

PROJECT INTRO

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OPERATIVE CONTRIBUTES \$7,500 TOWARDS SURVEY OF CROWN LANDS FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

Native Orchid Conservation Inc, with the help of Mountain Equipment Co-Operative, will undertake a survey of crown lands for plant species at risk and their habitat in southwest and northern Manitoba. We will document these locations by using a Global Positioning System or GPS to get the coordinates. There are many potential beneficiaries of this survey. The locations and plant data will be given to the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre to be used in their Geographical Information System or GIS mapping. The locations will be given to Forestry staff as well, for integration into their forest management plans. First Nation communities will also be consulted about the medicinal and ceremonial properties of plants that are of cultural interest to them, as well as the appropriate collection techniques. Later they will be given the locations of plant species of interest to them. The Ecological Reserve Board advisory committee will also have access to this data when planning more protected area initiatives. The Canadian Wildlife Service can use this information in their species recovery plans and researchers at the University of Manitoba will benefit from the voucher specimens collected. The greatest benefit however will come to future generations of Manitobans that can continue to enjoy wilderness areas and an intact natural environment.

