**Activity – Woodlot Management Scenario**

A large woodlot has been donated to your community, and as members of the town council, it is your responsibility to allocate the woodlot's resources to meet various stakeholder priorities. Working in your team, outline each stakeholder group's requests and any restrictions on location or proximity to other activities. You will decide what activities are allowed in the woodlot but must make every effort to accommodate each request to the best of your ability. As you create your management plan, consider the following:

1. The impacts your decisions will have on each stakeholder group.
2. Whether an area can satisfy multiple stakeholder priorities simultaneously.
3. How stakeholders will access the area, considering that:
	* The woodlot has two roads and a decommissioned train track with a bridge.
	* New roads can be built to improve access.
4. Buffers around important habitat features (e.g., river, SARA species) and public use areas (e.g., roads, trails, campgrounds, private property).

Outline your decisions on the provided map and include any additional measures or activities necessary to fulfill your management plan. Provide a brief explanation of your experience creating the plan, including challenges faced, approaches taken to meet stakeholder needs, and one key takeaway from the exercise. Present your management plan, reasoning, and experience to the class.

**Hiking Group**
The local Hiking Group would like to develop a trail system with various lengths to cater to different users, from day hikers to those seeking a shorter walk. They request multiple access points with adequate parking at trailheads. Hiking trails encourage outdoor recreation, benefiting user health and well-being, particularly when they offer scenic views and opportunities to connect with nature. Additionally, these trails can boost local tourism and the economy. However, trails can negatively impact the environment through soil compaction, habitat disturbance, and pollution. Therefore, careful placement and management of the trails are essential to minimize environmental harm. Describe any management approaches (e.g., signage) you would implement to mitigate human disturbance and explain your reasoning. Additionally, consider trail user safety, ensuring that hiking trails are not located in areas designated for hunting or forestry.

**Hunting Group**
The local Hunting Group seeks access to a continuous area for hunting the various wildlife species in the woodlot. Hunting can help manage wildlife populations, ensuring the food web is balanced to maintain ecosystem health. Hunting also promotes outdoor recreation and fosters an appreciation for the land and its resources, whilst providing means to sustenance. However, unmanaged hunting (e.g., poaching) can lead to wildlife population declines, disrupt food web dynamics, and harm ecosystem health, which interfere with conservation goals. For safety reasons, the designated hunting area should not be near other public uses, such as hiking or camping.

**Forestry Company**
The local Forestry Company wishes to harvest timber from the woodlot for the local mill, supporting jobs and the local economy. They have determined that selective cutting is the best method for timber extraction and are committed to sustainable forest management, including replanting native trees to encourage pre-harvest stand regeneration. The company, with a proven track record of sustainability, can also assist in managing other areas of the woodlot for priorities such as wildfire mitigation, carbon sequestration, and development (e.g., parking, camping spaces). Describe any tasks (e.g., new road construction) you would ask the Forestry Company to help with to meet your management plan goals and explain your reasoning.

**Environmental Group**
The local Environmental Group aims to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat within the woodlot by creating protected areas. They have identified three areas where at-risk species occur and request that these areas be protected and accessible to essential resources (e.g., food, water, shelter). Low-impact activities like hiking can be permitted in the protected areas, but sensitive areas should have measures (e.g., restricted hiking, signage) in place to minimize disturbance to species and their habitats. Describe the measures you would enforce to limit disturbance in sensitive areas and explain your reasoning. While protected areas are not immune to climate change effects, certain forestry activities, such as removing dead or diseased trees, can reduce wildfire risk. Describe any activities you would permit in protected areas to mitigate climate change effects and explain your reasoning.

**Business Owner**
A local Business Owner wants to establish a campground in the woodlot to create jobs and boost tourism, benefiting the local economy. While campgrounds can help people connect with nature, they can also have significant negative effects on the local environment. The campground should not be located in protected areas or near hunting and forestry activities to protect both campers and the environment. The Business Owner would like the campground to provide access to the trail system and be near the river to offer scenic views and swimming opportunities. However, pollution from the campground could harm the river ecosystem. Describe the measures you will implement to prevent pollution from entering the river and explain your reasoning.

Colour your legend with what colours you will use to mark each area. Remember, the same area can be used for more than one objective if properly planned.

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|  | Campground |  | Trail System |  | Forestry |  | Hunting |
|  | Protected Area |  | Parking |  | Buffer |  | New Road |

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| **LEGEND** |
|  | Identified habitat of At-Risk Species |  | Decommissioned Train Track |  | Bridge |
|  | Private Property |  | Road |  | River |