

Figure 10

ONTARIO
Wabakimi
Kopka River
Whitesand
PARKS



Legend

Watershed Primary

- Great Lakes - St. Lawrence
- Nelson River
- Southwestern Hudson Bay
- Watershed -- Tertiary
- Lake

- Majoy River System Flow to Great Lakes Basin
- Conservation Reserve
- Other Provincial Park
- Wabakimi Provincial Park -- Original Boundary
- Wabakimi, Kopka River, and Whitesand Provincial Parks



Base data derived from the Land Information Ontario (LIO) compiled at a scale of 1:20000.

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Projection: UTM, Zone 16N, NAD83
Ontario Parks NW Zone
Date: September 2020

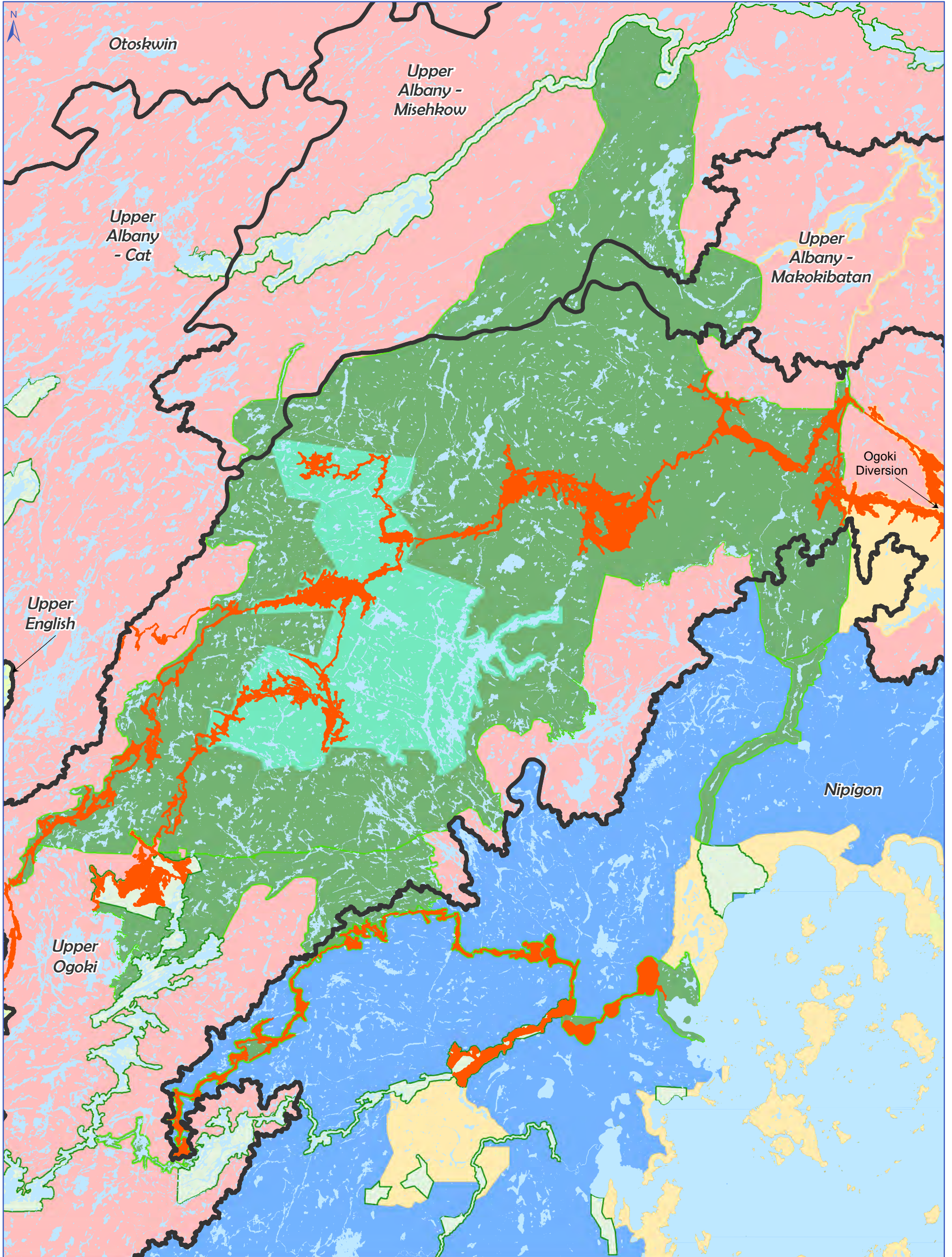


Figure 11

Bear Management Areas



Legend

- Railway
- Road**
 - Highway
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Unmaintained

- Lake
- Wildlife Management Unit
- Bear Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Other Provincial Park
- Wabakimi Provincial Park -- Original Boundary
- Wabakimi, Kopka River, and Whitesand Provincial Parks



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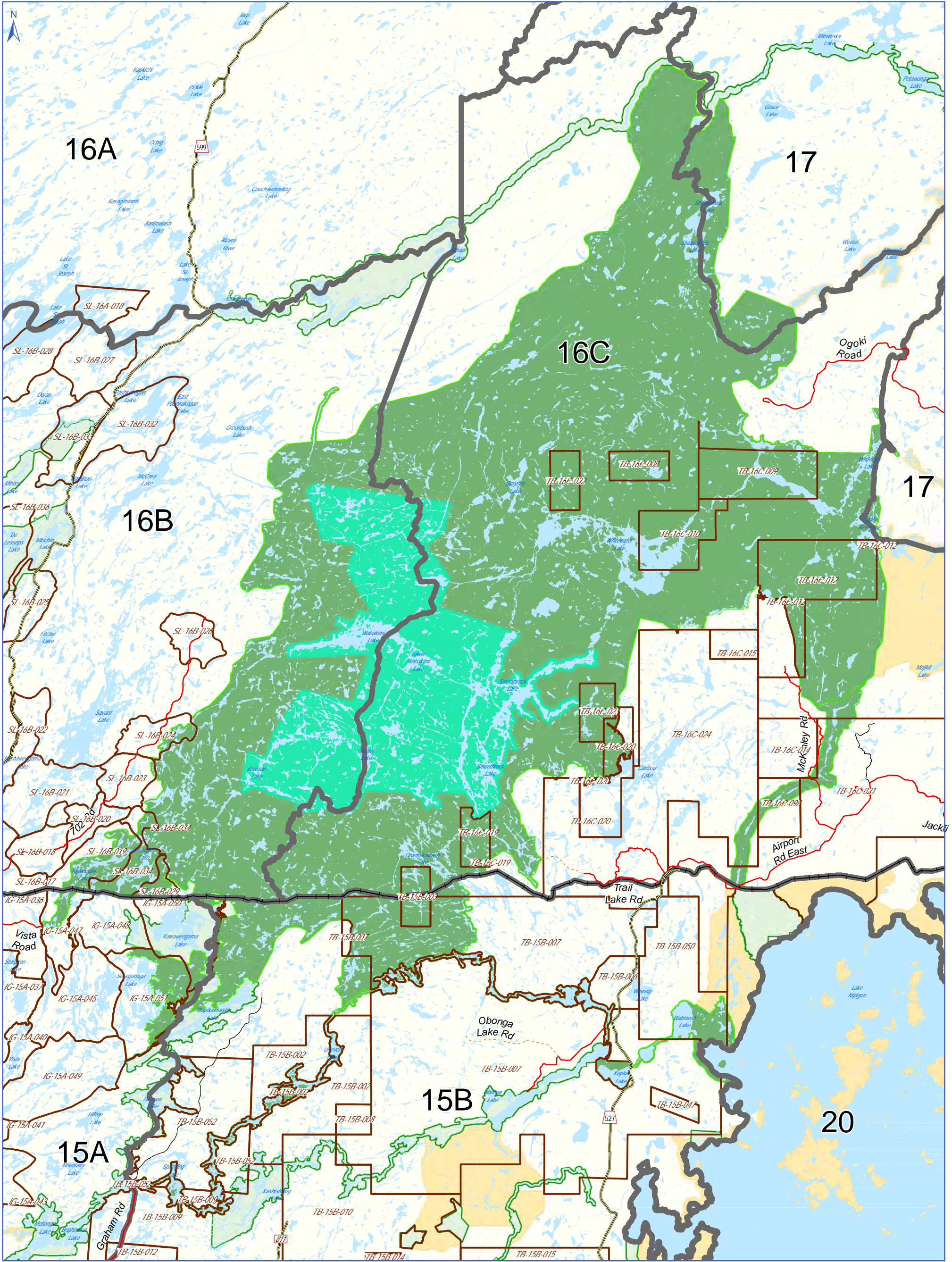


Figure 12

Traplines



Legend

Trapline Status

- Other
- Vacant
- In Use

Road

- Highway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Unmaintained

- Trapper Cabin
- Railway
- Lake
- Conservation Reserve
- First Nation Reserve
- Other Provincial Park
- Wabakimi Provincial Park -- Original Boundary
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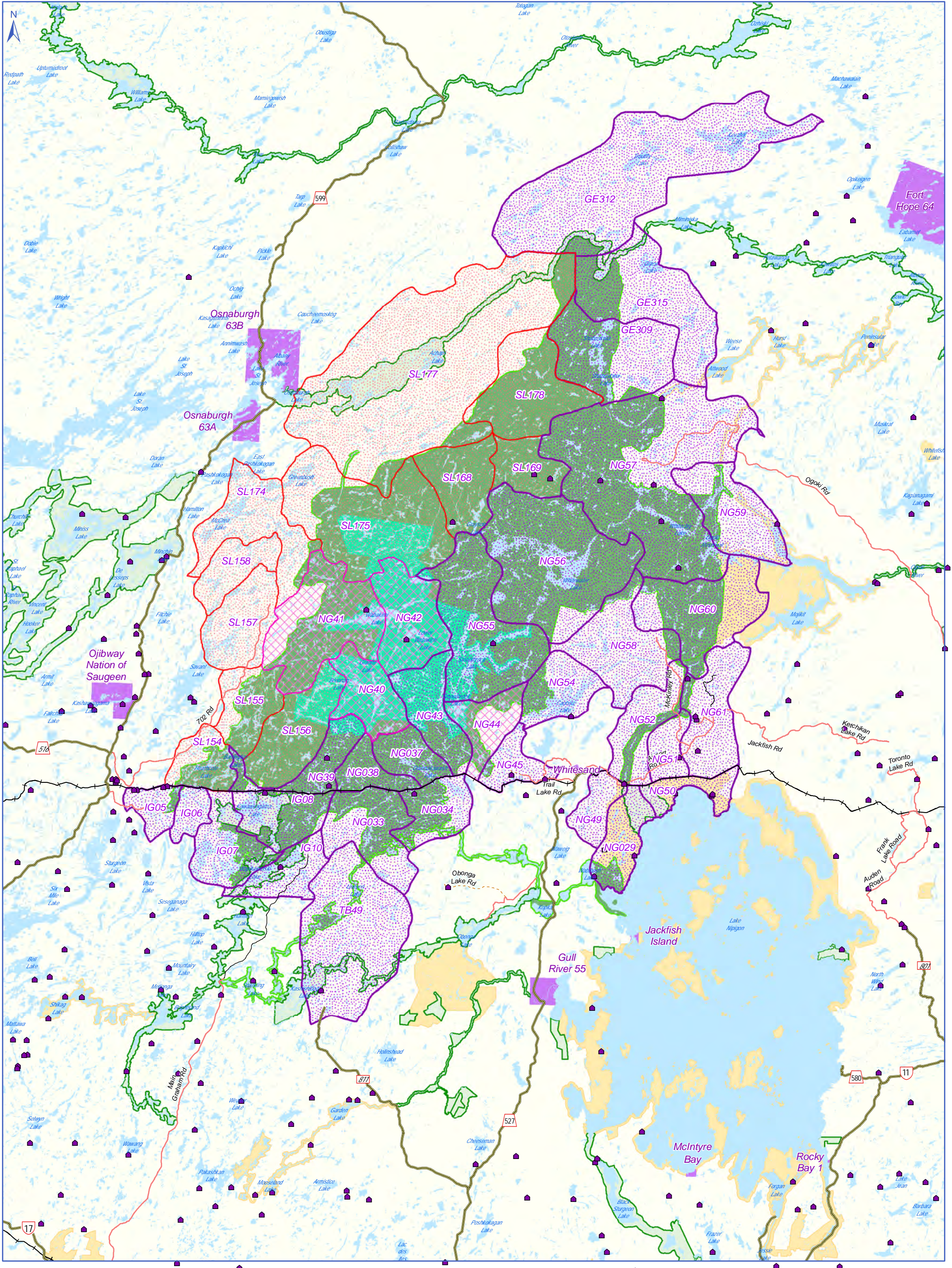


Figure 13

Baitfish Harvest Areas



Legend

—+— Railway

Road

— Highway

— Primary

— Secondary

- - - - - Unmaintained

— Lake

— Fisheries Management Zone

- - - - - Baitfish Harvest Area

— Conservation Reserve

— Other Provincial Park

— Wabakimi Provincial Park -- Original Boundary

— Wabakimi, Kopka River, and Whitesand Provincial Parks

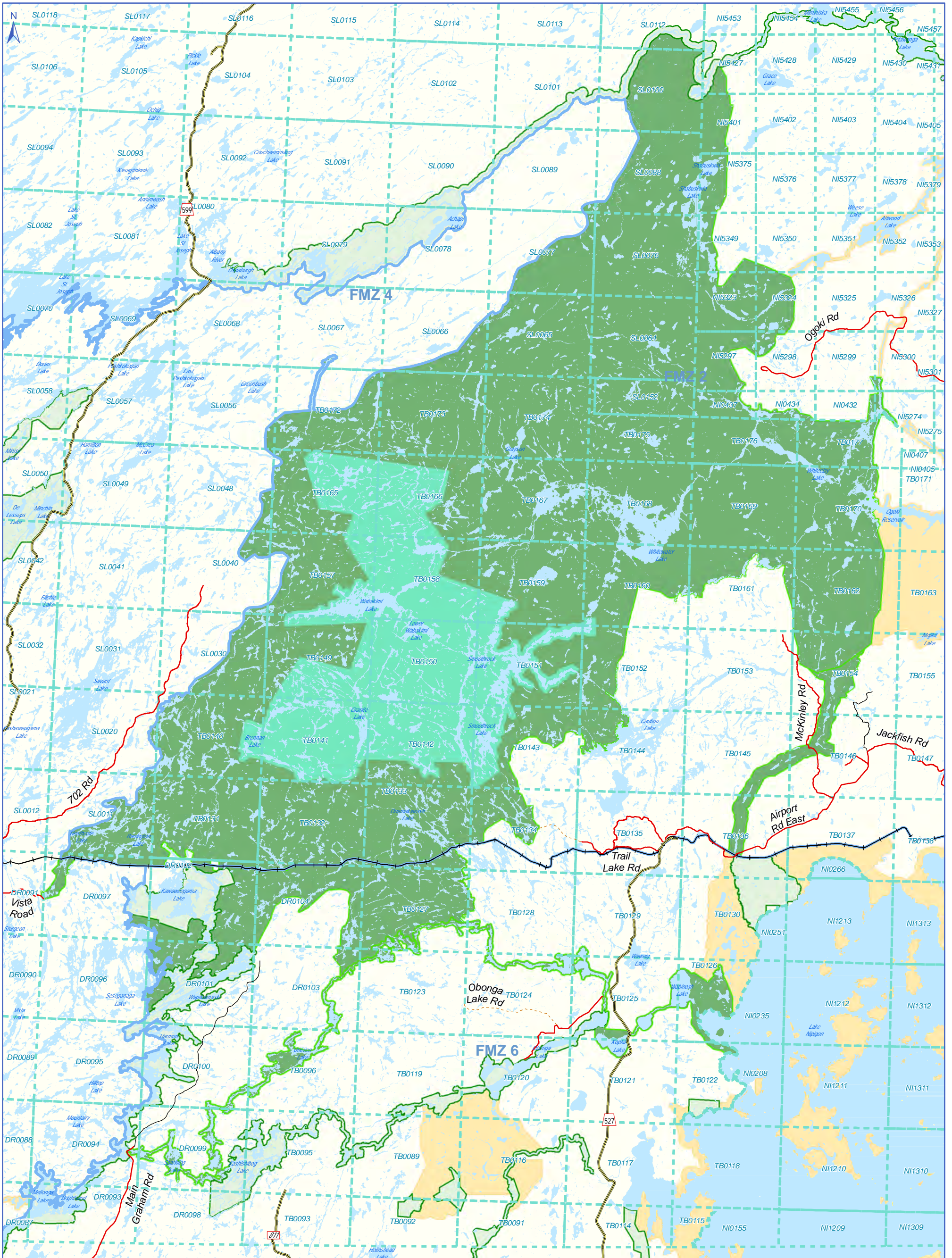


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13 APPENDIX II TERMS OF REFERENCE COMMENT SUMMARY

Sixty written comments were received from park users, outfitters, remote tourism operators, environmental nongovernment organizations (ENGOS), and patent land holders, canoeing website forum bloggers, local residents and government agencies. Residents of northwestern and southern Ontario, Quebec, the Midwestern USA, the UK, and Europe submitted comments.

A summary of topics raised by respondents is organized by topic:

Access

General access comments addressed not creating new access points or creating new access outside of park boundary on Crown land. Some respondents expressed the desire to restrict all motorized access including aircraft. The creation of new access points on the west side of Wabakimi was suggested.

Train related access comments addressed provision of improved launch sites and campsites associated with drop-off locations to avoid conflict with patent landowners along the rail corridor as well as providing night reflective mileage signage.

Comments related to roads and trails were strongly in favour of not creating new roads or trails and discouraging ATV use in the parks. Suggestions included reviewing gated roads to facilitate canoe route access, removing remaining bridges and culverts, and providing better information about authorized access from adjacent roads.

Aircraft related comments included the suggestion to limit air access to a few locations in the interior of Wabakimi and restricting access by air to lodges and outpost camps only. Other commenters acknowledged the need for air access throughout Wabakimi due to the distances involved and supported having no restrictions on aircraft landing. It was suggested that Ontario Parks be the only distributor of aircraft landing permits.

Boat Caches

Comments relating to boat caches included suggestions to require that boats be cached off trail/landing, that fuel storage at caches be prohibited, that a quota be implemented, that unauthorized boats be removed, that an annual permitting system be implemented, that boat caches be limited to lakes with fisheries assessment to ensure sustainable fishery, that private boat caches be permitted for access to patents. Some commenters suggested that boat caches be prohibited and that the use of logs to roll boats between water bodies be prohibited.

Canoe Route Maintenance

General comments relating to canoe route maintenance suggested that improved/increased maintenance is required, that access points require garbage clean-up, that maintenance

program be expanded to adjacent Crown land routes and that a volunteer program for canoe route maintenance be implemented.

Portage specific comments included the improvement/expansion of maintenance and the use of a rotation schedule in order to cover the large area of Wabakimi.

Signage related suggestion included the provision of reflective signage at drop-off points on the railway corridor, not providing signage to mark portages and campsites, and improving directional signage adjacent to the parks.

Caribou

Comments relating to caribou stressed their importance as a management priority with regard to the protection of habitat and calving/nursery areas. Suggestions included active management/stewardship and minimizing the recreational footprint.

Classification

The majority of respondents who commented on classification indicated a strong desire for the entirety of Wabakimi to be classified as wilderness or at least the largest amount possible of the expansion area to be so classified. Some respondents felt that all three parks should be classified as wilderness. A number of respondents indicated that the original park classification should not be changed from wilderness. Some suggested that classification as wilderness include the provision of policy direction for non-conforming activities. Suggestions for natural environment classification of the expansion area acknowledged MNR commitment to retaining remote tourism industry and moose hunting in the expansion area. One respondent suggested natural environment classification in the sense of Algonquin Park's classification.

Commercial Tourism

A number of respondents called for the removal of tourism infrastructure from Wabakimi with the suggestion that this be phased out gradually as properties come up for sale. Most respondents called for the continuation of the remote tourism industry within Wabakimi as it presently exists, with no additional expansion or new opportunities. Outposts and lodges were identified as potential rescue resources for backcountry travellers and acknowledged as infrastructure that makes Wabakimi more accessible to people of all ages as a multigenerational tourism resource.

Comments relating to shore lunch sites indicated that there should be no structures or equipment stored at these locations and that shore lunch sites should not be set aside for the exclusive use of outpost clients.

General comments relating to remote tourism included the need for operators to maintain high environmental standards, including the education/orientation of guests. It was suggested that fishing business transition to ecotourism. As well the need for fisheries assessment to determine bed capacity and boat cache capacity was identified.

Cultural Resources and First Nations

The presence of indigenous historic sites in Wabakimi and Kopka was noted. A correction to the reference to Saugeen Nation #258 was identified. It was suggested that existing remote tourism opportunities be made available to First Nations and that other economic opportunities related to the parks be identified for First Nations. The value of TEK, and indigenous information about travel routes and important cultural sites was identified. As well the importance of the role of indigenous consultation in planning was identified.

Park Facilities

Several respondents suggested that park administrative facilities be developed in Armstrong and Savant Lake to issue permits etc. It was suggested that parking be developed at remote access points. A number of respondents suggested that no new facilities be developed or that any development occur outside of park boundaries. One commenter suggested that a campground be developed at each of the three parks.

Fire

The need for a park fire management plan was identified to ensure that natural fire regimes are maintained.

Fisheries

Respondents identified the need for fisheries assessment and a park fisheries plan and suggested that Wabakimi be a stand alone FMZ. Specific suggestions including prohibiting earthworms as bait, banning live bait and treble and barbed hooks and lead tackle, prohibiting fish finders, prohibiting the export of fish, and having conservation licences only. Disposal of fish entails away from camp/lunch sites was also suggested.

Garbage/waste disposal

The eventual need for privies at high use sites was identified. Some respondents indicated their support for a glass bottle ban and some also supported a metal can ban for canoeists. The need to clean up garbage at seasonal use and other sites was identified. The need for tourism outfitters to remove all of the waste from the park was also identified.

Greater Park Ecosystem

It was suggested that FMP timing restrictions on harvest activities be implemented so as not to conflict with tourism season. The importance of maintaining connectivity to the larger landscape was identified as was the importance of ensuring that development outside of the park does not compromise ecological integrity.

Hunting

Some respondents called for the prohibition of hunting. Some respondents indicated that moose hunting only should be permitted. Some indicated that moose population surveys are required to inform hunting quotas. The importance of moose hunting to the remote tourism industry was identified.

Kopka and Whitesand specific comments

Respondents suggested that Kopka River needs interior maintenance and access point maintenance. It was suggested that both Kopka and Whitesand become operating parks.

Motorized Travel

Several respondents called for the prohibition of all motorized travel, and some called for the same with the exception of float planes. Most respondents acknowledged the need for motorized access to outposts and lodges and other patents and supported this. Suggestions included horsepower limits for motorboats, restricting the use of motorboats to lakes with tourism infrastructure and or those accessible without portaging. As well the prohibition of PWCs was suggested as was the prohibition of houseboats. It was suggested that all motorboats require a summer vehicle permit and that snow machines /tractor be permitted to resupply outposts in winter.

Park Map and Website

Many respondents indicated the need for a detailed park map that can be used to plan canoe trips and that shows connection to adjacent Crown land routes. It was suggested that the park map indicate areas that are sensitive for caribou and restrict camping at such locations. It was also suggested that Ontario Parks sell park maps exclusively.

Many respondents indicated the need for Wabakimi to have its own website with safety bulletins and information and a posting forum for comments and trip reports.

Patent lands

One patent land holder indicated that they have an interest in maintaining the status quo regarding their activities including motorized access to the property and that they do not feel that they should pay any fees to use the park. Other respondents indicated that they did not support the expansion of private recreation camps.

Permitted Activities

Several respondents called for low impact recreational activities only and the prohibition of any new consumptive recreational activities. It was suggested that dog sledding be permitted and that it be prohibited. It was suggested that Ontario parks consider permitting non mechanized self –propelled winter camping.

Terms of Reference Criticisms

Many respondents were critical of the changes in the 2013 terms of reference from the version approved in 2003. Specific criticisms included the lack of representation on the planning team of park stakeholders including tourism interests, and the lack of pre-consultation with non-indigenous stakeholders. It was suggested that each stage of public comment should be at least 60 days in length.

Scope of Planning

It was suggested that regulation for other wilderness class parks be applied to Wabakimi i.e. can and bottle ban. It was also suggested that three separate plans be prepared in the planning exercise. Some respondents suggested that the adjacent conservation reserves should be included in the planning exercise. It was also noted that ecological integrity is the primary guiding principle for the planning exercise.

Revenue generation

Suggestions for revenue generation included fees for camping, day use, boat caches, aircraft landing, and motorboats.

Zoning

The need to zone sensitive areas as nature reserve was identified. It was suggested that zoning be used to limit motorized access to certain areas.

14 APPENDIX III ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION (ELC) CODING TABLES

Table 1. ELC Substrate textural classes

*includes all textures with “gravelly” and “very gravelly” modifiers – can have up to 35% and 50% coarse fragments by volume. Greater than 90% coarse fragments constitute a “rock” substrate.

	Code	mineral soil textural families used by ELC	general characteristics	textural classes*
rock	R	bedrock, coarse fragments, skeletal	consolidated bedrock and coarse fragments (> 90% by vol)	-
coarse mineral	S	sandy	Coarse Sandy - all very coarse, coarse, and medium sands	- vcS, LvcS, SivcS, cS, LcS, SicS, mS, LmS, SimS
			Fine Sandy - all fine sands	- fS, LfS, SifS
	cL	coarse loamy	very fine sands and loams	- vFS, LvFS, SivfS, vcSL, cSL, mSL, fSL, vfSL, L
fine mineral	Si	silty	all silts and silt loams	- Si, SiL
	fL	fine loamy	all clay loams	- SCL, SiCL, CL, fSC, vfSC
	C	clayey	soils with > 40% clay particles	- SiC, C
organic	O	organic	> 40 cm organic materials	- folic terrestrial organics, Of, Om, Oh

Table 2. Moisture Modifier Codes

OIP code	terms		description
∅	dry	dry	extended periods of severe moisture deficit
0	moderately dry		
1	moderately fresh	fresh	adequate moisture for plant growth; neither significant excess or deficits of moisture
2	fresh		
3	very fresh		
4	moderately moist	moist	long periods or continuous saturation levels of moisture; begins causing anaerobic conditions
5	moist		
6	very moist		
7	moderately wet	wet	excess levels of flooding or saturation; significant oxygen reduction to inhibit decay
Other codes			
N/A	xeric	xeric	reserved for special conditions where OIP sampling does not apply: i.e. where persistent features like mottling and gleying are not available for measurement all Active, Subterranean, Rock, and some Very Shallow and Shallow to Moderate, and vertical substrates, that are not humid or flooded when prolonged periods of drought are primary ecological drivers
N/A	humid	humid	reserved for special conditions where OIP sampling does not apply: i.e. where persistent features like mottling and gleying are not available for measurement all Active, Subterranean, Rock, and some Very Shallow and Shallow to Moderate, and vertical substrates, that are not dry, saturated, or flooded
N/A	saturated	saturated	reserved for special conditions where OIP sampling does not apply: i.e. where persistent features like mottling and gleying are not available for measurement all Active, Subterranean, Frozen, and vertical rock and mineral substrates, that are not dry or humid