**Decision Support Tool – Screening Criteria**

All criteria in Tables 1 and 2 of the Decision Support Tool are intended to help practitioners determine whether an area meets the Pan-Canadian standards and is therefore eligible to be reported as a Protected Area or an “Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure" (OECM) under the pan-Canadian standards. Criteria in Table 1 apply similarly to both Protected Areas and OECMs. Criteria in Table 2 help to both define and distinguish between Protected Areas and OECMs. All criteria in Table 2 must be met at the PA level for an area to be reported as protected, or at the OECM level or combination of OECM and PA levels for an area to be reported as an OECM. **This template is intended to be used in conjunction with the decision support tool and detailed interpretation guide.**

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| **BASIC INFORMATION** | |
| **Name of Site** | Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats |
| **Designation** | Ecological Reserve |
| **Province/Territory** | Manitoba |
| **Year of Establishment / Securement** | 1992 |
| **Area (ha)** | 4,725 ha |
| **Management Authority** | Manitoba Government, Department of Sustainable Development, Parks and Protected Spaces Branch |
| **Explanation of Management Authority** *(optional)* | Branch in Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Manitoba |
| **Governance Type *(CPCAD type*)** | Government - subnational |
| **Legal Basis / mechanism(s)** | Ecological Reserves Act (C.C.S.M. c. E5) |
| **Explanation of legal basis / mechanism(s)** *(optional)* |  |
| **Summary of Essential / Relevant natural, social and cultural values** | This salt flat complex is a unique habitat that likely represents the only example of extensive inland saline shoreline in boreal North America. The vegetation here is a unique mixture of boreal forest, meadows, inland saline, and coastal marine plants. There is an obvious presence of salt gradients.  Distinctive bands of vegetation are evident within the saline flats which in turn provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife. In addition the area has been, and continues to be, used by generations of Aboriginal people. |

| **TABLE 1: STANDARDS COMMON TO PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** | | | | |
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| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE  Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **MEETS INTENDED EFFECT?** |
| **GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE** | Demarcates the area to facilitate the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. The geographical space has clearly defined and agreed-upon borders. | Defined with a director of surveys plan and with legal descriptions in the designation regulation. | Yes |
| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 1** | Activities incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity do not occur and compatible activities are effectively managed. | A. The mechanism(s) provide(s) the ability to prevent incompatible activities and manage all other activities within the area, such that the in-situ conservation of biodiversity can be achieved | The Ecological Reserves Act is extremely prohibitive and binding on the Crown. The Act states no person shall pass through, use for any purpose, carry on any activity, do any act or thing, use any product or thing, or remove any product of thing from a reserve. Special regulations are required to permit even visitors foot traffic. | Yes |
| **EFFECTIVE MEANS – 2** | A. The mechanism(s) compel(s) the authority(ies) to prohibit activities that are incompatible with the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | The strict prohibitions of the Act are binding on the Crown and in cases when there is conflict between provisions of the Act and any other act or regulation, The Ecological Reserves Act prevails. Additionally, upon designation the mineral rights are withdrawn. | Yes |
| **LONG TERM** | The area is permanently protected or conserved and not easily reversed. | A. The mechanism(s) is/are intended to be in effect for the long term and not easily reversed. | An ecological reserve designated shall be set aside in the interests of the people of Manitoba to enhance the overall well being of present and future generations of Manitobans.  If the government was approached by someone wishing to purchase an ecological reserve, all that is required is publishing notice in the newspaper and having the Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee (a government-appointed committee of experts in conservation and resource management) agree to remove the designation. It is highly unlikely that the committee would agree to the removal of the designation due to the natural and cultural importance of the area. The potential for significant outcry from the public and Indigenous communities act as a strong deterrent to pursuing any plans to de-designate the area. | Yes |
| **TIMING** | Biodiversity is protected or conserved year-round. | A. The mechanism(s) is/are in effect year-round | The designation is in place all year-round. | Yes |

| **TABLE 2: STANDARDS THAT FURTHER DEFINE AND DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PROTECTED AREAS AND OECMS** | | | | |
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| **CRITERIA:** | **INTENDED EFFECT OF THE CRITERION** | **SCREENING CHOICE** | **EVIDENCE-BASED RATIONALE:**  **Rationale/evaluation of how area meets or does not meet the intended effect of the criterion** | **OUTCOME** |
| **SCOPE OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives have sufficient scope to result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. The objectives are for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity as a whole, or for indigenous values accomplished through the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | The scope of the conservation objectives for Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats Ecological Reserve are for biodiversity as a whole, to conserve a unique habitat type in the form of inland saline shoreline in boreal North America. The purpose of ecological reserves is specifically set out in legislation. | Yes - PA |
| **PRIMACY OF OBJECTIVES** | Objectives are such that they result in the in-situ conservation of biodiversity. | A. Conservation objectives are stated as primary and overriding of other objectives. | One of the stated purposes of ecological reserves is to preserve   * unique and rare examples of botanical, zoological, and geological features of the province; * examples of natural habitats of rare or endangered plants and animals that are native to the province; and * representative examples of natural ecosystems in the province.   Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats Ecological Reserve was designated to protect a unique inland saline shoreline and its associated biodiversity. | Yes - PA |
| **GOVERNING AUTHORITIES** | The in-situ conservation of biodiversity is not jeopardized by relevant governing authorities. | A. All relevant governing authorities acknowledge and abide by the conservation objectives of the area. | The province is the only governing authority.  The Ecological Reserves Act is binding on the Crown and mineral rights have been withdrawn. In cases when there is conflict between provisions of the Act and any other Act or Regulation The Ecological Reserves Act prevails. | Yes - PA |
| **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES** | Biodiversity is conserved in-situ. | A. The area is achieving the conservation objectives. | Lake Winnipegosis Ecological Reserve protects the only known example of inland saline shores and its associated biodiversity. It contains numerous rare and threatened plants, provides important habitat for a large diversity of wildlife, and provides important resting areas for migrating birds. The strict prohibitions on the site allow for plant and wildlife populations to exist in a largely undisturbed environment. | Yes - PA |

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| **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT** | |
| **OUTCOME / EVALUATION** | **Screening Outcome:** Protected Area (meets all criteria)  Is this an Interim Target 1 area: Choose an item.  Is this a candidate Target 1 area: Choose an item.  **Currently reported to CPCAD/CARTS?** Yes, as Protected Area  **Total Area (ha) to be reported to CPCAD/CARTS:** 4,725 ha |
| Identify deficiencies that could be overcome in order to report as PA or OECM |  |
| Lead evaluator / assessor | Originally evaluated for a CCEA case study. Transferred to this current format by Abby Menendez (ECCC) |
| Communications / Engagement | *Names of governing authorities and others consulted, including names and positions of contact people and dates* |
| Approvals | Jason Kelly, Ecological Reserve and Protected Areas Specialist, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Government of Manitoba |