

Gully Lake Wilderness Area

Information Sheet



This sheet summarizes key information related to designation of Crown land at Gully Lake under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*.

For detailed information on Gully Lake Wilderness Area, please refer to:

- Gully Lake & Eigg Mountain-James River Candidate Wilderness Areas: Socioeconomic analysis study and summary
- Preliminary Assessment of Natural Values - Gully Lake Study Area
- Gully Lake 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*



Gully Lake

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

Gully Lake Wilderness Area is located approximately 20 kilometers north east of Truro, within a block of Crown land which straddles the Pictou and Colchester county line between Mount Thom and Earltown (see map on back page).

The 3810-hectare wilderness area is dominated by broad deciduous hills, mixed Acadian forests, and coniferous undulating terrain and stream valleys. These natural features are typical of the Cobequid Mountains Natural Landscape. The wilderness area also covers a portion of the Central Rolling Hills Natural Landscape, which typically includes elevated rolling hills supporting Acadian mixed forests.

The wilderness area is located on one of the largest remaining, relatively unfragmented Crown land areas in north-central mainland Nova Scotia, and contains rich forest and plant habitats. The area also provides outstanding opportunities for 1-2 day wilderness travel. With no large interior parks or protected areas between Truro and New Glasgow, this natural area is especially important as regional asset for outdoor recreation.

Boundary Selection

The boundary of Gully Lake Wilderness Area largely reflects the shape and size of the Crown land block. The wilderness area boundary includes significant natural areas which contribute to protected area objectives, while minimizing adverse effects on existing resource investments. Where possible, roads, forestry plantations, and silviculture areas are excluded.

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.



Hardwood forest east of Juniper Brook

Partners in Conservation

Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury Limited holds a forest management licence to most Crown land in the seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia, including a portion of the Gully Lake parcel. J.D. Irving Limited also holds a forestry licence on a portion of the Gully Lake Crown block.

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour is working in partnership with these companies, through the designation process for Gully Lake Wilderness Area.



Cut-leaved Grape Fern

The Value of Large Natural Patches

Maintaining large patches of natural land is one of the greatest challenges in protecting biodiversity. When large areas of forest are left undisturbed, they often develop into old-growth forests, containing a diverse and rich range of habitats.

When humans live and work in forested landscapes, natural forest patterns often change. Human-affected landscapes are often fragmented by roads and land use into small patches of forest.

Some species, such as large mammals and birds, need large tracts of undisturbed habitat in order to live and reproduce. Other species, such as certain lichens, bryophytes, and beetles, also require these relatively stable interior environments. Large natural patches also provide useful benchmarks for scientists studying effects on ecosystems from stressors such as climate change, acid rain, or pollution.

Protecting Crown land at Gully Lake Wilderness Area will help maintain an important area of large patch habitat, and contribute to biodiversity protection in the north-central mainland of Nova Scotia.



Designation of Gully Lake Wilderness Area under the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* will:

Protect Important Natural Values by:

- contributing to the overall ecological integrity of 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, rare species habitat, and opportunities for maintaining or restoring old-forest succession
- contributing to water flow stability of the Salmon 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 opportunities for regional tourism growth and development

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



Juniper Brook headwaters

Gully Lake & Eigg Mountain-James River 

Two New Wilderness Areas