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Projets de réserves de biodiversité du lac Opasatica, du lac des Quinze, de la forêt Piché-Lemoine et du réservoir Decelles

Abitibi-Témiscamingue

6212-01-207

Lac Opasatica, Lac des Quinze, Forêt Piché-Lemoine and Réservoir Decelles Proposed Biodiversity Reserves

Part One

BAPE Public Hearings

Val-d'Or, April 16 and 17, 2007

Rouyn-Noranda, April 18 and 19, 2007

Angliers, April 20, 2007

The Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) team

- ✓ **Édith van de Walle**, regional director, Direction de l'analyse et de l'expertise régionales de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-du-Québec
- ✓ **Joanne Laberge**, Head, Service des aires protégées, Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs
- ✓ **Marc-André Bouchard**, Project leader, Service des aires protégées, Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs
- ✓ **Benoît Larouche**, regional respondent, Direction de l'analyse et de l'expertise régionales de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-du-Québec

Presentation

1. **Context**
 - a. **Aquatic reserve and biodiversity reserve**
 - b. **Québec's network of protected areas**
 - c. **Selection process**
 - d. **Process for setting up an aquatic or biodiversity reserve**
2. **Profiles of the four proposed biodiversity reserves**
3. **Protection and management framework**

1- Context

Historical Context

- 1987 World Commission on the Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission)**
- 1992 Rio Earth Summit: United Nations Convention on Biodiversity**
- 1996 Biodiversity Strategy**
- 1999 Status of protected areas in Québec: 2.87% of the territory**
- 2000 Government decision to implement a network of protected areas corresponding to 8% of Québec's territory**
- 2002 Adoption of a strategic action plan for protected areas and the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act***
- 2007 Publication of Québec's Register of Protected Areas**

Historical Context (cont.)

Strategic directions (2000) enabling a network of protected areas to be implemented:

- ✓ a **quantitative** target: 8% of the surface area of Québec turned into protected areas by 2005 (pushed back to 2008)
- ✓ a **qualitative** target: guarantee that the future network will be representative of all biodiversity in Québec
- ✓ planning that takes the **social and economic realities** of the communities into account

Historical Context (cont.)

Strategic action plans (2002-2005 and 2005-2008) on protected areas:

- ✓ continue planning and creating traditional protected area statuses (**national parks, ecological reserves, wildlife habitats, etc.**)
- ✓ adoption of *Natural Heritage Conservation Act* (R.S.Q, C-61.01)
- ✓ create and implement new protected areas, notably with **aquatic reserve and biodiversity reserve** statuses

MDDEP expectations for the public hearings

- ✓ Present protected area projects
- ✓ Explain the concepts of biodiversity reserve and aquatic reserve, the objectives of these projects and the objectives of the public hearings
- ✓ Encourage active public participation
- ✓ Document the populations' concerns regarding these territories
- ✓ Enhance the protected area projects

Québec's protected area statuses

1. Québec national park
2. Proposed ecological reserve
3. Ecological reserve
4. **Proposed biodiversity reserve**
5. **Biodiversity reserve**
6. **Proposed aquatic reserve**
7. **Aquatic reserve**
8. Proposed man-made landscape
9. Man-made landscape
10. Recognized nature reserve
11. Habitat of a threatened or vulnerable plant species
12. Exceptional forest ecosystem (3 types)
13. Wildlife habitat (8 types)
14. National Capital Commission park (Canada)
15. Canada national park and historic site
16. Canada national park and national park reserve
17. Migratory bird sanctuary
18. Wildlife preserve
19. National wildlife area
20. Protected marine environment
21. Natural environment voluntary conservation
22. Québec national park reserve

Comparison: permitted and prohibited activities

Activity	Protected areas			Wildlife area
	Ecological reserve	National park	Biodiversity reserve	Wildlife reserve
Education	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Research	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Fishing	Prohibited	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Hunting	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted	Permitted
Trapping	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted	Permitted
Vacation resort	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted	Permitted
Woodcutting	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
Hydroelectric dam	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
Mining activities	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Permitted
Manager	MDDEP	SÉPAQ	MDDEP	SÉPAQ

	Permitted
	Prohibited

Statuses: aquatic reserve and biodiversity reserve

General activity schedule

Prohibited activities:

- forest management
- mining, gas or petroleum prospecting and development
- development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis

Permitted activities:

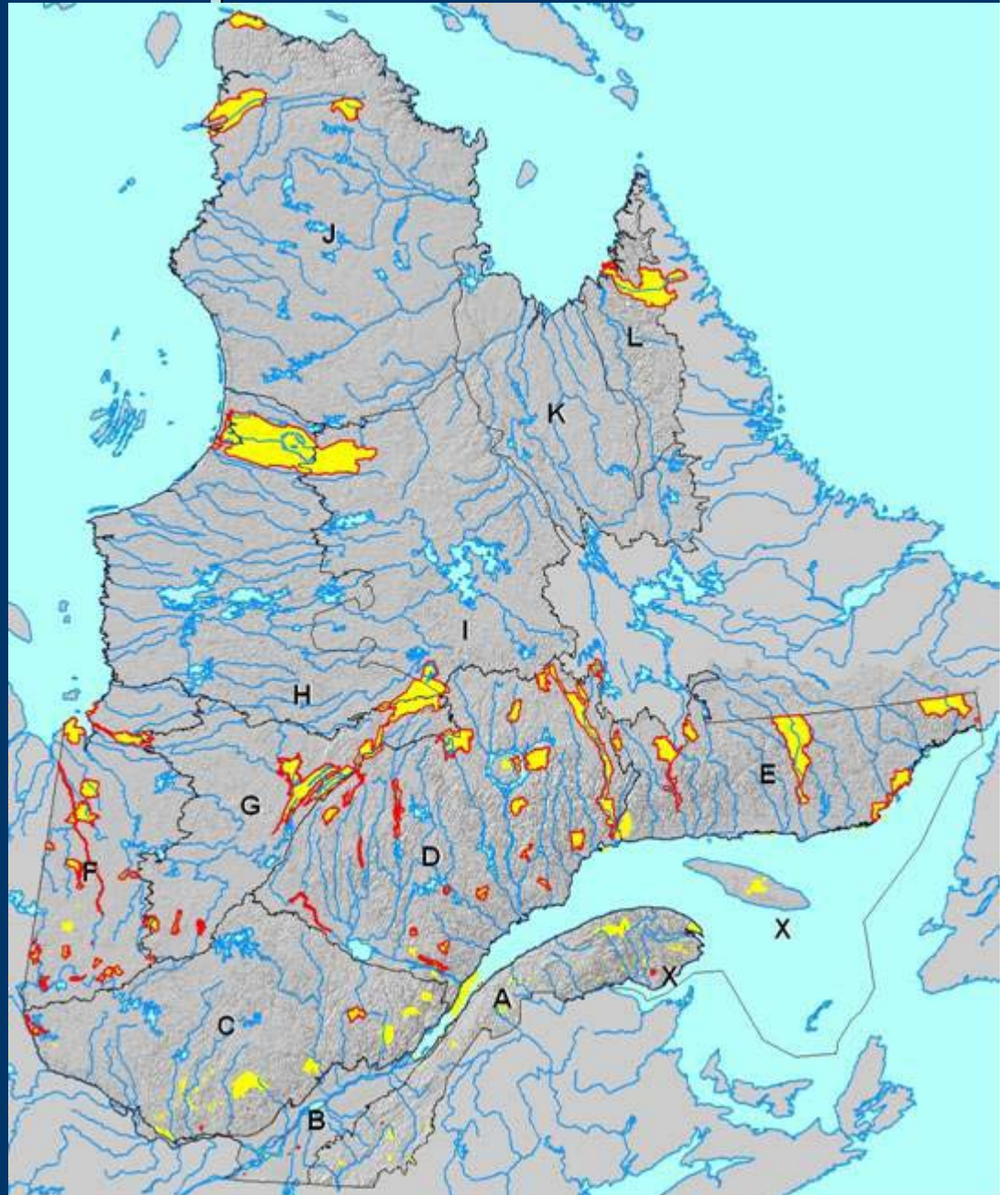
- recreational activities
- wildlife harvesting activities: hunting, fishing, trapping
- existing vacation resorts
- traditional Native activities

Québec's network of protected areas

Since 2002:

- 7 proposed aquatic reserves
- 43 proposed biodiversity reserves
- 1 permanent biodiversity reserve
- 5 ecological reserves
- 1 proposed ecological reserve
- 32 nature reserves
- 1 national park (northern)
- 6 national park projects

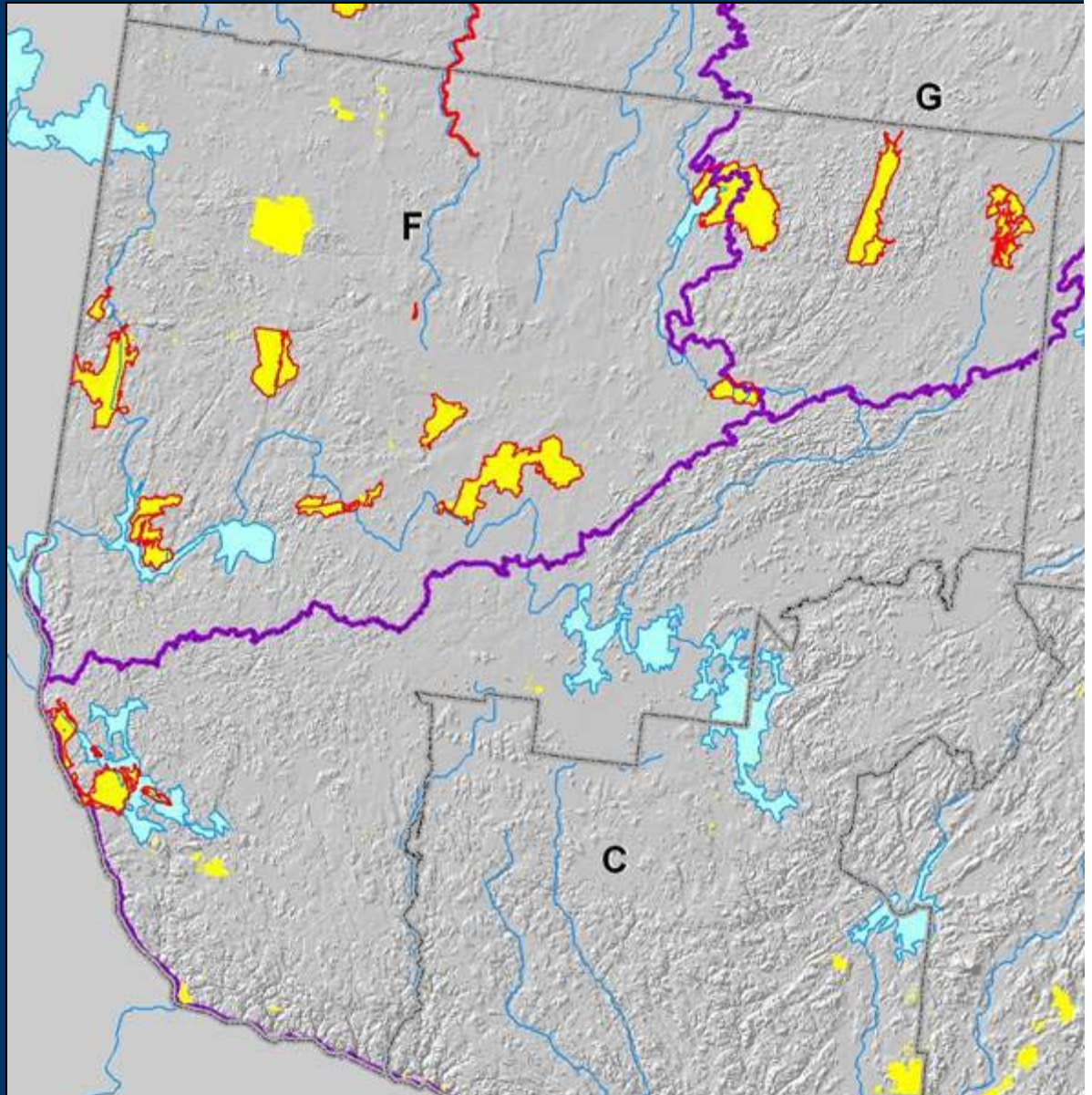
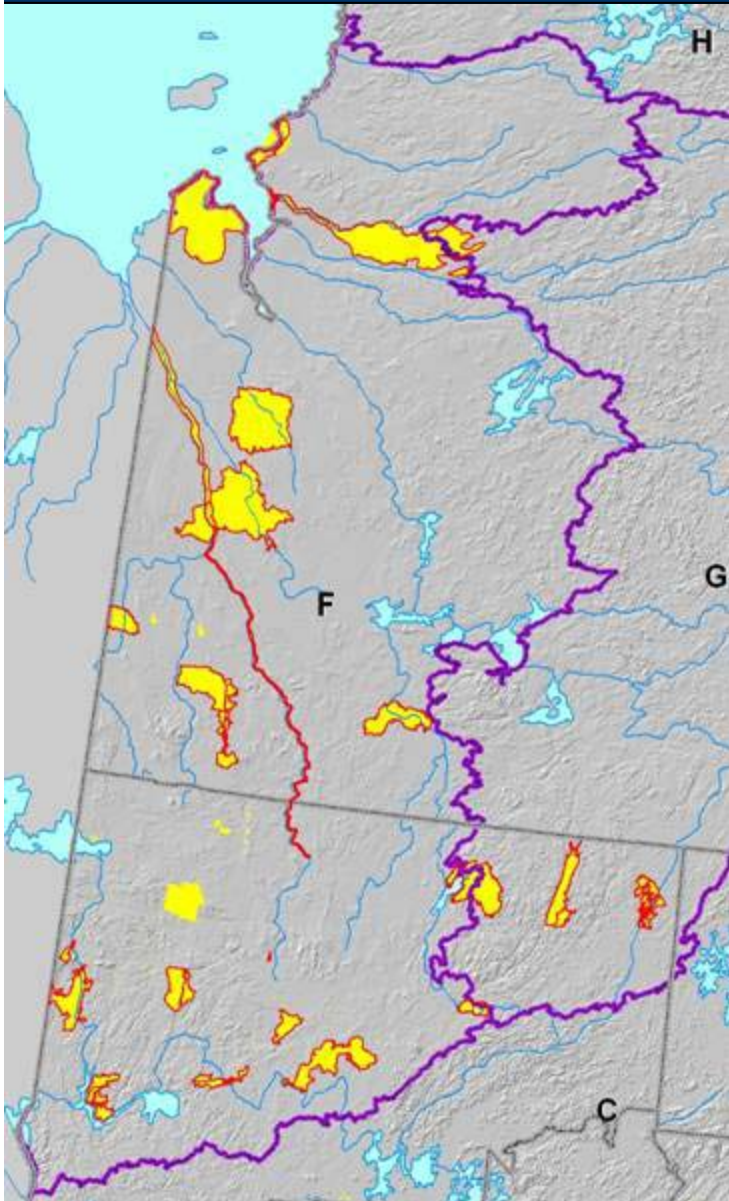
4.79% of the territory protected



Network of protected areas

Natural province F: 6.7%

Abitibi-Témiscamingue: 4.23%

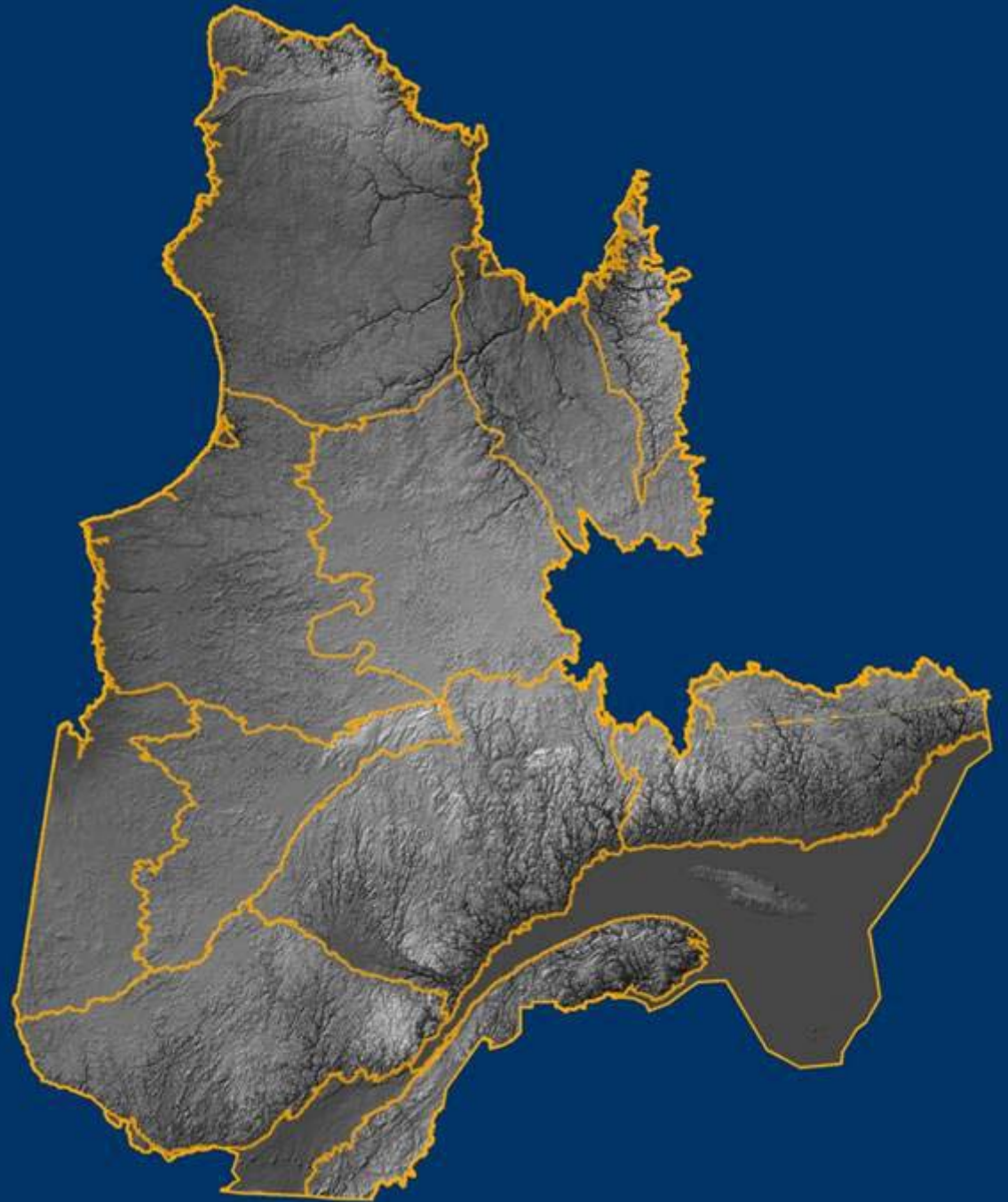


Selection process

How to recognize the biodiversity of a territory that is 1,700,000 km² in size?

By mapping the physical environment
(supports life)

Rough filter approach



Selection process

Ecological reference framework:

- Eight levels of perception

Representativeness criteria:

- Environment type (form, deposits)
- Forest cover (species, age)
- Hydrography and lakes
- Climatic conditions

Gap analysis



Steps

1. Information workshops

2. E.R.F. analysis

3. Socioeconomic analysis

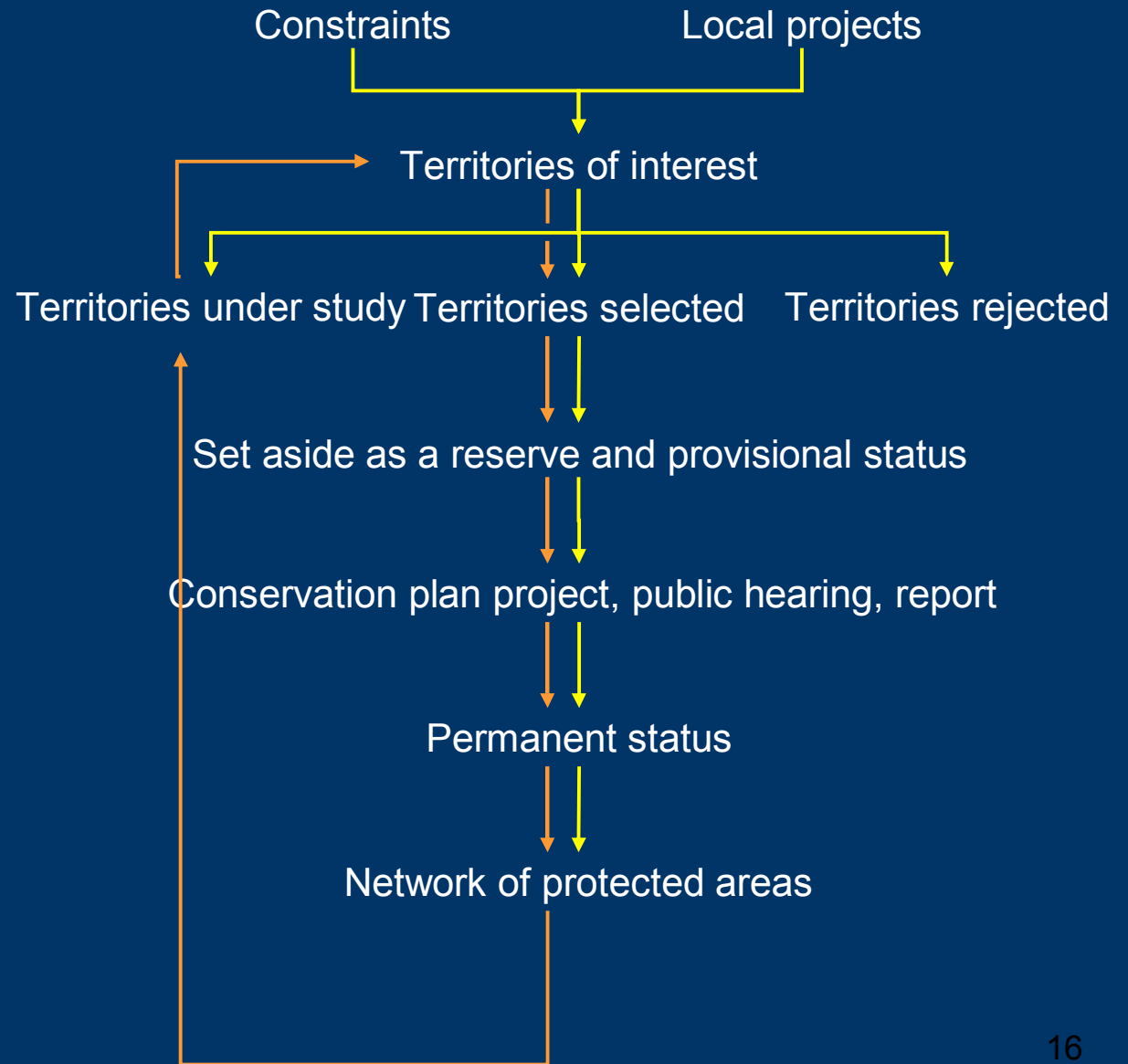
4. Government decision

5. Public hearing

6. Government decision

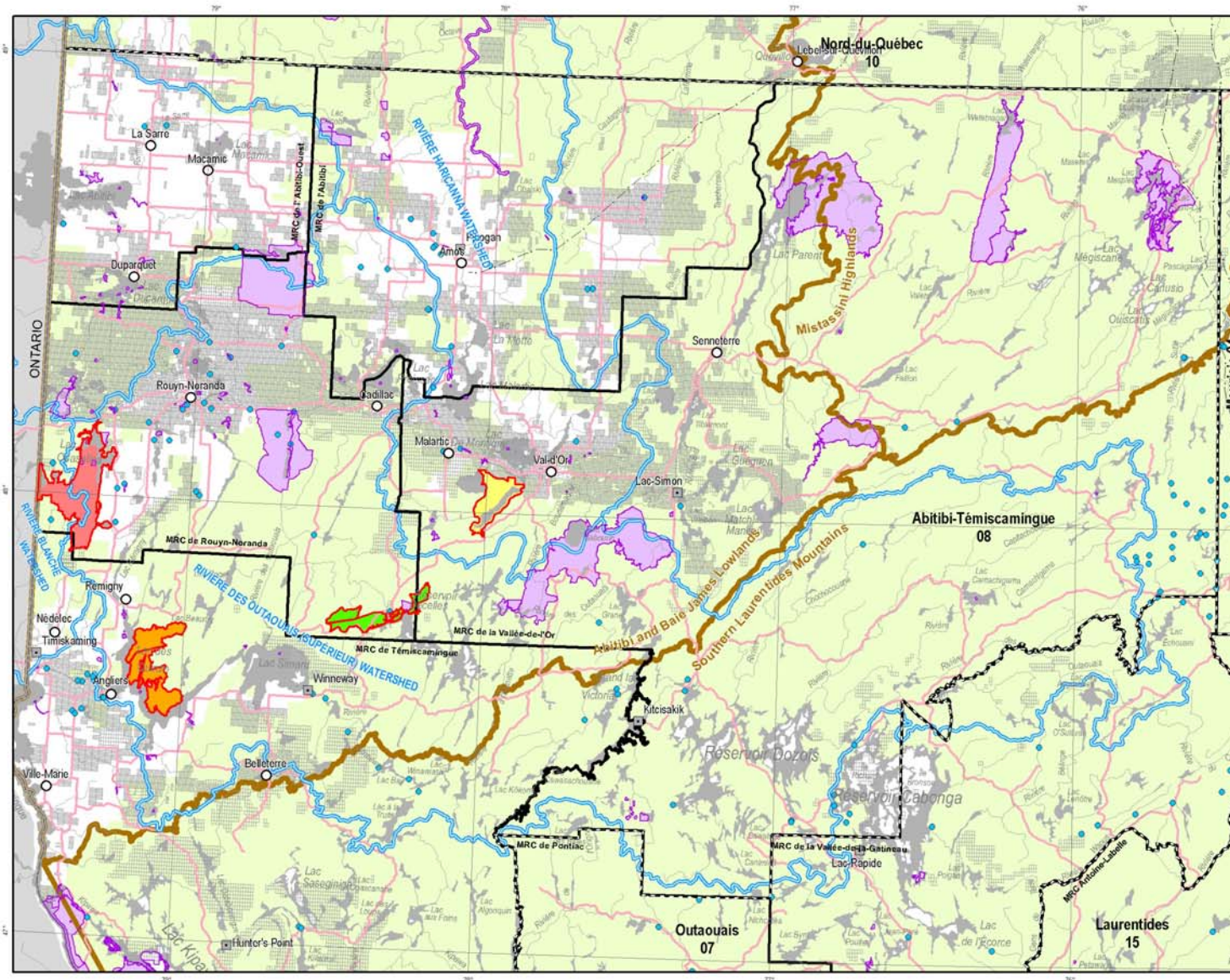
7. Implementation

8. Gap analysis



2- Profiles of the four proposed biodiversity reserves

Location



Appendix 1 Location and regional context

- Native community
 - Hydroelectric development
 - Road
 - Administrative region
 - energy transportation
 - MRC
 - Natural province
 - Watershed
- Protected area projects**
- Opasatica lake proposed biodiversity reserve
 - Lac des Quinze proposed biodiversity reserve
 - Forêt Piché-Lemoine proposed biodiversity reserve
 - Réservoir Decelles proposed biodiversity reserve
 - Other protected areas
 - Active mining rights (february 2007)
 - Forest management unit

Scale 1/950 000
0 7.5 15 30 45 km

Métadonnées
 Système de référence géodésique : NAD 83 compatible avec le système mondial WGS 84
 Projection cartographique : Universel Transverse-Mercator (UTM) Niveau 18

Sources
 Données : Base de données géographiques et administratives à l'échelle (SIGA) M4, La Base géographique et administrative du Québec à l'échelle (SIGA) M4
 Données cartographiques : Ministère du Développement durable de l'Environnement et des Parcs, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune

Réalisation
 Production : Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs, Division de la géomatique et de l'infographie
 Mars 2007

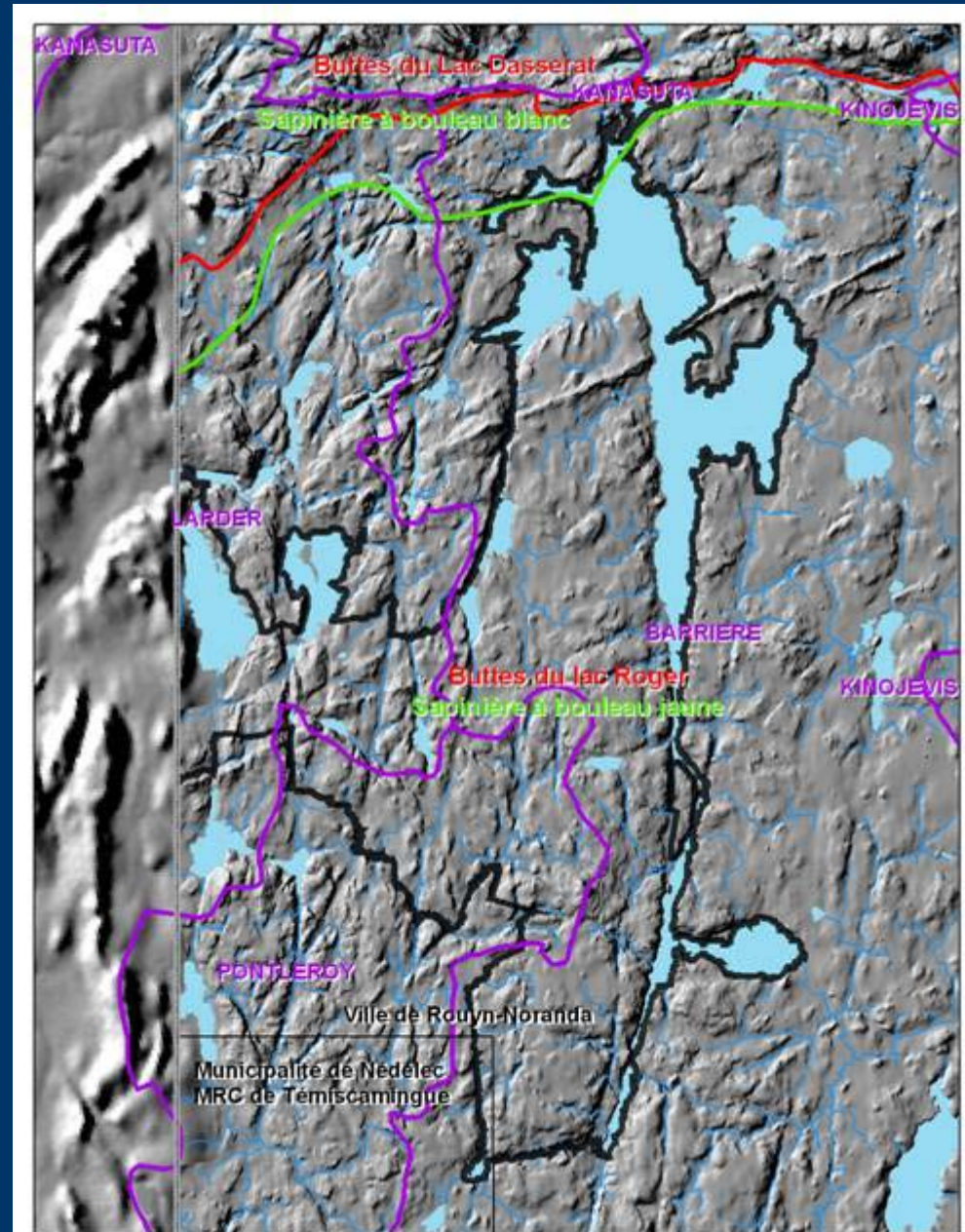
Lac Opasatica proposed biodiversity reserve



Lac Opasatica biodiversity reserve

Location

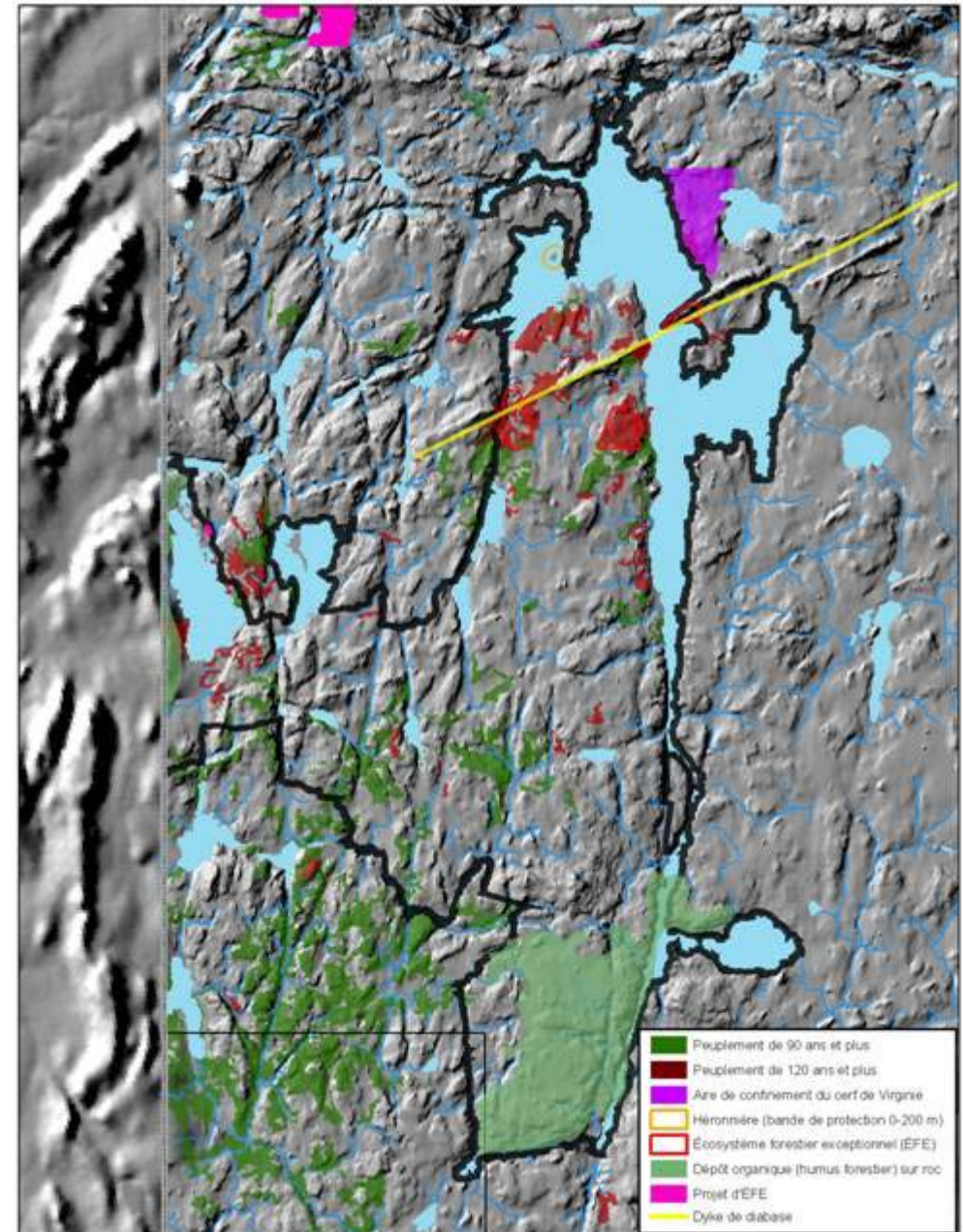
- Ville de Rouyn-Noranda, small southern portion in the RCM of Témiscamingue
- Surface area of 245 km²
- Natural province of Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands
- Natural region of the lac Témiscamingue Lowlands
- Physiographic complex of the lac Roger knolls
- Balsam fir-yellow birch domain (and balsam fir-white birch: small portion in the northern section)
- Watersheds of the Ottawa River and rivière Blanche



Lac Opasatica biodiversity reserve

Ecological interest and representativeness

- Clay and silt plain
- Diabase dike and colluvium
- Forest humus over rock (rare element)
- Black spruce and white birch forests
- Two exceptional forest ecosystems: (old-growth forests: balsam fir-white birch and cedar)
- An exceptional forest ecosystem project (rare forest: white pine-red pine forest)
- Heronry
- Habitat suitable for the bald eagle
- Important lake



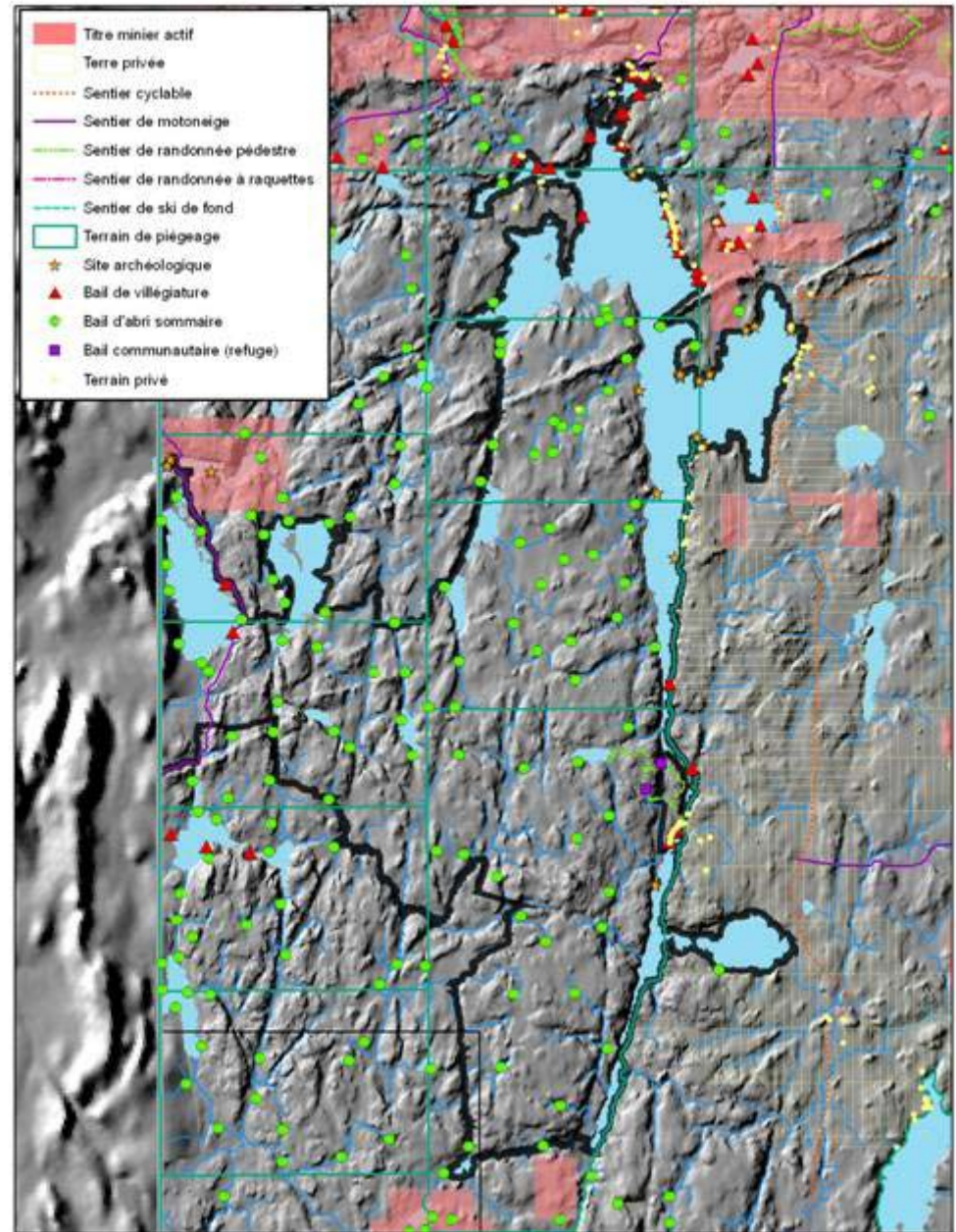
Lac Opasatica biodiversity reserve

Social features

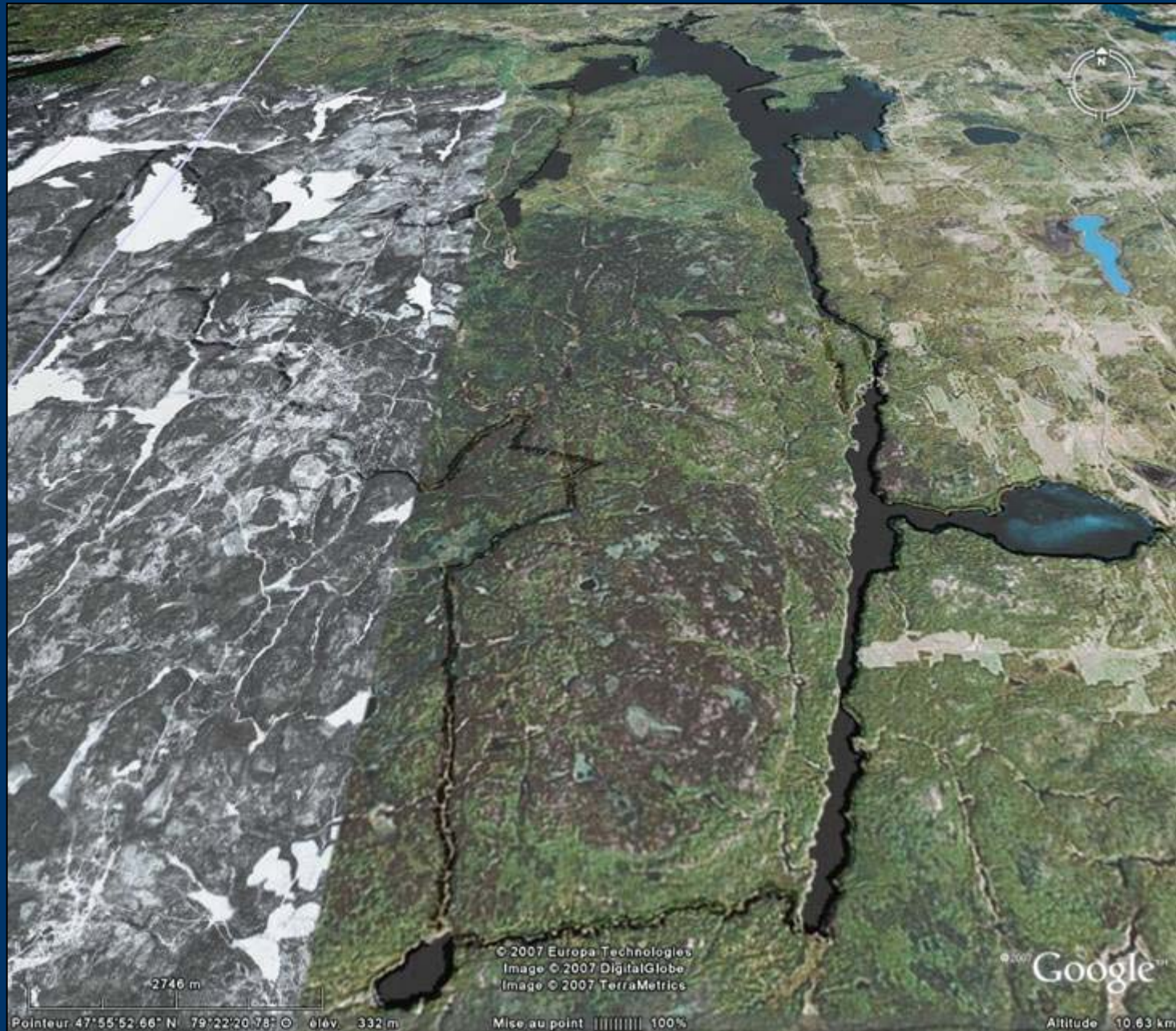
- 4 vacation resort leases
- 71 temporary shelter leases
- One lease for community purposes
- Several private vacation resort lots
- Snowmobile trail
- Snowshoe trail
- Hiking trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- 9 trapping territories in the area

Social interests

- Water sport activities on lac Opasatica
- High harvest rate for moose and black bear
- Significant archeological potential (8 recognized sites + 9 in immediate surroundings)
- Hunting, fishing and recreational activities



Lac Opasatica biodiversity reserve



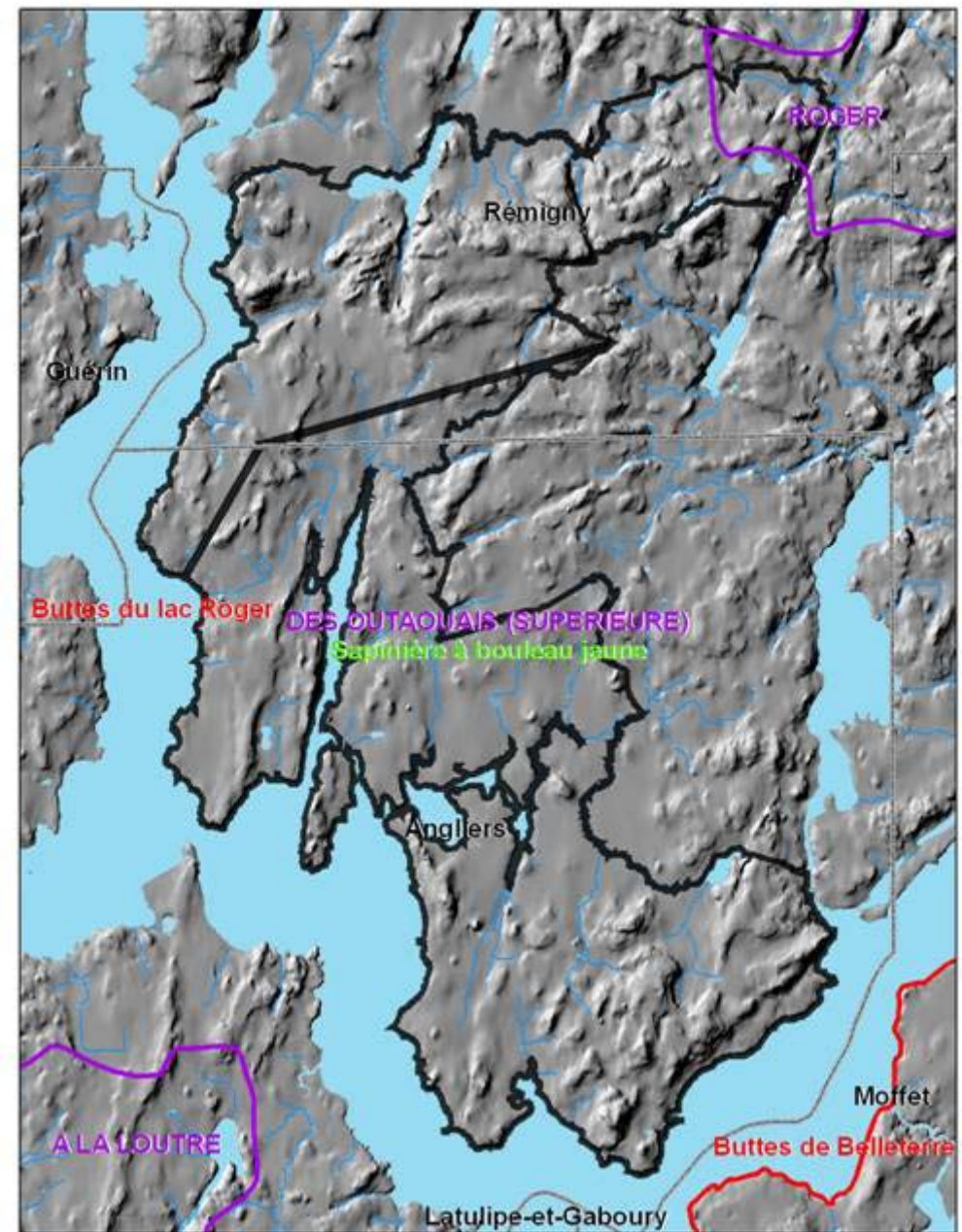
Lac des Quinze proposed biodiversity reserve



Lac des Quinze biodiversity reserve

Location

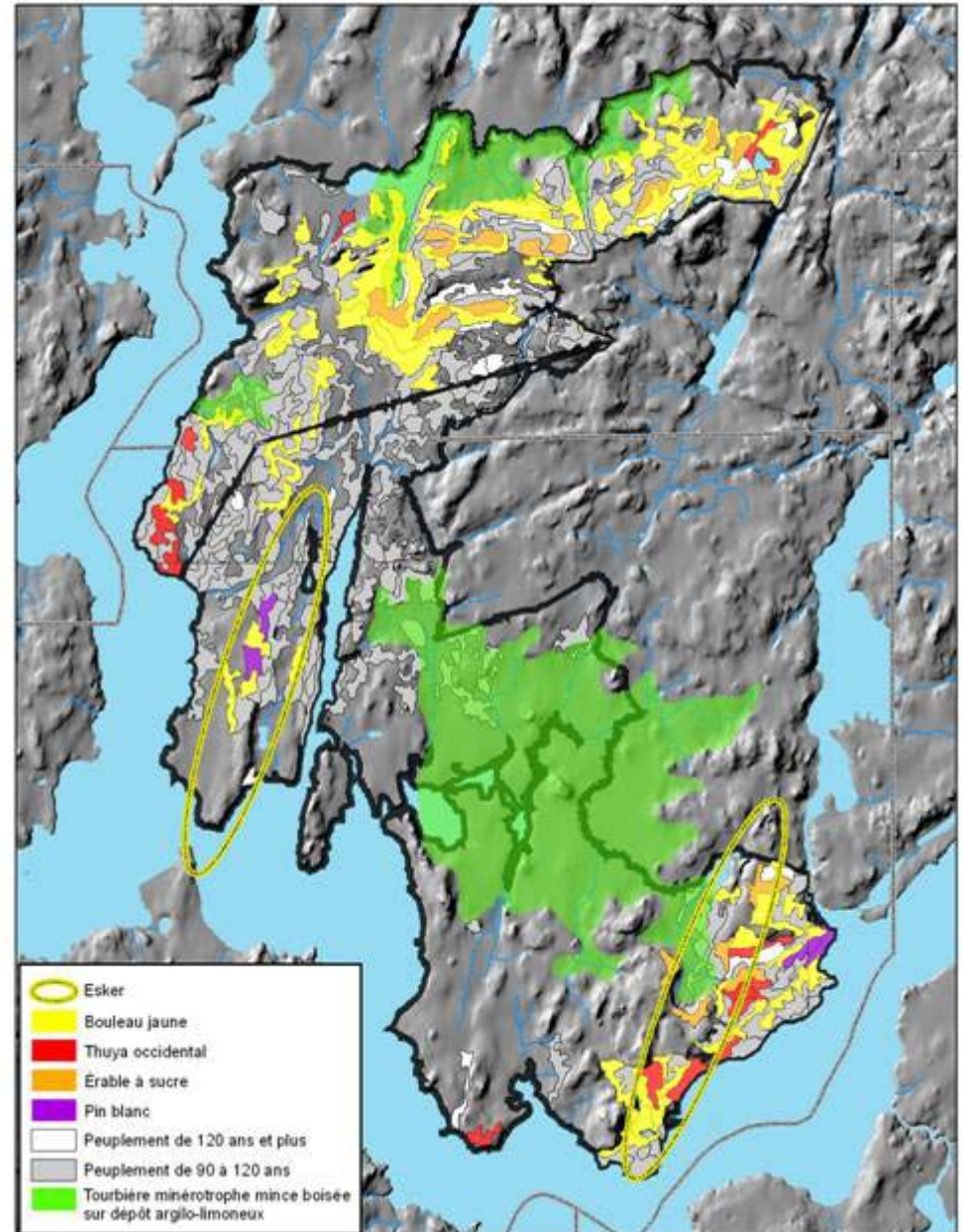
- RCM of Témiscamingue: Rémigny and Angliers
- Surface area of 159 km²
- Natural province of Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands
- Natural region of lac Témiscamingue Lowlands
- Physiographic complex of the lac Roger knolls
- Balsam fir-yellow birch domain
- Watershed of the Ottawa River



Lac des Quinze biodiversity reserve

Ecological interest and representativeness

- Clay and silt plain
- Complex of knolls
- Two eskers
- Mature sugar maple and yellow birch forests at the northern limit of their distribution zone
- Mature stands: white pine, eastern white cedar and yellow birch
- Large proportion of forests aged 90 years and over



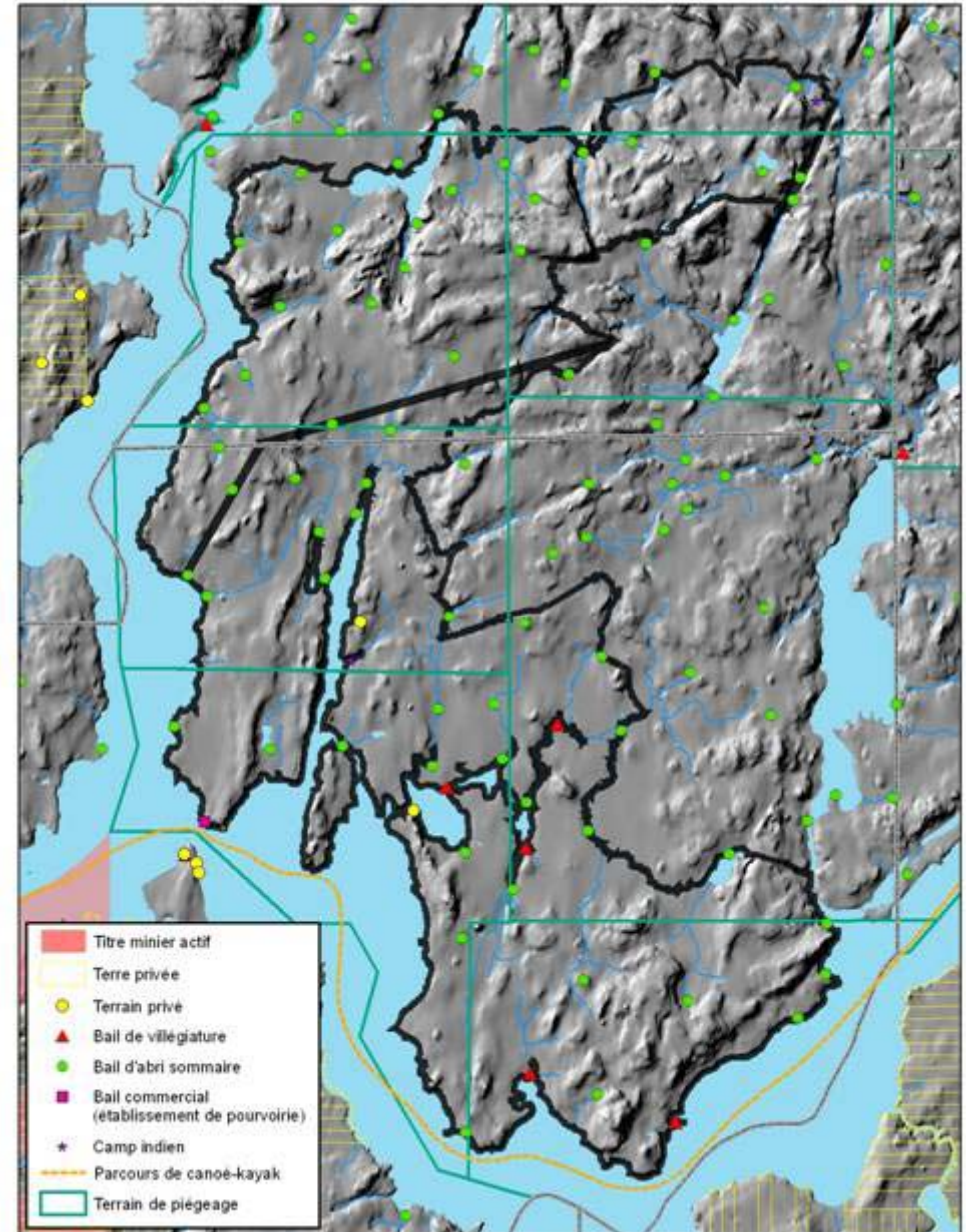
Lac des Quinze biodiversity reserve

Social features

- 5 vacation resort leases
- 49 temporary shelter leases
- An outfitter establishment
- 2 Native camps
- 8 traplines in the area

Social interests

- High harvest rate for moose
- Significant potential for archeological research
- Hunting, fishing and recreational activities
- Site of Native cultural interest



Lac des Quinze biodiversity reserve



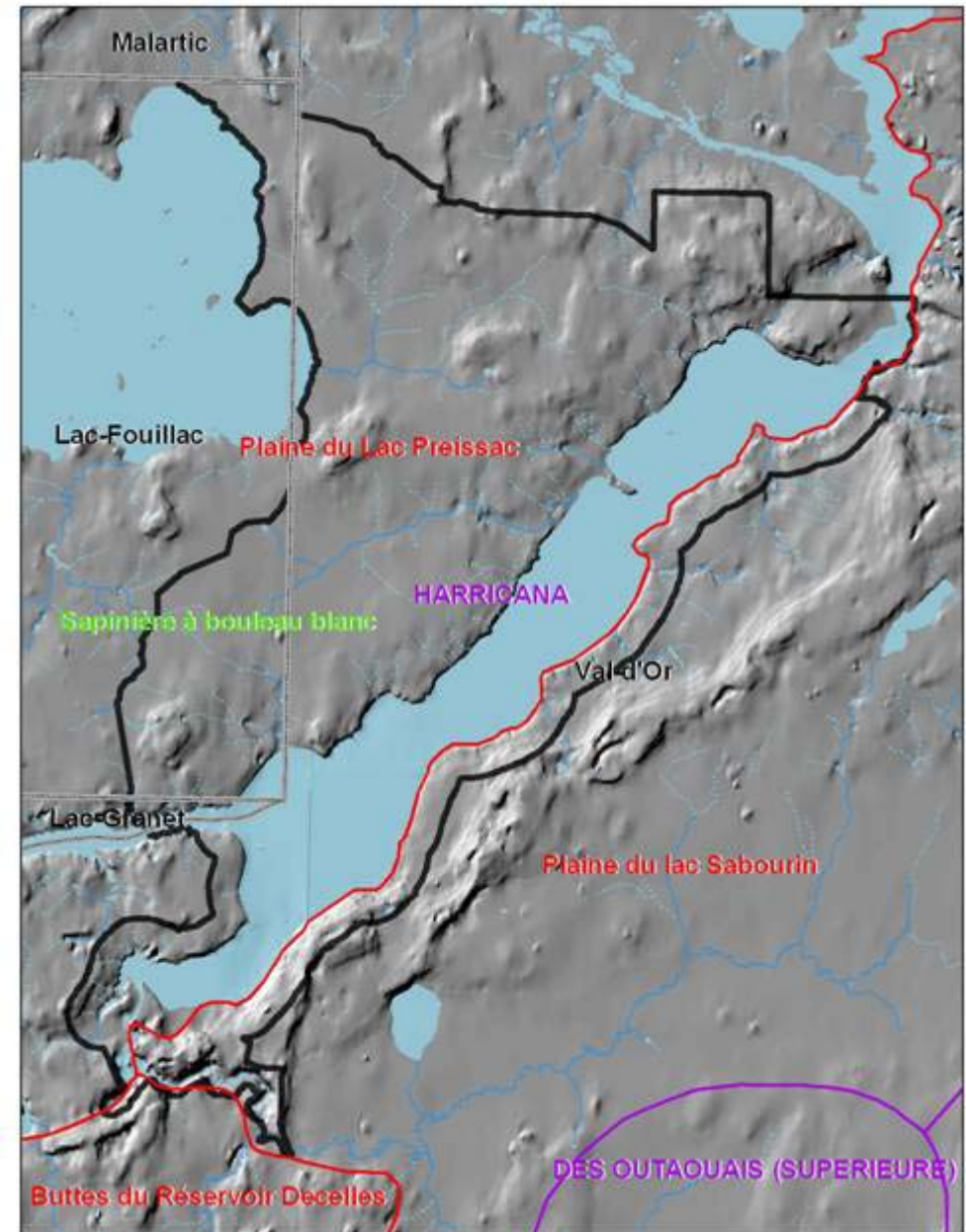
The Forêt Piché-Lemoine proposed biodiversity reserve



The Forêt Piché-Lemoine biodiversity reserve

Location

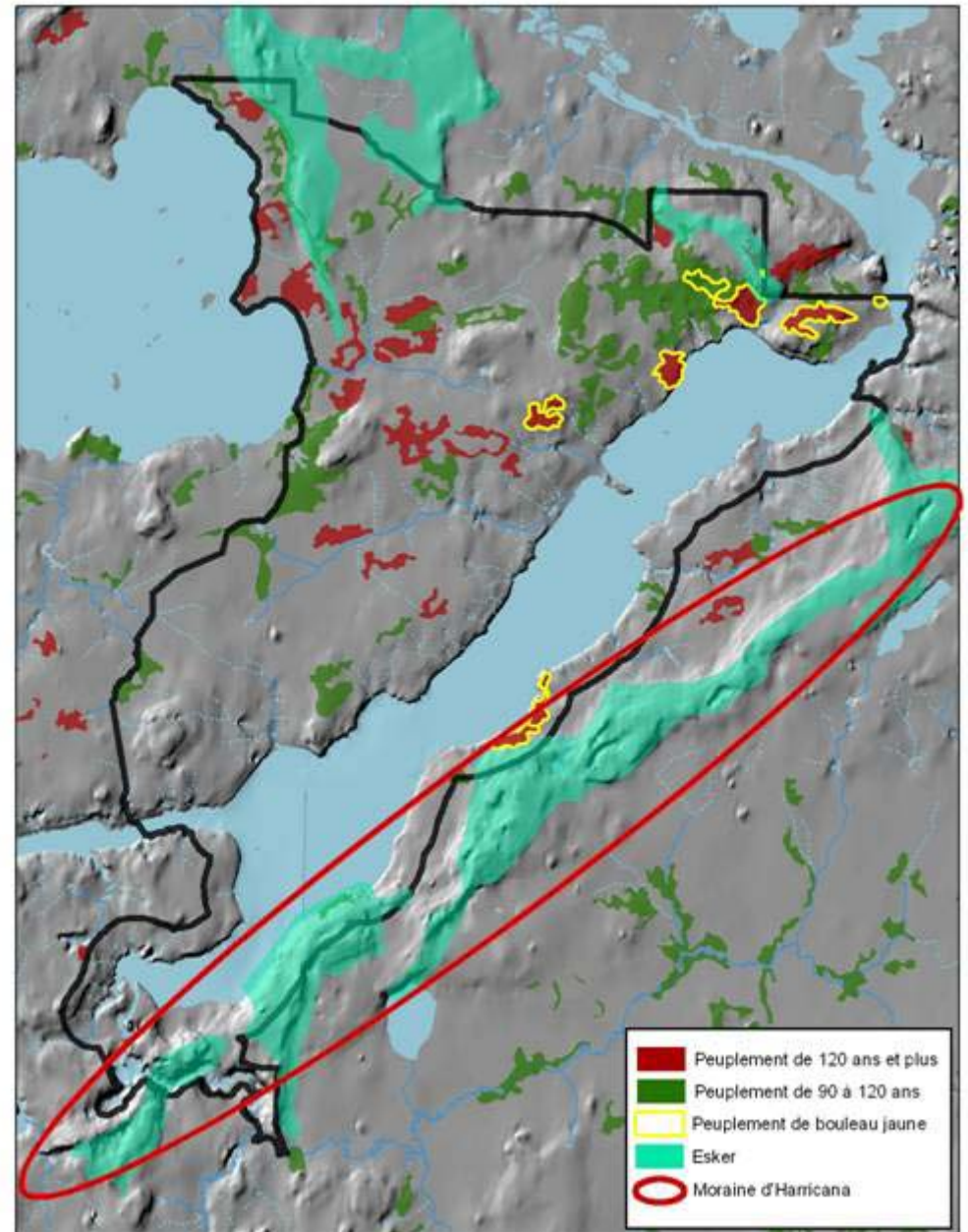
- Ville de Val-d'Or, small portions touching the N.O.T. of lac Fouillac and lac Granet
- Surface area of 94 km²
- Natural province of the Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands
- Natural region of the Abitibi Plain
- Physiographic complexes of lac Preissac plain (north-west) and lac Sabourin plain (south-east)
- Balsam fir-white birch domain
- Rivière Harricana watershed



Forêt Piché-Lemoine biodiversity reserve

Ecological interest and representativeness

- Clay and silt plain
- Parts of eskers
- Old yellow birch stands
- Part of Harricana Interlobate Moraine
- Important lake



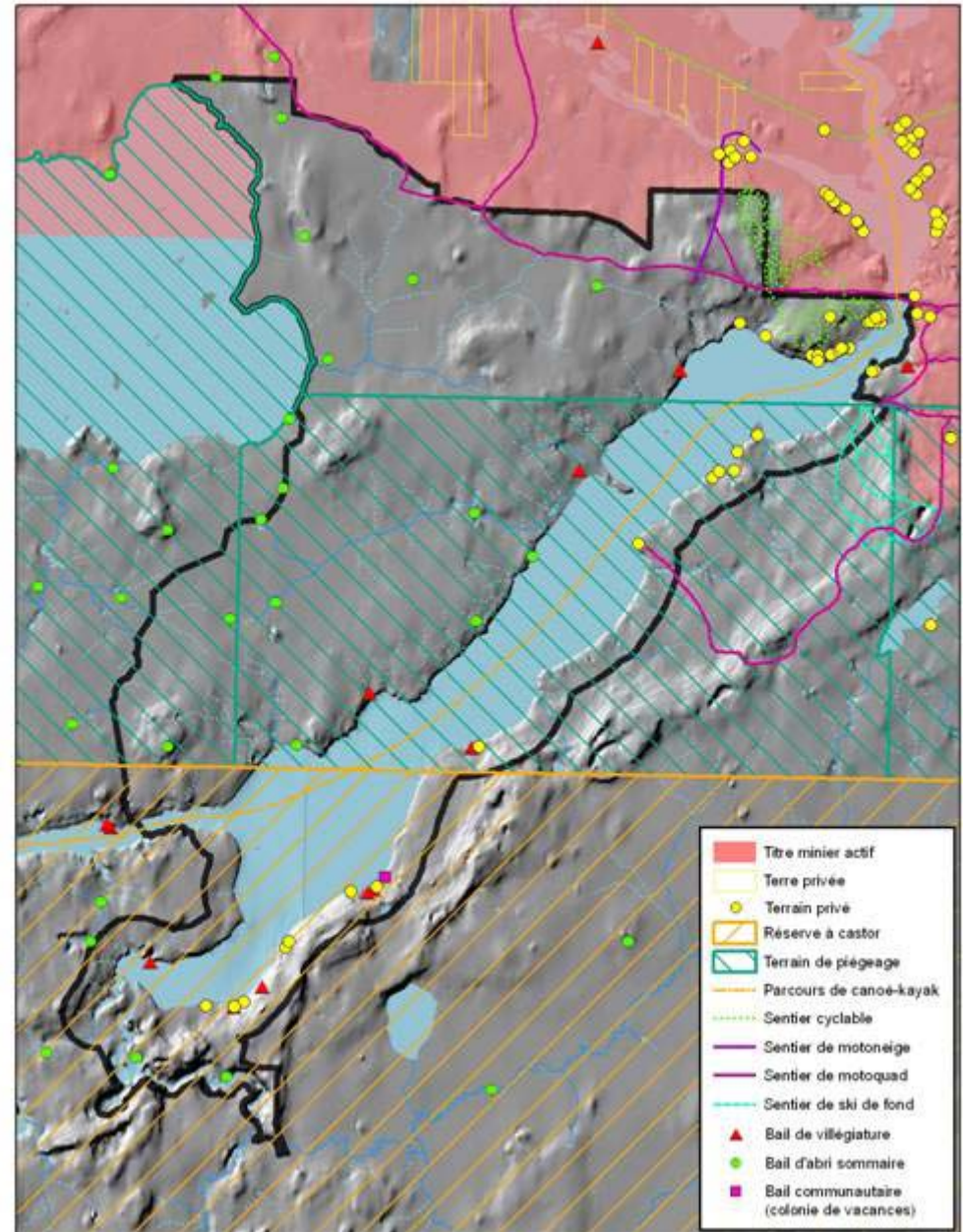
Forêt Piché-Lemoine biodiversity reserve

Social features

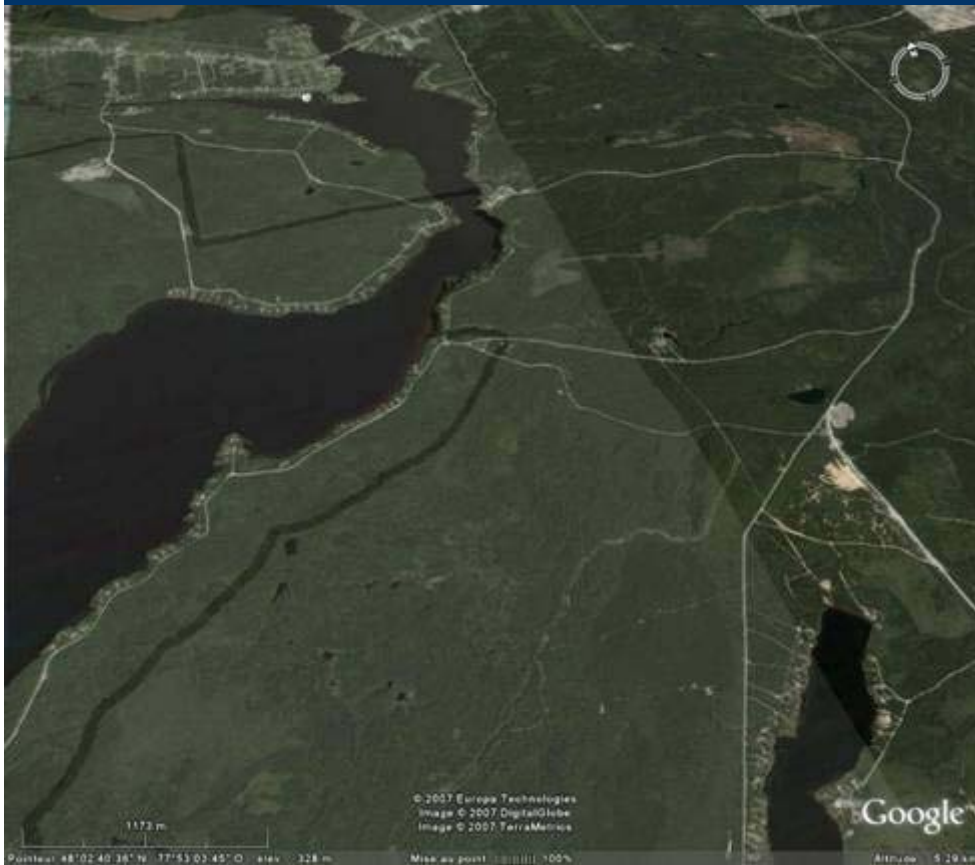
- 8 vacation resort leases
- 15 temporary shelter leases
- A lease for community purposes (holiday colony)
- Several private vacation resort lots
- Snowmobile trail
- ATV trail
- Bike trail
- Cross-country ski trail
- Canoe-kayak course
- 2 traplines in the area
- Touches on the Grand-Lac-Victoria beaver reserve

Social interests

- Water sport activities on lac Lemoine
- Moderate archeological potential



Forêt Piché-Lemoine biodiversity reserve



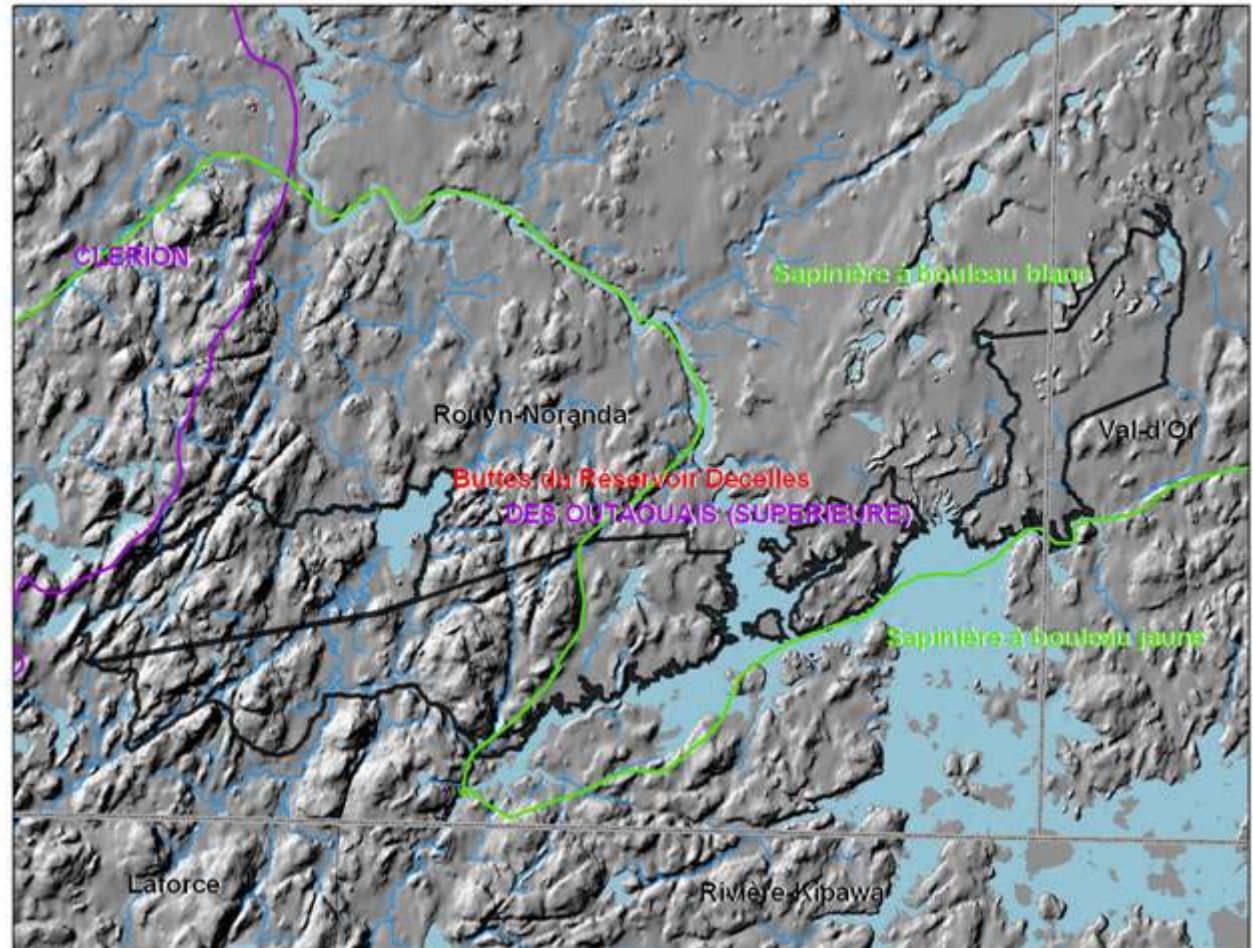
A landscape photograph showing a wide, flat, grassy field in the foreground, leading to a large body of water (the reservoir) in the middle ground. The background is a dense forest of evergreen trees. A small white building is visible on a rocky outcrop in the distance. The text 'Réervoir Decelles biodiversity reserve' is overlaid in the lower center of the image, underlined with a blue brushstroke.

**Réservoir Decelles
biodiversity reserve**

Réservoir Decelles biodiversity reserve

Location

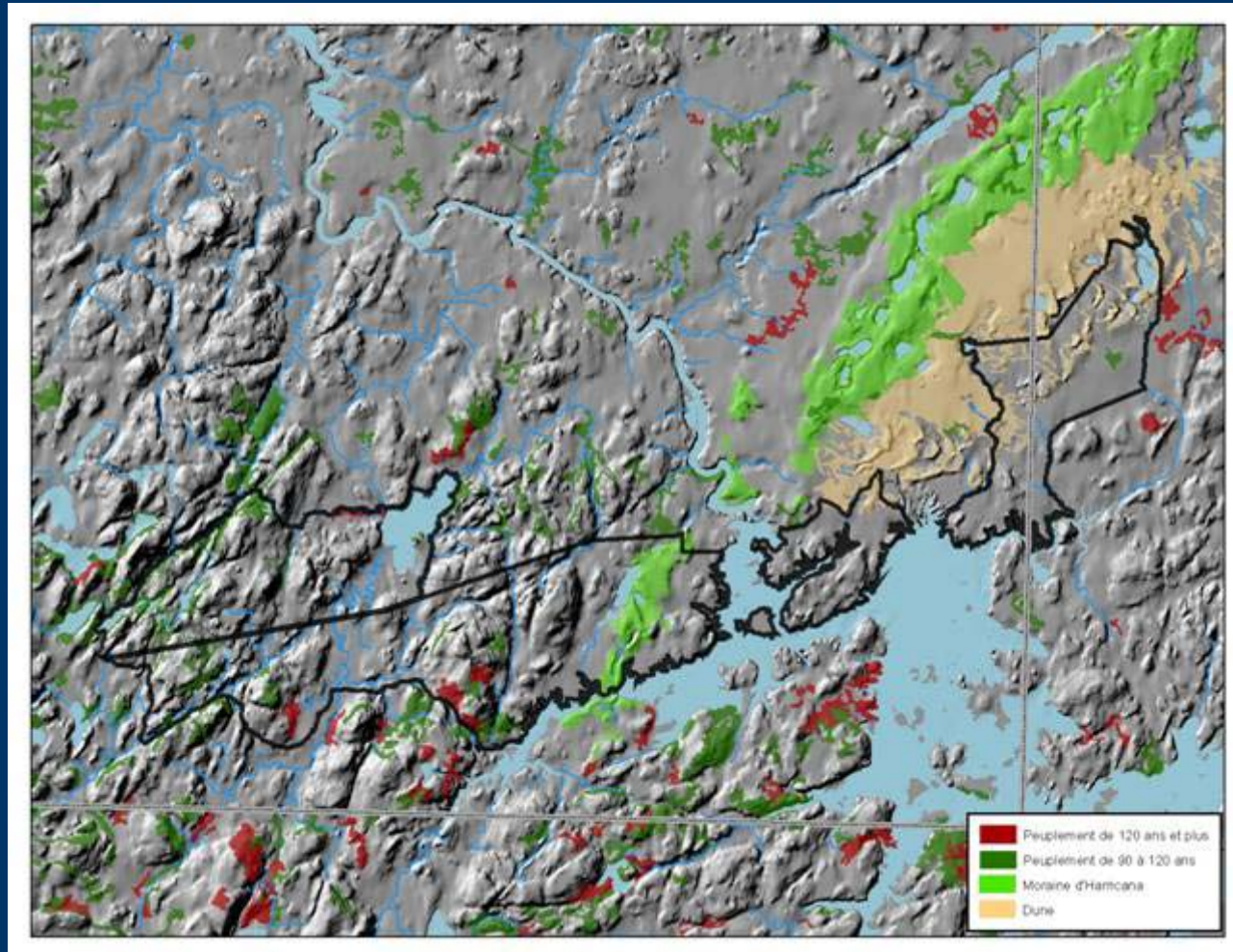
- Ville de Rouyn-Noranda (western part), Ville de Val-d'Or (eastern part)
- Surface area of 81 km²
- Natural province of the Abitibi and James Bay Lowlands
- Natural region of lac Témiscamingue Lowlands
- Physiographic complex of the réservoir Decelles knolls
- Balsam fir-yellow birch domain (western part) and balsam fir-white birch (eastern part)
- Ottawa river watershed



Réservoir Decelles biodiversity reserve

Ecological interest and representativeness

- Diverse geomorphological complexes (colluvium, minerotrophic and ombrotrophic bogs, dunes)
- Sector of dunes and ombrotrophic bogs
- Complementary protection for the Dunes-de-la-Moraine-d'Harricana ecological reserve
- Part of the Harricana Interlobate Moraine



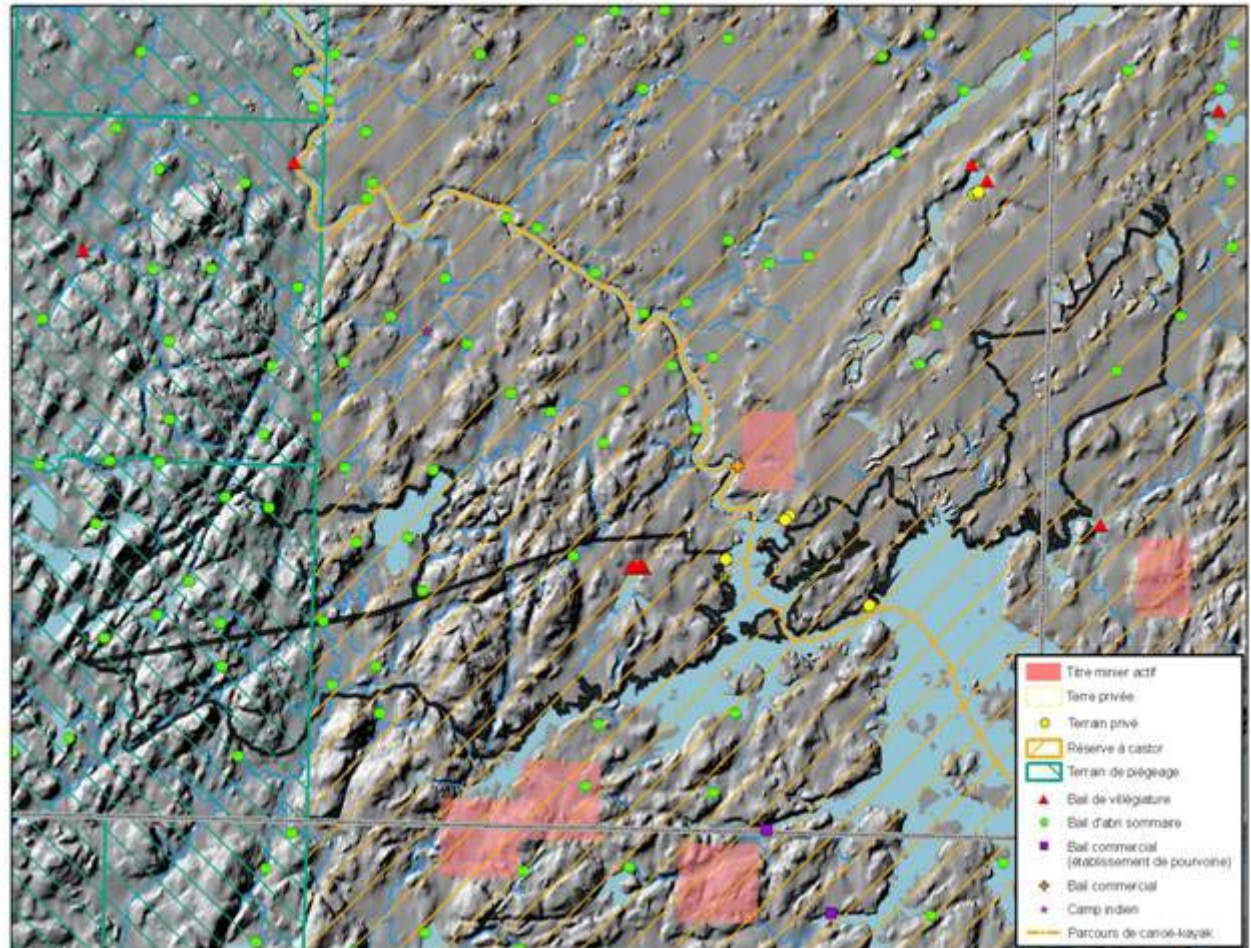
Réservoir Decelles biodiversity reserve

Social features

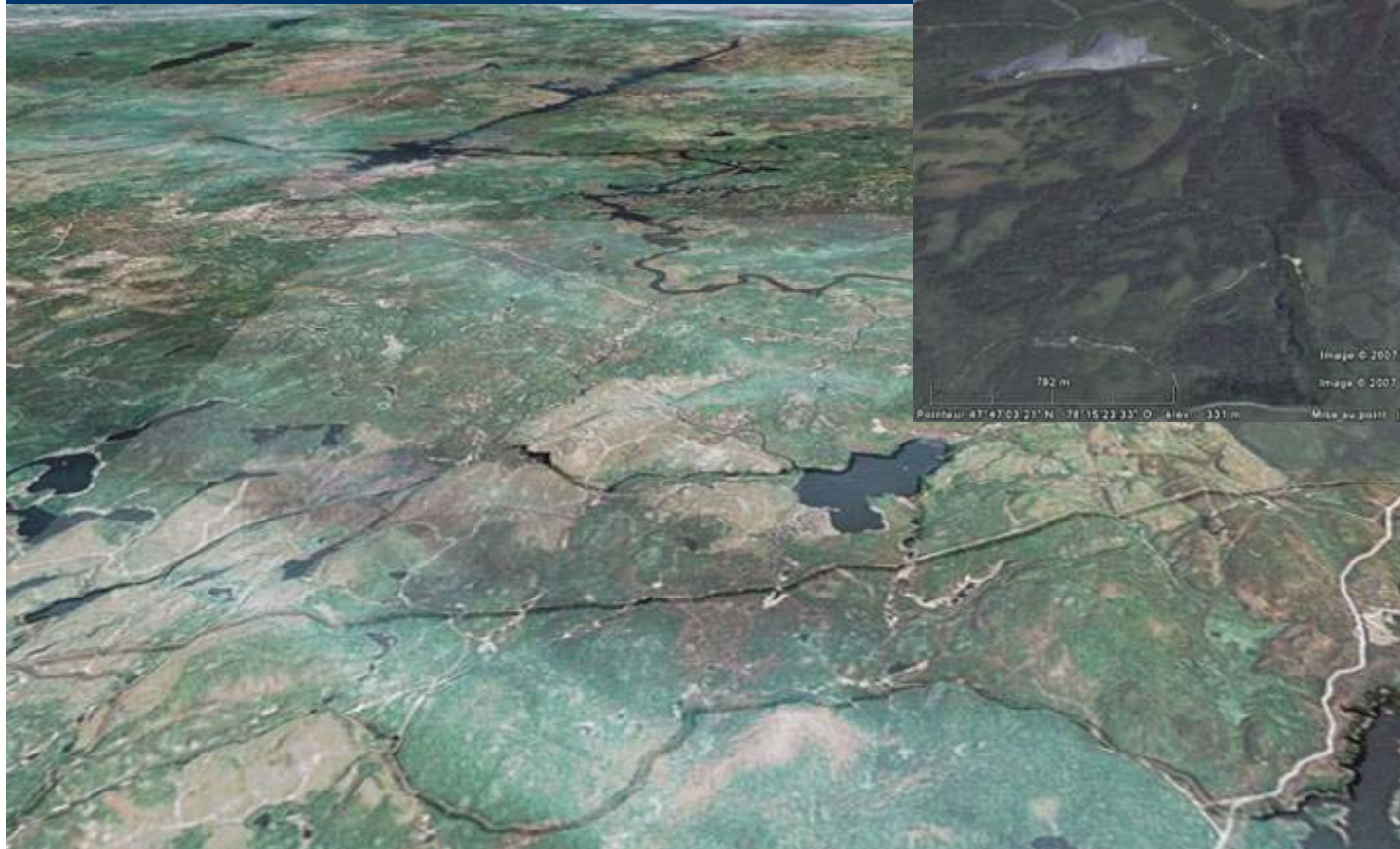
- 4 vacation resort leases
- 12 temporary shelter leases
- Several private lots (outfitters)
- One trapline in the area
- Touches on the Grand-Lac-Victoria beaver reserve

Social interests

- Harvest rate for black bear three times higher than regional average
- Hunting, fishing and recreational activities



Réservoir Decelles biodiversity reserve



3- Protection and management framework

Management directions

- Regionalized management (direction régionale of the MDDEP)
- Participatory management involving local representatives
 - Active and concerted participation in the planning and management of territories set aside for conservation purposes
 - The desire to record local concerns and harmonize uses
- Flexible management that can be adapted to ecological and social context
- Management that minimally ensures protection of the biosystems

Mandates of management partners

- Assist in developing an action plan by determining the following actions:
 - education and awareness raising
 - conservation and, if applicable, restoration
 - knowledge acquisition
 - follow-up on biodiversity indicators
 - development, if applicable
 - etc.
- Advise the Ministère on the management and development of the biodiversity reserves
- Establish partnerships with local and regional representatives

Action plan objective

- Turn the protection objectives in the conservation plan into concrete actions
- Involve the actors concerned in the management of the territory for the purpose of meeting the conservation objectives
- Give a regional and local “touch” to the biodiversity reserves

The Ministère's responsibilities

- Responsible for the general management of the biodiversity reserves (monitoring, control, signposting, authorization)
- Provide scientific and technical support
- Approve the action plan
- Coordinate the management committee's activities and operation

Conclusion

These biodiversity reserves will allow for:

- ✓ Maintaining quality natural species in the region
- ✓ Protecting the biodiversity, notably representative ecosystems and the habitats and species associated with them
- ✓ Having regional actors participate in the management of the four biodiversity reserves
- ✓ Conciliate protection/development/uses

*Développement durable,
Environnement
et Parcs*

Québec 



**Thank
you**

