



Observations of Effects of Hydroelectric Impacts in the Nelson River, and Problems with Mitigation Measures

Presentation to the CEC Hearings in Review of the
Keeyask Generation Project

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Nature is infinitely complex





Water
levels
fluctuate
widely

...sley, Alexander Mckay with net, fluctuation from previous levels can be seen on rocks- June 15, 2003



A formerly productive forest – above ground portion of trees were cleared – Jenpeg forebay



Grebe nest destroyed – they build floating nests but need to stay attached to aquatic vegetation



Submerged egg from a grebe nest



Nest failure due to
unnaturally fluctuating
water levels





Fish are stranded when water levels drop quickly



Muskrat are frequently frozen into ice

Aquatic mammals
like muskrats drown





Beaver lodge high and dry





School
Science
Project in
Cross Lake

The River
Ecosystem





“Spiders” – submerged tree roots

What will be left of this island? Sipiwesk Lake











Debris caught in nets

Lots of floating debris in nets



Just north
of Cross
Lake –
about 5
years ago








Excessive algae
growth fouls nets



Panucikamac hunter Harold Sinclair (Right) was left stranded due to fluctuating water levels causing his boat to bog down on silty lake bed, the hunting trip turned into an 8 hour lake through swamp and brush to get help.

People get stranded when the water levels change quickly





Over ice flooding caused by increased flows in winter after freeze-up



Large spaces are left under the ice when the water is drawn down in winter making ice travel hazardous.



Traps flooded out and frozen



Slush ice
makes travel
difficult and
very
unpredictable



Travelling in winter



This is a trend for pimickamac trappers and hunters, with one snowmobile out, the struggle to get the others free is a difficult task. By Darrell Settee







Low water calls for extreme measures

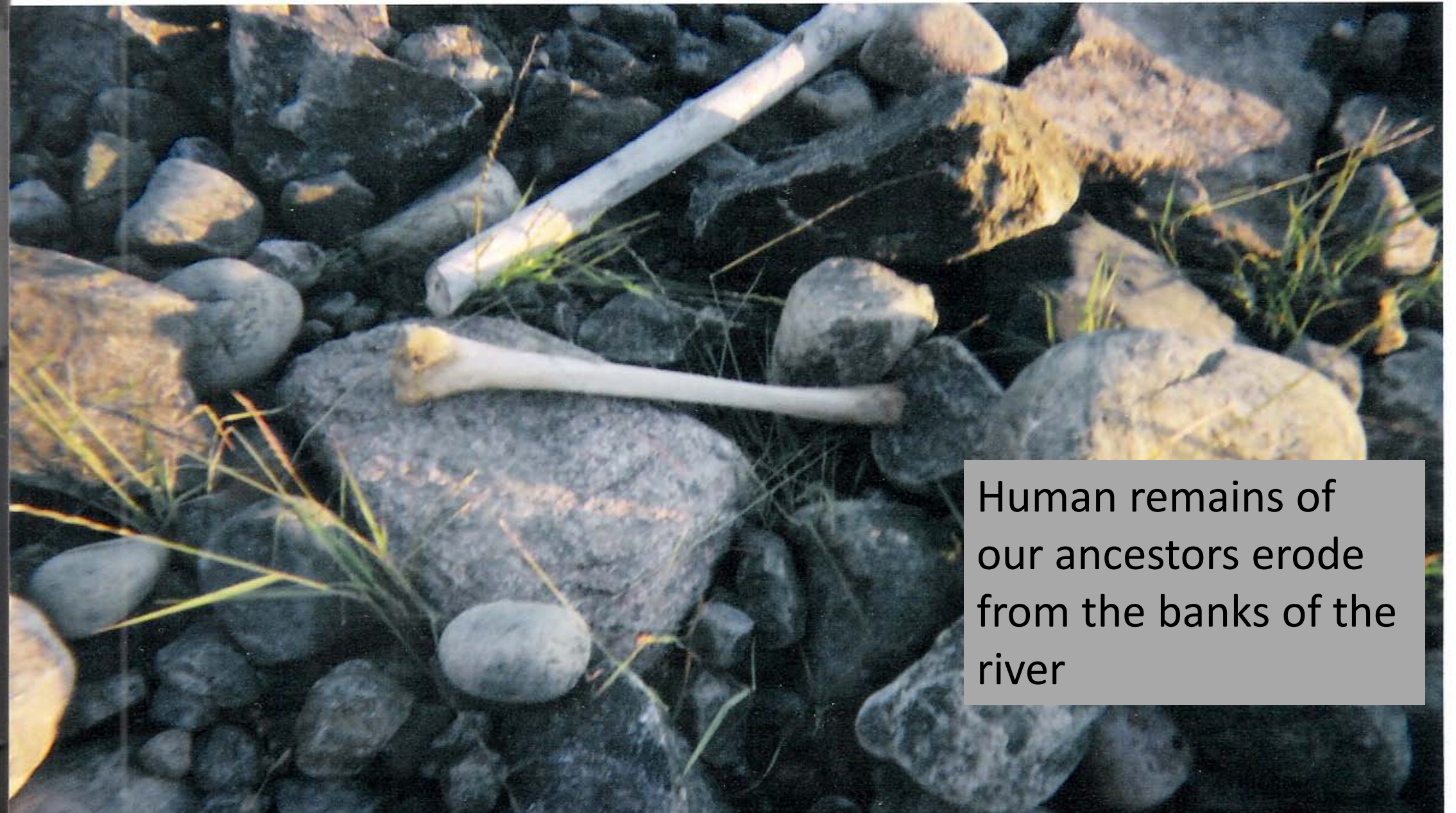








Explaining the circumstances surrounding a fatal boating incident caused by floating debris on Jenpeg forebay.



Human remains of our ancestors erode from the banks of the river





While many more sites are degraded like this one located at Nelson Thunting river











Erosion of the River

Erosion of our History
and Culture

Erosion of our People

Mitigation has not
stopped this