

Gouvernement du Québec

O.C. 637-2005, 23 June 2005

Natural Heritage Conservation Act
(R.S.Q., c. C-61.01)

Approval of an amendment to the plans of the proposed Parent lake marshlands, Pasteur lake, Missisicabi plain and Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserves and to their conservation plans

WHEREAS, under the first paragraph of section 27 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01), for the purpose of protecting land to be established as a new protected area, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks shall, with the approval of the Government, prepare the plan of that area, establish a conservation plan and assign temporary protection status to the area as a proposed aquatic reserve, biodiversity reserve, ecological reserve or man-made landscape;

WHEREAS, under section 31 of the Act, the Minister may, on the same conditions, amend, replace or revoke the plan of land set aside under the first paragraph of section 27 or the conservation plan established for that land, and no amendment to or replacement of a plan may affect the period of time for which the land has been set aside;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, under Minister's Order dated 17 June 2004 (2004, *G.O.* 2, 2301), the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve was assigned temporary protection status, the plan of that area and its conservation plan being those approved by the Government by Order in Council 484-2004 dated 19 May 2004 (2004, *G.O.* 2, 1745) and attached thereto;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, under Minister's Order dated 18 March 2003 (2003, *G.O.* 2, 2301), the proposed Pasteur lake, Missisicabi plain and Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserves were assigned temporary protection status, the plans of those areas and their conservation plans being those approved by the Government by Order in Council 109-2003 dated 6 February 2003 (2003, *G.O.* 2, 1049) and attached thereto;

WHEREAS it is expedient to extend the limits of those proposed biodiversity reserves to improve the protection of biodiversity and to include in some of them portions of territory that have been recently released from their mining titles;

WHEREAS, in order to make the amendments, the Minister has prepared a revised plan for each of the four proposed biodiversity reserves and made changes to their respective conservation plan, the amended plans being attached to this Order in Council;

WHEREAS it is expedient that the amended plans come into force on the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*;

IT IS ORDERED, therefore, on the recommendation of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks:

THAT the plans of the proposed Parent lake marshlands, Pasteur lake, Missisicabi plain and Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserves be approved, as amended, as well as their conservation plans, attached hereto;

THAT the amended plans take effect on the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* with this Order in Council.

ANDRÉ DICAIRE,
Clerk of the Conseil exécutif

PROPOSED PARENT LAKE MARSHLANDS
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE
(provisional name)

CONSERVATION PLAN

June 2005

1. Protection status and toponym

The legal status of the reserve described below is that of proposed biodiversity reserve under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

The proposed reserve is to have the name "Réserve de biodiversité projetée des marais du lac Parent". The official toponym will be determined at the time of the assignment of permanent protection status to the land.

2. Plan and description

2.1. Location, boundaries and dimensions

The boundaries and location of the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve are shown on the plan. This conservation plan enlarges by 348.3 km² the area of the proposed biodiversity reserve created in March 2004.

The proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve is located in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue administrative region, between 48°36' and 48°51' north latitude and 76°40' and 77°05' west longitude. It is situated some 25 km to the south of Lebel-sur-Quévillon. With the enlargement, the proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 402.7 km². It lies within the territory of Municipalité de Senneterre, in Municipalité régionale de comté de La Vallée-de-l'Or.

2.2. Geography

The western half of the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve is in the Abitibi Plain natural region in the Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands natural province, while the eastern half is in the Mégiscane Lake Hills natural region in the Mistassini Highlands natural province. The proposed biodiversity reserve is composed of well-drained till hummocks and glacio-lacustrine plains. The vegetation is characterized by softwood forests, with black spruce and jack pine as dominant species. The territory also has some mixed stands dominated by white birch and trembling aspen.

The marshlands northeast of Parent lake are a major habitat and a recognized staging area for aquatic avifauna, in particular the Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) and the American black duck (*Anas rubripes*). The marshlands are also frequented by bird species of particular heritage significance, including the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – a bird of prey designated as vulnerable in Québec – and the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

2.3. Occupation, rights and land uses

Fifty-six land rights have been granted in the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve: 4 for vacation resort purposes, 50 for rough shelters and 2 for trapping camps.

The land in the proposed biodiversity reserve is classified as Category III land under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA), signed in 1975, and the Act respecting land regime in the James Bay and

New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. R-13.1) enacted in 1978. The territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve lies within the territory covered by the hunting, fishing and trapping regime applicable pursuant to section 24 of the JBNQA (see the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. D-13.1)).

The territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve lies wholly within the fur-bearing animal management unit (FAMU) 05 and straddles fourteen traplines.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in a proposed biodiversity reserve by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

It is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate strip-ping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and
- earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve also remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the

payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may, within boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Development of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1) and, where applicable, the measures contained in any applicable federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and under the regulation concerning motor vehicle traffic in certain fragile environments made under the Environment Protection Act (R.S.Q., c. Q-2));

— Land rights (especially measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to prohibited and permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve, as provided for under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

4. Responsibilities of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the management of the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve and is therefore responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the activities that may be carried on within the reserve. The Minister in the management of the reserve works collaboratively with other government representatives having specific responsibilities within the boundaries of the reserve or on adjoining land, such as the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Ministers will take into consideration the protection sought for these natural environments and the protection status that has been granted.

SCHEDULE

MAP OF THE PROPOSED PARENT LAKE MARSHLANDS BIODIVERSITY RESERVE (provisional name)

Proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

Source: Land-Use Planning Database (BDAT).

The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.

Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3907.

Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs

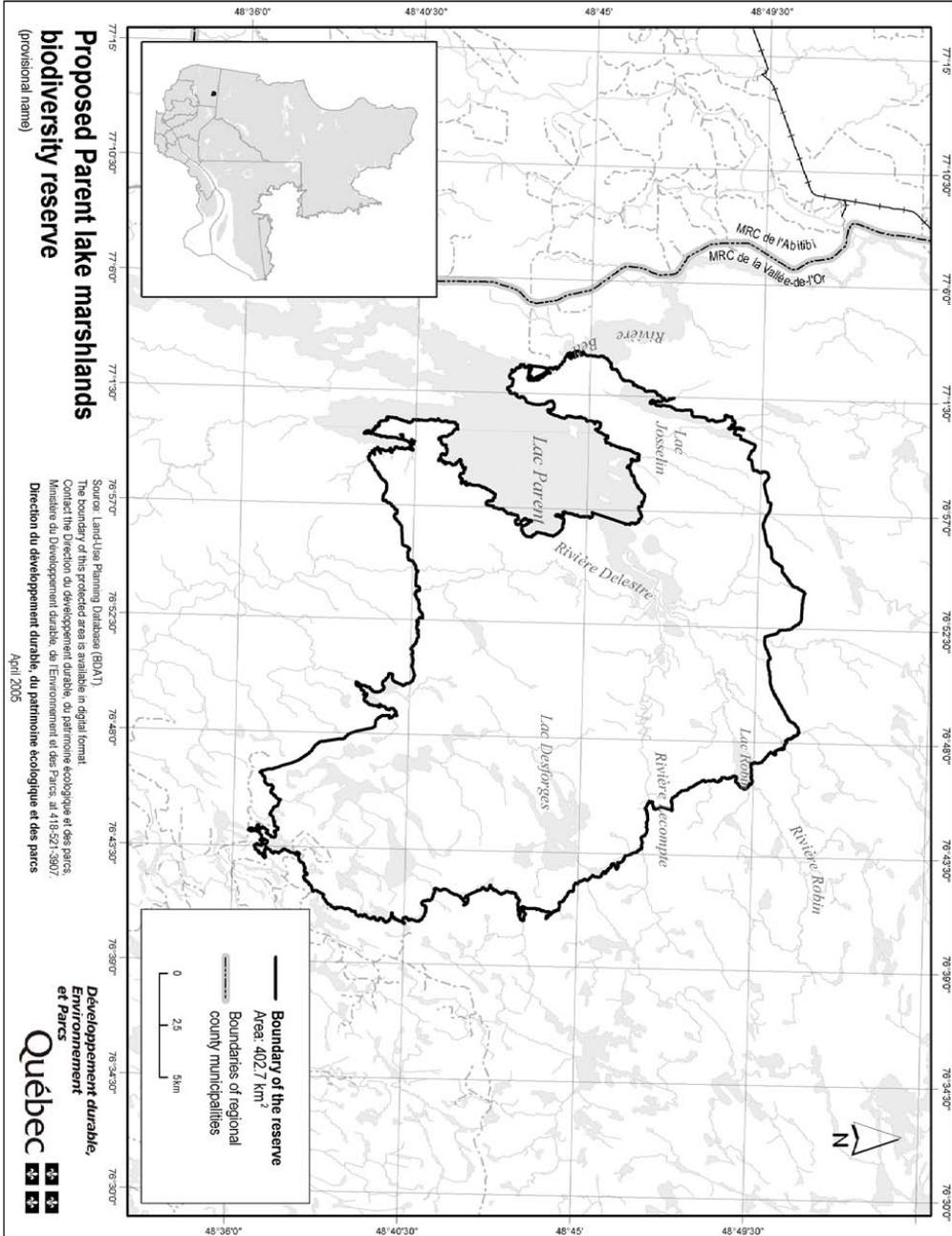
April 2005

Boundary of the reserve
Area: 402.7 km²

Boundaries of regional county municipalities

Schedule

Map of the proposed Parent lake marshlands biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED PASTEUR LAKE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

(provisional name)

CONSERVATION PLAN

June 2005

1. Protection status and toponym

The legal status of the reserve described below is that of proposed biodiversity reserve under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

The proposed reserve is to have the name “Réserve de biodiversité projetée du lac Pasteur”. The official toponym will be determined at the time of the assignment of permanent protection status to the land.

2. Plan and description

2.1. Location, boundaries and dimensions

The boundaries and location of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve are shown on the plan. This conservation plan enlarges by 225.4 km² the area of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve announced in 2002.

The proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve is located in the Côte-Nord administrative region, between 50°08' and 50°28' north latitude and 66°50' and 67°11' west longitude. It is situated some 15 km north of Ville de Port-Cartier. With the enlargement, the proposed reserve covers an area of 536.3 km² in the unorganized territory of Lac-Walker in Municipalité régionale de comté de Sept-Rivières.

2.2. Geography

The proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve is in the Sainte-Marguerite River Plateau natural region in the Central Laurentian natural province. The topography of the area is characterized by hills covered with till and peat. The territory is covered mostly by heaths, black spruce stands and, to a lesser extent, a fir forest. Some peat bogs are scattered throughout the territory, while the few white birch stands and poplar stands are located mostly to the north of the protected area. The woodland caribou is present in the territory. A sector attractive to caribou overlaps the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

2.3. Occupation, rights and land uses

The entire proposed biodiversity reserve lies within the Port-Cartier–Sept-Îles wildlife sanctuary and the Saguenay beaver reserve, in which the Innu communities have special rights with regard to the hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Two land rights have been granted in the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve for vacation resort purposes. Six Native camps are also located in the territory.

A private railway crosses the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

3. Activities within the reserve

All activities carried on within the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve are governed by the provisions of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

For reference purposes, it is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

— mining, and gas or petroleum development;

— mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate strip-ping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;

— forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);

— the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;

— any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;

— earthwork, backfilling or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other Acts

All activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

In particular, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, special legal rules may govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Utilisation of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1), the regulation on beaver reserves and, where applicable, the measures contained in any federal legislation);

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is also responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in all the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under the Minister's responsibility, and the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (SÉPAQ) remains responsible for the land in the Port-Cartier–Sept-Îles wildlife sanctuary.

4. Responsibilities of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the management of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve and is therefore responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the activities that may be carried on within the reserve. The Minister in the management of the reserve works collaboratively with other government representatives having specific responsibilities within the boundaries of the reserve or on the adjoining land, such as the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Ministers will take into consideration the protection sought for these natural environments and the protection status that has been granted.

SCHEDULE

MAP OF THE PROPOSED PASTEUR LAKE BIODIVERSITY RESERVE (provisional name)

Proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)

Source: Land-Use Planning Database (BDAT).

The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.

Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3907.

Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs

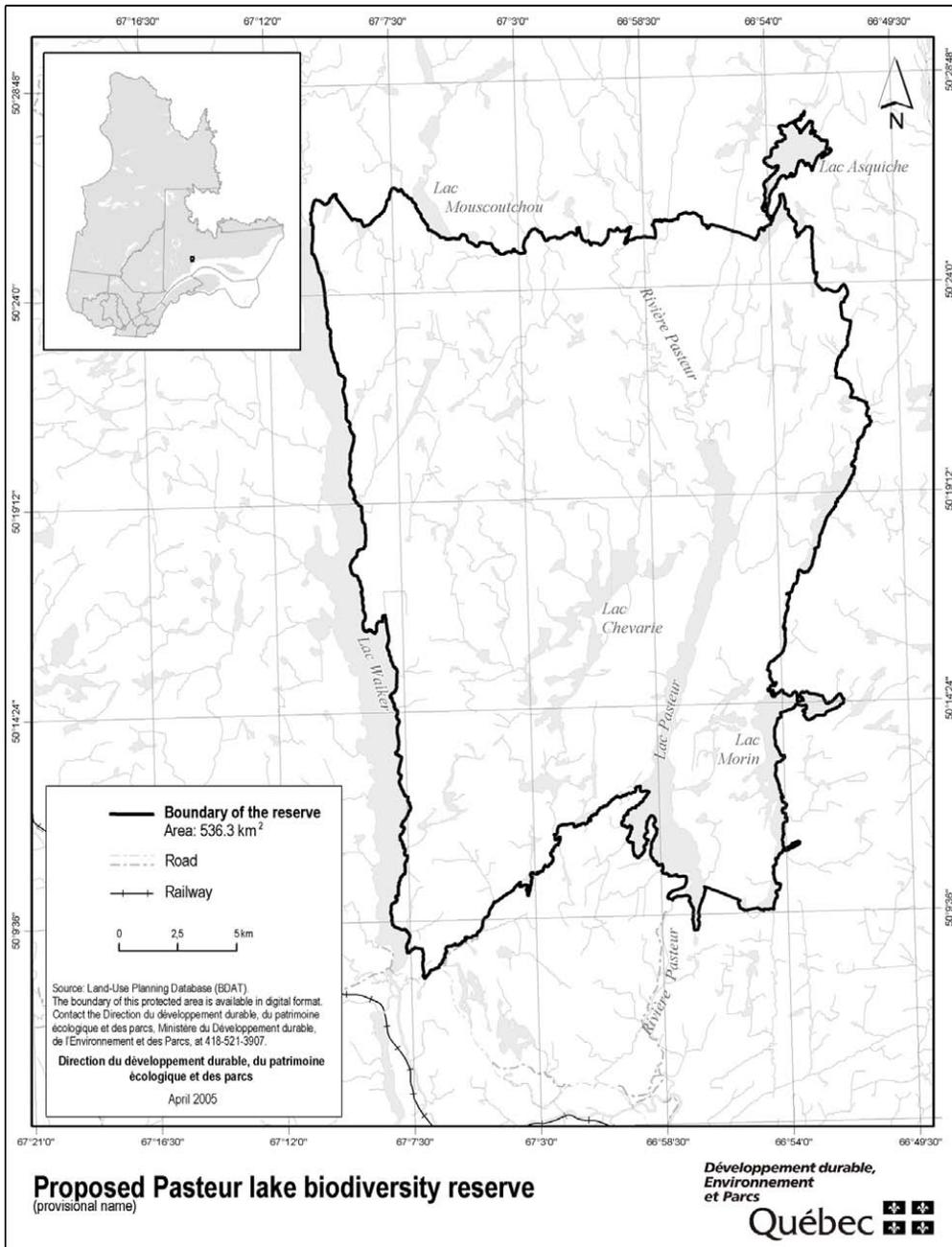
April 2005

Boundary of the reserve
Area: 536.3 km²

Road
Railway

Schedule

Map of the proposed Pasteur lake biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



PROPOSED MISSISICABI PLAIN BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

(provisional name)

CONSERVATION PLAN

June 2005

1. Protection status and toponym

The legal status of the reserve described below is that of proposed biodiversity reserve under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

The proposed reserve is to have the name “Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la plaine de la Missisicabi”. The official toponym will be determined at the time of the assignment of permanent protection status to the land.

2. Plan and description

2.1. Location, boundaries and dimensions

The boundaries and location of the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve are shown on the plan. This conservation plan enlarges by 92.0 km² the area of the proposed biodiversity reserve created in March 2003.

The proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve is located in the Nord-du-Québec administrative region, between 50°28' and 50°47' north latitude and 78°27' and 79°55' west longitude. It is situated some 125 km to the north-north-west of Ville de Matagami and 85 km to the south of the Cree village of Waskaganish. With the enlargement, the proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 760.8 km². It lies within the territory of Municipalité de Baie-James.

2.2. Geography

The proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve is in the Turgeon River Plain, the Lower Rupert River Plain and the James Bay Coastal Plain natural regions in the Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands natural province. The protected area is covered mainly by organic deposits, but also by glacial and glaciofluvial sediments of sand, silt and clay. Cochrane till, a limestone deposit of glacial origin, covers 10% of the total area and is found almost exclusively in the Turgeon River Plain natural region. The territory is located on a broad plain whose altitude increases gradually from 115 m to 250 m along a north-west/southeast axis.

Almost three quarters of the proposed biodiversity reserve is covered by oligotrophic and minerotrophic peat bogs. The vegetation includes stands of black spruce (*Picea mariana*), dry heathlands and groups of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*).

The sandhill crane has been observed in the territory.

2.3. Occupation, rights and land uses

No land right has been granted in the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

Most of the northern half of the proposed biodiversity reserve is classified as Category II land, while the northern half is classified as Category III land under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, signed in 1975, and the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. R-13.1). The entire area lies within part of the Nottaway beaver reserve. The Cree community of Waskaganish has special rights regarding hunting, fishing and trapping in the area.

3. Activities within the reserve

All activities carried on within the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve are governed by the provisions of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

For reference purposes, it is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

— mining, and gas or petroleum development;

— mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;

— forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);

— the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;

— any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;

— earthwork, backfilling or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other Acts

All activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

In particular, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, special legal rules may govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

— Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));

— Utilisation of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1), the regulation on beaver reserves and the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. D-13.1));

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and, where applicable, in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is also responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in all the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under the Minister's responsibility.

4. Responsibilities of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the management of the proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve and is therefore responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the activities that may be carried on within the reserve. The Minister in the management of the reserve works collaboratively with other government representatives having specific responsibilities within the boundaries of the reserve or on adjoining land, such as the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Ministers will take into consideration the protection sought for these natural environments and the protection status that has been granted.

SCHEDULE

MAP OF THE PROPOSED MISSISICABI PLAIN BIODIVERSITY RESERVE
(provisional name)

Proposed Missisicabi plain biodiversity reserve
(provisional name)

Source: Land-Use Planning Database (BDAT).

The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.

Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3907.

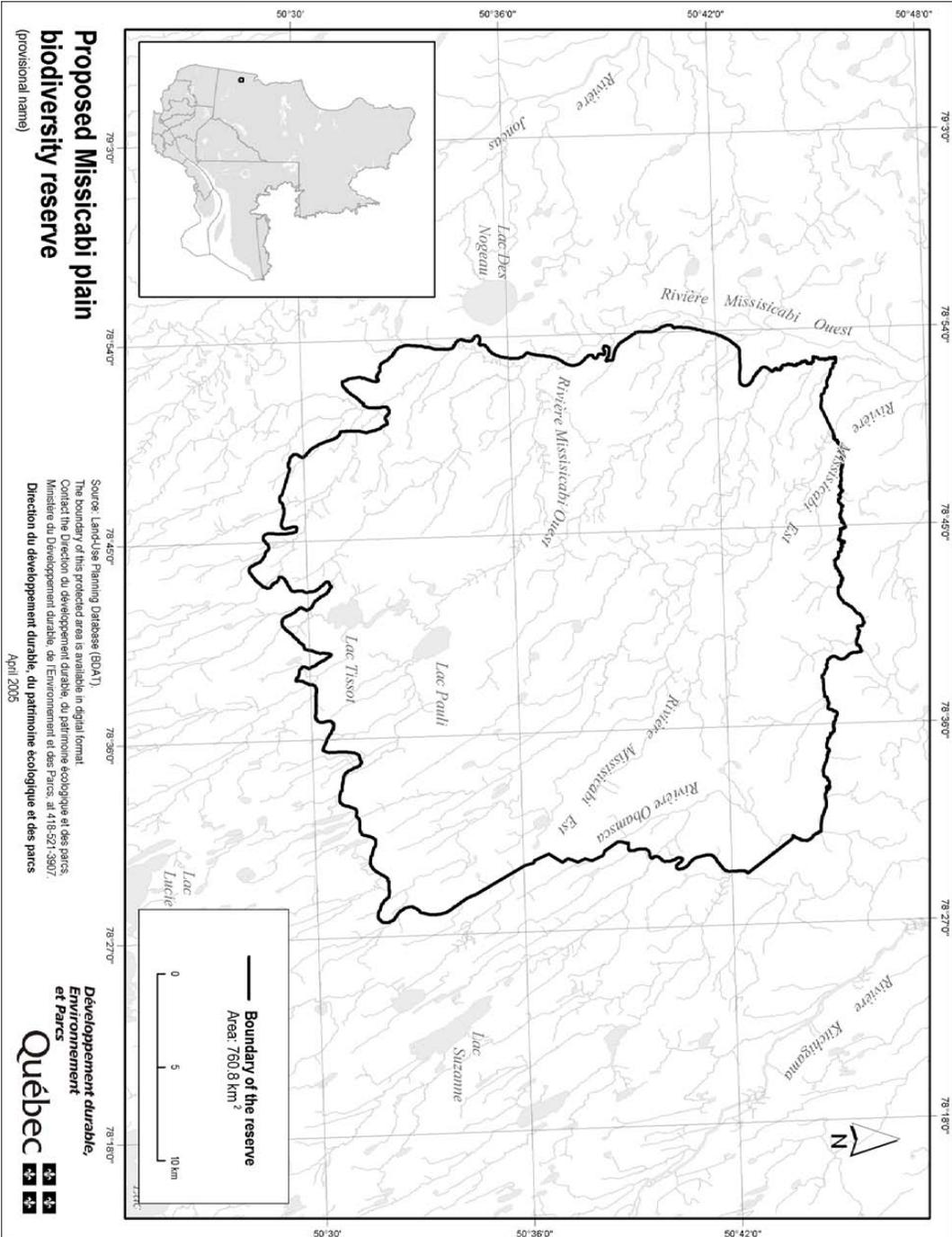
Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs

April 2005

Boundary of the reserve
Area: 760.8 km²

Schedule

Map of the proposed Mississicabi plain biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



**Proposed Mississicabi plain
biodiversity reserve**
(provisional name)

Source: LandUse Planning Database (BDU1)
The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.
Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs,
Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3507.
Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs
April 2005

— Boundary of the reserve
Area: 750,8 km²

0 5 10 km

**Developpement durable,
Environnement
et Parcs**
Québec

PROPOSED MUSKUUCHII HILLS BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

(provisional name)

CONSERVATION PLAN

June 2005

1. Protection status and toponym

The legal status of the reserve described below is that of proposed biodiversity reserve under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

The proposed reserve is to have the name “Réserve de biodiversité projetée des collines de Muskuuchii”. The official toponym will be determined at the time of the assignment of permanent protection status to the land.

2. Plan and description

2.1. Location, boundaries and dimensions

The boundaries and location of the proposed Muskuuchii biodiversity reserve are shown on the plan. The conservation plan enlarges by 66.1 km² the area of the proposed biodiversity reserve created in March 2003. The new territory is located to the west of the proposed Harricana river aquatic reserve.

The proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve is located in the Nord-du-Québec administrative region, between 50°04' and 50°27' north latitude and 78°22' and 78°58' west longitude. It is situated 90 km north-north-west of Ville de Matagami and 105 km south of the Cree village of Waskaganish. With the enlargement, the proposed biodiversity reserve covers an area of 801.1 km². It lies within the territory of Municipalité de Baie-James.

2.2. Geography

The proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve is in the Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands natural province. More precisely, it protects natural habitats representative of the Turgeon River Plain natural region. In the plain, the bedrock is covered with organic deposits and poorly drained Cochrane till. The terraces and hills are covered with well-drained Cochrane till, well-drained sand and fine sediments. The higher land constitutes one segment of the northern portion of the interlobate Harricana moraine. It forms a unique, remarkable feature in the surrounding clayey plain. Cochrane till is a clayey, limestone deposit of glacial origin that covers almost

40% of the area and is found almost exclusively in the Turgeon River Plain natural region. The average altitude is 244 m, varying between 170 m and 340 m.

Almost half of the area of the proposed biodiversity reserve is covered by oligotrophic and minerotrophic peat bogs. They are established on organic deposits, which are also home to stands of varying density of black spruce in a peat moss understory. On mesic sites and rocky outcrops, dry heathlands have developed with groves of black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). The presence of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) reveals that the area has experienced a forest fire, the main natural disturbance in the region.

Two vascular plants likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable species have been identified in the territory of the proposed biodiversity reserve: *Mimulus glabratus* var. *jamesii* and *Thalictrum dasycarpum*.

2.3. Occupation, rights and land uses

The Muskuuchii hills have great cultural and historical importance for the Crees, in particular because of the role they played in times of famine, when they “generously” provided game for several families, allowing them to survive.

Six land rights have been granted within the perimeter of the protected area: 1 for vacation resort purposes and 5 for rough shelters.

The territory is accessible by a network of forest roads.

The land in the proposed biodiversity reserve is classified as Category III land under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, signed in 1975, and the Act respecting the land regime in the James Bay and New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. R-13.1). The entire area lies within a beaver reserve. The Cree community of Waskaganish has special rights regarding hunting, fishing and trapping in the area. Approximately two thirds of the proposed biodiversity reserve is in the territory under the Paix des Braves Agreement signed on February 7, 2002 between the Government of Québec and the Crees.

3. Activities within the reserve

All activities carried on within the proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve are governed by the provisions of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in biodiversity reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

For reference purposes, it is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed biodiversity reserve are:

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring, where such activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- forest management activities within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes;
- earthwork, backfilling or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other Acts

All activities carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

In particular, within the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, special legal rules may govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with:

- Archaeological research (especially the measures contained in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4));
- Utilisation of wildlife resources (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1), the regulation on beaver reserves and the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (R.S.Q., c. D-13.1));

— Access (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1));

— Land rights (especially the measures contained in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and, where applicable, in leases issued by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife).

3.3. Supervision of activities

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is also responsible for the proposed biodiversity reserves established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas.

All other government departments and bodies will retain their responsibilities as set out in all the legislative and regulatory texts that apply within a proposed biodiversity reserve.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife will supervise all activities subject to the Minister's authority within the territory of the proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve, in particular as regards permitted forms of land occupation.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife remains responsible for supervising the activities relating to wildlife protection and management that are under the Minister's responsibility.

4. Responsibilities of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for the management of the proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve and is therefore responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the activities that may be carried on within the reserve. The Minister in the management of the reserve works collaboratively with other government representatives having specific responsibilities within the boundaries of the reserve or on adjoining land, such as the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife. In the exercise of their powers and functions, the Ministers will take into consideration the protection sought for these natural environments and the protection status that has been granted.

SCHEDULE

MAP OF THE PROPOSED MUSKUUCHII HILLS
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE
(provisional name)

Proposed Muskuuchii hills biodiversity reserve
(provisional name)

Source : Land-Use Planning Database (BDAT).

The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.

Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3907.

Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs

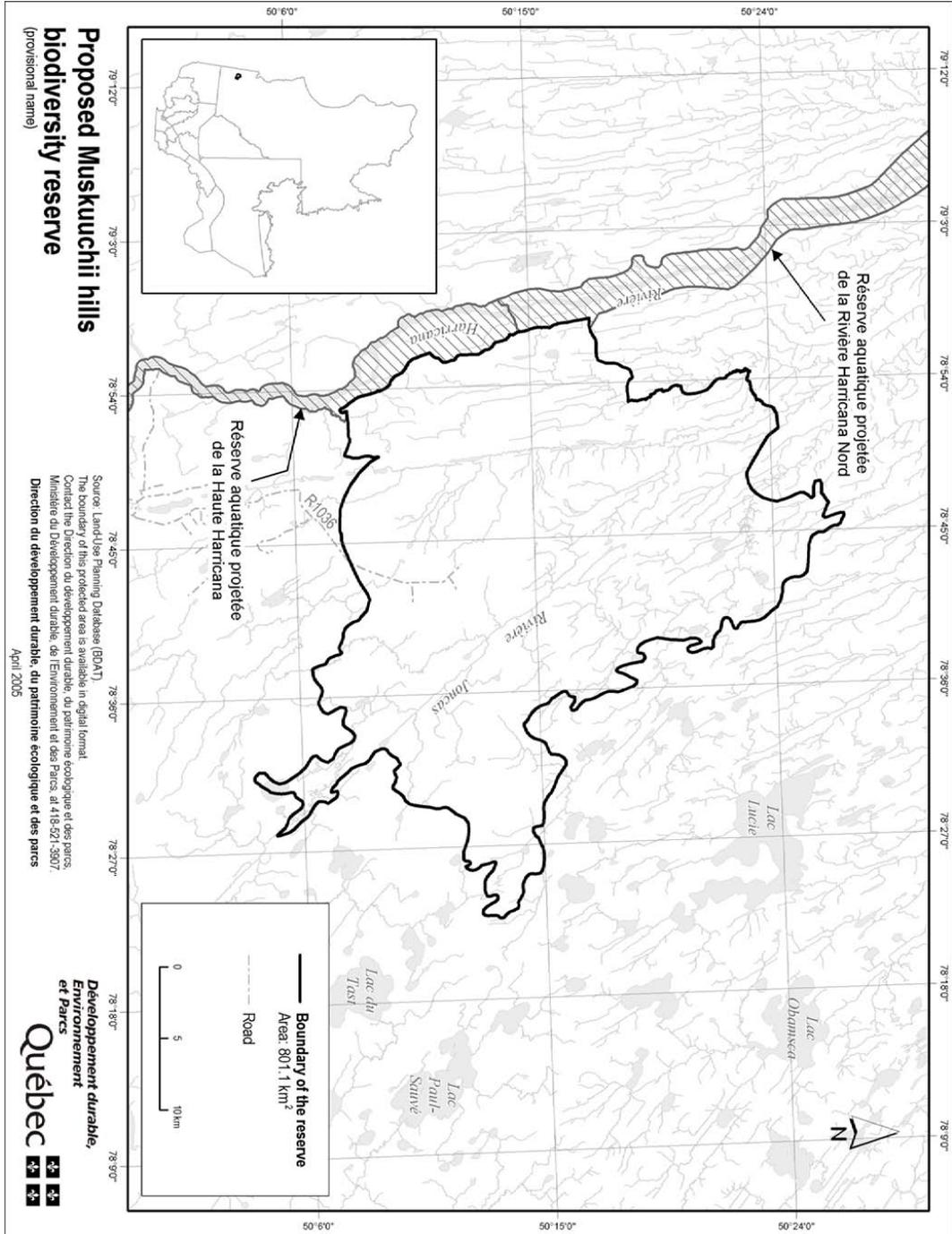
April 2005

Boundary of the reserve
Area : 801.1 km²

Road

Schedule

Map of the proposed Muskauuchii hills biodiversity reserve (provisional name)



**Proposed Muskauuchii hills
biodiversity reserve**
(provisional name)

Source: Land-Use Planning Database (BOAT).
The boundary of this protected area is available in digital format.
Contact the Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs,
Ministère de l'Environnement et des Parcs, at 418-521-3807.
Direction du développement durable, du patrimoine écologique et des parcs
April 2005

**Développement durable,
Environnement
et Parcs**
Québec