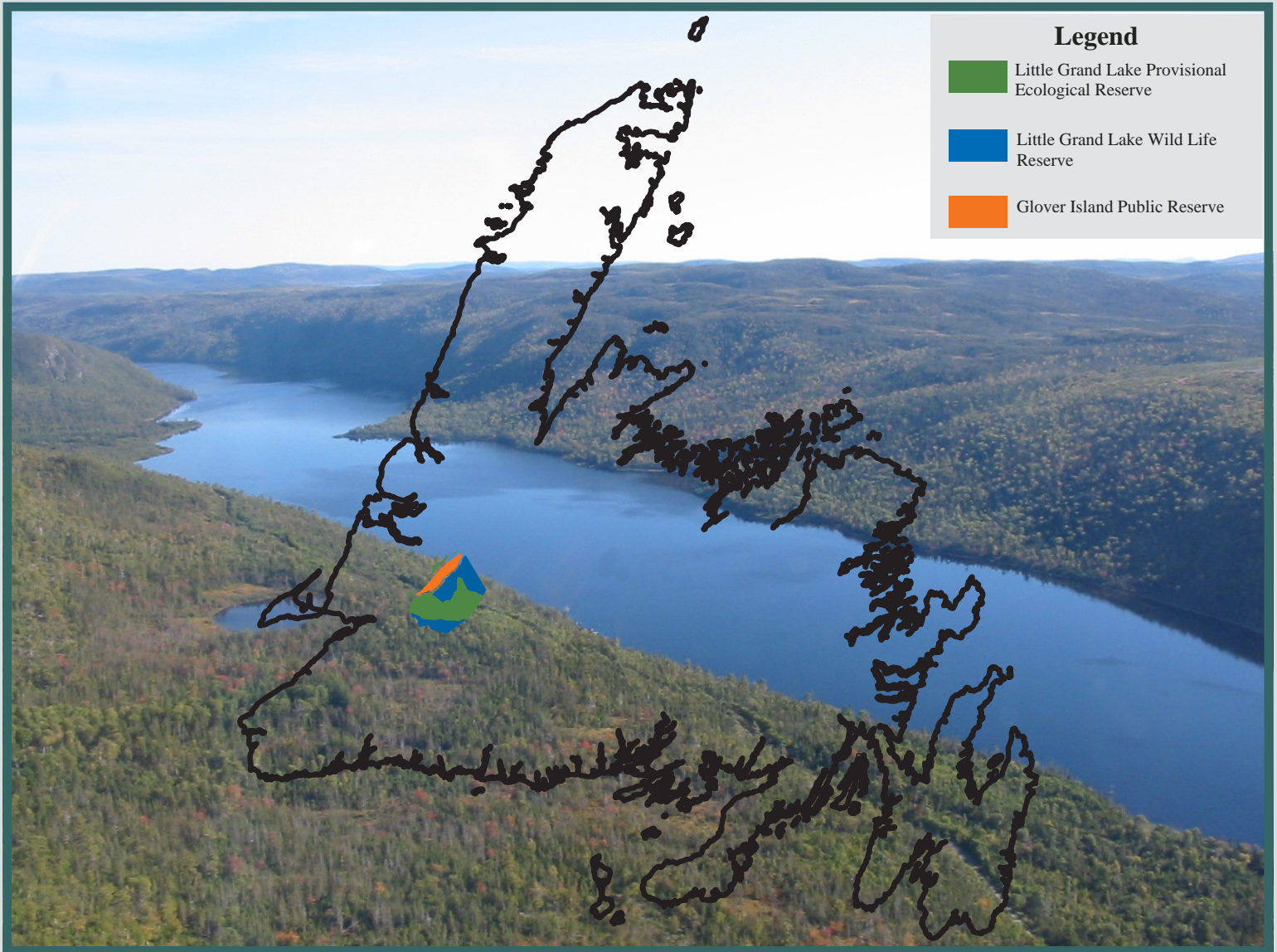




Parks and Natural Areas Division  
Department of Tourism, Culture  
and Recreation

# Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve



Nestled in picturesque western Newfoundland the Little Grand Lake Reserves protect approximately 1478 km<sup>2</sup> of mature boreal forest, bogs, barrens and rolling topography.

The Provisional (temporary) Ecological Reserve (731 km<sup>2</sup>; administered under the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act) is located approximately 20 km southeast of Corner Brook and 40 km southwest of Buchans. The Provisional Ecological Reserve is bound to the north and south by a Wild Life Reserve (569 km<sup>2</sup>; administered under the Wild Life Act). The Reserve is separated by the province's largest lake, Grand Lake, and Glover Island Public Reserve (178 km<sup>2</sup>; administered under the Lands Act). The different types of Reserves afford different levels of protection.

The establishment of a strong protection regime at Little Grand Lake is an important contribution to our national (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity and National Forest Strategy) and provincial (Natural Areas System Plan) commitments to protect the biodiversity of Newfoundland and Labrador. This brochure focuses on the Provisional Ecological Reserve.

## Why Protect Little Grand Lake?

- To protect habitat for Newfoundland marten, an endangered species
- To protect 3 of the province's 35 natural regions, including the Corner Brook, Portage Pond and Buchan's Plateau/Topsail subregions
- To protect the ecotone (convergence/transition zone) where three natural regions meet
- To protect some of the most extensive ribbed fens in Newfoundland
- To protect and maintain the integrity of the Little Grand Lake watershed

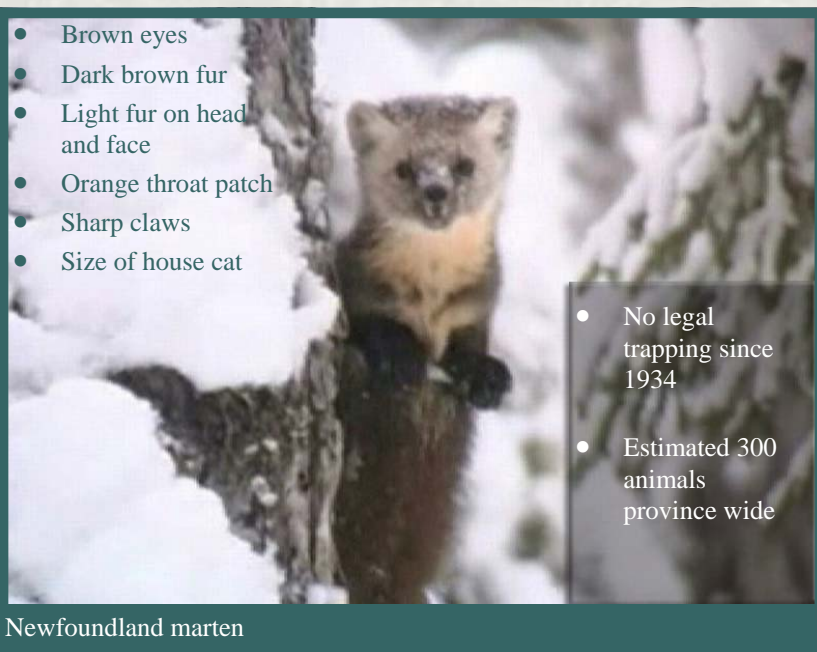


Marten pond

**Ecological Reserves** are established to protect ecosystems or special species and their habitat, provide benchmarks by which to measure the health of areas outside reserves and provide an environment for scientific research and education.

**Provisional Reserve** status provides temporary protection while the planning and public consultation process takes place. After the public consultation, WERAC submits a report to Cabinet who make the final decision whether or not to establish the Reserve permanently.

**Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC)** is an eleven member appointed body who provide advice to Cabinet on all matters related to the establishment and management of Reserves. These volunteers ensure that public and private interests are fairly heard during the planning process before making recommendations to Cabinet. WERAC and Parks and Natural Areas Division work hand in hand to protect special places in our province.



- Brown eyes
- Dark brown fur
- Light fur on head and face
- Orange throat patch
- Sharp claws
- Size of house cat

- No legal trapping since 1934
- Estimated 300 animals province wide

Newfoundland marten

## Features of Little Grand Lake

The Reserve has a rugged surface topography, considerable vertical relief and numerous wetlands and other associated water bodies. Located in the Central Uplands climatic zone, this area is characterized by cool summers with frequent cloud and cold, snowy winters with complete snow cover normally from December until at least April.

Within the Corner Brook and Portage Pond subregions, a population of the endangered Newfoundland marten are supported by a boreal forest ecosystem, mainly balsam fir mixed with white pine and black spruce. Extensive areas of bog, ribbed fens and barren habitat supporting woodland caribou, can be found in the Buchan's Plateau - Topsail subregion. Finally on the western shores of Grand Lake there are full topographic profiles of steep sloped non-calcareous forest.

## Highlights of Provisional Reserve Establishment

1981	Biological significance of Little Grand Lake brought to the attention of WERAC through Newfoundland marten protection initiatives
1982	At the request of WERAC an Environmental Assessment Area was established to assess the impact on Newfoundland marten by forest harvesting
1991	Attempts made by WERAC to establish an Emergency Ecological Reserve were unsuccessful
1992	Western Newfoundland Model Forest was established and awareness of the need to protect Newfoundland marten was heightened
1994	Stakeholders with interests in Little Grand Lake were brought together by Western Newfoundland Model Forest to work out a reserve boundary for the protection of the Newfoundland marten
1997	Boundary approved by stakeholders was presented to Government for internal assessment
1999	Cabinet reviewed final alternate boundary and approved the establishment of 3 different reserves to accommodate different land use activities; Provisional Ecological Reserve, Wild Life Reserve and Public Reserve (*the latter two allow for mineral exploration)
Oct 1999	Little Grand Lake Reserves announced
Nov 2002	Little Grand Lake Reserves established
Feb 2004	Public Hearings scheduled to discuss proposed regulations and draft management plan for Provisional Ecological Reserve (Management Plans are not required for Wild Life or Public Reserves)



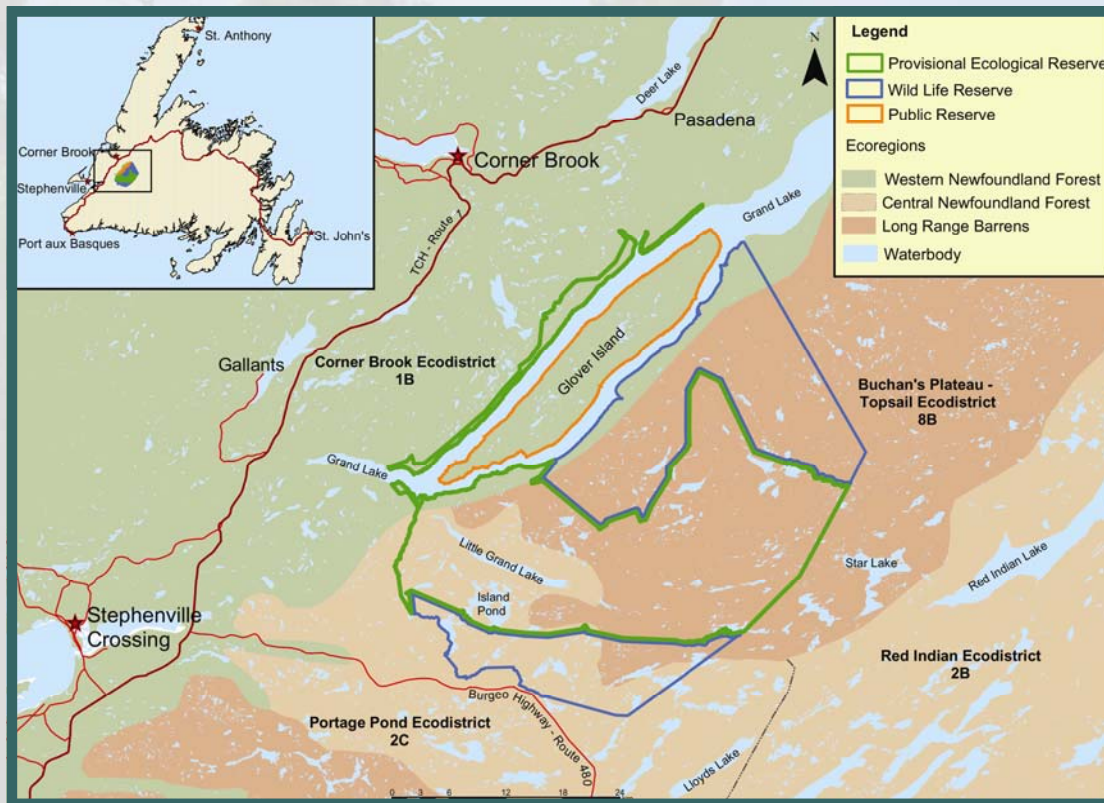
Balsam fir forest



Woodland caribou

## Historical Land Use Activities

In general, the remoteness of the area has limited the level of human use. In the past, access has primarily been for limited timber harvesting, mineral exploration, hunting, trapping, fishing, snowmobiling, outfitting and scientific research. There are also a number of cabins and outfitting operations. These facilities are primarily accessed by float plane and/or helicopter, motorized boat and snowmobile.



## Rules and Regulations

The following reserve regulations apply to the Provisional Ecological Reserve ONLY and address the need for conservation and protection with consideration for individuals who have traditionally used the area. These regulations will be reviewed during the public consultation and may be modified based on public input.

The following activities are prohibited:

- Cutting or logging of trees, agriculture, mining, prospecting and claim staking
- Constructing or reconstructing any structure, or the building of a new road, path or trail
- Altering the flow of water into the Reserve
- All trapping and snaring
- Use of motorized vehicles or equipment, except snowmobiles or motorized boats

The following activities are permitted:

- Hunting (except snaring) and fishing
- Use of motorized boats or snowmobiles
- Landing an aircraft
- Scientific research with a permit

For information on the regulations for Wild Life, Public and Provisional Reserves please visit [www.gov.nl.ca/hoa/sr/](http://www.gov.nl.ca/hoa/sr/) or contact Parks and Natural Areas Division.

**To Contact Us:**

**Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC)**

**C/O Parks and Natural Areas Division**

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