

Towards a model of forestry that culturally fit the way of life of the Ouje- Bougoumou Crees

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Cercle des partenaires
Chaire de leadership en enseignement (cle)
en foresterie autochtone

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The First Nations and the forestry in Québec

Native Issues News

UNITY GROWING IN THE ATIKAMEKW NATION

INDIGENOUS BLOCKADE FORCES QUEBEC FORESTRY COMPANY TO BACK DOWN



The North Star 03/04/2023

Read Time: 2 Minute

On March 20th, over a year after the Atikamekw of Manawan blockaded the sixtieth kilometre of a logging road in their territory, the community forced the St-Michel Sawmill of the Champoux investor group to remove all of the company's logging equipment from the road. Families of

Montreal

Quebec's relationship with forestry industry under scrutiny as pressure mounts to protect woodlands

Community groups are frustrated with the ministry they say is too close to the lumber lobby

Jonathan Montpetit - CBC News - Posted: Aug 02, 2021 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: August 2, 2021

In the eyes of many experts, environmental activists and Indigenous communities, Quebec's Forest Ministry appears more interested in safeguarding the profits of industry than the forests themselves. (Radio-Canada)

324 comments

As it runs from the Otish Mountains south to Lac-Saint-Jean, the Péribonka River cuts through a valley in Quebec that is home to old yellow birch, woodland caribou and bald eagles.

Cree Grand Chief travels to Waswanipi to calm opposition

Community unhappy with forestry settlement signed with Quebec

Susan Bell - CBC News - Posted: Jul 20, 2015 11:35 AM EDT | Last Updated: July 20, 2015



Waswanipi Cree demand virgin forest, caribou be protected from logging

'Our people ... are able to see there's something that's bringing a disturbance upon the wildlife,' says chief

Jaela Bernstein - CBC News - Posted: Jan 26, 2016 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: January 26, 2016

Most of Canada's woodland caribou populations are in decline. (Wikimedia Commons)

The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, Que. is fighting to protect one of Quebec's last remaining virgin boreal forests from forestry development.

13 comments

Indigenous

Atikamekw say they won't allow forestry work on their land without approval

Stephanie Marin - The Canadian Press - Posted: Sep 24, 2014 5:36 PM EDT | Last Updated: September 24, 2014

13 comments

The Atikamekw First Nation says it will not allow any forestry work on its territory in Quebec unless it has given prior approval.

logical move just two weeks after it declared its territory in the heart of the province.

his people have never given their approval to ancestral land.

es
reignty over its territory
to the massive exploitation of forestry resources

given our consent

ation of forestry
re found on our

Doing forestry on traditional territory

Needs in the communities :

- **Development Opportunities** (e.g., Wemotaci, Waswanipi)
- **Forestry Biomass** (e.g., Oujé-Bougoumou)
- **Employment** (e.g., Mistissini, Opitciwan)

Acceptability in forestry = social license to operate

« The ongoing acceptance or approval of an operation by those local community stakeholders who are affected by it and those stakeholders who can affect its profitability » (Moffat et al. 2015)

Doing forestry in Oujé-Bougoumou?

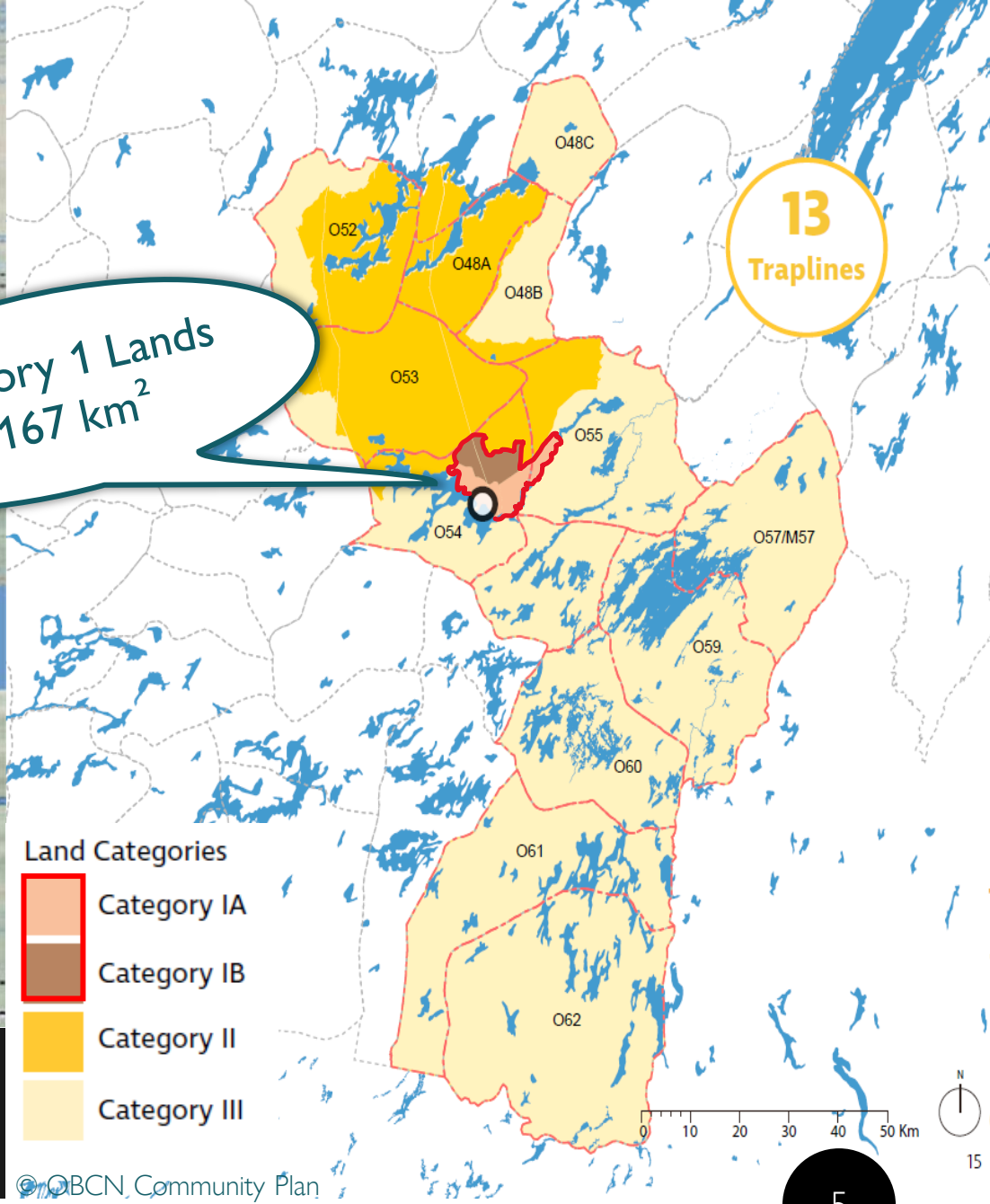
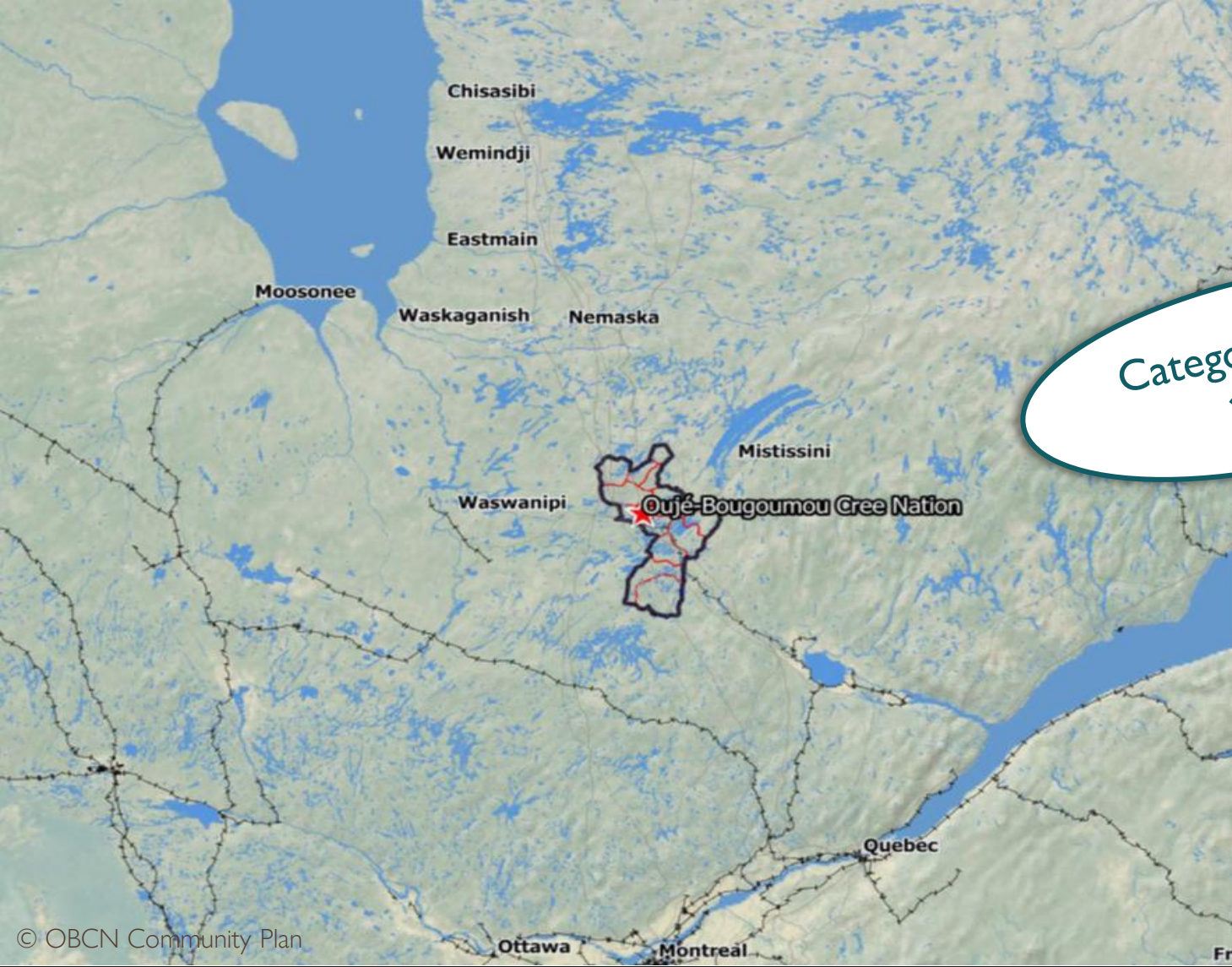
Meeting the biomass needs
(district heating plant since 1993)

Doing an acceptable forestry on lands owned by
First Nations



<http://alaskawoodheating.com/>





Category 1 Lands
167 km²

13
Traplines

- Land Categories
- Category IA
 - Category IB
 - Category II
 - Category III

© OBCN Community Plan

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Oujé-Bougoumou

Research question and objectives

How to develop a sustainable forest management strategy for the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation's Category 1 lands, which would grant the social acceptance from community members?

1. Identify issues in the co-management experience in the context of the Paix des Braves Adapted Forestry Regime, as perceived by the Crees;
2. Propose a framework for sustainable forest management that could grant the social license to operate of community members.

Methodology

By, for and with Oujé-Bougoumou

Qualitative method and collaborative approach

2 techniques by objective

Objective	Data collection technique
Identification of the issues	Principal : Documentation analysis (Cree trappers; Forestry issues in <i>Waswanipi</i>) Second : Oujé-Bougoumou's working group
Formulation of the framework*	Principal : Research team in co-construction Second : Documentation (Cree standards of <i>Waswanipi</i> ; Projects in sustainable forestry management on Eeyou Istchee)

* No validation yet with the community

Adapted Forestry Regime

Dissatisfaction in the forest management :
Paix des Braves in 2002 (modalities)

News : zoning, maximum disturbance level,
cutting methods (mosaic)

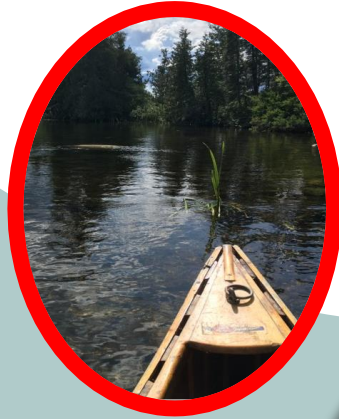
Insufficient elements after 20 years of
forest co-management



Issues of the Paix des Braves

Inadequate protection on wildlife habitats

Inadequate protective measures for the riparian areas



Mixed forest stands, key socioecological ecosystems too much disturbed

Issues of the Paix des Braves

Inadequate silviculture practices and cutting methods



Protected heritage sites of insufficient size

Too much road access to the territory



Cutting levels too high using equivocal harvesting methods

Issue

Inadequate protective measures for the riparian areas

The size of riparian buffer strips is insufficient to protect wildlife habitats, heritage sites and the activities of land users.

« While several tallymen recognized that buffer sizes have improved since the Paix des Braves, there was nonetheless **strong consensus** that current requirements for buffer size (20 meters) are **insufficient** »

(Teitelbaum et Lussier 2016, p.10)



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Issue

Inadequate silviculture practices and cutting methods

The practices implemented overly artificialize the forest and do not sufficiently respect nature.

- Artificial reforestation methods
- Scarification



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And on the Category 1 Lands?

Cree Sustainable Management Framework

- A. Cree Network: areas excluded from timber production
- B. Wildlife Habitat Strategies
- C. Visual Management Plan
- D. Sustainable Forest Management
- E. Road Network Plan

In co-construction with the community!



Protected Areas Network on the Eeyou Istchee



(Cree Nation Government 2020)

Cree Nation Scale

Sites of special interest to the Cree (1%)

Biological Refuges (2%)

~~Forested areas presenting wildlife interest for the Cree (25%)~~

(Average 812 km²)

Trapline Scale

Each trapline needs to have its own *socioecological cree network*

(areas excluded from timber production)

1. *Eenou Eetouin Sites*
2. Aquatic Ecosystems of High significance for the Crees and their shorelines
3. Mixedwood Forests and Moose Habitats
4. Cree Heritage : Recreational and Tourism cultural sites



A. Cree Network: areas excluded from timber production (protected areas?)

1. *Eenou Eetouin* sites

Objective : Protect the sites of interest, prevent the disturbances from the forest operations (modalities)

Example :

- *Permanent or seasonal campsite*
- *Cemetery or burial site*
- *Traditional/Cultural/Sacred Sites*



A. Cree Network: areas excluded from timber production (protected areas?)

2. Aquatic Ecosystems of High significance for the Cree and their shorelines

Objective : Promote landscape connectivity and biodiversity, maintain or improve moose habitat, water and fish quality, and aquatic habitats



A. Cree Network: areas excluded from timber production (protected areas?)

3. Mixed forests and moose habitats

Objective : Keep all mixed stands intact, protect moose winter habitat (moose yards)



A. Cree Network: areas excluded from timber production (protected areas?)

4. Cree heritage : cultural tourism and recreation sites

Objective : Preserve tourism potential, maintain recreational sites and the Cree way of life



B. Wildlife Habitat Strategies

Based on the *species of interest* : caribou, moose, marten, small games, etc.

Landscape Level : connectivity, Spatial distribution of cut blocks, cutting size

Territory separated in two zones :

- North/Caribou vs South/Moose
- Disturbance level based on the zone
- Restoration



C. Visual Management Plan

Touristic needs on the territory

« Many community members have expressed an interest in pursuing economic activities that are **more environmentally friendly** and widely seen as more compatible with the Cree way of life than industrial extraction of natural resources » (EPC 2018)

Objective : Implement a visual management plan to protect sensitive landscapes and areas of landscape interest



D. Sustainable Forest Management

1. Ecological silviculture (choice of species, silvicultural practices)
2. High naturalness (following Mother Nature's ecological process)
3. Ecological restoration

Objective : Do an ecological and sustainable forestry, respect Mother Nature and the Cree way of life



E. Road Network Plan

1. Implementation of a strategic road network plan
2. Road closures (woodland caribou)

Objective : Provide access to the territory for the Crees, limit or avoid the impact of new roads, reduce or prevent entry by non-native people.



Expected benefits

New version of the Paix des Braves

Need to have a forestry that culturally fit the way of life of aboriginal communities in Quebec
➔ FIRST FRAMEWORK

Doing a forestry that grants the social acceptance of communities on their own lands



Project status

Session	Tasks
Summer 2019	14-weeks internship in the Ouje-Bougoumou community
Fall 2019 and Winter 2020	Project preparation (research proposal, internship report, ethic certificate) Courses (4) « The Cree standards project » with Waswanipi
Summer and Fall 2020	COVID-19 Adaptation of the project (new objectives, working committee)
Winter 2021	Working meetings (working committee, framework)
Summer 2021	Maternity Leave – writing break but ongoing communication with research team and community
Fall 2021 to Fall 2022	Conciliation-studies-family-with-no-daycare
Winter 2023 to Fall 2023	Writing the thesis
December 2023	INITIAL DEPOSIT OF THE THESIS Research report

MEEGWETCH!

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Cree Sustainable Management Framework

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