

Summary description of the territory

BOUNDARIES AND LOCATION

The 402.8-km² proposed biodiversity reserve is located in the municipality of Senneterre, roughly 25 km south of Lebel-sur-Quévillon.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The territory mainly comprises two separate ecosystems that are linked by the river system. To the west, lowlands made up of clay and silt are dotted with marshes and minerotrophic peatlands. To the east is found a group of silt hummocks. The river system encompasses the Rivière Delestre, the Rivière Lecompte and the Rivière Robin, which drain the territory and feed the marshes.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

At this latitude, black spruce-moss stands, black spruce-sphagnum moss stands, black spruce-lichen stands or black spruce-heath stands, and balsam fir-white birch stands or balsam fir-black spruce stands predominate. However, as a matter of fact, balsam fir is rare and makes way for black spruce stands. Extensive logging has occurred recently in the silt hummock sector. The remainder of the territory mainly comprises forest stands between 40 and 80 years old. The territory has very few old-growth forests aside from a few rare isolated small forest stands. From the standpoint of wildlife, the marshes offer a very important habitat for avian fauna, especially various duck species. Black duck populations are very high on certain sites. Some 94 avian species have been inventoried there.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The Algonquin communities of Lac Simon and Kitcisakik have in the past used and frequented the territory, which is now hardly frequented and is mainly used for hunting, fishing and trapping.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The reserve is protecting a representative sampling of lowlands in the Abitibi region with its clay plain and numerous peat bogs. It is also representative of the vast territories shaped by the glaciers, including the silt hummocks. The various black spruce stand ecosystems are typical of the boreal forest at this latitude. Moreover, the protected area includes marshes of considerable wildlife interest, in particular as regards avian fauna.

PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

The proposed place name for the granting of permanent status is the Réserve de biodiversité des marais du lac Parent.

Major permitted and prohibited activities¹

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, the main activities prohibited in a territory with the status of a biodiversity reserve are:

- Forest development within the meaning of section 3 of the *Forest Act* (R.S.Q., c. F 4.1);
- Mining, gas or oil exploration and development;
- Exploitation of hydropower and any commercial or industrial energy production
- Any other activity prohibited by the conservation plan or by a regulatory.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES^{1 2}

- Trapping camps, basic shelters and cabins and their incidental structures allowed by the lease;
- Harvesting wood to build an outdoor campfire;
- The maintenance or rebuilding of infrastructures;
- Trapping, hunting and fishing;
- Free access to the territory;
- The harvesting of small fruits or plant species for domestic use;
- Stays lasting 90 days or less (camping);
- Any recreative, touristic or ecotouristic activities;
- Domestic animals.

ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO AUTHORIZATION^{1 2 3}

- The erection, installation or construction of new buildings;
- The construction of new infrastructure and new recreational or educational trails;
- Soil development work;
- Wood harvesting for domestic purposes.

For more information:

http://www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/consultation/abitibi-temis/index.htm

http://www.mddefp.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/reserves-bio/parent/PSC_Parent.pdf

¹ Pursuant to the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, any other form of permit or authorization pursuant to another statute or regulation is compulsory.

² The conservation plan can prohibited any activity if it impacts the biodiversity.

³ Authorization criterias apply.



Photo: M.-A. Bouchard MDDEFP



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Protected areas
in Québec:



A Lifelong Heritage



Réserve de biodiversité projetée des marais du lac Parent



A premium
habitat for
avian fauna

Développement durable,
Environnement,
Faune et Parcs

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Québec



