



Permitted Use Policy Amendment (aka “phase out”)

December 20, 2010

Purpose of Amendment

This amendment provides direction for certain permitted uses in some parks (aka “phase out”). The amendment (Table 1) amends policy in *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (1992) and *Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) as a result of policy changes approved on December 20, 2010.

Background to Amendment

Phase out policy was established in 1989. It set a deadline to phase out certain activities in some parks within a 21 year period (i.e. December 31, 2009). The activities are private tenure (e.g. recreation camps and agriculture, but not including cottage leases in Rondeau and Algonquin provincial parks), and commercial harvesting (e.g. trapping, bait harvesting, commercial fishing and wild rice harvesting). Changes to the policy were approved in December 2010 following consultation on a proposal to grant a lifetime extension. There are no commercial fishing and wild rice harvesting affected by the policy.

The proposed changes were available for comment from November 2 until December 14, 2009. Consultation included notification through a policy proposal posting on the Environmental Registry, a background information document posted on the Ontario Parks website and a broad mail-out. A total of 132 submissions were received and input was mixed. Some respondents expressed support, many stating that the lifetime extension does not go far enough (i.e. activities should be permitted to continue indefinitely). Some respondents expressed opposition to the lifetime extension, many stating that the activities are incompatible with protected areas legislation and the principle of ecological integrity, and that the rationale for changing the policy was not evident. There was also criticism for waiting until the end of 2009 to initiate consultation. Not all responses were unique. Minor changes were made to the policy, generally to provide clarity.

The following table (Table 1: Consolidated “2010 Phase Out” Park Policy) is the approved policy direction and amends direction in *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (1992 Update) and *Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999). The amendment should be read as a supplement or insert to the planning and management policies document and the strategy.

Table 1: Consolidated “2010 Phase Out” Park Policy

Amendments to park policy for private tenure (private recreation camps and agriculture) and commercial harvesting (trapping, bait harvesting and commercial fishing) in certain parks (aka phase out) were approved on December 20, 2010. Changes included a lifetime extension for licence/permit holders due to expire by 2010, with some exceptions. Under this policy, the lifetime extension applies to the permit/licence holder on October 30, 2009 for as long as that person is alive. Where there is concern for park values or ecological integrity opportunities to mitigate potential impacts will be explored. Transfers are not permitted.

MANAGEMENT THEME Use/Activity	PERMITTED Y=yes N=no M=maybe	POLICY		
		Parks Outside the OLL Planning Area (Existing Park Policy)	Pre-OLL Parks Inside the OLL Planning Area	Post-OLL Parks or Park Additions Inside the OLL Planning Area
FISHERIES				
Commercial fishing (existing)	M	Commercial fishing will not be permitted within provincial parks, except in waterway parks (where supported in the park management plan) and in lakes not wholly enclosed within a park's boundary.	Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely.	
Commercial bait harvest (existing)	M	Commercial bait harvesting will not be permitted within provincial parks, except in waterway parks (where supported in the park management plan) and in lakes not wholly enclosed within a park's boundary.	Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely except in nature reserve and wilderness class parks and zones.	Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely except in nature reserve class parks.
		Existing ¹ licensed operations in park-encompassed waters may be extended annually, for the lifetime of the current licensee or until the licence is surrendered—whichever occurs first. Annual extensions are conditional on the outcome of a policy review of bait use and bait harvesting in protected areas.	In nature reserve and wilderness class parks and zones, existing ¹ licensed operations in park-encompassed waters may be extended annually, for the lifetime of the current licensee or until the licence is surrendered—whichever occurs first, (except for except for Aboriginal use, subject to applicable legislation and regulation). Annual extensions are conditional on the outcome of a policy review of bait use and bait harvesting in protected areas.	In nature reserve class parks, existing ¹ licensed operations in park-encompassed waters may be extended annually, for the lifetime of the current licensee or until the licence is surrendered—whichever occurs first. Annual extensions are conditional on the outcome of a policy review of bait use and bait harvesting in protected areas.
		Owners of tourist operations in wilderness class parks are permitted by licence to bait fish in designated water bodies within the park, but only for use in the park.		

¹ On October 30, 2009

MANAGEMENT THEME Use/Activity	PERMITTED Y=yes N=no M=maybe	POLICY		
		Parks Outside the OLL Planning Area (Existing Park Policy)	Pre-OLL Parks Inside the OLL Planning Area	Post-OLL Parks or Park Additions Inside the OLL Planning Area
WILDLIFE				
Commercial fur harvest (existing)	M	<p>Existing¹ commercial fur harvesting may continue for the lifetime of the current head trapper, except for Aboriginal people exercising Aboriginal or treaty trapping rights. If a licence is revoked, surrendered or an application for transfer is received prior to that time, all portions of the registered trapline within the park will be rescinded from the trapline's legal description.</p> <p>Transfers of existing traplines inside provincial parks will be permitted only between or to Aboriginal people who have Aboriginal or treaty trapping rights. Only Aboriginal trappers' helpers are permitted to assist Aboriginal trappers.</p>	<p>Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely except in nature reserve and wilderness class parks and zones.</p> <p>In nature reserve and wilderness class parks and zones, existing¹ commercial fur harvesting may continue for the lifetime of the current head trapper, (except for Aboriginal use, subject to applicable legislation and regulation). If a licence is revoked, surrendered or an application for transfer is received prior to that time, all portions of the registered trapline within the park will be rescinded from the trapline's legal description.</p> <p>Existing¹ licences will not continue for the lifetime of the current head trapper in Quetico and Woodland Caribou provincial parks, where an Aboriginal interest was identified.</p>	<p>Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely except in nature reserve class parks</p> <p>In nature reserve class parks existing¹ commercial fur harvesting may continue for the lifetime of the current head trapper. If a licence is revoked, surrendered or an application for transfer is received prior to that time, all portions of the registered trapline within the park will be rescinded from the trapline's legal description.</p>
VEGETATION				
Commercial wild rice harvest (existing)	Y	<p>Commercial wild rice harvesting is not permitted, except for harvesting by Aboriginal people exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights.</p> <p>Transfers of existing operations in these parks will be permitted only to or between Aboriginal people with Aboriginal or treaty trapping rights.</p>	Existing use permitted to continue indefinitely.	

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		Parks Outside the OLL Planning Area (Existing Park Policy)	Pre-OLL Parks Inside the OLL Planning Area	Post-OLL Parks or Park Additions Inside the OLL Planning Area
Private Recreation Camps (existing)	M	Existing ¹ may continue for lifetime of the current permit holder. Improvements will be limited and estate will have up to one year to remove improvements following the passing of the permit holder.	Existing ¹ may continue for lifetime of the current permit holder. Improvements will be limited and estate will have up to one year to remove improvements following the passing of the permit holder.	Existing authorized camps permitted to continue, eligible for extended tenure but not purchase of land.
Agricultural tenure (existing)	M	Existing may continue until December 31, 2015. Conditions may be determined locally.		

¹ On October 30, 2009. For permit holder(s) only, not entire camp membership.