



Proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve

Conservation plan



October 2003

1. Plan and description

1.1. Geographic location, boundaries and dimensions

The plans of the boundaries of the proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve and its location are shown on the maps in the schedules.

The proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve is located at the head of Fléché lake 85 kilometres north of Baie-Comeau in Municipalité régionale de comté de Manicouagan. The territory covers an area of 5,306 hectares and straddles Leblanc, Charlie and Fléché lakes for its northern, southern and western boundaries, respectively. The eastern boundary is, for the most part, defined by an unpaved road.

1.2. Ecological overview

The land of the proposed ecological reserve is part of the Manicouagan plateau natural region situated in the Central Laurentian natural province.

The proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve aims to protect a representative sample of the Manicouagan plateau natural region. The natural region is characterized mainly by low hills (variation in height between 100 and 200 metres) on which thin till deposits and rock outcrops are found.

1.2.1. Representative elements

Climate:

Most of the land of the proposed ecological reserve is characterized by a cold subpolar, subhumid climate with a short growing season. About 10% of the land has a climate with a warmer average annual temperature and a longer growing season.

Geology:

The bedrock is part of Grenville Province and is formed mainly of gneisses and migmatites.

Vegetation:

Black spruce stands are the most common and occupy more than 35% of the land of the proposed ecological reserve. Black spruce-balsam fir or black spruce-white spruce stands are also present in a sizable part of the area.

1.2.2. Outstanding elements

The proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve has no threatened or vulnerable species.

1.3. Land occupation and uses

The land is public property. No right has been granted on the land of the proposed ecological reserve.

2. Protection status

The proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve aims to protect a sample of land representative of the Manicouagan plateau natural region.

3. Activities within the reserve

The activities carried on within the proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve are governed by the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01).

This conservation plan does not specify any prohibited activity other than those prohibited in proposed ecological reserves by the Act; nor does it authorize any other activities, or set any additional constraints on the activities permitted by the Act.

3.1. Prohibited activities

- General prohibitions under the Act

For reference purposes, it is important to note that under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, the main activities prohibited in an area designated as a proposed ecological reserve are:

- f* mining, and gas or petroleum development;
- f* mining, gas or petroleum exploration, brine and underground reservoir exploration, prospecting, and digging or boring where those activities necessitate stripping, the digging of trenches, excavation or deforestation;
- f* forest management within the meaning of section 3 of the Forest Act (R.S.Q., c. F-4.1);
- f* the development of hydraulic resources and any production of energy on a commercial or industrial basis;
- f* any new allocation of a right to occupy land for vacation resort purposes; and
- f* earthwork or construction work.

3.2. Activities governed by other statutes

All activities likely to be carried on within the boundaries of the proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve remain governed by the other applicable legislative and regulatory provisions, including those that require the issue of a permit or authorization or the payment of fees. The carrying on of certain activities may also be prohibited or limited by other Acts or regulations applicable within the boundaries of the proposed ecological reserve.

A special legal framework may, within the proposed ecological reserve, govern permitted and prohibited activities in connection with the development of wildlife resources (measures contained in the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife (R.S.Q., c. C-61.1)).

3.3. Supervision of activities

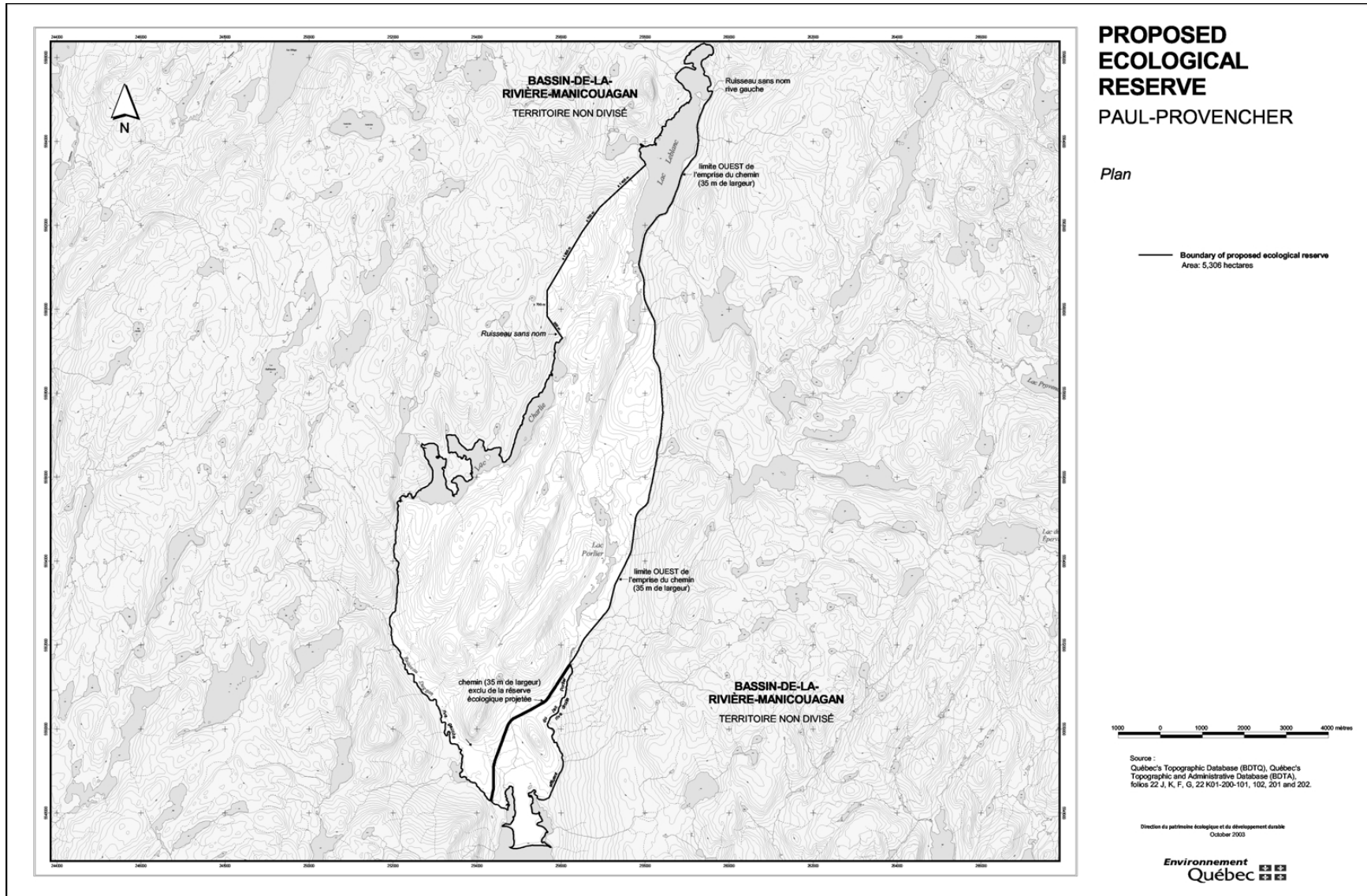
The Minister of the Environment is responsible for the application of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, and is therefore responsible for proposed ecological reserves and those established under that Act. The Minister will supervise and monitor the measures contained in the Act with regard to permitted activities in protected areas. In addition, the Minister has authority over these lands which form part of the domain of the State.

4. Permanent protection status

The permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve is "ecological reserve" status under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

Schedules

A.1. Plan of the proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve



A.2. Map showing the location of the proposed Paul-Provencher ecological reserve

