

FOLLOW-UP REPORT OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE OPERATIONAL INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS (PAFIO)

Management Units: 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64

Public consultation held from January 27th to February 20th, 2025
June 12th, 2025

MINISTÈRE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET DES FORÊTS



Acknowledgements

The Direction de la gestion des forêts du Nord-du-Québec wishes to thank the forest users who participated in this public consultation. We greatly appreciate your collaboration, which contributes to harmonious coexistence in the forest. We also wish to thank the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government for its collaboration in writing the consultation report.

Produced by

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Laval Gaudreault, ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts, 2008

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| CONTEXT | 2 |
| Legal Framework | 2 |
| Objectives of the Consultation | 2 |
| Period and Management Units Concerned | 3 |
| Information Made Accessible | 3 |
| Report on Participation | 4 |
| SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP THE MINISTÈRE INTENDS TO PROVIDE | 4 |
| CONCLUSION..... | 10 |
| APPENDICES | 11 |
| Announcement of the Holding of the Consultation | 11 |
| Public Notice and Information Activity Held | 12 |

List of abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| BGA | Timber supply guarantee holder (in French, Bénéficiaire de garanties d'approvisionnement) |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council |
| EIJBRG: | Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government |
| MRC (in English, RCM) | Regional county municipality (in French, Municipalité régionale de comté) |
| MRNF | Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts |
| PAFIO | Operational Integrated Forest Management Plan (in French, Plan d'aménagement forestier intégré opérationnel) |
| PAFIT | Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plan (in French, Plan d'aménagement forestier intégré tactique) |
| RSDF | <i>Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State.</i> |
| SFMA | Sustainable Forest Development Act |
| TLGIRT | Local Integrated Resource Management Planning Panel (in French, Table locale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire) |
| MU (in French, UA) | Management Unit (in French, Unité d'aménagement) |

CONTEXT

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Under the *Sustainable Forest Development Act*, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (The Ministère) is responsible for producing the Operational and Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plans.

This Act requires that integrated forest development plans must be the object of a public consultation held by the body responsible for the composition and operation of the local integrated land and resource management panel (TLGIRT) or, if applicable, by the regional county municipality (RCM) to which that responsibility was entrusted under section 55.1.

The *Manuel de consultation publique sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux* (Public consultation manual on integrated forest development plans and special development plans) indicates that following receipt of the consultation report prepared by the body responsible, the Ministère prepares a follow-up report on the public consultation. This one integrates the summary of the comments present in the consultation report produced by the body responsible and the follow-ups it intends to give them.

The Ministère has mandated the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (EIJBRG) as the body responsible for the deployment of the TLGIRT, to support it in organizing public consultations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the forest development plans has the following objectives:

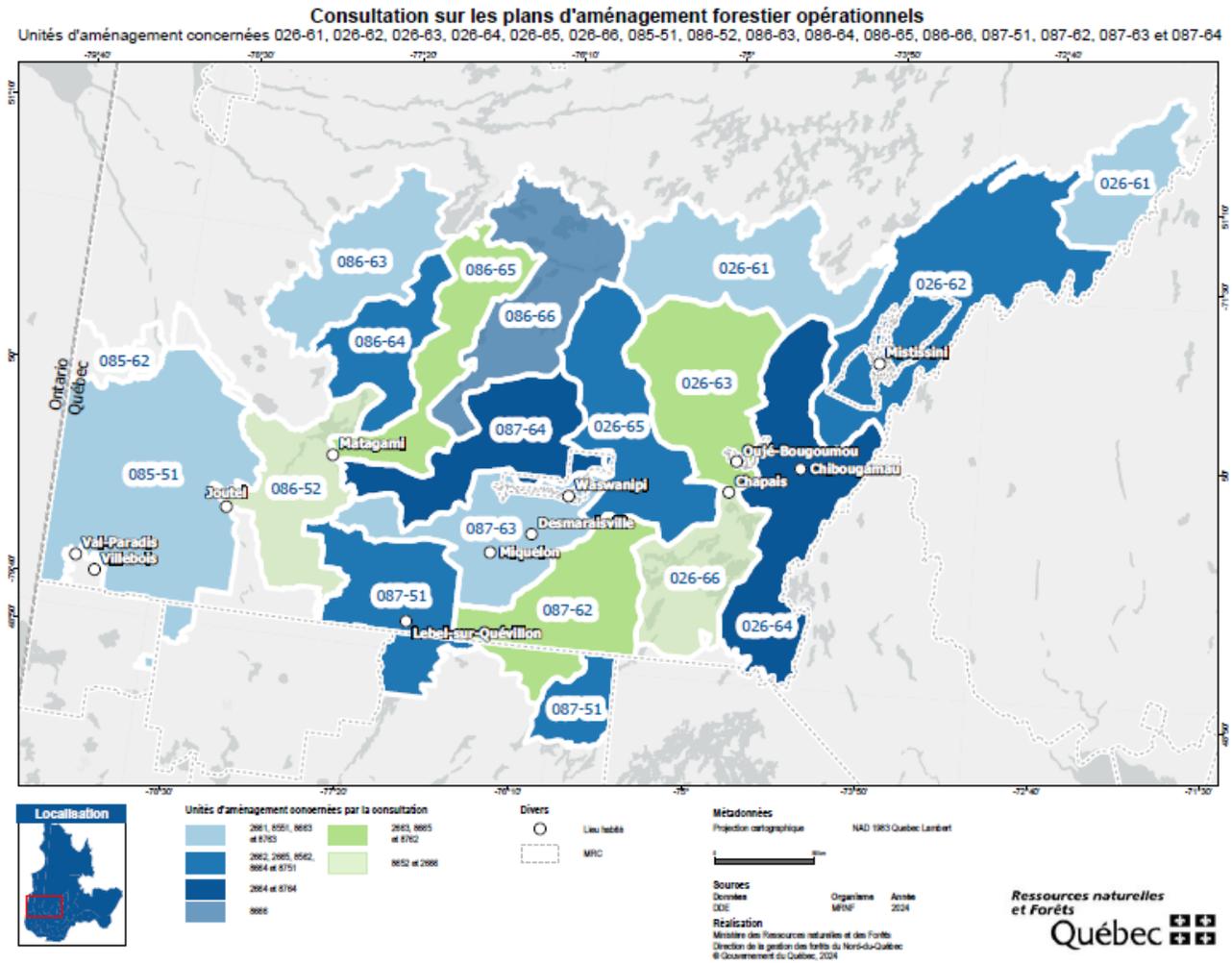
- Respond to the population's wish to be informed and listened to, and see their interests, values and needs to account for them in the decisions relating to forest management;
- Favour a better understanding by the population of management of the Québec public forest and, more specifically, of planning of forest management;
- Enable the population to express themselves regarding the proposed forest management plans and integrate, when possible, the interests, values and needs expressed;
- Reconcile the diversified interests of the many users of forest resources and land;
- Harmonize forest management with the population's values and needs;
- Enable the Minister to make the best possible decisions, in view of the circumstances.

Source: *Manuel de consultation publique sur les plans d'aménagement forestier intégré et les plans d'aménagement spéciaux*, 2021.

PERIOD AND MANAGEMENT UNITS CONCERNED

From January 27 to February 20, 2025, the government invited the public to express its views on the Operational Integrated Forest Management Plans (PAFIO) of Management Units (MU) 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64.

The public was informed of the holding of the consultation through the distribution of the public notice presented in the appendix.



Map 1 - Management Units Covered by the Consultation

INFORMATION MADE ACCESSIBLE

During the consultation period, the Ministère produced and posted online an interactive map which enabled the consultation of the detailed forest management plans. This map was posted on the Ministère's website on the regional forest plans and consultations page: [Plans forestiers régionaux et consultations | Gouvernement du Québec \(quebec.ca\)](https://www.quebec.ca/plans-forestiers-regionaux-et-consultations). Users could position on the map a point identifying the site concerned by their comment and submit it with an integrated form.

Those wishing to obtain further information on PAFIOs could contact the Ministère's teams during office hours.

Once the public consultation is over, those who wish to review the elements that were the subject of this consultation can find them on the map of previous consultations available at the following link: [click here](#).

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION

In the context of this public consultation, 14 persons sent comments by means of the electronic form. A total of 28 comments were received, including 14 expressed by an organization, an association or a business.

Table 1 - Number of Persons who Participated in the Public Consultation¹

| Breakdown of comments received | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Management Unit | Number of respondents | | Total comments | |
| | Personal | On behalf an organization | Number | % |
| 026-62 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 026-63 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 18 |
| 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 026-64 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 026-65 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 026-66 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 085-51 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 18 |
| 085-51, 087-63 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 086-65 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 087-51 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 14 |
| 087-63 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 18 |
| 087-51, 087-62, 087-63, 087-64 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Ensemble des UA | 14 | 14 | 28 | 100 |

¹ Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP THE MINISTÈRE INTENDS TO PROVIDE

Given their number, and with the goal of simplifying follow-up, the Ministère has chosen, in this report, the comments received in the form of table. This way of doing things makes it easier to find information and highlights all the main concerns raised by the people who took part in the public consultation. This also facilitates a review of the Ministère responses and an overview of the follow-up that will be done.

The following table summarizes the comments received and summarizes the analysis carried out by the Ministère.

Table 2 - Summary of comments and the Ministère's proposed follow-up

| Topic | Participant Category | Summary of Comment | Ministère's Follow-up | MU |
|---|----------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| Other | Organization | <p>Did not want logging to take place close to the water and wanted the road to be brought as close to the water as possible.</p> <p>Asked to extend the buffer zone for all work alongside roadways.</p> | <p>The organization was contacted by the MRNF and, after discussion, one lakeside block was withdrawn to preserve landscape quality. Regarding the road, none has been planned for harvest operations, meaning that it cannot be brought closer to the water as requested.</p> <p>As for the buffer zones, they are compliant with the RSDF and will be maintained in the current plan.</p> | 026-62 |
| Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Vacationer | Objected to logging in its vacation sector. | The sector identified is currently being harmonized by the technical committee with vacationers and other local actors. The committee will take the vacationer comments into consideration. | 026-63, 026-65 and 026-66 |
| Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Vacationer | Wanted to know if logging will take place. | The vacationer attended the information evening, and it was stated at the meeting that there would be no logging activities near the sector. | 026-64 |
| Infrastructure Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Vacationer | Objected to the proposed logging activities in two sectors, and to road construction. | The MRNF met with the vacationer, and it was agreed that the sector will be postponed for 2025-2026, to allow for harmonization. | 026-65 |
| Other | Vacationer | Asked for the reforestation plan to be carried out in cooperation with the regional authority and the vacationers' association, given that the sector is located near the machine fire line. | Development of machine fire lines is ongoing and falls under the authority of the municipalities and the Ministère de la Sécurité publique. The MRNF will be able to become involved when requested to do so. | 026-65 |
| Infrastructure Type of silvicultural treatment (logging), Work period | Outfitter | Asked for certain logging sites and roads to be withdrawn. | The MRNF has contacted the outfitter. Sensitive areas will be removed, and the lakeshore access restricted for future work. | 026-66 |

| Topic | Participant Category | Summary of Comment | Ministère's Follow-up | MU |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|--------|
| Infrastructure, Type of silvicultural treatment (logging), Work period | Outfitter | Asked for the work to be done outside the outfitter's operational season. | <p>The MRNF has informed the outfitter that it cannot promise that no work will take place during the requested quiet time, i.e. from early June to late August, as this corresponds to the silvicultural work period.</p> <p>Rexforêt has been informed of the request so that it can be taken into account in the planning of the work wherever possible. It was also asked to make available the weekly operational schedule for work in the sector, so that the outfitter can plan its own activities accordingly.</p> | 026-66 |
| Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Private citizen | Asked if logging had already been carried out and if it was possible to know the percentage of cuts in hardwood and mixed stands. | The requested information was sent to the citizen. | 085-51 |
| Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Private citizen | Request that there be no cutting. | Following site inventories, stand tending treatments will not be carried out in this potential harvesting sector. | 085-51 |
| Other | Municipal users | Wanted the forest development plan to follow the recommendations set out in the Moose Habitat Development Guide. | <p>Ecosystem-based forest management is the ecological component of sustainable development that serves as a basis for Québec's forest regime. This type of management is provided for in the RADF to ensure that the main attributes and ecological functions of natural forests are maintained in order to foster ecosystem health and biodiversity.</p> <p>The more closely the condition of a forest under management resembles that of a natural forest, the higher the probability that it will offer suitable habitat conditions for plant and wildlife species.</p> | 085-51 |
| Infrastructure Type of silvicultural treatment (logging) | Supply guarantee holder | Asked for some potential harvesting sectors to be withdrawn in order to comply with their FSC certification. | The BGA has been informed that regulations allow harvesting and planned roads to be carried out in this study area. These are being followed and do not affect FSC certification. | 085-51 |

| Topic | Participant Category | Summary of Comment | Ministère's Follow-up | MU |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Other | Private citizen | Asked for riverbanks to be left intact over an area at least three times wider than is currently the case, on both sides of the river. | RSDF standards require a wooded strip at least 20 metres wide to be left alongside aquatic, riparian and wetland areas. The RSDF also identifies the forest management activities that can take place in these wooded strips. In addition, several sections of the RSDF contain standards applicable to the protection of watercourses, wetlands and soils when carrying out forest management activities. These standards are applied and can be consulted here: Guide to the application of the Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State - Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs . | 085-51 |
| Other | Private citizen | Objected to changes made to the standard for the preservation of old-growth forests. | The MRNF informed the citizen that old-growth forest targets can be changed to reflect changes to the context, in order to reduce socio-economic and/or operational impacts. The targets must comply with the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, which states that any alterations to old-growth forests must be low (50% of natural old-growth forest) or moderate (30% of natural old-growth forest) over 80% or more of the total area of a management unit (MU). In the Nord-du-Québec region, low to moderate alterations are required over 100% of the total area in 16 of the 17 MUs Old-growth forest management is taken into account in the integrated tactical forest management plans (PAFITs). | 085-51, 087-63 |
| Infrastructure — Silvicultural work | Ecotourism company | Asked for measures to limit impacts for their company and to remedy degraded roads. Asked for roads to be re-gravelled and leveled, in addition to slashing work. | The MRNF will visit the site to assess the condition of the road and the extent of the work needed. The business owner has been informed of the MRNF's approach and that a follow-up will be carried out once a decision has been made. | 086-65 |
| Other | Private citizen | Asked that the forest canopy in place before logging not be altered, i.e. that reforestation not be confined to jack pine. | The species present at the time of harvesting are prioritized and used for reforestation. This minimizes the percentage of jack pine. | 087-51 |

| Topic | Participant Category | Summary of Comment | Ministère's Follow-up | MU |
|---|---------------------------|--|---|-------------------|
| Other | Outfitter | An outfitter questioned the forest production preparatory work being done in the sector, because the sector had been laid out and harmonized with winter roads to maintain access to the lake. | Road work during the return to production will be limited. The MRNF may also plan road closures once that work has been completed. | 087-51 |
| Other | Supply guarantee holder | A supply guarantee holder (BGA) expressed several concerns regarding the maintenance of forest certification. It asked for a meeting with an MRNF representative to talk about those concerns. | The MRNF has met with the supply guarantee holder to hear its concerns and will continue to work on maintaining existing forestry certifications within its area. | 087-51 |
| Infrastructure, work period and transportation | Recreo-tourism enthusiast | Some snowmobile clubs expressed concerns about the impacts of the proposed work and roads on the snowmobile trails and about timber harvesting and transportation activities taking place at the same time as snowmobile activities. The clubs asked to be notified of proposed work periods and dates and asked for harmonization measures. | Two meetings would be organized each year (spring and fall), to be attended by the Fédération des clubs de motoneigistes du Québec (FCMQ), the BGA and the MRNF, in order to agree on harmonization measures for sensitive sectors. | 087-51 and 087-63 |
| Type of silvicultural treatment (logging), work period. | Regional authority | Asked for withdrawal of a portion located outside an area in which rights had been granted. Asked for the site located on either side of the campsite access road to be worked in winter. Asked to be notified when work starts. Asked to be notified about the start date for mine road repair work. A municipal water supply pipe runs along the road and the regional authority must be contacted before any excavation work takes place. | The sectors identified were postponed to the 2028-2033 five-year plan. | 087-63 |

| Topic | Participant Category | Summary of Comment | Ministère's Follow-up | MU |
|-------|----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Other | Private citizen | A citizen asked for regeneration failure risk data following the 2023 fire. | <p>The information on regeneration failures can be found in Table 6 on page 10 of the Chief Forester's document on post-fire regeneration predictions. The document is available here: https://forestierenchef.gouv.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/RAP-00822-Note-technique_Prediction-de-la-regeneration-apres-feu-4.0.1.pdf</p> <p>This information was sent to the citizen.</p> | 087-51, 087-62, 087-63, 087-64 |

Conclusion

The PAFIO are dynamic and present the locations with the necessary potential to carry out the various development work. To consult the various forest planning documents relating to Nord-du-Québec, visit the Ministère's website.

Public consultations on the PAFIO are organized each year with the goal of collecting comments from organizations and individuals during the validity period of the plans. These consultations generally are held in January.

To view information related to operational forest planning, consult the interactive map of the region on the Ministère's website or address one of the management units mentioned below.

Chibougamau Management Unit

624, 3^e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418-748-2647

Harricana-Nord Management Unit

1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819-444-5238

Quévillon Management Unit

1121, boulevard Industriel
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Telephone: 819-755-4838

Mont-Plamondon Management Unit

645, 1^{re} Rue Est
La Sarre (Québec) J9Z 3P3
Telephone: 819-339-7623

Appendices

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HOLDING OF THE CONSULTATION

The following table presents all the different means used by the MRNF or by the responsible body, for distribution of the announcement of the public consultation.

Table 3 - Means Used to Announce the Public Consultation

| Means | Target audience | Information | Number | Date |
|----------------|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| Email | TLGIRT delegates and alternates | Announcement of the public consultation and information sessions | 95 persons | December 20, 2024 |
| | | Presentation of the amendments to the delegates at the panel meeting | 53 delegates present | November 5, 6, 7 et 13, 2024 |
| Email | Citizens wishing to be informed | List of citizens who expressed their interest in being informed on the public consultations | 83 persons | January 27, 2025 |
| Public notice | Readership of daily and weekly newspapers | Newspapers distributed in the territory of the forest management units | Readership of the <i>Citoyen Abitibi-Est et Ouest</i> (44,447 copies) | January 22, 2025 |
| | | | Readership of the <i>La Sentinelle</i> (2,500 copies) | January 21, 2025 |
| | | | Readership of the <i>Nation</i> magazine (7,500 copies) | January 24, 2025 |
| | | | Readership of the <i>Jamésien</i> (7,800 copies) | February 3, 2025 |
| | Citizens | Public notice posted in the offices of the EIJBRG in Matagami, Beaucanton and Villebois | 3 posting sites | January 22, 2025 |
| Social network | Subscribers to the Facebook and LinkedIn pages of the Ministry | Public page managed by the Ministry | 2 publications | January 13, 2025 |
| Press release | Citizens | Public page managed by the Ministry | 1 publication | January 27, 2025 |
| Website | Citizens | Website of the EIJBRG | 1 publication | January 22, 2025 |

PUBLIC NOTICE AND INFORMATION ACTIVITY HELD

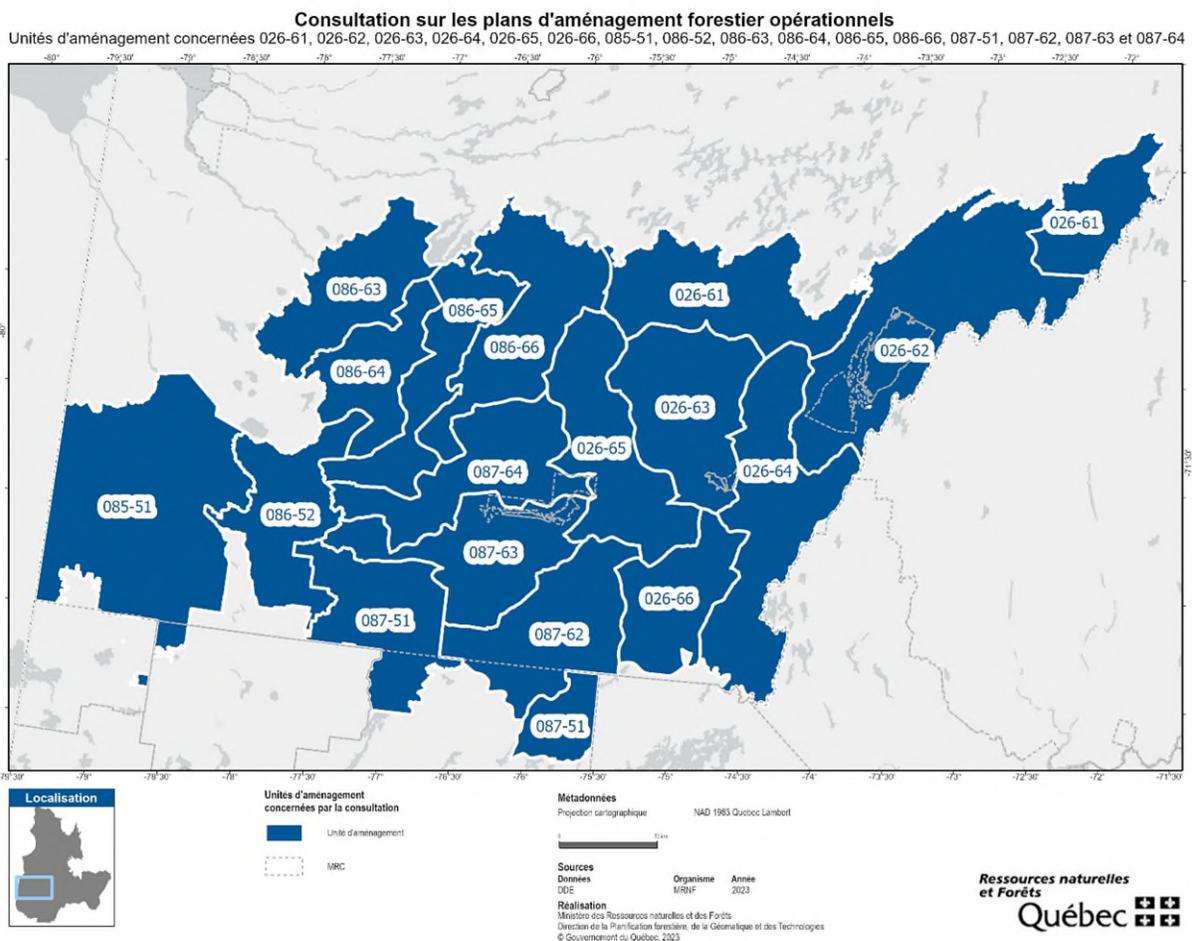
PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts

PUBLIC CONSULTATION – FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE NORD-DU-QUÉBEC REGION
From January 27 to February 20, 2025

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) invites the public to participate in a public consultation on the planned modifications in the Integrated Forest Management Plans - Operational (PAFIO) of the regional public land.

Those PAFIO present potential forest operation zones where work is planned such as timber harvesting, land preparation, reforestation, thinning, construction and rehabilitation of multi-purpose roads are potentially planned in some areas of the public forest for management units 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65, 026-66, 085-51, 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65, 086-66, 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64.



To consult the plans and submit your comments: Quebec.ca/consultations-foret-nord-du-quebec



You have until February 20, 2025, at 11:59 pm, to provide your comments.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Departmental experts will hold information sessions to specify the areas for potential intervention for public consultation, the way to provide online comments, and the follow-up that will be done regarding addressed concerns. A question-and-answer period with participants will conclude the activity.

Management units 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 and 026-66: Thursday, February 6, 2025, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Chibougamau: City Hall Council Room (650, 3e Rue)

Management unit 085-51: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Beaucanton: Municipal Building Room A (2709, boulevard du Curé-McDuff)

Management units 086-52, 086-63, 086-64, 086-65 and 086-66: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Matagami: EIJB RG Headquarters – Large room (2, rue des Rapides)

Management units 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 and 087-64: Wednesday, February 5, 2025, starting from 6:30 p.m. - Lebel-sur-Quévillon: City Hall Room number 6 (500, place Quévillon)

For more information

Specialists are also available by appointment from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. using the following contact information:

By email: nord-du-quebec.foret@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca

Unité de gestion de Chibougamau

624, 3e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418-748-2647

Unité de gestion de Quévillon

1121, boulevard Industriel
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Telephone: 819-755-4838

Unité de gestion de Mont-Plamondon

645, 1re Rue Est
La Sarre (Québec) J9Z 3P3
Telephone: 819-339-7623

Unité de gestion de l'Harricana-Nord

1122, Route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819-444-5238

Note: This consultation does not allow for the review of the use of public land, or the rights granted to it.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES HELD

In collaboration with Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government, information activities were held on January 28, 2025, February 4, 2025, February 5, 2025 and February 6, 2025 to introduce the public to the interactive map and the public consultation process, and to inform them of how to submit comments.

| Town/Locality | Management Unit | Date and time | Number of participants |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Beaucanton | 085-51 | January 28, 2025 – 6:30 PM | 6 |
| Matagami | 086-52, 086-63, 086-64 et 086-66 | February 4, 2025 – 6:30 PM | 3 |
| Lebel-sur-Quévillon | 087-51, 087-62, 087-63 et 087-64 | February 5, 2025 – 6:30 PM | 7 |
| Chibougamau | 026-61, 026-62, 026-63, 026-64, 026-65 et 026-66 | February 6, 2025 – 6:30 PM | 3 |

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