



# Conservation status of Gatineau Park

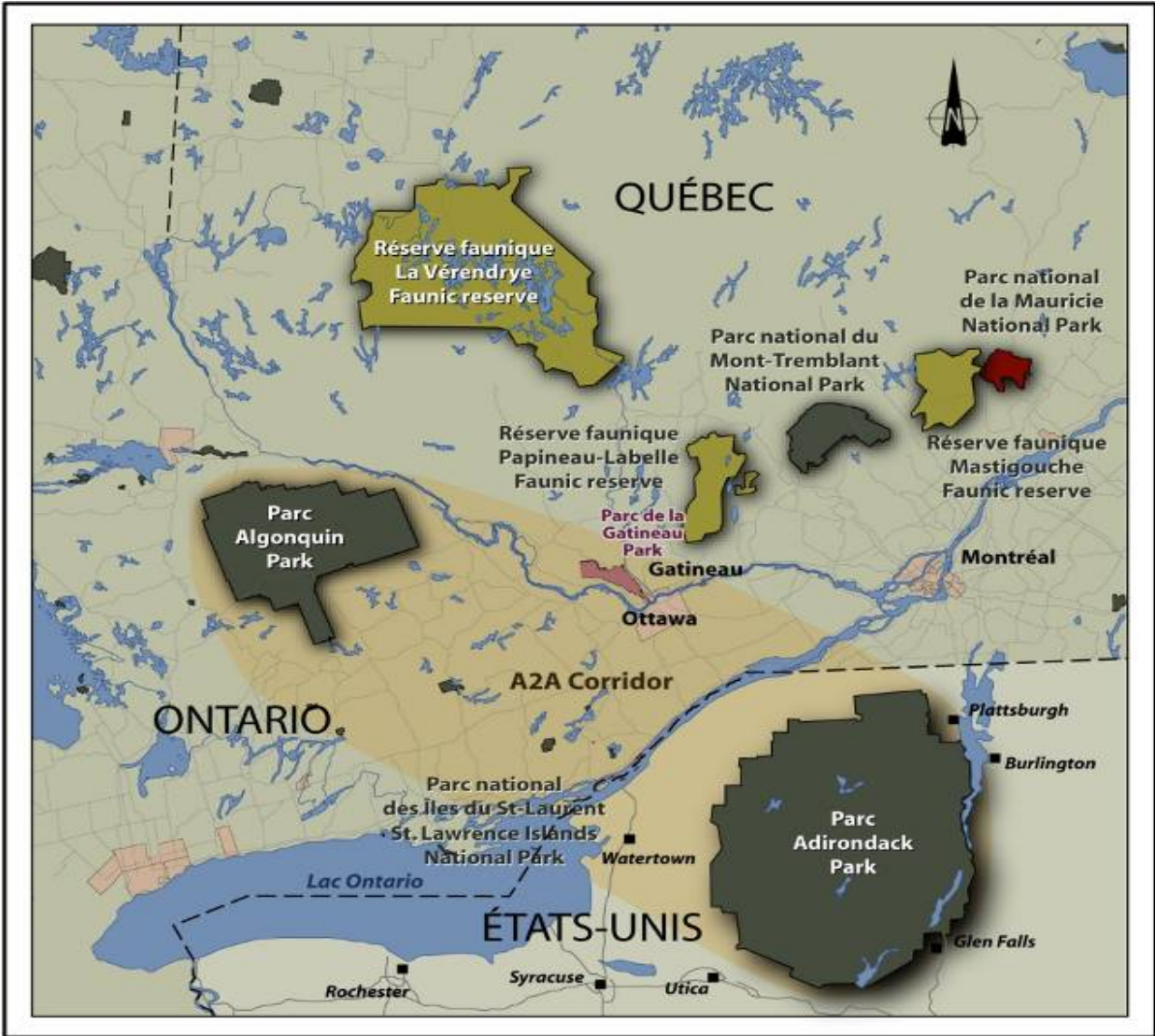
**Workshop – Responsible Trail  
Management  
June 16, 2014**

# Threats to ecological health of Gatineau Park

1. Small size
2. Urban setting – extremely high visitation, many user groups, many entrances
3. Sensitive environments (obligations towards many species at risk), threatened by non-native species
4. Increasing isolation from surrounding landscape
5. Fragmentation: many uncontrolled access points and user-created trails
6. Recent assessment: health of park is fragile



# 1. Small size

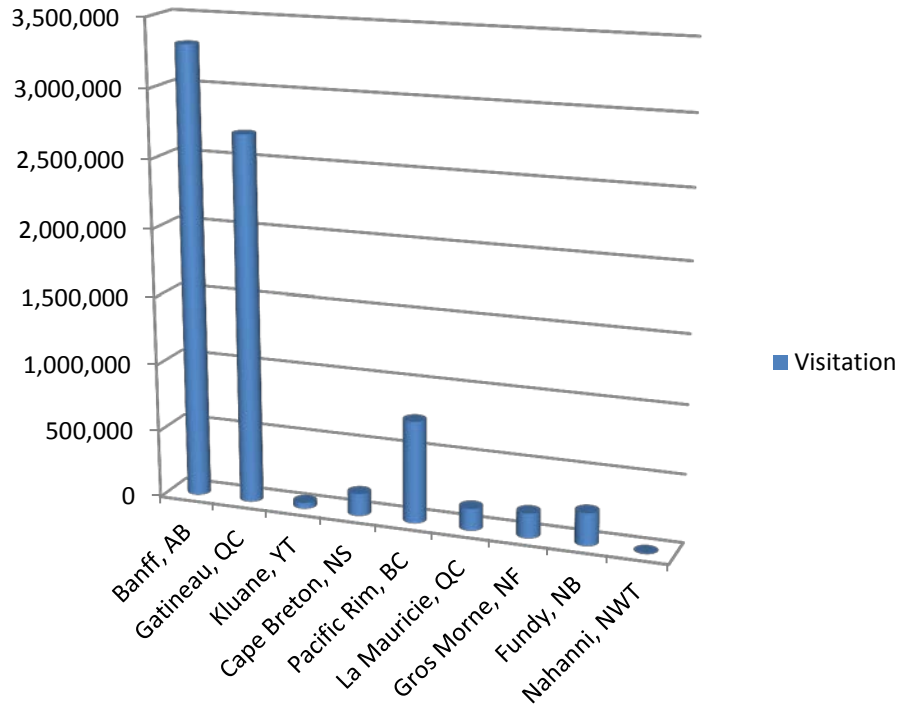


STATUT DES AIRES NATURELLES PROTÉGÉES  
STATUS OF PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS

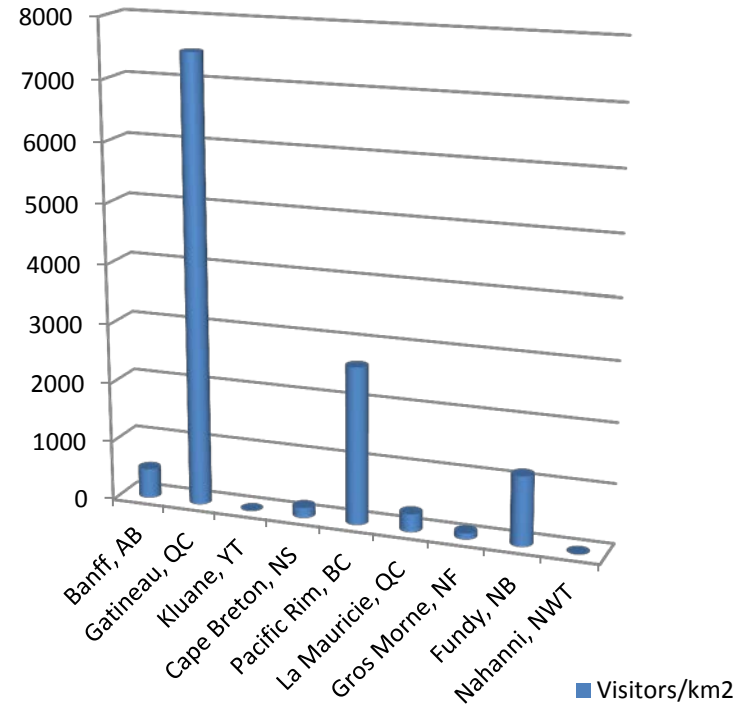
-  Réserve provinciale  
Provincial Reserve
-  Parc provincial  
Provincial Park
-  Parc fédéral  
Federal Park

# 2. Intensity of Visitation (2012)

Visits/year - National Parks and GP

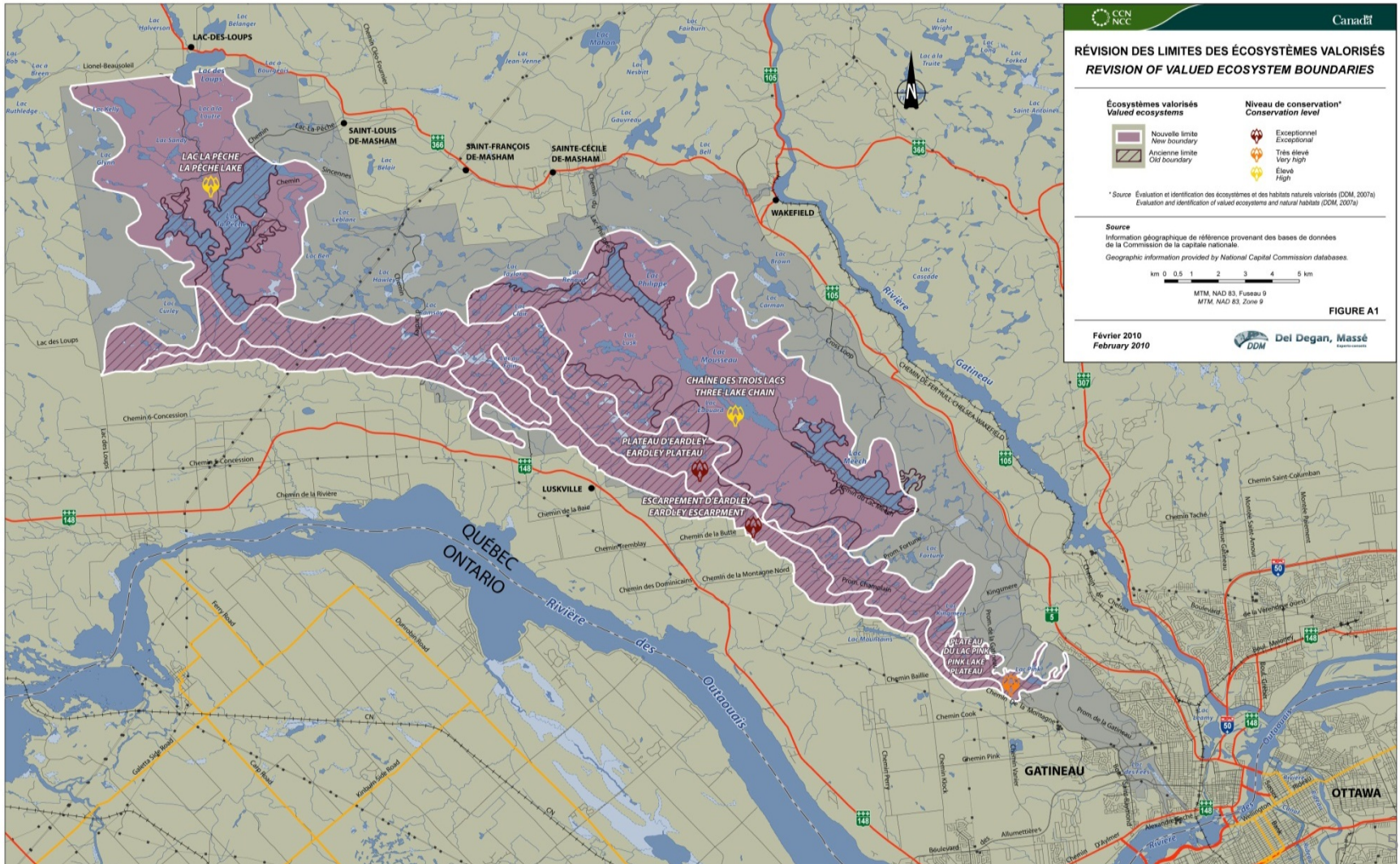


Visitors/km<sup>2</sup>





# 3. Sensitive environment (7 valued natural ecosystems and habitats)





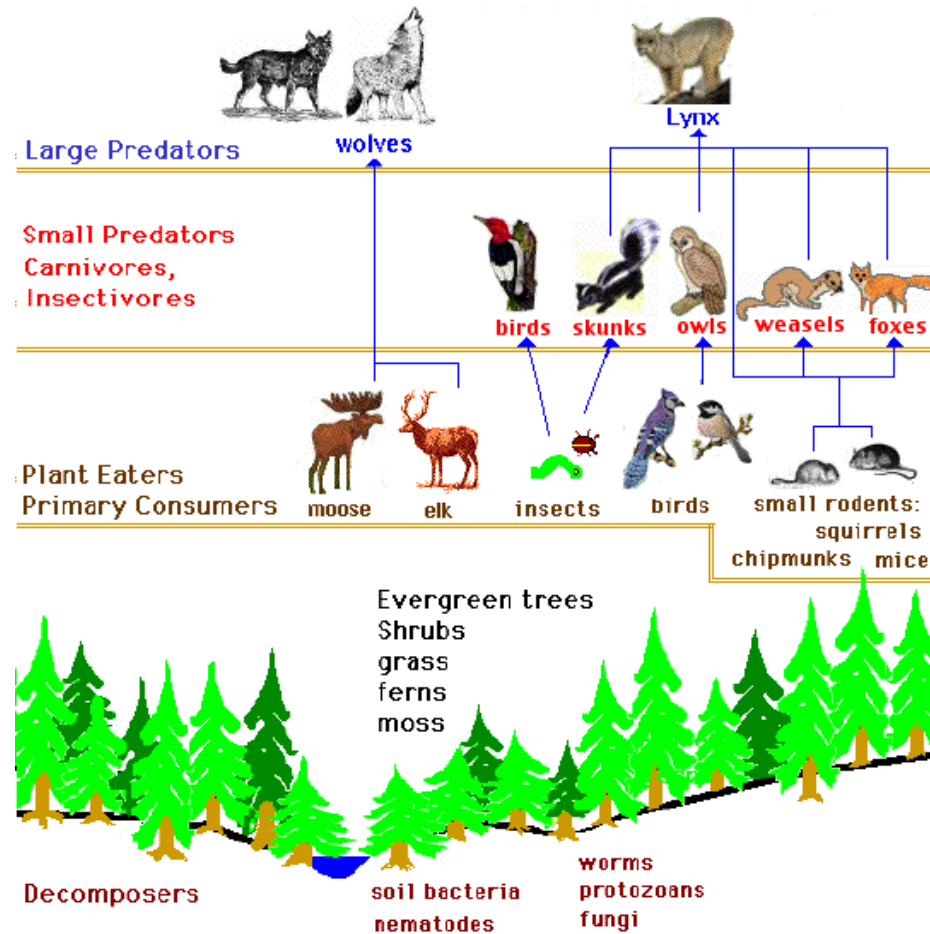
## 3.1 150 Species at Risk in Gatineau Park



- Plant and animal species that are at risk of extinction (either globally, nationally, or provincially)
- Most common reason is loss of suitable habitat through landscape change (urban development, agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.)
- Parks (including Gatineau Park) often provide the last remaining habitat in the region
- Species and their critical habitats legally protected under federal, provincial laws

# 3.2 A healthy ecosystem has all of its parts

A Food Web in the Coniferous Forest Biome





## 3.3 Example – top predators

- Wolves, coyotes keep deer, beavers in check
- Require large home ranges, sufficient prey, safe travel corridors, little disturbance, others to breed with
- Loss of predators leads to too many prey:
  - Loss of vegetation and habitat quality
  - Threat to plant species at risk
  - Greater need for deer and beaver management
  - Increased risk of Lyme disease



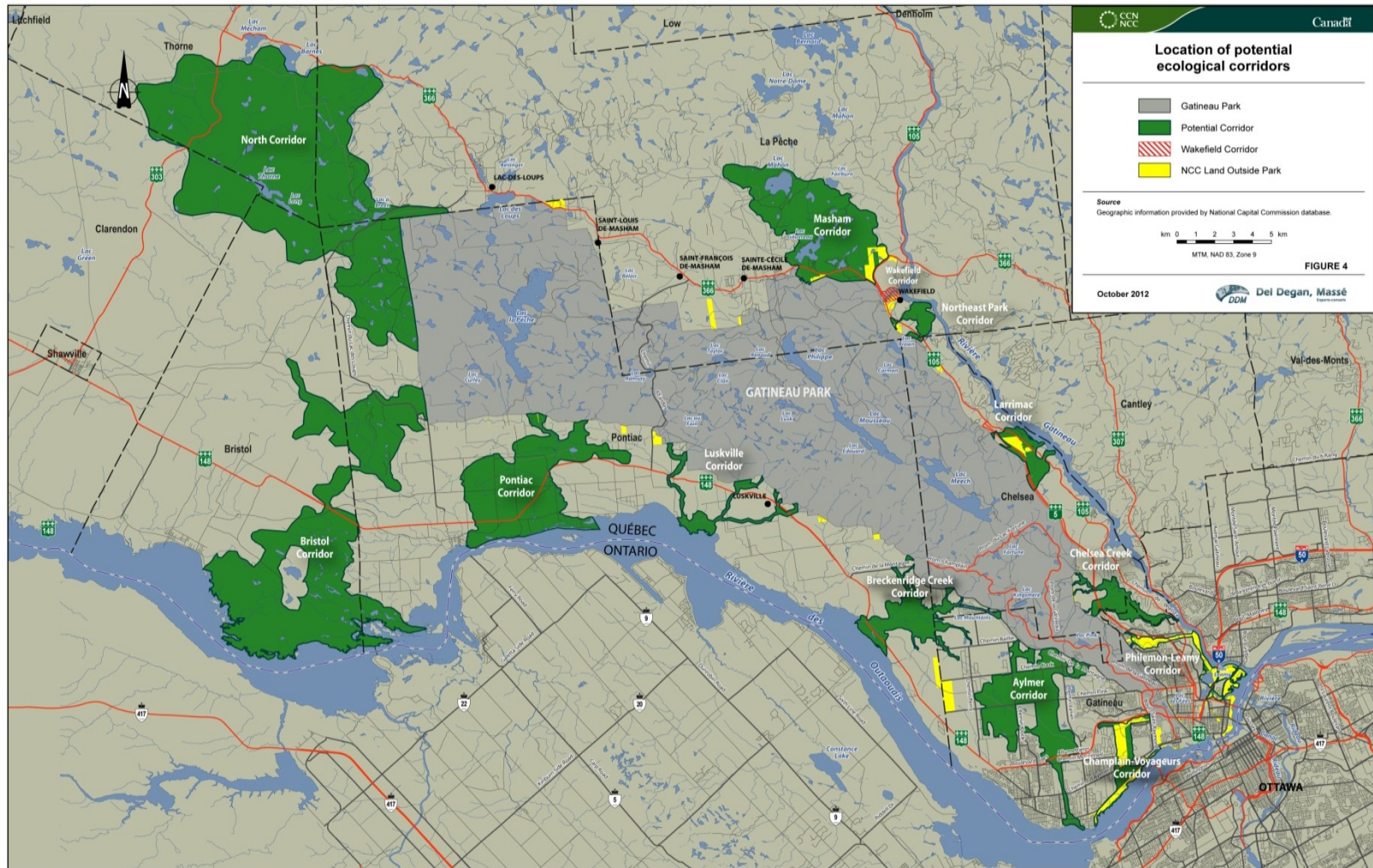


## 3.4 Invasive non-native species

- Greatest threat to native biodiversity, species at risk
- Introduced along edges, pathways, waterways

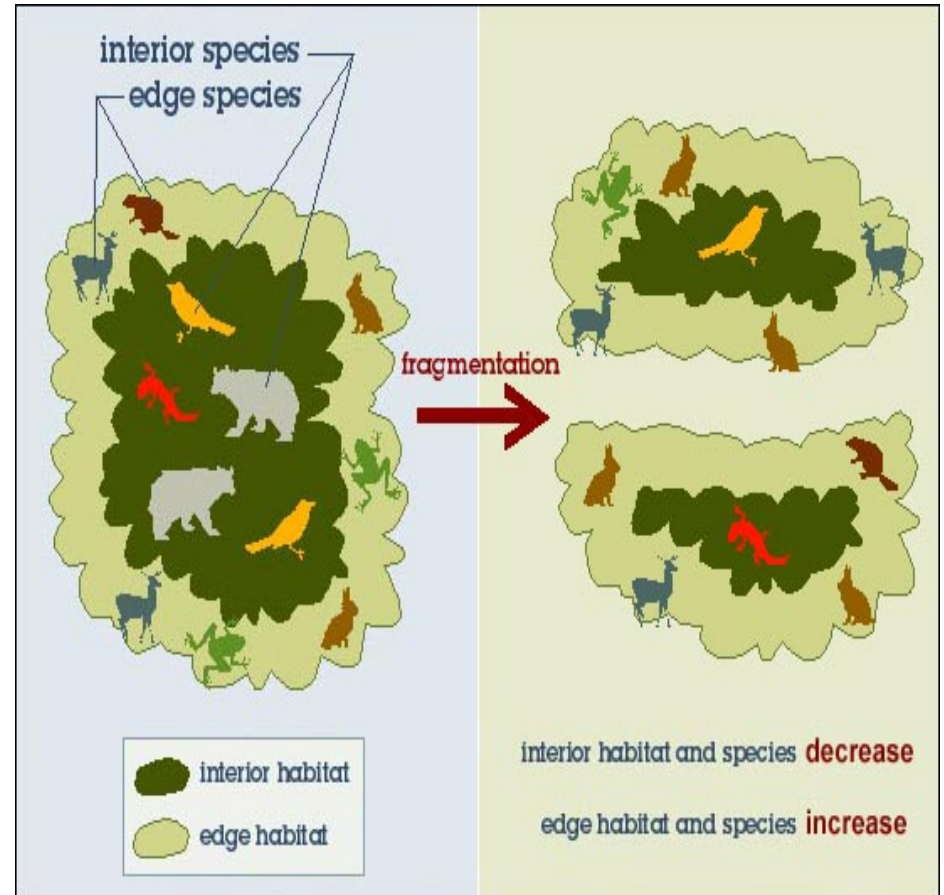


# 4. Increasing isolation from the surrounding landscape

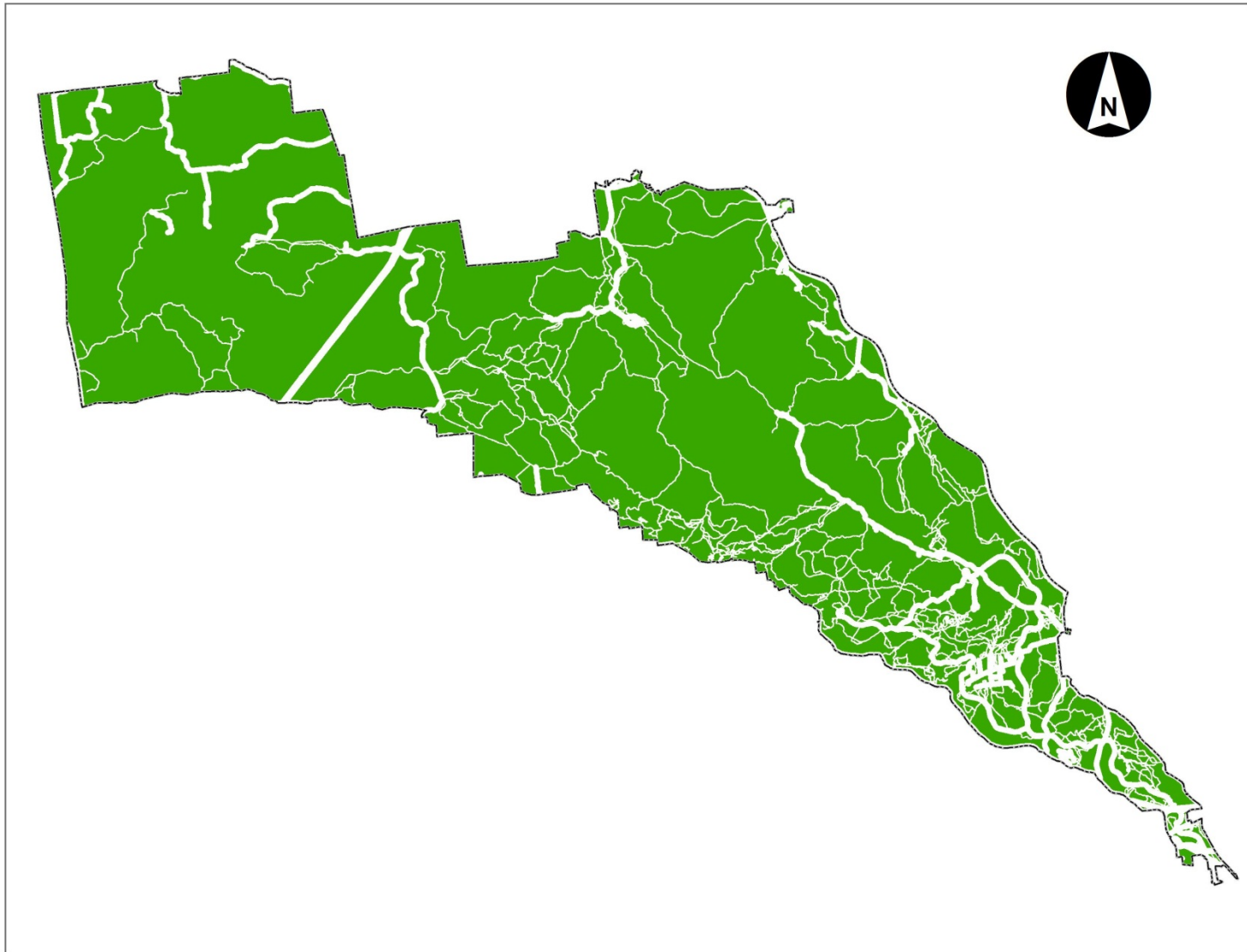




# 5. Habitat Fragmentation

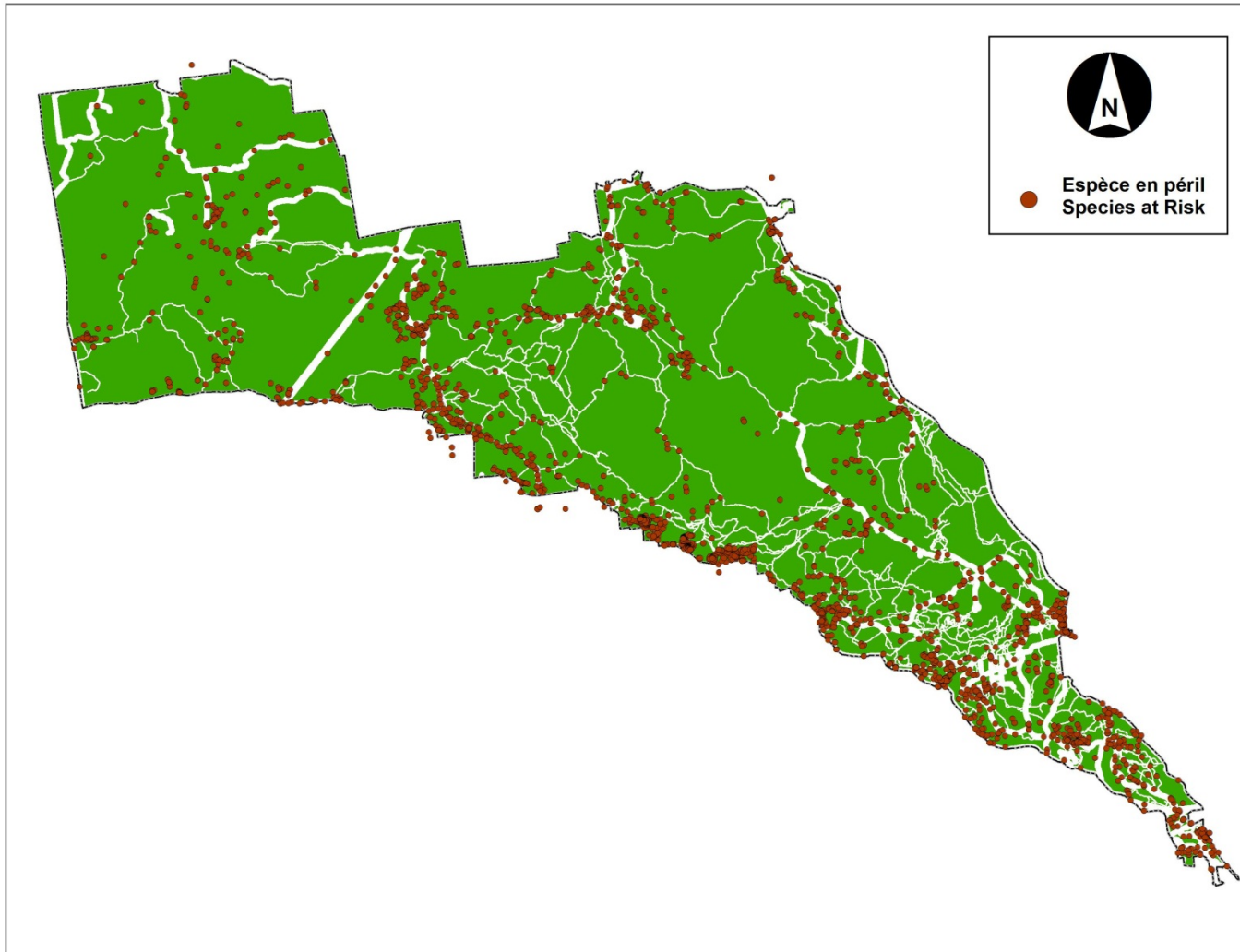


# 5.1 Parks trails and fragmentation





# 5.2 Fragmentation and Species at Risk



# Precarious state of health (2015)

Ecological health indicators showing negative trends:

- Frogs (certain sectors)
- invasive plant species
- stress levels
- Ecological connectivity