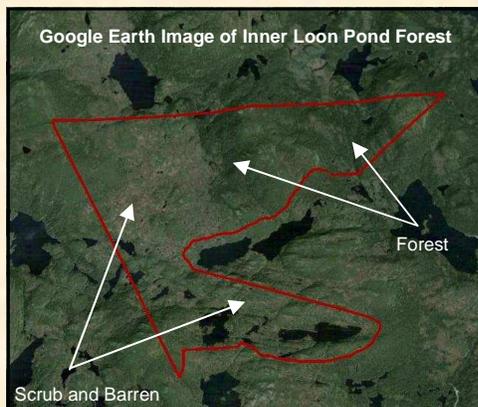
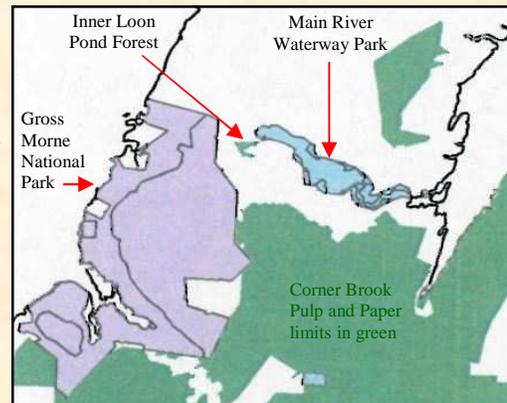


# INNER LOON POND FOREST

In 2010, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) sold ~0.5 million ha of their timber limits to the Crown. Some of these limits were purchased to enlarge/complete areas of conservation significance. One of these conservation areas was the Main River watershed at the base of the Great Northern Peninsula. A small block between the western end of the Main River area and Gros Morne National Park was not sold back to the Crown and remains within CBPPL's timber limits. CBPPL has determined that this area, representing the same diverse ecology of the Main River watershed, should be designated as one of its special places. As it is located adjacent to Inner Loon Pond (known locally as Inner Loo), we have named this special place the Inner Loon Pond forest.



The Inner Loon Pond forest is approximately 1100 ha and is 19% productive forest, 60% scrub, and 14% barren by area. It lies in the Northern Long Range subregion of the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion. The dominant tree species are balsam fir with a much lesser occurrence of black spruce and even less white birch. The forest is fairly open-grown, generally over 120 years old, and grows on sites of medium to poor productivity above 400m in elevation. Like the rest of Newfoundland and Labrador it is part of the boreal forest, but the forest of the Main River and Inner Loon Pond area is unique in the way it regenerates. Most boreal forests regenerate on a stand basis after some sort of disturbance - insect, disease, or fire. The Inner Loon Pond forest has remained largely protected from

these main threats of boreal forests elsewhere in Newfoundland and the rest of Canada, probably due in large part to the cool, short-growing season of the area. This has allowed the balsam fir and black spruce of the Inner Loon Pond forest to reach their maximum life expectancy, resulting in death and regeneration of individual trees rather than a whole stand. This is called small-scale, gap disturbance in old growth. The balsam fir in the area often live up to three times their normal life span – in fact, one balsam fir in the Main River area has been aged at 260 years old.

The relatively undisturbed status of the Inner Loon Pond forest has allowed a rare, highly-diverse ecosystem to develop. There is significant variation in tree size and age, with saplings and old trees interspersed. The uniqueness of the Inner Loon Pond forest ecosystem offers the potential to discover multiple new species – several new species of lichens and spiders have already been discovered in the Main River forest. The forest is also home to several other important wildlife species, such as the woodland caribou and the threatened Newfoundland pine marten; in fact, all of the Inner Loon Pond forest has been identified as Pine Marten Core Area. Because of the unique, multi-generational nature of this ecosystem it would take many years to return to its original state after clear cut harvesting. CBPPL has designated this area a special place and has deferred it from harvesting operations. Because of its isolation, recreational activities in the Inner Loon Pond forest are restricted by access, but any recreational activities are permitted.

