

STATE OF THE NATION

A REPORT ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OF THE **SOUTH NATION RIVER**

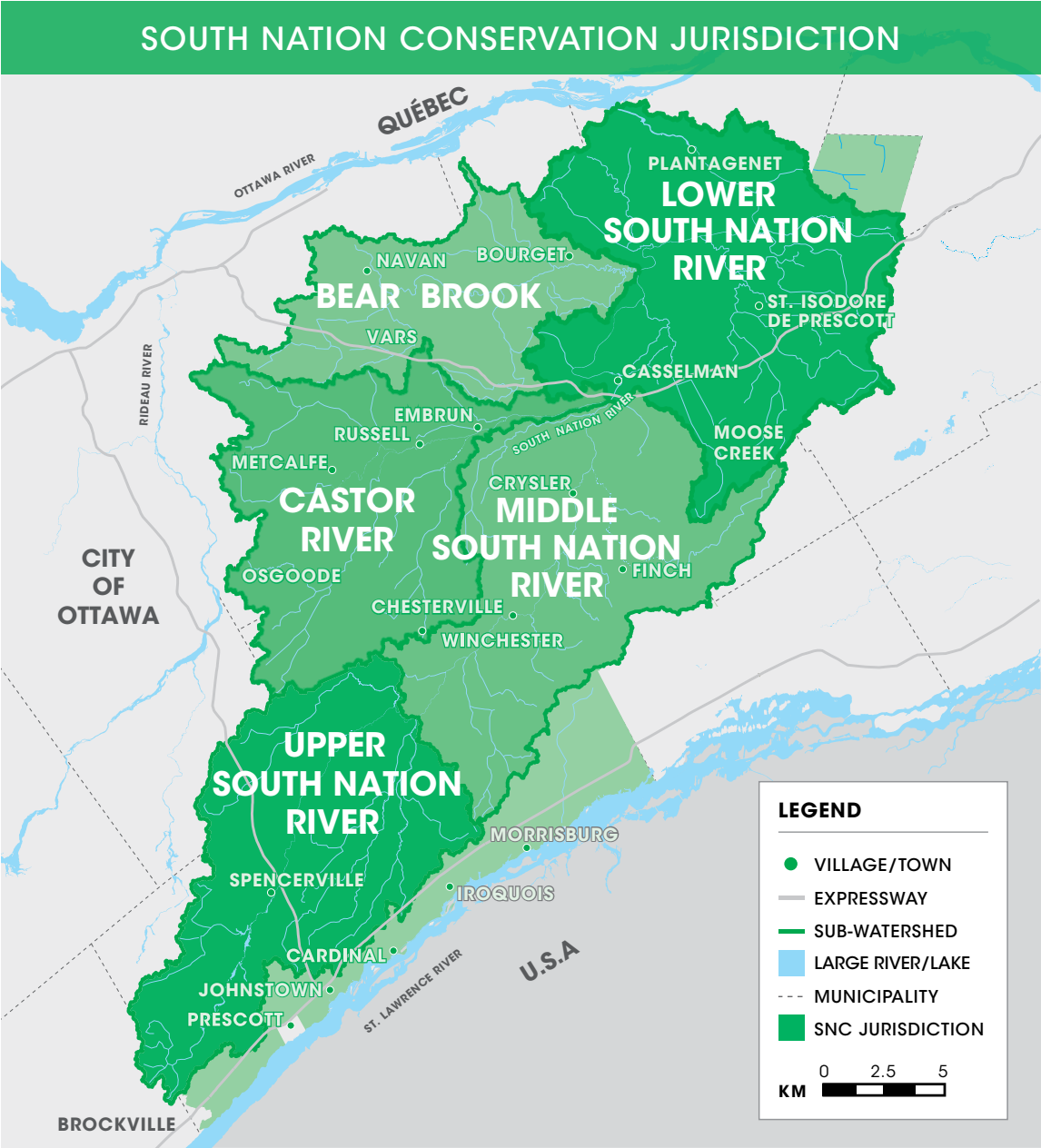


SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
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SOUTH NATION JURISDICTION

The South Nation jurisdiction encompasses about 4,200 km² of Eastern Ontario, providing invaluable resources to parts of the City of Ottawa, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

SNC manages and maintains River resources for the enjoyment of Watershed residents and beyond. The River supports a variety of human uses including drinking water, agricultural irrigation, and recreation activities – from fly fishing to kayaking.





The State of the Nation draws on South Nation Conservation's environmental monitoring programs to report on the health of the South Nation River over a five-year cycle. SNC prepares supplementary reports on the River's five major sub-watersheds (see map).

HOW IS WATER QUALITY IN THE SOUTH NATION RIVER?

- Nitrite and chloride (road salt) concentrations are lower than those considered harmful to aquatic organisms and human health.
- Total phosphorus levels generally exceed the provincial water quality objective.
- SNC leads landowner stewardship actions to reduce phosphorus levels, which receive international recognition as effective tools for improving water quality.

DID YOU KNOW? The South Nation River provides treated drinking water to private residences and the Village of Casselman.

HOW IS FISHING IN THE SOUTH NATION RIVER?

- The River sustains a vigorous fishery that lures anglers for shoreline, fly, ice, and small-boat fishing.
- The River supports 72 different fish species, including: pike, smallmouth bass, walleye, muskie, catfish, and carp. River fish are safe to eat following Ontario's fish consumption advice. The presence of game fish indicates conditions are ideal.

- Every year, SNC catches and releases about 2,500 fish to gain information about various species, population trends, predators, and habitat.

DID YOU KNOW? SNC is the only agency that monitors fish in the South Nation River.

HOW IS FLOOD PROTECTION ON THE SOUTH NATION RIVER?

- SNC owns and maintains five dams and weirs to reduce the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damages from seasonal flooding.
- SNC collects data to assess the potential for flooding. When spring melt or severe storms are anticipated, SNC estimates the severity, location, and timing of possible flooding and provides advanced warning to local agencies and the public.
- SNC measures flow – the volume of water that moves over the River in a period of time. This data supports SNC's flood management, low-flow response activities, and water control structure operations. Recreational users of the River also show an interest in this information.

DID YOU KNOW? Downtown Crysler used to flood every spring until SNC built the Crysler Dyke in 1991.



RIVER FACTS

- The South Nation River is **175 km** long.
- The River drains an almost flat plain, dropping only **85 m** from headwaters north of Brockville to where it empties into the Ottawa River, near Plantagenet.
- Marine clays in the River give it its brown colour.
- SNC and partners maintain **11 public river access points** and **5 canoe/kayak routes** throughout the Watershed.



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