

Wayne:
This could still
be relevant!

E. B. Telfer--Jun
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An Outline of a Possible Multiple-Use Management Plan
for the "Barrens" of Southwestern Nova Scotia

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Aims of Management -

To make the best possible use of this large area of land for the health, happiness and economic well-being of the people of the area and for the health of the land itself.

General Management Policy -

1. The principal use of the area will be as a wilderness recreation area on the general model of the Quetico-Superior Wilderness, and Algonquin Park. To achieve success with this type of management, other uses should be adjusted to give the maximum recreational potential without unduly limiting these other uses.
2. The second most important use of the area will be for the production of forest products.
3. To increase the recreational potential of the area, measures should be taken to improve wildlife and fish populations. Fish management in particular seems worthy of considerable attention.
4. Other potential uses of the Barrens include -
 - (a) Watershed management - As human populations in the adjoining coastal areas increase, the value of the Barrens as a reservoir of pure water will be more important. The high annual rainfall and the many natural reservoirs in the

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General Management Policy - (continued)

form of lakes and bogs make western Nova Scotia a suitable location for industries requiring large water supplies.

(b) Scientific value - The Barrens form a unique area where there are many interesting ecological problems.

Some Methods of Achieving the Goals of the General Management Policy -

1. Recreation

(a) Campgrounds - For large-scale family camping by people who appreciate the nearness of wilderness, but who are unable for some reason to take strenuous trips, campgrounds could be located around the outside of the actual wilderness area. These campgrounds should be on lakes which could provide swimming and boating and serve as starting points for canoe trips and overland hikes. The Indian Fields-Glamshell-Morasshoe Lake Area has great possibilities for large-scale campground development.

(b) Travel Methods - To achieve the greatest recreational value from the wilderness, travel should be restricted to hiking and canoe paddling trips. The gasoline engine should be kept out of the area. Aircraft should not be allowed to land except in case of emergency; outboard motors should be only allowed on lakes adjacent to campgrounds but not allowed over portages. Automobiles should not be allowed to use roads inside the area.

Some Methods of Achieving the Goals of the General Management Policy -
(continued)

(c) Roads should not be built except where absolutely necessary for forest management and fire protection purposes. These low standard roads could, with some advance planning, be designed to serve as hiking trails. Good public relations for the forestry efforts on the area could be fostered by billboards describing the activities at sites of forestry operations.

(d) Canoe trips - Local outfitters should be encouraged to provide a rental service for canoes and all necessary equipment (including food) for canoeing parties.

(e) Regulations - Every effort should be made to keep the wilderness recreation experience as free as possible. There should be no woods closures or laws preventing the use of campfires. It might be desirable to lift the restrictions requiring guides for non-residents. Guides are not required in most other areas of this type. The increase in travel attendant on the advertizing of the Barrens as a wilderness area, would provide plenty of employment for local guides without making their services mandatory.

(f) Acquisition of land - Some privately-owned lots are bound to be involved, particularly the lands on the southeast side of the chain of lakes along the Shelburne-Yarmouth county line to the south of Indian Fields. An easement to prevent clear cutting or development within ten chains of the shoreline could

Some Methods of Achieving the Goals of the General Management Policy -
(continued).

be negotiated. Lots not on shorelines or other scenic routes could be dealt with by obtaining an easement to prevent commercial resort development and to restrict motor travel to them during the summer season.

2. Forestry

(a) Helict stands of old-growth forest are probably of greater value for scenic, scientific and educational purposes than for forest products and should not be cut.

(b) The future forest production will depend on plantations. Because of the unique character of the area, exotics like pitch pine should not be overlooked as a species for reforestation.

(c) To preserve scenic and fishery values, cutting within several chains of streams, lakes, portages and some other trails should be single-tree selection only.

(d) Timber harvesting should be done during the winter "off season" for recreation.

(e) Logging methods which require a small mileage of roads should be used, even if harvesting costs are increased somewhat.

3. Wildlife

(a) An extensive biological survey of lakes and streams should

Some Methods of Achieving the Goals of the General Management Policy -
(continued)

be made to determine the possibilities for lake reclamation and for the introduction of exotic species like lake trout and land-locked salmon.

(b) The forestry planting program should be modified in some cases to provide coniferous plantings for winter cover for moose and deer along streams even where tree growth potential is low.

(c) The possibility of acclimatizing exotic game birds should be considered. Sharp-tailed grouse and Scottish red grouse are two species with possibilities for brush and barren areas.

(d) Outfitters should be encouraged to provide more dogs and experienced guides to increase utilization of the excellent snipe and woodcock shooting available in southwestern Nova Scotia during the fall migration.

(e) There are a number of wet bogs, particularly near the coast, where additional waterfowl breeding habitat might be created by blasting out ponds.

4. Other Uses

(a) Water - Maintaining the area in a wild state, particularly if coupled with some reforestation, will preserve the water resource unless heavy use in the future makes some management modifications necessary.

Some Methods of Achieving the Goals of the General Management Policy -
(continued)

(b) Scientific Uses - The Barrens would be an excellent location for a co-operative research center where scientists representing many institutions and disciplines would have facilities for work in their particular fields.

The Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests has tentative plans for an experimental managed hunting area in the Tobéatic Game Sanctuary. There is also some discussion of the establishment of a nature reserve in the Barrens for future ecological research. The management of such areas could easily be integrated with an over-all wilderness recreation area plan.

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