

Pipestone Bay–McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (E2359r)
Resource Management Guideline



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Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to present the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area Preliminary Resource Management Guideline for your review and comment.

Once approved, the final resource management guideline will provide land use and resource management policies for the conservation and development of natural resources in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

All comments or suggestions regarding this preliminary guideline or any other aspects of the planning exercise are welcome.

Your comments will be carefully considered in the preparation of the final Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area Resource Management Guideline.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Yours truly,



06.05.15

Graeme Swarwick
District Manager
Red Lake District
Ministry of Natural Resources

Date



May 19, 2015

Charlie Lauer
Regional Director
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Ministry of Natural Resources

Date





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1.0 Introduction

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (EMA) is a recreation category EMA within the Red Lake Administrative District of the Ministry of Natural Resources (see fig. EMA-1). This EMA is part of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site, one of nine featured areas under *Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL) Land Use Strategy* announced in 1999. It was chosen because of its important natural and cultural heritage values, and its significant recreation potential including its role in supporting existing remote resourced based tourism. As such, it has potential to make lasting contributions to Ontario's landscape, biodiversity and economy.

The Signature Site consists of the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (wilderness class), four proposed park additions, the adjacent Eagle–Snowshoe Conservation Reserve and the Pipestone–McIntosh Enhanced Management area, a complex consisting of over 537,585 hectares of lands and waters in Ontario's boreal forest region.

All industrial activities permitted within EMAs such as forestry and mining will be conducted with careful consideration for the park's wilderness values and remote tourism potential. The management of these protected and enhanced management areas will help ensure the ecological and economic health of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site, and its surrounding communities, for future generations.

This document has been developed to provide management direction for the EMA that is consistent with the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy and the overall objectives for the recreation category of this EMA.



2.0 Description

The Pipestone Bay –McIntosh EMA is 22,281 hectares in size, is situated 20 kilometers west of Red Lake, and within the Red Lake Forest and Whiskey Jack Forest Management Units. It is comprised of 2 separate areas of land:

- The larger portion to the west and north of Red Lake, adjacent to the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and proposed additions is 19,273 ha in size; and,
- A smaller area to the southeast near Onnie Lake that abuts the existing park is 3,008 ha in size.

The *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* indicates that recreation EMAs are intended to protect remote recreation values. These areas will be managed to provide high-quality recreation, and protection of resource-based tourism and natural values within a remote or semi remote forested setting, while also permitting sustainable business and industrial activities.

The original designation announced in 1999 under OLL was for a remote access category EMA. After careful consideration of the history of this area, the land use intent, and the management direction for access developed through the signature site planning process, the enhanced management area has been proposed as a recreation category EMA. The direction for this EMA will continue to provide the public and tourism operators with high-quality remote recreational experiences including hunting, fishing, canoeing, and camping. Access into the area will be carefully planned to avoid undesirable impact on park and tourism values, and the headwaters of the Bloodvein River. This area will play a significant role in protecting wilderness values outside the parks and protected areas system while permitting public use of new roads except to access Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or recommended additions outside access zones designated in the park. The Onnie Lake portion of the EMA will continue to have road use restrictions on all new roads.

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA falls entirely within treaty #3 and supports many Anishinaapek traditional pursuits such as trapping, hunting, fishing, and berry picking. Four traplines intersect throughout the EMA and are currently held by both native and non-native trappers. Historically, this EMA is important for its link to the Bloodvein River and Gammon River systems which were main travel routes for the Anishinaapek people moving through or living in the Red Lake area.

The Bloodvein River system is 300 km long and runs from northwestern Ontario to the mouth of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. The source itself comes from the Berens River Plateau. The river is a link between two vast wilderness parks: Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario and Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba. Manitoba and Ontario supported the designation of the Bloodvein River as a Canadian Heritage River System in the mid-1980's.

This EMA is also located in a part of Ontario that has a diversity of earth and life science features (e.g., prairie boreal features), as well as wildlife, tourism, recreation and cultural heritage values (see fig. EMA-3).

A large forest fire in 1986 has characterized the landscape, which is now comprised of approximately 70 percent old burn consisting of primarily jack pine forest regeneration and sparse deciduous growth. The southwestern portion is dominated by older jack pine forest (1974 burn) with feather moss ground cover and extensive lichen on the open bedrock areas. A small portion of the south central portion, east of McIntosh Lake to Sullivan Lake and south to the park boundary, is comprised of a mixed upland forest. Two small stands of red pine exist on the north and western shores of Pipestone Bay. For Ontario, this species is at its northerly limit of its range.

The forest-dwelling woodland caribou is also found throughout the EMA. Winter habitat capability is more prevalent in the northern portion of the EMA and will be able to support wintering populations of caribou once the forest matures in approximately 40 years time. Moose are currently the primary ungulate due to the forest age class and the abundance of hardwood browse resulting from the 1986 burn.

Commercial forest harvesting continues to occur within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA through direction provided by the Red Lake Forest and the Whiskey Jack Forest Management Plans. Much of the merchantable area has been harvested recently, (between 1999 and 2002), with approximately 1,460 hectares around McIntosh Lake and 880 hectares near Onnie Lake. The forest management plan provides direction on the management of wildlife habitat, the protection of cool and cold water fisheries habitat as well as water quality issues. Tourism interests are negotiated through tourism agreements (Resource Stewardship Agreements) which in the past have included seasonal harvest and road use restrictions around the Douglas Lake area.

In addition, portions of the EMA contain areas of significant high mineral potential. An area of interest is the Greenstone belt containing gold, volcanic massive sulfides, gabbro hosted copper-nickel deposits and iron which extends from Red Lake into the EMA, much of which is either under patent or leasehold title, or as staked claims on Crown Land. Mining exploration is continuing in the area, including exploration for platinum group metals on patented claims within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh that have previously yielded copper, nickel and zinc. Approximately 23 to 27 active mining claims are located in the EMA.

2.1 Boundary

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA boundary has been designed to protect the headwaters of the Bloodvein River while recognizing the importance of the area for mining and commercial forest interests. The boundary borders the eastern edge of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (WCPP) including a small Forest Reserve designation adjacent to WCPP. Forest reserves are designations provided to areas where protection is a priority, but some resource use can take place with appropriate conditions. The Forest reserve designation attached to WCPP recognizes an active mining claim with the intention that the area will be added to the park once the claim is rescinded through normal processes.

The original extent (as described in the Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy 1999) of the Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve has been reduced through the Woodland Caribou Signature Site planning process, resulting in some boundary modifications in the Douglas Lake and Onnie Lake areas (see discussion on Forest Reserve "disentanglement" in the Signature Site Strategy document, page 9).

In the area to the north of the Signature Site and North of the area of undertaking, a new land use planning initiative for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent area planning area is underway where new land use dedications are being proposed that could include extending the current Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA north to encompass the entire headwaters of the Bloodvein River watershed.

The EMA also overlaps with a Non Resident of Canada Regulated Crown Land Camping Zone (Green Zone) covering the Onnie Lake and McIntosh Lake portion of this site (see fig. EMA-4).



3.0 Land Use Direction

3.1 Access

The proposed classification of recreation for the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA is intended to maintain the remote character and to protect natural and backcountry recreational values of areas in and adjacent to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. These values include the headwater streams of the Bloodvein River watershed, woodland caribou winter range, Pipestone Bay –Lund Lake portage, remote tourism values within the park and the adjacent provincially significant Eagle-Finlayson moraine.

Access to the northern portion of Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA occurs from the McIntosh Road via the Pine Ridge Road primary forest access road and was constructed primarily as a forest resource road to access the western portion of the Red Lake Forest Management Unit. This road is located through the middle of the EMA. Although access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was prohibited on this road, through the signature site planning process, this is being changed somewhat. Access is permitted to the head waters of the Bloodvein River system at the Lund Lake access zone in a recommended park addition (Peisk Lake) via the Pine Ridge Road. Access to WCPP beyond the Lund Lake access zone via the Pine Ridge Road continues to be prohibited; however, activities other than access to WCPP are permitted on existing roads.

This road access is also used by the mining industry for mineral exploration and provides access for many recreational purposes such as fishing, hunting, gathering and fuel wood harvest. Other low maintenance forest access roads provide access to most of the lakes in the EMA.

New roads within this portion of the EMA will also be available for recreational activities except where tourism values and natural and cultural heritage values within the park and the EMA are at risk. Road use strategies will be implemented to protect these values and include restrictions through signage, natural traps, removal or abandonment. (See also access strategies sect 5.1.1).

Access to the northern portion of the EMA can also be achieved along the historical portage route connecting Pipestone Bay of Red Lake through to Lund Lake.

The southern portion of the EMA located around Onnie Lake includes Douglas Creek north to Johnson Lake and incorporates the Forest Reserve that has recently been released through the disentanglement process. Access to this area can be achieved by the Suffel Lake primary forest access road at Johnson Lake which is also a designated access zone for the WCPP. Other designated access zones (portages) occur through Douglas Lake from Trout Bay of Red Lake to Onnie Lake and directly from the Suffel Lake road into Onnie Lake. The Onnie Lake canoe route connects with the Hjalmar Lakes before entering the park (see park plan for discussion on access zones). Existing authorized access will continue. Public use of new roads in this area will not be permitted. Public access will be directed through use of signage, natural traps, road removal or abandonment

Forestry, mining, aggregate extraction and hydroelectric development may occur in this EMA. The remote character will be retained through planning and establishing standards for the location and the use or abandonment of roads and trails. Roads for industrial and commercial use are permitted; however, their standards should be lower than those governing primary access roads.

4.1.2 Other Crown Land Dispositions

4.0 Crown Land Disposition and Development

The management intent is to protect the remote nature of the EMA. However, the need for improved parking areas associated with the designated WCPP access zones at Johnson Lake and Lund Lake will be evaluated as use patterns increase in these areas. Presently there is very little development in the EMA and any future development will be approached strategically in order to maintain and protect features of biological, cultural tourism, and recreational value.

4.1 Management Direction

Crown land disposition will generally be discouraged. Proposals that can demonstrate compatibility with the land use intent of this EMA for remoteness, recreation and protection of values will be considered (see appendix B for a summary of permitted uses).

4.1.1 Tourism Development

There are no tourism facilities within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA however; there are two main base lodges adjacent to the EMA. One is located on Douglas Lake within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the other is located at Bow Narrows at the west end of Red Lake. Both tourism operations also provide canoe outfitting services and promote the historical portage routes through the EMA into Woodland Caribou Park.

New opportunities for sport fishing related resource-based tourism in this area are limited by the number of lakes large enough to support this venture and will not be considered. However, new resourced based hunting and eco-tourism opportunities are possible and may be considered for this EMA. All new development proposals or dispositions will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values. Existing commercial boat caches will be permitted to remain.

The disposition of Crown land for residential development or cottages will not be permitted in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA. Disposition and development of Crown land may be considered for other activities that are consistent with the management intent of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA.



5.0 Commercial Activities

A range of commercial activities occur contributing to the economic health of the area.

5.1 Management Direction

5.1.1 Forest Operations

The EMA falls within the Red Lake Forest Management Unit and a small area of the Whiskey Jack Forest at the south end of the Onnie Lake portion. These areas will continue to be available for forest management purposes.

Forest management activities must be carried out in a manner consistent with the overall intent for the Enhanced Management Area and the direction contained in this document. Key considerations include protecting woodland caribou winter range, the headwaters of the Bloodvein River, reducing stream crossings, and limiting access through strategic road design.

With regard to access for forest management operations, the overall intent is to limit, within operational constraints, the number, duration and standard of roads built in the EMA, and to limit the number of accessible roadbeds remaining after operations are complete. Roads will be planned and constructed to the lowest standard possible (including but not necessarily winter roads only), taking into account economic and operational requirements. New permanent roads are not permitted. Roads will be abandoned through a variety of means when no longer required for forestry activities, in accordance with the use management strategy for each road. New roads for second chance harvest should be directed to existing roadbeds where possible, with road location and construction facilitating access controls and abandonment. Road abandonment will normally include removing all culverts and bridges from crossings and in most cases will require making the road impassable by ditching, scarifying or creating a berm.

All new forest access roads will be planned to ensure abandonment when silvicultural and renewal activities are completed. The minimization of stream crossings is intended to protect the quality of the water and the fish habitat they encompass. New roads must be planned through comprehensive long-term access planning that considers the values of the area including future woodland caribou winter habitat.

Some guidelines are:

- roads should be constructed to the lowest standard possible;
- new roads/trails should be directed to existing corridors where possible;
- layout should consider aesthetics and woodland caribou habitat mosaic design; and,
- design and construction should facilitate access controls and closure/rehabilitation.

Values identified in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA that are affected by forest management activities will be protected through Area of Concern planning as a part of forest management planning. Prescriptions for these areas will reflect the overall land use intent of the enhanced management area and its contribution to the signature site.

Salvage operations for insect damage, blow down, and fire events will be permitted through the appropriate forest management planning and approval process.

5.1.2 Mineral Exploration

Mineral exploration and extraction are permitted in this Enhanced Management Area. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) have developed the *Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas in Ontario* (2002). These Guidelines describe a number of “best practices” which all prospectors and exploration companies will be encouraged to follow, in order to minimize potential negative impacts on the environment (See Appendix A). The “best practices” guidelines give information on how to address issues such as: road/trail building, working close to water, abandonment procedures and camp operations.

Where approval is permitted for exploration activities, a protocol will be implemented to ensure that critical up-to-date values information is provided to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines by the Ministry of Natural Resources. This information will help prospectors and developers to conduct their activities without negatively impacting known values.

5.1.3 Aggregate Extraction

At present there are no commercial aggregate operations within the EMA. New aggregate extraction within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will be limited to those needed for the construction and maintenance of forest access roads, and for mining exploration and development. No commercial aggregate operations for other activities will be permitted.

Aggregate supplies may be extracted from gravel pits within the road right-of-way or within areas approved for allocations, where required for the construction and maintenance of forest access roads within the EMA. In the cases where sufficient aggregate supplies are not available, aggregate may be extracted outside of the road right-of-way or approved allocations through the standard permitting process currently in place. Any pits will be rehabilitated at the end of the period of use.

Aggregate operations will not be permitted within 200m of any shoreline or waterway.

5.1.4 Peat Extraction

At present there is no commercial peat extraction within the EMA. Commercial peat extraction opportunities are limited and new proposals within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will not be permitted.

5.1.5 Bait Fishing

Six commercial bait fish blocks intersect with this EMA and this activity will be permitted to continue. Access by snow machines and all terrain vehicles on existing trails, and access to baitfish lakes through boat caches or by aircraft will continue to be permitted in the

EMA. New trails and resource harvester boat cache requests that are required to pursue these activities will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

5.1.6 Fur Harvesting

Fur harvesting activities, represented by four traplines, occur within the EMA and will be permitted to continue (see fig. EMA-2). Access by snow machines and all terrain vehicles on existing trails, and access to traplines from a boat caches or by aircraft will continue to be permitted. New trails and resource harvester boat cache requests that are required to pursue these activities will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Vacant lines will be offered first to First Nations within the respective treaty areas of Treaty 3 and Treaty 5.

5.1.7 Bear Management Areas

There are four bear management areas under agreement within the EMA that provide bear hunting opportunities for non residents of Canada (see fig. EMA-2). This activity is permitted to continue. Existing boat caches for this activity will be permitted to remain and new boat cache requests will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values. Opportunities for new Bear Management Areas are not available. Transfer in BMA ownership will be considered if this activity (bear hunting) is compatibility with existing natural heritage and cultural values.

5.1.8 Wild Rice Harvesting

There are presently no wild rice areas licensed for harvest within the EMA. Wild rice lakes exist adjacent to the EMA on Pipestone Bay and the Crystal Lake area. New opportunities for commercial wild rice harvesting will be considered for First Nation's people (subject to existing policy direction).



6.0 Crown Land Recreation

There are many recreational activities that occur within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA. These include Crown Land camping, hunting, fishing, gathering, snowmobiling and others.

6.1 Management Direction

6.1.1 Crown Land Recreation

Promotion of back-country activities such as Crown land camping, canoeing, skiing, snowshoeing, berry picking, fuel wood harvest, angling and hunting will continue. Public travel by vehicle, snowmobile and ATV will continue to be permitted along existing road networks and trails. Proposals for new winter recreational trails by Red Lake area snowmobile clubs will be considered for the northern portion of this EMA only. Trail layout and design will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Existing resident and commercial boat caches are permitted to continue within the EMA. New boat cache requests will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Use of the McIntosh Road via the Pine Ridge Road will be permitted for recreational activities; however, the use of this road system to access Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is permitted only at the Lund Lake access trail. New roads proposed for this area will remain open for public travel unless this access is considered a threat to values within the EMA or adjacent park land. (See strategies in section 3.1 and 5.1.1). New roads within the Onnie Lake portion of this EMA will not be available for public vehicle travel.

The EMA boundary also includes a portion of the regulated Non Resident of Canada Crown Land Camping Zone (Green Zone). Overnight camping by non residents of Canada is not permitted within this zone. This area has been designated to protect the Onnie Lake fishery and existing tourism establishments

connected to this waterway (see fig.EMA-4). Although Onnie Lake and the Douglas Creek system is a convenient stop over location before entering or leaving the park, guests are not permitted to over night. Non residents of Canada using this access point to enter or exit the park are required to plan appropriately to avoid overnight camping within this zone. Accommodation for over night stays must be at a tourism facility or a location outside of the zone.

6.1.2 Hunting

Hunting will continue as a permitted use in the EMA.

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA falls under the Wildlife Management Unit 2. Moose, Bear, and grouse hunting are the primary game in the area. This area receives more hunters than any other area in the signature site due to its accessibility by road.

6.1.3 Angling

Angling is a permitted activity within the Enhanced Management Area.

The EMA is located in Fishing Division 31. Most lakes in the EMA are significant cool water fisheries habitat and are accessible by logging roads.

6.1.4 Other Recreation

There is a historical portage route connecting Douglas Lake to Onnie and Hjalmar Lakes once used by early fur traders, which is of significant recreational value. This portage will be maintained as access into Woodland Caribou Provincial Park for continued use for back-country canoeing and hiking in the area.

7.0 Plan Review and Amendment

There is no intent to carry out a comprehensive review of the Pipestone Bay –McIntosh EMA at any prescribed interval. Using adaptive management, the resource management policies in this document will be kept current through periodic amendments resulting from changes in government policy, new resource information or in response to public comment.

Proposed amendments must not alter the overall intent of the EMA. An amendment to the plan may be requested at any time and the District Manager will decide whether or not to consider it. Requests for amendments must be based in fact, relate to the scope of the EMA, respond to changing resource conditions, new information, changing government policies, and public need. In addition, the MNR also has the authority to initiate amendments in response to new information or changed conditions (For more information, please obtain a copy of *Procedures for the Amendment of Area-specific Crown Land Use Policy*).

Amendments will be classified as either minor or major. Minor amendments are changes that do not have a negative effect on the public, major stakeholders, or the environment and are generally administrative in nature. Minor amendments will be approved by the District Manager and will not normally be subject to public consultation.

Major amendments are those that have a significant social, economic, and/or environmental impact. Major amendments will be reviewed by the District Manager and submitted to the Regional Director for approval. Public consultation will occur for all major amendments and notice of all major amendments will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) electronic registry.

8.0 Summary

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA contributes significantly to the management and protection of values associated with Woodland Caribou Provincial Park while acknowledging the value of recreation for the residents of the Red Lake area. In addition, this EMA also provides a new road access option to the north east corner of the park and in particular to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River system.

The draft Land Use Strategy for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas (EBR # PB03E1003 Nov 7, 2005) proposed increasing the area of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA northward to fully include the headwaters of the Bloodvein River watershed. This is also an important step to acknowledging the importance of this large river system.

The EMA is also an area of high mineral potential with active mineral exploration. The conservation and the protection of EMA values, potentially impacted by this activity, will rely on a working relationship with the mineral sector and the development of a protocol to ensure "best practices" are carried out during exploration work.

Success in maintaining the ecological integrity of this area and its remoteness will be achieved through an adaptive management approach. As new information is brought forward regarding areas of mineral exploration, forest harvest and access roads, as well as new flora and fauna values, this document will serve as the direction and guidance for addressing operational concerns around sensitive areas. It will also contribute to the overall protection of the signature site values and features.



Appendix A: Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas

Introduction

These guidelines affirm the mineral exploration industry's commitment to sustainable development, a concept that requires balancing the need for economic growth with good stewardship in the protection of human health and the natural environment. The guidelines offer practical methods and best practices which, when applied, will ensure that an exploration project is carried out with the lowest levels of disturbance possible to its natural surroundings within Enhanced Management Areas (EMAs). The suggested guidelines do not take precedence over Ontario statutes and regulations but rather comply with them by providing standard procedures for maintaining good environmental practice at the various stages in the exploration process.

Seven categories of EMA have been defined in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. These are defined with the use of subscripts to the acronym EMA, as follows:

- n** – natural heritage
- g** – Great Lakes coastal areas
- r** – recreation
- t** – resource based tourism
- a** – remote access
- i** – intensive forestry
- w** – fish and wildlife

The following prescriptions are extracted from the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy document released in July 1999:

Land Use Designation Enhanced Management Area

“Enhanced Management Areas is a new land use category that has been established in order to provide more detailed land use direction in areas of special feature or values.”

“Enhanced Management Areas may lead to modifications (e.g. timing, location, method, and access) in resource-management practices in order to recognize other land use values. These adjustments will be implemented with no impact on wood supply, and only in exceptional cases will wood costs be affected. EMAs will provide a specific focus for the application of guidelines and other planning and management strategies. More detailed implementation strategies will be developed with the participation of stakeholders.”

Explorationists should ensure that they have an up to date EMA Values Maps for the EMA within which they are conducting exploration activities. EMA Values Maps will be provided to the explorationist by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The exploration community should ensure that they identify any natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values within their exploration area of interest. By following the suggested guidelines contained herein, members of the Ontario exploration industry may carry out their work in the search for new wealth in enhanced management areas with confidence that they are doing so in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Protecting Values in Enhanced Management Areas

Careful regard and avoidance of impact is strongly recommended to protect all values in Enhanced Management Areas (EMA). This document includes Area of Concern (A.O.C.) prescriptions for protecting fish and wildlife values (Appendix 1). The A.O.C. prescriptions are found within forest management plans

written for all forest management units in Ontario under the terms of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. All EMAs are found within forest management units. The A.O.C. prescriptions are legally binding on forest companies as they conduct timber harvest, silviculture and forest regeneration activities. The A.O.C. prescriptions have been adopted for fish and wildlife values which may be encountered by the exploration community in EMAs. To protect other values (e.g. cultural and heritage) encountered during exploration activities it is strongly recommended that site specific measures be developed on a case by case basis in consultation with the MNR.

Observe the following points in the management of your exploration program:

1. Be aware of the three Rs of exploration and practice them at every stage of your exploration program
RESPECT the environment in which you work.
REFRAIN from unnecessarily disturbing the natural environment. RESTORE the natural setting of areas where you have worked.
2. Ensure that workers are familiar with environmental protection measures and industrial hygiene requirements. Make sure that they are aware of regulatory requirements and environmental codes and are also properly trained to carry out any procedures pertaining to environmentally related situations.
3. In the event of a proposed program of advanced exploration under Part 7 of the Mining Act, conduct environmental baseline studies, consisting of water, soil and, if necessary, lake bottom sampling, prior to any major disturbance of the natural surroundings. These baseline data are essential for the monitoring of the property during its later development.
4. Ensure that your exploration program is designed and budgeted to take into account all potential sensitivities associated with fish and fish habitat, wildlife, downstream water users, marshes and wetlands, native lands, archaeological sites and all other Crown land values and user groups. Be aware that exploration activities undertaken in or close to marshes, bogs, lakes, streams and rivers require special care and planning. Communication with the District Biologist at the local MNR office is strongly recommended.

Observe the following procedures and practices during each stage of your exploration program.

Field Reconnaissance

1. Be familiar with all statutes, regulations, amendments, and guidelines governing all aspects of mineral exploration in the area in which you are working (Appendix 2). In the event of proposed activities that exceed allowable disturbances under Part 7 of the Mining Act, consult with the Mineral Development Coordinator, MNDM. Before the start of an advanced exploration program, ensure that all necessary permits have been acquired and are in place. Be aware of the location of all natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values in the area of your proposed work operations. These are found on the EMA Values Maps as supplied through the Resident Geologist Office and the office of the Regional Land Use Geologist, MNDM, in cooperation with the MNR. Ensure that you have a copy of the EMA Values Map for your area even if you have not been contacted.
2. Ensure that all employees, including contractors, stakers etc. hired for an exploration project, are trained in and knowledgeable about identification of sensitive natural values, environmental protection measures and industrial hygiene requirements. Make sure that they are familiar with regulatory requirements and environmental codes (Appendix 1, 2) and are properly trained to carry out procedures pertaining to environmental protection and remediation.
3. Ensure that contractors and subcontractors know their responsibilities and liabilities and that they discharge their duties correctly.
4. Minimize disturbance to forestry plantation areas by respecting fences and gates. Observe all signs posted by landowners, forestry licence holders and respect the rights of others.
5. Avoid unnecessary disturbance of vegetation and wildlife. Keep vehicles on established roads whenever possible. Obtain permission and guidance from landowners or forest licence holders when travel to off-road sites is necessary.
6. In principle, carry out what you carry in. Use proper receptacles for refuse and try to leave an area cleaner than it was upon your arrival. With proper

- approvals, reusable items such as lumber, frames, floors, etc., may be neatly piled and stored at the site.
7. Check for local MNR regulations governing the lighting of fires. The lighting of fires may be prohibited at certain times of the year. Ensure that appropriate fire fighting equipment in quantities appropriate to the number of personnel and type of activity is available on site.
 8. Ensure that temporary work camps are located, constructed and operated in such a way that they will have the minimum impact on the environment. Always keep camps neat, orderly, safe and clean and in accordance with local regulations.
 9. Avoid any disturbance to community watersheds, fisheries habitat, upwellings and spawning beds by familiarizing yourself with their location (Appendix 1). Do not operate vehicles or heavy equipment in streams or on stream or pond banks. Keep to a minimum any clearing, grubbing, excavating or other surface disturbances near streams and ponds. If such activity is proposed, preserve a natural buffer zone of undisturbed natural vegetation at least 10 metres wide or wider at the water's edge to prevent siltation. If in doubt, contact your local MNR Biologist.
 10. Handle all fuel and hazardous materials with care and avoid spills by ensuring that they are stored properly. Control any spills and/or leaks by establishing berms around storage containment areas and by placing water pumps and portable operating equipment in metal drip trays. In the event of a spill, notify the Ministry of the Environment and MNR as soon as possible.
 11. Use on-site field vehicles and equipment for exploration activities only. Avoid unnecessary disturbance to nearby residents and wildlife.

Property Acquisition

1. Investigate and understand the current status of surface and mineral rights before you take action to acquire a property. Be familiar with those regulations and mining laws governing the acquisition of property as outlined in the Ontario Mining Act. Be familiar with the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* provisions for withdrawal from staking of lands intended for new parks and conservation reserves.

2. Be aware of all regulations and laws relating to environmental liabilities before you acquire a property that has been previously mined, explored and/or developed. Consider documenting the environmental condition of the property at the time of acquisition with field notes and photographs.
3. Avoid any misunderstanding with surface rights owners by discussing your presence and plans in the area with them once you have acquired mineral rights. Ascribe to the notification and compensation requirements of Sections 78 and 79 of the Mining Act. Maintain a cordial relationship with local residents and keep them informed during the course of your program.

Campsites

1. Be familiar with and comply with all statutes, regulations, amendments and permit requirements governing the operation of campsites. A temporary encampment may be erected on a mining claim for the purpose of conducting mineral exploration activities. If the campsite is not located on a mining claim, the maximum allowable time for resident camping on crown land is 21 days.
2. Locate your campsite away from watercourses and maintain it in a neat and orderly fashion.
3. Provide sewage treatment facilities capable of servicing the resident and visiting camp population. Ensure that pit privies, conventional septic tank/tile bed systems, and packaged sewage treatment plants are designed, installed, and, where necessary, disposed of in accordance with local regulations. Consult with the local health unit for details.
4. Select and use products that pose the least threat to the environment. Re-use containers as much as possible and whenever appropriate. Ensure that all products, which are recyclable, are taken to a recycling facility.
5. Compost organic kitchen waste. Remove inorganic domestic waste to approved municipal sites, to an approved landfill for the camp, or to a recycling facility. In regions populated by bears, establish a special containment system for kitchen wastes.
6. Confine fuels, lube oils and greases during storage and transportation. Ensure that used oil facilities are established at all permanent sites and are regularly monitored. Collect and remove hazardous

- substances used in machinery (such as batteries) to designated disposal facilities.
7. Provide proper first aid and fire protection equipment at the camp and make sure that the equipment complies with current regulations.
 8. Make every effort to avoid attracting wildlife to the camp.
 9. At the end of operations, dismantle campsites that are to be abandoned. Leave campsites that are to be used for future operations in a clean and tidy condition. Bury organic waste and remove all other refuse from the site, taking advantage of recycling facilities as much as possible. Backfill all pits in accordance with local regulations. Where possible, rip up a site that is to be abandoned to break surface compaction and allow natural re-vegetation to take place.
 10. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNM.

Road Building and Access

1. Consult with your local MNR office and initiate Work Permit process for new road construction (requiring roadbed improvement). Be sensitive to the needs of other land users; for example, tourist lodges and resort operators. Trail construction for access to mineral exploration workings (no road bed improvement and under 3 metres in width) does not require a Work Permit.
2. Plan and locate roads and trails to maximum advantage for your operations but with minimum levels of construction and disturbance. Take advantage of landform and vegetation to screen road locations whenever possible. Avoid impacting on all values defined on EMA Values Maps supplied by MNR (Appendix 1).
3. Clear right-of-way timber and debris in an orderly manner. Dispose of debris by a) burning, if permitted; b) burying in off-road push piles, if practicable or c) in a manner prescribed by local regulations. Whenever possible, stack commercial timber so that it can be harvested by pulp or timber companies. Consult with the licensed forest operator in the area prior to constructing your road or trail.
4. Provide for erosion and surface water control by installing culverts, bridges, waterbars, and ditches, whenever necessary. Keep insloping to a minimum, and provide for frequent water diversions off the road when necessary. Remove all unnecessary berms from road edges.
5. Develop a reclamation plan following the detailed road construction guidelines and Work Permit requirements.
6. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by the Ontario MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNM.

Geological, Geochemical and Geophysical Surveys

1. Avoid unnecessary brush cutting and blazing of trees while laying out grid lines. Cut grid lines at the minimum width possible.
2. Upon completion of a survey, remove any wire and other extraneous material that may endanger the lives of birds and other wildlife.
3. Avoid contaminating soil and water during the course of your work.
4. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNM.

Trenching and Stripping

1. Avoid any disturbance to community watersheds, fisheries habitat, upwellings and spawning beds by familiarizing yourself with their location (Appendix 1). Do not operate vehicles or heavy equipment in streams or on stream or pond banks. Keep to a minimum any clearing, grubbing, excavating or other surface disturbances near streams and ponds. If such activity is proposed, preserve a natural buffer zone of undisturbed natural vegetation at least 10 metres wide or wider at the water's edge to prevent siltation. If in doubt, contact your local MNR Biologist.
2. Clear timber and debris in an orderly manner. Dispose of debris by a) burning, if permitted; b) by burying it in off-road push piles, if practicable or c) in a manner prescribed by local regulation. Whenever possible, stack commercial timber so that

it can be harvested by pulp or timber companies.

Consult with the licensed forest operator in the area prior to constructing your road or trail.

3. Backfill, cover and revegetate all excavations and other surface disturbances that have not exposed reusable geological information such as outcrop. Avoid excessive stripping by using backhoes or excavators rather than bulldozers whenever possible.
4. If your proposed area of stripping exceeds an area 10,000m² or is within 100 metres of a waterbody and exceeds an area of 2,500m², you must file a closure plan under Part 7 of the Mining Act. Contact the Mineral Development Coordinator at the MNDM.
5. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

Drilling

1. Ensure that drilling company workers under contract are aware of current environmental regulations and will comply with them in the course of their work. Clearly define all environmental and industrial hygiene responsibilities, duties and liabilities of the contractor in contractors' agreements.
2. Keep to a minimum any noise pollution produced by equipment.
3. Ensure that contractors avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.
4. Locate drill sites and water lines in areas where access to them and their operation will create the least amount of disturbance. Take advantage of local landform and vegetation to screen drilling activities whenever possible.
5. Eliminate the need for elaborate access roads by using the smallest size of drilling equipment and drill holes that will ensure an adequate sampling of the target that you are seeking.
6. Ensure that proper receptacles for debris are provided and used at drill sites and that sites are cleaned up as soon as equipment has been removed.

7. Do not allow drilling wastes to run uncontrolled over land or ice surfaces or into watercourses. Recycle as much drilling mud and water as possible by using tanks or sumps.
8. Avoid wasting water by installing and using shut-off valves when water lines are not in use.
9. Use biodegradable materials whenever possible.
10. Keep on site oil-absorbent material and/or oil booms (depending on the amounts of fuel stored) for use in the event of a spill.
11. Upon completion of drilling, remove the drill casing and cap or plug the drill hole.

Abandonment of Exploration Activity

1. Out slope and remove all berms from roads no longer needed, and install appropriate water barriers and other erosion control structures. Remove culverts, low bridges and other structures that may cause blockage or unwanted diversion of watercourses.
2. Backfill and grade all open excavations such as exploration trenches, adits and shaft waste dumps as close to the original contour as possible. Grade to contour or smooth out drill sites, building sites, roads, or other major disturbances resulting from construction during the exploration program.
3. Cap or plug drill holes and close or otherwise make safe from unauthorized entry, all tunnels, shafts and other openings. Make sure that procedures on site abandonment contained in Part 7 of the Mining Act have been correctly followed.
4. Remove all trash and other foreign material from the exploration area and dispose of in an approved waste disposal site.
5. Where possible and at the proper time of the year, re-vegetate all disturbed surface areas by planting trees which are suitable for the area. In addition or as an alternative, prepare the disturbed surfaces in a way that will encourage maximum natural re-vegetation.
6. Inspect gates and fences used for access to ensure that they have not been damaged.
7. When abandoning exploration sites in claim-staked areas close to settled areas, remove any physical evidence of work such as ribbons and pickets. Be aware that most jurisdictions do not allow staking

posts or survey monuments to be removed.

8. Advise local residents, landowners, native groups and government officials that you are abandoning the site.
9. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by the Ontario MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

(Modified after the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Guidelines for Exploration Practice, 1998)

Appendix B: Permitted Uses Table

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Permitted</i>	<i>Guidelines</i>
<i>Lands and Waters Resource Use</i>		
<i>Aggregate Extraction</i>	Yes	New aggregate extraction within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will be limited to the construction and maintenance of forest access roads, and for mining exploration and development.
<i>Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors</i>	No	Unless no demonstrated alternatives exist.
<i>Commercial Hydro Development</i>	No	No potential for hydro development exists within EMA.
<i>Mineral Exploration and Development</i>	Yes	Follow "Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas" to ensure exploration projects are carried out with the lowest levels of disturbance possible to its natural surroundings.
<i>Peat Extraction</i>	No	
<i>Commercial Tourism</i>		
Existing	No	No facilities exist.
New	Yes	Subject to individual review, a limited number of non-consumptive eco-tourism facilities may be permitted.
<i>Outfitting Services</i>		
Existing	No	New ecotourism opportunities may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
<i>Outpost Camps</i>		
Existing	No	No facilities exist.
New	Yes	Subject to individual review, a limited number of non-consumptive eco-tourism facilities may be permitted.
<i>Resorts/Lodges</i>		
Existing	No	
New	No	
<i>Private Recreation Camps</i>	No	
<i>Campgrounds</i>	No	

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Permitted</i>	<i>Guidelines</i>
<i>Crown Land Camping</i>		
Resident	Yes	
Non-resident	No	Non resident of Canada are not permitted to camp within the EMA where the Regulated Crown land Camping Zone overlaps this designation. Camping by non residents within the EMA outside of this zone is permitted.
<i>Campsite Designation</i>		
	No	
<i>Access Roads</i>		
Existing	Yes	Roads for industrial and commercial use are permitted; however, their standards should be lower than those governing primary access roads. New roads must be planned through comprehensive long-term access planning that considers the values of the area. Some guidelines are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ roads should be constructed to the lowest standard possible; ■ new roads/trails should be directed to existing corridors where possible; ■ layout should consider aesthetics; and ■ design and construction should facilitate access controls and closure/rehabilitation. Public travel on new roads within the Onnie Lake portion of EMA by motorized vehicles will not be permitted.
New	Yes	
<i>Commercial Boat Caches</i>		
Existing	Yes	New caches may be considered If a net benefit for the Signature Site is demonstrated.
New	Yes	
<i>Resource Harvester Boat Caches</i>		
Existing	Yes	New boat caches will be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
<i>Recreation Boat Caches</i>		
Existing	Yes	New boat caches will be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
<i>Trail Development</i>		
Existing	Yes	New recreation snowmobile trails may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Maybe	



<i>Activity</i>	<i>Permitted</i>	<i>Guidelines</i>
<i>All Terrain Vehicle Use</i>		
Existing	Yes	
New	Yes	
<i>Snowmobiling</i>		
Existing	Yes	
New		
<i>Fisheries Resource</i>		
<i>Commercial Fishing</i>	No	
<i>Bait-fish Harvest</i>		
Existing	Yes	
New	N/A	
<i>Sport Fishing</i>	Yes	
<i>Fish Stocking</i>	Maybe	Subject to the Environmental Assessment Act.
<i>Fish Habitat Management</i>	Yes	
<i>Forestry Resources</i>		
<i>Commercial Timber Harvest</i>	Yes	
<i>Fuelwood and other small scale uses</i>	Yes	
<i>Fire Suppression</i>	Yes	According to <i>Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario</i> .
<i>Wildlife Resources</i>		
<i>Commercial Fur Harvesting</i>		
Existing	Yes	Trapline boundaries may be amended to create new opportunities through subdividing existing lines.
New	Maybe	
<i>Trap Cabins</i>		
Existing	No	No existing trap cabins
New	Yes	New cabins may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Permitted</i>	<i>Guidelines</i>
<i>Wild Rice Harvesting</i>	No	Subject to existing policy direction.
Existing	Maybe	
New		
<i>Bear Hunting by Non-residents</i>	Yes	Transfer in BMA ownership will be considered provided this activity (bear hunting) is compatibility with existing natural heritage and cultural values.
Existing		
New	No	
<i>Hunting</i>	Yes	



