

Appendix D Newsletters

Environmental Characterization is Currently Underway

Manitoba Hydro has begun collecting information that will contribute to the environmental assessment of the project. This information will help assess the potential effects of the project on the physical environment, terrestrial and aquatic environments, as well as heritage resources, land and resource use, and the socio-economic environment.

Manitoba Hydro is committed to seeking Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge as well as science-based knowledge for use in the assessment. Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge will provide important perspectives on the environmental and socioeconomic implications of developing and operating the proposed project. This will enhance the environmental assessment leading to improved mitigation and project benefits.

Public Engagement Process

Engaging with communities, stakeholders landowners and the public is a very important part of the planning process for identifying a line route for the project.

Input will be sought from

- private landowners,
- government and non-government agencies,
- community representatives,
- First Nations, Metis and the general public.

The intent of the first round will be to introduce the Project, including a description of the proposed alternative routes and to gather local knowledge to assist in the selection of a preferred route.

Information obtained during these consultations will assist in the identification of a preferred route that is a balance of technical, biophysical, financial and socio-economic considerations.

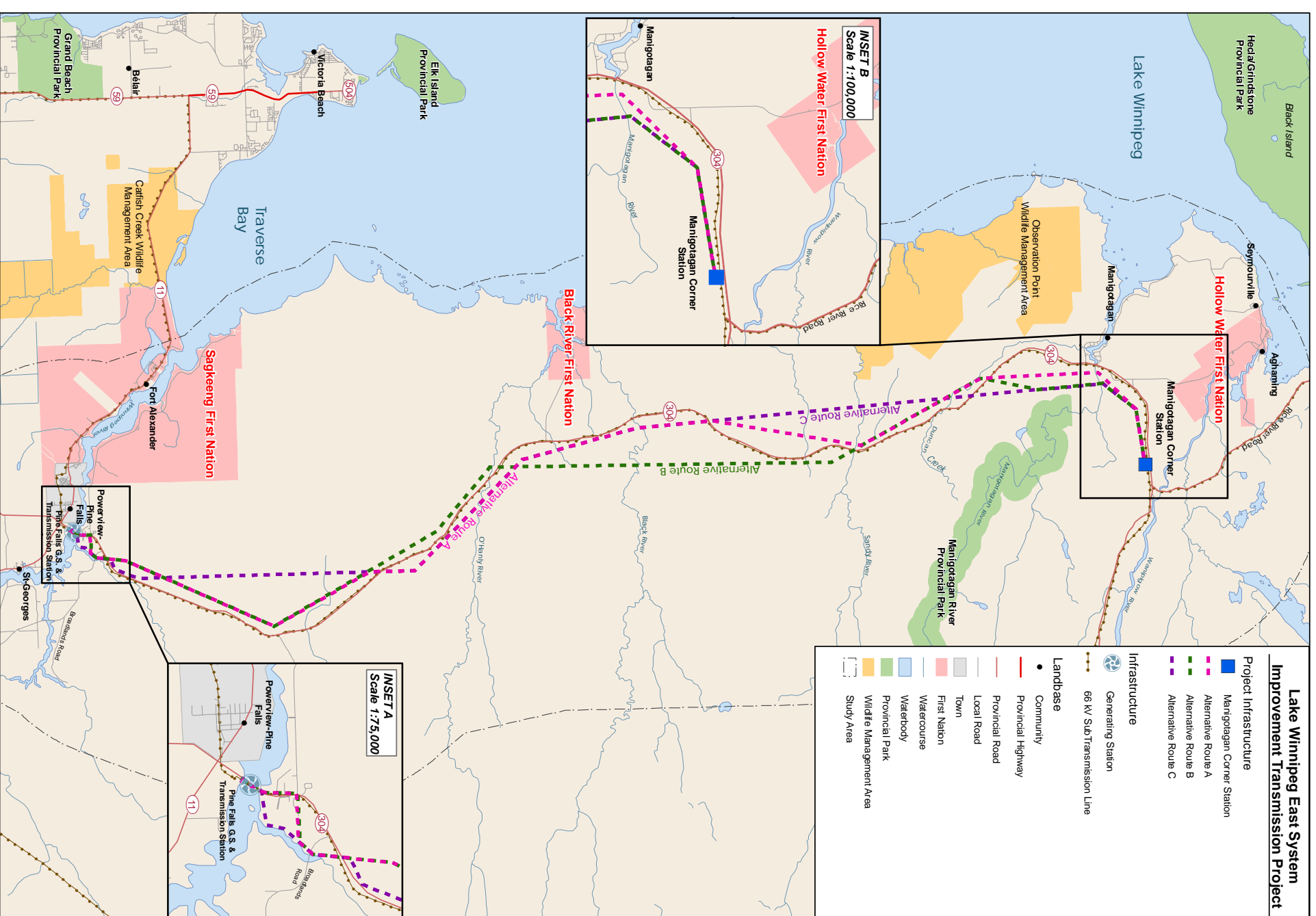
Project Timeline



Alternative Routes

The adjacent map identifies the study area and alternative routes that are presently being considered.

Alternative routes on the adjacent map have been selected as a starting point for the public engagement process. These routes are based on input from local aboriginal communities, government and through identifying known land uses, existing infrastructure, sensitive heritage, wildlife and plant areas, while respecting technical and cost considerations.



You are Invited

You are invited to share your views and provide local knowledge to help determine a transmission line which will minimize impact to people and their environment.

Locations

Tuesday, July 24	Hollow Water First Nation
Thursday, July 26	Sagkeeng First Nation
Monday, July 30	Powerview-Pine Falls
Tuesday, July 31	Manigotagan
Wednesday, August 1	Black River First Nation

Specific times and locations will be advertised in your local paper and presented on posters throughout your community.

We Want To Hear From You

We would like to hear from you. There are a number of ways you can participate in the review of this project and provide your input:

- Community and Regional Open Houses
- Comment sheets available at Open Houses
- Or contact us directly

Questions

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Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement (LWESI) Transmission Project

Overview

Manitoba Hydro has identified a need to enhance its transmission system in the Lake Winnipeg East region. The proposed Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement (LWESI) Transmission Project is one component required to improve this system.

A new transmission line would originate at the Pine Falls Transmission Station, located south of the Pine Falls Generating Station and would terminate at a new Manigotagan Corner Station located east of the community of Manigotagan on PTH 304.

Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA)

The SSEA process involves selecting a transmission line route based on technical, ecological, social, and economic factors through a site selection process. An environmental assessment for the project will be conducted, and will involve:

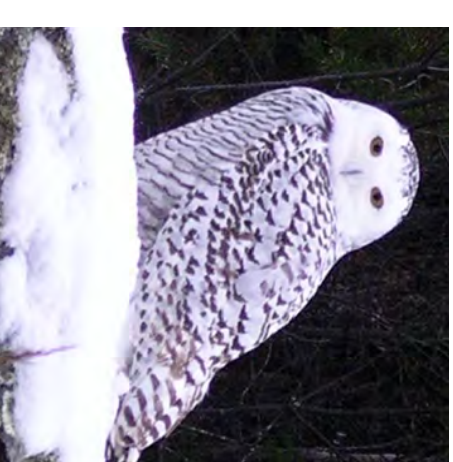
- documenting the existing environment,
- identifying potential effects on the environment and people, as well as
- developing mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential effects.

The environmental assessment, including the public engagement program, will be documented in an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR).

The SSEA process will assist Manitoba Hydro in determining a route with minimal impact on people and the environment

Project Facts

- The project includes a new 115-66 kilovolt (kV) transmission station, approximately 75 km of new 115 kV transmission line, and upgrades to the Pine Falls Transmission Station.
- Environmental Assessment Report scheduled to be submitted November 2012 scheduled in-service date is November 2015.
- Construction winter 2013 to spring 2015
- In Service Date November 2015



Public Engagement Process

Engaging with communities, stakeholders landowners and the public is a very important part of the environmental assessment process.

During the first phase of engagement, input was sought through:

- Discussions with 27 communities and organizations, which resulted in 14 meetings.
- Information letters to 28 private landowners and rights holders.
- Letters to all communities and stakeholders containing the June Newsletter and invitation to the Open House meetings.
- Open House meetings in 5 local communities, and
- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Workshops in 3 local communities.

The intent of the first round will be to introduce the Project, including a description of the proposed alternative routes and to gather local knowledge to assist in the selection of a preferred route.

Information obtained during these consultations will assist in the identification of a preferred route that is a balance of technical, biophysical, financial and socio-economic considerations.

Project Timeline

- ### Round 1
- Introduction to the Project.
 - Describe the proposed Project and SSEA process.
 - Present alternative route options and identify issues and concerns.
 - Receive input on all the proposed routes to assist in the determination of the Preferred Route.
 - Document what was heard.

- ### Round 2
- Presentation of Preferred Route.
 - Identify issues and concerns and discuss possible mitigation measures.
 - Document what was heard.

- ### Next Steps
- Confirmation of Preferred Route.
 - Submission of the Environmental Assessment Report.
 - Regulatory Review.
 - Receipt of licence.
 - Construction.
 - In-service Fall 2015.

We are here.

Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Transmission Project – September 2012

What We Heard In Round 1

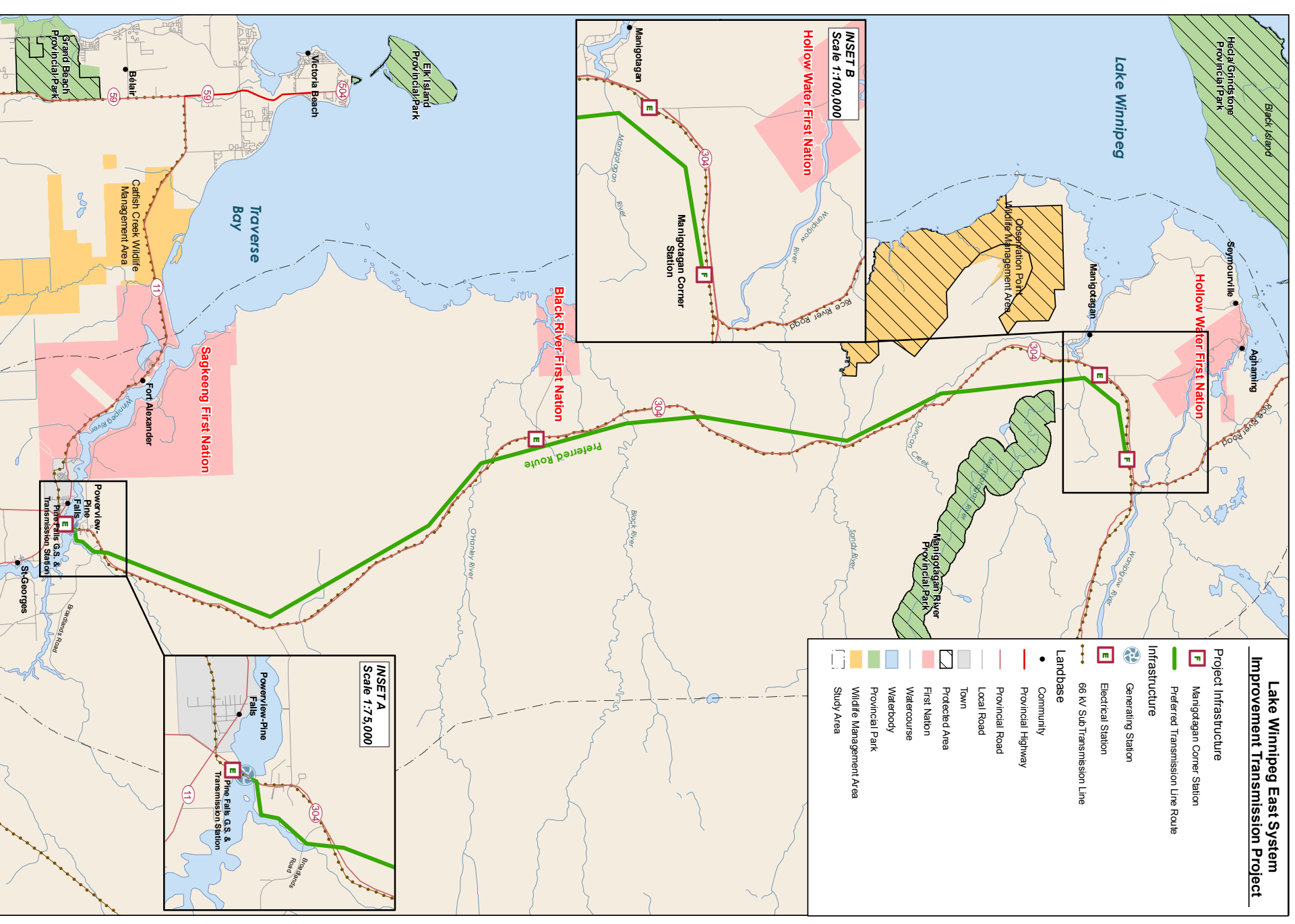
This is what we heard since the inception of the public engagement process and how we are proposing to address the concern:

Public Comment / Concern	Manitoba Hydro Response
Keep the transmission line closer to PR 304	Parts of Alternate Routes A, B & C were combined to accommodate this request.
Access related effects of the transmission line (particularly with hunting of moose)	Buffers will be used along the transmission line to reduce sight lines. By following the highway more closely, access to more remote areas is minimized.
Concerns regarding the use of herbicides	Manitoba Hydro will work with communities to develop a "Vegetation Management Protocol".
Interest in employment opportunities that the project may provide	Manitoba Hydro will meet local communities to discuss employment opportunities.

The goal of the second round of engagement is to present the Preferred Route, identify any outstanding concerns and to provide an opportunity to discuss potential effects and possible mitigation measures to minimize effects.

Preferred Route

In Round 1, a set of alternative routes were identified and presented to the public. The potential effects of the alternative routes were assessed in order to select a Preferred Route that balances public input with technical and environmental considerations. The route selection process utilized scientific information from field and data analysis, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and input from the Public Engagement Process. Based on these considerations, the Preferred Route was developed.



You are Invited

You are invited to share your views and provide local knowledge to help confirm a preferred transmission line route, which will minimize effects on people and the environment.

Locations

Monday, Oct. 1

**Papertown Motor Inn –
Powerview/Pine Falls**

Thursday, Oct. 4

**Hollow Water First Nation
Community Hall**

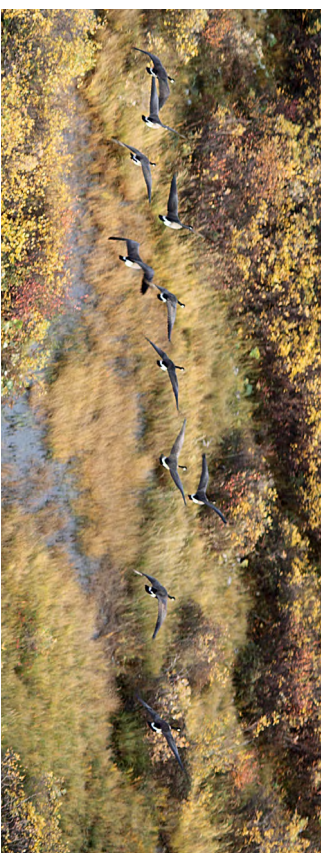
Wednesday, Oct. 10

**Black River First Nation
Band Office**

Thursday, Oct. 11

Seymourville Community Hall

Open House hours are from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Drop in Anytime. Refreshments will be provided.



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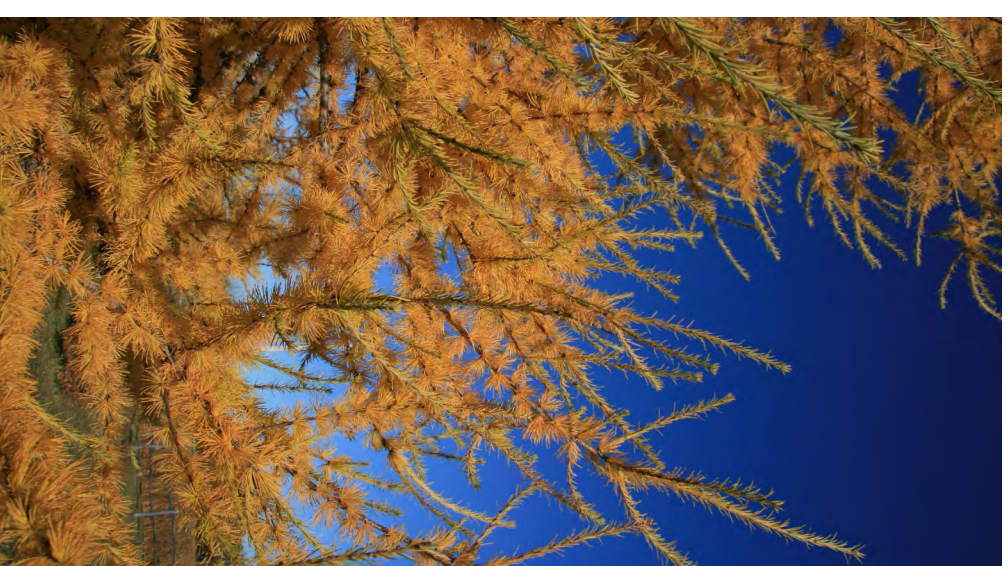
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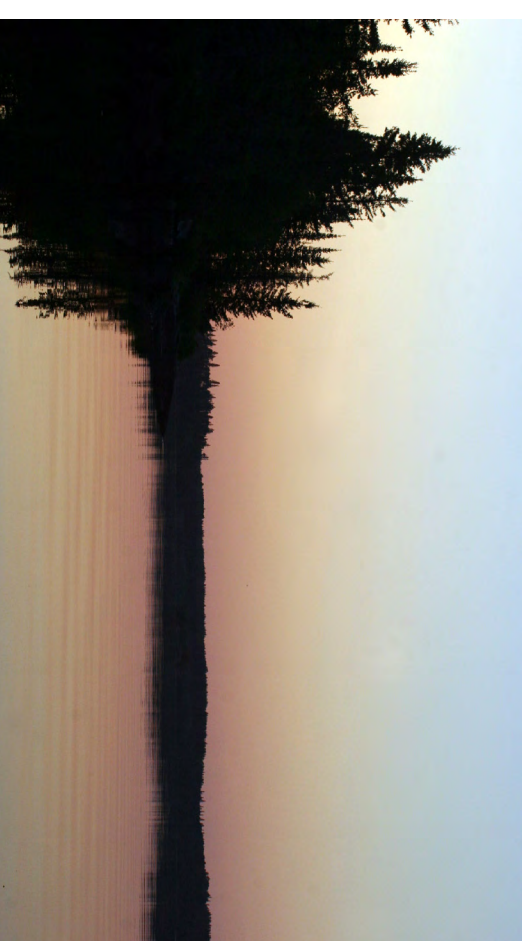
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- documenting the existing environment;
- identifying potential effects on the environment and people, as well as
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