



French River

Management Plan – Minor Amendment

APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve this *Minor Amendment* to the *French River Provincial Park Management Plan*. This minor amendment is a statement of policy update to the original management plan (1992).

This minor amendment is based on the direction in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (July 1999) to add the areas identified as the French River Additions (P110) to the existing French River Provincial Park land base. In combination, the original 1992 park management plan and this minor amendment address policies for the protection, management and development of all lands and waters now regulated as part of French River Provincial Park (O. Reg. 257/97).

The original management plan and this minor amendment provide guidance for resource stewardship, operations and development within French River Provincial Park that is consistent with Ontario Parks policies and objectives.



Paul Bewick
Zone Manager
Northeast Zone
Ontario Parks

February 12, 2007

Date

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The park additions lie within Sudbury, North Bay and Parry Sound MNR districts (Figure 1).

The French River Provincial Park Additions are grouped in two geographically distinct locations. The eastern section is located on Lake Nipissing and the upper French River (Figures 2a and 2b). The western section is located along the lower French and Pickerel rivers, and includes areas adjacent to Georgian Bay (Figure 2c). The lands and waters regulated at this time are only the mainland portion of the area identified in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (OMNR 1999). Islands that are in Georgian Bay, which were part of the original OLL area, P110 were not included at this time as there was a need to work with First Nations to resolve Aboriginal interests. The French River has a long history of use—from Aboriginal people, to voyageurs, to loggers and more recently recreationists and cottagers.

1.1 Objectives

French River Provincial Park Additions will be managed according to the four objectives for provincial parks:

Protection: To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscapes of Ontario.

Recreation: To provide provincial park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.

Heritage Appreciation: To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

Tourism: To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

2.0 Management Context

Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (OMNR 1999) identified these additions to the existing French River Provincial Park. The Strategy changed some of the provincial policies for existing parks as well as introducing some different management policies for new protected areas. These changes to policy are reflected in this minor amendment.

The purpose of this Minor Amendment is to provide direction to ensure custodial management of park resources until a full plan review is conducted, which will include public and Aboriginal consultation. At that time, significant decisions regarding resource stewardship, operations, development and permitted uses will be made.

Park management will follow policy direction from:

- *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (OMNR 1999), policy clarification amendments (OMNR 2000) and related direction;
- *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* (OMNR 1992) and updates;
- *Ontario Crown Land Use Policy Atlas* (OMNR 2004); and amendments: and the,
- *Provincial Parks Act RSO* (OMNR 1990) and regulations.

Figure 2b: Park Additions Boundary

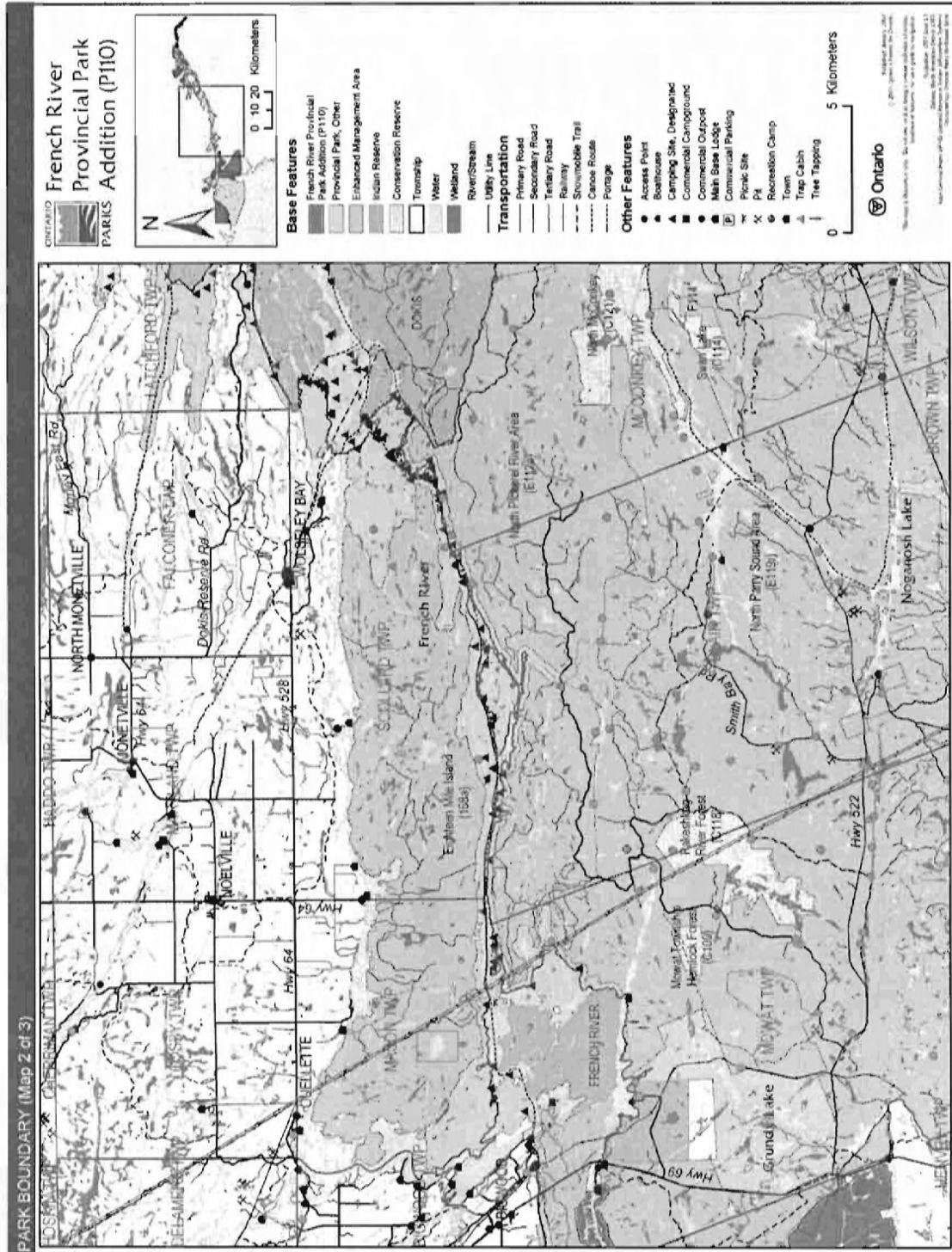
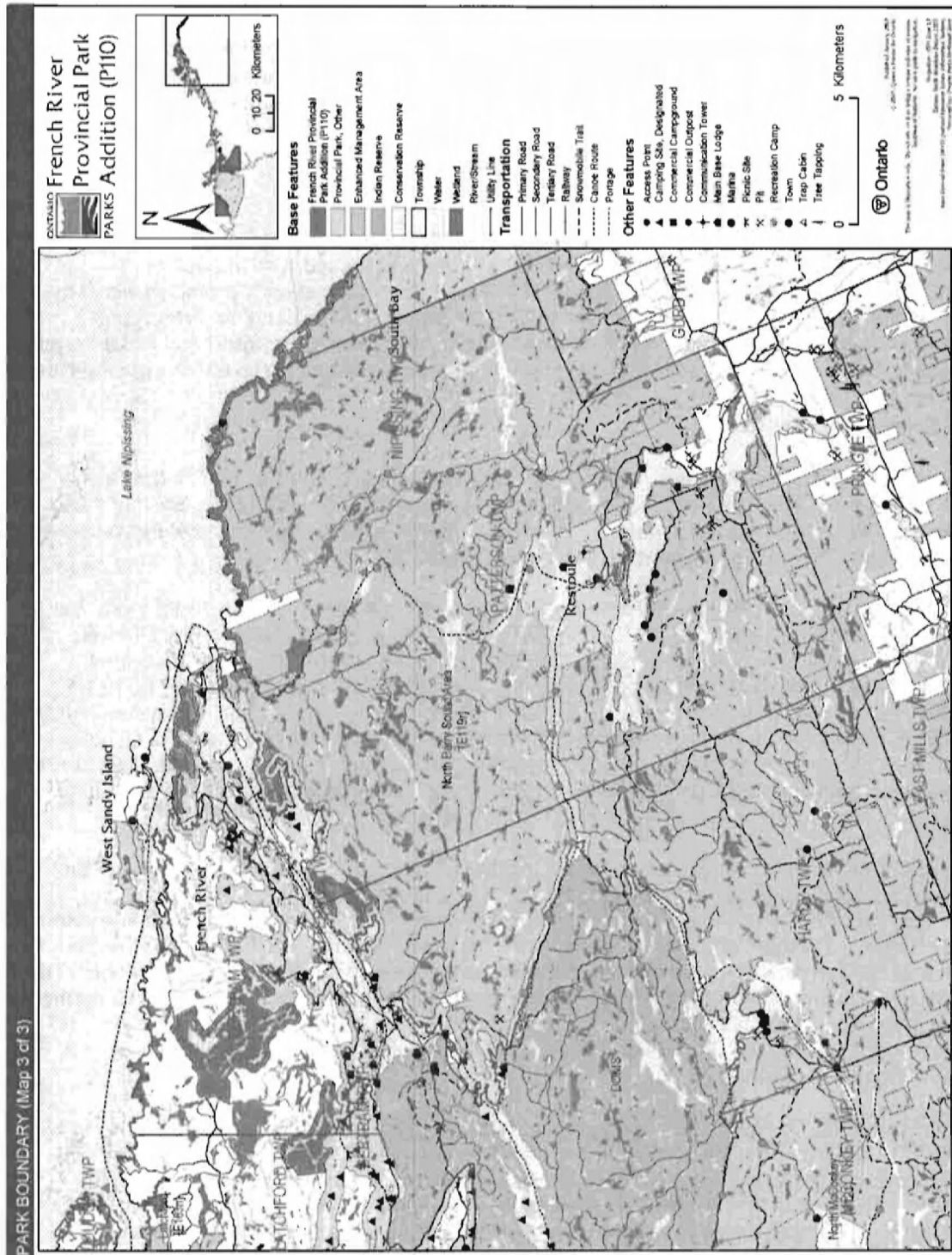


Figure 2c: Park Additions Boundary



Custodial management will protect park features and values and ensure public health and safety. Ontario Parks will ensure that policy and environmental assessment requirements are implemented.

2.1 Environmental Assessment

As part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Parks is a public sector agency that is subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Management of this waterway park addition will be carried out in accordance with legislation, policies and guidelines that are required under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* (OMNR 2005).

3.0 Park Features and Values

The French River has a long history of use. The river has been an important waterway over the centuries from Aboriginal people, voyageurs and loggers and the more recent use by recreationists and cottagers. Much of the French River shoreline is already protected within the original French River Provincial Park. The additions represent areas along the French and Pickerel rivers and along the shoreline of Lake Nipissing and Georgian Bay. These additions add greatly to the overall parks ability to protect natural features and mange recreation opportunities.

3.1 Geological Features

French River Provincial Park and the additions fall within three domains in the Central Gneiss Belt, the northern of two major subdivisions of the Grenville Province in Ontario. Each of these three domains is represented in the additions. From west to east the domains are: Beaverstone Domain; Britt Domain; and Nepewassi Domain (OMNR, 2003).

The Beaverstone Domain consists predominantly of highly deformed 1.8 to 1.6 billion year old gneisses and migmatites. The Britt Domain lies outside and to the southeast of the Grenville Front Tectonic Zone. It consists of highly deformed 1.8 to 1.6 billion-year-old gneisses and migmatites of supracrustal and igneous origin that have been intruded by younger, 1.5 to 1.4 billion-year-old granitic and monzonitic plutons. The Nepewassi Domain consists predominantly of 2.7 to 2.3 billion-year-old compositionally heterogeneous migmatitic gneisses. These have been intruded by younger, 1.7 to 1.4 billion-year-old granitic and monzonitic plutons. Thus, unlike the Beaverstone and Britt Domains, Nepewassi Domain includes rocks of Archean and Early Proterozoic age that were deformed during the Grenville orogeny (OMNR, 2003).

The additions on the lower French River are located at the northern edge of the Georgian Bay fringe physiographic region of Southern Ontario. A broad belt bordering Georgian Bay, characterized by very shallow soil and bare rock knobs and ridges occupies much of Parry Sound and Muskoka. The northern boundary has been conventionally drawn at the French River, but for convenience can be extended across to encompass the present western group of additions. The eastern half of French River Provincial Park and the group of eastern additions lie at the northern edge of the much broader Algonquin highlands physiographic region of Southern Ontario, that differs from the Georgian Bay fringe in this area chiefly by thicker till coverage and fewer rock knobs and ridges (OMNR, 2003).

Elevations along French River range from 640 ft above sea level (a.s.l.) at Lake Nipissing to 581 ft a.s.l. at Georgian Bay. Many areas in the additions have very thin surficial deposits of glacial and postglacial materials. Postglacial erosion is partially responsible for the lack of surficial deposits. There would probably be a greater suite of drift and lag deposits had the area not been washed by subglacial meltwaters associated with the glacial lakes from the Abitibi drainage events (Kor, Shaw and Sharpe 1991). Surficial deposits that are in the area consist of boulders, glacial till, gravels, sands, silts and clays (McKenzie, 1979).

3.2 Biological Features

Much of the French River Provincial Park Additions contain terrestrial and wetland vegetation common to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forest region and typical of the Georgian Bay area. The additions' habitats are on shallow or soil free bedrock outcrops which result in harsh growing conditions that favour forest/barren and wetland communities. Forests in the additions are mostly comprised of stunted open treed communities, with common juniper growing extensively with red oak and Jack pine. Low lying areas are more diverse with vegetation communities able to persist in both wet and dry environments. The complex mosaic of vegetation communities found within the additions is typical of eastern Georgian Bay. The western section of the additions provides extensive habitat used by Eastern Massassaga rattlesnake, a threatened species in Ontario (OMNR 2004c).

3.3 Cultural Setting

A cultural history survey and analysis of the features of this park has not been completed.

Any future surveys will consider the context of a provincial framework, *A Topical Organization of Ontario History* (OMNR 1974). In addition, updates and discussions with First Nations, other agencies and stakeholders may be carried out to identify cultural heritage values and features within the park and their significance. This information may be used to develop management guidelines to conserve and protect representative archaeological and historical values and features, or to provide direction for further research.

3.4 Recreation

The eastern section of the additions is roadless and less likely to support extensive recreational activity (e.g., hunting). The western section of the additions will support a great deal of recreational activity and has potential for both canoeing and hiking.

The dominance of lakes, river channels and Georgian Bay, along with the absence of roads makes travel by other means unlikely. This portion of the Canadian Shield is particularly well suited to canoe and kayak tripping. The long channels, along with the short portages allows for relatively easy canoe travel in the area (Kutas, 2005).

No formal hiking trails exist within the additions; however there are many suitable areas that could be developed into hiking trails. All trails are likely to be of the day use variety. Off trail hiking opportunities will primarily be of interest to canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts that want to explore the open barrens as part of their recreational experiences while visiting French River Provincial Park. The opportunity for off-trail hiking is almost limitless in the additions; the many low, open bedrock ridges allow for extensive exploration opportunities (Kutas, 2005).

Fishing is also very popular in the water channels of the additions. Numerous other activities are also presented within the additions including cottaging, hunting, snowmobiling and nature appreciation. Artistic appreciation, painting and photography have a history of use in this area with individuals depicting the open landscape and wind swept pine (e.g., Tom Thomson, A.J. Casson). An OFSC snowmobiling route Trunk Trail "C" paralleling Highway 69 crosses the additions in Mowat Township.

4.0 Aboriginal Uses

French River Provincial Park Additions is within the Robinson-Huron Treaty (1850) and in the area covered by the Williams Treaties 1923/AF. Aboriginal Reserves located adjacent to the French River Provincial Park Additions include Dokis and Henvey Inlet.

First Nations have expressed interest in and have shared knowledge of the park and surrounding area. Aboriginal communities have used the area for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering and travel. These uses may continue, subject to public safety, conservation and other considerations.

Any communications and cooperation between Aboriginal communities and the MNR for planning and operations purposes will be done without prejudice to any future discussions or negotiations between the government of Ontario and Aboriginal communities.

5.0 Stewardship Policies

5.1 Terrestrial Ecosystems

Removal, damaging or defacing of Crown properties, natural objects, relics and artifacts is not permitted in provincial parks (Provincial Parks Act RSO 1990).

Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced into the park. Where non-native species are already established and threaten park values (i.e., has become invasive), a strategy to control the species may be developed (OMNR 1992).

5.1.1 Vegetation

Harvesting

Commercial forest harvesting and renewal activities are not permitted within the boundaries of the park additions (OMNR 2004).

Existing authorized wild rice harvesting may continue. New operations will not be permitted (OMNR 1992). The harvest of non-timber forest products such as club moss, Canada yew, etc., will not be permitted within the park.

Within French River Provincial Park Additions where authorized fuelwood cutting permits have been continually maintained prior to the approval of Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy and where the property does not have road access they may be allowed to continue. As indicated by the amended Ontario Provincial Park Policy, no new permits will be issued (OMNR 2000).

Insects and Disease

Insects and diseases may be managed where the aesthetic, cultural, and/or natural values of the French River Provincial Park Addition are threatened (OMNR 1992).

Controls will follow guidelines established by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Biological control, rather than chemicals will be used whenever possible (OMNR 1992).

Fire

French River Provincial Park Additions is located within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Fire Management Zone. In accordance with existing provincial park policy and the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario*, forest fire protection will be carried out in the park as on surrounding lands (OMNR 2004b). Whenever feasible, MNR's Forest Fire Management program will use techniques that minimize damage to the landscape, such as limiting the use of heavy equipment or limiting the number of trees felled during response efforts (OMNR 2004b).

5.1.2 Wildlife Management

The park additions are located within Wildlife Management Unit 42, 46 and 47 (OMNR 2004a). Removal or harassment of non-game animals is not permitted in provincial parks (Provincial Parks Act RSO 1990).

Hunting

Sport hunting is permitted to continue within the park additions (OMNR 1999). The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, as well as the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, governs any hunting activity within this provincial park addition.

Hunting is not permitted within nature reserve zones within the original park boundary as per the 1985 park management plan (OMNR 1985). It is illegal to harvest bullfrogs or snapping turtles in provincial parks (OMNR 2004a).

Bear Management Areas

French River Provincial Park Additions falls within seven Bear Management Areas: SU-42-049, SU-42-050, SU-42-057, SU-46-003, NB-42-018, NB-42-019 and NB-47-021 (Figures 3a & b).

Hunting, including commercial bear hunting, is permitted to continue in the additions, but not within Nature Reserve zones within the 1985 French River Provincial Park boundaries. Nuisance bears may be removed under the direction of the park superintendent (OMNR 1985, OMNR 2000, OMNR 2004).

Consideration of safety and conservation with respect to hunting will be made during management planning with public consultation (OMNR 2000). This activity is subject to conditions identified during park management planning (i.e. the designation of nature reserve zones).

Trapping

There are portions of eight licensed trap lines in French River Provincial Park Additions: SU-88, SU-96, NB-52, NB-51, NB-53, NB-43, NB54 and NB-63 (Figures 4a & b).

Existing commercial fur harvesting operations may continue where the activity has been licensed or permitted since January 1, 1992. New operations, including trap cabins and trails, will not be permitted (OMNR 2000; 2003).

Transfers of active trap line licenses are permitted, subject to a review of potential impacts and the normal transfer or renewal conditions that apply¹.

5.1.3 Industrial Resources

There are no licensed aggregate pits (active or inactive) and no existing mining claims within the boundary of French River Provincial Park Additions (NRVIS, 2005). Mineral exploration and mining is not permitted within French River Provincial Park Additions (OMNR 2002b).

As outlined in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, commercial timber harvesting and hydro development are not permitted in the additions. Aggregate extraction is not a permitted use within provincial parks (OMNR 1992, OMNR 2000).

5.1.4 Access and Crossings

Access

The most common way to access the additions is either by boat/canoe during open water or by snowmobile in the winter. The additions can also be access by secondary roads to a limited extent from Highway 69 in the sections of the additions which parallel Highway 69. There is also another primary road which reaches one of the eastern parts of the additions via Highway 69 north of the French River; all other road access is limited to tertiary roads.

¹ Transfers include situations where a license is surrendered with a request that it be immediately reissued to another individual or organization that is assuming an existing operation. Trap cabins are considered part of a trapline and would be transferred with the trapline for the purposes of trapping. If a trapline license is revoked or surrendered, all portions of the registered line within the park will be rescinded from the legal description of the trap line (OMNR 2003).

Figure 3a: Bear Management Areas

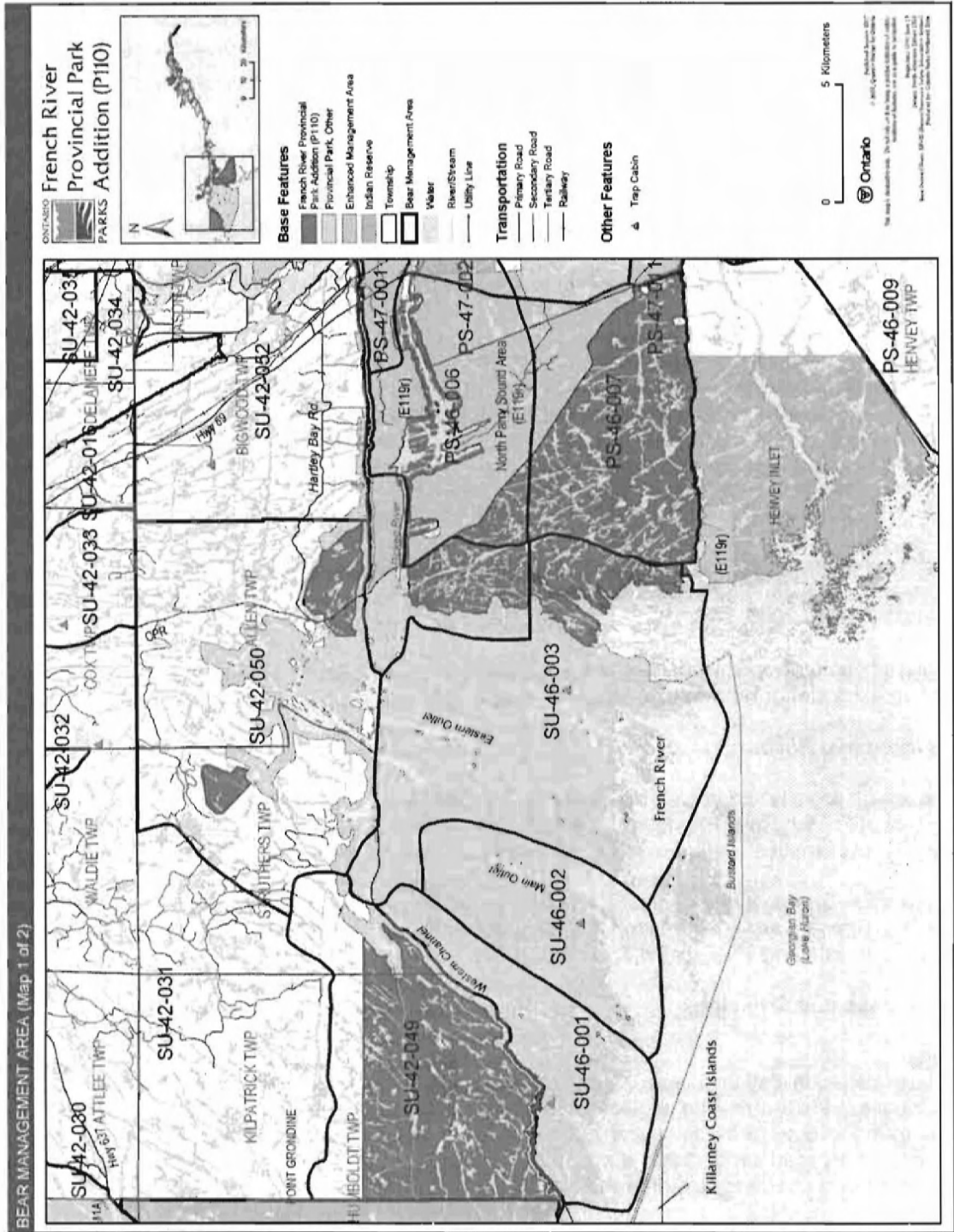


Figure 3b: Bear Management Areas

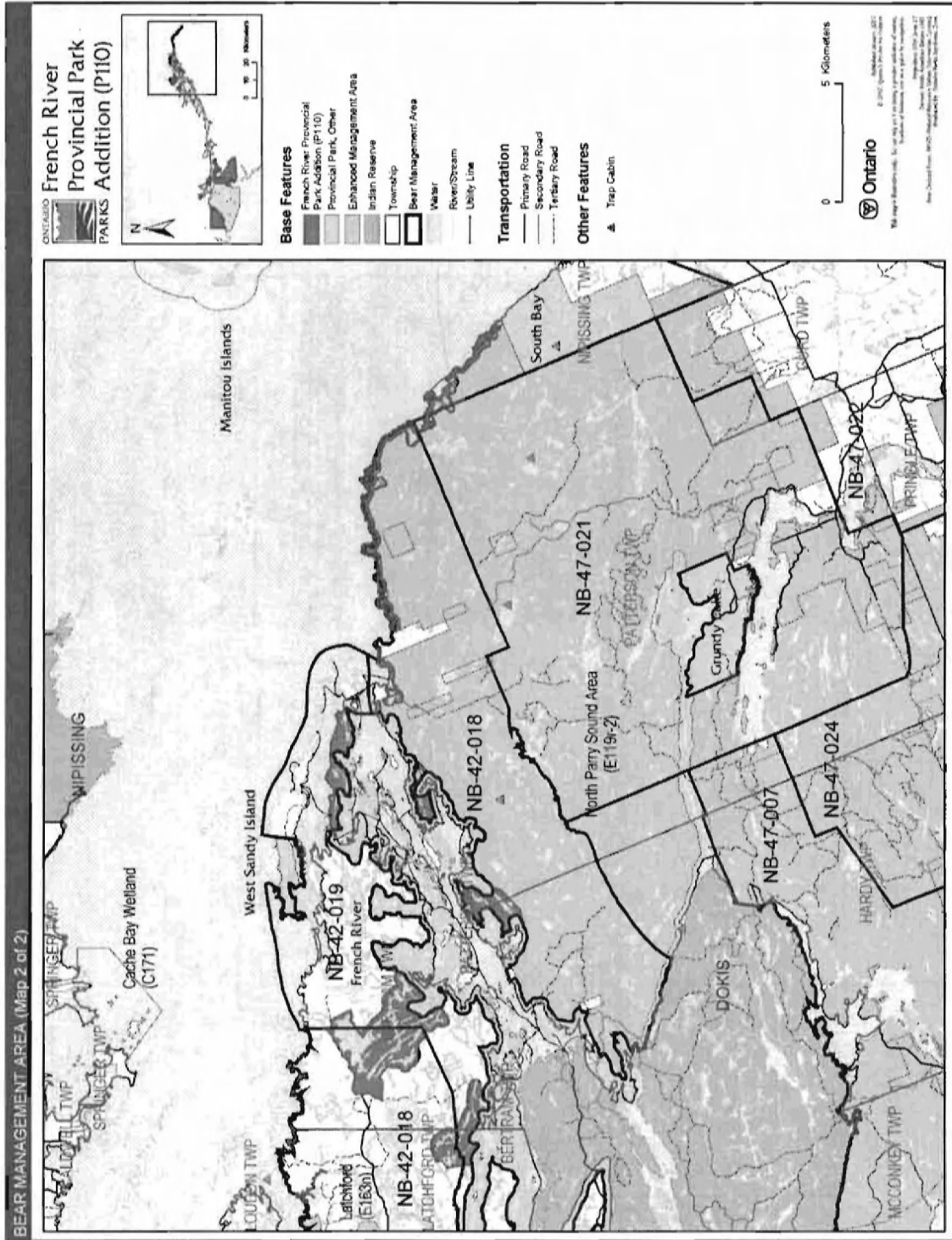


Figure 4a: Trap Line Areas

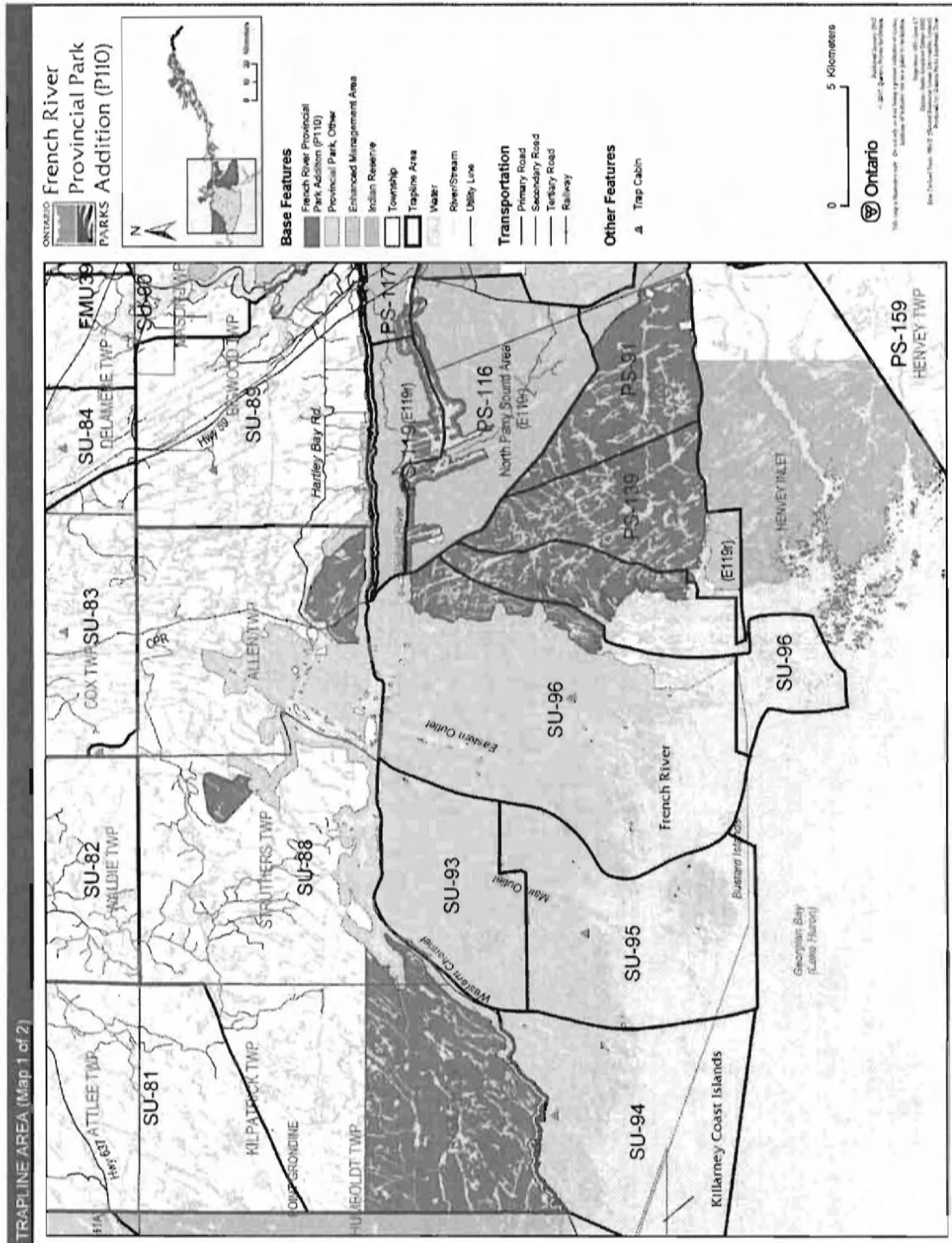
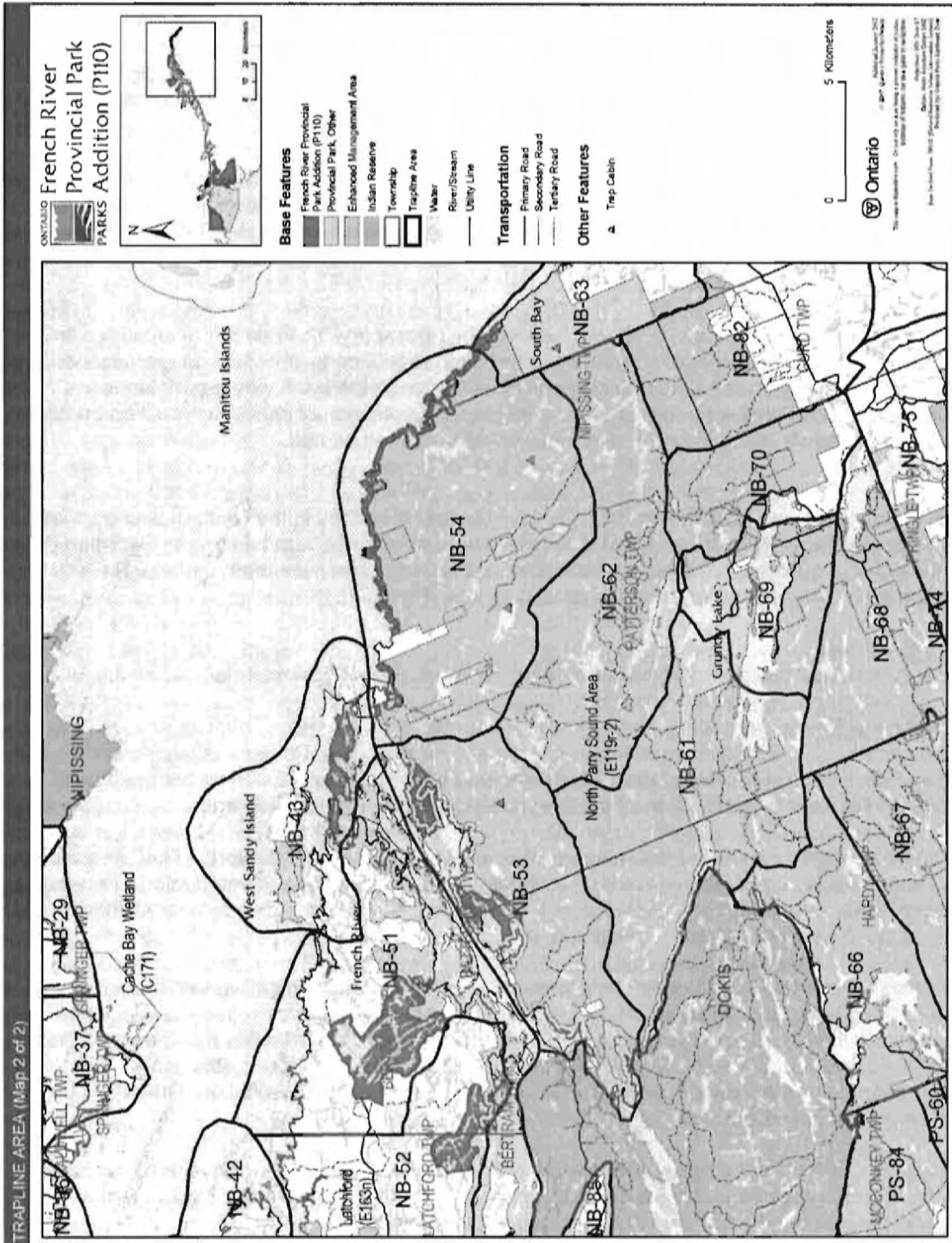


Figure 4b: Trap Line Areas



Roads

There is access by primary, secondary and tertiary roads at various locations in different sections of the park additions (Figure 2a, 2b and 2c). Highway 69, the main Highway between southern cities and Sudbury passes along the western section of the additions.

Where existing forest access roads are essential for continued access beyond the park for forest management or recreation purposes, and alternative road access does not exist, or road relocation is not feasible, existing roads will continue to be available for access. Continued use will include maintenance and may include upgrades (OMNR 2004a). Ontario Parks is not responsible for the maintenance or upgrade of any roads within the park boundary.

Where other existing access roads are essential for continued access to in-holdings (e.g., land use permits, patent land, etc.) within or beyond the park boundary, and alternative road access does not exist, or road relocation is not feasible, existing roads will continue to be available for access (OMNR 2004a). Ontario Parks is not responsible for the maintenance or upgrade of any roads within the park boundary.

The crossing of waterway parks by new roads may be necessary. The number of crossings will be minimized where possible and they will be managed to reduce their impact on recreational and aesthetic values. Any future road crossings proposed through the park, where park lands are unavoidable, will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Protection of park values will be priority and all requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act will be met.

Railway

There is one crossing of the French River Provincial Park Additions in the western section south of Allen and Bigwood townships by rail lines which branch with one arm heading to Georgian Bay and the other providing a continuous route from Sudbury to cities in southern Ontario. Railway corridors are not included as part of the regulated park (Figure 2b).

Utility Corridors

There are no utility corridors that pass through the French River Provincial Park Additions

Recreational Trails

Canoe Routes: The Additions are within an ancient canoeing area. Portions of river channels and lakes in the additions include extensive canoeing and off-trail hiking areas. The south-eastern shore line of Lake Nipissing is part of the French River Provincial Park Additions.

Snowmobile Trails: Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, Near North Trail Association maintains the authorized, Trunk Trail "C" trail centrally through the additions (Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs 2005). This trail crosses the river with a large bridge at a location just east of Highway 69 within the western additions.

ATV Trails: There are no authorized ATV trails within the park additions; however, there may be some existing unauthorized ATV use on forest and tertiary access roads within the additions. Existing use of these roads to access LUPs is permitted continue unless this use threatens park values. ATV use may be authorized on old forest access and tertiary roads; this use will be reviewed during future park planning with full public and Aboriginal consultation. Off-trail ATV use is not permitted (OMNR 2000).

Hiking Trails: There are no designated hiking trails in the French River Provincial Park Additions. New trails (e.g., hiking) may be developed if the need arises. Any proposed development within the park is subject to *Environmental Assessment Act* requirements.

5.1.5 Adjacent Land Management

Forestry

The lands adjacent to the French River Provincial Park Additions are located in the Sudbury Forest 889, Nipissing Forest 754, French-Severn Forest 360 (OMNR 2005). The Sudbury Forest Management Plan is currently under review and will be implemented in 2005, the Nipissing Forest Management Plan will be renewed in 2009 and the French-Severn Forest Management Plan will be renewed in 2009 (OMNR 2005).

Provincial Parks

There are several parks in the immediate vicinity of French River Provincial Park Additions these include: Grundy Lake (P105e), Grundy Lake addition (P105), Restoule (P153e), Restoule Addition (P153), and Killarney Coast and Islands Provincial Park (P189) (OMNR 2004).

French River Waterway Provincial Park (P110e): encompasses 52,740ha of land that runs along the length of the French river and is bordered throughout the length of the French River by the French River Provincial Park Additions in various locations. The French River is a broad, tree-lined expanse of open water. It also features falls, rapids and steep narrow gorges. The rugged topography of the Canadian Shield supports more than 450 plant species, some rare. The French River Provincial Park will be managed according to Provincial Park policy and the Park Management Plan (OMNR 2004).

Grundy Lake Natural Environment Provincial Park (P105e): encompasses 2,499ha located opposite of the French River Additions along the Highway 69 corridor just south of the French River. Grundy Lake Provincial Park is situated in the Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Mixed Forest zone in the northern portion of Ecodistrict 5E-7. Vegetation in the park represents a variety of communities including wetlands, upland forests, rock barrens and aquatic environments. Grundy Lake Provincial Park is protected by regulation under the Provincial Parks Act (OMNR 2004).

Grundy Lake Natural Environment Provincial Park Addition (P105): encompasses 1,115ha located east of the existing Grundy Lake Provincial Park. This park addition is located in Site District 5E-7 and includes the Pakeshkag River North and Pakeshkag River South natural heritage areas. The Pakeshkag River South contains 17 combinations of vegetation and Landforms including sugar maple stands, flat deposits and sand and sugar maple, yellow birch stands and older balsam fir stands on low hills with sandy soils. Pakeshkag River North is a northern extension of the park that connects the park to Cantin Lake and the Pickerel/French River canoe routes. Management of this provincial park is carried out in accordance with Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies, the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy and the parks Interim Management Statement, where available (OMNR 2004).

Killarney Coast and Islands Waterway Provincial Park (P189): encompasses 38,605ha located west of the French River along the shoreline of Georgian Bay. This recommended Provincial Park includes the Georgian Bay Shoreline and Offshore Islands, McGregor Island, Philip Edward Island, Badgely Point and Fraser Point natural heritage areas in Ecodistrict 5E-3. Management of this area is also governed by the general policies contained in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use strategy (OMNR 2004).

Forest Reserves

There are no forest reserves in the adjacent area surrounding the French River Provincial Park Additions.

Enhanced Management Areas

There are two Enhanced Management Areas adjacent to the French River Provincial Park Additions; Great Lakes Coastal Areas - Parry Sound North (E39g-2), North Parry Sound North Bay (E119R-2).

Parry Sound North (E39g-2): encompasses 3,696ha and is located just between the larger south western portion of the French River Provincial Park Additions and the Point Grondine 3 First Nation Reserve (OMNR 2004). This area is characterized by rugged Canadian Shield topography, renowned for its scenic vistas with windswept pines. Bare bedrock is interspersed with pockets of shallow soils, with discontinuous vegetation cover. Management of this area is consistent with the Enhanced Management Area (Great Lakes Coastal Area), policies of the Land Use Strategy and the overall intent of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast land use planning approach (OMNR 1999 and 2004).

North Parry Sound North Bay (E119R-2): encompasses 82,866ha and is located to the south of the eastern additions, this Enhance Management Area links a number of other Enhanced Management Areas, as well as conservation reserves and provincial parks. This area includes portions of several watershed units. The management of this multiple use area is for high quality recreation, forest management, wildlife management and tourism values. Individual zones within this overall area will provide for the various needs related to semi-remote recreation, access, natural resource protection and extraction. This land use direction complements the protection of recreational values in the French River and Restoule Provincial Parks (OMNR 2004).

General Use Area

Four general use areas are adjacent to French River Provincial Park Additions:

Wanapitei River West (G2044) encompasses 57,347ha. This area is located along the northwest section of the French River Provincial Park Additions. This area is south of the City of Greater Sudbury and includes the southern reaches of the Wanapitei River. Fish and wildlife management, in harmony with forest management, will dominate land use activities, in an attempt to ensure that fish and wildlife resources and associated recreation and tourism opportunities will be available in this portion of the District in the future. Management of this area is also governed by the general policies contained in Sudbury District Guidelines (OMNR 2004).

Nepewassi Lake / Trout Lake (G2045): encompasses 167,153ha north of the western additions to the French River Provincial Park and directly south of the city of Sudbury. Crown land in the area is under sustainable forest licence (SFL) primarily to supply wood-using mills in the area. Multiple use will continue to dominate the resource management efforts on Crown land throughout this area. Resource extraction for timber harvesting, mineral exploration and development, aggregate extraction, fish and wildlife management and general recreation will be the primary uses.

Lake Nipissing (G1942): encompasses 82,574ha in and around Lake Nipissing. Commercial fishing for sturgeon and whitefish by commercial fishermen at Sturgeon Falls is a well established use on Lake Nipissing. There are intensive cottage developments from North Bay to South Bay and along several large bays in the west arm of the lake. Existing uses to manage fish, game, waterfowl and furbearers, resource production including commercial fishing, and extensive and intensive recreation will to continue. Other private land uses such as urban, industrial, commercial, cottaging, and rural residential, will not generally be encouraged to expand onto Crown lands (OMNR 2004).

West Bay (G2064): encompasses 22,779ha north of the eastern additions. This is an area of shallow soils and extensive bedrock outcrops with some drainage north to Lake Nipissing, but most drains east to the French River. Resource production and fish and wildlife management are the major uses of the area and these will continue. Recreation, tourism and other existing intensive uses of the land will be encouraged.

Adjacent Tourism Developments

There are numerous tourism developments of varying size and type in the immediate vicinity of the additions.

5.1.6 Land Disposition

French River Provincial Park Additions is located within Travers, Struthers, Allen, Latchford, Nipissing, Patterson, Bertram, Mowat and Key Harbour townships.

No land disposition for private use or corporations will be permitted within the park additions (OMNR 2000).

Land Use Permits, Licenses of Occupation, and Unauthorized Occupations

Existing authorized Land Use Permits for recreation camps will continue within the additions and are eligible for enhanced tenure but not purchase of land (OMNR, 2004). Enhanced tenure, until the park management plan is reviewed, enhanced tenure is defined as a possible extension of the term of the Land Use Permit for recreation camps up to 10 years (OMNR 2000).

Enhanced tenure for a Land Use Permit for a recreation camp is not guaranteed. Requests for enhanced tenure, to grant enhanced tenure, or to transfer recreation camps will be determined based on a review of the following criteria:

1. Continued compliance with the conditions of the Land Use Permit for recreation camps.
2. Current land disposition policies for Land Use Permits.
3. Consistency with park objectives to sustain values – no effects on heritage values and/or conflict with other uses.
4. Consistency with Aboriginal land claim negotiations or protocol agreements.
5. All rents, taxes, fees, rates or charges are paid and in good standing.

An extension in the term of tenure for an existing Land Use Permit private recreation camp does not convey a commitment to provide for a change in the type or the standard of existing access to the private recreation camp (OMNR 2000).

An existing Land Use Permit recreation camp holder can relinquish their Land Use Permit and are responsible to have existing improvements removed including, but not limited to, the sale of any existing improvements. MNR may consider purchase of improvements (OMNR 2000).

There are no known licenses of occupation within the boundary of this park.

There are unauthorized occupations located within the boundary of French River Provincial Park Additions.

Patent Land

Numerous parcels of patent land occur, surrounded by and along side the additions (NRVIS, 2005).

Patent land is not included within the park boundary and as such park policy does not apply to these areas.

Crown land will not be sold in the park Additions. An exception may be the sale of small parcels of Crown land to support subsistence needs of existing cottages such as the need to expand septic systems. This would be done on a case-by-case basis (OMNR 2000, OMNR 2004).

Waste Disposal Site

There is one waste disposal site issued to the Municipality of Killarney in the park additions.

Boat Caches

There are no authorized boat caches located within the park additions. As stated in the Provincial Parks Act (1990), watercrafts are not permitted to be left unattended in this park without written permission from the superintendent.

5.2 Aquatic Ecosystems

5.2.1 Water Management

New hydro electric developments are not permitted within the French River Provincial Park Additions (OMNR 1992, OMNR 1999, OMNR 2004).

5.2.2 Fisheries Management

Fisheries management activities will be aimed at the maintenance and enhancement of native, self-sustaining fish populations (OMNR 1992).

Fish habitat management may be considered through park planning (OMNR, 2004).

Sport Fishing

As prescribed in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, angling will be permitted within park additions. Angling will be governed by the legislation and regulations in the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, as well as the *Fisheries Act*. The *Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary* contains more information regarding general regulations and exceptions to these regulations that are applicable to this area (OMNR 2004b).

Commercial Fishing

There are no commercial fishing operations within the boundary of the French River Provincial Park Additions. New operations will not be permitted (OMNR 2004).

Commercial Baitfish Harvesting

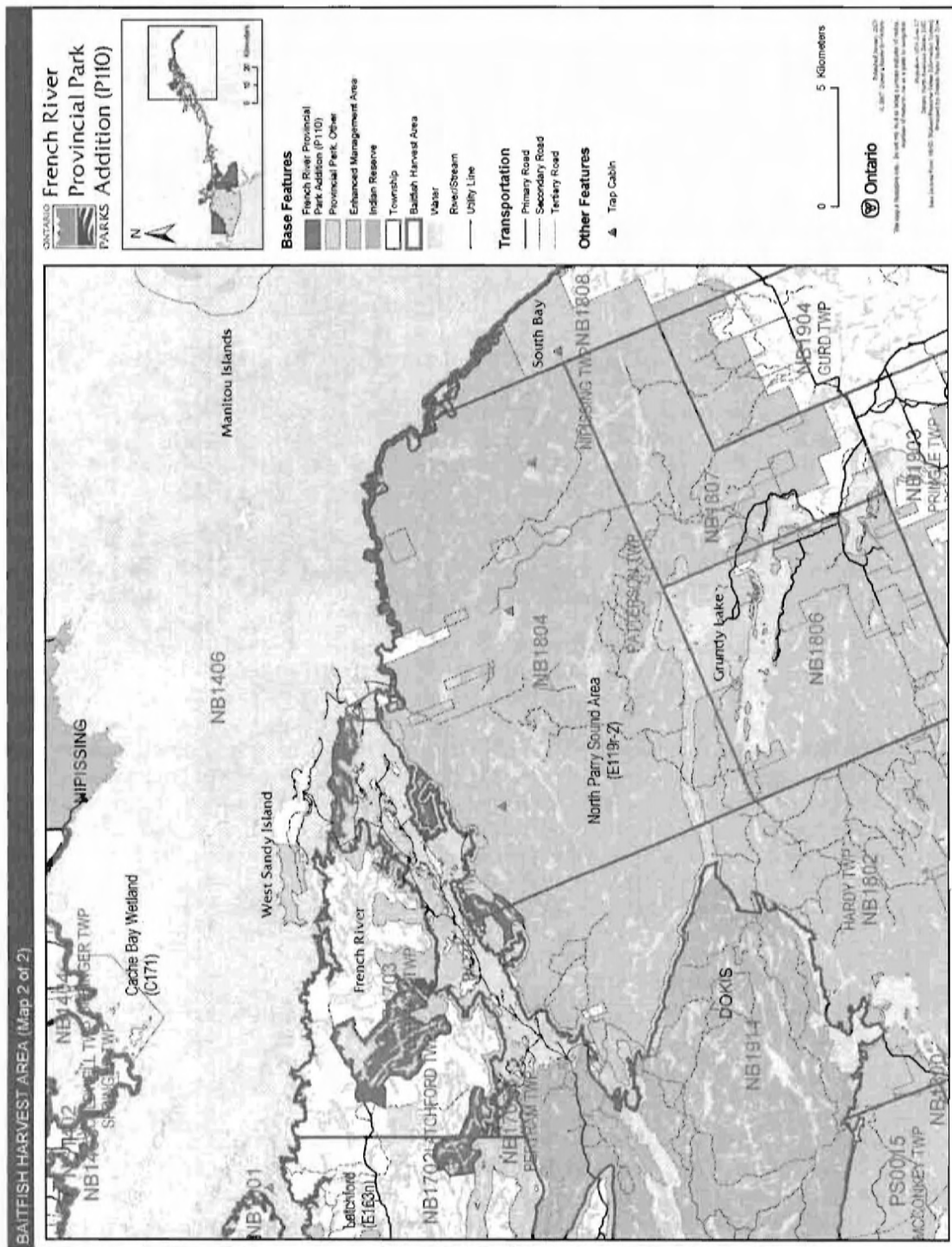
There are 14 baitfish harvesting areas which apply to the French River Provincial Park Additions. These include SU0244, SU0241, SU0234, SU0232, SU0233, SU0200, PS0002, PS0001, PS0003, NB1702, NB1703, NB1804, NB1802 and NB1406 (Figures 5a & b).

No new baitfish harvesting will be permitted within the boundary of French River Provincial Park Additions (OMNR 2004), however, baitfish harvest units may be allocated if there is a record of activity since January 1, 1992 (OMNR 2004). If re-allocated, bait harvesting will be permitted to continue indefinitely in the park additions however it may be subject to possible conditions identified during park management planning (OMNR 2000).

Fish Stocking

The stocking of native fish species may be considered through park management planning, with full public and Aboriginal consultation (OMNR 1992, OMNR 2004). The stocking of non-native fish species will not be permitted (OMNR 1992, OMNR 2004).

Figure 5b: Commercial Baitfish Blocks



6.0 Operations Policies

6.1 Recreation Management

6.1.1 Motorized Recreation

Motorboats

Existing motorboat use is permitted to continue, unless park values are being threatened. The long-term management direction for private and commercial boat use will be determined through future planning, which includes public and Aboriginal consultation (OMNR 2004).

Aircraft

Aircraft landings are permitted in the park (OMNR 2004a). All aircraft landings are subject to regulation and valid aircraft landing permits issued by the park superintendent under the authority of the Provincial Parks act. Long-term direction for aircraft landings will be determined through future planning.

Snowmobiles

The existing OFSC snowmobile trail; Trunk Trail "C" passes centrally through the additions. Snowmobile use on established routes for access to private land in-holdings, LUP areas, and recreational ice fishing may continue unless park values are threatened. Snowmobile use may be authorized on old forest access and tertiary roads. Off-trail snowmobile use is not permitted within the park. New snowmobile trails may be considered during future park management planning, which will include public and Aboriginal consultation (OMNR 2000).

All-Terrain Vehicles

There are no authorized ATV trails within the boundary of this park. Unauthorized ATV trails that are documented at the time of the approval of the interim management statement may be permitted to continue until they are reviewed in future planning, with full public and Aboriginal consultation. The park superintendent may discontinue existing unauthorized trails if it is determined that such trails threaten park features and values, create user conflicts or raise safety and/or liability issues. Existing use of forest and tertiary access roads to access private in-holdings and LUPs is permitted continue unless this use threatens park values. ATV use may be permitted on old forest access and tertiary roads. The off-road or off-trail use of ATVs will not be permitted. Proposals for new trails may only be considered during future planning with public and Aboriginal consultation (OMNR 2000).

6.1.2 Non-Motorized Recreation

Camping

The initial recreation assessment identified no managed campsites within the French River Provincial Park Additions (Kutas, 2005).

Should future assessment determine that there are campsites within the park additions, they will continue subject to review in future planning. Sites may be closed if it is determined that use is causing a negative impact on the environment or protection objectives of the park.

If there is an identified need, dispersed backcountry campsites may be considered during future planning. Any development must meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Hiking

Existing use of trails may continue unless park values are threatened (OMNR 2004). These activities allow visitors to interact with the natural environment and appreciate the parks values (OMNR 1992). Long term management of this use will be determined during park management planning (OMNR 2004). If there is an identified need, new hiking trail development may be

considered during park planning (OMNR 2004). Any development must meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Canoeing/Kayaking

Existing uses may continue, unless park values are threatened. Long-term management direction will be determined through park planning, which includes public consultation (OMNR 2004).

6.1.3 Emerging Recreation Uses

There are emerging recreation uses for which there is limited or no policy to deal with their management (e.g. adventure racing, geocaching). The park superintendent will use legislation, policy and guidelines that are in place in the interim to manage emerging uses.

6.2 Development

There is no existing park infrastructure located within the boundaries of French River Provincial Park Additions. Any development must meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

6.3 Commercial Tourism

Infrastructure for commercial tourism does not exist within the French River Provincial Park Additions. New commercial tourism facilities maybe considered through future planning, which will include public and Aboriginal consultation (OMNR 1999). Any development must meet the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

7.0 Cultural Resources

An assessment of the cultural resources of the park additions has not yet been completed. The management of any cultural features and values within this park will be directed toward protection and heritage appreciation (OMNR 1992).

8.0 Heritage Education

Natural Heritage Education will be managed in accordance with the park planning. A natural heritage education plan will be prepared in keeping with the direction provided in the management plan to manage education activities. These plans will provide specific operational guidelines on how to carry out natural heritage education programs.

The park addition information will be incorporated into the overall park self use information and facilities.

Prospective visitors to French River Provincial Park Additions may be informed about the sensitivity and significance of features through park literature.

Prospective visitors may be informed about the presence of and need to respect adjacent private lands, through park literature.

9.0 Research

Scientific research, by qualified individuals, which contributes to the knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental and recreational management, will be encouraged in the park. Ontario Parks will encourage institutions to undertake research projects. All research programs will require the approval of Ontario Parks and will be subject to park policy and other applicable Legislation. Ontario Parks may approve the research of any natural or cultural features

or values by qualified researchers. Any materials removed will remain the property of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with the park's protection objective. Any site which is affected will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to its original state. Environmental assessment requirements will apply.

Research must contribute to the knowledge of natural and cultural history, and to environmental and recreational management. Research must be conducted in such a manner as to safeguard protection objectives.

10.0 References

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APPENDIX A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name	French River Provincial Park Additions (P110)
Classification	Waterway
Ecoregion/Ecodistrict	5E-7 Parry Sound and 5E-5 North Bay
OMNR Administrative Region/District	Northeast Zone - Sudbury
Total Area (ha)	22,405
Regulation date & number for original park and the park additions.	July 19 th 1997 O.Reg. 257/97, Park Additions Regulated O. Reg 331/06

REPRESENTATION

EARTH SCIENCE:

The French River Provincial Park Additions represent a section through three domains at the northern edge of the Proterozoic Grenville Province. All three domains belong to the Central Gneiss Belt, the northern of two major subdivisions of the Grenville Province in Ontario. Each of these three domains is represented in the park additions. From west to east the domains are: Beaverstone Domain, Britt Domain, and Nepewassi Domain (OMNR, 2003).

Bedrock, or thin discontinuous drift over bedrock, is characteristic of the additions. Small pockets of glaciolacustrine and organic deposits occur within these rocklands (OMNR, 2003).

The park additions include erosional features that are exceptionally well displayed along the north Georgian Bay shoreline. The bedrock surfaces contain very visible glacial water-sculpted directional flow indicators. In the Key Harbour area, ice-flow direction indicators, primarily glacial pressure forms (Kor, Shaw and Sharpe 1991).

Examples of glacial grooving and associated features are found throughout the French River corridor at both large and small scales (McKenzie, 1979). Subglacial meltwater sculpted rock occurs extensively throughout the corridor and is responsible for many of the whaleback features (McKenzie, 1979; Kor, Shaw and Sharpe, 1991).

Life Science:

Vegetation in the park additions is typical of this part of the province and contains relatively small intact forest remnants. The vegetation varies in character from the pine-dominated or pine mixed with red oak as scattered open forest further west along the French River to areas in the eastern additions that may have mixed stands dominated by sugar maple and hemlock. These contrasts illustrate the diversity of forest types within French River Provincial Park Additions, and the importance of soils to the development of forest communities in this landscape (Kutas, 2005).

Cultural Resources:

No investigation or analysis of cultural resources specific to the park additions has been completed at this time.

Recreation and Tourism:

While the French River Provincial Park Additions are quite expansive and include thousands of hectares of protected land, use by recreationists is typically concentrated in specific areas such as along shorelines. The amount of exposed bedrock, however is quite favourable to more dispersed backcountry activities such as camping, off-trail hiking and exploring. These recreational activities are often undertaken at the height of summer, when relatively low populations of biting insects occur here and thus allow for more enjoyable outdoor travel. The French River offers canoeing opportunities in a non-wilderness setting given the presence of

cottage development along most of its length. However, some parts of the additions are quite remote and undeveloped. Fishing is a very popular recreational activity on Lake Nipissing shoreline and along the upper French River where the eastern section of the Additions is located; an associated pastime with fishing is having a shore lunch with may include berry picking in season (Kutas, 2005).

Inventories

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational
Reconnaissance	McKenzie, 1979; Kor, Shaw and Sharpe 1991			Kutas, 2005