change	<i>1.4.1 In partnership with industry and Aboriginal organizations and boards, identify management actions to reduce and mitigate impacts on boreal caribou and their habitat from resource development.</i>	Action plan and status report	December 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> The Action Plan for Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the NWT 2010-15 was released in September. A draft implementation plan is in progress.
	<i>1.4.2 Report on the Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF) and Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP), progress.</i>	Progress report	December 2009 and then annually		An auditor has been hired. The audit sub-committee is in the process of reviewing the auditor's work plan.
1.5 NWT Science Agenda	<i>1.5.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.</i>	Annual action plan and status report	June 2009 and then annually		Short term research needs and priorities were established through Divisional work plans in 2009. Longer term needs and priorities will be identified as part of the ENR business planning process.
	<i>1.5.2 Work with other GNWT Departments to prepare a GNWT Science Agenda.</i>	GNWT Science Agenda	September 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> Building a Path for Northern Science: GNWT Science Agenda was tabled in the Legislative Assembly and released to the public in November 2009.
1.6 ENR Succession Planning	<i>1.6.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.</i>	Succession Plan	December 2010	December 2011	Following the development of the GNWT Succession Planning Framework by the Department of Human Resources (March 2011), an ENR Succession Plan will be developed.

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## 2. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

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2.1 Energy and Climate Change	<i>2.1.1 Work with energy partners to prepare detailed plans for action on enhancing use of alternative energy sources (biomass, geothermal, wind).</i>	Alternative energy action plan(s) and status report(s)	December 2009		<p>A draft NWT Biomass Strategy was submitted for Cabinet and Standing Committee review in November 2009 and will be finalized in February 2010.</p> <p>A consultant has been retained to prepare a Northwest Territories (NWT) Geothermal Favourability Map by March 2010. ENR will meet with Fort Simpson representatives again in March 2010 to discuss implications of the Favourability Map and next steps forward.</p> <p>Wind monitoring continues at sites across the NWT including the Nechalacho Rare Earth Elements Project near Thor Lake.</p>
	<i>2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.</i>	Progress report	April 2009 and then annually	Annually	Action has been initiated on all 39 actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy. A report on the status of all actions will be prepared in early 2010.

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	<i>2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.</i>	Support program - Alternative Energy Technologies Program (AETP)	April 2009 and then annually		<p>The AETP contributed a total of \$95,161 in 2008/2009 to 14 projects for NWT residents, businesses, and communities. Projects offset 129 tonnes of GHG emissions.</p> <p>2009/2010 projects to December 2009 will create \$24,000 in energy savings, 22 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, and savings of 6,500 litres of diesel.</p>
	<i>2.1.4 Work with the Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation and a wind energy developer to install wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.</i>	Installation of wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk	July 2011		<p>Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation (TDC) and the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk hosted a community information night on August 4, 2009. Community engagement will continue as the project is developed. In September 2009, Inuvialuit-owned Dowland Contracting Inc. formed a joint venture with TDC called the Tuktoyaktuk Power Corporation (TPC) to develop, own, and operate the wind power project. TPC is currently negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement with NTPC. TPC has secured commitments from the Canadian wind developer Frontier Power Systems, and the turbine manufacturer Northern Power Systems.</p>

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	2.1.5 <sup>NEW</sup> Undertake a review of the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and release an updated Strategy for 2012 – 2017.	Updated NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy	June 2011		Assessment of actions under the 2007-2011 Greenhouse Gas Strategy is underway.
2.2 Climate Change Adaptation	2.2.1 Prepare and release a climate change impacts and adaptation plan developed in consultation with affected departments.	Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan	December 2009	April 2010	The NWT Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report was completed in 2008. Preliminary work has started on the Adaptation Plan and ENR is in the process of staffing a climate change specialist who will complete the plan.
2.3 Climate Change Network	2.3.1 Provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.	Establishment of organizational support	September 2009	February 2010	ENR is in the process of staffing a climate change specialist who will set up and coordinate the Climate Change Network.

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### 3. Environmental Knowledge

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3.1 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems	3.1.1 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone.	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	March 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> Ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone has been completed. The Taiga Plains (Mackenzie Valley) and Taiga Shield (forested areas north and south of Great Slave Lake) reports and posters have been distributed to the public (schools, industry, land and water boards, communities, etc) and are available on the ENR website.
	3.1.2 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Cordillera Ecozone.	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	April 2010		The field work for the Boreal and Taiga Cordillera and the analysis is complete. Publication of the report and the poster is planned for April 2010.
	3.1.3 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern and High Arctic Ecozones.	Ecozone classifications map and descriptors	September 2011		Fieldwork for the Southern Arctic ecozone was completed in the summer of 2009. The analysis and reporting will be completed by the fall of 2010. Planning for the High Arctic Ecozone work is underway.
3.2 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects	3.2.1 Expand the existing air quality network into small NWT communities.	Network expanded and operational	June 2009	September 2010	Funding to establish stations in a number of communities was not available. ENR is working towards establishing a dust monitoring station in a smaller community. A monitoring pilot project was conducted in Fort Providence in the summer of 2009.

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	<i>3.2.2 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape change are well monitored and assessed.</i>	Action plan to address data gaps	December 2009	17 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly	This action has been deferred to develop a comprehensive path forward on ENR's role in cumulative effects management.
	<i>3.2.3 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.</i>	Implementation of program(s); status report	December 2010		A report on 2008-09 NWT Biophysical Program project is being completed. Projects related to boreal caribou and grizzly bear continue.
3.3 Building a Forest Management Information System	<i>3.3.1 Design and develop a Wildfire Management application (EMBER Module).</i>	Wildfire Management (EMBER) Application	September 2009	March 2010	Final design and software development has been completed. Product acceptance testing will be complete by March 2010.  Implementation will occur March 2010 with the warranty period extending to September 2010.
3.4 Environmental Assessment Tracking System (EATS)	<i>3.4.1 Design, build and implement the EATS system to better manage the GNWT's environmental assessment processes and associated information management library.</i>	Environmental Assessment Tracking System operational	June 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> EATS was formally implemented in April 2009. Tracking of obligations from past Reports of Environmental Assessment is now underway.
3.5 Compliance Database	<i>3.5.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Management Information System (CMIS). CMIS will enhance the ability for the Department to effectively carry out the compliance duties of its Officers through enhanced case management and intelligence collection functions.</i>	Compliance Management Information System Operational	June 2010	March 2011	Work is currently underway on the detailed analysis in order to determine functional requirements and build a design specification. Work is also underway on evaluating sourcing options.

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3.6 Reporting on the Northwest Territories “State of the Environment”	3.6.1 <i>Develop a ‘State of the Environment’ report on the NWT environment, focusing on its air, wildlife and forests.</i>	NWT State of the Environment Report	June 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> The NWT State of the Environment Report has been completed and the Highlights Report published.
	3.6.2. <sup>NEW</sup> <i>Develop a special report on State of Biodiversity to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity 2010</i>	NWT State of Biodiversity Report	March 2010		The NWT State of Biodiversity has been drafted.
3.7 Traditional Knowledge (TK) Policy Implementation	3.7.1 <i>Work with Aboriginal governments and partners, including communities and regional resource management agencies, to support the implementation of the ENR TK Implementation Framework.</i>	Implementation plan and status report	March 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> The ENR TK implementation plan has been completed. Status reporting will begin in March 2011.
	3.7.2 <i>Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.</i>	Protocols for information access and sharing	June 2012		Work on protocols for information access and sharing will begin in the spring of 2010.
	3.7.3 <i>Work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of TK Policy.</i>	GNWT TK Implementation Framework	September 2012	March 2009	✓ <b>Completed</b> The GNWT TK Framework was completed in March 2009. Work will continue on developing individual department plans, as required.
	3.7.4 <sup>NEW</sup> <i>Implement the TK Policy Implementation plan for ENR</i>	Workshops for all employees  Best Practices Guide distributed	March 2010		Four workshops have been held. Upcoming workshops will be held in Hay River, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Inuvik. Best Practices Guide to be distributed at workshops.

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#### 4. Environmental Stewardship

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4.1 Past Environmental Legacies	<i>4.1.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route (NTR).</i>	NTR contaminated soil management plan	December 2009	November 2010	Since completion of the removal and disposal of the soil from Tulita, work on this file by the federal government has slowed. ENR has continued to press for the development and implementation of the plan and has raised the need for a further assessment of the Bennett Field site given use of the area by Tulita residents.
	<i>4.1.2 Report progress on implementation of the approved closure and reclamation plan by Miramar Con Mine Ltd.</i>	Progress report(s)	Ongoing until remediation of site is complete and continued site monitoring		Reclamation of the mine site continues. ENR is receiving regular updates and a briefing by the company on summer 2009 cleanup activities, future activities, and timelines is planned for January 2010.
	<i>4.1.3 Support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) processes to complete the Environmental Assessment for Giant Mine's remediation in partnership with the Giant Mine Remediation team.</i>	N/A	December 2009	December 2011	ENR continues to work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to complete the environmental assessment (EA) process.  The Developers Assessment Report should be submitted to MVEIRB by April 2010.  The anticipated timeframe for completing the EA process and obtaining regulatory approval is late 2011, but will depend on the timelines MVEIRB sets for the EA process.

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	<i>4.1.4 Address recommendations resulting from the review of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan and begin remediation of the Giant Mine site.</i>	N/A	September 2010 (begin remediation)	January 2012 (begin remediation)	Upon completion of the EA process, ENR will work with the Giant Mine Remediation Office to implement the approved remediation plan.
4.2 Waste Recovery Programs	<i>4.2.1 Introduce a Paper Products Diversion Initiative to provide financial support for NWT businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and/or pilot creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.</i>	Paper Products Diversion Initiative status report	June 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> A Paper Products Diversion Initiative has been initiated and will run for three years. ENR will report on the initiative annually.
	<i>4.2.2 Implement actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags including introduction of a fee on single-use retail bags.</i>	Environmental fee for single-use retail bags introduced	September 2009	January 2010	The Single-use Retail Bag (SRB) Regulations will come into force in grocery stores on January 15, 2010. The Regulations apply a 25 cent environmental fee to SRB's used in NWT grocery stores. Phase II of the public awareness campaign has been launched. ENR is working with distributors and retailers of single-use retail bags to prepare for the implementation of the Program. ENR has partnered with the Status of Women Council for the NWT to provide an additional 25,000 reusable bags to NWT residents in early 2010.

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	<i>4.2.3 Add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program.</i>	Updated Beverage Container Program Regulations	June 2009	February 2010	<p>Amendments to the Beverage Container Regulations will take effect on February 15, 2010. Ready to serve beverage containers containing milk and milk substitute will have a surcharge of 15 to 35 cents per container.</p> <p>Consultation with BCP distributors, milk distributors, and BCP processing centres/depot operators is underway.</p> <p>A public awareness campaign will begin in February to inform NWT residences of the Program.</p>
	<i>4.2.4 Determine the appropriate approach to, and the setting up of a comprehensive electronics waste recovery program in the NWT.</i>	Discussion Paper	September 2010	September 2011	<p>ENR will investigate e-waste approaches in other jurisdictions and the potential costs of implementing similar programs in the NWT. Detailed studies of the financial viability of the most promising approaches will be conducted as funding permits.</p>

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4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines	<i>4.3.1 In collaboration with Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, develop NWT-wide Guidelines for Seismic Operations, to address the ecological impacts of seismic operations in a proactive manner.</i>	Guidelines for Seismic Operations in the NWT	March 2009	August 2010	Public consultation was completed in October 2009. A final draft is being prepared for release in August 2010 by ENR, Environment Canada, INAC and Fisheries and Oceans
	<i>4.3.2 Develop 'air quality best management practices' for the oil and gas industry, including exploration, preliminary processing and transport.</i>	Air Quality Best Management Practices	December 2009	Spring 2010	A draft document will be finalized now that the Air Quality Programs Coordinator position has been re-staffed.
	<i>4.3.3 Identify additional 'best management practice' guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development, and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forests, wildlife and habitat.</i>	Action plan for additional guidance	Summer 2010 and annually		ENR is in the process of reviewing existing guidance documents to ensure they are up to date and is preparing guidance on the management of domestic wastes in temporary camps.
4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations	<i>4.4.1 Conduct an independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes.</i>	Independent peer review	March 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> The independent peer review has been completed. Barren-Ground Caribou Management in the NWT: An Independent Peer Review was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in March 2009.
	<i>4.4.2 Develop a Five-Year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015.</i>	NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015	June 2010		ENR is preparing a draft strategy to review with boards in the spring of 2010.

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	<i>4.4.3 Develop agreements with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on the management of shared wildlife populations, including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.</i>	Bilateral agreements on shared wildlife populations for each jurisdiction	December 2010		<p>An agreement on shared boreal caribou populations has been completed with Alberta.</p> <p>A draft Nunavut/NWT polar bear management agreement has been completed.</p> <p>A format for barren-ground caribou management agreement has been agreed to by Yukon and Nunavut.</p>
4.5 Species at Risk	<i>4.5.1 Develop a NWT Bison Management Strategy.</i>	NWT Bison Management Strategy	December 2008		<p>✓ <b>Completed</b></p> <p>An NWT Bison Management Strategy has been completed.</p>
	<i>4.5.2 Develop a NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.</i>	NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou	June 2009		<p>✓ <b>Completed</b></p> <p>The revised action plan is being sent to co-management boards for approval.</p>
	<i>4.5.3 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie and Slave River Lowland Populations.</i>	Management Plans for each population	December 2010		<p>Joint planning committees are being established with communities.</p>
	<i>4.5.4 Update the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in the NWT 2011-2015.</i>	Status report	June 2011		<p>Work on the status report is underway.</p>

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4.6 Environmental Legislation					
4.6.1 Species at Risk Legislation	4.6.1.1 Introduce the NWT Species at Risk Act.	Species at Risk Act introduced in Legislative Assembly	December 2008		✓ <b>Completed</b> The new Species at Risk Act will come into effect in February 2010.
	4.6.1.2 Implement actions under the NWT Species at Risk Act.	Progress report	June 2010		Staff for the new Secretariat have been hired. A first meeting of the new Species at Risk Committee to assess status of species is planned for late March 2010. A first meeting of the Conference of Management Authorities is planned for June 2010.
	4.6.1.3 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement	March 2010		Environment Canada is completing its final review of the agreement and it will be ready to sign.
4.6.2 A New Wildlife Act	4.6.2.1 Release a draft Wildlife Act for public consultation	Draft NWT Wildlife Act	March 2011	December 2010	The Wildlife Act Working Group met in January, February, April, July, September, October and November 2009. A public document outlining approach and process to develop the bill was released in November 2009.
	4.6.2.2 Introduce the revised Wildlife Act.	Introduce revised Wildlife Act in Legislative Assembly	December 2011	March 2011	Work is underway.

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4.6.3 Forest Management Legislation	4.6.3.1 Identify framework components and major steps for development of new forest and fire management legislation and policy.	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Framework	December 2008		✓ <b>Completed</b> ENR has received the final report on major steps towards legislative and policy framework for the NWT, prepared under contract by KBM Consulting.
	4.6.3.2 Develop draft action plan for new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Action Plan	June 2009	June 2010	ENR has contracted a consultant to conduct background research and issues scoping on forest policy and legislation. Target completion is March 2010. Following this, a draft action plan identifying the project through to completion will be completed by June 2010.
	4.6.3.3 Develop and implement regulations that require issuance of an Incidental Timber Harvesting Permit when cutting trees related to an industrial development activity.	Incidental Timber Harvesting Regulations	December 2009	March 2011	Consultation with Justice has resulted in understanding of the issues and solutions for the creation of an Incidental Forest Use Authorization and implementation under the current land management jurisdictions in the NWT.  ENR will bring the draft change to the <i>Forest Management Regulations</i> forward for implementation by June 2010.  Meetings with DIAND to resolve issues of joint management jurisdictions will occur over the next few months.  Public consultations will take place in the winter of 2010/ 2011.

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4.7 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness	<i>4.7.1 Conduct a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management that includes recommended changes. This will include a review of how the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy is implemented related to values at risk and the need to consider natural resource values such as habitat and needs of migratory species such as caribou.</i>	Discussion paper	September 2009		✓ <b>Completed</b> Community consultation was undertaken during 2008-2009 in a sample of communities. Issues and concerns identified in the consultations form part of the Terms of Reference established for a Wildland Fire Management Program Review.
	<i>4.7.2 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the aforementioned review.</i>	Forest Fire Management Action Plan	December 2009	October 2010	Based on results obtained above, and internal analyses of operational issues, a Wildland Fire Management Program Review has been initiated.  Facilitated workshops are scheduled to be undertaken winter 2009-2010, with the support of consultants with expertise in fire management policy reviews. Further targeted discussions will follow spring and summer 2010 with operational staff. A final plan will be presented by the fall of 2010.

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4.8 Wildland Fire Management					
4.8.1 Protecting Communities from Forest Fire	4.8.1.1 Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic.	FireSmart plans for each of Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic	December 2009	March 2010	Community Wildland Interface fire management plans will be completed for Fort Smith, Tsiigehtchic, and Kakisa. In addition Community Wildland Fire Protection plans (FireSmart Interface plans) will be completed for Jean Marie River, Fort Providence, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, and Enterprise.
	4.8.1.2 Develop a new inter-jurisdictional multi-year research plan to identify and address research gaps in community protection.	Community protection multi-year research plan	December 2009	March 2010	Work is underway on the research plan, which will include research work at the Fort Providence research site and cooperative ventures with partner agencies, to address wildland fire research in terms of community protection.
4.8.2 Forest Renewal	4.8.2.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.	Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT	June 2009	March 2010	A draft Forest Renewal Strategy has been received from contract specialists. A Forest Management specialist is reviewing the recommendations and will prepare an implementation plan.
4.9 Managing Forest Resources	4.9.1 Develop a forest management plan for management of forest resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region (GSR).	GSR Forest Management Plan	June 2009	March 2010	The Gwich'in Forest Management Plan: A Framework for Forest Management has been completed. A process for approval by the GNWT is in the planning phase, with a target of joint signing ENR – Gwich'in Tribal Council by March 2010.

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## 5. Protect Territorial Waters

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
5.0 Protect Territorial Waters	<i>5.0.1 Compile NWT transboundary water data for use in future transboundary agreement negotiations, based upon concerns and issues identified.</i>	Technical information report	December 2009	March 2010	Considerable background work has been compiled by a GNWT/federal working group.
	<i>5.0.2 Engage Aboriginal governments, Land and Water Boards and others to develop a NWT water stewardship strategy to address concerns and issues.</i>	NWT Water Stewardship Strategy	June 2009	May 2010	A Draft Strategy developed through input from the GNWT, federal and Aboriginal governments, land and water boards, and others was published November 2009. The final Strategy will be released in May 2010 after broad public engagement.
	<i>5.0.3 Work with interested parties to identify appropriate aquatic ecosystem approaches, including indicators that will help in monitoring NWT values at risk.</i>	Aquatic Ecosystem Approach	December 2010		Preliminary work is underway to plan path forward.
	<i>5.0.4 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Peace-Athabasca-Slave watersheds.</i>	Bilateral Water Management Agreements (AB-NWT primary)	December 2011	AB-NWT Bilateral December 2012	A Bilateral Water Management Agreements: Guidance Document as a basis for all bilateral is complete. Preparations are underway to prepare for negotiating an Alberta-NWT bilateral agreement.

\* Spring (March 20 – June 20)      Summer (June 21 – September 21)      Fall (September 22- December 20)      Winter (December 21 – March 19)

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline		Status
			Original	Revised	
	<i>5.0.5 Work with the Federal Government, Land and Water Boards, communities and others to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the endorsed Canada-Wide Strategy for Municipal Wastewater Effluent.</i>	Implementation Plan and Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement	March 2011		A northern working group has been formed and preliminary work is underway to establish communications between F/P/T parties, to decide how research needs will be accomplished and the role of the Northern Research Working Group.
	<i>5.0.6 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, like catchment area maps, to help NWT communities manage risk to watersheds that are the source for public water supplies.</i>	Community risk assessment tools	June 2012		Preliminary work is underway to establish appropriate methods.
	<i>5.0.7 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations to address the Hay River and Great Slave watersheds.</i>	Bilateral water management agreements with Alberta, in association with British Columbia and Saskatchewan	December 2012		Member jurisdictions completed and agreed to a Bilateral Water Management Agreements Guidance Document in the fall of 2009. The NWT (led by ENR and INAC) are now preparing for negotiations of a bilateral with Alberta, ensuring expertise is in place and a strong negotiating mandate is developed.

\* Spring (March 20 – June 20)

Summer (June 21 – September 21)

Fall (September 22- December 20)

Winter (December 21 – March 19)

