

**LAKE NIPIGON - BEARDMORE ENHANCED
MANAGEMENT AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE**

CHAPTER 7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	307
2	DESCRIPTION	307
3	LAND USE DIRECTION	308
4	CROWN LAND DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT	308
	4.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	309
	4.1.1 Tourism	309
	4.1.2 Cottaging	309
	4.1.3 Municipal Development	310
	4.1.4 Other Crown Land Disposition	310
5	COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES	310
	5.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	310
	5.1.1 Forest Operations	310
	5.1.2 Mineral Exploration	311
	5.1.3 Aggregate Extraction	311
	5.1.4 Bait Fishing	312
	5.1.5 Fur Harvesting	312
	5.1.6 Hydro Electric Development	312
	5.1.7 Other Commercial Activities	312
6	CROWN LAND RECREATION	312
	6.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION	312
	6.1.1 Crown Land Recreation	312
	6.1.2 Hunting	312
	6.1.3 Angling	313
	6.1.4 Trails	313
	LIST OF FIGURES	
	Figure 34 Regional Setting Map For Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area	314
	Figure 35 Boundary Map For Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area	315
	Figure 36 Resource Management Map For Lake Nipigon-Beardmore EMA	316

1 INTRODUCTION

The Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area (EMA) was established as a result of the *Lands for Life* and Ontario's Living Legacy land use planning processes. It is recognized in the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) as part of the Lake Nipigon Basin Featured Area (also known as Signature Site), one of nine identified featured areas.

This enhanced management area is one of seventeen Land Use Designations that form the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site. *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* recognizes this area as providing important shoreline access to southern Lake Nipigon. Future lake oriented development is encouraged (e.g. tourism, cottaging), subject to careful planning that takes into account the recreational and natural values of the area. The designation of enhanced management area allows for more detailed land use direction in areas with special features or values. The same activities that occur in general use areas can also occur in EMAs (i.e. forestry, mining, trapping, hunting, aggregate extraction), however these activities may be subject to special conditions that are designed to support the special values of the area.

The planning process and public consultation required for the development of this resource management guideline was an integral part of the overall development of the *Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy for the Lake Nipigon Basin*. Detailed information relating to the process followed and the public input obtained can be found in Appendix A of the Strategy document.

2 DESCRIPTION

The Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area (EMA) is a recreation category EMA. It is located on the southeast shore of Lake Nipigon and includes a three kilometre wide strip of land, 13,091.4 hectares in size, extending from the southern end of Pijitiwabik Bay to Mungo Park Point (Figure 34 and 35).

Almost the entire enhanced management area, with the exception of a small portion at the north end, falls within the Regional Municipality of Greenstone. Existing almost entirely within the EMA boundaries are Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay) and Sand Point First Nations. Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek (Lake Nipigon Ojibway First Nation) uses this area for traditional activities as do two Aboriginal groups seeking band status, Poplar Point Ojibway and Poplar Point.

This Enhanced Management Area is home to the largest and most popular access points to Lake Nipigon, Poplar Lodge Campground and High Hill Harbour Marina. This EMA provides easy access to Lake Nipigon via Highway 580 and is the staging area for many of the lake's cruiser and charter boat operators. A variety of recreationists use the Poplar Point – High Hill Harbour area including Lake Nipigon anglers (both resident and non-resident), charter boat guests, campground users, cottagers and day users (swimming and picnicking). Kayakers use Poplar Lodge Campground as a starting point for multiple-day trips on Lake Nipigon.

The remote shoreline areas of this EMA are accessed from the water by anglers and boaters for swimming, picnicking and camping. Other resource uses in this enhanced management area include forestry operations, mineral exploration, hydro development, hunting, trapping, and bait fishing.

East-west trending "Greenstone Belt" rocks transect a significant portion of the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore EMA. These rocks have high mineral potential for gold and numerous mining claims have been and are currently staked in the area. Exploration work in the area may include stripping, trenching, sampling, geophysical surveys, geological mapping and diamond drilling.

The Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area is dominated by mixed woods, mostly white birch, white spruce, and balsam fir with white cedar along the water's edge. The area was extensively burned in

1999 from Macdiarmid, north to Mungo Park Point. Red and white pine occur intermittently along the Lake Nipigon shoreline slopes. Arctic-alpine plants have been recorded in this EMA some of which are regionally and provincially significant.

Mungo Park Point is an important landfall for caribou migrations in winter. Bald eagle nests (7 known) occur in this EMA along the Lake Nipigon Shoreline as do mineral licks which are important for moose and caribou. Tributaries flowing through the EMA to Lake Nipigon provide important spawning and nursery areas for Lake Nipigon fish species as well as stream resident fish. These streams provide sport fishing opportunities within the EMA.

The boundary of the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area abuts the Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve to the north and the Nipigon Palisades Conservation Reserve to the south. Highway 11 traverses through the southern portion of the EMA as does the Canadian National Railway and the Trans Canada Pipe Line. Lake Nipigon Provincial Park is situated along the Lake Nipigon shore just north of Macdiarmid.

3 LAND USE DIRECTION

The overall land use intent for the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore EMA is to encourage tourism and recreation development in a nodal fashion, focused on the current campground and marina facilities (Figure 36). The other portions of the EMA will be managed for more remote recreation opportunities. Public access to southeast Lake Nipigon will continue to be promoted through the existing municipal and private access points in the EMA.

A diversity of recreational uses will be promoted in this EMA, ranging from facility-oriented recreation to the use of accessible trail networks and enjoyment of quality backcountry experiences along its more remote sections. Specifically, the Crown land development opportunities that will be permitted in the EMA include:

- Development of one eco-lodge (contingent on potential private sector development)
- Improvement/expansion of the existing campground and marina facilities
- Development of a cottage lot subdivision in close proximity to High Hill Harbour Marina
- Development of a number of recreational trails (i.e. hiking, snowmobiling)

Any future facility development will be approached carefully in order to avoid negatively impacting cultural, biological or recreational values. Site inspections, biological and cultural inventories and assessment of potential impacts will precede any future development. Known values information (Figure 36) will be updated as new information becomes available through inventory work.

4 CROWN LAND DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Within the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area, alienated lands currently include the community of Macdiarmid, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay) Indian Reserve, the municipally run Poplar Lodge Campground (held under a Licence of Occupation) and High Hill Harbour Marina (held under a Land Use Permit). Just north of the Poplar Lodge Campground are nineteen privately owned cottage lots as well as a larger private property at the mouth of the Namewaminikan River on the north and south side. There are approximately 52 staked mining claims in the EMA. Mining leases and mining patents also exist within Eva and Dorothea Townships.

All decisions for the disposition of Crown land are subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

4.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

4.1.1 TOURISM

Disposition of Crown land (patent, lease, land use permit) will be guided by the overall land use direction for the Lake Nipigon Basin which identifies this EMA for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities. Some Crown land will be made available to achieve this objective. The remote, recreation values (e.g. remote beaches and campsites) and ecological values (e.g. eagle nests, wetlands, significant habitat) along portions of this shoreline will be protected in future land disposition and road development decisions. Disposition that promotes nodal development around Poplar Lodge Campground and High Hill Harbour, compatible with the environment and current uses in the area is favoured. Provision of Crown land to the Regional Municipality of Greenstone for the expansion of High Hill Harbour or Poplar Lodge Campground will be considered if needed.

A parcel of Crown land will be identified for the development of an eco-lodge with a non-consumptive theme. The land will be initially leased with conditions, and sold to the proponent once the conditions have been met. A strong business case will be required. The development options would include a road accessible lodge in the vicinity of High Hill Harbour or a remote lodge located at either Grant Point or South High Hill Harbour (Figure 35). Exact site locations must be determined through extensive field investigations and after conducting the necessary inventories/studies to ensure protection of vegetative, wildlife, fisheries, geological and cultural values. Factors that will be key to the success of any proposal include:

- Economic benefits for local First Nations and communities
- Non-consumptive environmental and cultural theme based facility
- Provision of a high quality tourism opportunity

- Integration of the new facility in with existing facilities/operations (e.g. harbour, cruiser operations)
- Be aesthetically pleasing and blend in with the Basin landscape

While the disposition of this opportunity will be given a high priority after approval of the strategy, it must be planned carefully in consideration of any private sector development proposals that may be underway. The overall objective is to ensure that the ecological capacity of the Basin ecosystem to support development is not exceeded; that the value of remoteness is not compromised, and that the development resulting from this disposition is complementary to, and not in competition with, other private sector tourism proposals.

The MNR will seek partners for the development of a lookout - highway rest stop near the microwave tower south of Macdiarmid. This would be an ideal spot to view Pijitawabik Bay and the Palisades and is close to the highway.

The Regional Municipality of Greenstone is a new municipality (1998) and resulted from the amalgamation of a number of individual municipalities, one of which was the Township of Beardmore, which covers the Poplar Lodge - High Hill Harbour area. Currently (2002) there is no official plan in place for the new municipality. As such, the previous official plans and zoning by-laws apply until such time as a new official plan is developed. In the case of Crown land located within the Regional Municipality but not covered by a pre-existing official plan or comprehensive zoning by-law, such as Grant Point, the municipality will be encouraged to develop site specific zoning to address any proposed development. Direction for development will also come from Section 3.1 of the *Planning Act* and the *Provincial Building Code*.

4.1.2 COTTAGING

A parcel of Crown land, proximate to the High Hill Harbour Marina, will be made available to

the Regional Municipality of Greenstone for cottage lot development. Cottage lots will be established at least 500 metres back from the lake shoreline. The land between the lots and the waters' edge will remain Crown. The exact number of lots, lot size and layout will be determined after detailed field investigations to determine suitability of the terrain. Cottage owners will obtain access to the lake via the High Hill Harbour Marina. The marina provides docking, launching, gas and pump-out facilities. The municipality will be responsible for developing a plan of subdivision. No development will take place until inventory work ensures no negative impact on the environment including sensitive values (e.g., significant plant species), cultural features or water quality.

4.1.3 MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT

Crown land for other municipal infrastructure development, such as the expansion of existing recreational facilities, may be made available in the EMA subject to municipal needs, provided it is in keeping with the overall land use intent for the area and is supported through municipal planning.

4.1.4 OTHER CROWN LAND DISPOSITION

Crown land disposition for rural residential development will not be permitted in the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area.

Other requests for Crown land disposition and development (e.g. trap cabin) will be considered within the context of the overall land use intent for the Lake Nipigon Basin and the Lake Nipigon-Beardmore EMA and their related objectives.

5 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Lake Nipigon-Beardmore Enhanced Management Area is used for a variety of commercial activities including mineral exploration, forestry, fur harvesting, bait fishing and aggregate extraction. A non-operating hydroelectric generating facility is located on the Namewaminikan River just outside the boundaries of the Enhanced Management Area. These uses are permitted to continue while ensuring that the high quality recreation values and significant fish and wildlife habitat in this area are protected.

5.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

5.1.1 FOREST OPERATIONS

Domtar Inc. is the current Sustainable Forest Licence holder for the Lake Nipigon Forest in which the Lake Nipigon – Beardmore Enhanced Management Area is located. Forest management practices in this EMA will be modified in a manner that will ensure the maintenance of recreation values in the EMA. These modifications will be implemented with no impact on wood supply and only in exceptional cases will wood cost be affected.

Forest access roads will be planned to ensure the maintenance of the recreation values in this area such as remote beaches, shoreline campsites, skyline vistas and potential future recreational trail development. To prevent unplanned access to the water's edge, roads within 1 kilometre of the Lake Nipigon shoreline will be constructed to the lowest standard possible (including but not necessarily winter roads only), and be abandoned after forest harvesting and renewal activities are completed. Specific means for abandonment and road regeneration (where required) to prevent unplanned access to the water's edge, will be identified as part of the forest management planning process. This 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. New roads for second chance harvest should be directed to existing roadbeds where possible,

with road location and construction standards facilitating access controls and abandonment.

Closing of roads or portions of roads may be required to prevent potential undesired access to the shoreline. Access control decisions will be addressed during the Forest Management Planning process.

Planning for roads in the remainder of the enhanced management area will follow the requirements of the forest management planning manual and may necessitate road decommissioning as well, to ensure that no unplanned access to the water's edge is created.

Aggregate supplies may be extracted from 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. All pits will be rehabilitated at the end of the period of use.

Forest management practices within the entire EMA, will be implemented to ensure the protection of important fish habitat in Lake Nipigon tributaries. Where site conditions allow, temporary bridges will be used at stream crossings. A close liaison between the Ministry of Natural Resources biologist and Sustainable Forest Licence holder will be maintained when carrying out road planning and planning for construction and abandonment of water crossings. A joint site inspection will be required for any crossings requiring in-stream work or culvert installation unless it is mutually agreed that this is not required.

Forest management plans will contain Area of Concern documentation outlining prescriptions for identified values in the enhanced management area (e.g. bald eagles nests, mineral licks, caribou migration corridors, known cultural sites, groundwater recharge zones) within the context of the overall land use intent for this EMA.

Limited forest operations within 300 metres of the Lake Nipigon shoreline will be carried out following consultation and detailed operational planning to maintain the overall recreation intent for this area, and to minimize the possibility of unplanned access to the lake.

5.1.2 MINERAL EXPLORATION

Mineral exploration and extraction is permitted in this EMA. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) in conjunction with MNR has developed Guidelines for Exploration Practices in Enhanced Management Areas in Ontario (2002). These Guidelines set out a code of "best practices" which prospectors will be encouraged to follow to ensure minimal impact on the environment, addressing road/trail building, working around water, camp operation and abandonment procedures. When work permits or other forms of approval are required for exploration activities, the best practice guidelines will be incorporated into the permit or approval document. An appropriate protocol will be developed to make certain that up-to-date values information is provided to MNDM by MNR and subsequently, to the prospectors working in the EMA so that they can conduct their activities without negatively impacting on known values. A copy of this Guideline is appended to the *Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site Ecological Land Use and Resource Management Strategy*.

5.1.3 AGGREGATE EXTRACTION

Aggregate extraction in this enhanced management area will be primarily for the purpose of forest access road construction and maintenance as well as for mining exploration and development.

Commercial aggregate operations are not permitted within 1 kilometre of the shoreline of Lake Nipigon. In the remainder of the enhanced management area, new commercial aggregate operations may be considered. Applicants must clearly show that the aggregate operation will not conflict with existing or future tourism and recreation

opportunities, or create undesirable impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

5.1.4 BAIT FISHING

The degree of bait fishing currently occurring in the enhanced management area is not well known. There are 4 bait fish blocks that fall entirely or partly within the EMA (# 494881, 495881, 496881, 497881). Bait fishing will continue to be a permitted use. Any available vacant bait fish blocks will be allocated as per provincial bait fish policy.

5.1.5 FUR HARVESTING

Portions of traplines NG-93, NG-95 and NG-108 fall within the enhanced management area. Trapping is a permitted use in enhanced management areas. Through education and communication, efforts will be made to ensure that trapping activities and current and future recreation activities do not conflict.

5.1.6 HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

Hydroelectric development exists on the Namewaminakin River in the form of a dam and reservoir. This facility is in disrepair and requires substantial investment to make it operational. Communication with the dam owner has been initiated and will continue to ensure the facility is repaired with the intent of having it operational by October 31 2003.

5.1.7 OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Other commercial activities having the potential to negatively affect the natural and cultural values of the EMA will not be permitted (e.g. peat extraction).

Commercial fishing occurs offshore of the EMA in Lake Nipigon where it is a permitted activity and economically important to Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek and Gull Bay First Nations, Beardmore and Macdiarmid. Commercial fishing is not allowed in tributaries or within 1 kilometre of tributaries entering Lake Nipigon. There is however, an active commercial fishery for smelt in the tributaries, which is conducted during the smelt runs using sport fish equipment (e.g., dip nets). The commercial

smelt fishery will continue to be a permitted use. Commercial fishing for other fish species in the tributaries will not be permitted (e.g., suckers). No new commercial fishing is permitted in the Lake Nipigon – Beardmore EMA.

Commercial activities that do not impact on the values within the EMA may be permitted (e.g., wild rice harvesting).

6 CROWN LAND RECREATION

Angling, hunting, Crown land camping, hiking, swimming and other recreational activities all occur within the Lake Nipigon – Beardmore Enhanced Management Area and form an integral part of the social and economic aspect of the surrounding communities.

6.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

6.1.1 CROWN LAND RECREATION

Crown land recreation activities such as angling, hunting, camping, hiking, berry picking, cycling, snowmobiling, picnicking and swimming all occur in the enhanced management area and will continue to be encouraged. Organized camping will occur in the Poplar Lodge Campground; unstructured camping in other parts of the EMA will occur in traditionally used areas.

Overnight camping will not be permitted on Crown land west of the High Hill Harbour access road between Poplar Lodge Campground and High Hill Harbour. This area will be available for day use only to allow campground users and day visitors to enjoy walking, swimming, picnicking, etc. on the exceptional stretch of sand beach located there. Signs will be posted outlining the restriction.

6.1.2 HUNTING

Hunting will continue to be a permitted use in the enhanced management area. Approximately half of the EMA falls in Wildlife Management Unit 21A and half falls in Unit 19. One Bear Management Area (licence NG-

19-11) also falls partially within the EMA. Moose are the principal big game animal in the area. Some of the charter boat operators offer hunting trips to their clientele allowing hunters to access the remote shoreline areas from the lake. Subsistence hunting also occurs in this area.

6.1.3 ANGLING

Angling is a permitted use within the Lake Nipigon – Beardmore EMA. The entire EMA is in Management Division 33, however, some Division 34 regulations apply in the tributaries up to the first barrier to migration (i.e. northern pike season opens the third Saturday in May and walleye and sauger open June 10).

To provide additional angling opportunities, accessible lakes within the EMA will be assessed for their suitability for stocking. Stocking suitability will be determined using criteria described in the Provincial Stocking Policy Guidelines.

6.1.4 TRAILS

With the intent of maintaining the Poplar Lodge-High Hill Harbour area as the area of nodal development, efforts will be made to establish trails that originate from this location. A network of tertiary forest access roads located northeast of the current cottage lot subdivision will be investigated to determine if there are any abandoned roads that could be developed and promoted as trails. Additional trail clearing will likely be required to establish a good quality trail system.

Another trail opportunity that will be investigated is the development of a nature trail-boardwalk along the Standingstone Creek/wetland. This area is adjacent to the Poplar Lodge Campground and could offer campground visitors with the opportunity to learn about and experience the riverine environment. Extensive field investigation is required to determine exactly how and where the trail could be developed.

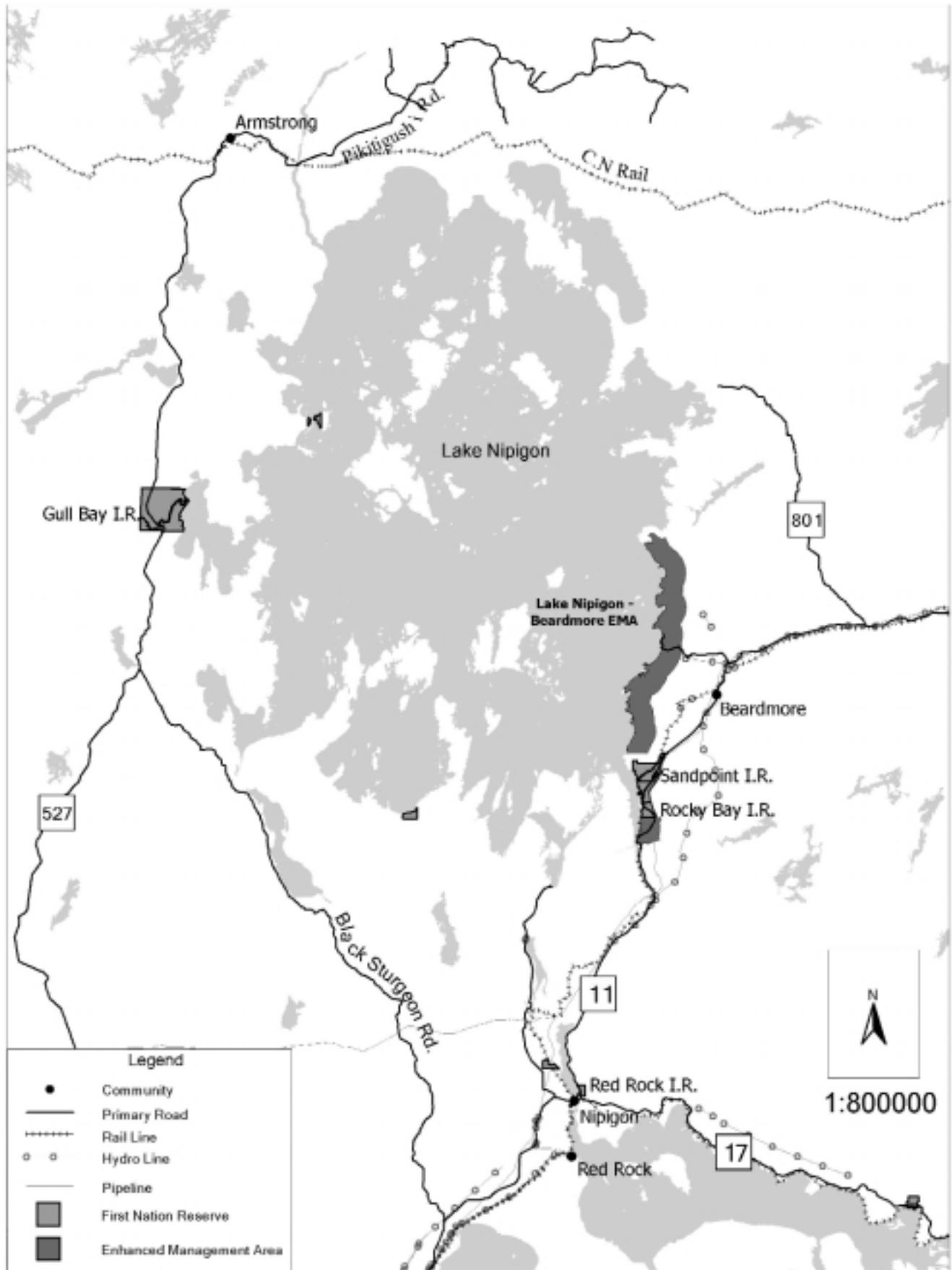
A third trail opportunity involves the development of a coastal trail extending south

from Poplar Lodge Campground to High Hill Harbour to Lake Nipigon Provincial Park.

This trail development would hold a similar appeal as the current coastal trail along Lake Superior, providing a fairly challenging hiking experience in a remote and scenic setting.

Trail development will involve production of promotional brochures, signage and interpretive panels. A partnership with the Regional Municipality of Greenstone and other stakeholders for trail development will be required.

FIGURE 34: REGIONAL SETTING MAP FOR LAKE NIPIGON-BEARDMORE ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA



Data Source: MNR NRVIS Database
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16
 North American Datum, 1983
 Date: 08/03/02

Ontario Copyright 2002, Queen's Printer of Ontario

INSERT FIGURE 35

BOUNDARY MAP FOR LAKE NIPIGON- BEARDMORE ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA

INSERT FIGURE 36
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MAP FOR LAKE NIPIGON- BEARDMORE EMA