

# **SOUTH LAKE NIPIGON ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE**

## **CHAPTER 9**



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area 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 (EMA) 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 an important additional area of enhanced protection for Lake Nipigon, necessary to ensure protection of lake oriented values such as tributaries and important fish and wildlife habitat as well as the value of remoteness.

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 South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area is a remote access category EMA. It provides 2 kilometres of additional enhanced protection to the Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve, along the south shore of Lake Nipigon from Chief Bay to the Nipigon River. It encompasses a total area of

24,568.1 hectares (Figure 40 and 41). *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, recognizes this area as an important additional buffer necessary to ensure protection of lake oriented values such as remoteness, lake tributaries and significant fish and wildlife habitat.

Access to southern Lake Nipigon is available at a number of locations through this EMA. The Poshkogagan River runs through the EMA and the Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve into Lake Nipigon providing access to the southwest end of the lake. Highway 585 travels through the EMA, providing access to Forgan Lake via the Pine Portage Access Point, which is located on a Crown lease held by Ontario Power Generation (OPG). A secondary road off of Highway 585 traverses the EMA to the South Bay Access Point. There are a number of tertiary roads that provide access to the EMA at various locations (Church Road, South Line, McCann Lake Road and Chief Bay Road).

Mixedwood forest is the dominant vegetation type, followed by deciduous stands, mostly composed of trembling aspen or aspen and birch. The principal species within the mixedwood forests include trembling aspen, black and white spruce, balsam fir and white birch. To the southeast of McIntyre Bay, white pine mixedwoods are located around Three Mount Lake. A number of arctic disjunct plant species, some of which are regionally significant, have been found in the EMA.

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 along with opportunities provided at Oskawe, Krug, Three Mount and Shaver Lakes.

Eight osprey nests have been documented within the South Lake Nipigon EMA. There are also numerous bald eagle and osprey nests along the south shore of Lake Nipigon, to which this EMA provides additional protection (Figure 42).

The west and southwest shores of Lake Nipigon are of significant interest to the mineral exploration and mining industry due to the high potential for platinum group elements (PGE). With regard to the South Lake Nipigon EMA considerable claim staking has occurred in the Chief Bay area of Lake Nipigon in the last one to two years (2000 – 2002). Currently, there are approximately 30 staked mining claims, 13 mining licences of occupation and a number of mining patents.

### 3 LAND USE DIRECTION

The overall land use intent for this area is to ensure that lake oriented values such as spawning streams and remoteness are maintained. Access and forestry operations within this area will be carefully planned to protect headwater streams flowing into Lake Nipigon.

The remote access category of EMA normally requires that all new roads will be restricted from public use. The narrow and linear nature of this EMA would make the management of road closures very difficult. The access objectives for this EMA will be met by limiting the number of new roads in the area and discouraging any permanent access. There are also a considerable number of abandoned road systems that over time are expected to naturally deteriorate.

No new permanent access is permitted in this area except where no other reasonable alternatives exist. Planning for new permanent access roads must consider alternatives that do not traverse the EMA. Other roads will be constructed to the lowest standard possible and will be physically abandoned after forest harvesting and renewal activities are completed. Stream crossings will be kept to a minimum to help protect important tributaries. The access points at South Bay (new access on southeast side of bay) will remain as a permitted access to the lake. Pine Portage access will continue provided OPG is in agreement.

Backcountry recreation activities such as canoeing, camping, nature appreciation,

angling and hunting will be encouraged in the South Lake Nipigon EMA.

## 4 CROWN LAND DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Within the South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area alienated lands include the McIntyre Bay Indian Reserve (inhabited seasonally), various forms of mining tenure previously mentioned and a number of patented parcels in Innes Township.

In keeping with the management intent for the EMA, land disposition and development will generally be discouraged. However, Crown land disposition can occur for permitted activities, but only where it is consistent with the land use intent for the maintenance of remoteness and lake-oriented values. Any future 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 42) will be updated as new information becomes available through inventory work.

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 DEVELOPMENT

There is one tourist facility located in the EMA at Krug Lake which is permitted to continue at its current capacity. New tourism development will not be permitted. The area is and will continue to be accessible to charter boat clientele and Crown land recreationalists via existing access roads and Lake Nipigon tributaries for remote hunting, angling, camping and nature appreciation.

#### 4.1.2 OTHER CROWN LAND DISPOSITION

Crown land disposition for new tourism, cottaging or rural residential development will

not be permitted in the South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area.

Other requests for Crown land disposition and development (e.g. trappers cabins) will be considered within the context of the overall land use intent for the Lake Nipigon Basin and the South Lake Nipigon EMA, and their related objectives.

## 5 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

#### 5.1.1 FOREST OPERATIONS

The South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area falls within two separate Forest Management Units, the Black Sturgeon Forest and Spruce River Forest, with Sustainable Forest Licences currently held by Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. and Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada, respectively.

Access and forest management practices in this EMA will be planned, in a manner that will maintain remoteness and the protection of lake tributaries, while ensuring that the long term delivered wood costs and volumes available for industrial use will not be negatively affected.

With regard to access, the overall intent is to limit, within operational constraints, the extent of roads built in the EMA during forest management operations. This includes the intent to limit stream crossings and to limit the number of accessible roads remaining after operations are complete, through abandonment activities.

No new permanent access is permitted in this EMA, except where no other reasonable alternatives exist. Roads will be constructed to the lowest standard possible (including but not necessarily winter roads only) and will be physically abandoned through a variety of means when no longer required for forestry activities. 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 harvest chances) will be directed to existing roadbeds where possible, and road location and construction will facilitate abandonment.

Forest management practices will be implemented to ensure the protection of important fish habitat in Lake Nipigon tributaries. Normally, temporary bridges will be used at stream crossings unless site conditions do not allow this. 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.

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 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. All pits will be rehabilitated at the end of the period of use.

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

#### 5.1.2 MINERAL EXPLORATION

Mineral exploration and extraction is permitted in this area. 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 activities such as 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 normally be limited to the purposes 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 (the first 500 metres of shoreline is within the Lake Nipigon Conservation Reserve) 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 impact lake oriented values (e.g. spawning streams) or remoteness.

### 5.1.4 BAIT FISHING

The level of bait fish harvest/bait fishing activity currently occurring in the enhanced management area is not well known. There are 12 bait fish blocks that fall entirely or partially within the EMA (# 's 495884, 496884, 496891, 495891, 494891, 494884,

494883, 494882, 494881, 493881, 492881, 492882). 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-11, NG-14, NG-19, NG-20 and NG-21 fall partially or wholly within the enhanced management area. Trapping will continue to be a permitted use in the South Lake Nipigon EMA. The level of fur harvest from the EMA is unknown.

### 5.1.6 HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

No hydro development currently exists within this EMA. Any possible hydroelectric generation opportunities proposed in the future will be considered in light of the overall land use direction for the Lake Nipigon Basin and the South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area, and with regard to tourism, recreational, cultural, wildlife and fisheries values.

### 5.1.7 OTHER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Peat extraction and other commercial activities having the potential to negatively affect the natural and cultural values of the EMA will not be permitted.

Commercial fishing does not occur within the EMA, but does occur offshore in Lake Nipigon waters where it is a permitted activity and economically important to local First Nations and the communities of Macdiarmid and Beardmore. No new commercial fishing is permitted in the 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, canoeing, Crown land camping, hiking, swimming and other recreational activities all occur within the South Lake Nipigon Enhanced Management Area.

### 6.1 MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

#### 6.1.1 CROWN LAND RECREATION

Remote recreation activities that will be permitted and promoted in the South Lake Nipigon EMA include Crown land camping, hiking, canoeing, swimming, berry picking, angling and hunting. Mechanized travel is permitted on existing accessible roadways. Crown land camping will be governed by the 21-Day Crown land camping rule.

The South Bay access road to the new South Bay access point (southeast side of bay) will remain open to the public. The road accessing the old South Bay access point (south end of the bay) will be closed to the public to protect fish habitat.

#### 6.1.2 HUNTING

Hunting will continue to be a permitted use in the enhanced management area. The entire EMA falls in Wildlife Management Unit 15B. Five Bear Management Areas (licence # TB-15B-015, NG-15B-043, NG-15B-031, TB 15B-53, NG 15B-45) also fall partially within the EMA. Moose are the principal big game animal in the area. Subsistence hunting also occurs in this area. Work with the Provincial Deer Committee will be initiated in an effort to open 15B to white-tailed deer hunting.

#### 6.1.3 ANGLING

Angling is a permitted use within the South Lake Nipigon EMA. The entire EMA is in Fishing Division 21, 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).

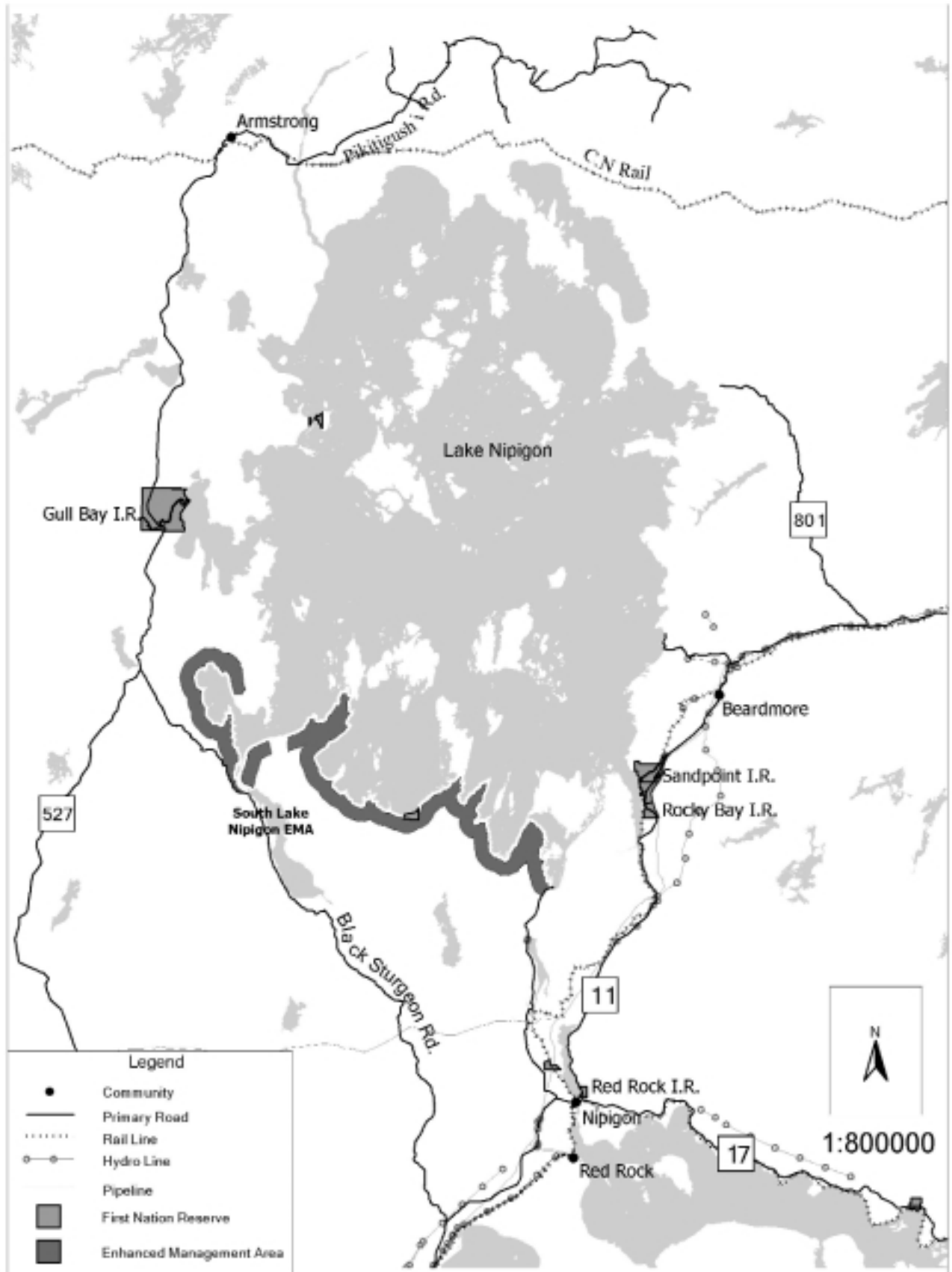
To provide additional angling opportunities, accessible lakes within the EMA will be

assessed for their suitability for stocking. Stocking suitability will be determined using criteria described in the Provincial Stocking Policy Guidelines.

#### 6.1.4 TRAILS

The development of new recreational trail systems (e.g., hiking trails, snowmobile trails, ATV trails) will not be permitted.

**FIGURE 40: REGIONAL SETTING MAP FOR SOUTH LAKE NIPIGON ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA**



Data Source: MNR NRVIS Database  
 Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16  
 North American Datum, 1983  
 Date: 06/03/02

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**INSERT FIGURE 41**  
**BOUNDARY MAP FOR SOUTH LAKE NIPIGON ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA**

**INSERT FIGURE 42**

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MAP FOR SOUTH LAKE NIPIGON ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA**