

PROTECTED AREAS IN QUÉBEC

HIGHLIGHTS 2005 - 2006

A Victory for the Boreal Forest

The creation and addition of 22 protected areas in boreal forest regions, totaling an area of 6,759 km², two-thirds of which are located on commercial forest land. These include 3 projected aquatic reserves and 15 projected biodiversity reserves, along with the projected expansion of 4 existing biodiversity reserves.

Two of these new classifications warrant particular attention: the projected new Ménistouc biodiversity reserve, on the border with Labrador, which will ensure protection of the exceptional landscapes and scenic views and also of the deep valley of the projected Lac au Foin biodiversity reserve south of Mistassini Lake.

These new territories increase by 0.4% the total area of Québec's network of protected areas, which currently stands at 5.8 %¹.

(www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/Infuseur/communiqu.asp?no=821)

In partnership with the Cree Nation of Mistissini, the government of Québec has approved a project to create the first park representative of the boreal forest, the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park, covering an estimated 11,000 km². Public consultations on a provisional master plan for this project were held on January 14 and 15, 2006.

(http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/communiqués_en/c20051109-audiencesATO.htm)

Private Stewardship

Creation of a program to encourage the conservation of natural heritage on private land (*Programme de conservation du patrimoine naturel en milieu privé*). A budget of \$9 million has been allocated to this program over three years, which is aimed at supporting, on a cost-sharing basis, conservation efforts that are undertaken by the private sector to develop a network of protected areas on private land. Through initiatives under this new program, the Ministère plans to protect over 100 km² of wilderness area on private land, one-third of which represents wetlands, and some 200 colonies of threatened species. To date, an estimated \$670,000 has been allocated to this program.

(<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/terres-priv-en.htm>)

Recognition of five natural reserves on private land, covering an area of 2.3 km².

(<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/prive/depliant-en.htm>)

Endangered Species

Enactment of a regulation under which 25 floristic species have been designated threatened or vulnerable and under which 30 floristic habitats are deemed protected, pursuant to the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species. Of the 25 plants designated, sixteen are rare and have been recognized for their very precarious situation within Québec and across Canada. Two

¹ This percentage is an approximation of the total area the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs has defined as protected areas. This percentage will be confirmed once the Ministère has produced an official register of protected areas.

of these sixteen species are trees, namely the rock elm and pitch pine.
(www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/Infuseur/communiquer.asp?no=842)

An online website for the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ). The mandate of the CDPNQ is to collect, record, analyze and disseminate information about Québec's biodiversity, particularly threatened or vulnerable species.

(<http://www.cdpnq.gouv.qc.ca/index-en.htm>)

Publication of a Québec biodiversity Atlas. This volume profiles information about Québec's threatened or vulnerable species, sheds light on conservation efforts carried out to date and proposes an approach to determine which conservation issues should be given priority.

(www.cdpnq.gouv.qc.ca/publication.htm)

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