

Quick Facts - 12% Land Protection



Vehicle Use and Access

In June 2011, government invited Nova Scotians to help review more than 200,000 hectares of land (12% lands) to help in choosing potential new protected areas. To provide flexibility, this is more land than is needed to achieve the 12% land protection goal. These lands are not proposed protected areas, but government will select most of the proposed protected areas from these lands.

Vehicles and Access to Nature

Many people enjoy protected areas as places to visit or camp in a natural setting, without the distraction of vehicle trails and sounds.

Others value vehicle access on old roads and routes, perhaps to reach a favourite lake, for hunting, or to enjoy an afternoon outdoors with family and friends.

To help protect the natural environment, vehicle use is generally prohibited in protected areas. Vehicle use is treated differently depending on the type of protection.

Did you know?

- Vehicle access can be licensed in wilderness areas for specific uses such as reaching private land or an existing legal interest.
- Vehicle access can be permitted to campsite leases located within wilderness areas for maintenance and removal of structures.
- In new wilderness areas, vehicle use can be permitted on essential connector routes.

Vehicle Use and Land Protection

We are committed to minimizing impacts on vehicle routes as a result of new protection decisions.

Potential impacts can be minimized by:

- Deciding not to protect certain 12% lands;
- Excluding access roads from boundaries of a protected area;
- Entering into agreements with off-highway vehicle (OHV) groups or others to maintain important vehicle connector routes in new wilderness areas.

Did you know?

- At Ship Harbour Long Lake Wilderness Area, in Halifax County, two forest access roads were left outside the wilderness area boundaries.
- At the new Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area, near Halifax, 16 km of OHV trail will be managed by OHV groups under an agreement.
- We expect that about 35 km of forest roads within the proposed Kelley River Wilderness Area, in Cumberland County, will be managed by OHV or other groups. Other roads have been excluded from the boundary.

Vehicle Access in Southwest Nova Scotia

We are aware of concerns about possible impacts of land protection on vehicle access in Shelburne, Yarmouth and Digby Counties. The 12% process is designed to address these concerns.

Did you know?

- In these counties, about 38 km of road have been left out of 10 individual 12% land areas.
- Tobetic Wilderness Area has unique vehicle use rules as a result of its management plan.

We need your help

If you are a concerned vehicle user, please let us know how you think you may be affected by land protection in your area. By sharing information on land use, you can help plan Nova Scotia's new protected areas.

Information on our planning and consultation process is available at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/12percent/> and in "Our Wild Spaces" booklet. You may also email us at: protectedareas@gov.ns.ca or call us at: 902-424-2117.

