

# Caring for Our Special Places: Roles and Responsibilities Related to Exotic and Alien Invasive Species



*Conservation*



*Research*



*Ecotourism*



*Education*



*Recreation*

# Natural Heritage Branch

- Parks and Natural Areas Division Mandate: To protect, preserve and interpret the province's natural heritage which is held in public trust for the people of the province
- Programs include:
  - Provincial Park Operations Program
  - Natural Areas Program (Wilderness and Ecological Reserves & Heritage Rivers)
  - Environmental Education and Promotions Program
- Legislation includes:
  - Provincial Parks Act
  - Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act



# What is a Protected Area?



An area of land and/or sea  
*especially* dedicated to the protection of  
biological diversity, and of natural and  
associated cultural resources, and managed  
through legal or other effective means.

World Conservation Union

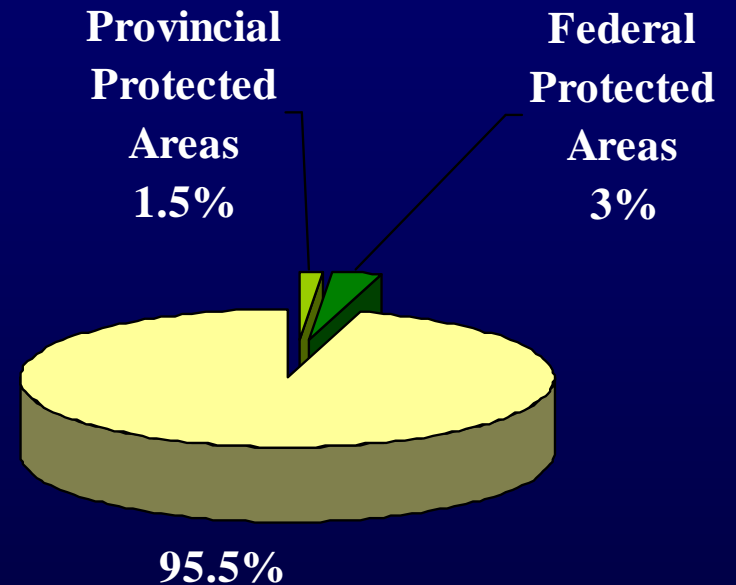
# Protected Areas in NL

**Provincial      55      6,463 km<sup>2</sup>**

- 2 Wilderness Reserves
- 17 Ecological Reserves
- 31 Provincial Parks/Scenic Attractions
- 3 Wildlife Reserves
- 1 Wildlife Park
- 1 Crown Reserve

**Federal      8      11,943 km<sup>2</sup>**

- 3 National Parks
- 2 National Historic Sites
- 3 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries







King George IV Ecological Reserve



Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve



Gannet Island Ecological Reserve



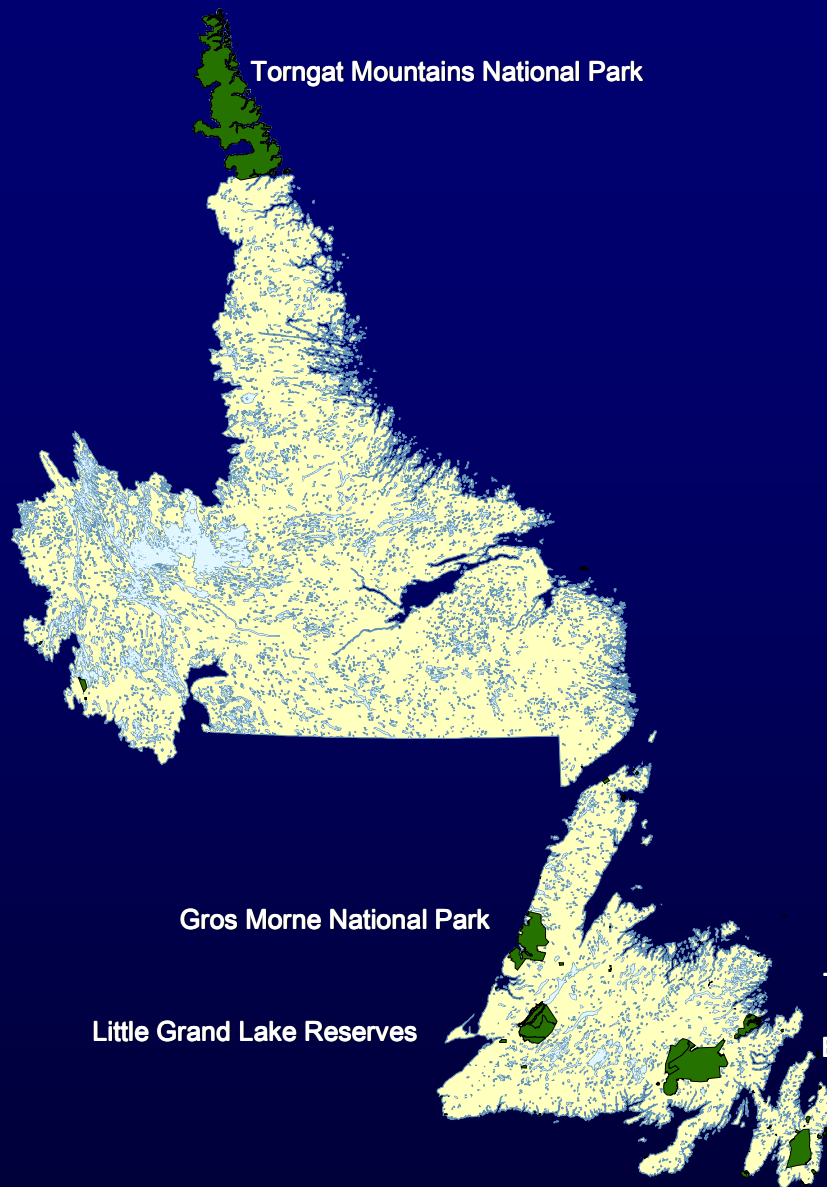
Watts Point Ecological Reserve



Little Grand Lake  
Ecological Reserve



Funk Island Ecological Reserve



Torngat Mountains National Park

Gros Morne National Park

Little Grand Lake Reserves

Terra Nova National Park

Bay dui Nord Wilderness Reserve

Avalon Wilderness Reserve

# Concerns

- Threats to biodiversity (World Conservation Union)
  - #1: habitat loss
  - #2: invasive alien species
- Ecosystem Alteration
- Direct and indirect impacts on native species
  - Moose
  - Red squirrel

# Current Situation

- Currently no policy or management guidelines developed for alien invasives in provincial protected areas in NL



# Current Situation

- Avoid/minimize habitat disturbance
  - 19 wilderness and ecological reserves
  - WER Act is very restrictive
    - No new development (roads, trails, infrastructure)
    - No forest harvesting
    - No mineral development
      - Pathways for invasive alien species are minimized

# Current Situation

- Working on developing a best practices strategy with NL Hydro to minimize impacts of power lines in protected areas; includes minimizing pathways for alien invasives
- Road removal and habitat restoration are being considered in candidate protected areas with high road densities – may help limit the spread of invasive species
- Hunting is allowed in both wilderness reserves which may help keep down populations of certain alien species (i.e. moose)

# Current Situation

- 2005 botanical survey in Main River Proposed Waterway Park revealed very few invasive species along river corridor
- Management regimes to prevent invasives in the area are actively being considered



# Future Priorities

- Set priorities
  - Determine problematic species and if control/management is feasible
- Monitor
  - Identify and monitor invasive alien species in protected areas
- Prevent Introduction
  - Provincial parks have higher access and visitation levels, more pathways for invasives
  - Educate staff and visitors

# Future Priorities

- Develop a management policy for exotic and alien invasive species in protected areas
  - Policies must be evaluated based on actions permissible under the WER Act and Provincial Parks Act
- Work with other agencies/jurisdictions to develop effective and appropriate policies and best management practices – can build on the work of other groups



# Questions?

