

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Crown Land Use Policy Atlas
Policy Report
E2260w: Amethyst Highlands

ID: E2260w

Area Name: Amethyst Highlands

Designation: Enhanced Management Area

Category: Fish and Wildlife

District(s): Thunder Bay

Area (hectares): 9106 ha (TBD)

Date Policy Report Last Updated: June 9, 2020

DESCRIPTION:

This Enhanced Management Area (EMA) referred to as the Amethyst Highlands is centred on a group of sixteen naturally reproducing brook trout lakes, which have limited or no road access. It is located approximately 50 kilometres northeast of the City of Thunder Bay, within the Municipality of Shuniah, the Township of Dorion and unorganized territory. There are substantial areas of private land interspersed throughout the eastern portion of the EMA.

Of the sixteen naturally reproducing brook trout lakes to be protected in the EMA:

- Focal Lakes: Thirteen lakes are considered to be focal lakes; namely Anderson, Bigger, Bisect, Elbow, Hilma, Little Hilma, Hunters 2 and Hunters 3 (collectively known as Hunters Lakes), Upper Hunters, MacIntosh, Clegge, Long and Wideman
- Secondary Lakes: Three lakes are considered to be secondary lakes; namely Nalla, Sprat and Mackenzie.

For the purposes of this land use policy, 'use limitation zone' refers to the areas within:

- 600m of a Focal lake
- 120m of a Secondary lake
- The groundwater recharge zones of Focal and/or Secondary lakes

Access to the EMA will be through existing roads and trails only to provide a regionally unique and sustainable angling experience, as well as other backcountry recreational opportunities. Existing activities in this area include: mineral exploration, amethyst mining, cottaging, Crown land recreation, wind power generation, sport fishing, hunting, trapping, bait harvesting and forestry.

LAND USE INTENT:

The primary land use intent for this area is to provide for the sustainability of the brook trout resource and to maintain the remoteness of the area. Other land uses and activities may also occur where they can be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the primary intent and as permitted by the specific land use policies for this area.

The key means to achieve this primary intent will be through:

- 1) Managing access within the EMA to reduce the risk of introductions of non-native species and overfishing. This will be accomplished by:
 - I. Prohibiting development of new roads or trails (including winter road or trails) for any purpose within 1000m of the thirteen focal brook trout lakes, with one exception*. Any activities occurring within this zone that require road access must use existing roads or trails.

* On the southwest side of Clegge Lake, south of the Mackenzie River, to the north of the unnamed creek entering Long Lake, where no new roads for any purpose (including winter roads or trail) are permitted within 900 metres of Clegge Lake.
 - II. Prohibiting development of new roads or trails for any purposes (including winter road or trails) within 120m of the three secondary brook trout lakes.
 - III. Applying road use restrictions and rehabilitation requirements to all new permitted roads.
 - IV. Allowing upgrades of existing roads will be considered for commercial purposes as set out in the Management Direction table below; however, upgrades for recreational purposes will not be permitted.
 - V. Allowing recreational access into the Amethyst Highlands through existing roads, trails and portages.
- 2) Excluding activities within 600 m of the thirteen Focal Lakes and 120m of three Secondary Lakes that have the potential to negatively impact the water quality and remoteness of these lakes. Good water quality is important to the success of brook trout populations and remoteness is needed to preserve the regionally unique fishing experience.
- 3) Excluding activities within the groundwater recharge areas of the thirteen Focal Lakes and three Secondary Lakes that have the potential to negatively impact groundwater flow. Intact groundwater flow systems are critical for the spawning success of brook trout.

This area also contains lakes designated for lake trout management: Nolan, Mackenzie, MacIntosh, Hilma, Little Hilma and Nalla. For a current list of the designated lakes associated with this area, please refer to the Lake Trout Lake Search Index, accessible via the 'Source of Direction' portion of this policy report.

Management of this area is also governed by the general policies contained within the Thunder Bay District Land Use Guidelines (1983).

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION:

Fish and Wildlife Enhanced Management Areas are intended to be managed for the maintenance and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and populations, while allowing for the multiple uses of other natural resources. These areas may include: known or potential fish or wildlife habitat for species that require special management practices, or areas where enhanced hunting and fishing opportunities may be provided through specific management and land use practices.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Aggregate Extraction	Yes	<p>Authorized operations in existence prior to the creation of this EMA are permitted to continue. Expansion of these operations onto adjacent lands will be allowed to occur so long as this expansion is not within a groundwater recharge zone.</p> <p>New Aggregate extractions (including amethyst extraction) will not be permitted within the use limitation zone.</p> <p>Outside of these areas new aggregate extraction proposals (including amethyst extraction) will only be considered where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA.</p>
Commercial Bait Harvesting	Yes	<p>Existing authorized operations are permitted to continue (unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts). New operations can be considered where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA.</p> <p>Access within this EMA will be through existing roads and trails. New temporary access roads may be used, however there is no guarantee of continued access along these temporary roads.</p>
Commercial Fishing	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting	Yes	<p>Existing use is permitted to continue (unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts). New operations can be considered where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA.</p> <p>Access within this EMA will be through existing roads and trails. New temporary access roads may be used, however there is no guarantee of continued access along these temporary roads.</p>
Commercial Hydro Development	No	
Commercial Power Generation Development	Yes	<p>Portions of the existing Greenwich Wind Farm lie within the EMA and will be allowed to remain.</p> <p>New power generation infrastructure and activities are not permitted within the use limitation zone.</p> <p>Outside of these areas proposals will only be considered where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA.</p>
Commercial Timber Harvest	Yes	<p>Commercial timber harvest is not permitted within the use limitation zone.</p>

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
		Outside of these areas, commercial timber harvesting will only be considered where activities are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA
Commercial Tourism (services and/or facilities), Existing	Yes	Existing commercial tourism operations are permitted to continue.
Commercial Tourism (services and/or facilities), New	yes	Lake-based tourism is not permitted. Proposals for new tourist facilities and services (e.g., mini-LUPs for moose or bear hunt camps) will only be considered where they are demonstrated to be consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA.
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors, Existing	Yes	A portion of a Hydro One transmission line exists on the south side of the EMA, running adjacent to south east side of Little Hilma Lake, and will be allowed to remain.
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors, New	No	
Mineral Exploration and Development	Yes	<p>Prospectors may stake and work claims under the Mining Act, however other restrictions based on specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) will apply.</p> <p>Specific land use policies within this report may not apply to activities occurring on lands leased for both Surface and Mining Rights under the Mining Act, however, these policies may apply where specific rights are reserved to the Crown (e.g. Sand and Gravel) on said leases.</p>
Peat Extraction	No	

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES		
Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Crown Land Disposition	Maybe	Disposition proposals will only be considered where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies (e.g. road restrictions) of this EMA. Additionally, there are significant restrictions on land disposition on designated lake trout lakes. See specific direction in Crown land disposition policy (PL 4.02.01 Appendix A).
Crown Land Disposition, Cottaging	No	
Crown Land Disposition,	No	

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Rural Residential		
Crown Land Disposition, Urban Development	No	
Road Development and Maintenance, Existing	Yes	<p>Roads existing prior to the date of the creation of this EMA can be maintained for commercial, industrial or recreational purposes.</p> <p>Upgrades or re-establishment of existing, or decommissioned roads or trails for commercial or industrial purposes will not be considered within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000m of a Focal Lake • 120m of a Secondary Lake • the groundwater recharge zones of Focal and/or Secondary lakes <p>Outside of these areas maintenance and upgrades of existing roads and trails may be considered for commercial or industrial purposes where they are consistent with the land use intent and specific land use policies of this EMA.</p> <p>Upgrades of existing roads or trails for recreational purposes are not permitted.</p>
Road Development and Maintenance, New	Yes	<p>No new roads for any purpose (including winter roads) are permitted within 1000 metres of 12 of the focal lakes: Anderson, Bigger, Bisect, Elbow, Hilma, Little Hilma, Hunter's 2 and Hunter's 3 (collectively known as Hunters Lakes), Upper Hunter's, MacIntosh, Long and Wideman.</p> <p>No new roads for any purpose (including winter roads) are permitted within 1000 metres of Clegge Lake, with the exception of the SW side of Clegge Lake, south of the Mackenzie river, to the north of the unnamed creek entering Long Lake, where no new roads for any purpose (including winter roads) are permitted within 900 metres of Clegge Lake.</p> <p>No new roads for any purpose are permitted within 120m of the secondary lakes.</p> <p>No new roads for any purpose are permitted within the groundwater recharge zones of the Focal and/or Secondary Lakes.</p> <p>New roads for commercial or industrial purposes (including winter roads) located elsewhere within the EMA will be planned in consultation with the MNR. They will be constructed using the lowest standard possible (as defined by the MNR), at the lowest possible density using the least amount of entry points to the EMA as possible. Roads will be decommissioned and rehabilitated as soon as possible after the purpose for which they are constructed has been met.</p>

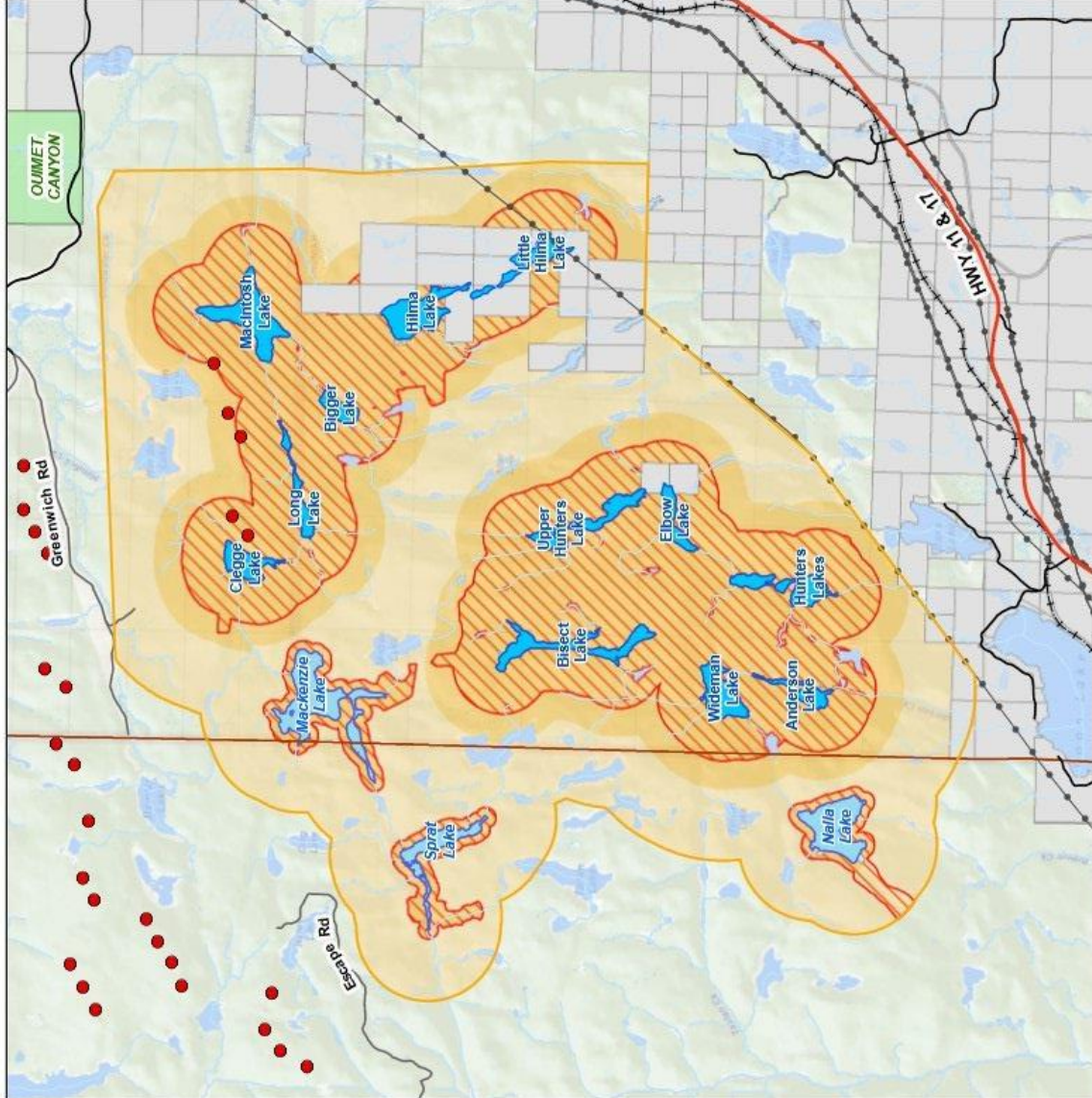
Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
		<p>Access controls (such as signs or gates) will be required for all new roads. These controls are to be located as close to the EMA boundary as possible to prevent new public recreational access.</p> <p>No unauthorized access by motor vehicle will be permitted on these roads.</p>

RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Crown Land Recreation	Yes	
Hunting	Yes	Check township by-laws which may restrict the discharge of firearms.
Motor Boat Use	Yes	
Road Use (public), Existing	Yes	Public use of existing roads, that are not restricted to the public (e.g. Himdick Lake Road), within the EMA will be allowed to continue.
Road Use (public), New	No	New roads within the EMA created for commercial or industrial purposes will not be open to the public for recreational purposes.
Sport Fishing	Yes	
Recreational Trail Development, Existing	Yes	<p>Trails existing prior to the date of the creation of this EMA can be maintained for recreational purposes.</p> <p>No upgrades of existing trails to roads will be permitted for recreational purposes.</p>
Recreational Trail Development, New	No	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: See Map on following page.

Map Amethyst Highlands Enhanced Management Area



- Legend**
- Wind Turbine
 - - - Trail Network
 - Expressway / Highway
 - Local / Street
 - Primary Forest Access Road
 - Utility Line
 - +— Railway
 - Forest Management Unit
 - Rivers and Creeks
 - Large Lakes and Rivers
 - Focal Lakes
 - Secondary Lakes
 - EMA Boundary
 - Use Limitation Zone
 - No New Roads or Trails
 - Temporary Roads or Trails
 - Provincial Park
 - Private Land

Scale: 1:75,000
 10 5 0 10 20 30 Kilometres
 Produced by Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 Thunder Bay District - May 2020
 Data Sources: MNR/Land Information Ontario & District Files
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 This map is illustrative only.
 Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes,
 locations or features, nor as a guide to navigation.
 Map projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 16

Note: MNRF will consider the Land Use Intent and Management Direction outlined in this policy report when reviewing applications for permitted activities that require licences, leases, permits, or other forms of approval. The review of individual applications involves the consideration of a variety of factors and requirements on a site-specific basis in addition to land use policy.

SOURCE OF DIRECTION:

Amendment to Area-specific Crown Land Use Policy # 2014-005 (2020)

[Strategic Directions for Management of Ontario Crown Land](#)

[Lake Trout Lake Search Index \(2009\)](#)

[Crown Land Disposition Policy - Appendix A \(2008\) \(2008\)](#)

[Inland Ontario Lakes Designated for Lake Trout Management \(2006\)](#)

[Thunder Bay District Land Use Guidelines \(1983\)](#)

[Cette Rapport d'orientation en français](#)

This policy report is available online at the following address: <http://crownlanduseatlas.mnr.gov.on.ca>

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