



Ministry of Natural Resources
Crown Land Use Policy Atlas
Policy Report
G2622: Spruce-Current

ID: G2622
Area Name: Spruce-Current
Designation: General Use Area
District(s): Nipigon , Thunder Bay
Area (hectares): 133777
Date Policy Report Last Updated: October 16, 2020

DESCRIPTION:

North of the urban and rural areas of Thunder Bay extending up the Spruce River Road (Highway 527) is an area which offers good recreational and resource production capabilities.

It is popular for cottaging, fishing, hunting and Crown land camping and has been an important uranium exploration, amethyst mining, aggregate extraction and timber harvesting area. Numerous brook trout streams, sensitive raptor nest sites and interesting earth science features are found in this area.

The sparse development in this area is concentrated on the cottage subdivisions on the lakes along the Spruce River Road.

This area contains lake(s) designated for lake trout management. For a current list of designated lakes associated with this area, refer to the Lake Trout Lake Search Index accessible via the 'Source of Direction' portion of this policy report.

LAND USE INTENT:

Resource operations and recreational activity will have equal importance in this area.

Resource extraction will continue at present levels and may expand to meet local and Regional aggregate needs, tourism and mining interests in amethyst production, and recent active mineral exploration. Operations will be modified to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitats to support Crown land recreation activities.

An effort may be made to supply demand for additional cottages in the future through lake development planning of the Spruce River road lakes; Poshkokogan, Rinker, Edmondson and Wolf Lake in the Current River area.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION:

Commercial Activities

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Aggregate Extraction	Yes	Applications for new amethyst mines are anticipated and the aggregate resources will contribute to local and regional needs.
Bait Fishing	Yes	
Commercial Fishing	Yes	
Commercial Fur Harvesting	Yes	
Commercial Hydro Development	Yes	
Commercial Power Generation Development	Yes	
Commercial Timber Harvest	Yes	Forestry activities will continue. Operating and annual plans will contain specific guidelines which protect the Crown land recreation values, fish and wildlife resources, interesting earth science features and other land uses of this area.
Commercial Tourism (Services and/or Facilities), Existing	Yes	Tourism activity is permitted on Crown land in this area, recognizing the key land uses of public recreation and resource production and their resulting access and servicing which may detract from tourism uses. Poshkokogan Lake has road accessed tourism potential. Traditional accesses to this lake will be allowed to continue.
Commercial Tourism (Services and/or Facilities), New	Yes	Tourism activity is permitted on Crown land in this area, recognizing the key land uses of public recreation and resource production and their resulting access and servicing which may detract from tourism uses. Poshkokogan Lake has road accessed tourism potential. Traditional accesses to this lake will be allowed to continue.
Mineral Exploration and Development	Yes	Exploration and development will continue and is expected to expand I.e., amethyst or uranium.
Peat Extraction	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting	Yes	

Land and Resource Management Activities

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Crown Land Disposition	Maybe	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).

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Crown Land Disposition, Agriculture	No	Although agricultural uses exist in the adjacent Dorion area, no potential has been identified on Crown land in this area.
Crown Land Disposition, Cottaging	Yes	Crown land may be made available in the future through lake development planning on Poshkokogan, Rinker, Edmondson, McLeish, Max, Mawn, Decourcey, Wolf and Stames Lakes.
Crown Land Disposition, Rural Residential	No	
Crown Land Disposition, Urban Development	No	
Road Development and Maintenance, Existing	Yes	Road planning and development will be multipurpose to access forest and mineral resources and meet recreational needs.
Road Development and Maintenance, New	Yes	Road planning and development will be multipurpose to access forest and mineral resources and meet recreational needs.

Recreation Activities and Facilities

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Crown Land Recreation	Yes	The existing level of use may continue. Since the area is well accessed additional access points will not be developed but existing ones may be relocated to sites capable of sustaining use.
Hunting	Yes	
Road Use (public), Existing	Yes	Road planning and development will be multipurpose to access forest and mineral resources and meet recreational needs.
Road Use (public), New	Yes	Road planning and development will be multipurpose to access forest and mineral resources and meet recreational needs.
Sport Fishing	Yes	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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:

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

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

[Amendment to Area-specific Crown Land Use Policy #2007-25 \(2009\)](#)

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

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