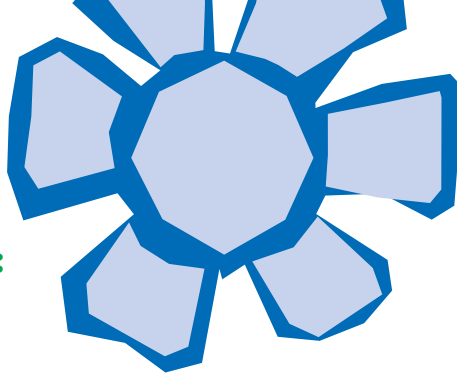


NATURE CANADA'S MISSION:

*Together we protect nature,
its diversity, and the processes
that sustain it.*

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Download this brochure and others like it at
www.naturecanada.ca, or contact us for
more information at info@naturecanada.ca.



Your Hands-on Guide to Parks and Protected Areas

Wildlife in Crisis



Canada's National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries form a federal protected areas network that conserves some of Canada's most important wild spaces for our wildlife.

Protected areas are safe havens for birds and other species. Not only do they safeguard important migratory bird habitat, including critical nesting areas and migration staging areas, they also provide a home for polar bears, monarch butterflies, burrowing owls and hundreds of other species at risk.

The protected areas network is managed by Environment Canada and is critical to Canada's efforts to conserve biodiversity. Yet, sites go unmanaged, laws are not enforced and important wildlife habitat is being bought up for private development because Environment Canada lacks the resources to properly manage these protected areas.

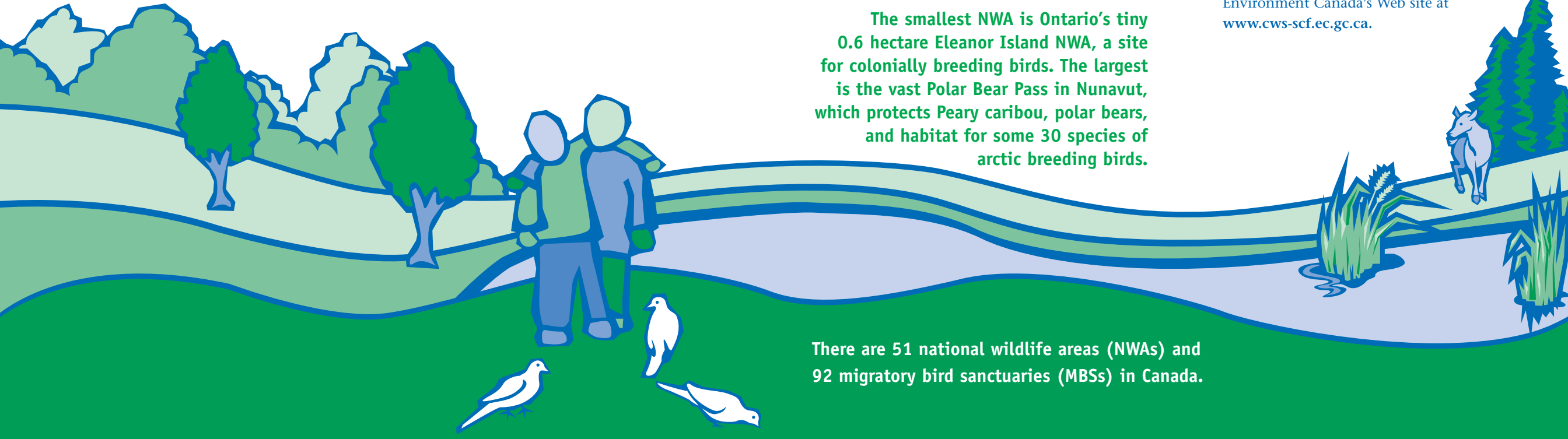
The smallest NWA is Ontario's tiny 0.6 hectare Eleanor Island NWA, a site for colonially breeding birds. The largest is the vast Polar Bear Pass in Nunavut, which protects Peary caribou, polar bears, and habitat for some 30 species of arctic breeding birds.

There are 51 national wildlife areas (NWAs) and 92 migratory bird sanctuaries (MBSs) in Canada.

What can you do to protect Canada's national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries?

1. STAY INFORMED

- Read about our wildlife in crisis at naturecanada.ca/parks/nwa/index.html. This easy-to-download full colour brochure explains the top five threats to Canada's wild spaces and Nature Canada's five-step action plan for safeguarding our protected areas network.
- Learn more about the network by visiting Environment Canada's Web site at www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.



2. MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

- Write to the Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment. Tell them about the importance of Canada's National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and how you support the need for adequate funding to manage the network. Contact information can be found at www.pm.gc.ca and www.ec.gc.ca/minister.
- Watch Nature Canada's Web site regularly for the latest action alerts, and make your voice heard by signing one of our online petitions.

3. GET INVOLVED

- If you live near a National Wildlife Area or Migratory Bird Sanctuary, contact Environment Canada and ask them how you can get involved in conservation or education activities at the site. Find the nearest Environment Canada office at www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca.

4. STAY GREEN

- Minimize your ecological footprint by reducing your consumption and use of natural resources — thereby helping to preserve Canada's wild spaces.

5. JOIN A NATURALIST CLUB

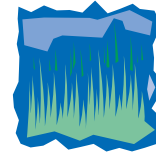
- There are over 360 naturalist clubs in the Canadian Nature Network. You can find a naturalist club in your area by visiting our Web site at www.naturecanada.ca/network/affiliates.html.

6. SUPPORT NATURE CANADA

- Nature Canada promotes the protection of National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries through a strategy of education, outreach and stewardship programs. Support from donors goes directly to these conservation efforts. Learn more about Nature Canada's protected areas program at www.naturecanada.ca/parks/index/html. Call, write or email us to make a donation.

Up Close:

Suffield National Wildlife Area



Southern Alberta's CFB Suffield has long been recognized for its natural heritage, with one of the largest unploughed blocks of grasslands in Canada's prairies, rich in flora and fauna.

A 458 km² block of CFB Suffield was designated a National Wildlife Area in 2003, the third largest NWA in Canada.

Energy interests have applied to drill up to 1,275 shallow gas wells inside Suffield NWA over the next three years. This application, if approved, would be unprecedented and open the door to development in other NWAs, further weakening Canada's protected areas network at the expense of precious habitat and species at risk.

Nature Canada supporters helped persuade the federal government to announce a public review of the drilling project in 2006. Find out what you can do to keep oil and gas development out of Suffield NWA by visiting Nature Canada's Web site at www.naturecanada.ca.

VITAL STATISTICS

- Location:** the eastern edge of the Canadian Forces Base at Suffield, Alberta, northwest of Medicine Hat.
- Size:** 458 km²
- Established:** 2003
- Significance:** the last remaining large intact piece of unploughed prairie grasslands in Canada.
- Species:** burrowing owl, Great Plains toad, Ord's kangaroo rat, tiny cryptanthus, and more than a dozen other COSEWIC-listed species at risk.
- Threats:** habitat disturbance/destruction, habitat fragmentation, and altered composition due to oil and gas development, military manoeuvres, grass fires, and plant invasions.

"If a protected area that conserves 14 of Canada's species at risk is not safe from industrial development, then what is?"

Julie Gelfand, PRESIDENT OF NATURE CANADA.

