

Summary description of the territory

BOUNDARIES AND LOCATION

The 137.9-km² proposed biodiversity reserve is located near the village of Kitcisakik, 65 km southeast of Val-d'Or.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The territory is an undulating plain dotted with hillocks and split in the middle by a north-south glaciofluvial system. Several flat or depressed areas to the west of the glaciofluvial fluting contain sandy glaciolacustrine deposits and minerotrophic peatlands. The territory lies between the Dozois reservoir and the Grand-Lac-Victoria.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

At this latitude, the ecosystems offer characteristics suited to the establishment of highly diversified forests. The environment is favourable to yellow birch stands, black spruce-moss stands, black spruce-heath stands or black spruce-sphagnum moss stands, and various fir forests. However, the territory can host cedar bog-fir stands, white pine or red pine stands, and sugar maple-yellow birch stands. The existing forest is just as diversified and displays vegetation similar to the potential vegetation. However, in disturbed sectors, white birch stands and poplar stands occupy the territory. The age of forest stands varies, although a number of mature forests are found on the hillocks in the southeastern portion of the territory.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Members of the Kitcisakik Algonquin community extensively frequent the territory. Moreover, the enclosed portion excluded from the boundaries of the protected area could become the new village of Kitcisakik. In addition, the reserve is located in the La Vérendrye wildlife reserve and is, therefore, frequented by wildlife reserve's clientele.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE PROTECTED AREA

The reserve is protecting a representative sampling of undulating environments of glacial origin made up of till but also peat bogs and glaciofluvial fluting. From the standpoint of forests, the protected area presents a great diversity of ecosystems and existing forest stands, while protecting maple forests, yellow birch stands and mature cedar stands. The territory is of considerable interest from the standpoint of wildlife, recreation and Aboriginal culture.

PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

The proposed place name for the granting of permanent status is the Réserve de biodiversité Wanaki.

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/wanaki/PSC_Wanaki.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



Photo: M.-A. Bouchard MDDEFP



Photo: M.-A. Bouchard MDDEFP

Protected areas
in Québec:



A Lifelong Heritage



La réserve
de biodiversité
projetée Wanaki



A territory
of cultural and
natural interest

Développement durable,
Environnement,
Faune et Parcs

Québec



Québec





La réserve de biodiversité projetée Wanaki

Legend

- Réserve de biodiversité projetée Wanaki
- Boundary (MRC, municipality)
- Esker



Natural province Natural region Physiographic ensemble

