

Ten-Year Monitoring Report: 2011-2021

Main River Canadian Heritage River



Submitted to:
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board

By:
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For:
Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Areas Program
Policy, Planning and Natural Areas Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change

TEN-YEAR MONITORING REPORT, MAIN RIVER CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

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Cover photo (Big Steady) by Erika Pittman, Natural Areas Program.

In memory of Jim Price, one of the Main River's great stewards.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a national program to conserve and give national recognition to rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational heritage and to encourage the public to enjoy and appreciate them. This ten-year monitoring report was prepared for the Main River Canadian Heritage River (MRCHR) in Newfoundland and Labrador for the years 2011-2021.

This report examines the conditions of the natural, cultural, and recreational values, as well as integrity guidelines, for which the river first achieved its Canadian Heritage River status. It also describes progress in fulfilling the objectives of the MRCHR and presents recommendations for the next ten-year monitoring period. A timeline documents the significant events, actions, and studies surrounding the Main River during the 2011-2021 period and references many pertinent academic and independent studies. The report was prepared by the non-profit organization Intervale Associates Inc., with the assistance of the Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Areas Program, ParksNL, and the Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Advisory Committee (MRMAC).

The Main River was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 2001 and is the first of two rivers in Newfoundland and Labrador to achieve this distinction. For two decades since its designation, the MRCHR has been heralded as one of the best examples of a wild and scenic river in insular Newfoundland.

The decade 2011-2021 witnessed five significant activities or changes within the MRCHR corridor:

1) construction of the Labrador-Island Transmission Link adjacent to the heritage river boundary in the headwaters area; 2) increased visitor access to the area; 3) construction of a one-kilometer all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail in the headwaters area; 4) a separation in management authority for the legislated protection of the MRCHR and the managing authority for the CHR program; and 5) changes in ownership of two privately-run outfitting businesses. The natural, cultural, and recreational values and integrity guidelines of the MRCHR remained intact throughout these and other changes. This report concludes that the Main River is deemed worthy to continue to be a designated river under the Canadian Heritage River System.

This report recommends that the Natural Areas Program and ParksNL collaborate on reviewing and revising the MRCHR management plan, since legislative and regulatory protections have changed significantly since the management plan was released more than 20 years ago. The report also recommends that areas classified as Special Management Areas become part of the Main River Waterway Provincial Park. Additional recommendations call for expanding education, outreach, and monitoring activities through partnership arrangements, and convening annual meetings of the MRMAC.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE REPORT

ASF	Atlantic Salmon Federation
ATV	All-terrain vehicle
CBPPL	Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd.
CHR	Canadian Heritage River
CHRS	Canadian Heritage Rivers System
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
FFA	Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
FLR	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
TCAR	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
LITL	Labrador-Island Transmission Link
MRCHR	Main River Canadian Heritage River
MRMAC	Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Advisory Committee
MRWPP	Main River Waterway Provincial Park
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
PNAD	Parks and Natural Areas Division
QFN	Qalipu First Nation
RoW	Right-of-Way
SMA	Special Management Area
WNS	White-nose Syndrome
WRD	Water Resources Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change

1. INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a national program to conserve and give national recognition to rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational heritage and to encourage the public to enjoy and appreciate them. The Main River in Newfoundland and Labrador was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in 2001, a decade following its nomination in 1991. It is the first of two rivers in Newfoundland and Labrador to achieve the CHR designation.

A cooperative effort of federal, provincial, and territorial governments, the CHRS requires an in-depth monitoring report every ten years to determine if the designated river retains the outstanding heritage values for which it was originally nominated. The first ten-year monitoring report for the Main River CHR for the period 2001-2011 was submitted by Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador (2012) and later approved by the CHRS Board of Directors. The report here presented is the ten-year monitoring report for the period 2011-2021. It was prepared by Intervale Associates Inc. (Intervale) with assistance from the Newfoundland and Labrador Natural Areas Program, ParksNL, and members of the Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Advisory Committee (MRMAC).

1.1. Principal Management Organizations for the Main River

The Natural Areas Program is currently a program of the Policy, Planning and Natural Areas Division, Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC). In addition to providing oversight for the management of the Main River as a CHR, the Natural Areas Program is responsible for the administration and management of the province's 18 ecological reserves, two wilderness reserves, and the Bay du Nord CHR. The Natural Areas Program also manages the procedures leading to the designation of new wilderness and ecological reserves.

Formal legal protection and management oversight of the Main River is afforded by ParksNL of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR). ParksNL manages the province's 32 Provincial Parks. It serves as the management authority for the 152 km² Main River Waterway Provincial Park (MRWPP), which nearly entirely overlaps the Main River Canadian Heritage River (MRCHR) corridor. ParksNL also oversees the management of an additional 49 km² of the Main River watershed designated as a Special Management Area (SMA).

The MRMAC serves as a forum for information exchange among its members and for providing advice to the Natural Areas Program and other legislated government agencies on the management of the Main River CHR (Natural Areas Program 2022). Members of MRMAC include representatives of the provincial management authorities—Natural Areas Program and ParksNL—and of relevant federal departments and municipal governments. Equally important are representatives from stakeholder groups including non-profit organizations, First Nation Bands, outfitting businesses, industry, academia, development associations, municipalities, and local service districts.

1.2. Objectives of the Ten-Year Monitoring Report

The objectives of the ten-year monitoring report for 2011-2021 are as follows:

1. Develop a chronology of significant events pertinent to the MRCHR corridor during the most recent 10 years.
2. Describe the current condition of the natural, cultural, and recreational values of the MRCHR.
3. Assess whether the CHRS integrity guidelines are still being met.
4. Determine the status of the goals and objectives outlined in the Main River CHR Management Plan.
5. Provide an overall assessment and include any pertinent recommendations for management of the MRCHR corridor.

The major sections of this report are Sections 4, 5, and 6, describing: 1) the chronology of events; 2) the condition of natural, recreational, and cultural values as well as integrity guidelines; and 3) the status of goals and objectives of the management plan. Section 7 includes a conclusion and recommendations for the next 10-year reporting period.

2. BACKGROUND: THE MAIN RIVER

“Unlike the more familiar Humber, Exploits, and Gander Rivers, the Main River is truly a wilderness river, flowing unmodified and unobstructed from its source to the ocean in the largest drainage basin on the Great Northern Peninsula.” (Nicol 1995)

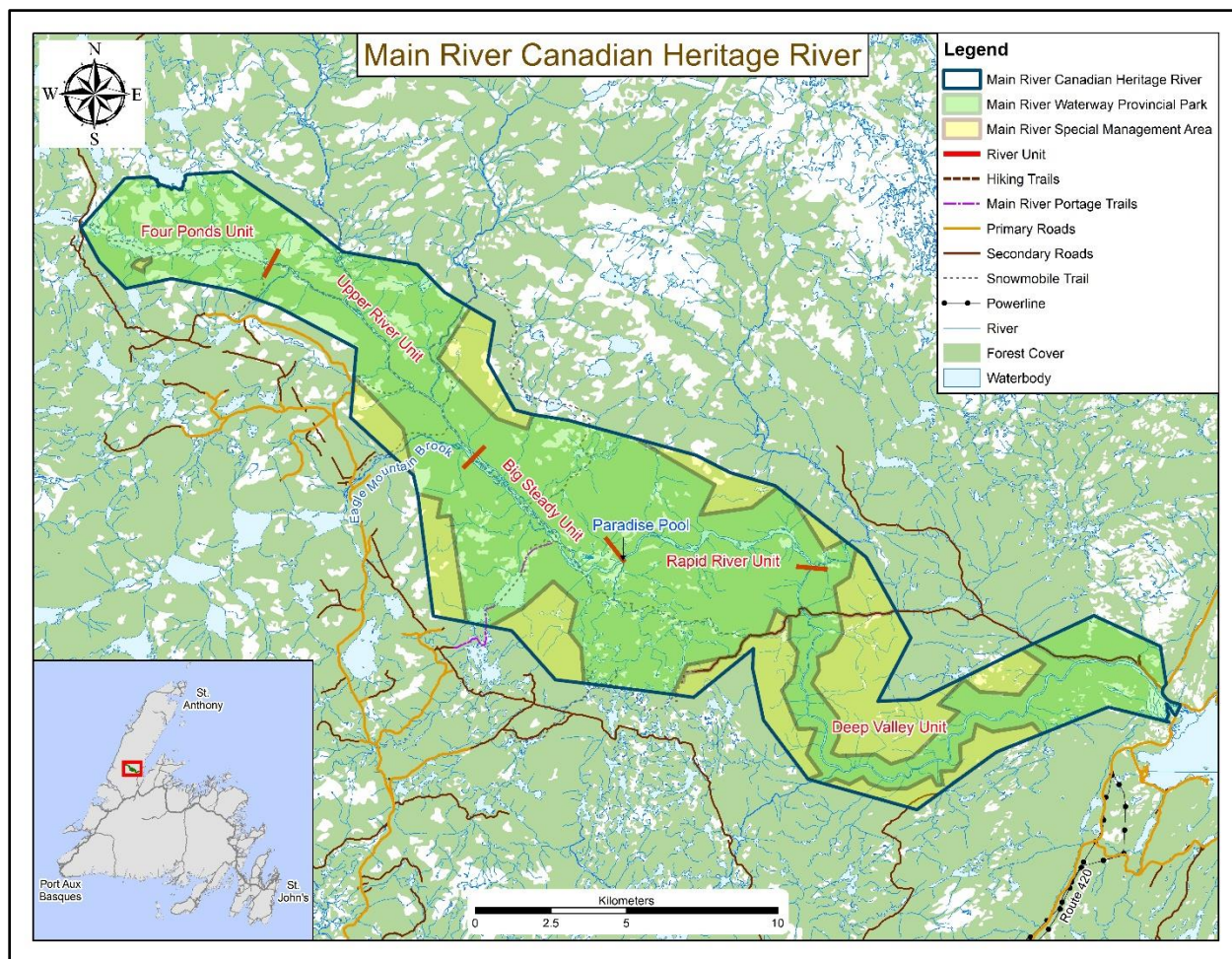
The Main River flows through a southern portion of the Great Northern Peninsula of insular northwestern Newfoundland and Labrador (49°47'N, 57°16'W). The headwaters begin 675 metres above sea level in the barrens and tundra of the Long Range Mountains near Gros Morne National Park. The river courses southeast for 57 km through a variety of heterogeneous landscapes, including old-growth softwood forests, flat grasslands, and a steep 19-km canyon before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean at the community of Sop's Arm, near the head of White Bay. An 18-km braided section of the river called the Big Steady contains slow-moving water and exceptional natural beauty with trees that surpass two centuries in age. The Main River is considered by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and by many of its citizens to be one of the last wilderness rivers on the island of Newfoundland.

The MRCHR encompasses an area totaling 201 km². The area includes the MRWPP, which consists of 152 km², and the SMA, which covers an additional 49 km². The Main River watershed extends beyond the

MRCHR and incorporates an area totaling 1,048 km².

The following map (Figure 1) shows the location of the MRCHR within insular Newfoundland and Labrador and the delineation of the MRWPP.

Figure 1. The Main River Canadian Heritage River flows through the southern portion of the Great Northern Peninsula of insular Newfoundland and Labrador. (Map courtesy of Natural Areas Program)



2.1. Outstanding Features

The Main River flows through two ecoregions: the Long Range Barrens ecoregion (Northern Range Subregion) and the Northern Peninsula Forest ecoregion (Eastern Long Range subregion). The MRWPP interprets the river's natural history as being divided into five sections, called units, each possessing distinct natural features. The following description of the units is adapted from the ParksNL website (www.parksnl.ca/parks/main-river-waterway-provincial-park/). Beginning at headwaters, the Four Ponds Unit (6.5 km long) is characterized by rolling forested hills and open barrens. The Upper River Unit (10 km long) features mature balsam firs, steep riverbanks, and a six-kilometer boulder garden. The next section,

called the Big Steady Unit (8 km long), features outstanding natural beauty as grasslands combine with stands of two-century-old birch and spruce. In the Rapid River Unit, the river descends dramatically for 8 km before entering a steep-sided rocky canyon that characterizes the Deep Valley Unit and the final 25 km before emptying into the sea at Sop's Arm in White Bay. The five units as well as roads, hiking and portage trails, and snowmobile trails are visible in Figure 1.

The Main River CHR offers outstanding natural features and recreational experiences. Large, forested areas of the 1,048 km² watershed are dominated by old-growth balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) along with black and white spruce (*Picea sp.*) and white birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Large-scale natural disturbance is absent (Leonard et al. 2008). The watershed contains a high density of varied wetland types.

Figure 2. The Main River features outstanding natural beauty. (Photo by Erika Pittman, Natural Areas Program)



The river contains abundant stocks of migratory Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), including sea-run trout. The river provides excellent breeding habitat for several species of waterfowl and additional staging habitat for Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). The terrain is home to at least 70 species of birds, including four which are federally or provincially at-risk and three others that occur within or near the CHR. Mammals that use the CHR corridor include caribou, moose, black bear, lynx, and red fox. The forest is home to a core population of the Newfoundland sub-population of American marten (*Martes americana atrata*), which has been listed as threatened, both federally and

provincially since 2007.

Some of the province's best recreational opportunities in a wilderness setting can be found in the Main River watershed. They include extreme river paddling in spring and early summer, high-quality salmon angling in the summer, moose hunting in the fall, and snowmobiling in winter.

2.2. Legislative and Stewardship Protection

The CHRS has no legislative authority and offers no formal protection for rivers designated under its system. Remarkably, it relies on the cooperation of many government agencies and departments at all levels, organizations, and countless individuals, working together in conservation, with openness to compromise and a commitment to a common cause.

Legislated protection is afforded through the MRWPP, which covers 76 percent of the heritage river corridor. Established in 2009 under the *Provincial Parks Act*, the MRWPP gave the province a framework and enabling legislation to fulfill its responsibility to manage the resources and public use of the MRCHR and to protect the values for which the river earned the CHR status. The MRWPP is the province's first-ever Waterway Provincial Park. In 2009, the province also designated 49 km², or 24 percent, as a SMA under the *Lands Act*.

The steps leading to the designation of the Main River as a Canadian Heritage River highlight the significance of the Main River in the minds of members of the federal and provincial assessment teams. From a pool of 65 candidate rivers, the Main River was one of the original rivers selected by survey teams from Parks Canada to have the highest priority for preservation in what was to become the new national wilderness river reserve system. In 1991 the Main River was featured along with four other rivers in a stamp pack issued by the Canada Post Corporation to recognize the importance of five great Canadian rivers (<https://postagestampguide.com/stamps/16609/main-river-1991-canada-postage-stamp-canada-s-river-heritage-wilderness-rivers>).

The early years surrounding the CHRS nomination and designation were characterized by cooperative action at the local, provincial, and federal levels, including a passionate campaign to "save the Main." The ten-year monitoring report for 2001-2011 summarized some of these historic steps and referenced early reports that argued for its designation (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012). Members of the MRMAC, who represent stakeholder groups with an interest in the preservation of the Main River's natural, cultural, and recreational values, have played a significant role in the protection of the river system over the years. Working in concert with the Natural Areas Program, their actions as stewards of the river are emblematic of the spirit of the CHRS.

3. METHODOLOGY

The consultant used four primary approaches to gather information relevant to activities occurring with the CHR corridor. These consisted of the following:

- interviews with stakeholder group representatives, government departmental staff, and researchers;
- internet searches of academic and independent scientific papers and environmental assessment reports;
- internet searches of news and social media stories and YouTube videos; and
- reports and discussions during MRMAC meetings.

Interviews were conducted for the purpose of gaining information about pertinent activities of direct or indirect consequence to the quality and integrity of the CHR corridor, any known threats or disturbances, the current status of the heritage values, and steps being made to manage and protect the heritage values on which the original CHRS designation was made. Appendix C lists the individuals who were interviewed or provided specific information for this report. The consultant also took additional steps to pursue issues that were raised by members of the MRMAC.

Internet searches for scientific papers on studies performed on the Main River, Main River Watershed, and adjacent areas were conducted through the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) Library website using keywords and names from previous studies. Once these were exhausted, a Google Scholar search was performed for other relevant academic or independent scientific papers. News and social media stories were searched via Google, CBC archives, MUN Digital Archives websites, VOCI (local radio) archives, and websites of relevant organizations involved in protection of the Main River. All relevant scientific papers and reports that were accessed are listed in Appendix A. Relevant news and media productions are listed in Appendix B.

Using documents obtained from the websites of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nalcor Energy, the consultant conducted keyword searches to find information concerning undertakings in and around the Main River Watershed, the Main River Core Area, the MRWPP, and the Main River SMA. Timeline tables were created using the information found in the documents and reports.

4. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 2011-2021

The decade 2011-2021 witnessed three significant activities or changes within the MRCHR corridor that are worth noting for their potential in affecting the quality and integrity of heritage values as well as the integrity guidelines and management of the river. They are as follows:

- Labrador-Island Transmission Link (LITL) constructed by Nalcor Energy adjacent to the CHR boundary in the headwaters area near Four Ponds;

- infrastructure changes such as the transmission corridor road and various bridges over waterways, which have increased visitor access; and
- construction of a one-kilometer public all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail from the transmission road to the Four Ponds area.

There has been much discussion and some difference of opinion over the years as to the real and potential positive and negative impacts of the infrastructure changes listed above. Nevertheless, as of 2021, the MRCHR remains intact, largely unchanged, and heralded as one of the best examples of a wild and scenic river in Newfoundland.

The greatest potential impact to the integrity of the MRCHR in the past ten years is the construction of the LITL in 2016-2017. The transmission road and the reconstruction of bridges over waterways has led to increased vehicular traffic along that road and to some degree an increase in traffic visiting the river. Some people, however, suggest that increased access is creating greater public interest in the recreational and heritage values of the MRCHR. No towers were constructed within the MRCHR and the transmission Right of Way (RoW) intersects the MRCHR in only one small area.

Administrative changes affecting relevant provincial departments and ownership transfers among outfitting companies operating within the MRCHR are of interest for their potential effects on the sustained stewardship of the river system and surrounding landscapes. They are as follows:

- provincial government split of the Parks and Natural Areas Division into two separate administrative departments;
- MRWPP staff changes and changes to department monitoring efforts; and
- transfer of ownership for the two outfitting companies that maintained structures inside the CHR corridor.

An important event in the conservation of the MRCHR occurred in 2011, which some documents cite as 2010, when Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) relinquished back to the Province of NL all timber rights within the Main River watershed, including the 49 km² SMA. According to Faron Knott, Chief Forester in the Woodlands Division of CBPPL, there were various reasons CBPPL took this decision. One influencing factor was the increase in costs for paper manufacturing; another was pressure from non-profit conservation organizations and citizens, who worked to ensure protection for the MRCHR. The company, which for many years recognized the recreational and natural values of the area, scaled back its operations and was compensated. Corner Brook Pulp & Paper retained timber rights on a small parcel of land outside the watershed at Four Ponds and later determined there would be no harvesting in that area. During the recent ten-year period, CBPPL has maintained strong support for the MRCHR (F. Knott, CBPPL, *pers. comm.*).

4.1. Academic and Independent Scientific Papers and Reports

From 2001 to 2011, several academic, government, industry sponsored, and independent research projects were conducted wholly or in part within or adjacent to the Main River watershed. Published studies addressing topics of avian ecology and migration, small mammal distribution and habitat needs, or forest ecology appear in the following peer-reviewed journals: *Avian Conservation and Ecology, Diversity, Journal of Field Ornithology*, and *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. Other studies appear in *The Osprey*, a publication of Nature Newfoundland and Labrador, or as reports by provincial or federal government departments, consulting groups, or academic researchers. In addition to these, at least 15 studies conducted between 2011 and 2017 were prepared by various authors for Nalcor Energy as part of the environmental assessment, mitigation, and monitoring processes associated with the LITL.

Two important documents that did not appear in the first ten-year monitoring report are worth mentioning. Both were released by Nalcor and were dated 2010. The first describes how portions of the proposed transmission corridor for the LITL will cross into sections of the MRWPP and SMA (Nalcor 2010a). The second is a Species at Risk Impacts Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, which references areas where studies and monitoring activity fall within the Main River core area (Nalcor 2010b).

Of the more than 60 references listed in Appendix A, 20 were published prior to 2011 but are listed in Appendix A either because of their importance in managing the Main River CHR or because they were not listed in the ten-year monitoring report for the period 2001-2011.

Figure 3. Looking north to Four Ponds. (Photo by Erika Pittman, Natural Areas Program)



4.2. News Articles, Web Sites, and Social Media Posts

There were a limited number of stories about the Main River appearing in news media between 2011 and 2021 (Appendix B). However, it is possible that additional news stories were released but could not be included in this report because they were not accessible in the news industry's transition from local print newspapers to the digital Saltwire Newfoundland and Labrador network. Print news articles covering the past ten years may be available in private collections.

4.3. Timeline of Significant Events, Actions, and Studies

Significant activities and events within the MRCHR and adjacent area from 2011 through 2021 are listed in chronological order in Table 1. They include publication or release of research studies that contribute to an understanding of the natural, cultural, or recreational values of the MRCHR. Publications that are listed in Table 1 also appear as full citations in Appendix A. News media stories and video productions that are listed in Table 1 appear in Appendix B.

Table 1. Significant events, actions, or studies in or adjacent to the Main River Canadian Heritage River for the period 2011-2021.

Year	Significant Events, Actions, or Studies, 2011-2021
2011	<p>Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited relinquishes back to the Province of NL all timber rights within the Main River watershed, including the SMA.</p> <p>Environmental Assessment Process for the LITL is underway (Department of Environment and Climate Change 2011).</p> <p>Nalcor releases a Freshwater Fish Environment and Fish Habitat Water Resource Component Study, including field survey results (Nalcor 2011a).</p> <p>Nalcor releases a Furbearer and Small Mammals Component Study, which contains sections that describe Newfoundland marten occupying areas in and around the Main River watershed (Nalcor 2011b).</p> <p>The Canadian Boreal Initiative, Nature NL, and other groups request that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador expand the boundaries of the MRWPP to include the SMA (Feldgager 2014).</p> <p>CBPPL removes the steel Kruger Bridge at Eagle Mountain Brook, a tributary of the Main River.</p> <p>Qalipu First Nation, a large Indigenous organization based in Newfoundland, is founded.</p>
2012	<p>Nalcor releases an Environmental Impact Statement (Nalcor 2012 a,b,c,d,e), which describes areas where the proposed transmission corridor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crosses over extensive networks of existing forestry access roads and trails within the Main River watershed, notably an area containing some of the last remaining old growth forests in the province • passes through areas within the Main River core area containing Newfoundland marten and marten primary habitat. Potential effects on marten and marten habitat, proposed mitigations and prevention methods, and similar descriptions for meadow vole and southern red-backed vole are included • crosses watercourses in the upstream portions of the Main River watershed • crosses known snowmobile and ATV trails, as well as trails and outfitting camps in the Main River area, and a northwestern area within the MRWPP. Mitigating and compromising measures are proposed. <p>Nalcor releases results of Wildlife Reconnaissance Surveys, containing a table and maps for surveys within the MRWPP and Main River SMA (Nalcor 2012f). An Avifauna Component Study (revised) cites high numbers of Canada Goose on the Main River and upper sections during spring breeding season, and describes the river to be important for staging, breeding, and pre-molting aggregations.</p> <p>Canadian Wildlife Federation publishes a short blog about the natural heritage of the Main River on its web site (Canadian Wildlife Federation 2012).</p>
2013	<p>Federal Recovery Strategy for the Newfoundland marten is released (Environment Canada 2013).</p> <p>In spring, 2013, a number of Parks and Natural Areas Division staffing positions are removed. The Main River Waterway Provincial Park Manager position is cancelled and the responsibilities folded into the Barachois Pond Provincial Park Manager position. The full-time technician position at MRWPP is removed and becomes instead a six-month technician position assisting all provincial parks. The Heritage River Planner position is cancelled.</p>

2014	<p>Nalcor releases a Historic Resources Impact Assessment Report, which describes areas where studies were conducted in waterbodies that drain into or from the Main River. Of note are descriptions of Six Mile Pond (interior of Parson's Pond, near Four Ponds), which falls within the Main River watershed. Studies are conducted where a causeway will be built. More than 3 km south of Six Mile Pond, the study examines the "Outside Pond of Four Ponds", which drains west, while the ponds known as Four Ponds drain into the Main River. (Nalcor 2014a, pp. 58-64).</p> <p>Nalcor releases an Environmental Protection Plan, which presents a table that describes Buffer Zones for Placement of Treated Wood within a Water Supply Area, stating that the Main River Channel would need a buffer zone of no less than 75 m (Nalcor 2014b).</p> <p>Nalcor releases the results for Year 1 of a three-year Newfoundland marten monitoring program within core marten habitat areas of the Main River, identified as critical habitat for the species. The study uses hair snag devices and ground and aerial surveys to assess the presence and distribution of marten. The study is to be conducted before, during, and after the installation of a 60 m wide transmission line that intercepts Critical Habitat for this species (Nalcor 2014c).</p> <p>Nalcor releases a Caribou Monitoring Plan, which includes a brief mention of an area north of the Main River, approx. 25km east of Parsons Pond, where 20 caribou crossed 121 times in 5 years (Nalcor 2014d).</p> <p>Nalcor begins development of the 60 m-wide transmission RoW adjacent to a portion of the MRWPP.</p> <p>The NL Department of Natural Resources releases the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (2014-2024), which states that the rare late-succession gap-dynamic forest of the Main River Valley, unique in NL, will not be targeted for forest management activities.</p> <p>COSEWIC designates the Newfoundland population of caribou as "special concern." Little brown myotis and northern myotis are listed federally as "endangered."</p> <p>DFO changes the river classification system for NL, including the Main River, to reflect the number of salmon that can be retained.</p>
2015	<p>Nalcor releases results from Year 2 of a three-year Newfoundland marten monitoring program within core marten habitat areas overlapping the project RoW (Nalcor 2015).</p> <p>Nalcor constructs sections of roads that connect with existing woods roads so that it has full access to the transmission line for maintenance purposes.</p> <p>Publication of a research paper on gray-cheeked thrush distribution and habitat use in a montane forest landscape, with reference to research in the area of MRWPP (Whitaker et al. 2015).</p>
2016	<p>Nalcor releases results from Year 3 of a three-year Newfoundland marten monitoring program within core marten habitat areas that the project's RoW overlaps (Nalcor 2016).</p> <p>Nalcor completes the development of a transmission RoW adjacent to the Main River, which intercepts critical habitat for the Newfoundland marten.</p> <p>Nalcor reconstructs the Kruger Bridge at Eagle Mountain Brook, site of a former bridge that was previously installed and taken down by CBPPL. It is outside the boundary of MRCHR but inside the watershed and is an important access route for the area.</p>
2017	<p>Nalcor releases a final, summary report from the three-year study of Newfoundland marten within core marten habitat areas, identified as critical habitat for the species, which the project's 60 m-wide RoW</p>

	<p>overlaps. The study, which identifies 40 individual marten, concludes that the RoW does not act as a barrier to marten movements (Nalcor 2017).</p> <p>Construction of the LITL is completed. The LITL is a \pm 350 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage direct current (HVdc) electricity transmission system from Central Labrador to the Avalon Peninsula on the Island of Newfoundland. A portion runs parallel to a section of the MRWPP but no transmission towers are constructed within the MRWPP boundary.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitting Association invites a representative from Nalcor to speak about the causeway that Nalcor constructed in the Six Mile Pond area, which allows Nalcor to service the transmission line. There is discussion within non-profit groups, DFO, and Nalcor over whether the causeway is temporary or permanent. Two culverts are installed. Further modifications bring the total to four culverts.</p> <p>Reports are received of an increased number of campers on the transmission line road.</p> <p>Administration of the Parks and Natural Areas Division programs separates into two functioning administrations that are housed in separate provincial government departments: ParksNL is managed under TCAR and Natural Areas Program, Land Management Division, is managed under the then named Department of Fisheries and Land Resources (FLR). Both Divisions are moved to different locations.</p> <p>ParksNL and Natural Areas Program collaborate to provide ecological and science support to MRWPP.</p> <p>The Wildlife Division of FLR tells CBC news that the population of Newfoundland marten in Newfoundland has increased from 350-700 individuals (1970s-1980s) to 1,000-1,500 (2017) (CBC News NL 2017).</p> <p>ParksNL releases an Intergovernmental Land Use Committee referral to establish 1 km referral buffers around all provincial parks except a 50 metre referral buffer along the T'Railway Provincial Park. MRWPP now has a 1 km referral buffer surrounding the park providing ParksNL with an opportunity to comment on adjacent activities.</p> <p>ParksNL excises the two outfitter camps from the boundary of MRWPP, shifting the administrative responsibility for land titles to Crown Lands Division, and enabling the two operators greater autonomy for managing their operations and maintaining their structures as they no longer require the Minister to approve the sale of properties.</p> <p>White-nose Syndrome is first reported in Newfoundland bats. The first records are from western Newfoundland, although no records exist within MRWPP.</p>
2018	<p>Roberts Outfitters purchases the lodge at Four Ponds.</p> <p>Arluk Outfitters purchases Caribou Lake Lodge from Heritage River Outfitters. Access is by helicopter or by walking in from the forest road, crossing a pond, and walking to the lodge.</p> <p>Illegal ATV use in wetlands within the MRWPP is reported to ParksNL. Concern focuses in the Four Ponds area, adjacent to the transmission line RoW.</p> <p>Reports are received of more access to the MRWPP by hunters and anglers, due to the transmission road that now connects to existing forest roads and allows vehicular transit from Taylor's Brook Road in the southeast to Parsons Pond to the northwest.</p>

	<p>Roberts Outfitters seeks permission from ParksNL to construct an ATV trail that would facilitate the transport of goods and people to their lodge within MRWPP rather than relying solely upon helicopter transport. Opposing views fear a precedent. Views in support of the trail argue that it may reduce illegal ATV use on wetlands.</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) reduces for salmon angling licence holders the retention limit of Atlantic salmon in the Main River from four fish to one.</p>
2019	<p>Whale House Guest House releases a blog about paddling the Main River (Whale House Guest House 2019).</p> <p>Northern Peninsula woodland caribou herd is closed to hunting.</p> <p>Retention limit for Atlantic salmon angling in the Main River is increased to 2.</p>
2020	<p>Natural Areas Program is moved to the Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), and is relocated within Corner Brook.</p> <p>An environmental assessment for the proposed Roberts Outfitting ATV trail is filed and later withdrawn, according to CBC News NL (2020).</p> <p>ParksNL approves the construction of a public one-kilometre ATV trail that leads from the transmission line road to the Four Ponds area. The trail is almost entirely within the boundaries of the MRWPP. The trail is constructed according to specifications required by ParksNL, is built on hardened ground, and with the intent to address the illegal ATV use on bogs.</p> <p>Publication of a research paper on rusty blackbird habitat occupancy, describing work in the area of MRCHR (Manson et al. 2020).</p> <p>Publication of a research paper on constraints in range expansion of red squirrel, describing work in the area of MRCHR (McDermott et al. 2020).</p> <p>Large immigration of spruce budworm moths at nearby Gros Morne National Park. Spruce budworm study plots at Four Ponds and Paradise Pool are being examined carefully.</p>
2021	<p>The Minister of TCAR vows transparency after NL Government allows outfitter to construct ATV trail in MRCHR (CBC News NL 2021a).</p> <p>Local resident Gary Gale, a frequent user of MRWPP and a MRCHR steward who previously helped protect the Main River watershed from logging, speaks out against the government's decision to allow a one-kilometre ATV trail to be built (CBC New NL 2021b).</p> <p>Don Hustins, former Chair of the CHRS Board and a resident of NL, voices concern about the ATV trail (VOCM News 2021).</p> <p>Don Ivany, Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF), Director of Newfoundland and Labrador Programs, reports in the ASF newsletter for July that salmon have migrated to the upper section of the river, where anglers are reporting that fishing is good (Ivany 2021).</p> <p>The forest access road in the southeast area is washed out (VOCM News 2021).</p> <p>Reports of increasing number of campers at the Kruger Bridge that crosses the Main River. Questions arise among stakeholder groups about angler ethics and the sharing of popular pools.</p>

	<p>Reports of campers lined up on the transmission line in the Four Ponds area just before and during the hunting season.</p> <p>MRMAC is re-constituted after a 10-year lapse and meets December 7. The MRMAC discusses proposed changes to the original Terms of Reference used during 2003-2011, an example of which is the inclusion of Indigenous groups to the list of member organizations. Changes reflect a less formal format and more inclusive nature of the committee. Minutes are available.</p> <p>Publication of a research paper on the influence of elevation on bird assemblages in the Long Range Mountains, describing work in the area of MRCHR (McDermott et al. 2021).</p> <p>Release of a Memorial University thesis that researched habitat associations of red squirrels and their impact on gray-cheeked thrush (McDermott, J.P.B. 2021).</p> <p>Newfoundland Kayak Company produces a video, recorded on the Main River, <i>Mentor on the Main</i>, about legendary paddler Jim Payne, as part of the Paddle East: The Adventure Series (Newfoundland Kayak Company 2022).</p> <p>Spruce budworm damage is reported as showing up near the boundary of MRWPP. Early intervention treatment (spraying) for spruce budworm is conducted in areas near the boundary of the MRCHR but no spraying is conducted within the CHR.</p> <p>Little brown myotis and northern myotis are listed provincially as “endangered.”</p> <p>Nalcor is amalgamated with NL Hydro.</p>
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5. ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND INTEGRITY GUIDELINES

5.1. Natural Heritage Values

The designation of Main River as a CHR was based mainly on its natural heritage values, with recreational heritage values being used as supporting rationale. For the period 2011-2021, the Main River continued to meet all four of the CHRS natural heritage selection guidelines. The guidelines state that a CHR must represent the following:

- outstanding river environments as they are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth’s evolutionary history and as represented in Canada; and
- outstanding significant ongoing fluvial, geomorphological, and biological processes.

The guidelines also state that the system must contain the following:

- unique, rare or outstanding examples of natural phenomena, formations or features, or areas of exceptional natural beauty; and
- habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals.

The Main River continues to meet the first two guidelines for natural heritage values due to the persistence of its natural features such as the presence of glacially-influenced landscapes and intact aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. It meets the third and fourth guidelines because its old-growth boreal forests remain intact, its natural beauty remains abundant and largely unchanged, and within its boundaries the habitats for rare and endangered species are undisturbed. These outstanding values have been recognized by many interest groups and are the reason that the Main River CHR continues to be a popular destination for wildlife researchers, anglers, hunters, paddlers, snowmobilers, hikers, and nature photographers.

The MRCHR supports habitat for numerous species at risk, including at least four species of mammals and four species of migratory birds. The MRCHR also provides habitat for three more at-risk species of birds, however there is currently little or no recorded data for those species within the MRCHR boundary. Species at risk that are listed under the Government of Canada's *Species at Risk Act* are protected through strict federal regulations under the federal Act. Species at risk that are listed under the Province of NL *Endangered Species Act* are protected under strict provincial regulations under the provincial Act. Table 2 lists the species and their at-risk status according to criteria under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), federal, and provincial guidelines.

Table 2. Species at risk known to occur at the Main River Canadian Heritage River.

Species at Risk Occurrence within the Main River Canadian Heritage River				
Common Name	Scientific Name	COSEWIC Status	Federal Status	Provincial Status
American marten, Newfoundland population ¹	<i>Martes americana atrata</i>	Threatened ²	Threatened	Threatened
Caribou, Newfoundland population	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	N/A
Little brown myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Northern myotis	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered	Endangered
Gray-cheeked thrush, <i>minimus</i> subspecies ³	<i>Catharus minimus minimus</i>	N/A	N/A	Threatened
Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Special Concern	Threatened	Threatened
Rusty blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Red crossbill, <i>perca</i> subspecies	<i>Loxia curvirostra perca</i>	Threatened	Threatened	Endangered ⁴
Species at Risk Which May Occur within the Main River Canadian Heritage River				
Harlequin duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable

Barrow's goldeneye, eastern population	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Vulnerable
Evening grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	N/A ⁵
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Threatened	Special Concern	Vulnerable
¹ Commonly referred to as the Newfoundland marten. ² Recommended by COSEWIC in April 2022 that it be downlisted to Special Concern. ³ Commonly referred to as the Newfoundland gray-cheeked thrush. ⁴ Downlisted to Threatened in 2022. ⁵ Listed as Vulnerable in 2022.				

Most information is accessible via the federal Species at Risk Registry hosted by Environment and Climate Change Canada at www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html and the provincial website for species at risk hosted by FFA at www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/wildlife/endangeredspecies/.

A brief description of species at risk found within the MRCHR follows, beginning with mammals:

- The American marten in Newfoundland (*Martes americana atrata*), more commonly referred to as Newfoundland marten, is a distinct population of the subspecies *atrata*. It breeds and lives year-round within the MRCHR including specific areas that have been designated as critical habitat. There are only three such designated core areas in the province. The population of Newfoundland marten decreased significantly during the 20th century but has been undergoing an increase in population and distribution in recent decades. Listed as Endangered in 1996, and later downlisted to Threatened in 2007, a re-assessment conducted by COSEWIC in April 2022 resulted in the recommendation that Newfoundland marten be listed as Special Concern. The Wildlife Division (within FFA) will review the COSEWIC recommendation in the Fall of 2022. MRCHR has been identified as critical habitat for Newfoundland marten, and is considered essential for the long-term recovery of the subspecies. The protection of Newfoundland marten within the MRWPP likely contributed to conditions that have led to this evolving conservation success story for the Province. Further information may be found in Recovery Strategy documents (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2013, The Newfoundland Marten Recovery Team 2010).
- The entire Newfoundland population of caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) was designated “special concern” by COSEWIC and the federal government in 2014. Caribou are still hunted to a limited extent in specific areas of Newfoundland but the herd identified as the Northern Peninsula herd, whose range includes MRCHR, is protected. Individuals from the Northern Peninsula herd are observed within the MRWPP, particularly in the Big Steady area. Habitat destruction or degradation, hunting, human disturbance, and predation have all contributed to the decline of caribou in Newfoundland.

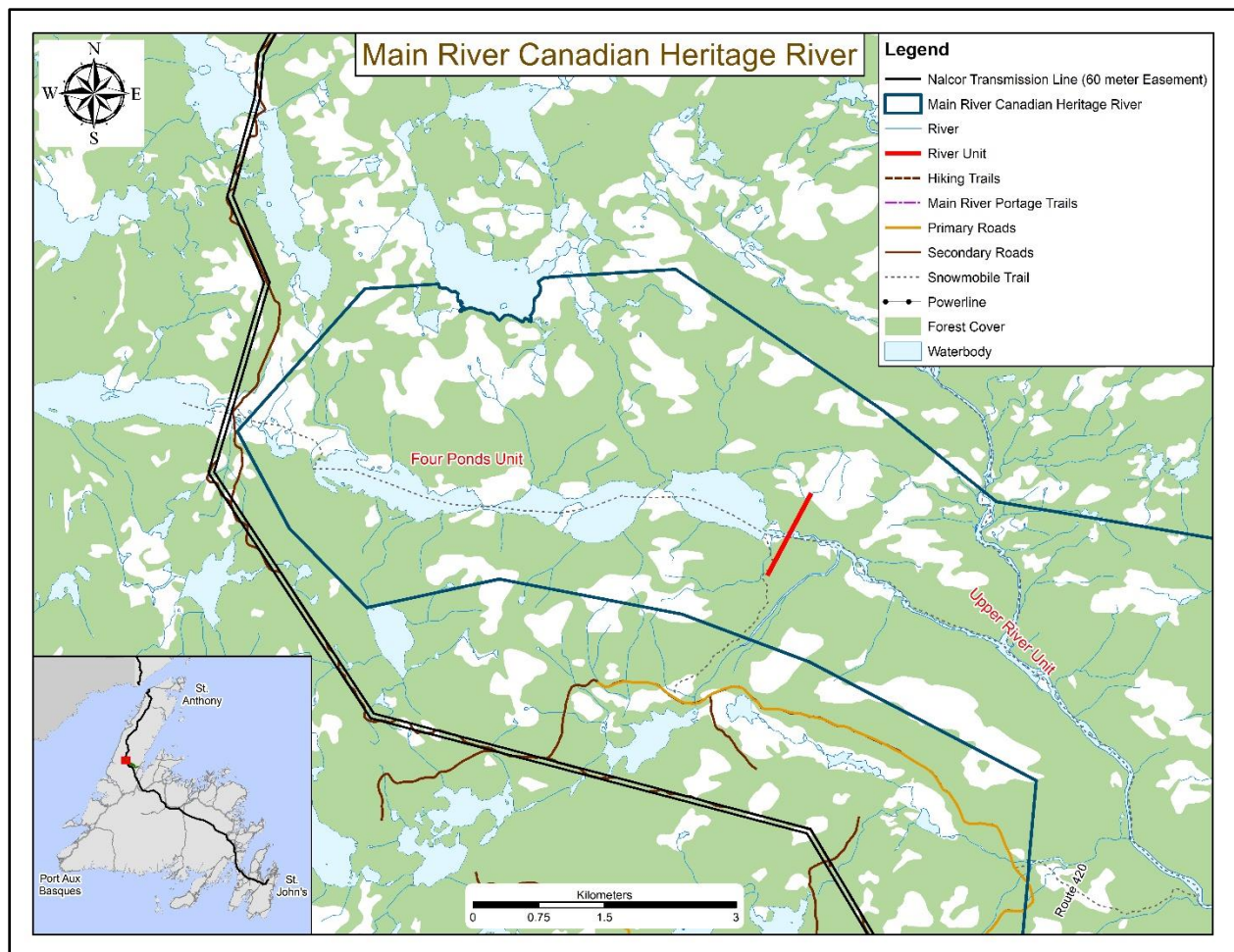
- Two bat species that have been listed as endangered both federally and provincially most likely occur within MRWPP. They are little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Bat hibernacula and/or roosts are likely to occur within the park. There are no recorded observations of bats with White-nose Syndrome (WNS) within the MRWPP but future studies could reveal its presence. The WNS, which is the leading threat to these bat species, was first recorded in Newfoundland in 2017 in the western region of the island.
- Three species of migratory birds occurring in the MRCHR corridor are listed federally or provincially as threatened or endangered: the Newfoundland population of gray-cheeked thrush (*Catharus minimus minimus*), olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), and the Newfoundland population of red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra percna*). In addition, rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) is listed as special concern (federal) and vulnerable (provincial). These four species thrive in the coniferous forests with adjacent wetlands and tall snags that are found in the Main River watershed. The gray-cheeked thrush in particular has been studied within and adjacent to the MRWPP in recent years with particular reference to interactions with red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), an introduced species (McDermott 2021; McDermott et al. 2020, 2021). Other bird species likely visiting MRCHR are also listed in Table 2.

ParksNL staff conduct annual waterfowl surveys along the Main River. Surveys upriver beginning at Big Steady are conducted by helicopter; those downriver starting at Big Steady are conducted by canoe.

5.1.1. Potential Changes to the Natural Heritage Values

During the last reporting period, the construction of the LITL and 60-m wide RoW within the Main River watershed has been a significant change for the area. The RoW runs adjacent to the MRCHR boundary in an area of the northwestern section of the CHR (Figure 4). There are no transmission towers within the MRCHR. The construction of the transmission road and RoW, which underwent extensive environmental assessment and post-construction monitoring of wildlife, has resulted in no significant documented change to the presence, abundance, or distribution of fish and wildlife that can be linked directly to the construction or presence of the transmission link or RoW. However, the question remains as to the longer-term indirect impact construction could have by creating access to the region for vehicles and Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) including ATVs. Repeated observations by ParksNL staff, outfitters trained in the wildlife sector, and experts from among the stakeholder groups who have been active in the MRCHR corridor for many years are important indicators and worth noting.

Figure 4. The Nalcor Energy transmission line and Right of Way in relation to the Main River Canadian Heritage River. (Map courtesy of Natural Areas Program)



There were numerous forest roads in the watershed prior to the construction of the transmission line and associated access road. The construction of the transmission line access road required Nalcor to re-install the Kruger Bridge at Eagle Mountain River that had previously been built, and later taken down, by CBPPL. Nalcor also built many small crossings and culverts to access the transmission line.

Float planes and helicopters are used by outfitters and individual anglers gaining access to remote sections of the watershed. ParksNL designated a portage trail for anglers wishing to access the Paradise Pool area of the river, which is still maintained and accessible.

A particular concern has been raised over the causeway that was built by Nalcor in the Six Mile Pond area just beyond the MRCHR boundary near Four Ponds. The area is outside the MRCHR and MRWPP but within the Main River watershed. It could not be confirmed for this report whether the causeway was intended as temporary or permanent, although opinions were offered from individuals who had spoken with people close to the issue. Some conservation organizations such as ASF and citizens have raised concerns about aquatic connectivity for salmon and trout with respect to the causeway culverts and whether potential

human activity harmful to fish populations is being adequately monitored by enforcement. A preliminary inquiry was made to DFO during the preparation of this report, but access to information would require a longer timeframe and as the area is outside the boundary of the MRCHR, no further recommendation is presented here.

Degradation of wetlands, particularly bog habitat, in the Four Ponds area has been reported in recent years as a condition resulting from increased traffic entering via the transmission road and OHV use on bogs and other wetlands in the Four Ponds area. This is an area of moose habitat that has become accessible to hunters via the transmission line access road. The Natural Areas Program and ParksNL staff worked to manage the problem. The Minister of TCAR granted Roberts Outfitting, which had recently purchased the outfitting company with facilities at Four Ponds, a permit to construct a one-kilometer ATV trail from the transmission line road to the Four Ponds area. A condition of the approval was that the trail would be maintained for public use. The trail was considered by managers to be the best option for mitigating disturbance. There was some debate surrounding the issue (CBC News NL 2021a, 2021b; CBC Radio NL 2021). The MRWPP staff have been monitoring for disturbance at the site and potential impact on the MRCHR (Colin Davis, *pers. comm.*).

There has been no timber harvesting or mineral extraction within or immediately adjacent to the MRCHR during the past decade. Since 2017, MRWPP has had a 1 km referral buffer surrounding the park, providing ParksNL with an opportunity to comment on adjacent activities. There have been no development applications for projects within 1 km of the MRWPP referred to ParksNL since 2017.

5.1.2. Monitoring Elements of the Main River CHR Natural Values

Water Quality

The pristine water quality of the MRCHR is often cited as important to the Main River population of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and a possible reason that the river supports some of the best recreational salmon fishing in the province. The Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources Division (WRD) has been conducting water quality sampling since 1986. The Division monitors the system via Eagle Mountain Brook and the Main River outlet. Testing is conducted for temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, total dissolved solids and specific conductivity. No significant changes have been detected during the current reporting period.

Environment and Climate Change Canada operates a real-time station at Paradise Pool, just below the Big Steady Unit, which provides year-round monitoring of water flow rates. Information is made available to the public through the Canada-Newfoundland/Labrador AquaLink (CANAL)—a partnership project between Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change. The information is accessible through the website for the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada (https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/mainmenu/real_time_data_index_e.html).

Small Mammals

In 2007, the Wildlife Division of what is currently the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture initiated a small mammal study in the MRCHR as part of a province-wide study to identify small mammal species and their distribution, determine population trends, and conduct disease monitoring and early detection. One of the small mammal species detected in the study is the southern red-backed vole (*Clethrionomys gapperi*), an introduced species to Newfoundland and one that has become an important food source for Newfoundland marten. The small mammal study continued during the period 2011-2021 (Bruce Rodrigues, *pers. comm.*).

Newfoundland Marten

The MRWPP staff have continued monitoring for Newfoundland marten in the park, using the hair snag non-invasive technique that captures a small sample of fur from marten and other animals such as squirrel that visit a baited platform. Fur samples suspected as possible marten are sent to the Wildlife Division and eventually to genetics labs for species confirmation.

The provincial government provides added protection to the Newfoundland marten in the MRCHR through its long-established designation of the Main River Study Area, which is managed as a Category One area for trapping, which dictates that traps must be set in such manner as to avoid the capture of non-target species. Prohibited traps as well as permitted traps for a Category One area are described in the NL Hunting and Trapping Guide, which the province publishes annually (Province of NL 2020). A Category One designation carries the most restricted of regulations for trapping.

Other Fish and Wildlife

Additional fish and wildlife monitoring projects occurring within the MRCHR have included research on migratory bird species at risk and salmon scale sample collection.

Spruce Budworm

The provincial government has not conducted control of spruce budworm with the biological control agent Btk within the MRCHR during the past decade. ParksNL (responsible for MRWPP and SMA) and Natural Areas Program (responsible for the MRCHR) have made the decision to not spray for forest insect pests out of concern for the natural values of the CHR. The Supervisor of Forest Insect, Disease and Fire Control in the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture suggests that there is potential for detectable impact in the next few years due to a sizable immigration of moths from Ontario to the adjacent area of Gros Morne National Park in July of 2020 (Jeff Motty, Supervisor of Forest Insect, Disease and Fire Control, *pers. comm.*).

5.1.3. Natural Heritage Values Intact and Maintained

Due in part to the legislative protection mechanisms in place and the environmental assessment process that was implemented in association with construction of the Nalcor transmission line, the natural

heritage values within the corridor have been maintained during the past decade. The role of responsible management authorities in provincial and federal government, as well as stakeholder groups and citizen stewards, remains critically important. The MRCHR continues to possess excellent water quality, healthy and intact terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, abundant wildlife, rare bird and mammal populations, and scenic vistas.

Table 3 lists the significant actions or studies focused on natural heritage values from 2011-2021, along with any changes or threats to the values. A detailed list of academic and independent research, impact assessment studies, and monitoring studies occurring within or near the CHR is included in Appendix A.

Table 3. The condition of natural heritage values and changes or threats to values within the Main River Canadian Heritage River from 2011-2021.

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes and Sub-Themes	Main River Natural Heritage Elements Descriptions	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
1. HYDROLOGY			
1.1 Drainage Basins	Drainage basin is the Atlantic Ocean Basin. There are 58 tributaries. The watershed is 632.4 km ² , of which 68% is forested land.	None	None
1.2 Seasonal Variation	Highest period of flow is April-June. Described as a “flashy river.” Relatively low flows occur January-March and July-September.	Real-time flow rate is monitored at Paradise Pool.	None
1.3 Water Content	pH range is 5.5-6.5 (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012) and dark colour occurs due to dissolved minerals and organic material from surrounding boggy terrain; insignificant sediment load.	WRD has been monitoring water quality on Main River since 1986. Real-time water quality data has been collected by Environment and Climate Change Canada during the past decade.	None
1.4 River Size	Flow volume ranges from 479 m ³ /s to 2.18 m ³ /s. Mean daily discharge 28.3 m ³ /s. River length is 57 km.	None	None
2. PHYSIOGRAPHY			
2.1 Physiographic Regions	Appalachian Acadian Uplands	None	None
2.2 Geological Processes	Main River developed after the melting of the Laurentide ice cap, which moved toward both the east and west coasts of the Northern Peninsula.	None	None

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes and Sub-Themes	Main River Natural Heritage Elements Descriptions	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	<p>Deep deposits of glacial till occur at the river mouth. Glacial erratics and glacial striations and polishing are visible in numerous locations.</p> <p>Surficial Geology: Approximately 54% of the watershed is drift poor with undifferentiated till accounting for a further 34% and exposed bedrock about 6%. Bog and glaciofluvial deposits both account for about 3% and 2% respectively of the surficial geology of the watershed and till blanket a further 1%.</p>		
2.3 Hydrogeology	<p>Impervious bedrock (igneous and metamorphic) with surficial unconsolidated materials of low porosity: fine-grained clay and silt.</p> <p>Bedrock Geology: About 85% of the watershed is underlain by granitoid gneiss and paragneiss with the remainder made up of 8% granitoid suites and 7% mafic and anorthosite intrusions.</p>	None	None
2.4 Topography	<p>Steep gradient (6.5 m/km)</p> <p>Height above sea level ranges from 0 m at the mouth to 675 m in the headwaters.</p>	None	None
3. RIVER MORPHOLOGY			
3.1 Valley Types	Flat/rounded interfluvies - narrow floodplain	None	None
3.2 Channel Types	<p>Stream Configuration: straight</p> <p>Lake System: Feeder Lakes</p>	None	None
3.3 Channel Profile	Prolonged Rapids	None	None
3.4 Fluvial Landforms	Deltas	None	None
4. BIOTIC ENVIRONMENTS			
4.1 Aquatic Ecosystems	Wetlands systems: bogs and fens	None	None
4.2 Terrestrial Ecosystems	Ecozone: Atlantic Maritime	None	None
5. VEGETATION			
5.1 Significant Plant Communities	Shrubs: dwarf shrub barrens	Botanical survey in 2003 completed by botanist with Department of Fisheries,	None

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes and Sub-Themes	Main River Natural Heritage Elements Descriptions	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
		Forestry and Agriculture. No known extensive survey in recent years.	
	Trees: old growth boreal forest, with some balsam fir, black spruce, and white birch trees aged 200-250 years old.	In 2011, CBPPL released all timber rights within the Main River watershed back to the Province of NL. The Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory studied decay classification of coarse woody debris in the old growth forest of Main River.	None
	Fungi and Lichens	Foray Newfoundland and Labrador conducted the Faculty Foray 2011 Mushroom Census in the MRWPP. No known fungi forays in the past decade.	None
5.2 Rare Plant Species	As of 2011, one plant, <i>Agrostis perennans</i> , has received a general status ranging of S2 (provincially rare).	Botanical Survey of 2003. No extensive botanical surveys since then (one mushroom/lichen focused survey in 2011 with the Mushroom Foray).	None
6. FAUNA			
6.1 Significant Animal Populations	Mammals include moose, caribou, and black bear, Newfoundland marten, eastern coyote, snowshoe hare, red squirrel, beaver, mink, otter, red fox, and lynx. Woodland caribou Northern Peninsula herd.	Wildlife Division continues its Small Mammal Study; one of the 14 study sites is within the CHR. Woodland caribou Northern Peninsula herd closed to hunting 2019-2021.	None
	Waterfowl surveys. Memorial University graduate research on the gray-cheeked thrush. Bird observations.	Conducted annually by ParksNL staff. Peer reviewed papers authored by McDermott et al. (Appendix A). (Refer to Appendix A for research and surveys occurring in the CHR or in close proximity to the corridor.) From 2011-2021, bird observations were recorded on	None

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes and Sub-Themes	Main River Natural Heritage Elements Descriptions	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
		e-Bird (an online database for bird observations at https://ebird.org/home) at 4 different sites in or around the Main River (Taylors Brook Road, Pollards Point, Sops Arm, Main River). A total of 57 species were observed.	
	<p>Fish: Healthy populations of Atlantic salmon and brook trout (including sea run trout).</p> <p>There is also rainbow smelt, American eel, and three and nine-spine stickleback.</p>	ParksNL staff collect salmon scales along the Main River, as part of long-term study.	None
6.2 Rare Animal Species	<p>Newfoundland population of American marten <i>atrata</i> subspecies, 1 of 14 subspecies in Canada, exists only in insular Newfoundland.</p> <p>MRCHR has been identified as critical habitat for Newfoundland marten, and is considered essential for the long-term recovery of the subspecies.</p> <p>The overall Newfoundland population of Newfoundland marten is considered to be increasing during the past decade, with distribution spreading to areas formerly occupied.</p>	<p>Regular monitoring using hair snags is conducted by ParksNL staff.</p> <p>Abundant studies conducted as part of the Labrador LITL assessment and monitoring program (See studies listed in Appendix A).</p> <p>Hair snag technique continues as the primary method for monitoring marten occurrence and the spread of its distribution as the prospect for recovery improves.</p>	<p>Positive change: in 2007, the Newfoundland marten, listed as endangered in 2001, was downlisted to threatened. The population is considered to be increasing and its distribution spreading.</p>
	<p>Provincial status of the Newfoundland population of gray-cheeked thrush (<i>Catharus minimus minimus</i>) changes from vulnerable to threatened. It is listed federally as Threatened.</p> <p>Rusty blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>) continues to be listed as Vulnerable under the NL <i>Endangered Species Act</i>, and Special Concern under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</p> <p>Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus</i></p>	Significant research on gray-cheeked thrush and interactions with red squirrel within and adjacent to MRCHR (Appendix A).	None

CHRS Natural Framework (2001) Themes and Sub-Themes	Main River Natural Heritage Elements Descriptions	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	<i>cooperi</i>) continues to be listed as Threatened under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and the NL <i>Endangered Species Act</i> .		

5.2. Cultural Heritage Values

At the time the Main River was being considered for nomination as a CHR, cultural heritage values were not identified as significant in determining the river's prospects for being designated a CHR as compared to the natural and recreational heritage values. However, that is not to say that the MRCHR does not possess important cultural values to people today. Indigenous and non-indigenous people of Sop's Arm and Pollard's Point and adjacent White Bay South communities of Jackson's Arm and Hampden continue to hunt, fish, and forage for reasons that relate to culture, tradition, and food security. The preservation of cultural heritage values of the MRCHR is of utmost importance to local citizen-stewards of the MRCHR (Gary Gale, Hampden resident, *pers. comm.*).

In addition, cultural heritage values exist by virtue of the historic presence of Indigenous people in the area of the CHR. According to the first ten-year monitoring report, there is evidence of early Inuit habitation near the river approximately 2,100 years ago, while a site along the north side of the river, just west of Sop's Arm, has been attributed to the nomadic Beothuk culture. The sheltered bays and arms around the mouth of the Main River, although situated outside of the CHR, could provide additional information on the 4,000-year maritime tradition of the region. Sop's Island, within the Main River estuary, was the original settlement location of European settlers until the provincial government relocated the community to current location of Sop's Arm in the 1950's (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012).

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) was founded in 2011. The QFN governance structure includes elected Indigenous officials who represent QFN members living in Sop's Arm and Pollard's Point at the mouth of the Main River. Currently, these communities are organized within the Benoit's Cove Ward, for which Terri Greene is a Ward Councillor. Her view is that the CHR designation brings more responsibility to QFN to protect the heritage values of the area (Terri Greene, *pers. comm.*). Consumptive and non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife resources by members of QFN follows all federal and provincial laws and regulations. The Department of Natural Resources within the QFN is very interested in working collaboratively with responsible provincial and federal departments as well as stakeholder groups and interested citizens to protect and maintain the natural, cultural, and recreational values as well as the integrity guidelines of the MRCHR (Jonathan Strickland, Director of Natural Resources, QFN, *pers. comm.*).

The fact that the local K-12 school in Pollard's Point is called, "Main River Academy," suggests the

importance that local citizens place on the heritage values of the Main River (Gary Gale, *pers. comm.*).

5.3. Recreational Heritage Values

Main River is renowned in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Canada as a wilderness adventure waterway, offering outdoor recreation activities in an untamed natural environment. The CHR continues to offer excellent recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, camping, and snowmobiling, and during high water levels it offers superb canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. The MRWPP has worked to enhance visitor enjoyment of the CHR over the years by enhancing the trails, improving signage, and installing privies, fire pits, and picnic tables at traditional tenting sites along the river (Paul Taylor, Tourism Development Officer, former MRWPP planner, *pers. comm.*)

There are two commercial outfitters with lodges or cabins within the MRCHR: Arluk Outfitters and Roberts Outfitting. They continue to guide mostly non-resident clientele to hunt moose and black bear, or to fish for Atlantic salmon and brook trout, using the spectacular natural heritage values of the area as marketing features (Brad Ledrew, Arluk Outfitters, *pers. comm.*; Otto Roberts, Roberts Outfitting, *pers. comm.*). Arluk operates four lodges or cabins within the watershed: Arluk Tilt, Main River lodge, St. Paul's Pond (in the headwaters area), and Caribou Lake. Robert's Outfitters operates four cabins at one location in the Four Ponds area. Arluk's hunting clientele is composed of 75-80% US residents, 15-20% Canadian, and 5% European. Arluk's fishing clientele is composed of 60% Canadian and 40% US (Brad Ledrew, Arluk Outfitters, *pers. comm.*). Robert's Outfitting clientele is mostly from the US, and the company is in the process of gradually building to a four-seasons operation (Otto Roberts, Roberts Outfitting, *pers. comm.*).

According to the first ten-year monitoring report for 2001-2011, the largest user group, snowmobilers, visits the CHR to enjoy the consistently high annual snowpack while enjoying the wilderness views, with the most popular area being the Big Steady (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012). The section from Big Steady to Four Ponds is a main thoroughfare for snowmobile users traveling long distance and coming off either the groomed trails or the transmission line. Some of them may be heading for Harbour Deep to the north. According to ParksNL staff, the main period of use is March and April, when an estimated 30 people per day may use the river, with some days seeing as many as 70. Signs are maintained and snowmobilers have stayed on the trails (Colin Davis, *pers. comm.*). The Parks and Natural Areas Division (former name) established signage along the snowmobile trail that runs from Sop's Arm to Four Ponds, with an extensive section of the trail along the river, while the NL Snowmobile Federation has for many years groomed and maintained the trail (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012).

The second largest user group, Atlantic salmon anglers, considers the Main one of the best salmon rivers in the province. Experienced anglers who have fished many rivers in the province acclaim the MRCHR for its sheer beauty and pristine qualities. They describe the river as "full of fish" and that the fishing experience is excellent (Don Ivany, Atlantic Salmon Federation, *pers. comm.*). Although the Main River is not known for having large salmon as in the neighbouring Humber River, the river has a high annual catch

rate, i.e., catch per rod days. The Angler's Guide for 2022-23 lists the 2020 salmon catch rate per rod day of 1.3 (Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2022). For 2011-2020, the catch per rod days, on average, was above 0.95 (Michelle Fitzsimmons, DFO, *pers. comm.*).

Figure 5. Moonlight over a tenting site on the Main River. (Photo by Tina Leonard, Natural Areas Program)



Salmon retention is permitted along the CHR with the following minor exceptions that have been applied by DFO annually from 2011 to 2022: catch-and-release only on Sunshine Pool from 150 m below to 300 m above falls, and on the Northwest branch of the river. There are two areas closed to fishing: a section of the Northwest branch of the Main River 300 m below to 300 m above the falls at Wardens Pool, and within 23 m downstream from any obstacle or leap (falls). This regulation applies to both Sunshine Pool and Wardens Pool.

Most salmon and trout angling on the Main River, in general, is conducted by non-guided residents of NL. Some anglers visit sections of the river via helicopter, but the vast majority arrive by vehicle and enter via the forest road to the south. Many anglers park at the Kruger Bridge in the downriver section of the river, and fish the nearby pools. As mentioned in Section 5.4, angler use has increased and there are some complaints concerning respect for angling ethics. In addition, there are reports from different users of the river of an increase in the number of campers parked in that area. The ParksNL staff post signs and discourage campers from parking alongside the road because the practice blocks access in the event of

forest fire (Colin Davis, *pers. comm.*).

In addition to anglers, canoeists and kayakers also recognize the Main River as one of the top waterways in the province, with its mix of fast and slow water, and continuous natural beauty along the river's course. The flow rate on the river is highly influenced by melting snow and rain; the river is described as a "flashy" river. The river provides a spectacular 25 km run for white-water rafting from the Kruger Bridge to the mouth, with the optimal time occurring during the first week of June and possibly the last week of May. Experienced guides will identify the most opportune moments when the river is at its prime for rafting.

In 2019 there was a concerted effort by tourism stakeholders in the White Bay South area to develop a strategic plan for increasing tourism in the area (Tourism Stakeholders in White Bay South 2019). The goal of the White Bay South Tourism Development Plan was to attract and encourage local residents and visitors to experience more of White Bay South. Nature-based experiences were viewed by the tourism stakeholders as key assets. One recommendation was to work with existing local nature-based businesses to enhance their market-readiness and to help them become drivers of visitor traffic to the area.

Overall, the recreational heritage values of the Main River CHR remain unchanged from their condition when the river received its CHR designation. Increased numbers of anglers at the Kruger Bridge and campers along the transmission road can be expected during a ten-year period. The management authorities, in consultation with the MRMAC, have an opportunity to educate the public for best management practices, the heritage values of the MRCHR, and an overall appreciation for the CHRS.

Table 4. Condition of recreational heritage values, Main River Canadian Heritage River, 2011-2021.

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
1. BOATING			
1.1 White-water Canoe, Kayak & Raft	<p>White-water canoeing, kayaking, and rafting opportunities exist for both commercial operators and individuals.</p> <p>The best opportunities exist when flow rates are between 40 m³/s and 100 m³/s (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012). Flow rates can be much higher at times.</p> <p>Lower sections of the river drop 3.8 m per km,</p>	<p>Eastern Edge Outfitters is no longer operational but there is still use by adventure outfitters (commercial) and individuals for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting during the period of high water. Most activity is from the Kruger Bridge to the mouth.</p>	None

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	and 2.8 m per km in the canyon.		
1.2 Extended Canoe Tripping (motor & non-motor)	Non-motorized canoeing and kayaking are the main means of transportation with some portaging required.	Estimates from experienced paddlers are that an average of 2 or 3 extended canoe trips (which may be from as far upriver as headwaters to the mouth) have taken place on the river from 2011 to 2021.	None
1.3 Day Paddling & Rowing	Day trips are possible.	None	None
1.4 High Speed Boating	Only boats with an engine size of less than 10 HP are permitted in the Main River.	PNAD monitoring has documented that boating is only occurring on the lower 2-4 km of the Big Steady and on Caribou Lake and Four Ponds (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012).	None
1.5 Motorized Pleasure Cruising/Houseboats	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.6 Commercial Tour Boats	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.7 Sailing	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. ANGLING			
2.1 Day Angling	Day angling occurs at Main River, having a high annual catch rate. For 2011-2020, the mean catch per rod day was greater than 0.95.	<p>Since 2010-2011, DFO requires all large Atlantic salmon (>63 cm) caught in insular Newfoundland to be released in an effort to conserve salmon stocks.</p> <p>DFO adjusts the classification of Main River for salmon angling from Class 2 to Class 4 in 2014, and the retention limit according to management decisions. Retention drops from 4 fish per season in 2012-2017 to 1 in 2018, and increases to 2 fish per season in 2019-2021. Regulations may change according to seasonal conditions and yearly</p>	Based on historic impact of forest access road construction decades ago, which resulted in an increase in the annual take (i.e., retention) of salmon from Main River, there could be increased take resulting from construction of the Nalcor transmission road, ignoring other influencing factors that might reduce the annual take such as rising prices for gasoline.

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
		<p>assessments by DFO. There is no counting fence on the river. Information is published annually by DFO in the Angler's Guide.</p> <p>Catch and release is restricted to 3 fish/day.</p> <p>The Supervisory office for River Guardians is stationed in Springdale. A team of guardians patrols Main River daily in season from the river mouth in Sops Arm to the Kruger Bridge (approx. 14 km), along the forest access road.</p>	
2.2 Weekend Angling	Main River is readily accessible by residents throughout the province for weekend angling. Arluk Outfitters reserves its Caribou Lake Lodge for resident weekend use (Brad Ledrew, Arluk Outfitters, <i>pers. comm.</i>).		None
2.3 Extended Angling Vacation	The two commercial outfitting camps within the CHR corridor guide salmon and trout anglers who come to experience the excellent angling and undisturbed landscapes within the Main River.	The two commercial outfitters located within the CHR focus primarily on non-resident hunting clientele.	Limited helicopter use to transport anglers to remote lodges may impact visitor experience for other anglers but complaints are less frequent in recent years.
2.4 Fly Fishing	<p>Fly fishing occurs throughout the CHR and is the only method allowed on NL scheduled salmon rivers. Both salmon and trout are pursued, including sea run trout.</p> <p>Certain specific sections of the river are restricted to catch and release only.</p>	Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (2021) released a report on the impacts of Hook and Release fishing. FFA, in collaboration with DFO and Atlantic Salmon Federation, also released educational video clips to encourage best practices for catch and release of salmon.	None

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
2.5 Ice Fishing	Ice fishing is generally prohibited on Main River as it is a scheduled salmon river. However, ice fishing for brook trout and sea-run trout is permitted in a specific pond upriver from Paradise Pool, adjacent to the main stem.	None	None
2.6 Specific Fish Species	Healthy populations of Atlantic salmon and brook trout exist in the river.	None	None
3. WATER CONTACT/CONTENT			
3.1 Swimming	Swimming occasionally occurs throughout the river, but the most popular location is the "Salmon Hole" located <1 km upstream from the Main River estuary.	None	None
3.2 Water Skiing	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3 Snorkel/Scuba	Some people may snorkel in the "Salmon Hole" to view Atlantic salmon.	None	None
4. WATER-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES			
4.1 Trail Use (hiking, walking, cycling)	<p>There are some primitive unmarked trails used by hikers, and by anglers accessing the river.</p> <p>Many of the trails are maintained by ParksNL to provide a natural backcountry experience, although some trail signage has been established.</p> <p>The Parks and Natural Areas Division (former</p>	Signage has been established on some of the trails, which have existed prior to 2001 and on trails created by ParksNL.	None

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	name of the management authority) created a portage trail from Taylor Brook Road to the Big Steady via Caribou Lake, a portage trail from Taylor Brook Road into Four Ponds, and the “Northern Feeder” hiking trail.		
4.2 Camping	<p>Privately owned Sop's Arm Campground is located at the mouth of Main River.</p> <p>There are several established tenting sites located throughout the CHR corridor, but users are allowed to camp at any location along the river.</p> <p>ParksNL staff continue to promote a leave only footprints policy to all users encountered.</p>	<p>ParksNL staff maintain several backcountry tent sites where, at some locations, they provide users with privies, fire pits, and picnic tables.</p> <p>No permit is currently required for camping or entering the MRWPP.</p> <p>Arluk Outfitters is considering erecting small “inter-shelters” for small groups that are hunting remote areas.</p> <p>The campground at Sop's Arm is full in early July.</p>	None
4.3 Hunting & Trapping	<p>Hunting is permitted within the CHR and principally involves the pursuit of moose, black bear, and waterfowl.</p> <p>Land-based traps, land-based locking neck snares, and small game snares are prohibited in most of the CHR corridor (Wildlife Division, 2011).</p>	<p>Snaring and trapping restrictions have been in effect in portions of the CHR corridor since 1996.</p> <p>The Northern Peninsula caribou herd is closed to hunting starting in 2019.</p>	Anecdotal reports from knowledgeable persons suggest that fewer caribou are being observed in the Big Steady area. Whether this is a result of construction of the Nalcor transmission road or part of an overall population trend could not be determined.
5. WINTER ACTIVITIES			
5.1 Snowmobiling/Dog Sledding	<p>Snowmobilers are the largest user-group within the CHR corridor.</p> <p>A snowmobile trail heads westward from</p>	<p>Snowmobile trails have been enhanced through PNAD's improvement of signage along the trails.</p> <p>The NL Snowmobile Federation may still</p>	None

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	Sop's Arm to Four Ponds along the CHR with diversions along several of its tributaries.	perform manual vegetation control as needed along the Main River road leading into the Kruger Bridge.	
5.2 Cross-Country Skiing	N/A	None	None
5.3 Skating	The characteristics of the river make it unsuitable for skating.	None	None
6. NATURAL HERITAGE APPRECIATION			
6.1 Wildlife	Main River CHR corridor contains such a variety of habitats that most of the land mammals occurring on insular Newfoundland are found there.	A 2019 White Bay South Tourism Development Plan recommends marketing the natural attractions of the Main River to encourage greater visitation to the region.	None
6.2 Vegetation	Main River straddles two ecoregions: the headwaters and Big Steady are situated within the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion, and downstream from the Big Steady, Main River flows through the Northern Peninsula Ecoregion.	None	None
6.3 Vistas/Scenic Quality	Undisturbed and pristine barrens, bogs, waterbodies and forests make the Main River famous for its natural beauty. The colour contrasts along the river, dark green grassy islands, dark blue water, and green moss-carpeted old growth forests, combine to create abundant high-quality vistas.	None	The Labrador-Island Transmission Link parallels the MRCHR in the northwest area. No towers are built within the boundaries of the CHR, although a small area of RoW overlaps the CHR. Lines are visible from vantage points in the Four Ponds area.
6.4 Geological Features/Water Features	Evidence of the Laurentide ice cap is evident by the massive erratics on the highlands and in the gorges, as well	None	None

Recreational Capability Themes and Sub-themes	Description of Current Situation	Significant Actions, Research or Studies	Changes or Threats to Nomination Value(s)
	as the many outcrops with glacial polish and striations.		
7. HUMAN HERITAGE APPRECIATION			
7.1 Historic Sites	N/A	N/A	N/A
7.2 Cultural Landscapes	N/A	N/A	N/A
7.3 Sporting Events/Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A
7.4 Cultural Events/Activities	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.4. Integrity Guidelines

Beyond the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage guidelines, the CHRS established the following three overarching guidelines for CHR designation:

1. The river and its environment should be of sufficient size and contain most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the processes, features, activities, or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding value.
2. The river and its environment should contain those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the features or objects to be protected.
3. The quality of the water should be such as to provide for the continuity and/or improvement of the resources upon which “value” to the system has been determined.

Main River continues to meet the three overarching guidelines and all the natural and recreational integrity guidelines for which it was designated as a CHR in 2001. Legislative protection is provided by the *NL Provincial Parks Act*, the *NL Lands Act*, the *NL Endangered Species Act*, and the federal *Species at Risk Act*. The MRMAC met in December 2021 and February 2022. Management of salmon populations and the enforcement of fishing regulations is the responsibility of DFO. Table 5 describes the status of Main River’s natural, cultural, and recreational integrity guidelines as of 2021.

It is generally recognized that the transmission line access road, which enables motorized transit from Taylor’s Brook Road in the southeast to Parsons Pond in the northwest, has led to increased traffic and access to the river system. However, while accessibility and traffic have increased, no significant negative impact on the natural values of the CHR resulting directly from construction of the access road have been confirmed.

There have been localized complaints about anglers camping at the Kruger Bridge and weakening adherence to commonly accepted ethics of recreational salmon fishing, such behaviour characterized as “hogging” popular pools and preventing equitable sharing of the resource. This type of challenge is encountered on many salmon angling rivers where visitor numbers are increasing. Another concern raised

by one of the outfitters involves resident moose hunters parking campers along the transmission line access road in the Four Ponds area and near the Kruger bridge at Eagle Mountain Brook (outside the boundary of MRCHR). This has the potential to detract from the pristine aspect of the area and place increased pressure on the moose resource.

On the other hand, the recent ten-year period has witnessed no change in the number of people using the river for rafting and paddling (Mark Dykeman, experienced paddler, *pers. comm.*).

Table 5. Status, changes and/or threats to the Main River Canadian Heritage River System integrity guidelines since 2011.

CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operations Guidelines (2000)	Integrity Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Integrity Value(s) Since Nomination
1. NATURAL INTEGRITY GUIDELINES		
1.1 The nominated area is of sufficient size and contains all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the natural processes, features or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding natural values.	Main River is 57 km long and has numerous headwater ponds located at high elevations within the Long Range Mountains, tributaries along its entire length, and is completely free of any obstructions to fish and water movement. The CHR corridor encompasses an area of 201 km ² .	In 2011, all timber rights within the Main River watershed and SMA were transferred back to the Province. Considering the transfer of timber rights, the MRMAC has made a recommendation to the province to incorporate the SMA into the MRWPP boundary.
1.2 The nominated area contains those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the species, features or objects to be protected.	The terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the CHR are intact.	The minimal anthropogenic disturbance in the surrounding watershed has been in the form of transmission line and road construction. An ATV trail constructed from the transmission line access road to the Four Ponds area is approximately 1 km in length.
1.3 There are no human-made impoundments within the nominated area.	Industrial development activities are prohibited within the MRWPP, under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> .	No impoundments exist on the Main River. A causeway with culverts was built at Six Mile Ponds, just north of the Four Ponds area and outside the boundary of the MRCHR, to allow Nalcor to access the transmission line that runs parallel to the CHR.
1.4 All key elements and ecosystem components are unaffected by impoundments located outside the nominated area.	The nearest man-made impoundments are situated on the Cat Arm River watershed, approximately 30 km north of Main River. The transmission line from the Cat Arm hydroelectric site runs through the easternmost portion of the CHR corridor near the community of Sop's Arm. It	Nalcor and NL Hydro were amalgamated in 2021, which will likely bring about some administrative and capacity-building changes. NL Hydro is represented on the MRMAC. NL Hydro has actively collaborated with ParksNL and the Natural Areas Program staff for over 13 years.

CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operations Guidelines (2000)	Integrity Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Integrity Value(s) Since Nomination
	preceded the designation of the MRCHR. Approximately 20 structures, more or less parallel, extending over 2 km and next to the road.	Inspections of transmission lines are conducted by NL Hydro every 10 years.
1.5 Natural values for which the river is nominated have not been created by impoundments.	None of the natural values have been created by impoundments.	None
1.6 The water of the nominated river is uncontaminated to the extent that its natural aquatic ecosystem is intact.	<p>The abundance, variety and integrity of aquatic and littoral floral and faunal species in the Main River indicate that there is no appreciable level of contamination in the system.</p> <p>Its natural aquatic ecosystem is intact and there are no indications of anthropogenic pollutants.</p>	None
1.7 The natural aesthetic value of the river is not compromised by human developments.	Aesthetics have not been affected by human developments.	<p>The Labrador-Island Transmission Link towers do not enter the boundaries of the MRCHR but one area of RoW does overlap. Complaints have focused more on visitors parking on the transmission road in the Four Ponds area during hunting season.</p> <p>Lines may be visible from vantage points in the Four Ponds area but there have not been known complaints.</p> <p>The few illegal cabins found along the MRCHR have been removed.</p>
2. CULTURAL INTEGRITY VALUES		
2.1 The nominated area is of sufficient size and contains all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding cultural value.	N/A	N/A
2.2 The visual appearance of the nominated area of river enables uninterrupted appreciation of at least one of	N/A	N/A

CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operations Guidelines (2000)	Integrity Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Integrity Value(s) Since Nomination
the periods of the river's historical importance		
2.3 The key artifacts and sites comprising the cultural values for which the river is nominated are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses.	N/A	N/A
2.4 The water quality of the nominated area does not detract from the visual character or the cultural experience provided by its cultural values.	N/A	N/A
3. RECREATIONAL INTEGRITY VALUES		
3.1 The river possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities, including those recreational opportunities for which it is nominated.	<p>The water in Main River is unpolluted and acceptable for water contact recreational activities.</p> <p>Although the river water is dark in colour, due to the water passing through peat bogs and the presence of iron, this does not present a health hazard. At least one experienced angler believes it may account in part for the good fishing experience with salmon.</p>	None
3.2 The river's visual appearance is capable of providing river travelers with a continuous natural experience, or a combined natural and cultural experience, without significant interruption by modern human intrusions.	<p>The Main River is a truly outstanding example of river environments characteristic of Newfoundland.</p> <p>The mountain uplands, old growth forests, lush green grasslands, and coastal estuary and coves, combined with the abundant wildlife, present one of the best wild and scenic natural areas on the island.</p>	The main threats of concern have been the Nalcor transmission line and RoW and ATV traffic from the transmission line to the Four Ponds area, particularly ATV travel over bogs. There are some concerns around the perceived increase use of helicopters being used to transport anglers to remote sites within the CHR.
3.3 The river is capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss or impact on its natural, cultural or aesthetic values.	All recreational uses are supported.	Immediately following construction of the Nalcor transmission line access road, there were reports of increasing ATV use on the bogs and other wetlands in the Four Ponds area. One argument that has been used to justify the permit given to the outfitter at Four Ponds for the one-kilometre ATV trail was that it would

CHRS Principles, Procedures and Operations Guidelines (2000)	Integrity Value(s)	Changes or Threats to Integrity Value(s) Since Nomination
		<p>reduce such ATV damage to the surrounding terrain and wetlands.</p> <p>Much of the vegetation within the Big Steady is adapted to yearly ice and flood disturbance; therefore, low impact camping should not damage the vegetation, with the following caveat: The “hardy” nature of the plants should not be taken for granted as repeated camping at some sites may damage the grasses and sedges. Increased use by campers may eventually lead to pollution, and possibly compaction of soils.</p>

6. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

The Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Plan was prepared in 2001 as part of the nomination process for Canadian Heritage River designation. The management plan outlines goals, objectives, and recommended actions for maintaining the natural heritage and recreational values of the Main River. Since the drafting of the document, much has changed for the management of the Main River. The Main River Waterway Provincial Park was established, and a Special Management Area was created to accommodate alternative forestry methods. With the historic relinquishing of CBPPL timber rights to the SMA in 2011, the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (2014-2024) established that the area would no longer be targeted for harvesting. When the Parks and Natural Areas Division split into the ParksNL and Natural Areas Program, the responsible authority for management of the MRWPP and SMA moved to a different department from the responsible authority for the province's Canadian Heritage River System. Activity and development have also increased within the CHR watershed since the Main's designation. Increased activity can create a challenge for monitoring, and a need to work more collaboratively with other agencies. The construction of the transmission line has been closely monitored. Steps have been taken over the years to prevent damage from industrial development and manage activity detrimental to the CHR values.

Given the changes that have occurred since the development of the management plan, not all objectives or actions in the management plan are currently relevant. When the plan was written, the intention was for its goals, objectives, and management actions to be undertaken by Parks and Natural Areas Division, with the support of a stewardship agreement and a Friends of Main River group. While there have been many changes, including changes to structure and management authority, this report refers to the original management plan, and provides updates as to its level of completion or its relevancy. Table 6 lists the management goals, objectives, and actions from the management plan, as originally written, and reports on their degree of achievement.

Figure 6. Snow-laden trees along the Main River. (Photo by Lem Mayo)



Table 6. Degree of achievement of commitments identified within the management plan for the Main River Canadian Heritage River.

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
Management Plan Goal: Establish legislative mechanisms that facilitate the protection of the Main River Canadian Heritage River (CHR) corridor.		
Within the Main River CHR corridor, a Waterway Provincial Park and SMA to be established to facilitate protection of natural heritage values.	Completed in 2009, when MRWPP (managed under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>) and SMA (managed under the <i>Lands Act</i>) were created.	In 2021, MRMAC recommended that the MRWPP be expanded to include the SMA.

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
Management Plan Goal: CHR corridor will be managed in a cooperative, multiple stakeholder, fashion		
A stewardship agreement, the MRMAC, and the 'Friends of the Main River' will be established to engage stakeholders in the management of the corridor.	Addressed and ongoing	<p>The MRMAC was revitalized in 2021, and membership has been expanded to include more interested parties.</p> <p>There has been no local champion to lead the formation of a 'Friends of the Main River', and such an organization must be led by the public.</p> <p>Given the split of PNAD into ParksNL and Policy, Planning and Natural Areas Division, and the separation of responsibilities for management and reporting on the MRWPP and MRCHR, the two Divisions have agreed to work closer together with regards to reporting on the WPP and CHR.</p>
Management Plan Goal: Natural heritage values to be managed to ensure they are maintained.		
A plan to protect a representative example of old growth forest from the eastern Northern Peninsula.	Completed	The establishment of MRWPP has provided protection for a portion of the old growth forests on the eastern Northern Peninsula.
The pristine water quality of the Main River will be monitored to ensure quality is maintained.	Ongoing	<p>There has been no reported degradation of water quality within Main River during the reporting period.</p> <p>WRD continues to conduct water quality sampling from Eagle Mountain Brook and the Main River Outlet.</p>
Two management zones to be established: Preservation Zone, centred on the Big Steady area, and Natural Environment Zone, covering the remainder of the CHR corridor.	Not applicable	<p>76% of the CHR corridor is now protected under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>, with the remaining 24% being managed as a SMA under the <i>Lands Act</i>.</p> <p>User intensity has not increased to a level where a Preservation Zone needs to be established to provide further protection of the natural heritage values.</p>
The proposed Preservation Zone to be managed as a natural area with no development of facilities other than a designated trail.	Not applicable/ Ongoing	To facilitate enforcement, and monitoring and scientific research activities, ParksNL maintains a patrol structure on the Big Steady.
The proposed Natural Environment Zone to be managed so the natural environment may be appreciated and enjoyed using low impact activities and developments.	Completed and ongoing	<p>Hiking trails and several backcountry tent sites have been established and are maintained by ParksNL.</p> <p>Snowmobiles are permitted within the CHR corridor.</p> <p>Outboard motors under 10 H.P. are permitted.</p>

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
Management Plan Goal: Recreational use will not adversely affect the Main River's outstanding wilderness character.		
Visitor use to be limited to those which are not disruptive to the river's wilderness character.	Ongoing	The <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> and regulations and SMA regulations dictate uses within the CHR and protect all natural features.
Recreational use to be monitored.	Ongoing	ParksNL has 2 staff (one full-time, one seasonal) who assist in monitoring activity on the CHR.
The park's recreational use carrying capacity to be determined.	Not applicable	There has not been enough visitor pressure to require this assessment. An assessment can be initiated in the future if visitor use becomes a concern.
Sport angling by residents and non-residents to be permitted.	Completed and ongoing	Fishing is permitted throughout the CHR following the applicable fishing regulations.
Populations of Atlantic salmon to be managed and regulations enforced to ensure sustainable recreational opportunities.	Ongoing	<p>All fishing regulations are established by DFO. During the 2020/2021 Atlantic salmon season, there was an annual retention limit of 2 salmon on the main stem of the Main River. Other sections were restricted to catch-and-release or closed for the season. Refer to the annual NL Anglers Guide for current and more detailed information.</p> <p>DFO along with the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture monitors and enforces the fishing regulations.</p> <p>Since 2005, ParksNL staff have assisted DFO's salmon management efforts by collecting scale samples. Due to staffing changes at DFO, scale samples were not collected from 2013 to 2021.</p>
Hunting by residents and non-residents to be permitted.	Completed and ongoing	Hunting is permitted by regulation in the provincial park and throughout the CHR, following the applicable provincial small and big game hunting regulations as well as the federal migratory bird regulations.
To facilitate access to the river, the Kruger Bridge would remain.	Completed and ongoing	<p>All roads and bridge infrastructure were not included within the MRWPP boundary when established.</p> <p>The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) purchased the Kruger Bridge from CBPPL to ensure the bridge would remain in place for the long-term.</p>

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
		<p>Since the release of all timber rights within the Main River watershed by CBPPL in 2011, maintenance of the forest access road is now the responsibility of FFA.</p> <p>The bridge is used to access a portage trail leading to Paradise Pool remote campsite.</p>
Adventure tourism operators and commercial outfitters to be permitted.	Completed and ongoing	There are two commercial outfitter operators in the CHR, one at Four Ponds, and one at Caribou Lake. Since 2009, commercial outfitters have required a permit from ParksNL to operate within the MRWPP.
Tenting to be permitted throughout the CHR corridor and established sites will be of the wilderness experience type.	Completed and ongoing	<p>Tenting is permitted throughout the CHR. Several remote tent sites have been established by ParksNL, with signage, some sites having privies, fire pits, and picnic tables.</p> <p>ParksNL staff monitor visitor use and compliance, and educate visitors on the leave only footprints policy.</p>
No new outfitting companies will be permitted to establish structures within the CHR.	Completed and ongoing	Any new structures to be erected within the MRWPP and SMA require Ministerial approval. Parks NL is an active member of the MRMAC, and can consult the committee on future developments as appropriate.
TCAR to work with the communities of White Bay South to further develop non-consumptive adventure tourism in the Main River area.	Ongoing	<p>There has been some signage installed at Hampden Junction and at the beginning of the forest access road. More signage is planned.</p> <p>Designs were completed for interpretive signage for a Main River Gateway. The towns in White Bay are working with the White Bay South Development Association to fundraise for construction of the Gateway Project.</p>
Management Plan Goal: Resource development within the Main River watershed will not affect the natural heritage values within the CHR corridor.		
No industrial development activities to occur within the WPP.	Completed	Industrial development activities are prohibited under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> .
Activities permitted within the SMA will not degrade the natural and recreational heritage values within the CHR corridor.	Completed and ongoing	SMA regulations identify the first priority of the SMA as the maintenance of the natural and recreational values of the Main River CHR. Mining and mineral exploration is prohibited. While forest harvesting is permitted in the SMA according to the regulations, forest harvesting is no longer occurring, as the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (2014-2024) states that the forest of the Main River

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
		Valley, due to its uniqueness, will not be targeted for forest management activities.
Within the watershed, but outside of the WPP, modified timber harvesting techniques (strip cutting, selective cutting) to be utilized.	Not applicable	As stated above, although forest harvesting is permitted in the SMA regulations, CBPPL has relinquished their timber rights within the Main River watershed, and the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (2014-2024) states that the area will not be targeted for harvesting.
The Canadian Wildlife Service recommended that a 100 metre treed buffer be established above the Big Steady area to the headwaters and 30 meters below the Big Steady to the mouth of the river.	Completed	The boundary of the MRWPP has fulfilled the Canadian Wildlife Service's buffer width recommendation.
Timber harvesting in the Main River watershed to leave deciduous species, snags, and shrubs on the landscape whenever possible.	Not applicable	Harvesting no longer occurs in the Main River CHR. CBPPL has relinquished its timber rights within the Main River watershed, and the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (2014-2024) states that the area will not be targeted for harvesting.
Hydroelectric development and/or new electric transmission development to be prohibited within the waterway park and SMA.	Addressed and ongoing	The <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> indicates that "a park may not be utilized in any manner for... hydroelectric development". The SMA regulations do not prohibit hydroelectric or transmission line development; although, the purpose of the SMA is the "maintenance of the ecological and watershed integrity... as to maintain the natural and recreational values of the CHR shall be the first priority in the consideration of any use of the SMA".
No private cottages to be allowed within the CHR corridor.	Addressed	The <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> states that "a park may not be utilized in any manner for... private cottages". SMA regulations state that "a structure shall not be constructed within the special management area without the prior consent of the minister responsible for the special management area".
Existing commercial camps within the heritage river corridor to remain.	Completed	Two commercial outfitting camps, one at Four Ponds and one at Caribou Lake, remain in the corridor.
A cottage development plan for watershed will be drafted.	Ongoing	The Lands Division of the Dept. of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture has indicated that there has been no need for additional control mechanisms focused on

Management Plan Objectives and Actions	Degree of Achievement (Not yet initiated; initiated; underway; completed; addressed; ongoing; not applicable)	Updated Objectives/Actions/Notes
		cottage development within the Main River watershed (Model Forest of Newfoundland and Labrador 2012).
Management Plan Goal: Scientific research and monitoring will advance the understanding of the Main River ecosystem.		
Monitoring to be conducted by PNAD staff to determine the impact of human use and natural processes on the flora, fauna and water quality.	Ongoing	Ongoing monitoring is undertaken as a collaborative effort between ParksNL, Natural Areas Program, WRD, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and DFO. ParksNL staff monitor activities and impacts on natural values, educate users, and assist partners with survey and/or research needs as required. A patrol cabin is used to facilitate scientific research and monitoring within the CHR.
A historic resources overview assessment will be completed.	Not yet initiated	A historic resources assessment has not been completed.
A detailed botanical and avifaunal survey to be completed.	Addressed and ongoing	Numerous scientific surveys and research studies have been conducted within the CHR.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Main River CHR remains a beautiful and unique area. As one of the last wilderness rivers and one of the best white-water canoeing rivers on the Island of Newfoundland, the Main River offers thrilling rapids, virgin boreal forests, renowned angling for Atlantic salmon, and abundant wildlife. Much of the activity that has taken place along the river this reporting period has been focused on monitoring visitor activity, mitigating potential impacts of visitor use and adjacent development, and facilitating research. Main River continues to be an important representation of the natural heritage values for which it was nominated. Those values have not been negatively impacted during the last 10-year period. The assessment concludes that the Main River is deemed worthy to continue to be a designated river under the Canadian Heritage River System.

As the legislative and regulatory protections for the CHR have changed significantly since the development of the Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Plan, the timing may be right for reviewing and revising the Management Plan to ensure that the plan is relevant to the status and direction of the river corridor. Accordingly, the following recommendations are put forward for consideration:

1. Natural Areas Program and ParksNL collaborate on revising the management plan. With the two agencies responsible for the CHR in different departments, there is a new opportunity to build a strong cross-departmental relationship for managing and reporting on the Main River Canadian Heritage River.
2. Consider the MRMAC recommendation to include the Main River SMA within the MRWPP.
3. Look for partnership opportunities to support CHR goals of improved monitoring and education and outreach. For example, engage NL Hydro in collaborative interpretive signage relevant to the Main River watershed, such as responsible use of the area. Explore opportunities to partner with educational institutions on student projects, such as a student survey of popular fishing pools for fishing-related debris. Engage DFO Conservation and Management to add MRMAC to its fall workshops schedule and discuss further inclusion of the Main River in their monitoring and research programs.
4. Convene annual meetings of the MRMAC.

Figure 7. Calm waters for fishing and canoeing on the Main. (Photo by Lem Mayo)



Appendix A. Research and Monitoring Studies, Main River Heritage River and Adjacent Area

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Appendix B: News Articles, Web Sites, Videos, and Social Media Posts

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Appendix C. Interviews and Communications

Name and Position	Affiliation
Provincial	
Jeri Graham* Manager, Natural Areas Program	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Environment and Climate Change; Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division
Tina Leonard* Ecologist	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Environment and Climate Change; Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division
Colin Davis* Park Manager, MRWPP and Barachois Pond Provincial Park	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation; ParksNL
Paul Taylor* Tourism Development Officer	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation; Tourism Division
Jeff Motty Supervisor of Forest Insect, Disease and Fire Control	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Bruce Rodrigues* Furbearer Management Ecologist	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador; Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Wildlife Division
Federal	
Shawn Gerrow	Parks Canada; Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit
Darroch Whitaker	Parks Canada; Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit
Jackie Kean* Resource Manager	Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Resource Management Section
Michelle Fitzsimmons* Aquatic Science Biologist	Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Science – Salmonids Section
Richard Van Ingen	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Lica Christensen Biologist	DFO, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Gary Gale*	Town of Hampden
Don Ivany* Director of Programs, Newfoundland and Labrador	Atlantic Salmon Federation
Andrew May*	International Appalachian Trail; Paddle Newfoundland and Labrador
Dave Hickey* Past President	Paddle Newfoundland and Labrador
Eric Bennett Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician	Intervale Associates
Jenna McDermott Assistant Coordinator, Newfoundland Breeding Bird Atlas	Birds Canada, former Graduate Student, Memorial University of Newfoundland
Mark Dykeman	Active Paddler in Newfoundland and Labrador
Industry	
Faron Knott* Chief Forester, Woodlands Department	Kruger Publication Papers, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd.
Brad LeDrew* Manager for Arluk Outfitters	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association; Arluk Outfitters; former MRWPP Technician
Otto Roberts*, Annie Roberts* Co-owners	Roberts Outfitting
John Linfield* Environmental Advisor	Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro; Environmental Services - Hydro

Name and Position	Affiliation
Mandy Norris Senior Communications Advisor	Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, Corporate Communications & Shareholder Relations
First Nation	
Terri Greene* Benoit's Cove Ward Councillor	Qalipu First Nation Sop's Arm Ward Councillor
Jonathan Strickland Director, Natural Resources	Qalipu First Nation
Others	
Lynn Noel	Author, Voyages: Canadian Heritage Rivers (communications for historical context)
Max Finkelstein	Former staff member, CHRS (communications for historical context)

*Member of MRMAC.

Appendix D. Main River Canadian Heritage River Management Advisory Committee

Name	Affiliation
Jeri Graham Manager	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change; Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division
Tina Leonard Ecologist	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change; Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division
Erika Pittman Natural Areas Planner	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change; Policy, Planning, and Natural Areas Division
Jason Barnes Environmental Scientist	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change; Water Resources Division
Geoff Bailey Director of Parks	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation; ParksNL
Colin Davis Park Manager	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation; ParksNL
Paul Taylor Tourism Development Officer	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation; Tourism Division
Dave Poole Regional Ecosystem Planner	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Forestry Services Branch
Damien Morrissey Land Management Specialist	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Land Management Division
Jana Fenske	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Wildlife Division
Bruce Rodrigues	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture; Wildlife Division
Shawn Gerrow	Parks Canada; Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit
Trevor Rendell	Parks Canada; Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit
Jennifer Hoffman	Environment and Climate Change Canada; Canadian Wildlife Service
Jackie Kean Resource Manager	Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Resource Management Section
Michelle Fitzsimmons	Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Science – Salmonids Section
Randy House	Town of Jackson's Arm
Gary Gale	Town of Hampden
Joe Critchell	Pollard's Point Local Service District
Junior Hamlyn	Sop's Arm Local Service District
Neville Lane	Sop's Arm Local Service District
Don Ivany	Atlantic Salmon Federation
Suzanne Dooley	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (NL Chapter)
Andrew May	International Appalachian Trail
Cathy Carroll	Paddle NL
Dave Hickey	Paddle NL
Faron Knott	Corner Brook Pulp and Paper
Tobi Biggin	Humber Community Development Corporation
Camille Ouellet-Dallaire	Memorial University of Newfoundland, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
Cory Foster	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association
Vacant	Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation
Brad LeDrew	Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association; Arluk Outfitters; former Park Technician

Name	Affiliation
John Linfield	Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
Vacant	Northern Peninsula (Mekap'sk) Mi'kmaq Band
Jennifer Brake or other staff	Qalipu First Nation vice-Chief (Western Region)
Terri Greene	Qalipu First Nation Sop's Arm Ward Councilor
Otto Roberts, Annie Roberts	Roberts Outfitting
Vacant	White Bay South Development Association