

INFORMATION SHEET

Proposed Indian Arm Brook Reserve

June 2016

Background

- The proposal to establish the Indian Arm Brook Study Area as a reserve is a local initiative by the Notre Dame Rod & Gun Club. The area was originally proposed as a reserve in 2002 and then subsequently revitalized in 2009 and again in 2016 with presentations made to the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC).
- Located in central Newfoundland, south of Campbellton and east of Notre Dame Provincial Park, the Indian Arm Brook Study Area encompasses 272 km² of the Indian Arm Brook (also known as Campbellton River) watershed (see map). The study area consists of rolling terrain of old growth and re-growth forested areas with Balsam fir, Black Spruce, White Pine, White Birch, Mountain and Red Maple, and extensive bog lands. There are twenty-two large shallow lakes, many with very high productivity, and many scattered small ponds and bog pools. The Indian Arm Brook watershed is the water supply area for the community of Campbellton.
- This productive watershed hosts a local population of Woodland Caribou, as well as other species typical of the Central Newfoundland ecoregion. Moose, Black Bear, Otter, Beaver, Fox, Ermine/Weasel, Muskrat, Coyote and Lynx have been observed in the area.¹ The pond/bog complex provides habitat for breeding populations of Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Great Black Backed Gulls, Greater Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipes. Ring-necked Ducks, Common Loons, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Great-horned Owls, Northern Goshawks, and numerous species of songbirds that are present in the area.
- Indian Arm Brook is one of the most productive freshwater systems in the Province for Atlantic Salmon. There is also a large genetic stock of Brook Trout (including sea-run), sea-run American Smelt, landlocked pygmy smelt, a large population of American Eel, and a presence of Arctic and pygmy char. This is a well-studied watershed with two counting fences in place since 1993. Indian Arm Brook is also an indicator river, used to ascertain the populations for all salmon on the island (DFO, pers. comm.)^{2,3}.

¹ Local accounts; C. Callahan, and P. Saunders, Wildlife Division, ENVC; B. Griffin, Conservation Officer, DNR. Personal communication, 2011.

² Downton, P.R.; D. G. Reddin and R. W. Johnson. 2001. Status of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in Campbellton River, Notre Dame Bay (SFA 4), Newfoundland in 2000. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

³ P.R. Downton, DFO. Personal communication, 2011.

- Indian Arm Brook Watershed contains an example of each of the Province’s natural regions. The Indian Arm Brook Study Area is representative of the Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion (North Central Subregion), of which only 1.5% is currently protected. Target 11 of the international Convention for Biological Diversity sets a goal of 17% of land and inland waters to be conserved in a system of protected areas.

Legislation and Permitted Activities

- The Indian Arm Brook watershed is proposed for protection under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, which seeks to “to provide for natural areas in the province to be set aside for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of the province.”
- If the area is protected under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, forestry, agriculture, mining, prospecting or claims staking would not be permitted. The *Act* also prohibits the construction of structures, roads, or trails.
- The *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act* does not generally allow the use of motorized vehicles or equipment, or the landing of aircraft. However, the Act allows for some activities to continue at the same level that they were occurring before the area was established as a reserve.
- Under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, there is a different approach to hunting and fishing depending on whether the area is established as a wilderness reserve or as an ecological reserve.
 - In a Wilderness Reserve, hunting and fishing are permitted.
 - In an Ecological Reserve, fishing, hunting, and trapping are generally not permitted, but could be allowed at existing levels.
- **Before an area is designated as a reserve, a management plan must be developed in consultation with local stakeholders.**
- **No decisions have been made on what recreational activities would be permitted if the area was designated as a reserve.** Typically, for an area such as the Indian Arm Brook watershed, it is likely that ATV use would not be permitted, or permitted only on existing, registered ATV trails. This is because ATV use is generally very damaging to natural environments. Snowmobile use could be permitted at existing levels. There could be consideration required to protect natural values (eg. caribou) that might be disturbed by snowmobile use in certain areas.
- Existing cabins would likely be excluded from the Reserve or grandfathered in at the current footprint (ie. maintenance but no expansion). **Again, no decisions have been made.**

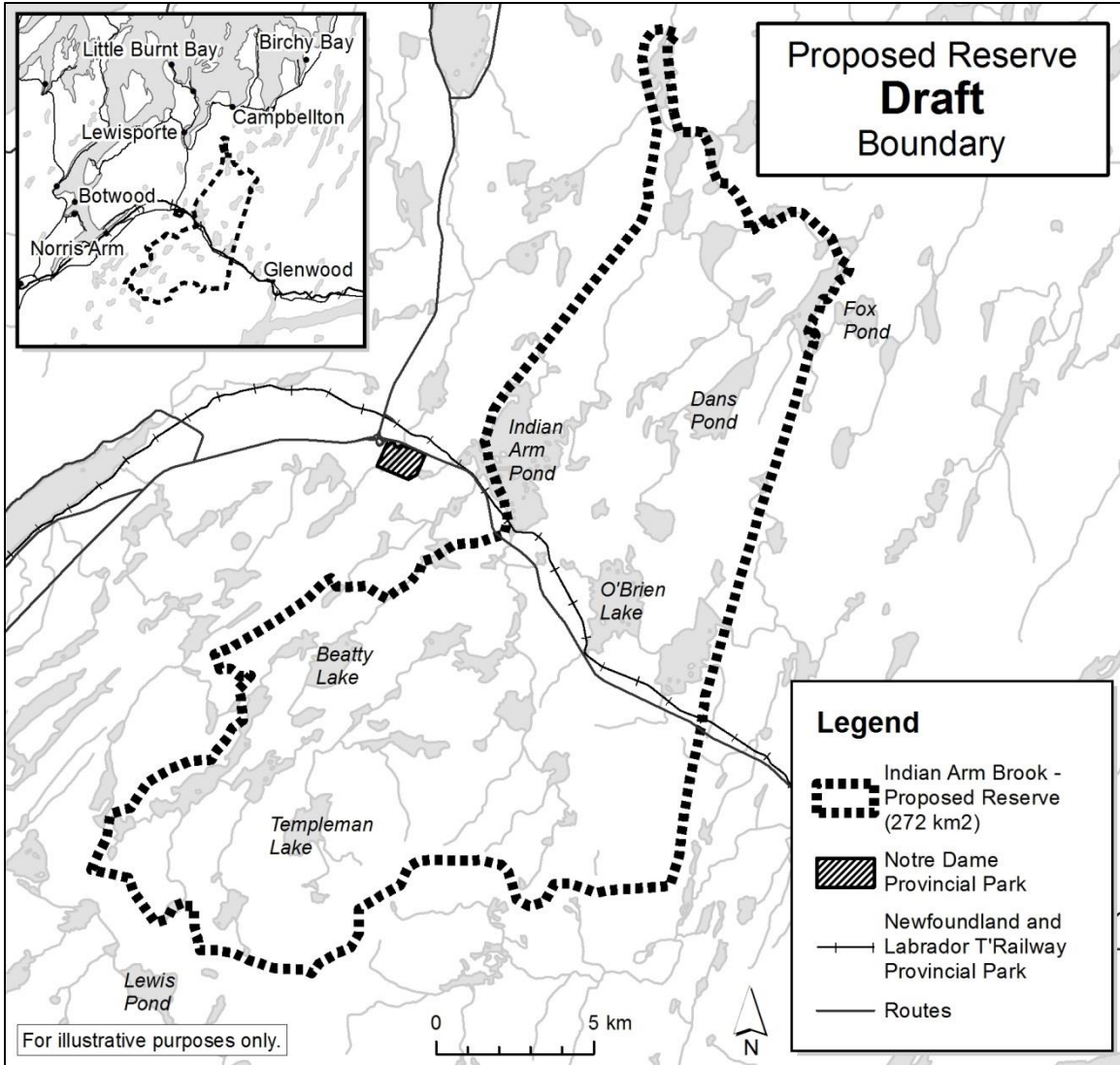
Establishment Process

- The next step in the establishment process is for the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) to consider all the letters and comment sheets received from the June 16, 2016 open house. The Council must also consider information received from provincial government departments. WERAC then makes a recommendation to the government as to whether a provisional reserve is appropriate and, if so, what activities may continue there.
- There is a formal public engagement process set out in the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*. As per section 16 of the *WER Act*, within one year of establishing a provisional reserve, WERAC would have to conduct formal public consultations (see attached establishment chart).
- All issues and concerns brought by the public to WERAC would be part of the formal public consultations. WERAC would conduct further public consultations to discuss management options and boundary options. These discussions would be reflected in a proposed final reserve boundary and management plan. If approved by the provincial government, and the reserve is established, the boundary and management plan could not be changed without further public consultations and a decision by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council (Cabinet).
- The Indian Arm Brook study area currently has no legal protection.
- Please fill out the comment sheet below or write a letter to the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council to express your views or ask specific questions.

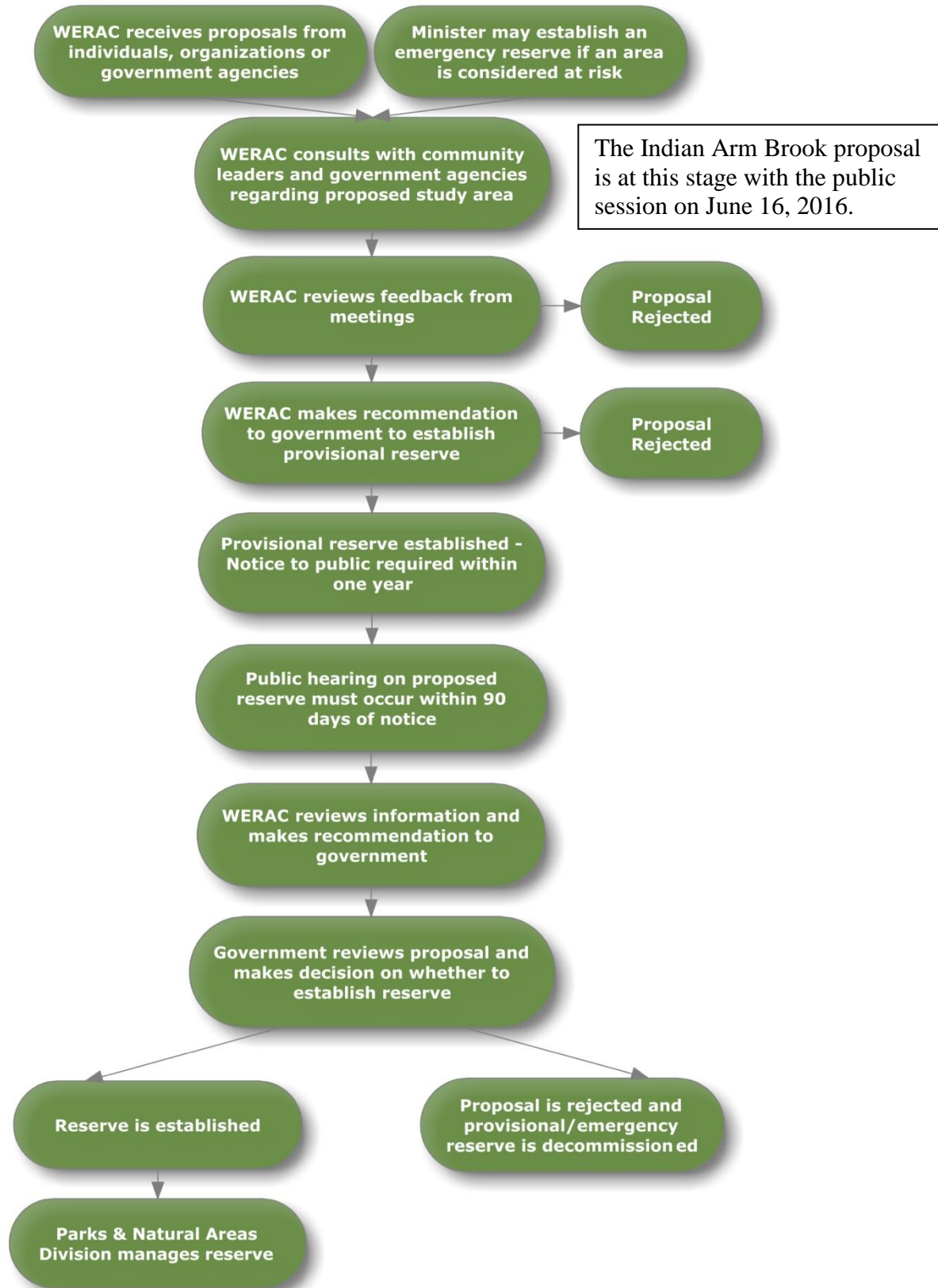
WERAC may be reached at:
c/o WERAC Secretariat
Parks and Natural Areas Division
P.O. Box 550
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6E6

Email: werac@gov.nl.ca

Phone: 709-637-8041



Reserve Establishment Process





WERAC
*Wilderness and Ecological
Reserves Advisory Council*

WERAC
c/o Executive Secretary
Parks and Natural Areas Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 550, Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6E6, Canada

Phone: (709) 637-8041
Fax: (709) 637-8060
Email: werac@gov.nl.ca
Website: www.gov.nl.ca/parks/wer

Indian Arm Brook Proposed Reserve

Comment form – We want to know what you think!

WERAC is trying to assess public support for this proposal. Based on the level of support, WERAC has the ability to make a recommendation to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to establish a provisional reserve in this area. If establishment is approved by the provincial government, the public will then be consulted on a draft management plan and boundary. Recognizing that public support is essential in this process and that future consultation on this proposal will also occur:

Do you support establishing a provisional reserve in this area?

- I support provisional reserve establishment.
- I do not support provisional reserve establishment.

Why or why not?

Are there any particular values or land use in this area that we should be aware of?

Do you think a reserve in this area is good for your community? Why or why not?

Further comments?

WERAC would like to receive your comments by August 31, 2016. Thank you for your input.

Please return form to:

WERAC Secretariat,
c/o Parks & Natural Areas Division
P.O. Box 550
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6E6
Email: werac@gov.nl.ca