

**BISCOTASI LAKE
PROVINCIAL PARK**

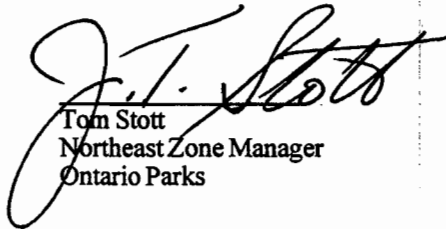
**INTERIM
MANAGEMENT
STATEMENT**

APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of **Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park** until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park.


Tom Stott
Northeast Zone Manager
Ontario Parks

99-03-16
Date

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name:	Biscotasi Lake
Classification:	Recreation
Site Region/Site District:	4E 3
OMNR Administrative Region/District:	Northeast/Chapleau
Total Area (ha)	LAND: 1077 AREA (ha): 1238 WATER: 161
Regulation Date:	1989

TARGETS**EARTH SCIENCE REPRESENTATION**

geological theme	feature
Archean Age.	Underlain with silty to sandy till, some back areas fine sand; numerous boulders; bedrock is outcroppings of granitic, gneiss and migmatite.

LIFE SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

site type/landscape unit	species/communities
Transition zone between the Boreal Forest Region and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region.	Mixed stands of White Birch, Poplar, hard and soft Maple, Spruce, Cedar, Balsam, Jack Pine.

CULTURAL RESOURCE REPRESENTATION

theme	theme segment
Forest Industry and Forest Industry Communities; Fur Trade and Fur Trade Communities.	Abandoned logging camp; Grey Owl-Archie Belaney; Hudson's Bay Co. period.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

day use	car camping	wilderness/backcountry
N/A	N/A	N/A

INVENTORIES

level/type	reconnaissance/ completion date	detailed completion date	required?
earth science		1992	
life science		1992	
cultural		1992	follow up
recreational			yes
other			

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1.0 LAND TENURE

There are no alienated lands within the park boundaries.

2.0 LAND ACQUISITION/DISPOSAL

There are no land acquisition or disposal proposals.

3.0 EXISTING/PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Access

Present access to Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park is by canoe or boat from the village of Biscotasing or from the MNR's access point just west of Biscotasing. Biscotasing can be reached by train, plane, motor vehicle, or watercraft.

3.1.1 Guidelines

3.1.1.1 No new access will be developed, until a park management plan reviews all options.

3.2 Development

There is no development in Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park. Given that existing supply of recreational opportunities significantly exceeds demand in the Northeast Region of MNR, no development is contemplated within the 10 to 20 year timeframe.

4.0 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The main recreational activities at the park are angling, boating, canoeing, hunting and wildlife viewing. There are numerous possibilities for scenic lookouts because Biscotasi Lake is one of the most picturesque lakes in the district. The park could also be the starting point for three canoe routes: Spanish River canoe route, Mississagi Provincial Park canoe route, and the Sakatawi canoe route. Camping is taking place at Lost Lake portage and, in the fall, at Lost Lake.

4.1 Guidelines

4.1.1 Unstructured recreation activities such as fishing, boating, hiking, and nature photography will continue to be permitted.

5.0 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 Forestry

E.B Eddy Co. has the timber licence for the entire area surrounding the park.

5.1.1 Guidelines

5.1.1.1 No harvesting activities are permitted within park boundaries.

- 5.1.1.2** Prescriptions for access, harvest, renewal and maintenance activities adjacent to the park will be developed during the timber management planning process for the Upper Spanish Forest, which includes full public consultation and a multi-disciplinary planning team. In general, prescriptions will recognize parks and park-related values that may be impacted by timber management activities. Examples of values are: water quality, fish and wildlife populations and habitats, vegetation species and communities, cultural features, and aesthetic qualities.

Timber management activities can impact these values through unplanned access, erosion, siltation, noise, loss of habitat or significant features, and eliminating natural areas that provide linkages to other natural areas. Specific prescriptions to protect parks and park-related values will vary depending on terrain, tree species, noise, aesthetics, viewscape and access.

Appropriate protection measures may be provided through Area of Concern (AOC) designation, modified harvesting, daily/seasonal timing of operations, spray buffers, road planning, requirements on work permits, or existing MNR guidelines (ie. Fisheries and Water Quality, Moose Habitat, Stream Crossings).

5.2 Trapping

The park lies within a portion of trapline CP-86.

5.2.1 Guidelines

- 5.2.1.1** Licensed commercial trapping, except for trapping by Status Indians enjoying Treaty rights, will be phased out of the park by January 1, 2010. If the licence is surrendered, revoked or transferred prior to that date, the portion of the line within the park will be rescinded from the trapline.

- 5.2.1.2** Transfer of existing traplines within the park will be permitted only between or to Status Indians. Only Status Indian trappers' helpers are permitted to assist Status Indian trappers.

- 5.2.1.3** No new traplines will be established in the park.

- 5.2.1.4** The transfer of the trapline must be approved by the Ministry.

6.0 NATIVE INTERESTS

The park lies within the Robinson-Huron Treaty # 61 area. Status Indians enjoying treaty rights may use the area for subsistence activities.

7.0 NATURAL RESOURCES

7.1 Water

Biscotasi Lake, one of Chapleau District's larger lakes, is fed by both Ramsey and Indian Lakes which then empties into the Spanish River watershed and eventually into Georgian Bay. Because of the enormous amount of water in this system, INCO has established four dams on the inlets of Biscotasi Lake and two dams on the outlets. Water levels are controlled by INCO and maintained at 3.5 metres, however levels are drawn down to 2 metres during the winter. Fluctuating water levels are creating an erosion problem on Biscotasi Lake. Lost Lake is a cool, clear spring fed lake with a maximum depth of 6.7 metres and a perimeter of 6 kilometres. This lake could be used as a source of drinking water should the park ever be developed.

7.1.1 Guidelines

- 7.1.1.1** Water level fluctuations will be monitored to ensure the maximum and minimum levels established with INCO are maintained.

7.2 Vegetation

The Life Science Inventory indicates that no features of regional or provincial significance exist. Composed mainly of Boreal type forest vegetation, the park is located in a transition zone of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal Forest Regions. This is evident by the patches of hard and soft Maple found within the park. There are scattered Red and White Pine, and Yellow Birch located in parts of the park, as well as large patches of Mountain Maple and Beaked Hazelnut. Smaller patches of Alder, Mountain Ash, Trembling Aspen, and Red Elderberry are also evident. The area west of Lost Lake is composed of 80% Black Spruce and the southwest corner of the park is composed of 60%-70% Jack Pine. These species are widespread in the Site Region and within the existing parks system.

7.2.1 Guidelines

7.2.1.1 Natural ecological processes will be allowed to continue.

7.2.1.2 The removal of trees will be permitted only where there is a threat to human safety and/or property; and/or where it is necessary to meet the park's protection and recreation objectives.

7.2.1.3 Non-native species will not be introduced.

7.2.1.4 Limited personal consumption of berries and edible wild plants will be permitted.

7.2.1.5 Spraying of insecticides and herbicides will be permitted only under exceptional circumstances (eg. the protection of significant communities or when significant communities outside park boundaries are threatened). Selective spraying may be permitted with environmentally acceptable substances in accordance with MOEE guidelines.

7.2.1.6 Spraying for biting insects is not permitted.

7.3 Wildlife

Mammals common to the park include squirrels, chipmunks, mice, skunks, weasels, mink, marten, beaver, fox, otter, black bear, wolves, muskrats, bats and moose. Moose ratings for the area are high with an average 0.25 moose per square kilometre. Birds and waterfowl include ducks, loons, hawk owls, grey owls, herring gulls, blue jays, grey jays, osprey, spruce and ruffed grouse, and bald eagles.

7.3.1 Guidelines

7.3.1.1 Any wildlife management initiatives which are proposed for the park must be consistent with provincial park policies.

7.3.1.2 Animal populations may be controlled when it is essential to protect human health and safety, the health of a species outside the park, or the values for which the park was established. When control is necessary, techniques will be used that have minimal effects on the balance of the resource base. Any hunting or trapping for management purposes will be carried out under the strict supervision of, or directly by, the Ministry of Natural Resources.

7.3.1.3 Hunting will continue to be permitted until a management plan is prepared and issues and options can be discussed in a public forum.

7.4 Fisheries

The main sport fish found in Biscotasi Lake are Yellow Pickerel, Pike, and Whitefish. The lake was stocked with Yellow Pickerel several times in the past by local residents. The Department of Lands and Forests (now MNR) also stocked the lake in 1956 with Yellow Pickerel. Fishing pressure at present is moderate in relation to the size of the lake but is expected to continue to increase in future years.

7.4.1 Guidelines

7.4.1.1 Sport fishing will be encouraged.

7.4.1.2 Sport ice fishing will continue to be permitted.

7.4.1.3 Management of the sport fishery will be consistent with the provisions of the Chapleau District Fisheries Management Plan, emphasizing the maintenance of a high quality sport fishery for park visitors.

7.4.1.4 The use and/or possession of live bait fish on Biscotasi Lake will continue to be permitted, though this is contrary to Ontario Provincial Park Planning and Management policy. Traditional angling use has evolved with live bait angling comprising a significant component of that use. Therefore, future effects of live bait fish on Biscotasi Lake would be negligible.

7.4.1.5 Commercial fishing, including commercial bait fishing will not be permitted in the park.

7.4.1.6 New access leading to water will be discouraged in order to slow the increase in fishing pressure.

7.5 Landforms

The Earth Science Inventory indicates that the bedrock and surficial geology features within Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park are ordinary and have little to offer the provincial parks system in terms of earth science representation. The features in the park and the geological time period the park covers are represented more dramatically (in scale and diversity) in other parks in the Site District.

8.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park is located in the heart of the area where the notable conservationist, Grey Owl (Archie Belaney), spent many of his early years. The historic value of his presence here can be considered significant, not only in a local or provincial sense, but also in a national sense. In his later years, Grey Owl gained international recognition as a Canadian spokesperson for the values of preservation and conservation. Unfortunately, the legacy of Grey Owl as a person is largely unknown and misunderstood to those other than local people. Other cultural resources include an abandoned logging camp which operated from 1890-1929, and an area used in the past during the summer by Crees and Ojibwas. Numerous Native artifacts and campgrounds have been found.

8.1 Guidelines

8.1.1 All historic sites will be monitored and protected against destruction and removal. The location of known sites will be kept confidential, where there are no immediate threats.

8.1.2 Collecting of artifacts is not permitted within the park. Licensed archaeologists may be permitted to carry out investigations with prior written approval from the MNR.

9.0 NATURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION

There is no Natural Heritage Education program for Biscotasi Lake Provincial Park. As a non-operating park, none is required.

10.0 RESEARCH

There are no current research needs.

11.0 MARKETING

There is no marketing plan or initiative for the park. As a non-operating park, none is required.

REFERENCES

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