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Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area expanded by 65 hectares

On November 10, 2022 Tory Rushton, MLA Cumberland South, Minister Natural Resources and Renewables announced a 65 hectare expansion to the Wentworth Valley protected area. The mid-November announcement also included additions to the Economy River and Portapique River protected areas.

The announcement was part of the Nova Scotia government announcement it is investing an additional \$20 million to help protect more of Nova Scotia's land and water and designating another 9,300 hectares of Crown land for the benefit of Nova Scotians and the environment.

Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area protects a scenic portion of the Cobequid Mountains at Wentworth Valley, near Highway #4. Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area was designated in 2018. Two parcels, consisting of 65 hectares, were added near Highway #4 in 2022. The detailed map published in this issue outlines which areas are protected.

The Wentworth Wilderness protected area is described as follows.

Older hardwood and mixed forests blanket highlands and deep ravines. Sugar maple, yellow birch and red spruce are mixed with white ash, hemlock, red maple, white spruce, ironwood and other species. Scattered throughout are fast flowing brooks, waterfalls, a few lakes, ponds, wetlands, and vernal pools.

The forest condition and extended seasonal snow cover provide quality habitat for the endangered mainland moose.

This is also part of the headwaters of the Wallace River, which supports an Atlantic salmon run.

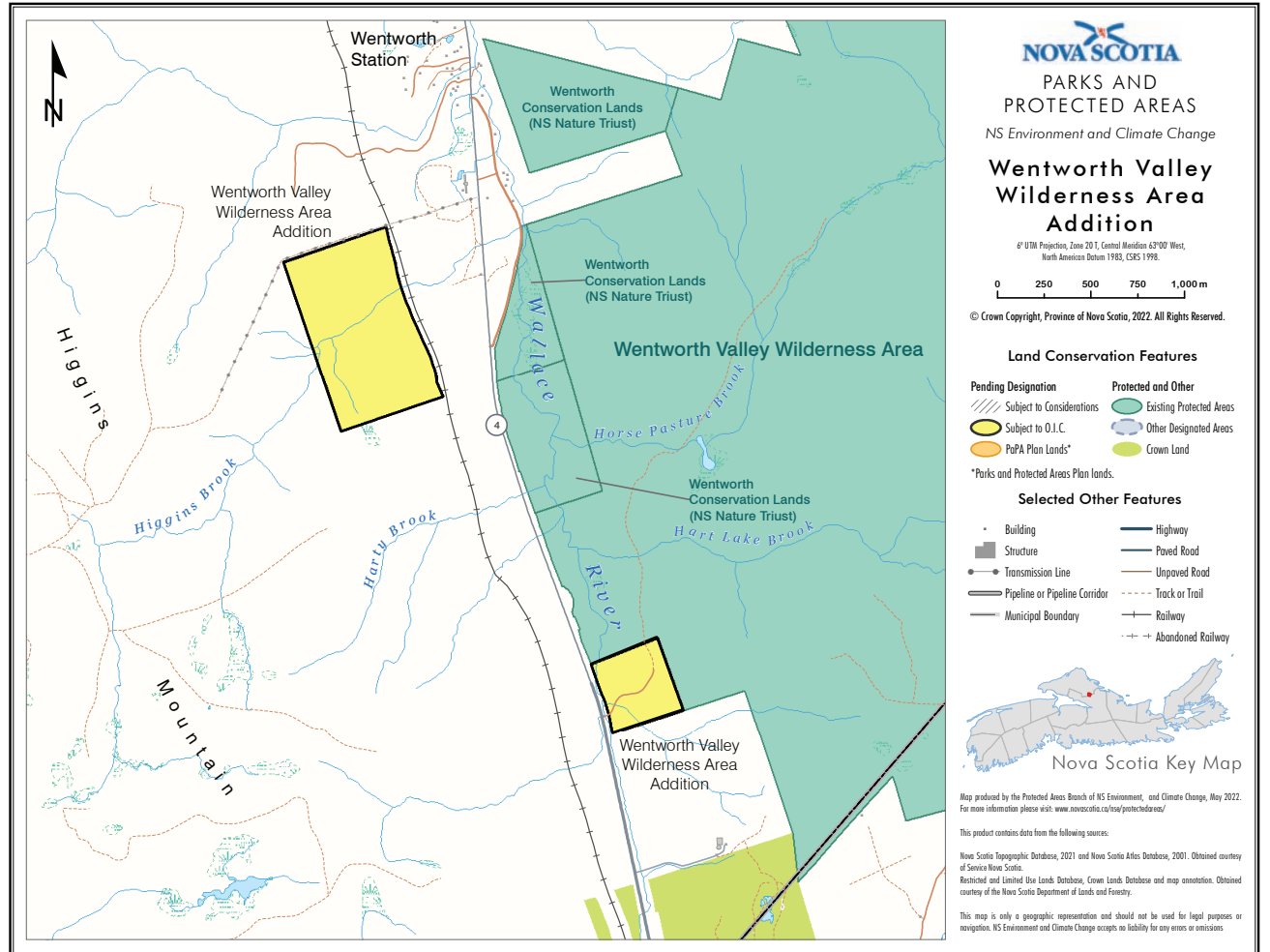
The wilderness area includes an unnamed peak which has been confirmed as the highest point in mainland Nova Scotia, at 365 m above sea level.

The scenic and hilly terrain is suited for four-season trail use and other outdoor recreation in a wilderness setting, including hunting and angling. Parking to access non-motorized recreation is available at the southwestern end of the wilderness area, off of Highway #4.

A portion of Ski Wentworth's cross-country ski trail network is within the wilderness area. This is managed under an agreement with the Province.

Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change has authorized OHV use on trails #310 / 310A and on a trail near the east side of Hart Lake by adding these to agreements with the Snowmobilers Association of Nova Scotia (SANS), All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS) and Nova Scotia Off Road Riders Association (NSORRA). These trails are located in the eastern portion of the wilderness area, near the community of Hart Lake.

Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables said, "In addition to all that we enjoy about nature, protecting more land in Nova Scotia is critically important for our sustainable and prosperous future. It supports biodiversity and helps with carbon capture which are key



as our climate changes. That's why we're committed to reaching our protected area goals and grateful to all our partners for helping us achieve them."

The other areas which will have expanded wilderness areas include: Eastern Shore Islands, Halifax Regional Municipality, 96 hectares; Eigg Mountain-James River, Antigonish County, 71 hectares; Medway Lakes, Annapolis County,

430 hectares and Middle River Framboise, Cape Breton County, 21 hectares.

Several ecological sites announced as new nature reserves are: Barneys River Nature Reserve, Pictou County


(567 hectares); Big Meadow Brook Nature Reserve, Hants County (284 hectares); Cherry Hill Beach Nature Reserve, Lunenburg County (27 hectares); Glendyer Nature Reserve, Inverness County (276

hectares); Les Caps Nature Reserve, Inverness County (22 hectares) and Porcupine Brook Nature Reserve, Annapolis County (238 hectares).



An aerial view of a portion of the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area which protects a scenic portion of the Cobequid Mountains at Wentworth Valley, near Highway #4. (NS Gov Photo)

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New Technology to Improve Patient Care

Shorter wait times, better care, and giving health professionals more time with patients are some of the ways that One Person One Record can help improve healthcare in Nova Scotia.

The new clinical information system will replace or connect more than 80 systems health-care professionals use daily to record and view patient information. Many of these systems are outdated, slow, and information cannot be shared easily between them, frustrating health-care professionals who, on average, log in to at least five systems to gain a full picture of a patient's health information.

The Province has entered a 10-year agreement with Oracle Cerner, a global leader in integrated health information technology, to design, build, and maintain One Person One Record. It will start rolling out at hospitals and mental health and addiction facilities in two years. One Person One Record advances all priorities included in Action for Health, the government's plan to improve healthcare, by: supporting a centralized booking system to reduce surgical wait times; providing paramedics with the ability to

view patient health information on the way to an emergency; giving family doctors, nurse practitioners and other providers supporting primary healthcare easier access to patient information; connecting Nova Scotia Health and IWK mental health clinics and SchoolsPlus, which supports universal mental healthcare; replacing existing old systems so new infrastructure projects can be designed with less space for records and more space for patient care and giving continuing care teams access to results and treatments from residents' hospital visits, so they can provide better care when the resident returns home.

One Person One Record will add features over time, including the ability for patients to easily access their own medical records. Health-care professionals will be fully supported before, during and after implementation, including in-person and virtual instructor-led training, and 24/7 in-person, on-site support that includes peer mentors, trainers, vendor support, technical support, and clinical support.