



## The benefits of establishing and protecting natural areas include:

- Benchmarks by which to measure the health of lands and wildlife outside natural areas
- Reservoirs to protect and preserve the biodiversity of the earth for scientific research and education
- Opportunities for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, as well as non-residents, to enjoy and appreciate our outstanding scenery, landscapes, and wildlife
- The continuation of many traditional activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing
- The basis for new local business opportunities associated with ecotourism and adventure tourism
- Outdoor classrooms (natural laboratories) for public education and knowledge
- "Insurance policies" against loss or damage to important ecosystems

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CPAWS

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CPAWS

CANADIAN PARKS  
AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter





## Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Newfoundland and Labrador (CPAWS-NL)

CPAWS is a national non-profit group that works to protect Canada's wilderness, and to preserve the full diversity of habitats and their species.

Founded in 1963, CPAWS has 20,000 members across the country, thirteen chapters, as well as a national office in Ottawa. Since CPAWS was founded, it has helped to protect over 40 million hectares of Canada's most treasured wild places.

Our mission to promote and establish new terrestrial and marine protected areas and to foster effective management of existing protected areas in our province.

### What is stewardship?

Stewardship may be defined as the careful and responsible management of ecosystem resources.

Volunteer Stewards are individuals and organizations helping to developing a world-class network of parks and protected areas.

## Purpose of a Volunteer Steward Program

Protected Area monitoring is the regular and systematic gathering of information about a protected area to detect changes (both natural and man made) that occur on the site:

- To ensure that the environmental management goals for the area are being met;
- To detect any safety hazards, trespass and/or vandalism issues and to share this information with Protected Area managers.
- To fulfill our mission and commitment to protect natural areas.

The organization will depend on the valued assistance of volunteer stewards to complement its staff-led monitoring program. The need to build its team of volunteers will remain an ongoing responsibility.

## Primary Role of the Volunteer Steward Monitor

- To record the state of important natural terrestrial and aquatic features, flora and fauna, including endangered or threatened species and habitats;
- To record any evident changes, threats, or disturbances to the protected area; and
- To identify any intentional or accidental violations contrary to the legislation of the protected area.
- To inform Protected Area Managers of this information.



## Duties of a Steward

Stewards will be expected to visit a protected area approximately four times a year, complete and submit the steward monitoring report form, and notify CPAWS-NL in advance of planned visits.

During their visit, the steward will walk the protected area boundaries to look for any type of illegal cutting, ATV use, signs of new trails/footpaths made into the lands, erosion problems, and any sign of damage. The steward will also inspect the protected area interior.

They will visit high use areas, areas that may be susceptible to risk (i.e. wetlands, fragile plant communities, areas susceptible to erosion, or areas affected by special restrictions), and they will follow all trails and roads. The steward will take notice of any threat or violation that they have observed.

They will record natural occurrence threats as well as human-caused threats and violations.