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Trout Lake Community Tourism Plan
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TROUT LAKE COMMUNITY TOURISM PLAN

September, 1985

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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Community Tourism Plan

In June 1984, the Big River Travel Association entered into a funding agreement with the North West Territories Department of Economic Development and Tourism to undertake a Tourism Development and Marketing Plan for the western section of Big River Country. This study was initiated in recognition of the potential economic and social contributions the tourism industry could provide to local communities as well as the growth potential generated with the opening of the Liard Highway to Fort Nelson, B.C.

The community tourism plans and regional strategy are intended to guide public and private sector interests in the development of attractions, facilities, services and policies. They also provide an organizational structure supportive of increased tourism activity which contributes to the local economy and is beneficial to the surrounding region. Community feelings are reflected regarding the type of industry and under what conditions it should be developed.

Tourism is at a relatively youthful stage in its development in the Trout Lake area, although the sports fishing lodge has been operated on an irregular basis since the 1950's. This plan therefore serves to establish a logical framework for future planning and development while recognizing the lack of local experience and expertise required in marketing the lake and lodge for fly-in sports fishing and coordinating these attractions with opportunities in the community. It is further recognized that tourism initiatives undertaken in other communities, especially along the Liard Highway, can have a significant impact on generating new markets for the Trout Lake community.

Adopting a systematic approach to community tourism development

ensures maximum short and long-term efficiencies are achieved from the available natural and human resources, infrastructure and markets. A systematic approach encourages the various levels of government and the private sector to evaluate a range of opportunities for their contributions to the goals of the community and region. Clearly, the findings in this report are intended to reduce uncertainty, within the community and important businesses such as air charter companies, as to future developments-markets. Moreover, the development plans establish an overall community-wide approach with guidelines and principles for tourism growth that can to a large extent be initiated directly by the community.

This community tourism development plan is to: reflect community, government and Big River Country goals and concerns, be sufficiently broad in scope and flexible in approach to accommodate unforeseen development, and be responsive to a variety of short and long term specialty markets and resource development opportunities that may be anticipated in a fly-in community. It is recognized that an increase in the presence of the petrochemical industry, changes in government policy, decreases in the quality/quantity of the fishery resources, and the rate of implementation of the Big River Country Regional Strategy could significantly alter the direction and implementation of the plan. Therefore, the goals and objectives of this document should be reviewed at regular intervals. Of particular importance are the marketing/management needs of the lodge as well as maintaining a high quality resource base and developing a stronger sport fishing-hunting image for the community and surrounding area.

Promoting the orderly and economic growth of Trout Lake from a tourism perspective can be achieved through a community planning process. In so doing, it will be possible to: identify existing and future market" opportunities, ensure local social and economic concerns are met, enhance heritage and lifestyle attractions, identify environmental points of interest, and ensure

infrastructure and organizational requirements are in place. It is anticipated that with renewed marketing of Trout Lake Lodge, the tourism industry will increasingly influence the course and direction of economic development in Trout Lake. Implementation of the plan will also positively impact on regional tourism investment in Big River Country by adding an additional destination tourist attraction and in particular promotion of the southwestern section of the Liard Corridor. Thus, the purpose of the community tourism plan is to: **develop practical tourism development strategies centered on Trout Lake Lodge, and to a lesser extent the community, that will assist the Band Council, lodge operators, government planners and Big River Country to stimulate and manage the tourism economy over a five to twenty year period.**

1.2 How to Use the Plan

The Trout Lake Tourism Development **Plan** is one of seven community plans, a corridor plan, and a technical report entitled Big River Country: **Markets** and **OP**portunities for Investment.

The community plan provides a detailed outline of community resources and attitudes concerning the preferred type and rate of growth of tourism. This is a result of an ongoing consultative process. The community plan highlights key sport fishing and other natural and cultural resources, markets, and program recommendations including priority and phasing. For additional reference to specialty markets, a summary of regional resource opportunities, and the summary of development opportunities for Big River Country, reference should be made to the technical report.

The community tourism development plan provides the direction the local Band Council, the Territorial Government and Big River Country wish development of the industry to occur. The plan recognizes that several opportunities may exist which **could**

contribute to the community's and region's economic well-being, but which may be premature and therefore unacceptable **in this isolated community**. The scope of this plan is to establish a general framework within which specific activities may be initiated by the Band Council by indicating the type, location and extent of development to take **place** and benefits generated. Although the plan is intended to guide the community and Band Council activities, other contributing Federal and Territorial agencies which exercise influence regarding the management of sport fishery resources? for example, will also find the plan useful. Consultation is recommended with local and Territorial authorities prior to undertaking significant investment **in any specific opportunity**.

PART TWO: MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Trout Lake community is located on the south-west shore of Trout Lake and on a year round basis is only accessible by aircraft. Because of the community's relative isolation from the Liard Highway, it is primarily dependent on the marketing activities associated with Trout Lake Lodge to attract visitors. For several years, the lodge has been in a relatively dormant state with the result that tourism has had little economic impact on the community.

2.1 Factors Affecting the Future of Tourism Development in Trout Lake

The social, cultural and economic issues associated with operating Trout Lake Lodge have had and will probably continue to have in the short term a significant impact on the operation of the lodge and ultimately the employment and economic benefits the community can derive from tourism. Although specific Federal or Territorial programs may impact upon employee training, infrastructure upgrading, financial assistance, etc. which may directly or indirectly affect the tourism activities in Trout Lake, the Band must address and resolve the important issue of lodge management, marketing and operations in a business-like manner before any significant benefits will be realized to the community.

2.1.1 Government Tourism Development Priorities

Policy and resource support for the development of community-based tourism activities have been formalized at both the Federal and Territorial government levels. As a consequence, it is timely for communities/regions with tourism development aspirations to access **planning**, infrastructure, human development and marketing support resources. Based on current and anticipated program commitments (i.e. the **Canada/N.W.T.** Economic Development Agreement, the **G.N.W.T.** Department of Economic

Development and Tourism, and D. R. I.E.), a high level of government support will continue to the N. W.T. tourism sector. Many of these programs expire in 1986/87.

In addition, future decisions of the Federal and Territorial governments toward the use and development of services in and adjacent to **Nahanni** National Park will be a major factor in attracting day use and extended stay sports fisherman, etc. to Trout Lake. Generally, initiatives taken by the Territorial Government toward marketing, management and operation of the lodge will have an important impact on the establishment/re-establishment of a local tourist industry. Based on discussions with government officials, it was felt that there would be some reluctance to increase expenditures on the lodge without a commitment from the Band to resolve the marketing and management problems that have characterized its operation.

2.1.2 Regional Tourism Development Priorities

The official opening of the Liard Highway in 1984, with increased contact with Fort Nelson, B.C. and tourist traffic on the Alaska Highway, has generated regional interest in tourism development. These initiatives, together with the **Nahanni** National Park Management Planning process, upgrading of the Mackenzie Highway north to Wrigley and a number of local celebrations and special community events, have reinforced the need for systematic development of the tourism industry in the region. A second economic development priority in the region is the establishment of an economic base built on renewable resources, especially **sport fishing and hunting lodges**. In this respect there are opportunities in the Trout Lake area including much needed outfitting services.

2.1.3 Local Tourism Development Priorities

The Trout Lake Band has established tourism as a supplemental economic activity to their traditional activities of hunting, commercial fishing and trapping. Trout Lake Lodge is operated

and maintained by the Band in association with the A. E. **D.O.** The local economy is also linked to the production and sale of handicrafts. Although the Band has been cautious to ensure tourism does not disturb the lifestyle of the settlement, there is a strong desire to increase the economic benefits from the lodge.

Whereas the opening of the **Liard** Highway was seen as a significant event for tourism development in Fort **Liard** and Fort Simpson, the impact was not as prevalent with local residents in isolated communities such as Trout Lake. As a result, the immediacy of developing new and upgrading existing services in the community was not evident. A longer time frame than normal might be expected in initiating activities that can be undertaken by local residents.

2.2 **Tourism Potential in Trout Lake**

The following sections provide a general description of the community. It should be recognized that tourists and the economic/employment benefits generated have had minimal impact on this lakeside community. Although outstanding sport fishing is available, the marketing of this and related resources has not occurred primarily because of a decision by the Band to retain control of the lodge with minimal professional expertise. The need for short and long range planning in the community is therefore seriously required in order to utilize the available resources.

This section also includes a detailed listing and summary of the resources of the land and people as well as the organizations/human resources available to direct implementation of the plan.

2.2.1 Trout Lake Community Description

The community of Trout Lake is located on the south shore of Trout Lake in a relatively flat, wooded and scenic area. It is a small Dene community of approximately 60 people.

The **community is comprised** of **dispersed** homes as well as a combined band hall, store and transient **centre**. Other buildings include a school and health unit. A gravel runway for charter air service is located in close proximity and the Trout River provides a sheltered landing area for local fishermen. Trout Lake Lodge is situated a short distance to the north on an **expansive** sand beach.

According to historical references, the present community site was periodically occupied by fur traders since 1796. However, of interest to tourists will be the fact that a permanent community for the band was not established until the late 1960's and many families in the summer months routinely leave their residences to reside in nearby tents to take advantage of the long summer days.

2.2.2 Resources of the Land

The resources of the land are detailed in **Table 1**. The inventory of land resources includes interesting and scenic land forms, and wildlife and fishing areas which may be of interest to sports fishermen traveling on the lake. Much of this information was gathered through discussions with local residents at Trout Lake. Also, land use maps and other secondary source documents which describe the land and its resources were used in identifying and assessing tourism opportunities.

***Landforms**

The community is situated in a **low-lying** area at the mouth of the Trout River. Trout Lake Lodge is located on a west facing extensive sand beach with similar low-lying topographic relief. The long attractive sand beaches are visually the most striking feature associated with the community and lake and could be a secondary market attraction. The north and west sloping hills face the community and lake to the south and west and have a vertical relief of up to 230 m. Because of their heavily treed character and distance from the lake (8 - 9 km), the visual

impact is minimal at either the community or when boating on the lake.

***Wildlife and Fishing Areas**

Moose, caribou and a variety of fur bearing animals such as beaver, lynx, and marten are abundant throughout the area. Trapping and hunting along the watercourses near Trout Lake provides residents with an important source of income, food and the primary materials used in handicraft production (1 eat herwork).

The sport fishing resource is the single most important tourism resource for the community. In addition to being commercially fished, the lake is considered one of the most outstanding sport fisheries in Big River Country and regional charter air services currently transport sports fishermen to the lake for short trips. Consequently, it is essential that the appropriate image be maintained/developed to market the lake and that the resource base be managed to support a fly-in sport fishery that will have increased economic benefits to the community.

2.2.3 Resources of the People

Resources of the people provide an inventory of those sites in the area which have cultural or historic significance. Table 2 highlights the present tourist attractions and services available at Trout Lake.

***Retail/Native Handicrafts**

Elders in the community tan and sew locally obtained moose hide into moccasins, vests, caps and mitts. These handicrafts are sold locally to residents and non-residents as well as through the handicraft stores in Fort **Liard** and Fort Simpson. Should more fishermen be attracted to Trout Lake, additional clothing articles could be sold outside the community with improved marketing and promotion at these centres as well as at the lodge.

***Transportation**

The settlement is served by an unlicensed gravel airstrip (274 m x 23 m) for light aircraft. A new airstrip **was** constructed in 1984-85. A winter road is located to the west of the lake connecting with the Mackenzie and **Liard** Highways. Residents rely on boats or snowmobiles to travel locally. A rough road connects the community with the lodge. This plan is based upon the assumption that there will not be year round access to the Trout Lake community.

***Accommodation**

Visitor accommodation is limited in the community. There is a transient **centre** which is part of the community **centre** but it can accommodate only four people. The charge for staying is \$25.00/night and the Trout Lake Band **requi**res advance notice to determine availability.

The Trout Lake Fishing Lodge can also be used to house tourists. It is located approximately 8 km from the settlement and is usually accessed by motorboat. The lodge can accommodate fourteen people. When in operation, the staff includes one cook/manager, two guides and one general worker. The lodge offers the greatest opportunities for accommodating visitors on a short term basis and is used for conferences/workshops on an infrequent basis. Therefore, promotion of the lodge should be formalized along with its management operational aspects to accommodate short term (overnight) and extended stay sports fishermen.

***Retail Services/Communication**

The general store in Trout Lake sells groceries, hardware and tackle to the local community. Only these basic necessities are stocked for residents and problems could arise if tourists were to utilize the store on a frequent basis without an increase in stock. The only mobile radio/telephone in the settlement is located at the general store. This results in communication

problems regarding bookings for the lodge.

*Food and Beverage Services

Trout Lake Lodge is the only place offering food and beverage services.

* Historical/Cultural Features

Limited archaeological research and analysis has been undertaken in the Trout Lake area, although it is generally recognized that large lakes were intensively occupied by aboriginal groups during the early and middle fur trade period. Little published information is available on the fur trading era at Trout Lake which began in 1796, with a post being sporadically occupied up until the 1950's. Only one site is known to have been examined, and it is located along the east shoreline of the lake (Jc Rj - 1). The importance of this site to tourism interpretation has not been determined.

The significance of historical events and the occupancy of posts in the area in terms of their significance in the development of the area has yet to be established. However, the development of additional information regarding the detailed location of fur trade posts and the development of **ethnogeographical** information on early fur trader activities/personalities **would bring to life** interpretation of early Eastern Canadian contact with the **Dene**. Areas of interest include early explorers and adventurers, fur traders, missionaries and more recently, the firms and individuals involved in mapping and assessing the area for minerals, etc.

As a relatively isolated settlement without a permanent site until the late 1960's, the **Slavey** people of Trout Lake follow a number of interesting traditional pursuits. Building architecture, economic activities (hunting, fishing and trapping), and summer residences represent some of the cultural

features of interest to southern visitors that could be incorporated **in** a visit to the community for sports fishermen.

2.2.4 Summary of Tourism Potential

Sport fishing resources are the primary attraction for destination or other visitors traveling the **Liard** Highway. **In** addition, fall hunting and a side trip to view the traditional lifestyle of the community and to purchase handicrafts are other potential interesting activities. Additional marketing and lodge management expertise is considered essential in effectively utilizing the resources of this community and basically all tourism initiatives in this regard are dependent on improving the lodge situation. The small **labour** force and limited training of residents in the hospitality industry is a serious disadvantage.

2.3 **Community Attitudes Towards Tourism**

Residents have suggested that tourism could provide the community with more economic and employment diversity. The operation and management of the Trout Lake Lodge is locally supported and the Band wants to continue to employ local people. A recent survey of the community, however, did not identify a single individual who was interested in acting as a guide, outfitter or lodge operator. Although recognizing the need for better lodge management, the Band as yet has not undertaken any action required to improve the marketing and upgrading of basic **services/faciliti** es necessary to establish a competitive profile.

While the economic benefits are desired by the community, residents do not want tourists indiscriminately wandering through the settlement causing a nuisance of themselves. While planning for new tourism activities, it is important to recognize that residents interviewed in the community baseline report (July, 1983) enjoy the isolation of their settlement and have indicated that they would not want to move elsewhere. As a result, it **is** important that future tourism activities not conflict with existing community activities or traditional hunting, fishing or

trapping areas. To meet both tourist **and** settlement interests, for example, a special guided tour of the community operated by a local resident(s) could be considered.

2.4 **Requirements for a Tourism Industry: Dealing with Trout Lake's Tourism Planning Concerns**

For tourism to become further established and to contribute to the local economy, several **concerns/factors/** issues must be resolved. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Improve and develop basic services and infrastructure at the lodge such as water, communication **s**, and toilets, to better meet existing tourist demands and desires.
- 2) Provide additional amenities/services of interest to day users and for sports fishermen during inclement weather.
- 3) Undertake long term and full season marketing for the lodge.
- 4) Upgrade the land route between the lodge and the settlement airstrip for improved access.
- 5) Obtain staff with appropriate hospitality training to operate and market the lodge.
- 6) Develop an information package (written/video) on the community and the cultural activities typical of the Trout Lake community for use at the lodge.

PART THREE: TROUT LAKE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1 Introduction

Part Three of the Trout Lake Tourism Development Plan is to provide an overall frame of reference to **guide and manage a pattern of growth over the next twenty years.** The Plan is to guide the establishment/upgrading of Trout Lake Lodge and associated commercial activities at the community of Trout Lake.

The Plan is intended to identify appropriate actions to be taken in rejuvenating a local tourism industry at Trout **Lake centred primarily on sport fishing.** The success of these actions will to a large extent be dependent on the establishment of a strong implementing organization with outside technical and marketing expertise. Further development of amenities and services will attract increasing numbers of visitors along the Liard-Mackenzie Highway and establish additional market opportunities for the lodge. **In** promoting the orderly development of a small tourism industry, the plans take into consideration the regional strategy for Big River Country, the marketing linkages with other existing and proposed developments and the interests of the Band's current lodge management.

3.2 Regional Tourism Development Strategy

A regional tourism strategy was prepared for Big River Country to identify the short and long-range development opportunities for the public and private sectors of the industry. The approved strategy considered a wide range of concerns of government agencies, band and settlement councils, private tourist operators, and local residents. Further, the strategy considered the use of natural and man-made attractions in the establishment of a **co-ordinated** program for the "public good" of the region. **Based upon the choices and directions considered in the selection of the preferred direction for tourism growth in Big River Country,** the following regional strategy or policy statement emerged:

"To further enhance **and** promote the region in recognition of its role as a destination area for high expenditure non-resident specialty adventure markets and as a pass-through area for travelers along the **Liard-Mackenzie** Highways. Tourism will be stimulated through the provision of community oriented **historical/cultural** 1 attractions, recreation facilities, resorts and land and water-based **wilderness/backcountry** recreation opportunities. Developments are to broaden the base of existing community hospitality and recreation services, and to diversify the regional economy with special attention given to increasing the quality of the visitor's experience while recognizing both the remoteness of communities and the sensitivity of this northern environment. Services, facilities and attractions will be developed to support hosting of regional events-attractions in order that the image of the corridor/communities can be promoted in a variety of package tours. Emphasis will be placed on low to moderate capitalization and minimal disturbance to the community. The strategy requires further development of the handicraft industry and creative development of cultural and historical interpretive programs aimed at generating high audience appeal for short periods of time. A unique northern experience with emphasis on the cultural, historical and visual attractions will be promoted to highway travelers as well **as** to other important destinations on the corridor. In limited access areas, emphasis will be given to the modernization, **expansion** and development of new packaged exclusive-deluxe lodges and related commercial services to increase both the number of outdoor-wilderness adventure vacation and resultant employee opportunities and revenue to Big River Country. Emphasis will be placed on the marketing of these high profile activities including **Nahanni** National Park to act as a catalyst in the overall promotion of the region. Emphasis will be placed on nodal development where possible to broaden the appeal and efficiency of operations. Efforts

should be placed on areas such as Trout Lake, **Nahanni** National Park, etc. as some of the infrastructure and planning already exist. The cultural interests of communities to retain their lifestyles and isolation from tourists will take precedence in certain areas".

3.3 Tourism Approach in Trout Lake

A very directed program by the various government agencies and the Trout Lake Band is required to develop a successful sport fishing lodge at Trout Lake. Future tourism initiatives should be developed almost exclusively around the lodge and its attractive location, with other secondary attractions such as local handicrafts, traditional Dene community lifestyle characteristics, sand beaches, etc. used where possible to broaden the appeal of a fly-in trip to Trout Lake.

Thus, within the context of the regional tourism strategy, the local approach can be characterized as:

- 1) Recognizing and developing Trout Lake's role as an extended stay destination sport fishing **centre** for Canadian and U.S. non-resident markets.
- 2) Recognizing and planning for a day trip fishing service into the lodge from communities such as Fort **Liard**, the proposed **Blackstone-Nahanni** Visitor Services **Centre** and Fort Simpson for highway travelers passing through Big River Country but wanting to purchase a single day fishing trip in the Territories.
- 3) Improving and expanding the services and facilities required to *ensure* visitor comfort and satisfaction at the community/lodge.
- 4) Expanding the level of handicraft industry to ensure an adequate supply and variety of products for local and non-

resident markets sold at Trout Lake, regional N. **W.T.** centres and in southern Canada.

- 5) Integrating the promotion of the Trout Lake sport fishing with other Big River Country outfitting and charter air services as well as hotels/motels located in the region.
- 6) Recognizing and marketing the **lodge** for training workshops, seminars, etc. by government organizations, oil **industry**, etc.
- 7) Identifying and assessing an outcamp or second lodge location at the north end of the lake.

The following development recommendations have been formulated in order to establish a renewed tourism industry and an alternative economic base/source of employment for Trout Lake community residents.

* Trout Lake Lodge

- 1) Examine the infrastructure at Trout Lake Lodge and prepare a short and longer term retrofit plan. Immediate actions required include provision of: hot and cold running water, communication services with the community and other communities in Big River Country, appropriate central sewage system, improved central kitchen-dining facilities, and a recreational centre with a range of indoor activities for fishermen during inclement weather.
- 2) Establish a road between the community and the lodge to improve access for fishermen arriving at the local airstrip. Upgrade instrumentation at the aerodrome.
- 3) Establish non-resident operators and market personnel to operate the lodge on a contract basis for a period of not less than three years. During this period, interested staff

members will be encouraged to leave the community for short periods of time to undertake specialized resort management and related hospitality training while working at the lodge during the summer season. After the three year period, the operation of the lodge would be reviewed and possibly turned over to the Band to be operated by appropriate local personnel on a lease basis.

- 4) Encourage marketing of the lodge/community through Big River outfitting services, hotels/motels and air charter firms.
- 5) Research and develop appropriate Trout Lake historical/cultural interpretive literature, audio-video programs, etc. to be used at the lodge and in other visitor service **centres**, etc. Develop the fur trading history and **role** of the Dene in the establishment of a special historical image for the community. Interpretive information to be provided on the local community at both the lodge and community itself.
- 6) Develop special/incentive programs to attract traditional and commercial markets to fly into the lodge during shoulder/winter seasons for activities such as: ice fishing, fall geese hunting and special conferences/workshops.
- 7) Examine the need and potential sites for an outfit camp and/or a second lodge at the north end of Trout Lake.
- 8) Join the proposed Mackenzie Tourist Operators Association to develop a strong link with **Nahanni**-Blackstone to gain access to the important highway tourist markets.

* Trout Lake Community

- 1) Band Council to initiate actions required to allow for the tendering of the management and marketing of Trout Lake

Lodge to non-residents for a period of not less than three years.

- 2) Initiate discussions within the community to identify six to eight individuals over a two to three year period who are interested in completing lodge management, marketing, guiding and natural-human history interpretation courses.
- 3) Identify alternative sites for an outfit camp and/or second lodge at the north end of the lake. The long term goal, perhaps beyond the twenty-year planning horizon, would be to generate additional employment opportunities within the fishing capacity of the lake.
- 4) Establish a community gymnasium-hall with kitchen to be used for local recreation purposes as well as to provide the community with an indoor facility to accommodate hosting country food dinners/special presentations for groups staying at the lodge.
- 5) Community to request appropriate government agencies to examine the sport fishing capacity of the lake with the view to determining its capability to support a further increase in sport fishing activity.
- 6) Examine the local handicraft industry in terms of: **increasing/decreasing** number of local artisans, training requirements to expand product **base**, supply of products that can be produced, market demand, diversity and quality of product, and sales (both retail and **wholesale** opportunities).
7. Encourage the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage **Centre** to initiate further detailed archaeological and **ethnogeographical** research on the Trout Lake area in order to identify and characterize both pre-European and **post-**

European (fur trade era) periods of economic and **social**
activities for interpretation.

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Management

SHEET NO: 1

PROGRAM NAME: Trout Lake Lodge Management and Operations
Analysis

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To meet with the Band Council to gain the **consensus** and approval of tendering the management and marketing of the lodge to a non-resident individual/firm. In order to establish strong markets and develop good operating procedures, the contract should be for a minimum of three years at which time a decision will be made by the owner to either extend *or* return the operation to the Band.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. A. E. D. Officer and other N. **W.T.** officials as required to meet with the Band Council to outline problems and alternative solutions to establishing more effective use of the lodge. Request Council to approve contracting the management and operation of the lodge to an experienced outside firm/individual **until** such time as there is an adequate number of people with expertise to operate and market the lodge locally.
2. **A.E.D.** Officer to advise Band Council regarding contractual conditions with the prospective operator (**i.e.** use of local staff, marketing/promotion, fee arrangements, maintenance and upkeep, etc.).

PROGRAM NAME: Trout **Lake** Lodge Retrofit

SEASON OF USE: Primarily summer with some opportunities for spring, fall and, in the long term, possibly winter use on an infrequent basis.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The former Turner and Taylor Sport Fishing Lodge was constructed in 1963. Over the past 22 years, it has been operated by the Band and **N.W.T.** with only minor improvements in facilities and services. To operate the lodge in a competitive manner, a short and long range retrofit plan is required that will make the lodge more attractive to Canadian and U.S. sports fishermen on an extended basis, as well as for day use fishing. It is important that the retrofit plan consider the spring and fall markets including **N.W.T.** government, tourism meetings and commercial workshops that should be booked into the lodge.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Develop a retrofit program that reflects the short and long range market opportunities and user requirements of visitors to Trout Lake Lodge (sport fishing and other bookings) for the next five and ten years. Obtain approval for the lodge upgrading program from the Band Council and review with **A.E.D.** Officer regarding financing opportunities.
2. Obtain the services of an appropriate builder/architect to undertake construction of the approved retrofit plan/program. Utilize local people where possible, to **maximize** benefits to the community.
3. Complete instructions and provide approvals for completion of the initial phases of work. Undertake additional

upgrading/expansion according to phasing outlined in the retrofit plan.

4. Complete road construction between the community and the lodge to eliminate the need to travel the often rough trip on the lake.

PROGRAM NAME: Trout Lake Lodge Training

SEASON OF USE: Year round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this program is to provide the local **labour** force with an opportunity to begin training in **all** aspects of the hospitality industry associated with operating resort lodges. Further, individuals should be identified and financially assisted that want to advance their skills in the handicraft industry. Because of complexities of operating a lodge and lack of interest on the part of many individuals to leave the community for any extended period of time. The required training should be continued over a two-to-three year period.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Identify staffing requirements and **local** candidates interested in completing various courses outside the community in resort operations.
2. Coordinate training courses with proposed new management take over of lodge operations.

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Hospital **ity/Attraction**

SHEET NO: 4

PROGRAM NAME: Trout Lake **Cultural/Historica** 1 Research Program

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this program is to develop, for public distribution, historical, natural and cultural information regarding the community of Trout Lake and the immediate area. Further, an audio-visual tape would be prepared describing the attractions and historical events of interest to be shown at the lodge. Other related audio-visual material would be prepared for use in Big River **Country-N.W.T.** visitor reception **centres.**

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Identify requirements for promotion **and** general interest folders, pamphlets and booklets describing the community and area.
2. Identify local individuals interested in participating in researching and assembling information on the area and community (**i.e. local legends, historical accounts, life-style information, etc.**). A professional researcher-writer would be retained to work with Band members in developing the written text.
3. Publish and disseminate material to outfitters, air charter services, hotels, etc. Certain of the general interest material would be fee based while other material would be free for public distribution.
4. Request the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage **Centre** to initiate archaeological research on the fur trading posts and

develop/participate in the writing of a **local journal on early explorer/fur trader activities.**

5. Lodge operators to develop an audio-video program(s) on Trout Lake in terms of its attractions (natural, cultural, historical). Local residents to be involved in various aspects of film production, including advising on text. Film to be shown at lodge and during other promotions on Trout Lake. Other film clips on Trout Lake to be prepared for Big **River-N.W.T.** reception centres and sponsored by **N.W.T.**

PROGRAM NAME: Trout Lake Recreation and Visitor **Centre**SEASON OF USE: Tourists will use **centre** primarily during the summer.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The community has very limited indoor recreation opportunities and has expressed a need for a hall or auditorium. This program would see the construction of an auditorium to be used for local band activities, native craft production, dances, school/community programs, and most important from a tourism perspective, hosting tourists for country food dinners (i.e. moose, caribou, **rabbit**, ptarmigan).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. N. W. T. Recreation Official and Band Council to meet and develop a building program and to outline the specific tourism requirements for **the building**. Develop cost of construction estimates and clarify financial arrangements.
2. Determine appropriate site in the community and obtain Band Council approval.
3. Retain contractor to construct facility utilizing local **labour** supply where possible.

PROGRAM NAME: Trout Lake Handicraft Industry Assessment

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is aimed at assessing the local handicraft industry in terms of the ability of local artisans to meet future market requirements, market characteristics and sales. Following the analysis, a specific business development (operations) plan would be prepared for the Band's consideration. It is anticipated that significant direct economic benefits may be generated for Trout Lake residents with an improved business-like approach to handicraft sales and production while incurring little capital costs.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Initiate a comprehensive review of the local handicraft industry. Develop a business plan for review and approval by the Band Council and local artisans.
2. Implement plan in terms of increasing the supply and range of products and sales (retail at the lodge and wholesale arrangements beyond the community).

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to visit	Other Comments
LANDFORMS					
5-1	Island River Mouth & Upstream	Boat	1/2 day - 1 day	Spring	- Spring migration of pike, pickerel, greyling , and suckers. - River depth and obstacles may cause delays, problems, etc.
5-2	Moose River	Boat	1/2 day	Spring/Fall	- Spawning area for pickerel; upstream spring migrations of suckers, greylings , pike and walleye; upstream run of whitefish in mid-Sept. - Moose also found and hunted in the area.
5-3	Paradise River	Boat	1/2 day	Spring	- Spring spawning area; popular spot to take tourists.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to Visit	Other Uses
5-4	Poplar River	ATV	3 days	Summer/Fall	- Spawning and rearing ground for pike, sucker, sculpin, trout, perch, greyling. Chub, peamouth and long-nose dace also found on river.
5-5	Trout River	Boat	1/2 day	Spring	- Spring spawning ground for greyling sucker, pike, chub, walleye.
5-6	Trout Lake	Boat	N/A	Spring, Summer, Fall	- Contains most of the fish species of the area; fished domestically by residents of Trout Lake settlement. A sport fishing camp, managed by the settlement is located on the lake.
5-7	Island River Lakes	Boat	1/2 day	Fall	- Moose and beaver are found throughout the area, and are hunted frequently by local residents.

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref,	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to Visit	Other Comments
5-8	Tetcho Lake	ATV	1 day	Spring/Fall	- Water fowl staging area (swans, geese , ducks).
5-9	Trainer Lake	ATV	1 day	Year-round	- Spawning area, summer feeding area and overwatering area for fisheries (burbot , whitefish, isco , pike).
5-10	Cormack Lake	ATV	3 days	Summer/Fall	- Spawning/nursery ground for pike, sucker.
5-11	Sand beaches	Boat	N/A	Summer	- Attractive sand beaches <i>along</i> the east side of Trout and Cormack Lakes.

FISH RESOURCES

**TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE**

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to visit	Other Comments
5-21	Pickrel	Boat	1/2 day	Spring/Fall	- Moose River provides a spawning area for pickerel.
5-22	Northern Pike	Boat and/or ATV	1/2 day - 3 days	Spring/Fall Summer	- Spawning, nursery, and overwintering areas found in Cormack and Trout Lakes (in the shallows) and Poplar and principally Trout Rivers; as well, pike are found in many of the streams and creeks in the area.
N. M.	Sucker	Boat and/or AVT	1/2 - 3 days	Spring, Summer, Fall	- Spawning, nursery and overwintering areas found on Poplar, Island, and Trout Rivers and Cormack Lake.
5-23	Arctic greyling	Boat and/or ATV	1/2 - 3 days	Spring	- Poplar and Trout Rivers are spawning grounds.

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Decryption	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to visit	Other Comments
5-24	Yellow Walleye	Boat	1/2 - 1 day	Spring	- The shallow of Trout and Island Rivers, and Trout Lakes provide spawning, nursery and overwintering areas for yellow walleye.
5-25	Lake Chub	Boat	1/2 - 3 days	Year-round	- Poplar River provides year round habitat for lake chub; Trout River is a principal spawning, nursery and over-wintering area.
5-26	Whitfish	Boat	1/2 - 1 day	Spring/Fall	- Both Trainer and Trout Lakes provide suitable areas for spawning, summer feeding and over-wintering. In mid-September, there is a heavy upstream run of whitfish on Moose and Island Rivers.

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to visit	Other Comments
5-27	Lake Trout	Boat	1/2 day	Year-round	- In spring the Trout Lake shallows provide excellent spawning grounds; Indian River provides year-round habitat.
5-28	Burbot	Boat	1/2 - 1 day	Year-round	- Trainer Lake is a spawning, summer feeding and over-wintering area for burbot ; along with many other species
Wildlife Areas					
5-31	Moose	ATV, Land	1/2 - 3 days	Winter	- The extensively burned area south of Cormack Lake supports lush shrub growth and provides important winter moose habitat; as well, the gently sloping shoreline around the Trout Lake settlement supports a narrow bank of willow and alder and is an important winter habitat for moose. moose are hunted in this area.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to Visit	Other Comments
N.M.	Beaver	Land	1/2 - 1 day	Year-round	- Beaver are found throughout the area, and especially good habitat can be found in the Island River Lakes area, the Muskeg River area and the Tetcho Lake region.
5.32 5.33	Geese, Ducks, Cranes, Swans	Boat, ATV	1/2 - 1 day	Spring/Fall	- During spring and fall, large numbers of migrating swans, geese and ducks feed and rest on the numerous small lakes and streams of the area. The deltaic wetlands south of Tetcho Lake provide excellent waterfowl staging areas.
5.34	Wood and Caribou	Land, Boat	1/2 - 3 days	Winter	- This area is part of a larger region of open spruce forest which provides important winter range for caribou.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND & PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to Visit	Other Comments
N.M.	Osprey, Bald Eagle	Land, ATV, Boat	1/2 - 3 days		- These birds nest and feed in the forested lowlands around many of the lakes in the area. Care must be taken not to disturb their sensitive environment.
N.M.	Lynx, Marten	Land, ATV	1, 2 - 3 days		- Both are relatively abundant in the area, and are trapped by local residents.
Resources of the People					
5-1	Trout Lake Settlement	Airplane	N/A	Spring, Summer, Fall	- A traditional life-style is maintained.
	Outpost Camps	ATV, Snowmobile	1/2 - 2 days	Fall, Winter	- Built in the fall of 1984; funded with N.W.T. Renewable Resource Grant for 1984-85 of \$6,000.
5-2	Old Caches for Trapping	ATV, Snowmobile	1/2 - 2 days	Fall, Winter	- Must not be disturbed.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND PEOPLE

Map Ref.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Distance from Community	Best Time to Visit	Other Comments
5-3	Traditional Trapping Areas	ATV	2 days	Fall, Winter	
5-4	Traditional Fishing Camps	Boat	1 day	Spring to Fall	
5-5	Dick Turner's Trading Post	Boat, ATV	1/2 day	Spring to Fall	
5-6	Historic Trading Post	Boat, ATV, Hiking	1/2 - 1 day	Spring to Fall	