

JAN 04 2005



December 31, 2004

Mr. Barton Feilders, Manager
Planning and Research Section
Ontario Parks
6th Floor, Robinson Place
300 Water Street, PO Box 7000
Peterborough ON K9J 8M5

Dear Mr. Feilders:

RE: Proposed Amendments to the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA)

Thank you for your letter sent by e-mail on October 20, 2004 requesting amendments to the Class EA under the provisions of Section 6.2.1 - Minor Amendments, of the Class EA. I understand the amendments are minor clarifications that came to light as the Class EA was being prepared for printing. I also understand that discussions between Ontario Parks and staff of my Branch have resulted in some clarifications of the proposed amendments.

I have reviewed the amendments proposed and agree that they are valid, reasonable and appropriate. I also agree that they are administrative corrections, clarifications and updates that do not affect the intent of the Class EA. Therefore, I approve the below amendments, without public consultation, as provided for by Section 6.2.1 of the Class EA.

Section 2 - Provincial Context, Figure 2

The box dealing with Level 2 - Land Use Direction is amended to add "*Crown Land Use Policy Atlas*" as one of the examples in the bracket. This addition reflects the new public website approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in March 2004.

Section 3.1.3 Managing Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves -Operations subheading

The following sentence is revised to replace "*development*" with "*operations*" so it now reads: "*Similarly, operations in conservation reserves will use these MNR policies, procedures,*

... 1

bulletins, manuals and standards, as appropriate, to guide implementation activities if specific policy tools are not available for conservation reserves." This change ensures the actual wording matches the intent of the text of the subsection to deal with reserve operations not development in reserves.

Section 3.5.1 - Forest Access Roads and Water Crossings and Appendix 2 - List of Projects, Table 3b, Project IDs 57 and 58

"*Timber*" is replaced with "*Forest*" and "*1994*" is replaced with "*2003*" as required so that references are now generally to the Class EA for Forest Management, 2003. This change was made in one spot of this section through a condition in the Notice of Approval, but the other references were inadvertently missed and need to be changed for consistency.

Appendix 3: Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Standards, Manuals

Pol 11.03.02 in the Park Planning table under section 3.1, is retitled and dated "*Protection of Species at Risk in Provincial Parks, Sep. 22/04*" to reflect the recent name change and updating of the particular document.

In the last box in the Park Planning table Section 3.1, "*PL 3.03.07 and FM 2.12*" is deleted from the Type/Number column and "*(also known as Pol PL 3.03.09 and FM 2.12)*" is inserted in the Subject column beneath "Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves."

In the last box under section 3.2 - Conservation Reserve Policy, Procedures, Bulletins and Manuals, "*PL 3.03.07*" is replaced by "*Pol PL 3.03.09*", "*PM 11.03.03 and FM 2.12*" is deleted from the Type/Number column; and "*(also known as Pol 11.03.03 and FM 2.12)*" is inserted in the Subject column beneath "Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves."

The latter two changes reflect the administrative numbers used by MNR for the policy and also provide enhanced clarity.

Appendix 4.2.2 -Land Use Planning

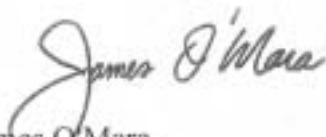
Several editorial changes and corrections are made to the last three paragraphs and Figures 4.3 and 4.4 of this section in order to reflect up-to-date information on the number and land areas of parks and reserves that currently exist or are recommended. Attachment 1 to this letter shows the text that is deleted as struck-out and the replacement or new text in bold. Some changes simply

correct adding errors, while others reflect: detailed boundary refinements made during the regulation of new parks and reserves; the decision to exclude the Recreation-Utilization zone of Algonquin Park from the total land areas; or, changes previously made to the figures which were inadvertently not also made to the main body of text.

MOE understands that MNR will make the above changes and then print and distribute copies of the Class EA and this letter of amendment to relevant parties as required by the Class EA's Notice of Approval. The Class EA should note near its front that minor amendments were made on the date of this letter. As Ontario Parks has posted the Class EA and the Notice of Approval, including Ontario Park's letter of August 6, 2004 on its website, it is advisable that this letter of amendment also be posted on the website

If you require any clarification, please feel free to contact Kevin Plautz, Project Officer, at 416-314-7184, who is available to assist you.

Yours sincerely,



James O'Mara
Director
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

ATTACHMENT 1

Administrative/Minor Amendment to Appendix 4.2.2 of the Class EA for Provincial Parks & Conservation Reserves

Changes are denoted as follows: deleted text is struck out and new text is highlighted in **bold**.

Prior to the approval of Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, Ontario had 271 regulated provincial parks that encompassed approximately 7.1 million hectares, or 6.6% of the province. In 1999, 61 new parks and additions to 45 existing parks were announced by the Government through the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy – this will add approximately 943,352 hectares to the provincial parks system, bringing the total number to 3302 parks, and the total area to about 7.42 million hectares (Figure 4.3).

Conservation reserves arose as a new protected area designation in Ontario in 1994 during the government's *Keep it Wild Campaign* to create new protected areas. Between 1994-97, 23 reserves were established, amounting to 68,734 hectares. As a result of the Temagami Land Use Plan (MNR, 1997b), and the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (MNR, 1999), 280 new conservation reserves (plus one addition to an existing area) encompassing approximately 1,517,424 **1.5 million hectares will be recommended. Currently, 249 conservation reserves are in regulation and 55 are recommended, bringing the approximate total area to 1.6 million hectares** (Figure 4.4).

As a result of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy and other land acquisition initiatives, the total area of Ontario's lands and waters formally protected in provincial parks and conservation reserves will be approximately 9.5 million hectares, representing about 8.48 percent of the province. These figures will change with time as a result of ongoing processes, such as:

Figure 4.4. Conservation Reserves in Ontario

Conservation Reserve	Number	Area (ha)
Existing (regulated)	249	1,046,909
	272	1,115,643
Recommended ¹	55	582,103
	53	580,705
Total	304	1,629,007
	325	1,696,438

¹ These numbers may change during the regulation process of recommended parks.

Source: Ontario Parks database as of August 20, 2004

Figure 4.3. The Number and Types of Established & Recommended Provincial Parks in Ontario

Park Class	Current Number	Current Area (ha) ¹	Recommended Parks (#) ²	Recommended Parks (ha) ²	Recommended Additions ²	Recommended Additions (ha) ²	Total (#) ³	Total (ha) ³
Wilderness	8	4,822,920	0	-	2	31,688	11	4,854,608
Nature Reserve	103	107,033	4	6,236	2	833	107	114,101
Historical	4	2,107	0	-	1	5,163	4	7,270
Natural Environment	77	752,592	2	17,795	9	91,705	79	862,092
Waterway	57	1,360,163	8	42,739	7	100,279	65	1,503,181
Recreation	67	42,152	0	-	1	6,054	67	48,206
Total	316	7,086,967	14	66,769	22	235,722	330	7,389,458
		7,689,430						7,919,142

¹ Includes Excludes Algonquin Provincial Park Recreation-Utilisation Zone (594,860 ha)

² These numbers may change during the regulation process of recommended parks.

³ These values are a total of regulated protected areas and remaining recommended parks.

Source: Ontario Parks database as of August 20, 2004