

Rick Calhoun, District Planner
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Reference: EBR# PB04E2003

Dear Mr. Calhoun:

The Temagami Integrated Plan (TIP) process represents a new and precedent-setting approach to managing the parks, conservation reserves and crown lands in Temagami as one connected and interdependent landscape. The development of the current preliminary management plans are a worthwhile attempt to improve upon the protection of ecological integrity and a quality wilderness experience that was promised but not fully delivered by the Temagami Land Use Plan of 1997.

However, the TIP preliminary management plans in their present form do not meet the needs of the large majority of Ontarians.

The plans do not meet the spirit of the new Ontario Parks Act which places ecological integrity as the first principle for managing parks and conservation reserves. The plans for the parks, Lady Evelyn Smoothwater Wilderness Park in particular, do not adequately protect the wilderness experience values defined in Ontario Parks own guidelines. As such, the plans do not allow for the full development of the ecological tourism industry that this area so rich in wilderness values and cultural heritage could support.

Among a number of specific concerns, TIP management plans must:

- restrict motorized access to the minimum needed to allow recreational users to get to, but not past, the boundaries of the parks;
- decommission roads not required for authorized purposes by removing culverts and bridges and replanting;
- recognize and protect the unique and threatened cultural and wilderness recreation value of all Nastawgan canoes routes and portages;
- recognize and protect the cultural values of Chee-Skon-Abikong, the Spirit Rock, by prohibiting motorized and industrial access within an appropriate zone around the site;
- provide adequate resources for monitoring and enforcement. and
- even though TIP does not address boundary issues, land use planning must recognize that a 200 meter corridor comprising the waterway class parks is inadequate to protect wilderness and ecological values;

Yours truly,

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