

**TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
AND
FAMILY HISTORY FOR
RFMA 2137**

REVIEW DRAFT

**Prepared for:
TrueNorth Energy**

**Prepared by:
Highwood Environmental Management**

**In Association with
Fort McKay IRC
Fedirchuk McCullough & Associates
EBA Engineering**

September 2001

FORWARD

On behalf of TrueNorth Energy, Highwood Environmental Management would like to acknowledge the contributions made by registered trapline holder of RFMA 2137 Elder Emma Faichney and her son Bruce Faichney, of Fort McKay Alberta. This Project would not have been possible without their willingness to share their memories and family traditions with the TEK-GT team under unique circumstances.

The report documents a compilation of memories and observations from a multi-disciplined team that are working together to understand the relationship between the environment and human use of resources. Although the report contains an incredible amount of information, it should be recognized that what we (the TEK-GT team) took home was much more than a collection of facts. Whether it was time spent looking for a particular berry patch, cooking bannock over the fire, swapping bush tales over supper or fending off pesky mosquitoes, it was clear that everyone would leave the trapline with a better understanding of one another's culture, history and point of view.

It will be up to the Faichney children to expand on this work when they share some of the stories we heard on this trip with their own children and grandchildren.

*Carrie Oloriz
Highwood Environmental Management*

“KIKIYOU KIKOY OMASKE ABADAK”

“Everything has a purpose – everything is connected”

E. Faichney June 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Photo 1: The TEK – GT Team

Photo (from left to right)

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Rebecca Fabian – Fort McKay IRC, Fort McKay, AB
Reba Fabian – Becky’s daughter, Fort McKay, AB
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Front Row

Chyanne Faichney – Emma’s granddaughter, Fort McKay, AB
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Bob Cox – TrueNorth Energy. TEK-GT planning and coordination , video documentation

Wendy Unfreed – Fedirchuk McCullough & Associates. Component manager for the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project Historical Resources Impact Assessment. HIRA field program manager.

Greg Sutor – EBA Engineering. ELC (vegetation) mapping for Lease 5, 8 and 52, summer 2000.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June 2001, TrueNorth Energy filed an application for the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project, a phased open pit bitumen mining and extraction operation proposed for lands within Leases 5, 8, and 52. These leases fall within the traditional lands associated with residents of the Fort McKay community; the proposed project will directly impact the traplines of two families from Fort McKay. In support of the Fort Hills application and Environmental Impact Assessment, members of the Fort McKay Industry Relations Corporation (IRC) and the TrueNorth Energy EIA study team met with directly impacted trappers to identify key issues and concerns related to development in the region. In addition to this, individuals were interviewed about their family's historical and current relationship with the land and its resources as it relates to traditional land use practices (hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering).

The intent of these interviews, and this report, is to capture some of the local history and traditional environmental knowledge (TEK) held by the individuals with historical ties to the lands within Leases 5, 8 and 52. This report provides supplemental information to the Traditional Land Use Impact Assessment completed for the TrueNorth EIA and application for the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project. This documentation not only provides historical context for the social and environmental impact assessment of these lands but it also provides the environmental specialists working with TrueNorth additional information that will enable them to tailor future reclamation planning both to the operational requirements of the Project and needs of the local residents. This report also records many aspects of the traditional lifestyle that is integral to the cultural heritage of the aboriginal people living in Fort McKay.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) was defined by Mayor (1994 *in* Emery 1997) as "the holistic understanding of the properties of plants and animals, the functioning of ecosystems and techniques for using and managing them. This knowledge is based on centuries of living close to nature, carrying out traditional land use activities. Aboriginal people's knowledge and perceptions of the environment and their relationship with it are often important elements of cultural identity". During the TEK interviews (November 2000, Appendix A) it became apparent that the Faichney family (RFMA 2137) maintained close ties to their land and certain aspects of their traditional lifestyle. Documentation of the interviews revealed the depth of TEK maintained by the registered holder of trapline 2137 (an Elder in the Fort McKay community) and her son.

Modern economies and unprecedented growth of natural resource based sectors in the region conflict with Traditional lifestyles and economies. As a result, the cultural composition of the Fort McKay community is changing. As Europeans, the fur trade and industrial development moved north, many aboriginal communities, including Fort McKay, became mosaics of Euro-Canadian and traditional cultures. The economic downturn of the fur trade and increased involvement in non-traditional occupations limits the time that individuals spend on the traplines taking part in traditional pursuits. Elders, the individuals that maintain much of the TEK in communities, are aging and health issues are preventing them from spending as much time in the bush as they would like. This is exasperated by the fact that the traditionally used landbase proximate to the community has been severely impacted by industrial development. Because adults in the community are spending less time in the bush, children have less exposure to traditional lifestyles and TEK. The transfer of TEK becomes even more difficult since for many

children in Fort McKay, English is their first language. It can be difficult for elders whose first language is either Cree or Chipewyan, to communicate effectively, especially about traditional activities that are better taught through example (i.e. making moose hide). There is concern among the elders in Fort McKay that non-traditional lifestyles threaten the ability of young people in the community to practice a traditional life style and that their people's cultural heritage is at risk of being lost.

To help address this issue, TrueNorth Energy made a commitment to the IRC to support efforts to document the Faichney family history and TEK associated with lands within Leases 5, 8, and 52 for the community; and in particular, the Faichney children and grandchildren. In June 2001, a team of biological, heritage resource and environmental consultants accompanied several members of the Faichney family, along with representatives from TrueNorth Energy and the Fort McKay IRC to the family trapline (RFMA 2137).

For four days the TEK ground-truthing team (TEK-GT) camped at one of the Faichney's cabins and traveled to various locations associated with traditional land use practices (for example, cabins, trapping areas, gathering areas for food or medicines). This report captures many of the key findings revealed during our time on the trapline. The following report provides a summary of what Emma and Bruce shared with the TrueNorth Energy TEK team so that we in turn, could document some of their family cultural history for future generations. It also provides a summary of some of the main observations that were made by a multi-disciplined team of individuals working together to understand the relationship between the environment and the human use of resources.

2.0 FAMILY HISTORY IN THE AREA

The trapline registered as RFMA 2137 has been in the Faichney family for two generations. The line was first held by Felix Beaver (Emma's Father), then by Ian Faichney (Emma's Registered husband) and now, by Emma Faichney. Emma Faichney has lived in this area her whole life. She was born and raised in the bush by her parents Felix and Maryann Beaver and later raised her 10 children in the bush with her late husband Ian until the children had to go to school in the 1960s. Even after moving to Fort McKay, the Faichneys would return to the area whenever possible.

Emma Faichney is an Elder in the Fort McKay community and is the registered trapline holder of RFMA 2137. Emma's mother Maryann Boucher was born on August 12, 1911 at Old Fort. She spoke Cree and Chipewyan. Emma's father Felix Beaver was born on April 10, 1900 in Wabasca. He spoke Cree and understood Chipewyan. Felix Beaver was 14 years old when he left Wabasca and travelled north to Fond du Lac. Felix returned to Old Fort in 1933 and married Marianne. They lived at Jackfish Lake (Richardson Lake) in the willows; that's where Emma, their first child was born. The Beaver family lived there until Emma was about five years old (Fort McKay 1995, Highwood, June 2001).

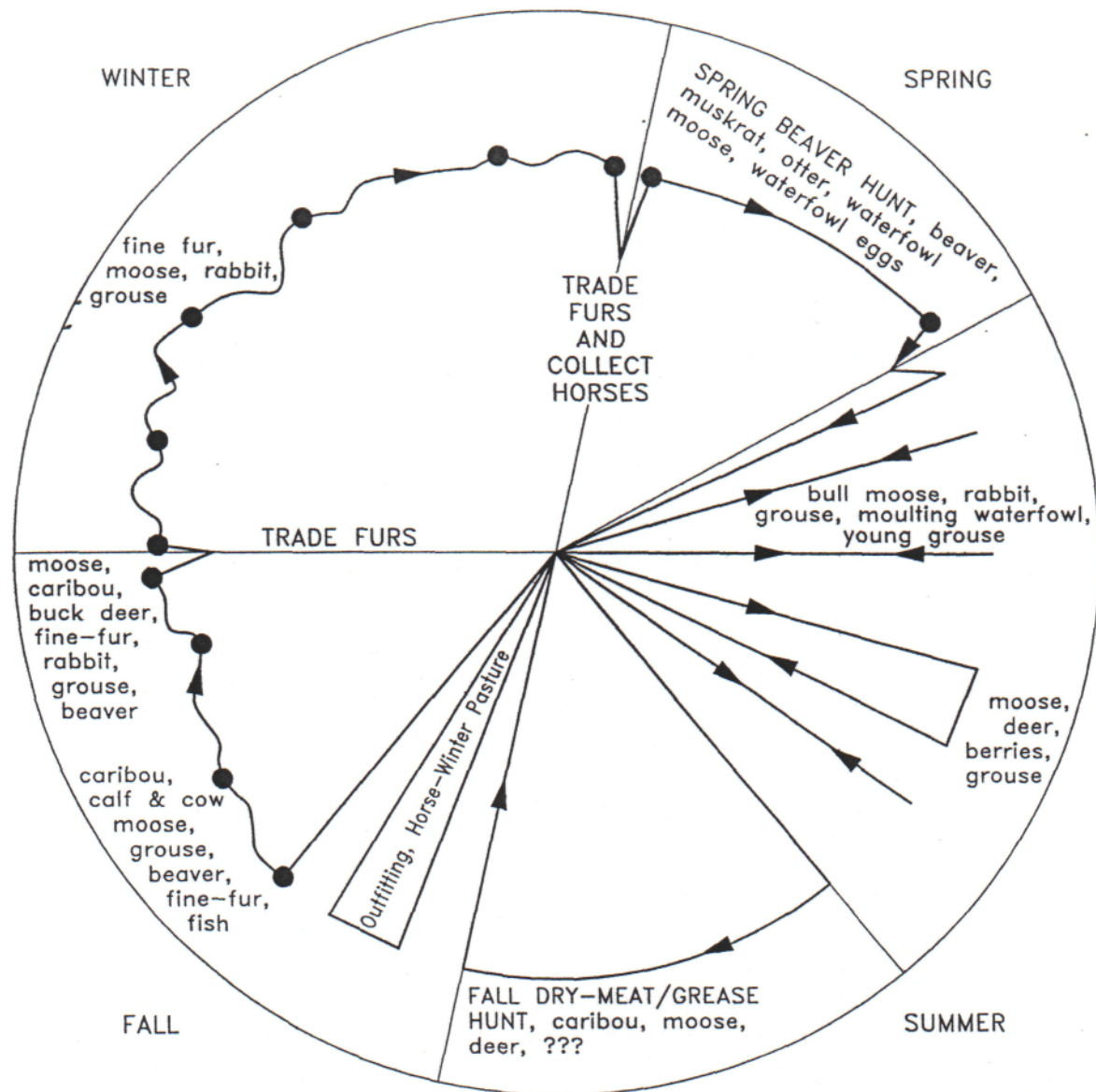
The Faichney family tree is shown on Figure 1.

2.1 Life on the Trapline: Cabins and Living Areas

Aboriginal families living on a trapline used to move year-round throughout most of the area to hunt, trap and gather. The "pre-1960" seasonal movement for families like the Beaver/Faichney family is illustrated on Figure 2 (Fort McKay 1995). Figure 3 lists activities pursued by the Beaver/Faichney family during different times of the year.

Cabins have been built by various members of the Beaver/Faichney family throughout trapline 2137. Four cabins are still functional, while only remnants of others remain. The locations of these cabins (illustrated on Figure 4) indicate the general pattern of seasonal movements throughout the area. Emma commonly refers to different cabins by their locations, i.e. "Lake Cabin", "Mountain Cabin", "Bitumont Cabin" etc.

Section 2.1.1 describes each of the Faichney/Beaver cabin sites.



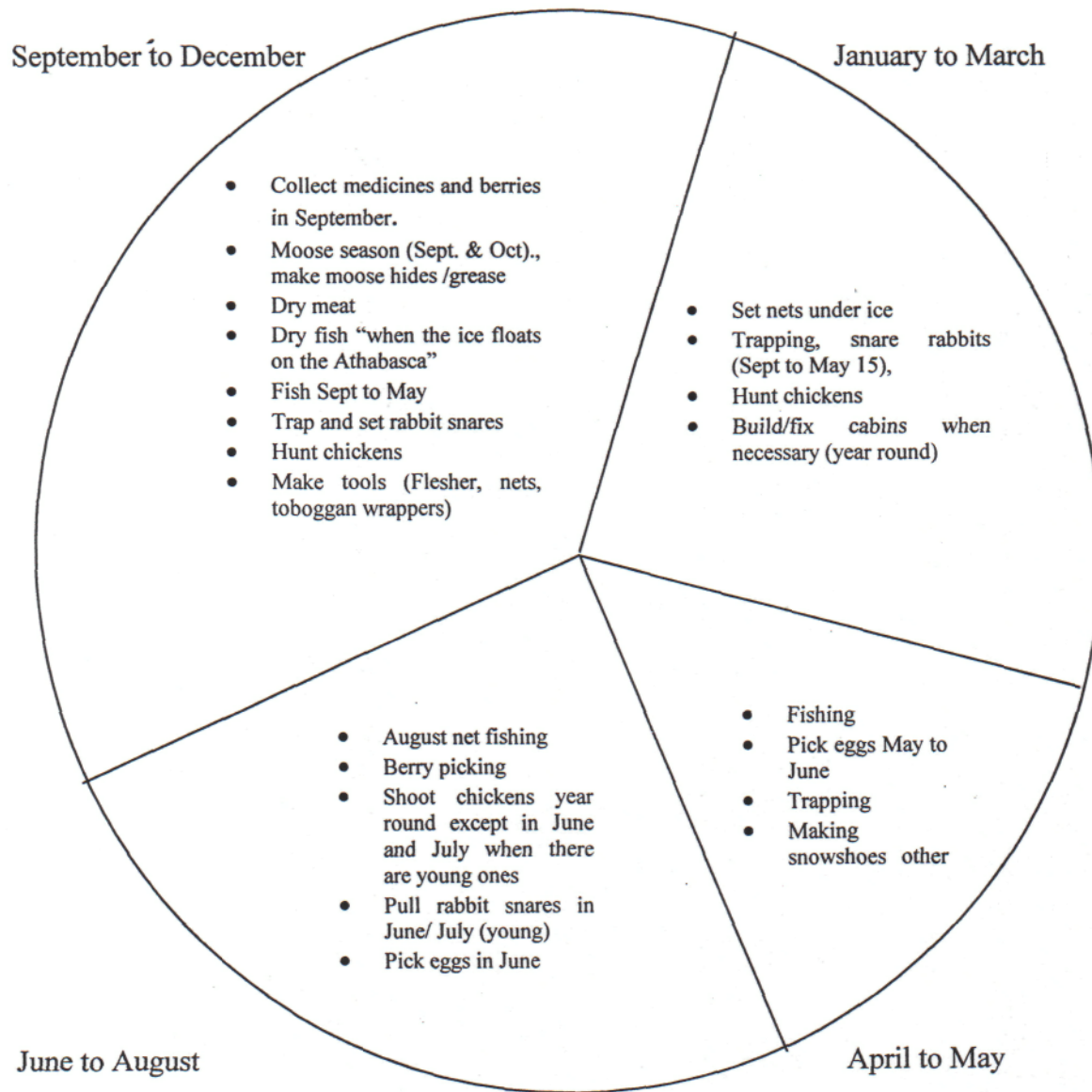
The centre of the circle represents the summer meeting place, and the black dots represent cabins on the traplines. The arrows indicate movement. Back and forth arrows indicate short term hunting trips. The principal resources and activities of each season are indicated near the perimeter. (After Brody, 1981)

Figure 2 Seasonal Movements

PRE-1960
SEASONAL ROUND

Source: Fort McKay 1983

Figure 3: Seasonal Round Activities



Rg 11

Rg 10

Rg 9

Rg 8

Twp 99

Twp 98











Twp 97

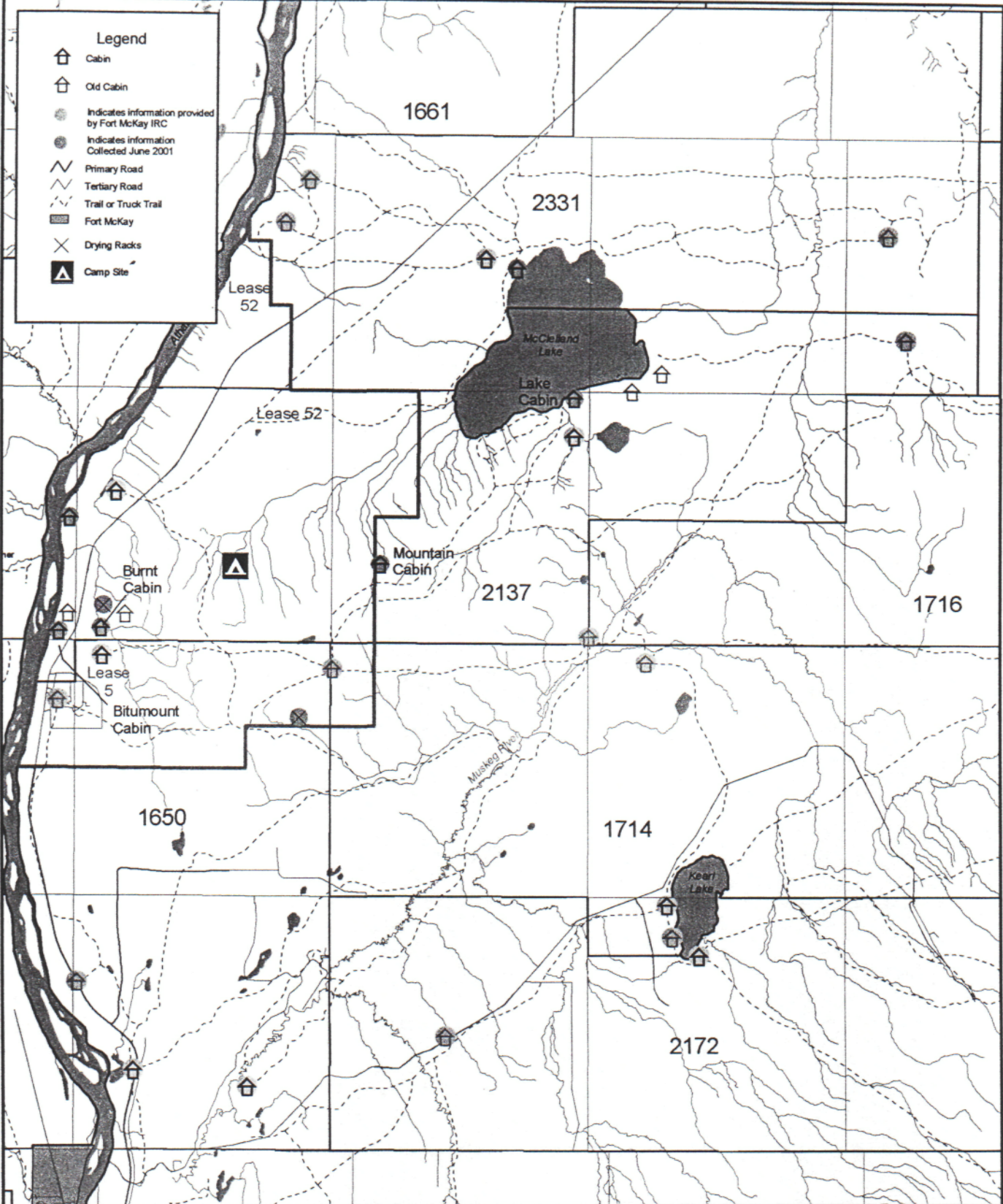
Twp 96

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Legend

-  Cabin
-  Old Cabin
-  Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
-  Indicates information Collected June 2001
-  Primary Road
-  Tertiary Road
-  Trail or Truck Trail
-  Fort McKay
-  Drying Racks
-  Camp Site



FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

Cabins in Traditional Land Use RFMA 1650 and 2137



Acknowledgements:
 Traditional land use information provided by Fort McKay IRC (strictly for use on the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project), Solvers report, 1995, Aurora report, 1996, and True North Field Study and interviews.
 Basemap provided by Alberta Environment.
 Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

TRUENORTH			
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		FIGURE NO.	4
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2.1.1 Cabins

Felix Beaver's Cabin

According to Emma, Felix Beaver primarily kept his family in the vicinity of the Athabasca River, however she remembers living at Jackfish Lake until she was five years old. She recalled the Beaver family first living about three miles south of Bitumount. A cabin approximately 3 miles south of Bitumount was identified during the archaeological surveys (summer 2000) as Felix Beaver's Cabin (recorded in the HRIA database as HiOv T8). The Beaver family had this cabin near the Athabasca River as a "home base" and would move from there to McClelland Lake and the Firebag River following resources such as moose, beaver and rabbits.

Bitumount

When Emma was a young child, their family would camp at Bitumount. Her father used to cut wood there for Robert Fitzimmons to fuel the steam-powered equipment when he was not trapping. In Emma's words, "*I practically lived here (at Bitumount) when I was a little girl*".

Walking through Bitumount (now a provincial Historic Site) sparked a lot of memories for Emma. She pointed out where the men working at Bitumount (approximately 100) would eat, sleep and work. She showed us where employees would store meat, smoke beaver meat and the commissary where the men could buy cigarettes. She told us how everything was powered by steam in those days. As a girl, Emma used to help a woman named Mrs. Carody in the kitchen – Mrs. Carody was the cook. Emma also knew Robert Fitzimmons; he used to call her his "little sweetheart".



Photo 2: In front of the icehouse at Bitumount Historic Site "*Mrs. Carody was the one who discovered I had appendicitis and then my mom took me to see the doctor... I'm talking about 1944.*"



Photo 3: Store at Bitumount Historic Site. *“I’m 67 years old. When I was a girl – 10 years old, there used to be a store over there. I would run along here (the bank above the road) My dad would give me 10 cents to buy candy – a big bag like this! All different colours – hard candy.”*

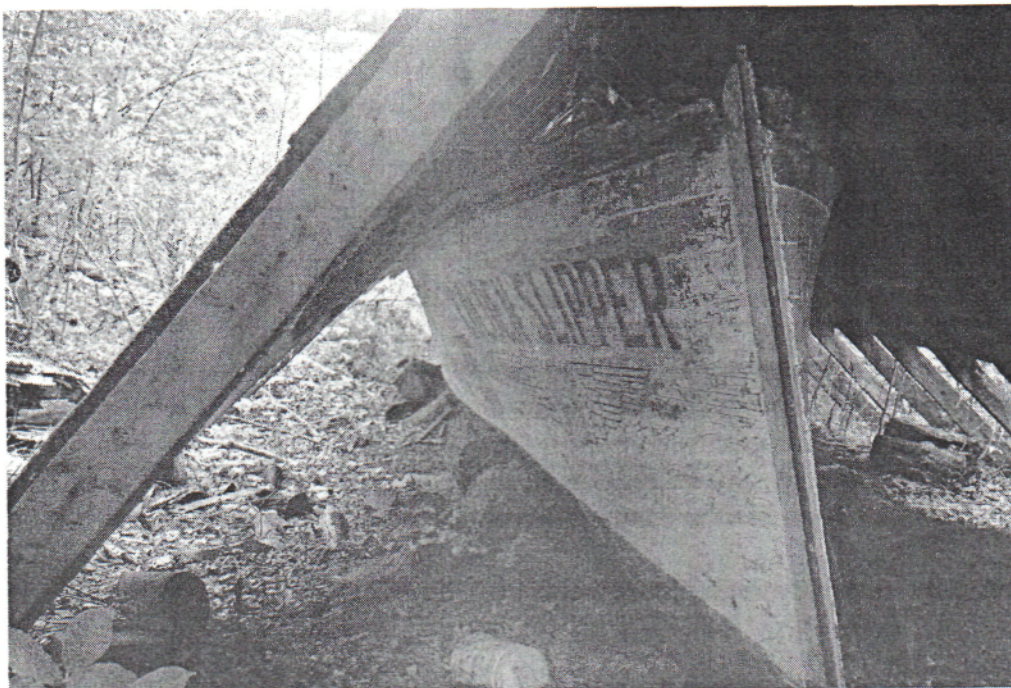


Photo 4: Robert Fitzsimmon’s boat “The Golden Slipper”. *“At least one time I rode in this boat. Old Fitzsimmons - he used to call me ‘My little sweetheart’.”*

Emma later lived at Bitumount with Ian Faichney as a newly married woman (Bruce was only a baby). Their cabin (“Bitumount cabin”) was located on the north side of the fence that currently encloses the Bitumount Historic site. The Faichney’s lived there for about three years.

Although little of the original cabin remains, Emma found a number of her belongings at this site (an old stove, a tea pot, part of a gas lamp and other miscellaneous bits of metal). When Emma and Ian lived there they had cleared a lot of the surrounding bush leaving four tall spruce trees in a row. One of these trees has since fallen down and brush has grown over much of the site. She identified locations where she had a smoke rack for smoking meat and another rack for making moose hide, although neither of the racks remain.

According to Emma they had everything they needed at this one location. Just up the hill was a Jack pine forest with lots of blueberries and cranberries – all kinds of berries. High bush cranberries (moose berries) grew right at the cabin. There were so many berries that, Emma recalls the bears used to come around. “*sometimes my husband would go just a little ways (pointing towards the river) and you’d hear a shot – already bear!*”. There also used to be a little creek running by the cabin. Moose were common. Just north of the Cabin was a good place to snare rabbits.

The Faichneys “*had everything we needed, until greedy people chased us out of here*”. Despite this, the Bitumount cabin had a lot of good memories for Emma. After the Faichney’s left Bitumount they moved to Old Fort.

“Look at all this bush.....What was it that made me so happy when I was living right here? Young – being young, with my children – all my family, my mom and dad still alive and my husband.... Maybe that’s what it was...We didn’t have all kinds of things to eat... but we were happy”

E. Faichney, June 2001 at Former Bitumount Cabin

Cabin near boat Launch (Old Fort)

During the 2000 FHOSP HRIA field surveys, a cabin site was located on the shores of the Athabasca River (archaeology database: site HiOv H2). Without seeing this cabin, Bruce identified the cabin near the boat launch as being Ian Faichney’s cabin that was built approximately 30 years ago. He and his brother Roger had helped his father build it. This cabin is accessible by quad off the Northlands road.

NOTE: a cabin in this general area was identified in the SOLVEX EIA (1995) as belonging to Edmond Ducharm.

Tower Road and Fort Creek

South of Tower Road, on the east side of Fort Creek, Emma and Bruce identified an area that had a cabin. Bruce and his father built the cabin over a period of seven days when Bruce was just married. (NB: Bruce has been married 25 years, so the cabin was probably at least 20 years old).

There were two main parts to the cabin at this site although none of it remains. According to Emma and Bruce, bear hunters burned down the cabin. Emma says – “*that was quite a while ago – that’s why there’s Jack pine growing right here*”.

Emma said there were lots of cranberries at this site and that they used the water from Fort Creek. Bruce said there were always lots of moose in the poplars along Tower Road. Sometimes Bruce would cut wood from around this cabin site to sell as firewood.

Cutlery, metal plates, glass and the frames of two beds were found at the cabin site. One of the beds belonged to Emma’s mothers. Most of what was left behind had been warped or melted by the heat of the fire. Bruce says jack pine forests burn extremely hot which would explain the warping of the remaining household items. Adding, “*you want a hot fire boy; you burn pine*”.



Photo 6: Emma’s granddaughter Ashley standing in front of the Tower Road and Fort Creek Cabin (photo provided by Emma Faichney)



Photo 7: Emma standing near her mother's bed

McClelland Lake Cabins

Two cabin sites were identified on the north and south shores of McClelland Lake. Emma told us the cabins were set up in the 1970s at former camping spots; before then they used to always camp at McClelland Lake. During the flight over McClelland Lake, the Faichneys commented the “*the whole lake is ours*”. Every member of the Faichney family that has ever been interviewed, including Emma and Bruce (Nov. 2000, June 2001), Ian Faichney (1996) and Ian and Emma Faichney (1995), has said that hunting and trapping was always good at McClelland Lake. In particular hunting for moose and trapping for beaver, otter, lynx and mink.

The cabin site on the north shore of the lake can be accessed by an old forestry road. Emma’s second youngest son Aaron (now deceased) used to have a cabin here; a drying rack remains and could be seen from the air. The cabin on the north shore was in an aspen – white spruce forest and was known to be “good for berries”.



Photo 8: Rack on the north shore of McClelland Lake – former cabin site

The second cabin at McClelland Lake is located on the south shore and can only be accessed by boat from the north shore. This cabin belongs to Emma’s son Roger and is surrounded by a dense, wet mixed-wood forest that made it impossible to land the helicopter. Although this area was not considered good for berries, it was the best place on the trapline to get mint and rat root for medicine. During our flight Emma mentioned she was hoping she could go and live at McClelland Lake cabin later that summer when she returned from Edmonton.



Photo 9: Cabin on the south shore of McClelland Lake

Mountain Cabin

Although Mountain Cabin was not visited, Emma described it as being in the old Fort Hills, not far from McClelland Lake. Emma said it was a Jack pine site with lots of berries.

2.1.2 Camp Sites

Camp on Upper Fort Creek (Fitzsimmon's camp)

Although we did not visit this campsite during our trip, Emma was familiar with the site because she used to pick berries there. She noted there were four cabins at the location including three bunkhouses and one cookhouse. The campsite was independently identified during the HIRA field program (2000) as archaeological site HiOv7. At that time researchers identified four cabin locations although only one still partially stands. Emma says the camp dates from 1923.

Firebag River (ABITCHEE BEE)

Emma lived on the Firebag River with her mother and father, sometimes year-round. During the November 2000 interviews Emma described this river as being very good for hunting moose, trapping beaver and picking ratroot. Emma also spoke of some small caves on the Firebag River that people hid in. It is near a point known as “Two Times Pass” where the river makes almost a complete circle (an oxbow).

Sinkhole Lakes “Little Round Lakes”

Emma recalled camping at the “little round lakes” with her mother when she used to go out trapping. They used to trap wolf, fox, squirrel, and mink there.

Racks south of Bitumount Fire Tower

Short racks were identified during the HRIA field studies and are recorded in the database as HiOv T10. This site was identified by Emma as a smoke rack that was used for smoking moose ribs in 1994. She said her cousin Louis Beaver had come from Wabasca to pick berries (Note: this location was only a short distance on the same road as a place Emma called “Berry hill” during the November 2000 interview). They smoked about 6 moose ribs her cousins had brought from home. The rack consisted of a wooden frame (jack pine) that supported long poles that were laid across the top. A fire was built underneath to smoke the meat.

When we were at the racks a shot gun shell was found. “*That was probably your dad and Roger running around here shooting chickens!*” E. Faichney 2001.



Photo 10: Emma with the smoke rack

3.0 TRAVEL ON THE TRAPLINE

Surviving in the bush meant constant travel between cabins in pursuit of wild game and furs. In November of 2000, Emma and Bruce indicated that in the old days, travel was by boat in the summer time and dog team in the winter.

Emma and Bruce told us some of their memories about travelling through the bush.

“When I was a girl we used to move around a lot. One time I was out trapping with my dad. We had been walking and walking - finally we got a beaver. So my dad, he cut it up. Finally, we fell asleep because we had been walking so much. When I was sleeping I heard a noise in my ear. I thought it was my dad, but when I turn around – bear right there! So I pretend I’m sleeping. The bear, he went away but he took our beaver!” Beaver in Cree is “MUSTUS”
E. Faichney, June 2001

“One time when I was 15 years old, I went with my dad (Ian Faichney) on a trip to the Firebag River for the spring beaver hunt. For two days I had to run behind my dad’s sled to get to the place – 40 miles! Then after, I ran back to (Felix Beaver’s) cabin on the Athabasca River. From there we took a boat back to McKay.”
B. Faichney, June 2001

“Once we had a little wolf with us. You could tie him up with a harness for the team and everything - he was just like a little puppy. One time we were going in the boat to McKay. The wolf, he was on the bank crying and crying because he wanted to come too, but my dad said no. Then, we start going down the river. The wolf, he ran along the bank beside us – crying all the time. Then – he jumped into the boat! Then my dad said o.k – he can come. In McKay he would wait outside the building for us.”
E. Faichney 2001

4.0 TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

Everything Emma knows about the bush she learned from living in the bush with her parents. Through experience and her family's intimate relationship with the land the Beavers/Faichneys learned how to read the landscape and the signs of the bush. This enabled the family to subsist on the resources provided to them in the bush. They learned where the best places were to hunt, fish, set snares and traps. They also learned where the best places were to pick berries, and where to get certain medicines. Emma's father taught her about many of the medicinal properties of native plant species that grew throughout the trapline. Emma, her parents and her husband passed this traditional knowledge onto Bruce and his brothers and sisters.

4.1 Hunting and Trapping

*"When I was a girl - just a little girl, my father used to wrap me up and carry me on his back when he went moose hunting. As a young girl I would climb trees to look for moose. 'Dad - moose over there!' I would say....Then he would shoot the moose."
E Faichney June 2001*

Hunting and trapping took place all over the trapline, "*Wherever there were tracks, that's where you put the traps!*" (B. Faichney November 2000). General harvesting areas for furbearers within the RFMA 2137 are illustrated on Figure 4. The information presented on these maps is the result of various interviews with Emma, Bruce, and Ian Faichney (Fort McKay Environmental Services 1994, Fort McKay 1995, Fort McKay 1996, Fort McKay and AGRA 1998, Fort McKay IRC 2000, and Highwood and Fort McKay IRC, 2000, 2001). These maps are not intended to be a comprehensive representation of harvesting areas; some harvesting areas may not be recorded, but are still considered important.

Large game was taken for meat, hides, fat/grease, bone, and sinew. Some smaller furbearers were also eaten and provided furs for clothing and trade. Wild game birds were taken for meat and to make specialized items such as waterproof bags, blankets and dusting tools. Waterfowl (ducks, geese and shore birds) were seasonally hunted and "chickens" (grouse, ptarmigan) were taken year round. Eggs were taken in the spring. Information on historic and recent harvest levels is provided in the November 2000 Questionnaire Appendix A. Table 1 presents a list of some of the traditional uses of wild game as described by Emma and Bruce (November 2000).

In the early years (pre-1960) trapping would occur from late September to May. Trapping activity took place all over the Faichney trapline, in particular around McClelland Lake and near the Firebag River. Along the Athabasca River, west of the winter road is still considered good for trapping. According to Bruce, "*all things are trapped*" – there isn't anything that wasn't trapped; this includes everything from squirrel, wolf to lynx. Bruce and Emma agreed that there really isn't anything that doesn't get eaten. Emma remembers eating lynx, squirrel, rabbit, skunk, muskrat, beaver, porcupine – everything.

Twp 99

Twp 98

Twp 97

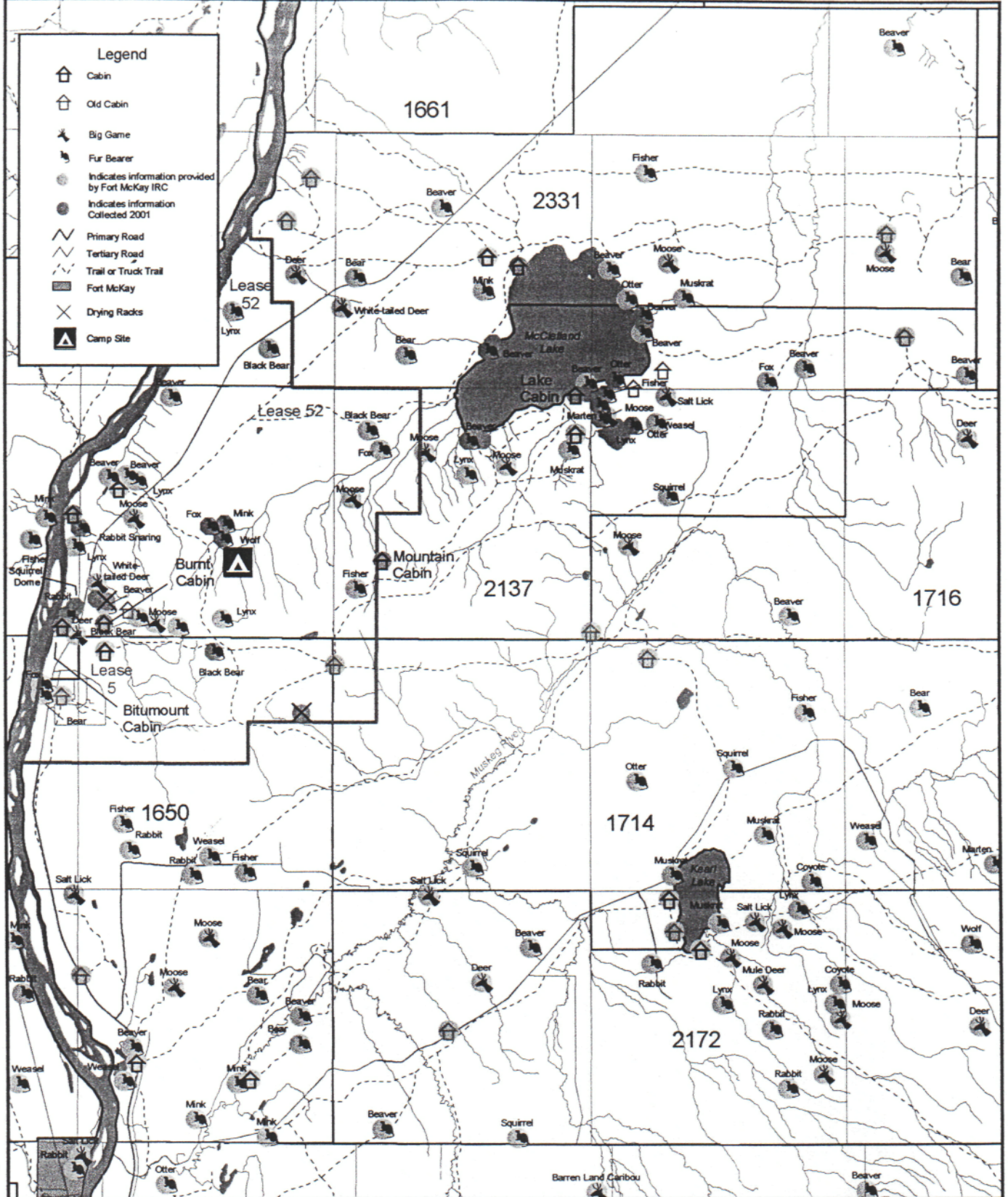
Twp 96

Twp 95

Twp 94

Legend

- Cabin
- Old Cabin
- Big Game
- Fur Bearer
- Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
- Indicates information Collected 2001
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Trail or Truck Trail
- Fort McKay
- Drying Racks
- Camp Site



FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

**Traditional Land Use
RFMA 1650 and 2137
Fur Bearers/Big Game**



Acknowledgements:
Traditional land use information provided by Fort McKay IRC (strictly for use on the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project), Solvex report, 1995, Aurora report, 1996, and True North Field Study and interviews.
Base map provided by Alberta Environment
Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

TRUE NORTH

DATE	September 2001	SCALE	1:210,000
DRAWN	JH	CHECKED	LG
FIGURE NO.	5		REV
	CO	FHOSP	2

Bruce didn't trap last year because of illness, but in the past few years he has set an average of 65 traps and between 30 to 65 snares each year. Both Emma and Bruce noted that trapping doesn't pay anymore. A lynx pelt is currently worth \$75.00 per pelt (it used to be worth \$1,500 to \$2,000 per pelt in 1979 or the early 1980s). A beaver pelt is worth only \$25.00 per pelt even though it takes 1 to 2 hours of work per pelt (stretching, fleshing and stretching again). They attribute this to Greenpeace and the anti-fur campaigns. Greenpeace wants the trappers to use instant kill traps rather than leg-hold traps; Bruce currently uses a mix of both types of traps. Bruce uses traps and snares and checks his traps every 3 to 4 days to comply with current rules that state that traps must be checked every 72 hours.

During our trip, Bruce taught everyone how to make and set snares for squirrels and rabbits. The place he took us to snare rabbits was on the old Chip winter road in a spruce forest. He showed us how to find the "rabbit highways". He told us that rabbits don't run on cloudy days, only clear nights and that you should set snares in the morning for use later in the evening - if you put the snares out too late, the rabbits will know they are there and won't get trapped. Bruce suggested the snares get checked daily to prevent other animals from removing the rabbits or getting used to finding snare locations. Bruce explained that your snare can't be too big or too low "*if it's too big you'll catch him in the ass and it will rip your snare!*" Once a snare was set Bruce would break off sticks and block gaps on either side of the snare. This was to make sure that if a rabbit were to use this road, it would run through the snare, and not to the side.

Bruce sets about 30 snares at a time and on a good night he'll get 9 to 10 rabbits. Rabbit in Cree is: "**WA BOOS**".



Photo 11: Bruce setting snare

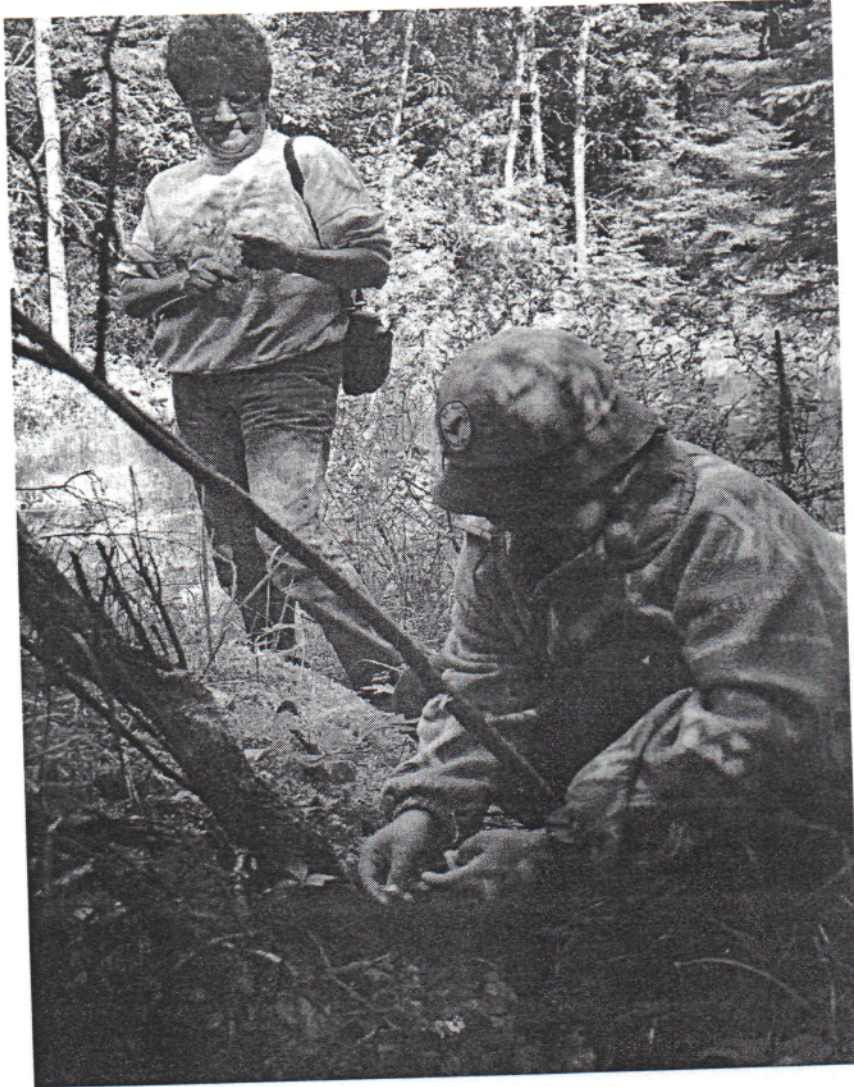


Photo 12: Chyanne setting snare

Table 1. Traditional Uses of Wild Game

Mammal	Meat	Hide	Horn/Bone	Other?
Moose	✓	✓ toboggan wrapping, snow shoe strings/ lacings instead of sinew	✓ Flesher for cleaning moose hide, can only use the right leg bone, the left leg bone is crooked.	Hair/sinew for sewing Bone marrow is good on Bannock
Whitetail deer	✓	✓ small medicine bags	-	-
Mule deer	✓	✓	-	-
Black Bear	✓	✓	-	Grease
Barren land Caribou	1951/1952	✓ bag, muck lucks out of legs (not around any more)	-	-
Bison	-	-	-	-
Lynx	✓ Sometimes for dogs)	If not good to sell, for mitts, blankets, trimming	-	-
Snowshoe hare	✓	Mitts, blankets, felts inside moccasins to keep warm	-	-
Wolf	-	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Coyote	-	Pelt, not as good to sell, but good for trimming	-	-
Marten	-	Pelt	-	-
Fisher	✓	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Fox	-	Pelt	-	-
Wolverine	-	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Skunk	-	-	-	Scent bag for bad colds or the flu
Squirrel	✓ (roasted)	Pelt	-	-
Weasel	-	Pelt	-	-
Beaver	✓	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Muskrat	✓	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Otter	-	Pelt	-	Grease for strong healthy hair
Mink	✓	Pelt, trim	-	-
Porcupine	✓	-	-	Quills for sewing, some people use it for art/to paint.
Ducks	✓	Feathers/ Ian always wore a duck tail in his cap	-	-
Geese	✓	Wings for dusting, broom	-	-
Swan	✓	Wings for dusting, broom Feathers for blankets, pillows	-	-
Sharptail Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Spruce Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Ptarmigan	✓	-	-	-
Loon	-	-	-	Water bags

We also stopped at a very old squirrel dome in a jack pine forest on Tower road. Emma and Bruce explained that the squirrels like to pick a tree to sit in and eat the seeds from the Jack pine cones. Dropping pieces of the pinecones make big piles. To snare squirrels, smaller trees are used as poles to lean against trees with squirrel domes. Three or four snares are set along the pole so the squirrel will get caught as it runs up the pole to the tree.



Photo 13: Emma setting snares on a squirrel dome

Moose was often hunted in September. From September to October, moose hides are cured, grease is rendered and meat is dried in the bush. Emma noted that “*Indians don’t bleed moose*” after it is killed (by cutting it’s throat like Euro-Canadian hunters do). A moose lasts approximately 3 to 4 days after being killed and butchered so many parts of the moose are shared with extended family.

Bone flesher tools were made from the right leg (metatarsal) of moose. Emma suggested the left leg is crooked and no good for making fleshers. She added the stomach is boiled.

4.2 Plant Gathering

Gathering vegetation resources occurred throughout the trapline although specific areas were known as “favourites”, or “the best”. Primary gathering sites mentioned in the interviews were: the narrow end of McClelland Lake, “McClelland lake’s baby” (the small lake to the southeast of McClelland lake), moose creek, Firebag river, and “Berry hill”. Berry hill is described as being about 4 miles from Bitumount near tower road. General harvesting areas for berries, medicines and other vegetation resources within the RFMA 2137 are illustrated on Figure 5. The information presented on these maps is the result of various interviews with Emma, Bruce, and Ian Faichney (Fort McKay Environmental Services 1994, Fort McKay 1995, Fort McKay 1996, Fort McKay and AGRA 1998, Fort McKay IRC 2000, and Highwood and Fort McKay IRC, 2000, 2001). These maps are not intended to be a comprehensive representation of harvesting areas; some harvesting areas may not be recorded, but are still considered important.

The bush provided the Beavers/Faichneys with all the building materials they needed. Trees and shrubs provided the wood to build shelter and to make tools and vehicles for transportation (sleds, canoes, snowshoes). Many of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous species were a source of food or medicine. Other species were used for more utilitarian purposes such as carrying hot coals to different campsites, incense, or to indicate the changing of the seasons (for example, “*when the fireweed blooms you know the bull moose is fat*” (E. Faichney June 2001)). Table 2 presents a list of the vegetation species discussed by Emma Faichney that had a variety of traditional uses.

RFMA 2137 is described as being very productive for berries (Fort McKay 1995, Solvex 1995, Highwood 2000). Berry picking can occur almost year round however late summer/early fall is traditionally when berry picking occurs. Blueberries, cranberries, mint and rat root were the most commonly referred to species during the project TEK interviews.

Pre-1960, berries were picked by the box-full; usually 5 or 6 boxes of blueberries (200 lbs) and 8 boxes of cranberries (500 lbs) were picked each year. Some other herbs and medicinal plants were always kept on hand for colds and such. Pre-1960 harvest estimates are as follows: Labrador tea (10 lbs/year), mint (5 lbs/year), rat root (1 lb/yr) and yarrow (5 lbs/yr). The last few years Emma Faichney hasn’t felt well enough to gather medicinal plants or pick berries. The last year she did was 1993/1994. That year she picked about 400 lbs each of blueberries and cranberries, around 2 lbs of mint and a little less than two pounds of ratroot. She didn’t pick yarrow, but there was lots of it around (E. Faichney, November 2000).

In June (2001), Emma was very open about showing us many of the food and medicinal plants used by her family as long as we promised not to pick anything. Appendix B lists the specific uses for many of the plants described by Emma Faichney.

Rg 11

Rg 10

Rg 9

Rg 8

Twp 99

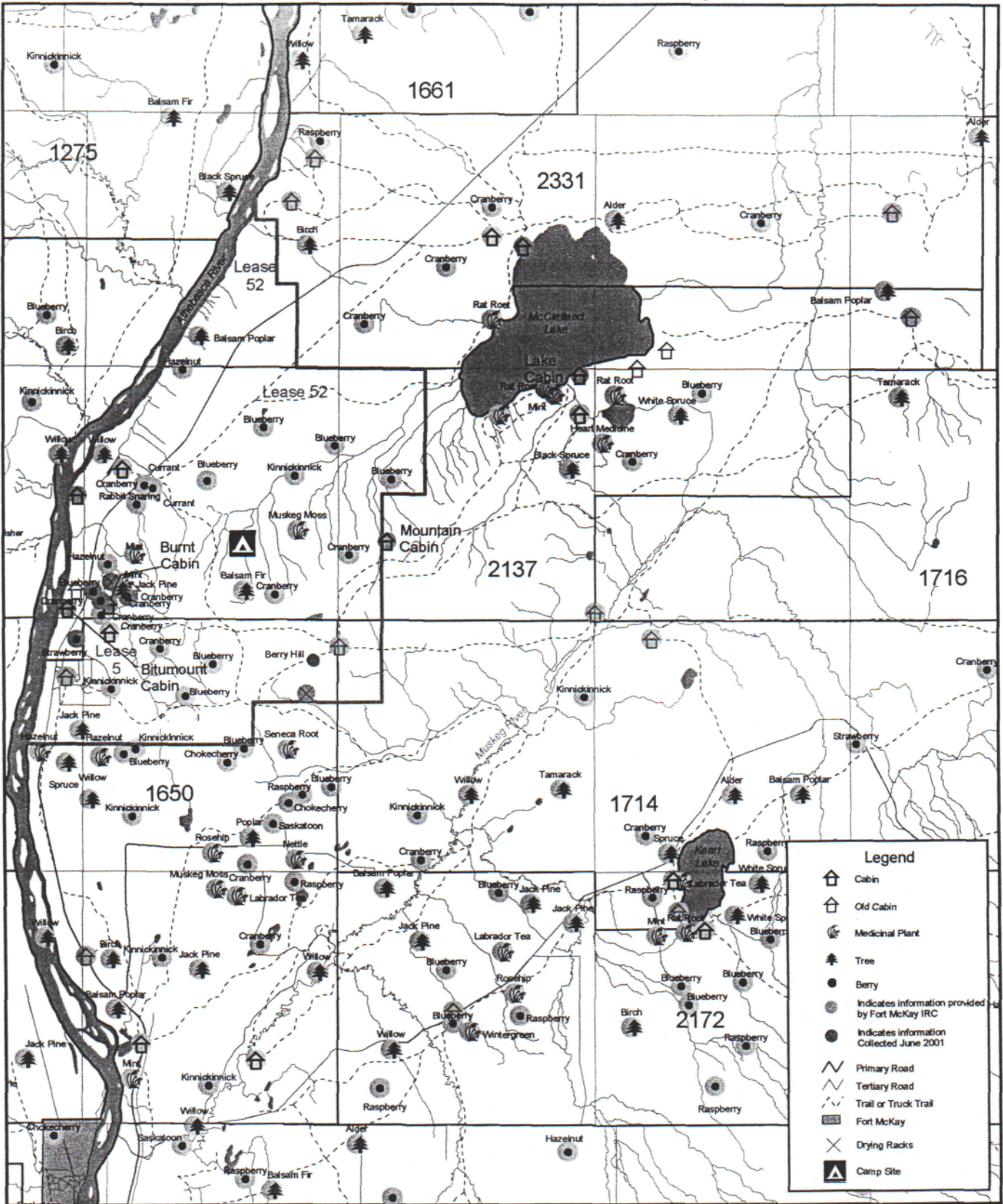
Twp 98

Twp 97

Twp 96

Twp 95

Twp 94



Legend

- Cabin
- Old Cabin
- Medicinal Plant
- Tree
- Berry
- Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
- Indicates information Collected June 2001
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Trail or Truck Trail
- Fort McKay
- Drying Racks
- Camp Site

FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

**Traditional Land Use
RFMA 1650 and 2137
Berries/Medicinal Plants/Trees**



Acknowledgements:
 Traditional land use information provided by Fort McKay IRC (strictly for use on the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project). Solves report, 1995, Aurora report, 1996, and True North Field Study and interviews
 Basemap provided by Alberta Environment
 Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

TRUENORTH			
DATE	September 2001	SCALE	1:210,000
DRAWN	JH	CHECKED	LG
REVIEWED	CO	PROJECT	FHOSP
		FIGURE NO.	6
		REV	2



Photo 14: Emma with high bush cranberry



Photo 15: Emma with bunchberry *“we used to call this bearded berry, because when you eat the berry it feels like you get a beard or moustache”*

In June 2001, we visited Berry Hill. Because the picking area could not be seen from the roadway, Emma searched for a tall Jack pine that historically stood above the aspen canopy to mark the trail to the berry patch. Although the jack pine has fallen (it now lay in the berry patch) and the trail had begun to grow-over, we eventually found the berry patch. It was immediately obvious why Emma referred to the site as “Berry hill”. The location is on a hill and supported a large, dense patch of blueberries (professional judgement of the TEK-GT team estimated blueberry cover at approximately 87%). In addition to blueberries, were bog cranberries, low bush cranberry, saskatoon berries, pin cherries and hazelnuts. Emma noted blueberry and cranberry always grow together.



Photo 16: Emma at Berry Hill

Many of the traditionally used plants had names that were associated with the species. For example, “Rat Root” (*Acornus calamus*) grows where the “rats” (muskrat) live and “heart medicine” (*Sisyrynchium montanum*) is good for your heart. However, this is not always the case. When Emma was asked why high bush cranberries (*Viburnum opolus*) were called moose berries she replied “*everything has a name, they called her Emma, but there was no reason*”. There is no direct connection between moose and “moose berries”, however, moose berries in Cree is “**MOOSEOOMINA**”.

Table 2. Traditional Uses of plants by the Beaver/Faichney Family

Common Name	Botanical Name	Part of Plant Used	Traditional Uses				
			Medicinal	Dietary	Spiritual Ritual Decoration	Building Utility	Dyes
VASCULAR PLANTS							
Balsam fir ^(a,c,d,e)	<i>Abies balsamifera</i>	Bark, resin, needles	x				
Common yarrow ^(a,d,e)	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Whole plant	x				
Rat root ^(a,c,d,e)	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Root	x				
Green alder ^(c,d)	<i>Alnus crispa</i>	Wood	x			x	x
River alder ^(c)	<i>Alnus tenuifolia</i>	Wood	x			x	x
Wild sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Root	x				
Saskatoon ^(a,b,c,d,e)	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Root, stem		x			
Common bearberry ^(a,c)	<i>Arctostaphylos uva ursi</i>	Leaves, Fruit, stem, root	x		x		x
Paper birch ^(a,c,d)	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Wood, bark, sap				x	
Marsh marigold ^(e)	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Flower			x		
Harebell ^(e)	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Roots	x				
Bunchberry ^(c,e)	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Fruit		x			
Red-osier dogwood ^(a,c)	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Bark, inner bark, leaves			x		x
Hazelnut ^(c,e)	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	Fruit		x			
Fireweed ^(e)	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Flower				x	
Horsetail ^(d)	<i>Equisetum spp.</i>	Whole plant	x			x	
Wild strawberry ^(a,b,c,d,e)	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Fruit, root	x	x			
Northern bog orchid ^(e)	<i>Habenaria hyperborea</i>	root	x				
Ground juniper ^(d)	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Wood, flower, needles, fruit, bark	x				
Larch ^(a,b,c,d,e)	<i>Larix laricina</i>	Bark, gum	x			x	
Labrador tea ^(a,d)	<i>Ledum groenlandicum</i>	Leaves		x	x		
Western wood lily ^(e)	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Whole plant			x		
Pinappleweed ^(d)	<i>Matricaria matricariodes</i>	Flower	x				
Tall lungwort ^(e)	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	Root	x				
Wild mint ^(a,b,c,d,e)	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Whole plant	x				
Colts foot ^(e)	<i>Petasites palmatus</i>	Stem	x				
White spruce ^(c,d)	<i>Picea glauca</i>	Wood, cone	x			x	
Black spruce ^(a,c,d,e)	<i>Picea mariana</i>	Wood, resin	x			x	
Jack pine ^(a,c,d,e)	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Wood				x	
Common plantain ^(d)	<i>Plantago major</i>	Leaves	x				
Seneca-root ^(c)	<i>Polygala senega</i>	Root	x				
Balsam poplar ^(a,c,d)	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Wood, bark	x			x	
Trembling aspen ^(c,d,e)	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Wood, bark, inner bark	x	x		x	
Pin cherry ^(c,e)	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>			x			

Common Name	Botanical Name	Part of Plant Used	Traditional Uses				
			Medicinal	Dietary	Spiritual Ritual Decoration	Building Utility	Dyes
Chokecherry ^(a,b,c,d)	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	branch	x				
Common pink wintergreen ^(c)	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>		x				
Wild black currant ^(c,d)	<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>	Stem, bark, roots, leaves	x	x			
Gooseberry ^(a,b,c,d)	<i>Ribes oxacanthoides</i>	berry		x			
Prickly rose ^(c,d)	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Stem, roots, rosehips	x				
Wild red raspberry ^(b,c,d,e)	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Fruit	x	x			
Dewberry ^(a,d)	<i>Rubus pubescens</i>	Fruit		x			
Willow ^(c,d,e)	<i>Salix spp.</i>	Whole plant	x		x	x	
Bulrush ^(d)	<i>Scirpus spp.</i>	Roots, shoots		x			
Buffalo berry ^(e)	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	Root	x				
Common blue-eye grass	<i>Sistrinchium montanum</i>	Root	x				
Twisted stalk ^(c,d)	<i>Streptotus amplexifolius</i>	Fruit		x			
Snowberry ^(a)	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Bark	x				
Common tansy ^(d)	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	root		x			
Common cattail ^(d,e)	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Stem, flower, roots		x			
Common nettle ^(b,d,e)	<i>Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis</i>	root	x				
Huckleberry ^(c,d)	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	Fruit		x			
Blueberry ^(a,c,d,e)	<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>	Fruit, roots	x	x			
Bog cranberry ^(a,b,d,e)	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Fruit	x	x			
Low-bush cranberry ^(b,c,d,e)	<i>Virburnum edule</i>	Fruit	x				
High-bush cranberry ^(c,e)	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Fruit	x				
FUNGI, LICHENS AND MOSSES							
Sphagnum moss ^(a,e)	<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>	Entire plant					x
Diamond willow fungus ^(e)	<i>Trametes suaveolens</i>	Entire fungus					x

- (a) Emma Faichney – interview; TrueNorth Energy, November 2000
(b) Emma and Ian Faichney – interview; There is Still Survival Out There, 1995
(c) Ian Faichney – Solvex 1995
(d) Fort McKay Environmental Services 1996, Aurora Mine
(e) TEK-GT on the Faichney trapline June 2001(Emma Faichney and Bruce Faichney)

4.3 Fishing

The Faichney's haven't fished in years because they feel the waterways around Fort McKay and their trapline are polluted. However, pre-1960, the Faichney's used to fish in the Athabasca River at what was considered by the community of Fort McKay "*one of the best fishing spots on the River*" (E. Faichney November 2000). They had a big eddy practically at their doorstep. No other waterways (lakes, creeks or rivers) on RFMA 2137 were used for fishing.

Fish were used for food, trapping bait and food for dogs; sometimes Emma would mix fish eggs in with Bannock or boil the bones for grease. Burbot (lingcod) livers were used for medicine along with Bog cranberry.

The Faichney's/Beavers would fish all year except during break-up/freeze-up (Fort McKay 1995). During interviews conducted for Solvex in 1995, Ian Faichney described historical fishing activity as follows:

- Spring: Pickerel
- Fall: Whitefish, char
- Winter: whitefish, pike, lake trout, pickerel, perch, goldeye (through the ice)
- Summer: whitefish, pike, lake trout, pickerel, perch, goldeye (through open water)

The family made their own nets. Some were 4.5 inch nets for smaller suckers and some were larger 5.5 inch nets for larger fish such as walleye and northern pike. They would set the nets 5 feet from the river bed (S. Stanislawski 1998).

During the interview (November 2000), Emma recalled drying fish with her mother. Her mother used to dry up to 600 fish a day in the fall, Emma could do about the same. Emma estimated an annual harvest of about 3,500 (all species combined). She also told us a story about ice fishing on the Athabasca. She told us: "*After the freeze, netting for fish is done under the ice. The fish freeze right away after catching. One time, a fish had been frozen for 2 or 3 days – then as it defrosted, it jumped back to life!*"

She also told us that one year, McClelland lake froze right to the bottom and killed all the fish. That's why there are no fish in McClelland Lake.

5.0 STORIES

Don't Hurt the Frogs

One evening after supper, Emma took some of the TEK-GT team on a walk. Bruce's cabin was beside a beaver slough that had lots of frogs, tadpoles, and leeches in it. The frogs reminded Emma of when she was a girl – she told us:

“Don't hurt the frogs my girl (to Chyanne). When I was young, I didn't have anybody to play with. None of my brothers or sisters lived – just me past five years old....my parents, they were always busy – working all the time. But my mother, she taught me how to sew and things like that. When I was a girl, I used to make a little dress and papoose for frogs. I would play with the little frogs (ha!).”
E. Faichney, June 2001

Like Emma, the children at the camp (Chyanne, Blaire and Reba) and some of the TEK team played with frogs when we weren't busy with camp duties.



Photo 17: Playing with frogs at the cabin

Bears

At camp the TEK–GT team were gathering supplies for the next day’s outing. One of the things we had was a bear horn. “*If bears were dangerous – I wouldn’t be here*”, said Emma. She told us this story:

“When I was a young woman I was out walking with my children; two sons and three daughters. I was pulling some in a wagon (because they walked too slow (ha!), and trying to keep the others from going too far. Then – bear cubs, three of them; one blond, one black and one cinnamon. They were crying making sounds like “ma ma ma”. I just kept on walking back to camp. Young bears – they sound like human babies “ma ma!” (Ha!)”

E. Faichney, June 2001

6.0 OBSERVATIONS

6.1 Cabins and Living Areas

The Faichney/Beaver family have built a total of nine cabins on lands within their family trapping territory (RFMA 2137). Three cabins sites are within Leases 5 and 52; of these, only Bruce's cabin at Northlands Road is used. As Table 4 indicates, most cabins and living areas had specific resource attributes associated with them.

The oldest cabins were located on the banks of major rivers (the Athabasca and the Firebag River) with the Athabasca providing boat access from summer gathering areas such as Red River (Fort McKay). Historic cabins seem to be built at camping locations that provided consistently good hunting, trapping and fishing opportunity near by. Historic camping activity was distributed between the two major rivers and was associated with furbearer habitat, specifically, the shores of the Athabasca River, the sinkhole lakes, McClelland Lake, Little McClelland Lake and the Firebag River. These camping locations, which link the historic cabin sites, are reflective of the pre-1960 seasonal movements.

As motorized transportation replaced boats and dog teams, cabins were constructed along reliable access routes built by industry. As a result, modern cabins are associated with industrial access and smaller water bodies (an unnamed forestry access road to McClelland Lake, Tower Road, Northlands Road and Bitumount).

In addition to good access (high, dry, stable ground), cabin sites that were chosen had lumber (in most cases access to coniferous timber) and water close at hand. Berry patches and near by subsistence snaring opportunities (specifically, rabbit and squirrel habitat) were common attributes. Industrial cleared roadways and cut lines are also used as modern travel corridors and traplines.

6.2 Traditional Resource Collection

Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping was completed using Alberta Vegetation Inventory methods and field ground truthing for the *TrueNorth Energy Fort Hills Oil Sands Project Environmental Impact Assessment* (FHOSP EIA). This mapping; used to group vegetation communities with similar characteristics together on a map, classified vegetation communities to ecosite phase (dominant tree, shrub and herbaceous plant species). This mapping allowed the TEK-GT team to determine which biophysical characteristics were associated with traditionally used gathering sites and resources. Detailed ELC mapping is provided in the FHOSP EIA.

Table 3. Common attributes associated with TLU Sites

Traditional Land Use sites	Access	Forest (Ecosite)	Water body	Primary Resource Association
Felix Beaver Cabin	Athabasca River	Mixedwood: aspen and spruce (d2)	Athabasca River	?
Bitumont Cabin	Fort Chip road	Mixedwood: aspen and spruce (d1)	Athabasca River	Berries Rabbits Moose
Cabin near boat Launch (Old Fort)	Athabasca River	Mixedwood: aspen and spruce (d1)	Athabasca River	Berries, fishing
Northlands Road Cabin	Northlands Road	Mixedwood: aspen and spruce (d2)	Athabasca River and Fort Creek	Snaring, trapping
Tower Road and Fort Creek Cabin	Tower Road	Jackpine forest (a1)	Fort Creek	Jack pine, Moose Berries
McClelland Lake cabin (north shore)	Unnamed Forestry road	Aspen forest (d1)	McClelland Lake	Moose, Berries
McClelland Lake cabin 2 (south shore)	By boat across McClelland Lake	Mixedwood: aspen/white spruce/black spruce (d2)	McClelland Lake Little McClelland Lake	Rat root Mint Moose Fur
Mountain Cabin	?	Jack pine according to Emma (probably an a1, a2, b1 or c1)	?	Jack pine Berries
Firebag River Cabin	Firebag River, by foot/sled	?	Firebag River	Fur Moose
Potholes	On foot/sled	Potholes are primarily surrounded by treed fen (k1, j1), shrubby fen (k2, j2) with patches of jack pine forest (a1)	Sinkholes (little round lakes)	Wolf Fox Squirrel Mink
Little McClelland Lake	On foot	primarily surrounded by treed fen (k1, j1), shrubby fen (k2, j2) with patches of jack pine forest (a1) and spruce forest (d3)	Little McClelland Lake	Ratroot Trapping
Berry hill	Tower Road	Aspen forest (b2)	-	Blueberry Cranberry Saskatoon Pin cherry Hazelnut
Snaring rabbits	Old Fort Chip Road	Spruce forest (d3)	-	Trapping/snaring
Squirrel dome	Tower Road	Jack pine forest (a1)	-	Trapping/snaring
Smoking rack	Tower Road	Jack pine forest (a1)	-	Chickens

Traditional Knowledge made it possible for the Faichney/Beaver family to sustain themselves throughout the trapline. Furbearers were trapped for their fur and for food. Experience and traditional knowledge enabled the family to target particular areas to harvest specific furbearers depending on the price of fur. As trapping success decreased in one area, the family could move on. Moose, chickens, rabbits and squirrels were basic food items and were taken for domestic purposes as necessary.

Cabins were built in areas that were proximate to a variety of resources, however, water and abundant wood were likely the most important resources to have at your door step. Upland forests provided lumber for building cabins, shelters, racks and tools as well as firewood for heat and cooking. Of all traditionally used vegetation, Emma felt that trees were one of the most important resources on the family trapline since it was what they used to build cabins, shelters, racks and boats (E. Faichney, June 2001). In general, Jack pine and other coniferous wood were favoured over deciduous wood for cabin construction, heating and cooking. Deciduous wood is used for tool manufacture.

On the whole, vegetation resources were collected throughout the trapline. Plant species such as bearded berry, rose hips, and heart medicine have wide distribution throughout the trapline. These types of plants were not collected en masse, but were eaten/picked when they were needed, or when there was opportunity. Most things that could be eaten, were consumed.

Blueberries and cranberries were a staple in traditional diets and were collected in large quantities and stored for use throughout the year. While it was convenient to have berries near cabin sites, locations such as Berry hill were targeted specifically for berry picking each year. Traditional knowledge of large berry patches ensured the family would have enough berries to last the winter. Berries in smaller patches were also used, but were not relied upon for subsistence.

Few medicines were picked in large quantities. Since most of the plants used by the family were widely distributed throughout the trapline, they could be picked when they were needed. The exception to this is rat root and mint. These medicines have specific habitat requirements and are only available in wetland areas. These two medicines in particular, were collected in quantities when the family was in an area known to support these species (for example, McClelland Lake). According to Emma, these plants were dried and were kept on hand at all times. As the family traversed the trapline in pursuit of furs and wild game they would carry these two important medicines with them.

Generally speaking, upland forests (ecosite a, b and d) were used more than wetland areas (ecosite j, k and l), however it would be difficult to rate one habitat type as more important than the other since wetlands supported two very important medicines and a number of other traditionally used plant species. All the resources on the trapline were important. As Emma said time and again, "everything has a purpose". Perhaps the most important realization for reclamation planning is that if the goals for biodiversity are met, then the goals for TLU should also be achieved. Resources were used in every ecosite so reasonable distribution of ecosites is important. In addition to this, most of the places we ground-truthed were proximate to substantial access routes. Resources (for example berry patches) without ready access are of little use.

Non-traditional uses, such as off-road recreational vehicle use (ATVs and snowmobiles) and sport hunting conflicts with traditional land pursuits. Future human use of the reclaimed landscape will have to be determined through consultation with aboriginal communities, the government and TrueNorth.

7.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A
TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE
QUESTIONNAIRE

November 2000

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

This questionnaire was prepared by Highwood Environmental Management in cooperation with the Fort McKay Industry Relations and True North Energy on behalf of the Fort McKay First Nation and the Fort McKay Metis Local 122 to facilitate the collection of Traditional Environmental Knowledge as it pertains to the lands contained within Lease 5, 8 and 52. This information is the intellectual property of the Fort McKay First Nation and the Fort McKay Metis Local. All information collected during this interview and the related field trips to the Lease area shall be reviewed by the IRC and will be used only for the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project Environmental Impact Assessment. The proposed Fort Hills Oil Sands Project is planned within the boundaries of Lease 5 and 52; this area is within the traditional lands of the Fort McKay community. Current trapping rights on these Lease areas (RFMA 2137 and 1650) belong to residents of Fort McKay.

DATE: November 06, 2000

INTERVIEWEE: Emma and Bruce Faichney

INTERVIEWER: Bertha Ganter

LOCATION: Emma's home in Fort McKay

Part 1: THE WAY THINGS WERE

The First set of questions I would like to ask you are about how things were in the past before oil sands mining started (pre-1960).

1. Could you tell us about your early memories of your family's traditional area? Where did you live and who lived with you?

Emma Faichney's history in the local study area is long. Prior to Bruce (her son) being the registered holder of the trapline, it was registered to Emma's husband Ian Faichney, and before that it belonged to Felix Beaver (Emma's father). She has lived in the area her whole life.

Emma grew up on the trapline with her mother and father then later lived in the area with her husband Ian and their 10 children (Emma gave birth to two children in the bush). She told us of Fitzsimmons and his oil sands plant in the area.

Emma also told us stories of her grandfather finding a sword/knife in the area from the French/British war at "Old Fort" in the 1800s. Emma also spoke of some small caves on the Firebag River that people hid in during that war. It is near a point know as "Two Times Pass" where the river makes almost a complete circle (an oxbow). Here Swan Peterson hid out to escape from the war. So did a Jackson or Johnson

- *McClelland Lake was an important camping, trapping, hunting and gathering area.*
- *They used to have cabins on the southeastern shores of McClelland Lake as well as closer to Bitumont and on the Firebag River.*
- *The cabin near Bitumont was burned down by bear hunters.*
- *Bruce has a cabin on the north side of Fort Creek (off Northland Road, west of highway #63). He spends about half his time there and the other half in McKay now.*
- *They mostly hunted around McClelland Lake, there were always lots of Beavers and otters around the lake.*

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

- *The Firebag River was also very important hunting and gathering area.*
- *Trapping took place all over the trapline; they just followed the animals. Where ever there were animal tracks, that's where they set the traps.*
- *There are no fish in McClelland Lake, her father said there used to be fish in McClelland Lake but one cold winter it froze down to the bottom and all the fish died.*
- *The Faichneys used to fish in the Athabasca River; they had one of the best fishing spots on the Athabasca.*
- *Their family didn't spend much time near the sinkholes - the hanging muskeg made it very hard to access. Sometimes they would pick eggs there when she was a girl, but mostly they would get eggs from McClelland Lake and Firebag River.*
- *They always had rat root, mint, lots of berries (cranberry, blueberry) - they would pick heart medicine and mint by moose creek, rat root along the shores of "McClelland Lake's baby" and McClelland Lake. They picked berries (cranberry, saskatoon, and blueberry) from "berry hill" located about 4 miles from Bitumont.*

2. How long did you live in this area? When did you move? Why?

Both Emma and Bruce have lived in this area their whole life - Emma moved her kids to Fort McKay in 1962 so they could go to school. Then Ian went to work for Suncor.

3. How much time did you spend in Fort McKay versus living on the Land?

Only lived in McKay because her kids had to go to school, during the summer they moved back to the bush and they always went out moose hunting.

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

4. Where did you usually go to: *Please see maps*
- a. Hunt
 - b. Trap
 - c. Fish
 - d. Camp
 - e. Gather plants (for food, medicines, building material,)
 - f. Collect eggs

** Please ask the interviewee if we can map these areas.*

5. How were these activities undertaken (*alone, with a partner, with family etc.*)?
What were the roles and skills of the people involved?

Always with a partner - never alone. Everybody worked together for all the chores (skinning beaver, cutting/smoking meat etc.)

6. Who taught you how to live on the land?

Emma - her mother and father

Bruce - grandparents, mother and father.

7. Where were the main trails that you used? Were some used more often for hunting and trapping and others for getting to fishing spots or gathering sites?

They use all the trails (see map). Some of the trails would grow in but they always stuck to the high ground and try to avoid the muskeg. Emma noted that some muskeg areas would take a whole day to travel across - looking back it's hard to believe where they would travel on foot.

8. Are there any special places in the area (grave sites, spiritual significance)?

**Please ensure the interviewee that they do NOT have to indicate the nature of these places if they do not want to*

There are the caves at "Two Times Pass" on the Firebag River, but no graves that they know of on their trapline. (Bertha thinks there is one grave on the True North Lease) There are graves sites at Alex Oakley on Aurora North Lease: one of Bertha's sister, 2 Oakley kids

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

9. Were there any other permanent structures in the area (hunting blinds, sun shelters, drying racks, etc.) that you depended on to carry out activities while in the area?

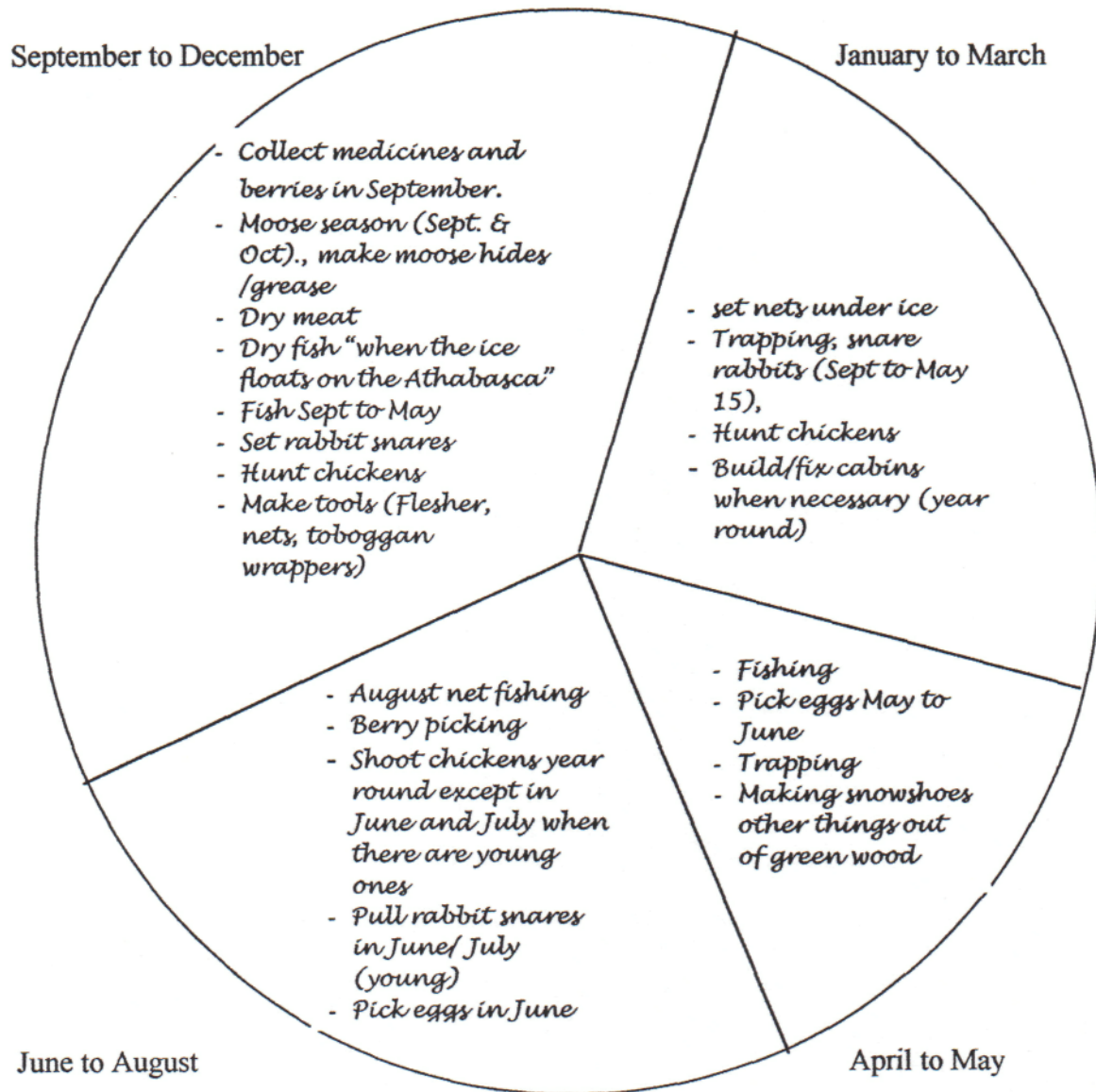
At old camping sites there may be little signs that they were there, maybe the remains of teepees (along Firebag River). They used to camp there because there were always lots of beavers there. Sometimes they would skin them in the bush and just take the fur because they were so heavy.

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

10. What kind of activities did you do in each season? (pre-1960)

**Scribes will try to record the details on the various activities and the interviewer can use the seasonal round below to record movements from cabins to trap lines and to community meeting places.*

Seasonal Round



Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

11. How did you get to your traditional lands from Fort McKay? In the summer? In the winter? (boat, along trails, with dogs etc) (Pre-1960, or 1960 if it is better to have a year).

* Use the maps that show Fort McKay to record these routes.

By boat in the summer, dog teams in the winter. July 1st was always a big holiday in Fort McMurray- it was a two-day boat trip to Fort McMurray, they would camp on the way near where Suncor is now.

12. What animals did you hunt and what were they used for? (1960)

*Scribes will use the associated table to record species and the parts of the animals used; the table can also be used by the interviewer to guide the interviewee.

Mammal	Meat	Hide	Horn/Bone	Other?
Moose	✓	✓ toboggan wrapping, snow shoe strings/lacings instead of sinew	✓ Flesher for cleaning moose hide, can only use the right leg bone, the left leg bone is crooked.	Hair/sinew for sewing
Whitetail deer	✓	✓ small medicine bags	-	-
Mule deer	✓	✓	-	-
Black Bear	✓	✓	-	grease
Barren land Caribou	1951/1952	✓ bag, muck lucks out of legs (not around any more)	-	-
Bison	-	-	-	-
Lynx	✓ Sometimes for dogs)	If not good to sell, for mitts, blankets, trimming	-	-
Snowshoe hare	✓	Mitts, blankets, felts inside moccasins to keep warm	-	-
Wolf	-	Pelt, trimming	-	-
Coyote	-	Pelt, not as good to sell, but good for	-	-

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

Mammal	Meat	Hide	Horn/Bone	Other?
		<i>trimming</i>		
Marten	-	<i>Pelt</i>	-	-
Fisher	✓	<i>Pelt, trimming</i>	-	-
Fox	-	<i>Pelt</i>	-	-
Wolverine	-	<i>Pelt, trimming</i>	-	-
Skunk	-	-	-	<i>Scent bag for bad colds or the flu</i>
Squirrel	✓ <i>(roasted)</i>	<i>Pelt</i>	-	-
Weasel	-	<i>Pelt</i>	-	-
Beaver	✓	<i>Pelt, trimming</i>	-	-
Muskrat	✓	<i>Pelt, trimming</i>	-	-
Otter	-	<i>Pelt</i>	-	<i>Grease for strong healthy hair</i>
Mink	✓	<i>Pelt, trim</i>	-	-
Porcupine	✓	-	-	<i>Quills for sewing, some people use it for art/to paint.</i>
Ducks	✓	<i>Feathers/ Ian always wore a duck tail in his cap</i>	-	-
Geese	✓	<i>Wings for dusting, broom</i>	-	-
Swan	✓	<i>Wings for dusting, broom Feathers for blankets, pillows</i>	-	-
Sharptail Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Spruce Grouse	✓	-	-	-
Ptarmigan	✓	-	-	-
Loon	-	-	-	<i>Water bags</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

12. How many animals did you hunt in a year (1960)

Animal	Poor Year	Average Year	Good Year
Moose	7		16
Deer	3		6- there were fewer white tails in 1960 than there are now.
Caribou	Only hunted once in 1952	N/A	Almost 100 that year. That she made slippers -20 pairs of moccasins for Bitumont people and for a baby. There are no caribou on the Faichney trapline, but there are some in the Birch Mountains.
Grouse	50		200
Ducks	150		150 over a summer
Geese	20		20
Cranes	3		3
Beaver	50		100 over a hundred in the spring
Muskrat	25		25
Lynx	200		400
Marten	45		150
Fisher	45		150
Ermine	300		300
Squirrel	1,500 to 2000		1,500-2000 per season
Wolf	20 always lots		20
Fox	20		20
Bear			4

13. How many traps or snares did you set each year? (1960)

Emma - easily 5000 snares (squirrels), about 75 to 100 traps

Bruce - 200 squirrel snares, 8 fisher/martin trap

14. How much of your meat came from the store? (1960)

None

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

15. What kind of eggs did you collect eggs from your trap line? (*areas have been indicated on map [question # 4 (f.)]*)

Geese, ducks and mud hens (coots)

16. How often did you collect eggs?

In the spring - about 3 times a week for a about a month (around May or June)

17. What kind of fish did you harvest and what were they used for? (1960)

Fish	Number caught	Food to eat	Dog food	Trap bait	Fish scales (decoration)
White fish	<i>3,500 (all mixed together - not too many grayling)</i>	✓	✓	✓	No
Jackfish/pike					
Walleye					
Ling cod					
Chub					
Sucker					
Goldeye					
Grayling					
Perch					
Lake trout	2	✓	no	no	no

- *Also mixed fish eggs in bannock*
- *Emma recalled how she used to dry fish for food with her mother. Her mother could make up to 600 dry fish in a day; Emma could do about the same. They dried fish in the fall*
- *Emma and her mother never ate Ling Cod (because of the way they looked); Bruce eats their liver*

18. How did you fish (*nets, lines, traps, etc.*)? (1960)

Nets

19. Did you used to drink water from the area (*snow, creeks, rivers etc.*)? (1960)

Yes all over, all the rivers, even the Athabasca. Eat snow

20. How did you use wood (1960)?

Spruce and tamarack and jack pine: heating, cooking, building cabins, rotted spruce for smoking moose hide

Birch: sleds, axe/knife handles, snowshoes, birch bark for roofing (like tar paper)

Poplar: for smoking moose meat, building smoke racks, roots stop bleeding

Balsam: boil for medicine

Please turn to Appendix 1, the TEK Workbook for Vegetation to complete the interview.

**Please ensure the interviewee that we are not asking for specific uses of medicinal plants or family recipes. We are interested in whether the plants were eaten, or otherwise ingested (as drink or inhaled). We are also interested in the parts of the plants that were used (roots, leaves, fruit, bark etc.). This information will be considered in the human health risk assessment. Plants that are of cultural or spiritual significance should also be noted.*

21. What plants (or plant parts) did you collect most often in 1960?

Blueberries, Cranberries, Saskatoon berries, mint, rat root, goose berries

***Information sheets on the other plants mentioned during the interview are presented below (page 13 to 34).*

22. How much of your medicines came from the land verses that bought in a store in 1960?

All of it was from the bush.

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

Can you estimate how many plants and berries were gathered in 1960?

	In a very good year for (name of berry/plant below)	In an average year for: (name of berry/ plant below)	In a bad year for: (name of berry/plant below)
<i>Berries (gallons)</i>			
Blueberry	5 or 6 boxes (200 lbs)		<i>There were always lots of berries</i>
Juniper			
Bearberry			
Cranberry	8 boxes (500 lbs)		
<i>Other?</i>			
<i>Medicinal plants and herbs(pounds)</i>			
Yarrow	5 lbs/yr		
Tansy			
Mint	5 lbs/yr		
Ratroot	1 lb/yr as a standby for colds		
Moss			
Labrador tea	10 lbs/yr		
<i>Other?</i>			
<i>Tree products</i>			
Wood			
Bark/needles			
<i>species?</i>			

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Balsam fir

LATIN NAME: *Abies balsamea*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>needles/bark</i> Use: <i>boiled for medicine</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Balsam poplar

LATIN NAME: *Populus balsamifera*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots, bark</i> Use: <i>Roots: Stop bleeding, Bark: like a poultice to pull out the infection</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>Smoking moose meat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>Building smoke racks</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Black spruce

LATIN NAME: *Picea mariana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>rotted spruce for smoking moose hide, wood for building, cooking, heat</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Blueberry

LATIN NAME: *Vaccinium myrtilloides*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Bog cranberry

LATIN NAME: *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>good for appetite</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Chokecherry

LATIN NAME: *Prunus virginiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>branch</i> Use: <i>to flavor tea</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Dewberry

LATIN NAME: *Rubus pubescens*

LOCAL NAME: Eyeberries



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>good for eating</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Gooseberry

LATIN NAME: *Ribes oxacanthoides*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>good for eating</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Jack pine

LATIN NAME: *Pinus banksiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>heating, cooking, building cabins</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Labrador tea

LATIN NAME: *Ledum groenlandicum*

LOCAL NAME: Muskeg tea



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>leaves</i> Use: <i>to make tea (drink at Christmas)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: <i>bark</i> Use: <i>tobacco</i>
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Larch

LATIN NAME: *Larix laricina*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>bark</i> Use: <i>boil it - it's good for infection</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>heat, cooking, building</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Wild mint

LATIN NAME: *Mentha arvensis*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>whole plant</i> Use: <i>tea for colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Common nettle

LATIN NAME: *Urtica dioica*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>like an antibiotic, good for syphilis</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Paper Birch

LATIN NAME: *Betula papyrifera*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood, bark</i> Use: <i>sleds, axe handles, knife handles, snowshoes, boats, used the bark like roofing paper</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Rat Root

LATIN NAME: *Acorus calamus*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>medicine for bad colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Red-osier dogwood

LATIN NAME: *Cornus stolonifera*

LOCAL NAME: Bearberry



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>good for upset stomach/diarrhea sometimes boiled with rat root for bad colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Saskatoon

LATIN NAME: *Amelanchier alnifolia*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Snowberry

LATIN NAME: *Symphoricarpos albus*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>good to treat hives or boils - pulls out the infection</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Sphagnum moss

LATIN NAME: Sphagnum sp.

LOCAL NAME:

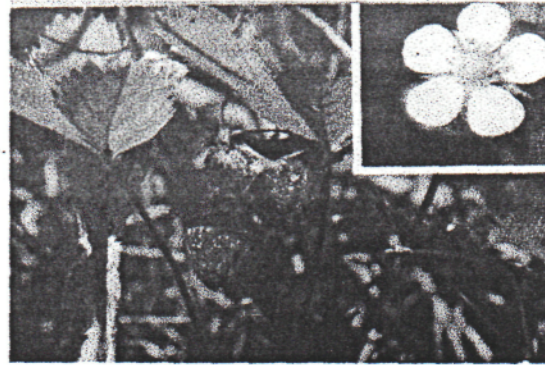


Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>all of it</i> Use: <i>to insulate cabin</i>
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Wild Strawberry

LATIN NAME: *Fragaria virginiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>to treat diarrhea</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Common Tansy

LATIN NAME: *Tanacetum vulgare*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>you can eat the white root, but the orange colored root of tansy is poisonous. (didn't use much)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Yarrow

LATIN NAME: *Achillea millefolium*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use: <i>good for bad colds (children)</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Part 2: THE WAY THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Next I would like to ask you questions about more recent times. Some of the questions are specific to 1980 (or early 1980's) and others ask about the last few years (the late 1990's).

23. How much time do you spend in Fort McKay versus living on the Land now?

Bruce: Half the time in McKay, half out in the bush

24. How has travel from Fort McKay to your land changed? (use the map if needed)

Truck, plane, skidoo

25. How many traps or snare did you set each year?

a) 1980, 65 traps, 65 snares

b) last few years (late 1990's) 65 traps, 33 snares

26. How many animals did you usually harvest in a year (1980)

Animal	Poor Year	Average Year	Good Year
Moose	5		5
Deer	-		2
Caribou	-		-
Grouse	86		86
Ducks	-		-
Geese	-		-
Cranes	-		-
Beaver	18		18
Muskrat	2		2
Lynx	6		6
Marten	47		47
Fisher	3		3
Ermine	-		-
Squirrel	75		120
Wolf	-		-
Fox	8		8

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

27. How much of your meat supply came from the store (1980)?

Not very much

28. How many animals did you harvest last year?

Animal	Poor Year	Average Year	Good Year
Moose			4
Deer			
Caribou			
Grouse			10
Ducks			
Geese			
Cranes			
Beaver			<i>Didn't trap because of illness (M.S.)</i>
Muskrat			
Lynx			
Marten			
Fisher			
Ermine			
Squirrel			
Wolf			
Fox			

29. How much of your meat supply came from a store last year?

About \$25.00 worth

33. Did you collect eggs from your trapline area in (1980, 1990's)? If so, what kind?

a) 1980,

none

b) last few years (late 1990's)

none, there are hardly any ducks/geese that nest around here anymore because of pollution.

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

30. Do you think the number of animals living in the area has changed (increase, decrease)? *Please indicate specific animals if possible.*
- From 5 years ago?
 - From 20 years ago?
 - From when oil sands mining started?

Mostly down in numbers - it's been a steady decline since the oil sands mines started up. The number of deer however has increased.

The moose seem skinnier. Moose hides used to have around three to four inches of fat on the hides, now they are so thin, and they don't taste as good.

31. If so, why do you think the numbers have changed?

It's too noisy - the animals avoid the noise. (construction, quads, snow machines)

32. Are there areas that used to be good for hunting/trapping that are no longer as important? If so, where?

It's always good hunting and trapping around McClelland Lake (except one stretch where quads come in and hunters disturb the traps and snares).

33. In your opinion, have forestry cut lines, seismic lines, power lines, roads or mines changed where you hunt or trap or how many animals you get? If so, how?

Construction and forestry ruin the habitat - all the noise drives the animals away. Emissions from plants also destroying the animal's food

34. Do you think the way animals move throughout the area has changed? If so, how?

It has changed a lot. The animals are always running away from the noise (that could be why the moose are so skinny)

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

35. Do you think the increasing population in and around Fort McMurray has affected your hunting and trapping over the past:

- a. five years?
- b. ten years?
- c. thirty-five years?

The increasing population has had a big effect, first when all the loggers came up from the south, then came the fisherman going up to Richardson Lake and all the bear hunters. More and more people are coming onto the trapline, all with quads and snow machines making noise. One time they came across Bear hunters that had built a fire right by one of Bruce's traps - they were all sitting around drinking beer and making lots of noise. When he told them to move because they were disturbing his trap and he was trying to make a living they tried to hit Bruce. The Faichney's have had cabins broken into and five years ago bear hunters burnt down one cabin.

36. How did you fish (nets, lines, traps, etc.)?

- a) 1980,
- b) the last few years (late 1990's)

Didn't fish at all, they don't eat the fish because of pollution

37. How many fish did you usually harvest in a year (1980)

Fish	Poor Year	Average Year	Good Year
White fish	N/A		N/A
Pike	N/A		N/A
Walleye	N/A		N/A
Ling cod	N/A		N/A
Chub	N/A		N/A
Sucker	N/A		N/A

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

38. How many fish have you been harvesting over the past few years (late 1990s)

Fish	Poor Year	Average Year	Good Year
White fish			
Pike			
Walleye			
Ling cod			
Chub			
Sucker			

39. In your opinion, has the number of fish changed over the past

- a. five years?
- b. ten years?
- c. thirty-five years?

N/A

40. Have you ever caught fish that appear to be in poor health (smell bad, strange colour, sores or deformities)? If so, how many times?

Yes, once Bruce caught a fish that was filled with worms

41. Do you think the increasing population in Fort McMurray has affected your fishing over the past:

- a. five years?
- b. ten years?
- c. thirty-five years?

42. Do you think industrial development has affected your fishing over the past:

- a. five years? – *N/A*
- b. ten years?
- c. thirty-five years? - *Industry ruined the fishing*

- c. If so, how?

Development has polluted the water

- d. Do you think the number of birds (*ducks, geese, grouse, other birds*) nesting in the area has changed in the past
- a. five years?
 - b. ten years?
 - c. thirty years?

They don't nest around the lake (McClelland) like they did 30 years ago. There used to be lots of ducks and geese on the lake but they don't stop around here - they fly north

- e. What were the most common plants (or plant parts) you collected in the past few years?

Rat root, mint, Labrador tea, choke cherry branch. (no yarrow last year; Emma wasn't feeling well enough to go out)

Roger - one of Emma's other sons, collects rat root, Muskeg tea (Labrador tea), and chokecherry.

- f. Have forestry cut lines, seismic lines, power line or roads and mines changed where you gather plants? If so, how?

The Faichneys used to frequent an area on Roddy Boucher's trapline (on the Syncrude Aurora North lease) to collect saskatoons, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, rat root and peppermint in man made sloughs. It was one of the best patches; this area has been cleared. It makes Emma sad to see these areas being cleared - she told Syncrude that on the tour she was given of Lease 10.

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

47. Can you estimate how many plants and berries were gathered 1980? No

	In a very good year for (name of berry/plant below)	In an average year for: (name of berry/plant below)	In a bad year for: (name of berry/plant below)
<i>Berries (gallons)</i>			
Blueberry	N/A	N/A	N/A
Juniper			
Bearberry			
Cranberry			
<i>Medicinal plants (pounds)</i>			
Yarrow			
Tansy			
Mint			
Ratroot			
Moss			
Labrador tea			
<i>Tree products</i>			
Wood			
Bark/needles			

48. Can you estimate how many plants and berries were gathered Last year?

The following estimates are for 1993/94

	In a very good year for (name of berry/plant below)	In an average year for: (name of berry/plant below)	In a bad year for: (name of berry/plant below)
<i>Berries (gallons)</i>			
Blueberry	400 lbs		
Juniper			
Bearberry			
Cranberry (High bush cranberry)	400 lbs		
<i>Medicinal plants (pounds)</i>			
Yarrow	She didn't pick it because she wasn't feeling well, but there was a lot of it around		
Tansy			
Mint	2 lbs		
Ratroot	A little bit less than 2 lbs		

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

	In a very good year for (<i>name of berry/plant below</i>)	In an average year for: (<i>name of berry/plant below</i>)	In a bad year for: (<i>name of berry/plant below</i>)
Moss	-		
Labrador tea	3 lbs (<i>drink at Christmas</i>)		
<i>Tree products</i>			
Wood			
Bark/needles			

49. Do you think industrial development has affected your plant gathering activities over the past:

- a. five years? *Yes since Suncor (20-30 years)*
 - b. ten years?
 - c. thirty-five years?
- *Yes - emissions are causing the trees to brown, some of the trees don't have leaves in the summer anymore - they seem to just dry up. It's the birch trees that are drying up.*
 - *Not as many small birds around, not even whisky jacks or robins. It seems like there's more birds in town (Fort McMurray) than in the bush!*
 - *Forestry are taking all the spruce so the red squirrels are going too.*

APPENDIX B

TRADITIONALLY USED PLANT SPECIES

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Balsam fir

LATIN NAME: *Abies balsamea*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>needles /bark/sap (or gum)</i> Use: <i>needles boiled with water to make tea for asthma medicine. The gum of the tree was mixed with bear grease for ointment.</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Yarrow

LATIN NAME: *Achillea millefolium*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>white flowers</i> Use: <i>good for bad colds (children)</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Rat Root

LATIN NAME: *Acorus calamus*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>medicine for bad colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Saskatoon

LATIN NAME: *Amelanchier alnifolia*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Harebell

LATIN NAME: *Campanula rotundifolia*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>Boiled roots to help with blood clots</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Bunchberry

LATIN NAME: *Cornus canadensis*

LOCAL NAME: bearded berry



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>to eat – when you eat it, your face feels like you get little hairs on it – like a moustache or a beard</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Red-osier dogwood

LATIN NAME: *Cornus stolonifera*

LOCAL NAME: Bearberry



Medicinal	Part of plant: root Use: <i>good for upset stomach/diarrhea. Sometimes boiled with ratroot for bad colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use: <i>Don't eat the berry (too bitter)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: <i>bark on stems</i> Use: <i>Peel the stems and dry to mix with tobacco to smoke</i>
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Hazelnut

LATIN NAME: *Corylus cornuta*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: <i>nut</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Fireweed

LATIN NAME: *Epilobium angustifolium*

LOCAL NAME:



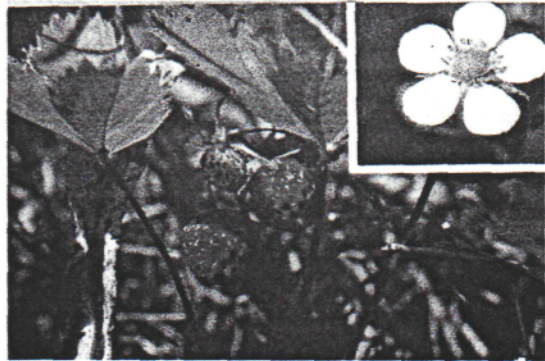
Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>Flowering as a sign</i> Use: <i>When the Fireweed blooms, you know the bull moose is fat</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Wild Strawberry

LATIN NAME: *Fragaria virginiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>to treat diarrhea</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Northern bog orchid

LATIN NAME: *Habenaria hyperborea*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>medicine</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Larch

LATIN NAME: *Larix laricina*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>bark</i> Use: <i>boil it – it's good for infection</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>heat, cooking, building</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Labrador tea

LATIN NAME: *Ledum groenlandicum*

LOCAL NAME: Muskeg tea



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>leaves</i> Use: <i>to make tea (drink at Christmas)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: <i>bark</i> Use: <i>peel stems and dry to make tobacco</i>
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Wild mint.

LATIN NAME: *Mentha arvensis*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>whole plant</i> Use: <i>tea for colds</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Colts foot

LATIN NAME: *Petasites palmatus*

LOCAL NAME: Wild rhubarb



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>stem</i> Use: <i>Chew on the stem as medicine when you have a sore throat</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Black spruce

LATIN NAME: *Picea mariana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>rotted spruce for smoking moose hide, wood for building, cooking, heat, small branches for starting fires and making smudge</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Jack pine

LATIN NAME: *Pinus banksiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>heating, cooking, building cabins</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Balsam poplar

LATIN NAME: *Populus balsamifera*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots, bark</i> Use: <i>Roots: Stop bleeding, Bark: like a poultice to pull out the infection</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>Smoking moose meat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>wood</i> Use: <i>Building smoke racks</i>

COMMON NAME: Pincherry

LATIN NAME: *Prunus pennsylvanica*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>Berry</i> Use: <i>Berry eaten for food</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Chokecherry

LATIN NAME: *Prunus virginiana*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>branch</i> Use: <i>to flavor tea</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Gooseberry

LATIN NAME: *Ribes oxacanthoides*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>good for eating</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Dewberry

LATIN NAME: *Rubus pubescens*

LOCAL NAME: Eyeberries



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>good for eating</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Common Blue-eyed grass

LATIN NAME: *Sisyrinchium montanum*

LOCAL NAME: Heart medicine



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>Suck on the roots (sometimes they dry the root/rhizome) for heart medicine. Good for circulation and to open up the arteries</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Sphagnum moss

LATIN NAME: Sphagnum sp.

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>all of it</i> Use: <i>to insulate cabin, baby's diapers, feminine hygiene products</i>

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Common Tansy

LATIN NAME: *Tanacetum vulgare*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>you can eat the white root, but the orange colored root of tansy is poisonous. (didn't use much)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Diamond Willow fungus

LATIN NAME: *Trametes suaveolens*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: <i>whole thing</i> Use: <i>Pieces broken off and burnt for smudge or "air freshener".</i>
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: <i>whole thing</i> Use: <i>Used to carry hot coals for starting fire</i>

COMMON NAME: Common cattail

LATIN NAME: *Typha latifolia*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>root</i> Use: <i>medicine</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Common nettle

LATIN NAME: *Urtica dioica*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>roots</i> Use: <i>like an antibiotic, good for syphilis</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: Use:
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Blueberry

LATIN NAME: *Vaccinium myrtilloides*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant : Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>to eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire

COMMON NAME: Bog cranberry

LATIN NAME: *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*

LOCAL NAME:

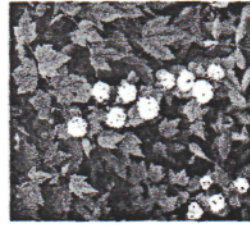


Medicinal	Part of plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>good for appetite</i>
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berries</i> Use: <i>eat</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:

COMMON NAME: Low-bush cranberry

LATIN NAME: *Virburnum edule*

LOCAL NAME:



Medicinal	Part of plant: Use:
Dietary	Part of Plant: <i>berry</i> Use: <i>Eat fruit (add sugar to make jam)</i>
Ritual	Part of Plant: Use:
Utensil/building	Part of Plant: Use:
Spiritual	Part of Plant: Use:

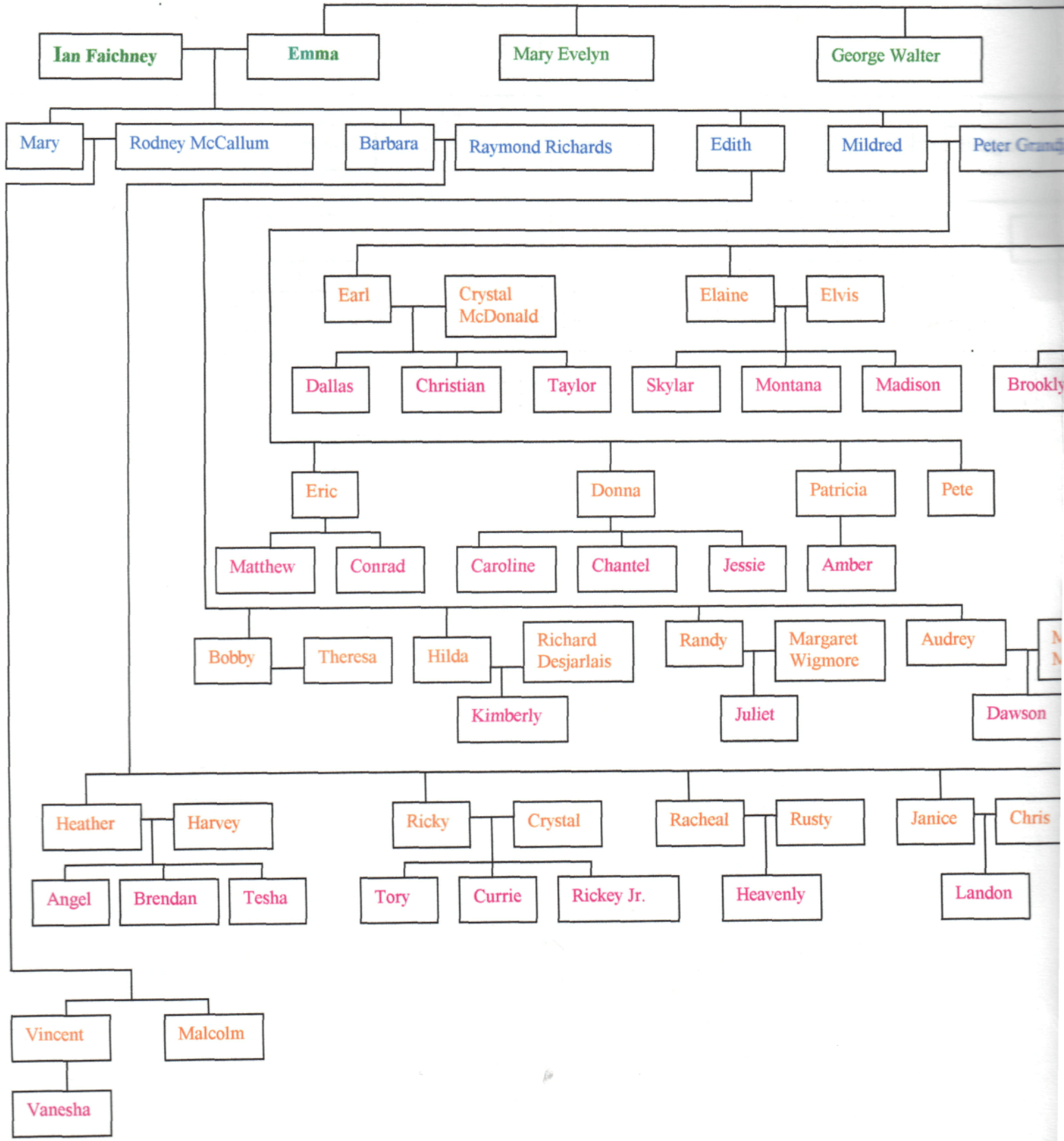
<i>philadelphicum</i>			
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Mint		Whole plant – mix with Yarrow in “tea” for baby sore throat
<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>	Tall lungwort		Boiled roots to help with blood clots
<i>Petasites palmatus</i>	Colts foot	Wild rhubarb	Chew on the stem as medicine when you have a sore throat
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce		rotted wood: burn for smudge cones: boil to make tea for diarrhea
<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Jackpine		To build cabins, smoke racks
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Aspen		White layer under bark - add sugar for candy
<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	Pincherry		Berry eaten for food
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberries		Berry eaten for food
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow		Always use willow to cook bannock over the fire (aspen or poplar have a sap in the wood that makes food taste funny)
<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	Buffalo berry		Root dried and chewed or boiled for tea for heart medicine
<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	Common blue-eyed grass	Heart medicine	Suck on the roots (sometimes they dry the root/rhizome) for heart medicine Good for circulation and to open up the arteries
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum		Diapers Chinking cabins Feminine hygiene
<i>Trametes suaveolens</i>	Diamond willow fungus		Used to carry hot coals for starting fire Pieces broken off and burnt for smudge or “air freshener”.
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common cattail		Root medicine
<i>Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis</i>	Nettle		Root is like penicillin - boil root for controlling syphilis
<i>Vaccinium myrtilloides</i>	Blueberry		Eat fruit Mix dry meat, bear grease and blueberry for food
<i>Virburnum edule</i>	Low Bush Cranberry		Eat fruit (add sugar to make jam)

Other traditional medicines

Rub Bear grease for rheumatism

Figure 1 Beaver/Faichney Family Tree

Felix Beaver



Maryann (Boucher) Beaver

Pauline

Patrick

Edna

Edjambe

Roger

Shyan

Bruce Sr.

Barbara Faichney

Linda

Lorraine

Lloyd

Ryan

Tyler

Chad

Bruce Jr.

Shawna

Brian

Candice

Blair

Bryce

Edlyn

Rayanne

Markus

Shaina

Monty

Tyron

Dawn

Crystal

Shannon

Jeffrey

Maurice McDonald

Jessica

Jeremy

Brian

Brenda

Robin

Arnold

Bridgette

Ashley

Jonathan

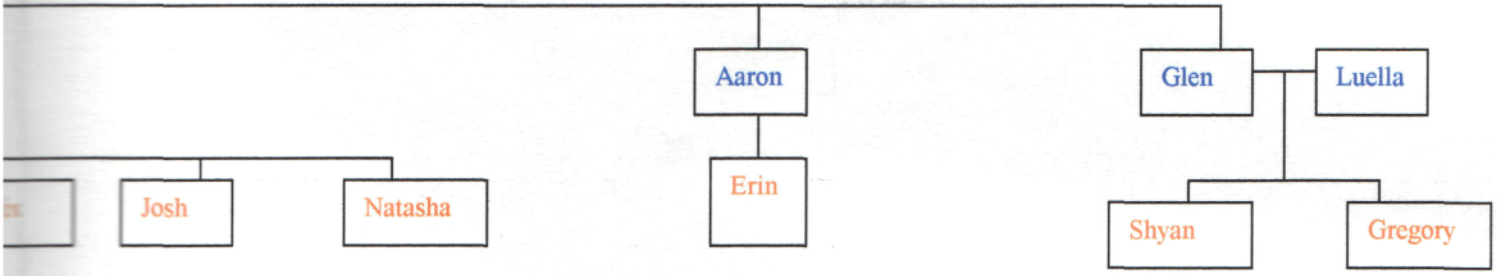
Kathleen

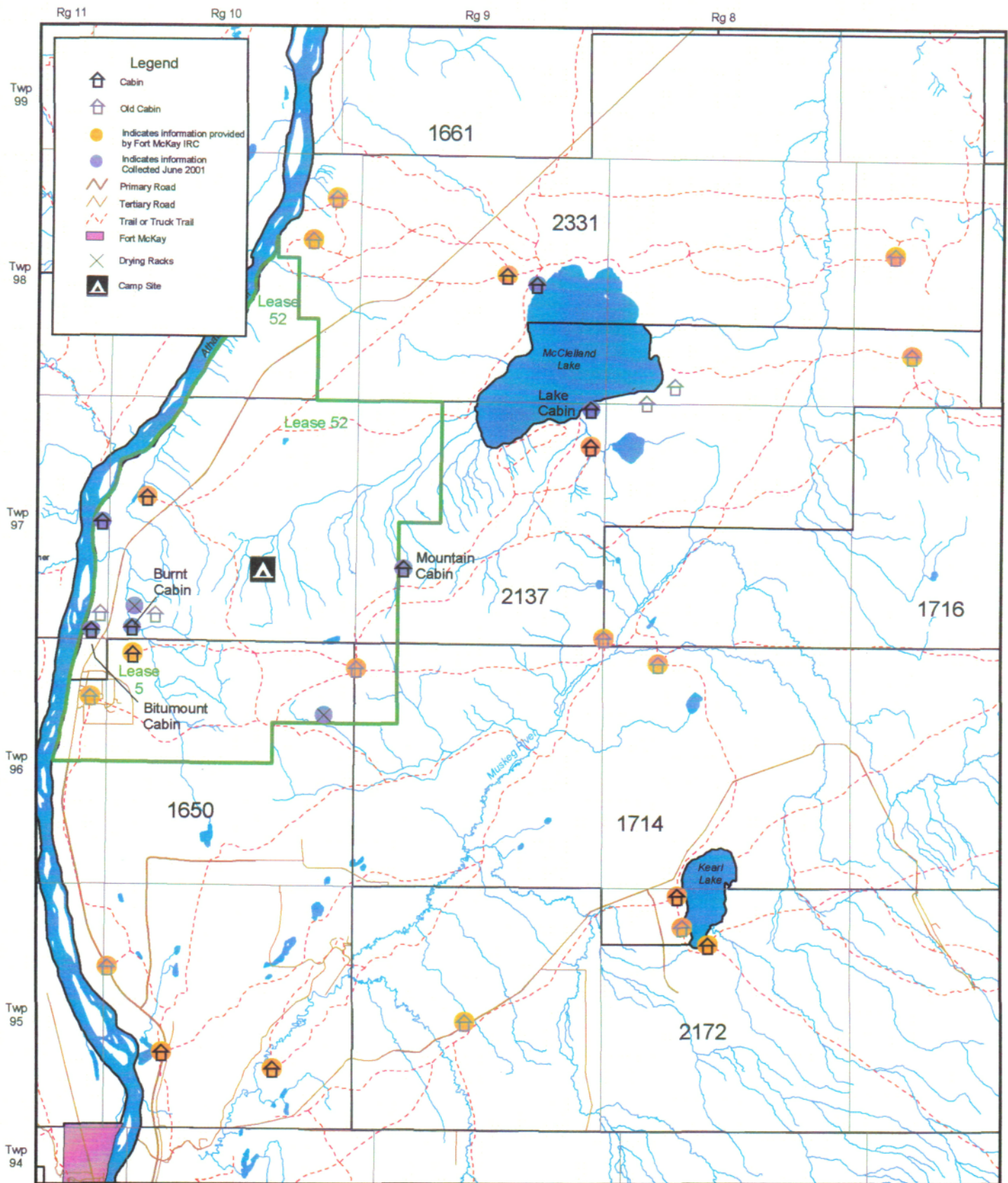
Monique

Felix

Dakota

Ameris





Legend

- Cabin
- Old Cabin
- Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
- Indicates information Collected June 2001
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Trail or Truck Trail
- Fort McKay
- Drying Racks
- Camp Site

FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

Cabins in Traditional Land Use RFMA 1650 and 2137



NORTH

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in kilometres

Acknowledgements:
 Traditional land use information provided by Fort McKay IRC (strictly for use on the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project), Solvex report, 1996, Aurora report, 1990, and True North Field Study and Interviews
 Basemap provided by Alberta Environment
 Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

		TRUE NORTH	
DATE	September 2001	SCALE	1:210,000
DRAWN	JH	CHECKED	LG
REVIEWED	CO	PROJECT	FHOSP
		FIGURE NO.	4
		REV	2

Rg 11

Rg 10

Rg 9

Rg 8

Twp 99

Twp 98

Twp 97

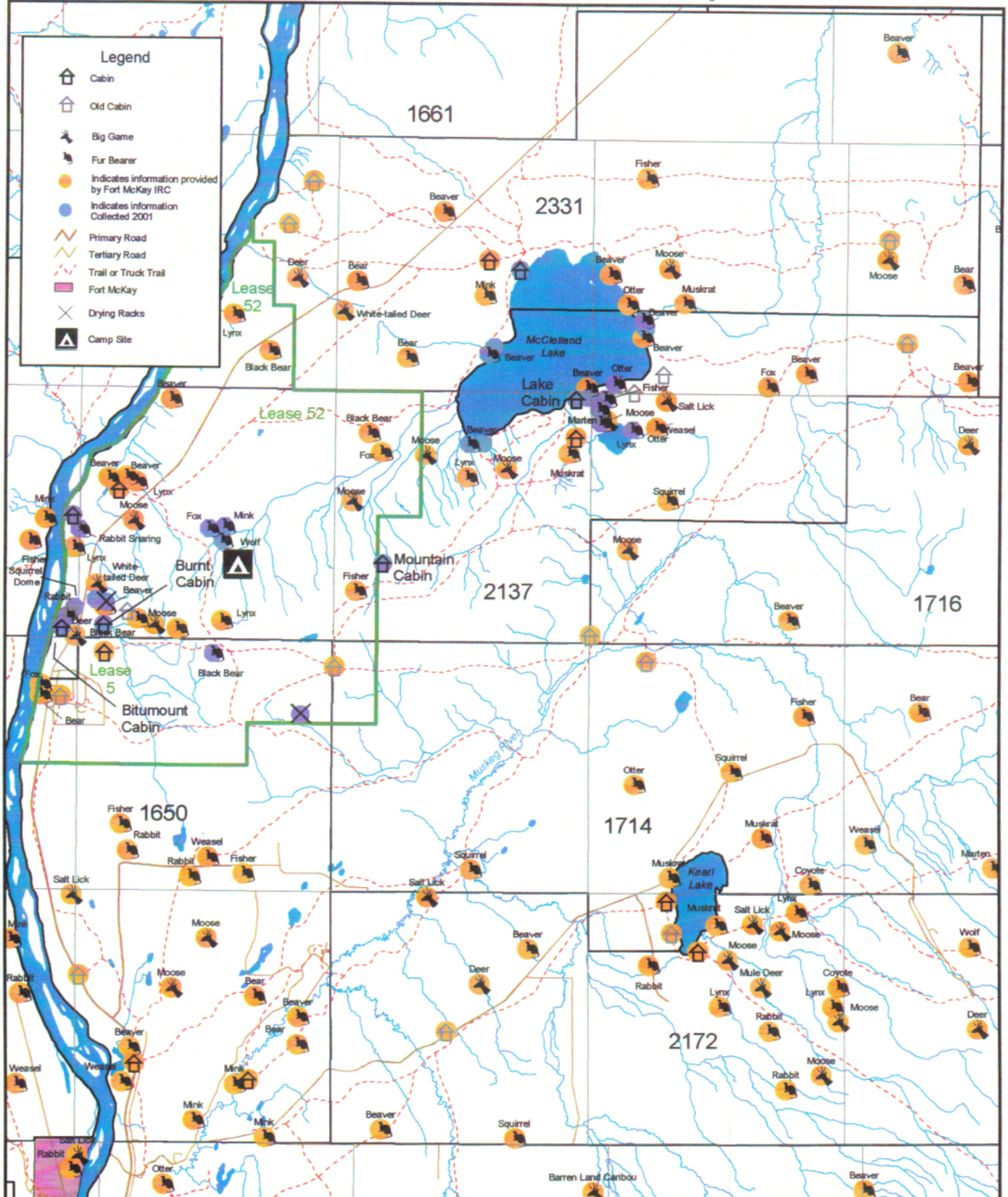
Twp 96

Twp 95

Twp 94

Legend

- Cabin
- Old Cabin
- Big Game
- Fur Bearer
- Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
- Indicates information Collected 2001
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Trail or Truck Trail
- Fort McKay
- Drying Racks
- Camp Site



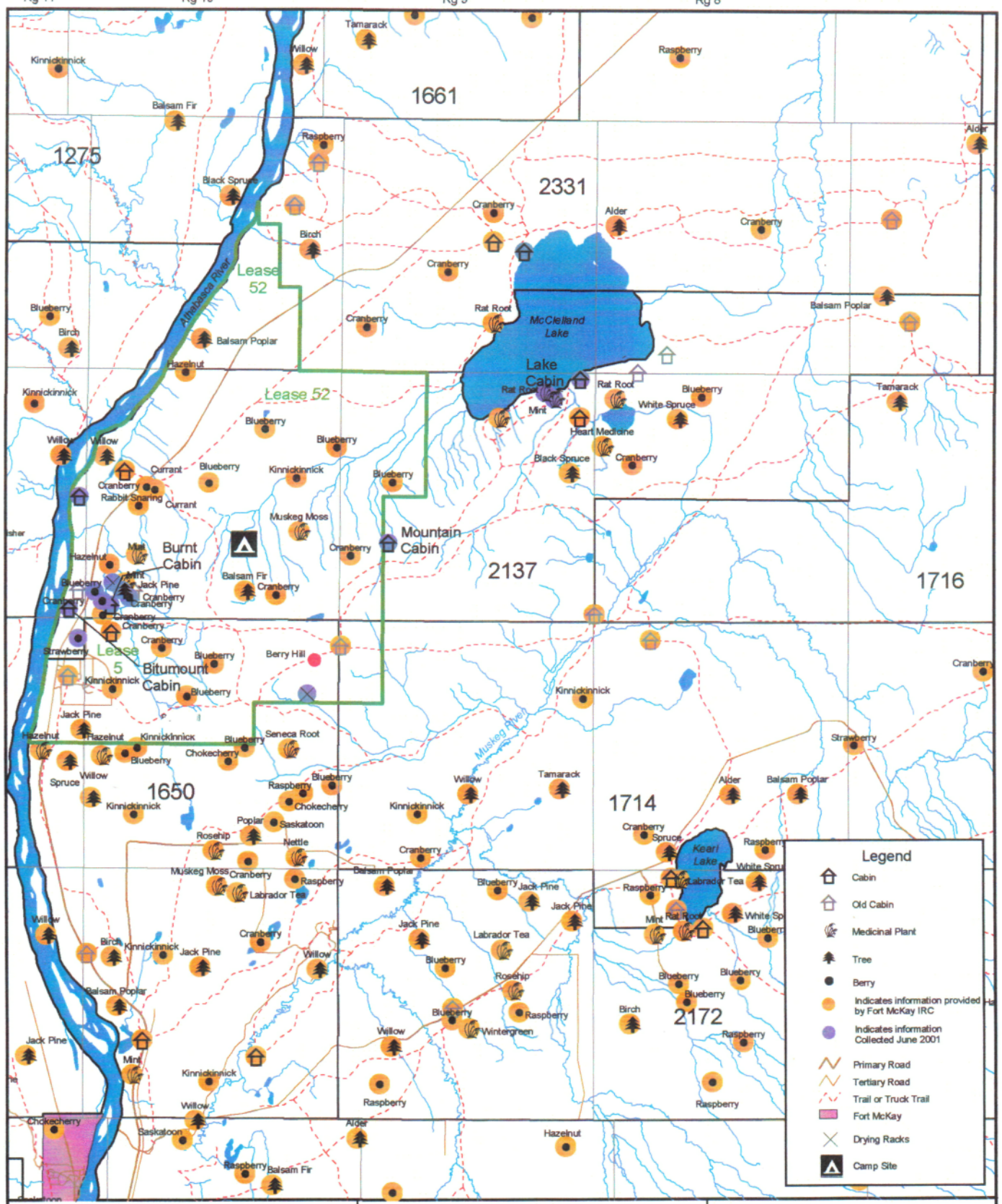
FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

**Traditional Land Use
RFMA 1650 and 2137
Fur Bearers/Big Game**



Acknowledgements:
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Basemap provided by Alberta Environment
Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

		TRUE NORTH	
DATE	September 2001	SCALE	1:210,000
DRAWN	JH	CHECKED	LG
REVIEWED	CO	PROJECT	FHOSP
		5	2



FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT

**Traditional Land Use
RFA 1650 and 2137
Berries/Medicinal Plants/Trees**



NORTH

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in kilometres

Acknowledgements:
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Basemap provided by Alberta Environment
Prepared by GeoArctic International Services Ltd.

Legend

- Cabin
- Old Cabin
- Medicinal Plant
- Tree
- Berry
- Indicates information provided by Fort McKay IRC
- Indicates information Collected June 2001
- Primary Road
- Tertiary Road
- Trail or Truck Trail
- Fort McKay
- Drying Racks
- Camp Site

		TRUE NORTH	
		DATE September 2001	SCALE 1:210,000
DRAWN JH	CHECKED LG	6	FIGURE NO.
REVIEWED CO	PROJECT FHOSP		REV 2