

Seguin River Conservation Reserve (C97)

Statement of Conservation Interest

March, 2003

**Seguin River Conservation Reserve
(C97)**

Statement of Conservation Interest

**Ministry of Natural Resources
Parry Sound District**

Prepared with the assistance of:

**Meteeck & Company
Huntsville, Ontario**

March, 2003

Approval Statement

We are pleased to approve this Statement of Conservation Interest for Seguin River Conservation Reserve (C97).

Seguin River Conservation Reserve is a 275 hectare area of Crown land in the Township of McDougall in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. It lies about 9 kilometres northeast of the Town of Parry Sound.

Seguin River Conservation Reserve, located in Hill's ecological Site District 5E -7, protects upland forests of poplar/aspens, red oak, white pine and sugar maple in a rugged landscape along the Seguin River. Steep cliff habitat along the river is an uncommon environment in the area. It is also unusual in having rock outcroppings that are metavolcanic, and not solely granitic. The cliffs have open rock barrens and wooded slopes, with surrounding woods that represent a variety of vegetation and landforms. All of the conservation reserve lies within the Trout Lake deer yard.

Seguin River Conservation Reserve is one of 378 new protected areas approved through *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, aimed, in part, at completing Ontario's system of parks and protected areas. Originally identified as Seguin Chutes Conservation Reserve, the name of this site was changed to more accurately reflect its location.

During the "Lands for Life" planning process, the public was widely consulted and provided valuable input into what became *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*. Comments received during that time, and during consultation related to the formal Public Lands Act (Ontario Regulation 805/94) regulation of the boundaries of this conservation reserve, were generally supportive of the protection of this area. Stakeholders who provided comment during the earlier consultation for this site were subsequently consulted regarding the draft Statement of Conservation Interest and their comments were considered in the finalization of this document.

This Statement of Conservation Interest provides guidance for the management of the conservation reserve and provides the basis for the ongoing monitoring of activities. More detailed direction is not anticipated at this time. Should more complex resource management or conservation issues arise or significant facility development be considered, then a detailed Resource Management Plan will be prepared with full public consultation.

Seguin River Conservation Reserve is managed under the direction of the District Manager and the Parry Sound Area Supervisor of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Parry Sound District.

Approved by: R. Griffiths
District Manager
Parry Sound District

Approved by: Ron Running
Regional Director
Southcentral Region

Table of Contents

APPROVAL STATEMENT	II
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION:	3
1.2 REPRESENTATION	4
1.3 SURVEY WORK	4
2.0 VALUES TO BE PROTECTED	5
2.1 EARTH SCIENCE:.....	5
2.2 LIFE SCIENCE	5
2.3 CULTURAL VALUES:	7
2.4 RECREATIONAL/AESTHETIC VALUES:.....	7
3.0 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	8
3.1 LAND TENURE	8
3.2 DEVELOPMENT:	8
3.3 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:	9
3.4 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:	10
3.5 ABORIGINAL INTERESTS:	10
3.6 NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP:	11
3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP:	12
3.8 CLIENT SERVICES:	12
3.9 RESEARCH:.....	13
3.10 MARKETING:	13
4.0 IMPLEMENTATION	13
5.0 REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE STATEMENT OF CONSERVATION INTEREST	14
6.0 REFERENCES	15
APPENDICES	16
APPENDIX 1 PROCEDURAL GUIDELINE B – LAND USES – TEST OF COMPATIBILITY	16
APPENDIX 2 INDICATOR USES FOR CONSERVATION RESERVES:	17
APPENDIX 3 PROCEDURAL GUIDELINE C	19

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Location of Seguin River Conservation Reserve	1
Figure 2: Site Map – Seguin River Conservation Reserve	2

Figure 1: Location of Seguin River Conservation Reserve

Figure 2: Site Map – Seguin River Conservation Reserve

1.0 Introduction

Ontario's Living Legacy the result of an extensive planning process that began in early 1997, culminated in the approval in July 1999 of a Land Use Strategy that identifies the intended strategic direction for Crown land, including the completion of Ontario's system of parks and protected areas. This process, which included extensive public consultation, resulted in the recommendation for regulation of 378 new protected areas, including Seguin River Conservation Reserve (C97).

Seguin River Conservation Reserve is located in the Municipality of McDougall in the Territorial District of Parry Sound. It lies about 9 kilometres northeast of the Town of Parry Sound.

The conservation reserve, in Hill's ecological Site District 5E-7, was identified during the Lands for Life selection process for its diversity landform and vegetation features. In particular, it was noted to have steep cliff habitats adjacent to the Seguin River, which flows through the conservation reserve. In addition, the Manitowabing River and Trout Lake Creek run southward through the site to join Seguin River.

The Seguin River is a popular spring white-water canoe route, which has a history (and likely pre-history) as a travel route; it also has a history related to logging. Canoeing and associated camping, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling are active recreational uses of the area.

Conservation reserves are established under the authority of the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94. The Seguin River Conservation Reserve was established by Ontario Regulation 148/02, an amendment of the Public Lands Act, on May 8, 2002.

A Statement of Conservation Interest (SCI) is prepared under the authority of Procedural Guideline A – Resource Management Planning (PL Procedure 3.03.05). The purpose of this SCI is to identify and describe the values of Seguin River Conservation Reserve. The SCI also outlines the activities that currently occur within the conservation reserve and provides guidelines for the management of current and future activities in the context of protecting the natural, recreational and cultural values.

1.1 Background Information:

Name	Seguin River Conservation Reserve (C97)
Site Region/District	Georgian Bay 5E-7
OMNR Administrative Region/District/Area	Southcentral Region/Parry Sound District/ Parry Sound Area
Total Area (ha.)	275 hectares
Regulation Date	May 8, 2002 (O. Reg. 148/02)
First Nations	Robinson-Huron Treaty
OBM map sheets	10 17 5750 50250, 10 17 5800 50250
Topographic Map	Orrville 31 E/5
UTM co-ordinates	17T 58020 502800 (Centroid)

1.2 Representation

Earth Science Representation:

The site contains metavolcanic bedrock outcroppings in an area that is otherwise predominately granitic.

The surficial topography has been heavily influenced by glacial scouring, followed by erosion and reworking by the receding waters of post-glacial Lake Algonquin.

Life Science Representation:

- Dry mixed wood forests on steep south-facing slopes.
- Cool moist yellow birch, hemlock, white cedar forests on steep north-facing slopes.
- Cliff environments, with rock barrens.
- Mature white pine forests on deeper tills.
- Silver maple floodplain forests.
- Rich sites with locally and regionally rare understory species.

Cultural Resources Representation:

Neither detailed cultural research nor inventory has been carried out for this conservation reserve. However, the presence of old large stumps indicates that this area was logged for white pine in mid to late 19th century. There is little other evidence of historic use or development. Recent regional evaluation (OMNR, 2003) shows that this conservation reserve contains areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

Recreational Opportunities:

A recreational inventory report was prepared for this conservation reserve based primarily on existing knowledge and data sources of MNR staff, along with a site visit. Currently, the site is used chiefly for hunting and snowmobiling.

1.3 Survey Work

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Reconnaissance	To be completed in 2003.	Blythe & Assoc., 2002	OMNR, 2003	Brown, 2002	None
Detailed	None	None	None	None	None
Requirement	None	Monitor the status/presence of significant species and associations.	Research to be encouraged	Monitor use impacts	None

2.0 Values to be protected

The conservation reserve is located entirely within Hills' (1959) ecological Site District 5E-7. Values include earth science, life science and recreational/aesthetic values, with an emphasis on the life sciences.

2.1 Earth Science:

At the time of preparation of this Statement of Conservation Interest, an up-to-date field reconnaissance survey has not been prepared for the earth sciences of this reserve. It is expected that an earth science survey will be finalized later in 2003. However, the cliff habitat along the Seguin River is known for its unusual metavolcanic bedrock outcroppings in an area that is otherwise predominately granitic.

The area encompasses three landform types: bare rock ridges and shallow till; shallow till and rock ridges; and a small portion of sand plain (Chapman & Putnam, 1984). There are some riverine deposits of sand and silt within the flood plain, and areas of deep clay/silt soils along the Manitouwabing River. The surficial topography has been heavily influenced by glacial scouring, followed by erosion and reworking by the receding waters of post-glacial Lake Algonquin (Blythe & Associates, 2002).

2.2 Life Science:

(Life science information, unless otherwise noted, is taken from Blythe & Associates, 2002)

The conservation reserve is located within Hills' (1959) ecological Site District 5E-7. Life science significance is determined on the basis of the following criteria: representation, diversity, condition, ecological considerations and special features (Crins and Kor, 1998).

Representation:

Seguin River Conservation Reserve encompasses 275 hectares of diverse terrain and botanical habitats. The terrain includes sheer vertical cliffs, talus slopes, high rock hills, pockets of deep glacially deposited sand and till, lowland deposits of silt and clay and narrow bands of riverine wetlands. Three watercourses, including the Manitouwabing River, flow southward through the conservation reserve where they enter the Seguin River as tributaries. The site is dominated by high rock hills on either side of the Seguin River. Because of the steepness of the hills and cliffs, access to the interior of the reserve is difficult from the river, although there are some breaks in the cliff walls that allow access to the high ground.

The Seguin River runs east/west through the steep-walled canyon of the conservation reserve. The vegetation varies significantly on the north and south facing sides of this canyon. The south facing slope is relatively dry and features a dry conifer forest of white pine (*Pinus strobus*), eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and some white birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Dry land herbaceous species are abundant along the south-facing cliff. These include pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), poverty oat grass (*Danthonia spicata*), common hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), northern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), stout goldenrod (*Solidago squarrosa*), common polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*), and common juniper (*Juniperus communis*).

In contrast, the forest growing on the north-facing slope is dominated by yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and eastern white cedar. The environmental conditions are moist and cool. A variety of fern species grow on the lower talus slopes, including ostrich fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*) were also observed here. Further up the slope, dense hemlock with a few scattered white pine exclude all but a few herbaceous species.

Breaks in the cliff face along the north shore have pockets of deeper glacial till, fostering pure stands of mature white pine, around 100 years old.

Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and yellow birch dominate the flood plains of the Seguin. A range of hardwood forests are found on the less steeply sloped valleys of the Manitouwabing River and Trout Lake

Creek, with the dominant species being sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), yellow birch, red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and red/green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*).

One "rich site" (characterized by shaded understory conditions, deep topsoils, a fresh moisture regime and the presence of calcium) is located in the Manitouwabing River valley and supports a stand of sugar maple, basswood (*Tilia americana*) and yellow birch, with forest floor species including wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), red and white baneberry (*Actaea rubra* & *A. pachypoda*), and plantain-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginaea*). At the top of the slope, the forest changes to mid-tolerant species such as white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and red oak.

Condition:

Most of this area shows evidence of logging. This area was logged historically, when the Seguin was a primary river drive route. As well, the upland forests of the area have been logged recently.

Evidence of wildfires exists throughout the conservation reserve, specifically, remnants of old white pine stumps.

There are no public access roads into or through the conservation reserve, although a private road does give access to the Seguin River about 300 metres east of the conservation reserve's boundary.

An OFSC sanctioned snowmobile trail passes through the west side of the conservation reserve (Trans Ontario Provincial Trunk Trail "C") and crosses the Seguin River via a steel bridge.

There are no public access roads that cross or abut the conservation reserve. A snowmobile trail (OFSC #700) follows the road allowance between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 6. It appears that this trail and the bridge have opened the site to access by all-terrain vehicles.

Some campsites occur along the river, and appear to be used for the spring white-water canoeing period, and by anglers.

Diversity:

The extreme topography and vertical zones of botanical habitat have resulted in a wide range of species being present in a relatively small area. In particular, the talus slope forests, both north and south facing, present two unusual environments.

The most interesting botanical feature, though, is the presence of "rich sites" in the Manitouwabing River valley and slopes. Some uncommon to regionally rare species are found here, including wild leeks, blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), maidenhair fern, red and white baneberry, sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza claytonii*) as well as several species of grass.

The steep rocky cliff faces are favoured as nesting sites by a small number of bird species, including ravens (*Corvus corax*), turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) and several species of raptors. Prairie warblers (*Dendroica discolor*) prefer a rock barren type of habitat, as found in some of the cliff areas. While nesting has not been recorded here, prairie warblers are known to nest in the nearby Georgian Bay coastal barrens.

The area offers a suitable range of habitats for wildlife species typical to the region, such as white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), moose (*Alces alces*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), eastern gray wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Most of the Trout Lake deer yard lies within this conservation reserve.

This area also presents suitable habitat for the provincially and nationally threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) and the provincially threatened eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*). Both species are found to the east and west of this reserve. Similarly, the south

facing talus slopes provide good potential habitat for Ontario's only lizard, the five-lined skink (*Eumeces fasciatus*), which is known to occur in areas surrounding the reserve.

Ecological Considerations

Part of the Seguin River Conservation Reserve lies within the Trout Lake deer yard.

The Seguin River, in close proximity to Georgian Bay, provides a wildlife species migration corridor linking Georgian Bay coastal habitats with inland habitats. Of particular importance is the linkage with the Georgian Bay coastal barrens, the focal point for eastern massasauga rattlesnake population. This coastal connection in combination with a range of hardwood and coniferous forests and a sufficiently mild inland climate regime make this a potential refuge for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake and the eastern hognose snake. In addition, the rock barrens habitat within the site and the presence of talus slopes and broken rocks offer good gestational habitat for female massasauga rattlesnakes.

Similarly, the south facing talus slopes, near the water's edge, provide good habitat opportunities for the five-lined skink.

Special Features:

- High potential to support populations of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, eastern hognose snakes and five-lined skinks.
- Sheer rock faces provide rare nesting site opportunities for cliff nesting avian species such as turkey vultures, ravens, and potentially, peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*).
- The conservation reserve contains at least one "rich site" with locally and regionally rare plant assemblages.

2.3 Cultural Values:

While no specific cultural studies or inventories have been undertaken within the conservation reserve, and no major cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date, it is likely that the Seguin River was used as travel corridor for First Nations. There is historical information about First Nation use of the immediate area (Allen, 2001). Recent regional evaluation (OMNR, 2003) agrees that this conservation reserve contains areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites.

There is documented local history of logging in this vicinity, especially in connection with the use of the Seguin River to run logs to Parry Sound (Macfie, 1987).

2.4 Recreational/Aesthetic Values:

The Seguin River is a popular springtime white-water canoe route. It also is used for fishing, and is known locally to support a healthy walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) fishery. There are a few campsites along the Seguin River in this area. They appear to be used by both the canoeists and anglers.

The conservation reserve is a long-standing traditional hunting area, with the activity focusing on white-tailed deer, moose and black bear. The site supports the usual populations of large and small game. There are no recreation camps within the conservation reserve.

A major snowmobile trail, Trans Ontario Provincial Trunk Trail "C" passes through the conservation reserve, with a bridge crossing the Seguin River. The trail is heavily used in the winter. It (and the bridge) also facilitates access to the area by all-terrain vehicle.

A paved municipal road (McDougall Road) crosses the river about 1½ kilometres upstream of the site, and is used by members of the public to access the river.

The biophysical attributes of the conservation reserve lend themselves to nature-related activities such as bird-watching and hiking but the degree of use for these activities is, for the most part, unknown since they have a relatively low impact on the landscape, and tend not to be represented by organized user-group associations.

3.0 Management Guidelines

3.1 Land Tenure:

Background:

Seguin River Conservation Reserve comprises 275 hectares of Crown land. Private lands abut its boundaries on its south, west and most of its north sides. It is adjacent to a block of Crown lots on its northeast side. Concession road allowances which cross or abut the conservation reserve remain under the authority of the municipality wherein they lie, and are not included as part of the conservation reserve. The same holds true for the shoreline road allowances along the Seguin River, the Manitouwabing River and Trout Lake Creek. There is no intent to acquire adjacent private lands for addition to the conservation reserve.

The conservation reserve lies within Bear Management Area PS-49-07. Most of the conservation reserve is within one assigned Bait Fish Block (McDougall 2), the most westerly lot (Lot 16, Concession 6) lying in an adjacent Bait Fish Block (McDougall 1). There is no registered trapline that includes the conservation reserve. There are no authorized recreation camps within the boundaries of the conservation reserve.

The Trans Ontario Provincial Trunk Trail "C" passes through the conservation reserve, with an authorized bridge crossing the Seguin River.

Guideline:

The sale of Crown lands within the conservation reserve is not permitted. While the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* provides minor flexibility in this policy, there are no sites adjacent to this conservation reserve which would meet the stipulated criteria.

There are no plans by the MNR to acquire private lands to add to the conservation reserve.

The commercial bear hunting service associated with the current Bear Management Area is allowed to continue. The Bait Fish Blocks, currently assigned, are permitted to continue.

New recreation camps are not permitted.

3.2 Development:

Background:

There are no buildings or Crown-owned facilities within the conservation reserve.

The Trans Ontario Provincial Trunk Trail "C" passes through the west side of the conservation reserve, with an authorized bridge crossing the Seguin River. Snowmobile trail construction has resulted in some disturbance of the landscape, particularly where its course is cut down the steep valley slope to the bridge approach on the south side of the river. In-filling has occurred on both sides of the river to accommodate bridge cribbing.

There is a land fill site to the south of the conservation reserve. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) advises that water quality studies indicate that there is no significant influence on the water quality of the Seguin River from the landfill site. As in all cases where the public may consider drinking surface water, MOE recommends that all surface water be treated prior to drinking.

Guideline:

New roads for resource extraction and/or private use will not be permitted. There is no intention to develop roads outside of the conservation reserve to improve access to this site.

No mineral exploration is permitted within this conservation reserve. This policy decision is based on a commitment made by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in March, 2002. This policy direction replaces that identified in the 1999 *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (OMNR, 1999), which stated that controlled mineral exploration would be permitted in new conservation reserves which were identified as having provincially significant mineral potential.

In general, existing authorized recreational trails may be permitted to continue in conservation reserves as long as they do not impair the natural features and values for which the area is identified and as long as there are no significant environmental impacts. Accordingly, the previously authorized snowmobile trail continues to be authorized, but its use will be monitored to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Additional recreational trails are not encouraged, but may be considered on a case by case basis. Public consultation will be an important part of the consideration of any new trails, and they would also be required to comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1).

While there is no intent at present to provide or permit any new development in this conservation reserve that would require lighting, should this be considered at some point in the future the MNR will not allow unnecessary, undirected light pollution. This commitment recognizes the wilderness values provided by a pristine night sky.

3.3 Recreational Activities:**Background:**

Existing recreational uses include canoeing (whitewater route in the spring), angling, camping, hunting, and snowmobiling. Most hunting activity in the conservation reserve focuses on white-tailed deer, moose and black bear.

An authorized recreational trail crosses the conservation reserve (See Sections 2.4 and 3.2). In addition to snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle use likely occurs on that trail, and the bridge across the Seguin River has provided all-terrain vehicle access to the conservation reserve. There may also be unauthorized all-terrain vehicle trails used in association with hunting activity.

There is little evidence of the use of the conservation reserve by hikers, birdwatchers, mountain bikers, skiers, or snowshoers.

Guideline:

Hunting and fishing are permitted to continue within the conservation reserve.

Recreational use such as hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, while currently very limited in extent and therefore not managed, will be allowed to occur in the conservation reserve.

The existing authorized snowmobile trail will continue to be authorized. It is not expected to have much impact on the conservation reserve, unless off-trail use occurs from it. Off-trail use of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles is only permitted for the direct retrieval of game. Trail use and off-trail use will be monitored to ensure that the conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted.

New recreational trails or changes to the existing route are not permitted without prior MNR authorization. New trails are not encouraged, but, may be considered on a case by case basis provided they meet the

Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1) and the MNR's Environmental Assessment Act requirements.

The use of pre-existing unauthorized recreational trails, and any increased use of all-terrain vehicles, will be monitored to ensure that conservation reserve values are not being adversely impacted. Depending on the results of monitoring, some trails may need to be redirected from sensitive areas or eliminated completely. Otherwise, there is no intent to mark or upgrade such trails.

New recreational activities will be considered on a case by case basis provided they are consistent with maintaining the values of the conservation reserve and comply with Procedural Guideline B - Land Uses - Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1). Emphasis will be placed on activities that have a low impact on the environment of the conservation reserve.

3.4 Commercial Activities:

Background:

There has been no recent commercial forest harvesting or mining activity within the conservation reserve.

The guiding of non-resident bear hunters is authorized through the Bear Management Area covering the north half of the conservation reserve, and bait fish harvesting is authorized through the Bait Fish Block licences which cover the site.

Guideline:

Bear hunting services and bait fish harvesting operations are allowed to continue within the conservation reserve.

Mineral exploration is not allowed in this conservation reserve, as discussed in Section 3.2.

Conservation reserve regulations do not permit mining, commercial forest harvesting, hydroelectric power development, the extraction of aggregate and peat or other industrial uses (Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94). Other new commercial activities must meet the requirements of Procedural Guideline B (see Appendix 1).

3.5 Aboriginal Interests:

Background:

This site is located within the area of the Robinson – Huron Treaty of 1850, and as such the general area of this conservation reserve is known to be of interest to various First Nations.

Guideline:

The regulation and management of this conservation reserve will not impede the exercise of existing aboriginal or treaty rights. These rights include hunting, fishing, fur harvesting, gathering of plants for a variety of purposes, and the use of ceremonial sites. It is recognized that the manner in which these rights are carried out is not limited to the manner in which they were carried out in the past, but has evolved over time with changes in technology.

While there are no existing First Nation land claims that extend to this site, it is recognized that at some point in the future there is a possibility of a land claim in this area. If such a land claim is determined to be valid, the Conservation Reserve designation is not irreversible and does not preclude consideration of these lands in the settlement of a claim.

3.6 Natural Resource Stewardship:

Vegetation management for specific purposes (other than historic logging) is not known to have occurred in the past. Wildlife and fisheries management has occurred according to the prevailing policies and legislation.

The emphasis will be on ensuring that the natural values of the conservation reserve are not negatively affected by current and future activities. Therefore, applications for new specific uses will be carefully studied and reviewed. Necessary studies may be undertaken by proponents, the Ministry, and/or partner organizations.

Guideline – Vegetation:

The intent of this site is to allow the existing vegetation communities to evolve naturally.

An exception to the above may occur to manage the vegetation components critical to wintering deer. All of the site lies within the Trout Lake deer yard. Vegetation management and featured species management (deer in this case) is consistent with Conservation Reserve Policy PL 3.03.05.

The purpose of habitat management would be preservation and in some cases regeneration of the conifer trees, especially hemlocks, which provide cover from winter conditions, along with the creation of areas of browse in close proximity to conifer cover. It is anticipated that this habitat management would occur during the winter, thereby alleviating the need for any new/upgraded roads to undertake this activity.

Prior to work of this nature being done, a vegetation management plan would be completed by MNR and approved by the MNR District Manager. This vegetation management plan would be directed by local MNR specialists (e.g. area forester, area wildlife biologist) and reviewed with life science specialists/ecologists of Ontario Parks, to ensure that the habitat management would not adversely affect the natural heritage and ecological representation values of this conservation reserve. The habitat management prescriptions would generally be consistent with the approved Area of Concern provisions used for forestry operations in identified deer yards in the French-Severn Forest Management Plan, which in turn is derived from *Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of White-Tailed Deer Habitat (OMNR, 1997)*, except where modifications are needed to protect certain heritage values or features of this site.

The vegetation management plan could be implemented in several ways; for example, volunteer labour can be used if available or a commercial operator could be contracted by the MNR. In either case, it is expected that harvested forest products could be marketed commercially to offset the costs of the work.

The OMNR recognizes fire as an essential process fundamental to the ecological integrity of this conservation reserve. In accordance with existing conservation reserve policy and the Forest Management Strategy for Ontario, forest fire protection will endeavour to use "light on the land" techniques, which do not unduly disturb the landscape, in this conservation reserve. Examples of light on the land techniques may include limiting the use of heavy equipment, and limiting the number of trees felled during fire response efforts. Input from the local MNR Area Supervisor would be solicited if a forest fire threatens the area. Opportunities for prescribed burning to achieve resource management objectives may be considered. Plans for any prescribed burning will be developed in accordance with the OMNR Prescribed Burn Planning Manual.

Programs may be developed to control forest insects and diseases in the conservation reserve where these threaten significant values in or adjacent to the site. Where insects or disease threaten significant values, in or adjacent to the site, control will be directed as narrowly as possible to the specific insect or disease. Biological control will be used wherever possible. In all cases, regard shall be had for Procedural Guideline B (see Appendix 1).

Guideline – Wildlife and Fisheries:

The relevant Ontario hunting and fishing regulations will guide hunting and fishing within the Seguin River Conservation Reserve. Bait fish harvesting will be managed through the maintenance of the current licensing system.

The Ministry will monitor the impacts of activities of snowmobile trails and increasing use of all-terrain vehicles on the natural values of the conservation reserve.

3.7 Cultural Resource Stewardship:

Background:

There is evidence of early and recent logging activity within this conservation reserve. The Seguin River is known to have been used as a log drive river, to transport logs to Georgian Bay and thence to Parry Sound.

The river is also understood to be a traditional First Nations travel corridor. Given the nearby traditional walleye spawning area and other wildlife resources in the area, it is speculated that this conservation reserve may have high potential for cultural heritage features and sites (Allen, 2001). Recent regional evaluation (OMNR, 2003) agrees that this conservation reserve contains areas that have a high potential for cultural heritage sites. A registered cultural heritage site reserve exists west of this conservation reserve. However, no specific studies or inventories have been undertaken within the conservation reserve, and no specific significant cultural resource values have been evaluated or identified to date.

Guideline:

Should the MNR consider either carrying out or permitting new structural development, significant clearing of vegetation or altering of land within this conservation reserve, the MNR will adhere to the cultural heritage resource screening process as is identified in its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (MTCR). While the purpose of this MOU is to provide a process to identify and protect cultural heritage resources when the MNR is reviewing work permits or disposing of Crown rights under the authority of the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94, the considerations and criteria would also enable the MNR to identify high potential cultural heritage areas for other purposes within conservation reserves. If the screening process indicates that the site of a proposed activity is within an area of high cultural heritage potential, the MNR will consult with the MTCR to determine the appropriate cultural heritage assessment requirements and will undertake a preliminary archaeological assessment if appropriate.

Interested partners will be encouraged to undertake inventories, studies, and research to document the First Nations, resource harvest/management and recreation history in the area. The MNR will discuss the appropriateness of archaeological assessment with local First Nations and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

3.8 Client Services:

Background:

Access to the conservation reserve has generally been confined to traditional uses for the current commercial and recreational activities. There are no Crown facilities or services developed on or adjacent to the conservation reserve. The information fact sheet for this conservation reserve is currently available to the public through the Parry Sound District Office, or via the Internet at www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com.

Guideline:

The focus will remain on low key information and self-interpretation of conservation reserve values and features. Consideration will be given to the preparation of an information brochure (with map) to highlight the features for which the area was identified and appropriate uses to ensure the protection of those features.

Consideration will be given to the strategic location of identity signs where the river and the authorized snowmobile trail cross the conservation reserve boundaries, and where other trails approach or cross the conservation reserve boundary. There are no other plans for structural development within this conservation reserve.

3.9 Research:

Background:

Research to date has included reconnaissance surveys to document life science and recreation values.

Guideline:

Research focusing on the prehistoric and historic use of the Seguin River and the conservation reserve will be encouraged.

Research focussing on the assessment of use/activity impacts on cultural resources, wildlife species and habitats will be encouraged.

All research will be carried out in a non-destructive manner. Research proposals must follow Procedural Guideline C – Research Activities in Conservation Reserves (Appendix 3).

3.10 Marketing:

Background:

There has been no marketing of this conservation reserve to date. Promotion and information about this site has been primarily through the *Ontario's Living Legacy* planning process and recent MNR Parry Sound District public consultation regarding the boundaries of this site.

Guideline:

Marketing activities of this conservation reserve will be kept to a minimum.

4.0 Implementation

Administrative responsibility for this conservation reserve belongs to the Parry Sound Area Office of the Parry Sound District of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Area Office will continue to have the custodial care of Seguin River Conservation Reserve. Emphasis will be placed on awareness information highlighting reserve values, and monitoring and managing the current approved uses.

Priorities will include:

- Ensure compliance to prescribed management policies of the approved SCI;
- GPS location of existing trails and classify their status and condition;
- Monitor and evaluate recreational and commercial use levels and impacts;
- Encourage further inventory and research about the prehistoric and historic use of this part of the Seguin River and adjacent parts of the conservation reserve;
- Encourage further inventory and research of the significant life science resources of the conservation reserve;
- Encourage research about use/activity impacts on cultural resources, wildlife species and habitats;
- Support cooperative ongoing education of resource users with respect to resource and land stewardship values, in order to maintain the ecological integrity of the site and to provide long term recreational opportunities; and
- Provide client services (e.g. brochure or fact sheet) at nearby MNR offices.

5.0 Review and Revision of the Statement of Conservation Interest

This Statement of Conservation Interest will be amended through a standard process of minor and major amendments. Minor amendments will be processed in a relatively informal manner and will require the approval of the Area Supervisor. These amendments will deal with uses and activities that do not affect any of the policies in this SCI (e.g. new uses and/or activities that are consistent with existing permitted uses).

Uses and/or activities that were not anticipated in the approved SCI and which may have an impact on the values of the reserve will require a major amendment. This will include an opportunity for public comment and input, will require the approval of the District Manager and Regional Director.

6.0 References

- Allen, B. 2001. Correspondence to MNR regarding "C97 Seguin River Conservation Reserve".
- Blythe, C. and Associates. 2002. Natural Heritage Area – Life Science Checksheet Seguin River Conservation Reserve. OMNR, Parry Sound.
- Brown, B. 2002. Recreation Resource Inventory Report. Seguin River Conservation Reserve. OMNR Parry Sound.
- Brunton, D. F. 1993. Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest in Site District 5E-7. OMNR, Algonquin Region, Huntsville.
- Chapman, L. J. 1975. The Physiography of the Georgian Bay-Ottawa Valley Area of Southern Ontario. Ontario Division of Mines, GR 128, 35p. Accompanied by Map 2228, scale 1 inch to 4 miles or 1:253,440.
- Chapman, L. J. and Putman, D. F. 1984. Ontario Geological Survey, Special Volume 2. The Physiography of Southern Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Crins, W. J. and Kor, P. S. G. 1998. Natural Heritage Gap Analysis Methodologies Used by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Unpublished Paper. Peterborough: OMNR.
- Davidson, R. J. 1981. A framework for the conservation of Ontario's earth science features. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, 262 p.
- Hills, G. A. 1959. A Ready Reference to the Description of the Land of Ontario and its Productivity. Ont. Dept. of Lands and Forests, Division of Research, Maple, Ontario.
- Macfie, J. 1987. Parry Sound: Logging Days. The Boston Mills Press, Erin.
- Noble, T. W. 1983. Biophysigraphic Analysis, Site Region 5E, Algonquin Region, Ministry of Natural Resources. Algonquin Region, Huntsville.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 1999. Ontario's Living Legacy: Land Use Strategy. Queen's Printer for Ontario.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2003. Cultural Heritage Registered Site Reserves and Areas of High Potential, Parry Sound District, Scale 1:150000.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (PL 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, and, 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/RMP:** 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/RMP for the conservation reserve? Would the new use(s) depart from the spirit of appropriate indicator land uses in the SCI/RMP?”

2. **Impact Assessment:** If the proposed use(s) pass test 1 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 an historical or archaeological values in the area?”
- Impact on **research activities:** “will the new use(s) affect research activities in the area?”
- Impact on **current uses:** “will the new use(s) have any negative impact on the array of current uses?”
- 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 on **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 new use(s) affect the community(ies) surrounding the area in a positive or negative way?” (For example, will the new use make an area less remote thereby affecting a local tourism industry that is dependent 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?”

The following table (Appendix 2) provides a **guide of indicator uses** for the consideration of uses that may be permitted within conservation reserves. For any specific conservation reserve that test of compatibility should be applied to determine which specific uses are acceptable.

Appendix 2 Indicator Uses for Conservation Reserves: Generic and Specific

Activities	Generic Policy		Specific Application in Seguin River Conservation Reserve
	Permitted? Y = yes, N = no, M = maybe		
	Existing	New	
Recreation			
Sport fishing	Y	Y	Y
Sport hunting	Y	Y	Y
Food gathering	Y	Y	Y ^A
Facility infrastructure	M	M	M
Non-trail snowmobiling	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Non-trail all-terrain vehicle use	N ¹	N ¹	N ¹
Rock climbing/caving	M	M	M
Canoeing/kayaking	Y	Y	Y
Motorized boating	Y	Y	Y
Picnicking	Y	Y	Y
Camping	M	M	Y
Trails: Hiking	Y	M	M ^B
X country skiing	Y	M	M ^B
Cycling	Y	M	M ^B
Horse riding	Y	M	M ^B
Snowmobiling	Y	M	M ^B
All-Terrain Vehicles	Y	M	M ^B
Science, Education & Heritage Appreciation			
Research	Y	Y	Y
General walking	Y	Y	Y
Photography & Painting	Y	Y	Y
Wildlife viewing	Y	Y	Y
Outdoor Education/Interpretation	Y	Y	Y
Collecting	N	M ²	M ²
Commercial Activities			
Food harvesting	M	M	N
Fishing	M	M	N
Baitfish harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Fur harvesting	Y	M	Y ³
Trap cabins	Y	N	N ^C
Resort – outpost camp	Y	N	N ^C
Outfitting – bear management	Y	N	Y ³
Wild rice harvesting	Y	M	M
Resource Management			
Inventory monitoring	Y	Y	Y
Featured species management	M	M	M
Natural systems management	M	M	M
Industrial Activities			
Timber harvesting	N	N	N
Mineral exploration	N	N	N
Mining	N	N	N
Hydro generation	N	N	N
Energy transmission corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴

Communications corridors	Y	N ⁴	N ⁴
Public transportation corridors	Y	N ⁴	M ⁴
Resource access roads	M	N	N
Private access roads	M	N ⁵	N ⁵
Other Activities			
Land Disposition	M ⁶	N ⁶	N ⁶
Recreation Camps	Y ^C	N	Y ^{C,D}

Notes:

On generic policy application in conservation reserves:

1. For direct retrieval of game only.
2. Only as a part of an approved research project.
3. Transfer requests will be considered in the context of the Statement of Conservation Interest or Resource Management Plan for each conservation reserve.
4. Existing use is permitted to continue. New transportation corridors, communications lines, and transmission lines are discouraged in conservation reserves except under unusual circumstances where there are no other viable alternatives.
5. New private roads, including additions to existing roads, will not be permitted except where there are existing commitments.
6. Sale of Crown lands in conservation reserves is not permitted, except for certain minor dispositions (e.g. sale of small parcel of land where adjacent private lot is too small to enable installation of a septic system, or to facilitate legal title to lands where there has been a long-standing encroachment of a dwelling on Crown land) where they do not detrimentally affect the values an area is intended to protect.

On specific policy application in Seguin River Conservation Reserve:

- A. Food gathering is permitted for personal consumption only and must be conducted in a sustainable manner, and such that it does not harm the values of the conservation reserve.
- B. Existing authorized trails are permitted to continue in conservation reserves as long as there are no significant environmental impacts and they do not impair the natural features and values for which the area is identified. Additional high impact recreational trails are discouraged, but new trails may be considered on a case by case basis, provided they comply with Procedural Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility (Appendix 1).
- C. Existing authorized uses can continue. New cabins, outpost camps and private recreation camps are not permitted.
- D. Existing authorized recreation camps are eligible for enhanced tenure, but not for the purchase of lands. A decision to grant enhanced tenure or to transfer recreation camps will be addressed through a screening process.

Appendix 3 Procedural Guideline C

Research Activities in Conservation Reserves (PL Procedure 3.03.05)

Purpose

To encourage contributions to the goal of conservation reserves by:

- Providing direction for research activities associated with conservation reserves; and
- Establishing a process for the review and approval of proposals by researchers, which could have an impact on the values protected by the conservation reserve.

Definition

Research means any investigation or study of the natural, cultural, economic, management or other features or characteristics of conservation reserves.

Guidelines

Research will be encouraged to provide a better understanding of the natural values protected by a conservation reserve and to advance their protection, planning and management. The Statement of Conservation Interest will define, for each conservation reserve, the key research issues, set out the parameters within which research may occur and identify research needs.

Applications and Approvals

Researchers must apply in writing to the Area Supervisor for permission to conduct research. The request letter must contain a statement explaining why the proposed research should be undertaken in the particular conservation reserve in preference to another location.

Proposals will be reviewed and approved by the Area Supervisor, guided by the SCI prepared for each reserve (see Guideline A – Resource Management Planning) and using Guideline B – Land Uses – Test of Compatibility. Permission must be granted in writing, including any conditions to be met in conducting the research, prior to the undertaking of any research project.

Term and Conditions

Permission to conduct research under this policy will be valid for a period of 12 consecutive months from the date of issue. Permission to continue a research project for an additional periods of 12 months or less may be granted upon submission of a written request and a progress report. The Ministry may require the posting of collateral to assure that the terms and conditions of granting permission are met.

The Area Supervisor may suspend or revoke permission at any time for failure on the part of the researcher to meet:

1. The intent of this policy.
2. The requirements under the Public Lands Act, Ontario Regulation 805/94 including all amendments, where applicable.
3. The requirements under any other Act or regulations of Ontario or Canada, including those governing the taking, handling, storing, confining, fur harvesting, excavating and marketing any specimen, artifact, information or action (for example, scientific collector's permit).
4. The conditions and agreements specified in granting permission.

Final Report

The researcher will submit copies of reports, publications and theses following the results of the project to the Area Supervisor.

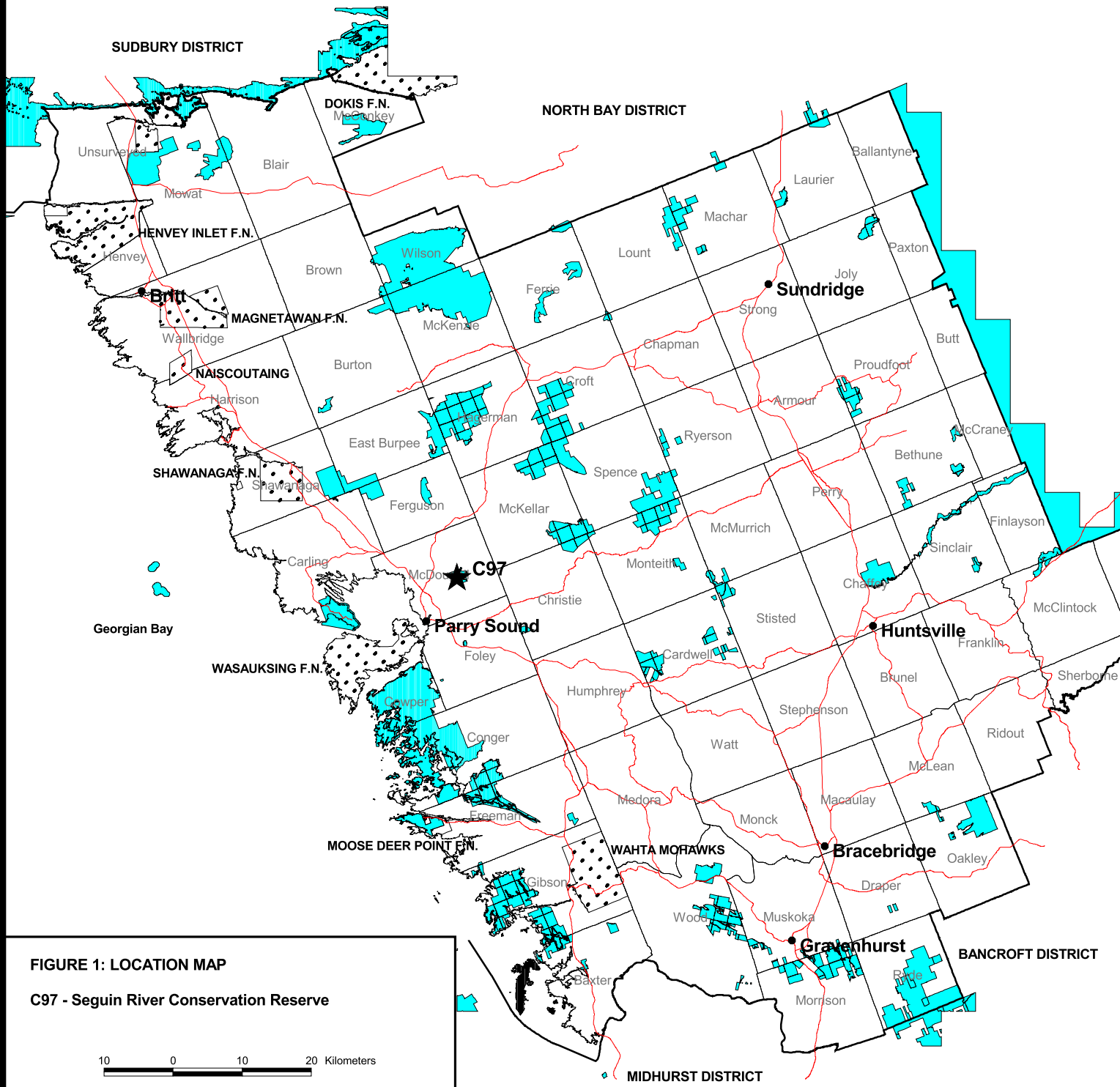






FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP

C97 - Seguin River Conservation Reserve

10 0 10 20 Kilometers

Key to Features

Scale 1:800,000

-  First Nation Territory
-  Existing Protected Areas
-  Provincial Park / Conservation Reserve
-  National Park



*Notes: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, location of features, nor as a guide to navigation.
Created December 20, 2002
Copyright 2002, Queen's Printer for Ontario
c:\aoshier\all\site_location.apr*

*Ministry of Natural Resources
Parry Sound District Office
7 Bay Street
Parry sound, ON P2A 1S4
Telephone: (705)746-4201*