Algonquin: Park or Industrial Zone?

thebigwild.org
Can you identify this Park?
Can you identify this Park?

78% Not Protected
22% Protected

Protected Areas
Algonquin is not a park...

with logging in it...
It’s an industrial zone...

that permits canoeing...
Algonquin: as Canadian as:

- Group of 7
- Maple leaves
- Family canoe trips
Algonquin

- Canada’s oldest Provincial Park (1893)
- 2nd “National” Park
- Created to protect Logging
Ontario’s Protected Areas

- 631 P.A.s
  - Provincial Parks
  - Conservation Reserves
- 9.43 million hectares
  (9% of the land base)
- 90% open to industrial activity

Photo: Lori Labatt

Algonquin – Park or industrial zone
Logging in parks?

Most P.A.s have had historic logging:
- Rondeau - Sir Isaac Brock War of 1812
- Wabakimi
- Quetico
- Lake Superior
- ..........Algonquin
Changing role of protected areas

from:

Protecting logging 1893

to

Multiple Use

to

Ecological Integrity (EI) 2007

Algonquin – Park or industrial zone
An Act to enact the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006, repeal the Provincial Parks Act and the Wilderness Areas Act and make complementary amendments to other Acts

The Hon. D. Ramsay
Minister of Natural Resources
New Parks Act

Entrenches Ecological Integrity, making sure that:

natural systems are healthy and intact
New Parks Act

- Prohibits industrial uses in law:
  - Logging
  - Mining
  - Hydro

- 630 PA’s meet legal criteria for protection in Act

Not Algonquin
New Parks Act

- Draws attention to Algonquin logging
New Parks Act

- Draws attention to Algonquin roads

- Soil compaction
- Erosion
- Habitat fragmentation
- Habitat destruction and disturbance
- Increase in heat, dust, noise
- Increase in consumptive uses
Total Algonquin Area - 765,345 ha

Canoe Routes = 2,000 km
- City of Toronto = 5,300 km
- Vancouver – Halifax = 5,961 km

Logging Roads = 5,487 km
- Basic rd. footprint 11,600 ha

Habitat fragmentation >546,100 ha
APP

Area = 7630 Km²

5487 Km of Roads*

0.72 Km Road/Km²

* Derived using all “current” roads

Grain = 1000 x 1000 m

Source: Alistair Mackenzie
Should it be protected?

- Nationally Algonquin polls
  - 2nd after Banff
  - 1st in ON
- 79% oppose logging in parks ON
- 62% of ON have been there
- >18,000 letters to Premier (since 05/07)
Should it be protected?

ON Parks Board Report (2006)

– Increase protection from 22% to 54%
Should it be protected?

ON Parks Board Report (2006)
– Increase protection from 22% - 54%
Should it be protected?

Algonquin Forest Authority
2006 (logging agency)
-increase protection from
22% - 49%
Should it be protected?

Environmental Commissioner of ON (2007) – End all logging
Should it be protected?

New Minister

Wants new joint report from OPB/AFA

(expected Spring 2008)
Should it be protected?

Increase protection by

>250,000 ha (50%+)  

Without affecting wood supply

Immediately
Should it be protected?

10 yr (+) phase out
Of all logging
What Next?

- Joint Report (spring 08)
- Let MPPs know that you want more protection
- Stay tuned
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