

The Public Land Use Plan



**OF THE LAND AND
ITS RESOURCES**

General Information

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PRESENTATION

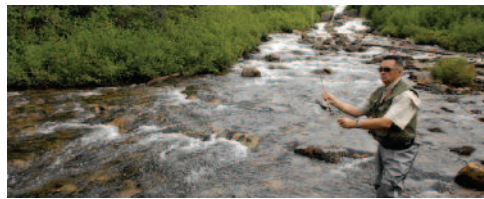
This publication presents the general features of Public Land Use Plans (PLUP). It enables readers to better grasp the principles of government public land designation and use.

It is meant for stakeholders involved in:

- The use and protection of lands and resources in the domain of the State
- The planning and management of this common heritage

Public Land Use Plans are coordinated by the ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF). They are the result of a consensus on the part of various interested government ministries and agencies, and are established with participation by regional and local actors, as well as aboriginal communities.







The Public Land Use Plan

A SWEEPING VISION OF THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES

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What is a Public Land Use Plan (PLUP)?

Public Land Use Plans are planning tools employed by the government to set and communicate its orientations for the use and protection of lands and resources in the domain of the State.

The MRNF prepares land use plans for most of Québec's administrative regions. These plans provide broad descriptions and a long-term vision for public land use.

The plans provide guidance and direction for the various users of public lands.

PLUPs foster a higher level of coherence among land projects in a perspective of integrated land and resource management, and help prevent conflicting usage.

The Contents of a PLUP

Each PLUP presents:

- A description of the public lands and the context for their use
- The segmentation of the land into zones, along with their individual descriptions
- Government orientations for each of the specified zones

Orientations described in a Public Land Use Plan are established for land zoning purposes and only apply to Québec lands in the domain of the State.

The PLUP and Public Land Management

The land use plan has a strategic function in the management of public lands. It is a government-established **generalized** and **multi-sector** planning tool.

Orientations are defined by taking account of all of the government's sectors of activity (agriculture, environment, natural resources, transport, etc.).

PLUPs make it possible to guide action taken on public lands. This can take various forms, such as:

- Land planning
- Development planning
- Operational planning
- Awarding rights
- Establishing status
- Authorizing activities on public lands

The use orientations are then turned into concrete measures to develop public lands by these actions. Ensuring that they are PLUP-compliant enables the development of lands and resources in the domain of the State to reach the desired level of coherence.

The Role of Public Land Use Plans in Public Land Management



How is Public Land Use Defined?

Government orientations established in Public Land Use Plans correspond to choices to be made for using or protecting public lands. They are applied to various parts of the land that have been segmented in accordance with their environmental and socio-economic features.

The orientations include an **intention**, a **designation** and, as required, **specific objectives**.

The **government's intention** defines the envisaged use of each portion of the public lands.

The **designation** indicates the preferred type of usage—either use or protection—as well as the form, which could be exclusive, priority, multiple, or level of protection. For example, a given portion of the land might be intended for priority use, multiple use or strict protection.

Specific objectives may be added to take account of the individual nature of a zone, and provide details on the general intention that enables improved focus on the desired effects of future land and resource management.

Example 1. A Government Orientation for the use of Public Land

Government intention

Use the land and its resources with a view to developing recreational tourism, while paying special attention to archaeological heritage.

Designation

Multiple use with conditions

Specific objectives

Adapt management practices so as to maintain the natural attributes of landscapes acknowledged for their support for recreational and tourism activities that are visible from commercial lodging and community facilities.

Ensure the conservation of habitats that are essential for maintaining the wildlife potential on which recreational activities associated with sport fishing and observation are based.

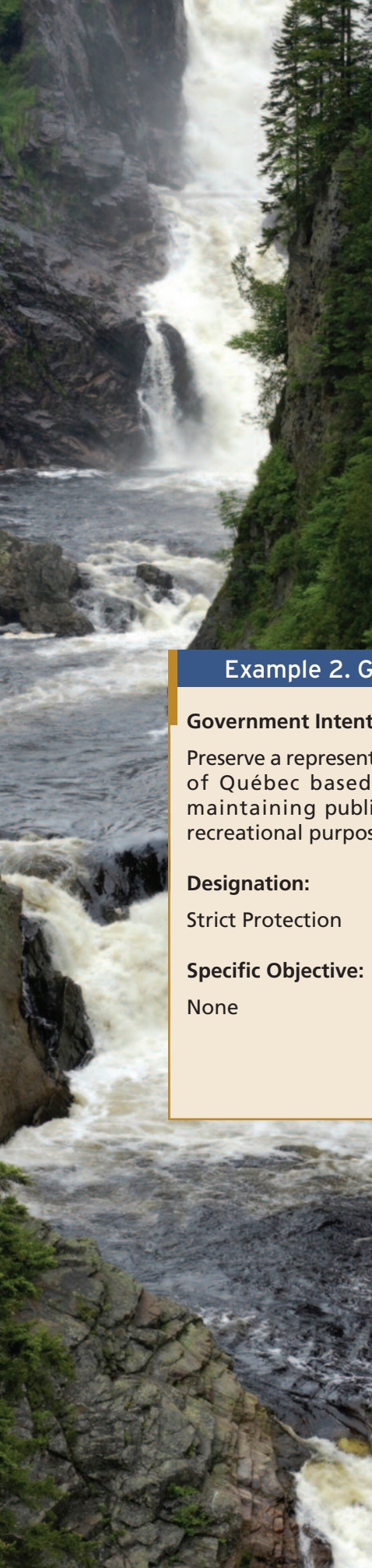
Adopt practices that enable the conservation and promotion of vestiges that confirm the prehistoric and historic presence of humans in the southern portion of the zone.

Effects and Consequences of Use Designation

In this example, use designation would lead to greater consideration being given to the potential for recreational and tourism activities and archaeological vestiges when making decisions about the use of the land and its resources. This could result in restricting selected activities and setting up infrastructures other than for recreational tourism.

In this way, the ministries, agencies and their agents or delegates would need to ensure that management practices meet specific requirements with respect to the rest of the area. This could apply to maintaining landscapes in the vicinity of the main recreational attractions and wildlife habitats that are essential to the development of wildlife for recreational purposes. The same considerations and changes to management practices would be applied so as to not alter archaeological sites in the southern portion of the zone and enable them to be promoted.

As well, regional organizations, their agents and any other delegated management entity would be required to ensure that their land and resource planning and management tools match the government-created use orientations for the zone.



The Six Designated Categories for the Use and Protection of the Land and its Resources

Individual area land designations are reflective of use categories, run from specific use to strict land protection, and include a variety of degrees of mixed use.

The table on the next page shows the various types of designations that have been allocated to PLUP areas, as well as the effects of these designations on the use of the land and its resources.

Example 2. Government Orientation For Protecting Public Lands

Government Intention:

Preserve a representative zone of a natural region of Québec based on its biodiversity, while maintaining public access for educational and recreational purposes.

Designation:

Strict Protection

Specific Objective:

None

Effects and Consequences of the Designation

In this example, the designation would severely limit the range of potential activities. In particular, industrial activity would be, in general, prohibited. Any eventual authorized activities would be subject to severe constraints in order to achieve the protection objectives for the zone.

Government actors would need to ensure that their future activities are compatible with the territorial protection objectives, or plan to implement them outside the zone. As for regional actors, they would need to be certain that their land planning and management tools are compatible with the designation of the zone.

Designations of Public Lands	
Designation Definition	Effects on Land Use
Specific Use Exclusive land or resource use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single use limitation • Blocks any other activity from taking place
Priority Use Priority use of land or resources that takes precedence over any other activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions on non-priority activities • Constraints applied to other possible uses
Multiple Use With Conditions Multiple use of lands and resources, with procedures or regulations that are adapted to particular environmental, landscape, cultural, social or economic conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusting activities in accordance with one or more particular characteristics of the land
Multiple Use Multiple use of lands and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad range of preferred activities
Protection Safeguarding of a component of the natural or cultural heritage that takes precedence over any other activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusting activities to comply with protection objectives • Restrictions on activities that do not enable the objectives to be achieved
Strict Protection Preservation of rare, exceptional or representative areas of natural heritage and biodiversity, as well as cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major restrictions on authorized activities • Severe constraints applied if necessary
Deferred Land Use Deferment of designation accompanied by interim management measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of interim measures for current and potential land use

Who Uses PLUPs?

PLUPs are used by government ministries and agencies involved in land and resource planning, as well as by their delegates and agents.

The plans are also intended for regional organizations and aboriginal communities, for example:

- Organizations with land planning and regional development responsibilities
- Aboriginal communities or their representative organizations
- Associations and organizations that represent users and industries
- Interest groups
- Various organizations named in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

Land use plans may also be useful to individuals that wish to learn about government orientations for public lands.

How Does the Government Apply PLUPs?

Each ministry and agency is responsible for applying PLUP orientations in land and resource management.

More concretely, use application may involve adopting or modifying land and resource management orientations and measures that relate to the individual sector of activity.

Public Land Use Plans can influence regional and local planning tools by the overriding nature of their government orientations. These tools can include regional integrated land and resource development plans, urban planning and development plans and planning and development schemes.

Monitoring PLUP Application

Monitoring on a two-year basis is followed by a statement of the actions taken by government actors in order to carry out the government use orientations and any required corrective measures.

Updating PLUPS

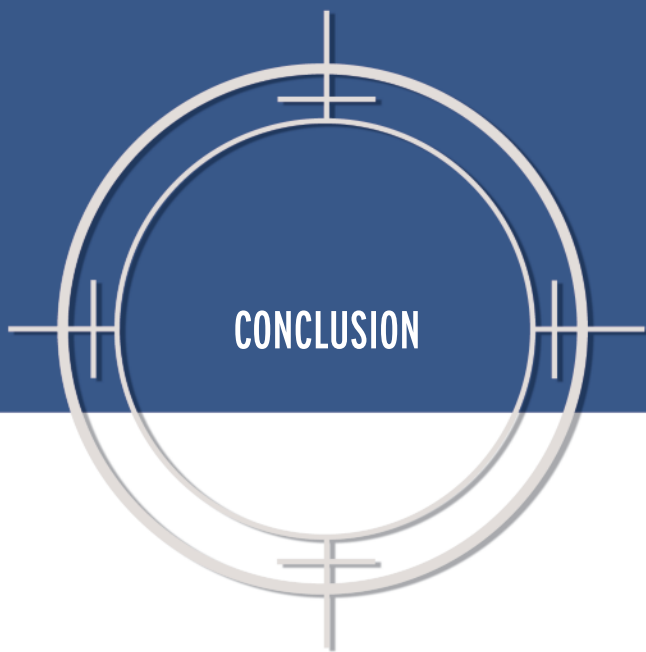
Land use plans are dynamic and evolving tools that the government can modify as needed in order to take account of changes in land use protection or of contextual elements that need to be looked at.

Who can request an interim update to a Public Land Use Plan?

Any government ministry or agency that played a role in the development of a Public Land Use Plan may formulate a request to change it, as can any regional or local partner or aboriginal community.

Any proposed changes should be justified and well documented, then forwarded to the MRNF.

A five-year review of the Plan is also provided.



Vision, orientations and coherence with respect to actions taken on public lands are the key words to be found in any Public Land Use Plan.

PLUPs guide land-planning managers and provide a framework for the development of lands and resources in the domain of the State.

The plans are also fundamental tools that enable regions to take charge of their development and define their priorities.

Much more than a government-sponsored vision, Public Land Use Plans are the best way to achieve the sustainable development of Québec's regions.



Learn More

Public land use plans are available on the MRNF Website:
www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/territoire/planification/planification-affectation.jsp
and in the regional offices of the ministry.

*Ressources naturelles
et Faune*

Québec

