

*Woodland Caribou Provincial Park*  
*Park Management Plan*

*Abstract*



## Approval Statement

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am pleased to approve the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan as the official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks' intent to protect the natural and cultural features of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and maintain and develop opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation experiences and heritage appreciation for the residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province.

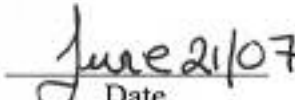
This document outlines an implementation strategy for the plan's elements and summarizes the consultation that occurred as part of the planning process. Consultation occurred at the Terms of Reference, Background Information, Issues and Options, and Preliminary Park Management Plan stages. Consultation included direct notices, newspaper advertisements, open houses and postings on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry.

The plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be used to guide the management of the park over the next twenty years. During that time, the Management Plan may be reviewed to address changing issues or conditions, and may be amended as the need arises.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those who participated in the planning process.

Yours truly,

  
A. Ireland-Smith  
Managing Director  
Ontario Parks

  
Date

**Table of Contents**

*Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights*.....iv

**1.0 Context** .....1

    1.1 Planning Context.....1

    1.2 Aboriginal Context .....1

**2.0 Introduction**.....1

**3.0 Classification** .....2

**4.0 Goal** .....2

**5.0 Objectives**.....3

    5.1 Protection Objective.....3

        5.1.1 Earth Science Features.....3

        5.1.2 Life Science Features.....3

        5.1.3 Cultural Resources Features .....4

    5.2 Heritage Appreciation Objective .....4

    5.3 Recreation Objective.....4

    5.4 Tourism Objective .....4

**6.0 Boundary** .....5

**7.0 Zoning** .....5

    7.1 Nature Reserve Zones .....5

    7.2 Historical Zones.....6

    7.3 Wilderness Zones .....6

    7.4 Access Zones.....6

        7.3.1 Year-round Access Zones.....6

        7.3.2 Seasonal Access Zones.....8

        7.3.3 Temporary Access Zones .....9

**8.0 Resource Management Policies** .....10

    8.1 Terrestrial Ecosystem Management.....10

        8.1.1 Vegetation.....10

        8.1.2 Forest Fire Management.....10

        8.1.3 Insects and Disease .....10

        8.1.4 Wildlife .....10

            8.1.4.1 Hunting .....10

            8.1.4.2 Trapping.....10

        8.1.5 Land Management and Disposition.....10

            8.1.5.1 Mining.....10

            8.1.5.2 Commercial Tourism .....11

            8.1.5.3 Private Recreation Camps .....11

            8.1.5.4 Patent Lands.....11



8.2	<i>Aquatic Ecosystem Management</i> .....	11
8.2.1	<i>Fisberies</i> .....	11
8.2.1.1	<i>Sport Fishing</i> .....	11
8.2.1.2	<i>Commercial Fishing and Bait Harvesting</i> .....	11
8.2.2	<i>Water Management</i> .....	11
8.3	<i>Cultural Ecosystem Management</i> .....	11
8.3.1	<i>Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River</i> .....	11
<b>9.0</b>	<b><i>Operations Policies</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
9.1	<i>Recreation Management</i> .....	12
9.1.1	<i>Backcountry Travel</i> .....	12
9.1.2	<i>Campsites</i> .....	12
9.1.3	<i>Litter</i> .....	12
9.1.4	<i>Shorelunch Areas</i> .....	12
9.2	<i>Motorized Travel</i> .....	12
9.2.1	<i>Motorboats</i> .....	12
9.2.2	<i>Snowmobiles</i> .....	13
9.2.3	<i>All-Terrain Vehicles</i> .....	13
9.2.4	<i>Private Aircraft</i> .....	13
9.2.5	<i>Private Boat Caches</i> .....	13
9.3	<i>Access</i> .....	13
9.3.1	<i>Air Access</i> .....	13
9.3.2	<i>Aircraft Protocol</i> .....	14
9.3.3	<i>Road Access</i> .....	14
9.3.4	<i>Water Access</i> .....	14
9.3.5	<i>Seasonal Access</i> .....	14
9.4	<i>Commercial Tourism</i> .....	14
9.4.1	<i>Portage-to Boat Caches</i> .....	14
9.4.2	<i>Remote Fly-in Boat Caches</i> .....	14
9.5	<i>Natural Heritage Education</i> .....	14
9.5.1	<i>Information</i> .....	14
9.5.2	<i>Interpretation</i> .....	14
9.5.3	<i>Tourism Services</i> .....	15
9.6	<i>Research and Partnerships</i> .....	15
9.6.1	<i>Pikangikum First Nation/Ontario Parks Partnership</i> .....	15
9.6.2	<i>Manitoba/Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area</i> .....	15
9.7	<i>Marketing</i> .....	15
<b>10.0</b>	<b><i>Development Policies</i></b> .....	<b>16</b>
10.1	<i>Portages</i> .....	16
10.2	<i>Campsites</i> .....	16
10.3	<i>MNR Fire Fuel Cache</i> .....	16
10.4	<i>Access Zones</i> .....	16
10.5	<i>Trails</i> .....	16
10.6	<i>Signage</i> .....	16

**11.0 Implementation Priorities** .....17

    11.1 Boundary.....17

    11.2 Resource Stewardship .....17

    11.3 Operations .....17

    11.4 Development.....17

**12.0 Plan Review and Amendment** .....18

**Appendices**

    Appendix WCPP- 1: Social and Economic Impacts .....19

    Appendix WCPP -2: Summary of Public Consultation .....20



## *Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights*

The Statement of Environmental Values (SEV) is a document that describes how the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) is to be considered whenever decisions are made in the Ministry that might significantly affect the environment. This includes decisions made as a result of the park management planning process.



## 1.0 Context

### 1.1 Planning Context

This park management plan has been prepared consistent with direction contained in *Our Sustainable Future*, Ministry of Natural Resources Strategic Directions (2005) and with direction contained in *Protecting What Sustains Us: Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy* (2005).

### 1.2 Aboriginal Context

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is described as a cultural landscape. First Nations documentation confirms this research by their own records of Indigenous Knowledge, collaborative research with Ontario Parks and through their continued use of this landscape today.

The Ontario First Nation communities of Grassy Narrows, Pikangikum, Lac Seul and Wabaseemoong and the Manitoba First Nation community of Little Grand Rapids all have traditional use areas within the signature site. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is located within Treaty 3 and Treaty 5.

Consultation with local First Nations is a commitment made by Ontario Parks and integral to the planning process.

Nothing in this park management plan shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for the existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal people of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

## 2.0 Introduction

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the five recommended park additions represent 89% of the signature site.

On June 7, 1983 Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was regulated as a wilderness class park under the Provincial Parks Act by Ontario Regulation 343/83.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park includes critical woodland caribou habitat, significant earth and life science features, important cultural sites, excellent remote tourism opportunities, and many scenic canoe routes, including the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.

Commercial tourism activity in the park is supported by commercial air services, main-base lodges, outpost camps, and backcountry outfitters.

The Municipality of Red Lake is the closest community to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park located approximately 30 kilometres east of the park. Other communities in the immediate planning area include Pikangikum, Ear Falls, Kenora, Whitedog, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul and Little Grand Rapids in Manitoba.



### 3.0 *Classification*

Wilderness parks are defined as, “substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature” (*Ontario Provincial Park Planning and Management Policies* 1992)

### 4.0 *Goal*

The goal of the Ontario Provincial Parks system is, “to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments in a system of Provincial Parks”. Including the recommended park additions, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is Ontario’s 4th largest park and 3rd largest wilderness class park.



## 5.0 Objectives

The four objectives of the Ontario Provincial Parks system are: protection, heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism. As a wilderness class park, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will contribute to these through the following park objectives:

- Protect the wilderness values for which the park was created.
- Support or enhance ecological health.
- Protect and support a healthy population of forest-dwelling woodland caribou.
- Protect provincially significant natural features.
- Protect cultural heritage features.
- Provide a range of backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities where it is consistent with wilderness values and resource capacities.
- Support existing facility-based tourism where it is compatible with protection objectives.
- Consider new ecotourism opportunities where they are compatible with protection objectives.
- Investigate economic opportunities with First Nations that have traditional use within the site.

### 5.1 Protection Objective

*To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.*

Protection will be the primary objective of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

#### 5.1.1 Earth Science Features

The soils, glacial features and drainage patterns of the park are the result of the last glacial period. Strong glacial evidence exists from this period in the park, in the form of lacustrine<sup>1</sup> deposits of sand, silt and clay, wave-cut beach terraces and large tracts of bare bedrock cleared of debris by wave action. Most of the park became free of ice between 11,700 and 10,800 years ago.

1. Soil that is uniform in texture but variable in chemical composition and that has been formed by deposits in lakes which have become extinct.

#### 5.1.2 Life Science Features

Life science values consist of provincially significant plants and plant communities, various wetland complexes, unique aquatic areas, and sensitive wildlife, such as forest-dwelling woodland caribou.

The majority of plant species are characteristic of a boreal forest ecosystem. Species typical of the semi-arid prairie to the west make up the largest non-boreal floral element in the area and thus support the labelling of the park as prairie-boreal.

A number of significant plant species found in the park include red pine, American elm, bur oak, prairie rush, prairie spikemoss, parsley fern, prairie crocus, prairie buttercup, floating marsh-marigold and narrow-leaved sundew.

The Bloodvein River, of which 106 kilometres lies within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, was designated as part of the Canadian Heritage River System in 1998.

Walleye, northern pike and lake trout are the major sport fish species found in the park. Muskellunge are found in only one lake in the park. Smallmouth bass were introduced around 1958 into Sabourin Lake and are the only known non-native fish species in the park.

The bald eagle, a species of special concern in this region is found in the park as are sharp-tailed grouse which are regionally significant. Other bird species include the belted kingfisher, double-crested cormorant, osprey, great gray owl, merlin, common nighthawk, five species of woodpecker and a diverse representation of waterfowl and songbirds.

Mink and wood frogs also live in the park along with snapping and painted turtles and the red-sided garter snake, a western subspecies of the common garter snake.

Typical mammal species in the boreal forest ecosystem include woodland caribou, moose, black bear, beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, fisher, marten, lynx, fox and timber wolf. Sightings of wolverine and cougar have been reported.



The boreal populations of forest-dwelling woodland caribou are listed as nationally “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park a priority will be to manage for population protection and sustainable caribou habitat.

### **5.1.3 Cultural Resources Features**

Special or representative archaeological and historical sites will be protected from incompatible development and/or recreation (e.g. camping and shorelunch activities).

The First Nation communities with traditional land use within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park have given special meaning to this cultural landscape. They have their own names for places within the park, reflecting a long and strong relationship. Like other such populations scattered across the Subarctic, land use was based upon hunting and gathering, fishing, and a political system based loosely upon an extended network of family members. Given the diffuse and seasonal nature of their food supply, these small bands of people were very mobile, and utilized large territories over the course of each year. To support this mobile lifestyle, they developed highly efficient and portable technology, as well as a social system designed to protect themselves from periodic hardships. The archaeological sites found throughout the region demonstrate the antiquity of this lifestyle.

Archaeologists interpret ancient Aboriginal history by studying artifacts recovered from archaeological sites as well as by collaborating with Elders from neighbouring First Nation communities. There are numerous intact sites in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, although only a small number have been documented. They represent thousands of years of occupation, with gradual transformation of the lifestyle being based upon the introduction of new tool types, subtle shifts in the subsistence resources exploited, and cultural influences from surrounding societies in other environmental zones.

## **5.2 Heritage Appreciation Objective**

*To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.*

The heritage appreciation objective will be achieved through structured and unstructured opportunities for resource-based interpretation of natural and cultural heritage through publications, displays and visitor services.

## **5.3 Recreation Objective**

*To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.*

The recreation objective will be achieved through appropriate park zoning, the identification of management policies to prevent any compromise of significant natural and/or cultural heritage values, market research, and monitoring and mitigation of recreational impacts.

## **5.4 Tourism Objective**

*To provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.*

The tourism objective, like the recreation objective will be achieved through appropriate park zoning, market research, monitoring and mitigation of recreational impacts, as well as the exploration of partnerships and new markets.



## 6.0 Boundary

Upon approval of the park management plan, regulation of the Sydney/Rowdy and the Douglas/Foley Lake recommended park additions will begin immediately. The OLL additions of Peisk/Lund Lakes and Anchor Lake recommended park additions will continue to be protected on an interim basis and will be added to the park once replacement wood supplies are secured from other locations. The park addition recommended through the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Land Use Strategy (north part of Peisk Lake) will be regulated at the same time as the later two additions to ensure a measure of consistency.

There are several patent properties located in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. These properties are privately owned and are not part of the park.

## 7.0 Zoning

Four zoning categories are available to guide the protection, resource management, and operations of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. The four zones are: nature reserve, historical, wilderness, and access.

Policies related to permitted uses and development in each zone serve as guidelines for park management planning and are applied consistently throughout the Ontario Parks system.

Figure WCPP-2 shows the general location of the Nature Reserve, Wilderness and Access Zones for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as determined through this planning process.

### 7.1 Nature Reserve Zones

Sixteen areas have been identified as having provincially significant features which require protection. These provincially significant features will be protected by nature reserve zone designations.

#### *NR1 - South Artery Lake Wetland (1,184 hectares)*

The South Artery Lake Wetland includes excellent examples of rich sedge meadows which contain rare plant species.

#### *NR2 - Bloodvein River Savannah (24 hectares)*

Bur oak communities are provincially significant and contain rare plants which may be stressed by human disturbance.

#### *NR3 - Larus Creek Wetland (4,594 hectares)*

The Larus Creek Wetland represents the deeper and richer silts and clays of the Bloodvein River. It includes the largest percentage of hardwoods in the park as well as a number of provincially rare plants.



*NR4 - Olive Lake (3,494 hectares)*

Rich patterned fen and a number of provincially rare plant species such as Vasey's rush, parsley fern and prairie spikemoss are located in this zone.

*NR5 - Carroll Lake (1,204 hectares)*

This zone includes excellent examples of deposits created by flowing meltwater from retreating glaciers. Provincially rare plant species, such as prairie crocus and prairie spikemoss, are also found within this zone.

*NR6 - Crystal Lake Shear Zone (1,492 hectares)*

Excellent examples of deposits created by flowing meltwater from retreating glaciers. The Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes fault is also found here.

*NR7 - Eagle-Finlayson Moraine (5,323 hectares)*

The Eagle-Finlayson Moraine supports very rich wetlands and marshes, including the largest patterned fen in the park. This zone also represents the provincially significant Eagle-Finlayson moraine and associated features such as outwash, lacustrine and ground moraine deposits.

*NR8 - Telescope Lake American Elm Community (5 hectares)*

The range of American (white) elm in Canada stretches from Nova Scotia, to central Ontario, through southern Manitoba, and ends in south-eastern Saskatchewan. Its occurrence on Telescope Lake represents one of the most northerly stands of American elm in northwestern Ontario.

*NR9 - Haggart Lake Red Pine Community (3 hectares)*

There are relatively few occurrences of red pine in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and these represent some of the most northerly known locations in northwestern Ontario.

*NR10 - Shear Lake Shear Zone (1,374 hectares)*

Shear Lake provides examples of a shear zone and related mineralization associated with the Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes faulting process.

*NR11 - Eagle Lake (2,614 hectares)*

The life science features within this nature reserve include rich fen meadows and southern flora such as ten-flowered showy goldenrod and purple chokeberry.

*NR12 - Kilburn Lake Prairie Communities (2,276 hectares)*

The silts and clays of Kilburn Lake support excellent mixed and deciduous forests representative of more southern regions. Delicate wetland flora, including several species of rare rushes, are also found here.

*NR13 - Sydney Lake Prairie Community (10 hectares)*

The Sydney Lake area contains prairie plant communities intermixed with local boreal species.

*NR14, NR15 - Sydney Lake, and NR16 - Rowdy Lake Savannas (12, 18 and 3 hectares respectively)*

These provincially significant bur oak communities can be described as "savannas". Although the communities are relatively small and restricted by suitable habitat, together they provide excellent examples of prairie species communities from a warmer period of post-glacial history.

## **7.2 Historical Zones**

There are many significant cultural areas within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park although none have been identified for protection by historical zoning at this time. Consultation with First Nations has resulted in an effective yet subtle approach to protecting these valuable resources. Consultation with First Nations and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture will continue to ensure these resources remain protected.

## **7.3 Wilderness Zones**

Management planning has resulted in the creation of five wilderness zones. Backcountry travelers can expect to experience a higher level of mechanized use in the Bloodvein and Gammon Wilderness Zones due to the concentration of facility-based tourism operations and patent land structures. In the Northern, Central, and



Southern Wilderness Zones backcountry travellers will encounter a lower level of mechanized use.

*Northern Wilderness\**

The Northern Wilderness comprises the area within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park north of the Bloodvein River system.

*Central Wilderness\**

The Central Wilderness includes the area between the Bloodvein River and Gammon River systems as well as the proposed Douglas/Foley Lake, Anchor Lake and Peisk/Lund Lake proposed park additions. This area has good potential for canoe route expansion.

*Southern Wilderness\**

The Southern Wilderness includes the Sydney-Rowdy Lake proposed park addition and the area of the park south of the Gammon River system. This is currently the most popular backcountry canoeing area due to its accessibility by road (Leano Lake) and that it provides a number of possible loop options that do not require a float plane.

*Bloodvein Wilderness (11,366 hectares)*

The Bloodvein Wilderness includes the Bloodvein River system and Sabourin Lake.

*Gammon Wilderness (10,149 hectares)*

The Gammon Wilderness follows the Gammon River and includes Upper Hatchet, Hatchet and Douglas Lakes.

**7.4 Access Zones**

Access zones (A) serve as staging areas where minimal development supports the use of adjacent zones.

**7.3.1 Year-round Access Zones**

Twenty year-round access zones have been created to provide access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

*A1 - Access Zone 1 (97 hectares)*

*Air* - A1 is located on the Bloodvein River just west of Artery Lake.

*A2 - Access Zone 2 (3 hectares)*

*Water* - A2 is located in the Northern Wilderness on the Musclow River, approximately five kilometres east of Musclow Lake. Access Zone 2 will work with Access Zone 3 to provide access to the Northern and Bloodvein Wilderness.

*A3 - Access Zone 3 (2,109 hectares)*

*Air* - A3 is located on Sabourin Lake.

*A4 - Access Zone 4 (0.3 hectares)*

*Water* - A4 is located in the Northern Wilderness approximately 8 kilometres north of Burntwood Lake. Access Zone 4 will work with Access Zone 5 to provide access to the Northern Wilderness.

*A5 - Access Zone 5 (1 hectares)*

*Water* - A5 is located in the northeast corner of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park at an unnamed lake east of Olive Lake.

*A6 - Access Zone 6 (2 hectares)*

*Water* - A6 is located just west of Carroll Lake on the Gammon River.

*A7 - Access Zone 7 (0.5 hectares)*

*Water* - A7 is located in the Carroll Lake area at the outflow from Obukowin Lake.

*A8 - Access Zone 8 (1,412 hectares)*

*Air* - A8 is located in the Gammon Wilderness on Donald Lake. Access Zone 8 provides numerous dispersal options and because of its proximity to Access Zone 13, will work collectively to provide access to both the Central and Southern Wilderness.

*A9 - Access Zone 9 (3 hectares)*

*Road* - A9 is located near Lund Lake. This zone will permit access to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River via Knox Lake.

\* The Northern, Central and Southern Wilderness total 432,101 hectares.

*A10 - Access Zone 10 (5 hectares)*

*Water* - A10 is located at the west end of Red Lake in Trout Bay. Access Zones 10, 11 and 12 will work collectively to provide and disperse access to the headwaters of the Gammon River system.

*A11 - Access Zone 11 (1 hectares)*

*Water* - A11 is located on Douglas Creek.

*A12 - Access Zone 12 (9 hectares)*

*Water* - A12 is located on Hjalmar Lake which is adjacent to the southern section of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

*A13 - Access Zone 13 (252 hectares)*

*Air* - A13 is located in the Gammon Wilderness on Hansen Lake.

*A14 - Access Zone 14 (0.8 hectares)*

*Water* - A14 is situated on the Wanipigow River just west of Crystal Lake.

*A15 - Access Zone 15 (21 hectares)*

*Water* - A15 is located in the southwest corner of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park at Garner Lake.

*A16 - Access Zone 16 (0.6 hectares)*

*Water* - A16 is located north of Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via an unnamed lake south of Irregular Lake. Access Zones 16, 17 and 18 will work collectively to provide access to the Southern Wilderness from Eagle Lake.

*A17 - Access Zone 17 (0.6 hectares)*

*Water* - A17 is located on Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via the Bird River.

*A18 - Access Zone 18 (2 hectares)*

*Water* - A18 is located on Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via the Talon River.

*A19 - Access Zone 19 (3 hectares)*

*Road* - A19 is located at Leano Lake. This access zone provides entry to the Southern Wilderness where route options are numerous.

*A20 - Access Zone 20 (1 hectares)*

*Water* - A20 is located where Rowdy Lake empties into the Sturgeon River.

### **7.3.2 Seasonal Access Zones**

A different approach will be used in the proposed park additions; seasonal access zones. Seasonal access zones will be in effect between September 12 and March 31 of the following year.

*As1 - Peisk Lake (790 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - As1 is located in the Peisk/Lund Lakes proposed park addition and is adjacent to the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

*As2 - Connecting Trail (85 hectares)*

*Snowmobile only* - As2 is an existing snowmobile trail located in the Peisk/Lund Lakes proposed park addition and is adjacent to the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

*As3 - Crystal Lake (134 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - As3 is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition. All of Crystal Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

*As4 - Connecting Trail (2 hectares)*

*Snowmobile only* - As4 is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition and is an existing snowmobile trail that connects Crystal Lake with Page Lake.

*As5 - Page Lake (168 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - Page Lake is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition. All of Page Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

*As6 - Connecting Trail (0.2 hectares)*

*Snowmobile only* - As6 is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition and is an existing snowmobile trail that connects Page Lake with Peterson Lake.

*As7 - Peterson Lake (177 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - Peterson Lake is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition. All of Peterson Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

*As8 - Anchor Lake (90 hectares)*

*Aircraft only* - Anchor Lake is located in the Anchor Lake proposed park addition. All of Anchor Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

*As9 - Sydney Lake (5729 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - Sydney Lake is located in the Sydney/Rowdy Lakes proposed park addition. All of Sydney Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

*As10 - Rowdy Lake (1157 hectares)*

*Aircraft/snowmobile* - Rowdy Lake is located in the Sydney/Rowdy Lakes proposed park addition. All of Rowdy Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

### 7.3.3 Temporary Access Zones

Temporary access zones have been established to phase out snowmobile and private aircraft use from existing park. All temporary access zones will be in effect from the approval date of this management plan.

*At1 - Snowmobile* - Included in At1 are Linge, Middle Kilburn, Upper Kilburn, Haggart, Bulging, Broken Arrow, Crystal and Carroll Lakes as well as associated trails within the boundary of the zone. This zone will exist for two years from the approval date of this plan.

*At2 - Snowmobile* - Included in At2 are Blueberry, Dragon, Talon, Larus, Thicketwood and Indian House Lakes as well as associated trails within the boundary of the zone. This zone will exist for five years from the approval date of this plan.

*At3 - Snowmobile* - Included in At2 are Sylvia, Douglas and Hatchet and Murdoch Lakes as well as associated trails within the boundary of the zone. This zone will exist for eight years from the approval date of this plan.

*At4 - Snowmobile* - Included in At2 are Knox, Veronica, Bilko and Beaver Lakes as well as associated trails within the boundary of the zone. This zone will exist for ten years from the approval date of this plan.

*At5 - Aircraft* - This zone will exist for 4 years from the approval date of this plan. Lakes included in At5 are depicted in the management plan document (Figure WCPP-18).



## **8.0 Resource Management Policies**

### **8.1 Terrestrial Ecosystem Management**

Terrestrial ecosystems and the biodiversity within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be documented through inventories, assessments and research. Every effort will be made to manage ecosystems on a landscape level.

#### **8.1.1 Vegetation**

A vegetation management plan will be developed in a separate process and will include public consultation.

Commercial forestry operations are not permitted in the park. Trees may be selectively removed by park staff for the purpose of constructing infrastructure such as portages and campsites. Dead material may be used for firewood.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced into the park.

#### **8.1.2 Forest Fire Management**

Ontario Parks recognizes fire as an essential ecosystem process.

Fire management planning will be undertaken in cooperation with the Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch. Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario.

#### **8.1.3 Insects and Disease**

Infestations of insects and diseases are natural but may be actioned where cultural, natural, aesthetic, or economic values are threatened.

#### **8.1.4 Wildlife**

The primary wildlife management objective for the park will be to protect and maintain the resident forest-dwelling woodland caribou population.

Non-native wildlife species (e.g. birds, mammals, reptiles, etc) will not be deliberately introduced into the park.

##### **8.1.4.1 Hunting**

Hunting is not permitted in the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park; however, hunting is permitted in the proposed park additions. Hunting is not permitted in nature reserve zones within proposed park additions.

Seasonal access zones (section 9.3.5) have been created in the recommended park additions which will support hunting, while also protecting park values. Seasonal access zones will be in effect between September 12 and March 31 of the following year.

##### **8.1.4.2 Trapping**

There are 26 registered traplines located wholly or partially within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Currently, 18 traplines are held by First Nation trappers, six traplines are held by non-native trappers and two traplines are vacant. Licensed commercial trapping by non-natives will be phased out of the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park on December 31, 2009.

#### **8.1.5 Land Management and Disposition**

##### **8.1.5.1 Mining**

New mining activity, including prospecting, staking of mining claims, development of mines, or the extraction of aggregates will not be permitted in the park or the proposed park additions.

##### **8.1.5.2 Commercial Tourism**

Existing tourism operations in wilderness parks and related activities (e.g. motorboating with restrictions) will remain but are subject to considerations. New tourism operations may be considered provided they are consistent with wilderness park policies and objectives. Transfer of existing tourism operations under LUP or Crown Lease tenure will be subject to review and approval by Ontario Parks/MNR.

Commercial tourism operations on patent land may be subject to resource-use regulations.

#### *8.1.5.3 Private Recreation Camps*

There are four private recreation camps with LUP tenure within the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, which are scheduled to be phased out on December 31, 2009. No new private recreation camps will be permitted within the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or the proposed park additions.

#### *8.1.5.4 Patent Lands*

Twelve parcels of patent land exist within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. The acquisition of patent land is a goal of this management planning process and will be approached on a case-by-case basis. Private recreation originating from patent land within the park may be subject to resource-use regulations.

### **8.2 Aquatic Ecosystem Management**

#### *8.2.1 Fisheries*

The priority for fisheries management will be to maintain healthy, naturally reproducing fisheries. No stocking or introductions will be permitted within the park unless required to supplement threatened native populations.

If it is determined that more direction is needed, a fisheries stewardship plan will be prepared.

##### *8.2.1.1 Sport Fishing*

All fishing activity will be subject to the policies and regulations of the appropriate fisheries management zones as set out by the Ontario Fishing Regulations.

A conservation limit only regulation will be pursued for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Non-native fish species will not be deliberately introduced into the park.

The population of smallmouth bass introduced into Sabourin Lake has now expanded to include Thicketwood Lake, Musclow Lake, Barclay Lake, Mary's Lake and other lakes connected to Sabourin

Lake by the Bloodvein River. Research on this population is necessary to evaluate the current status and further assess the potential impacts.

##### *8.2.1.2 Commercial Fishing and Bait Harvesting*

Commercial fishing and commercial bait fishing are prohibited in wilderness class parks. Commercial fishing does not presently occur in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and new operations will not be permitted. Commercial bait harvesting will be phased out of the existing park on December 31, 2009. Existing commercial bait harvesting will be permitted to continue in the proposed wilderness park additions indefinitely, except in nature reserves.

#### *8.2.2 Water Management*

Commercial hydro-electric development is not permitted in provincial parks.

### **8.3 Cultural Ecosystem Management**

Ontario Parks will work in partnership with local First Nations to plan and implement measures to maintain the integrity of important Aboriginal sites throughout Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Ontario Parks will consult with First Nations on matters pertaining to Aboriginal history, sites in the park associated with Aboriginal culture, interpretation of Aboriginal history, and the appropriate use of cultural artifacts.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in the inventory, protection, and maintenance of archaeological and historical sites within the park.

Cultural resources will be managed to ensure their protection and to provide opportunities for heritage appreciation and research (where these activities do not impair the resource).

#### *8.3.1 Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River*

A Resource Management Strategy, reflecting wilderness class park policies, was written for the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River in 1998. Where direction between this park management plan and the 1998 Resource Management Strategy differ, the Resource Management Strategy will be amended.

## 9.0 Operations Policies

A park operating plan will be prepared to provide park staff with the necessary information required to operate the park on a day-to-day basis.

### 9.1 Recreation Management

Monitoring of fish and wildlife populations, resource use, group size, trip length, compliance with conditions on LUPs and Crown leases, and the condition of backcountry campsites and portages is integral to the management, long-term protection and sustainability of park resources.

#### 9.1.1 Backcountry Travel

A visitor management program will be introduced in order to minimize environmental deterioration, protect natural and cultural features, and to maintain a quality wilderness experience. This program will be implemented through a quota-based entry system.

#### 9.1.2 Campsites

Regulations limiting campsite occupancy to one party per site will continue. The maximum party size will remain at nine people.

A campsite system will be implemented that will restrict use to authorized campsites as designated on a park map. Visitors will be able to choose from a number of identified campsites on a first-come first-serve basis.

The campsite system will also include seasonally regulating campsites on islands and peninsulas in areas of importance to woodland caribou (e.g. calving/nursing areas). These campsites will be identified on the campsite map and will be closed from May 01 – June 30 of each year.

Open fires will be permitted in the park, unless a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) has been put in place by the Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch. Park staff will work closely with Fire staff in the promotion of fire safety and prevention messages.

#### 9.1.3 Litter

Regulations pertaining to litter under the Provincial Parks Act will be strictly enforced. Glass bottles, outside of tenured land, will be banned in all zones following the approval of this management plan.

#### 9.1.4 Shorelunch Areas

As part of the facility-based tourism experience, shorelunch areas are used on a regular basis in some areas of the park. Shorelunch opportunities can continue, with conditions, and will require authorization from the Park Superintendent.

### 9.2 Motorized Travel

Motorized travel, as part of the existing commercial tourism operations, will be permitted with restrictions. Motorized travel will occur mainly within access zones and the Bloodvein and Gammon Wilderness Zones.

#### 9.2.1 Motorboats

Motorboats used in commercial tourism operations in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be permitted on specific lakes with horsepower restrictions (Appendix WCPP-1). In general, a maximum of 10 horsepower will apply for all watercraft except on Carroll, Sydney, Rowdy, Sabourin, Barclay, Mary's and Simeon Lakes where increased horsepower will be permitted. All horsepower regulations will take effect on January 01, 2010.

Commercial tourism motorboat use originating from the Province of Manitoba will be permitted. Horsepower restrictions will apply and motorized use will be restricted to the waterbody on which the facility is situated. Private motorboat use originating from Manitoba will not be permitted.

Motorboat use by private residents is generally not permitted in wilderness class parks however motorboat use by owners of patent land in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be allowed to continue as a non-conforming use until such time as the patent land is acquired by Ontario Parks. Horsepower restrictions will apply (Appendix WCPP-1) and motorboat use will be restricted to the lake where the patent is located to any water body that can be reached without portaging (navigable systems) from where

the patent land exists. All horsepower restrictions will take effect on January 01, 2010.

Authorized private boat caches located in seasonal access zones of the park additions will be permitted to remain, however four years after the regulation date of the recommended park additions, use of these boats will be limited to the dates associated with the seasonal access zone.

Owners of patent land may continue to use currently authorized private boat caches to gain access to their property.

On all other lakes, motorized travel will be prohibited except for emergency situations and enforcement/park operation purposes.

### 9.2.2 *Snowmobiles*

Management planning has resulted in the direction to eliminate this non-conforming use in the existing park over time. This action will be phased-in over a ten year period upon approval of this document.

At the end of the ten year phase out period a review of this decision will take place to consider extending the non conforming recreational snowmobile use on Knox Lake in the eastern area of the park.

### 9.2.3 *All-Terrain Vehicles*

ATVs will not be permitted for recreational use in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. ATVs will be permitted for use associated with tourism operations but will be restricted to the tenured boundary of the operation.

### 9.2.4 *Private Aircraft*

A four year phase-out of this activity will be implemented upon approval of this plan.

Following the approval of this plan, private aircraft will be permitted to land in areas identified as temporary access zones (section 7.3.3) for four years. Five years after the approval of the plan, private aircraft use will be permitted to land in year-round air access zones, seasonal air access zones and at commercial tourism facilities as long as the individuals are registered guests at the facility.

Patent land owners and immediate family will be permitted to use their own private aircraft to access their private property (section 9.3.1). Trappers and commercial bait fishers will be permitted to use private aircraft for the purpose of resource harvesting.

All private aircraft wishing to land in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park requires the authority of the superintendent. Permit fees may apply.

### 9.2.5 *Private Boat Caches*

To encourage high quality backcountry tourism opportunities and to conform with park policy, private boat caches will be phased out of the existing park. Individuals with boat cache authorization will be permitted to access their cached boats in the existing park for a period of four years after the approval of this document. At that time the boat cache agreement will be cancelled, the boat will be removed and the site will be left in a natural condition. Ontario Parks will work with these users to find alternative locations outside the park.

Authorized private boat caches located in seasonal access zones of the park additions will be permitted to remain, however four years after the regulation date of the recommended park additions, use of these boats will be limited to the dates associated with the seasonal access zone.

Owners of patent land may continue to use currently authorized private boat caches to gain access to their property.

## 9.3 *Access*

Access to the park for other than at designated access zones must be approved by the Park Superintendent. Access to the park may require additional controls if there are found to be negative impacts on natural or cultural values, unreasonable conflicts with park users, or new uses are established which are not appropriate in a wilderness class park.

### 9.3.1 *Air Access*

All aircraft landing in the park will require prior authorization through a valid aircraft landing authority from Ontario Parks. Permit fees may apply.

Air access by commercial air services will be permitted in access zones which are designated for aircraft landing (section 7.4), at commercial tourism facilities in wilderness zones, at private property and at authorized remote boat cache locations in wilderness zones. Aircraft owned by commercial operators with tourism operations within the park are permitted to land to maintain their operations (facility, boat caches).

Private air access will be permitted in year-round and seasonal air access zones and at commercial tourism facilities providing they are registered guests of the facility. Private aircraft owned by landowners and immediate family will be permitted for access to their private property.

Resource harvesters are permitted to use private and commercial aircraft to access their operations.

#### **9.3.2 Aircraft Protocol**

Regulations are not being proposed on flights over the park at this time but it is noted that attention to flying over National, Provincial and Municipal Parks, Reserves and Refuges has been identified in Section 1.14.5 of the Transport Canada Aeronautical Information Manual; where it states that “to preserve the natural environment of parks, reserves and refuges and to minimize the disturbance to the natural habitat, overflights should not be conducted below 2,000 AGL.

#### **9.3.3 Road Access**

Road access to the park will be developed at Lund Lake and Leano Lake and will work in conjunction with the visitor management program. Development will consist of a small parking area. Existing parking areas at Onnie Lake and Johnson Lake will be upgraded.

#### **9.3.4 Water Access**

Water access zones will also work in conjunction with the visitor management program. No development except for appropriate signage will occur.

#### **9.3.5 Seasonal Access**

Seasonal access zones are located at the periphery of the park and have been created to support approved activities in the proposed park additions as a result of the Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.

Seasonal access zones will have timing restrictions applied (e.g. access permitted between September 12th to March 31st of the following year).

### **9.4 Commercial Tourism**

Existing commercial tourist operations will remain (subject to possible restrictions). New tourism opportunities and changes to existing operations may be considered.

All cached boats must have and meet the conditions of an approved Ontario Parks Boat Cache Agreement.

#### **9.4.1 Portage-to Boat Caches**

Portage-to boat caches are situated on lakes that are adjacent to the main facility via portage trails. In cases where the portage trails are shared by both facility and backcountry clients, mooring structures may be permitted to relieve congestion at portage trail heads. Storage structures will be allowed to secure equipment.

#### **9.4.2 Remote Fly-in Boat Caches**

Planning direction has resulted in the decision to create large areas of primarily non-mechanized use through the removal of remote fly-in boat caches. This action will have the most effect in the Northern, Central and Southern Wilderness but is not restricted to these zones.

### **9.5 Natural Heritage Education**

The Natural Heritage Education program in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is currently designated as self-use.

A Natural Heritage Education plan will be prepared as part of the park operating plan.

#### **9.5.1 Information**

Ontario Parks will work with local groups, school boards, First Nations, and tourism to develop and distribute information.

#### **9.5.2 Interpretation**

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will work in partnership with local First Nations to ensure that any interpretation of Aboriginal cultural features is accurate and appropriate. The direct involvement of local First

Nations in interpretive programs and activities is a priority and will be encouraged.

### **9.5.3 Tourism Services**

Ontario Parks will continue to work in co-operation with regional tourism organizations, local municipalities, and commercial tourism operators to fulfill and optimize park promotion and marketing objectives.

## **9.6 Research and Partnerships**

Scientific research and monitoring by qualified individuals and institutions which will be compatible with the park's protection objective and contribute to the knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental and recreational management will be encouraged.

### **9.6.1 Pikangikum First Nation/Ontario Parks Partnership**

The First Nation of Pikangikum and Ontario Parks have entered into a partnership for that part of the park that is within their traditional lands as defined by traplines currently held by Pikangikum people or traplines historically occupied by Pikangikum people. The agreement document deals mainly with two areas, research and interpretation of Ojibway Cultural Landscapes, and economic and cooperative stewardship opportunities.

Pikangikum and Ontario Parks will explore a cooperative partnership which would focus on documenting the Pikangikum cultural legacy, both the historical and ongoing presence of their people on the lands. This research program will incorporate the stewardship and protection responsibilities for the cultural heritage of Pikangikum First Nation.

Ontario Parks will not endorse or support Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park without the agreement of the associated First Nation. The partnership will pursue stewardship opportunities consistent with the protected areas planning framework for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park within the traditional territories of Pikangikum First Nation.

### **9.6.2 Manitoba/Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area**

Ontario Parks and Manitoba Conservation will create an Interprovincial Wilderness Area consisting of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario, Atikaki Provincial Park and portions of Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba. Areas of cooperation between the Provinces could include resource management, marketing and operations.

## **9.7 Marketing**

A review of park attractions, management issues and marketing methods will be ongoing to determine how to raise the awareness and appreciation of park values and to increase the safety of visitors and awareness of the "leave no trace" ethic for wilderness travel.

Care will be taken to ensure that marketing initiatives do not create over-use of the park and that the values for which the park was created are protected.



## **10.0 Development Policies**

### **10.1 Portages**

Portages will consist of primitive pathways developed to provide relatively stable and safe passage between segments of navigable waterways.

Opportunities will be sought to expand the present canoe route system in areas of the park where better dispersion of users is required or new experiences may be created.

### **10.2 Campsites**

All authorized campsites will be identified on park maps.

### **10.3 MNR Fire Fuel Cache**

The Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch fuel cache on Irvine Lake will be relocated. The relocation of the fuel cache and its associated uses will reduce user conflicts in this area.

### **10.4 Access Zones**

Parking areas will be developed for Lund Lake (A9) and Leano Lake (A19) access zones. Improvements will be made to parking areas in the Onnie Lake and Johnson Lake areas which are staging areas for the Douglas Creek (A11) and Hjalmar Lake (A12) access zones.

### **10.5 Trails**

At this time, a day-use interpretive hiking trail is not seen as a priority. However, should demand for this type of activity increase, an impact and benefit analysis will be completed.

### **10.6 Signage**

Signage will be used to identify the Woodland Caribou Park Boundary at all entry points and other areas where the park may be at risk to development.

## 11.0 Implementation Priorities

Implementation of the management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Bill of Rights, Provincial Parks Act, Endangered Species Act, and other pertinent legislation.

All aspects of park management, development, and operation will be screened and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

Implementation priorities may be established in subsidiary operating and resource stewardship plans. Preparation of these plans may involve an appropriate level of public consultation.

### 11.1 Boundary

- Regulate OLL and Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Area recommended park.

### 11.2 Resource Stewardship

- Prepare a vegetation management and fire management plan.
- Monitor the resident forest-dwelling woodland caribou population and protection of critical habitat
- Implement an education program on the effects of introducing non-native fish species.
- Pursue conservation limits only for sport fishing.
- Protect significant cultural areas as they are identified.

### 11.3 Operations

- Prepare a park operating plan
- Ongoing evaluation of the recreational resources of the park.
- Introduce a visitor management program.
- Develop designated campsite system.
- Seasonally manage camping on islands and peninsulas in areas of importance to woodland caribou.
- Monitor activities in seasonal access zones.
- Develop an Ontario Parks Boat Cache Agreement.
- Develop and implement a strategy to remove remote fly-in boat caches. (section 9.4.2)
- A Natural Heritage Education plan will be prepared as part of the park operating plan.
- Work with local groups, First Nations and the tourism industry to develop and distribute information about the park.
- Work with Pikangikum and other First Nation partners in the research and interpretation of Aboriginal culture.
- Implement the creation of an Interprovincial Wilderness Area in cooperation with the Province of Manitoba.

### 11.4 Development

- Expand the present canoe route system.
- Relocate portages due to environmental damage.
- Develop and improve parking areas at Lund Lake and Leano Lake. Improve parking areas in the Johnson Lake and Onnie Lake areas.
- Develop and/or identify safe loading and unloading areas within air access zones.
- Construct information kiosks at major entry points.



## 12.0 *Plan Review and Amendment*

An Approved Park Management Plan can be reviewed or amended to address changing issues or conditions

The minimum requirement for a review is once every ten years.

An amendment can be considered to address specific changes which are consistent with the park's classification, goal and objectives but differ from the park's management policy statements.



## Appendix WCPP- 1: Social and Economic Impacts

Data from case studies, literature reviews, and interviews with tourism based businesses all confirm that there are significant socio-economic benefits from protected areas that transfer to local communities and businesses.

A study entitled, “Ontario Resource-Based Tourism Diversification Opportunities Report” was completed by Economic Growth Solutions Inc. in December of 2002 for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM). The purpose of the study was to identify alternative resource-based tourism product development opportunities beyond the traditional fishing and hunting markets.

Ontario’s protected areas possess the following strengths:

- World-class canoeing and camping opportunities in many protected areas and across the Canadian Shield.
- World-class freshwater fishing (facility-based tourism), which has been known and developed for many decades.
- Significant landscapes and natural resources which can and have the potential to attract a wide variety of market segments (e.g. eco-tourism, adventure travel, cultural heritage tourism, etc).
- Potential for Aboriginal tourism in association with the natural heritage of these areas.

Many of the large protected areas in the province are located considerable distances from urban markets. Economic opportunities associated with these protected areas may be restricted to summer and perhaps limited shoulder seasons; however, there is an opportunity to market the experience to a more concentrated but higher-paying consumer. This may produce as many economic benefits as catering to a large volume of visitors.

Provincial park trends across Ontario have shown an increase of 33% in backcountry use (interior camper nights) between 1988 and 2000. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park has also experienced this trend as camper nights over the same time period increased from 606 in 1988 to 6,293 in 2000. Average annual camper nights between 1993 and 2000 were 3,923. Camper nights between 2001 and 2004 have averaged 4,997 per year. In 2005, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park’s visitation was 4,647 camper nights. In 2006, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park’s visitation was 4,734 camper nights.

Information from nine facility-based tourism operators in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park show a gross revenue of \$4.1 million generated from activities directly within the park. The total market value of these businesses (including capital assets) is estimated at \$24 million. They employ over 80 people with an annual payroll of over two million dollars. These businesses attract over 3,100 visits annually for a total of 17,980 rental nights (pers. comm. F. Bastone MNDM, 2004).



## *Appendix WCPP -2: Summary of Public Consultation*

The planning for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park began in April of 2002 with the release of the Terms of Reference for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. In December of 2002, an Invitation to Participate was released.

In January of 2004, the Background Information document was released for public review and comment. Information centres (open houses) were held in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Kenora as well as the Ontario First Nation communities of Pikangikum, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul and Wabaseemoong.

The Issues and Options document was released in May of 2005. Information centres were again held in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Kenora as well as in the First Nation communities of Pikangikum, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul, Wabaseemoong and Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba.

A detailed questionnaire presented plan alternatives which were developed to comply with policy yet satisfy divergent interests. Preferred alternatives were not identified nor was an exhaustive list provided.

The Preliminary Management Plan was released in September of 2006. This stage of the planning process incorporated public comments and recommendations from the Advisory Committee and First Nations Working Group into a preferred management approach for the signature site. Ten public information centres were held in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Kenora as well as in the First Nation communities of Pikangikum, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul, Wabaseemoong and Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba.

All public input is treated in accordance with the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to ensure confidentiality of personal information.

Ontario Parks will retain on file reference copies of all planning documents. Planning documents are also available electronically at:  
[http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning\\_wood.html](http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_wood.html).