

ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY ON YOUR LAND

ECOLOGICAL INVENTORY

Between 1986 and 2000, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts conducted a major ecological inventory program in the forests of southern Québec. A total of 28,425 **ecological observation points** have been established covering an area of 760,000 km², of which one or more are located on your land. These data have helped to gain knowledge of the forest ecosystems of Québec's public and private forests and to establish the links between the vegetation and the areas where it grows. They were also used to develop an ecological classification system.

WHAT IS AN ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATION POINT?

The ecological observation point is the basic unit for collecting ecological data on the territory. It is a sample plot with a radius of 11.28 m (400 m²) designed to measure the physical environment and vegetation variables. The cover of all tree species and undergrowth species is noted.

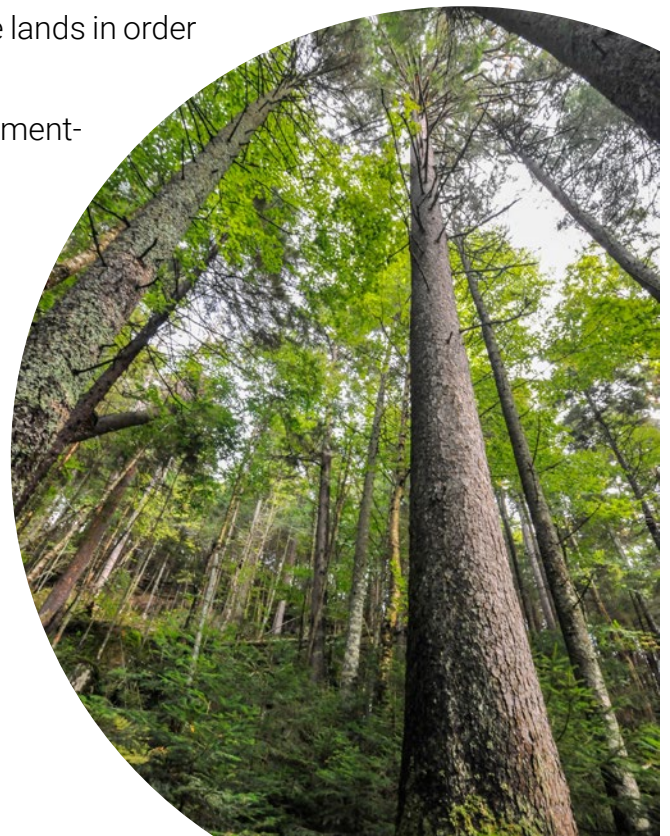
In the coming years, the Department will revisit a certain proportion of these ecological observation points in order to measure changes in Québec's forests since the first measure. The re-sampling of these will provide insight into the effects of climate change and disturbance on the position, structure and functioning of forest ecosystems.

The ecological inventory is carried out on public and private lands in order to have an overall picture of Québec's forests.

The cooperation of landowners to provide access to department-mandated staff in their woodlot is therefore essential.

WHAT IS DONE ON YOUR LAND?

Two qualified forestry technicians who respect the environment will be walking to a section of your woodlot and the work will last only one day. These specialists, commissioned by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts, carry out all the prescribed measures within an ecological observation point. They measure data on forest cover type (composition, structure), undergrowth, soil characteristics (e.g., surface deposition and drainage) and stand age. All these measures are taken according to the technical inventory standards.



Paint marks are applied to some trees to identify the circumference of the sample plot to facilitate measurements and observations. They are as discrete as possible and will disappear over time. Biodegradable tape is used to mark certain trees.

A small sample (15 x 15 cm) of the forest humus (soil surface) will be collected.

The work carried out will leave no trace of the inventory in the medium term. It is important to note that no machinery will be used, and no trees will be cut or damaged.

AFTER THE INVENTORY

When the inventory is completed on a private lot, a report containing all the collected data in the ecological observation point is sent to the landowner.

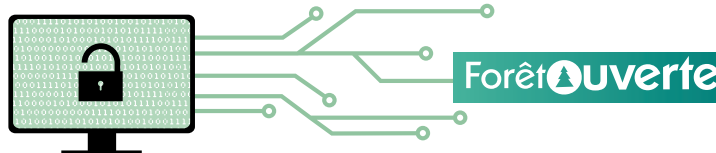
The information collected will in no way be used to assess the value of your woodlot or to assess the logging of your woodlot.

You have no obligation to conserve trees that are part of an ecological observation point. However, we would like the trees at the ecological observation point to not be cut until late fall following inventory.

FORÊT OUVERTE

The ecoforestry inventory data set is available free of charge on the *Forêt ouverte* interactive map. For example, you can see a detailed mapping of ecoforest stands on your lot.

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