

Developing Environmental Advocates by Involving Canadians in Species at Risk Recovery

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Overview

- Background and Philosophy
- Engagement Approaches
- On the Ground Examples
- Partners in Conservation
- Creating Advocates





Background and Philosophy





Southwestern Nova Scotia

- known for its rich diversity of ecosystems





Southwestern Nova Scotia

- known for its rich diversity of ecosystems
- known for its rich species diversity...





How Do We Recover Species at Risk?

We need good science to help us understand species biology and threats, and even increase small populations

Ultimately, to be successful, we must change social norms. How can we best do this?

- *Involve* Canadians in the Recovery of Species at Risk.







Step 1: Engaging and Educating











Step 2: Make it -

- EASY
- FUN
- EXCITING
- MEANINGFUL
- HANDS-ON



Why not get involved and volunteer? All you need is enthusiasm and the will to learn and help out.*

*Rubber boots, hip waders, bug jacket, extra clothes, flashlights, GPS, headlamp, batteries, water, food, deodorant, rain gear and

other accessories recommended but not required.



Step 3: Involve

We facilitate your involvement – whether you have 2 hours or 2 weeks...we have options for participating

We provide one-on-one training, and some volunteers eventually become researchers...







Engagement Approaches





Target Audiences in Southwest Nova

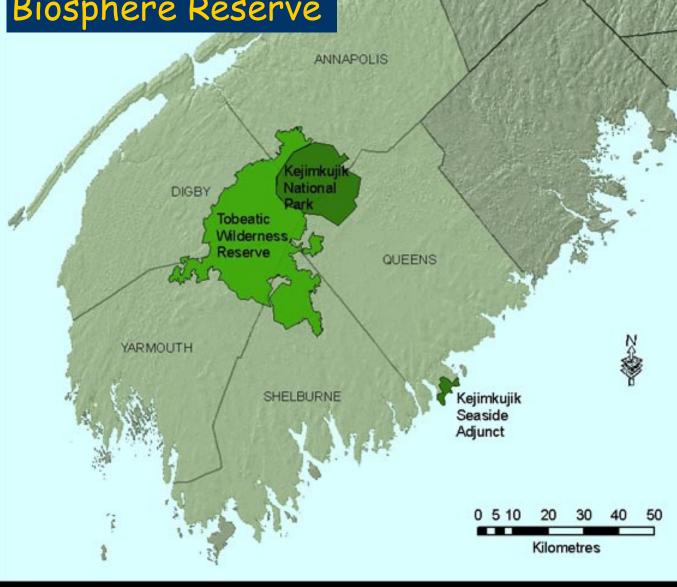
- Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Audiences (Landowners and managers, families, youth, naturalist groups)
- **Kejimkujik Audiences** (Families, youth, older repeat audience)
- Aboriginal Audiences (Bear River and Acadia First Nations)

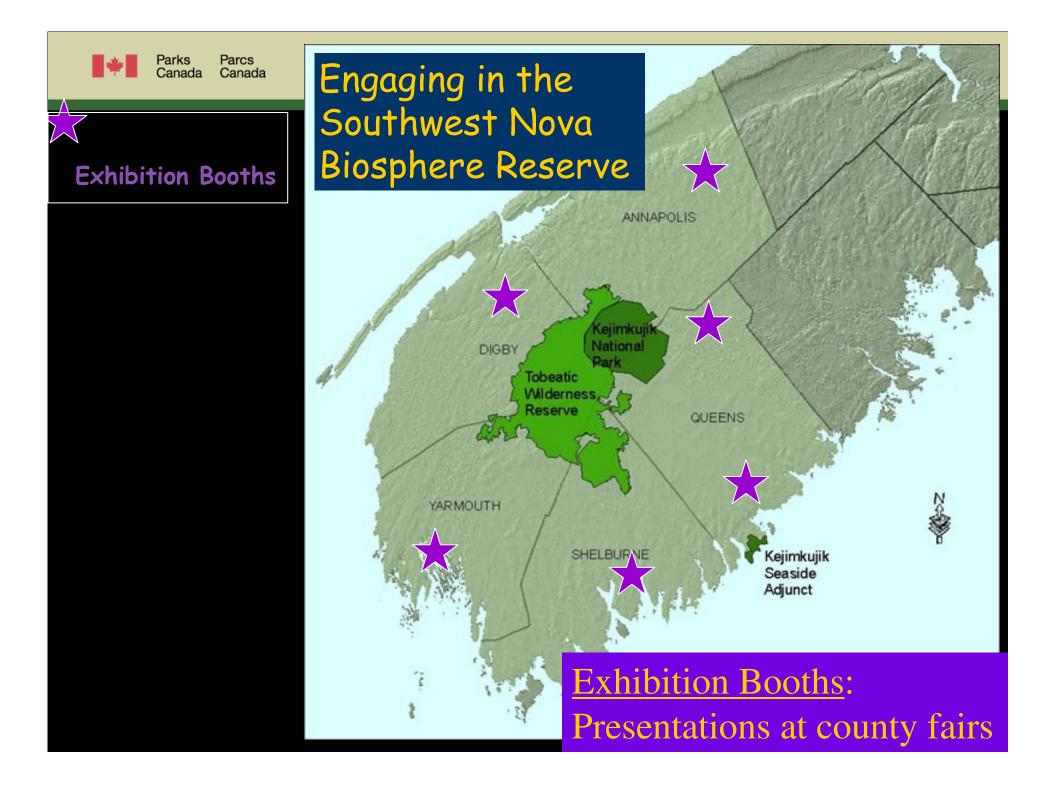


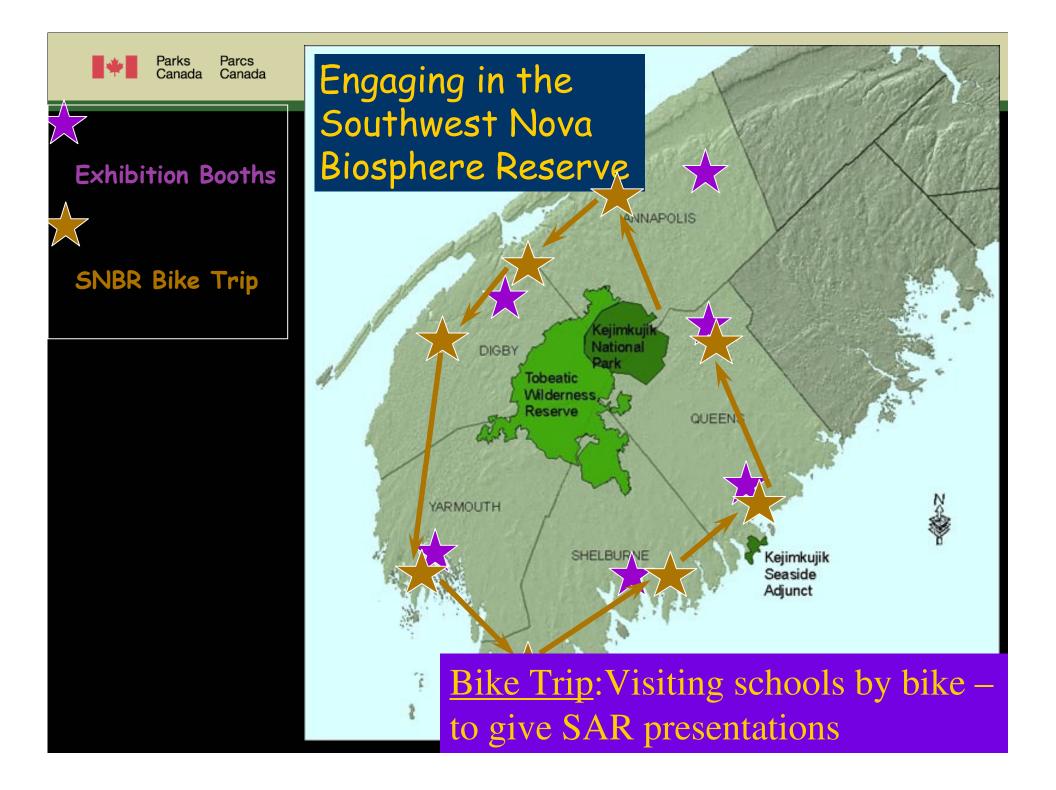


Parks Parcs Canada Canada

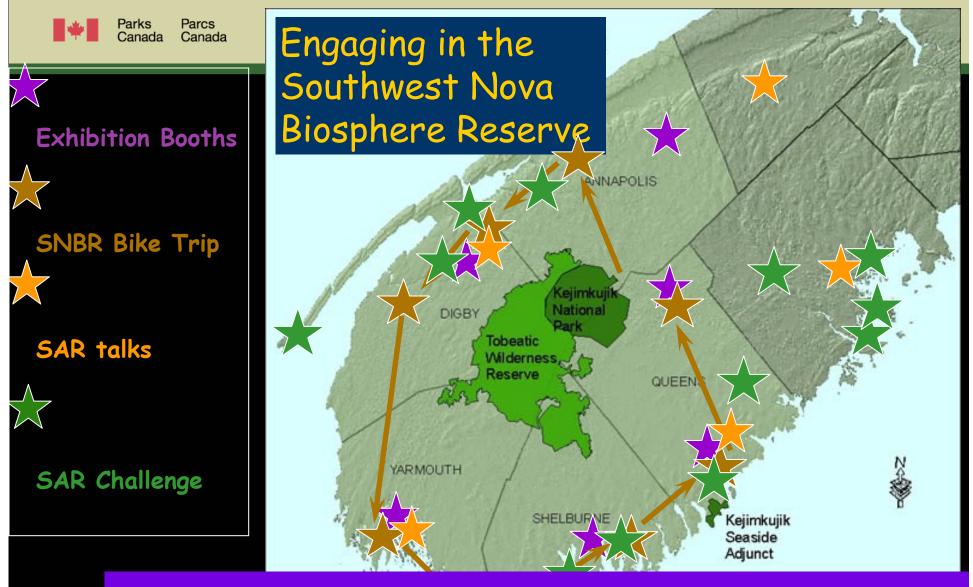
Engaging in the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve





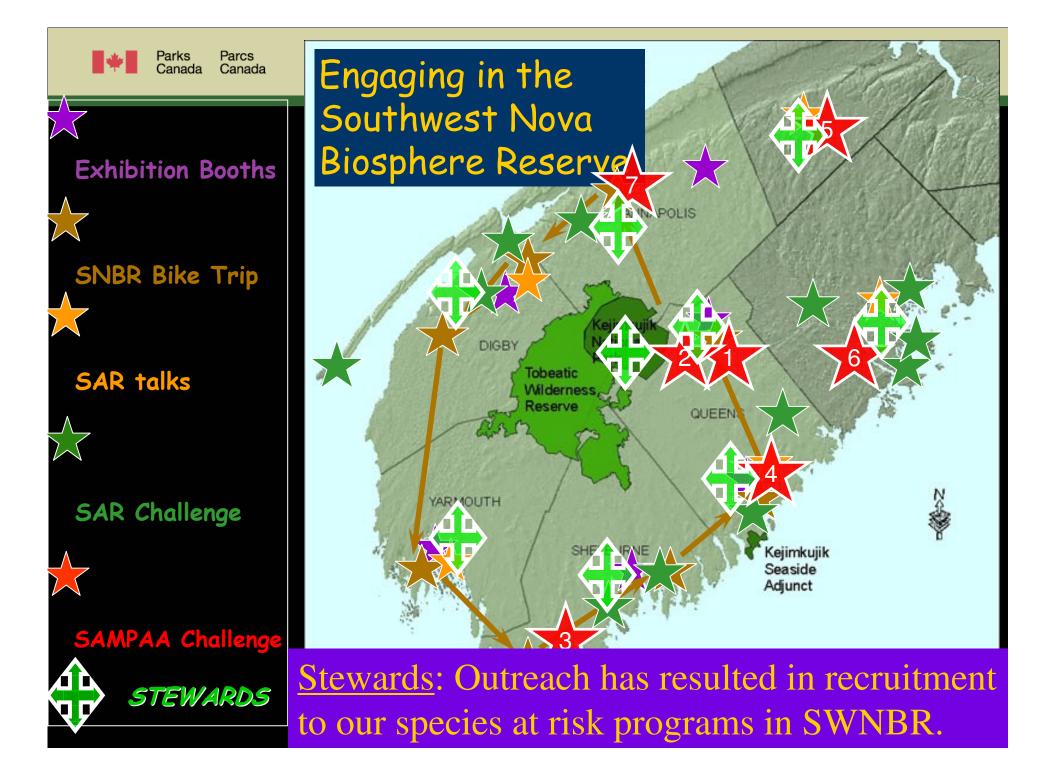






<u>SAR Challenge</u>: With PCA help, elementary students made a SAR video documentary. Gave 26 school and 7 public presentations. Challenged other schools to action.







Engaging in Kejimkujik

Invite and entice through:

- Interpretive Programs
- Special Events
- Evening Programs
- Front line staff
- Volunteers



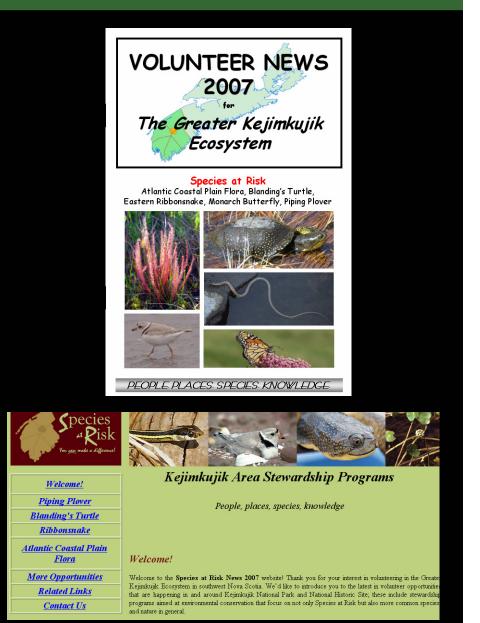




Engaging in Kejimkujik

Invite and entice through:

- Interpretive Programs
- Special Events
- Evening Programs
- Front line staff
- Volunteers
- Visitor Guide
- Newsletters
- Website



www.speciesatrisk.ca



Engaging Aboriginal Communities

Involvement from within Aboriginal communities, led by Bear River First Nation, assisted by Parks Canada.

SAR Information Sessions





Mentoring Aboriginal Youth



Engaging Aboriginal Communities

Bear River First Nation has been involved in several aspects of our recovery programs... incorporating Aboriginal philosophy throughout.

Bear River planned ceremonial turtle releases and assisted in several field research projects.







On the Ground Examples





Blanding's Turtles

Where are we?

- small isolated population complex in NS
- consists of 3 genetically distinguishable populations

- science and recovery planning is well underway, including a successful volunteer monitoring program

- PVA suggests that the Keji and McGowan populations are decreasing and significant intervention is needed

- we know much about adult ecology

- knowledge base is poor for hatchlings and juveniles





Blanding's Turtle Recovery Activities: Volunteer Opportunities

- 1. Nest Protection
 - protect turtle nests from predators
 - June















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