

## DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE MATANE — 22B

Le territoire inscrit sur le feuille de Matane représente une partie du bas St-Laurent et couvre la partie sud-est du comté de Rimouski, le comté de Matapedia, excepté la partie nord-ouest, ainsi que la partie ouest de la Péninsule Gaspésienne. Ce territoire situé à quelque 300 milles de Québec est dans son ensemble accessible par un grand nombre de routes secondaires, routes des nombreuses exploitations forestières.

L'ensemble du territoire, excepté le sud-est qui fait partie des hautes terres de la Baie des Chaleurs, appartient aux Monts Notre-Dame. Ces sous-régions sont des unités de la région physiographique Appalachienne.

Le réseau hydrographique comprend à l'ouest: les rivières Tartigou, Blanche, Matane et Cap-Chat localisées au nord et qui se déversent dans le fleuve St-Laurent; au sud, les rivières Patapédia, Matapédia, Kempt et Nouvelle, affluents de la Baie des Chaleurs. Les sols, bien qu'appartenant à l'ordre podzolique (podzols humo-ferriques, podzols humiques) représentent une proportion appréciable des sols brunisoliques. C'est ainsi que les sols dérivés de tills locaux à texture relativement fine sur formation géologique calcaire aboutissent à des brunisols dystriques et dans certains cas à des brunisols maléniques.

Les sols des hautes terres sont étroitement associés aux formations schisteuses du groupe du Québec; le degré d'altération et de pendage des schistes influence la profondeur et la pédogénése du sol (régosol, podzols et brunisols dystriques). Dans les zones littorales les podzols dominent. L'industrie forestière est la principale activité économique de cette région.

### CLIMAT

Le centre de la péninsule de Gaspé (7L), la côte de Gaspé (6L) et le versant Est du Nouveau-Brunswick (5L) constituent trois régions climatiques distinctes. La première au nord a une période sans gel de 90 jours et une précipitation annuelle moyenne de 35 po; les températures moyennes des mois de janvier et de juillet y sont respectivement de 15 et 57°F.

La côte de Gaspé (6L) a une période sans gel de 105 jours et une précipitation annuelle moyenne de 35 po. Les températures moyennes des mois de janvier et de juillet y sont de 11 et 61°F.

Le versant Est du Nouveau-Brunswick (5L) a une période sans gel de 105 jours et une précipitation annuelle moyenne de 38 po. Les températures moyennes des mois de janvier et de juillet y sont de 10 et 65°F.

### ÉCOLOGIE

L'altitude, la topographie et le climat influencent la localisation des séquences de végétation suivantes: au nord-ouest et en-dessous de 1 500 pi, on trouve la sapinière à bouleau jaune, les vallées de drainage étant occupées par la sapinière humide à thuya dans le nord-ouest et par la sapinière sèche à thuya dans le sud-est. L'érablière à bouleau jaune se rencontre occasionnellement sur les sommets entre 1 500 et 1 700 pi. La sapinière à bouleau blanc succède aux précédentes et couvre environ la moitié de la feuille, principalement les versants bien drainés. La sapinière à épinette noire est surtout présente au-delà de 1 700 pi et couvre la chaîne des Chic-Chocs. Sur les sommets élevés localisés au nord-est, se trouve la toundra alpine. De strates arbustives, herbacées, muscinale et lichenale constituent la flore de ces lieux. Chacun des stades de développement de ces séquences supporte des peuplements auxquels se rattachent des populations d'Ongulés.

Au cours des hivers, les Ongulés utilisent les cimes de conifères comme abri et se nourrissent des essences forestières suivantes: bouleau jaune (*Betula lutea*), bouleau à papier (*Betula papyrifera*), érable rouge (*Acer rubrum*), peuplier faux-tremble (*Populus tremuloides*), sapin baumier (*Abies balsamea*), cèdre (*Thuja occidentalis*) et frêne noir (*Fraxinus nigra*). Erable à épi (*Acer spicatum*), érable de Pennsylvanie (*Acer pensylvanicum*), if du Canada (*Taxus canadensis*), viorne (*Viburnum spp.*), dièreville chèvrefeuille (*Diervilla lonicera*), sorbier (*Sorbus spp.*), chèvrefeuille du Canada (*Lonicera canadensis*), noisetier (*Corylus cornuta*) et amélanchiers (*Amelanchier spp.*) constituent les espèces recherchées des ongulés. Dans les quelques endroits favorables à la végétation aquatique, on trouve les potamots (*Potamogeton spp.*), la vallisnerie (*Vallisneria spp.*), les carex (*Carex spp.*) et les nénuphars (*Nuphar spp.*), qui font partie de la diète estivale des Ongulés. Le territoire abrite, par ordre d'importance: l'original (*Odocoileus virginianus*), le cerf de Virginie (*Odocoileus virginianus*) et le caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*). L'original vit surtout à l'est de la rivière Matapédia, le cerf de Virginie à l'ouest de la rivière Matapédia et en périphérie du fleuve et de la Baie des Chaleurs. Le caribou semble préférer la toundra alpine et les forêts climatiques ouvertes et vit au nord-est.

### CLASSEMENT DES POSSIBILITÉS

Le territoire est très favorable à la production d'Ongulés. L'original et le cerf de Virginie occupent des secteurs sensiblement comparables en superficie.

Les habitats de classe 2 couvrent la majeure partie du territoire: à l'ouest et en bordure du fleuve et de la Baie des Chaleurs, là où l'altitude moyenne est de 1000 pi, ils sont limités par le climat et occupés en majorité par des chevreuils. Dans ce secteur les habitats de classe 3W, bien que présents un peu partout couvrent des petites superficies non discernables à cette échelle. Ces petites zones sont occupées par des cèdrières que le cerf de Virginie utilise au cours de la période d'hivernage.

Les habitats de classe 2 pour l'original, sont surtout présents dans l'est où l'altitude moyenne est de 1 400 pi. L'association de bouleau blanc et de sapin produit de la nourriture en quantité. L'épaisseur de neige au sol peut limiter la population d'Ongulés. Quant aux zones d'hivernage elles sont présentes un peu partout sur les flancs de montagne. De petites superficies de ces peuplements forment des habitats de classe 4 pour l'original et sont principalement limitées par l'humidité et la fertilité du sol. Sur les sommets et les versants à l'est du territoire là où l'altitude varie de 1 700 à 2 000 pi, on trouve les habitats de classe 3, ne couvrant que de faibles surfaces qu'utilise l'original; le climat, le degré d'humidité et la fertilité du sol limitent la production et favorise le développement des conifères. Les habitats de classe 5 et 6 occupent des portions de territoire très restreintes qui limitent l'humidité et la fertilité du sol.

Au nord-est du territoire se trouve le début des Chic-Chocs. Cette zone, dont l'altitude est supérieure à 2 500 pi constitue une partie de la toundra alpine de la Gaspésie. Les affleurements rocheux et les pessières à kalmia et cladonie sont des habitats de classe 2 pour le caribou. Il n'y a pas d'habitats de classe 1 et 7.

La chasse au gros gibier se pratique beaucoup sur l'ensemble du territoire. L'original est l'espèce la plus abondante et la plus chassée dans la section est, et le chevreuil dans la section ouest. Présentement le territoire n'est pas utilisé à son potentiel. Un aménagement approprié de l'habitat améliorerait les conditions actuelles et en accroîtrait le potentiel d'utilisation.

*Classement des possibilités par J. M. Brassard et R. Bouchard, du ministère du Tourisme, de la Chasse et de la Pêche du Québec.*

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE MATANE MAP SHEET AREA, 22B

The area covered by the Matane map sheet is located along the southern part of the lower St. Lawrence estuary, and comprises the southeastern part of Rimouski County, all but the northwestern part of Matapedia County, and the western part of the Gaspé Peninsula. The area is about 300 miles from Quebec City, and can be reached by many secondary roads built for lumbering operations.

Except for the southeast, which is part of the Chaleur Uplands, the area is dominated by the Notre-Dame Mountains, a subdivision of the Appalachian Region.

In the west, the drainage system includes the Tartigou, Blanche, Matane, and Cap-Chat rivers, which flow north into the St. Lawrence River, and to the south, the Patapédia, Matapédia, Kempt, and Nouvelle rivers drain into Chaleur Bay. The soils are Podzols, mainly Humo-Ferric Podzols and Humic Podzols, but there are many Brunisolic soils in the area. Soils originating in relatively fine-textured local tills with a limestone base develop into Dystric Brunisols and, in certain cases, Melanic Brunisols.

The upland soils are closely related to the shaly formations of the Quebec group. The degree of alteration and dip of the shale influence depth and soil profile development. The soils are mainly Regosols, Podzols, and Dystric Brunisols. Podzols are predominant along the coastline. The forest industry is the main economic activity of the area.

### CLIMATE

The three climatic zones of the area are the interior of the Gaspé Peninsula, the Gaspé shoreline, and the east coast of New Brunswick. The first, to the north, has a frost-free period of 90 days and an average annual precipitation of 35 inches; the mean temperatures for January and July are 15°F and 57°F respectively.

The Gaspé shoreline has a frost-free period of 105 days and an average annual precipitation of 35 inches. The mean temperatures for January and July are 11°F and 61°F respectively.

The east coast of New Brunswick has a frost-free period of 105 days and an average annual precipitation of 38 inches. The mean temperatures for January and July are 10°F and 65°F respectively.

### ECOLOGY

The location of the various types of vegetation is influenced by altitude, topography, and climate. To the northwest and at altitudes below 1500 feet, the climax forest is a yellow birch - fir association, whereas moist cedar - fir forests are found in the valleys of the northwestern part, and dry cedar - fir forests grow in the southeast. Scattered groves of yellow birch - maple grow on plateaus between 1500 and 1700 feet. These are followed by white birch - fir forests, which cover about half the area, mainly on well-drained slopes. Above 1700 feet, black spruce - fir forests predominate, covering the Chic-Choc Mountains, and alpine tundra is found on the higher peaks in the northeast. The flora in the area comprises shrubs, herbs, mosses, and lichens. Each successional stage contains vegetation important to the management of ungulates.

In winter, ungulates take shelter under the conifers and feed on the following forest species: yellow birch (*Betula lutea*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). Ungulates are particularly fond of mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), Canada yew (*Taxus canadensis*), witherod (*Viburnum sp.*), bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), mountain ash (*Sorbus sp.*), Canadian honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*), hazel (*Corylus cornuta*), and shadbush (*Amelanchier sp.*). The ungulates' summer diet includes pondweeds (*Potamogeton spp.*), eelgrasses (*Vallisneria spp.*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), and water lilies (*Nuphar spp.*), which can be found in the rare places suitable for aquatic vegetation. In order of importance, moose (*Alces alces*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) are found in the area. The primary habitat of moose is east of the Matapedia River, whereas the white-tailed deer is restricted to the lands west of the Matapedia River and the coast of the St. Lawrence River and Chaleur Bay. Caribou prefer the alpine tundra and the open climax forests to the northeast.

### LAND CAPABILITY FOR UNGULATES

This area has excellent capability for ungulate production. The habitats of moose and white-tailed deer cover approximately the same territory.

The Class 2 lands that cover most of the area are restricted by climate in the west, along the St. Lawrence, around Chaleur Bay, and wherever the average altitude is 1000 feet. Deer are predominant in these locations. Small unmapped pockets of Class 3W lands are found throughout the area. They are covered by cedar groves that provide winter range for white-tailed deer.

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