Executive Summary

Natural Heritage Systems (NHS) planning is a science based holistic and strategic approach to natural heritage conservation. As opposed to traditional conservation approaches which focus on protected areas and maintaining ecological health, NHS takes a landscape level approach integrating planning for public and private lands, and includes a strong focus on stewardship and restoration (MNR 2002).

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is the document which sets out provincial priorities and requirements for municipalities. The PPS (MAH 2005, p.33) defines Natural Heritage Systems

D V ³ D   V \ V W H P   P D G H   X S   R I   Q D W X U D O   K H U L W D J H   I H D W X U H V   D necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems. These systems can include lands that have been restored and areas with the potential to E H   U H V W R U H G   W R W D   Q D W X U D O   V W D W H   ´

The purpose of this report is to examine some of these challenges by looking at the different approaches that have been taken in Ontario for writing NHS policy into municipal planning

documents, and review of policy documents from three case study municipalities. These sources were used, along with the case studies, to answer specific questions about the implementation of Natural Heritage Systems. The question criteria were selected partially based on the academic literature written on implementation of environmental areas planning, and partially on the requirements of Prince Edward County.

Include a technical appendix that explains the scientific rational behind decisions as well as a specific list of the information and studies that may/shall be required