

# **Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve**

Interim Management  
Statement



Ontario

Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

# **Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve**

## **Interim Management Statement**

**March 1994**



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources  
Ontario

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Printed in Ontario, Canada

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Additional information about the park and copies of this publication are available from the:  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Park Operations, 199 Larch Street, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 5P9  
telephone: (705) 949-1231.

50465  
(0.05 k P.R., 94 03 21)  
ISBN 0-7778-2385-3



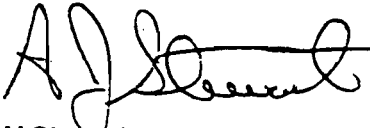
# Approval Statement

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve.

This Nature Reserve contains geological and biological features of provincial significance. An extensive raised offshore cobble bar complex which formed 6 000 years ago under glacial lake levels is now 60 metres above the present day Lake Superior. The present day shoreline of Lake Superior is a high energy cobble beach. Biological features in the nature reserve includes one of the largest lichen vegetation association in site district 4E2. In addition 200 year old fire-scarred trees in the pine forest growing adjacent to the lichen communities have old growth characteristics. Two kilometers of Lake Superior shore line within the Park provide some habitat for arctic alpine plants.

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared. The Park is operated under the management of the Superintendent of Pancake Bay Provincial Park.

This statement will provide a basis for management planning in the future.



Al Stewart  
Regional Director  
Central Region

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## Background Information

Name	Montreal River Cobble Beaches
Classification	Nature Reserve
Site Region /Site District	Great Lakes and Boreal Forests Transition /4E2
OMNR Administrative Region/District	Central Region/Sault Ste Marie
Total Area (ha)	44
Regulation Date	1970

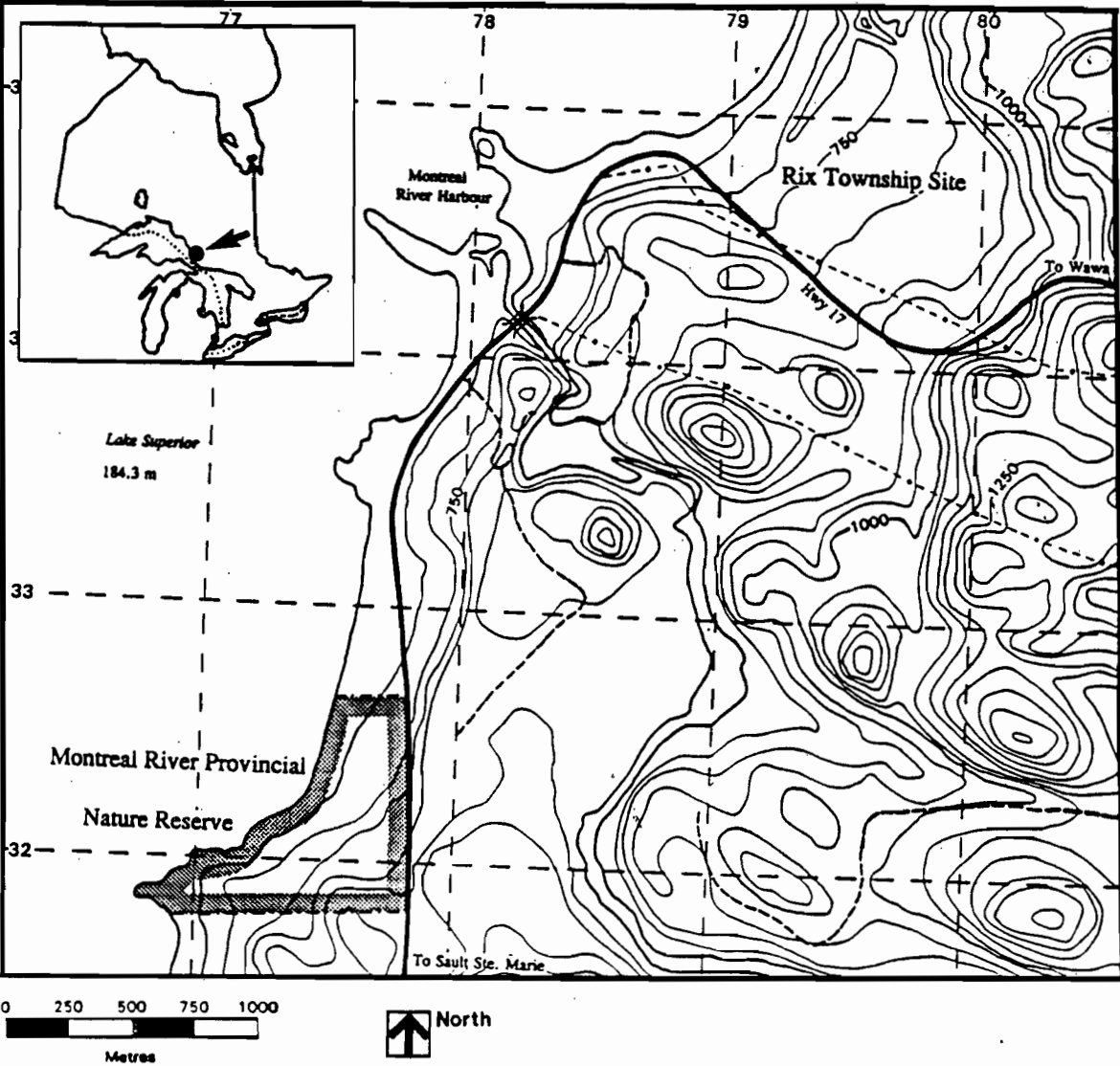
## Targets

<b>Earth Science Representation:</b>	provincially significant glacial, Nipissing level (c. 6000 yrs BP) off shore bar and proglacial cobble beach
<b>Life Science Representation:</b>	
normal / dry / sand - gravel:	yellow birch / sugar maple white birch / balsam fir white birch lichen complex white pine / red pine / jack pine / black spruce pine / spruce / fir aspen / balsam fir / white pine red pine red pine / balsam fir / white cedar white cedar / white birch white pine / white birch / balsam fir / red maple / mountain maple
colder / wet / sand - gravel:	white spruce / black spruce peatland white cedar coastal coniferous
<b>Cultural Resources Representation:</b>	no research as of this date, no documented cultural heritage
<b>Recreation Opportunities:</b>	viewing; walking; photography; car camping is available on adjacent land

## Inventories

Survey Level	Earth Science	Life Science	Cultural	Recreational	Other
Reconnaissance	1978	1979	needed	needed	
Detailed		1991/1992			
Requirement	theme study	site district report			MTO Hwy 17 agreement (do we have/ need one?)

Figure 1: Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve



# Management Guidelines

Interim management statements identify: park values; guidelines to protect those values; and, restrictions on use.

## Lands

### Adjoining Land Uses

A "meets and bounds" description describes the Park. A boundary plan will be prepared to replace this (Figure 1).

There are no hydro transmission lines, pipelines, or other easements/corridors in the Park. Dispositions will not be permitted in the Park. Private land use changes and management of adjacent lands will be reviewed through the plan review process with the intent of maintaining Park resource integrity.

Complementary management is needed on adjoining lands of the Trans Canada Highway, Highway 17. Highway run off is disturbing plant communities and causing erosion. This surface drainage needs to be redirected or at least filtered before it flows into the Nature Reserve. Off road vehicle access has occurred from the Highway on to the lichen communities in the past. An extension of highway guard rails could block unauthorized access. This would lengthen the existing guard rail down hill by fifteen metres on the south bound lane south of Montreal River. Both of these Highway matters will be identified to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to be addressed in the routine upgrading work.

### Natural Heritage Protection

There are no existing facilities in the Nature Reserve.

Vegetation associations extend beyond the boundaries of this small Nature Reserve. Lichen vegetation associations are easily disturbed. Only facilities for interpretive viewing may be considered off site and / or in forests of the Nature Reserve following management planning and with approved site plans.

### Recreation Activities

Recreation uses (e.g. walking, hiking, etc.) are not managed. Sport hunting and mechanized travel is not permitted. Heritage appreciation through self guided interpretation will be encouraged through interpretive and site planning. This will consider the objectives of the Nature Reserve and possible approaches to interpretation from near by provincial Parks (ie. Pancake Bay,

Lake Superior) as well as encourage adjoining private lands to develop interpretive views.

An informal trail has been identified within the Park, parallel and in view of Lake Superior shoreline. Use of this trail will be evaluated. It is possible that the Voyageur Trail could follow this route if management planning determines that this is a suitable location. There will be no camping within the Nature Reserve.

### Commercial Activities

Commercial uses are not permitted (e.g. trapping, bait fishing, mineral resources exploration /development, forestry, commercial tourism services, etc.) within the Nature Reserve.

## Aboriginal Interests

As of publication there are no land claims that have a bearing on the Park.

## Geological and Biological Features

This section deals with the management of geological and biological features (e.g. landforms, wildlife, vegetation, fire, etc.).

Initial work on the natural heritage values of the Park was completed in the 1970's. The earth science features include ancestral and modern Lake Superior shore line and off shore landforms. Special studies of life science values (Macdonald 1979, Pappin 1991, Landry 1992) have provided information on the vegetation features and some insights into fire history.

Management in the area would ideally allow natural processes to continue to shape the ecology of the forest and non-forest communities. However given the small size and adjoining private land interests this area needs to be managed. Further inventory is required to support management.

Natural fires will be suppressed. Fire management may occur through natural or prescribed burning following an approved management plan and fire management planning.



## Cultural Resources

There has been no assessment of cultural resources: archaeological sites, historical use or artifacts, historical landscapes.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in consultation with the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, should study this area to determine whether there are any significant cultural resources.

## Visitor Services

Visitor services in this location deals with information and self use interpretation. Information on the area should identify: Park boundary, natural heritage target achievement, off site viewing opportunities and research objectives.

## Research

Research will deal with all aspects of scientific study, inventory or surveys such as studies of vegetation and ecological processes, cultural resource inventories or special studies, and user surveys. An approved research application is required to conduct research in provincial parks (Appendix 1).

As in the past biological and geological research will be encouraged. Research will develop a data base on the geological and biological features within the Nature Reserve and on related properties. Comparative studies will be encouraged to understand the features and processes in the Nature Reserve with similar areas in the Lake Superior basin.

Completion of an earth science theme study for the region and a site district report for 4E2 will provide a more complete context to assess the significance of the Park's natural areas and features.

## Marketing

A marketing strategy will deal with research priorities and use.

## References

The following lists all material cited in the Interim Management Statement, as well as other relevant sources of information on the Park such as District Land Use Guidelines, inventory reports, checksheets, etc.

Davidson, D.L. 1980. Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve Earth Science Checksheet.

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. 1969. Mamainse Point: Topographic Map Series, 1:50 000 Sheet 41 N/2.

Environment Canada, 1979. Ecotours White River to Sault Ste. Marie.

Landry, A. 1992. Personal Communication on the Fire History of Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve. Undergraduate Thesis in progress. Laurentian University, Biology Department.

Macdonald, I.D. 1979. Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve Life Science Checksheet and Field Notes.

Noble, T.W. 1983. Reconnaissance Inventory of Site Region 4E. unpublished report to OMNR. Sudbury.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1981. Provincial Nature Reserves in Ontario. Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve Map and Description.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1982. Park System Planning in Ontario.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1983. Sault Ste. Marie District Land Use Guidelines.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1985. Ontario Basic Mapping Sheet No. 17 20 5200 67890

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1989. Provincial Parks Policy Implementation Details. 9pp.

Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch, 1992. Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (update). 90pp.

Pappin, S.M. 1991. A Life Science Survey of Montreal River Provincial Nature Reserve and Adjacent Lands in Rix Township for the OMNR. Laurentian University, Biology Department. 32pp. Appendices.

Tovell, W.M. and R.E. Deane. 1966. Ancestral Lake Superior Shorelines. Montreal River Harbour Area, Ontario. Geological Association of Canada Proceedings 17:53-63.

Forest Resource Inventory Maps - Slater Township

# **Appendix 1**

## **Ontario Provincial Parks Research Policy and Application**



Subject Research Activities in Provincial Parks		Policy No. PM 2.45	New <input type="checkbox"/>
Compiled by-Branch Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy	Section Parks Management	Date Issued Apr. 1/91	
Replaces Directive Title Research Activities in Provincial Parks and Park Reserves	Number PM 2.45	Dated Nov.20/80	Page 1 of 3

**Purpose:** To encourage contributions to provincial park objectives through research by;

providing overall direction for research activities associated with provincial parks.

establishing guidelines and review/approval processes which facilitate appropriate research by external researchers in provincial parks and which ensure review of research activities which could impact on park resources and values.

**Definition:** Research means any investigations or studies of natural, cultural, social, economic, management, or other features or characteristics of provincial parks.

**Policy:** Research activities will be encouraged through a variety of means to help provide a better understanding of park environments and to contribute to appropriate management practices and actions.

The provincial park management plan will define overall research interests for the park and, will establish the need for a research plan to address key research issues for parks with substantial research interests and activities.

The management plan will also address the need for specific arrangements, facilities or management to provide improved opportunities for research activities, or to ensure that research activities do not adversely affect park resources. Such details will be specified in a research plan where warranted.

Research needs and priorities will be reviewed periodically for individual provincial parks and for the provincial parks program and summaries will be compiled and made available to interested researchers.

Each applicant must submit a completed application form as prescribed in Appendix A to the appropriate District Manager.

Research in a provincial park must have the approval of the Regional Director with the exception of extension of previously approved projects and minor research projects which can be approved by the District Manager. For minor research projects which include a number of parks, approval may be granted by the Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

A research project is considered "minor" where limited to;

- brief observation visits involving no environmental disturbances, no visitor contacts nor collection of specimens.

Research projects, in provincial parks will be reviewed by the Park Superintendent and District Manager prior to being undertaken. A research application must be completed for:

- any research project proposed by researchers outside MNR
- any project proposed by MNR staff which has potential for adverse effects on park resources or visitors.

Approval in writing for the application must be obtained prior to the project being undertaken.

The District Manager may suspend or revoke permission at any time for failure on the part of the researcher to meet:

1. The intent or conditions of this policy.
2. The requirements under the Provincial Parks Act and Regulations, including all amendments, where applicable.
3. The requirements under any other Act and Regulations, Canada or Ontario including amendments such as those governing the taking, handling, storing, confining, trapping, excavating, and marketing of any specimen, artifact, information or action (for example, scientific collectors' permit).
4. The conditions and agreements specified in granting permission.

Permission granted under this policy will be valid for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months from date of issue. The District Manager may grant permission to continue a research project for additional periods of 12 months or less upon submission of a written request and progress report, provided that the intent, goals and objectives of the project have not been changed.

Policy No.	Date Issued	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised	Page
PM 2.45	Apr. 1, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> New	3 of 3

A person or persons seeking permission under this policy will complete an application supplied by the District Manager and will provide such other information which may be requested.

The application will include a statement as to why the proposed research should be undertaken in the particular provincial park in preference to some other location.

The District Manager may require the posting of collateral, to assure that the terms and conditions of the agreement are met.

All specimens, artifacts, materials and information collected remain the property of Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the provincial park in which they are collected (unless assigned to an appropriate repository by the District Manager) and are subject to the requirements under Acts and Regulations for Canada and Ontario and the conditions specified in granting permission.

The researcher(s) must submit a final report to the District Manager within two years of the completion of the report.

The researcher(s) will provide the District Manager one copy of all reports, publications, theses, etc., produced as a result of the research. The District Manager will forward a copy of all reports, publications and theses to the Regional Director and if requested, to the Director of Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

For projects extending over a number of parks, the Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch will forward a copy of reports, publications and theses to Regional Directors involved.

The District Manager will assure that the rights, privileges, privacy and enjoyment of all park users are not unduly infringed upon during the course of the research activities.

The District Manager will provide all workers on a research project with a letter or means of identification to be carried by each and every worker when engaged in work related to the project.

Special requests for the use of equipment, for accommodation, or for staff assistance will be considered by the District Manager on the basis of their merit and the feasibility of providing such assistance. Reimbursement for such assistance may be required from the researcher.

REMARQUE:

Cette police est également disponible en français.



Subject Research Activities in Provincial Parks		Procedure No. PM 2.45.01	New <input type="checkbox"/>
Compiled by-Branch Parks and Natural Heritage Policy	Section Park Management	Date Issued April 1, 1991	
Replaces Directive Title Research Activities in Provincial Parks and Park Reserves	Number PM 2.45.01	Dated Nov. 20/80	Page 1 of 2

Responsibility

Action

A) New Proposals:

District Manager

1. Receives application.  
Reviews project with Park Superintendent(s).  
Forwards a copy of the application along with recommendations to the Regional Director and to the Director of Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

Regional Director

2. Receives application and recommendations from District Manager.  
Reviews project.

Director, Parks  
and Natural Heritage  
Policy Branch

3. Receives application and provides any comments to the Regional Director within two weeks.

Regional Director

4. Approves or rejects the application upon receiving response from Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

District Manager

5. Notifies applicant of the decision in writing.  
If approved, states any conditions and restrictions.  
Advises Park Superintendent(s) that permission has been granted and provides names of the researcher(s) and the means of identification to be used.

6. Requests final report and provides copy to Regional Director.

B) Extension of  
Previously Approved  
Proposals/Minor  
Research Projects:

District Manager

1. Receives application, reviews project with Park Superintendent(s).  
Approves or rejects the application.  
Provides copies of the proposal to Regional Director and Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch, with notification of action taken.

2. Notifies applicant of the decision in writing. If approved, states any conditions and restrictions. Advises Park Superintendent(s) that permission has been granted and provides names of the researcher(s) and the means of identification to be used.
3. Requests final report and provides copy to Regional Director, and if requested, to Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

C) Research Projects including a number of parks.

Minor Research Projects:

Director,  
Parks and Natural  
Heritage Policy Branch

1. Receives application and reviews project; approves or rejects the application and notifies Regional Directors involved.
2. Notifies applicant of the decision in writing.
3. Requests final report and provides copy to Regional Directors involved.

Regional Directors

4. Notify District Managers involved.

District Managers

5. Notify Park Superintendents involved.

D) Other Research Proposals:

Director,  
Parks and Natural  
Heritage Policy Branch

1. Receives application, reviews project.
2. Requests review by Regional Directors involved.
3. Receives regional responses.
4. Notifies applicant in writing. If approved, states any conditions and restrictions.
5. Requests final report and provides copy to Regional Directors involved.

Regional Directors

6. Co-ordinate review as in point A, new proposals.

**APPENDIX A****MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH  
IN  
ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS****MINISTÈRE DES RICHESSES NATURELLES****DEMANDE D'APPROBATION D'UN PROJET DE RECHERCHE  
DANS LES  
PARCS PROVINCIAUX DE L'ONTARIO**

Note to Applicants: The Ministry of Natural Resources usually requires a period of up to two months for review and approval of this application.

Research means any investigations or studies of natural, cultural, social, economic, management or other features or characteristics which involve field investigations.

If more space is required to complete any of the following sections, please attach additional sheets.

Personal information submitted on this form is collected under the authority of the Provincial Parks Act R.S.O. 1980, C401, and will be used for administrative purposes. Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to the Director, Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch.

Note aux auteurs de la demande: Il faut environ deux mois au ministère des Richesses naturelles pour étudier et approuver une demande.

Par recherche, on entend toute enquête ou étude portant sur les aspects naturels, culturels, sociaux, économiques, sur la gestion ou autres caractéristiques qui comprennent des études sur place.

Si vous manquez d'espace pour répondre aux rubriques suivantes, veuillez joindre des feuilles supplémentaires.

Les renseignements personnels donnés dans le présent formulaire sont recueillis en vertu de la Loi sur les parcs provinciaux, L.R.O. 1980, chap. 401, et serviront à des fins administratives. Les questions relatives à la collecte de ces renseignements doivent être adressées au directeur de la Direction des parcs et des politiques sur le patrimoine naturel.



Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Nom de l'auteur de la demande: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: (school, college, university, government agency, company, etc.).

Affiliation: (école, collège, université, organisme gouvernemental, compagnie, etc.).

Address: Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adresse: Travail \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Code postal \_\_\_\_\_ Téléphone \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_  
 Domicile \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Code postal \_\_\_\_\_ Téléphone \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Research Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Titre du projet de recherche: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: (provincial park(s) in which research will take place)

Emplacement : (parc provincial ou parcs provinciaux dans lequel ou lesquels les recherches s'effectueront)

State in detail the objectives of the project, its value and necessity and relationship to other projects. Include reasons why the proposed study should be undertaken in the particular provincial park(s) as opposed to some other location. Attach research/thesis proposal if available.

Donnez le détail des objectifs du projet, de sa valeur, de sa nécessité et du rapport qui existe avec d'autres projets. Énoncez les raisons pour lesquelles l'étude proposée devrait être entreprise dans le ou les parcs provinciaux visés plutôt que dans un autre emplacement. Veuillez joindre le projet de recherche ou de thèse, s'il est disponible.

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Provide a general outline of the research to be carried out.  
Énoncez les grandes lignes du projet de recherche devant être entrepris.

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Identify the procedures and equipment to be used and any potential impact on the park environment.  
Identifiez les méthodes et le matériel devant être utilisés et toute retombée éventuelle qu'ils auront sur l'environnement du parc.

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State the time frame within which the field activities will be carried out in the provincial park(s). Be specific.  
Présentez l'échéancier des travaux de recherche devant être effectués dans le ou les parcs provinciaux. Soyez précis.

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State whether provincial park visitors will be involved in the project and specify how and to what extent.  
Indiquez si les visiteurs du parc provincial participeront au projet et dans quelle mesure.

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State in detail any accommodation, equipment or travel assistance required from the Ministry of Natural Resources.  
Donnez le détail de l'aide que vous attendez du ministère des Richesses naturelles en matière d'hébergement, de matériel ou de déplacements.

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State in detail any support or consultant assistance required from the Ministry of Natural staff.

Donnez le détail du soutien ou de l'aide d'experts-conseils que vous attendez du personnel du ministère des Richesses naturelles.

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Give the name, date and number of any licences, permits or authorizations held relating to the project (e.g. scientific collectors' permit, bird banding permit, etc.).

Donnez le nom, la date et le numéro de tous les permis, licences et autorisations relatifs au projet (p. ex. permis de recueillir des échantillons à des fins scientifiques, permis de baguage d'oiseaux, etc.).

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Can you provide performance bonding if it is required? \_\_\_\_\_

Pouvez-vous fournir une garantie de bonne exécution s'il y a lieu?

Give the names, addresses and qualifications of persons assisting in the project and describe briefly contributions expected of them.

Donnez les noms, adresses et qualifications des personnes participant au projet et décrivez brièvement quelle devrait être leur contribution.

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Give the names and addresses of any contributors to your project (i.e. through grants, advice, scholarships, equipment, supplies).

Donnez les noms et adresses de tous ceux qui contribuent à votre projet (soit au moyen de subventions, de conseils, de bourses, de matériel ou de fournitures).

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If approved, I, the applicant, agree to abide by the terms and conditions specified in the attached approval.

Si mon projet est approuvé, je soussigné, auteur de la demande, m'engage à respecter les modalités énoncées dans l'approbation ci-jointe.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature de l'auteur de la demande: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Course Director or Advisor or, if applicable, Agency/Company President, Chairperson or Manager:

Signature du directeur de cours ou du conseiller ou, le cas échéant, du président ou du directeur de l'organisme ou de la compagnie: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVAL SECTION:  
PARTIE RELATIVE À L'APPROBATION:**

Approval granted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approbation District Manager  
accordée: Chef de district

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Director  
Directeur régional

Conditions of Approval (if applicable):  
Conditions de l'approbation (le cas échéant):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nota : Dans ce texte, lorsqu'il désigne des personnes, le masculin est utilisé au sens neutre.