



Mealy Mountains

Fact Sheet

The Mealy Mountains proposed national park in Labrador is one of the province's greatest conservation opportunities. The area was first identified as a potential national park in the early 1970's, and close to three decades later is still waiting to achieve this status. This region is a vital component of the provincial natural areas plan for the following reasons:

Natural Features - This is one of the last great expanses of wilderness in the province. The study area is nearly 21 000 km² and includes portions of fully half of Labrador's 10 ecoregions: High Subarctic Tundra, High Boreal Forest, Mid Boreal Forest, Coastal Barren and String Bog / Eagle River Plateau. The Mealties are the highest mountains in southern Labrador, reaching heights of over 1200 metres.

Wildlife Habitat - The snow-capped mountains are home to moose, black bear, red fox, lynx, snowshoe hare, wolf, ravens and spruce grouse.

They are also home to the Mealy Mountains caribou herd, whose numbers have reached a precariously low level in recent years.

Threats - There are potential conflicts with mining and forestry, and the Trans-Labrador Highway could be routed through it. This is one of the last major roadless wilderness areas in the province and routing a major highway through it would have devastating effects on the ecological integrity and wilderness tourism potential of the area.

