

Reconciling Our Priorities

Muskoka Presentation

Huntsville, Ontario

Gord Miller

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

February 28, 2008

Overview

- **What were important environmental decisions?**
- **What applications for review and investigation were filed?**
- **What significant issues emerged?**

But First ... An Advertisement

- **who is the Environmental Commissioner?**

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 - specifically oversees the decision making of 13 government Ministries and 2 agencies as those decisions relate to the environment

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- **who is the Environmental Commissioner?**
 - not a member of the government
 - an Officer of the Legislature appointed by a vote of all the MPP's
 - specifically oversees the decision making of 13 government Ministries and two agencies as those decisions relate to the environment
- **no political or vested interests ... I speak for the trees**

Important Environmental Decisions



Important Environmental Decisions

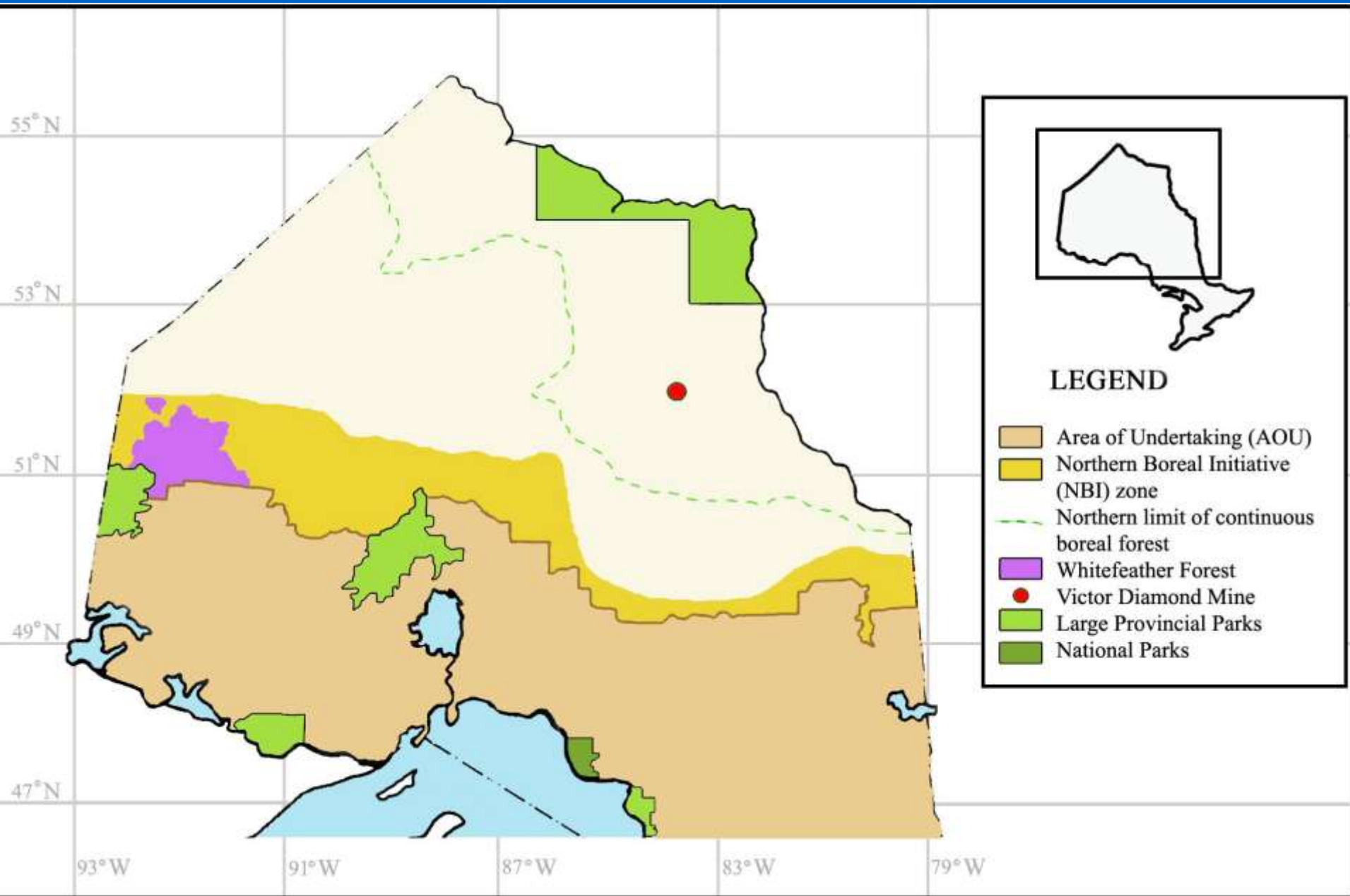
- **Protected Areas Law: Ecological Integrity as a First Priority**

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- *The Clean Water Act: Protection for Municipal Water Sources*

Important Environmental Decisions

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- *The Clean Water Act: Protection for Municipal Water Sources*
- **The Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas Community-based Land Use Strategy**



Applications Filed ...

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- **Road Salt: Can Ice Free Roads and Environmental Protection be Reconciled?**

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- **Our Cratered Landscape: Can Pits and Quarries be Rehabilitated?**

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- **Portlands Energy Centre: Reconciling Multiple Emitters**

Significant Issues Identified

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- **The Challenge of Creating Sustainable Communities in Southern Ontario**

Significant Issues Identified

- **The Challenge of Creating Sustainable Communities in Southern Ontario**
- **The Challenge of Creating a Sustainable Planning System in Northern Ontario**

Sustainable Southern Communities

- **Living sustainably within the watershed**



Sustainable Southern Communities

- Living sustainably within the watershed
- **Creating a sustainable transportation system**

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- **Protecting or draining wetlands**

Sustainable Southern Communities

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- Creating a sustainable transportation system
- Protecting or draining wetlands
- Preserving natural areas or extracting aggregates wherever they lie

Sustainable Southern Communities

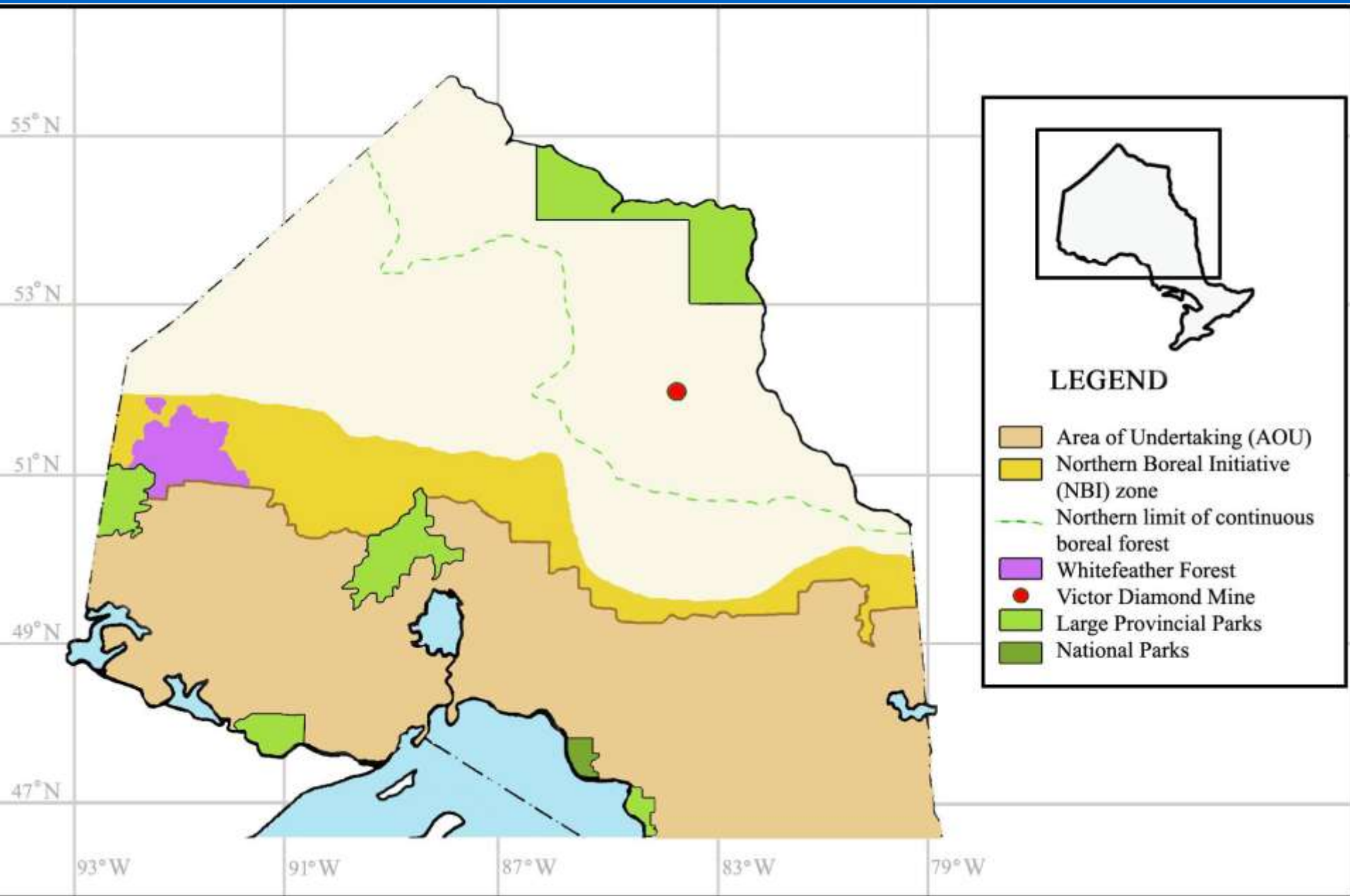
- Living sustainably within the watershed
- Creating a sustainable transportation system
- Protecting or draining wetlands
- Preserving natural areas or extracting aggregates wherever they lie
- **Are there limits to growth and development?**

Sustainable Planning for Northern Ontario

- **A region of continental ecological importance**

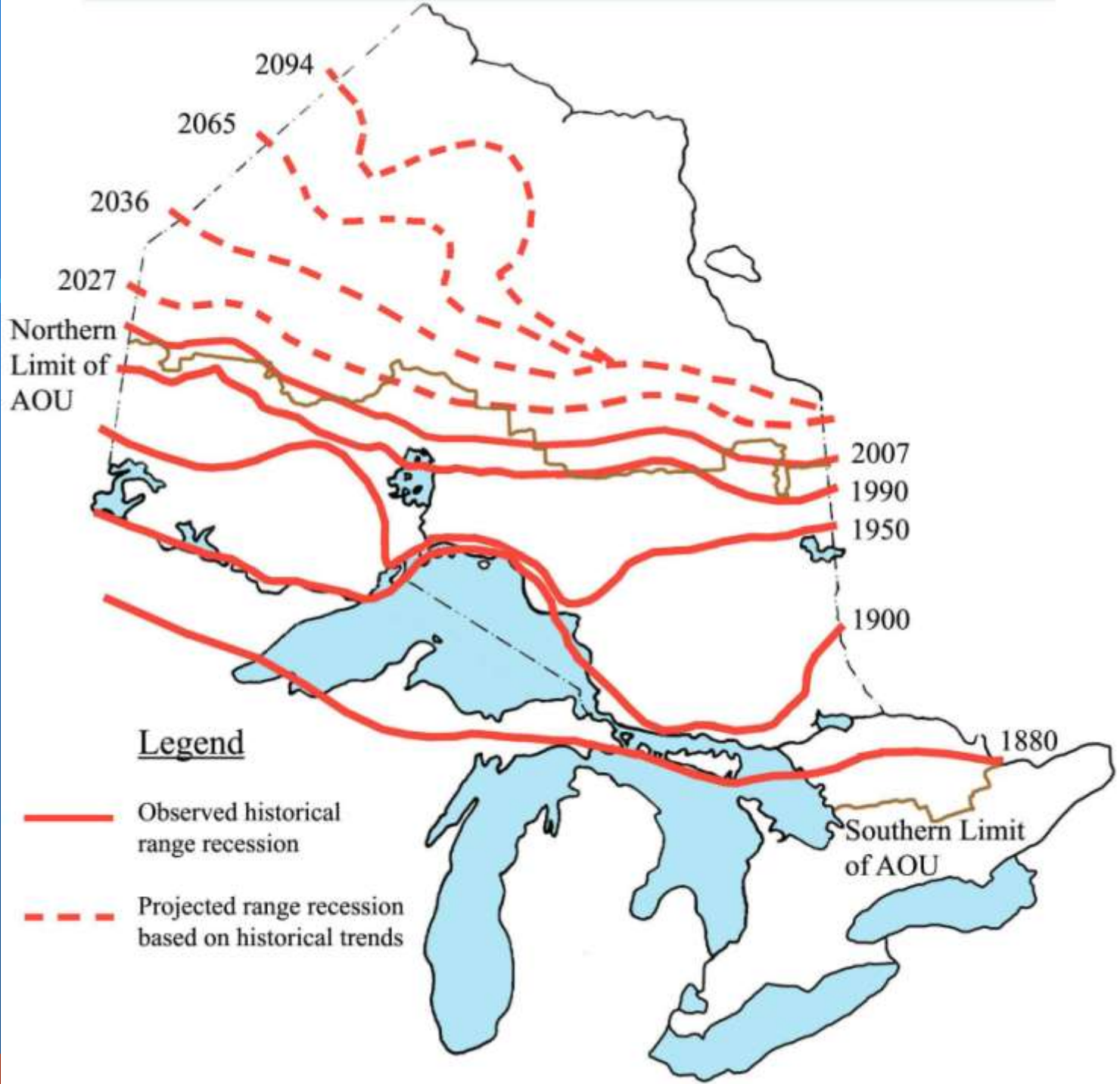
Sustainable Planning for Northern Ontario

- A region of continental ecological importance
- The need for systematic planning



Sustainable Planning for Northern Ontario

- A region of continental ecological importance
- The need for systematic planning
- **The case of the woodland caribou**



Thank You for Your Attention

For information see...

**The
Environmental Commissioner
of Ontario Website**

www.eco.on.ca