

PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

What is a Protected Natural Area (PNA)?

A PNA is an area of land or water permanently set aside under the *Protected Natural Areas Act* for the conservation of biological diversity. There are Class I and Class II PNAs.

What activities are prohibited in PNAs?

In **Class I** PNAs, all activities are prohibited except educational and scientific activities. These activities require a permit from the Minister of Natural Resources. In **Class II** PNAs, industrial, commercial, agricultural and development activities are prohibited. Certain recreational uses having minimal environmental impact are allowed.

Are hunting, trapping/snaring and fishing permitted in PNAs?

Yes, the public can continue to hunt, trap/snare and fish in Class II PNAs. These activities are regulated by the *Fish and Wildlife Act* in the same manner as they are outside of the PNAs.

Will roads and bridges be maintained in PNAs?

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will maintain some of the designated roads and their associated bridges within PNAs. Other designated roads and bridges will be maintained by user groups through agreements with DNR.

Landowners or leaseholders may be allowed, with written approval from the Minister, to add gravel or other aggregate over the footprint of access roads leading to private property or leased land for the purposes of maintaining access. The gravel or other aggregate cannot be obtained from within a PNA. For information on Licences of Occupation on Crown Land, see the Fact Sheet and Application Package at www.gnb.ca/0263/CrownLand-Apply-e.asp.

Are ATVs and snowmobiles allowed in PNAs?

ATVs and snowmobiles are allowed in Class II PNAs on designated roads and trails only. PNAs are preserved for nature, so it is the policy of DNR to minimize roads and trails. That is why persons who engage in unauthorized trail development or illegal use of motor vehicles in PNAs are subject to greater penalties under the PNA Act than they would be on other Crown lands. The PNA Advisory Committees are among the reviewers who provide recommendations on the location and designation of trails. For information on Motorized Trails on Crown Land, see the Fact Sheet at www.gnb.ca/0263/CrownLand-Apply-e.asp.

How do I obtain a right of access to my private or leasehold property that is located within the boundaries of a PNA?

Rights of access to private property over Crown lands can be obtained through an easement. The granting and location of access will be subject to approval from the Minister. For information on Easements on Crown Land, see the Fact Sheet and Application Package www.gnb.ca/0263/CrownLand-Apply-e.asp.

Is camping allowed in PNAs?

Yes, wilderness tenting is allowed (carry in, carry out) in Class II PNAs.

Is boating allowed?

Yes. The Protected Natural Areas legislation does not place any restrictions on boats in Class II PNAs. These activities are subject to the Department of Environment's *Clean Water Act* and Transport Canada's *Canada Shipping Act*.

Will existing campsite leases in PNAs be allowed to continue?

Yes, all existing campsite leases will be honoured, as per the existing DNR Policy on *Designation and Leasing of Crown Lands for Campsites*.

Will campsite leases in PNAs be renewed once they expire?

Yes. Leaseholders will be able to maintain their leases and renew them, as per the existing DNR Policy on *Designation and Leasing of Crown Lands for Campsites*.

Are there private lands currently within the PNAs?

All existing 30 PNAs are on Crown Land. There is private land adjacent to and within some Protected Natural Area boundaries, but this land is not designated as a PNA. The owners' rights and access to the land are not affected.

Can private land be protected under the PNA legislation?

Yes. Interested landowners may enter into a written mutual agreement with DNR to designate their land as a PNA.

How is enforcement of the PNA regulations undertaken?

DNR district staff continue to conduct law enforcement in these areas as they have done prior to the establishment of the PNAs. An education and awareness program will improve compliance with the regulations.

What is DNR's policy on fire suppression and insect control in PNAs?

DNR will fight fires and control insect and disease outbreaks where necessary, both in Class I and Class II PNAs.

Is logging permitted in any of the PNAs?

There are three PNAs where logging will continue in specific zones until 2012.

Are industrial and agricultural activities adjacent to the PNAs affected?

Activities outside of PNAs are not affected by the *Protected Natural Areas Act*.

Will scientific research, ecological monitoring and habitat restoration be undertaken in PNAs?

Yes, it is anticipated that these activities will be undertaken as permitted by the Minister of Natural Resources

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