POL # – Environmental Impact Assessment Policy

Policy: #

Subject: Environmental Impact Assessment Policy

Section: Protected Areas

Date Issued:

Classification:

Related Documents:

Key Words: environmental impact assessment, environment, ecological integrity, mitigation, monitoring

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that projects in provincial parks and conservation reserves are implemented so that:

- PPCRA objectives and provincial park and conservation reserve values are considered;
- negative effects on the natural, social, economic and cultural environments are minimized; and
- ecological integrity is maintained.

To meet this purpose, the policy will:

- describe how environmental impact assessment fits into the planning framework for provincial parks and conservation reserves;
- describe when the Ministry will apply this policy;
- identify when management planning is required prior to implementing proposed projects; and
- identify an efficient and effective screening, evaluation and consultation process for assessing impacts during implementation planning.

DEFINITIONS

Disposition: The granting by the ministry of certain or all rights to Crown resources (including lands) by means that include, but are not limited to: permits, licences, approvals, authorizations, permissions, consents and leases.

Ecological Integrity: refers to a condition in which biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities are characteristic of their natural regions and rates of change and ecosystem processes are unimpeded.

Environment: means,

(a) air, land or water,

(b) plant and animal life, including human life,

(c) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community,

(d) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans,

(e) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from human activities, or

(f) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them,

in or of Ontario.

"land" includes enclosed land, land covered by water and subsoil.

Environmental Impact Assessment: process to identify and evaluate environmental impacts associated with proposed activities in provincial parks or conservation reserves. This process helps the Ministry to make decisions to avoid, minimize or mitigate any negative effects.

Ministry or MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Mitigation: Eliminating, offsetting or reducing the potential adverse environmental effects of proposed activities. It can also include rehabilitation, restoration, or enhancement where feasible. The means by which proposed activities can be modified to reduce, minimize or eliminate potential negative environmental effects. This can include off-site measures that achieve the same objective.

Monitoring: Activities carried out to determine whether an environmental impact assessment is producing the expected results.

PPCRA: *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* and its regulations, as may be amended from time to time.

Project: means any activity that has or may have negative environmental effects.

GENERAL

Introduction

The purpose of the PPCRA is to:

- permanently protect a system of provincial parks and conservation reserves that includes ecosystems that are representative of all of Ontario's natural regions;
- protect provincially significant elements of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage
- maintain biodiversity; and
- provide opportunities for compatible, ecologically sustainable recreation.

Section 3 of the PPCRA states that the following principles shall guide all aspects of the planning and management of Ontario's system of provincial parks and conservation reserves:

1. Maintenance of ecological integrity shall be the first priority and the restoration of ecological integrity shall be considered.

2. Opportunities for consultation shall be provided.

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In addition, the PPCRA and its regulations require the Ministry to consider, minimize and/or avoid harm to the environment and ecological integrity when making decisions regarding the issuance of authorizations.

Environmental impact assessment is a process used to identify and evaluate environmental impacts associated with proposed projects. It is used during implementation planning to avoid, minimize or mitigate any negative effects associated with proposed projects. This policy provides direction on conducting environmental impact assessments in provincial parks and conservation reserves, helping the Ministry to achieve the purpose and principles of the PPCRA.

Planning Framework

Direction for provincial parks and conservation reserves is developed at several levels:

- **legislation and strategic planning** (level one) identifies goals and objectives for Ontario's system of provincial parks and conservation reserves (e.g., PPCRA, Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies);

- **system/land use planning** (level two) identifies and recommends new, and amendments to existing, provincial parks and conservation reserves (e.g., Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy);

- **management planning** (level three) develops site-specific policy and management actions for individual provincial parks and conservation reserves (e.g., park management plans); and

- **implementation planning** (level four) evaluates how to best implement the policies and actions identified in the other levels of planning and considers location-specific impacts (e.g., environmental impact assessment, site plans).

This policy, along with associated procedures, provides direction for assessing environmental impacts of proposed projects which are carried out at the implementation planning level (level four).

Application of this Policy

The Ministry will apply this policy when considering:

1) implementation of a proposed project by or on behalf of the Ministry in a provincial park or conservation reserve;

2) dispositions of Crown land or other resources in a provincial park or conservation reserve; or

3) whether to authorize, permit, or otherwise allow a third party or another Ministry to carry out a proposed project in a provincial park or conservation reserve.

Projects subject to this policy are split into the following groups:

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1) Resource stewardship projects

   This group consists of all resource stewardship projects for the purposes of managing the natural and cultural resources found in provincial parks and conservation reserves.

2) Development and operations projects

   This group consists of all projects related to development and operations. These projects include construction, alterations and decommissioning of buildings, other structures, roads, trails or other facilities (e.g., campsites, day-use areas, beaches), emergency operations, the provision of services and other general operations.

Table 1 provides a list of the most common examples of resource stewardship and development and operations projects within provincial parks and conservation reserves.

Some projects may not have an individual project ID, as they are very uncommon or may not have been considered previously. Table 1 includes a separate ID for these projects.

As part of its decision-making process regarding disposition or authorization requests, the Ministry will use this policy to consider the potential effects of the proposed project(s) associated with the disposition request.

Despite the foregoing, this policy does **not** apply to:
- Establishing, amending or rescinding a boundary by regulation.
- Acquiring land or interests in land.
- Activities undertaken in accordance with Section 17 of the PPCRA and identified in an approved forest management plan for the Algonquin Park Forest Management Unit.
- Controlling rabid animals or rabies.
- Wildland fire response.

Administrative activities, including such things as financial and contract administration, purchasing, staffing, enforcement and management planning are also not subject to this policy.

Duty to Consult

The Ministry takes seriously its legal and constitutional obligations, including meeting any duty to consult obligations that may be owed to Indigenous communities. This policy does not impact the Crown's duty to consult obligations in any way.

The Crown has a duty to consult Indigenous communities when it has knowledge of an established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty right and contemplates conduct that may adversely affect that right. The extent of the consultation required will vary with the strength of the asserted right or the nature of the established right, and the seriousness of the potential adverse impact on the Aboriginal or treaty right.

When the duty to consult is engaged, Ontario Parks will be responsible for fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult in respect of projects to which this policy applies. Ontario Parks will identify the

Indigenous communities to be consulted, determine the level and extent of consultation required, and whether any accommodation is required.

Management Planning Requirements

During management planning (the third level in the planning framework), the Ministry develops site-specific policies to guide the management and operation of each provincial park and conservation reserve.

However, a project may be proposed that was not consulted on during management planning. When this happens, the Ministry must determine whether site-specific policy must be developed prior to implementing the proposed project. The following criteria are considered when determining whether a proposed project requires additional management planning:

- consistency with legislation and applicable program policy;
- consistency with the existing management direction;
- whether the proposed project is a new tourism development or major expansion of an existing facility; and
- whether the project would be considered environmentally significant using the factors set out in section 14 of the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*.

The Ministry has assessed the projects identified in Table 1 against the criteria above and determined whether site-specific policy is required prior to implementation. In Table 1:

- 'yes' means the project requires site-specific policy;
- 'no' means the project does not require site-specific policy; and
- 'maybe' means that staff must assess the project individually, based on the criteria listed above, as these projects can vary widely in scope, scale and impact.

Consultation activities for management planning and environmental impact assessment may be coordinated where both are required.

Project Screening and Evaluation

Project Categories and the Screening Process

A proposed project may be assigned to one of four different categories based on the potential for net negative environmental effects and level of concern. This determines the appropriate level of evaluation and consultation required for the assessment of environmental impacts. Figure A outlines the characteristics of projects within each category.

Figure A: Considerations for Assigning Proposed Projects to Categories

Potential Net Environmental Effects and Other Considerations	Potential Concerns of Interested Persons, Organizations or Indigenous Communities
Category A	
	- Potential for low level of concern.

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Potential Net Environmental Effects and Other Considerations	Potential Concerns of Interested Persons, Organizations or Indigenous Communities
• Potential for low net negative environmental effects or net environmental effects are positive, usually with a high degree of certainty. • Project may be routine. • Negative environmental effects responsive to appropriate. mitigation techniques, where warranted.	
Category B • Potential for moderate net negative environmental effects, usually with a high degree of certainty. • Negative environmental effects responsive to appropriate mitigation techniques.	• Potential for moderate level of concern.
Category C • Potential for high net negative environmental effects. • There is uncertainty associated with predictions of effects, requiring additional research and/or evaluation. • Negative environmental effects require mitigation techniques tailored to the project. • Potential to reduce negative effects or increase understanding of interested persons, organizations and Indigenous communities by examining alternatives.	• Potential for high level of concern. • Consultation and consideration of the proposal and reasonable alternatives may reveal appropriate solutions and common understandings.
Category D • Potential for very high net negative environmental effects. • There may be significant uncertainty associated with predictions of effects. • Negative environmental effects cannot be mitigated.	• Potential for very high level of concern.

Based on previous experience, the Ministry has pre-assigned some of the proposed projects in Table 1 to Category A to reflect that they typically have low potential for net negative environmental effects and concern from interested persons, organization and Indigenous communities.

Proposed projects that have not been pre-assigned to Category A must be assigned to a category on an individual basis using the screening criteria in Table 2, as the potential for net negative effects and concern for these types of projects can vary significantly. These projects are screened to identify possible effects on the natural environment; land use and resource management; Indigenous communities and values; and the social, cultural and economic environment. As noted in Table 1, some proposed projects may be screened to any category, while some may only be screened to Category B, C, or D.

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Screening is a common method used to identify potential net negative and positive environmental effects associated with proposed projects. It is a way to confirm our understanding of potential effects and the need for mitigation and/or further evaluation, and to ensure that all aspects of project implementation have been considered.

The Ministry may choose to screen a proposed project that has been pre-assigned to Category A if the Ministry has a concern about potential effects, level of concern or required mitigation measures.

Projects that are screened to Category D will generally not be implemented due to the potential of being incompatible with the PPCRA and program policy.

Project Evaluation and Consultation

The level of evaluation and consultation that is required for a proposed project varies based on the potential for net negative environmental effects and level of concern. Project evaluation and consultation requirements for each project category is shown in Figure B.

Figure B: Evaluation and Consultation Requirements for Projects by Category

Project Category	Environmental Impact Assessment Evaluation and Consultation Requirements
Category A	• No individual evaluation or consultation requirements under this policy.
Category B	• Distribute notice of commencement to individuals, groups and Indigenous communities who have a known or potential interest in the project, including a request for comments on the project; • Conduct streamlined project evaluation, identify appropriate mitigation measures, address any concerns raised as a result of consultation; • Distribute notice of project completion to those who provided comments on the project; and • Maintain project evaluation and consultation documentation on file.
Category C	• Distribute notice of commencement to individuals, groups and Indigenous communities who have a known or potential interest in the project, including a request for comments on the project; • Conduct full project evaluation, including identification and consideration of alternatives, through the preparation of a draft Environmental Study Report (ESR); • Distribute notice of opportunity to inspect draft ESR to those on the project mailing list; • Address any concerns raised as a result of consultation, finalize ESR including identification of appropriate mitigation measures; • Distribute notice of completion/notification of approved ESR to those on the project mailing list; and • Maintain project evaluation and consultation documentation on file.
Category D	• Reconsider project to determine if there are alternatives to reduce negative environmental impacts and levels of concern that would allow the proposed project to proceed under Category C.

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Project Evaluation

The Ministry will consider the following principles when evaluating projects subject to this policy:

- Consult with potentially affected and other interested persons, government agencies and Indigenous communities
- Consider a reasonable range of alternatives
- Consider all aspects of the environment
- Evaluate net environmental effects
- Provide clear, complete documentation for each project

The Ministry will evaluate environmental effects of the project based on information gathering, completion of any studies, application of the screening criteria and input received as a result of consultation to determine what measures, including mitigation, are required to implement the project.

Project Consultation

Consultation opportunities will be communicated through one or more of the following methods:

- Direct communication via letter mail or email
- On-site notice posted at key locations
- Meetings,open houses or public information centres
- Local newspaper
- Website or social media

Where the Ministry anticipates a high level of interest by persons, government agencies or Indigenous communities or requests have been made for additional time or consultation, the responsible manager may extend the normal comment period and/or undertake additional methods of consultation.

Recurring Projects

Recurring projects are types of projects that generally conform to the original project description and project area, and which are implemented periodically or as required to achieve management objectives. Examples of recurring projects include managing a native animal population and replenishing an existing beach.

Recurring projects are evaluated and consulted upon as outlined above and may proceed for a period of up to 10 years. After this time, or sooner as may be considered necessary by the Ministry (e.g., if species at risk are discovered), the project would be reviewed to determine if any modifications to the project are necessary.

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Emergency Provisions

Situations may arise where immediate actions are required to respond to an imminent threat to human safety, property, public services, or the environment. Emergency operations involve projects that are necessary to prevent or stop these threats. No evaluation or consultation activities are required prior to conducting emergency operations; however, the Ministry will make reasonable efforts to mitigate any negative environmental effects created by emergency operations.

Examples of emergencies include wildland fire, flooding, erosion or collapse of infrastructure, chemical spills and imminent threats to significant ecological values.

Mitigation

This policy is intended to be used to identify and avoid potential net negative environmental effects and, where avoidance is not feasible, identify mitigation measures to reduce or minimize these effects.

Project Monitoring

Monitoring during the pre-implementation phase, the implementation phase, and the post-implementation phase of a project is important to ensuring the maintenance of ecological integrity. Monitoring enables the Ministry to assess whether predictions of environmental effects are valid and to confirm the effectiveness of implementation and mitigation measures. Where unintended effects occur, further action can be taken to reverse or minimize them wherever possible. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting enables lessons learned to be applied in subsequent phases and years of a project, and in planning of similar projects.

Procedural Direction

An accompanying procedural document will provide detailed direction regarding:

- project categorization
- project screening process
- project evaluation and consultation
- project mitigation
- administrative practices and procedures.

Request for Reconsideration

Where a person, organization or Indigenous community considers that a proposed project is not receiving adequate consideration during a project evaluation, the person, organization or Indigenous community should first notify the Ministry in writing and discuss these concerns with the originating zone office. The concerns should be raised as early as possible in the process – as soon as they are identified – so that they can be considered and resolved, if possible, before substantial time and resources have been committed. The Ministry may reassign a project to a higher project category or may decide to continue with its planning process under the category originally assigned.

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In the event that the identified concerns are not resolved, persons, organizations and Indigenous communities may submit a formal request to the Director of Ontario Parks (MECP) for reconsideration of decisions made through the project evaluation process. This opportunity takes place immediately following the release of a notice of completion for the project. The Director will make a decision regarding reconsideration within 90 days of receiving all pertinent information relating to the request.

Delegation and Coordination

Delegation to Proponent

The Ministry may delegate certain procedural requirements (e.g., inventories, screening, consultation, monitoring) of this policy. The Ministry will determine which aspects to delegate on a case-by-case basis. The delegate is accountable to the Ministry for the satisfactory completion of the requirements under this policy.

The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act* (FIPPA) may inhibit an external party's ability to conduct direct communications (e.g., access personal information) on behalf of the Ministry as part of consultation required, in which case the Ministry will conduct the direct communications.

The Ministry is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the applicable requirements of this policy are met.

Coordination with EAA Processes

Projects proposed by other ministries, Crown agencies or third parties that extend beyond provincial park or conservation reserve boundaries may be subject to processes or other requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) in addition to this policy. In these cases, the Ministry may coordinate the procedural requirements of this policy with such EAA processes or other requirements. Coordination reduces duplication and shares consultation and documentation requirements so that the processes are completed in a more timely and efficient manner.

Other Legislation and Policy

This policy under the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006* (PPCRA) does not replace or exempt the processes or authorizations of other applicable federal or provincial legislation, such as permits or approvals and the specific involvement or consultation opportunities that they may require. Some of the other legislation that often applies to projects include:

Federal legislation

- *Constitution Act, 1982* (e.g., Section 35)
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act*
- *Fisheries Act*

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Provincial legislation

- *Ontario Heritage Act*
- *Endangered Species Act, 2007*

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Table 1: List of Projects

Projects that are denoted as "Screen for Category" (✓) are to be screened for placement into Categories B or C or D, unless the table specifies that a project:

- is pre-assigned to Category A; or
- may be screened for placement into Categories A, B, C, or D.

Under "Site-Specific policy required":

- 'Yes' means the project requires site-specific policy prior to implementing;
- 'No' means the project does not require site-specific policy prior to implementing; and
- 'Maybe' means that staff must assess the project individually to determine whether site-specific policy is required prior to implementing as per Section 4.0.

Resource Stewardship Projects

✓ Project is subject to environmental impact assessment for projects in provincial parks and conservation reserves.

ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
Wildlife Management						
1	Manage native wildlife population		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes: • one or more means of control (e.g., humane dispatching and disposal related to native wildlife population management, re-introduction of native predators, capture and relocation, disturbance, immunocontraception); • control of wildlife diseases and pathogens;	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					• reintroduction of native wildlife species to rehabilitate or re-establish populations; • manage hyperabundant species; and • manage native insects. For management of beaver dams see ID#65.	
2	Manage human-wildlife conflicts	✓		No	Includes actions to reduce or prevent public health and safety risks resulting from interactions between humans and native wildlife (e.g., bears, raccoons, and beaver). May include such activities as aversive conditioning, harassment and deterrents, trapping/immobilization and relocation, humane dispatching and disposal of individuals. May involve the use of physical, chemical or biological methods. Also includes management of feral animals or displaced wildlife (i.e., forced migrants due to flood, forest fire, development or other disturbance). For management of beaver dams see ID#65.	
3	Enhance, rehabilitate, restore or manage native wildlife habitat					
	(a) Minor	✓		No	Minor projects are those with minimal site alteration (e.g., piling brush; placement of rocks or logs; tree planting; installation of above ground or elevated nesting sites, nesting boxes or platforms; bat boxes; basking rocks; reptile fencing; riparian plantings; ecopassage installation to support	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					amphibians, reptiles, small mammals; construction of underground hibernacula).	
	(b) Major		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Major projects are those with moderate to major site alteration and/or in-water work (e.g., placement of in-water root wads or large woody debris; in-stream addition of gravel; or large ecopassage installation for ungulates).	
4	Live trap or capture native wildlife for reintroduction in other areas		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		
5	Fish stocking	✓	✓	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if project is: • a continuation of an ongoing stocking program of the same species; or • a new program of a species native to a water body or watercourse for rehabilitation or provision of hatchery-dependent fishing opportunities and is consistent with provincial park and conservation reserve policies for fish stocking. Otherwise, screen to Category B/C/D. The obligation to provide notice does not apply where the Ministry is concerned that the freshly stocked fish would be prematurely fished out by persons who became aware of the stocking through such notice, thus frustrating the purpose of the project.	**No** for continuation of an on-going stocking program with the same species in the same water body. **Maybe** in all other cases.

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
6	Construct, replace or decommission fish way, fish ladder, fish weir, fish fence, fish barriers, or similar structure		✓	Maybe		**Yes** for construction of new or decommission of existing. **Maybe** for replacement of existing.
Landform & Vegetation Management						
7	Maintain, enhance, rehabilitate or restore native plant habitat, vegetation community or natural environment	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if one of the following activities, provided it does not involve in-water work: • maintain native plant habitat, vegetation community or natural environments; • includes control measures related to pathogens; • restoring an anthropogenically disturbed area or decommissioned campsite; • restoring a decommissioned trail or road (e.g., after removal or alteration of any applied surfacing materials); • collection of native plant and tree seeds, cuttings, grafts or seedlings, etc. for restoration purposes; or • maintaining a native plant nursery for transplanting within a provincial park or conservation reserve. Otherwise, screen to A/B/C/D. For management of beaver dams see ID#65.	**No** for Pre-assigned Category A projects. **Maybe** in all other cases.

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
8	Fire use – prescribed burn	✓		No	The project must conform to the *Wildland Fire Management Strategy* and the *Prescribed Burn Planning Manual.*	
9	Remove standing or fallen trees for resource management purposes		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes thinning or removing a tree plantation. See ID# 47 for hazard tree removal.	
Alien & Invasive Species						
10	Prevent, control or eradicate alien or invasive species	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A for control or eradicate. Screen to A/B/C/D for prevent.	**No** for Pre-assigned Category A. **Maybe** in all other cases.
Cultural Heritage Resources Management					Consult the Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources for additional information.	
11	Maintain, conserve, stabilize or retire cultural heritage resources	✓		No		
12	Reconstruct, renovate, restore or adaptive re-use of cultural heritage resources		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		
13	Decommission or relocate built heritage resources		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		
Water & Shoreline Management						
14	Build new, replace or decommission dam, weir, dike works, outflow, spillway or diversion (not part of a waterpower project)		✓	Maybe		**Yes** for construction of new, or decommission of existing. **Maybe** for replacement of existing.

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
15	Maintain or repair dam, weir, dike works, outflow, spillway or diversion (not part of a waterpower project)					
	(a) minor	✓		No	Minor projects are maintenance and repair involving above water work (e.g., replacing bullhead gates/stop logs/flashboards/handstops; replacing deteriorated concrete in parts of a structure as opposed to substantially replacing the dam; installing clay or other impervious liner).	
	(b) major		✓ (A/B/C/D)	No	Major projects are those involving in-water work.	
16	Manage water levels (often shared water bodies)	✓	✓	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if project conforms with an approved watershed plan, or similar plan developed through consultation, concerning management of water levels. Traditional water level management regimes (e.g., to cover spring runoff or fall drawdown) may continue as a pre-assigned Category A until evaluated through a consultation process, as noted in the previous sentence. Otherwise screen to Category B/C/D.	**No** if there is an approved watershed plan, or similar plan developed through consultation, concerning management of water levels. **Maybe** in all other cases.
17	Install new, replace or remove existing erosion control or shoreline/bank stabilization (i.e., engineered)		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		
18	Maintain or repair existing erosion control or shoreline/bank stabilization	✓		No		

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
	or control minor erosion (e.g., install silt fencing, vegetation mats)					
19	Dredge or fill below high-water mark		✓	Maybe	Includes: relocation, realignment, deepening or channelization of a watercourse; dredging, sand sucking or other means to maintain navigation or remove contaminated sediments; dredging areas adjacent to a watercourse/waterbody where siltation may be a potential problem.	
20	Resource stewardship projects not explicitly listed in this table		✓ (A/B/C/ D)	Maybe		

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Development and Operations Projects

✓ Project is subject to environmental impact assessment for projects in provincial parks and conservation reserves.

ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
Beaches (natural or human-made)						
21	Develop new beach or expand existing beach		✓	Maybe		**Yes** for develop new beach. **Maybe** for expand existing beach.
22	Replenish sand on existing beach	✓	✓	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if sand is only applied to areas above high-water mark for constructed beaches i.e., beaches not established through natural processes. Otherwise screen to Category B/C/D.	
23	Maintain and rake existing beach	✓	✓	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if the raking avoids affecting values of conservation interest (temporally and spatially). Otherwise, screen to Category B/C/D.	**No** for litter/garbage removal, removal of material that is a health and safety risk, and for installation of erosion control (e.g., boardwalk, snow fence), and algae removal where necessary. **Maybe** if mechanical alternation/disturbance of beach – grading, raking, grooming.

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
Buildings or Other Structures					Some structures are considered under other project IDs (e.g., boat launch, dock, bridge, telecommunication tower). Where there is potential to affect cultural heritage resources, consult the Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources.	
24	Develop buildings or other structures	✓	✓	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if the project: • is a building or other structure with a building/structural footprint of 400 m² or less; • replaces an existing building without exceeding the same general size (i.e., number of floors, interior area, overall height) and building footprint; • consists of multiple buildings and/or structures in one location that taken together would result in a combined building footprint of less than 400 m² (e.g., administration complex, maintenance complex); • is a structure, that is not a building, and does not fall within any other type of project listed in this table and the structural footprint is 400 m² or less, and its height is 10 m or less (flagpoles or light standards excepted); or • is an addition to an existing building or structure that does not result in a	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					building/structural footprint that is greater than 400 m². Otherwise, screen to Category B/C/D.	
25	Maintain, repair, renovate, retrofit existing buildings or other structures	✓		Maybe	Includes interior or exterior work (e.g., green energy retrofit). Also includes altering the use (adaptive re-use) of a building or structure (e.g., converting a staff cottage to alternative roofed accommodation or a maintenance building). Does not include additions to existing buildings or structures (See ID# 24). See ID# 57 and/or ID# 58 when dealing with collection, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste (e.g., asbestos, urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, etc.).	**No** for maintain, repair or renovate/retrofit for existing use. **Maybe** for renovate or retrofit for new use.
26	Relocate or decommission existing buildings or other structures		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		
Campground/Campsites						
27	Develop new campground; expand or reconfigure existing campground					
	a) Minor		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes expand or reconfigure existing campground: developing campsites in already disturbed area, or enlarging the footprint of the area devoted to	Consider cumulative effects (i.e., include any previous expansions when considering how current

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					campsites Also includes adding new campground campsites or group campsites (including for the purposes of roofed accommodation),	proposal will affect park/CR management).
	b) Major		✓ (B/C/D)	Yes	Includes develop new campground.	
28	Develop new interior campsites		✓ (A/B/C/ D)	Maybe	Includes installing pit privies, fire pits and tent pads serving interior campsites.	
29	Maintain or rehabilitate campsites	✓		No	Includes relocating existing pit privies and fire pits provided it does not enlarge the footprint of the area devoted to existing campsites and does not increase total number of campsites or total visitor capacity at group campsites.	
Day Use Area						
30	Develop new or enlarge existing day use area		✓ (A/B/C/ D)	Maybe	Includes playground area or playing field/surface.	**Yes** for develop new. **Maybe** for enlarge existing.
31	Maintain or rehabilitate existing day use area	✓		No		
32	Install playground equipment in existing day use area	✓		No		
33	Maintain, remove or replace playground equipment or playing field/surface	✓		No		

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
Dock, Swimming Platform, Pier						
34	Install, maintain, repair or remove seasonal dock, swimming platform or similar structure	✓		No	Includes floating and pole docks.	
35	Maintain, repair or replace a permanent dock, pier or similar structure (same structural footprint and location)	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	No	Pre-assigned to Category A for maintain. Screen to Category A/B/C/D for repair or replace.	
36	Develop new or decommission permanent dock, swimming platform, pier or similar structure		✓	Maybe	Permanent includes cribs, pilings or gabion baskets	**Yes** for develop new. **Maybe** for decommission.
Boat Launch, Lock, or Similar Structure						
37	Develop new or decommission existing boat launch, lock, or similar structure		✓	Maybe		**Yes** for develop new. **Maybe** for decommission.
38	Maintain, repair or replace (same structural footprint and location) existing boat launch, lock, or similar structure	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	No	Pre-assigned to Category A for maintain. Screen to Category A/B/C/D for repair or replace.	
Road, Water Crossing, Parking Area					Includes winter road, bridge, culvert, causeway, resource access roads and trails. Excludes recreational trails, portages and associated water crossings (See ID# 42, 43, 44 & 45).	
39	Develop new road, water crossing or parking area		✓	Yes		
40	Decommission existing road, water crossing or parking area		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
41	Maintain, repair, upgrade or reconfigure existing road, water crossing, or parking area					
	(a) Minor	✓		No	Includes: • routine maintenance of existing surface to maintain condition (e.g., grading, filling potholes, adding a lift of gravel to maintain standard, repaving, replacing tar and chip) with no change in capacity (e.g., load bearing, traffic volume, vehicle size) or design standard; • routine maintenance and repair of water crossing, including installation beaver baffle device and culvert grates; • minor realignment within existing disturbed area adjacent to the road and/or work to ensure safety; • reconfiguration of parking area without enlarging the footprint of the area devoted to existing parking; or • paving the existing shoulder without increasing footprint of the road.	
	(b) Major		✓	Maybe	Includes an increase in original or as built capacity or improvement of design standard of existing road, water crossing or parking area (e.g., widening, traffic volume, vehicle size, increased parking spaces). Also includes major work that significantly extends the life of a facility (e.g., reconstruction or replacement of a	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					water crossing). Also includes expansion of existing, or adding new, water crossing structure to existing road.	
Recreational Trail, Portage, Boardwalk, Viewing Tower, Platform, Blind					Includes related water crossings.	
42	Maintain, repair, upgrade or replace existing recreational trail, portage, boardwalk, viewing tower, platform, blind					
	(a) Minor	✓		No	Includes: • routine maintenance of existing surface to maintain condition with no change in capacity or design standard; • minor engineering (e.g., water bars, small culverts, ditches, steps, beaver baffle device); • re-opens or re-establishes a trail/portage that was closed in the previous 10 years; • minor upgrades to meet accessibility standards (e.g., ramps); or • minor realignment (i.e., under 100 linear metres) and/or work to ensure safety of an existing trail/portage.	
	(b) Major		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes change in capacity or design standard, major engineering (e.g., bridges), and major realignments.	
43	Develop new recreational trail, portage, bridge, boardwalk, viewing		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
	tower, platform, blind intended for non-motorized use					
44	Develop new recreational trail or bridge intended for motorized use		✓	Yes		
45	Decommission existing recreational trail, portage, bridge, boardwalk, viewing tower, platform or blind		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes trails intended for either motorized or non-motorized use.	
Landscaping, Grounds Keeping, Altering Grade, Fencing or Other Barrier						
46	Alter grade of land above high-water mark				Includes the placing or dumping of clean, uncontaminated fill and/or the alteration of the grade of land. See ID#19 for dredging or filling below the high-water mark.	
	(a) Minor	✓		No	Includes grade alteration required to implement a Category A project. Also includes maintenance of existing drains, ditching, culverts, outflows, settling ponds, etc. (associated with storm water or sewage management, etc.).	
	(b) Major		✓	Maybe	Includes building earthen berm, new storm water management feature, and changing grade by cut and/or fill.	
47	Cut, mow, plant, spray native vegetation	✓		No	Includes grounds keeping right-of-way maintenance, boundary or survey line clearing and hazard elimination. See ID# 9 for removal of trees for resource management purposes.	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
48	Install, maintain, replace or remove fence or other barrier	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	No	Pre-assigned Category A if: • maintaining, replacing or removing existing fence or similar barrier; • installing new fencing or other barriers to enclose or delineate existing development or activity area (e.g., parking lot, maintenance compound, off-leash dog area, etc.), or sensitive feature or area; or • to restrict unauthorized access. Otherwise, screen to Category A/B/C/D.	
Services or Utilities					Includes water intakes, water wells, water treatment and distribution, natural gas wells and distribution, fuel storage tanks, sewage collection and treatment, telecommunication distribution (e.g., radio towers, cell towers, fibre optic cable) and electricity generation and distribution. Where ground disturbance (e.g., trenching, tunnelling or horizontal boring) may affect cultural heritage resources, consult the Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources.	
49	Install new, or replace, upgrade, or maintain existing service or utility	✓	✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Pre-assigned Category A if: • a new, replacement or upgraded service or utility that is installed in an already disturbed area; or	**No** for maintain or replace existing. **Maybe** for install new or upgrade existing.

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					• a replacement or upgrade to an existing system with same structural footprint where area requires disturbance; or • maintenance of existing service or utility. Otherwise, screen to A/B/C/D.	
50	Decommission an existing service or utility		✓ (A/B/C/ Beyond Scope)	Maybe		
51	Install electrical hook-ups for existing campsites in a campground		✓ (A/B/C/ D)	Maybe		
52	Install new or maintain, replace or decommission an enclosed fuel-powered electrical generator	✓		No	Fuel-powered electrical generators, whether as a primary or secondary source of power, have other Environmental Activity and Sector Registry requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act*, Part II.2 that go beyond the PPCRA.	
53	Develop, replace or maintain electricity generation facility and supporting infrastructure		✓ (A/B/C/ D)	Maybe		

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
Recycling, Composting and Waste Management					Pertains to recyclables, compost and waste generated in a provincial park or conservation reserve through authorized uses and services. Also includes management of wastes that pre-existed the establishment of a provincial park or conservation reserve. This is not intended to deal with external commercial or industrial wastes.	
54	Implement recycling and composting programs	✓		No		
55	Collect non-hazardous solid waste in and dispose outside provincial park or conservation reserve	✓		No		
56	Collect non-hazardous solid waste in, and dispose within a provincial park or conservation reserve	✓	✓	Yes	Pre-assigned Category A if an existing operation covered by a valid MECP Certificate of Approval.\n\nOtherwise screen to Category B/C/D.	
57	Collect or treat hazardous waste or materials in, and dispose outside provincial park or conservation reserve	✓		Maybe	Pertains to the removal of hazardous wastes quickly and safely.\n\nIncludes the collection of hazardous waste for subsequent removal from the park or conservation reserve, such as electrical transformers, automotive batteries, Orange Drop program. Also includes removal of drilling spoils, dredged sediment or contaminated soil (not related to a sudden spill). Other requirements may also apply to this	

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ID	Projects	Pre-assigned Category A	Screen for Category	Site-specific policy required	Notes – Screening	Notes – Site-specific policy requirements
					activity, including *Environmental Protection Act*, Part V, s. 27.	
58	Disposal of hazardous waste or materials in a provincial park or conservation reserve		✓	Yes		
Other General Operations						
59	Provide visitor programs and services	✓		No		
60	Maintain wildlife in captivity for rehabilitation or interpretation and education programs	✓		No	Includes potential to release successfully rehabilitate native wildlife.	
61	Conduct research		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe	Includes all research carried out in provincial parks and conservation reserves	
62	Install, maintain, remove or replace marker, sign or outdoor display	✓		No	Includes boundary markers, highway traffic signs, trail signs, notices, interpretive panels, and plaques (recognition, memorial or historical).	
63	Operate and maintain facilities	✓		No		
64	Plug a water, oil or gas well	✓		No		
65	Manage beaver dams		✓ (A/B/C/D)	No	Includes management related to public health and safety and to protect infrastructure.	
66	Emergency operations	✓		No	See *Emergency Provisions* section for further information on the process associated with emergency operations.	
67	Development and operations projects not explicitly listed in this table		✓ (A/B/C/D)	Maybe		

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Table 2: Screening Criteria

The reviewer should read each criterion as beginning with the phrase: *"This project may affect…."*

Note: If a criterion clearly does not apply, the reviewer will indicate "N/A" in the "Comments, Rationale, Mitigation" column.

All criteria apply to the environment both within and adjacent to the project footprint and inside as well as outside the provincial park or conservation reserve.

Screening Criteria *"This project may affect …"*	Rating of Potential Net Effect								Comments, Rationale, Mitigation
	-H	-M	-L	Unk	Nil	+L	+M	+H	
▪ Ability to achieve the vision for the provincial park or conservation reserve									
Ecological Integrity Considerations									
▪ Significant earth or life science values (e.g., ANSI, wetlands, important bird areas) or critical landform-vegetation types									
▪ Ecological systems (ecosystems), functions and processes									
▪ Terrestrial or aquatic vegetation (e.g., fragmentation, alteration, loss of diversity and/or critical loss at a landscape level)									
▪ Specific wildlife species, communities or their habitat (including numbers, diversity and movement of resident or migratory species) that may be important for survival									
▪ Alien or invasive species (e.g., fish, wildlife, insects, plants, micro-organism)									
▪ Species at risk, and S1-S3 ranked species, or their habitat									
▪ Ecosystems or species (other than species at risk) under a special management program (e.g., elk restoration plan, alvar restoration plan)									
▪ Air quality									
▪ Drainage, flooding, sedimentation or erosion									

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Screening Criteria *"This project may affect …"*	Rating of Potential Net Effect								Comments, Rationale, Mitigation
	-H	-M	-L	Unk	Nil	+L	+M	+H	
▪ Water quantity or quality (ground or surface; source water) (e.g., potential for release of contaminates into water)									
▪ Soils and sediment quality (e.g., potential for release of contaminates into soils)									
▪ Permafrost									
▪ Other (specify)									
Land Use, Resource Management Considerations									
▪ Navigation									
▪ Lands or waters subject to natural or human-made hazards									
▪ Other projects within a provincial park or conservation reserve									
▪ Uses, persons or property or other projects outside a provincial park or conservation reserve									
▪ Internal traffic patterns or traffic infrastructure									
▪ Access to or egress from a provincial park or conservation reserve									
▪ Recycling or waste management									
▪ Non-renewable resources (e.g., aggregates, oil or gas. agricultural land)									
▪ Noise and/or light levels									
▪ Other (specify)									
Cultural Heritage Resource[1] Considerations									
▪ Land archaeological resources, sites or areas of archaeological potential									
▪ Marine archaeological resources, sites or areas of potential including activities that can impact a river or lake bed									
▪ Built heritage resources									
▪ Cultural heritage landscape									
▪ Other (specify)									

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Screening Criteria *"This project may affect …"*	Rating of Potential Net Effect								Comments, Rationale, Mitigation
	-H	-M	-L	Unk	Nil	+L	+M	+H	
Social and Economic Considerations									
▪ Remoteness (access inaccessible areas)									
▪ Views or aesthetics									
▪ People and institutions									
▪ Community character, enjoyment of property, or local amenities									
▪ Recreation opportunities (public or private)									
▪ Government services, public facilities or infrastructure									
▪ Public health and/or safety									
▪ Local, regional or provincial economies or businesses									
▪ Tourism values (e.g., resource-based tourist lodge)									
▪ Traditional use sites									
▪ Other (specify)									
Indigenous Considerations									
▪ First Nation reserves or Indigenous communities									
▪ Sacred, spiritual, or ceremonial sites									
▪ Traditional or resources uses, or economic activities									
▪ Established or asserted Aboriginal rights or treaty rights									
▪ Lands and/or waters subject to land claims									
▪ Other (specify)									

Attach completed Screening Table to Confirmation of Project Category.

Optional attachments: ☐ Map(s)
☐ Photograph(s)
☐ Other (specify) _____

[1] Where a project may affect a known or potential cultural heritage resource, further technical heritage study may be warranted. Information on how cultural heritage resources should be identified, and how to assess their significance and develop mitigation techniques is found in the Technical Guideline for Cultural Heritage Resources for Projects Planned Under the Class Environmental Assessment for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects and the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (2006)

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for further guidance on consideration of cultural heritage resources. This Guideline will be reviewed from time to time and may be updated or replaced, as appropriate.