



COUNTY of ANNAPOLIS
NATURALLY ROOTED

752 St. George Street, PO Box 100
Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Canada B0S 1A0
Phone: (902) 532-2331 Fax: (902) 532-2096
Website: AnnapolisCounty.ca

May 21, 2024

Honourable Tory Rushton, Minister
Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
3rd Floor, Founders Square
1701 Hollis Street,
PO Box 698
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T9

mindnr@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Rushton,

Re: Protection of Beals Brook and Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Areas, Annapolis County

Municipality of the County of Annapolis is writing in support of the Save Our Old Forests (SOOF) Association's bid to have the Beals Brook and Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Areas located in Annapolis County identified as candidates for protection.

We understand that Government has committed to protecting 20% of Nova Scotia's lands and waters by 2030. The Beals Brook and Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Areas will protect lands and waters of high value to biodiversity, including old forests, habitat for multiple species at risk and extensive wetlands, as well as establishing essential stepping stones for wildlife in a landscape fragmented by clearcutting.

Municipal Council supports Save Our Old Forests Association's request to designate for protection Beals Brook and Goldsmith Lake Wilderness Areas, two areas of 3900 hectares each on Crown land in Annapolis County, and supports their request for a moratorium on all forestry, road building and industrial activities within the proposed Wilderness Areas while they are in the process of being designated for protection as part of the interim target of 15% which will be designated by March 2026.

Yours truly,

Alex Morrison
Warden

cc: Municipal Council (via email)
Save Our Old Forests Association (via email)
Honourable Jill Balsler, Digby-Annapolis MLA (via email)
Carmen Kerr, Annapolis MLA (via email)