Opeongo River Provincial Park
Interim Management Statement

August 14, 1985
REGIONAL DIRECTOR’S APPROVAL STATEMENT

This interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the Management of Opeongo River Provincial Park until a comprehensive Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this interim Management Statement for Opeongo River Provincial park.

R. M. Christie
Regional Director
Algonquin Region
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME: OPEONGO RIVER

PROPOSED CLASS: WATERWAY

M.N.R. DISTRICT: ALGONQUIN PARK

M.N.R. REGION: ALGONQUIN

TOTAL AREA (ha): 955

SITE REGION: 5E

SITE DISTRICT: 9

DATE IN REGULATION: Mar. 4/85

TARGETS

1 LIFE SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>site type/landscape unit</th>
<th>species/communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>River Valley Complex:</td>
<td>No known significant features associated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare Bedrock, steep slopes</td>
<td>vegetation communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 EARTH SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>geological theme</th>
<th>feature</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outwash, Monzonitic Rocks</td>
<td>Late Wisconsin: Spillway system, outwash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sand and gravel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 CULTURAL RESOURCE REPRESENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>theme</th>
<th>theme segment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Lumbering</td>
<td>- Ottawa Valley Square Timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further study to determine</td>
<td>- Ottawa Valley Lumber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extent of Resource</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>day use</th>
<th>car camping</th>
<th>wilderness/back country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INVENTORIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>level</th>
<th>earth science</th>
<th>life science</th>
<th>cultural</th>
<th>recreational</th>
<th>other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reconnaissance completion date</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>detailed completion date</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

DATE Aug. 14/85
OPEONGO RIVER

Land Tenure

Presently there are four hunt camps (L.U.P.s), and one trapping cabin within the park boundary.

Guideline:

Present form of land tenure will remain. No further disposition of Crown land.

Existing and Proposed Development

Presently no developments or improvements exist. Approximately 10 campsites along the shore of Victoria Lake are maintained by the Salvation Army.

Guideline:

Development should primarily deal with:
- provision of low intensity campsites and privies, along the river,
- improvement to and/or development of portages,
- removal of refuse.

*The identification and development of portages should be an immediate priority for user safety.

-Maintenance of any campsites on Victoria Lake should be carried out by Ministry staff.

Recreation Activities

Present activities are limited to small numbers of users undertaking canoeing, kayaking, fishing and camping. Sport hunting occurs from organized camps. Waterway recreation is limited to spring and early summer due to extremely low water levels the remainder of the season.

Guideline:

Existing recreational activities will be allowed to continue.

Regulation to permit hunting once the park area is regulated under the Provincial Parks Act will be implemented.
Commercial Activities

Trapping presently takes place. There is a current Order-in-Council timber licence with Murray Bros. Lumber Co. which runs to 1990 with no renewal clause.

Guideline:

Trapping will be allowed to continue as an interim activity and should be considered as long term activity.

Interim forestry activities will be carried out under the terms of the existing licence. There is a 100 meter no cut zone (MDZ) on each side of the river, and a further 100 meters on each side modified cut (MMA) to the park boundary. Upon expiry in 1990, the area within the park boundary should be removed from any future logging activity.

Natural Resources

Deer yard management occurs at present.

Guideline:

Deer yard management to continue.

Cultural Resources

Numerous remains of logging activity structures (i.e. glance piers) exist along the river.

Guideline:

Existing structures should not be modified.

Client Services

Management of the waterway park requires control of access and provision of information to users.

Guideline:

Access should be controlled through the Shall Lake Access Point of Algonquin Park where the existing facilities will allow the provision of user information and control of the number of users.

Information should be provided on the basic aspects of river use, e.g. access, type and location of facilities such as campsites and portages, water levels, and hazards. A publication and map detailing this type of information should be provided.

Research

Guideline:

Further study is required of the historical resources found along the river.
Marketing

There is a need to identify and promote the specific recreational opportunities available on this waterway park.

Guideline:

The Algonquin Park Canoe Route map should be modified to provide appropriate identification and description of the waterway park.

An interim publication may be required detailing information on the park.
Sources/References

Bancroft District Land use Guidelines.

Backgrounder: Land Use Guidelines (1983)

H. Simpson: Life Science Inventory Check-Sheet

Loney Dickson: Life Science Inventory Checklist (1978)

Park Impact Assessment Sheet.
**ONTARIO NATURE RESERVES PROGRAM - LIFE SCIENCE INVENTORY CHECK-SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>Opeongo River</th>
<th>MAP NAME</th>
<th>Round Lake</th>
<th>MAP NUMBER</th>
<th>31F/12</th>
<th>UTM REF.</th>
<th>747508</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**COUNTY, DISTRICT & REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**
Nipissing District

**LOCALITY**
Victoria Lake to Hwy. 60 (20 mi.)

**TOWNSHIP & LOTS & CONCESSIONS**
Dickens, Murchison

**AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>acres</th>
<th>ha</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**OWNERSHIP**
Ministry of Natural Resources

**ADMINISTRATION**
Ministry of Natural Resources

**FOREST REGION AND DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SITE REGION AND DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5E-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MNR REGION AND DISTRICT**
Alg. Algonquin

**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ROLL</th>
<th>FLIGHT LINE</th>
<th>NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**SIGNIFICANT & REPRESENTATIVE FEATURES**

- no known significant features

- some representative communities: white pine, sugar maple, poplar, and white birch forests, wet meadows and shoreline habitats.

**FUNCTIONAL & MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- low life science value

**DATA SHEETS ATTACHED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SUMMARY SPECIES LISTS</th>
<th>PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP</th>
<th>MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**EVALUATION AND PRIORITIES**

- low life science value

**DATE COMPLETED**
H. Simpson

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*On behalf of Ministry of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Park Planning Branch, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3*
Name of the Area | OPEONGO RIVER PROPOSAL | Feature
---|---|---
Map Name | Round Lake West half | Outwash, Monzonitic Rocks

Map Number | 31F/12 | UTM 745500

County | Nipissing
Township | Dickens
Ownership and Patented | Crown

Location | Access via Highway 60 to Victoria Lake, take Shall Lake access road into Algonquin Park to north end of reserve.

Air Photos | Docket | Year 1969 | * See below | * | * | Flight Line | Roll # | Numbers

Significance | Low. Rock types are common.

Sensitivity | Outwash gravel is being extracted close to the reserve.

Compiler: C. M. Spek
Field Work: August 14-16, 1978

* Flight Line | * Roll # | * Numbers
4522 | 40 | 109-112
4523 | 61 | 27-30
4524 | 53 | 226-229
4525 | 59 | 59-63
4526 | 29 | 139-141

Bedrock Geology

According to O.D.M. Map 2197 (1970) and Lumber (1976) the river is underlain by Middle to Late Precambrian gneisses and quartz monzonite. The river valley is fault controlled by a major northwest trending fault and a minor intersecting northeast fault (Trusler, 1975).

The best bedrock exposure occurs along the upper middle section of the reserve which is also the least accessible area. The river is underlain in part by garnet-bearing monzonitic rocks. Small outcrops were encountered upstream from a cabin at UTM 728531. Minor faulting was evident in the river bed due to low water conditions.

At 719532 an outcrop of augen rich biotite gneiss was visible. Several small areas of deeply weathered gneiss were also visible.

Minor faulting was also evident in the river bed at low water. The bedrock has been broken into rectangular blocks.

About 3/4 of a mile north of the ford at Aylen Creek a small road branches off to the right. Half a mile down the road is a small quarry known as the Five Mile Quarry (Sabina, 1970). This is a pegmatite occurrence. Allanite, pink garnet, chlorite pyroxene and titanite occur here. The quarry is partly overgrown.

Surficial Geology

The present channel of the Opeongo River carried glacial meltwaters during the Late