

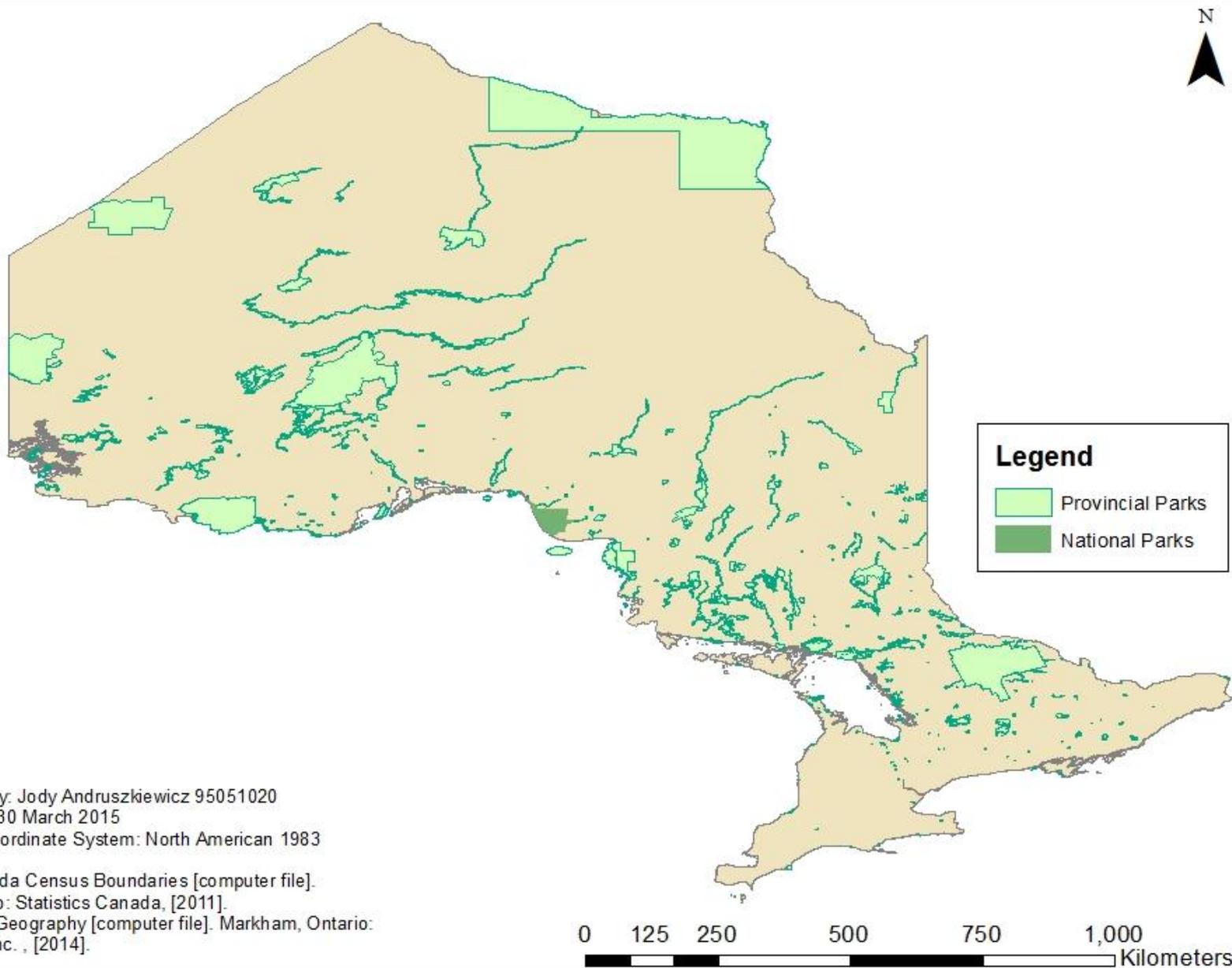
Gaps in parks planning – early ideas on the search for representativeness

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Ontario Provincial and National Parks Network



Map Created by: Jody Andruszkiewicz 95051020

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Geographic Coordinate System: North American 1983

Data sources:

Statistics Canada Census Boundaries [computer file].

Ottawa, Ontario: Statistics Canada, [2011].

DMTI Census Geography [computer file]. Markham, Ontario:

DMTI Spatial Inc., [2014].

Introduction

- Ontario has over 330 provincial and 5 national parks covering approx. 7.6% of province (source: Ontario, 2015a)
- First provincial park established 1893 was Algonquin Provincial Park (source: Ontario, 2015b)
- First national park established in 1914 was St. Lawrence Islands National Park (source: Parks Canada, 1997)
- Ontario's Provincial parks received approximately 9.5 million visitors in 2009-2010 and National Parks received approximately 845,000 visitors in 2013-2014 (source: Ontario, 2011; Parks Canada, 2014)

Thesis

Ontario's parks must be planned in contiguous networks in order to ensure ecosystems have connectivity, biodiversity and are representatively protected while capitalizing on tourism opportunities.



Algonquin Provincial Park

Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

Purpose

- To identify ideal sampling methods/formulae to calculate how much of an ecosystem must be classified as protected in order to confirm an ecosystem to be considered representatively protected
- To help parks planners how to identify areas for new park creation that will be representative of their greater ecosystem, enhance ecosystem integrity while recognizing tourism opportunities

Research Questions

Georgian Bay Islands
National Park



Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

- What percentage of an ecosystem must be protected in order for that ecosystem to be considered representatively protected?
- How fragmented is Ontario's existing network of parks?
- What urban planning frameworks can be used/applied to manage Ontario's wilderness?

Important Terms

- Systems Plan
- Representative Protection
- Gap Analysis
- Infill
- Densification
- Nodes

Georgian Bay Islands
National Park

Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014



Methods



Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

- Literature review of sampling methodologies to identify how representativeness is calculated
- Literature review of parks legislation to focus on ecosystem representation and connectivity
- Literature review of urban planning concept “infill”, “densification” and “nodes”

Methods

- Case studies identifying where contiguous networks of multi-jurisdiction parks and protected areas is already in place
- Statistical analysis of Ontario's parks network to identify gaps in the provincial and federal systems, and Ontario as a whole



Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

Expected Outcomes

Arrowhead Provincial Park



Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2015

- Calculating representativeness = ???
- Ontario has a fragmented parks network that is not representative of its overall ecosystems
- Applying urban planning concepts to wilderness management could be troublesome but in respects those frameworks are already applied (i.e. zoning)

Challenges

- Defining what constitutes representativeness
- Social will
- Political will



Algonquin Provincial Park

Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

Recommendations

- Retire Systems Planning in Canada and move towards an integrated network of parks and protected areas on the IUCN scale (not just IUCN 1's and 2's)
- Ecosystem-scale National Park in Muskoka to achieve representation, protection and connectivity while maximizing tourism opportunities



Algonquin Provincial Park

Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2014

Conclusion

- Systems planning is an out of date and inadequate model by which to plan parks in 21st Century
- Parks and protected areas planning must be cohesive strategy between the Federal and Provincial governments
- With creative thinking, wilderness can be “planned”

Arrowhead Provincial Park



Source: Andruszkiewicz, 2015

Thank you

Questions

