

Briefing Notes – Meeting with Minister Bruce Northrup
March 1, 2012

Public Land for meeting Public Values:

- Public land is the best place we can truly achieve the large-scale conservation of the public values of river and watershed protection, extensive wildlife habitat conservation, and wilderness protection into the future.
- We know from the 2007 survey of the New Brunswick public that the overwhelming majority of people surveyed place highest priority on the public forest's protection of fresh water and wildlife habitat.ⁱ
- Public land is not the place for giving the forest industry the certainty of wood supply, beyond the allocation that is given every 5 years. The best place for industry to get certainty of wood supply is on private land - the lands owned by forest companies, and the private woodlots that sell wood.
- Government needs to ensure that Crown land is managed in a way that keeps our options open for responding to new markets for products, management to respond to climate change impacts, and protection of the ecological services from the forest. We cannot trade off the flexibility to include new management approaches by locking ourselves in to the current industrial forestry model.

CPAWS Recommends the Following be included in the Forest Management Plan as Goals and Objectives:

1. CPAWS recommends that at least 17% of Crown land (8.5% of the province), including the largest patches of old forest, be designated by 2015 in permanent protected areas, where no logging or mining would take place. This amount will move us closer to the level in other provinces, where the average amount of land protected is nearly 9%.
2. CPAWS recommends the province keep all of the Crown land they are already conserving as old forests, wildlife habitat and riverbank buffers. What we have now is at or below the bare minimum required to conserve all the wildlife that need old forests and riparian habitats into the future, so any reduction is unacceptable.

ⁱ Nadeau, S., T.M. Beckley, E. Huddart Kennedy, B.L. McFarlane, and S. Wyatt. 2007. Public views on forest management in New Brunswick: report from a provincial survey. Information Report M-X-222E. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service - Atlantic Forestry Centre, Fredericton, New Brunswick.