

Wildlife Habitat Protection

A collective responsibility under sustainable forest management process

Christine Dionne

Public Relations and Communications Advisor
Forest and Wood Products Division

As part of the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee set up by Kruger, Scierie Parent and four other forest companies (Kruger Wayagamack Inc., Gérard Crête et fils inc., Légaré Industries Ltd. and John Lewis Industries) for common area 943-20, various stakeholders from the Upper Mauricie identified wildlife habitats, among other elements, as one of the important features to be protected in the area.

To maintain the composition (tree types) and natural heterogeneity of forest stands along with their wildlife values, forest companies have modified their practices and are now applying harvesting strategies such as block cutting, preservation of forest cover, and extensive silvicultural work throughout the territory.

With the block cutting method, a residual forested area equal to or greater than the logged area is maintained between two harvested sectors. This residual forest is then harvested only once the neighbouring forest grows sufficiently to serve as shelter for wildlife, i.e., in 10 to 15 years. Also, on a much broader scale, considerable efforts are being made to maintain a forest cover with minimum height of 7 m over at least 50% of each watershed (roughly 100 km²).

These forest management approaches are all designed to maintain high quality wildlife habitats, specifically moose and hare habitats. They also create young forest areas (a source of

food) adjacent to mature forests that provide cover and shelter while facilitating wildlife movements.

As regards our feathered friends, the bald eagle attracted considerable interest from the Advisory Committee. Although there are no legal obligations with respect to this eagle, forest companies have committed to



Bald eagle

protecting bald eagle nesting sites on the territory. They have agreed to set up 300-m protected areas (where no logging is done) around each nesting site, along with an additional 400-m buffer zone to preserve the bald eagle's nesting habitat.

Finally, the preservation of aquatic habitats was also identified as an important value by the various partners. The forest companies as a result agreed to protect all walleye and brook trout spawning areas by doubling the protective measures required under the Regulation respecting Forest Management Standards, and installing bridges or culverts for crossings more than 100 m upstream from spawning grounds.

In an effort to continuously improve our forest practices, we encourage residents from the Parent community to inform us of any walleye and brook trout spawning areas and bald eagle nesting sites they discover on the territory. We will then include them in our survey and forest planning process.

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