

TRADITIONAL LAND USE OF THE OF THE FISHING LAKE MÉTIS SETTLEMENT

The traditional land use of our members interviewed in this study has been organized into eight traditional land use categories. These include: Hunting, Trapping, Fishing, Occupancy (i.e., camps, cabins), Gathering (i.e., berries, medicines), Spiritual (i.e., burial sites, ceremonial sites), Ecological (i.e., nesting areas, calving sites) and Other (i.e., artifact, timber). Where necessary, two maps have been included per theme - one to show the entire overview area and another to provide a close up of an area of concentrated activity. Traditional use sites are marked with colour coded hatching, dotted or solid areas. Point sites (for example burial sites, salt licks or nests) are similarly colour coded.

Additional context data is also presented in each of the traditional use maps for orientation. Topographical features, lakes and rivers describe the lay of that land and often demonstrate how these features influenced traditional uses. Political boundaries, transmission lines, pipelines, parks, roads, railways, trails and other ecological features also help describe the landscape. A context map shows what area within the broader geography the map area pertains to.

Each traditional use site is recorded with a string of information that documents what the site was used for and how, with who, during what time period and changes that have occurred. Some of this information appears in labels on the individual participant maps while the changes in use and quality are contained in the database and also discussed in the sections that follow. The specifics of particular uses such as what species were hunting, what berries or plants gathered, or what type of structures occupied for any particular site is an evolving, expandable list of items. This has been growing since the first pilot project in Buffalo Lake and now includes almost 130 items.

HUNTING

Hunting was traditionally a prime source for food, clothing and tools. The techniques used for tracking, preserving and adapting animals and their meat, hides and bones were essential for survival and have been passed down for generations.

Hunting, as an activity, usually occurs in large areas. This is especially true of big game hunting where animals such as moose, deer and fowl which tend to inhabit and travel within large regions.

The hunting legend notes what animals have been hunted by settlement members. The most common of these hunted by our members who were interviewed include: rabbit, mallards, white tail deer and moose. .

Hunting activity over time has changed for some Fishing Lake participants. This was due in some cases to a change in their personal lifestyle (“Quit hunting because quit trapping”, “Stopped going, too busy with business”), a change in accessibility to a particular site due to regulation (“Policies came into effect, can’t use area anymore”) or infrastructure (“Roads are bad stopped going to area”) or because of a change in quality and/or quantity of animals (“Less wildlife, animals tasted different”). Others have noticed no change in the amount of game available or in the quality of the meat.



ENGLISH, MICHIF, FRENCH AND CREE
TRANSLATIONS FOR ANIMAL NAMES

ENGLISH	MICHIF	FRENCH	CREE
bear	Noor	Le ours	mistah-âya
wolf	Loo	Le Loup	mahihkan
fox	R'nawr	le renard	mahkesis
moose	bish	l'élan	môswa
caribou	atihk	Le caribou	atihk
horse	zhwal	cheval	mistatim

Taken from: <http://www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca/language/lesson3.htm>

"My brother used to go [hunting] all winter...he had a little sack- a bag, he had a cook stove...he had horses...it was nice, oh boy."

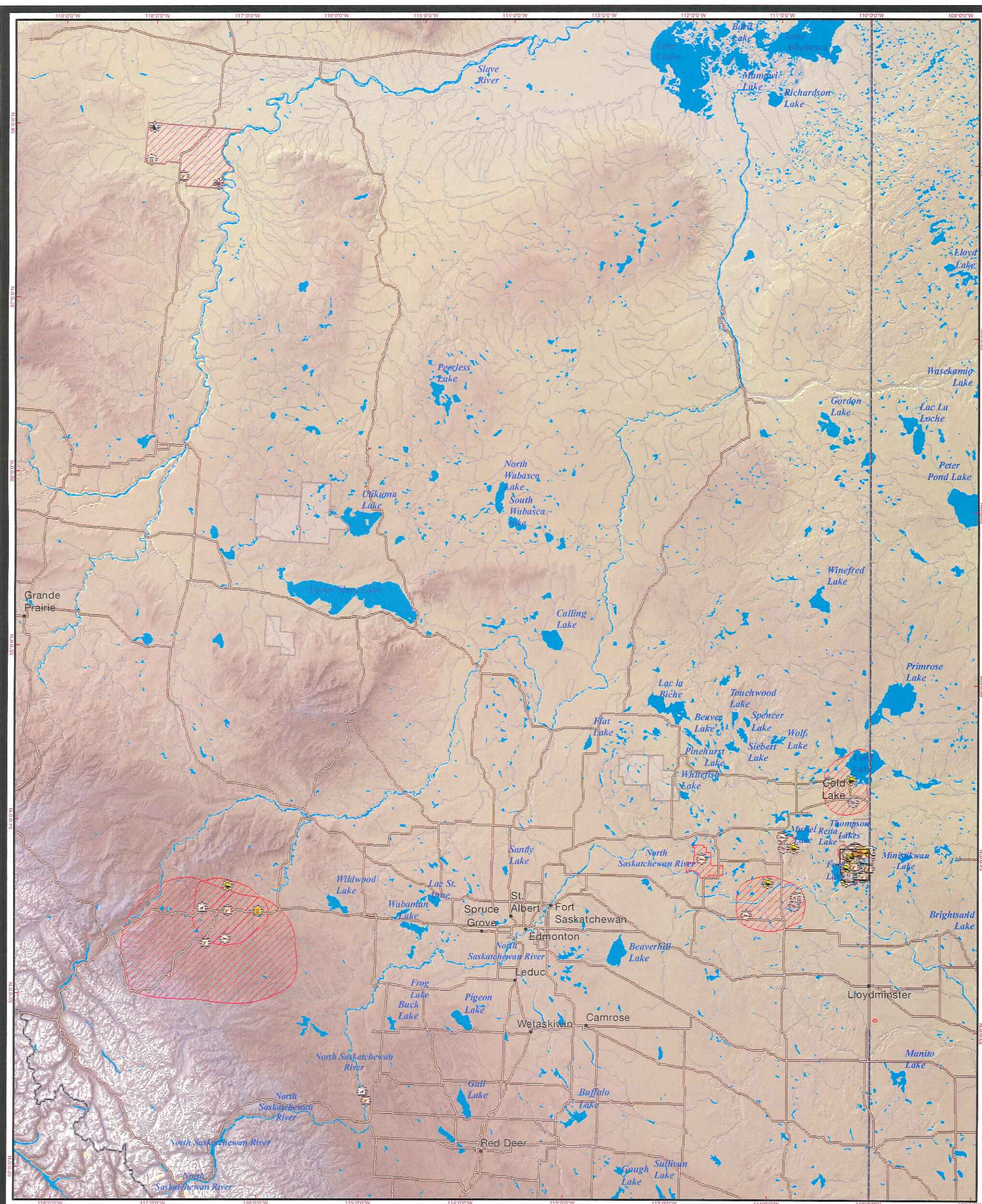
Joe Durocher

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Each traditional use site is recorded with a string of information that documents what the site was used for and how, with who, during what time period and changes that have occurred. Some of this information appears in labels on the individual participant maps while the changes in use and quality are contained in the database and also discussed in the sections that follow. The specifics of particular uses such as what species were hunting, what berries or plants gathered, or what type of structures occupied for any particular site is an evolving, expandable list of items. This has been growing since the first pilot project in Buffalo Lake and now includes almost 130 items.



HUNTING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map

Lynx	Elk	Moose Deer	Rabbit
Jackrabbit	Geese	Mule Deer	Spoon-Bill
Skunk	Grouse	Muskrat	Squirrel
Spruce Hen	Licks	Mink	Weasel
Black Bear	Buffalo Head Duck	Partridge	White Tail Deer
Buffalo	Ring Necked Duck	Pheasant	Wolf
Beaver	Black Duck	Pintail	Wood Duck
Coyote	Mallard	Porcupine	Hunting
Caribou	Moose	Prairie Chicken	

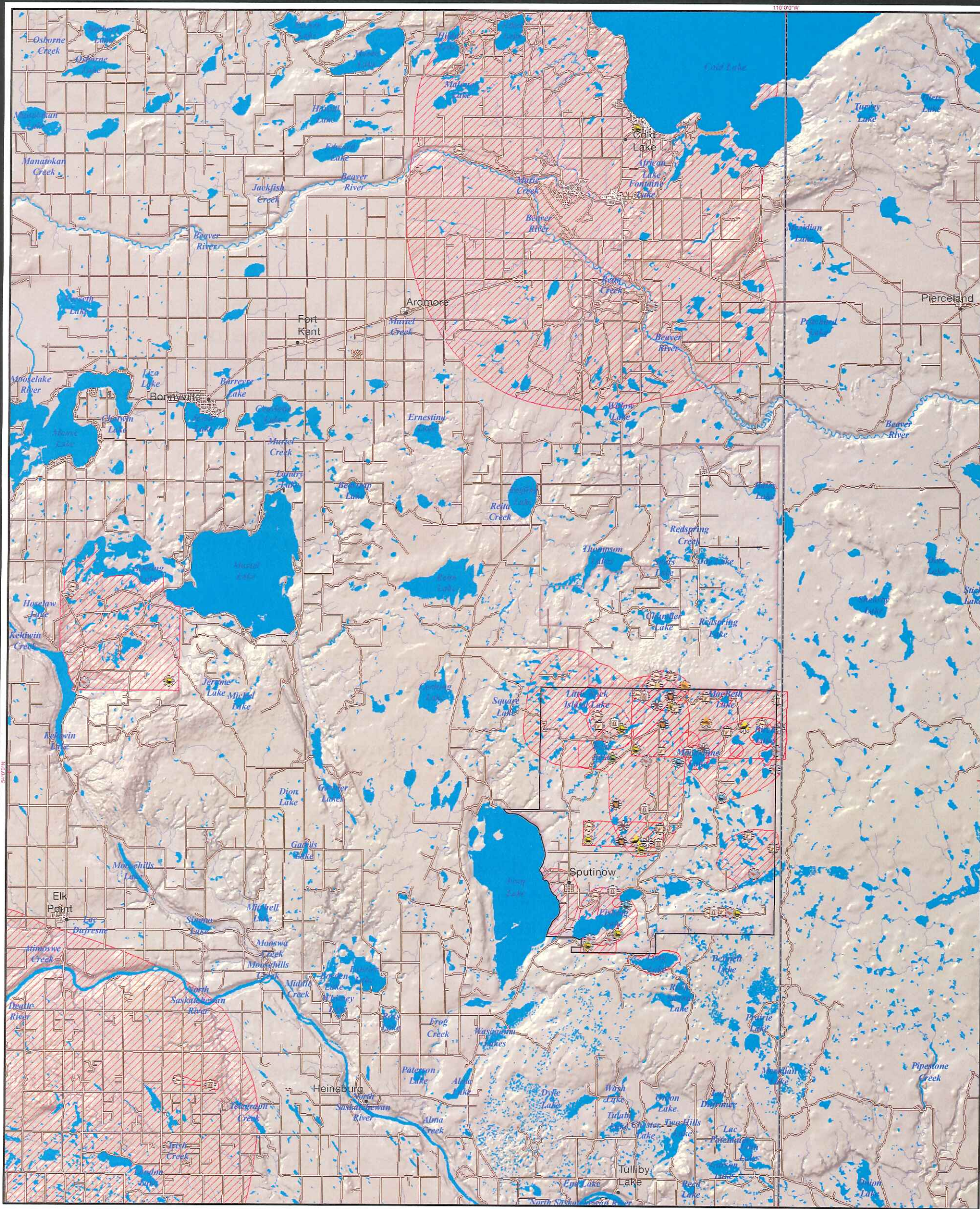
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Indicates that the Traditional Use site was acquired by GPS

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Kilometers



HUNTING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map

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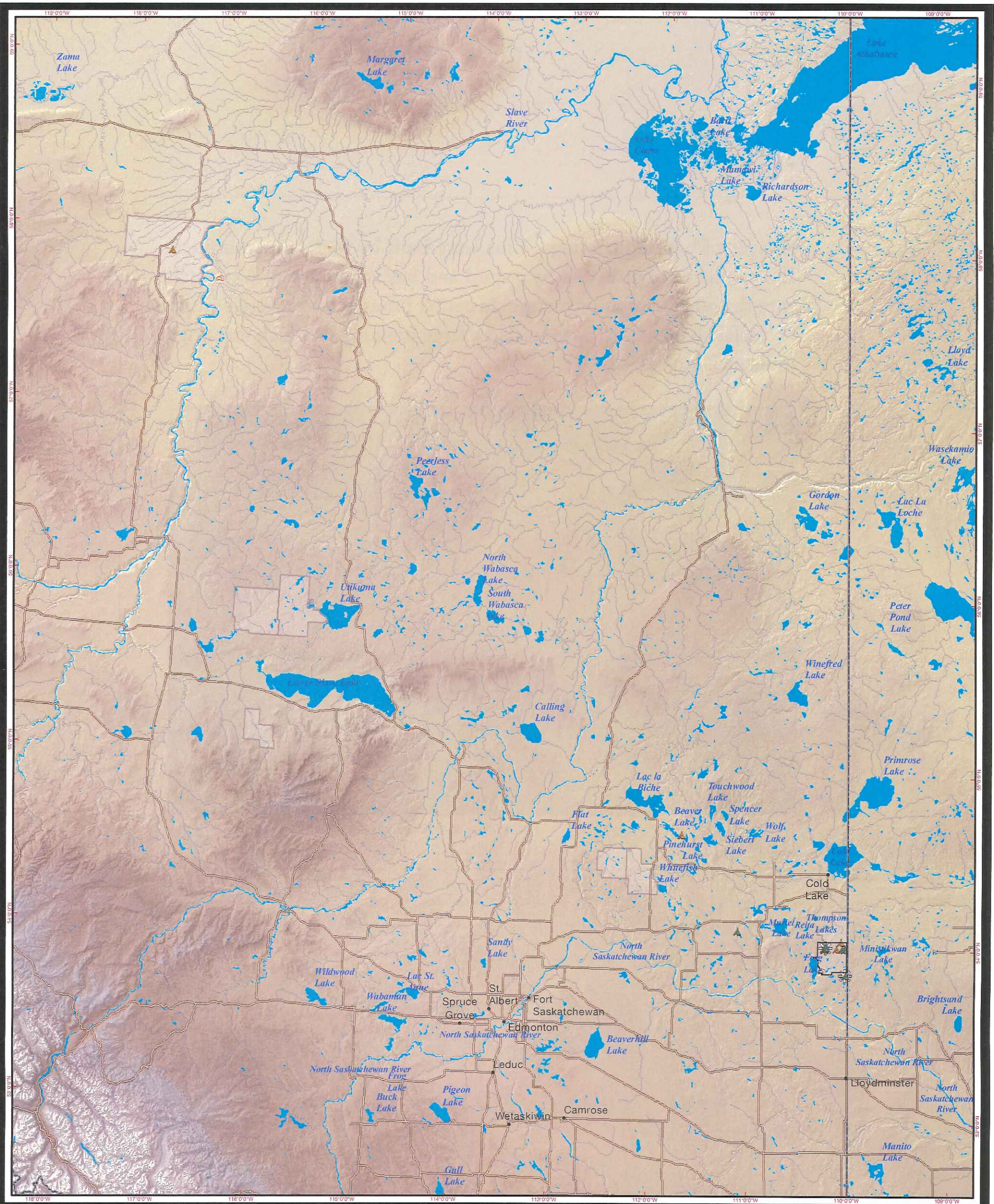
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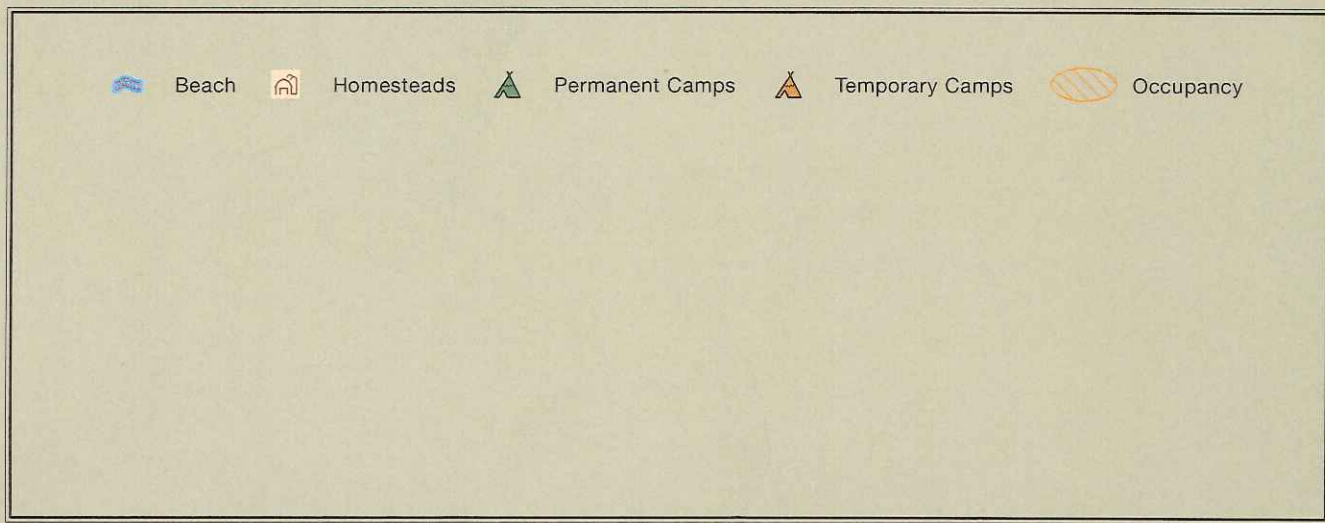
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OCCUPANCY

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map



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GATHERING

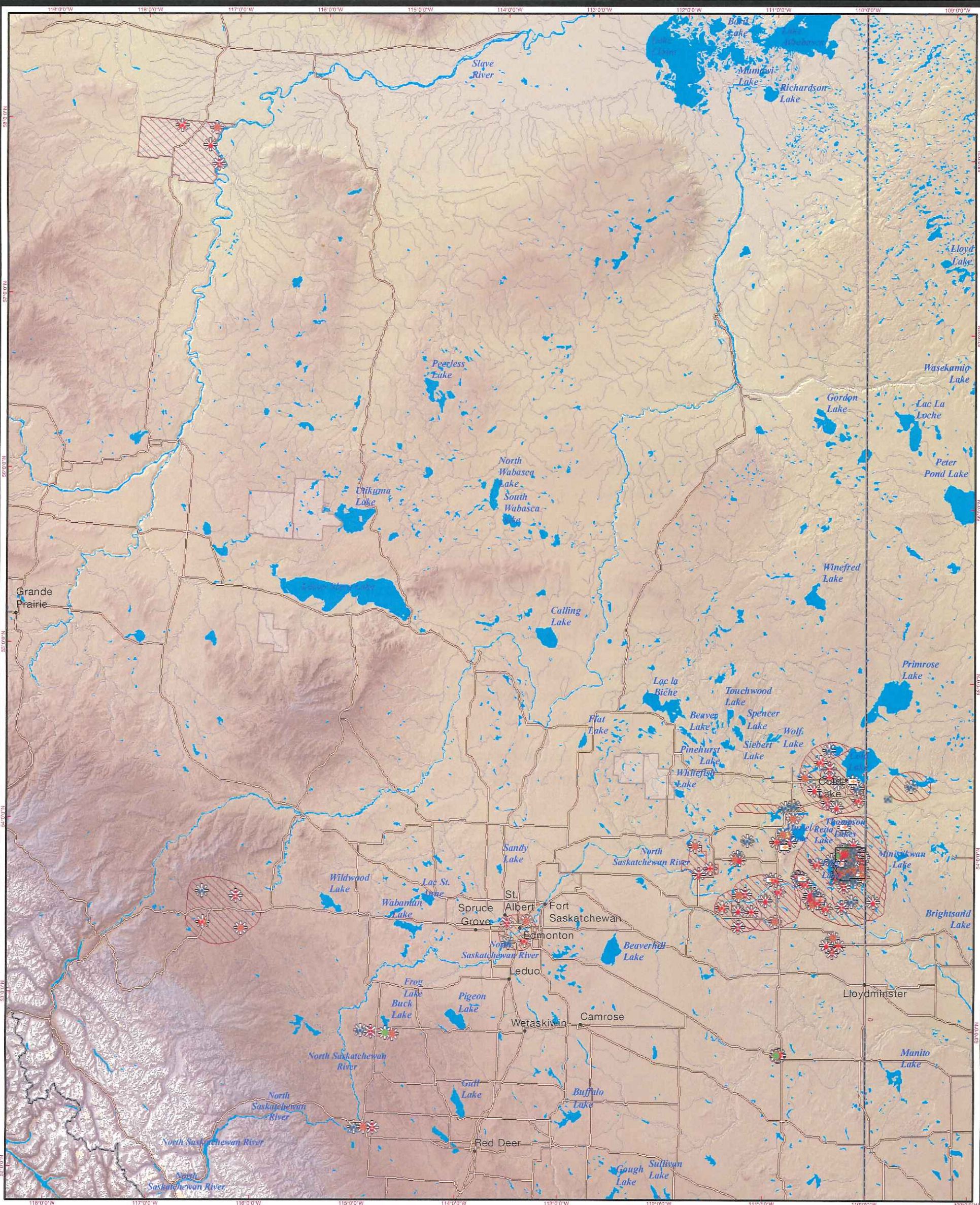
Gathering is one of the traditional practices that remains virtually unchanged over the years. Families still hand-pick over a dozen species of berries, as well as medicinal roots and teas that grow in local muskegs. The preserving process of boiling and canning is also still well-known and widely practiced, even for non-traditional foods such as tomatoes and carrots. Gathering trips occasionally transported the whole family into the bush for days where tent camps were set up.

The gathering legend includes a vibrant array of berries, nuts, mushrooms and eggs for food; teas, herbs and roots used in medicine; and more. The most common gathering species among our Fishing Lake members are raspberries, saskatoon berries and blueberries. These were collected for both personal and commercial uses.

Gathering is by far the most common traditional use activity among those interviewed for this study. Many of those gatherers however, noticed a decrease in the availability of berries. Many linked this decline to agriculture (“cattle destroyed most of the berries”, “nothing open, too many pastures in area”, “Saskatoons won’t grow, decrease”, “chemicals sprayed on berries”). Others also commented on poor access to berry sites or linked berry decline to roads directly (“roads are bad, berry area is destroyed”, “no good access, no berries”, “less berries due to road construction”).



Photo by "waledro" at flicker .com



GATHERING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map

Boisenberries	Herbal Medicine	Chokecherries	Laboom (Wild Mint)
Hazelnuts	Oti'h'hachiksa	Gooseberries	Eggs
Eyeberries	Kamihk Wachiwasuht	Highbush Cranberries	Mushrooms
Blueberry Root	Napakasiht	Lowbush Cranberry	Sap
Chicken Berries	Labrador Tea	Raspberries	Rat Root
Syneca Root	Pine/Spruce Cones	Saskatoon Berries	Tree/Bark
Otterberries	Minsihkts (Gathering Area)	Strawberries	Wood
Huckleberries	Blackberries	Loganberries	Gathering
Spruce Gum	Blueberries	Pin Cherries	

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FISHING

Northern Alberta is full of productive lakes and rivers and fishing has long been a good source of food for local Métis people.

The Fishing Lake settlement area is rich with lakes and creeks for fishing. Fishing Lake, Frog Lake and (Two) Island Lakes are among the most common places. The most common species for fishing among our participants include: jack-fish, whitefish and pickerel.

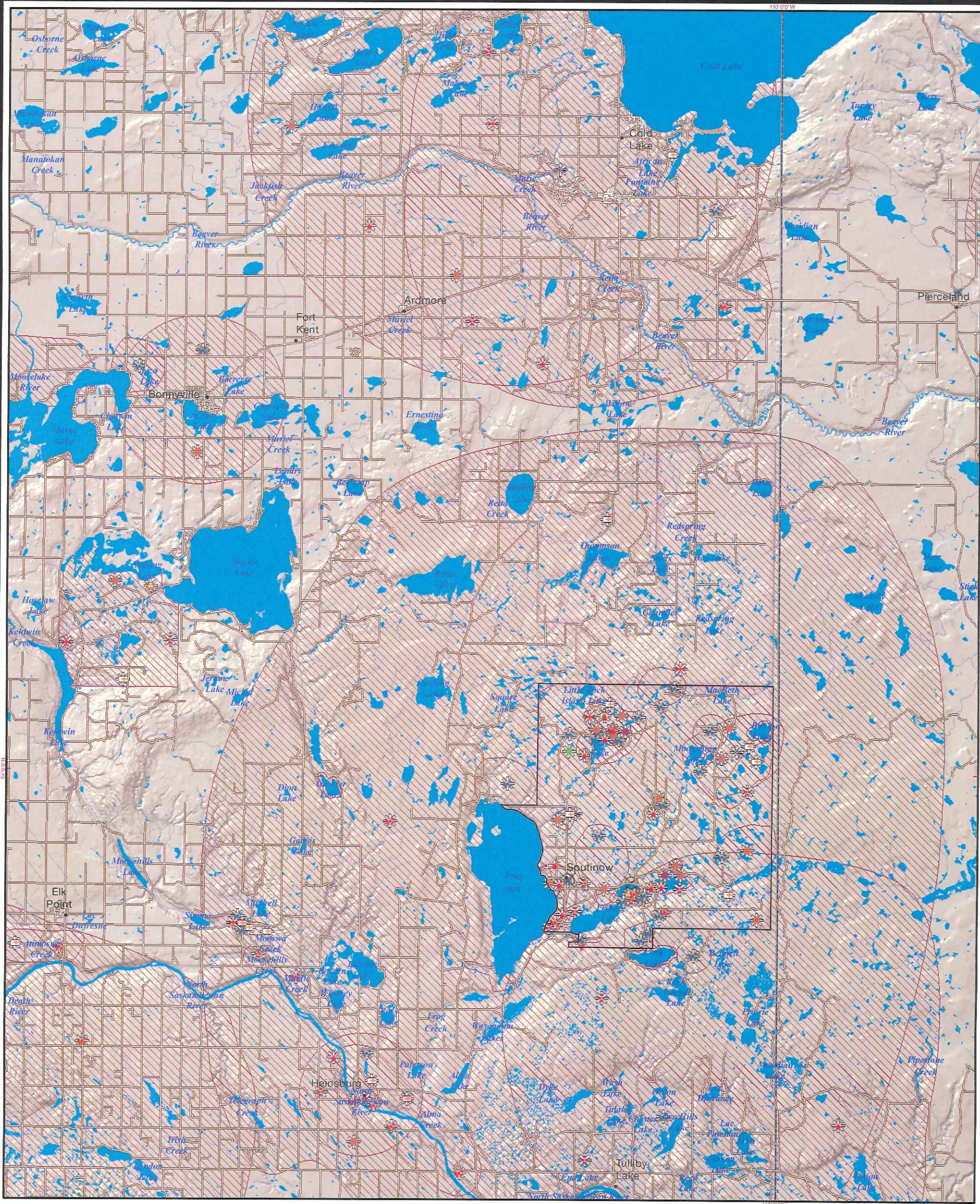
Changes to fishing activities among participants are varied. A significant number of people commented on a decline in fish stocks (“less fish, taste muddy, small”, “whitefish decreased, no more jumbos”, “decrease due to commercial fishing”). Laws, safety and personal decisions were also cited for changes in fishing patterns (“weren’t allowed to snare”, “stopped fishing here, people drowned in the lake”, “was haying in the area, don’t have cattle anymore no need to go to area”, “don’t go anymore, roads bad, kids grown up”).

Grandpa was a big fisherman. I remember...he used to fish in tubs...they take tubs out in the boat and fill those tubs up with fish. And then he smoked the fish and what he didn’t smoke, Grandma had this jar on the counter and it was full of vinegar and onions and she used to just cut fish in pieces and put it in there. And then I can just remember going and getting pickled fish out of that jar whenever I wanted to.”

Gayle Gladue



Photo by "JonesRiver" at flicker .com



GATHERING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map



Fishing Lake Métis Settlement Council

	Boisenberries		Herbal Medicine		Chokecherries		Laboom (Wild Mint)
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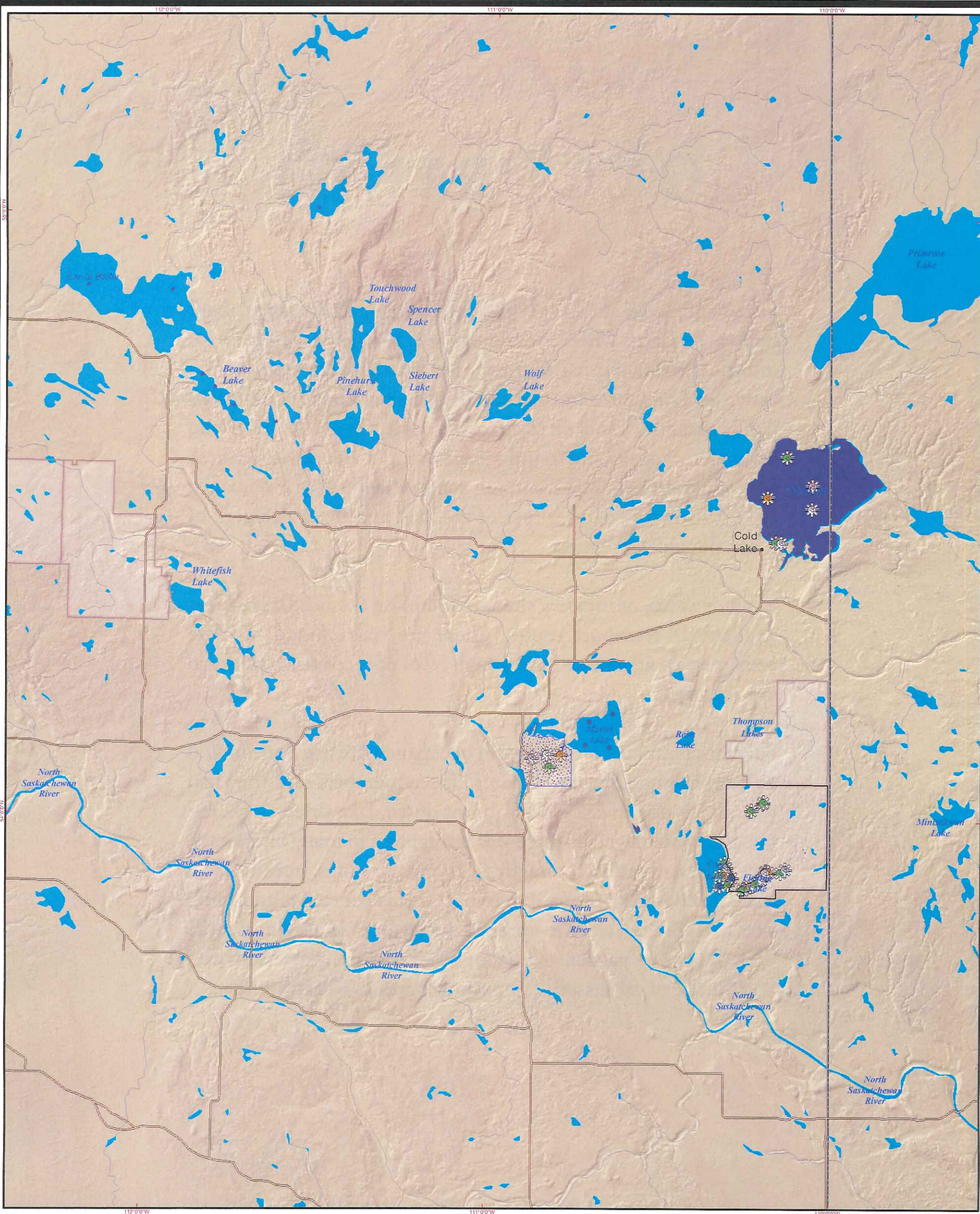
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FISHING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map

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- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Walleye |  Perch |  Tolloubee |
|  Salmon |  Trout |  Burbot |
|  Atikimegwa |  Maria's (Ling Cod) |  Pike |
|  Clams |  Suckers (Nimepeeyock) |  Fishing (River) |
|  White Fish |  Cysoos |  Fishing (Lake) |
|  Mywyak |  Jack-Fish | |
|  Jumbos |  Pickerel | |

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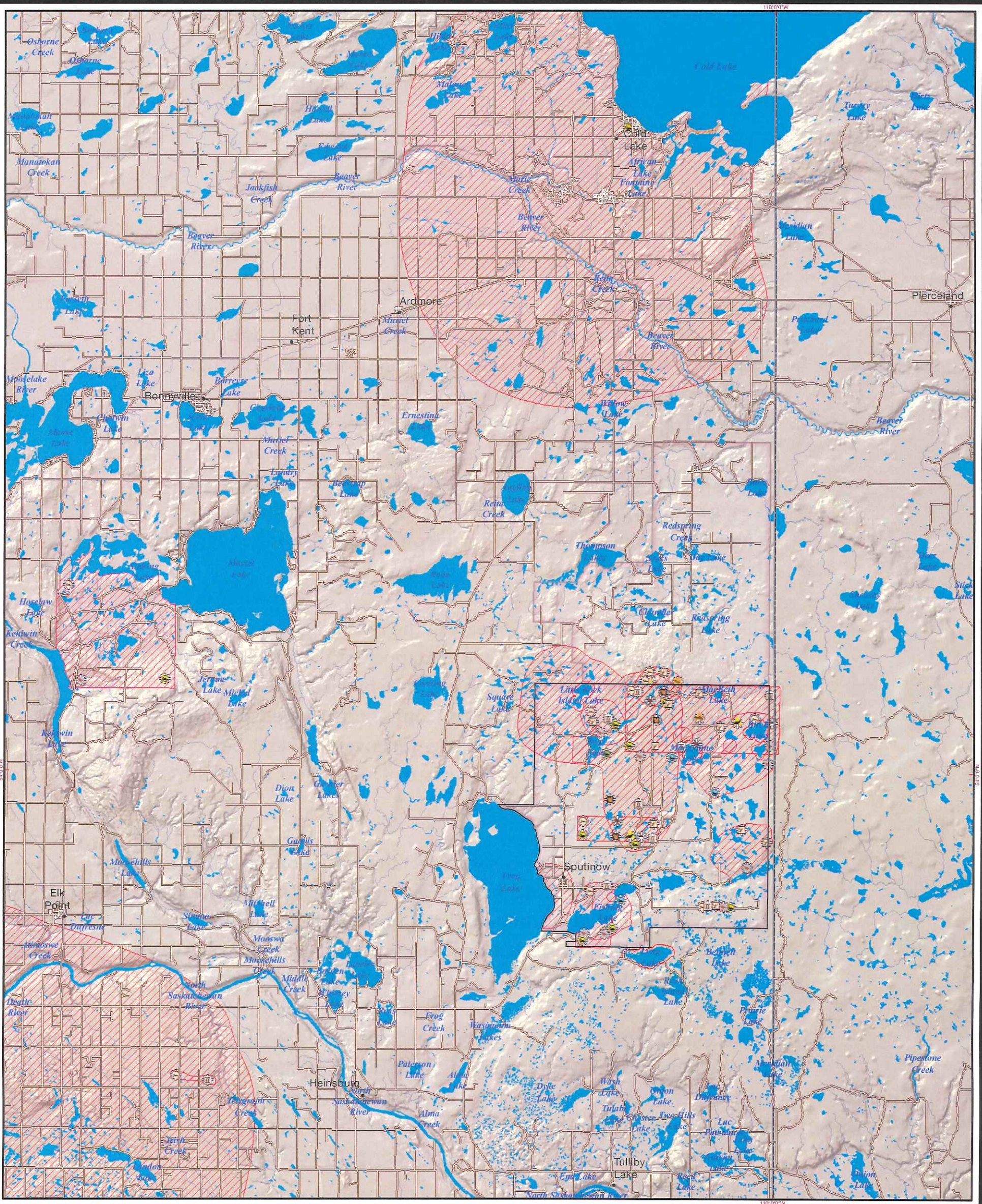
TRAPPING

We have always been known for our trapping skills and trapping to this day remains a proud part of Métis culture. It was our role in the fur trade that brought many Métis west and through which many relationships that founded Métis communities were formed. Trapping often occurred along traplines – either formally registered or not – but so that a series of traps could be set in sequence and checked all at once on a regular, often daily, basis. A range of trapping techniques have been used over the years – ranging from simple stick and snare configurations to the metal traps now common.

The trapping legend which appears in the following maps shows the range of animals which have been trapped by participants and their ancestors. Some of these are species which could have been both trapped and hunted. The most commonly trapped animals among our Fishing Lake settlement members were muskrat, beaver and mink. These were likely the ones that were most abundant and brought the highest price.

The practice of trapping has changed over the years. Some pointed out that muskrat in particular became less available in the 40s and 50s (“decrease in muskrat, due to no limit, furs were top of the line”) but that when occupied with it, trapping was a full time endeavor (“2 trips a day, 10-15 muskrats a day”). Others feel the opposite is true now (“more animals now, no one trapping anymore, no money in trapping”). Trapping has become less appealing for some as the economy has changed (“stopped trapping, too old, not worth it”, more animals now, no one trapping anymore, no money in trapping”, less animals, fur worth no money”). Still others report that access, in terms of poor road condition, is a barrier to present day hunting.





HUNTING

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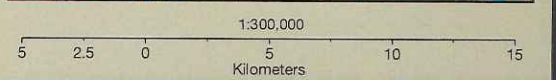


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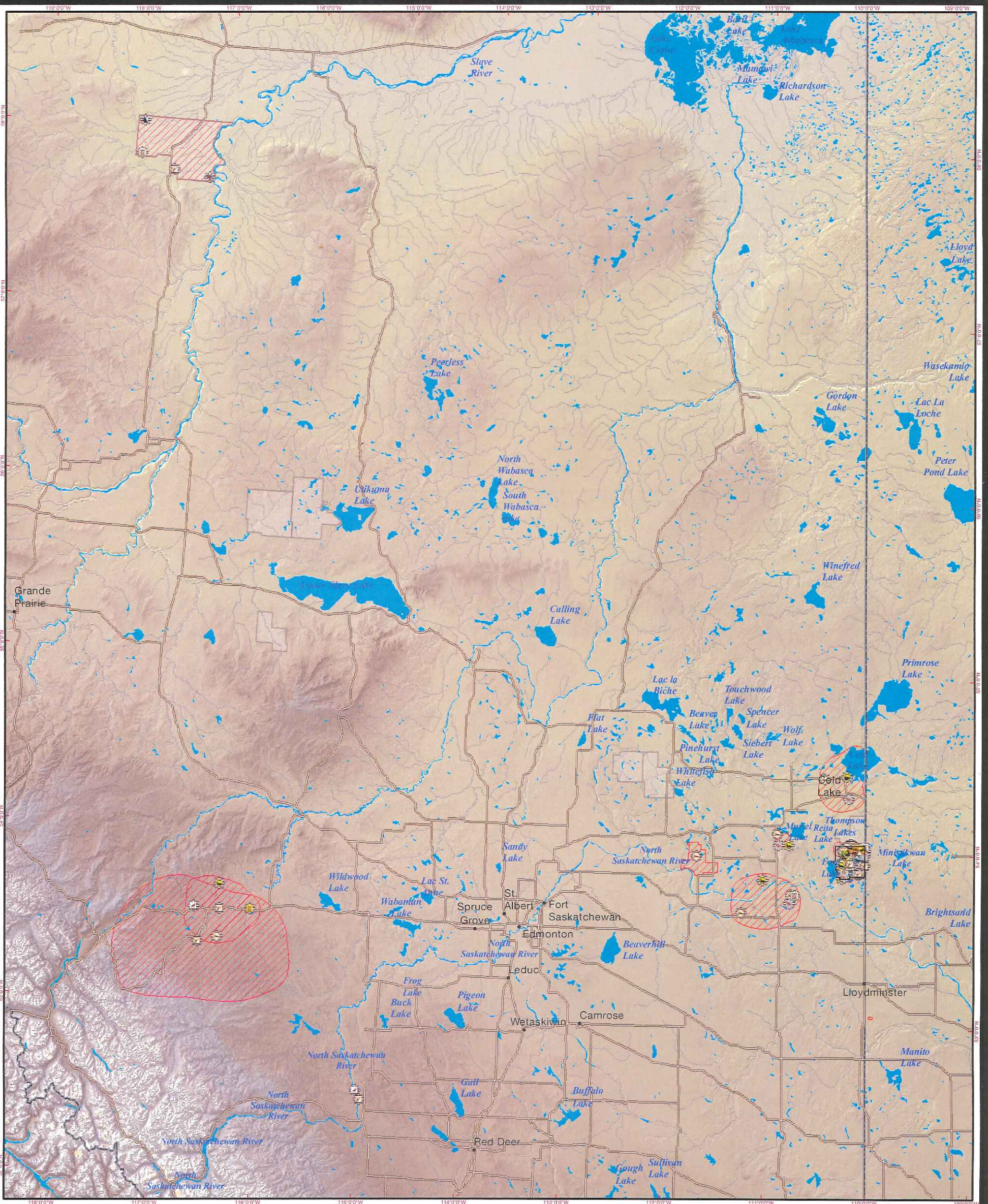
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HUNTING

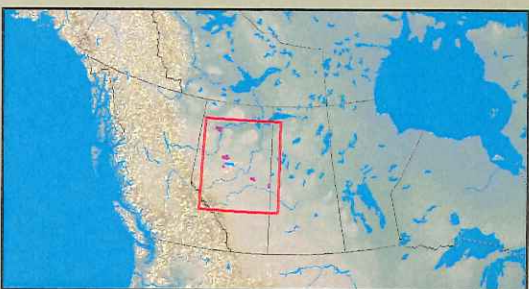
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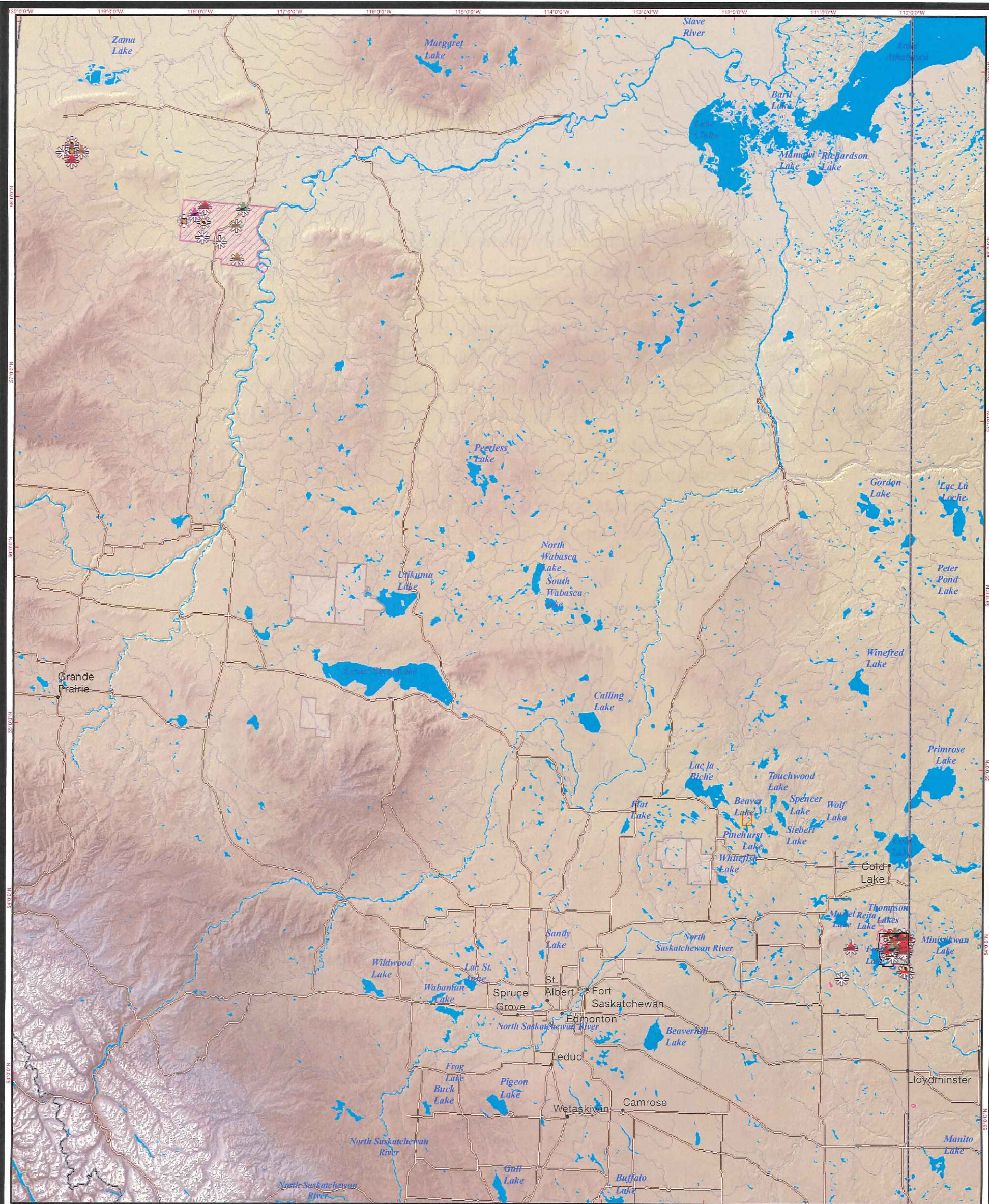
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Kilometers

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TRAPPING

Fishing Lake Métis Settlement - Traditional Use Study Map

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	Wolverine		Fox		Mink		Weasel
	Bear		Martin		Muskrat		Otter
	Beaver		Fisher		Rabbit		Wolf
	Coyote		Lynx		Squirrel		Trapping
Historical trapline verified by archival research							

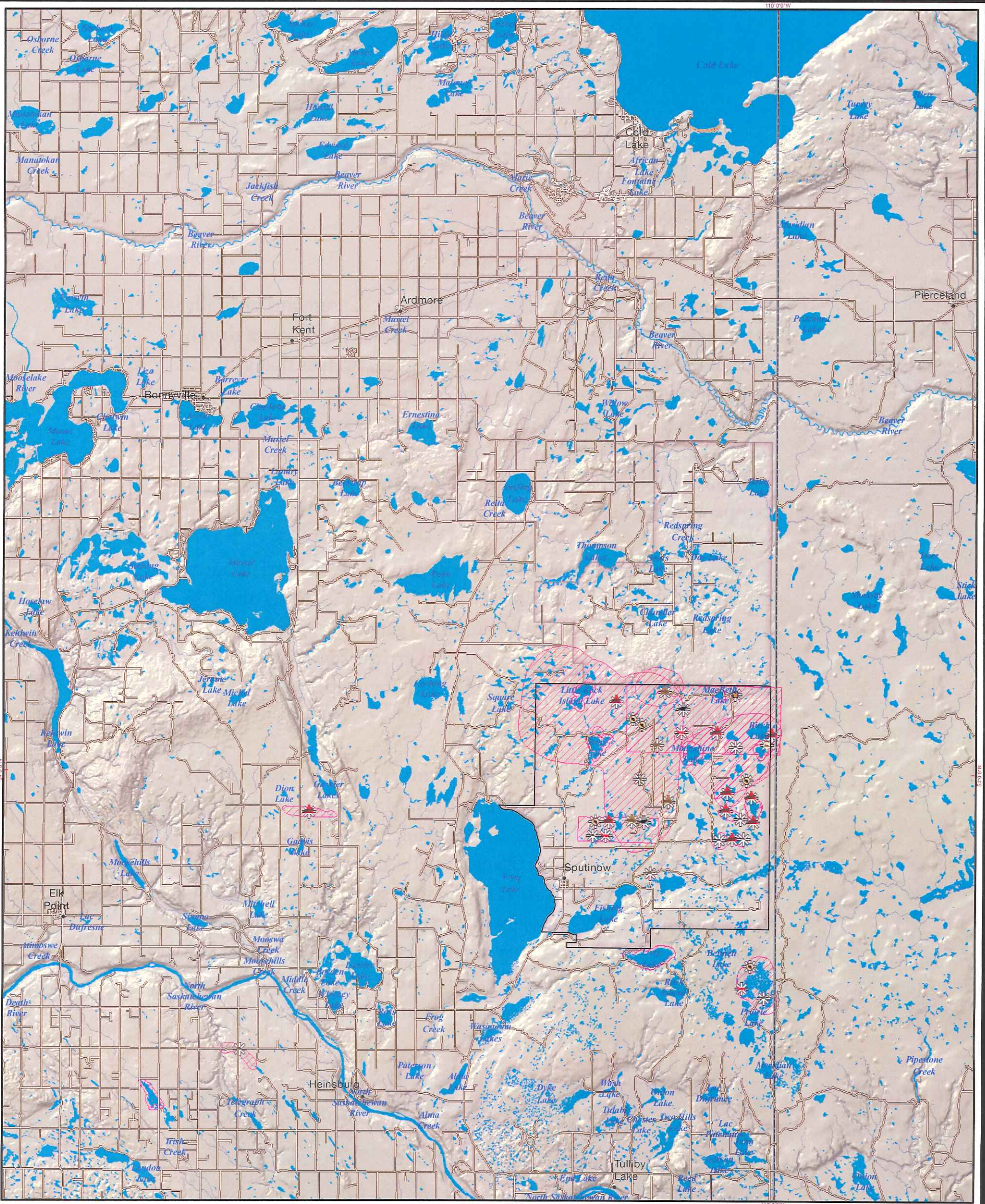
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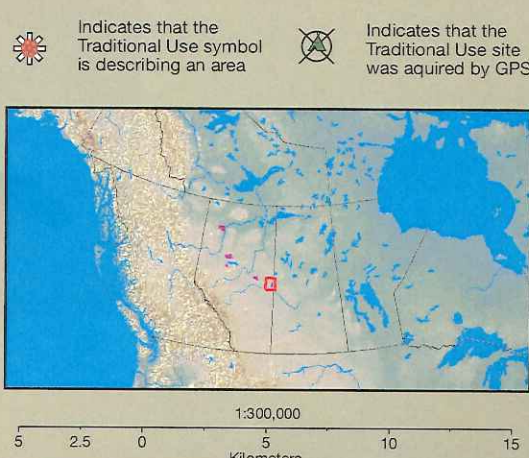


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