



**Department of Natural Resources
Public Consultation and Engagement Process
Crown Lands Use Western Region**

SUMMARY REPORT

May 15, 2013



In association with



The Performance Synergy Group
Training and Organizational Development

Acknowledgement:

We wish to acknowledge that this consultation process could not have been undertaken so successfully without the excellent resource people that were provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Renova to help with set up, staffing the various stations and providing ongoing support to the process. The breadth of knowledge, dedication and steadfastness that was exhibited by all involved are a tribute to the high caliber of people that make up the Department of Natural Resources team. We were honoured to be able to work with them all.

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1.0 Introduction

The following is a report on the outcomes from public and stakeholder consultations undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources as part of the planning process for the use of western Crown land.

Background:

In December of 2012, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources acquired Bowater lands in western Nova Scotia. When added to current Crown land holdings, approximately 1.5 million acres of Crown land lie west of the line created by Highways 333, 213, 102 and 101 running from St. Margarets Bay to the Avon River in Windsor. In order to ensure the best sustainable use of the Crown lands, in January 2013 the Department initiated a Crown Land Planning Process for Western Nova Scotia. As part of this initiative and in keeping with the Department's Natural Resource Strategy values of sustainability, transparency, diversity, collaboration and informed decision making, public and stakeholder consultations were undertaken to gather information on the best use of Crown land to generate economic, social and environmental benefits for communities in the Western region and all of Nova Scotia.

The Department hired the consulting firm Collective Wisdom Solutions in association with The Performance Synergy Group to design, manage and facilitate the public and stakeholder consultation meetings and report back on the information gathered through these processes as well as online.

The following is a summary of the approach and information gathered at these meetings and online.

2.0 Approach and Methodology

To ensure the widest possible consultation was undertaken, meetings and open house sessions were held in each one of the 9 counties wherein the Crown lands are located. Dates for the open houses and meetings were widely publicized through the provincial and community newspapers, stakeholder groups, e-mail lists, community groups, posted online and through social media (Twitter).

Nine public open houses and four stakeholder meetings were held around Western Nova Scotia. The public open houses were held in the evenings from 5 to 8 pm in the communities of: Shelburne (March 18), Windsor (March 19), Saulnierville (March 25), Yarmouth (March 26), Cornwallis (April 2), Berwick (April 3), West Northfield (April 4), Black Point (April 8) and Greenfield (April 9). Approximately 676 people attended the public open houses.

The four stakeholder meetings were held in the afternoons in the communities of Yarmouth (March 26), Berwick (April 3), West Northfield (April 4), and Black Point (April 8). Approximately 66 people attended these meetings with 57 stakeholder groups represented out of approximately 220 invited locally and from provincial organizations.

Nova Scotians could also provide comments online via the website – www.novascotia.ca/natr. The deadline for online submissions was extended to April 19, 2013, to allow Nova Scotians additional time to get their comments in once the public meetings were completed. Approximately 166 people sent in their ideas and thoughts online. In addition, 44 separate submissions were received through various channels including the website and the public meetings.

The open houses were designed to allow as many people as possible to gather information, ask questions and provide input in a manner that focused on possibilities in response to three questions through flip charts, sticky notes, filling out questionnaires and/ or providing comments to staff. The questions used were the same ones used for the stakeholder meetings and online comments. The questions focused on looking at what the best possible uses of the Crown lands should be to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for the communities in the Western part of the province as well as all for all Nova Scotians.

The questions that were posed at all the meetings and online were as follows:

1. How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?
2. What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?
3. What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

The format of the public open houses was as follows. There were information/ discussion stations set up around the room with maps (see List of Maps below), information and Department of Natural Resources staff with knowledge and facts about the many different resources and features of the Crown land. People could walk around, gather information, examine maps, and provide their local knowledge to the staff. There was a feedback area where written and verbal comments were collected and recorded. Some attendees chose to submit their comments online later after having absorbed the information they had gathered at the open house.

The stakeholder focus group meetings began with a background presentation, then participants were given time to circulate around the map stations to gather information and ask questions on the resources and features of the western Crown lands. They then participated in facilitated small-group round table discussions at which a variety of stakeholders sat together and developed consensus around the three questions, recording their groups' views and priorities on flip charts.

List of Maps:

These maps were displayed at public open houses, stakeholder focus groups and online.

- Nova Scotia Ecodistricts
- Forestry: Forest Cover
- Forestry: Age Classes
- Forestry: Softwood Production
- Biodiversity: Species Priorities
- Biodiversity: Habitat and Ecosystem Priorities
- Lands Under Negotiation/ Consultation
- Our Parks and Protected Areas
- Tourism
- Municipal Drinking Water Supply Watersheds
- Fisheries: Rivers and Lakes Monitored or Stocked
- Prospective Areas for Onshore Petroleum Resources
- Mineral Potential
- Wind Resource Potential
- Agriculture
- Known Concentrations of Recreation Values
- Former Bowater roads and Access Gates

Reporting, summarizing and consolidation of public and stakeholder submissions and comments

The flip chart notes from stakeholder focus group discussions were typed up and provided to the Department of Natural Resources. Consolidated and summarized notes of the focus group discussions are included Section 4 of this Summary Report.

All the submissions, maps and comments received from the public, whether at the public open houses (on flip charts or as written questionnaire responses), or submitted by mail, by hand or online, were recorded in writing and have been provided to the Department of Natural Resources. The open house and online comments and submissions have been summarized and consolidated in Section 4 of this Summary Report.

The key themes from all the submissions and stakeholder focus groups have been drawn together and further consolidated in Section 3 of this Summary Report.

The verbatim submissions will be used by the Department of Natural Resources. They are not being published due to privacy issues.

3.0 Summary of Results

3.1 What Was Learned

In reviewing the many diverse comments and submissions and listening to discussions during the consultation process the following are some of the thoughts and ideas that stood out overall among many others with respect to the best use of the Crown land in Western Nova Scotia to ensure economic, social and environmental benefits.

Participants in the consultation process on the best use of the Crown land in Western Nova Scotia overall:

Want to be involved in managing their land

- Believe that the land is owned by Nova Scotians and they should therefore have access to it to use, enjoy and benefit from
- Were pleased to have the opportunity to give input on the planning process and want to know how their input will be used and how the planning process is progressing
- Want ongoing transparency and engagement in decision-making and the management of the resources through consultation processes, keeping the stakeholder list open to new participants
- Are willing to look at ways to co-manage the Crown lands so that it is available for all to use and would consider a fee system, perhaps administered via All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) associations, to help maintain and care for the trails

Want long term environmental, social and economic sustainability

- Want it to be managed sustainably for the long-term and want a plan developed carefully to reflect that
- Want the development and uses of the resources to benefit the local and provincial economy with well-paying, sustainable, year round jobs and business opportunities - for example limit long term licenses and control given over to large companies
- Want fairness in use of the resources so smaller operators are not disadvantaged
- Are not fully aware of the diversity of resources present in the Western Crown lands and may benefit from more education on this topic and how it can be sustainably used e.g. mineral exploration
- Want to see the land used in a way that considers what it can best produce – is it more valuable to protect ecologically, to use for agriculture, mineral exploration, forestry production or other?
- Want to see broader thinking as to usage, and innovative, new, value added products come out of the land (not just fibre for pulp)
- Want to use the land for leisure and tourism including hiking, fishing, hunting canoeing and see this access as a way to ensure some protection of the land (for example by reporting anything suspicious going on)
- See possibilities for eco-tourism in hiking, fishing, hunting, canoeing and also for ATV trail loop development

Recognize that different uses need to be balanced

- Want to see the land protected along with wildlife, plants and bio-diverse areas
- ATV users as well as conservationists want to be able to enjoy the land and in varying degrees make sure it is not damaged
- See the importance of protecting watersheds, habitats and bio-diversity in environmentally sensitive areas
- See the need to balance environmental, social and economic sustainability
- Want a balanced approach to forest management seeing the forests as eco-systems that can be the most productive when treated in this way
- Are open to looking at camp leases or the sales of some lands to generate socio economic gains where environmentally feasible
- Indicate that some points need to be better clarified to ensure wide understanding such as the term sustainability

3.2 What Was Heard

3.2.1 The Key Issues

These issues were the most prominent ones to be made across all the types of submissions received, as well as the stakeholder focus groups.

Tourism & recreation (hiking, skiing, canoeing, hunting/ fishing)

- Protect/ promote wilderness and rivers / lakes for hiking, canoeing and fishing with suitable camping facilities to attract ecotourism
- Controlled and balanced access management
- Some suggest multipurpose trails (including ATV) promoted for tourism as in Newfoundland; develop a western loop trail with facilities and services for ATV tourists

Forestry

- Forestry is seen as an important economic driver
- The majority of those promoting forestry want forestry that is sustainable economically and environmentally in the long term, avoiding clear-cutting; replanting former clear cuts; require FSC certification
- Strong support for community forest projects and small scale operations
- Emphasis on forestry that provides economic sustainability and creation of local, viable jobs and businesses
- Diversifying products (different uses of wood, value-added, not just pulp & paper, forest food products: berries, mushrooms, maple syrup)
- Fair allocation of resources and avoid giving too much control and long term licenses to very large dominant companies
- Education in sustainable forestry harvesting and management practices

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access

- There are sharply divided opinions, for and against more ATV/ vehicular access
- Suggestions that ATV clubs should have oversight/ regulation and responsibility for developing/ maintaining trails
- Suggestions that there be licensing as a way of keeping track of who is accessing areas by off highway vehicles (OHVs), and that fee structures should motivate people to join clubs and be regulated via the clubs
- Many want access to their camps and fishing holes and for hunting

Sustainability

- Province needs a plan to balance between sustainable economic development, habitat and biodiversity protection and access for recreation; use the land for what it is best suited for
- Planning for future sustainability needs a different approach from past resource utilization practices
- Emphasis is strongly placed upon using the land to maximise economic and social benefits to local areas and to Nova Scotians

Protection

- Species at risk, ecosystems, waterways and watersheds, wildlife corridors
- Balance protection and access: allow all Nova Scotians to enjoy the land
- Carefully assess socio-economic impact when designated protected areas: this can have a negative impact on smaller communities. The Department of Natural Resources needs to bring this to the attention of the Department of Environment
- Enforce regulation to protect environment and wilderness; more DNR resource for enforcement; bigger fines for companies that cause damage
- Educate users in protecting the environment

Resource extraction

- Plan for it; small scale, diverse and done as sustainably as possible – minerals, aggregate, peat

Continuing consultation/ engagement processes

- Ensure ongoing consultations and transparency with multiple departments participating with users in the management of lands
- Maintain public control of the land; no long term licenses or arrangements that give too much control to large companies
- Plan for long term, holistic sustainability; encourage varied uses; continue consultation

3.2.2 Most prominent themes from the public open houses and comments submitted via the website that relate to Questions 1 and 3.

After grouping and consolidation, the most prominent themes are presented in an order that represents the number of comments per theme, from the largest number of comments to the smallest.

Notes: a) A number of groups were well organized in getting their members out to public sessions and those numbers are reflected in some of the points. b) Comments relating to very specific geographical locations were recorded under question 2; these cannot be grouped into themes and are being reviewed individually by DNR.

Shelburne (Shelburne County)

- Food production/ agriculture – berries, maple syrup, horticultural greenhouses etc
- Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing – eco-tourism; cabins to encourage hiking & canoeing; hiking/ skiing trails
- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (in favour two thirds; against/ controlled one third) – trails; businesses accessible by trails; look at policies in Maine & New Brunswick; prevent ATV access
- Forestry – sustainable; community forestry
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability – continue consultation; adequate fines for damage caused by companies

Windsor (Hants County)

- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (all in favour). Oversight and trail maintenance by ATV clubs
- Open lands for general access
- Forestry – sustainable; community forestry; remediate former clear cuts
- Tourism and recreation (hiking, canoeing, skiing, hunting, fishing) – access to all crown land for this; protect wilderness and river areas for hiking and fishing to attract ecotourism
- Camps, leases and land sales: renew leases, make more available, allow leaseholders to buy
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability

Saulnierville (Digby County)

- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access / General access (almost all in favour; limited access - a few) – ATV access for hunting, fishing & camping; ATV tourism; access for elderly and handicapped.
- Maintain roads and bridges
- Forestry - sustainable; fair allocation of resource; level playing field for private woodlots vs those cutting on crown land; emphasize viable livelihood for all in industry, small and large; important economic driver; allow cutting for firewood.
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability– regulate and enforce regulation; let us continue to hunt and fish.
- Protected areas – (majority against) – protection prevents economic benefits.
- Tourism and recreation, walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing – hunting, fishing, ATV tourism

Yarmouth (Yarmouth County)

- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access – (majority in favour; a few want limits). Oversight and trail maintenance by ATV clubs
- Forestry – sustainable; remediate former clear cuts; important economic driver; limit long term licenses/ control for major companies; mixed stands, uneven age management
- Tourism and recreation (hiking, canoeing, skiing, hunting, fishing) – develop trail system with campsites; eco-tourism; multi-purpose trails (including ATV) promoted for tourism
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability – with a strong emphasis on protection
- Protected areas: Increase protected areas; protect some Bowater lands as a trade-off to “unprotect” some smaller traditional hunting and fishing areas
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability; continue consultation

Cornwallis (Annapolis County)

- Tourism & recreation (hiking, canoeing, skiing, hunting, fishing)
- Protected areas - protect environmentally sensitive areas; reduce access, increase wilderness
- Forestry – Sustainable; fair allocation of resource
- Vehicular & ATV access – (half in favour, half against)
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability

Berwick (Kings County)

- Forestry and diverse value-added products from woodlands - sustainable; reduce clear-cutting; educate on sustainable practices; mixed stands, uneven age management; selective harvesting; diversify forest products into value added new products and develop forest food products; important economic driver – ensure benefits go to Nova Scotians
- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability - education on this; no large licenses to major companies; fair allocation of resource; involve municipalities in consultation processes
- Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing – eco-tourism; recreation to enjoy nature; trail systems (hiking only and multi-use)
- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access – balance ATV use with protection
- Protection

West Northfield (Lunenburg County)

- Forestry – sustainable; fair allocation of resource; emphasize viable livelihood for all in industry, small and large; important economic driver; track clear-cuts by satellite; protect woodlands from trespass and illegal cutting; continue Bowater’s forest management approach
- Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing – recreational use similar to Kejimikujik, with balance between protection and access; develop eco-tourism with related businesses/ services; long distance trails

- Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability – keep public control, not major private companies; mixed use; usage and access to benefit Nova Scotians; consultation good but don't delay decisions: livelihoods are on hold
- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access – balance access and protection; controlled access with help of clubs
- Protection and enforcement - increase enforcement personnel to protect environment and wilderness

Black Point (Halifax Regional Municipality)

- Forestry – no whole tree harvesting for biomass (use waste only); community forestry; sustainable; no clear cutting; limit long term licenses or control by major companies; diversify forest products into value added new products and develop forest food products; important economic driver; a mix of protected areas, community forestry & biomass demonstration projects
- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access / General access (90% in favour; 10% against) - access to camps and property on/ adjacent to crown land; create a permit system for access; keep some areas free of motorized vehicles; prevent environmental damage
- Tourism and recreation, walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing - develop trail system; with campsites and lodging for tourists; eco-tourism; recreation & parks; educate users in protecting the environment
- Protected areas/ ecological protection – increase/ maintain/ control protected areas; control illegal dumping; protect watercourses, wetlands and habitats
- Plan for long term, holistic sustainability; encourage varied uses; continue consultation

Greenfield (Queens County)

- Forestry - Sustainable; fair allocation of resource; emphasize viable livelihood for all in industry
- Tourism and recreation (hiking, canoeing, skiing, hunting, fishing)
- Vehicular access – in favour; suggestions for balanced approach

Public comments submitted via the Website

- Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing – recreation including hiking/ canoeing/ wilderness travel/ mountain biking; ecotourism; hunting, trapping & fishing
- Forestry – community forest; sustainable; uneven age management; require FSC certification; no clear cutting; ecosystem based forestry; no monoculture planting; no biomass/ no whole tree harvesting for biomass; develop and teach sustainable harvesting techniques; shift to smaller scale forestry; limit large industrial operations; limit long term licenses to pulp mills or sawmills; develop value added products; local wood processing; small sized tender blocks that logging contractors could bid for right to harvest
- Protected areas

- Non-timber/ Agriculture/ Food Production/ value added opportunities – berries, maple syrup, mushrooms; general agriculture; develop new technology to facilitate more value add
- Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (3/4 in favour; 1/4 against or restricted access) - consider fee systems for ATV users; use ATV access to stimulate the economy
- Wind farms/ renewable energy
- Research and educational opportunities
- Resource extraction – minerals, aggregate, peat
- Sell/ lease waterfront lots for camps
- Continue consultations on a more routine basis; collaborate with municipalities

3.2.3 Most prominent themes from the four stakeholder focus groups

The comments and suggestions in the four stakeholder focus groups were the result of considered discussion among multiple stakeholders with different viewpoints. Stakeholders of varying backgrounds, sitting together, were asked to consider each question and agree, as much as possible as a table group, on what priorities to put forth. At every stakeholder meeting there was appreciation for this process and it was suggested by at least one of the discussion tables that there be ongoing exchange of information and / or consultation with the Department.

Below is a summary of the overall prominent themes. The notes of the four stakeholder discussions are included in Section 4.2 and are well worth reviewing.

The most prominent themes that came out in discussions overall were around forestry; followed by broad policy considerations such as diversification of use to generate economic benefits for communities and using the land for what it is best suited for; economic development; recreation and access including multiple users while still regulating and controlling access; protection and using local knowledge about the land. Some meetings had more representatives from some stakeholder sectors than others and this may impact what themes came out in each meeting. The themes are broken down based on each stakeholder meeting below:

Yarmouth –

- Forestry – forest management that is sustainable economically and environmentally to minimize economic turmoil and maximize improvements to the environment; uneven age management; locally managed lands e.g. community forests; develop local markets; look at other uses for land other than wood.
- Protection – ensure biodiversity
- Recreation & access – promote trapping and game management and other recreational use of land; ensure connectivity between various areas for fishery; allow access for ATV's but not to all areas

Berwick –

- Multi-users for the land with co-management – ensure there is diversity of use such as forestry and recreation on the same land and have user groups assist in the co-management of the land while clearly defining roles
- Sustainability – have small scale diverse operations for all resource extraction; make the best choice for the land based on what it best produces and ensure all harvesting is managed sustainably
- Recreation and access – a western loop trail that can provide economically for tourism while still having controlled regulated access to the trails; use existing roads as much as possible for resource harvesting
- Forestry – smaller scale operations to sustain communities
- Broad policy – ensure ongoing consultations and transparency with multiple departments participating in the management of the lands with users
- Protection – species at risk, eco-systems, wildlife corridors

West Northfield –

- Broad policy – diversity of use ensuring waterways and watersheds are protected; usage is diversified, based on eco-system management and using the land for what it is best suited for; ongoing stakeholder consultations and public education; transparency; flexibility and responsiveness of government departments involved including using consensus and developing means to resolve any disputes
- Economic development – look at uses that will create local well-paying year round jobs; high value added products that are sustainable; use research & development and innovation for resources available
- Forestry –sustainable practices that look at multiple uses and value to communities nearest to the land
- Recreation, tourism and access – encourage recreation on lands and promote via tourism; accessibility should be managed
- Protection – of the environment and of the resource that creates economic benefits for Nova Scotians

Black Point –

- Forestry & working forests – economically and environmentally sustainable to secure long term employment; diversity of uses, harvesting for high value products: timber and non-timber harvesting (e.g. agricultural products) using residuals as by-products not as reason to harvest; added value products and development of such; small scale with some industrial; use land based on its most productive and sustainable potential use; silviculture; model of working forest for education; develop and train contractors
- Recreation and access – controlled and balanced access management; promote wide recreational uses including camping, hiking, canoeing, prospecting, hunting; develop inventory of trails; promote tourism
- Protection - of environment including wildlife and endangered species should be built into any planning; protect high ecological value areas

- Broad policy – ongoing public and stakeholder engagement; look at interim plan to get people back to work as soon as possible; regular review periods for plan; consider ideal length of leases/licenses for best management of resources

3.2.4 Submissions Received

In total 379 submissions were received in the form of letters, paper questionnaires, online questionnaires, maps and reference documents. Submissions were from both stakeholders and members of the public. Key points from the submissions have been included in the analysis of this report. Some of the submissions from the public and stakeholder organizations were quite detailed, some including maps. The verbatim submissions will be used by the Department of Natural Resources. They are not being published due to privacy issues.

The Stakeholder groups from whom submissions were received are:

1. Annapolis: Municipality of the County of Annapolis
2. Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia
3. Ecology Action Centre
4. Harry Freeman & Son Ltd. – Manufacturing of Wholesale Lumber Products
5. Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute
6. Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association
7. Queens County Fish and Game Association
8. Queens County Museum/Perkins House
9. Southwest Paddlers Association
10. St. Margarets Bay Scouts
11. St. Margarets Bay Stewardship Association
12. Tobeatic Wilderness Committee
13. Town of Amherst
14. Wagner Forest NS Ltd.
15. Water Resources Working Group- St. Margarets Bay Stewardship Association
16. Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)

Reference Document Submission

1. South West Nova Scotia Temperature and Solar Radiation Study, 2011 Summary, applied Geomatics Research Group. David Colville & Wayne Reiger – applied Geomatics Research Group, Centre of Geographic Sciences, NSCC, Middleton, N.S. (with an Agricultural applications summary by John Lewis, Agra Point)

4.0 Summaries of Submissions, Comments and Stakeholder Focus Groups

In section 4 all the public and stakeholder submissions and comments have been summarized and categorized. The verbatim submissions will be used by the Department of Natural Resources. They are not being published due to privacy issues. As mentioned, some well-organized groups were better at getting members out to sessions and that is reflected in some of the numbers around points.

4.1 Public Open House Sessions

Shelburne Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 50

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Food production/ agriculture (27)

- Maple Syrup production 6
- Haskap Berry production 5
- Horticultural greenhouses 5
- Cranberries 5
- Grape production 2
- Agriculture 2
- Land based aquaculture 2

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (16)

- Eco tourism 4
- Tourism 4
- Walking trails 2
- Ski-trails 2
- Hunting & fishing 2
- Systems of cabins to encourage hiking and canoeing 2

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (15 total)

In favour (9)

- Snowmobile trails 2
- ATV trails 3
- ATV and motorized vehicle access to all crown lands 2
- Encourage businesses to be accessible by ATV trails 2

Against or policy suggestions (6)

- Keep the area as wilderness and don't make any more ATV trails 2
- Look at Maine's model for designated vehicle access 2
- Use New Brunswick as an example of ATV/vehicle access policy 2

Forestry (8)

- Sustainable forestry 3
- Community managed forest land for sustainable harvesting 3
- forestry 2

Shelburne Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Resource extraction; other (6)**

- Develop resource extraction to reduce the need for imported resources 2
- Mining is okay except for uranium 2
- Refer to climate data project currently underway in Shelburne and other counties**2

Increase home-building (4)

- Sell or leasing property to encourage building homes etc 4

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (18)

- Eco-tourism 8
- Create wheel chair accessible walking trails 2
- Tourism 2
- Guided fishing and hunting 2
- Note that trail areas should be assured at rail bed through crown lands north of Lockport and south of Barner's Meadow 2
- Stock upper Sable River with fish life to create recreational fishery 2

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (15)

- Designated trails for ATV and other vehicle use 9
- Keep roads open for ATV access 2
- Provide a legal place for ATV traffic 2
- Is ATV considered eco-tourism? 2

Food production/ agriculture (5)

- Use Climate data and soil data to plan agriculture** 3
- Blueberry production 2

Forestry and resource extraction - for and against (4)

- Sustainable small scale logging 2
- No mining or clear cutting 2

Other (4)

- Create bird sanctuary near Sable River (Sable River Lake) 2
- Harness power from rivers such as the Tom Tigney or Roseway river 2

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (22)

- Allow continued vehicle access 3
- Self monitoring of safe-considerate ATV use 3
- Counties should contribute to ATV trails 2
- ATV's should not be allowed in swamps 2
- Why can DNR use ATV in protected area but not the public? 2
- Why do ex-Bowater employees still have access through gates? 2
- Keep wilderness wilderness and prevent ATV access 3
- Consider the carbon footprint of ATVs 3

Shelburne Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

Broader Policies (10)

- Listen to what people are saying and incorporate people's ideas into final plan with flexible guidelines **2**
- Balanced and strategic development with synchronized government policies and programs **2**
- Do no harm **2**
- Do not close the public out **2**
- The province should have adequate fines for disaster/damage committed by companies **2**

Other (6)

- Use climate data for Shelburne/Queens/Yarmouth counties **2**
- Pickerel needs to be managed (almost to Lake Rossignol) **2**
- The Beaver Pond behind Sable River Village is an idea area for bird sanctuary **2**

Tourism (4)

- Tourism including geocaching **4**

**** Reference document:** South West Nova Scotia Temperature and Solar Radiation Study, 2011 Summary, applied Geomatics Research Group. David Colville & Wayne Reiger – applied Geomatics Research Group, Centre of Geographic Sciences, NSCC, Middleton, N.S. (with an Agricultural applications summary by John Lewis, Agra Point)

Windsor Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 50

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (39)

- Maintain access **10**
- Maintain and develop the trail network for OHVs. Designated trails that are already in place maintained and cared for by district clubs over seen by ATVANS **11**
- Open all roads for recreational use; will need policing of vehicles or TV monitoring for spot checks for garbage **10**
- Road access for recreation, sport & residential (lo-impact) can be identified **3**
- Accessible areas for disabled to fish, swim, travel for nature tours
- Maintain road access to the lake and cabin
- ATV access to develop more camps as economic activity
- Maintain for fire roads
- Roads must be marked as non-passable if vehicles not suited to an unused area. All roads do not need to be 100% repair as they can safely be used by Off Highway Vehicles

Forestry and resource extraction (17)

- There should be a definite presence of sustainable forestry operations in the area **5**
- Community forest projects and management cooperatives, in non-sensitive ecological areas **4**
- Allow local/small operations loggers to selectively and sustainably cut stumpage lots **2**
- Allow forestry
- Any cutting done should include re-forestation
- Replant some clear cut messes
- Stop clear cutting our forests! Create jobs! Harvest trees with a plan that is good for the long term- silviculture- replant areas that have been cut clear with nothing left
- Tender of outsource planting/PCT in Jan-Feb
- No hydraulic fracturing or uranium mining

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (15)

- Recreation: People should be able to snowmobile and bike, hike, camp, hunt and fish on all these properties all contribute to the economy **8**
- Ecotourism
- Crown leases for ecotourism
- Areas for dark skies viewing
- Projects that will lead to tourism; Limit river systems like the LaHave to re-establish Salmon + Sea trout runs **2**
- Protect old growth trees by making camping sites (Parks) to surround these areas + promote hiking; birding; and fishing etc
- Tourism of ATV use like NFLD

Access (general) (6)

- Open the lands for public access **6**

Protected areas (3)

- Conserve very substantial areas for plants, animals and amphibians, birds **2**
- Important to protect substantial corridors of forest & water; also trail (multi-use) corridors

Windsor Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Other (1)**

- Create jobs locally – do not haul raw material away

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access to specific areas (17)

- OHV access to trails. St. Margarets Bay **6**
- Access to camps and cottages fishing holes Lakes **3**
- Continue use of land for E2C Challenge (search and rescue) **2**
- Access needed to approx 10-12 cabins with leases at Five Mile Lake, Hants County **2**
- Community trail for OHV out of Halifax to the Valley **3**
- Access to Long Lake and maintain all existing trails

Other (4)

- The St. Margarets Area seems the most vulnerable, due to urban pressures. Identify as moose habitat & best forest, logging potential are totally incompatible. Go for the mooses protection, with some locally-managed community forest activity where it can be set up
- Have more protection in various areas e.g. Ponthook Lake hemlock
- New Germany: there are better soils, pastures that are not showing that are suitable for agriculture
- Lease land and open access around the headwaters of Mersey River and Medway river

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Camps, leases and land sales (32 total)

- You should consider making some lands available to lease for people to build camps for recreation **11**
- Maintain/ renew leases for the long term for camps. These folks create spin off effects and help local economy **7**
- Holders of leases on the newly acquired lands should be offered this same option in 15-20 year blocks (terms) as to be fair on camp investment **3**
- Renew leases under Bowater, and allow transfer of lease to someone else
- Are leases going to remain the same?
- Develop economy by leasing land to the public

Selling lots (7 for; 1 against)

- Selling of these lots [on former Bowater land] might also be an option as property on purchased/private lands generates hugely more tax dollars
- Are lease sites going to be for sale [with] right [of] way to cabins and roads? **2**
- Lake frontage should be subdivided in isolated areas. Have a lottery for the lots. It can only be sold to Nova Scotians. This should be done in areas with minimum impact on sensitive areas **2**
- Leases to remain and the lease to have the opportunity to buy a small parcel of land surrounding cabin (1-2 acres)
- Allow purchase of 9 acre island on which our cabin sits
- No sale of leased lands

Windsor Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

Broader Policies (4)

- For this large & very varied number of parcels take time to decide. It will need commitment to dedicated knowledgeable staff, continuing through the years with regular re-evaluations. A resource that NS is unlikely to acquire again. First priority: take time. No hurry to log, no need for standard logging at all. Precautionary principle
- This province has a golden opportunity to develop a plan for this. Please consult widely with scientists and environmentalists going forward. These consultations are a good start. Take as much time as you need to plan wisely
- Ensure balance between sustainable economic development, habitat protection and access for recreation
- This province needs a transparent, overall plan for both protection of our environment and development. I have also concern for the protection of clean water. Clear cutting leads to increased erosion around lakes and rivers

Saulnierville Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 41

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access / General access (21)***In favour (19)***

- Encourage economic benefits from ATV use **2**
- This land has been used for activities, hunting, fishing, for many, many years. It would be sad and disappointing to restrict the people of the area from this past life to a now (new) way of using the wilderness of our ancestors **2**
- Do not prohibit vehicles on established roads
- If I kill my deer off your main roads how can I get it out without use of existing trails
- Attract American ATV users to NS
- Organized ATV guided tours of Nova Scotia could bring in excess of \$1,500/week to NS motels, restaurants, tour guides, fuel sales, nightly activities, repairs, souvenirs
- Use these lands for hunting fishing recreation with ATV camping
- Keep the roads open to the land locked people so they can keep hunting, fishing and camping which we have been doing for years
- ATV runs like Poker Rallies there used to be a couple runs per year now there are none because of laws and protected lands adding crown land in Blackadar Area will not help these activities (example: Clare canoe trip on Easter weekend will no longer be done and will effect where ATVs pass by
- If you try to stop ATVs from going in the woods there are a lot of businesses that are going to lose work and more if you push too much. The young people are not going to stay they will move away.
- Maintain ATV access
- Let the thousands of people use existing roads so you can go in fishing and canoeing
- Crown land should be accessible to Nova Scotians
- The elderly and handicap should have access
- Land locked parcels need to be accommodated in some way.
- Industry and recreational use must be permitted but not to permit destruction of the land and resources
- Why let a few loggers close all the land that WE bought and the thousands of people who pay taxes not allowed on (but that is how government work) all for the rich

Against or policy suggestions (2)

- Nova Scotia's beauty should not be restricted to what you can see in a car
- ATV must have some limitations

Forestry (14)

- Stop clear cutting **2**
- How to ensure level playing field for private woodlots competing with those cutting on crown land?
- Certification of private land – how can they afford it? Who manages the big picture? Integrated plan needed to meet needs of private woodlot owners
- Logging on private land on all 3 sides on crown lot
- Use the public more to semi cut the hard wood on crown land
- I think that they should let the people buy firewood
- Stop using large companies to shelter cut wood

Saulnierville Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- Use small cutters with smaller machinery
- Give chances to the people wanting firewood by thinning out hard wood lots
- Log some land or sell some
- Forestry is an important part of the economy
- Limit Clear cutting

Infrastructure/trails (13)

- Roads going into these lots should be maintained **6**
- Bridges on these roads should be the first thing maintained **6**
- The taxes from gas and fishing licenses will help and maintaining roads will make people happy

Broader Policies (10)

- Recreational use, social well being and enjoying the use of crown land should be a given right
- Let the people do what they've done for generations
- Have some rules and regulations in place
- City people and office people should leave us alone, we want to hunt and fish
- Corporations have taken our resources and profits out of province and left Nova Scotians with little to use or enjoy
- Industry and recreational use must be permitted but not to permit destruction of the land and resources
- Enforcement of reasonable regulations
- Dept. of Natural Resources is in need of more officers to put pressure on and enforce what is currently on the books
- Corporate, private loggers, ATVs, hunters, fishermen, campers, canoers have to know that DNR is not far away. Make it work.
- Our gift to our children and grand children is at a crossroads. Land decisions have to be taken with the future in mind. We have taken from Nova Scotia land since we have landed here 400 years ago. NS government have mismanaged the resources since day one. Let's start again from this day on let's make a change for the good of all. We have an opportunity before us let us take full advantage of it
- Proper management of Crown lands so that the economy benefits

Protected Areas/Ecological Protection (7)

- Crown land should not be protected. Crown land is already protected from the people. You can't cut wood or anything on crown land. So why protect crown land
- Do not protect the land as proposed by the 12% land proposal in SW Nova Scotia
- I employ 10 people that are directly affected by restricted land use, use of outboard motors, ATVs and generators will be affected if we cannot get to the fishing area
- No protection, it is only waste of land
- Encourage protection
- You don't ask us for your money but you take it and do what you want. I have no problem in conserving some land but too much is too much
- More attention needs to be given to protect plant species and birds, animals that are endangered

Tourism and recreation, walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (6)

- Hunting, fishing, off road vehicles, logging, truck, trapping
- Let hunters and fishermen use their woods to do the sport that they enjoy
- Create a tourism opportunity by improving trails and roads for ATVs, use NFLD as an example
- The land is good for hunting and trapping wild life
- Develop inter tourist activities to stimulate stagnant evening at this time
- Consideration of traditional use

Saulnierville Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Increase home-building/Camps (2)**

- Allow private taxpayers to acquire lots on lakes and rivers (income for government). Pay taxes to municipalities. Building costs help economy
- People are buying land and trailers in Florida! Make lakefront property available here so people don't move to Florida for 6 months/ year

Value Added Products (1)

- People should understand value-added

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (7)

- Blackadar lot: Eel Lake to Wentworth Lake, camps with access through crown ATVs, fishing, hunting, canoe route, etc. Next to this lot, is an area known as "Les Petite Cabane" or "the small cabins" in the Clare area. For generations, this whole area was used for recreation such as hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling, ATViing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing etc. not only by the owners of these cabins, but by the general public of Clare. Not only is the main road used constantly, but also the small existing logging roads and trails
- For generations, this area has been used year around. Some of the older gentlemen in the area there is no way for them to get to their historical hunting, fishing and trapping locations other than by ATVs. In my recollection, there have never been any problems caused by any of these people. Some have even fixed roads with no assistance. This is a prime recreation area which now is accessible to all ages. A shame to stop this historic recreation. The road should also be maintained, not just for these reasons, but for firefighting access
- Blackadar lot; Trapping and hunting area. Drive through to hunt @ back of lot. Access to private land, logging in area road used for timber removal
- Access Road to Blackadar Block of lands
- Allow vehicles on existing road if becomes wilderness area in Medway
- If we are not harming the land, why are we going to be forbidden to use existing roads that have been used by the people for hundreds of years? I have a piece of land on Germain Lake (Blackadar) that has no access except across crown land
- Let the people use the roads for travelling with ATVs or other vehicles. We are mostly taking off the Blackadar lot

Protection (6)

- The Blackadar land and the Porcupine Lake and Wentworth Lake properties have been productive forestry land in this community for 200 years. This land should not be taken out of the economic equation. These lands should be divided up into 100 acre lots and auctioned off to the public so they remain productive and allow more families to remain in the area and create jobs and wealth for the community
- Blackadar Block should not be protected. Lots of people use it for recreation –camping fishing hunting – access to land beyond. What is in there to protect? What's special?
- Blackadar lot: Private lands bordering Big Pine Lake and Beaver Lake need access via crown land roads already in existence and maintained by government. Will there roads continue to be maintained by government?
- Will existing ATV trails be impacted by the proposed wilderness areas? Blackadar area has many camps, ATV trails and etc
- Land under negotiation (wilderness area/nature reserve). Will the designation limit access for wilderness camping, canoers?
- How do you plan to protect the area and do I need a permit to cross the crown land

Saulnierville Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (3)**

- Tourism: Nouvelle-France (Electric City)
- Develop New France as tourist area at original site
- Blackadar is located a prime recreational area

Forestry and resource extraction - for and against (3)

- Concern with no markets for wood. Since Oakhill closed. May get worse if crown allows companies to cut on crown land
- Forestry: Comeau Lumber Mill closed
- Make the sawmill in Metegan operable, make some work for the young people to stay here

Infrastructure (1)

- Blackadar has infrastructure on it such as roads bridges, private camps. If that land is protected all those things we have been using, maintaining and our entire lives will be lost

Food production/ agriculture (1)

- Poor quality soils are used in France to grow great quality wine. Why not use some of the land for vineyards?

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (1)

- Why not stop logging and let people access it?

Protection (1)

- Why does the land need to be protected?

Other (1)

- Printed material for those of us who don't use computers

Yarmouth Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 40

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (18 total)***In favour (15)***

- If access is completely denied, consider permits for ATV clubs on existing trails. Differentiate permit costs if non ATV club make it more expensive (e.g. \$100 permit or \$20 if joining a club). All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS). Self policing **6**
- Permits for vehicles and ATVs (1 year) through club or DNR so know who is in there. **5**
- Complete access except for sensitive areas
- Limited access doesn't work
- Some maintenance needed
- Last generation who wants to go in woods

Against or policy suggestions (3)

- Limit ATV use and stop littering and garbage dumps **2**
- Keep closed when roads soft

Access (general) (4)

- Let all people use the land for work and play not all protected **2**
- Maintain access for hunting and fishing
- Maintain liberal access to the resources

Forestry (17)

- Use sustainable harvesting; replant & repair damage. No clear cutting; use selective cutting **6**
- No long term licenses on crown lands as was done with Bowater and Scott Paper etc **3**
- Introduce community forest projects on a local scale. Do not allow major industry to gain control
- Do not allow cutting to support biomass
- Facilitate commercial forestry and local sustainable use of the land
- Maintain productive land for forestry **3**
- Merchantable cropping: Silviculture (no scotch pine)
- Consider issuing leases to individuals to cut fire wood as done in past

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (15)

- Recreation, tourism **2**
- Develop backpacking/ hiking trail system along with appropriate camping opportunities –it will attract tourists **5**
- Backpacking, canoe routes, maintain primitive campsites, guided fishing canoe trips **2**
- Give courses in survival training (map, compasses training)
- Not so much “protected” and more useable multipurpose trails (including ATVs) for tourism and business building. Good trails would help reduce biking on private lands **3**
- ATV tours (environmentally friendly)
- Develop ATV trail system using the “ferry” for U.S. tourists to NS e.g. Newfoundland - way to trails to accommodations etc

Yarmouth Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Protected areas (8)**

- See about trading some 555,000 acres of Bowater lands for the proposed protected areas for others that are not traditional fishing and hunting i.e. the smaller areas
- Make up part of 12% from Bowater lands rather than the smaller areas
- If do protected, access via existing trails and offshoots from main access trail **2**
- Reserve 12% of all of the original Bowater lands for Protected areas
- The 30,000 acres planned for protection is a good start but should protect more
- There needs to be more enforcement of the protected areas. Stop destruction of environment and littering **2**

Resource extraction; other (2)

- No fracking, waste or other (do not destroy land)
- Keep land productive; don't let the land lay dormant

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access - for and against (8)

- Hike through Indian Falls through to Keji. Don't think there should be ATV access
- North Kempt up through Sissiboo Falls – Maintain access for ATV
- Roads left open for part of year to key access roads for camping and canoeing e.g. up to Tobeatic Lake (through W. Brook)
- Continue to use existing trails in areas to be protected (Silver River area)
- Shubenacadie Lake access must remain available for private land owner use.
- Maintain access by car between Lewis Lake and Little Round Lake Yarmouth county
- Access to North Carrying Lake area by ATV or power boat for hunting
- Present roads should be left open to ATVs; current camp owners should have access to their camps without applying for a permit

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (2)

- More hiking trails across the central part of the province
- More hiking trails and more camping opportunities in Tobeatic and other protected areas

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Protection and balanced sustainable development (7)

- Aim to protect underrepresented ecosystems and under protected species at risk
- Systematic areas connected for environmental values of usefully acquired lands
- Keep lands much like they are now
- Keep it as pristine as possible
- Give priority to balance of protection and local sustainable management of resources
- No licenses to expand industrial entities or no sales of crown land
- A condition of all leases/licenses should be the sustainable use of the resources

Consultation processes (5)

- Continue to have a transparent consultation process for ongoing input into the use and maintenance of these crown lands and protected areas. Local consultations essential to avoid mistakes **3**
- Thanks for caring; hope the consultations give you helpful inputs **2**

Cornwallis Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 60

*Includes comments from Paper Questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals making identical comments

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (27)

- Ecotourism 11
- Protect waterways for pristine wilderness fishing and paddling experiences 3
- Non-motorized recreation 2
- Tourism (Milford House) 4
- Parks and Recreation 2
- Hunting, fishing, trapping, outdoors activities: leave access for this 2
- Allow access to areas for historical use of fishing, trapping etc
- Protect lands by policing; keep land for wildlife habitat for hunting, bear-baiting, bear hunts as a business
- Continue to maintain trails and canoe routes that were operated by Bowater/ Annapolis County partnership

Forestry (20)

- Community forests, small scale forestry (using sustainable practices; FSC certified or better). But ensure that community effort can be sustained 9
- Forestry resources should not be under the control of the mills or lumber industry, who would create a monopoly
- No logging
- Cutting wood, let the people use the land
- Operate Sustainable Forest by cutting, silviculture, road building; hire local people to do so and process products locally; create jobs by not spraying hard wood suckers: use men with clearing saws, better for everyone. Use small and big operations
- Keep the 5-6 mills in the region operating
- Forestry practices should at least be FSC certified or better would be NAGVAI standards
- Prevent whole tree harvesting and the break in the nutrient cycle
- Manage harvesting of wood properly
- Forget about large scale biomass
- Fairness in wood allocation. All mills/ companies should have opportunity for crown licence for forestry
- Fair market prices: e.g. stumpage for crown land should be the same as for private woodlot owners

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (11 total)***In favour (6)***

- The Medway district is big enough to allow careful trail planning for ATV's
- Use funds raised (stumpage) to keep access to some roads, not just until wood is gone
- As a hunting guide if I don't have vehicle access in these new proposed wilderness areas I will be put out of business and if I am not allowed to put bear baits in these areas I will be out of business
- Leave land open for ATV's to travel so people can fish, hunt and canoe 3
- In order to use wilderness area resources vehicle access needs to be allowed

Against or policy suggestions (5)

- Restrict access of motorized vehicles
- Remove bridges and old Bowater roads
- Decommission some Bowater roads to reduce habitat fragmentation
- Protected means protected - No ATV's
- Keep the gates closed: unlimited ATV access could ruin land and roads

Cornwallis Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Balance environmental, social and economic sustainability (6)**

- Environment and Economy are linked; social benefit comes from sustainable economy 2
- Development that includes all externalized costs (=public subsidy) in its cost-benefit analysis
- Well considered development in response to informed public choice
- Maximize protection of the environment while allowing for sustainable, responsible industry
- Maximize economic/social utility of land in each area

Resource extraction(1)

- Only allow mineral extraction that has minimal impact on ecosystems and watersheds, and no open pit mining

Consolidate parcels of land and sell peripheral pieces (4)

- Maintain core Bowater lands and sell small isolated periphery lands to public 2
- The province should plan its land mass to consolidate the land into more usable parcels; selling or trading bits that are outside the main blocks to create economic opportunities in the private sector and make land management for DNR more cost effective (survey, boundaries)
- Sell off border areas of land on public roads ie. 400 ft for housing development

Other (6)

- Think outside the box
- Value added products
- Take advantage of Acadian forest mix for employment and industry
- Other resources should be looked into such as: Wild mushroom market, Maple syrup markets, Medical markets – from plants in the woods
- Improve youth employment rates
- Keep out the large companies and businesses

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Note: Comments without specific local geographic references were included under Question 1 above. Broad policy suggestions were included under Question 3 below.

- Limit access to non-consumptive use in certain waterways (Mersey, Milford lakes, Crocket Lakes)
- Community forestry around Medway district. Responsible, sustainable forestry, have a board with interested stakeholders committed to the land. Use areas for different purposes (forestry, tourism, protect species at risk). Will help with wildlife corridors across Tobeatic Wilderness Areas, Medway Wilderness Areas, McGill Lake Wilderness Area, and Cloud Lake Wilderness Area
- Extend the proposed Nictaux River parcel to the highway by using crown land around there. This will provide easy access to the new proposed wilderness area
- Maintain access to camp on Lake Mulgrave via former Bowater road that passes between Northeast Lakes
- Tourism opportunities related to Milford House are included in Question 1 responses
- Protection for SAR noted under Question 3 include references made by a number of people to areas around Gana, Thomas, Heier, Boot, Hang, Fisher and Thomas Lakes

Cornwallis Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**QUESTION 3**

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Protected areas (20)

- Protected areas **15**
 - Including major headwaters, waterways, wildlife corridors + connectivity, natural landscapes and areas, old forest, unique ecozones, species at risk (SAR) including Blandings Turtle, dragonflies, rare plants in/ around Gana, Thomas, Heier, Boot, Hang, Fisher and Thomas Lakes
- Take this opportunity to exceed 12% target for protected lands
- Protect the forest from the Nova Scotians
- Close access to old growth on good all weather roads
- Protect areas included in Parks planning process
- Railroad is not proper, look at Ontario, New Brunswick. Have wilderness areas

Education and knowledge creation to create economic advantage (5)

- All lands should be used to educate Nova Scotians in some way **2**
- Create more links between economic and scholastic communities. Create integrated relationships that create knowledge spill over unique to our economy creating competitive advantage
- Link university programs matched with alternative energy policies and technology
- Try to push educational uses of land, if its protected have it available for study, if it's not target growth industries and companies willing to share educational responsibilities with government and scholastic branches

General access (5)

- Make sure all Nova Scotians have access for all kinds of activities. Lands can be protected with guidelines to allow everyone to use them. Such as restricting motorized access only partially (spring fire hazard)
- Crown land should have existing access maintained as much as possible without conflicting with designated uses **2**
- If protected areas proceed then allow access through the existing roads **2**

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (2)

- Remove roads from wilderness areas
- Need a permit system for ATV use

Environment and sustainable forest management (3)

- Incorporate the CFS criteria & indicators for sustainable forest management
- Increase old growth forest % in the province; Increase forest natural age class
- Beware of the degrading environmental benchmark

Other (4)

- Assess if NS Gov is able to capitalize on each opportunity on its own. If not then an investor should be found. E.g. Wind turbines
- Allow free use of crown land for marketing of small business along highways
- DOE & DNR connect and communicate more
- Focus on integration all stakeholders into decisions. Not necessarily meaning ask permission on every choice, but always communicating so none of your relationships erode

Berwick Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 49

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Forestry (23)

- Encourage community forestry 2
- Identify valuable non-timber forest products (NTFP) including but not limited to ground hemlock, medical mushrooms, fiddleheads, tamoxifen etc. and explore potential natural cultivation of NTFPs 2
- If harvesting for bio-fuel ensure bark is left on site to maintain nutrient level in soil
- Establish provincial reputation for sustainable harvested lumber/flooring
- Ensure education on use sustainable forestry practices
- The work that was done with the individual woodlot owners in the 1980-90s was well done (good co-operation, best practices, well taught also in schools. This should be considered for all lands
- Silviculture treatments to all stands un-evenly managed
- Cap clear cut maximums or reduce minimums
- Restore Forests to a healthy state, mixed stands, uneven age management
- Selective harvesting
- Forest industry
- Silviculture, low-impact harvesting, more studies for selection/selective harvesting
- Eliminating the clear cut approach to harvesting
- Sustainable small forestry practice
- Promote Hardwood forestry
- Promote the wood-pellet industry
- Selective forestry management
- Allow private to lease small lands for personal firewood harvesting
- Some Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) are more valuable than the trees they grow on. Some grow on dead wood. it is hard and enjoyable work that can be seasonal or all year. It can also supplement employment. Education on sustainable practices would be required, although cultivation in canopied stands is a viable option with our hard woods and climate
- Do not use these lands for Biomass energy production
- Phase out clear cutting below 50% regulation as set now
- Allow clear cutting to eliminate the softwood stands that have been planted and use silviculture to bring back the mixed Acadian forest as much as possible
- Do not allow whole tree harvesting at all as this will only impoverish the forest further

Broad Policy (20)

- The areas can be responsibly managed as to their resources through local companies. A local company tends to look after their own back yard
- Engage the community in a transparent and formal basis. Based on principals of endowment that can provide a large number of benefits on an ongoing basis
- Create employment opportunities
- Continue to create multilayered, diverse plan
- Do not sell or license sections to large companies as we will be back to boom and bust
- Keep big picture in mind
- This is a resource to be kept for generations to benefit all Nova Scotians
- Jobs in forestry and tourism
- I think the question is premature. Let the communities determine the use and future with one overriding condition: sustainability

Berwick Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- Most of this land should be managed for economic benefit
- Good practices will make good roads and landscapes that are productive and resourceful with both education, economics and recreations. Would do this through the most productive scenic area
- Healthy forestry practices
- Consider these lands as more than trees + minerals
- Asking for public input is great
- Concerned that if licensed to multi-nationals land will be poorly managed
- Create system of smaller scale tenders to qualified individuals or companies in the province to benefit the province and taxpayers. This would increase revenue and create equal opportunities
- I think the municipal units can play a key role as the now do community consultation and outreach on many issues. Municipal units that have a small amount of crown land should be included in a co-operative model with units where crown land is in ample supply. NS students that are currently enrolled in forestry programs should be invited electronically to participate in developing this model of community forest as their combined input, education, will likely be necessary to help develop new models that avoid past mistakes. Municipal units should be actively courted for active participation in the process as potential success will augment their tax base
- Keep education in schools on the importance of commercial and recreational co-operation for the good of the province
- More public education on this topic
- Healthy environment creates many benefits

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (17)

- Wilderness lodge/camps for hunting and fishing 2
- Eco-tourism 2
- Have a multi-use trail network e.g. NFLD, Quebec, across Nova Scotia with Western loop – Halifax – Yarmouth return to growing economy 2
- Guiding
- More safe walking trails that link neighbouring communities and trails for: snowshoeing, cross country skiing, family activities, cycling, ATVs 2
- Regulated hunting and fishing
- Recreation
- Wooded areas for hiking and biking
- Wilderness camps for seniors
- Encourage physical activity for people of all ages (link with health care costs)
- Trail systems
- Encourage use of lands for hunting, fishing, recreation and enjoy the economic spinoffs.
- Hiking and canoeing in non-sensitive areas 2
- Promote biking, nature walks, bird watching, wildflowers, animals) skiing, snowshoeing. Wilderness camping, dark sky tours. tour companies

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (10)***In favour (7)***

- Establish ATV trails and snowmobile trails and charge a fee for use
- Regulate access to roadways to minimize spring damage
- Do not block ATV access
- NS could be an ATV destination
- Balance ATV use with Protection
- ATV trails create economic benefits for businesses
- Access with ATVs allows for forest management and prevention of forest fires

Berwick Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Against or policy suggestions (3)**

- I don't see any snowmobile trails for tourism
- Be prudent about increased road development
- Do not allow much of this land to open to ATV/Skidoos these motorized vehicles damage the environment terribly. There are already lots of areas available for access

Protection (9)

- Preserve some of the land for diversity and educate, ensuring a way around and it is marked
- Create more Parks
- Do not go to past in closing things with the land
- Protect areas of significance/ sensitive areas
- Preserve waterway ecosystems
- Protect the environment is the first priority
- All lakes adjacent crown land in western region should be restricted to non-motorized boats
- Preserve enough land to enable wild animal corridors
- Preserve enough land to preserve plant/animal/fish species native to the area

Food production/ agriculture/Other production (6)

- If possible promote wild mushroom harvesting
- Promote other berry type production
- Develop agriculture/farming
- Fur farms
- On-land fish farms
- Vineyards

Value Added Products (8)

- Encourage Value added products
- Bio-fuel
- Sawmilling
- Wildflowers
- Mushroom harvesting
- Finished wood products (flooring)
- Partner with private sector to develop some form of value added industry which requires primary forest products to create employment 12/ year
- Promote value added industry

Resource extraction/ other (4)

- Very opposed to oil and gas extraction in the targeted area beyond Wolfville upwards of three miles plains
- Discourage mining and mineral extraction such as gold mining
- Fracking is not safe
- Promote mining for rare minerals in areas of little population

Energy (2)

- Explore wind turbine sites
- Develop wind energy in areas where there is little population

Increase home-building/ Development (1)

- Allow some lakes to be developed for cottages

Forestry (1)

- Keep the land as working forest to keep forest industry operating

Berwick Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**QUESTION 2**

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (2)

- Provide bus tour for a fee (not too expensive) to Cape Split for guided walk and other scenic or historic sites
- Access to parks for people without cars and who can't cycle, or not far. – say, a few bus tours to places like Cape Split, Kejimikujik, and historic places; bus would connect to Kings Transit or pick people where they live

Protection (2)

- Would be nice to have access by way of the roads through the Pockwock watershed area during the winter months
- Completely preserve the lake Rossignol watershed area for the public use. Canoeing, camping, hiking NON-motorized recreation. It is so close to Keji that they should be connected

Energy (1)

- Consider solar industry in areas that are sunny with rocks (south east shore)

Forestry (1)

- Most NTFPs are available in forests over 25-30 years. Silviculture can still take place while sustainable harvesting of NTFPs are harvested. Most viable in Annapolis west

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Other/ Comments on Process (3)

- Benefits to Nova Scotia
- Permitting: Will permitting be required for hunting fishing access similar to permitting that was required by Bowater
- People plan trips to NFLD and NB for ATV vacations

West Northfield Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 115

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Forestry (23)

- Sell logs to small sawmills 2
- Working forests 2
- Community Forestry 2
- Don't export logs out of NS
- Put logs up for tender
- Please describe the reporting system followed by forestry companies or contractors cutting on crown land.
- Selectively cut: 45 acres 6 men worked all winter
- Manage the forest; allow cutting do it in a way that is beneficial to the forest. Mature timber should be cut
- Work with local woodlot owners
- Strictly limit biomass
- Sustainable forestry
- Non-timber forest products
- The woodland can be managed to cut the right amount annually
- Non-timber forest products
- Recreation and traditional forest products
- Mixed, uneven age forest should predominate
- Maintain high forestry standards
- Sustainable wood product development instead of "fibre-mining". Ban biomass energy production except as genuine by product of other wood product production
- Maintain forest management program/ that was established by Bowater
- The resources must not be a monopoly for certain large mill owners in the area. This could be managed between DNR/Dept. of Environment and local mill owners and wood cutting contractors

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (16)

- Community access to fishing, hunting, hiking, cycling, OHVs to allow a full diversity of residents to enjoy the lands, regardless of physical state or ability. Will ensure community + resident ownership
- Recreation – fishing, hiking, hunting and ATVs: with these activities of course there are issues such as keeping groups apart, safety, road maintenance, garbage collection
- Make it accessible to everyone for recreation 1
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Give general public access and permits to hunt and fish on these lands
- Focus on tourism and recreation
- Maintain access for hunting and fishing but also protect wilderness areas
- Eco-tourism potential needs a lot of development –resources such as outfitters, campgrounds and B+B's need help in accessing wilderness/park areas. Development of rails trails (for example) is haphazard and un-coordinated. Long range hiking trails (no vehicles) would be a big draw- eg Appellation trail system
- Recreational use including public access
- Eco-tourism
- Children's' experiential education programs
- Hunting, fishing, hiking and camping many of the same activities as at Keji Park

West Northfield Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- Government regulated camp grounds should also be considered. This could improve our tourism income as a province
- Multi use recreational properties require close control and monitoring by DNR or some equally responsible department as motorized ATV and dirt bike traffic can be very hazardous to walkers and cyclists
- Perhaps selected areas could be set aside for recreational such as when there is no active woods work in process OR perhaps set aside groups of days in each season for recreational use. Let us share the land

Broad Policy (14)

- Mixed use 4
- Comparative benefit from per/acre usage of lands for various purposes in the economic model for forestry high productivity – doesn't consider who's not working because company uses equipment to do work of many people. A large amount of the money for larger equipment goes to companies making equipment not Nova Scotians
- Provide Satellite imagery and interpretation
- Keep this as crown land and do not allow it to come under control of private industry ever again
- This is public land owned by us and purchased with our own tax monies
- Firstly we should go back in time to the first European settlers arrive these were vast forests in NS. So what was done was dole out land to these settlers which worked very well for these settlers. Just as feudalism was in a state of turmoil in Europe. These settlers cleared the land and farmed the land for generations. Now we are in a state of turmoil again. Who is the owner and tend these vast lands must be for the good of all. Nothing less will be satisfactory
- Use local experts BUT make decisions quickly
- It must be available for the use of all tax payers as a multi-use area. No simple group or interest should be catered to
- Respect the diverse needs of the human and natural communities of the area. Avoid large industrial
- Rural people here are very protective and will not necessarily be vocal unless provoked. I think this open format session is a good way to warm people up to the idea that there are going to be changes made. The land should certainly be reserved for hunters, fishers and other recreational users, but we need jobs, too. Pulp-powered plants, value added construction
- Former crown land has existed for many years to be accessed and used by all citizens. Right way to go planning the use of newly acquired Resolute lands, BUT leave existing crown land be as it is

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (10)***In favour (9)***

- Access to private land on Timber lake by water and by land (through possible wilderness area)
- ATVs should not have access to wilderness areas, nature reserves, lake borders, parks
- We need to work together to develop planned trail system need cooperation of OHV's
- ATV routes and permits – ATV clubs. Access funds for trails
- Open the gates on roads to give access to hunters, fishers ATVs, hikers
- Give permits to ATV groups to run controlled groups on these crown lands
- Off road vehicles and highway vehicle access
- Keep the land for future generations by giving controlled access
- I would like to see a plan for recreational fishing in place with controlled vehicle access or if necessary allow ATVs to use roads after the first is out in the spring

Against or policy suggestions(1)

- I know it's not a popular position, but I would like to see some limits on ATV access

West Northfield Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Enforcement/ Staffing (5)**

- You can best use the property by ensuring that sufficient enforcement is in place to make sure that whatever land choices able to be managed. P.S. Not just enforcement, DNR needs more staff please.
- Land management and enforcement staff need to be increased proportionally
- DNR is understaffed
- The areas will need to be patrolled for fire watching etc. anyway
- Do not create too many jobs to manage the forests. Government management jobs

Energy (4)

- Wind generation – on a community level **3**
- Pulp fired generators for electricity – provide work and uses the pulpwood. Also should use private woodlands for this. Not just big plants but smaller plants for generations

Protection (3)

- Protection
- Routine enforcement patrols included
- Protect the land from destruction and damage by vehicles, especially ORV's

Increase home-building/ Development (3)

- Property development and economic development – planned community
- RFP for guided development of selected areas of crown Lake front communities that respect nature and create jobs. The province makes the development rules
- GIS map of crown leases and who has the leases for what areas of the province

Value Added Products (2)

- Value added products
- Resources should be harvested by and as much as feasibly possible processed to value added products by Nova Scotia companies or private individuals

Food production/ agriculture (1)

- Blueberry, cranberry, maple syrup, Christmas trees

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (4)

- Access to private land on Timber lake by water and by land (through possible wilderness area)
- Gate in West Dalhousie gate open for fishing
- Right hand side road off highway 8 – no gate – want ATV access in there for (trapping)
- Lands behind Hubbards-East River and St. Margarets Bay. Allow ATV traffic on roads only and use trail fees paid by permits every year to grade the roads also have interested parties such as ATVANS and anglers and hunters to be on the Board to make these decisions on these tax payers lands

Protection (4)

- Area 128 – Old Annapolis Road should be a wilderness area instead of a nature reserve so that people can still use etc
- Area 133 Nature Reserve, Why is this happening? No consultation or notice to adjoining private land owners. This area has been protected by hunter and fisherman for past 50 years or more. Still has not received any impact. Where is the information justifying the classification?
- Sensitive environmental areas such as the Rossignol District should be kept gated on both ends for a number of reasons (a. Keji Park and Tobeatic are here and need to be protected b. Moose population in area [biggest on mainland] c. Shelburne river heritage area

West Northfield Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- Keep sensitive areas gated and save some of Nova Scotia's wilderness

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (2)

- Since we all will be paying for the recently acquired Resolute lands, we all must have benefits accrue to us; ie recreational use
- Not familiar with acquired Resolute lands, use of existing crown land as is now, works well for all people using then move

Other (2)

- There is a steel Russel boat going down the East Branch in Medway. (near Medway Lake)
- Suggestion for communication: Some people do not understand the way there was exchanged between the Oak Hill sawmill and other sawmills and woodlot owners. It would be helpful if they did

Forestry (1)

- Lunenburg- Get controlled and managed responsibly. It would be folly to return it to what it was when Bowater owned these lands

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Other/ Comments on Process (19)

- Will DNR be enforcing the ban of OHVs on former Bowater lands while consultation process ongoing?
- Boom Boat, museum piece
- I put my dot there because I think it is important to me. Because that is where all my water comes from in my community, and it's where I live in Nova Scotia or Canada and the world
- Price of power is really an issue Muskrat falls may help hold the line
- In mean time leave things as they were under Bowater
- There is a need for people to know the forest will be sustained for future use. This includes the wood as well will preserve other stands. There could be a column in the local paper and it could include a web address for people to respond
- Each of us have our own concerns. I would hope we could see a share agreement. The forestry needs their piece of the pie and so do people with recreational interests. Consideration must be given to us all
- How do we find a full list of companies or contractors who have been issued licenses/ permits and their annual quotas?
- I was most disappointed by this "presentation". I expected to hear from those from Natural Resources where we are and what the possibilities are. An opportunity missed
- Keep consulting
- Make sure the realistic at large (area communities and other Nova Scotians) are informed and engaged throughout the process
- Don't take too long to implement this. People are sick of waiting, no, even more so, they cannot wait any longer for new forestry jobs. There is opportunity here. The Medway forest co-operative is the model you have been looking for- just use it
- No Special interest groups or individuals are to have preferred access to these lands
- All citizens must be treated as equally as possible
- Input public "wants"
- Economic gains are not always the top consideration
- Keep the forest "working"
- Advocate sustainable use
- Thanks for the opportunity to have input

West Northfield Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Forestry (11)**

- Forestry is one of the few resource based industries left. We need to make decisions quickly because people can hold on for long waiting for decisions. This isn't just a problem in West- problem in all of Atlantic Canada
- What government department issues permit to cut timber on crown land and how are the cutting quotas determined?
- GIS: Who is mapping the clear cuts or the amount of wood in the forest? Map the clear cuts. What % of what age level? Make information available online
- Bowater lands well managed for forestry
- Would like to see more Acadian mixed and move age classes
- Capability for updating clear cut status using satellite imagery – very important and good value.
- Need legislation to protect private wood land owners + woodlands in general from illegal cuts and trespass
- For example a fine as a deterrent (high amount) not just pay the land owner triple or double stumpage
- What are the consequences for forestry companies or contractors exceeding their annual cutting quota?
- How often are the quotas for each company or contractor reviewed?
- The stumpage fee doesn't return the woods to the landowners

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (5)

- Do signs mean we are breaking the law? Can gates be closed without signs?
- In most cases I believe people would expect to be responsible + share in expenses for road maintenance. Perhaps more responsibility can be established through membership in clubs or other association
- Enforcement of ban on ATVs on trails and roads traditionally used (within Bowater) will ruin goodwill of OHV owners and operators to work with DNR into the future
- I don't think the gates should be taken off, because as a kid I bicycled and boated and camped in these wilderness areas and if the gates come off, it will take this true natural wilderness away. Instead of hearing just birds sing, you will hear the sounds of ATV and vehicles. I want my kids to be able to bike, canoe, camp and fish in true wilderness like I did. Thank you; please don't take the gates off, and save this wilderness for our kids to enjoy
- Keys for gate right –of-way to private lot

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 215

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Forestry (145)

- No whole tree harvesting for biomass **25**
- Establish community forests for local economic benefit and environmental benefit **17**
- Do not let forestry giants such as northern pulp ruin our land **13**
- End clear cutting by any name **13**
- Food forests **13**
- All licenses should be FSC certified **6**
- No long term licenses/leases **6**
- Enforce meaningful forestry reform re-clear cutting **6**
- A mix of protected areas and community forests. Do not hand licenses over to large forests companies let local communities manage land for mixed values, and encourage diversification in the timber market away from pulp **5**
- Sustainable forestry **5**
- Community forests for 100% of working forests with diversified economic activity eg. (matsutake mushroom harvest, maple syrup, blueberries, other non-traditional forest products, soft wood lumber, trim, etc) **5**
- Encourage forestry **4**
- Multi-user forests **3**
- Some of the land needs to go back for forestry operations **2**
- Public Firewood lots **2**
- Biomass from waste only **3**
- Some of the land should be used for Biomass demonstration (different species, densities, treatments, etc.)
- Community based forestry for all of the St. Margarets area – and for all these lands
- No more pulp and paper forests
- Through the use of co-ops, owned by the province/sustainable practice softwood market for compressed wood fibre blocks. Hardwood for fuel as well as develop lumber
- Woodland to be used by Nova Scotia companies to make NS products. No foreign control. No wood products shipped out to be processed
- We need to focus on Acadian forest attributes according to FEC classification
- The focus on old growth is pushing young stands towards old growth condition to obtain higher value products and increases provincial aesthetic appeal
- Less large machinery
- We can continue with forestry; but we need new management ideas eg certain areas for industrial forestry
- Ensure that inherent value of forest increases year-to-year
- Some of the lands (5-10%, minimum) should be used for biomass demonstration/production.
- Suggest: different for species (eg poplar, willow, miscanthus) various treatments (zero, fertilizer, biosolids) various spacings etc
- Follow the GPI forest accounts – manage it for ecosystem values which might mean learning a lot of it alone
- Let the land be used by approved forestry companies to harvest proper growth trees.
- Multi-aged forestry
- Selective cutting

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access / General access (100)*****In favour (89)***

- People with camps need access by motor vehicle **22**
- Permit system for ATV users to gain access to lands **15**
- Make access decisions quickly **14**
- Provide Keys or make available to camp owners **10**
- The land should be open to the public **5**
- Off road vehicles should have a free permit to access crown land. Property owners adjacent to crown lands require access to their property which should be granted using off roads vehicles. Permits should be free with vehicle permits at a cost of \$50 per off road vehicle **4**
- Controlled access during spring and fire season **3**
- Open access for motorcycles **3**
- Permit system for using roads and all uses **2**
- Why a permit? **2**
- All crown lands should be open to OHVs **2**
- My father in law may have only one more year of fishing. Don't diddle dally around open gates once frost is out
- Government only needs to be involved in land access
- Existing ATV trails/roads should remain open
- When land is not in use in winter time have it so ATVs can use
- The \$40 OHV fund should be a permit available to all. Therefore permit would/ could act as accessibility to all crown land and trails
- Reduction of outboards on small lakes. Electrical motors or canoes on small lakes (only) Fly fishing only on specific lakes along with catch and release policies – to improve lake quality and fish quality – returned to catch again
- Do not close down areas that have been used for generations by responsible people – for me 40 + years

Against or policy suggestions (10)

- Off road vehicles should not be permitted and where they cause lots of destruction: plants and wildlife **4**
- ATVs should not have access to all lands **3**
- Access inland by foot/canoe but not motor vehicles
- Off road vehicles never should be allowed in wetlands or along the banks of waterways. Minimal roads
- Please leave some portion of each area open to people without a machine or motor
- Keep the gates closed

Tourism and recreation, walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (51)

- Provide access to former Bowater lands for the fishing season (in May and June after roads dry out) **15**
- Encourage recreation uses **14**
- Encourage eco- tourism **7**
- Encourage tourism **7**
- Support fishing and hunting **5**
- Outfitters
- Promote development of non-profit groups to develop and manage trail systems that include food + lodging in strategic locations so that tourists can experience a trek-type tour that includes wilderness and communities heritage etc. look to the European type hut-to-hut experience, Maine Huts + trails are doing it, Quebec also
- Use some lake property for recreation and parks

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Protected Areas/Ecological Protection (44)**

- Post “leave no trace signs” **8**
- Some of land should be protected as proposed in 15.7% plan **7**
- Create a waste removal and prevention policy. Prevent illegal dumping **7**
- Support environmental protection **6**
- Camp owners and ATV users remove garbage left by litterers **3**
- Protect watercourses and water supply basins **2**
- Maintain Wetlands **2**
- Protected areas need to be controlled. We need to slow the shrinking of the working forest – industry will soon be impacted by wood supply issues **2**
- Keep the land pristine **2**
- No permanent development **2**
- Concerned about dumping possibility high video tower at entrances to prevent dumping **2**
- Illegal dumping connected to fees for dumping at the land fill
- Keep Bowater gates in place to restrict access to interior forest/ lakes/ rivers. Protect wildlife habitat/ fish habitat
- Create parks
- The use of “vision” or herbicides should be banned, there is enough pollution
- Protect old growth stands – and target areas well on their way towards recovery
- Protect river banks by 300m with no cutting allowed

Value Added Products (20)

- Think value added: (Tone wood, furniture, veneer, saw logs = ☺) (Biomass = ☹) **7**
- Focus on value added products **5**
- Encourage innovative small pilot businesses to find profitable high-value use of woodlands **4**
- Huge potential for maple syrup production – an export product **3**
- High end forest products

Broader Policies (15)

- Allow and encourage continuous public engagement to ensure transparency and accountability **4**
- A variety of uses is a great idea, Wilderness Areas, OHVs, etc
- Economic energy (cost and availability), and environmental conditions are now in such a state of accelerating change that the conditions of today are not what our near future will experience. So we should not plan for tomorrow like today. Clear cut pulp wood tree lands will no longer serve us properly. We need forests cultivated for multiple use and multiple users. Go see Windhorse farm near New Germany for a good example of positive directions to serve our future; we need to build resilience. Forests that provide multiple types of trees and other plants and animals will give us a far better future
- No more land use by large corporations
- Utilize NGOs and request meetings/consults with community stakeholders. SMBSA, FBWH + WRWEO, to name a few
- Value be assessed holistically – ecosystem services, biodiversity, and extraction potential
- Only allow approved use
- Land trades involving crown land should be required to go through a public hearing process and be advertised to the public
- Environment = economy in the long run
- Consider native rights and claims
- Think long – term – beyond the next election – for generations to come (150 – 200 years down the road)
- Why are these consultations taking place at the same time as protected areas consultations very confusing + dilutes public involvement

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Infrastructure/trails (6)**

- Roads should be fixed up, and some wood contractors could use certain areas **2**
- The non profit group manages and works with all land owners to create an integrated trail system that works in four seasons, benefits local establishments and leads more tourists to a world class system with food and lodging in the trail system
- ATV and motor cycle associations might be able to fund maintenance
- Since Darrell Dexter borrowed the money; roads should remain open to public except frost out time
- Well managed trail system

Business/Jobs (6)

- Allow experimentation and some will be viable to show future potential **4**
- Support Local Jobs
- Support Local business

Food production/ agriculture (4)

- Maple Syrup production **3**
- Blueberry

Resource extraction/ other (2)

- Limited resource extraction; ie. Put quotas on what can be used per year
- Companies or organizations that are involved in the resources development/ extraction can only be owned by Canadians

Increase home-building/Camps (1)

- Allocate camps around Officers Camp Lake and Timber Lake. There are other areas that could be used for camping

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Protection (27)

- Large tracts set aside for wildlife (no vehicles) **6**
- 50% Protect 25-33.3% of the area. Would not be accepting to any bio mass in the crown land. The purpose is to help the species in the area, not wipe them out **4**
- Protected completely. The rest shared by people and the ecology **3**
- Protect corridors and provide connectivity between public land blocks through wilderness protection **2**
- Put a double sided lock pin on Tote road. Too much garbage being dumped. ATV should have full access to all lands
- Protect all identified wilderness areas/parks – exciting
- Headwaters of St. Margarets Bay to be used and need to be maintained and exempt from development so people can access
- Maximum of 5% of land should be protected. Protected land is neglected land
- Protect areas along the Ingram river
- Give priority to strong legal protection of the drainage network though to protected (as wilderness) setbacks from water – at least 50m from each water border
- Your priority of economic benefits is not the most important. If you meet environmental and social objectives the economics will follow. The first priority is to protect any and all old growth areas that remain as well as much more land should be places in a protected status at least 20% of the Bowater lands at a minimum
- Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area proves that recreation (including ATV use) and environmental preservation can work well together with appropriate management agreements
- Create at least 1 other park like Keji

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- I believe in a critically important wetlands (Simms' Lake) Simms' Settlement biodiversity of amphibians, reptile, migratory birds, fish, turtles, muskrat beaver, bobcat etc. But because the area is privately owned its land to protect. The private land owners of wetlands must be taught practices and must be held accountable
- The proposed Wilderness Areas for the Holden Lake (57 area should be expanded to include the White Gull lake and lonesome lake shorelines). The proposed area is too small, given the small amount of crown land protected in Lunenburg County
- This is a very diverse area

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (13)

- Camping areas 3
- Ensure the search and rescue of endurance challenge continues to be allowed on ex. Bowater lands 3
- Walking trails
- Hiking, biking trails at head of St. Margarets bay. (by permit only?)
- Allow access to big St. Margarets and Falls Lake for hunting and fishing
- Create a tourism world class anchor. Either a Theme Park, or Professional athlete training facility. etc
- Designated trails (tourism attraction) similar to NFLD
- Timber Lake and Officer's Camp Lake are great for wilderness experiences
- The population requires winter activities that are near to HRM
- Pockwock watershed area is the only place presently other than the oval that can sustain winter activities through the winter, as it holds the snow cover much better than near the city. Need to keep it as non-motorized winter recreation area. It is being used now, but like all other trails, the ATVs ruin it

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (12)

- ATV/Snowmobile tour routes/ with access to fuel/food accommodations etc
- Access for development of motorcycle trails in Wilderness Protected Areas (single track)
- Separate non-motorized trails near Head of Saint Margarets Bay. Have a few dedicated trails for walking
- ORM tourism through the development of single-track by NSORRA, especially close to HRM
- East river access road to the gate stops dumping or patrol it. (Cameras)
- Mostly what we need in St. Margarets Bay area is more access to crown land
- Would like to see gates remain closed but, understand how many citizens don't have ATVs and would like to go hunting and fishing in the deep woods. We have a long history of having no crown land in St. Margarets Bay area and playing a cat and mouse game with Bowater to get into the NS woods
- There should be no limit on OHV (motorcycle/ATV/snowmobile) usage on any crown land except for wilderness protected areas
- The Old Annapolis Road has been highlighted as a priority for Safety Minded ATV Group.
- My concern is the use of the current trail used for snowmobiling and ATV on the south side of Porcupine Lake. We use it regularly to access roads in the round lake area. (Porcupine Lake Nature Reserve)
- Near Shingle Lake, there is an access road to privately owned land on the east side of the lake. The road "Medlee Lane" must be continued for public use and the area nearest the road to be wilderness area, not nature reserve. Especially keep land east of Medlee Lane as Crown or wilderness but not a nature reserve. (Pleasant River Nature reserve)
- Access to Island Cuke through the tote road

Forestry and resource extraction - for and against (4)

- Coppice hardwoods
 - For pulp, fibre, firewood, biomass, round wood construction, more small scale diverse products for a market influx
 - Economic (Forestry, Mining, Fisheries, Agriculture, Tourism, Energy)
- Allow campers to cut mature timber actually charging then a market driven stumpage fee. Keep roads open (main arteries for recreation. Don't forget the seniors who have hunted and fished on these lands

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Other (2)**

- We commend the province for purchase of these lands and the work done this far
- Restrict property sales; keep ownership of a maximum area. Only sell if it can be replaced

Energy (2)

- Explore the potential for windmill farm in the interior of the former Bowater St. Margarets Bay lands. 1

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (10)

- Public needs to be informed of land use agreements for crossing/using crown land. What DNR will issue tickets, etc
- I own a camp on Island Lake. Hunting Fishing etc. Going there ever since I was 4 years old. I need access to my camp with Vehicle Access to the road. With my truck or ATV. Go with the permit system for camp owner
- It is important to know how to limit or control the type of recreation that can have the most detrimental impact on the environment and wildlife such as motor vehicles and ATVs. There is a place for everyone but everyone should not be allowed in all places
- Close most of the woods roads (remove culverts, let grow up, etc.)
- There are enough trails set aside for in protected areas for hiking and biking. My main concern is "rails to trails" not open to OHV's or not open to motorcycles explicitly (ATV and snowmobiles allowed).
- There are some crown land where OHVs should not go (sugar maple production, endangered/protected species)
- Clearly marked "no OHV" signs could be posted along and access routes.
- Anyone wishing to visit a friend with a cottage on this land should be allowed, whether they are on an OHV or car or truck
- Areas that get snow should be for snowmobile use, but not to the extent that groomers are needed.
- Snowmobiles should break trail

Broader Policies (5)

- Let's not act like a foreign country managing our resources, take care of people of this land and listen to them. In the past we were dedicated to. Now the people want to be heard.
- Yesterday's or today's practices will not work in tomorrow's conditions. So just don't do it. With climate change, economic downsizing and energy use and cost transitions we cannot afford to work this resource. So conserve it
- Sustainable practices. It's not all about mark up a profit. Well paid jobs through build up. N.S. was the birthplace of the co-op
- Users wishing to use the lands should be required to complete an orientation program that could outline the usage, ie what is allowed and when, example camping
- Proper wilderness skills, how, where or when you could have a campfire, the process for building new trails, just basic overview so people will be safe and the land and infrastructure will be preserved

Other (5)

- People within the same Department, ie DNR, should all give the same information, not conflicting information
- Concern that we are not able to access our Camp which we pay a lease to the NS government. We only use the camp twice a year. April-May for fishing and fall for working on camp etc. We have paid the lease, plus the yearly rental + taxes but not able to use. We have always been responsible and appreciated use of the key from Bowater would appreciate having a key this year for fishing end of April to May

Black Point Public Session: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

- The lands/ volume tonnes licensed to mills small as possible because the stumpage rates the mills pay to the Crown are a lot less than private land stumpage rates. As a private land owner this would influence where the mill get their fibre from
- Consider siltation and/or contamination of St. Margarets Bay via outflows of fresh water from this land if improperly managed
- Taking away access to these lands would forever change my life and would forever change my life and would strip my family of generations of traditions

Objection to former Bowater staff

- Several people in attendance at the Black Point open house were upset with seeing former Bowater staff at the event and mentioned ATV access

Greenfield Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)

*Attendance: 56

*Includes comments from paper questionnaires and flip charts

*Numbers indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

QUESTION 1

How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?

Forestry (13)

- Sustain commercial forestry **2**
- Forestry is the only proven economic engine in the western region. It is important crown land continues to be managed to produce fibre for the forestry industry. It should be managed and harvested sustainably to provide much needed fibre to wood processing facilities in order to grow the forestry sector in the region
- Allow cutting to sustain into future – no clear cutting.
- Cutting wood sustainability cutting the annual allowable cut
- Sustainable commercial forestry treatments should be suited to the specific conditions of site
- It would be good to have information on monetary value already committed to licensees on crown land by area
- Support the use of timber for locally owned sawmills and for added value
- Minimizing the use of forest as now for materials to pulp mills, and especially for biomass burning.
- Harvesting efficiency by forests for hard woods for home heaters using existing roads
- Harvesting of pine and spruce (but no clear cutting) to employ wood mills
- Should be divided up and have to bid on timber to get market prices
- Do not let a few mills have control of this resource: it results in their having too much power to control profit margins and they are able to force logging contractors into bankruptcy. It would be much better for the economy of the region to hire a manager for every 30 to 40 thousand acres. He would be in charge of several contractors. Set fair rates where people can make money. This would set the industry standard; the other mills would have to pay higher rates to compete
- The stumpage rate could be indexed to the price of lumber. There is no prosperity in minimum wage jobs in saw mills

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (7)

- Foresters want to cut but need more for recreation – biking, hiking, walking. There is long term potential for tourism and recreation **2**
- Keep the high visible land near highways and lakes rivers oceans as forest to help image for tourism **2**
- Use some of it for tourism –hunting, fishing, recreation, photography guided nature tours wilderness canoe/ Kayak (Tobeatic lakes)
- Very hard to control such a vast area BUT recreational land must be controlled to permit all peoples the pleasure of nature i.e. fishing (family), cross country skis etc
- Fishing, hunting, hiking

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (5)

- Concern about Bowater land that [gates] have been locked; some have keys thus access, but not others **2**
- Search teams should be allowed through the Bowater lands to get to know the area
- Suggest follow example of BC – they unlock the gates on Fridays and lock them Monday morning – had no problems with people using these lands
- ATV access will encourage tourism

Greenfield Public Comments: First stage categorization (in order of most to least support)**Other (4)**

- Give some of the land over to communities to take care of it proposing what can be done with it to government
- Open lake lots to private ownership
- This process may be including too much land as nature reserve
- These lands should be used to generate jobs for people in rural Nova Scotia

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing (3)

- Tobetic Lakes – tourist uses (see question 1)
- Can the land near the access road Medlee Lane become wilderness (not nature reserve) to allow continued hunting activity? Especially the land east of Medlee lane be crown or wilderness
- Think, Gatineau Park, Quebec, Algonquin, Ottawa - even extending Keji south and west

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (1)

- For privately owned lots on east side of Shingle lake. Will the present vehicle access, Known as Medlee lane, be continued to be open to public use?

MAPS

- Problem: proposed park in the Big Guzzle. Is the road and bridge included or excluded? It is a major route to get into the Purdy Rd. Area. Maintain restriction free access by all vehicle and users for planning purposes to develop a trail network from south to north. Please provide co-ordinates for the end of all roads ending in the south and also coordinates using north from the Purdy road area. This information will assist in the planning process
- It appears the road and bridge across the Mersey River is included in the shaded area. Is this an area or is this included in the proposed park?

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access (2)

- Assist with maintaining private roads to access as was done pre-crown land e.g. Albany new access
- If companies are using crown land roads they should be maintaining to the standards prior to use or better

Protected areas/ Species at Risk (for and against) (3)

- I believe that we already have enough protected land in this end of the province and to take more land out of active forestry would cost rural Nova Scotians jobs **2**
- Salmon should be included in species at risk

4.2 Stakeholder Focus Groups

First Level Analysis of Stakeholder Focus Group Sessions

Stakeholders of varying backgrounds, sitting together, were asked to consider each of the three questions and agree, as much as possible as a table group, on what priorities to put forth. The points below reflect the priorities that were put forward as well as other points.

*Includes comments from flip charts

*Numbers in the comments section indicate the number of individuals who supported a comment or made an identical comment (the number indicates the total number of times that comment was made and/or supported)

Yarmouth

Date and location of session

March 18, 2013, Yarmouth Legion Hall

Number of participants

12 Participants; see list of stakeholders in attendance and additional invited at end of document

Facilitator’s comments about the session

The afternoon stakeholder session went well with 12 people in attendance representing 10 stakeholder groups out of approximately 31 invited. A few people had to leave the discussions early. There was good discussion at the 2 tables that were formed and people were able to prioritize even with a diversity of interests at the tables including recreation, municipalities, community forests, industry and conservation. If multiple participants were in attendance from the same organization, they were asked to sit at different tables to ensure as much diversity as possible during discussions.

Stakeholder comments

Yarmouth	Stakeholder Comments
<p>Question 1 How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?</p>	<p>Forestry (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good Forest management practices of all crown lands in the western region (major economic activity) ▪ Other forest products (maple syrup) ▪ Crown lands need to be managed intensively to provide wood “especially” to local industry ▪ Selective cutting for all forests ▪ Community forests: harvesting, hunting, camping, hiking ▪ Highest Standards possible FSC ▪ Small mill agreements

Yarmouth	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Recreation/tourism/Access (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation ▪ Tourism – New France history (need to be developed) <p>Broad Policy (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leases – long term/short term ▪ Consider all uses <p>Economic Development (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jobs – Employment ▪ Value added. Maple syrup, forest products <p>Protection (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed for Protection: Blackadar lot and Porcupine Lake crown lots used to support forest related jobs for generations. Protecting these lands will have little or no economic impact on local area. These lands and others in West Nova being proposed for protection should have socio-economic analysis before protection is finalized ▪ Environmental research <p>Other (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water ▪ Industry- mink farms
<p>Question 2</p> <p>What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?</p>	<p>Protection/ Environmental Issues (8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected lands should be increase (20% of Bowater lands?) ▪ Provide connectivity between: Tobeatic + Dunraven + Tidney bog and fishery. ▪ Provides biodiversity protection ▪ Areas marked conditional on maps should be protected ▪ Protect-historical canoe routes through central NS ▪ Maintaining biodiversity ▪ No industrial activity ▪ 5% is a very small area of the Bowater lands to be protected, should be more <p>Forestry (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forestry (traditional/industrial) ▪ Sustainable forest management on 90+% of crown lands ▪ Develop low grade wood (50\$ of harvest) locally ▪ Manage for uneven aged stands in Acadian forests ▪ Restore mixed forests ▪ Forestry – manage for uneven AGE stands and restore a mixed forest <p>Recreation/tourism/Access (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road Access (new or maintained old roads) ▪ Recreational activities even on protected lands ▪ How/who will maintain these roads if no forestry activity? <p>Economic Development (Forestry, agriculture etc.) (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop local markets for local woods e.g. sawmilling to add value ▪ Employees- immigration? ▪ Give our children an opportunity to stay in west N.S. to work

Yarmouth	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Broad Policy (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critical to all other related activities ▪ Majority of land is remote <p>Energy (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind farms (very little high wind locations)
<p>Question 3</p> <p>What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?</p>	<p>Recreation/ Access (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote trapping and game management for (guiding hunting and fishing) ▪ Promote maintenance of key and strategic roads for land access ▪ Create ATV access to sensitive areas ▪ Create trails for ATVs but keep ATVs off all other lands ▪ Promote trapping and game management for guiding, hunting and fishing <p>Forestry (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local management of local resources “community forests” ▪ Educating public about the advantages of “good” sustainable forestry ▪ No primary biomass forest harvesting 1 ▪ Ongoing public consult on forest license agreements (FSC) 1 <p>Protection (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection issue ▪ New proposed protected areas for Digby County will negatively impact our economic well being <p>Broad Policy (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limit red tape to encourage innovations <p>Economic Development (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crown land has tremendous potential to create economic benefits/ jobs in western N.S. ▪ JOBS we need to make things
<p>Additional Stakeholder Submissions</p>	<p><i>Additional material from stakeholders was received by DNR and is currently being reviewed.</i></p>

Berwick

Date and location of session

April 3, 2013, Berwick & District Fire Hall

Number of participants

10 Participants; see list of stakeholders in attendance and additional invited at end of document

Facilitator’s comments about the session

There were 10 people representing 9 different organizations in attendance at this meeting out of approximately 60 invited. Two tables were formed with focused and engaged discussion undertaken at both. There was a good mix of interests at each table - conservationists, economic development, ATV clubs and hunters & trappers. Tables seemed to easily agree on priorities to put forth for the best use of Crown lands. If multiple participants were in attendance from the same organization, they were asked to sit at different tables to ensure as much diversity as possible during discussions.

Stakeholder comments

Berwick	Stakeholder Comments
<p>Question 1</p> <p>How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?</p>	<p>Access/Recreation (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Controlled/regulated access. User based regulation and education. e.g. expand OHV association model. (ex. trail passes) ▪ Western loop trail on crown lands ▪ Right to roam legislation ▪ Outdoor recreation, trapping and hunting fishing. Not just access but use of the land. Bear baiting should be allowed ▪ Ecotourism and other alternative economic uses <p>Forestry/other industry (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue forestry operations limit protected areas ▪ Potential for aquaculture? ▪ Forestry: multi-year harvest plans that account for other land uses/ values <p>Economic Policy (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring outside money introduced into economy ▪ Sustainability of resources income must be maintained both large and small operations <p>Usage Policy (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue diversity of use as it is now ▪ Co-management and maintenance by user groups <p>Protection (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify areas of special importance, e.g. Wetlands, headwaters etc. and define acceptable uses ▪ User groups monitor land and water. (OHV groups/ anglers etc.)

Berwick	Stakeholder Comments
<p>Question 2</p> <p>What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?</p>	<p>Forestry/Agriculture (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber resources forestry ▪ Weymouth timberlands – Lewis Lumber open to small operations user tender, close supervision from DNR on ground, dedicated foresters from DNR familiar with area monitoring, allow operations to manage specific parcel pre and post cut ▪ First Nations forestry initiatives. New reserves, same as community forest models near commercial ▪ Concentrate timber resources on existing road infrastructure. ▪ Properly managed harvest of forest products. (e.g. wood/ agricultural, berries, syrup, etc.) ▪ Agriculture uses in suitable soil conditions <p>Access/Recreation/Tourism (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunting, fishing, trapping, guiding recreational access tourism. 2 ▪ Recreation and ecotourism <p>Protection (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Source water protection. Flow regulation/ ground water recharge <p>Electric Generation (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind power/ renewable energy <p>Broad Policy (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All located based on best available information + planned appropriately to manage all uses + values
<p>Question 3</p> <p>What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?</p>	<p>Broad Policy (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management or co-management by users and government in a manner that has more consistency than present, may involve non DNR resources such as consulting management. Define rolls within department, land administration, Parks Planning, regional services ▪ Involve all government departments in the co-management, similar to ICT on trails, interdepartmental committee on trails ▪ Review at regular interval and do past work after implementation ▪ Better sector policy on quarries, wind farms, trails etc ▪ Maintaining and supporting research opportunities ▪ Continued information exchange ▪ Education for all audiences related to rural values, resources etc <p>Protection/ Environmental Issues (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Species at risk (SAR)/ biodiversity (Acadian forest structure) ▪ Climate change: Altered environmental response to use. Change to ecosystem ▪ (Invasive species, moisture requires environmental acidification. etc) ▪ Wildlife corridors and connectivity
<p>Additional Stakeholder Submissions</p>	<p><i>Additional material from stakeholders was received by DNR and is currently being reviewed.</i></p>

West Northfield

Date and location of session

April 4, 2013, Northfield District Fire Hall

Number of participants

18 Participants; see list of stakeholders in attendance and additional invited at end of document

Facilitator’s comments about the session

There were 18 people representing 15 stakeholder groups in attendance at the session out of approximately 39 invited. There was a good mix of stakeholder groups comprising of representatives from municipalities (including a Mayor and Deputy Mayor), the forest industry, a research group, recreation groups, chamber of commerce, among others. People from the same organization were encouraged to sit at different tables to allow for a diversity of views to be represented in the discussions. Three tables were set up for discussions. Participants were engaged and came up with a number of ideas with some tables deciding on some priority points to put forth. Feedback on the session was positive and one participant expressed his appreciation of the format and for the opportunity to provide input.

Stakeholder comments

West Northfield	Stakeholder Comments
<p>Question 1 How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?</p>	<p>Broad Policy (8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to prioritise what land capabilities allow – how to keep all stakeholders happy. Need system to prioritise – should be transparent + inclusive ▪ Diversity! eg. Experimental tourism, conservation holidays, mushrooms ▪ Research and education ▪ Flexibility to evolve management regime to address threats or opportunities (consultation required) ▪ Real multi-use. These objectives can be complimentary no need to prioritize ▪ holistic management approach using GPI (Genuine Progress Index), lifestyle/economy. “multi-value forestry look at global standards. ie “Europe” ▪ Room for mining/farming based on excellent global principals. ie no water runoff, land reclamation, respect for communities ▪ Education/research close to communities (wood 1st policies, carbon tax/ tax credit for building with wood approach #1) <p>Recreation/tourism/Access (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access: should include multiple use but be policed; respect resource and other users. Use zonation (seasonal/) and permits/gate keepers to control and generate revenue and jobs ▪ Recreation (motorized/non-motorized, hunting, angling, canoeing, hiking etc.) ▪ Tourism and outfitting ▪ Maintenance of road infrastructure to enable controlled access ▪ Recreation/controlled/monitored)

West Northfield	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Economic Development/ Employment (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to manage, to create year round jobs ▪ Could be made up from multiple seasonal employments. ▪ Marketing is key. Local branding for both tourism and (wood products, environmental FSC, shouldn't undercut private woodlot owners) ▪ Other commercial activities (farming, mining, etc. wind farms) ▪ Natural agriculture ie. blueberries, sugar maple <p>Protection/Environmental Issues (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecological area management and biodiversity ▪ Water quality (Watershed management) ▪ Remediation of acid rain, etc <p>Forestry (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable management for a wide range of purposes including commercial forestry (3rd party) ▪ The best productive land should be retained for forestry
<p>Question 2 What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?</p>	<p>Broad Policy (12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversity: mushrooms, fir tips, Christmas trees, blueberries, cranberries, medicinal ▪ Certain activities are compatible – clump them together e.g. protected areas/ or low impact harvesting ▪ Spread around crown lands so all areas have multiple uses. ▪ Activities need to be located on a site specific basis according to the best use ▪ How to implement oversight and responsibility ▪ Stakeholder engagement in implementation of the plan ▪ Education so communities know benefits of multi-use management ▪ Education so youth know about potential opportunities ▪ Location/ proximity to community may determine whether activity is appropriate (farming, vs. wind farm) ▪ Economic/socioeconomic study required to determine impact on families/ communities (JOBS) ▪ Balanced management decisions based on all reasonable perspectives ▪ Periodic review to see if meeting objectives. Enables/ address changing <p>Economic Development / Employment (6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to create jobs. We've lost a lot of our youth, for all education levels. Quality of life is important ▪ Innovation: eg Innovacorp, Research "Wood University" and promotion innovative wood products and wood marketing ▪ Seasonal diversity to local jobs ▪ Need more value added ▪ Prefer activities – year round jobs ▪ Any resources taken from lands to be used for highest and best use. (value added)

West Northfield	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Forestry (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lumber/forestry industry is key. Should not exceed AAC. Improve forest stock ▪ Ecosystem based forestry. Grow what the lands allows you to grow ▪ Productive land – harvesting sustainability ▪ For example, areas of high capability for growing trees should generally be used for sustainable forestry <p>Recreation/tourism/Access (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation: hunting + fishing – done sustainably (Lime dosing to improve fishing in future) ▪ Hiking/ outdoor recreation ▪ Recreation activities close to existing communities analyze existing trails <p>Agriculture/Resource Extraction (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mining, stick to high global standards ▪ Agriculture (natural ie. sugar maple, medicinal plants located throughout province) <p>Energy (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind power – on appropriate scale away from habitation – will generate some revenue for local communities <p>Resource Extraction (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mining: has to be done in a way that doesn't harm environment
<p>Question 3 What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?</p>	<p>Broad Policy (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep dialogue ongoing in the future ▪ Once produced initial report – consult again to make sure no mistakes before finalising decisions/ policy ▪ Get consensus + follow up on recommendations, quickly. ▪ Need to have responsive system! Don't make people wait for feedback ▪ Education should be big part of the process so that there is better respect for the resource ▪ Ensure that land (minus existing protected lands) is used and managed for highest valued resources (sustainable) ▪ Departments (Agriculture, fisheries, DNR, tourism) need to communicate re those lands ▪ Educate “urban minced folks” to the value of harvesting forests (sustainability) ▪ Make sure all information is inclusive and that no-one has been over looked ▪ Some thought about the process for resolving potential conflicting interests/ uses. (dispute settlement mechanism) <p>Protection (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Put health of forest and waterways (wetlands) first. (including drinking water) ▪ Crown lands need to be protected against fire, insect disease. ▪ Mitigation in wilderness areas some of the proposed natured reserves must have management plans preferably community based i.e. Carters Beach/Spectacle Island

West Northfield	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Forestry (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ First priority- give value to historical sustainable industry. ie forestry <p>Economic Development / Employment (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Get people working a.s.a.p. – don't be scared of making some mistakes
Additional Stakeholder submissions	<i>Additional material from stakeholders was received by DNR and is currently being reviewed.</i>

Black Point

Date and location of session

April 8, 2013, Black Point Fire Hall

Number of participants

25 participants and 1 observer; see list of stakeholders in attendance and additional invited at end of document

Facilitator’s comments about the session

There were 25 participants out to the meeting in Black Point plus one person invited as a stakeholder from Department of Transportation who chose to be an observer representing 23 stakeholder groups out of approximately 91 invited. Four tables were set up for people to take part in the facilitated discussions with a good mix at each table including conservationists, industry, private contractors, saw mills, ATV clubs, prospectors and other. People were encouraged to sit with those they did not know or ensure they were not all from the same organization at the table to ensure a diversity of views were shared. There was good discussion and participation by all. People were urged to ensure that comments they wanted noted were put up on the flip charts.

Stakeholder comments

Black Point	Stakeholder Comments
<p>Question 1 How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?</p>	<p>Forestry Related (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some degree of “working” forest ▪ Encourage/ focus on harvesting for high-value forest products that employ more people per unit of wood harvested. use residuals (bark, chips, sawdust) as by-products only (no purpose driven harvesting) ▪ Support development of community-based forestry operations (multi-use) ▪ Provide places for non-timber forest products (blueberries, mushrooms, sugar maple, etc. (need a support process) ▪ Managed forestry – contractor development ▪ Allow communities, individuals, groups an opportunity to be actively involved in the forest economy- Harvesting at: different levels and different products ▪ Due to historical use as forest production, should maintain ability to sustain local industry dependent on forest production. ▪ Forest Management ▪ Licenses for sawmills (local) ▪ Silviculture <p>Recreation/tourism/Access (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access needs to be carefully managed (seasonal restrictions, safety considerations, designated trails – not everywhere, some no-go areas (streams, wetlands, ecologically important areas, Parks and protected areas, etc.) ▪ Eco-tourism ▪ Integrated Recreational opportunities ▪ Tourism and recreation

Black Point	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Economic Development (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximize local manufacturing/processing opportunities. ▪ High value products ▪ Research and Development <p>Broad Policy (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple uses in different areas (same where compatible) ▪ The length of time being considered for lease/licenses agreements is extremely important... the longer the better. Is the crown prepared to have leases/license for 20+ years for any crop (trees, Agriculture)? ▪ Allow for all the 'soft' uses: camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, prospecting, etc <p>Protection (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerned about the wetlands policy in that it may hinder development of any kind. Is there going to be permits/allowances? Want to develop property that is not currently being used to grow trees ▪ Support development of some protected areas <p>Resource Extraction (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allow for open-pit mining, could turn it into HRM dump later <p>Agriculture (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Niche Agriculture Development
<p>Question 2 What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?</p>	<p>Forestry (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forestry (traditional/industrial) ▪ Forestry (uneven-aged management) ▪ Forestry: Use whole tree. Catalyst for long term including growth (training). Develop new markets ▪ Forest economy activities not tree based ▪ Christmas trees ▪ Ash and aspen for tactical use ▪ Demonstrate woodlot for educational opportunities to HRM schools/public ▪ Forest harvesting – all kinds ▪ Community Forests ▪ Working forests-licenses (local sawmills) <p>Recreation/tourism/Access (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eco-tourism operations (protected areas river corridors) and needs promotion and marketing. Interpretation. Development surrounding tourism infrastructure ▪ Hunting, fishing, orienteering, etc ▪ Access fees to maintain roads/trails. Also trail passes for OHVs. ▪ Integrated Recourse use: ATV, canoe etc ▪ Controlled ATV use; even a course built to allow for travel or races. Keep ATVs off the roads ▪ Upscale "hunting lodge" style resort ▪ Trail management

Black Point	Stakeholder Comments
	<p>Energy (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wind farms 3 ▪ Local distributed heat/power biomass plant (small scale, local, high efficiency) <p>Economic Development (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Micro lending, Business coaching ▪ Research and Development: Strategic alliances (university, colleges, etc). WTFPs etc. NTFPs ▪ Show case Nova Scotia and Nova Scotian products <p>Agriculture (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agricultural products (natural) including berries, mushrooms, maple syrup, etc.) ▪ Maple syrup ▪ Berry production (all sorts) <p>Broad Policy (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small licensees ▪ No homes <p>Protection (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected areas ▪ Acid rain research station <p>Resource Extraction (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other resources: mining etc. licensing, prospecting, exploration
<p>Question 3 What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?</p>	<p>Broad Policy (9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing public engagement ▪ 5 year reviews ▪ Don't allocate all the land/forest. Hold back some for new opportunities ▪ Look for education opportunities (schools, community groups, etc.) ▪ Mechanism/ process for small players to be given consideration ▪ No permanent housing at the expense of potential forest use ▪ Oversight should require professional accountability ▪ Listen to communities, continue public engagement ▪ Adaptable plan that changes as per cause and effect <p>Forestry (5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avoid long-term fiber commitments (tender/ auction system) ▪ How do we kick-start forestry? Turn all lands to a few mills or a new tenure method? Chronic shortage of contractors, train them now! (like PHP). Engage NSCC. How do we get wood flowing now? Tenders? Licences? Community management? ▪ Interim plan for harvesting and silviculture to keep jobs and people here and also to take pressure off the planning process ▪ Establish open, strict forestry guidelines to support biodiversity conservation on working landscape <p>Protection (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife and endangered species habit need to be factored into land planning and activities ▪ Consider protecting more of the former Bowater lands (where there is high-ecological value- not just anywhere)

Black Point	Stakeholder Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected lands – keep CSFF or add to it? Has CSFF mitigation gotten lost? ▪ Don't close anything off to all use to attain preservation <p>Economic Development (R&D) (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imperative lands support local industry ▪ Must generate enough money to sustain use, and not rely on funding ▪ Create revenue to pay the annual interest \$4 million <p>Vehicle Access/Trails/Tourism (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore old Annapolis trail as eco-opportunity hiking ▪ Don't prohibit ATV use prematurely
Other Comments/submissions -Sticky notes from maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourism Saint Margarets district: Where's the old Annapolis hiking trail and Indian hill @ south end of Panuke Lake and 6,000 year old Mi'kmaq sites? ▪ Recreation Values Portages and canoe routes, endangered species, connectivity, biodiversity ▪ Rivers and lakes monitored & stocked Indian and NER trout population cut off by dams? ▪ Vehicle Access: Access to existing trail system and roads local ATV clubs to supply GPS files to identify trails in St. Margarets Bay district. Initiate a coalition of all potential users of such trails to ensure they can be maintained and used by all ▪ Vehicle Access eventual inventory of complete trail system (including roads). Have all OHV users mandatory membership into provincial org. (Local Clubs) to be involved in ownership and maintenance of trails (improvements) ATVANS, trail permit available to OHV owners in N.S. Without mandatory joining of a club member club. This is a long way helps in having a well informed and connected OHV riders in an organization that offer info, insurance training, communication with members and as well with Government organizations ▪ Vehicle Access Closed March to May in the next season. Have volunteer groups in each area control access with a written contract to eliminate the dumping of garbage and tearing up roads etc. ▪ Tourism Remember tourism support a second hand car economy and people working with the industry cannot access the facilities they work in!
Additional Stakeholder Submissions	<i>Additional material from stakeholders was received by DNR and is currently being reviewed.</i>

Stakeholder Attendees and Invitees

Yarmouth Stakeholder Session, March 26, 2013: Attendance included 12 participants – 10 stakeholder groups represented out of approximately 31 invited

Yarmouth Stakeholders Invited
A F T Sawmill Limited – (2 Participants)
Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce
Chambre De Commerce De Clare
Clark's Harbour
Conseil acadien de Par-en-Bas
Destination South West Nova Association
Digby & Area Board of Trade
Digby Clare Woodlot Owners Association
Digby County ATV Club
Digby County Community Forest Ltd.
Digby Easy Fish & Game Association (2 participants)
Forest Consultants Association
Hurlburt, Austin & Son Lumber Ltd
Lewis Mouldings and Wood Specialties
Municipality of the District of Argyle
Municipality of the District of Barrington
Municipality of the District of Clare
Municipality of the District of Digby
Municipality of the District of Shelburne
Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
Nova Scotia Cranberry Growers Association
Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association
Shelburne & Area Chamber of Commerce
Shelburne County ATV Club
Société Acadienne De Clare
Sou'West Nova ATV Club (Yarmouth)

Yarmouth Stakeholders Invited
South West Nova Biosphere Reserve Association
Tiverton Board of Trade
Tobeatic Wilderness Committee
Town of Digby
Town of Lockport
Town of Shelburne
Town of Yarmouth
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association TREPA
Weymouth Board of Trade
Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce

Berwick Stakeholder Session April 3, 2013: Attendance included 10 Participants representing 9 Stakeholder Groups

Berwick Stakeholders Invited
Acadia University (2)
Annapolis County ATV and Multi use Trail Society
Annapolis County Field Naturalists
Annapolis District Board of Trade
Annapolis Valley Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club
Annapolis Valley Trails Association
Annapolis/ Digby Economic Development Agency
Berwick & District Board
Blomidon Naturalists Society
Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce
Central Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce
Clean Annapolis River Project
Cole Harbour Parks & Trails Association
Crossburn Snowmobile Club
Davidson Port-A-Mill

Berwick Stakeholders Invited
Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce
Elmsdale Lumber Company Limited
Evangeline Transport
Francophone Economic Development Council
Hants County Snow Dusters Snowmobile Club
Howard Little Construction; Howard E. Little Excavating Ltd.
Kings County ATV Club
Kings Regional Development Agency (Kings RDA)
Ligni Bel Ltd
Long, Clifford & Sons Limited
Maritimes Energy Association
Mid Valley ATV Club (Middleton)
Municipality of the County of Annapolis
Municipality of the County of Kings
Municipality of the District of West Hants
Nova Forest Alliance
South West Biosphere Reserve Association
The Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors
Town of Annapolis Royal
Town of Berwick
Town of Bridgetown
Town of Hantsport
Town of Kentville
Town of Middleton
Town of Windsor
Town of Wolfville
Trappers Association of NS (2 participants)
West Hants Chamber of Commerce
Whipple Tree Farm

Berwick Stakeholders Invited
Wind Prospects Inc.
Woodland Resources

West Northfield Stakeholder Session, April 4, 2013: Attendance included 18 participants representing 15 stakeholder groups out of a total of 39 invited

West Northfield Stakeholders Invited
All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
Bridgewater & Area Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn Power Corp
Chester Municipal Chamber of Commerce
Harry Freeman and Son Limited (2 participants)
Lange's Rock Farm
Lunenburg Board of Trade
Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers Association
Lunenburg Queens Regional Development Agency
Mahone Bay Chamber of Commerce
Medway Community Forest Cooperative
Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute
Municipality of the District of Chester
Municipality of the District of Lunenburg (2 participants)
Murray A. Reeves Forestry Limited
North Queens Board of Trade
Primary Forest Products Marketing Board
Queens County ATV Club
Queens County Fish and Game Association
Region of Queens Municipality
Riverport & District Board of Trade
South Queens Chamber of Commerce

West Northfield Stakeholders Invited
South Shore Paddlers Association
Town of Bridgewater (2 participants)
Turner, J A & Sons (1987) Limited
Western Nova Scotia Community Forest Group

Black Point Stakeholder Session, April 8, 2013: Attendance included 25 participants + 1 observer representing 23 stakeholder groups out of approximately 91 invited

Black Point Stakeholders Invited
All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS)
Andrew Kekacs
Association for Sustainable Forestry
Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
ATV Association of Nova Scotia:
Avalon Resources
Barrett Lumber Company Limited
Beaver bank ATV Club
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Canadian Woodlands Forum
Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia
Canuc Resources
Cape Breton University
Celtic Tiger Minerals Exploration Inc.
Central Nova ATV Club (Lunenburg)
Chapman Brothers Construction
Community Forest Group
Confederation Power Ltd Sprott Power
Conseil Communautaire Du Grand-Havre
Dalhousie University

Black Point Stakeholders Invited
Dalhousie University & Board Chair NCC
DDV Gold
Dept of Energy
DNR Forest Technical Advisory Committee
Ducks Unlimited
Eastern Hardwood Management Association
Ecology Action Centre (2 participants)
Economic & Rural Development & Tourism
Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists
Fisheries & Aquaculture; Agriculture
Forest Safety Society of Nova Scotia
FPANS
Great Northern Timber Inc.
Halifax Field Naturalists
Hefler Forest Products Ltd
Hudgtec Resources Ltd.
Hunters and Anglers Federation of Nova Scotia Anglers and Hunters
J. D. Irving, Limited
Ledwidge Lumber Company Ltd.
Long Lake Loggers ATV Assoc. (Mount Uniacke)
Looke Cancut Ltd.
LP Canexel
Lunenburg Queens RDA transition
Maple Syrup Producers Association
Maritime Lumber Bureau
Marwood Ltd
Mining Association of Nova Scotia
Nature Conservancy Canada
Northern Pulp
Nova Scotia Community College, Strait Area Campus
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Black Point Stakeholders Invited
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
Nova Scotia Power Inc. Corporate Correspondence
Nova Scotia Prospectors Association (3 participants)
Nova Scotia Road Builders Association
Nova Scotia Trails Federation
NS Environment
NS Federation of Woodland Owners
NS Gold Corporation
NS Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association
NS Primary Forest Products Marketing Board
NS Silviculture Contractors Association
NS Transportation, Western District
NS Woodlot Owners and Operators Association
Port Hawkesbury Paper
Registered Professional Forests Association of Nova Scotia
Renewable Energy Services Ltd
RMS Energy
Safety Minded ATV Club (Head of St. Margarets Bay)
Saint Margarets Bay Community Forest
Saint Mary's University
Service NS & Municipal Relations
Shear Wind Inc.
Sierra Club
Snowmobilers Assoc. of Nova Scotia
St. Margaret's Bay Snowmobile and ATV Club Hubbards)
St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association
The Municipal Group of Companies
Tourism Industry Association of NS
Transition Bay St. Margarets
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
Wagner Forest NS

Black Point Stakeholders Invited
Watts Wind Energy
Wild Blueberry Producers Association
Wood Product Manufacturers Assoc

4.3 Comments submitted via the website

The following comments were submitted online and have been summarized and categorized. The verbatim submissions will be used by the Department of Natural Resources. They are not being published due to privacy issues.

Public Comments From Website: First stage categorization
<p>* This includes public comments submitted online via the website until April 24, 2013</p> <p>QUESTION 1 <i>How can we best use the 1.5 million acres of Crown land and the associated resources in the Western Region to most beneficially and sustainably grow and diversify Nova Scotia's economy?</i></p> <p>Tourism and walking, skiing, canoeing and hunting/ fishing etc. (70)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecotourism (27) ▪ Hunting & fishing (38) ▪ Trapping (4) ▪ Canoeing / wilderness travel (24) ▪ Hiking (27) ▪ Mountain biking (5) ▪ Bird- watching (2) <p>(Many suggestions to work with ATV Clubs to create tourism opportunities from ATV access.)</p> <p>Forestry (76) (harvesting of timber products) Comments related to forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest should be managed as Community Forest (28) ▪ More uneven aged management (22) ▪ No clear-cutting (15) ▪ No Biomass Harvesting (9) ▪ Biomass harvest but not whole tree (2) ▪ Require FSC Certification (21) ▪ Shift to smaller scale forestry (14) ▪ No herbicide (2) ▪ No monoculture planting (5) ▪ Practice ecosystem based forestry (12) ▪ Develop value added products (22) ▪ Establish true market price for timber (4) ▪ Exclude large industrial operations (17) <p>Protected areas (33)</p> <p>Non Timber/ Agriculture/ Food Production (28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cranberry production (6) ▪ Blue Berry Production (9) ▪ Mushrooms, berries (7)

Public Comments From Website: First stage categorization

- Maple Syrup production (6)
- General Agriculture (2)
- Mink farming (1)
- Vineyards (1)
- Apples (1)
- General Agriculture (1)
- Balsam fir tips
- Hascap berries

Vehicular, ATV & snowmobile access

In favour (63)

- consider fee systems for ATV users (7)
- Use ATV Access to stimulate the economy (15)

Against or Restricted Access (19)

- Restrict access in protected areas(3)
- Access only for camp owners (3)
- Develop designated trails for ATV use (7)
- Seasonal closure of roads (2)
- Concerns about illegal dumping (4)

Resource extraction; other (9)

- Mineral exploration/ extraction (7)
- Aggregate extraction (2)
- Peat extraction (1)

Windfarms/ Renewable Energy (17)

Research and educational opportunities (9)

Sell or Lease waterfront lots for camps (5)

Create opportunities for Mi'kmaq community (1)

Sell stumpage for firewood for to individuals (2)

QUESTION 2

What activities would be the most effective use of Crown land in the Western Region that would generate the most sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for your community and Nova Scotia? Where would you locate these activities on these Crown lands?

Access

- There should be a license/ permit system in place for the use of the road in the Silver Lake area
- Develop a trail network for ATV's between the valley and South Shore
- Hendry Lake, Lake Alma and Long Lake have beautiful sand beaches and should be accessible to all
- Lohnes Lake Plane crash site should be accessible
- If the Wilderness area around Lake Alma proceeds, the trails across the area that create a loop should be maintained for snowmobiles and ATVs
- A parcel on Tedford Lake (Woodstock Rd. and Cedar Lake) near exit 33 on highway 101 is currently used for a 2 week long out tripping camps for children ages 11-14. The land is also used for hiking from time to time
- It is important to keep gates at Keji River and West Brook locked due to proximity to the Tobeatic Reserve Wildlife Sanctuary and Wilderness Area (3)
- Maintain access to Seven Mile Lake from highway (8)

Public Comments From Website: First stage categorization

- ATV Trail: road that comes from Cannan on the old Annapolis trail east to the west end of Timber Lake used by ATVs/sleds this time of year, there's a camp between the Bog Lakes which is accessed by ATV
- ATV trail heading north from the end of the Connaught Lake road to the Timber Lake road, to which Hubbards uses for rallies etc and then runs east past Officers Camp Lake to the road that comes up to Timber lake beach out on [East River Road]
- Our camp is just about where Officers Camp Lake runs into Timber Lake, a m/v road runs to it at the very bottom end of Panuke Lake. There's a ATV trail that comes up from the lake through Indian Hill and south down to Westhaver/Coolens lake - this is a winter trail for us - due to boulders, comes out on Kip Hill lake road, just north end of Dauphinee Mill Lake at Blind Bay east side of Panuke Lake where the hydro wire runs north there's an ATV trail going to camps out on the point at Two Mile lake road at its far north end above the E / W hydro wires east side of that lake by a ATV trail NE through Smokey Hill comes out on the west side of Big Indian Lake on the west Sandy Lake road it was originally a Bower hauling road. There is also a ATV trail down to Two Mile lake for the two camps at its north end this cross over trail is mostly used by the Safety Minded ATV club, Head of St Margarets Bay for their rallies
- On the old Annapolis trail, ATVs run west to the pulp road and take that west to the east side Ingram River road
- Interesting to see that the new "Draft" nature reserves are cutting off roads, that won't go down very good for those residing down the Bay using ATVs up country for fishing, hunting, rallies
- Open gates during peak fishing and hunting periods April 15-June 15 and October 15 to Dec 15.
- Leave gates open during the winter months
- Restrict ATV access to protected areas
- Concern for the loss of snowmobile trail along rail bed from Middleton to New Germany where it intersects with proposed protected area
- Blackadar lands cannot have restricted access because it has to be crossed to access adjacent properties
- Maintain ATV access to the New France area
- Restrict ATV access to the Pockwock watershed area
- The trail south east of Bear River to Digby is not acceptable because it's too close to Tobeatic. Also a trail from Lake Mulgrave to Keji boundary

Protected Areas;

- Protected area should be extended around Tobeatic Lake and 2,000 acres back of the Milford House
- The Tobeatic Wilderness Area Management Plan required that a boundary review be completed and fully addressed by 2008. The primary thrust was to add to the boundary to support wildlife populations, and connectivity for endangered species. Our Association has been involved in that process, and a number of land parcels have been previously identified, with that process moving forward slowly. We are pleased that DNR has given support to Provincial Environment for land parcel inclusion to the TWA, and other areas, as part of the Parks and Protected Areas review. Specifically, those parcels located to the south of 4th and 5th Lake flowage between Sporting Lake Stream and Whitesand Stream, the parcel west of the Shelburne Heritage River known as the boot, the parcel to the northwest of Little Tobeatic Lake, the parcel west of Longview Lake, the parcel east of Eleven Mile Lake on the Mersey River, the parcel west of First Broad River Lake, land to the south and east of First and Second West Brook Lakes, land on the Roseway River near the Silvery Lake Road and below Bluffhill Lake, and the land near Carrying Lakes, Bario Lake and the Silver River. (Queens County Fish and Game)
- Carters Beach is a wonderful beach that in recent years has become very popular to local residents and out of County visitors. It lacks parking, washrooms, and garbage receptacles. This area would be better suited to day park status, with a parking area for 40 vehicles, and necessary service facilities being established near the north end beach access area. The land is high and dry, with many mature trees starting to die. If it must retain Nature Reserve status, then the northerly 300 feet of the property, adjacent to the paved access road, should be excluded from the designation to allow for the parking area, etc. Parking on the narrow roadway is annoying to residents, and creates a major safety concern when emergency access is required, as the ambulance is unable to get to the end of the roadway,

Public Comments From Website: First stage categorization

which is usually blocked by parked cars.(Queens County Fish and game)

- Cherry Hill Beach is the most frequently used beach on the South Shore for recreational clam harvesting by residents and tourists. Commercial clam harvesters reduced their effort when vehicle access was restricted across the beach several years ago. This beach must remain open to recreational clam harvesting, and perhaps a day use park may be the more appropriate designation. Commercial clam harvesting on this beach should be restricted, as previous commercial clam harvesting virtually eliminated recreational clam harvesting on this beach for the remainder of the year. Additionally, this area is utilized by duck and goose hunters in the fall, and this activity should also be permitted in the future. It is our understanding that both recreational activities are compatible with the purposes determined for conserving Cherry Hill Beach area. (Queens County Fish and game)
- DNR may find it wise to look at creating another designation that allows for the same level of protection as a Nature Reserve, but still allows fishing and hunting. It was suggested that a flexible criteria for a Nature Reserve could be created, however we prefer set, fixed criteria for designations so everyone knows the rules, and they do not change overnight on a whim of Government. (Queens County Fish and game)
- The area around Dunraven Bog has been nominated as a Nature Reserve. It should become a Wilderness Area, and preferably be added to the Tidney Wilderness Area. This is one of the few remaining remote areas of refuge for endangered mainland moose, and is a main connectivity corridor to the Tidney River, Broad River, and West Brook watersheds from the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. Some moose migrate to the coast spring or fall, and are not surviving to return inland to their preferred habitat. In the winter of 2011, a new harvest occurred near Porcupine Hill and logging trucks on the roadway south and west of Dunraven Bog, found moose on the road in front of them on several occasions when snow was in the woods. The moose did not want to leave the road and traveled a sizeable distance before going off the road. Stressing moose in winter snow is not good for the moose. (Queens County Fish and Game)
- We strongly support protected status for more than the promised 30,000 acres of the newly acquired Crown lands. For starters, every single property identified for protection as a wilderness area, nature reserve, or Provincial Park in the former Bowater Mersey territory by the draft Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan should receive a protected status. However, we note that several important recreational and scenic areas such as the upper Ingram River lake district and Island Lake/Rees Brook in the former St. Margarets Bay district didn't make the list. Moreover, several important properties such as Labrador Castle (Patch 203), the Westhaver Lake/Coolen Lake property (part of Patch 3) and Pogwa Lake (Patch 28) are also excluded. We note that much of these lands are wetlands, narrow peninsulas, steep valleys.(Canoe Kayak Nova Scotia)
- Maintain former Bowater lands as productive forest. Protected areas network already heavily weighted to western NS
- 19% of Queens County is already protected. We don't need more protected areas. Focus on economic development
- Protect the bear allow near Tobeatic boundary on former Bowater land near Lake Mulgrave
- Support for proposal for protected area at Medway Lakes (#112), Skull Bog Lake (#166), Tobeatic Lake Wilderness Expansion (#191) & Fisher Lake (#596)
- Follow through on commitment to protect 30,000 acres of former Bowater Lands (5)
- Expand Protected area in the following locations: south side of Tobeatic Lake, east side of Panuke Lake, Milford House back country, Kaiser Meadows and East River, Ingram River, Eagle and Toney Lake, Lower Medway, Mersey and Jordans Rivers, fill in/ expand proposed Medway Lakes protected area
- Proposed protected area at Medway Lake is too large an area to be taken out of a well managed FSC certified forest
- DNR should consider connectivity of canoe routes in Annapolis County in developing management plan
- Areas dropped during Colin Stewart Forest Forum negotiations should be added to protected areas
- At least 8% of land should be selected, designated and mapped as old forest or potentially old forest
- Establish linkage between protected with areas of restricted forestry activity
- Consider including Provincial Crown land including former Boater lands along the Shelburne River corridor adjacent to the Tobeatic and between Kejimkujik and Cloud Lake as buffers for the cores

Public Comments From Website: First stage categorization

protected area of the biosphere reserve and establish best management practices for those areas to support conservation functions

- Consider adding a portion of the Rossignol areas within the Roseway River Glacial Plains and the Lake Rossignol Hills in protected areas network
- Consider adding hardwood hills at Milford, Lake Alma and South Mountain to protected areas network
- Medway River is a hotspot for species at risk; recommend immediate purchase of lands adjacent to Luxton Meadows where new population of Blanding's turtle has been discovered
- Consider establishing protected area on the north side of Tupper Lake where all five threatened land-bird species were located last summer
- Other sites for consideration include: site in Queens county where boreal felt lichen recently discovered, sites where eastern ribbon snake found east of Shelburne River, sites at Dunraven Bog with threatened gold crest and fifty old forest sites included in old growth research conducted by Bowater Mersey and Dalhousie University. In St. Margarets Bay additional sites include old forest along Panuke Lake and hardwood hill near Porcupine Lake

QUESTION 3

What other points do you feel are the most important for the Department to consider as it develops the land and resource management plan?

- Don't give long term licenses to pulp mills or sawmills (10)
- Reduces prices paid to woodlot owners for logs and pulpwood
- Public consultations on Crown land management should be done on a more routine basis (5)
- Postharvest plans for comment on public registry at least two months prior to harvest
- Develop new technology to facilitate value added opportunities (13)
- Collaborate with municipalities on land use opportunities (2)
- Crown land should be the only place where wind farms can be located
- All wood produced in western NS should be locally processed
- Set aside 500 acres for landfill development
- Develop and teach sustainable harvest techniques
- Look to ATV access to create economic opportunities. Work with clubs to establish trail network
- Explore market for carbon credits
- Create small sized tender blocks that logging contractors could bid for right to harvest. Don't restrict stumpage tenders to mills
- Look at Windhorse Farm as model for forest management
- Change the definition of clearcutting. Current definition allows too much to be removed
- DNR should clarify how consultation about Crown land in western NS will be incorporated in planning and how planning will be reviewed and made public
- Information should be made available on how much land or timber volume is already allocated and to whom