

Gouvernement du Québec

O.C. 130-2007, 14 February 2007

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

Authorization to assign temporary protection status as a proposed biodiversity reserve to a portion of the former Seigneurie du Triton, and approval of the plan and conservation plan

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 may, 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, to facilitate maintaining the biodiversity, it is desirable to assign legal protection status to the area as the proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve, to prepare a plan of the area and to establish a conservation plan for the duration of the temporary protection, those plans being attached to this Order in Council;

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

THAT the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks be authorized to assign temporary protection status to the area as the proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve, and that the plan and the proposed conservation plan for the area be approved, those plans being attached to this Order in Council.

GÉRARD BIBEAU,
Clerk of the Conseil exécutif

QUÉBEC STRATEGY FOR PROTECTED AREAS



**Proposed
Seigneurie-du-
Triton biodiversity
reserve**

(provisional name)

Conservation plan



February 2007

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 provisional name is “Réserve de biodiversité projetée de la Seigneurie-du-Triton”. The official toponym will be determined at the time of assignment of permanent protection status to the land.

2. Plan and description

2.1 Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The boundaries and location of the proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve are shown on the map attached as a Schedule.

The proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve is located in part in the territory of Ville de La Tuque in the Mauricie administrative region and in part in the unorganized territory of Lac-Croche, in Municipalité régionale de comté de La Jacques-Cartier, in the Capitale-Nationale administrative region. The proposed biodiversity reserve is located between 47°28' and 47°43' north latitude and 71°50' and 72°15' west longitude, some 45 km northeast of downtown La Tuque. It covers an area of 407.7 km².

A surface material extraction site (SMS-21M12-017), authorized by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and located east of the proposed biodiversity reserve, is excluded from the boundaries of the area.

2.2 Ecological overview

The proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve is in the Southern Laurentian natural province, in two natural regions. It lies mostly in the Jacques-Cartier Lake Highlands natural region in the Saint-Henri Lake Low Hills physiographic unit. The western portion of the proposed biodiversity reserve is located in the La Tuque Depression natural region in the Wayagamac Lake Low Hills physiographic unit.

The proposed biodiversity reserve is a complex of glacial low hills having an elevation between 340 m and 680 m. Deposits are mostly till, and rock outcrops are found on some steep summits and slopes. The small plains are composed of proglacial glaciofluvial sands. In the eastern portion, a few bogs are present in depressions.

The forest consisting of mixed stands (43%) and hardwood stands (39%) covers some 87% of the proposed biodiversity reserve. Although mature stands (90 years old or older) are not as abundant (22%), nearly half are over 120 years old.

White birch stands are present in the territory (55%) with black spruce stands and some trembling aspen stands in the western portion of the proposed biodiversity reserve. A large number of yellow birch stands, some over 300 years old, are also present.

The proposed biodiversity reserve covers the watersheds of the Batiscan and Métabetchouane rivers.

2.3 Occupation and land uses

The proposed biodiversity reserve overlaps certain structured wildlife habitats. The Nature Triton outfitting operation is entirely within the proposed biodiversity reserve. Two small portions cover ZEC Kiskissink to the north and ZEC de la Rivière-Blanche to the south. The portions concerned are respectively 10.2 km² and 8.7 km² in area. The eastern portion of the proposed biodiversity reserve includes the Laurentides wildlife sanctuary over an area of 201.2 km². A trapline covers nearly half the proposed biodiversity reserve namely portions located in the wildlife sanctuary and both controlled zones.

Forty-one leases for resort purposes are located in the eastern portion with a number of leases concentrated around Cleveland and Trois Caribous lakes. The Nature Triton outfitting operation holds a commercial lease for an outfitting operation on the shores of Trois Caribous lake and one commercial lease (not specified) is located on the shores of Norrie lake.

Some fifteen portages exist in and around the territory of the Nature Triton outfitting operation. A canoe-kayak route crosses the proposed biodiversity reserve near the northeast boundary and follows the Métabetchouane river and Hugh and Petit Lac Métascouac lakes. Another canoe-kayak route between Édouard lake and the Batiscan river runs through the proposed biodiversity reserve and the outfitting operation. Two canoe-kayak routes cross the outfitting operation from Édouard lake through Aux Biscuits, Steers, Gauthier, De Travers, Trois Caribous, Faiseur de Pluie, Foi, Espérance, Charité et À la Croix lakes and Castors Noirs river.

The proposed biodiversity reserve lies within four fur-bearing animal management units (33-A, 34-C, 38 and 39) and two hunting areas (26 and 27).

The forest road network is poorly developed and is situated for the most part near or on the boundaries of the proposed biodiversity reserve, especially in the north-western, western and southwestern portions. A road between Trois Caribous and Brûlé lakes runs through the centre of the protected area. A railway lies along the western boundary of the proposed biodiversity reserve.

3. Activities framework

Activities carried on within the proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton 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 prohibit activities in addition to the activities already prohibited in proposed biodiversity reserves under the Act. It also does not authorize activities or add restrictions to activities permitted under the Act.

3.1 Prohibited activities

As provided in the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area to which status as a proposed biodiversity reserve has been assigned are

- mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- mining, gas and petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring where the activities necessitate stripping, 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

Certain activities likely to be carried on within the proposed biodiversity reserve are also governed by other legislative and regulatory provisions, including provisions that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. Certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations that are applicable within the proposed biodiversity reserve.

A special legal framework may govern permitted and prohibited activities within the proposed biodiversity reserve in connection with the following matters:

- Environmental protection: measures set out in particular in the Environment Quality Act (R.S.Q., c. Q-2);
- Archaeological research: measures set out in particular in the Cultural Property Act (R.S.Q., c. B-4);
- Development of wildlife resources: measures set out in particular in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1), including the provisions pertaining to outfitting operations and beaver reserves and the measures contained in applicable federal legislation, including the fishery regulations;
- Removal of species of fauna or flora that are threatened or vulnerable or are likely to be designated as such: measures prohibiting the removal of the species under the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (R.S.Q., c. E-12.01);
- Access and land rights: measures set out in particular in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1);

— Operation of vehicles: measures set out in particular in the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State (R.S.Q., c. T-8.1) and in the regulation on motor vehicle traffic in certain fragile environments made under the Environment Quality Act (R.S.Q., c. Q-2).

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

The Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks is responsible for conservation and management of the proposed Seigneurie-du-Triton biodiversity reserve and is therefore responsible for supervising and monitoring the activities allowed in the reserve. The Minister in the management of the reserve works collaboratively with other government representatives having specific responsibilities in or adjacent to the reserve, 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 SEIGNEURIE-DU-TRITON BIODIVERSITY RESERVE (PROVISIONAL NAME)

