

Envoyé: 19 mai 2004 18:52

À: magpie@bape.gouv.qc.ca

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Nom : Eric Hertz
Organisme : Earth River Expeditions

Magpie River deposition: May 20, 2004

Earth River Expeditions has pioneered commercial rafting on some of the premier rivers in the world, including Patagonia Chile's Futaleufu, Peru's Colca through the deepest canyon on earth, China's 2 mile deep Great Bend of the Yangtze and Tibet's Culturally exotic Upper Yangtze. Before we choose a destination for our trips there are a number of important criteria that a river must meet in terms of scenery, solitude, whitewater, wildlife and or culture. For 15 years Earth River has been running Quebec's Magpie because of its outstanding whitewater, scenery and solitude. Finding a navigable whitewater river of such high caliber anywhere in the world is rare . The Magpie compares favorably with North America's greatest classic river trips including; Idaho's Middle Fork of the Salmon and Selway, Alaska's Alsek, British Columbia's Chilko-Chilkotin and the Northwest Territories South Fork of the Nahanni. Only 600 miles north of one of world's largest metropolitan areas, the Magpie is without doubt the finest multi-day wilderness rafting expedition east of the Rocky Mountains in North America. The upper portion of the river below Magpie Lake is wild and pretty but not spectacular, reminiscent of rivers in Siberia like the Katun in the Altai Mountains. It is not until the Magpie drops off the Laurentian Plateau in the final kilometers that the river becomes truly world class in terms of whitewater and scenery. The most spectacular camp, best rapids and most dramatic falls and scenery all take place in these final kilometers between proposed dam #3 and our current take out at the existing small barrage near the St Lawrence (proposed dam #1). This spectacular section of the Magpie is why people are willing to travel from as far away as Texas, California and England to experience it.

Regretfully, a series of dams and lakes in the dramatic final kilometers would have such a great impact on the trip and the nature of the experience that it would no longer be worth running the river. Has the developer of the hydroelectric

project taken into consideration the negative impacts on this unique eco-system and the destruction of one of the more magnificent stretches of river in North America. Left unaltered, in its natural state, a river of this quality could bring a tremendous amount of tourism and economic benefit to the local community. If you would like to see photographs of the expedition they can be sent by e-mail.

Eric Hertz
President
Earth River Expeditions