

July 12, 2011

Scott Dingwall
District Planner
Ministry of Natural Resources
Northeast Region
Sudbury District
3767 Highway 69 S, Suite 5
Sudbury, Ontario P3G 1E7

By email: scott.dingwall@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Dingwall:

**Re: Proposed Amendments Concerning Chiniguchi Provincial Park and Wolf Lake Area –
EBR Reg. No. 010-7775**

The Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-OV) has, for the past 40 years, been an advocate for the protection of Ontario's waterways through the establishment, expansion and proper management of Waterway parks. We have a particular interest in the Waterway parks of the Temagami wilderness area. Therefore, we wish to make the following comments on the proposal to change the designation of lands adjacent to Chiniguchi Waterway Park.

The Chiniguchi Waterway Park is an important part of the province's park system as a whole, as well as an important part of the network of protected waterways of the Temagami region. Unfortunately the Park is incomplete. Portions of the original Park proposal were left out and designated as Forest Reserve because of existing mining claims and leases. Of particular concern are the areas around Wolf and Matagamasi lakes. The old growth Red Pine forest of the Wolf Lake area is recognized as the largest in Canada. It is vital that its protection not be downgraded. In addition, it and Matagamasi Lake form an integral part of the canoe route that the Park is supposed to protect.

CPAWS-OV opposes the redesignation of the mining leases near Wolf Lake from Forest Reserve to General Use Area, as this will reduce protection of the important old growth forest and the canoe route, and make it more difficult to have these lands added to the Park in the future.

Furthermore, CPAWS-OV recommends that the entire Wolf Lake Old Growth Forest be added to the park as soon as possible.

CPAWS-OV opposes the redesignation of the south Matagamasi Lake area from Forest Reserve to General Use Area, as this area is an integral part of the waterway and should also be part of the Park.

We understand that an addition to the Park is being proposed along the eastern side of Chiniguchi Lake, although the location of the addition is not clear from the EBR Registry notice. CPAWS-OV supports such an addition, but recommends that the entire lake be included, to ensure its full protection.

In summary, we urge the Ministry to take all actions necessary to ensure that the Chiniguchi waterway and the Wolf Lake Old Growth Red Pine Forest are fully protected within the Chiniguchi Waterway Park as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John McDonnell
Executive Director
Ottawa Valley Chapter
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

CC:

- The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources
- Gordon Miller, Environment Commissioner of Ontario