



The latest “*Before and After*” Satellite Imagery Reveals Striking Picture of Industrial-Caused Changes to the Pascagama Site of Québec’s Boreal Forest

EDMONTON, February 16, 2007 – The results of an up-to-date survey of logging, road building, reservoir construction and other human disturbances in Québec’s northern forests reveals that the Pascagama site of the Boreal region in Québec is being rapidly impacted by logging and associated roads. The study, *1990-2006 Industrial Changes within the Pascagama Site in Québec’s Boreal: Summary of Results*, was undertaken using satellite imagery and analysis and was conducted by Global Forest Watch Canada (GFWC).

“Knowing the location and, more importantly, the rate of development in our forests will help to improve forest management. In this study, we identified all disturbances to the Pascagama conservation area in Québec’s northern forests that were caused by industry in the 1990s and 2000s – over a study area of almost thirty-two thousand kilometers. This is part of one of the largest national projects ever conducted to describe the location and rate of the development of our forests,” said Peter Lee, Executive Director of GFWC, adding that the group hopes to expand the project to all of Canada.

The GFWC analysis covered forest changes and found some dramatic results. Logging was much more intensive in the Pascagama site than in the surrounding forest areas. Large Intact Forest Landscapes have rapidly declined, especially in the last 5 years.

Other significant findings of the GFWC study (which can be downloaded on their website, www.globalforestwatch.ca) include:

1. The major recent anthropogenic changes are clearcut and salvage logging and associated roading within treed areas.
2. Very recent (2001-2006) anthropogenic changes were much more extensive in the Pascagama site than in the study area as a whole.
3. The decline of Large Intact Forest Landscapes between 2001 and 2006 within the 32,000 km² area of the Landsat image was concentrated within the Pascagama site. At least 66% of the Large Intact Forest Landscape area within the Pascagama site has declined between 2001 and 2006. This represents 99% of the decline of Large Intact Forest Landscapes within the entire Landsat image area that was studied.

This study raises serious questions about:

- a) the rapidity of the decline of Large Intact Forest landscapes within Québec and Canada’s southern forests; and
- b) the sustainability of the rate of industrial-caused impacts on high conservation value forests.

“Further similar studies should be conducted in broader geographic areas in Canada’s southern forests to quantify the amount and rate of decline of Large Intact Forest Landscapes,” concludes Peter Lee.

Contact:

Peter Lee, Executive Director, Global Forest Watch Canada
780-451-9260 or 780-914-6241 (cell)

For more information:

The Global Forest Watch Canada report, *1990-2006 Industrial Changes within the Pascagama Site in Québec's Boreal: Summary of Results*, and associated forest change spatial datasets, are available for download on the GFWC website: www.globalforestwatch.ca

Global Forest Watch Canada was formed to provide access to more complete information about development activities in Canada's forests and their environmental impacts. We are convinced that providing greater information about Canada's forests will lead to better decision-making on forest management and use, which ultimately will result in forest management regimes that provide a full range of benefits for both present and future generations.