

Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area

Information Sheet



This sheet summarizes key information related to designation of Crown land at Eigg Mountain-James River under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*.

For more information on Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area, please refer to:

- Gully Lake & Eigg Mountain-James River Candidate Wilderness Areas: Socio-economic analysis study and summary
- Preliminary Assessment of Natural Values - Eigg Mountain-James River Study Area
- Eigg Mountain-James River land use map and natural values map
- *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*
- *Protecting Wilderness: A Summary of Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act*
- Nova Scotia Wilderness Areas: Questions and Answers
- *Keep it Wild: A Guide to Low Impact Recreation in Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas*



James River

The above information is available at Nova Scotia Environment and Labour offices in Antigonish, Truro, and Halifax. Most materials can also be viewed online at www.gov.ns.ca/enla/pareas, or received by mail by calling: 1-800-567-7544.

Location & Regional Context

Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area is located in the Pictou-Antigonish Highlands, 10 kilometers northwest of the town of Antigonish (see map on back page).

This 4150 hectare wilderness area is dominated by an upland area of rolling hills dissected by ravines and gullies, typical of the Pictou-Antigonish Hills Natural Landscape.

This wilderness area supports a diversity of plants and animals, with large areas of undisturbed forest, and several uncommon ecosystems. With outstanding scenery and topography, the area also provides numerous wilderness recreation opportunities for day use or extended back country travel. This unique recreational setting is especially valuable, as adjacent lands are largely devoted to forest management and there are no large interior parks or protected areas in the region. The wilderness area includes headwaters of three rivers, including part of the James River watershed, which is the drinking water supply for the town of Antigonish.



Boundary Selection

The boundary for Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area captures significant natural areas which contribute to protected area objectives, while minimizing adverse effects on existing use and resource investments. Where possible, certain vehicle-use roads, forestry plantations, and silviculture areas are excluded.

As a result of the selection criteria, and the shape and size of the Crown land blocks, the wilderness area boundary has an irregular appearance.

A detailed boundary survey will set the exact legal boundary of the wilderness area. This boundary will be quite close to the boundary originally proposed.



Candidate Area near James River (adjacent lands in foreground)

Partners in Conservation
Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury Limited

Stora Enso holds a licence for Crown lands in the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia. This licence includes most Crown lands in the Eigg Mountain-James River area.

Stora Enso, a leader in sustainable forestry management, has developed a long-range plan for lands on which they operate. This plan recognizes old forest, scenic, water supply, and biodiversity values on the Eigg Mountain-James River Crown lands.

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour is working in partnership with Stora Enso through the designation process for Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area.

James River Watershed
Drinking Water Supply for the Town of Antigonish

Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area includes lands within the James River Watershed. This watershed is recognized and regulated, under the *Environment Act*, as the Town of Antigonish's primary drinking water supply.

Wilderness area designation within this regulated drinking water supply area is compatible with the objectives of water supply protection, and recognize the Town's pre-existing interests.

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour is working in partnership with the Town to ensure the area is appropriately managed as a wilderness area, while enabling the town to maintain, develop, and manage its drinking water supply.



Designation of Eigg Mountain-James River Wilderness Area under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* will:

Protect Important Natural Values by:

- contributing to the maintenance of overall ecological integrity in the region's landscapes
- maintaining representative ecosystems and features in their natural condition
- protecting habitat and species which depend on interior, roadless forest
- protecting unique sites, and opportunities for maintaining or restoring old-forest succession
- protecting water quality, and flow stability of the James River watershed
- encouraging scientific research and monitoring

Support Partnerships in Conservation by:

- strengthening relationships with key government, non-government, industry, and local partners
- complementing regional Crown land management under the Department of Natural Resources Integrated Resource Management process

Provide Community and Social Benefits by:

- meeting community and societal desires to maintain nearby natural areas intact for present and future generations
- increasing regional nature tourism opportunities

Enhance Recreational Opportunities by:

- securing the land base for high quality outdoor recreation
- supporting community-based trail development and management
- maintaining opportunities for sportfishing, hunting, and trapping



South Rights River