

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT**

**Answers to Environmental and Social Impact  
Review Committee questions in the context of the  
request to amend the certificate of authorization for  
the Parc National Nibiischii project**

Direction des parcs nationaux  
December 10, 2020

**MINISTÈRE DES FORÊTS, DE LA FAUNE ET DES PARCS**



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# Context

On September 3, 2019, the ministère des Forêts de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) sent to the Provincial Administrator of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement a request to amend the certificate of authorization (CA) for the Parc National Nibiischii, formerly known as Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish (our reference: 3214-18-03). Following an analysis, the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee (Review Committee - COMEX) issued a series of questions and comments regarding the CA amendment request. This document aims to respond to these and provide details about the changes that have occurred since the issuance of the CA on December 8, 2011.

# Answers to questions from the COMEX

## Modification to the park boundaries

### Question 1

*(1) By calculating the additions and exclusions amending the park project's boundaries, 242 km<sup>2</sup> are missing to reach the total of 11,992 km<sup>2</sup> proposed in the request. The promoter will have to explain this difference.*

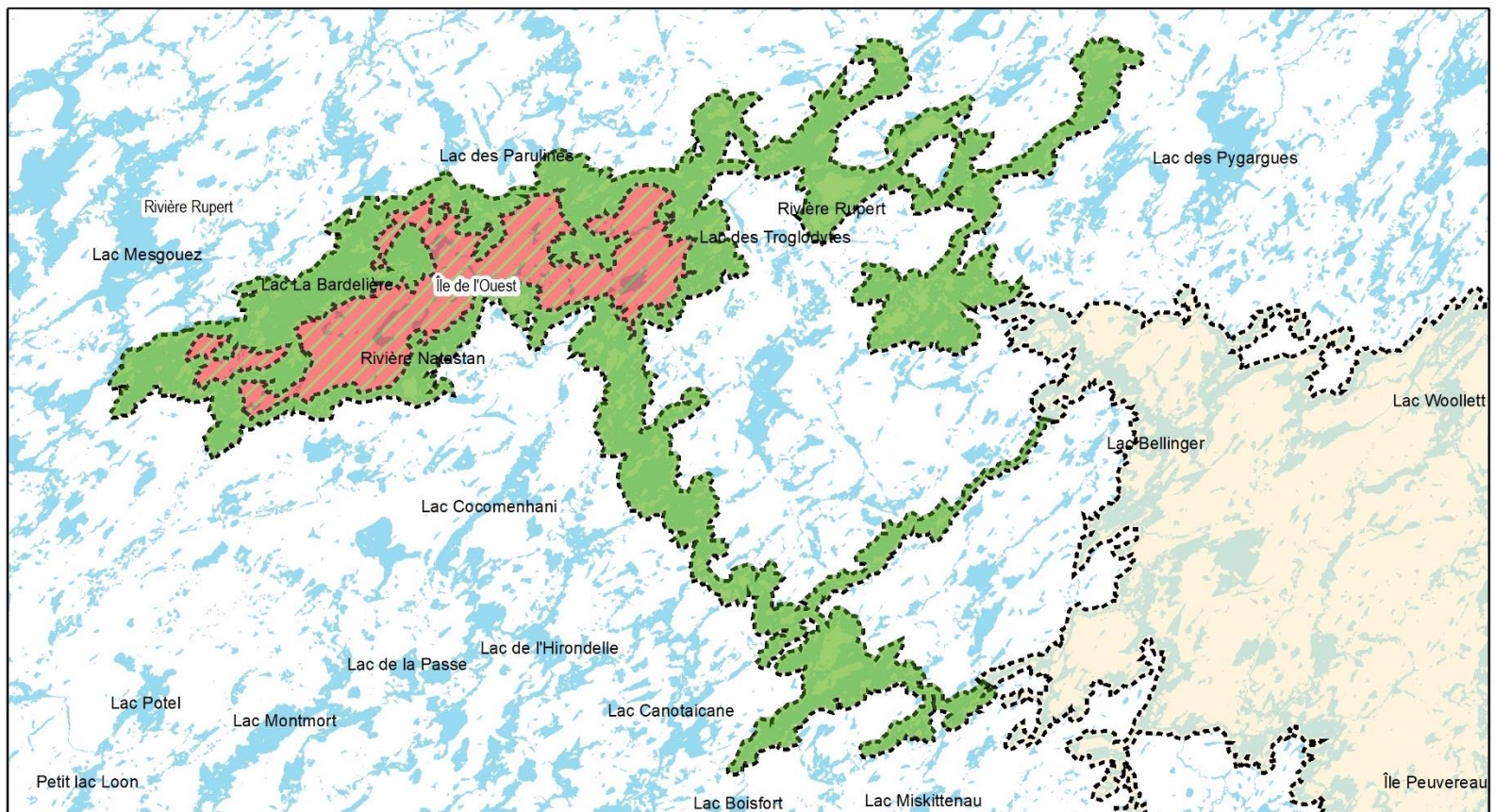
*(2) It must also indicate and present the effect of the adjustment of Category I and II lands of Mistissini on the boundaries of Nibiischii Park.*

### **(1) Answer :**

In April 2010, the environmental and socio-economic impact study sent to the ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) reported a total area of 12,260 km<sup>2</sup> for the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park project. Subsequently, on June 6, 2011, a note was sent from Mr. Patrick Beauchesne, Director of Ecological Heritage and Parks, to Mrs. Marie-Josée Lizotte, Director of Environmental Assessments, concerning details regarding the boundary of the national park project (Appendix 1). In this note, it was mentioned that Hydro-Québec wished to remove from the park project a 15 km wide corridor, in the western section of the rivière Rupert, for the possible passage of a power line. Consequently, it had been decided not to include this sector in the proposal for Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park. The area to be excluded from the park project was then estimated at 666 km<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the national park project area decreased to 11,594 km<sup>2</sup>, or approximately 11,600 km<sup>2</sup> as authorized by the CA.

Upon verification, it seems that the area to be excluded from the national park project should have been 423 km<sup>2</sup> instead of 666 km<sup>2</sup>. This difference of 243 km<sup>2</sup> is due to a geomatic error that occurred while calculating the area to be excluded. In fact, the western sector of the rivière Rupert (Figure 1; green polygon) includes an aquatic portion and a land portion, namely the Île de l'Ouest. However, at that time, the Île de l'Ouest was not part of the national park project. Consequently, it would have been necessary to remove only the area occupied by the aquatic portion, i.e. 423 km<sup>2</sup>. However, in calculating the area to be excluded, the area of the Île de l'Ouest (Figure 1; red polygon with green lines, ~ 121 km<sup>2</sup>) was not subtracted from the polygon to be removed; it had actually been added. Thus, the national park project area, for which a certificate of authorization was issued in 2011, should have added up to approximately 11,830 km<sup>2</sup>.





-  Overlapping polygons (~121 km<sup>2</sup>)
-  Exclusion from Nibiischii national park project – June 6 2011 (~545 km<sup>2</sup>)
-  Nibiischii national park project – Impact study 2010 (~12 246 km<sup>2</sup>)

**Métadonnées**  
 Système de référence géodésique GCS North American 1983, NAD 83  
 Projection cartographique Conique de Lambert  
 0 5 10 15 km  
 1/350 000

**Réalisation**  
 Production: Direction du patrimoine écologique et des parcs  
 Division de la géomatique et de l'infographie  
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Figure 1 Area difference for the removal of the western sector of the rivière Rupert from the Alouette-Témiscamie-Otish National Park project.



**(2) Answer:**

The adjustment of Category I and II lands allocated to Mistissini under the Final Agreement Related to the Transfer of Certain Lands from Mistissini to the Government of Québec, signed in 2013, increases the national park's area by 0.41 km<sup>2</sup> (Table 1). In the end, the juxtaposition of the boundary of the Parc National Nibiischii project and the boundary of Category I and II lands does not affect the interests of the Crees or the commitments made to them under the cited agreement, itself the result of agreements resulting from appendix G of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec, also called La Paix des Braves, signed in 2002. Indeed, based on the survey work carried out as part of the implementation of the 2013 agreement, there is a perfect alignment between the boundaries of Category I (IA and IB) and II lands allocated to Mistissini, as well as those of the future national park, without overlaps. The conclusion of this agreement provides assurance that the Crees agree with the boundaries in question. The juxtaposition of the boundaries of the new selection of Mistissini lands and those of the future national park were taken into consideration throughout the negotiations; moreover, the boundaries could not overlap since the land base of Category I lands and that of a national park are mutually exclusive.

**Question 2**

*The details that have been provided by the promoter do not allow to target all the proposed additions. The promoter must further detail the difference in park area between the 2011 request and this amendment request. He must provide a map comparing the 2011 boundaries and the proposals in this request.*

**Answer:**

The following table describes the changes that have occurred since the impact assessment in 2010. The values described in the impact assessment regarding the territory area (i.e. 12,600 km<sup>2</sup>) were not consistent with our area calculations. Our calculations have led to a difference of about 13 km<sup>2</sup> smaller than the value initially described. This difference could be explained by the projection chosen since the park project's territory extends over several Modified Transverse Mercator (MTM) or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projections.

Figure 2 illustrates the Parc National Nibiischii project boundary changes between 2011, when the certificate of authorization was issued, and 2013. In order to determine a boundary that takes into account the various geographical points that can be identified, the Bureau de l'arpenteur général du Québec (BAGQ) uses a technique that attempts to fit the proposed boundaries. However, since the surveyors must draw straight lines, this technique can add and remove certain parts of the proposed national park territory. In addition, the accuracy of the mapping has been improved from 1/250,000 to 1/50,000. This has clarified the contours of the lakes and rivers and thus changed the boundary, which sometimes includes a buffer zone of 200 m around bodies of water. Figure 2A shows that some bodies of water, once considered part of the western section of the rivière Rupert, are in fact separate lakes that are not part of the proposed national park territory. The southeastern boundary of the national

park project also follows the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) boundary, which subtracts the territories claimed by the Innu Nation (Figure 1B).

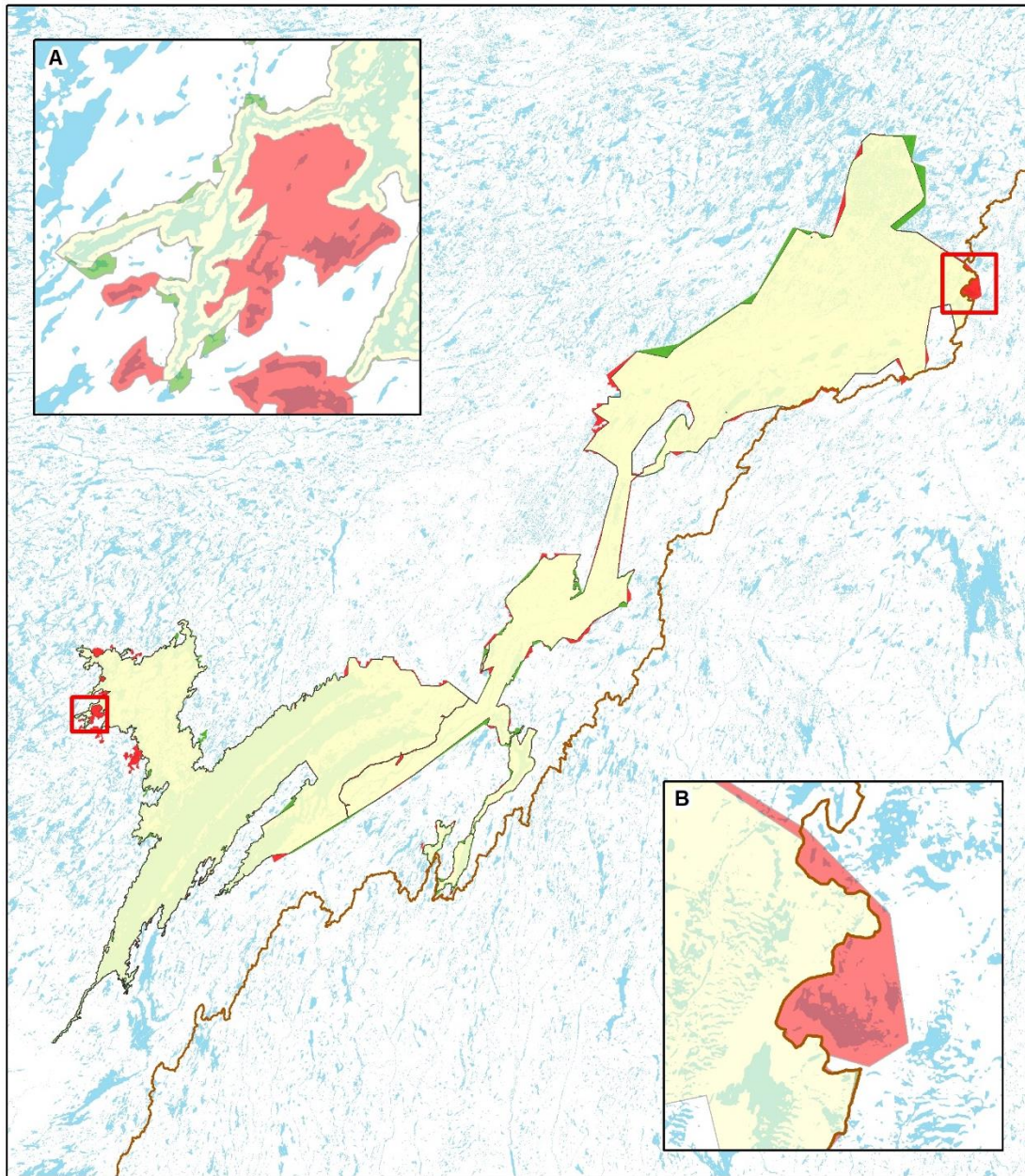
Figure 3 illustrates the changes to the boundary of the Parc National Nibiischii project between 2013 and 2020. We mainly note the addition of a territory in the upstream part of the rivière Témiscamie (figure 2 A) and the withdrawal of lac Roxane (figure 2B). In addition, four gravel pits were added to the national park territory following their restoration in 2014. Finally, minor adjustments were made to the park boundary to include or exclude certain lakes in order to facilitate the management of the territory.

Table 1 Details of additions and removals to the national park project since 2010. It should be noted that all the areas were calculated in the NAD 1983 Quebec Lambert coordinate system since the study area overlaps two UTM zones. Areas have been rounded to the nearest hundredth of a kilometre.

Date	Modification	Calculated area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area based on previous communications (km <sup>2</sup> )	Reference document
April 2010	Transmission of the impact study and related documents to the Administrator	12 246.71 <sup>1</sup>	12 260.00	Environmental and socioeconomic impact study, April 2010
June 2011	The promoter provides details to the boundary of the park project	-423.13	-666.00	Note to the Direction des évaluations environnementales [Environmental Assessment Branch] on specifications regarding the national park project boundary, June 2011
December 2011	Issuance of the certificate of authorization for the creation of the national park by the MDDEP	11 823.58	11 600.00	Certificate of authorization, December 2011
	Adjustment to the boundary by the Bureau de l'arpenteur général du Québec (BAGQ)	135.35		
	Adjustment of the boundary in the sector of mont Stefansson	-60.44		
	Adjustment of the boundary to the one of the JBNQA	4.01		
	Change to the boundary in the western sector of the rivière Rupert	-68.92		
June 2013	Exclusion of a forest road in the baie Pénicouane sector	0.56		
	Exclusion of a vacation lease near lac Naococane	0.00		
	Exclusion of the Mirage outfitter's lease at lac Pluto	-0.01		
	Exclusion of the two Temiscamie hydrobase leases	-0.17		
	Exclusion of cut blocks and access corridors	-0.02		
	Addition of a sector east of Lac à l'Eau Froide to better protect the shore	1.29		

<sup>1</sup> We notice a difference of approximately 13 km<sup>2</sup> between the area calculated from the shape file and the area that was indicated in the impact study, i.e. 12,600 km<sup>2</sup>. This can be explained by the projection chosen since the territory of the Parc National Nibischii project extends over several zones of the Modified Transverse Mercator (MTM) or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection system.

Date	Modification	Calculated area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area based on previous communications (km <sup>2</sup> )	Reference document
	The territory between the biological refuge 02551R146 and the former boundary of the national park project has been added so as not to leave a landlocked territory not usable for logging.	0.88		
		11 836.13	11 836.00	Letter – Request for advice on the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish National Park project boundary, June 2013
December 2018	Addition of a territory in the part upstream of rivière Témiscamie, in the monts Otish.	155.46		
January 2019	Addition of disused gravel pits used during the construction of route 167 north. (D22-a, D22-B, D30 and D43)	2.64		
	Adjustments related to the new boundaries of Category I and II Lands of Mistissini.	0.41		
February 2019	Removal of lac Roxane and an adjoining land area.	-5.69		
September 2020	Preparation of the boundary to send to the BAGQ	0.58		
<b>Current area</b>		<b>11 989.54</b>	-	



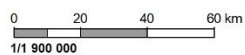
— Southern limit of the JBNQA

**Modification to the Nibiischii national park project's limit between 2011 and 2013**

- Addition
- Common
- Withdrawal

**Métadonnées**

Système de référence géodésique GCS North American 1983, NAD 83  
 Projection cartographique Conique de Lambert

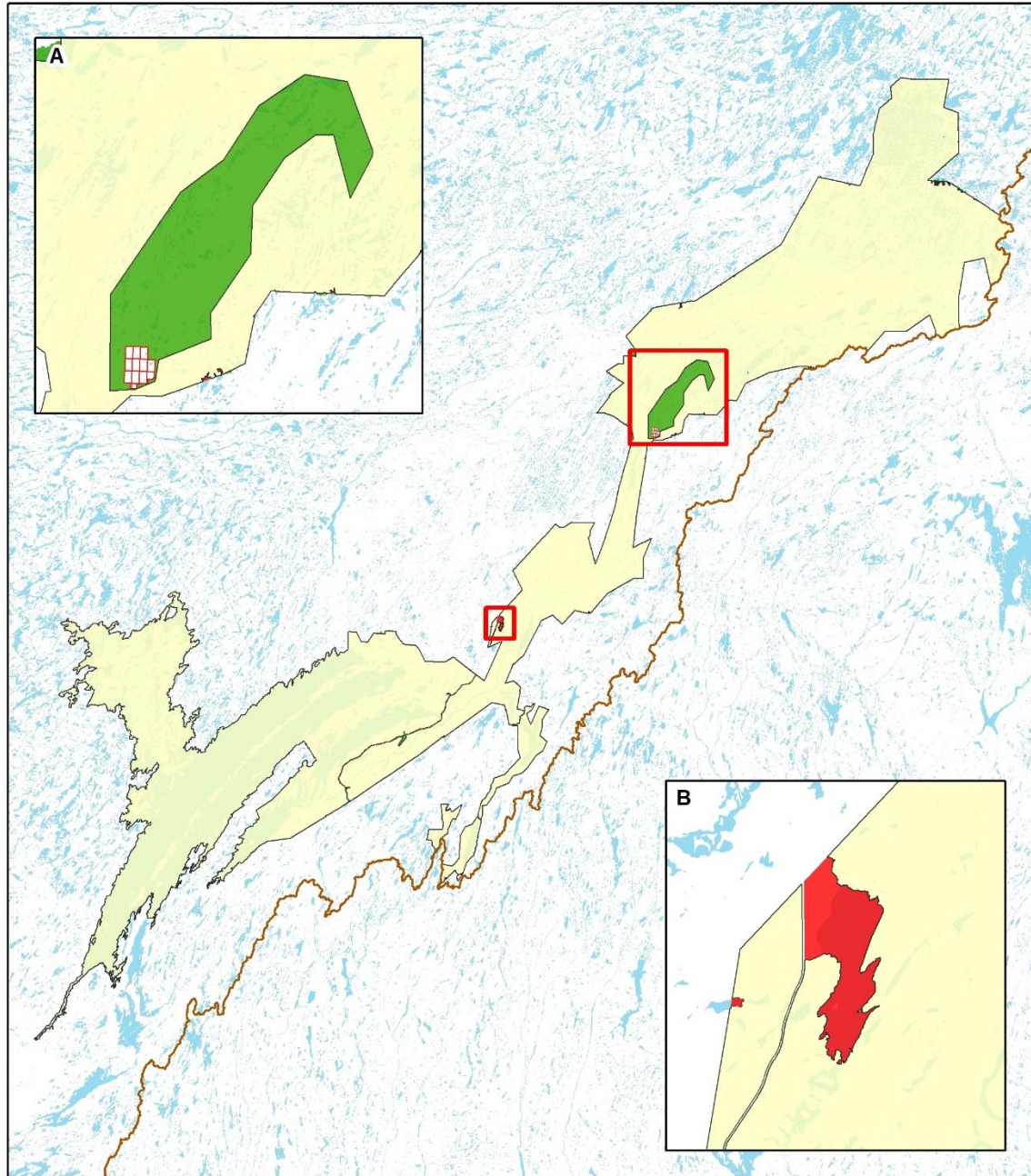


**Forêts, Faune et Parcs**  
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Figure 2 Changes to the boundaries of the Parc National Nibiischii project between 2011 and 2013.







- Southern limit of the JBNQA
  - Active mining claim
- Modification to the Nibiischii national park project's limit between 2013 et 2020**
- Addition
  - Common
  - Withdrawal

**Métadonnées**

Système de référence géodésique : GCS North American 1983, NAD 83  
 Projection cartographique : Conique de Lambert

0 20 40 60 km  
 1/1 800 000



Figure 3 Changes to the boundaries of the Parc National Nibiischii project between 2013 and 2020.



## Park project's total area

### Question 3

*There is a slight difference between the area mentioned on page 11 of the amendment request (11,992 km<sup>2</sup>) and the one presented in Table 2 of the amendment request (11,989 km<sup>2</sup>). The promoter must specify the area subject to this request to amend the certificate of authorization.*

#### **Answer:**

There were some inaccuracies in the area calculation. Indeed, the area of 11,992 km<sup>2</sup> includes nine mining claims (total of around 6 km<sup>2</sup>; Figure 3A) that are still active and are not included in the Parc National Nibiischii project. In addition, the adjustment of Category II land (0.41 km<sup>2</sup>) and the adjustments related to the preparation of the boundary to send to the BAGQ had not been included (0.58 km<sup>2</sup>). Thus, the area subject to this request to amend the certificate of authorization is 11,989 km<sup>2</sup> (NAD 1983 Quebec Lambert coordinate system).

## Addition of a sector in the monts Otish

### Question 4

*Following the suspension of the granting of mining claims in the monts Otish sector, an area of 155 km<sup>2</sup> was added to the park project. Map # 7 of the request shows this area identified by a pink hatch. However, a small area to the south is not hatched, and this suggests that an enclave (donut hole effect) still exists in this area. This area is not identified as having active mining titles.*

*The promoter will have to indicate whether this non-hatched zone is included in the park. If this area is not currently planned within the boundaries of Nibiischii Park, the promoter should indicate whether he intends to integrate this area into the boundaries of the park in the short term. If not, he should discuss the constraints that prevent this addition. If so, he must describe the steps that will be taken to include it within the boundaries of the park project, if applicable.*

#### **Answer:**

The non-hatched zone area shown on map #7 of the request has not been included in the proposed limit because it contains active mining claims held by SOQUEM inc. (Figure 3A). In the event that these mining claims are not renewed when they expire on April 9, 2021, they are going to be integrated within the boundaries of the national park as specified by condition 4 of the certificate of authorization from December 8, 2011. The process that will then be initiated is basically broken down into the following stages:

1. Request for a temporary suspension of the granting of mining claims to the MERN;

2. Preparation of an information document describing the expansion project, the proposed zoning and, if applicable, the development concept;
3. Publication of the project's notice of intention in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*;
4. Adjustment of the project according to the received comments;
5. Production of the technical description and the final limit;
6. Adoption of draft by-laws amending the Parks Regulation and the by-laws establishing the park.

### **Question 5**

*In the letter dated September 28, 2016, included in Appendix 7 of the request, it is mentioned that an area of 161 km<sup>2</sup> was the subject of a suspension of the granting of mining titles. However, in the request, it is indicated that an area of 155 km<sup>2</sup> will be added to the park project. The promoter must specify the difference between the area that is the subject of a suspension of granting of mining titles and the area added in this amendment request.*

#### **Answer:**

The suspension of the granting of mining claims, which had been requested in July 2016, was not applied in time, and nine new claims were designated in this zone in October 2016. In total, active mining claims still cover an area of approximately 6 km<sup>2</sup>, which explains the difference between the area mentioned in the letter of September 28, 2016, (161 km<sup>2</sup>) and that mentioned in the amendment request for the certificate of authorization (155 km<sup>2</sup>).

## **Zoning in Albanel campsite**

### **Question 6**

*The promoter indicates that there will be an addition of two new zones in the Albanel campsite sector in order to increase the number of spaces available at this campsite, which is full during the summer. On map 14, there are two new service areas in the sector. However, the campsite area is not expanded. The promoter will have to discuss the justification for the two new service areas in this sector. He will also have to clarify why the current service area is not being expanded.*

#### **Answer:**

There was an error in map 14. The text does refer to an expansion of the south side of the campsite, but the map does not reflect this change. The following map illustrates the proposed zoning change. As a result of this addition, the service area of the Albanel campsite increases from 0.11 km<sup>2</sup> to 0.26 km<sup>2</sup>.

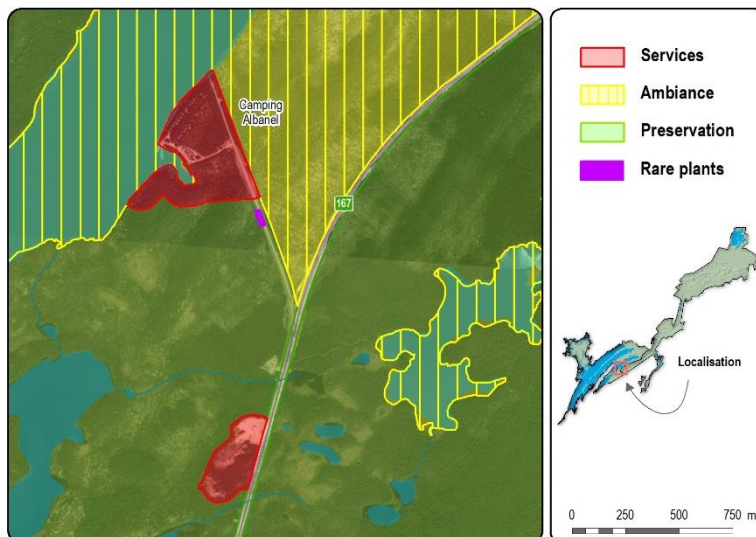


Figure 4 Update of zoning in the Albanel campsite sector

### Question 7

There are false mountain willows (*Salix pseudomonticola* C.R. Ball) along the access path to the Albanel campsite. However, no mention is made of the presence of a plantation of false mountain willows in the smaller of the two service zones along route 167 north. It should be noted that this plantation is a mitigation measure that was required by the ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ), as part of the route 167 North construction project. Moreover, the latter monitors the growth of the plantation in connection with the mitigation measure. In this regard, the MTQ conducted a field inspection on July 31, 2019, which led to an update of the protection limits for false mountain willows. The promoter must indicate the type of development he plans to carry out in this sector's service area. It must also indicate how the plantation of false mountain willows will be protected and how it will take into account the protection limits identified by the MTQ.

#### Answer:

No development is currently planned in this area (see Figure 4). In the area to the south, a remote landfill (reference number 3214-16-078) has been established. Waste and generator oil are being stored there temporarily. The MFFP intends to apply the recommendations of the firm that carried out the inventory in 2018, namely to fence the transplant site and report the presence of this plant species with special status (see report in Appendix 2).

The monitoring of the false mountain willow population will be included in the upcoming national park conservation plan and monitoring can be done in collaboration with the MTQ to ensure the success of the mitigation measures put in place during the construction project of route 167 north.

## Southwestern lac Pluto sector

### Question 8

*The COMEX understands that a burial site is present in the southwestern lac Pluto sector. The promoter must state the specific measures that he intends to put in place to ensure this site's protection.*

**Answer:**

No development is planned in this area and visitors of the future national park will not have access to it. Park rangers will be aware of this important site and ensure that it is respected.

## Other questions and comments

### Question 9

*The promoter must specify how the rights of tallymen and beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) will be affected and mitigated. In addition, it must mention how the visitors of the future national park will be informed of the rights of beneficiaries of the JBNQA.*

**Answer:**

In the territory of application of the JBNQA, the beneficiaries of this treaty have a right to harvest wildlife subject to the principle of conservation provided for and certain other restraints expressed in Section 24.3 of the JBNQA with regard to harvesting rights - including restrictions for public safety reasons. The rights and benefits granted to beneficiaries of the JBNQA are maintained in national parks. Thus, Cree beneficiaries are free to move, hunt, fish and trap (which also includes the right to own and use any material reasonably necessary for the exercise of these activities), in accordance with the terms and conditions of the JBNQA, in the parks located in its territory of application. Likewise, they may, among other things, establish all camps necessary for the exercise of this right, harvest wood for personal or community use, pick fruit and travel by off-road vehicles.

The National Park Harmonization Committee will act as a consultation mechanism between the various involved stakeholders in order to ensure that the rights of the beneficiaries of the JBNQA are respected. Set up by the organizations designated as operators of Québec's national parks, this committee provides advice with regard to the conservation, management and development of national parks, with a view to harmonize with the development priorities of the region. The harmonization committee also gives its opinion on the compatibility between the national park operations and the practice of traditional activities, and participates in the approval of scientific research projects carried out in national parks. In the case of Parc National Nibiischii, the harmonization committee could include the park director and a representative of the administration of the following

organizations:

- Gouvernement du Québec – Direction des parcs nationaux
- Cree Trappers' Association;
- Cree Nation of Mistissini;
- Cree Nation of Oujé-Bougoumou;
- Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association;
- Tourisme Baie-James and Tourisme Eeyou Itschee
- Cree Nation Government (CNG);
- Eeyou-Istchee James Bay Regional Government (EIJBRG);
- Albnel-Mistassini-and-Waconichi-Lakes wildlife reserve;
- City of Chibougamau
- Administration Régionale Baie-James
- Cree school board
- Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay
- Cree Nation Youth Council
- Nischiiyuu Council of Elders

Committee meetings will be held in Mistissini and, at least twice a year, a meeting will be public.

One of the harmonization committee's first actions will be to agree, with all stakeholders, on a means to receive, respond and follow up on any complaints from users of the territory. In addition, the park director has the power to adjust the activities and services provided to the visitors according to the practice of traditional Indigenous activities.

This does not exclude the possibility of creating another type of committee which, for example, would bring together the tallymen affected by the creation of the national park in order to discuss the issues and guide management.

In addition, visitors to the future national park will be informed of the rights of beneficiaries of the JBNQA in various ways, including:

- advising visitors that they are likely to come into contact with Crees practising traditional subsistence activities inside the park;
- promoting contact between visitors and traditional Cree activities in packages offered by the park.





## Question 10

*The promoter must indicate whether consultations have taken place with the tallyman concerning the proposed modifications to the boundaries and zoning.*

### Answer:

The following table shows all consultations that have taken place since 2011 and for which reports are available. The tallymen affected by the Parc National Nibiischii project have been consulted four times since 2013 in order to validate with them the changes made to the project. These changes could concern the boundary, the zoning or the development concept. In addition are multiple working group's meetings where these topics were discussed and where members could report back the information transmitted to the community and to the tallymen concerned. It should be noted that phone calls and e-mail exchanges were also made on a regular basis with representatives of Mistissini.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Main subjects covered</b>	<b>Stakeholders targeted during the consultation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Working group meeting <sup>2</sup> - Conference call	National park project boundaries and zoning	Working group	April 24, 2013
Meeting at the Alanel Campsite	Zoning of the Alanel sector	Tallyman concerned and employees of the campsite	August 8, 2013
Information meeting on tourism development projects related to national park projects in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region	General presentation of the national park project	Matoush Family Tallymen	November 8, 2013
Working group meeting	Airstrip	Community of Mistissini	December 2013
Working group meeting	Airstrip	Working group	January 14, 2014
Public information session held by the MFFP jointly with the Chief of the Cree Nation of Mistissini	Addition of an area in the monts Otish	Tallymen	January 15, 2014
Working group meeting	Park name and zoning	Working group	February 3, 2014

<sup>2</sup> The working group is composed of elected officials from Mistissini, councillors and representatives of the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association and the Nibiischii Corporation.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Main subjects covered</b>	<b>Stakeholders targeted during the consultation</b>	<b>Date</b>
Working group meeting	Agreement regarding the operation of the Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish Park Project	Mistissini representatives	December 8, 2015
Working group meeting	Zoning and development concept	Working group	September 21, 2016
Working group meeting	Zoning and development concept	Working group	March 2, 2017
E-mail and phone calls with Mr. Andrew Coon <sup>3</sup>	Zoning and development concept	Tallymen	February 20, 2019
Working group meeting	Development concept	Working group	March 14, 2019
Mistissini band council	Boundaries, zoning and development concept for the national park project	Conseil de bande de Mistissini	May 21, 2019
Family reunion in Mistissini	Zoning of the western lac Pluto sector	Matoush Family Tallymen	May 23, 2019
Mistissini band council	Boundaries, zoning, development concept and delegation agreement for the management of the national park	Conseil de bande de Mistissini	March 10, 2020

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Andrew Coon was in charge of doing most of the consultations with the tallymen. He was the liaison officer with the tallymen.

## Question 11

*In the event that a clean-up campaign (e.g., old mining sites) is carried out, the promoter must indicate how the monitoring will be carried out.*

### **Answer:**

In the event that a clean-up campaign (e.g., old mining sites) is carried out over several years, an annual report of the rehabilitation work will be required from the contractor. The latter must describe the rehabilitation work and include a plan for locating the intervention areas, identify the locations of disposal of rubbish and provide a copy of the transport manifests, identify the areas where the work could not be completed and, if applicable, justify it.

No later than six months after the end of the clean-up work, a report presenting the activities that took place and the measures that will be put in place to promote the return of vegetation in the disturbed sites could be submitted to the administrator for information.

## Question 12

*The promoter must indicate whether increased pressure on natural resources is expected in the region due to the increase in visitor numbers and indicate what follow-ups will be carried out in connection with visitor attendance.*

### **Answer:**

Considering the conservation and accessibility mission conferred on Québec's national parks, it is indeed likely that the development of the future Parc National Nibiischii territory will lead to an increase in the number of visitors. However, there are several ways to control the development of the territory and monitor the state of the environment.

Let's first mention zoning, an essential planning and management tool to ensure that the conservation and accessibility mission of national parks is respected. It involves delineating portions of a national park's territory in order to modulate the degree of preservation granted to the different sectors according to their natural, cultural and landscape heritage. Zoning is a way to guide interventions on the ground with a view to long-term preservation. In addition, the zoning plan for a park has legal effects, since it is an integral part of the Parks Regulation (chapter P-9, r. 25). Thus, the use of the territory must be done according to best planning practices in order to minimize the impacts on the natural environment, regardless of the zoning assigned. Currently, more than 75% of the area of the park would be dedicated exclusively or mainly to the protection of the natural and landscape heritage and would only be accessible by means that have little impact on the environment. The ambience zones mainly cover bodies of water where it would be possible to fish.

Even after the national park is created, the zoning can be reviewed. During the zoning review, the project manager of the Direction des parcs nationaux reassesses the relevance of the zoning in force and, where applicable, refines the delimitation of the zones light of developments and new knowledge related to land and conservation issues. This revision may lead to an increase in the conversation zones compared to the ambience or service zones, in particular when the projects initially planned to enhance the national park have not materialized and no development is planned for the sector.

Also, to ensure that the increased influx of visitors has little or no impact on natural resources, the operator of the national park, in this case the Cree Nation of Mistissini, will be responsible for preparing and following a conservation plan. The conservation plan is intended as a planning tool that identifies the priority conservation issues as well as all the actions to be carried out by a national park in terms of conservation. This document may be submitted for information to the administrator in the years following the national park's creation.

The objective is to avoid or reduce the identified threats and to monitor the effectiveness of the measures put in place to ensure the park's overall health. So far, the conservation issues relate to:

- the conservation of species at risk, such as the woodland caribou, and the maintenance of culturally and economically important species (e.g.: Arctic char, brook trout, lake sturgeon, etc.);
- the monitoring of forestry and mining activities on the outskirts of the national park;
- the impact of climate change, particularly in the monts Otish area, which is home to several Arctic alpine taxa, located at the southern limit of their distribution.

Finally, the operator must proceed with the implementation of a monitoring program for environmental indicators, such as the level of degradation of hiking trails, the condition of camping sites or the condition of the fishing resource. It is a grouping of different indicators focused on the same goal, namely identifying the changes taking place in natural environments. Set up by the organization designated as the operator of the park, the monitoring program will make it possible to track the national park's health, based on standardized protocols. The adaptation of management, if necessary, depends on the measured results. By adopting adaptive management, we establish a flexible approach that makes it possible to react to observed changes, evaluate actions taken and acquire new knowledge allowing continuous improvement of the management measures. Some of these interventions may be proposed as a direct response to a problem or as measures to restore degraded environments.

The users of the territory, particularly the tallymen, will also be called upon to ensure the territory's conservation.

### Question 13

*The promoter must specify the terms and conditions for controlling access to the territory. In particular, it must specify who will be responsible for controlling access and how access will be controlled.*

**Answer:**

Access control will be managed by the Cree Nation of Mistissini. All visitors, with the exception of beneficiaries of the JBNQA, must have a right of access and pay the related fees to be authorized to travel within the national park.

Park wardens will monitor the park's territory and will be trained against any form of illegal activities with regard to certain sections of the Parks Act, the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (Chapter D-13.1), the Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife, the Environment Quality Act, the Act respecting threatened and vulnerable species and any regulations made thereunder for the national park's protection. This surveillance is carried out through patrols.

In addition, a protection plan, prepared jointly by the organization designated as the operator of the national park and the Direction de la protection de la faune [Wildlife Protection Branch], establishes the delegated protection mandate that must be prioritized in a national park by the operator. It oversees the actions associated specifically with regulatory application, identify priority issues and actions, defines the roles of each and sets out guidelines for collaboration with the Direction de la protection de la faune. The protection plan will specify who will be responsible for controlling access and how access will be controlled. Also, for land access control, the help of tallymen will be enlisted. In fact, as the people in charge of monitoring harvesting activities in a Cree trapline, in accordance with the provisions of the JBNQA, the latter ensure a presence in the territory and will be able to report to park wardens any suspicious activities.

### Question 14

*The promoter must specify the timeline for creating the national park under the various applicable laws and whether changes to the certificate of authorization are planned in the future.*

**Answer:**

2020-2021

- Finalization of the draft agreement to entrust the future national park's operation to the Cree Nation of Mistissini;
- Finalization of zoning plans and national park boundaries by the Bureau de l'arpenteur général du Québec;

2021-2022:

- Preparation of documents intended for the Cabinet.
- Possible creation of the national park by the Gouvernement du Québec;
- Signature of the agreement to entrust the national park's operation to the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

At this time, no changes to the certificate of authorization are planned in the future. However, in the event that the mining claims in the monts Otish area, northeast of lac Indicator, are not renewed when they expire on April 9, 2021, the ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs will take steps to include them within the national park. If this occurs, a request to amend the CA must be made.

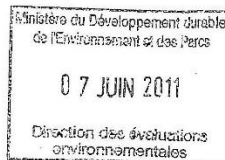
# Appendix

## Appendix 1 Note from June 6, 2011, to the Direction des évaluations environnementales [Environmental Assessment Branch] on specifications regarding the national park project boundary

Ministère du  
Développement durable,  
de l'Environnement  
et des Parcs

Québec

Direction du patrimoine écologique  
et des parcs



### Note

DESTINATAIRE : Madame Marie-Josée Lizotte  
Directrice des évaluations environnementales

DATE : Le 6 juin 2011

OBJET : Précisions quant aux limites proposées pour le projet de  
parc national Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish  
SCW 721160

En avril 2010, le Service des parcs déposait au COMEX une étude d'impact pour le projet de parc national Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish. Le 15 septembre 2010, je vous informais que les limites proposées pour ce projet de parc étaient à l'étude auprès du ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF). La présente est pour vous informer des récents développements à ce sujet.

Dans ma note du 15 septembre 2010, je vous faisais part de trois secteurs demandés pour l'agrandissement de ce projet de parc, soit :

- les grandes rivières au nord du lac Mistassini et les monts Takwa
- les monts Stefansson
- la baie Pénicouane

Seul l'agrandissement à la baie Pénicouane a été accepté par le MRNF, ce qui représente un ajout d'environ 1 km<sup>2</sup>.

De plus, le MRNF nous informait récemment qu'Hydro-Québec souhaite soustraire un corridor de 15 km de largeur du projet de parc, dans la section ouest de la rivière Rupert, pour le passage éventuel d'une ligne de transport d'énergie. Cela a des incidences sur les limites du projet de parc national Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish dans ce secteur, car le statut légal de parc national ne permet pas l'aménagement d'un corridor à des fins de transport d'énergie (considéré comme une activité industrielle). En conséquence, le ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) n'inclura pas, pour l'instant, la partie ouest de la rivière Rupert dans la proposition de parc national Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish (partie aquatique d'une superficie de 666 km<sup>2</sup> située à l'ouest des lacs Bellinger et Woollett et se rendant jusqu'au lac La Bardelière).

...2

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Ce papier contient 20% de fibres recyclées après consommation.

Toutefois, cette superficie sera maintenue en tant que réserve de biodiversité projetée. Rappelons que cette partie avait été ajoutée à la réserve de biodiversité projetée en octobre 2008, à la lumière des résultats des audiences publiques tenues en 2006. Par ailleurs, le MDDEP demandera sous peu au MRNF, en compensation du retrait du corridor de 15 km du projet de parc, d'ajouter la portion terrestre (îles) de la rivière Rupert (ajout potentiel d'environ 610 km<sup>2</sup>) ainsi que le lac Mesgouez (ajout potentiel d'environ 395 km<sup>2</sup>) à la réserve de biodiversité projetée. Une fois le tracé final de la ligne hydroélectrique connu, il sera proposé éventuellement d'inclure ces superficies au parc. Bien sûr, nous présenterons au COMEX une demande de modification du certificat d'autorisation pour ces ajouts futurs au parc national.

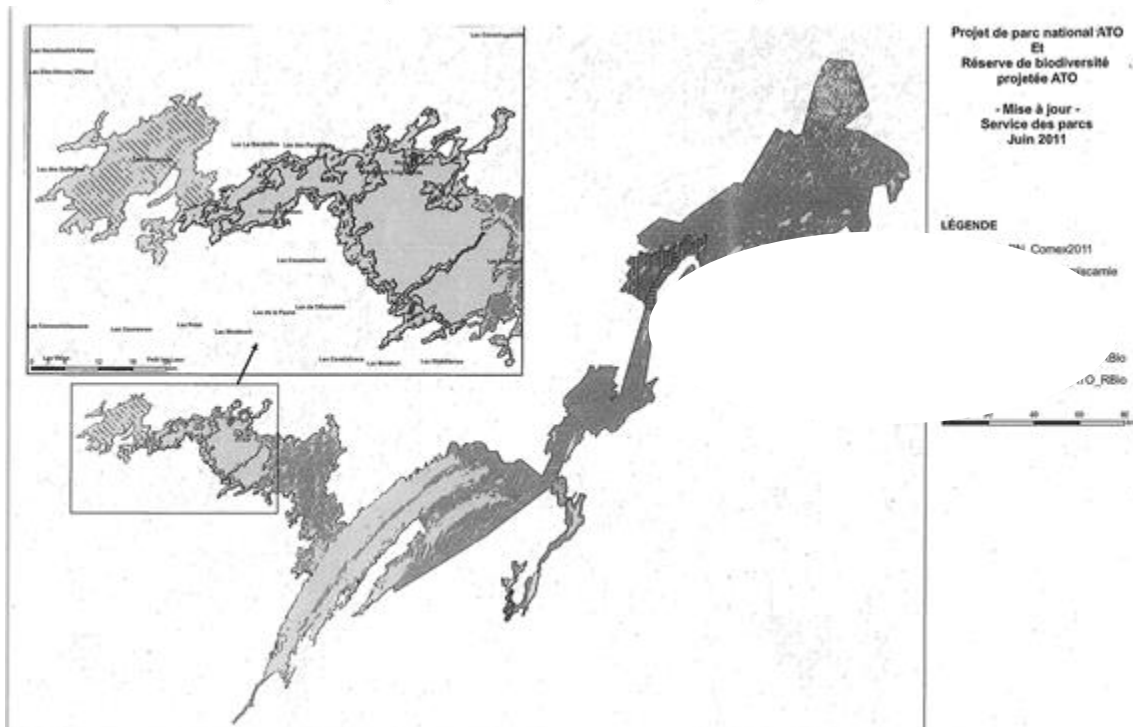
Finalement, la carte ci-jointe présente les limites que nous comptons proposer pour la création du parc national Albanel-Témiscamie-Otish, ce qui représente une superficie d'environ 11 600 km<sup>2</sup>. À notre avis, ces modifications ne changent en rien la portée de l'étude d'impact déposée en avril 2010.

Le directeur,

*Beauchesne*

Patrick Beauchesne

p. j. Carte





## Appendix 2 Excerpt – Expansion of route 167 north towards monts Otish. Monitoring of false mountain willow populations 2018 Volume I

### 3) Recommandations

#### 3.1) Population transplantée

Étant donné que

- Les individus transplantés observés en 2018 semblent dépérir comparativement aux observations de 2014 et 2015 (diminution du nombre d'individus vivants et du nombre d'axes);
- Le nombre d'individus vivants semble, au mieux, se maintenir au niveau de 2013 plus de 6 ans après avoir été transplantés (ce qui suggère que la transplantation « vivote »);

Il nous apparaît approprié de recommander de procéder au bouturage – cette recommandation est toutefois assortie d'un bémol.

C'est-à-dire qu'à la lumière des récents résultats, dans l'optique du maintien à long-terme de la population transplantée et considérant qu'une partie significative de la population de saules pseudomonticoles originale avait disparue à l'échelle locale (suite à des travaux d'entretien inadvertants), il serait effectivement adéquat d'effectuer un bouturage.

Cependant, comme il est souligné ci-dessous (section 3.3.), la population de saules pseudomonticoles en bordure du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel s'est entre-temps rétablie, si bien que le gain apporté par du bouturage au site de transplantation pourrait ne pas être si marquant à l'échelle locale. De plus, les caractéristiques abiotiques du site de transplantation tendent à se rapprocher de celles du côté gauche du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel (accotement) et jouent potentiellement un rôle dans les succès de croissance mitigés de la population transplantée (par un possible assèchement du sol trop prononcé).

Bref, procéder à du bouturage au site de transplantation pourrait contribuer à revitaliser cette population, mais l'expérience des dernières années suggère que l'efficacité risque d'être modérée.

Par ailleurs, il est recommandé de clôturer le site de transplantation et de signaler la présence de cette espèce végétale à statut particulier.

#### 3.2) Colonie 20

Pour la colonie 20, il apparaît essentiel de ne pas mener de travaux de débroussaillage à la jonction de la nouvelle route 167 Nord et du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel, ou, à tout le moins, de baliser convenablement l'individu retrouvé de sorte qu'il ne soit pas fauché lors d'éventuelles opérations d'entretien.

#### 3.3) Population en bordure du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel

La population en bordure du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel semble s'être relevée suite aux dommages qu'elle a subis en 2011-2012 lors d'activités de débroussaillage effectuées par mégarde. Nous ne sommes pas en mesure de préciser si le nombre et l'état de santé des individus observés en 2018 se comparent à ceux qui prévalaient avant lesdits dommages, mais une chose est sûre, le présent inventaire démontre la bonne vitalité de cette population. Dans l'éventualité où le bouturage au site de transplantation irait de l'avant, la population du chemin d'accès au lac Albanel (et plus particulièrement les individus du côté droit du chemin), bien portante, peut servir aux prélèvements sans risquer de l'impacter indûment.

Il serait également important de baliser convenablement cette population pour éviter de répéter l'incident de 2011-2012.





**Forêts, Faune  
et Parcs**

**Québec** 