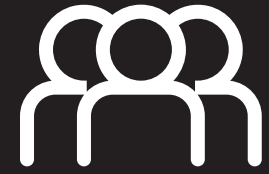




LAND AND RESOURCE USE AND VISUAL ENVIRONMENT PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Issued February 2026



The Community Access Road could lead to changes in the way land is used and experienced by those living or working near the road. The study of Land and Resource Use, along with the Visual Environment, offers a perspective on how the road may impact the region's landscape, as well as its cultural, recreational and economic significance.

These studies are closely interconnected because land use—whether for traditional practices, recreation or resource development—shapes the visual character of the environment. For instance, increased accessibility due to the road may present new opportunities for tourism and resource extraction, but it could also alter the undisturbed wilderness valued by local communities and visitors. Visual changes, like new infrastructure or changes to natural landscapes, can influence how people use the land and engage in cultural or recreational activities.

Existing Conditions

Land and Resource Use

There are parks and protected areas within the Local Study Area including Albany River Provincial Park. The Regional Study Area contains four additional Provincial Parks; Little Current River, Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River, Nakine Moraine and Ogoki River Provincial Parks, and one Area of Natural and Scientific Interest; Jobes Creek. These areas are remote in nature and require boat or fly-in access for backcountry camping, fishing and hunting. There are no national parks, Crown reserves or game preserves in the Regional Study Area.

Recreation and tourism in the area includes activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing and backcountry camping. Fishing and hunting activities are managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through wildlife management units and fisheries management zones. The regulations for each are released annually by the MNR. In the Local Study Area, there are two wildlife management units (1D and 17) and two fisheries management zones (2 and 3). Remote outfitters offer inclusive fly-in fishing and hunting accommodations, with 13 remote outfitters located in the Regional Study Area and six in the Local Study Area.

Trapping in the Local Study Area is done solely by Indigenous community members and all traplines are held by Indigenous head trappers. There are seven traplines that intersect the Community Access Road.

Extractive resources in the area include mining and forestry. Mining exploration is regulated by the

Ministry of Energy and Mines. There are several mining claims and exploratory activities within the Regional and Local Study Areas, with many of the claims being held by Wabassi Resources. Forestry activities are regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources through Forest Management Plans; of note, there is one Forest Management Plan in place for the Ogoki Forest Management Unit, which is accessed by the Painter Lake Road and affiliated secondary and tertiary forestry roads.

Visual Environment

The Visual Environment Regional Study Area is a largely intact, remote wilderness landscape dominated by boreal forest, wetlands and major river systems, with very limited existing development. Views and “sense of place” are strongly tied to waterways, travel routes, parks, recreation areas and the Marten Falls Community, so receptors are treated as highly sensitive to visual change across the Local Study Area.

Potential Effects and Mitigation Measures

The construction and long-term use of the Community Access Road have the potential to affect the land and resource use and visual environment in the Local Study Area. The table below highlights the potential effects and mitigation measures that may be put in place to lessen possible effects of the Community Access Road.

Land and Resource Use

Topic	Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures
Land Use Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use is managed under the Public Lands Act and the Far North Act; removal of these lands for the Community Access Road could impact activities and management on these lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve Marten Falls First Nation in land and resource use planning activities to manage new development resulting from the Project. Ongoing engagement with Aroland First Nation regarding the southern part of the road will help identify any further measures needed.
Parks and Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Construction Disturbance Area crosses through Albany River Provincial Park, affecting 5.7 ha of provincial park land. Potential to effect noise levels, air quality and wilderness experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit clearing and use of land within provincial parks as much as possible and locate temporary work areas outside of parks. Limit development of side trails and roads. Marten Falls First Nation to discuss access control measures with Ontario Parks.

Topic	Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures
Recreation, Tourism and Outfitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to remote lands and water resources, creating new recreation opportunities. • Potential to effect noise levels, air quality and animal habitat. • Reduce remoteness of some of the commercial outpost camps in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properly design and install water crossing structures to accommodate flow, drainage and fish passage. • Minimize vegetation clearing and reclaim disturbed areas following construction. • Provide notice of construction to remote outfitters one year in advance. • Community Access Road Team to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss hunting restrictions and signage to educate those who may interact with recreation users while on the road. • Ongoing engagement with impacted outfitters and camp owners.
Trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Construction Disturbance Area overlaps with seven trapline tenures and will potentially disrupt furbearing species' habitat and trapping activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued engagement with trappers and community members about construction timelines and safe access through the Construction Disturbance Area.
Extractive Resource Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to mineral resource areas by improving access to previously remote areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing engagement with mineral and land claim holders to help minimize impacts to any mineral deposits.
Forestry Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to Painter Lake Road could impact the Annual Work Schedule for the Ogoki Forest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued engagement with the Sustainable Forest Licence holder for Ogoki Forst.
Energy and Linear Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for increased opportunity to develop new energy facilities by improving access to previously remote areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific mitigations are currently recommended. • Any future energy or linear projects are subject to their own regulatory process.

Visual Environment

Topic	Potential Effects	Mitigation Measures
Cultural Heritage Resources and Indigenous Experience and Sense of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction activities and associated infrastructure could disturb these culturally significant landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid construction near highly sensitive cultural sites, maintaining tree cover and adding screenings to protect these culturally significant landscapes Collaborate with local governing agencies and Indigenous communities to identify and protect significant cultural heritage sites.
Recreation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May alter the tourism appeal by increasing accessibility, which could decrease the remote appeal of the parks. Potential to effect noise levels, air quality and animal habitat, reducing the attraction of tourism to the area. Natural areas will be altered by the introduction of the road including bridges over the Ogoki, Albany and other larger rivers. Tourism and recreation outfitters' sites may also observe new views towards aggregate sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain tree cover and add additional screenings around sensitive areas and receptors (i.e., hunt camp, tourism outfitter locations). Keep temporary work areas, like staging zones, outside of park boundaries to avoid changing the landscape; Reduce and monitor the creation of new trails or roads that might extend into the parks and affect the landscape. Limit construction activities to the designated right-of-way.
Parks and Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent bridge structures at both parks modify the visual characteristics protected by the Ontario <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design bridges to blend with the natural landscape as much as possible. Maintain vegetation around bridge abutments and piers and preserve existing vegetation along the riverbanks.
Permanent Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent settlements, including buildings currently occupied or used by individuals and communities, may experience changes to the visual environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain tree cover and add visual screenings around the road and associated infrastructure.

Residual Effects

Through the proper use of mitigation measures, the potential effects on Land and Resource Use and Visual Environment from the construction and long-term use of the Community Access Road are expected to be effectively managed, minimized or mitigated.

Land and Resource Use

The Community Access Road will cause changes to the Albany River Provincial Park through removal of 5.7 ha of park land, noise from construction and reduction of the remote character due to visibility of construction. The construction of the road will also reduce the remote character of the area for visitors to the remote outfitting camps and operation of the road may cause some traffic noise at nearby camp sites, affecting the experience of remoteness.

Visual Environment

The road will cause some visible change, mainly during construction and mostly near major river crossings like the Albany and Ogoki. These changes include temporary clearing, equipment and new bridge structures, but they are limited in area and duration during the construction phase. With standard mitigation—such as keeping vegetation buffers, using low-glare materials, limiting lighting and restoring disturbed areas—these visual effects are expected to remain small and localized.

Overall, once mitigation is in place, the road will not cause significant long-term effects to the visual environment. Any noticeable changes will be short-term or confined to very close viewpoints, and the broader landscape character, sense of remoteness and visual cultural values of the area are expected to be maintained.



Cumulative Effects

Land and Resource Use

The Cumulative Effects Assessment for Land and Resource Use identified potential effects on traplines that overlap the Community Access Road as well as the Northern Link Road. There were three traplines identified to be affected. These include GE153, GE154 and GE157.

For a map of trapline areas, see Figure 5-2 of the Land and Resource Use Technical Support Document: Existing Conditions and Effects Assessment. Potential effects include loss of habitat for furbearing species, improved access to land for trappers, and other disturbances during construction and long-term use of the Community Access Road. The total area affected is considered small compared to the size of the traplines and the combined effects are considered low in magnitude and not significant.

Visual Environment

While localized and temporary increases in visual change may occur during periods of overlapping construction activity, these effects are short-term, moderated by mitigation, and not significant. There are very few locations where the Project physically overlaps with other projects or activities in a manner that would meaningfully intensify visual change.



Want to learn more?

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, please review the technical report available in the appendix of the Final Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.

Contact Info

You are welcome to contact the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

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