

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is aware that mistaken information regarding our Highlands Corridor initiative is presently circulating across social media. While we welcome public conversation regarding all of our work, it is essential that those conversations be based on accurate facts. We are pleased to provide the necessary corrections here so that you can answer any questions that you or your friends and neighbours may have.

The large land area recognized as the Highlands Corridor comprises private property, Crown Land, and provincial parks. The misunderstanding on social media arises from the land trust advocating for a **Conservation Reserve** designation on certain segments of Crown land. A Conservation Reserve restricts forestry, mining and aggregate industry use of the land, but **does not impact** recreational use. To be specific:

- The three provincial parks falling within the Corridor would continue to be governed as they currently are by Ontario Parks.
- The areas of Crown land that are currently managed through Crown land patents for logging and aggregate extraction would continue to be managed as they are at present, and would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation. These industries are an important piece of our local economy that HHLT supports.
- Only those areas of Crown land comprised of intact forest and wetland with high ecological value and low industrial value are being advocated for the Conservation Reserve designation. These will be areas where the logging, mining and aggregate companies agree that there is little to no economic value to their industries.
- Private property would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation and would not be impacted. Private property owners would continue to be welcome to participate in the Land Trust's [Partners in Conservation](#) program should they wish to learn more about supporting eco-system health on their own properties.

We choose to advocate for conservation reserves because trail use on motorized vehicles or by foot is **allowed** in a conservation reserve. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are also **allowed**. We recognize these heritage and outdoor activities are important in our community and for tourism, and they keep our economy vibrant. We support their ongoing use on Crown land designated as a Conservation Reserve. Only logging, the development of new quarries, and mining would be prohibited in the designated sections.

With regard to the sources of information that have been cited in social media posts, it is important to clarify that Ontario Nature is a registered charity, not a regulating

agency. While it has established regulations concerning public use of its own private properties, these regulations are not provincially mandated and would **not** apply in the Corridor. Similarly, Ontario Parks manages provincial parks to a much higher standard of protection than Conservation Reserves, so the public use guidelines outlined on the Ontario Parks website would **not** apply to the proposed Conservation Reserve land. Only [provincial legislation directly concerning Conservation Reserves](#), [O.Reg 319/07], has ANY authority over these spaces. HHLT would have neither the power to set rules, nor the authority to manage or in any way control what happens in those areas.

Our ability to get out in nature -- be it on foot, on skis or ATV or dirt bike, to hunt or to fish -- is precisely what HHLT seeks to **promote and protect** through the establishment of Conservation Reserve spaces throughout the corridor. By designating these spaces as Conservation Reserves we are safeguarding the health of these pristine forests and wetlands and ensuring the public's enjoyment of them for generations to come.

Please visit <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/2025/02/highlands-corridor-clarification/> for a full FAQ on HHLT's work in the Highlands Corridor.

Best regards

Huw Morgan

Chair, Haliburton Highlands Land Trust Communications Committee