



Saint-Lambert, January 31, 2022

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SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NON-SUBJECTION FOR THE GD-17 SAND PIT

**Responses to COMEV's Questions and Comments - Nemaska Cree First -Nation GD17 Borrow
Pit Expansion Project
(File 3214-03-046)**

Hello,

In response to your questions and comments in the letter sent to Mr. Jean H. Paradis on August 11, 2021, we are sending you our responses and supporting documents. This letter is reproduced in full in Appendix 1 of this document.

The COMEV/MELCC questions and answers are provided below:

QC-1¹. *Considering the current existence of the borrow pit, the proponent must detail the restoration work currently underway or planned for the portion already in operation. The proponent must also consider the possibility of a progressive restoration and specify the nature of the restoration work planned after the operation of the expansion. In particular, the proponent must identify the responsible for the restoration work and provide a schedule or timetable for the restoration work.*

RESPONSE TO QC-1

The operation of the GD-17 borrow pit (3 ha already permitted), shown on Map 2 of Appendix 2 of the preliminary information form (*formulaire de renseignements préliminaires*, MELCC), is expected to be completed in the fall of 2022. Upon completion of the operation, in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023,

¹ **Note:** *the COMEV questions were originally written in French. They have been translated by Poly-Géo, but the French version prevails.*

the slopes of the north and east mining fronts will be smoothed with a mechanical shovel and/or bulldozer so that they do not exceed a 30° slope, as stipulated in the *Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries*. At the same time, the overburden disposed on the periphery of these mining faces will be spread at the bottom of the mining area. The organic matter and woody debris incorporated in the topsoil will accelerate the re-vegetation of the disturbed site. In addition, alders will be planted at a density of 1800 plants per hectare during the summer of 2023. The western and southern portions of the existing mining area will not be restored until 2025 or 2026 because they will be used as an access road to the new mining areas and may be used for the installation of the screening/crushing machine and for temporary storage of produced aggregate.

Site remediation may be phased as the operation proceeds. The operator will ensure that the site is operated in a rational and orderly manner to minimize visual and environmental impacts and facilitate site restoration. However, the operation of the gravel pit will be dependent on the need for aggregate types. Some portions of the site will be sandier, while others will be primarily gravel.

The site operator, Nemaska Eanou, will be responsible for the operation of the site and its remediation in compliance with the *Regulation respecting sand pits and quarries*.

The duration of the operation of the additional area (7 ha) of the GD-17 gravel pit is estimated at about ten years. However, it is possible that the granular materials present will be exhausted before the end of this period. In such a case, the restoration and closure work will be undertaken as soon as the operation is completed. As with the previously mined portion, this will involve reducing the slopes of the mining faces to less than 30°, spreading the overburden around the periphery of the site, and planting shrubs (alders) throughout the disturbed areas to encourage the recovery of tree vegetation and the natural reintroduction of small wildlife within a reasonable time frame. Portions of the borrow pit that are fully mined prior to the end of the 10-year period and not required for temporary aggregate storage will be subject to early restoration.

QC-2. *The proponent must report on the meetings held with land users, including the tallyman of R-16 and the owners of cabins in the area of the borrow pit, and detail their concerns regarding the expansion of the borrow pit. It should also indicate whether mitigation measures are planned to address the concerns.*

RESPONSE TO QC-2

Consultations were conducted by the proponent in December 2021 with the tallyman of R-16 and cabins located in the vicinity of the GD-17 borrow pit. The results of these consultations are provided in Appendix 2. All the people concerned were contacted and none of them expressed any objections to the expansion of the sand pit. However, this acceptance is subject to the operation and restoration of the sand pit in compliance with the standards of the *Regulation respecting quarries and sand pits*.

QC-3. *The proponent must detail how it plans to comply with the requirements of the section 122 of the *Règlement sur l'aménagement durable des forêts* (Regulation respecting sustainable forest management), particularly the maintenance of a protective strip of 100 meters between the watercourses and the limits of the borrow pit to ensure the protection of lake sturgeon.*

RESPONSE TO QC-3

In order to meet the requirements of Section 122 of the *Règlement sur l'aménagement durable des forêts* (RADF), a 100 m wide protection strip between the high water mark (HWM) of Champion Lake and the limits of the borrow pit will be respected to ensure the protection of lake sturgeon and its habitats. This protection strip was already applied in the document initially submitted for the non-subjection request (Map 2 of Appendix 2 of the Preliminary Information Form submitted on May 3, 2021 to COMEV). To be safe, this strip will be measured on foot, directly in the field, using a hip chain and delineated by close, visible and distinctive marking of trees around the perimeter of the area being logged. Personnel will be notified of these boundaries and required to respect them or face penalties.

The coarse texture of the materials targeted by the operation and the absence of fine particles (clays and silts) in the latter exclude any risk of erosion around the operation area and of transport by runoff of fine particles towards Champion Lake. Finally, the surface stripping and site operation methods will respect the standards of the laws and regulations in force.

The map in Appendix 3 shows that a minimum width of 100 m will be maintained between the limits of the GD-17 borrow pit and the high water mark (HWM).

COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

A complementary study (in French) to characterize the natural environment at the GD-17 borrow pit site was conducted by the DDM Group in the fall of 2021. It is presented in full in Appendix 4 of this document. This study does not reveal any particular operating constraints related to fauna or flora.

We remain at your disposal to provide you with further details and information. Please accept our best regards.



Richard Lévesque
Senior Geomorphologist, M.Sc.
Poly-Géo inc.

APPENDIX 1

LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AUGUST 11, 2021)

- QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
NON-SUBJECTION FOR THE GD-17
BORROW PIT EXPANSION

Le 11 août 2021

Monsieur Jean H. Paradis
Première Nation Crie de Nemaska
32, rue Machishteweyaa
Nemaska (Québec) J0Y 3B0

**Objet : Demande d'attestation de non-assujettissement
Questions et commentaires - Projet d'agrandissement du banc d'emprunt
GD-17 à Nemaska par la Première Nation Crie de Nemaska
(Dossier 3214-03-046)**

Monsieur,

Dans le cadre de la procédure d'évaluation et d'examen des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social prévue au Titre II de la Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement et après consultation du Comité d'évaluation (COMEV), vous trouverez ci-dessous des questions et commentaires portant sur la demande de non-assujettissement du projet ci-dessus mentionné.

- QC-1.** Considérant l'existence actuelle du banc d'emprunt, le promoteur doit détailler les travaux de restauration en cours actuellement ou ceux prévus pour la partie déjà exploitée. Le promoteur doit aussi considérer la possibilité d'une restauration progressive et préciser la nature des travaux de restauration prévus après l'exploitation de l'agrandissement. Il doit, notamment, indiquer le responsable des travaux de restauration et fournir un calendrier ou un échéancier de ceux-ci.
- QC-2.** Le promoteur doit rendre compte des réunions qui ont eu lieu avec les utilisateurs du territoire, incluant le maître de trappe de R-16 et les propriétaires des chalets dans le secteur du banc d'emprunt, et détailler les préoccupations de ceux-ci par rapport à l'agrandissement du banc d'emprunt. Il doit également indiquer si des mesures d'atténuation sont prévues pour répondre aux préoccupations.
- QC-3.** Le promoteur doit détailler comment il prévoit respecter les exigences de l'article 122 du Règlement sur l'aménagement durable des forêts, particulièrement le maintien d'une bande de protection de 100 mètres entre les cours d'eau et les limites du banc d'emprunt afin d'assurer la protection de l'esturgeon jaune.

... 2

Avant de poursuivre l'analyse de votre demande, nous vous demandons de donner suite aux commentaires et de répondre aux questions dans une version révisée de votre demande ou dans un document complémentaire. Ce document doit être transmis au sous-ministre de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques en dix (10) copies papier, de même qu'en trois (3) copies sur support informatique en format PDF. De ces dix copies, nous vous recommandons de nous fournir quatre (4) copies papier en anglais, ainsi que trois (3) copies sur support informatique en format PDF. Vous devez également déposer une lettre attestant que les copies sur support informatique sont identiques aux copies papier.

À la suite de la réception des renseignements complémentaires, le COMEV poursuivra l'analyse de votre demande de non-assujettissement. Le COMEV pourra ensuite transmettre sa recommandation sur l'assujettissement de votre projet à la procédure d'évaluation et d'examen des impacts sur l'environnement et le milieu social.

Pour toute information additionnelle, vous pouvez joindre M. Jean-Philippe Marcoux, de notre direction, à l'adresse jean-philippe.marcoux@environnement.gouv.qc.ca.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

La directrice,

Vanessa Chalifour

Vanessa Chalifour pour Mélissa Gagnon

c. c. M^{me} Kelly Leblanc, coordonnatrice évaluation environnementale et sociale,
Gouvernement de la nation crie
M^{me} Sophie Cooper, secrétaire exécutive, COMEV

APPENDIX 2

CONSULTATION WITH THE R-16 TALLYMAN AND CABIN OWNERS



**Cree
Nation of
Nemaska**
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32 Machishteweyaa Trail • Nemaska (Quebec) • J0Y 3B0

Tel.: (819) 673-2512 • Fax: (819) 673-2542

MEMORANDUM

DATE 2021-12-17

TO: Richard Lévesque, Poly-Géo inc.

FROM: Claude Coonishish, OPS

COPY Jodge Wapachee, Jean H. Paradis, Natasha M. Leroux and Hamid Eddahir

SUBJECT **GRAVEL PIT GD-17 Km 312 – EXPANSION TO 10 Ha FROM 3 Ha
CONSULTATIONS WITH CABIN OWNERS AND TALLYMAN LOT R-16**

Background

Further to your email of November 24, 2021, individual meetings were held on December 6th and 13th, 2021 with cabin owners and Charles Cheezo, Tallyman Lot R-16, to present the borrow pit GD-17 expansion project for granular material needed for Nemaska Community projects 2022 – 2025.

The expansion project was explained using the document prepared by Poly-Géo entitled “Consutation with Owners of the Cabins Located Near the Borrow Pit and the Tallyman of the Lot R-16” (Appendix 1) showing site topography, proposed boundaries and, it’s location related to cabins and the Route du Nord. Questions were answered and no one had objections to the expansion of the borrow pit as indicated in the meeting summary below.

Meeting Summary

George Salt

Cabin Owner 550m (photo 5) East side of the Pontax River December 6, 2021, 1:15 PM

Question: Will they be blasting the area?

Answer: Blasting is not required as it is natural gravel that will be screened as required.

Comments: “As long as our camps are not affected by the project. We can’t see the pit from our camp.” “I don’t mind the expansion.”



William Moar

Cabin Owner 800m (photo 4)
West side of the Pontax River
December 6, 2021, 2:12 PM

Question: In terms of water is there much impact?

Answer: The expansion area is known to be a dry. There are no pond or bodies of water that will be affected in the expansion.

Comments: The location of the pit is not close to our camp, so we are not bothered by the pit. Just when it's really calm (no wind), we can hear the machinery working. But we are not there during the summer, usually we use our camp in the fall. The pit doesn't bother us much.

Tallymam Charles Cheezo

Tallyman R-16
December 13, 2021, 1:10 PM

Question: At the closure of the project, will they be planting trees? Because I know of other pits that belong to Hydro Québec, usually they plant trees after the pit is closed.

Answer: Topsoil will be removed for the expansion of the gravel pit and stockpiled. It will be used to close the pit and restore the site as per MELCC requirement. Therefore, there will be an alder or tree planting at the end of the operation.

Comments: The area was known to snare rabbits, but I don't know how it is now. As for the wild life, I know some are being disturbed by the crushers that they use. Animals like moose, bear. I had set a bear trap at the end of Champion Lake. Where my trap was located, I could hear the crusher. After a couple weeks the crusher stopped working, I finally trapped my bear.

Winnie Moar

Cabin Owner 800m (photo 3)
West side of the Pontax River
December 13, 2021, 2:20 PM

Comments: Doesn't bother me, I don't have much to say about the expansion.

Peter Moar

Cabin Owner 550m (photo 5)
East side of the Pontax River
December 13, 2021, 2:20 PM

Comments: It's OK. I have no questions.



Ellen Tanoush

Cabin Owner 800m (Photo 3) West side of the Pontax River December 13, 2021, 3:35 PM

Comments: It doesn't bother me, we do not see or hear while they are in operation. Two other cabins are vacant, therefore no other owners to be met with at this time. I really appreciate you informing me with this expansion.

Conclusion:

After consultation with the owners of the cabins located near the borrowing pit and the Tallyman of lot R-16, it is clear that there are no objections to the GD-17 Gravel pit expansion project as it is quiet and beneficial to the Cree Nation of Nemaska.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claude Coonishish".

Claude Coonishish, Project Coordinator
Office of Project Services.

APPENDIX 1

DOCUMENT PREPARED PRIOR TO THE MEETING WITH
THE OWNERS OF CABINS LOCATED NEAR THE GD-17
BORROW PIT

GD-17 GRAVEL PIT EXPANSION PROJECT / NEMASKA

CONSULTATION WITH THE OWNERS OF THE CABINS LOCATED NEAR THE BORROW PIT AND THE TALLYMAN OF THE LOT R-16

Document prepared by Richard Lévesque of Poly-Géo, November 24, 2021
(Levesque.richard@polygeo.com)

The project was initiated by the Cree Nation of Nemaska, which supports the steps taken to expand the GD-17 borrow pit (Map 1). It wishes to quickly obtain the necessary permits to carry out the projects planned for the summer of 2022 and in the years to come. The main objective of this project is to meet the growing needs of the community of Nemaska for sand and gravel in the short and medium term, particularly for the construction, maintenance and paving of roads and parking, as well as for various municipal works and for the protection of eroding shorelines bordering the community. In the Nemaska region, granular materials that can be mined without treatment or that are suitable for the production of crushed stone are now very rare

The operation of the new portion (7 ha) of the GD-17 borrow pit will be conducted in the same manner as for the portion (3 ha) currently in operation (Photos 1 and 2). Materials will be mined either by direct loading, screening or crushing, depending on the specific needs of each project. There will therefore be no additional impact on the environment, except for the cutting of trees and stripping of the soil surface over an additional 7 ha. The volumes of material produced annually will be similar to what they have been in recent years and the methods of extraction and production of aggregates, as well as the mode of transportation of materials, will be identical. Therefore, there will be no increase in noise levels or in the amount of dust emitted into the environment.

From a visual perspective, the topography of the site and the proposed boundaries ensure that the expanded operation area will not be visible from the Pontax River or the Route du Nord.

Five cabins (Photos 3 and 4) are located 800 m south of the closest part of the proposed borrow pit extension and two additional cabins (Photo 5) are located approximately 550 m from this boundary. Cabins users will not be able to see the development area from their cabins because a strip of forest of approximately 30 m wide will be maintained around the site and because the cabins themselves are surrounded by trees. Residents will not be bothered by noise or dust during the operation of the site because they are far enough away and the prevailing winds are from the west.

Deforestation will be done progressively according to the sectors to be exploited. Felled trees will be delimbed and piled for recovery by the community. The overburden will be stored in windrows along the boundaries of the operation area, to be spread on the bare surfaces at the time of site closure.

The hours of operation will be between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm. No activities will be carried out during the freezing period, which is approximately between October 15th and the end of April.



MAP 1 GD-17 location



GD-17 requested expansion (7 ha)

Borrow pit GD-17 (almost empty)

Borrow pit GD-17A (empty)

550 m

800 m

Two cabins

Five cabins

Pontax River

Route du Nord



Photo 1 : Central portion of the GD-17 borrow pit.



Photo 2 : Central portion of the GD-17 borrow pit.



Photo 3 : View of 4 of the 5 cabins located on the west bank of the Pontax River, approximately 800 m south of the proposed boundary of the GD-17 expansion (see Map 1).



Photo 4 : View of the 5th cabin located on the west bank of the Pontax River, approximately 800 m south of the proposed GD-17 expansion boundary (see Map 1).



Photo 5 : View of the two cabins located on the east bank of the Pontax River, approximately 550 m south of the proposed GD-17 expansion boundary (see Map 1).

APPENDIX 3

MAP SHOWING THE PROPOSED
DEVELOPMENT AREA FOR GD-17
AND THE 100 M WIDE PROTECTION
STRIP TO BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN
THE HIGH WATER MARK OF
CHAMPION LAKE AND THE
DEVELOPMENT AREA

Request for expansion of GD-17 deposit

Sources:
Orthophotos, Hydro-Québec, résolution 25 cm
Mapping: Poly-Géo
File: 20114_po_003_map2_GD17_220201.mxd

0 50 100 m
UTM, Zone 18, NAD83 (CSRS)

Map 2

February
2022



APPENDIX 4

DDM GROUP REPORT

- CHARACTERIZATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS OF THE GD-17 GRAVEL PIT, NEMASKA



CHARACTERIZATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS OF THE GD-17 GRAVEL PIT, NEMASKA



January 2022

Note : Translation of the report «Caractérisation des milieux naturels de la gravière GD-17, Nemaska»

The French text takes precedence over the English text and this version prevails in case of discrepancy between the two versions.

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Verified by:



Janick Gingras, biologist, M. Sc.



This document conforms to the new spelling. However, to avoid confusion with reference works, the species names retain the traditional spelling.

Reference to cite:

GROUPE DDM, *Characterization 2022. of the natural environment of the GD-17, Nemaska gravel pit*. Report presented to the Cree Nation of Nemaska, p15. and appendices. *Internal reference: 21-1549*.



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INTRODUCTION

The Nemaska Cree Nation wishes to expand an existing gravel pit (GD-17) located approximately 8 km south of the municipality, at the southern tip of Champion Lake. This project aims to expand the operating area by approximately 7 ha in a terrestrial environment.

In view of the planned work, an ecological characterization of the planned expansion area was carried out. It allowed us to describe the natural environments potentially affected by the work. The report will thus facilitate the authorization requests that may be required during the realization of such a project of expansion of a borrow pit. In addition, the ecological characterization represents a complementary decision support tool concerning the planning and integration of such a project in the natural environment.

1. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the ecological characterization is to collect biophysical data in order to develop a better knowledge and understanding of the receiving environment in which the borrow pit expansion project takes place.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- Define the relative distribution of herbaceous, shrub and tree vegetation strata;
- Identify and delineate homogeneous vegetation units and establish their ecological value (for the remainder of this report, the terminology used will be "ecological unit (EU)");
- Inventory the fauna and flora species present in the study area;
- Inventory invasive alien species (IAS) present in the study area;
- Characterize the streams included in the study area;
- Identify special-status species under the Threatened and Vulnerable Species Act (TVSA) and the Species at Risk Act (SARA) that are present or likely to occur in the study area.

2. STUDY AREA

The GD-17 gravel pit is located approximately 8 km south of the community of Nemaska, at the southern tip of Champion Lake. The site is located along the Route du Nord, 15 km west of the Nemiscau airport (Map 1).

The central geographic coordinates of the project are as follows:

- 51.620629 N
- -76.308256 O

The expansion of the gravel pit currently in operation corresponds to an area of 6.37 ha, which is the surface area of the study area. It was walked to verify, among other things, the presence of sensitive components and to characterize the vegetation. An extended study area (2 km radius) was also defined around the area for more sensitive elements, such as the presence of special-status plant and wildlife species, wildlife habitats and exceptional forest ecosystems.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to conduct the ecological characterization includes the following three work steps:

- Collection and analysis of existing information;
- Ecological characterization (photo-interpretation and field inventory);
- Ecological value analysis.

3.1 Collection and analysis of existing information

In order to obtain a better understanding of the natural environments within and adjacent to the study area and to guide field data collection, several information sources were consulted:

- Data from the Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ) on special-status plant and animal species;
- The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MELCC) and the Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP) special status species fact sheets and the Species at Risk Public Registry of Canada fact sheets;
- Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Status Reports;
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) wetlands, wildlife habitat and exceptional forest ecosystems mapping;
- Reference books on wildlife and plant species with special or no status: Rare plants of southern Quebec, threatened or vulnerable vascular plants of Quebec, mammals of Quebec and eastern Canada, Amphibians and reptiles of Quebec and the Maritimes, the Sibley guide to birds of eastern North America, etc.

In addition, information available in the following databases was consulted in order to plan the field inventory and support the results obtained:

- Satellite images of the study area (2020 orthomosaic);
- The Quebec (QTDB) and Canadian (CanVec) Topographic Data Base;
- Toporama, Open Forest and Soil Info mapping tools;
- The ecoforestry maps of the 4^eten-year program.

3.2 Ecological characterization

3.2.1 Photo-interpretation

Based on satellite images, the study area was divided into homogeneous ecological units (polygons) by photo-interpretation. The elements retained for this preliminary division were forest composition, topography and the main edaphic variables (deposition, drainage and slope). This process allowed us to characterize the study area in a preliminary manner and thus to better orient and evaluate the effort required during the field inventory. In addition to the delineation of units, the photo-interpretation allowed us to obtain certain biophysical information, such as the age of the forest stands (young or mature) as well as the presence of disturbances and potential wetlands and hydric environments.

3.2.2 Field inventory

Following the photo-interpretation, a preliminary map was produced, grouping the ecological units (preliminary division) and other available data (e.g., CDPNQ mentions of special-status plant species).

The field inventory was conducted on August 4 2021. The location and delineation of descriptive features in the study area were surveyed using a high-precision GPS (Juniper Systems Submetric GPS Geode; accuracy less than 1 m). All data collected were integrated into ArcGIS (version 10.4) in *shapefile* format. In addition, photographs of the natural environments and species observed were taken. A photographic inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

3.2.2.1 Characterization of natural environments

The entire study area was walked to validate the delineation of ecological units. In addition, several variables were observed and measured in each of the EUs to describe: the vegetation present in the different strata (herbaceous, shrubby and arborescent), the type and age of the forest stand (where applicable), the general health of the vegetation, the type of soil and its thickness as well as the drainage. The presence of aquatic and wetland environments was verified and each was classified as appropriate: lake, stream, pond, marsh, swamp, bog, or wetland complex (MELCC, 2015b; Bazoge et al., 2015). The delineation of wetlands was done by applying the methodology recommended by the MELCC (Bazoge et al., 2015) and also based on the list of taxa proposed by botanist Jean Deshayes regarding boreal and arctic affinities of vascular plants to hydromorphic soils.

Wildlife and plant species (mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles and vascular plants) of special status were identified and located, where appropriate, by auditory (e.g., listening for bird songs) and visual (e.g., searching for herpetofauna under rocks and debris on the ground) searches. The presence of other features of interest (veteran trees, snags, special habitats, disturbance, etc.) was also noted in each EU. Signs of other (non-status) wildlife species found in each EU were also recorded. In addition, this inventory aimed to identify the different anthropogenic pressures on the receiving environment and the invasive alien species.

3.3 Ecological value analysis

The purpose of the evaluation of EU is to determine their ecological value, which makes it possible to identify sensitive natural environments of conservation interest and to plan work accordingly. The methodology used to assign the ecological value of EU was adapted from that proposed in the MELCC *Guide d'élaboration d'un plan de conservation des milieux humides* (Joly et al., 2008). The relative ecological value (low, medium or high) of each EU is established based on defined criteria. For each of the criteria, a value between 1 and 3 is assigned.

Evaluation Criteria:

Rarity: Determined by the relative abundance of the natural environment in the region. The rarity of some environments makes their protection more important, since few other similar environments are still present. Rarity was judged by the representativeness of the ecological unit within its ecological region. The values for this criterion are as follows:

- 1: Well represented ;
- 2: Moderately represented ;
- 3: Weakly represented.

Presence of special-status species (CDPNQ occurrence or field observation): Illustrates the importance of an area with respect to biodiversity. The habitat potential for a special-status species that occurs in the ecological unit was also considered. The values for this criterion are as follows:

- 1: Lack of special status species and habitat potential;
- 2: Habitat Potential Only;
- 3: Presence of a species of special status.

Species richness for flora: The higher the diversity of floristic species (herbaceous, shrubby, and arboreal), the more potential habitats are available. Richness was also assessed by the presence of IAS. The values for this criterion are as follows:

- 1: Low richness (0 to 12 species) or 10% or more cover by IAS;
- 2: Average richness (13 to 23 species) and less than 10% coverage by IAS;
- 3: High richness (more than 23 species) and no IAS or less than 10% by IAS in a dispersed manner.

Hydrological Connectivity: Determined by the proximity of a natural area to one or more watercourses (within 30m) that provide ecological corridors for biodiversity. The values for this criterion are as follows:

- 1: No nearby watercourse;
- 3: Presence of a watercourse in the vicinity.

- **Adjacent Land Use:** Illustrates the availability of natural habitats in close proximity to each environment. An environment with a large percentage of natural environments nearby is likely to support higher diversity. The percentage of natural environments adjacent to each ecological unit was considered. The values for this criterion are as follows:
 - 1 : Surrounded by less than 50% natural environments;
 - 2 : Between 50 and 80 % of natural environments around the EU;
 - 3 : Surrounded by more than 80% of natural environments.
- **Degree of disturbance:** A natural environment with little disturbance will perform its ecological functions more easily than one with a lot of disturbance; it deserves more protection. The values for this criterion are as follows:
 - 1 : Disturbances modifying the environment;
 - 2 : Disturbances with little effect on the environment;
 - 3 : Undisturbed environment.

An ecological unit with special status species automatically receives a high ecological value. On the other hand, if it has habitat potential for a special-status species, it receives at least a medium ecological value. Considering that the other criteria have the same weighting, the sum of the results for the different criteria gives the total score for each ecological unit. The final results are classified as follows:

- Total score between 6 and 9 : Low ecological value ;
- Total score between 10 and 13 : Average ecological value ;
- Total score between 14 and 18 : High ecological value.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 General description

4.1.1 Regional landscape and geomorphology

The study area is located in the Assinica Lake Regional Landscape Unit (RLU), located in the Western Spruce-Moss Subdomain (MFFP, 2021; Bergeron *et al.*, 1998). The terrain is largely represented by hillsides with an average elevation change of 33 m. The average altitude is 275 m. Hills and plains are less prevalent and occupy less than 25% of the area (Bergeron *et al.*, 1998). Small areas of the area are occupied by glaciolacustrine and marine deposits (<5%), while organic deposits are more prevalent (16%). Glacial till, however, is the most dominant. Thick till and till less than 1 m in thickness represent 45% and 10% of the ecological region, respectively (Bergeron *et al.*, 1998). The Nemaska community is more specifically established on clay-covered sandy soil and the thickness varies between 1 and 5 m (Poly-Geo, 2017). Some locations even have peat deposits 0.7 to 1.5 m thick directly over the clay (Poly-Geo, 2017). More specifically for the sector targeted by the GD-17 gravel pit expansion, the drillings carried out by Poly-Géo reveal 2011 the presence of loose materials with a coarse texture over 4 to 5 m in depth.

The climatic conditions of the region are harsh and limit the diversity of plant species. In fact, the region is among those receiving the lowest precipitation rates in southern Quebec (Bergeron *et al.*, 1998).

The vegetation of this RPU corresponds to the boreal zone and, more precisely, to the closed boreal forest subzone. The landscape surrounding the study area is uniform and dominated by black spruce (*Picea mariana*; Robitaille and Saucier, 1998). Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) may also be associated with the study area (MFFP, 2021; Bergeron *et al.*, 1998). In addition, it is more localized on hillsides. Some hardwoods also grow in this area, including white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*). The herbaceous layer is dense and covered with hypnaceous mosses and ericaceous shrubs (MRNFP, 2003), such as Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), narrow-leafed kalmia (*Kalmia angustifolia*), or calyculate cassandra (*Cassandra calyculata*).

There are no outstanding forest ecosystems in the vicinity of the study area.

4.1.2 Watershed and hydrography

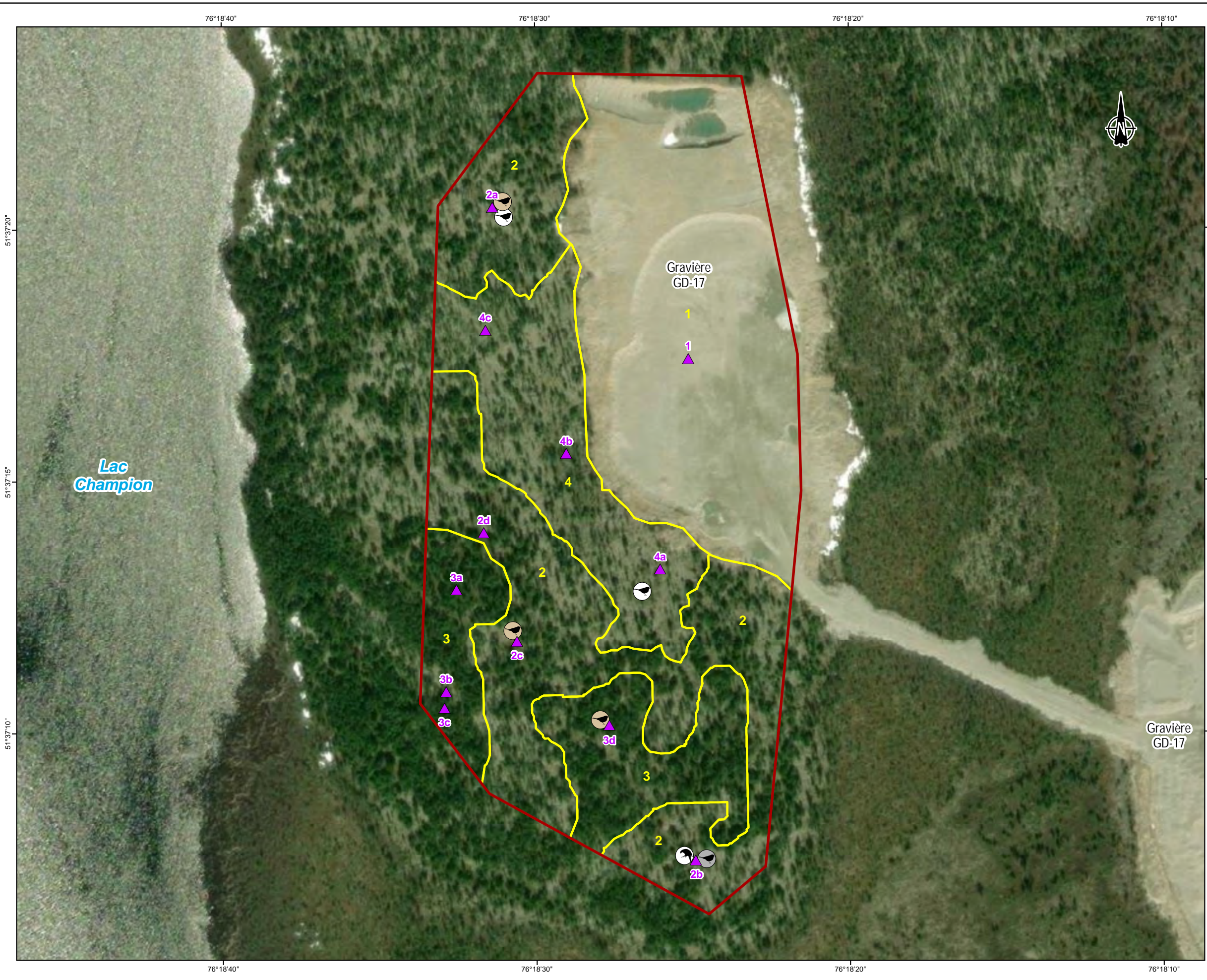
The UPR includes several wetlands of varying size around the lakes (12% water bodies). The study area is part of the Hannah and Rupert Bays watershed. More specifically, it is located in the Pontax River watershed; one of its sources is Champion Lake. One of its sources is Champion Lake, the southern end of which is located about 100 m west of the study site. The Pontax River watershed covers an area of about 941,799 ha and drains into Rupert Bay.

According to Toporama and Open Forest data, no intermittent or permanent streams are found in the study area. No streams were identified during the field visit. The topography directs surface runoff to nearby forested bogs or directly into Champion Lake.

4.2 Description of ecological units

Photo-interpretation and ecological characterization during the field inventory resulted in the delineation of four EUs (Map 2). Table 1 refers to the different EUs presented in Map 2 and shows their occupied area and their main ecological characteristics. A photographic directory presenting each SU is included in Appendix 1.



Overall, the study area is divided into two main components: an anthropogenic environment corresponding to the gravel pit in operation as well as spruce stands of different densities and whose undergrowth is dominated by various species. The different environments are not considered wet because of the affinity of boreal plants proposed by Jean Deshayes. The appendix lists the 18 plant species identified during the field survey.







PROJET

 Zone d'étude

UNITÉS ÉCOLOGIQUES

-  Limite des unités écologiques
-  Station pédologique
- 1 Gravière GD-17 en exploitation
- 2 Pessière à pin gris et kalmia à feuilles étroites
- 3 Pessière à thé du Labrador
- 4 Lande à kalmia à feuilles étroites et cladonie

OBSERVATIONS FAUNIQUES

-  Junco ardoisé
-  Mésange à tête brune
-  Mésangeai du Canada
-  Petite buse



Caractérisation des milieux naturels de la gravière GD-17, Nemaska

Localisation des unités écologiques et des composantes d'intérêt

Sources :
Orthoimage : World Imagery, 2021

Projet : 21-1549
Fichier : 21-1549_C2_Composante_2021-12-01.mxd

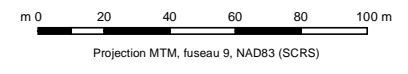


Table 1 Description of ecological units in the study area

| EU | Name | Type of environment | Area (ha) | Percentage of study area (%) ¹ | Brief description | Main species |
|----|---|---------------------|-----------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Gravel Pit GD-17 | Anthropic | 3,535 | 48,2 | Gravel pit in operation | Poaceae sp. Carex sp. |
| 2 | Jack pine and narrow-leaf kalmia spruce stand | Terrestrial | 0,799 | 10,9 | Mature forest thinned and located on a gentle slope | Black Spruce Narrow-leafed Kalmia |
| 3 | Labrador Tea Spruce | Terrestrial | 1,440 | 19,6 | Mature forest with dense tree cover on a gentle slope | Black Spruce Labrador Tea |
| 4 | Narrow-leaved kalmia and cladonia heath | Terrestrial | 1,560 | 21,3 | A sparse forest located on flat terrain with a dense understory covered with cladonia sp. | Black Spruce Narrow-leafed Kalmia Labrador tea Cladonia sp. |

¹ Area of the unit divided by the total area of the study area multiplied by 100.

² Scientific names are provided in the Appendix 2.

4.2.1 EU1 - GD-17 pit in operation

This anthropogenic environment corresponds to the gravel pit in operation and occupies an area of 3,53ha. It is the largest unit in the study site, covering more than a third (35.7%) of the area. The gravel pit is located to the northeast of the study area and is accessible from a road at the southeastern edge of EU1. The soil in the unit is bare and composed of compacted gravel (photo 1). Various substrate mounds are scattered throughout the unit. The land is mostly flat and has rapid drainage. The environmental margin and some of the less worked areas of the gravel pit are colonized by sedges (*Carex* sp.), *deschampsia cespitosa* var. *cespitosa*, *poaceae* (*Poacea* sp.), and rushes (*Juncus* sp.), among others.

4.2.2 EU2 - Jack pine and kalmia spruce stand

This environment is present at two locations in the study area and four identification stations allowed its characterization (Map 2; photos 2 to 5 in Appendix 1). The first sector (station 2a), with a size of 0.799ha, is located in the upper northwest corner. It shares a portion of its boundary with the gravel pit in operation (UE1). The second portion (stations 3a, 3b, 3c) of this EU, measuring 2.569ha, is located further south, below EU4, and intersects the study area from west to east. Its total area corresponds to more than a third of the study site (34%). The sampling points of these units show a humus layer about 8 cm thick covering an A horizon composed of coarse sand over about ten centimeters. The B horizon is characterized by the presence of loose, coarse-textured material at a depth of 18 cm. The two portions of EU2 are located on a gentle slope and

have rapid drainage. The vegetation consists of mature black spruce and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) in the tree layer. The canopy density is low (20-30%). The shrub layer is largely dominated by narrow-leaved kalmia (60-70%), with smaller proportions of Labrador tea (8%) and narrow-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*; 8%). The muscular stratum is lined with unidentified bryophytes and lichens.

4.2.3 EU3 - Labrador Tea Barrens

The Labrador tea spruce forest is intersected longitudinally by the EU2, separating it into two areas (stations 2, 4a, 4b, 4c on map 2; photos 6 and 7 Appendix 1). The total area of these sectors covers less than 20% of the study area. These areas are located on gentle upper slopes, on irregular terrain, and have rapid drainage. The soil is similar to that of EU2. The A horizon is composed of coarse sand over about ten centimeters and granular materials characterize the B horizon. The tree layer is completely dominated by black spruce with a cover of 30%. This species is also present in the shrub layer (48%) and dominates this layer with Labrador tea (26%). Narrow-leaved kalmia, narrow-leaved blueberry and an unidentified northern species of birch (*Betula* sp.) are also present in smaller proportions.

4.2.4 EU4 - Narrow-leaved kalmia and cladonia heath

The fourth ecological unit is a narrow-leaved kalmia and cladonia heath (*Cladonia* sp.; Stations 2, 4a, 4b, 4c on Map 2, photos 8-11 in Appendix 1). This 1.56 ha unit is located in the center of the study area and is adjacent to the active gravel pit. The area is located on a flat, irregular terrain with no depression. The soil is 15 cm deep and includes a 14 cm mesic organic horizon. A thin layer of coarse sand covering the loose, coarse-textured material completes the soil horizons. Mature vegetation is codominantly black spruce and jack pine with an absolute cover of 8% and 5% respectively. The low tree density (<10%) qualifies the unit as a heathland. The shrub layer is 83% narrowleaf kalmia, accompanied by other shrub species including black spruce, Labrador tea, and blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*). Waterlogged bryophytes and lichens cover most of the ground.

4.3 Wildlife and wildlife habitats

A few wildlife species were observed and heard during the field survey. The individuals observed were located on the map and correspond to four species of forest birds (Table 2). None of these species has a particular status.

Table 2 Avian Wildlife Species Identified in the Study Area

| French name | Latin name | Number of individuals observed | Activity | Type of observation |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Slate Junco | <i>Junco hyemalis</i> | 2 | Moving | Individuals |
| Brown-capped Chickadee | <i>Poecile hudsonica</i> | 6 | Flight | Individuals and songs |
| Canada Chickadee | <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i> | 5 | Moving | Individuals |
| Small nozzle | <i>Buteo platypterus</i> | 1 | Flight | Individuals and songs |

The section 1 of the *Regulation respecting wildlife habitats* (R.S.Q., c. C-61-1) describes fish habitat as a protected wildlife habitat. Champion Lake, located near the study area (> 100m), is affected by this regulation. Thus, according to section 122 of the *Regulation respecting the sustainable management of forests in the domain of the State* (RADF), a minimum protection strip of 100m must be established between the exploitation area of a sand pit and the limits of a habitat of a threatened or vulnerable species of fauna or flora identified under the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife* (chapter C-61.1) and the LEMV (chapter E 12.01) According to the information provided by the MFFP, no other protected wildlife habitat is located in the study area or in its vicinity (2 km radius).

4.4 Special status species

4.4.1 Occurrences and observations

According to the data collected from the CDPNQ, no mention of any special-status plant species is recorded within a 2 km radius of the central coordinate of the study area (Appendix 3).

No special-status wildlife species were seen or heard in the study area during the field survey. However, there is a potential presence of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) in Champion Lake. This freshwater fish species is part of the southern Hudson Bay and James Bay population. Lake sturgeon is a species of special concern under SARA in Canada and threatened or vulnerable in Quebec. As such, its habitat benefits from a protection measure (minimum protection strip of 100m) under section 122 of the FDR.

4.4.2 Potential wildlife habitats

Although no observations were made during the inventory, it is possible that special-status species are present in the study area. No occurrences of species recorded at the CDPNQ were identified in the study area. However, other data indicate that the area surrounding the Study Area is occupied by vulnerable avian species that may be designated as threatened or vulnerable. These species include:

- The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is a vulnerable species that nests in large mature trees along the edges of large bodies of water. Although no nests were observed, it is possible that this species nests in the mature jack pine trees seen in the various ecological units.
- The American nightjar (*Chordeiles minor*) is a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec and threatened in Canada. The species nests in a variety of habitats. It mainly prefers open habitats devoid of vegetation such as recently logged forests, burned areas, deforested areas, rocky outcrops and bare rocky terrain. Expansion of the gravel pit could thus increase its habitat potential.
- Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) is a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec and of special concern under SARA. It is less likely to be found in the expansion area. This species nests in marshes and grasslands. No such habitat was observed in the study area.
- The Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) is a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Québec and of special concern in Canada. This species rarely frequents the interior of forests. It prefers the banks of wetlands and low flowing water. The habitats identified in the study area do not correspond to those of the rusty blackbird. In fact, no wetlands or water areas were observed in the study area.

The habitat potential is derived from the distribution maps for each species and the type of environment observed in the study area. These distribution maps encompass large areas, while these species often have discontinuous ranges.

4.5 Ecological value of the EU

The EUs were assessed for their value based on the analysis of the data collected and presented above. Table 3 presents the results of the analysis performed for each of the EUs in the study area. It should be noted that the ecological value of the gravel pit (EU1) was evaluated despite its anthropogenic nature because of the presence of potential habitat for the American nightjar. This unit is therefore given a medium ecological value. The Jack Pine-Kalmia Spruce Barrens (EU2) and the Labrador Tea Barrens (EU3) also have a Medium ecological value. The narrow-leaf kalmia-cladonia heath has a low ecological value.

Table 3 Assignment of the ecological value of each EU

| Ecological units | EU1 GD-17 Gravel Pit in operation | EU2 Jack pine and narrow-leaf kalmia spruce stand | EU3 Labrador Tea Spruce | EU4 Narrow-leaved kalmia and cladonia heath |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Rarity | This EU is poorly represented in the region. | This EU is well represented in the region. | This EU is well represented in the region. | This EU is well represented in the region. |
| Rating | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Presence of species with special status | No special status species and potential habitat for nightjar of America in this EU. | No special status species and potential habitat for bald eagles in this EU. | No special status species or potential habitats were identified in this EU. | No special-status species or potential habitats were identified in this EU. |
| Rating | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Specific richness for the flora | The floristic richness of this environment is low. There are no IAS in the EU. | The floristic richness of this environment is low. There are no IAS in the EU. | The floristic richness of this environment is low. The EU has two IAS. | The floristic richness of this environment is low. The EU has two IAS. |
| Rating | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hydrological connectivity | This EU is located more than 30 m from a watercourse. | This EU is located more than 30 m from a watercourse. | This EU is located more than 30 m from a watercourse. | This EU is located more than 30 m from a watercourse. |
| Rating | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Adjacent Land Use | More than 80% of the EU is bordered by natural environments. | More than 80% of the EU is bordered by natural environments. | More than 80% of the EU is bordered by natural environments. | Between 50% and 80% of the EU is bordered by natural environments. |
| Rating | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Degree of disturbance | This EU is disturbed by anthropogenic activities. | This EU is not disturbed by human activities. | This EU is not disturbed by human activities. | This EU is not disturbed by human activities. |
| Rating | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 10 | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| Ecological value | Average | Average | Average | Low |

CONCLUSION

The ecological characterization of the GD-17 gravel pit expansion area in Nemaska has defined four ecological units. EU1 corresponds to the gravel pit currently in operation, while the other units are forest environments.

EU2 and 4 are characterized by a tree layer dominated by black spruce and jack pine. Narrow-leaved kalmia dominates the shrub layer in both units. Bryophytes and lichens were also seen on the ground. EU3 is dominated by black spruce in its tree and shrub layer. The moss layer of all four units is very well developed.

No special status species or wetlands were identified in the study area. However, Champion Lake includes potential lake sturgeon habitat. According to current regulations, the limits of the gravel pit operation area will be located more than 100 m from Champion Lake. Potential habitat is also attributed to the bald eagle in EU3 and to the American nightjar in EU1.

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ANNEXE 1

Répertoire photographique



Photo 1 Gravière GD-17 en exploitation (UE1)



Photo 2 Ouverture forestière dans la pessière à pin gris et kalmia à feuilles étroites (UE2)



Photo 3 Portion arbustive de la pessière à pin gris et kalmia à feuilles étroites (UE2)



Photo 4 Milieu terrestre de la pessière à pin gris et kalmia à feuilles étroites (UE2)



Photo 5 Milieu terrestre de la pessière à pin gris et kalmia à feuilles étroites (UE2)



Photo 6 Sous-bois de la pessière à thé du Labrador (UE3)



Photo 7 Sous-bois de la pessière à thé du Labrador (UE3)



Photo 8 Milieu terrestre de la pessière à kalmia à feuilles étroites et cladonie (UE4)



Photo 9 Milieu terrestre de la pessière à kalmia à feuilles étroites et cladonie (UE4)



Photo 10 Portion arbustive de la pessière à kalmia à feuilles étroites et cladonie (UE4)



Photo 11 Échantillon de sol de la pessière à kalmia à feuilles étroites et cladonie (UE4)

ANNEXE 2

Liste des espèces floristiques observées dans la zone d'étude

Espèces floristiques présentes dans la zone d'étude

| Espèce floristique | | Statut hydrique ¹ | Unité écologique |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|
| Nom commun | Nom scientifique | | |
| Bétulacée | <i>Betula</i> sp. | NI | 3 |
| Bleuet à feuilles étroites | <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> | NI | 2, 3 |
| Bleuet fausse-myrtille | <i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i> | NI | 2, 4 |
| Carex sp. | <i>Carex</i> sp. | - | 1 |
| Cladonie sp. | <i>Cladonia</i> sp. | - | 4 |
| Cornouiller quatre-temps | <i>Cornus canadensis</i> | NI | 4 |
| Deschampsie cespiteuse | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> var. <i>cespitosa</i> | | 1 |
| Épilobe à feuilles étroites | <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> subsp. <i>angustifolium</i> | NI | 4 |
| Épinette noire | <i>Picea mariana</i> | NI | 2, 3, 4 |
| Épinette sp. | <i>Picea</i> sp. | | 2 |
| Jonc sp. | <i>Juncus</i> sp. | | 1 |
| kalmia à feuilles étroites | <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i> | F | 2, 3, 4 |
| Lichen non identifié | - | - | 2, 3, 4 |
| Mousse non identifiée | - | - | 2, 3, 4 |
| Pin gris | <i>Pinus banksiana</i> | T | 2, 4 |
| Poacée sp. | <i>Poacea</i> sp. | - | 1 |
| Saule sp. | <i>Salix</i> sp. | - | 2 |
| Thé du Labrador | <i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i> | F | 2, 3 |

¹ Selon la liste des taxons proposée par le botaniste Jean Deshayes concernant les affinités boréales et arctiques des plantes vasculaires aux sols hydromorphes.

ANNEXE 3

Correspondance avec le CDPNQ

PAR COURRIEL

Chibougamau, le 19 avril 2021

Madame Gwenaëlle Minot-Kohl
Groupe DDM
825, rue Raoul Jobin
Québec (Québec) G1N 1S6

**Objet : Requête concernant un projet de stabilisation des berges du lac Champion,
Nord-du-Québec**

Madame,

En réponse à votre courriel du 18 mars 2021, nous vous transmettons les documents suivants :

- La lettre de réponse officielle du Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ);
- La liste des espèces de l'ichtyofaune potentiellement présentes dans la zone d'étude.

À titre indicatif, la zone d'étude correspond à une zone circulaire de dix kilomètres de rayon et est centrée aux coordonnées 76,25969°O, 51,67656°N.

Aucune occurrence d'espèce enregistrée au CDPNQ n'a été identifiée dans la zone d'étude. Toutefois, d'autres données indiquent que la zone d'étude est occupée par une espèce aviaire vulnérable, soit le pygargue à tête blanche (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ainsi que par trois espèces aviaires susceptibles d'être désignées comme menacées ou vulnérables, soit l'engoulevent d'Amérique (*Chordeiles minor*), le hibou des marais (*Asio flammeus*) et le quiscale rouilleux (*Euphagus carolinus*).

Aucun habitat faunique cartographié en vertu du Règlement sur les habitats fauniques qui découle de la Loi sur la conservation et la mise en valeur de la faune (LCMVF) (RLRQ c. C-61.1, r. 18) n'est retrouvé à l'intérieur de la zone d'étude. En ce qui concerne l'habitat du poisson, qu'il soit cartographié ou non, il demeure protégé en vertu de la LCMVF.

D'autre part, aucune frayère n'est répertoriée dans la zone d'étude.

Parmi les espèces potentiellement présentes dans le lac Champion, l'esturgeon jaune (*Acipenser fulvescens*), le doré jaune (*Sander vitreus*), le grand brochet (*Esox lucius*), le grand corégone (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), l'omble de fontaine (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) et

...2

la perchaude (*Perca flavescens*) sont toutes des espèces pour lesquelles des périodes de sensibilité sont reconnues :

Espèces d'intérêt (doré jaune, grand brochet, perchaude) : 15 avril au 15 juillet

Salmonidés (grand corégone, omble de fontaine) : 15 septembre au 1^{er} juin

Espèces menacées, vulnérables ou susceptibles d'être ainsi désignées (esturgeon jaune) : 15 avril au 15 juillet

Compte tenu de la présence possible de ces espèces, les travaux entre les berges devraient être réalisés entre le 15 juillet et le 15 septembre.

Enfin, veuillez noter que l'absence d'espèces pour un secteur donné ne signifie pas que ces espèces ne sont pas présentes sur ce territoire, puisque des inventaires exhaustifs n'ont pas été faits pour l'ensemble des espèces sur notre territoire. De plus, la répartition spatiale de toute espèce peut changer selon l'évolution des écosystèmes et en réponse à des pressions environnementales de cause naturelle ou anthropique.

Toutes observations fauniques effectuées dans le secteur visé par les travaux et dans ses environs devraient être transmises à la Direction de la gestion de la faune du Nord-du-Québec. Les mentions peuvent être envoyées à l'adresse suivante : Nord-du-Quebec.faune.information@mffp.gouv.qc.ca en indiquant le nom et les coordonnées de l'observateur, le nombre d'individus observés, la date et les coordonnées géographiques précises.

Les données demeurent la propriété du ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. Vous ne pouvez vendre, donner, prêter, échanger ni transmettre ces informations à des tiers sans notre accord. De plus, l'information transmise doit être utilisée uniquement pour les travaux cités dans votre demande. Une nouvelle demande écrite devra nous être acheminée pour toute autre utilisation de ces informations. Veuillez noter qu'aucune partie de celles-ci ne peut être utilisée à des fins lucratives par l'utilisateur autorisé.

Veuillez recevoir, Madame, nos salutations les meilleures.

Sonia Boudreault
Technicienne de la faune

p.j. (2)

SB/jd

Liste des espèces de poissons potentiellement présentes dans le lac Champion

| Nom français | Nom latin | Période sensible |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Esturgeon jaune | <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |
| Meunier rouge | <i>Catostomus catostomus</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |
| Meunier noir | <i>Catostomus commersonii</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |
| Cisco de lac | <i>Coregonus artedi</i> | 15 septembre au 30 novembre |
| Chabot tacheté | <i>Cottus bairdii</i> | - |
| Grand corégone | <i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i> | 15 septembre au 30 novembre |
| Méné de lac | <i>Couesius plumbeus</i> | - |
| Grand brochet | <i>Esox lucius</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |
| Lotte | <i>Lota lota</i> | - |
| Perchaude | <i>Perca flavescens</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |
| Ombre de fontaine | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> | 15 septembre au 1 ^{er} juin |
| Doré jaune | <i>Sander vitreus</i> | 15 avril au 15 juillet |

2021-04-13

Chibougamau, le 19 avril 2021

Madame Gwenaëlle Minot-Kohl
Groupe DDM
825, rue Raoul Jobin
Québec (Québec) G1N 1S6

Objet : Requête concernant la présence d'espèces fauniques menacées ou vulnérables ou susceptibles d'être ainsi désignées ou rares situées sur le territoire de la communauté crie de Némaska, Nord-du-Québec

Madame,

La présente fait suite à votre demande d'information du 18 mars 2021, adressée au Centre de données sur le patrimoine naturel du Québec (CDPNQ) - volet faune, concernant l'objet en titre.

Le CDPNQ collige, analyse et diffuse l'information disponible sur les éléments prioritaires de la biodiversité. Pour les espèces fauniques, le traitement est assuré par le ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), alors que pour les espèces floristiques, la responsabilité incombe au ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MELCC).

Depuis 1988, les données provenant de différentes sources (spécimens d'herbiers et de musées, littérature scientifique, inventaires récents, etc.) sont intégrées **continuellement** au système de gestion de données. Les informations consignées reflètent l'état des connaissances **actuelles**. **Ainsi, certaines portions du territoire sont méconnues et une partie des données existantes peut ne pas encore être intégrée au système, présenter des lacunes quant à la précision géographique ou encore, avoir besoin d'être actualisée ou davantage documentée. Par conséquent, l'avis émis par le CDPNQ concernant un territoire particulier ne doit pas être considéré comme étant définitif et un substitut aux inventaires requis.** Afin de faire du CDPNQ l'outil le plus **complet** possible, il nous serait utile de **recevoir vos données relatives aux espèces en situation précaire**.

Après vérification, nous vous avisons de **l'absence**, au CDPNQ, d'espèces fauniques en situation précaire (menacées ou vulnérables ou susceptibles d'être ainsi désignées) pour le territoire que vous avez identifié ou à proximité de celui-ci.

En espérant ces renseignements satisfaisants et utiles à vos besoins, nous vous remercions de l'intérêt porté à l'égard du CDPNQ et demeurons disponibles pour répondre à vos questions. Pour un complément d'information, nous vous invitons à visiter le **site Web du CDPNQ** : <https://cdpnq.gouv.qc.ca>

Pour obtenir la **cartographie légale** des habitats fauniques présents sur le site de votre projet, vous pouvez vous référer au lien suivant : <https://www.donneesquebec.ca/fr/>. Cliquez sur l'onglet « Environnement, ressources naturelles et énergie » et sélectionnez la couche « Registre des aires protégées au Québec ».

Veillez agréer, Madame, l'expression de nos meilleurs sentiments.

Sonia Boudreault
Technicienne de la faune