

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Ontario Conservation Centre

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

OFAH FILE: 794
April 30, 2022

Brent Stewart, Park Superintendent
Silent Lake Provincial Park
P.O. Box 219
Bancroft, ON
K0L 1C0

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Subject: ERO # 019-5072 Egan Chutes Provincial Park Management Planning

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is Ontario's largest, non-profit, fish and wildlife conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs. We have reviewed the Egan Chutes Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan and are generally supportive of it.

The Egan Chutes Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan combines the management of Egan Chutes Provincial Park (a nature reserve class park) and Egan Chutes Provincial Park Addition (a waterway class park) under one management plan. The OFAH is supportive of this combination, as it makes it simpler for individuals to determine what is permitted throughout the whole park system. The OFAH is pleased that the management plan preserves hunting and fishing within the natural environment zones of the park, which includes stretches of the York River and its banks throughout the park. Angling and hunting are sustainable use recreational activities that can be done safely in provincial park settings. There are many areas that support hunting and angling in multi-use settings with no issue. The OFAH would appreciate the opportunity to work with Egan Chutes Provincial Park to ensure that hunting and angling is maintained in perpetuity. The OFAH questions Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) direction of not permitting hunting in provincial park's nature reserve zones. The objectives under the nature reserve class parks are to protect representative native ecosystems and provincially significant natural heritage features, which the OFAH believes can be upheld and even enhanced by permitting hunting. However, we understand that this is overarching MECP guidance and not specific to this park or management plan. The OFAH would like to work with the MECP and individual parks to expand hunting and angling opportunities in Ontario Parks. Hunting and angling provide social and economic benefits to the areas where they are permitted and the surrounding area; they are safe and sustainable activities that can provide ecological services to parks.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Yours in Conservation,

Lauren Tonelli
Resource Management Specialist

cc: OFAH Board of Directors
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director
Matt DeMille, OFAH Director, Policy & Programs
Mark Ryckman, OFAH Manager, Policy
OFAH Policy & Programs Staff