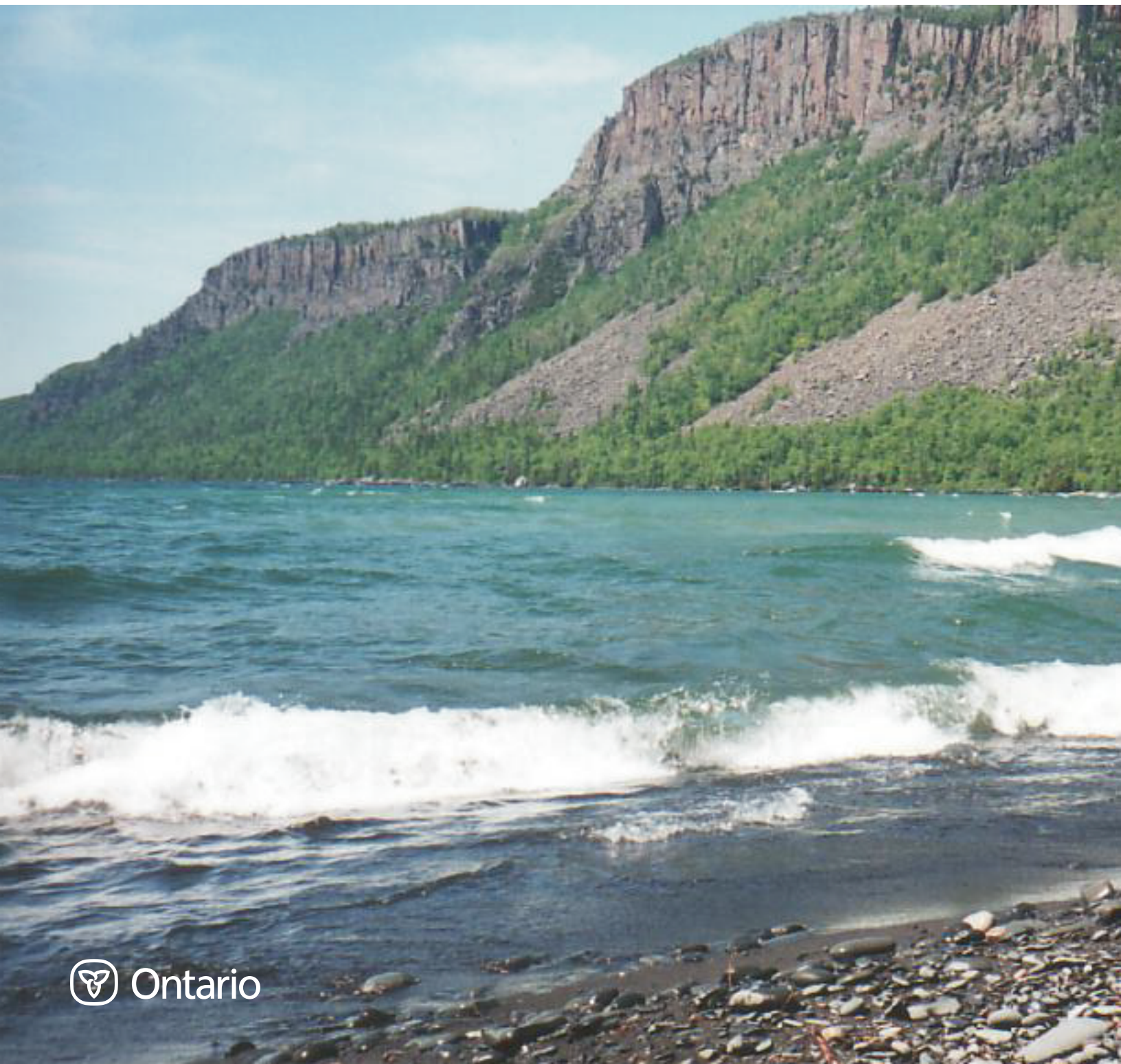




Sleeping Giant

Issues and Options



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Cover photo by Janice Barry

May, 2003

Dear Sir/ Madam:

Ontario Parks is reviewing the management plan for Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. As part of the review process, I am pleased to present the **Sleeping Giant Issues and Options**.

This document identifies issues and presents options for the management of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

I invite you to review and comment on this document. All comments will become part of the public record for the duration of the planning process. Comments will be made available for public review upon request, unless privacy is requested, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you require that your name not be made public, please indicate this in your response. Remarks or requests for additional information should be submitted to the attention of:

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Your comments will be carefully considered during the preparation of the preliminary park management plan.

Yours truly,

Adair Ireland Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks

Background

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park is classified as a Natural Environment Park and is 24,391 hectares in size. It was established as Sibley Provincial Park in 1944, regulated in 1950 (O. Reg. 4/50) and renamed Sleeping Giant Provincial Park in 1988. The park includes 2400 hectares of the bed of Lake Superior, since its boundaries extend out 400 metres from the shoreline, except:

- in the vicinity of Thunder Cape,
- the section of shoreline from Tee Harbour to the mid-point of Middlebrun Bay, and
- the area around Middlebrun Island.

Legends abound since part of this rugged peninsula near Thunder Bay resembles a sleeping giant. For 9,000 years First Nations' peoples fished and hunted this rolling, forested terrain dotted with lakes.

The discovery of silver in the mid-1800s led to the development of the Silver Islet Mine, at that time the world's richest silver mine. The community of Silver Islet still exists as a seasonal community.

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park occupies most of the Sibley Peninsula. The park's eastern lowlands rise gently from Lake Superior, while the western shore is dominated by rugged topography that includes sheer cliffs, deep valleys, and the distinctive mesa-cuestas that form the Sleeping Giant. This varied terrain and the effect of Lake Superior on the park's microclimates provide a variety of habitats for a great diversity of plants including rare orchids and alpine arctic disjuncts. The park is home to wolf, lynx, and bear, as well as moose and white-tailed deer. More than 190 species of birds have been recorded at Sleeping Giant.

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park is considered a destination park because it attracts visitors seeking its outstanding hiking, viewing and nature interpretation opportunities. The park also offers visitors opportunities for cross-country skiing, as well as car and interior camping, picnicking, sea kayaking, boating and swimming. The park boundary extends 400 meters into Lake Superior to control access to the park, provide harbours of refuge for boaters and to protect shoreline features.

Sleeping Giant is part of Ontario's Living Legacy's (OLL) Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site. The park is also located adjacent to Parks Canada's proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. Refer to the *Background Information* document for a complete description of the park and its values.

Park Planning Context and Scope of Issues Covered

Provincial parks' policy has evolved over the last century, since the establishment of Algonquin Park in 1893. Today, provincial parks are governed by three key tools: the *Ontario Provincial Parks Act*, the *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement*, and *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies*. The latter was amended by the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)*, for provincial parks within the OLL planning area.

The 1978 Cabinet-approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement* established the goal and objectives for the park system, provided nine guiding principles, and identified the six classes of parks which comprise the current system (MNR, 1992).

The **goal** of the Ontario provincial parks system is: *To ensure that Ontario's provincial parks protect significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, while providing ample opportunities for visitors to participate in recreational activities.*

The four key **objectives** are:

- *Protection*: To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.
- *Recreation*: To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.
- *Heritage Appreciation*: To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.
- *Tourism*: To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the province.

Nine **principles** guide the management of the provincial parks system:

- *Permanence*: The provincial parks system is dedicated for all time to the present and future generations of the people of Ontario for their healthful enjoyment and appreciation.
- *Distinctiveness*: Provincial parks provide a distinctive range of quality outdoor recreation experiences, many of which cannot be provided in other types of parks; for example, wilderness travel and appreciation.
- *Representation*: Provincial parks are established to secure for posterity representative features of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage. Wherever possible, the best representations of our heritage will be included in the park system.

- **Variety:** The provincial parks system provides a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and protected natural and cultural landscapes and features.
- **Accessibility:** The benefits of the system will be distributed as widely as possible geographically and as equitably as possible socially so that they are accessible to all Ontario residents.
- **Coordination:** the provincial parks system will be managed to complement, rather than compete with, the private sector and other public agencies.
- **System:** Individual provincial parks contribute to the overall objectives of the provincial parks system; all objectives may not be met in each park. The park system, rather than the individual parks, provides the diversity of experiences and landscapes that are sought.
- **Classification:** No individual park can be all things to all people. Park classification organizes Ontario's provincial parks into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics. As well, each classification has distinctive planning, management and visitor service policies.
- **Zoning:** Ontario's provincial parks are zoned on the basis of resource significance and recreational potential; various types of zones ensure that users get the most out of individual parks. Planning and management policies appropriate to each zone types are applied consistently throughout the parks system.

The *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* (commonly known as the Blue Book) was first tabled in 1978 as a companion document to the Provincial Park Policy statement, described above. Updated in 1992 to reflect new government direction, this policy contains a mixture of park philosophy, systems rationale, program targets, and management policies associated with each class of provincial park.

The provincial parks system incorporates six classes of parks. Each class of park contributes differently towards each of the four parks' program objectives (protection, heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism), while collectively ensuring that the province's natural, cultural and recreational environments are protected. Sleeping Giant is a Natural Environment class park.

Wilderness Parks: The target is to establish one wilderness park and one wilderness zone (in either a waterway or natural environment park) or a national park equivalent in each ecological region. Quetico

Provincial Park meets the wilderness park target for Ecoregion 4W.

Nature Reserve Parks: Nature reserve parks are established to represent and protect Ontario's geological, ecological, and species diversity. The target is to represent each of the vegetative types found in Ontario's 14 ecoregions and all of Ontario's past geological environments (MNR, 1992). Examples include Ouimet Canyon, Edward Island.

Historical Parks: The evaluation and selection of archaeological and historical features in Ontario's provincial parks is based on criteria developed and described in *A Topical Organization of Ontario's History* (MNR, 1975). The system defines 13 significant landscape-related themes (and 115 sub-themes) that depict Ontario's human history. An example is Petroglyphs Provincial Park (there are no historical parks in northwestern Ontario).

Natural Environment Parks: Natural environment parks are selected to protect large, representative, and ecologically viable areas throughout Ontario. They represent elements of geological, ecological, and species diversity commonly found within an ecological region, but not contained within provincial wilderness parks or national park equivalents. Natural environment parks serve a variety of purposes including protection of the park's natural features; provision of a variety of recreation opportunities; and facilitation of public appreciation for the park's natural and cultural features. The target is to establish one natural environment park in each of the province's ecological districts. Sleeping Giant, Kakabeka Falls and Pigeon River support the park system target for natural environment parks in Ecodistrict 4W-2.

This plan review is not reconsidering the classification of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. Sleeping Giant does not meet the minimum size criteria of 50,000 hectares for wilderness class parks, nor does it merit recreation classification given the significance of its natural and cultural values. Rather the natural environment classification is appropriate for the significance of both the park's values and its outstanding opportunities for recreation and heritage appreciation.

Waterway Parks: Waterway parks are selected river corridors that complement other parks by representing elements of diversity not found within the other park classes. The class target is to establish one waterway park in each ecological district. Laverendrye is a waterway park in 4W-2.

Recreation Parks: Recreation parks are selected to protect outstanding recreational environments. They also may include representative examples of Ontario's geological, ecological, and species diversity. There is no specific target for the number of recreation parks, though the intent is to ensure a sufficient supply of recreational and tourism opportunities. Arrow Lake is a non-operating recreation class park in 4W-2; Caliper Lake and Rainbow Falls are examples of recreation parks in northwestern Ontario.

Classification of provincial parks and zoning are the key elements in determining the type and extent of management activities that may take place in a provincial park. Classification sets the direction for the types of zones that a park may contain. Park zoning permits further refinement by setting limits on the range of management activities that can be considered—these activities are described in the "Blue Book". This approach is flexible enough that management policies can be tailored to reflect resource significance and management objectives for individual parks during the management planning stage. At the same time, it ensures general consistency in approach across the entire system (MNR, 1992).

The park management plan identifies the contributions that an individual park makes to the achievement of the four park system objectives (protection, heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism). No plan is undertaken with a "blank slate". There are a variety of givens – management policies that apply to the entire park system, dealing with topics like park classification, zoning or permitted uses. Conversely, the plan will also contain policies that reflect specific resources and management needs of the park.

A management plan for Sleeping Giant was completed in 1988. It describes Sleeping Giant's contributions to the provincial park system, and identifies a series of policies intended to maintain or improve these contributions. Current policy directs that plans will be written for twenty years, and reviewed as necessary.

Plan reviews are undertaken to ensure the continued relevance of the content of the original plan with the purpose of developing a new plan. Reviews entail the re-assessment of all aspects of the original plans including objectives, zoning, resource stewardship, development and operations. Topics to be addressed include:

- Confirmation of the role, significance and classification of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park within the provincial parks system and as part of Ontario's Living Legacy Great Lakes Heritage Coast and the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area.
- Confirmation of existing zones and the delineation of zones to ensure the protection, planning, development and management of the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Planning, management and development policies that protect the environment and are responsive to public interests.
- Guidance for the preparation of subsequent plans required to implement park policies and to achieve program objectives.
- A rationale and priorities for the funding of capital development and park operations.
- A record of public consultation and input into the planning process.
- A basis for the ongoing monitoring of the development and management of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

Protection of the park's natural features is the underlying theme for all of the issues presented in this document. The issues focus on appropriate uses, development, and other human activities that impact natural features.

The Issues and Options

The issues that have been identified to date represent input from interested groups and individuals as well as from Ontario Parks staff.

The options presented here are intended to solicit comment from interested groups and individuals. The options present a range of ideas to address park management issues. Due to this, some options contradict other options. The reader is advised to consider the options independently, as well as to consider how a preferred option would affect other options. As well, the reader is encouraged to consider combinations of options, and to identify new issues and new options.

Issue 1: Sleeping Giant is a natural environment class park. What zones should be designated within Sleeping Giant Provincial Park?

The park planning process uses the identified constraints and capabilities of a park to assess carrying capacity/limits of acceptable change, use, access and dispersal patterns and to designate

zones. Zones provide a range of opportunities for recreation, heritage appreciation and education, while maintaining the integrity of the resources upon which recreation opportunities are based. Policies related to permitted uses and development in each zone serve as guidelines for park management.

There are six different types of zones that apply to the park management planning/review process. Table 1 shows the various park class/zone associations. The presence or absence of a zone in a particular park class depends on the philosophy and objectives of that class. As a natural environment class park, Sleeping Giant has all six types of zones. The plan review process confirms the appropriateness of zone designation which was based upon the best available information at the time of the last planning process in 1988. However, with new/additional information about earth/life science features (i.e. species at risk habitat), adjustments to zoning can be considered through the plan review process. Refer to Table 2 for policies relating to resource management and permitted recreation activities for natural environment class parks.

Table 1. Zone Possibilities By Park Class

ZONE TYPE	NE	D	WI	NR	HI	A
PARK CLASS						
Wilderness			*	*	*	*
Nature Reserve				*	*	*
Historical	*	*		*	*	*
Natural Environment	*	*	*	*	*	*
Waterway	*	*	*	*	*	*
Recreation	*	*		*	*	*

Nature Reserve (NR) zones protect the provincially significant earth and/or life science features within a park, and may include a protected buffer area in which a minimum of development is permitted. Development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management.

Nature Reserve Zones in Sleeping Giant

- NR1 Joeboy Lake, 503 ha
- NR2 Sifting Creek, 697 ha
- NR3 Pickerel Lake, 98 ha
- NR4 Marie Louise, 30 ha
- NR5 Grassy Lake, 180 ha
- NR6 Middlebrun Bay 423 ha

A number of activities within NR2 (Sifting Lake nature reserve zone) are non-conforming uses. Such activities include use of motorized equipment for trail maintenance, ski trail grooming and emergency access vehicles. These activities must be phased out or zoning adjustments made, where appropriate, with regard to provincial park policy.

Wilderness (W) zones include wilderness landscapes of appropriate size (2000 ha is the recommended minimum) and integrity to protect natural and cultural values, and to support low-impact types of backcountry recreation, such as hiking. Development is limited to trails and signs necessary for route identification.

Wilderness Zones in Sleeping Giant

- W1 Lizard Lake, 2950 ha
- W2 Ferns Lake, 2210 ha
- W3 Sleeping Giant, 9853 ha

A number of activities within W3 (Sleeping Giant wilderness zone) are occurring as non-conforming uses. Such activities include mountain biking on non-designated trails, rock and ice climbing, and the use of motorized vehicles for trail maintenance, emergency access and ski trail grooming. These activities must be phased out or zoning adjustments made, where appropriate, with regard to provincial park policy. There is an old cabin on the north shore of Sawyers Bay in W3, that is deteriorating and that represents a potential hazard to visitors.

Historical (H) zones encompass the provincially significant cultural resources of a park. They generally focus on a specific site (i.e. occupation site, building) and that site's relationship to the surrounding landscape; they may include a protective buffer around the main feature in the zone. Development is limited to trails, necessary signs, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities and historical restoration or reconstruction where appropriate.

Historical Zones in Sleeping Giant

- H1 Brohm Site, 49 ha
- H2 Silver Islet Cemetery, 1 ha

The North Scenic drive passes through H1 (Brohm Site historic zone) and requires relocation. Visitors to H2 (Silver Islet Cemetery historic zone) often trespass on private property in Silver Islet instead of using the cemetery trail located within the park.

Table 2: Permitted Recreational Uses By Park Zone

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES	Existing Permitted Activities and Facilities (Sleeping Giant 1988) by Zone						Potential Permitted Activities and Facilities by Zone For NE class parks					
	WI	NR	NE	HI	D	A	WI	NR	NE	HI	D	A
All terrain vehicles (ATV)											M ^b	M ^b
Aircraft landing: Commercial tourism Private									M		M	M M
Boating (power): Commercial Private Ice boating (non motorized)			Y ³ Y ³		Y ⁴ Y	Y ⁴ Y ³			M M	M ^a	M M	M M
Campgrounds: Car Boat-in/walk-in Group Back-country					Y ⁵ Y ⁶		M Y		M Y		Y M M	M M M
Canoeing/kayaking	Y	Y ⁷	Y		Y	Y	Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Demonstration Areas (i.e.-logging exhibits, etc.)										M ^a	M	
Hiking	Y	Y ⁹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Historical appreciation - self guided							Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Horseback riding - trail			Y ¹⁰			Y ¹⁰	M		M	M ^a	M	M
Mountain biking - designated trails			Y ⁸		Y ⁸	Y ⁸	M		M		M	M
Nature appreciation - self guided							Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Orienteering							Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Outfitting services											M	M
Outpost camp (commercial)							M		M			
Painting/photography							Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Picnic grounds										M	Y	Y
Playgrounds											M	
Recreation programs (organized)										M ^a	M	M
Resorts/lodges										M ^a	M	
Restaurants										M ^a	M	
Rock climbing							M		M		M	M
Sailing & sailboarding		Y ¹¹	Y ¹¹		Y	Y	M	M	Y	M	Y	M
Scuba and skin diving		Y ¹²	Y ¹²		Y	Y	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cross-country skiing/ snowshoeing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	M	Y	Y
Snowmobiling									M		M	M
Spelunking (cave exploration)							M		M		M	M
Fishing: Sport Commercial	Y		Y Y ¹	Y	Y Y ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sport hunting									M ^p			
Swimming - facility based	Y	Y ¹³	Y		Y	Y	Y	M	Y	M ^a	Y	Y
Gravel extraction			Y ²		Y ²	Y						

Legend:

- Y permitted in designated zone
- Y¹ zones NE3 and D2 only
- Y² zones NE2 and D1 only
- Y³ zone NE3 only
- Y⁴ maximum 10 horse power motors
- Y⁵ D1 only
- Y⁶ designated campsites only
- Y⁷ NR3 and NR5 only
- Y⁸ NE1 only, for zones identified permitted on designated trails only
- Y⁹ NR4 is excluded from hiking
- Y¹⁰ on designated trails in NE1 and A only
- Y¹¹ NR5 and NE3 only

- Y¹² NR5, NE1 and NE3
- Y¹³ NR3 and NR5 only
- M may be permitted in designated zones
- M^p may be permitted if supported in management plan
- M^a may be permitted if authentic to the historical zone
- Blank not compatible with this zone –if now existing, a non-conforming use to be phased out

Natural Environment (NE) zones include natural landscapes, which permit the minimum level of development required to support low-intensity recreational activities. Development is limited to trails, necessary signs and minimal interpretive facilities.

Natural Environment Zones in Sleeping Giant

- NE1 Rita Lake, 2300 ha
- NE2 Sibley Creek, 387 ha
- NE3 Lake Superior, 2401 ha

A number of activities within NE1 (Rita Lake natural environment zone) are occurring as non-conforming. Such activities include the park waste disposal site (dump), the sewage lagoon, a target shooting range used by the OPP and Conservation Officers, and the use of motorized vehicles for trail maintenance and ski trail grooming. These activities must be phased out or zoning adjustments made, where appropriate, with regard to provincial park policy.

There is an old dock on the north shore of Sawyers Bay in NE3, that is deteriorating and that represents a potential hazard to visitors.

Access (A) zones serve as staging areas, a means of both providing and regulating use in areas of the park geared towards low-impact recreation.

Development is limited to roads and visitor control structures although limited self-use orientation, interpretive or educational facilities may be developed. Limited facilities for research and park management may also be present.

Access Zone in Sleeping Giant

- A1 600 ha

The access corridor to D2 (Finlay Bay development zone) has not been developed. The access road that passes through H1 (Brohm Site historical zone) has not been relocated. The access corridor also passes through private property at Bays End view.

Development (D) zones contain areas geared towards the support of intensive car camping and day-use activities. They constitute a relatively small portion of most parks. Development may include roads, visitor control structures, beaches, picnic areas, car campgrounds, commercial service facilities, and orientation, interpretive, educational, research and management facilities.

Development Zones in Sleeping Giant

- D1 Marie Louise Lake, 1331 ha
- D2 Finlay Bay, 378 ha

A number of activities within D1 (Marie Louise Lake development zone) are occurring as nonconforming uses. These include the Silver Dog Sled race around Marie Louise Lake, as well as the use of the Sawbill Lake gravel pit as a shooting range by the OPP and Conservation Officers, and other areas in D1 for OPP tactical training. These activities must be phased out or zoning adjustments made, where appropriate, with regard to provincial park policy.

Development at D2 (Finlay Bay development zone) has not occurred.

Options for Issue 1

Option A: Retention of existing Zoning (Fig. 8A)

This option would maintain the existing zoning designations for Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. This option does not address any of the nonconforming uses described above, such as the use of mountain bikes and mechanized trail grooming that occur on park trails within wilderness and nature reserve zones. This option also retains the access and development zoning (D2) for Finlay Bay, which would continue to permit the potential development of this area of the park including the development of new access to Lake Superior. This option does not consider the development of new access to Lake Superior via Squaw Bay or Fork Bay. This option does not consider the creation of new nature reserve zones to protect sensitive features. This option does not consider the acquisition and natural environment zoning of the bed of Lake Superior adjacent to the park boundary from Tee Harbour to Perry Bay and from Fork Bay to Middlebrun Bay.

Option B: Adjustments to existing Zoning (Fig. 8B)

B1. This option would create two new nature reserve zones: NR7 and NR8.

The NR7 designation would include the talus slopes and diabase cliffs associated with the mesas of the Sleeping Giant. The diabase cliffs and talus slopes form a rare type of open habitat in a forested area, with sparse vegetation dominated by shrubs, mosses and lichens. The diabase cliffs also provide a relatively nutrient rich substrate. These conditions combine to form to rare-to-uncommon vegetation types in Ontario; Basic Open Cliff Type and Basic Open Talus Type. These provincially rare vegetation types warrant nature reserve zoning. NR7 would not include the Kabeyun and Talus Lake trail corridors in order to accommodate the interior campsites located along their length. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B1 (NR7).

Figure 8A: Existing Zoning

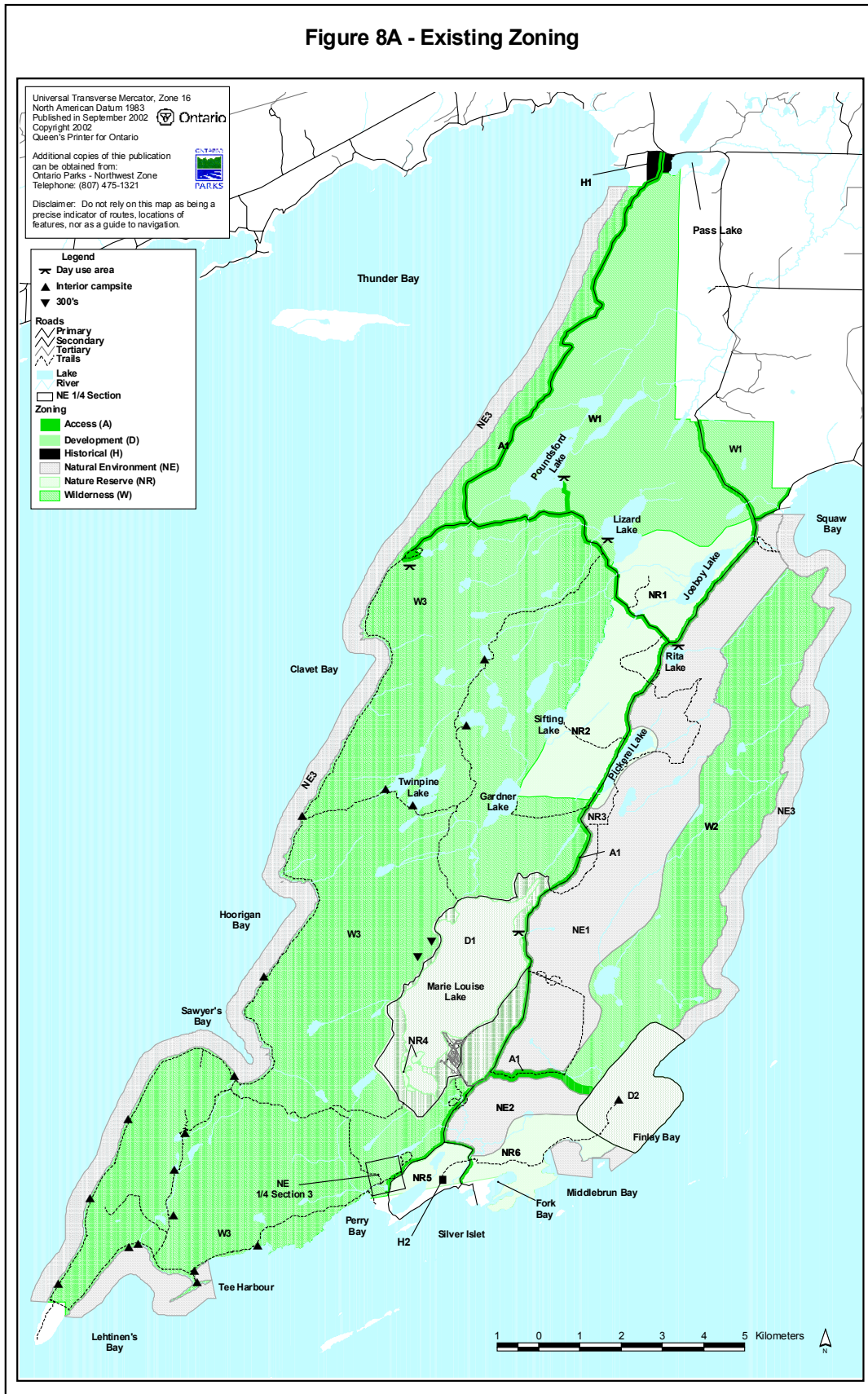
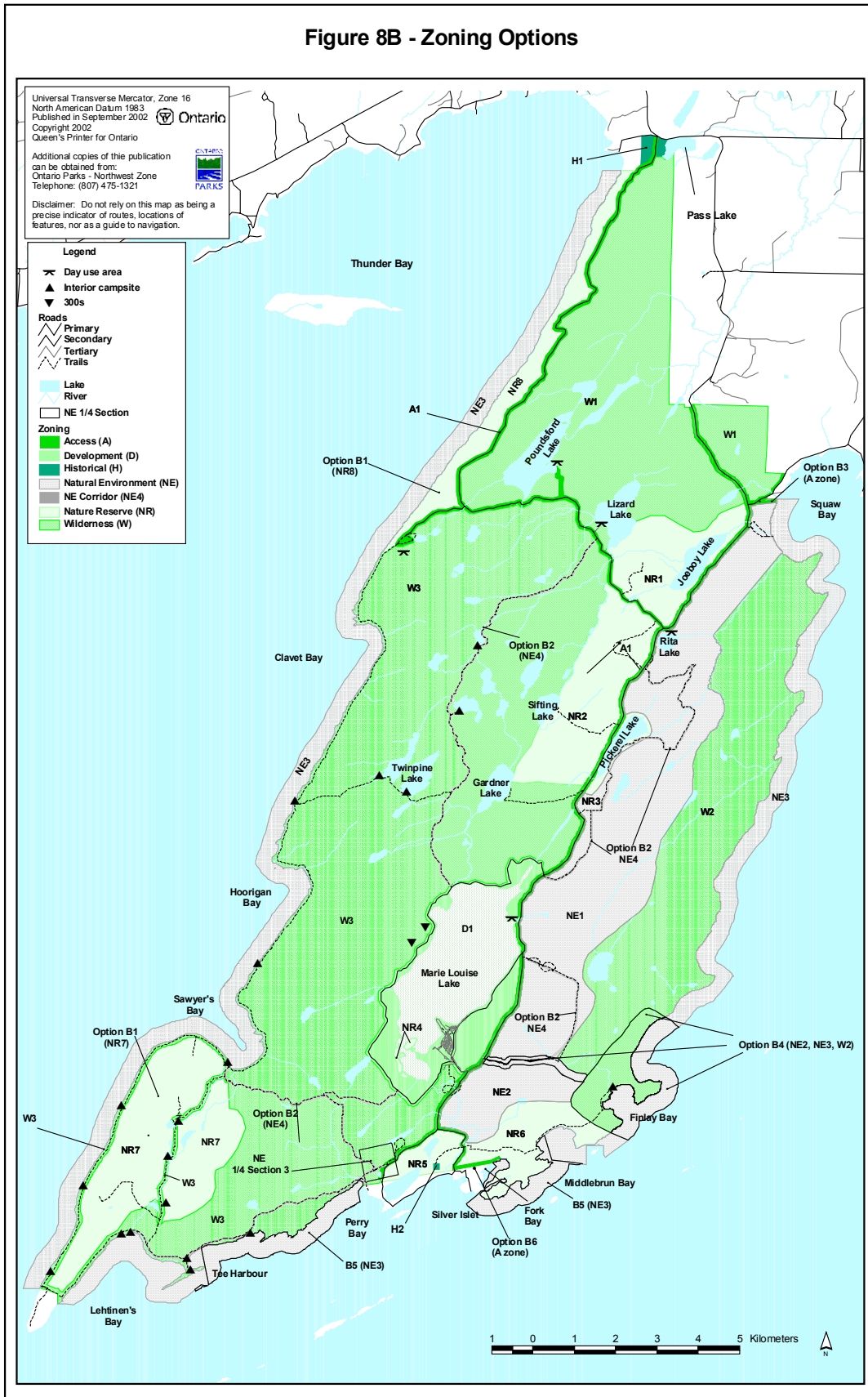


Figure 8B: Zoning Options



The NR8 designation would include all of the cliffs north of the Thunder Bay Lookout. These cliffs provide nesting habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*). Peregrine falcons were hacked from the cliffs of the park as part of Project Peregrine between 1990-1996. Peregrine falcons have been nesting along the cliffs of the peninsula since 1997 (Ratcliff 2002). Nesting sites are sensitive to human disturbance. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B1 (NR8).

B2. This option would create a new zone designation for the trail corridors that are used for mechanized trail grooming and emergency and trail maintenance access by park vehicles. It also includes the trails that are best suited for mountain bikes. The proposed natural environment zone NE4 would be a six metre-wide corridor measured from the centre point of the trails in the W3, NR2, and NR3 zones to permit continued:

- mechanized ski trail grooming (Burma, Pickerel and Wildlife Habitat Nature trail loop),
- emergency access and trail maintenance (Burma, Pickerel and Wildlife Habitat Nature trail loop, South Kabeyun to Tee Harbour, Lehtinen's Bay, Sawyer's Bay and Sawbill Lake)
- mountain biking on designated trails (South Kabeyun to Tee Harbour and Lehtinen's Bay, South Kabeyun to Sawyer's Bay, and Sawbill Lake to Marie Louise Scenic Drive).

On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B2 (NE4).

B3. This option would extend the existing A1 zone for the Squaw Bay Road corridor through a small part of the NE1 zone to create access to the shore of Lake Superior at Squaw Bay for development of parking and boat launch facilities for non-motorized watercraft (canoes and sea kayaks). Refer to Issue 3 option B2. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B3 (A zone).

B4. This option would change the zoning designation of the of the lands and waters of the D2 zone at Finlay Bay to NE3 for the Lake Superior portion and W2 for the land portion. This option would also change the A1 zone designation from where it extends between highway 587 and the D2 zone and change it to NE2. This change in zoning would prohibit facility development in this part of the park and would provide increased protection for life science features that include rare orchids and alpine arctic disjuncts. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B4 (NE2, NE3, and W2).

B5. This option would require extension of park tenure over the bed of the lake for 400 metres to

extend the existing NE3 (Lake Superior natural environment zone) along the south shore of the Sibley peninsula. This addition would include a 400 metre corridor of the bed and the waters of Lake Superior from Tee Harbour to Perry Bay and from Fork Bay to Middlebrun Bay. This option would make the NE3 zone contiguous with the land base of the park. It would not include the waters of the lake adjacent to the community of Silver Islet or around Middlebrun Island. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B5 (NE3).

B6. This option would extend the existing A1 zone for the Silver Islet road corridor through a small part of the NR6 zone to create access to the shore of Lake Superior at Fork Bay for development of parking and boat launch facilities for non-motorized watercraft (canoes and sea kayaks). This extension would be subject to an assessment of the sensitivity of the vegetation and wildlife habitat in the prospective corridor, and at the prospective boat launch site. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B6 (A zone).

Issue 2: What activities are appropriate in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park?

A variety of activities occur in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park including car and interior camping, hiking, mountain biking, wildlife and scenic viewing, sport fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, rock and ice climbing, boating and sea kayaking. Park uses must be evaluated for their impacts on park values and potential conflicts with other uses. These include scrambling, rock climbing, mountain biking on- and off-trail, and hike-in camping on top of the mesas or in other parts of the park.

Scrambling

Scrambling consists of ascending and descending rocky (i.e. talus) slopes on foot. Scrambling can damage or destroy the sensitive plant communities that grow on talus. Scrambling can also result in severe erosion to areas with shallow soil and vegetation. This activity can also raise the issue of public safety. The extensive talus slopes at Sleeping Giant provide ample opportunity for this activity but at the expense of the fragile plant communities of these areas. Scrambling is a non-conforming activity that is not addressed by provincial park policy but may be considered as a form of rock climbing.

The most well known and popular site for scrambling is located below the Chimney on the recently closed Chimney Trail. There may be other sites located along the length of the Kabeyun Trail.

Rock climbing

Rock climbing consists of ascending and descending vertical rock faces and crevices with or without the use of permanent bolts to secure belay lines. Rock climbers often scrub lichens and other plants from the rock surfaces being climbed and trample vegetation in staging areas. There is a growing body of scientific evidence to indicate that rock climbing causes considerable damage to vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens on the cliff edges, cliff face and talus slopes of climbing areas. Rock climbing can also increase the probability of alien plant invasion through the introduction of alien propagules on shoes, clothing and equipment (McMillan and Douglas 2002). This activity can also raise the issue of public safety. The extensive cliffs at Sleeping Giant provide ample opportunity for this activity but at the expense of the rare and fragile plant communities of these areas, as described in Issue 1 Option B1. A total of 22 rock climbing routes have been described in the vicinity of the Chimney on a website promoting climbing in the Thunder Bay area (Sleeping Giant Adventure Site). Most of the routes are considered intermediate and were first climbed in the early 1980s. The amount of climbing activity presently occurring within the park is not known. Rock climbing is a non-conforming activity in undesignated zones.

Mountain Biking

The use of mountain bikes has grown significantly in recent years and provincial parks have become increasingly popular destinations for this activity. Sleeping Giant has become a well-known destination for mountain bike enthusiasts who primarily use the Tee Harbour and Sawyers Bay trails. Mountain biking on trails can conflict with hiking/walking. Mountain biking can also result in significant compaction and erosion of trails. Mountain biking can also occur off-trail which can result in severe impacts to plant communities. Mountain biking is a non-conforming activity in undesignated zones / on undesignated trails.

The use of mountain bikes to gain access to an area that would otherwise require a significant time investment to hike to, can increase the total number of users significantly. At Sleeping Giant this is evident in the exponential increase in the number of people in the past decade, using mountain bikes to gain access to the Chimney Trail, a situation that accelerated erosional processes and led to its recent closure for safety reasons. The use of mountain bikes has also increased the number of interior visitors to the popular Tee Harbour and Sawyers Bay camping areas.

Interior Camping

Backcountry camping has impacts with regard to the use of firewood as well as with human waste and garbage disposal. The use of backcountry campsites has increased due to the popularity of Sawyers Bay and Tee Harbour with hikers, mountain bikers, and boaters (sailors and motor cruisers). The growing popularity of sea kayaking will also add to the use of coastal interior campsites. Interior campsites have experienced unplanned / unsanctioned increases in size as greater numbers of parties use these sites at the same time and create new tent areas and fire rings. Staff resources are required to maintain interior campsites as well as to enforce park rules.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is presently a permitted activity on designated trails within NE1 and A1. This activity has not proved popular since the 1988 management plan was developed. Horseback riding can present conflicts with other trail users. As well horses can increase the width of the trail corridor and increase the potential for trail erosion and braiding (where horses compact a narrow section of trail into a trough and subsequent users create a widening and/or branching of the trail). Horses can also introduce exotic plant species into the park by way of horse manure.

Target Practice/Tactical Training

The Ontario Provincial Police, Thunder Bay Police and MNR Conservation Officers use an old gravel pit located in the NE1 (Rita Lake) as well as the Sawbill Lake gravel pit in D1 (Marie Louise Lake) for target practice with their firearms. Other areas of D1 are used for tactical training. These activities are non-conforming uses within the park. These activities occur in association with the use of the park accommodation facilities for regular training sessions.

Waste Disposal Site and Sewage Lagoon

The park waste disposal site (dump) is located in NE1 (Rita Lake). This site is used to dispose of refuse from the Marie Louise Lake campground. The residents of Silver Islet also use the dump. This facility is a non-conforming facility as park policy directs that solid waste is to be disposed outside of the park through local crown or municipal sites operating in accordance with Ministry of Environment guidelines and having valid certificates of approval. The 1988 Park Management Plan directed that this site be closed.

The sewage lagoon is also located in NE1 (Rita Lake). The lagoon site is located adjacent to an old gravel pit. It consists of two collection chambers and a concrete dumping ramp. Materials from the parks' vault privies

and septic tanks are disposed into the chambers where they can percolate through the substrate.

Other nonconforming activities

The Silver Dog sled race takes place annually at the Marie Louise Lake campground on the Marie Louise Lake Scenic Drive. The race has been held since 2000. A car rally has used park roads from Pass Lake to Rita Lake since 2001. Both of these activities are non-conforming activities that are not addressed by provincial park policy.

Options for Issue 2

Park policy uses zoning to limit the areas in which activities can occur; for example, mountain biking may occur on designated trails in development, access, wilderness and natural environment zones, and rock climbing may occur on designated routes in wilderness, natural environment, development and access zones. Rock climbing and scrambling are increasingly popular activities; some would suggest that it is better to direct an activity to a specific location where impacts have already occurred, been assessed and deemed acceptable. Compliance with designated trails or activity areas requires public information strategies through the NHE program as well as active enforcement by park staff.

Many of the activities that are perceived as incompatible with the park are deemed so because of where they presently occur or because the activity is not designated to a specific/exclusive area. Activities may also be considered incompatible with the protection directive of park policy. As was stated above, ensuring that park users follow the rules is a challenge.

A number of existing activities listed above do not conform to park policy and will be phased out and/or eliminated. These include the use of park roads for car rallies; the use of the old gravel pits in the NE1 (Rita Lake) and the gravel pit in D1 (Marie Louise Lake) for target practice and the use of other areas of D1 for tactical training. This includes the closure and decommissioning of the waste disposal site located in NE1 and subsequent removal of all park solid waste to an approved facility. This will require that the solid waste generated by the residents of Silver Islet also be removed to an approved facility at their own expense.

Option A: Permit Most Existing Uses to Continue

This option would permit most of the activities that are presently occurring in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park to continue. This option does not address

incompatible activities. This option could include all or some of the following:

A1. Mountain biking would be permitted to continue on the trails where it presently occurs (Tee Harbour, Sawyers Bay, Talus lake, Middlebrun Bay, Burma, and Pickerel Lake). Off-trail biking would be prohibited.

A2. Mechanized grooming of the parks ski trail system that uses road corridors and trails in NR3, W1 and NE1 (Burma, Pickerel and the Wildlife Habitat loop) would continue as a non-conforming activity in these zones.

A3. Scrambling would be permitted to continue only on the talus slope below the Chimney, where impacts have already occurred.

A4. Rock climbing would be permitted on some of the 22 routes described on the Sleeping Giant Adventure website based upon an assessment of the condition of the routes as well as the fragility of the vegetation associated with the routes. Guidelines for cliff access and use would be developed to control impacts of these activities. Climbing permits would be issued to qualified organizations in order to control and direct this activity.

A5. The use of interior campsites by boaters, hikers, kayakers and cyclists would continue at the present level of development, custodial management and enforcement.

A6. Horseback riding would be permitted to continue on designated trails in NE1 (Rita Lake) and in A1.

A7. The Silver Dog sled race would be permitted to continue in D1 (Marie Louise Lake) only.

A8. Motorized recreational watercraft would continue to be permitted on Marie Louise Lake with a 10 horse power limit.

A9. The use of personal watercraft (PWCs, jet skis) would be permitted only within the Lake Superior waters of the park (NE3).

A10. The old cabin in W3 and the old dock in NE3 at Sawyers Bay would be left to deteriorate.

Option B: Limit Incompatible Uses; Prohibit Identified Activities that are Considered to be Incompatible

B1. The proposed NE4 zone would permit mountain biking only on designated routes and prohibit it on the park's other hiking and interpretive trails. Off-trail biking would be prohibited. Mountain bikes would be permitted only on:

- the South Kabeyun trail to Tee Harbour and Lehtinen's Bay
- the Sawyer's Bay trail
- the Sawbill Lake trail
- the Marie Louise Lake scenic drive in D1, and
- the North Scenic Drive (A1).

The NE4 designation would also allow mechanized grooming of the parks ski trail system that uses road corridors and trails (Burma, Pickerel and the Wildlife Habitat loop) to continue as a conforming activity in a designated zone. Refer to Issue 1 Option B2.

B2. This option would prohibit scrambling and rock climbing altogether. This option gives primary consideration to the protection of park values as well as park visitors with regard to public safety.

B3. This option would consider the development of an interior camping management strategy/plan that could include a quota system and require registration of all interior campers for specific sites. This would include hikers, cyclists and boaters who use Tee Harbour and Sawyers Bay as well as sea kayakers and hikers who use the shoreline campsites along the Kabeyun Trail and at Finlay Bay. Refer to Issue 6 option B1.

B4. This option would consider the development of permanent boat moorings at Tee Harbour, Sawyer Bay, and Findlay Bay with entry registration kiosks, firewood shelters and fire pits. The park would provide pit privies and a supply of firewood. Refer to Issue 6 option B2 and to Issue 11 option B1.

B5. This option would remove horseback riding from the list of activities permitted for Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

B6. This option would consider the closure and decommissioning of the sewage lagoon site located in NE1 and subsequent removal of all park sewage waste to an approved facility. Alternatively, the zone designation of the sewage lagoon area could be changed to development zone or access zone in order to comply with park policy.

B7. This option would prohibit dog sled races as well as dog sled use within the park. The use of dog sleds on other park trails would also be prohibited.

B8. This option would prohibit the use of recreational motorized watercraft on Marie Louise Lake. This option gives primary consideration to the protection of park values.

B9. This option would prohibit the use of personal watercraft (PWCs, jet skis) on the waters of Lake Superior within the park boundary (NE3). This option gives primary consideration of the protection of park values.

B10. The old cabin in W3 and the old dock in NE3 at Sawyers Bay would be demolished.

Issue 3: Should a new road be created to improve access to Lake Superior from within the park?

With the growth in the number of visitors to the park, and the establishment of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site and Parks Canada's National Marine Conservation Area, demand for access to Lake Superior will continue to increase.

Options for Issue 3

Option A: This option would not consider the development of new road access to Lake Superior from within the park boundary. This option would consider the use of the South Kabeyun trailhead parking lot and improvements to the road corridor From Marie Louise Lake campground to Silver Islet to alleviate traffic congestion associated with the federal dock at Silver Islet. Boaters would be encouraged/required to launch/unload their boat, return to park at the south Kabeyun trailhead and walk down to the dock. Park visitors to Silver Islet would be encouraged/required to park at the trailhead and walk into Silver Islet. Refer to Issue 8 option B2.

Option B1: This option would consider through market research and business planning, the development of an access road to Finlay Bay. This option would develop the access zone corridor (A1) to Finlay Bay, with parking and boat launch facilities for non-motorized watercraft (canoes and sea kayaks) in the D2 zone on the shore of Finlay Bay. This option does not permit the changes in zoning presented in Issue 1 Option B4.

Option B2: This option would consider through market research and business planning, the development of an access point at (the soon to be renamed) Squaw Bay with parking and boat launch facilities for non-motorized watercraft (canoes and sea kayaks). This would require extending the existing Access zone from the Squaw Bay road corridor, through a small part of the NE1 zone, to the shore of Lake Superior. Refer to Issue 1 option B3. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B3 (A zone).

B3. This option would consider the extension of the existing A1 zone for the Silver Islet road corridor through a small part of the NR6 zone to create access to the

shore of Lake Superior at Fork Bay. It would include development of boat launch facilities with parking for non-motorized watercraft (canoes and sea kayaks). This extension would be subject to an assessment of the sensitivity of the vegetation and wildlife habitat in the prospective corridor, and at the prospective boat launch site. Refer to Issue 1 option B6. On Figure 8B, Zoning Options this option is labelled option B6 (A zone).

Issue 4: Changing demographics and alternatives to camping

A variety of factors will, over time, affect the demographic profile of park users. Those factors include the influence of the aging 'baby boomers', immigration, recreation, and travel preferences. The 1997 Ontario Consumer Survey for Ontario Parks, undertaken by COMPAS Inc., investigated a variety of factors that might encourage Ontario residents to visit a provincial park. The survey indicated that the provision of accommodations and a convenience store were motivations among non-park users. It also indicated that the provision of cabins/shelters would motivate visitors to use parks more in the autumn, winter and spring.

Options for Issue 4

Option A: This option would not consider the development of alternative roofed accommodation.

Option B1: This option would consider the feasibility of alternative roofed accommodation (i.e. yurts,¹ or cabins²) within Marie Louise Lake D1 zone as an alternative to camping. The feasibility assessment will include consideration of the type, number and siting of structures, impacts on other recreational uses, profitability, staff resources, water source, waste disposal, access, and maintenance.

Option B2: This option would consider the feasibility of primitive shelters³ in the more remote sections of the Kabeyun trail to encourage more shoulder season interior use with hut-to-hut hiking and winter use with cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The feasibility assessment will include consideration of the type, number and siting of structures, impacts on other recreational uses, profitability, staff resources, water source, waste disposal, access, and maintenance. Refer to Issue 11 option B2.

¹ A yurt is a lightweight prefabricated shelter, similar in size and function to a tent that provides overnight accommodation at a fixed location for an individual family or group of visitors.

² A cabin provides a source of heat and hydro, washroom facilities as well as basic cooking facilities.

³ A primitive shelter is a roofed shelter with a wood stove and bunks, but no hydro or washroom facilities.

Option B3: This option would consider the feasibility of warm-up huts on remote cross-country ski trails such as the Burma trail. The feasibility assessment will include consideration of the type, number and siting of structures, impacts on other recreational uses, waste disposal, access, and maintenance.

Issue 5: Entry control and revenue collection for day use

Day use of Sleeping Giant has grown considerably. At present, visitors purchase a daily vehicle permit at the park office/entry control at Marie Louise Lake campground from May through October. Day users may also purchase a permit through a self-serve kiosk at the south Kabeyun trailhead and at the access road to the Thunder Bay Lookout. Enforcing the requirement to purchase vehicle permits is difficult especially during the shoulder and winter seasons.

Options for Issue 5

Option A: This option would not consider any development of more active entry control and revenue collection.

Option B1: This option would consider a peak-season park entry control facility on Hwy 587 to direct and inform all park visitors about park facilities and to collect permit fees.

Option B2: This option would consider the installation of pay and display kiosks at popular trailheads such as the south Kabeyun, Middlebrun, Rita Lake, Thunder Bay Lookout.

Issue 6: Entry control, revenue collection, and more active management of interior and shoreline use

Interior use of Sleeping Giant has grown considerably. At present, visitors purchase interior camping permits at the park office/entry control at Marie Louise Lake campground from May through October. Interior campers may also purchase a permit year-round through a self-serve kiosk at the south Kabeyun trailhead and at the access road to the Thunder Bay Lookout. Enforcing the requirement to purchase interior permits is difficult especially during the shoulder and winter seasons.

The use of backcountry campsites has increased due to the popularity of Sawyers Bay and Tee Harbour with hikers, mountain bikers, and boaters (sailors and motor cruisers). The growing popularity of sea kayaking will also add to the use of coastal interior campsites. Interior campsites have experienced unplanned / unsanctioned

increases in size as greater numbers of parties use these sites at the same time and create new tent areas and fire rings. Staff resources are required to maintain interior campsites as well as to enforce park rules.

Options for Issue 6

Option A: This option would not consider the development of more active entry control and revenue collection for interior park users. This option would not consider more active interior management.

B1. This option would consider the development of an interior camping management strategy/plan that could include a quota system and require registration of all interior campers for specific sites. This would include hikers, cyclists and boaters who use Tee Harbour and Sawyers Bay as well as sea kayakers and hikers who use the shoreline campsites along the Kabeyun Trail and at Finlay Bay. This option would also consider campsite rationalization and rehabilitation. Refer to Issue 2 option B3.

B2. This option would consider the development of permanent boat moorings at Tee Harbour, Sawyer Bay, and Findlay Bay with entry registration kiosks, firewood shelters and fire pits. The park would provide pit privies and a supply of firewood. Refer to Issue 2 option B4 and to Issue 11 option B1.

Issue 7: Are existing trails both adequate and appropriate for recreation and for protection of natural features in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park?

As described in the Background Information, Sleeping Giant Provincial Park has seven nature trails, which have a combined length of 10 kilometres, and more than 80 kilometres of hiking trails used for nature appreciation, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. It is important to determine the appropriate degree of trail development for Sleeping Giant. This includes consideration of trail location, trail alignment and mitigation such as hard landscaping (boardwalks, primitive bridges, drainage) trail realignment and expansion, and trail closure.

Options for Issue 7

Option A: This option would retain existing trails as they are. This option does not require capital investment nor dedication of staff time. The park trail system would remain as it is, but as visitation increases, cumulative impacts will continue to occur. This option may not meet the protection requirement of park policy, especially with regard to trails that are

located in areas with rare plants or sensitive wildlife habitat.

Option B: This option would consider the rationalization of the trail system where required through updating and implementing the existing trail plan. A rationalization of the trail system would evaluate all of the trails shown on Figure 3A. Each trail would be assessed as to its function and associated environmental impacts to sensitive features. Unnecessary trails would be closed and trails located in environmentally fragile locations would be realigned and/or subjected to mitigation described above. Trail rationalization and mitigation would be contingent upon availability of capital funding.

Issue 8: Relationship of the park and the community of Silver Islet

Some residents of Silver Islet have expressed concern about the increased number of visitors to their community and the resulting traffic congestion and intrusions to their privacy. This is due to a number of factors. These include the increased number of visitors to the park in general, and visitors who are attracted to Silver Islet by private enterprise initiatives such as the general store, bicycle rentals and artisan shops. As well, there has been an increase in the use of the federal docking facility in Silver Islet for scuba divers, sailors and sea kayakers, as well as by outfitters accessing both the park and Lake Superior. Both the Great Lakes Heritage Coast and the proposed National Marine Conservation Area initiatives are expected to add to the number of visitors to the park as well as to Silver Islet and the federal dock facility.

Options for Issue 8

Option A: Work with the Silver Islet community, through the Campers Association, to develop ways to educate the park visitors about the community, shops and traffic flow, to help mitigate the effects of increased visitors.

Option B1: Consider the development of new access to Lake Superior within the park (i.e. Finlay Bay, Fork Bay or Squaw Bay) to reduce the number of parties using Silver Islet as a staging area for access to Lake Superior. Refer to Issue 1 options B3 and B6 and to Issue 3 options B1 and B2.

Option B2: Consider the use of the Kabeyun trailhead parking lot to alleviate traffic congestion associated with the federal docking facility at Silver Islet. This option would include improvements to the road corridor From Marie Louise Lake campground to Silver Islet to alleviate traffic congestion associated with the federal dock at Silver Islet. Boaters would be encouraged/required to launch/unload their boat, return

to park at the south Kabeyun trailhead and walk down to the dock. Park visitors to Silver Islet would be encouraged/required to use the parking lot and walk to Silver Islet to alleviate traffic congestion. Refer to Issue 3 option A.

B3. This option considers the development of a parking lot at the trailhead for the Middlebrun Bay / Finlay Bay trail to alleviate parking congestion on the road to Silver Islet.

B4. This option considers the development of a parking lot at the Silver Islet Cemetery trailhead to alleviate congestion on the Silver Islet road as well as to encourage visitors to the cemetery to use the trail instead of gaining access to the site via private property in Silver Islet.

Issue 9: Natural Heritage Education

Sleeping Giant is designated as a major activity program level of service for Natural Heritage Education. Major activity programs emphasize personal service programming and self use to deliver major park themes, resource interpretation, recreational skills and park management messages. The park has a visitors' center in the Marie Louise Lake Campground from which the Natural Heritage Education program is administered.

Options for Issue 9

Option A: This option does not consider changing the level of staffing in the Natural Heritage Education program at Sleeping Giant.

Option B: This option considers the establishment of a full-time Natural Heritage Education Specialist position at Sleeping Giant.

Issue 10: Vegetation and Wildlife Management

Over the last century, the peninsula's forest composition has changed as a result of natural and human caused disturbances (e.g., logging, fire, roads, spruce budworm). The peninsula's wildlife has also changed over this same time period, suggesting that these factors (i.e. disturbance and wildlife composition and abundance) are related. Many other factors (e.g., predation, disease, climate, and stochastic processes) also affect wildlife and thus, may influence the peninsula's composition and abundance.

The natural features of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park are provincially as well as regionally significant. These include:

- Crevasses, talus, and cliffs bathed in cold air, as well as the cool shoreline of Lake Superior that provide habitat for alpine-arctic disjuncts
- Areas of lime rich soils and fens that provide habitat for orchids and other rare plants.
- Relic White and Red pine populations that are in decline and indicate that the park is ready for its next major fire event.
- Peregrine falcons nesting on cliff faces along western boundary of the peninsula.
- The landscape effect of the Sibley peninsula on wildlife, vegetation, and disturbance patterns.
- The role of the Sibley peninsula as an important migratory bird corridor.

Options for Issue 10

Option A: This option considers the development of the "Fire in Parks" project to explore ways to maintain the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the park, while balancing this with the needs of the park users. This may include the restoration of red and white pine as well as vegetation management direction for rare/sensitive plant species such as arctic-alpine disjuncts and orchids. This option may also consider strategic wildlife inventory, with systematic monitoring to provide planners and managers with appropriate wildlife data to inform the management of wildlife populations. This includes consideration of species such as deer and bear.

The following options for this issue are the same as those presented for Issue 1 Option B1 and B4.

Option B1. This option would create two new nature reserve zones: NR7 and NR8 (Refer to Figure 8B).

The NR7 designation would include the talus slopes and diabase cliffs associated with the mesas of the Sleeping Giant. The diabase cliffs and talus slopes form a rare type of open habitat in a forested area, with sparse vegetation dominated by shrubs, mosses and lichens. These provincially rare vegetation types warrant nature reserve zoning. NR7 would not include the Kabeyun and Talus Lake trail corridors in order to accommodate the interior campsites located along their length.

The NR8 designation would include all of the cliffs north of the Thunder Bay Lookout. These cliffs provide nesting habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*). Peregrine falcons were hacked from the cliffs of the park as part of Project Peregrine between 1990-1996. Peregrine falcons have been nesting along the cliffs of the peninsula since 1997 (Ratcliff 2002). Nesting sites are sensitive to human disturbance.

B2. This option would change the zoning designation of the of the lands and waters of the D2 zone at Finlay Bay to NE3 for the Lake Superior portion and W2 for the land portion. This option would also change the A1 zone designation from where it extends between highway 587 and the D2 zone and change it to NE2. This change in zoning would prohibit facility development in this part of the park and would provide increased protection for life science features that include rare orchids and alpine arctic disjuncts.

Issue 11: Role of Sleeping Giant within the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site

The importance of Lake Superior's north shore is gaining recognition through the Great Lakes Heritage Coast Signature Site (GLHC). The GLHC is one of nine Ontario's Living Legacy Signature Sites with a range of significant natural features and world-class tourism and recreation values that warrant special strategies. The GLHC extends 4,200 kilometres from Port Severn on Georgian Bay, including Manitoulin Cockburn and St. Joseph islands, to Pigeon River Provincial Park at the Ontario-Minnesota Border. Sleeping Giant Provincial Park is one of 71 new and existing provincial parks and conservation areas along the coast.

The GLHC project team is at present preparing the Heritage Coast strategy. This includes compiling existing natural resource, recreation and tourism information to develop a strategy that protects the natural beauty of the coast and its ecosystems while identifying and developing new opportunities for tourism and recreation.

A number of capital projects in provincial parks in the northwest including the development of the new Top of the Giant Trail to replace the Chimney Trail at Sleeping Giant have been completed in support of the GLHC initiative. The opportunity exists for other capital projects that promote improvements to tourism and recreation infrastructure in the park.

Options for Issue 11

Option A. This option considers the role of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park within Ontario's Living Legacy Great Lakes Heritage Coast. This includes the role of the park as a regional anchor in the marketing of the Heritage Coast in northwestern Ontario. This also includes the potential for Ontario Parks to work with Tourism Thunder Bay, and the Ministries of Culture and Northern Development and Mines to optimize opportunities for marketing, partnering and packaging of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

Option B. This option considers the capital projects that are currently being contemplated by Ontario Parks. These options are also presented in Issue 2 Option B4 and Issue 4 Option B2 and in Issue 6 Option B2.

B1. The development of permanent boat moorings at Tee Harbour, Sawyer Bay, and Findlay Bay with entry registration kiosks, firewood shelters and fire pits. The park would provide pit privies and a supply of firewood.

B2. The development of primitive shelters in the more remote sections of the Kabeyun trail to encourage hut-to-hut hiking and cross-country skiing. A feasibility assessment would include consideration of the type, number and siting of structures, impacts on other recreational uses, profitability, water source, waste disposal, access, and maintenance.

Issue 12: Role of Sleeping Giant within the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Sleeping Giant also abuts Parks Canada's proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). National Marine Conservation Areas are intended to protect the coastal marine resources of each of Canada's marine regions. These resources include the lakebed, its overlaying waters and wetlands, river estuaries, islands and coast.

The proposed Lake Superior NMCA boundaries are currently under negotiation with the Province of Ontario. Some of the many partnership proposals include joint research, visitor services and marketing. Parks Canada has proposed that Sleeping Giant Provincial Park may wish to participate as a *Port of Discovery*.

A Port of Discovery is a development concept used to classify an area or a specific location for marketing and interpretation of the National Marine Conservation Area. Options include the provision of information using signage, kiosks or interpretive facilities. Ports of Discovery are to be developed through community partnerships. Ports of Discovery can also be Gateways to the proposed NMCA, which can include development of new access or improvement of existing access to Lake Superior.

Options for Issue 12

Option A: This option considers the role of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park as a *Port of Discovery* within Parks Canada's proposed National Marine Conservation Area. This includes consideration of joint marketing, research and visitor services.

Option B: This option considers the role of Sleeping Giant as a Gateway to the proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area. This includes consideration of the development of new access or the improvement of existing access to Lake Superior.

References

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Your Personal Invitation....

As someone with an interest in the long-term management of Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, you are invited to get involved in the management planning process. We hope that the Issues and Options presented in this document have enhanced your understanding of Sleeping Giant's resources, users and management issues. We welcome any comments, concerns or suggestions you might have regarding the contents of this document. Please take a few moments to fill out the comment form and return it to the northwest zone office.

Please direct all questions and comments to:
Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
Management Plan Review
435 James Street South Suite 221 D
Thunder Bay Ontario P7E 6S8
Phone (807) 977-2505
or (807) 475-1477

Sleeping Giant Park Management Plan Review Comment Sheet

Please direct your comments and questions to: Cam Snell Superintendent, Sleeping Giant Provincial Park
c/o NWZ Ontario Parks, 435 James Street S. Ste 221d
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6S8
(807) 825-3413 / FAX 475-1499
Email: cam.snell@mnr.gov.on.ca

OR leave your comments at the Ontario Parks North West Zone Office.

The issues that have been identified to date represent input from interested groups and individuals as well as from Ontario Parks staff. The options presented here are intended to solicit comment from interested groups and individuals. The options present a range of ideas to address park management issues. Due to this, some options contradict other options. The reader is advised to consider the options independently, as well as to consider how a preferred option would affect other options. As well, the reader is encouraged to consider combinations of options, and to identify new issues and new options.

Issue 1 Zoning

Option A

Option B1

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

Issue 2 Permitted Activities

Option A1

A2

A3

A4

A5

A6

A7

A8

A9

Issue 2 Permitted activities continued

A10

Option B1

B2

B3

B4

B5

B6

B7

B8

B9

B10

Issue 3 New Access to Lake Superior

Option A

Option B1

B2

B3

Issue 4 Alternatives to camping

Option A

Option B1

B2

B3

Issue 5 Entry Control and revenue collection for day-use

Option A

Option B1

Entry control and revenue collection for day-use continued B2

Issue 6 Entry control , revenue collection and more active interior and shoreline management

Option A

Option B1

B2

Issue 7 Trails

Option A

Option B

Issue 8 Relationship of the park and Silver Islet

Option A

Option B1

B2

B3

B4

Issue 9 Natural Heritage Education

Option A

Option B

Issue 10 Vegetation and wildlife management

Option A

Option B1

B2

Issue 11 Great Lakes Heritage Coast

Option A

Option B1

B2

Issue 12 proposed Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Option A

Option B

Other comments, issues, and options?

COMMENT DEADLINE: September 5, 2003

Thank you for taking the time to complete this comment sheet. Your comments will be taken into consideration during the development of the preliminary park management plan. If you would like your name added to the mailing list, please check the appropriate box below, and provide your name and address information.

Add my name to the mailing list: **Yes** **No**

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Town/City: _____

Province / State: _____ Postal / Zip Code: _____

The Ministry of Natural Resources/Ontario Parks is collecting comments and information regarding the Sleeping Giant Management Plan under the authority of the *Provincial Parks Act* to assist in making decisions and determining further public consultation needs. Comments and opinions will be kept on file for use during the plan review period and may be included in study documentation, which is made available for public review.

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (1987), personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, the information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources/Ontario Parks to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects. For further information regarding this Act, please contact Dave Jackson in Thunder Bay at (807) 475-1581.