

South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a)

Statement of Conservation Interest
January 2005

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
North Bay District

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Executive Summary:

Approved Statement of Conservation Interest for **South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a)**.

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve has been selected as a site representing exceptional recreational features along the Lake Timiskaming waterway. It was also selected to protect the aesthetics of the shoreline for recreational use and a shoreline corridor for future development of a low-intensity backcountry hiking trail.

This conservation reserve contributes to cultural and social values both locally and provincially. Further studies are required to identify possible ecological associations and their significance.

This 703 hectare parcel of Crown land geographically borders the west side of Lake Timiskaming (Ottawa River) and joins the proposed Upper Ottawa River Provincial Park (P131) at the southern boundary between Burnaby and Parkman Townships. The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve is designated as Management Area 4a, page 37 in the *Temagami Land Use Plan (TLUP)* and was regulated under the *Public Lands Act* for protection in June 2004.

Once a conservation reserve is regulated, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will complete one of two approved management planning documents; either a Statement of Conservation Interest (SCI) (also known as a Stewardship Document) or a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Both documents address the administration of landuses and activities that occur within the regulated boundaries of the conservation reserve. The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve experienced no new issues, conflicts, uses and/or proposals beyond those addressed during land use planning for the TLUP. As a result, a SCI was completed. For conservation reserves having more complex issues, a RMP would be required.

When considering future permitted uses and/or development(s), there are established mechanisms in place to evaluate these proposals. These include, but may not be limited to: *Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility* Policy PL 3.03.05 (OMNR 1997); and all current Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements, with accompanying Environmental Checklists. Other protocols may be developed that address site specific sensitivities to identified features within the conservation reserve.

The goal of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve is to protect natural heritage features while permitting compatible land use activities.

The purposes of this SCI are to:

- a) Provide background information and identify and describe the values of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve; and
- b) Provide guidelines for the management of current and future activities while protecting natural, social, and cultural heritage values.

The direction contained in the SCI is consistent with the MNR's 1997 TLUP. The public was consulted regarding this site prior to its regulation and during land use planning for the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Area. Comments from that planning exercise were considered during the development of this document. The TLUP provides detailed direction on future uses and resource management for this area. No changes or new decisions have been made with regard to the conservation reserve since the approval of the TLUP. Additional public consultation occurred through the Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL) boundary refinement consultation in June 2001. Public comments received were considered during the development of this SCI.

This SCI will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Implementation of the SCI will include monitoring activities to ensure adherence to management guidelines. A full review will coincide with the review of the *Temagami Land Use Plan* (next review – 2006) and will be done every ten years thereafter.

Implementation of the SCI and management of the conservation reserve are the responsibility of the Temagami Area Supervisor. Partnerships may be pursued to address management needs. If changes in management direction are needed at any time, the significance of the changes will be evaluated. Minor changes, which do not alter the overall intent of this SCI, may be considered and approved by the District Manager without further public consultation and the SCI will be amended accordingly.

In assessing major changes, the need for a more detailed resource management plan (RMP) will first be considered. Where a RMP is not considered necessary or feasible, a major amendment may be considered with public consultation. Such amendments will also be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) registry. The Regional Director has approval authority for any major amendments for this SCI.

The SCI governs the lands within the regulated boundary of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve; however, to ensure MNR protection objectives are being fully met within the conservation reserve, activities on the surrounding landscape must consider the site's objectives and heritage values. In addition, it is the intent of the SCI to create a public awareness that will promote responsible stewardship of protected areas and their surrounding lands in Ontario. With management partners such as Ontario Parks, industry, local governments, etc., the ministry will be able to pursue and advance sound environmental, economic and social strategies and policies related to the protection of this conservation reserve.

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Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve this Statement of Conservation Interest for the **South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a)**. This Statement of Conservation Interest (SCI) will provide guidance for the management of the conservation reserve and the basis for the ongoing monitoring of activities.

Direction for establishing, planning and managing conservation reserves is defined under the *Public Lands Act* and current policy. "Ontario's network of natural heritage areas has been established to protect and conserve areas representative of the diversity of the natural regions of the province, including species, habitats, features and ecological systems which comprise that natural diversity." (Policy 3.03.05, MNR 1997). The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve offers exceptional aesthetics and recreational features along the Lake Timiskaming waterway. Furthermore, it contributes a richness of cultural and social values.

The management and administration of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve will be guided by this SCI. If significant facility development is to be considered or if complex issues should arise requiring additional studies this SCI will be amended or a more detailed Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be prepared with full public consultation to provide further management direction or special protection measures.

The direction contained in this SCI is consistent with the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) 1997 *Temagami Land Use Plan* (TLUP). The TLUP provides detailed direction on future uses and resource management targets for this area. No new decisions have been made with regards to the conservation reserve since the approval of the TLUP. Additional public consultation occurred through the *Ontario's Living Legacy* (OLL) public consultation process in June 2001. Public comments received were considered during the development of this SCI.

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve will be managed under the direction of the Temagami Area Supervisor, North Bay District Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

original signed by Bill Hagborg
District Manager Recommendation
For Approval

original signed on March 29, 2005
Date

original signed by Bill Hagborg
Regional Director

original signed on March 29, 2005
Date

1.0 Introduction

Ontario boasts a varied and diverse landscape. Many demands are placed on its resources for both social and economic benefit. The current planning process is committed to the protection of natural and cultural heritage values represented throughout the province. The MNR has developed strategies that will maintain the integrity and sustainability of these areas.

The TLUP provides direction for the administration and management of parks and protected areas within the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Area. Included in the plan is a natural heritage objective to maintain the full spectrum of diversity of the area's ecology and geology. Specifically, the TLUP protects representative "old growth" red and white pine stands, some watersheds related to Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park, significant wetlands and provincially significant ecological, geological and recreational features.

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve has been selected as a site representing exceptional recreational features along the Lake Timiskaming waterway. It also protects a shoreline corridor for future development of a low-intensity backcountry hiking trail and the aesthetics of the shoreline for recreational use of the Temiskaming waterway. Studies are required to identify ecological associations and cultural heritage values and to determine their significance. In addition this conservation reserve fulfills many social requirements both locally and provincially.

This 703 hectare parcel of Crown land geographically spans the unorganized townships of South Lorrain, Hebert and Burnaby in the Districts of Timiskaming and Nipissing. This site borders the west side of Lake Temiskaming (Ottawa River) and joins the proposed Upper Ottawa River Provincial Park (P131) at the border between Burnaby and Parkman Townships.

The purposes of this SCI are to:

- (a) Provide background information and identify and describe the values of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve; and
- (b) Provide guidelines for the management of current and future activities while protecting natural, social, and cultural heritage values.

This document has been prepared in accordance with MNR's policy for Conservation Reserves (PL 3.03.05). In addition to recognizing a number of existing uses, this SCI provides the opportunity for new uses, which may be considered, provided they meet the *Test of Compatibility*, set out in the MNR policy.

This SCI governs all lands within the regulated boundary of South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. MNR recognizes the need to work with other Ministries and/or proponents of adjacent land use activities, to encourage minimizing the potential risk of negative impacts on the conservation reserve. In addition, it is the intent of this SCI to create a public awareness that will promote responsible stewardship of protected areas and their surrounding lands in Ontario. With management partners such as Ontario Parks, industry, local governments etc, etc., MNR district offices will be able to pursue and advance sound environmental, economic and social strategies and policies related to the protection of conservation reserves and provincial parks.

2.0 Goal and Objectives

2.1 Goal of the Statement of Conservation Interest

The goal of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve SCI is to provide background information, to identify and describe the values of the conservation reserve and to provide guidelines for the management of current and future activities while protecting natural, social and cultural heritage values on public lands.

2.2 Objectives of the Statement of Conservation Interest

2.2.1 Short Term

- To describe the State of the Resource with respect to cultural and natural heritage values and current land use activities for the conservation reserve.
- To manage the conservation reserve to protect the integrity of its natural values via specific guidelines, strategies and prescriptions detailed in this plan.
- To meet planning requirements by designing this SCI document to address the immediate planning and management needs of the conservation reserve.

2.2.2 Long Term

- To identify research/client services and marketing strategies.
- To give direction to evaluate future new or economic ventures (i.e. through use of a *Test of Compatibility* evaluation).
- To locate and determine the significance of cultural heritage values
- To identify ecological associations and determine significance
- To provide guidance for the development of a low intensity backcountry hiking trail to potential interest groups

3.0 Management Planning

3.1 Planning Context

3.1.1 Planning Area

The planning area for this SCI is the regulatory boundary of the conservation reserve (*see location map*). As noted earlier MNR encourages the consideration of conservation reserve values in land use and resource management activities on the surrounding landscape. Any strategies noted in this SCI related to the conservation reserve boundary or beyond, will be presented for consideration within a larger planning context. The forest management planning process is an example of how adjacent land management may consider features within the conservation reserve boundary.

3.1.2 Management Planning Context

The Comprehensive Planning Council (CPC) (a citizen's advisory group, which was directed to submit land use recommendations for the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Area) recommended that the South Timiskaming Shoreline area be designated as a conservation reserve. This recommendation, along with others, was submitted in April 1996 and accepted in principle by the government of Ontario in June 1996. The decisions on the recommendations were ultimately reflected in the TLUP.

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve was regulated as a conservation reserve on June 25, 2004, by Ontario Regulation 175/04, amending Ontario Regulation 805/94 of the *Public Lands Act*.

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve is designated as Management Area 4a, page 37 in the TLUP. By regulation under the *Public Lands Act*, lands within conservation reserves cannot be used for mining, commercial forest harvest, hydroelectric power development, the extraction of aggregate and peat or other industrial uses.

Traditional uses within the conservation reserve as noted in the permitted uses table of the TLUP (Appendix C) will continue; however, the goal will be to resolve conflicts between uses and to ensure that identified values are protected.

When considering future permitted uses and/or development(s), there are established mechanisms in place to evaluate these proposals. These include, but may not be limited to: *Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility* Policy PL 3.03.05 (OMNR 1997); and all current Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements, with accompanying Environmental Checklists. Other protocols

may be developed that address site specific sensitivities to identified features within the conservation reserve.

Due to the cultural heritage potential associated with this conservation reserve, special consideration for these sensitive features must be considered as part of any new use(s) including trail management proposals. MNR reserves the right to request a cultural heritage study be undertaken for any new uses within the regulated boundaries of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. All required cultural heritage studies will be undertaken by a specialist qualified in the values being assessed (i.e. professional archeologist) to the satisfaction of MNR.

Consideration for proposals that may impact on cultural heritage resources may be screened through *Conserving a Future for our Past: Archeology, Land Use Planning & Development in Ontario*, Section 3 “Reviewing Development Applications for Archaeological Conservation Purposes.” (Ministry of Culture, formerly MCzCR, 1997) and MNR’s AOC Descriptions and Prescriptions.

3.2 Planning Process

Once a conservation reserve is regulated, there is a need to determine the level of management planning required to fulfil protection targets. The SCI is a directional document that provides background information, identifies values to be protected and establishes management guidelines for the conservation reserve. The SCI was selected since there were no new issues beyond those addressed during land use planning for the TLUP Comprehensive Planning Area and *Ontario’s Living Legacy* public consultation prior to site regulation.

The implementation of policy will be the responsibility of the MNR at the district level. Associations with various partners may also be sought to assist in the delivery of the management program for the conservation reserve. It should be noted that the SCI is a working document and it will be necessary to make revisions to it from time to time. If changes are required, they will occur through a standard process of minor or major amendment.

4.0 Background Information

4.1 Location and Site Description

4.1.1 Location

The following table describes the location and provides administrative details of the conservation reserve:

South Timiskaming Shoreline CONSERVATION RESERVE

STATEMENT OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

Name & TLUP ID Number	South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a).
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Northeast/North Bay/Temagami
Total Area	703 ha
Townships	South Lorrain, Hebert and Burnaby
Municipality	Unincorporated for Municipal Purposes
Site Region- Site District (Hills, 1959)	4E(Lake Temagami) 4E-4 (Temagami)
Land Ownership	100% Crown Land
Topographic Maps (1:50,000)	31L14 (Ottetail), 31M3 (Fabre) 31M4 (Temagami) and 31L13 Ingall Lake
Ontario Base Maps	2017 (6100 52100), (6200) 52100, 5200, 51900, (6300 51900)
Latitude	46° 58' N
Longitude	79° 21' E
UTM Coordinates	253044
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
WMU	40
Regulation Date	June 25, 2004, O.Reg 175/04
General	Located on the west shore of Lake Timiskaming, starting in the southeast portion of South Lorrain Twp. and ending at the southern boundary of Burnaby Township. This conservation reserve is approximately 30km in length.

4.1.2 Site Description

4.1.2.1 Physical Description

This 703 hectare conservation reserve spans the unorganized townships of South Lorrain, Hebert and Burnaby bordering the western shore of Lake Timiskaming. The southern extremity of CR4a joins the proposed Upper Ottawa River Provincial Park (P131) at the township border of Burnaby and Parkman.

The proximity of the conservation reserve to Lake Timiskaming provides water access, however, the site can be also reached from the Rabbit Lake Road by a walking trail. This road can be accessed approximately 20 km south of Temagami by turning off Highway 11 at Gramp's service station and following the road east for approximately 50km. A trailhead is located adjacent to the conservation reserve and can be accessed at the eastern end of Rabbit Lake Road. This hiking trail leads into the conservation reserve winding down to Grand Campment Bay (*see recreational map*). The western boundary of the site is

vectored, while the eastern boundary follows the shoreline. The shoreline consists of steep cliffs, rock outcrops, beaches of sand, pebble and cobble. The magnificent cliffs rise dramatically from the water's edge to approximately 300 feet in some areas. Spectacular viewing opportunities of the surrounding landscape are available from the cliffs, but they can be difficult to access. Pine dominated forests cover the majority of the conservation reserve containing a mixture of red, white and jack pine. Additionally, white birch, eastern white cedar, spruce and poplar occur throughout this site.

There are some limited human disturbances, which have occurred within the conservation reserve including hiking, shoreline camping, hunting and trapping.

4.2 Administrative Description

The legal boundaries of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve were certified by the Surveyor General of Ontario at the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough on January 28, 2004. The conservation reserve was passed into regulation on June 25, 2004 by O.Reg. 175/04.

4.3 Inventories

The following table indicates what survey work has been done within the conservation reserve and what is required:

Survey Level	Reconnaissance	Detailed	Future Requirements
Life Science	Noble., T.N. 1983. Life Science Report for Site Region 4E. King, Lori. 2002, Life Science Checksheet: South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a).		Data analysis and classification of vegetative communities, to determine site's potential as an Inventory Monitoring Assessment Reporting (IMAR) site.

South Timiskaming Shoreline CONSERVATION RESERVE

STATEMENT OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

Earth Science	<p>Aerial photography. (1987).</p> <p>Kristjansson R.F.J., 2002. Earth Science Checksheet and aerial survey: South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a).</p>		
Cultural	<p>Preliminary Review of Heritage Resources, C.P.P 1991.</p> <p>MNR Archaeological Prediction Modeling, 1998 (Temagami FMU)</p>	<p>Historical Mapping (Craig McDonald1995).</p>	
Recreational	<p>Hewitson, S., 2002. Recreational Inventory Checksheet: South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a).</p> <p>Wilson, Hap., 1996 Owain Creek Trails Map.</p>		<p>Identify appropriate corridor for South Timiskaming Shoreline hiking trails, while ensuring the protection of the site is not compromised.</p>
Map Resources	<p>MNR Values Map Series August 2002:</p> <p>Location, Recreational, Tenure, Forest,</p>		

	<p>Commercial, Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>MNR, Human Use and Disturbance Inventory Map, December 11, 2001.</p> <p>MNR, February 12, 2002: Bear Management Area.</p> <p>MNR November 06,2001: Trapping Area.</p>		
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5.0 State of the Resource

5.1 Representation

Life Science Features

The life science values associated with the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve are limited. The site was selected as a conservation reserve based on its recreational features.

Coniferous forests dominate the conservation reserve. These forests consist of a mixture of red, white and jack pine. Additionally, mixed deciduous forest stands of white birch, eastern white cedar, spruce and poplar occur throughout this site. Preliminary analysis indicates approximately 15 landform vegetation type combinations (King, 2002).

The eastern boundary of the conservation reserve drops abruptly to the shoreline in most areas except Grand Campment Bay and Nagle Bay. Although most wetland communities occur outside the conservation reserve boundary, there is a small marsh meadow, which has been identified north west of Grand Campment Bay. Sedges, herbs, shrubs and conifers dominate this wetland community.

Earth Science Features

Kristjansson (2002) describes the area as being underlain by areas of Bedrock outcrop, Bedrock Drift Complex and Glaciolacustrine deposits. These glaciofluvial layers form a steep scarp-like slope, which extends inland away from the shores of Lake Timiskaming. Bedrock exposure is frequent within this zone.

There are very few lowland areas covering this conservation reserve. Grand Campment Bay and the unnamed bay to the south are areas, which are underlain by a fine-grained substrate (glaciolacustrine). Consisting mainly of silt and clay, these areas are sensitive to surface runoff, erosion and gully formation.

5.1.1 Quality of the Representation

The quality of the representation or the general characteristics of the natural features found within a conservation reserve are as important as the overall representative features that are being protected. Various factors are considered in evaluating the quality of a conservation reserve's representative features. They include diversity, condition, ecological factors, special features and current land use activities.

(a) Diversity

At a general landscape level, limited diversity occurs based on the 15-landform vegetation cover types identified within this conservation reserve. The narrow shape and size of the conservation reserve limit the potential for increased ecological and geological diversity.

(b) Condition

The conservation reserve is in good condition and has experienced limited human and natural disturbances. Most of the conservation reserve has seen little recent human disturbance. Presently there is a hiking trail, which intersects with the conservation reserve at Grand Campment Bay. This trail connects with the established Owain Creek Trail(s) system. There are several known waterway campsites, which span the length of the conservation reserve. Overall, the forest is in good health.

(c) Ecological Factors

The design of this conservation reserve has utilized Lake Timiskaming as a natural boundary to the east. The remaining site boundary for the most part is approximately 200m in width and spans a length of roughly 30 kilometers.

The Rabbit Lake tertiary road provides the only means of road access to the vicinity of the conservation reserve and is located west of the site.

(d) Special Features

This conservation reserve contains a number of notable features which possess varying degrees of significance. These features include:

- Scenic area with potential for recreational hiking, canoeing and other activities.
- Narrow shape of the conservation reserve captures the rugged shoreline landscape of cobble beaches and cliffs.
- Locations along the shoreline provide excellent scenic lookouts to Quebec's eastern shoreline of Lake Timiskaming.
- The earth science features are commonly encountered across site district 4E-5 of Temagami and are considered to be of local significance.
- Historic or cultural heritage sites

(e) Current Land Use Activities

With limited access to the conservation reserve, there are a small number of known land use activities, which occur in the conservation reserve. The use of this conservation reserve primarily consists of recreational based activities such as hiking and camping. There are presently two active Bear Management Areas (TE-40-65 and TE-40-64) which overlap with the conservation reserve. Resident recreational hunters also use the conservation reserve. Also, there are two registered fur traplines which overlap the site (TE02N028 and TE02N024). There is only one registered bait harvester for Hebert Township. Bait licenses are issued on a township basis, and harvesting occurs on the watercourses anywhere within the licensed area including the conservation reserve.

None of the identified land use activities have contributed to any notable impact on the overall values of the conservation reserve.

The conservation reserve contains some small overlapping mining claims in the Grand Campment Bay area. The portion of the mining claims which overlap with the conservation reserve boundary will be designated as Special Management Area's (SMAs) until the claims are retired through regular processes. Once the claims have been retired they will be reinstated as part of the conservation reserve. In the interim, controlled mineral exploration is allowed to occur in these SMAs however, timber harvesting, new aggregate extraction or utility activities are prohibited.

Future proposals for any of these above mentioned commercial/industrial resource based activities will not be permitted to occur within the boundaries of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve, as per the management direction outlined in the *1997 Temagami Land Use Plan* (see *Appendix C*). For

more detailed information concerning existing and new permitted conservation reserve activities please see *Appendices C and D*.

Summary

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve contains a low number of vegetative communities, is in good physical condition and is host to a limited number of land use activities.

5.2 Social/Economic Interest in the Area

(a) Linkage to Local Communities:

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve consists entirely of Crown land. The remote nature of the site has contributed to the existing land use activities of hiking, camping, and fur, and baitfish harvesting. The conservation reserve is suitable for many activities given its size. Lake Timiskaming provides opportunities for canoeists, boaters and anglers to explore the conservation reserve's scenic environment. The Ottetail Creek waterway is a link between the South Timiskaming Shoreline and the Ottetail Creek Conservation Reserve. The northern boundary of the Ottetail Creek Conservation Reserve (CR5) borders the south shore of Ottetail Creek. This designated canoe route allows for increased backcountry opportunities to be explored by recreational users and outdoor enthusiasts.

Other seasonal, low impact activities could include but are not limited to; bird watching, photography, nature study, drawing, snowshoeing and experiencing the serene solitude. A collection of historic features can be found along this natural corridor, including a historic trap cabin and old log chute near the mouth of Owain Creek, and many other sites exhibiting high archeological potential. Historic evidence indicates early fur traders used the Grand Campment Bay area as a resting-place.

This conservation reserve has been identified for "future development of a low intensity backcountry hiking trail" in Management Area 4a, page 37, 1997, TLUP. MNR will set the framework to allow for future development of a low-intensity backcountry-hiking trail ensuring that the security of the protected resource is not compromised. Trail proposals will be subject to, but may not be limited to a "Test of Compatibility" Other protocols may be developed that address site specific sensitivities related to features within the conservation reserve (see *Appendix B*).

(b) Heritage Estate Contributions:

The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve contributes to the province's parks and protected areas system through its regulation, representation and the long-term management of its natural heritage values.

By allocating these lands to the parks and protected areas system through regulation, the province has ensured a certain level of permanence by distinguishing the conservation reserve and its values from the larger general use or more extensively managed landscape. In addition, the conservation reserve's natural features are, and will be available for present and future generations to enjoy and explore.

Its remote location and natural boundaries (e.g. shoreline) allow for a certain level of backcountry opportunities and experiences. Its connection to the associated Ottertail Creek canoe route and Lake Timiskaming adds considerably to the overall recreational value of the conservation reserve.

Long-term management must consider public access to the conservation reserve and its protection objectives. Future managers will have to balance between maintaining the quality of the current representation and the needs of recreational and other users.

(c) Aboriginal Groups

All Aboriginal and treaty rights will continue to be respected throughout the management of this SCI. Any future proposal(s) and/or decision(s) that have potential impact(s) on the individual aboriginal and/or community values will involve additional consultation with the affected aboriginal groups.

(d) Mining Industry

All mining rights were withdrawn based on the boundaries of the TLUP prior to the lifting of the land caution. Minor boundary refinements were required primarily to define the site on the ground for regulation purposes. The mining rights were re-withdrawn under the *Mining Act* (RSO 1990 Chapter M.14), in January 2001 to be consistent with the boundaries regulated in 1997.

Existing mining claims adjacent to the conservation reserve have been designated as SMAs. Should these claims retire through regular processes, the portions of the claims that overlap with the site will be regulated as part of the conservation reserve.

(e) Forest Management

No commercial forest harvesting is permitted in conservation reserves. Forest activities on the adjacent landscape are guided by the Forest Management Plan (FMP). Based on the current plan, the following provisions apply:

Harvesting, renewal and maintenance are permitted up to the conservation reserve boundary. Where the integrity of the boundary may be affected by blowdown (e.g., based on slope, aspect relative to prevailing winds, soils, species, size and type of adjacent cuts, etc.) the need for additional protection is to be determined during the development and planning of the Annual Work Schedule. In the 2004 plan, MNR intends to identify required protection along conservation reserve boundaries on a case by case basis.

No roads or landings are permitted within 100 m of the boundaries of non-waterway conservation reserves, except where it can be demonstrated that no alternative alignments are available without MNR approval. Roads will be planned to minimize potential access to conservation reserves (e.g., perpendicular to conservation reserve boundaries).

Presently there is no Sustainable Forestry License (SFL) within or adjacent to the conservation reserve. The Crown currently manages the Temagami Forest Management Unit. The North Bay District office (Temagami Area) administers all Forest Resource Licensing (FRL) in this unit.

(f) Utilities

There are no existing commercial utilities associated with the conservation reserve.

5.3 Natural Heritage Stewardship

Based on preliminary analysis of the life science targets, the conservation reserve contains 15 landform/vegetation combinations. The site was selected as a conservation reserve based on its recreational value.

A recent aerial reconnaissance survey showed no wide spread forest disturbance due to forest harvesting, insect, wind throw, wildlife damage, ice storms or other natural disturbances.

5.4 Fisheries and Wildlife

There have been no detailed wildlife studies undertaken within the conservation reserve. The importance of the conservation reserve to wildlife species has yet to

be determined, particularly for those species, and habitats thereof that may be vulnerable, threatened or endangered.

Due to the range and the extent of the ecosystems present, it is possible that rare plants could occur within the conservation reserve, however the inaccessibility of the sheer rock faces limit inventory (King, 2002). A variety of fauna species have been observed including moose, black bear, wolf, beaver, marten and raptors (Hewitson, 2001).

Should any vulnerable, threatened or endangered (VTE) wildlife and/or plant species be identified within or adjacent to the conservation reserve, their value will be protected. Although the species may be identified as residing within the conservation reserve, their location will remain undisclosed.

5.5 Cultural Heritage Stewardship

The Lake Timiskaming waterway has played an important historic role for many early settlers and Aboriginal communities. With the proximity of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve to Lake Timiskaming, there is increased cultural heritage potential associated with the eastern waterway boundary. There are no existing provincial cultural heritage sites identified within the conservation reserve, but there is one cultural heritage value identified immediately west of the conservation reserve. There are some locally significant archeological features which include an historic trap cabin and a log chute.

This conservation reserve was identified as containing high potential cultural heritage significance. High potential cultural heritage areas are identified using a computer based predictive modeling program. Based on a series of pre-defined parameters, the program identifies candidate areas, which are most likely to be culturally significant. Further archeological and cultural studies are required to verify the status of the computer-generated areas (*see cultural heritage values map*).

5.6 Land Use/Existing Development

There are no permanent or seasonal dwellings found in the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. Use is limited due to access.

There are no mining claims or leases within the conservation reserve. Adjacent mining claims in the Grand Campment Bay area have been designated as SMAs and will be re-added to the conservation reserve should the claims lapse.

There is no other form of tenure in the conservation reserve other than legal agreements with licenced bear outfitters, and fur and bait harvesters.

Traditional uses within the conservation reserve will continue to be permitted (see *Appendix C*) however, the goal will be to resolve conflicts regarding incompatibility between uses and to ensure that identified values are adequately protected. Existing uses are as defined in Section 5.2 (a).

5.7 Commercial Use

There are licenced commercial use activities, which are known to occur in the conservation reserve. Two Bear Management Areas (BMAs) and two registered fur traplines overlap the site. Hebert Township is licensed to a commercial bait harvester, however, due to its remote location it is unlikely any harvesting occurs within the conservation reserve boundaries.

5.8 Tourism/Recreation Use/Opportunities

Current uses of this conservation reserve have been described in Section 5.1.1(e). Presently, there are no authorized trails in the site, but there are numerous campsites, adjacent trail networks, potential campsites and access points and historic features that would support recreational activities within the conservation reserve boundaries.

Recreational activities such as hunting, hiking and camping occur within the conservation reserve. Motorized activities (snowmobile and ATV's) occur in proximity to the conservation reserve, but do not traverse the protected area. This conservation reserve also possesses high potential cultural heritage significance.

Access is primarily water based with routes existing along the Ottertail Creek and the Lake Timiskaming waterway. Alternate tertiary access is possible via Rabbit Lake road.

The existing trail that intersects the conservation reserve is known as the Red Trail according to the Owain Creek Trails map (Wilson, 1996). Trails are limited since this is a remote site; the existing trail is likely maintained by recreational user groups and potentially used by licensed trappers. With the cliffs along parts of the shoreline there are several lookout opportunities. The mix of shorelines provides diverse opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. The various beaches are ideal places to relax, explore (i.e. beach combing for fossils and observing signs of visiting fauna). In addition to the camping area identified at Grand Campment Bay, campsites and picnic areas can be found along the shoreline (see *Recreational Values Map*).

MNR will be the lead agency for setting a framework for accepting and approving low intensity trail development proposals, as outlined by the TLUP page 37. A public review and comment period will be provided for acceptable proposals

received by MNR concerning trail development in the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. There may be a need to undertake field inventory work to determine the most viable locations for a low intensity trail network. Additional guidelines for trail development proposals are included in Appendix D, Trail Development.

5.9 Client Services

Presently, client services include district responses to public inquiries. No formal information or interpretive facilities exist within the conservation reserve. There is a fact sheet available to the public, which summarizes information for this conservation reserve, and is readily available upon request.

6.0 Management Guidelines

6.1 Management Planning Strategies

Commitments identified in previous planning documents (TLUP and current PLA Policy 3.03.05) will form the basis for land use decisions within the conservation reserve. Management strategies for these uses must consider the short and long-term objectives for the reserve. For current information on permitted uses, refer to the Crown Land Use Atlas.

Proposed uses and development will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A Test of Compatibility, (Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses (PL 3.03.05)) must be passed before they are deemed acceptable. The emphasis will be on ensuring that the natural values of the conservation reserve are not negatively affected by current and future activities. Therefore, any application for new specific uses will be carefully studied and reviewed. The Ministry, partner organizations and/or proponents may undertake such studies.

New recreational developments such as campsites, privies, trails or developed access points will not be considered until a *Test of Compatibility* is conducted. The *Test of Compatibility* or environmental screening process could include a review of the demand for structures or may require more detailed life, earth science or cultural information and possibly a more detailed management plan.

6.2 State of the Resource Management Strategies

The development of this SCI and the long term management and protection of South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve will be under the direction of the MNR's North Bay District, Temagami Area Supervisor. The following management strategies have been created to achieve the goals and objectives stated earlier in this management document:

Social/Economic

- Management direction will aim to maintain and develop social and economic benefits to the local communities where practical.
- Local partnerships may be solicited in the delivery of certain objectives identified in this SCI.
- Educational opportunities will be developed and encouraged in order to create an awareness of natural systems in the Temagami area.

Natural Heritage Stewardship

- With the exceptions of fire suppression and forest infestation control, the management intent for the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve is to allow for natural ecosystems, processes and features to operate undisturbed with minimal human interference while providing educational, research and recreational activities.
- Forest ecosystem renewal and maintenance as stated for this conservation reserve under the TLUP will only be entertained via a separate vegetative management plan.
- Wildfire Suppression will be administered as per the direction outlined by the TLUP. The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve has been designated under the *Prescribed Fire Zone* by the TLUP. Fire prescriptions include prescribed fire with fire control and fire suppression.
- Prescribed burning may be utilized if deemed necessary to emulate natural disturbances and renew forest communities, prepare seed beds for research and/or education purposes or to meet additional objectives determined within a separate vegetative management plan. All scheduled prescribed burns (PBs) within the boundaries of this conservation reserve will be conducted as directed by the current PB Policy AF.03.23.02.
- All earth and life science features will be protected by defining compatible uses, enforcing regulations and monitoring and mitigating issues.
- Industrial activities such as; commercial timber harvest, prospecting and mining and new hydro generation will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.
- Permits for fuel-wood will not be issued.
- New energy transmission, communication and transportation corridors or resource roads or construction of facilities will not be permitted within the boundaries of the conservation reserve.
- Other activities that do not pass a *Test of Compatibility* will be prohibited (MNR Policy 3.03.05, 1997).
- The introduction of exotic and/or invasive species will not be permitted.

- Programs may be developed to control forest insects and diseases where there is a concern that significant values may be compromised. Remedies must focus on the outbreak or infestation. Biological or non-intrusive solutions should be applied whenever possible. Vegetation maintenance of the existing utility corridor should be encouraged to follow this process where and when feasible.
- The collection/removal of vegetation and parts thereof will not be permitted; however, subject to a *Test of Compatibility*, the Area Supervisor may authorize the collection of plants and/or parts for purposes of rehabilitating degraded sites within the conservation reserve or maintaining genetic stock and/or research.
- Detailed ecological surveys concerning ground vegetation and additional plant values assessment - especially concerning species at risk is warranted. Additional plant science inventory should be linked to future recreational needs and possibly regional gap analysis approaches. Assessments should follow future direction and methods established through MNR's Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Reporting (IMAR) program (see section 6.4).
- MNR will provide leadership and direction for maintaining the integrity of this conservation reserve as a heritage estate.
- Research, education and interpretation will be encouraged to provide a better understanding of the management and protection of the natural heritage values and will be fostered through local and regional natural heritage programs, initiatives and partnerships.

Fisheries and Wildlife

- Fish and wildlife resources will continue to be managed in accordance with policies and regulations prevailing in the area and under the direction of the Temagami Area Supervisor. Provincial legislation and policy will dictate management and enforcement objectives for this area.
- Management direction will aim to verify species present, ecological function and habitat requirements.
- Additional fish and wildlife population and habitat assessments, especially for species at risk, are warranted.
- Any fish and wildlife inventory may require a regional gap analysis approach.
- Inventories, assessments or monitoring programs should follow direction and methods established through MNR's IMAR program and be linked to district sustainability objectives and initiatives or future recreational needs. (See section 6.4).
- Hunting and angling will be permitted within this conservation reserve.
- First Nation Treaty rights will be respected (see Aboriginal Interests).

- Area of Concern (AOC) prescriptions for the protection of fish and wildlife values, developed for forest management purposes, will be used as a guide when considering proposed activities/developments in the conservation reserve.
- The rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems will occur whenever possible to maintain biodiversity.

Cultural Heritage

- Protection of these values will be maintained.
- Documented sites will be checked periodically for signs of degradation. Additional sites will be documented as encountered.
- Archeological and cultural investigations will be requested by MNR for all new use(s) associated with the conservation reserve.
- Development, research and education proposals may be considered in accordance with the Test of Compatibility; the Ministry of Culture; *Conserving a Future for our Past: Archeology, Land Use Planning & Development in Ontario*, Section 3, "Reviewing Development Applications for Archaeological Conservation Purposes," (formerly MCzCR, 1997) and MNR's *AOC Descriptions and Prescriptions (Cultural Heritage Resources) for the 1999-2019 Temagami FMP* or its successor.
- Research/education to provide a better understanding of the management and protection of cultural heritage values will be encouraged.

Land Use/Existing Development

- Existing land uses and development within the conservation reserve that conflict with the protection objectives will be identified and discontinued if impacts can't be mitigated.
- There will be no new motorized trail development; however, non-motorized trail development may be permitted only if the activity passes a *Test of Compatibility*.
- MNR will attempt to secure funding in the future to help identify existing trail networks located within the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve.

Commercial Use

- Existing commercial uses such as fur and baitfish harvesting and the operation of Bear Management Areas will be permitted. Such activities will continue to be monitored in order to ensure they do not unduly deplete natural resources and that they impose a minimal impact on the features identified for protection.

- Trapline cabins will not be permitted.
- Commercial enterprises offering ecotourism experiences will be encouraged, providing these activities are low in intensity and are compatible with other uses.

Aboriginal Interests

- Aboriginal and treaty rights will continue to be respected throughout the management of this SCI. Any future proposal(s) and or decision(s) that have potential impact(s) on individual aboriginal values and or communities will involve additional consultation with the affected aboriginal groups.

Tourism/Recreation

- The earth and life science features and their protection, shall be the overall theme for tourism.
- The conservation reserve should also be portrayed as providing backcountry recreational experiences.
- Small-scale infrastructures for enhancing tourism and recreation (i.e., warm-up shelter) may be considered, providing they pass a Test of Compatibility and other review requirements.
- Main base tourism development (lodges) will not be permitted.
- Conflict resolution between recreational uses will be a priority. This will be achieved by adhering to the objectives of this SCI with input from relevant user groups.
- The level of safety and compatibility between activities will determine permitted uses (i.e., Test of Compatibility).
- Low-impact camping may be permitted along the waterways.
- Degradation of cultural heritage sites will not be permitted and current and future use will be monitored and if deemed necessary, camping may be prohibited at certain sites in order to protect these values.

Client Services

- Information regarding the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve may be delivered from different sources, however MNR will be the lead agency for responding to inquiries regarding access, land use, values and recreation opportunities.
- A management agreement may be pursued with an appropriate partner to share responsibilities for information services and the delivery of other aspects of this SCI.

6.3 Specific Feature/Area/Zone Management Strategies

Presently there are no specific management strategies in place for sub-zones within the conservation reserve.

With the exception of fire suppression, if during the course of conservation reserve monitoring it is deemed necessary to regulate access or uses in certain areas, management zones may be developed. These zones will facilitate permitted/restricted activities for the protection of certain features or to resolve conflicts between uses. Zone management will endeavor to compliment linkages to areas and uses outside the conservation reserve. The creation of management zones will require additional planning beyond this SCI, public consultation and an eventual plan amendment if accepted.

6.4 Promote Inventory, Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (IMAR)

Non-destructive research may be promoted as a way to obtain an understanding of the natural features and ecological functions of the conservation reserve and their comparative value to other conservation reserves and/or to landforms bordering the conservation reserve.

6.5 Implementation and Plan Review Strategies

This SCI will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Implementation of the SCI will include monitoring activities to ensure adherence to management guidelines. A full review will coincide with the review of the *Temagami Land Use Plan* (next review – 2006) and will be done every ten years thereafter.

Implementation of the SCI and management of the conservation reserve are the responsibility of the Temagami Area Supervisor. Partnerships may be pursued to address management needs. If changes in management direction are needed at any time, the significance of the changes will be evaluated. Minor changes, which do not alter the overall intent of this SCI, may be considered and approved by the District Manager without further public consultation and the SCI will be amended accordingly.

In assessing major changes, the need for a more detailed resource management plan (RMP) will first be considered. Where a RMP is not considered necessary or feasible, a major amendment may be considered with public consultation. Such amendments will also be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) registry. The Regional Director has approval authority for any major amendments for this SCI.

6.6 Marketing Strategies

Messages should focus on the area's natural heritage features and recreation opportunities, nature appreciation, education and the "Temagami Experience", in general. The strategy should also consider suitable access points.

Partnerships may be fostered to aid in the delivery of this component.

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Appendix A.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINE B – LANDUSES – TEST OF COMPATIBILITY

Public Lands Act Policy PL 3.03.05 (procedure 3.03.05)

The Conservation Reserve policy provides broad direction with regard to the permitted uses. The policy provides **only an indication** of the variety of uses that will be considered acceptable in Conservation Reserves. The only caution is that **“any new uses, and commercial activities associated with them will be considered on a case by case basis, they must pass a test of compatibility to be acceptable”**. What does a “test of compatibility” mean?

An examination of this must start from the premise of why an area is set aside – specifically, its representative natural heritage values. Criteria are then identified to guide compatibility considerations. These criteria apply to the long-term acceptability of both existing uses and new uses.

1. **Conformity to SCI:** SCI describe values for which an area has been set aside and the range of appropriate uses that will be permitted in the area. SCI may also speak to the acceptability of other “new” uses currently not occurring in the area.

The first “test” is: “do proposed new land uses and/or commercial activities conform to the direction of the SCI for the Conservation Reserve? Would the new use(s) depart from the spirit of appropriate indicator land uses in the SCI?”

2. **Impact Assessment:** If the proposed use(s) pass test one it is important to determine their impact on the area before they are approved. This should include the following:
 - Impact on **natural heritage values:** “will the new use(s) impact any natural values in the area? If so, how and to what degree? Is it tolerable?”
 - Impact on **cultural values:** “will the new use(s) impact any historical or archaeological values in the area?”
 - Impact on **research activities:** “will the new use(s) affect any research activities in the area?”
 - Impact on **current uses:** “will the new use(s) have any negative impact on the array of current uses?”

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- Impact on **area administration**: “will the new use(s) increase administrative costs and/or complexity?” (For example, the cost of area monitoring, security and enforcement).
- Impact of **accommodating the use outside** the Conservation Reserve: “Could the use(s) be accommodated as well or better outside the Conservation Reserve?”
- Impact on **socio-economics of the area**: “will the use(s) affect the community(ies) surrounding the area in a positive or negative way?” (for example, will the new use make the area less remote thereby affecting a local tourism industry that is dependant on the area’s remoteness for its appeal)?
- Impact on **area accessibility**: “does the new use(s) give someone exclusive rights to the area or a portion of the area to the exclusion of other existing uses?”

Appendix B.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Biodiversity: The total variability of life on earth, including the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems.

Boreal: One of three main forest zones in the world. It is located in northern regions and is characterized by the predominance of conifers.

Glaciolacustrine Deposits: fine sand, silt and clay deposited in beach and near shore environments; glaciolacustrine deltas representing significant delta progradation are also classified with this map unit designation (as deltic valley fills). The deltaic valley fill succession includes delta plain (sand and gravel), delta front (sand), and prodelta (silt and clay) deposits. The delta plain or delta top-set deposits represent progradation of glaciofluvial outwash system; the deltaic valley fill succession may be variously exposed by erosion.

IMAR: An integrated, ministry-wide framework for Inventory, Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting that supports the management of our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way.

Site Region: Ontario has a total of 13 site regions. Site regions are broad climatic zones distinguished by their north-south temperature and east-west precipitation gradient.

Site District: Ontario has a total of 65 site districts. Site districts are the distinctive physiographic areas found within the site regions. Each site district contains landform patterns and biological productivity traits that distinguish it from other site districts. Finer landscape units are defined in each site district based on re-occurring landform patterns. Close to one half of these landform patterns and the vegetation and species they support are found within Ontario's provincial parks.

Vector: A series of distinct points, which makes up a line which, defines a portion of a conservation reserve's boundary. This artificial boundary is created with the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) computer software.

Wetland: ¹Generally they have the presence of shallow water or flooded soils for part of the growing season and have organisms adapted to this wet environment, and have soil indicators of this flooding such as hydric soils.

¹ Mitsch, W.J & Gosselink J.G., 2000.

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Appendix C

Temagami Land Use Plan (TLUP) Summary of Permitted Uses By Management Area

Name: 4(a) South Temiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve

Categories	Permitted Yes/No	Special Conditions
Personal Use Permit(s) for Wood (e.g. Fuelwood)	No	
Commercial Timber Harvesting	No	
Forest Renewal and Maintenance	No	To be reviewed at management plan stage
Aggregate Extraction	No	
Mineral Exploration & Development	No	
Public Motorized Access	No	
Hunting	Yes	
Trapping	Yes	
Angling	Yes	
Commercial Baitfish Harvesting	Yes	
New Cottaging may be considered on certain lakes	No	
Managed Boat Caches on certain lakes	No	
Motor Boats	No	
Canoeing	No	
Water-based Camping	No	
New Trail Development-Motorized (e.g. ATV's, snowmobiles)	No	
New Trail Development-Non-Motorized (e.g. hiking, skiing)	Yes	
Snowmobiling	Yes	No groomed snowmobile trails
Aircraft Landing	N/A	
Low-intensity tourism/recreation infrastructure (e.g. cabins, huts, warm-up shelters, campsites)	Yes	Minimal infrastructure (e.g. hut-to-hut)
New Main Base Tourism development (e.g. lodges)	No	

This table is from the 1997 Temagami Land Use Plan, South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (MA4a) page 38.

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Appendix D
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APPENDIX D

South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve (CR4a) and Future Low Intensity Trail Development Proposal Guidelines

Background Information

The goal of this addendum is to provide background information and guidelines from the *Temagami Land Use Plan* (TLUP) which specifically relate to the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. Other information related to trail development, including comments from previous consultation is also provided. Specifically this information may be applied to a formal trail development proposal.

General Trail Development Considerations

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will consider for approval a trail development proposal that will work to complement the existing landscape and will undertake a ¹light on the land development approach. MNR would like to see a primitive trail design adopted for the conservation reserve to preserve a backcountry-hiking experience. The trail design needs to be consistent with the management area objectives for this conservation reserve (CR). Other considerations may include:

- ❖ Developing a primitive trail that will blend into the surrounding landscape, but can still be recognized as a trail. Considering width, usage, location, access points and patterns, signage etc.
- ❖ Details concerning parking requirements, proposed parking and trailhead(s) location, lookouts etc.
- ❖ Avoiding areas that are seasonally inundated with water, to minimize erosion and trail related degradation in these sensitive wet areas. Where traversing these areas is unavoidable the simplest, safest and least intrusive means should be considered to facilitate traversing inundated areas.

In the event that any vulnerable, threatened or endangered (VTE) species and/or habitat or cultural heritage values are identified within or adjacent to the conservation reserve MNR will ensure these values are protected.

Due to the cultural heritage potential associated with this CR, special consideration for these sensitive features must be considered as part of any new use(s) including trail management proposals. MNR reserves the right to request a cultural heritage study be undertaken for any new use(s) within the regulated boundaries of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve.

¹ Light on the land is a method of development that does not excessively disturb the landscape and/or ecosystem, resulting in a more environmentally conscious development approach.

All required cultural heritage studies will be undertaken by a specialist qualified in the values being assessed (i.e. professional archeologist) to the satisfaction of MNR.

1.0 Temagami Land Use Plan: Management Area 4(a) South Timiskaming Shoreline

²The TLUP designates the South Timiskaming Shoreline (CR4a) as management area 4(a). The land use intent is to protect a shoreline corridor for future development of a low-intensity backcountry hiking trail and the aesthetics of the shoreline for recreational use of the Lake Timiskaming waterway.

Management objectives and strategies include:

- ❖ The protection of the conservation reserve from resource extraction activities and development.
- ❖ No road or infrastructure other than primitive hut-to-hut facilities will be permitted to occur in the conservation reserve.
- ❖ Natural ecological processes will be permitted to occur.
- ❖ Identifying an appropriate corridor for the development of a low-intensity trail.

2.0 Ontario's Living Legacy and the Temagami Land Use Plan:

³The July 1999 *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, identifies that both existing and the 378 new protected areas were used to contribute to the Provincial Parks system within the planning area of *Ontario's Living Legacy*. Included in the existing conservation reserves were protected areas identified under the TLUP, CR4a is one of these protected areas. ⁴The TLUP will continue to guide planning and management activities for this conservation reserve.

2.1 Regulation Process

In June 2001, MNR initiated public consultation on boundary refinement for this site. During this time the public were notified and given an opportunity to comment on the proposed conservation reserve boundary. Public input also included additional non-boundary comments, issues and concerns specific to trail development in the conservation reserve. All public stakeholders received a copy of the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve fact sheet and public consultation map.

²CR4a information can be found on pages 37-38 of the TLUP. Appendix C of this SCI is a reproduction of the TLUP permitted use table on page 38.

³ Table 1 page 6 of the Land Use Strategy.

⁴ TLUP is noted on page 33 of the Land Use Strategy.

MNR received numerous comments and concerns associated with the proposed conservation reserve. The majority of the comments received focused on the low-intensity backcountry trail identified by the TLUP. Comments included site specific issues, such as the need for trail development while other comments focused on potential impacts associated with trail expansion beyond the boundaries of the CR and possible effects on the adjacent landscape. Specific trail related comments are listed on page six of this appendix.

2.2 Considering Public Comments

MNR has considered all comments received during the public consultation process. All relevant comments will be given further consideration when assessing future trail development. During planning for the proposed trail network MNR suggests these site-specific comments be considered as part of any trail development proposal. Once MNR selects a trail development proposal for CR4a, the public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments before the proposal is finalized and officially approved.

3.0 Future Direction for Trail Development Proposals:

North Bay District MNR will accept written trail development proposals for consideration and review by staff. MNR will work with interested proponents (i.e. trail and other interested user groups) to ensure the most suitable trail location is identified and to ensure other factors (i.e. parking) are addressed. The best possible trail corridor would ensure commitments outlined in the TLUP are adequately met without compromising the current state of the protected resource (i.e. motorized trail development will not be permitted, trail design will not encourage motorized access etc.).

Proponents will be responsible for inventories required to evaluate trail proposals and assess trail corridor location.

⁵The South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve SCI's states:

- ❖ Existing land uses and development within the conservation reserve that conflict with the protection objectives will be identified and discontinued if impacts can't be mitigated.
- ❖ All new proposed land use development activities are subject to a ⁶*“Test of Compatibility”*. Enforcing regulations and monitoring and mitigating the impacts will apply to all existing and any new approved land use activities.

⁵ Section 6.2 State of the Resource Management Strategies, Land Use/Existing Development on page 19.

⁶ See Appendix A of the CR4a SCI.

Public consultation will be undertaken as part of trail development planning. The public will be given an opportunity to review and provide input on any trail development proposal before a formal backcountry trail network will be approved and development permitted. MNR will not develop or manage the trail, rather the Ministry will seek formal partnerships with interested user group(s) and/or association(s). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be prepared and will outline the roles and responsibilities of MNR and partners in the development, implementation and monitoring of any trail projects.

All formal trail development proposal(s) will need to address the short term and long term objectives of the proposed development (i.e. are there any future plans to expand the trail beyond the boundaries of the conservation reserve, are there trail corridors identified to accommodate this expansion?).

3.1 CR4a and the Special Management Areas (SMAs) Adjacent Land Use Designation

The TLUP divides all Crown land within the Temagami planning area outside of provincial parks into four land use zones. These zones are:

- ❖ Protected Areas (i.e. Management Areas or conservation reserves)
- ❖ Special Management Areas
- ❖ Integrated Management Areas
- ❖ Developed Areas

With future development of a backcountry hiking trail identified for CR4a, the trail could extend beyond the conservation reserve boundary. Overlap with the adjacent ⁷South Timiskaming Special Management Area 4 would be dependent on the proposal(s) not conflicting with the land use intent, management area objectives or strategies identified for this Special Management Area (SMA). Adjacent trail network development will have to consider the surrounding landscape as part of a longer-term management approach, and consideration for the objectives of the SMA will need to be addressed by any formal trail development proposals.

SMAs recognize significant values and the need to control access or to manage resources according to a special land use prescription. SMAs permit remote recreation and tourism to occur away from public roads and access points. Resource extraction and development in this zone will be carefully managed to be compatible with other significant land uses and values. Access will be controlled through various methods in order to provide a variety of remote and backcountry recreational opportunities. The public can access these areas by

⁷ This Management Area is identified by the TLUP on page 35-36.

motorboat, canoe, trail (snowmobile, cross country ski, hiking), aircraft, mountain bike, horse and by ATV in specific locations approved by the TLUP, provided site-specific resource features and values are/ or do not become threatened.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Recreational Issues

During the Temagami land use planning exercise a number of recreational uses and issues related to recreational uses were identified. Some of these issues require careful consideration during the development of any new recreation based proposal. Responsible planning could include a recreational strategy section which would identify proposed mitigation procedures associated with anticipated proposal specific recreation impacts. The ⁸TLUP outlines 12 different issues directly related to recreation and they include;

- (a) Aesthetics and noise
- (b) Motorized and non-motorized access sustaining recreational values
- (c) Competition for resources amongst recreationists
- (d) Wilderness/roadless access
- (e) User-pay
- (f) Funding for Crown land recreation management
- (g) Cottaging
- (h) Roadside camping
- (i) Over-use
- (j) Boating
- (k) Lake Temagami

The ⁹TLUP recognizes the Temagami planning area contains a variety of natural values, which all contribute to providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities and benefits. Providing new opportunities for recreation expansion will require careful consideration of existing land use activities, permitted uses and how new recreation based development will impact the larger landscape.

4.2 Trail Development Issues and CR4a

During public consultation for boundary refinement MNR received several non-boundary-related comments. These include concerns associated with trail development within the conservation reserve. These comments are included for consideration during the development of future trail proposals.

⁸ Section 2.3.14, page 13, in the TLUP.

⁹ Section 3.4.5 page 22, in the TLUP

4.3 Trail Issues and Concerns

Privacy Concerns

- ❖ Concerns of property owners that trails will interfere with the use and enjoyment of private property.
- ❖ With increased recreational traffic and the remote location of the site, private property owners fear increased number of lost and/or injured recreationists.
- ❖ Concerns over whether Hydro land will be used as part of any future organized trail through the conservation reserve

Access Concerns

- ❖ Where will the trailhead(s) be located?
- ❖ Will additional parking be made available to accommodate additional visitors? Presently there are no sustainable parking areas, which would accommodate increased traffic to the area.
- ❖ Are there any plans to link the trail development with any of the Hydro property (i.e. dam, boat launch and/or Hydro yard)?
- ❖ Fear increased access to the conservation reserve will equate to increased traffic to the areas adjacent to the site.
- ❖ Concerns about increased organized trail usage interfering with leisurely non-structured off-trail hiking.
- ❖ Will the general public be allowed to access the trails? Who will be the primary users and/or user groups?
- ❖ Want to ensure the area remains multiuse and can be shared by all types and levels of outdoor enthusiasts and not just trail users.
- ❖ Will the trail developments expand to include (CR3a) Matabitchuan River Conservation Reserve and Special Management Area 3(b)? There are concerns that increased recreational traffic will negatively impact existing tourism operations, especially those that promote and market a remote wilderness experience.
- ❖ Are there any estimates that would indicate the anticipated traffic volumes, which could be generated by this trail development?

Other Concerns

- ❖ Concerns over unlawful trail development without proper MNR approval.
- ❖ What will be done to determine impacts or additional pressure trail development would impose on the adjacent landscape? How will this be mitigated?
- ❖ There is a need to preserve ecological and cultural ties associated to the conservation reserve.
- ❖ Proposing more studies to identify archeological and cultural sites of significance.

- ❖ Ensure the protection of the old growth stands.

All concerns listed above must be clearly considered in any submitted trail development proposal. ¹⁰Information was provided to the MNR during public consultation on boundary refinement for the South Timiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve. Personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, MNR may use this information as public input on other resource management surveys and projects.

5.0 Conclusion

The South Temiskaming Shoreline Conservation Reserve is a site representing exceptional recreational features along the Lake Timiskaming waterway. The site was selected to protect the aesthetics of the shoreline for recreational use and for future development of a low-intensity backcountry hiking trail. The magnificent shoreline consists of steep cliffs, rock outcrops, pebble, sand and cobble beaches spanning a distance of approximately 30 kilometers. This conservation reserve provides unique and abundant recreational opportunities for the backcountry explorer.

Providing direction concerning trail development within the conservation reserve will help to ensure the integrity of the site is protected, and will continue to be available for present and future generations to experience and enjoy.

¹⁰ Issues and information collected under section 4.3 pages 6-7 were collected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987)*.