

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF UNDERTAKING:

Lower Humber Valley Multi-use, silent sport trails

PROPOSER:

(i) Name of Corporate Body: West Coast Cycling Association (ii) Address: 28 Silver Street, Corner Brook NL, A2H 7J6
(iii) Chief Executive Officer (Director): Ian Colbourne

Official Title: Executive Director

Address: 28 Silver Street, Corner Brook NL, A2H 7J6

Telephone No: 709-660-4504

Email: info@wccanl.ca

(iv) Principal Contact Person for purposes of environmental assessment: Ian Colbourne

Official Title: Executive Director

Address: 28 Silver Street, Corner Brook NL, A2H 7J6

Telephone No.: 709-660-4504

Email: info@wccanl.ca

THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) Name of the Undertaking: Multi-use, Silent sport trails, Crown Land Application #163080.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking: The West Coast Cycling Association (WCCA) wishes to undertake a project consisting of the maintenance and construction of multi-use silent sport trails near Corner Brook and Massey Drive, NL. The purpose and rationale for this undertaking include the following:

- Economic Development in tourism and trail development
- Enhanced sport, recreation, and outdoor activities.
- Enhance the existing trail product in the region.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) Geographical Location – Western Newfoundland, within the municipal boundaries of Corner Brook, and Massey Drive.

Project boundaries - North: Near the Trans Canada Highway, and Crown Lands Title 149858, West: Crown Lands Title 149858, East: Crown Lands Title 161268, South: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Timber Limits.

There is already designated parking in three areas. Tippings Pond, Massey Drive NL, Lakeview Drive, Massey Drive NL, and Man in the Mountain, Corner Brook/TCH NL.

There will be no snow clearing required in the winter months.

The trail length is expected to be approximately 11.5km in total, starting and ending at the nearby parking areas. See attached maps.

(ii) Physical Features:

The trails are designed as 'silent sport, multi-use'. This means the trail is designed to be narrow and flowing through the forest, with minimal impact on the environment. The primary users will be bicycle, hiking/running. Trails shall not exceed 2m in width. The trail design will incorporate existing features to provide more 'natural' flow to the trail and to minimize erosion and user impact. Professional design and construction utilize building techniques such as out sloping, and "the half rule", which allows trails to match the existing topography and not retain water, or allow water to flow across the trail, rather than down it, creating "hydrologic invisibility" so water moves as it naturally would in the existing environment. Please see attached image of this trail type. Other materials such as lumber, and plastic culvert or piping will be used sparingly as required. Lumber may be needed to build bridges over rocks or obstacles, may be included with piping to correct any standing pools of water in the trail tread. Vegetation in the area includes brush and trees. However, minimal vegetation will be disturbed as the primary purpose of a well-designed trail is to travel around larger trees and obstacles and not to remove them. No water bodies will be disturbed in any way. Black Ash, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act is known to grow in the area, and the WCCA have been professionally trained by a Parks Canada Biologist on how to identify such species. All construction crew are formally trained on how to identify Black Ash, and reroute trails if necessary.

(iii) Construction:

The total construction period will take place over a four year period from 2025 to 2028. Construction will cease in winter and spring months, and take place during late spring, summer, and fall as favorable weather allows. Construction will utilize hand tools and mechanized equipment for its completion. The overall length of the trails will be approximately 11.5km, and not exceed 2m in width. Construction will follow the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) trail construction standards, to maximize quality, and minimize maintenance. These standards can be viewed in detail at the following link: <https://www.imba.com/resource/mountain-bike-trail-development-guidelines>

- Start Date Proposed: May 12, 2025.
- No resource conflicts exist in area.
- Mitigation of adverse environmental effects include machine safety equipment to prevent fuel, oil and hydraulic fluid spills, such as fire extinguishing kits, and fuel spill clean up equipment. The purpose of this equipment is for prevention, and minimizing any adverse events that may occur when using mechanized equipment.

(iv) Operation:

This trail is intended for silent sport use. This will primarily be bicycle, but will include hiking, trail running, and snowshoe/ski in winter months.

Primarily the access will be during late Spring, Summer and Fall given the location and climate.

Given that the trail is for non-motorized use only, there are no potential sources of pollutants.

There are no potential resource conflicts in this area.

ATV traffic will be discouraged from using this non-motorized trail by signage at the trail head locations, and by placing large rocks close together as a “pinch point” to make the trail entrance too narrow for ATV traffic.

Trail design incorporates erosion and user impact controls, such as building techniques known as “the half rule”, where the grade of the trail does not exceed 50% of the slope it is crossing (fall line). A minimum 5% outslope on the trail tread, and grade reversals allow for the natural movement of water in the environment. These techniques create what is known as hydrologic invisibility. This design allows water to move as if a trail did not exist in the environment. This reduces the amount of regular maintenance, which is usually to address standing or running water on trails. This is prevalent in springtime on poorly designed trails. Maintaining trails to IMBA specifications yearly will reduce this.

(v) Occupations:

The project will take place in several phases. The total number employees will be a minimum of 4, and shall not exceed 7. As this is a project where weather will affect working conditions, as well as the ability to hire youth staff who will likely work between their school calendar. The National Occupation Classification (NOC) codes for the positions include Equipment Operator (NOC 73400), and landscaper (85121). From the May-November build season, there will be one equipment operator (NOC 73400), and a minimum of three(3) trail builders (85121), as well as three other temporary or part time crew members (85121) who will be involved for a minimum of 9 and maximum of 13 weeks employment.

The West Coast Cycling Association is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, provincial, or local laws. This policy applies to all employment practices within our organization, including hiring, recruiting, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, leave of absence, compensation, benefits, training, and apprenticeship. The West Coast Cycling Association makes hiring decisions based solely on qualifications, merit, and business needs at the time.

(vi) Project Related Documents:

See attached for most current maps of proposed trail, as well as a sample photo of professionally designed trail, and an overview map of the area.

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

The project was already approved by the West Coast Cycling Association, Town of Massey Drive, and City of Corner Brook. There are no other approvals required. No permits or licenses are required beyond Crown Lands License to Occupy, currently registered as application acknowledgement #163080.

Schedule

Project estimated to begin in May 2025. Start date is chosen based on weather and favorable building conditions/snow-melt. Each year, the project will halt in November, as weather allows, and begin in May the following year. Estimated completion date for entire project December 31, 2028.

Capital Cost and Funding

Project construction and maintenance costs for duration of project are included in the below tables:

Capital Cost:

Capital cost for this project construction is estimated at \$394,500.

Funding Breakdown:

Assistance Sources	Amount	Total
ACOA (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency)	65%	\$256,425
IET (Department of Industry, Energy, and Technology)	25%	\$98,625
WCCA and Private Donation	10%	\$39,450
TOTAL	100%	\$394,500

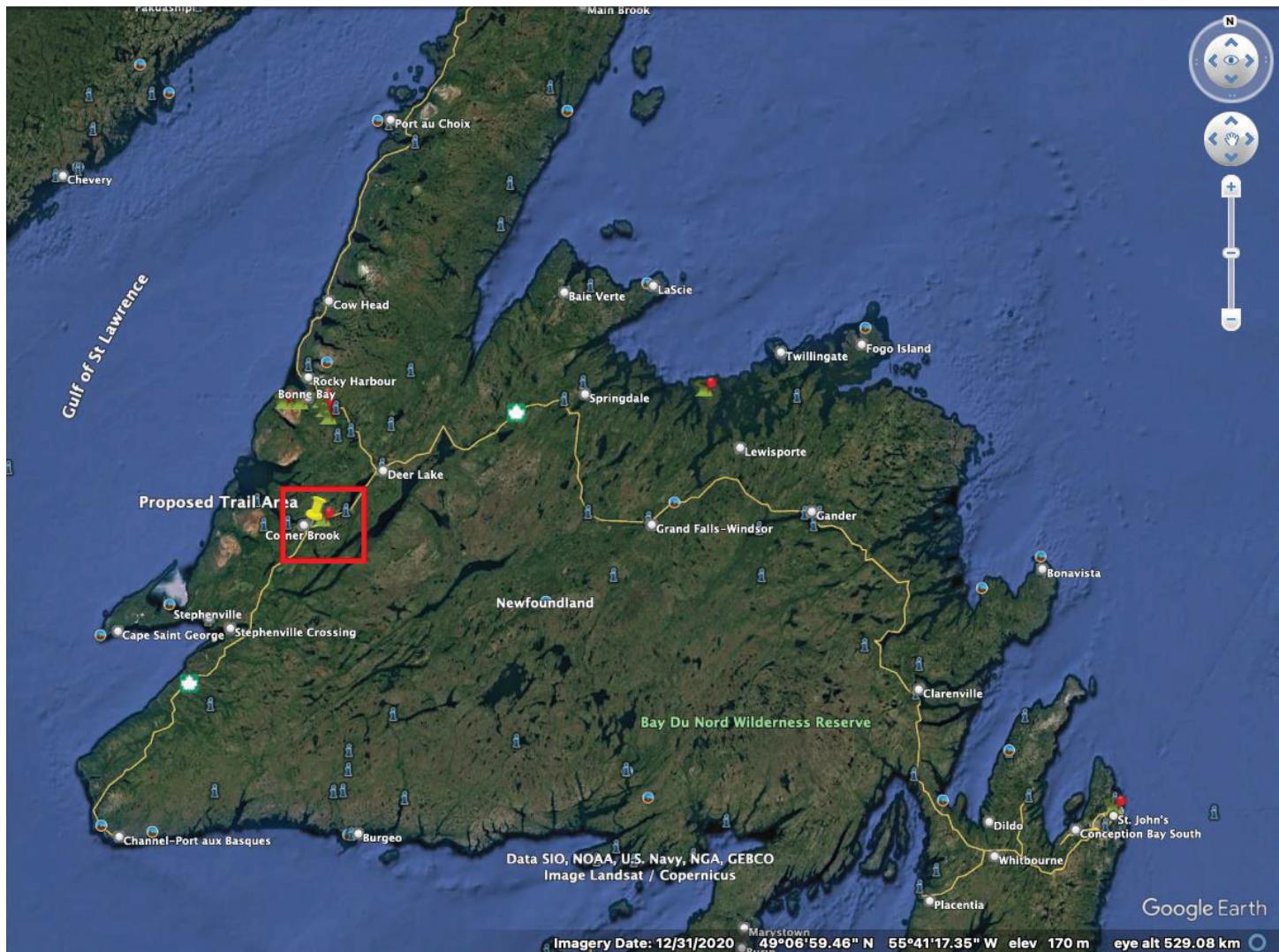
27 September 2024

Jan Colbourne

Date

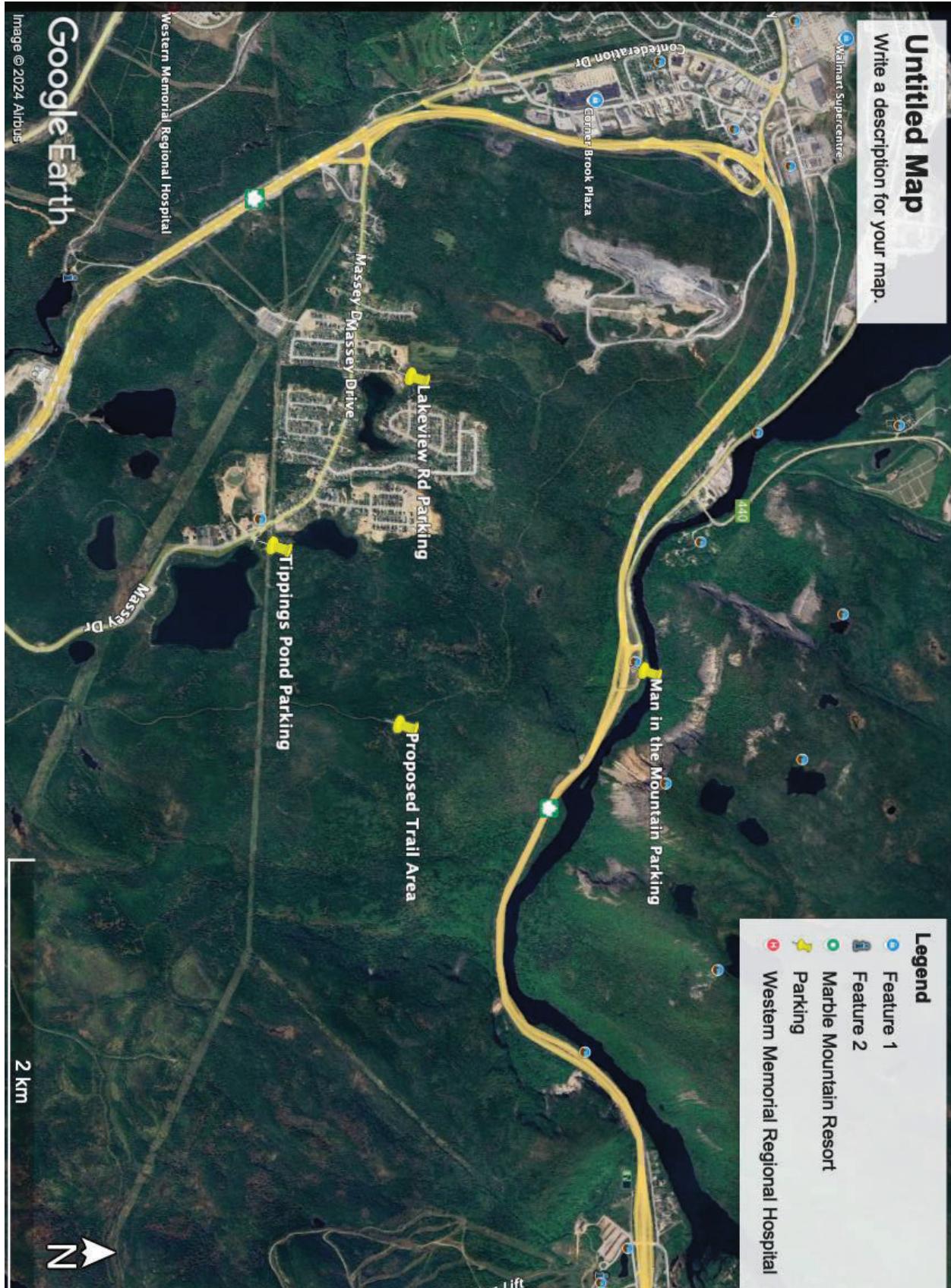
Signature of Proponent/Chief Executive Officer

General Area of Trails

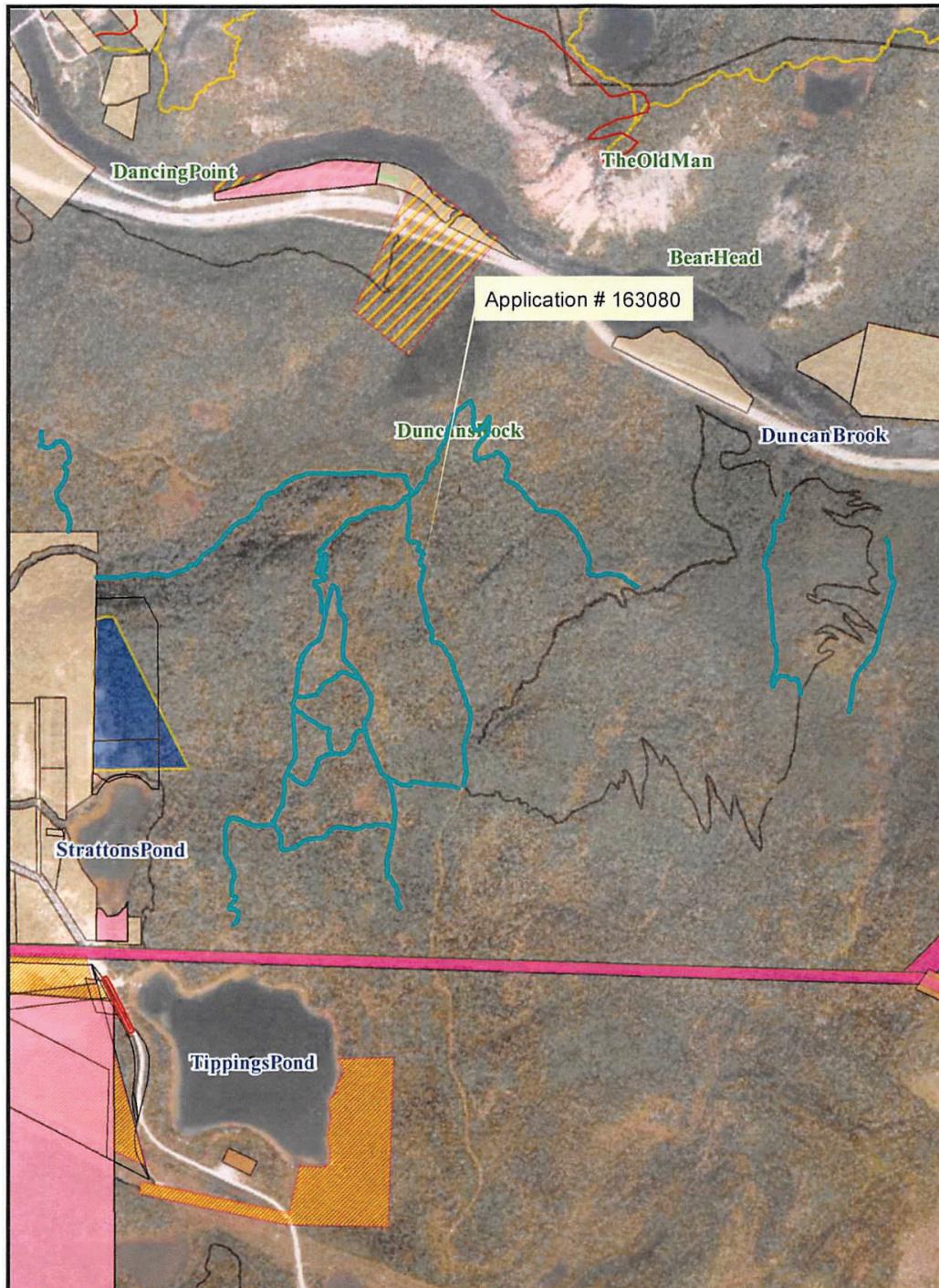


Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.



Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Land Management Division



NOTE TO USERS

The information on this map was compiled from land surveys registered in the Crown Lands Registry.

Since the Registry does not contain information on all land ownership within the Province, the information depicted cannot be considered complete.

The boundary lines shown are intended to be used as an index to land titles issued by the Crown. The accuracy of the plot is not sufficient for measurement purposes and does not guarantee title.

Users finding any errors or omissions on this map sheet are asked to contact the Crown Lands Inquiries Line by telephone at 1-833-891-3249 or by email at CrownLandsInfo@gov.nl.ca.

Some titles may not be plotted due to Crown Lands volumes missing from the Crown Lands registry or not plotted due to insufficient survey information.

The User hereby indemnifies and saves harmless the Minister, his officers, employees and agents from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, actions or cause of actions alleging any loss, injury, damages and matter (including claims or demands for any violation of copyright or intellectual property) arising out of any missing or incomplete Crown Land titles, and the Minister, his or her officers, employees and agents shall not be liable for any loss of profits or contracts or any other loss of any kind as a result.

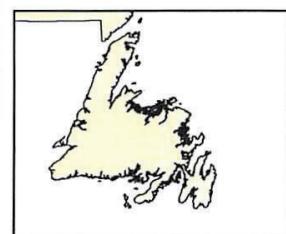
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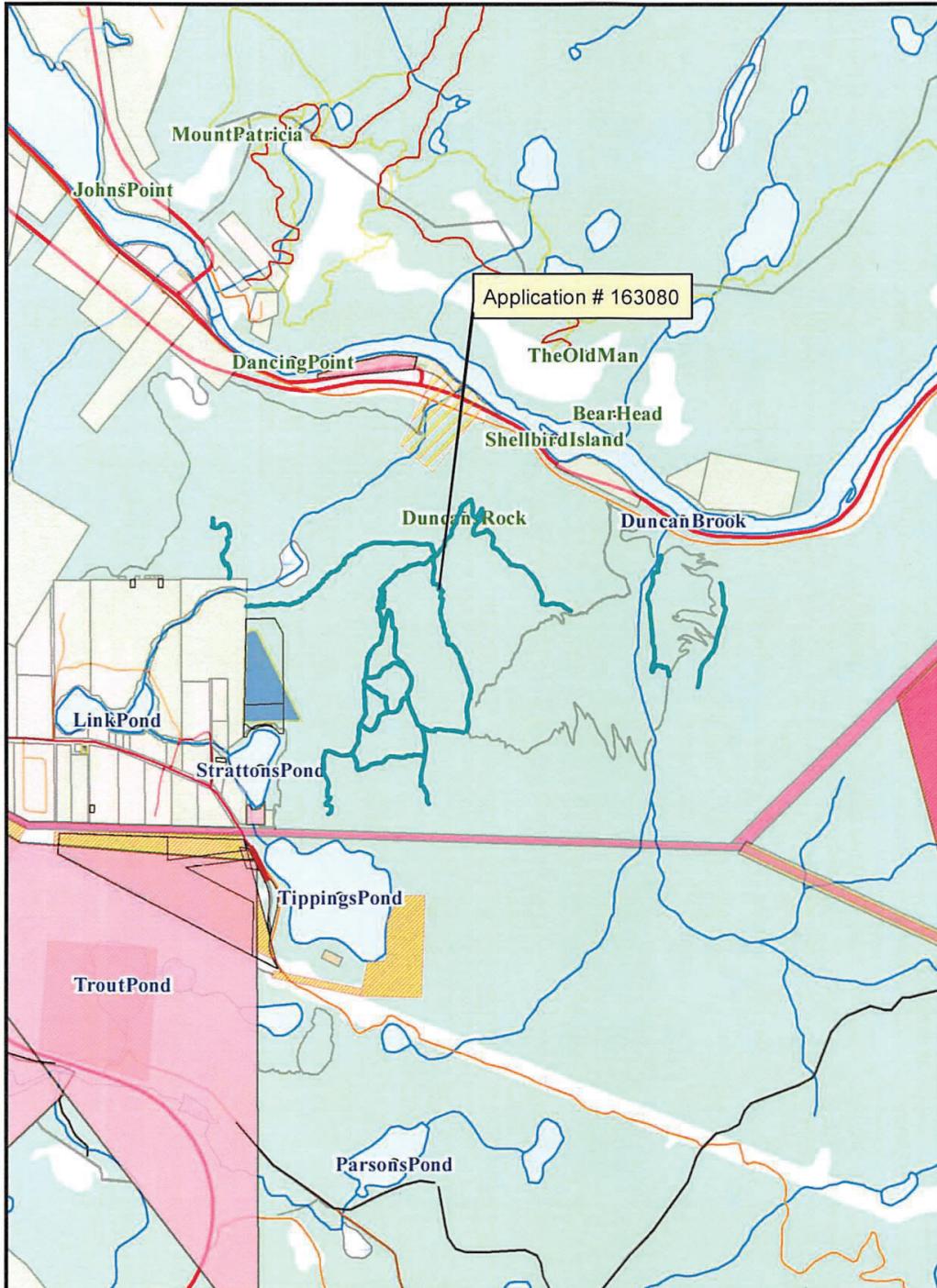
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Scale 1:15,000



Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Land Management Division



0 240 480 960 1,440 1,920 Meters



Scale 1:25,000

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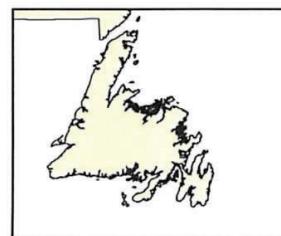
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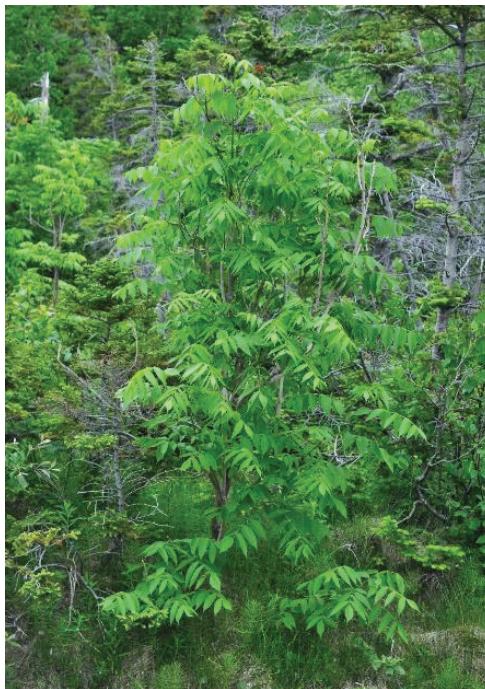


Black Ash in the Humber Valley, NL

Black Ash became listed as a Threatened species under the *Endangered Species Act* of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2021. This designation is a result of the relatively restricted distribution of Black Ash on the island of Newfoundland and due to the threat posed by the potential introduction of Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that has devastated ash populations in other parts of Canada. In the Humber Valley of western Newfoundland, Black Ash is known to grow along exposed thallus slopes and river banks. Under the *Endangered Species Act* (Section 16), it is an offence for a person to disturb, harass, injure or kill an individual of a listed species; it is therefore important that individuals undertaking land clearing activities in areas where Black Ash may occur be able to identify the species.

Species description

Black Ash is a small, slow-growing deciduous tree in the Olive (Oleaceae) family. It can grow to ca. 20 m in height and 30 to 60 cm in diameter throughout the core of its range; however, individuals taller than 10 m are rarely encountered on the island of Newfoundland or in Nova Scotia. Individual trees typically have a single, dominant trunk and narrow crown, but a multi-stemmed, shrub-like growth form is common among Black Ash in Newfoundland. The species tends to have a shallow, spreading root system that allows it to withstand long periods of inundation and high soil moisture.



Example of small-statured Black Ash in Gros Morne National Park (above left; photo Flora of Newfoundland and Labrador)

Habitat associations

Throughout its native range, Black Ash tends to grow in nutrient-rich soils in bogs, along streams, and in other poorly drained areas with seasonal flooding. The tendency of Black Ash to be found in flooded or wet sites may in part be due to reduced competition from other tree species that cannot tolerate wet

soils. Black Ash are frequently found in peat and muck soils but also grow in better-drained sandy and loamy soils so long as the water table is high. The species can persist for long periods of time beneath the forest subcanopy.

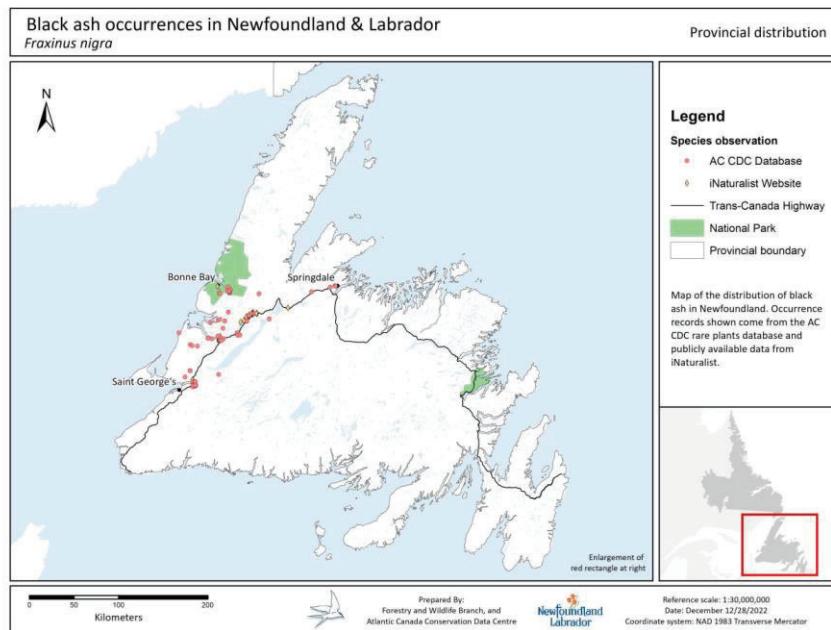
In an early survey of Black Ash in Newfoundland, Deichmann (1989) noted that in addition to occurring in habitats typical of the species' elsewhere (e.g., bogs, swamps, and stream banks), trees were also found in alluvial flood plains, gravel outwashes and moist forest soils. Likewise, Ryan (1978) noted

that Black Ash habitat in Newfoundland includes dry, limestone talus slopes. Forest species commonly associated with Black Ash in Newfoundland are speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and white spruce (*Picea glauca*) (Deichman, 1989).

Provincial distribution

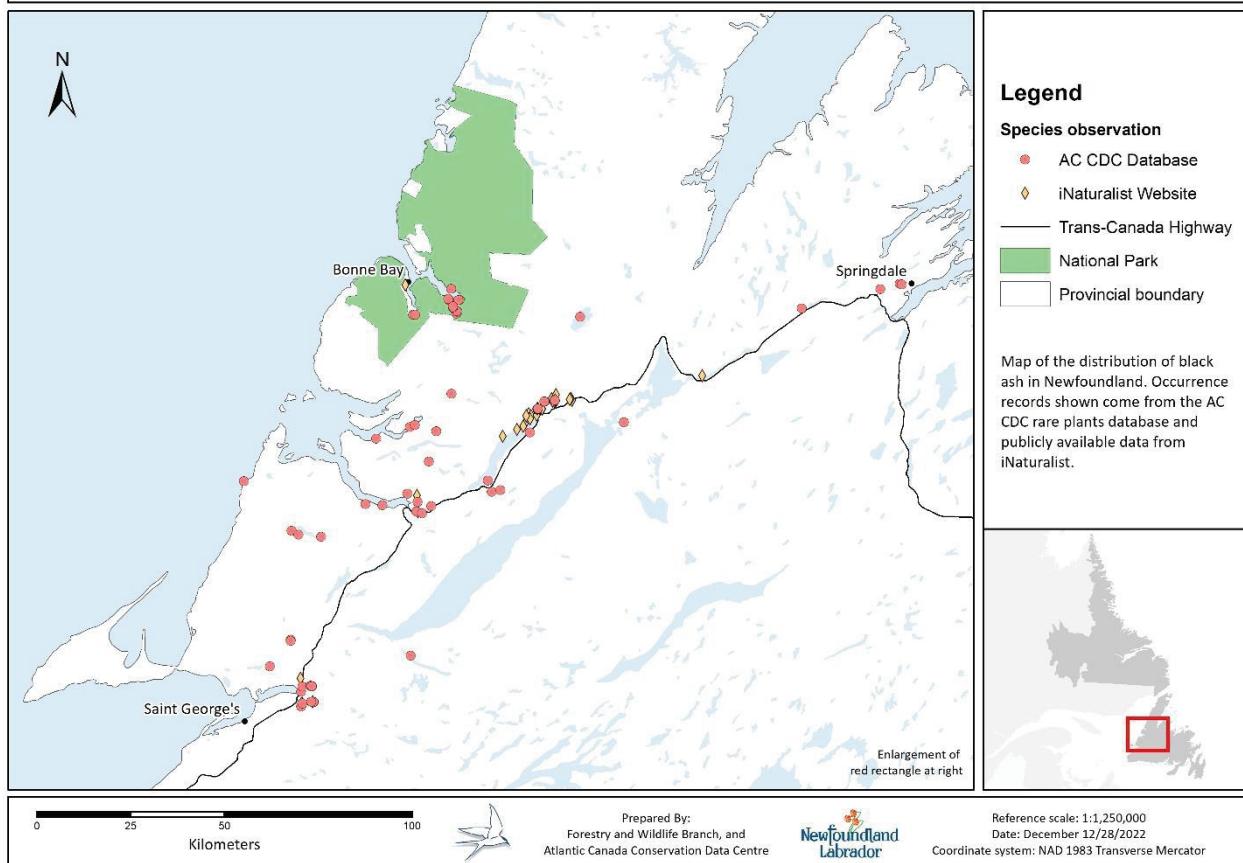
In Newfoundland and Labrador, Black Ash are only found on the western portion of insular Newfoundland and are not present in Labrador. The Newfoundland population is near the northern edge of the species' range and represents the eastern-most natural occurrence of Black Ash. Though the actual population is certainly larger, the documented distribution of Black Ash in Newfoundland consists of about 100 individuals that occur within a relatively small (ca. 100 km²), triangular area extending from Bonne Bay (49.6°N, 57.9°W), south to Saint George's (48.4°N, 58.5°W) and east to Springdale (49.5°N, 56.1°W).

Included in the provincial range is a sizeable population of trees in the Lomond Valley of Gros Morne National Park. Perhaps in light of the tendency of Black Ash to occur along stream and river banks in Newfoundland, it has been suggested that Black Ash may have migrated to the Lomond Valley and Upper Humber Valley from the Corner Brook area along the Humber drainage.



Black ash occurrences in Newfoundland & Labrador
Fraxinus nigra

Provincial distribution



Deichmann, KH (1989) The Distribution and Ecology of Black Ash (*Fraxinus Nigra* Marsh.) in Gros Morne National Park Newfoundland - A Research Study. Gros Morne National Park Library

Ryan, AG (1978) Native trees and shrubs of Newfoundland and Labrador. Published by Parks and Natural Areas Division, Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John's. Park Interpretation Publication Number 14.



Sample photo of professionally designed trail.