Williams Island Provincial Nature Reserve

Interim Management Statement

Northern Region

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario

PARKS & RECREATIONAL AREAS BRANCH
ROOM 3329, WHITNEY BLOCK
QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO, ONTARIO M7A 1W3

ISBN 0-7729-0170-8
MNR 3295

Williams Island Provincial Nature Reserve

Interim Management Statement

Additional copies of this publication are available from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Cochrane District Office, P.O. Box 730, 2 Third Ave. Cochrane, Ontario, P0L 1C0 - Telephone (705)272-4365

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario

March, 1985

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve this interim management statement for the Williams Island Provincial Park.

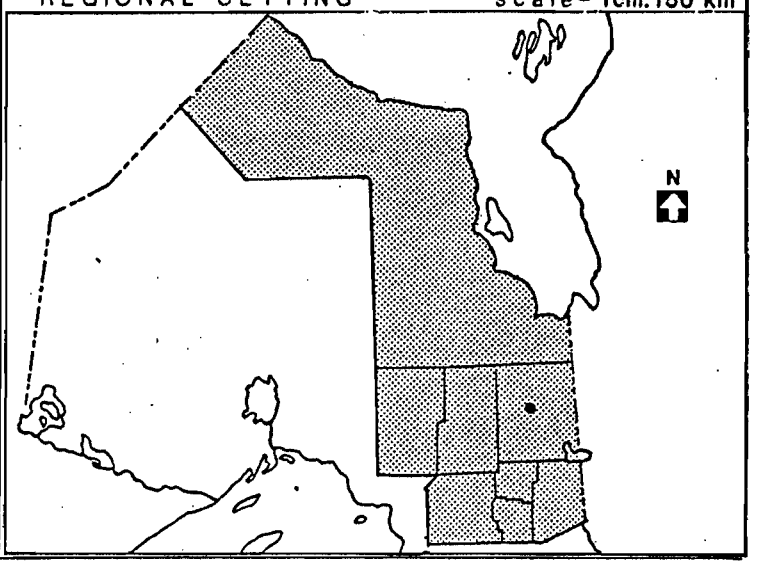
This Statement will provide direction for the management of Williams Island Provincial Park until a Park Management Plan is completed. It will also set the general direction for the preparation of the more detailed management policies that the Management Plan will contain.

R.A. Riley
Regional Director
Northern Region

BACKGROUND

NAME:	Williams Island (formerly Hobson Twp. # 1 & 2
PROPOSED CLASS:	Nature Reserve
M.N.R. DISTRICT:	Cochrane
M.N.R. REGION:	Northern
AREA (ha.):	4 ha + 4 ha = 8 ha
SITE REGION:	
SITE DISTRICT:	
DATE in REGULATION:	

REGIONAL SETTING scale - 1cm:150 km



LIFE SCIENCE TARGET

site type/landscape unit	species/communities

EARTH SCIENCE TARGET

geological theme	feature
Paleozoic - Upper Devonian Paleozoic - Middle & Lower Devonian	Long Rapids Formation Williams Island Formation

CULTURAL RESOURCE TARGET

theme	theme segment

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TARGET

day use	car camping	wilderness back country

INVENTORIES

level / type	earth science	life science	cultural	receational	
reconnaissance completed	Yes	No	No	No	
detailed completed	Yes	No	No	No	
required	No	No	No	No	

POTENTIAL RESOURCE USE CONFLICT

O.H.E.P.C. Flooding Reserve

MATERIAL APPENDED

D.L.U.G. extract ☒ checksheet ☐ other background information

MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS

1. Issues

There are no relevant management issues for this park.

2. Resource Management Guidelines

2.1 Mineral Resources Management

Analysis	Guidelines	Recommendation
The nature reserve status of the park protects it from any form of degrading land use/activity including such forms of surface exploration/mining as open pit mining.	Geological research may be authorized by the district manager provided that such activity enhances knowledge/understanding of the geological features, and that the results of such work are made available to M.N.R. Mineral exploration/ extraction will not be permitted.	That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan.

2.2 Wildlife Management

Analysis	Guidelines	Recommendation
The park falls within trapline CC-181 and 189.	As hunting and trapping pose no threat to site values, these activities will be permitted.	That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan and following appropriate changes to regulations under The Game and Fish Act.

2.3 Vegetation Management

Analysis	Guidelines	Recommendation
The park contains no known significant vegetation sites.	Silviculture which enhances the park's geological features will be permitted.	That the guidelines be implemented with the approval of the plan.

2.4 Land Management

Analysis	Guidelines	Recommendation
There is no leased or private land within the park. However, Ontario Hydro has flooding rights to this section of the Abitibi River.	No disposition of land will be permitted.	This guideline is already in effect.

3. Client Services Management Guidelines

3.1 Information: Basic information about Williams Island should be produced for geologists and students. Specifically, a small leaflet providing information about access, the park's significance, references, and so forth, using photos, access and geological maps, and text should be adequate.

3.2 Education: prospective visitors should be warned of the resource's vulnerability to damage from collectors; for example, in any publication which is produced for the park.

3.3 Development: At present, the site is undeveloped and access is restricted to the use of watercraft. This situation facilitates protection of the site from human impact, and will be maintained.

4. Research

The Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies describes scientific research policy in nature reserves as follows (NR-IV-10).

> Scientific research by qualified individuals, which contributes to knowledge of natural .... history and to environmental management, will be encouraged in Nature Reserves.
>
> All research programmes will require the approval of the Ministry of Natural Resources and must also meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. The Ministry may approve the removal of .... geological samples .... by qualified researchers .... Approved research activities and facilities will be compatible with protection values .... in individual Reserves, and will be subject to development and management policies for Nature Reserves unless special permission is given. Sites altered by research activities will be rehabilitated as closely to their previous condition as possible.

APPENDIX 1: NATURAL RESOURCES BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Frey (1980), describes the bedrock geology of the Williams Island earth science Nature Reserve as follows.

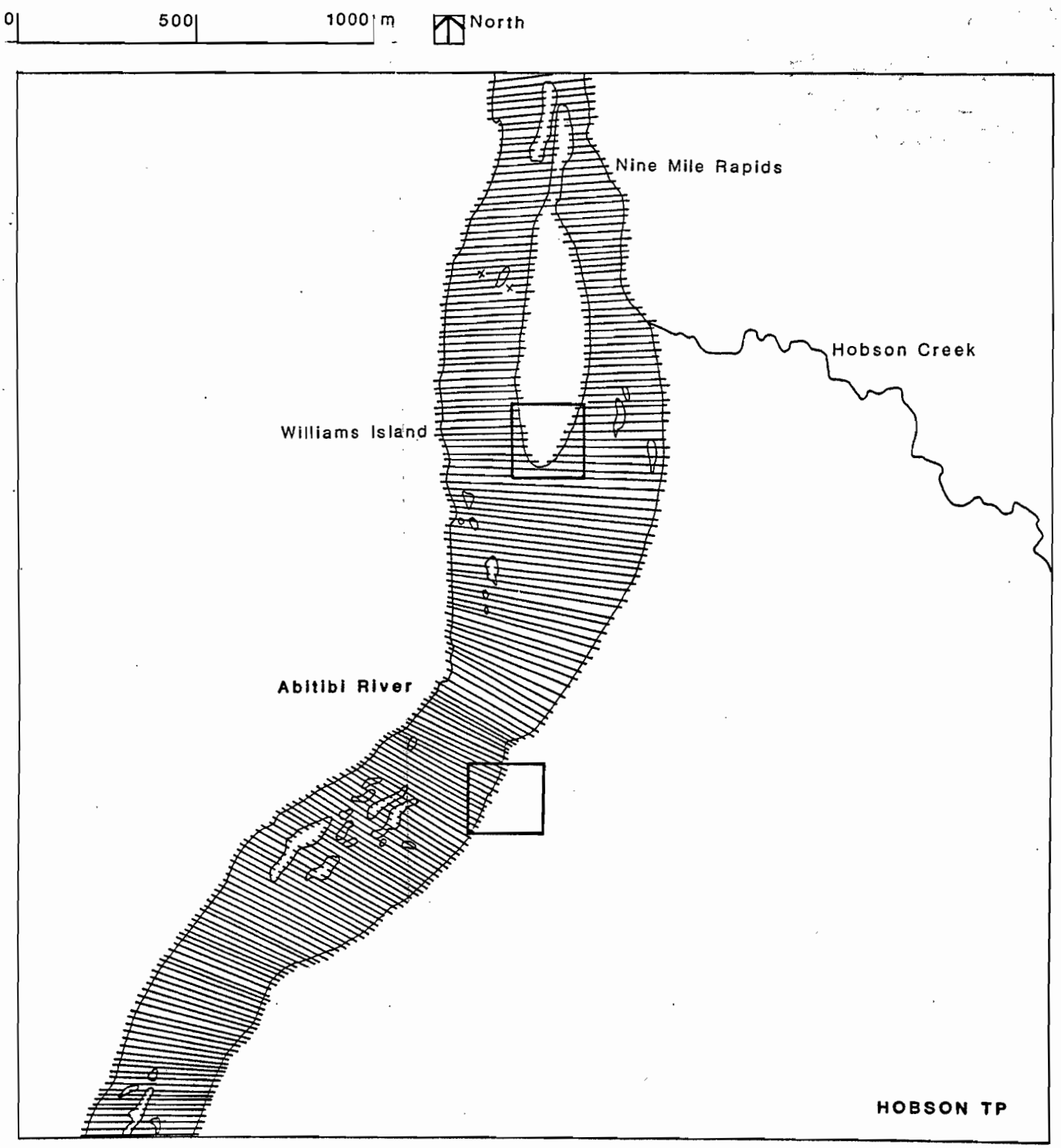
[The sites contain]:

(1) the thickest exposed section of the Long Rapids Formation [Pleozoic, Upper Devonian]. Drillcore records describe sections 86.9 m thick elsewhere in the Moose River Basin and 149.4 m in the Hudson Bay Basin. The Abitibi River site consists of 17 distinct rock units composed mostly of dark coloured, non-calcareous shales and mudstones of various compositions (including bituminous) and fissility, ranging from hard platy beds to thinly laminated soft shales. Microfossils, primarily conodonts and plant spores, are rare to abundant throughout the sales and mudstones. These units are inter-bedded with three thin (0.3 - 0.5 m thick) dolmite beds.

(2) the most complete exposed thickness of the upper carbonate member of the Williams Island Formation [Paleozoic, Middle and Lower Upper Devonian]. This sequence of massive, platy, and granular limestone and calcareous shale is the thickest of several stratigraphic sections that form a composite type section (standard reference) of the upper carbonate member. The section on Williams Island has been divided into 12 subunits, totalling 15.5 m in stratigraphic thickness.

Frey (1980) appraises the park's earth science features as being of provincial significance according to the above-mentioned rationale.

Williams Island Nature Reserve



17.a-h EARTH SCIENCE NATURE RESERVE FEATURES

a. Area Description

Earth science nature reserves are relatively small, significant or representative areas that are identified to achieve part of the Ministry's protection/heritage appreciation objectives. Across the Cochrane District, eight such sites have been identified outside of provincial parks and park candidates. These areas are:

Site	Township	Area (ha.)	Significance
a	Hobson	4.0	Provincial
b	Hobson	0.7	Provincial
c	Valentine	1.5	Provincial
d	Valentine	2.44	National
e	Valentine	2.44	Provincial
f	Pitt	2.44	Provincial
g	Beniah	1.22	National
h	Wilkie	1.22	National

These various geological features cover an area of 15.96 hectares in total. Six of these areas have reserved flooding rights that are held by Ontario Hydro.

Three of these sites are nationally recognized standard reference sections for various earth science formations. The other five are provincially recognized.

b. Land Use Intent

These areas are being recommended for park status.

Due to the size of the areas, and given the variety of uses that are ongoing within them, it is further recommended that most of the ongoing activities within the areas be permitted to continue. The exception to this would be commercial logging which is not recommended as a continuing use. An outline of those ongoing activities which are recommended for continuation is given in the Land Use Activity section, however it must be realized that in some instances further refinement may be required.

c. Land Use Activity for Area No. 17a-h — EARTH SCIENCE NATURE RESERVE FEATURES

Activity	Acceptable Yes	Acceptable No	Recommended Guidelines
Aggregate Extraction		x	
Agriculture		x	
Bait Fishing		x	Not applicable.
Commercial Fishing		x	
Cottaging		x	
Crown Land Recreation		x	Not applicable
Forestry		x	
Hunting	x		It is recommended that hunting be permitted to continue.
Mining		x	
Provincial Parks	x		Recommended for park status.
Roads		x	
Rural Residential		x	

Activity	Acceptable		Recommended Guidelines
	Yes	No	
Sport Fishing	x		It is recommended that sport fishing be permitted to continue.
Tourism		x	No commercial facilities will be allowed.
Trapping	x		It is recommended that existing trapping activity be permitted to continue.
Wildlife Viewing	x		
Wild Rice Harvesting		x	
Urban Development		x	
Other	x		The Ministry will continue to work closely with Ontario Hydro concerning the planning and design of any future hydraulic proposals in the area.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
DISTRICT APPROVAL FORM

I have read this Interim Management Statement and weighed its recommendations with respect to my area of assigned responsibility. I have made my views known and have participated in the District decision regarding the interim policies that it contains.

DISTRICT APPROVAL	SIGNATURE	DATE
Parks/Engineering Supervisor	[signature]	Jan 15-85
Fish & Wildlife/Lands Supv.	[signature]	Jan 15/85
Forest Management Supervisor		
Regional Planner	Eleanor Moo	Jan 15/85
District Manager		

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario