

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Wood Buffalo National Park

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Canada

Type of Property

natural

Identification Number

256


Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Wood Buffalo National Park	59.358 / -112.293	4480000	0	4480000	1983
Total (ha)		4480000	0	4480000	

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Wood Buffalo National Park	18/01/2007	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Rebecca Kennedy
International Programs, Parks Canada
Program Specialist

Comment

Please replace with: Vice President, Heritage Conservation and Commemoration Directorate Parks Canada Agency 25, rue Eddy, étage/floor 5 K1A 0M5 Gatineau Canada
Telephone: +1(819) 994-1808 Fax: +1 (819) 934-1115

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Robert Kent
Parks Canada
Superintendent
Southwest Northwest Territories Field Unit

Comment

Parks Canada Robert Kent Field Unit Superintendent
Southwest Northwest Territories Field Unit P.O. Box 750 X0E
0P0 Fort Smith, NT Canada Telephone: +1 (0) 867 872 7943
Fax: +1 (0) 867 872 3910 Email: robert.kent@pc.gc.ca

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Wood Buffalo National Park \(Parks Canada\)](#)
2. [World Heritage in Canada \(Parks Canada\)](#)
3. [Report on the State of Conservation \(Parks Canada\)](#)
4. [Natural site datasheet from WCMC](#)

Comment

Please REMOVE #3 - State of Conservation for Canada

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

Comment

Two Ramsar Treaty designations for wetlands of international significance. The Whooping Crane habitat and Peace Athabasca Delta are the two designations.

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

Wood Buffalo National Park is an outstanding example of ongoing ecological and biological processes, encompassing some of the largest undisturbed grass and sedge meadows left in North America, and it sustains the world's largest herd of wood bison, a threatened species. The park's huge tracts of boreal forest also provide crucial habitat for a diverse range of other species, including the threatened whooping crane. The continued evolution of a large inland delta, salt plains and gypsum karst add to the park's outstanding values.

Criteria

(vii) The great concentrations of migratory wildlife are of world importance and the rare and superlative natural phenomena include a large inland delta, salt plains and gypsum karst that are equally internationally significant.

(ix) Wood Buffalo is the most ecologically complete and largest example of the entire Great Plains-Boreal grassland ecosystem of North America, the only place where the predator-prey relationship between wolves and wood bison has continued, unbroken, over time.

(x) Wood Buffalo contains the only breeding habitat in the world for the whooping crane, an endangered species brought back from the brink of extinction through careful management of the small number of breeding pairs in the park. The park's size (4.5 million ha), complete ecosystems and protection are essential for in-situ conservation of the whooping crane.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(vii)(ix)(x)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

Wood Buffalo National Park is an outstanding example of ongoing ecological and biological processes, encompassing some of the largest undisturbed grass and sedge meadows left in North America, and it sustains the world's largest herd of wood bison, a threatened species. The park's huge tracts of boreal forest also provide crucial habitat for a diverse range of other species, including the threatened whooping crane. The continued evolution of a large inland delta, salt plains and gypsum karst add to the park's outstanding values.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Canada is currently finalizing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for 13 of its World Heritage sites. Pending Committee approval, these will be used for the next Periodic Reporting cycle.

3. Factors Affecting the Property

3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact					Origin	
3.1	Buildings and Development							
3.1.3	Industrial areas							
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities							
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure							
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure							
3.2.2	Air transport infrastructure							
3.3	Services Infrastructures							
3.3.4	Localised utilities							
3.3.5	Major linear utilities							
3.4	Pollution							
3.4.3	Surface water pollution							
3.4.4	Air pollution							
3.5	Biological resource use/modification							
3.5.1	Fishing/collecting aquatic resources							
3.5.3	Land conversion							
3.5.4	Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals							
3.5.7	Subsistence wild plant collection							
3.5.9	Subsistence hunting							
3.6	Physical resource extraction							
3.6.2	Quarrying							
3.6.3	Oil and gas							
3.6.4	Water (extraction)							
3.7	Local conditions affecting physical fabric							
3.7.2	Relative humidity							
3.7.3	Temperature							
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)							
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage							
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses							
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.3	Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting							
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system							
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community							
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
3.9	Other human activities							
3.9.1	Illegal activities							
3.10	Climate change and severe weather events							
3.10.1	Storms							
3.10.2	Flooding							
3.10.3	Drought							
3.10.6	Temperature change							
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events							
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition							
3.11.6	Fire (wildfires)							
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species							

	Name	Impact				Origin	
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species						
3.13	Management and institutional factors						
3.13.1	Low impact research / monitoring activities						
3.13.3	Management activities						
Legend	Current	Potential	Negative	Positive	Inside	Outside	

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend	
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.5	Major linear utilities	restricted	on-going	minor	medium capacity	static
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.2	Quarrying	restricted	one off or rare	minor	high capacity	static
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	widespread	on-going	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	decreasing
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	localised	on-going	minor	low capacity	static
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	localised	on-going	minor	low capacity	static

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

no comments

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, and it is not needed

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

no comments

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Wood Buffalo National Park is protected and managed under the authority of the Canada National Parks Act, the Parks Canada Agency Act, the Wood Buffalo National Park Game Regulations and the Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies. These acts and policies are the ongoing tools for conservation management in the park. Wood Buffalo National Park was created in 1922. The park was expanded south of the Peace River in 1926 to accommodate the migration of the bison south of the Peace River into the delta which is a savanna like area. The Canada National Parks Act and Regulations (2000) requires that "maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority of the Minister

when considering all aspects of the management of parks." The Parks Canada Agency Act (1998), established an Agency "for the purpose of ensuring that Canada's national parks, national historic sites and related heritage areas are protected and represented for this and future generations and in order to further achievement of the national interest as it related to those parks, sites and heritage areas and related programs." Park's Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies Wood Buffalo National Park Game Regulations (1978) Canada Fisheries Act (1985) Migratory Birds and Conservation Act (1994) Species At Risk Act (2002).

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

no comments

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Operational management of Wood Buffalo National Park is directed by the Field Unit Superintendent who reports via the Executive Director of Northern Canada and Director General, Western and Northern Canada to the Chief Executive Officer of the Parks Canada Agency. Wood Buffalo is managed through two local administration offices. Fort Smith, accessible year round by road, is located on the north east corner of the park and Fort Chipewyan, accessible by water or winter road, is located on the south-east corner of the park. Along with Nahanni National Park Reserve and a number of historical sites, Wood Buffalo is part of the Southwest Northwest


Territories Field Unit of Parks Canada. Wood Buffalo is unique with six Aboriginal land selections set apart as reserves for First Nations inside the park's boundaries. These sites are part of Canada's commitment to honour the long tradition of Aboriginal use and history in the park. Aboriginals play an integral role in the management of fur bearing species through their historical group trapping areas. Their traditional knowledge of the species and landscape is a valuable resource for cultural and science based management decisions.

The Wood Buffalo National Park Park Management Plan was approved by the Minister of the day in 1984. That plan has been the operating document until the present day. Due to the complexity and diversity of stakeholders, subsequent park management plan processes have been delayed from moving forward. Presently, the park is in the early stages of a renewed park management plan process that will engage stakeholders in a more meaningful way, paving the future for a park management plan that meets the needs of all stakeholders. There is a goal to update the plan by 2008. The current plan provides direction in the form of zoning for protection of rare and endangered species, ecological maintenance and restoration and visitor experience and use.

Comment

Superintendent reports to Vice President, Western & Northern Canada. Remove entire 2nd paragraph and replace with: The WBNP Park Management Plan was approved by Parliament in 2010. This new plan reflects modern park management priorities with 3 main deliverables. "Towards a Unified Vision," "Connecting to the Magic of the Boreal Plains" & "Bison Management in the Greater WBNP Ecosystem." There are also 2 specific area management priorities which focus on Pine Lake and the Peace Athabasca Delta.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Title	Status	Available	Date	Link to source
Wood Buffalo National Park Management Plan	N/A	Available	01/01/1985	

Comment

Wood Buffalo National Park Management Plan, 2010 Link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/plan/plan1.aspx>

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property **but it could be improved**

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **most or all activities** are being implemented and monitored

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Good
Landowners	Fair
Visitors	Good
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Fair
Industry	Fair

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities **directly contribute** to some decisions relating to management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Indigenous peoples directly contribute to **some decisions** relating to management but their involvement could be improved

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but only **some cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

no comments

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

no comments

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	92%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	5%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	0%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	2%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	1%

Other grants	0%
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4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

No support received from World Heritage Fund (USD)

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

no comments

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	100%
Part-time	0%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	30%
Seasonal	70%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	98%
Volunteer	2%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Fair
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Fair
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Fair
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Fair

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Medium
Community outreach	Medium
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	Medium
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Medium
Tourism	Medium
Enforcement (custodians, police)	High

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

no comments

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for most key areas **but there are gaps**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

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4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared widely** with the local, national and international audiences

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

no comments

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

no comments

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In **many locations and easily visible** to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Average
Local Indigenous peoples	Average
Local landowners	Average
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Average
Local businesses and industries	Average

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a **planned and effective** education and awareness programme that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Excellent
Site museum	Adequate
Information booths	Not needed
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Excellent

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Transportation facilities	Adequate
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

no comments

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Static
Two years ago	Static
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Static

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Tourism industry
Visitor surveys
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment

The 2010 Park Management Plan identifies a strategy to improve visitor experiences in the park by working with partners from communities, Aboriginal groups and tourism industry.

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed **but improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected, and makes **some contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

no comments

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or

improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Poor
Local communities	Average
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Excellent
Industry	Average
Local indigenous peoples	Excellent

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

no comments

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

no comments

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.3	Services Infrastructures					
3.3.5	Major linear utilities	The power line runs parallel to Highway 5 through the north section of the park. This takes it through the southern tip of the Whooping Crane nesting habitat.	The line has existed in the park for many years and mainly follows the road right away corridor of disturbance. It does divert south of the road through the Whooping Crane habitat avoiding the vast majority of the habitat to the north.	The Whooping Cranes are closely monitored every year upon their return for numbers, nesting locations, egg laying and chick survival. The numbers have been increasing and recent monitoring has involved GPS transmitters to track their migration routes	On going	Wood Buffalo National Park (Parks Canada), Northwest Territories Hydro
3.6	Physical resource extraction					
3.6.2	Quarrying	Vast unbroken boreal ecosystem.	When possible quarrying for gravel to maintain roads in the park is carried out outside the park. There are old borrow pits along the roads some of which require reclamation. There is presently only one pit active in the park.	Old pits are closed off. Environmental assessments are carried out for any work, mitigations are identified.	on going	Wood Buffalo National Park The vast majority of the park is inaccessible which protects its heritage values. The road system is sparse and allows visitors and staff access to key features of the park.
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage	All criteria stated for the establishment of the designation, Whooping Cranes, vast unbroken boreal ecosystem, gypsum karst, large inland delta.	Canadian national parks have seen a downturn in visitation. Parks Canada has implemented a restructuring to deliver new experiences to its visitors that are developed to engage their hearts and minds while celebrating and protecting the park.	Visitation is counted, visitor surveys are conducted, internet presence and hits are tracked and media profile and coverage is monitored. Parks Canada has invested in a national survey approach to gauge its reach into the hearts & minds of Canadians	5 year strategies and plans are being developed nationally and at the park level to engage Canadians and visitors.	Parks Canada, NGO partners and Aboriginal partners
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	All criteria stated for the establishment of the designation, Whooping Cranes, vast unbroken boreal ecosystem, gypsum karst, large inland delta.	Traditional use of the land is dropping as elders pass away knowledge and stories of the land are lost with them. The park works with Aboriginal communities to build closer relations and support the preservation of Traditional Knowledge.	Tracking numbers of trappers, hunters and traditional activities underway. Working with communities and elders to share and record traditional knowledge and stories. Park monitoring incorporates Traditional Knowledge with western science.	Ongoing	Parks Canada and Aboriginal partners
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	All criteria stated for the establishment of the designation, Whooping Cranes, vast unbroken boreal ecosystem, gypsum karst, large inland delta.	Working with Aboriginal communities to build Cooperative Management structure for the park. Actively seeking out partnering relationships and new experience products to bring new ideas and interests to the park.	Feedback from community programs and partners, Aboriginal partners, NGOs	On going	Parks Canada Agency (PCA) Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), NGO's, Aboriginal organizations community boards and working groups. The communities around Wood Buffalo are a mix of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups facing modern pressures of new technologies and changing values. Elders are working to keep traditional cultures alive.
3.12	Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species					
3.12.2	Invasive/alien terrestrial species	Vast unbroken boreal ecosystem, and large inland delta.	A monitoring program is in place. Priority species list for monitoring has been developed.	Reviews of plots carried out on a 5 years cycle	On going	Parks Canada Agency Wood Buffalo National Park

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

Not applicable (for sites inscribed exclusively under criteria vii to x)

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values are being **partially degraded** but the state of conservation of the World Heritage property has not been significantly impacted

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

no comments

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Positive
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	Positive
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	No impact
Political support for conservation	Positive
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	Positive
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	No impact

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

no comments

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

no comments

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Very poor

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The World Heritage Convention
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Management effectiveness

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Excellent
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

Automatically generated in online version

6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

no comments