

Summary description of the territory

BOUNDARIES AND LOCATION

The 112.3-km² proposed biodiversity reserve is located in the MRC de Témiscamingue, 25 km southeast of Témiscaming.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The reserve is protecting a group of low hills and silt hummocks in which the Ruisseau Serpent has dug, along a fault, a valley made up of sandy glaciolacustrine and alluvial deposits. The reserve is located near the Ottawa River and is protecting 35% of the drainage unit of the Ruisseau Serpent, with an area of 269 km².

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Located in southern Québec, the territory encompasses rich, diversified forest ecosystems. By protecting a territory located in the sugar maple-yellow birch climatic domain, the reserve is offering a territory suited to yellow birch-fir stands or yellow birch-sugar maple stands that thrive on low hills and hummocks, while the valley slopes can host white pine stands and hemlock forests. Sugar maple forests and sugar maple-northern red oak stands are found on the peaks of the low hills. The environments suited to yellow birch stands have experienced natural and human disturbances and are occupied instead by poplar stands, black spruce stands or white pine stands. Interestingly enough, forest stands that meet the criteria for old-growth forests cover 50% of forest land in the reserve.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Prior to the colonization of the Témiscamingue region, the territory, which is linked to the Ottawa River, a major travel route for the Aboriginal peoples, may have been extensively occupied as a seasonal camp and frequented. In the wake of colonization, the Canadian Pacific Railway built a rail line between Mattawa and Témiscaming, called the Moccasin Line. Completed in 1899, the railroad line allowed for the development later in the 20th century of a village called Snake Creek.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The reserve is protecting low hills of till, a type of physical environment that is hardly protected in the Témiscamingue region. From the standpoint of forests, the protected area presents a great diversity of mature forest stands and old-growth forests, in particular maple forests, yellow birch stands and hemlock forests.

PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

The proposed place name for the granting of permanent status is the Réserve de biodiversité Snake-Creek.

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/serpent/PSC_Serpent.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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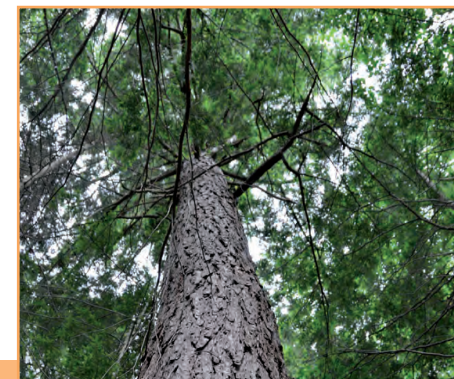


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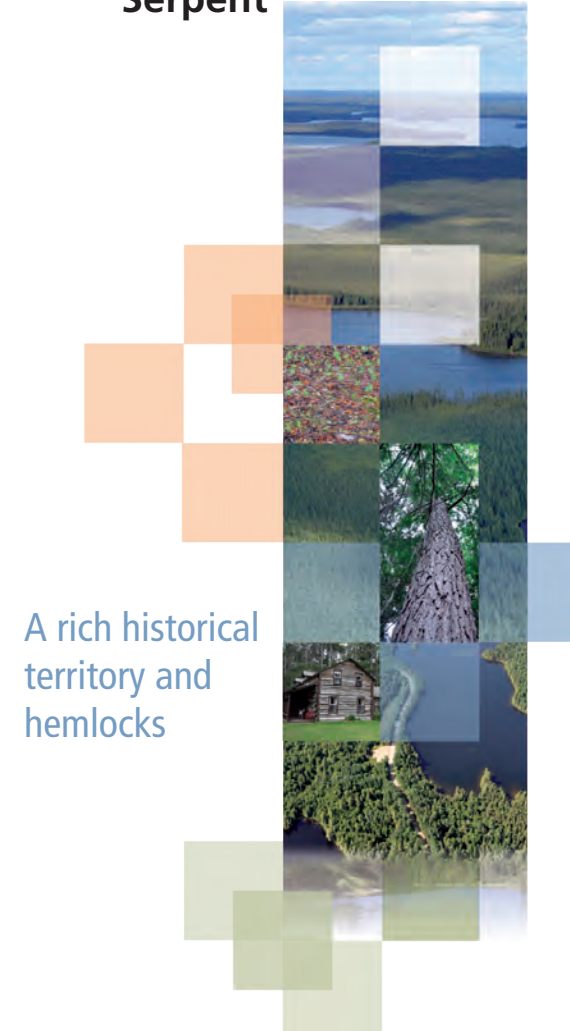
Protected areas
in Québec:



A Lifelong Heritage



La réserve de biodiversité projetée des Basses- Collines-du-Ruisseau- Serpent



A rich historical
territory and
hemlocks

Développement durable,
Environnement,
Faune et Parcs

Québec



Québec





La réserve de biodiversité projetée des Basses-Collines-du-Ruisseau-Serpent

Legend

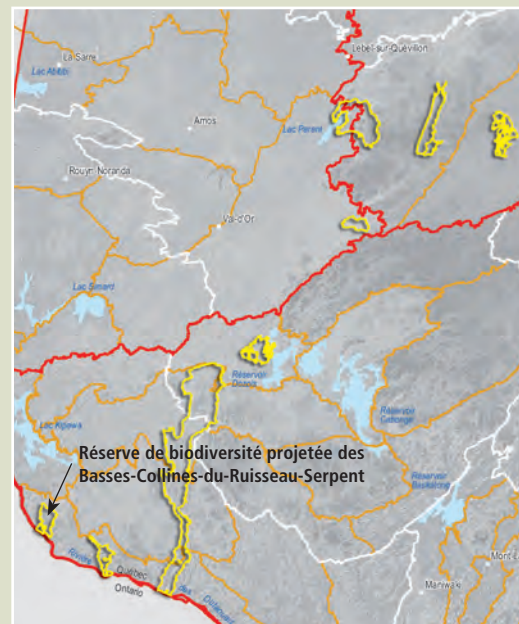
- Réserve de biodiversité projetée des Basses-Collines-du-Ruisseau-Serpent
- Boundary (administrative region, MRC, municipality)
- Pathway
- Railroad
- Controlled harvesting zone

Mining right

- In demand
- Suspended
- Active

Occupation

- Shelter lease
- Vacation lease



— Natural province — Natural region — Physiographic ensemble

