

Chignecto Crown Lands Evaluation

December, 2009

On October 19, 2009, Minister of Environment Sterling Belliveau announced the province's intent to consult widely to evaluate options for establishing a large wilderness area within Crown lands in and near Chignecto Game Sanctuary, in Cumberland County.

Wilderness Areas are significant natural areas designated under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*. These areas protect the natural environment while providing opportunities for wilderness recreation, camping, sportfishing, hunting, education, research, and community stewardship.

The Crown lands of interest around Chignecto Game Sanctuary include many natural features and ecosystems that are not represented elsewhere within Nova Scotia's parks and protected areas system. Anyone who knows the area will also appreciate its great beauty. A new wilderness area within these lands will help ensure that Cumberland County will always have wild spaces for nature and for people to enjoy. It will also make an important contribution to the province's goal of legally protecting 12% of Nova Scotia's landmass by 2015.

This Crown land evaluation is being conducted by the Department of Environment, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources.



Kelley River

A map of the 35,000 hectare (86,000 acre) Crown land study area is shown on page 3. All these Crown lands are being evaluated, but they will not all be protected. Private lands are not being considered.

The following roads are excluded from the study area and therefore will be unaffected by any future wilderness area designation:

- Boars Back Ridge Road along River Hebert
- the paved coastal highway between Shulie and Sand River
- Goodwin Road, connecting the above roads

The province is committed to maintaining essential off-highway vehicle route connections between communities. This can be done by excluding additional roads, or designating routes for continued off-highway vehicle (OHV) use through management agreements with OHV groups and organizations.

The province is also committed to ensuring that owners of private land will have continued road access to their property.

Hunting is permitted in wilderness areas consistent with any applicable rules or regulations.

Aside from its importance for nature conservation and recreation, the Crown land study area also has resource values, such as forest harvesting and mineral and petroleum exploration. These resource values will all be considered during the evaluation process. Existing, legal land use interests, including mineral and petroleum exploration licenses, can be honoured under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*.



CONSULTATION PROCESS

Step 1

Initial consultation will take place with interested parties, including municipal, community, industry, recreation, business, and environment stakeholders and organizations. Fully understanding all concerns and views will help government make informed decisions before developing proposed boundaries for a candidate wilderness area. Our goal is to develop proposed boundaries for a candidate wilderness area for consideration by government by June, 2010.

Interested parties that would like to meet with staff or submit ideas to Nova Scotia Environment during this first step of the consultation process should call 902-424-2117 or email us at: protectedareas@gov.ns.ca.

Step 2





Once a proposed boundary for a candidate wilderness area has been developed, the department will launch a broad public and stakeholder consultation process to discuss this candidate area boundary and any other issues or concerns. We are aiming for the summer of 2010 for this step. This will include:

- opportunities for meetings with staff
- write-in opportunities
- information displays
- public open houses
- opportunity to comment on a socio-economic study

More details and updates will be shared when available.

Chignecto Crown Land Study Area For Evaluating Options for Wilderness Area Protection

Legend

-  Roadways Excluded from Study Area
-  Crown Land Study Area (35,000 Ha)
-  Chignecto Game Sanctuary Boundary
-  Indian Reserve

PLEASE NOTE

This map shows Crown lands being evaluated. It does not represent a proposed Wilderness Area.

5 Kilometers

Map produced by the Protected Areas Branch of NS Environment, November 2009.

The information shown here was obtained courtesy of the NS Geomatics Centre (SNSMR) and the NS Department of Natural Resources.

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CONTACT

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COMMENTS

Please feel free to use this area to record your thoughts, questions, and comments.