

Resource Management Plan for Eight Conservation Reserves Executive Summary

The Temagami Integrated Planning (TIP) process combined three planning projects which were identified in the 1997 *Temagami Land Use Plan*. The three components are:

- management planning for five backcountry parks (wilderness and waterway)
- management planning for eight conservation reserves which lie adjacent to the parks
- a recreation plan for unregulated Crown lands in the Temagami administrative area

The Temagami area is located about 100 km north of North Bay, covers approximately 650,000 hectares, and is renowned for its rugged forested landscape as well as its significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. Much of the area is relatively remote, offering solitude and challenge for those seeking a backcountry recreational experience. Temagami has been a tourist destination for over a century, with numerous lakes and rivers which offer excellent boating, canoeing and fishing.

The planning process for the three different planning components—provincial parks, conservation reserves and recreation management on Crown land—was integrated because there is a strong inter-relationship between them. All of the plan components provide relatively remote recreational experiences, and share similar patterns of access and use. By combining all three components, the TIP process considered how management decisions on one land base might affect adjacent areas. While being integrated into one process, each component has distinctive legislation, permitted uses and management requirements.

The overall framework for this integrated planning effort was based upon Ontario's provincial park planning process. This process includes the following stages, with opportunities for public consultation at each stage:

1. Terms of Reference
2. Background Information
3. Management Options
4. Preliminary Management Plans
5. Release of Approved Management Plans

This is the fifth and final stage in the planning process, Release of Approved Management Plans. At this stage, the public is invited to inspect the approved plans prior to their implementation.

Throughout the planning process, a number of important issues have been raised. These are addressed in the final management plans. Some of the issues pertain to all three plans, while others apply to one or two specific areas or plans.

The approved plan includes management direction that is specific to each of the eight conservation reserves identified in this RMP and is intended to protect natural heritage and recreational values and features. In addition, the approved plan includes the following direction to address issues which have been raised through the integrated planning process:

- A boat cache management system will be applied to problem areas. This system will be administered by a maintenance program and will include the development of standards for boat caches outside of problem areas.
- A public education program will be developed and administered by MNR with the assistance and advice of Ontario Parks and a maintenance partnership. The public education program for the CRs will be developed and administered in conjunction with the Parks and Crown land covered in the TIP process.
- Establish a maintenance program for campsites and canoe routes within identified conservation reserves. The maintenance program will be developed and delivered by MNR, in conjunction with Ontario Parks and, in the future, a maintenance partnership with interested and supportive stakeholders. The maintenance program will be implemented across the planning area in a phased manner. Campsites and canoe routes will be maintained to the same standards of the adjacent provincial parks as is outlined in the Standard Operating Guidelines for Ontario Parks. Sufficient time is necessary for the program to be fully implemented.
- Jim Edwards and Lulu Lakes are cold water fisheries that are recovering naturally from human-caused acid damage. Lady Evelyn Lake is a heavily used and economically important walleye fishery. All three of these lakes will be managed according to the current Ontario Fishing Regulations. Fisheries monitoring be completed for a suite of lakes at the fisheries management zone level. Lakes to be included have not yet been determined.
- Aboriginal representation on the planning team throughout the planning process was present. Aboriginal communities will remain active in the implementation of this resource management plan. Participation can include membership in a maintenance partnership.
- Access to the Jim Edwards Conservation Reserve is limited, but can be obtained by canoe from Lady Evelyn Smoothwater Provincial Park (LESPP) and by floatplane. Additional access to the CR occurs via snowmobile trail originating south and east of the CR on the Red Squirrel Road. Snowmobile access is generally permitted between November 15 and April 15 each year.

Consultation with stakeholders, the public, and other governments has occurred at all stages of the Temagami Integrated Planning process. The planning team has used the following methods to consult with interested and affected citizens:

1. News releases announcing different stages of the planning process and inviting public participation.
2. Placement of paid media advertisements in relevant news media.
3. Directly mailed notification of different planning stages and upcoming public meetings.
4. Public information meetings in and adjacent to the planning area.
5. Attendance at public meetings in two southern Ontario cities, Ottawa and Toronto.
6. Attendance at private stakeholder meetings by invitation.
7. Detailed discussions with focus groups in Temagami, Temiskaming Shores and Toronto.

Public inspection of the approved Resource Management Plan for the Eight Conservation Reserves will occur over a 45-day period which commences upon its release.

The approved management plans for each of the three planning components may be reviewed or amended over time to address changing issues or conditions. The plans will be reviewed at approximately ten-year intervals and the need for amendment assessed. Any amendments to an individual plan will be undertaken with consideration to the adjoining planning documents covered in the Temagami Integrated Planning process.