



FINAL

Land and Resource Use Study Plan

May 2021





MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Land and Resource Use Study Plan

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Revision History

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Draft	May 2020	Submitted "Land and Resource Use Study Plan" to the Agency.
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Appendix A. Preliminary List of Data Sources

Appendix B. Agency Comments on the Draft Study Plan

Acronyms

Agency, the ... Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

CAR Community Access Road

EA Environmental Assessment

GBA+ Gender-Based Analysis Plus

IA Impact Assessment

IAA *Impact Assessment Act*

IS Impact Statement

km kilometre

LSA Local Study Area

MECP Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

MFFN Marten Falls First Nation

PDA Project Development Area

RSA Regional Study Area

SAR Species at Risk

TISG Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines

ToR Terms of Reference

VC Valued Component





1. Introduction

The Proponent of the Community Access Road (CAR or the Project) is Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN), a remote First Nation community in northern Ontario located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki rivers, approximately 430 kilometres (km) from Thunder Bay, Ontario. The MFFN community is proposing an all-season Community Access Road that will connect the MFFN community to Ontario's provincial highway network (Highway 643) to the south via the existing Painter Lake Road. MFFN, as the Proponent of the Project, has formed a MFFN CAR Project Team that includes MFFN CAR Community Member Advisors and MFFN CAR Project Consultants who act with input, guidance and direction from the MFFN Chief and Council.

This document outlines the Study Plan for Land and Resource Use to support a coordinated Impact Assessment (IA) required for Project review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) and Environmental Assessment (EA) required for Project review by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

1.1 Federal and Provincial Terminology

The study plans have been prepared using federal terminology, however, the respective provincial terminology has been provided in **Table 1-1** for reference. The terms can be used interchangeably.

Table 1-1: Equivalent Federal and Provincial Terms

Provincial Term	Federal Term
Criteria	Valued Component
Impact Management Measure	Mitigation Measure
Net Effects	Residual Effects
Record of Consultation	Record of Engagement





1.2 Project Study Plans

This Study Plan is one of a group of study plans created for the Project. **Table 1-2** includes the study plans for each environmental¹ discipline currently planned for the Project and the valued components (VCs) covered by the study plans where applicable.

Table 1-2: Project Study Plans and Valued Components

Environmental Discipline	Study Plan Name	Valued Component(s)
Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes Cultural Continuity (ability to practice and transmit cultural traditions)
Atmospheric Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atmospheric Environment and Greenhouse Gases Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change
Acoustic and Vibration Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acoustic and Vibration Environment Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise Vibration
Physiography, Geology, Terrain and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiography, Terrain and Soils Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiography, Terrain and Soils
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface Water Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface Water
Groundwater and Geochemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater and Geochemistry Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland and Riparian Ecosystems Upland Ecosystems Designated Areas (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Significant Areas, Significant Woodlands, Critical Landform / Vegetation Associations) Traditional Use Plants and SAR Plant Populations (including species with special conservation status or rarity in the province)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peatlands Study Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peatland Ecosystems (bogs and fens)

1. The use of the term environment in this document is inclusive of the components of the environment that are included in the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act definition, which includes a general description of the social, cultural, built and natural environments.





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Environmental Discipline	Study Plan Name	Valued Component(s)
Wildlife	■ Wildlife Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bats (including SAR-bats such as: Little Brown Myotis [<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>], Northern Myotis [<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>] and Tricolored bat [<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>]) ■ Fur Bearers (proxy VC² American Marten [<i>Martes americana</i>], Beaver [<i>Castor canadensis</i>] and Wolverine [<i>Gulo gulo</i>]) ■ Amphibians and Reptiles ■ Pollinating Insects
	■ Ungulates (Moose and Caribou) Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>) ■ Caribou, boreal population (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>)
	■ Bird Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Forest Birds (proxy VC of Red-eyed Vireo [<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>] for deciduous forest, Ovenbird [<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>] for mixedwood forest, Dark-eyed Junco [<i>Junco hyemalis</i>] for coniferous forest and disturbed forest ■ Raptors (proxy VC of Osprey [<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>] for diurnal raptors and Boreal Owl [<i>Aegolius funereus</i>] for nocturnal raptors ■ Shorebirds (proxy VC of Wilson's Snipe [<i>Gallinago delicata</i>]) ■ Waterfowl (proxy VC of Mallard [<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>]) ■ Bog / Fen Birds and Other Wetland Birds (proxy VC of Palm Warbler [<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>] for bogs, Common Yellowthroat [<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>] for fens; and Northern Waterthrush [<i>Parkesia noveboracensis</i>] for swamps. ■ SAR birds: Canada Warbler (<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>), Chimney Swift (<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>), Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>), Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferous</i>), Eastern Wood-Pewee (<i>Contopus virens</i>), Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>), Olive-sided Flycatcher (<i>Contopus cooperi</i>), Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>), Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>), Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>), Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>), Black Tern (<i>Chidonias niger</i>), Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>), Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>)
Fish and Fish Habitat	■ Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lake Sturgeon (<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>) ■ Walleye (<i>Sander vitreus</i>) ■ Brook Trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>) ■ Northern Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>)

² A proxy VC is used when looking at the effects of one species that represents many others.





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Environmental Discipline	Study Plan Name	Valued Component(s)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lake Whitefish (<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>) ■ Chain Pickerel (<i>Esox niger</i>) ■ Yellow Perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>) ■ Cisco (<i>Coregonus artedii</i>) ■ Burbot (<i>Lota lota</i>) ■ Longnose Sucker (<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>) ■ White Sucker (<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>) ■ Forage / Prey Species (including species such as Lake Chub [<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>]) ■ Lower Trophic Organisms (e.g., benthic invertebrates)
Social	■ Social Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing and Accommodation ■ Community Service and Infrastructure ■ Transportation ■ Community Well-being ■ Populations and Demographics
Economy	■ Economic Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regional Economy ■ Labour Force and Employment ■ Government Finances
Land and Resource Use	■ Land and Resource Use Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Land Use Compatibility ■ Parks and Protected Areas ■ Recreation and Tourism ■ Extractive Industry ■ Forestry Industry ■ Energy and Linear Infrastructure
Human Health and Community Safety	■ Human Health and Community Safety Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public Safety ■ Public Health ■ Diet ■ Environmental Factors Influencing Health
Visual Aesthetics	■ Visual Aesthetics Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visual Contrast / Character ■ Visibility ■ Visual Sensitivity
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	■ Cultural Heritage Study Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Archaeological Sites and Resources ■ Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

It should be noted that while there is not a consultation study plan, the Project has developed the *Consultation and Engagement Plan to Support the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (AECOM 2020)* (referred to as the Impact Statement [IS] / EA Consultation Plan).





2. Purpose and Objectives

The key objectives of conducting an IA / EA are to describe the existing environment, gather sufficient information to predict Project-related effects (positive and negative, direct and indirect) of the Project and alternatives on the environment, determine measures needed to avoid or minimize adverse Project effects, and enhance beneficial Project effects where feasible, and undertake consultation and engagement throughout. The purpose of this Study Plan is to explain:

- A baseline³ study methodology that will result in a comprehensive description of the existing environment potentially impacted by the Project;
- How efficient and transparent data management and analysis will be undertaken;
- Effects assessment scoping inputs specific to Land and Resource Use that will allow for potential effects of the Project on the existing environment to be appropriately assessed in the IS / EA Report; and
- How the Study Plan aligns with federal and provincial requirements and guidance, including the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG), dated February 24, 2020 (the Agency 2020c), for this Project and applicable provincial agency comments on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)⁴.

As required by the IAA and referenced in TISG Section 7.3, work plans will also be developed for disciplines as required. It is anticipated the work plans will include further details on how to action the study plans; for example they would contain a schedule for the key work tasks. The Land Use and Resource Use Assessment will consider how land use and resource use may be affected by the Project. This includes an examination of compatibility with land use designations and changes to Parks and Protected Areas, Recreation and Tourism, the Extractive Industry, the Forestry Industry, and Energy and Linear Infrastructure.

Related items not included in this Study Plan are covered under separate study plans, including the Economic Study Plan. Items not included explicitly within this study plan may be referenced and considered in the assessment of effects to relevant components of the Land and Resource Use environment such as overall economic impact of the Project, in particular, how changes in the regional economy may influence land use.

3. *Baseline refers to the current conditions of the environment potentially impacted by the Project. Baseline conditions serve as a reference against which changes due the Project are measured.*

4. *If necessary, the Study Plan will be updated to reflect the approved ToR if approval is obtained.*





Further, the Land and Resource Use Study Plan is focused on use of land and resources for Indigenous non-traditional purposes and non-Indigenous uses of the land. A separate study plan has been prepared regarding the Indigenous use of land and resources for traditional purposes (Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan). A separate report will be prepared that documents the results of the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Assessment. Information from that assessment / report will be considered as appropriate in this assessment as well.

In conducting the Land and Resource Use Assessment, information from the following other disciplines⁵ will be considered:

- **Air Quality** – The extent of potential changes to air quality will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to air quality will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks (e.g., Albany River Provincial Park) and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. It is important to note that there are no National Parks in the identified study areas.
- **Noise** – The extent of potential changes to noise will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to noise will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.
- **Surface Water** – The extent of potential changes to surface water will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to surface water will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.
- **Vegetation** – The extent of potential changes to vegetation, including wetlands, will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to vegetation and wetlands will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.
- **Fish and Fish Habitat** – The extent of potential changes to fish and fish habitat will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to fish and fish habitat will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.

5. It is expected each discipline will produce their own technical report supporting the assessment of key factors within that area.





- **Wildlife** – The extent of potential changes to wildlife will be one factor used to define the study area for provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism. In addition, changes to wildlife will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.
- **Visual Aesthetics** – Changes to the visual aesthetics of the environment will be considered in changes to environmental conditions within provincial parks and protected areas, and recreation and tourism.

Other relevant disciplines may also be considered depending on the nature of the information received including the Social, Economic, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Assessments. Further, information relevant to the Land and Resource Use Assessment may be collected through general engagement and consultation activities and the Indigenous Knowledge Program.

For the purposes of establishing appropriate context, the Study Plan begins with background and relevant information on:

- Study Plan related discussions with the Agency, the MECP and applicable agencies to date (**Section 3**);
- The approach to Project consultation and engagement (**Section 4**);
- How Indigenous Knowledge will be collected and used in the IA / EA (**Section 5**); and
- The spatial and temporal boundaries that will be used for the IA / EA (**Section 6**).

2.1 Approach to Handling Confidential Information

2.1.1 Indigenous Knowledge

Available and applicable Indigenous Knowledge will be considered in the assessment of Land Use and Resource Use impacts. Permission from the Indigenous community will be sought before including Indigenous Knowledge in the IS / EA Report, regardless of the source of the Indigenous Knowledge. Sensitive and / or confidential information will be specifically collected through the Indigenous Knowledge Program to inform the IS / EA Report and its use and publication will be governed by Indigenous community-specific Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements. Sensitive and / or confidential information collected through Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements will be protected from public or third-party disclosure and will be established between the Proponent and Indigenous communities participating in the





Indigenous Knowledge Program prior to the sharing and use of any sensitive information. Instances where Indigenous Knowledge sharing has taken place during consultation activities (e.g., meetings) will be recorded in the Record of Consultation and Engagement, including where Indigenous Knowledge was incorporated into Project decisions and into the IS / EA Report (i.e., specifics will not be included in the Record of Consultation and Engagement given the potential sensitivity and / or confidentiality of the information shared).

2.1.2 Land and Resource Use Primary Data

Collected primary land and resource use data that is considered to be confidential will not be documented in the IS / EA Report. The content and findings obtained that are not considered as confidential will be included in baseline documentation irrespective of source (Indigenous or non-Indigenous knowledge holder). Information obtained through other primary data programs (such as Indigenous Knowledge) will adhere to the confidentiality provisions of the respective data sharing agreements that have been established.

Land and resource use primary data will be presented in a generic manner and referenced appropriately. It is anticipated that confidential primary data will relate to individuals rather than groups. Confidentiality will be granted upon request to those individuals and information related to the individual, including information which may support Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), will be redacted from the Land and Resource Use Assessment report.





3. Study Plan Technical Discussions

To facilitate the development of satisfactory study plans and eventually a satisfactory IS / EA Report, MFFN previously submitted draft study plans in an effort to hold technical discussions with the Agency, the MECP and applicable agencies. A summary of technical discussions and correspondence held to date on this Study Plan has been provided in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1: Summary of Study Plan Technical Discussions

Attendees / Responsible Party	Correspondence	Discussion Point	Solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preliminary comments received following submission and review of draft Study Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 05-August-20: Comments and clarification questions received, including editorial comments, additional information requirements regarding Study Plan, and clarification requests related to study areas, data collection, assessment, criteria and indicators, and concordance with federal and provincial requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Additional details and clarification provided within this Study Plan and responses to these comments are in Appendix B.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Agency ■ MECP ■ Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines ■ MFFN CAR Project Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Technical discussion of comments received following agency review of draft Study Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 07-October-2020: Discussion on the role of the general consultation and engagement program to confirm the interests of Indigenous communities and other persons in economic impacts and subsequent target information gathering sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Additional details and clarification on the consultation and engagement program are provided in Section 4 of the Study Plan.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 07-October-2020: Discussion on data validation. The Agency indicated that it is not necessary to validate raw data with Chiefs and Councils, rather, community leadership can review / validate data that is to be documented in the IS / EA Report and supporting reports to ensure accurate representation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This approach to data verification will be followed. See Section 8.





4. IS / EA Report Consultation and Engagement Process

4.1 Interested Persons and Government Agencies

The Proponent will provide Project notices and advise of opportunities for consultation and engagement with interested persons⁶ which includes, at a minimum, members of the public outlined in the *Public Participation Plan for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment* (the Agency 2020) (referred to as the Public Participation Plan). This will include the opportunity to provide input on the existing environment, VCs, effects assessment methods, effects assessment results, and mitigation and follow-up program measures as applicable. A variety of activities will be offered so that members of the public are informed of the IS / EA Report as it progresses and are aware of the opportunities and means to provide their input. The study plans have recognized public and agency input received on the Project to date. Government agencies and interested persons will have the opportunity to comment on components of the study plans throughout the IS / EA Report consultation and engagement process. The Project's approach to handling confidential and sensitive information is outlined in **Section 2.1**.

4.2 Indigenous Communities

The Proponent will provide Project notices and opportunities for consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities identified in **Table 4-1**, which is inclusive of all Indigenous communities identified in the *Indigenous Partnership and Engagement Plan for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment* (the Agency 2020a) (referred to as the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan). Indigenous communities will be provided the opportunity to be involved at critical decision-making points throughout the IS / EA Report so that the Proponent can consider and incorporate, where appropriate, Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use information into the Project as it pertains to the existing environment, VCs, effects assessment methods, effects assessment results, and mitigation and follow-up program measures. A variety of activities will be offered so that Indigenous communities are informed of the IS / EA Report as it progresses and are aware of the opportunities, means and timelines to

6. Interested persons, as defined in the IS / EA Consultation Plan, are individuals and groups (e.g., associations, non-governmental organizations, industry and academia) who could have an interest in the Project, including but not limited to communities in the region, those with commercial interests (e.g., forestry, trappers, outfitters, other mineral tenure holders in the area) and recreational users or those with recreational interest (e.g., campers, hunters and environmental groups).





provide their input. The study plans have recognized Indigenous community input received on the Project to date. Indigenous communities will have the opportunity to comment on components of the study plans throughout the IS / EA Report consultation and engagement process.

Table 4-1: Identified Neighbouring Indigenous Communities, Including their Provincial Territorial Organizations and / or Tribal Council Affiliations

Tribal Council Affiliation	Indigenous Community or Organization
Matawa First Nations Management <i>(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Marten Falls First Nation (Proponent and potentially affected Indigenous community) ■ Aroland First Nation ■ Constance Lake First Nation ■ Eabametoong First Nation ■ Ginoogaming First Nation ■ Neskantaga First Nation ■ Nibinamik First Nation ■ Webequie First Nation
Matawa First Nations Management and the Union of Ontario Indians / Nishnawbe Aski Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Long Lake #58 First Nation**
Mushkegowuk Council <i>(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attawapiskat First Nation ■ Fort Albany First Nation ■ Kashechewan First Nation
Shibogama First Nations Council <i>(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kasabonika Lake First Nation ■ Kingfisher Lake First Nation ■ Wapekeka First Nation ■ Wawakapewin First Nation ■ Wunnumin Lake First Nation
Independent First Nations Alliance <i>(Nishnawbe Aski Nation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation
Independent First Nations (Nishnawbe Aski Nation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mishkeegogamang First Nation ■ Weenusk First Nation
Nokiiwin Tribal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Animiigoog Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation*
Métis Nation of Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Métis Nation of Ontario; Region 2*
Independent Métis Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Red Sky Independent Métis Nation*

Notes: * Indigenous communities or organizations identified by the MECP who should be consulted on the basis that they may be interested in the Community Access Road.

** The MECP indicated in a letter to MFFN that Long Lake #58 First Nation was moved from interest-based to rights-based.





4.3 Consideration of Identity and Gender-Based Analysis Plus in Engagement

To fulfill requirements of the IAA, the Consultation and Engagement Program will consider a diverse range of perspectives from interested persons and interested Indigenous communities and their members identified in the Agency's Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the Public Participation Plan. This will include at a minimum providing ongoing opportunities for engagement to:

- **Neighbouring Indigenous communities, including relevant subpopulations:**
 - Women;
 - Youth; and
 - Elders.
- **Non-Indigenous communities including:**
 - Women;
 - Youth; and
 - Activity-based subgroups (e.g., recreationalists, snowmobilers, tourism establishment operators).

The Proponent will also consult and engage with other subpopulations identified by communities during consultation and engagement.

The Land and Resource Use Study Plan focuses on features of the environment such as parks, harvesting jurisdictions, trails, access points and industry tenure rights. As these features are agender and non-human, GBA+ principles will be integrated into the Land and Resource Use Assessment when information on land user groups is available, including demographics of typical users. The interviews undertaken as part of the Social and Economic disciplines primary data collection program will be a key information source in gathering applicable data (e.g., related to recreation and tourism) supporting GBA+ for Land and Resource Use. The information from these activities and any additional identity groups identified by communities through consultation and engagement will be considered for the purposes of considering disproportionate effects.

During consultation and engagement, these aforementioned groups will be consulted and engaged with on targeted input. Specialized knowledge will be gathered through other disciplines such as Social, Economic and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. The Social and Economic disciplines primary data collection programs are expected to include targeted interviews, focus groups, questionnaires and other niche tools to





gather information from diverse populations to resolve gaps in social and economic secondary data. These diverse populations include the aforementioned identity groups, which are also referenced in the IS / EA Consultation Plan and those identified by communities during consultation and engagement. The importance of soliciting inputs and perspectives from diverse subgroups has also been factored into the Indigenous Knowledge Program and associated materials (see **Section 5**).

When feedback is received from interested persons and Indigenous communities, issues, comments and questions will be tracked consistent with the process described in the IS / EA Consultation Plan. Specific to GBA+ objectives, this will include efforts to engage with diverse populations. It is expected this will include activities specific to subgroups and tabulation of consultation and engagement participation with respect to identity factors. This will provide summary statistics to demonstrate the diversity achieved in consultation and engagement.

4.4 Consultation on Land and Resource Use Concerns and Impacts

As part of the IS / EA Consultation activities and Indigenous Knowledge collection program, Indigenous communities identified in Table 4.1 will be contacted to determine their level of interest in the Project and their concerns related to the potential land and resource use impacts (as related to non-traditional use of land). Indigenous communities that identify specific land and resource use concerns may be contacted for land and resource use primary data collection. In addition, interested persons identified through the general engagement program and listed in the Public Participation Plan will also be engaged on potential concerns and impacts related to land and resource use. **Section 7.2** provides additional details on the targeted Land and Resource Use Assessment data collection approach.





5. Consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in the IS / EA Report

The following provides a general description of how Indigenous Knowledge will be considered in the IA / EA process. The extent to which Indigenous Knowledge is considered by each specific VC will vary depending on the nature of the VC, the potential for Project effects on the VC and whether Indigenous Knowledge that relates to a VC is provided / obtained. As such, not all aspects of the general approach described below may apply to all VCs / study plans.

There are two concurrent and complementary avenues for Indigenous communities and groups to be engaged with and provide input on the Project: the Indigenous Knowledge Program and the Consultation and Engagement Program. Both programs serve to support the collection of Indigenous perspectives, values, and input on the Project, including Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and how they may be impacted by the Project, to be integrated throughout the IA / EA process. However, the Indigenous Knowledge Program specifically aims to solicit and incorporate information that is considered sensitive and may have confidentiality requirements, including Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use. Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements will be established between the Proponent and Indigenous communities participating in the Indigenous Knowledge Program prior to the sharing and use of any sensitive information.

All Indigenous communities and groups identified by the MECP and the Agency through the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan have the opportunity to participate in the Indigenous Knowledge Program. The Indigenous Knowledge Program provides interested Indigenous communities an opportunity to: share existing Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values that may be relevant to the Project, and / or complete Project-specific studies to collect and share Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values. The Indigenous Knowledge Program includes opportunities for Indigenous communities and groups to meet with the Proponent to discuss the program, ask questions and share concerns and interests. In support of this, the Proponent has created an Indigenous Knowledge Program Guidance Document (the Guidance Document) that provides:

- An overview of the Indigenous Knowledge Program and information on how Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values and practices can be collected and / or shared;





- Information on how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values and practices may be used in the planning and design processes; and
- A suite of guidance materials that were developed based on the information requirements of both the federal and provincial assessment processes, including: question guides to support the collection of information on historical and current community context; Indigenous Knowledge that may be relevant to the various technical disciplines; information on Indigenous land and resource use, cultural values and practices and associated spatial data; and perspective on potential Project-related effects and associated mitigation and / or enhancement measures.

The Guidance Document will also support participating Indigenous communities in providing Project-specific information in a manner that facilitates meaningful incorporation into the IS / EA Report.

The IS / EA Consultation Plan outlines the process for obtaining information and feedback about the Project from Indigenous communities (i.e., the Consultation and Engagement Program). All Indigenous communities identified by the MECP and the Agency have the opportunity to participate in the Consultation and Engagement Program through community-specific meetings, Public Information Centres, web conferences and other formats. All Indigenous communities identified by the MECP and the Agency will be provided information related to the Project and invited to participate at various points throughout the IA / EA process.

There are also opportunities for technical teams to engage with Indigenous communities to solicit perspectives and information relevant to the Project, including information related to collection of existing information and the development of the IS / EA Report. The Proponent also invites feedback and inputs throughout the Project via the Project website and ongoing communications with the Proponent.

The Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement programs are designed to be complementary and provide multiple opportunities for communities to offer feedback and information, including perspectives on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and interests and how these may be impacted by the proposed Project. Relevant information collected through both the Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement programs, including potential effect pathways on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and interests, will be shared with each of the relevant disciplines throughout the IA / EA to: guide and inform VCs; support characterization of the existing environment; identify the potential effects of the Project on VCs; help identify mitigation measures and potential monitoring programs; and ultimately guide Project planning. The nature of how the Indigenous Knowledge becomes integrated into the IS / EA Report will be dictated by the specific information provided by each Indigenous community and the parameters set out in





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the Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements. A description of how Indigenous Knowledge was considered in the IA / EA and in each of the technical discipline areas will be included in the IS / EA Report.

It is also important to note that information collected through the various activities (e.g., field studies and programs, effects assessments) of each discipline area (e.g., wildlife, vegetation, cultural heritage) will be shared with the Indigenous Knowledge Program leads. This will support the establishment of the existing environment and the effects assessment for the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests environmental discipline, as well as the identification of potential mitigation measures and monitoring programs, given the interrelated nature of Indigenous peoples and other environmental disciplines.

The Proponent will strive to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities on how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values will become part of the IS / EA Report and how potential effects to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and interests will be assessed. It is expected that measures to support this may include but are not limited to: engaging Indigenous communities to solicit information on Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values to inform baseline conditions, providing Indigenous communities with draft sections of the IS / EA Report to illustrate how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use and cultural values has been integrated and to confirm it has been presented appropriately, and completing collaborative working sessions with Indigenous communities for the effects assessment on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. Further information on how potential effects on Indigenous rights will be assessed is provided in the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan.





6. Assessment Boundaries

6.1 Temporal Boundaries: Project Phases

Project phases, which are temporal boundaries, are developed to establish the timeframes within which potential effects of the Project will be considered in the IS / EA Report. The Project is planned to occur in two phases, which are briefly described below and shown in **Figure 6-1**.

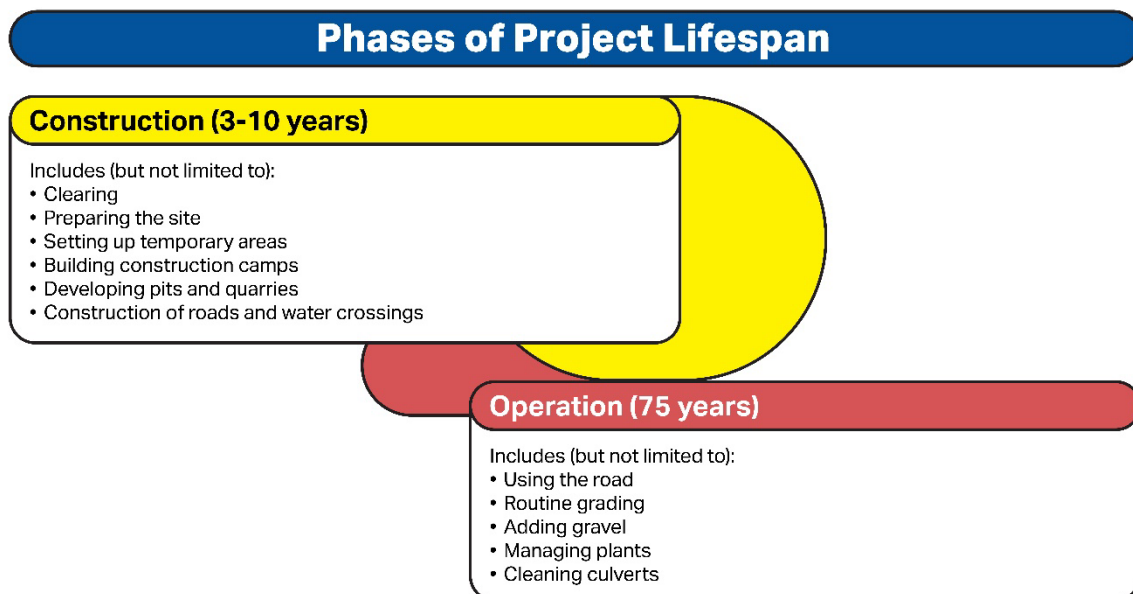
■ **Construction Phase:**

The time from start of construction, including site preparation activities, to the start of operations and maintenance of the CAR. Decommissioning of construction works is included in the construction phase. The construction phase is anticipated to take approximately 3 to 10 years to complete.

■ **Operations and Maintenance Phase:**

The operations and maintenance phase starts once construction activities are complete and lasts for the life of the Project. The operations and maintenance phase of the Project is considered to be 75 years based on the expected timeline for when major refurbishment of road components (e.g., bridges), is anticipated.

Figure 6-1: Project Schedule





There are currently no plans to decommission the CAR as there is no expected / known end date for its need. Therefore, future suspension, decommissioning and eventual abandonment of the CAR will not be considered in the IS / EA Report. It will be considered if and when a decommissioning or abandonment application is made for the road.

In determining the temporal boundaries, in particular the long operations and maintenance phase, consideration was given to the long-term effects on the well-being of present and future generations (Sustainability Principle #2⁷). The final temporal boundaries to be used in the IS / EA Report will be based on regulatory agency guidance, professional judgement and input received through the Project consultation process.

6.2 Spatial Boundaries: Study Areas

6.2.1 General Information

Study areas identify the geographic extents within which potential effects of the Project are likely to occur and will be considered in the IS / EA Report. The existing conditions and potential effects are documented for three study areas selected for the Project:

- **Project Development Area (PDA):** area of direct disturbance;
- **Local Study Area (LSA):** the area where most of the direct effects of the Project are likely to occur; and
- **Regional Study Area (RSA):** the area where indirect effects of the Project are likely to occur.

Project Development Area

The PDA encompasses the 100 metre wide CAR right-of-way (ROW), temporary construction access roads, work areas, worker camps, and pits, quarries and associated access roads. The preliminary LSA currently being considered within the scope of the ongoing provincial regulatory review process generally includes the area within 2.5 km of the centreline of Alternative 1 and Alternative 4. The preliminary study area generally allows for the documentation of existing conditions and prediction of potential environmental effects for the Project. A 5 km wide study area also allows for route refinements during development of Project design (e.g., adjustment of the alignment to avoid sensitive features).

The specific location of Project components, including the roadway, quarries, pits and temporary infrastructure, are not yet known and will be included in the IS / EA Report. While most of the Project

7. Sustainability Principles #2 is one of four sustainability principles included in Section 25 of the Project's TISG as further elaborated on Section 9.7.





components are expected to be located within the preliminary 5 km wide study area, benefits (e.g., reduced environmental disturbance, avoidance of sensitive features, technical considerations, concerns received through consultation) for locating Project components on lands outside of the 5 km wide study area may become known during the IA / EA process. If the need to locate Project components outside the 5 km wide study area is determined to be required or of benefit to the Project, the study area would be adjusted.

Local Study Area and Regional Study Area

The study area for each environmental discipline may vary from the above-described general study area based on the potential for the Project to directly or indirectly affect each environmental discipline; therefore, discipline-specific LSAs and RSAs have been defined for the Project. In defining the final Land and Resource Use LSAs and RSAs, the MFFN CAR Project Team has and will consider the following, subject to available information:

- Location and other characteristics of the environmental discipline relative to the Project;
- The anticipated extent of the potential Project effects;
- Federal, provincial, regional and local government administrative boundaries;
- Indigenous groups listed in **Table 4-1**;
- Community knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge;
- Current or traditional land and resource use by Indigenous communities;
- Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Indigenous peoples, including cultural and spiritual practices;
- Physical, ecological, technical, social, health, economic and cultural considerations; and
- Environmental study areas for physical and bio-physical factors that impact the use of the land.

The study areas included in this document are preliminary, covering the extent to which readily available information suggests the Project may have noticeable effects on the environment. The size, nature and location of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects will be taken into consideration in the development of the cumulative effects assessment study area(s). The appropriate study area(s) to assess cumulative effects are dependent on the VCs predicted to have direct residual adverse effects as a result of the Project, and therefore, cannot be defined until the IS / EA Report has sufficiently advanced.

As further detailed in **Section 4**, the Proponent will continue to provide opportunities for neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons to provide input and inform the effects assessment, including the LSAs and RSAs.





6.2.2 Land and Resource Use Study Areas

The proposed Land and Resource Use LSA and RSA boundaries are detailed in **Table 6-1** and shown on **Figure 6-2**.

As currently defined, the Land and Resource Use study areas are intended to capture potential changes to natural environment, health, social and economic conditions that could directly or indirectly impact land and resource use considerations. It is noted that the extent of effects considered are varied and based on the type of land use. For example, industrial operators are not likely to be influenced by changing environmental conditions, while recreation and tourism experiences can be influenced by these conditions.

Projected changes to the environmental, health, social and economic conditions may alter study area boundaries and could result in corresponding non-negligible land and resource use impacts.

Indigenous communities and interested persons will be consulted on their interest, concern and perceptions regarding the potential for land and resource use impacts. Further, the Proponent remains open to receiving information from communities on their activities within the PDA and how interlinkages between the Project and those communities may result in land and resource use effects.

If there is rationale to alter study areas, the extents of the applicable study areas will be revised accordingly (i.e., if additional information is provided that warrants a community or land user groups inclusion in one of the Land and Resource Use LSAs, the specific Land and Resource Use LSA may be adjusted).

Alternatively, if requested, a community may be removed from the study area should the Project effects not be relevant to the community.

Study Areas and Effects Assessment

Considering the above description of study areas, a pathway analysis of potential land and resource use impacts will be completed. Land and Resource Use effects can be defined as changes to the indicators (**Section 9.2**) that can reasonably be expected to potentially exceed a negligible magnitude (**Section 9.6**). A negligible effect can be defined as an effect that may or may not be discernable but is within the expected natural variability of a community or land user group as defined by baseline conditions.

The Land and Resource Use RSAs will be the primary focus of cumulative effects. Considerations related to future mining activity or access to potential mining opportunities beyond the Extractive Industry LSA will be reflected in the Extractive Industry RSA.





Table 6-1: Land and Resource Use Study Areas

Valued Component	Study Area	Geographic Extent	Rationale
Land Use Compatibility	PDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of the PDA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use designations are only anticipated to be affected in cases where the direct Project footprint does not conform to the current land use designation. Therefore, there are no applicable LSA and RSAs for the land use compatibility VC.
	LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum boundary of the Atmospheric Environment, Acoustic and Vibration Environment, Surface Water, Vegetation, Fish and Fish Habitat and Wildlife LSAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project may affect the natural, cultural and recreational features within provincial parks and protected areas. This includes the extent to which physical and biophysical components of the environment may be affected.
	RSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum boundary of the Atmospheric Environment, Acoustic and Vibration Environment, Surface Water, Vegetation, Fish and Fish Habitat and Wildlife RSAs. 	
Recreation and Tourism	LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum boundary of the Atmospheric Environment, Acoustic and Vibration Environment, Surface Water, Vegetation, Fish and Fish Habitat and Wildlife LSAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project may alter recreation and tourism opportunities including access and use of land. Changes to the environmental conditions in the Project area may also impact other land uses near the Project site.
	RSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum boundary of the Atmospheric Environment, Acoustic and Vibration Environment, Surface Water, Vegetation, Fish and Fish Habitat and Wildlife RSAs. 	
Extraction Industry	LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes the PDA and a 5 km buffer from the PDA boundary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project may alter the land available and access to lands for extractive purposes.
	RSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economic RSA with the exception of the Province of Ontario, which includes the unorganized regional districts of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cochrane, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constance Lake First Nation • Fort Albany First Nation – Kenora, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attawapiskat First Nation • Eabametoong First Nation • Kasabonika First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area capturing the regional context for extractive developments including cumulative effects to the sector.





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Valued Component	Study Area	Geographic Extent	Rationale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kashechewan First Nation • Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug • Kingfisher Lake First Nation • MFFN • Mishkeegogamang First Nation • Neskantaga First Nation • Nibinamik First Nation • Wapekeka First Nation • Wawakapewin First Nation • Webequie First Nation • Weenusk First Nation • Wunnumin Lake First Nation – Thunder Bay, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation • Aroland First Nation • Ginoogaming First Nation • Long Lake #58 First Nation • Red Sky Independent Métis Nation • Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 2 	
Forestry Industry	LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Considers any Forestry Management Unit transected by the PDA or Forestry Management Unit intersected by a Caribou range transected by the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Project may alter the land available and access to lands for forestry purposes. The study area will also inform the cumulative context for forestry resource development and availability including access influencing forestry area activities.
	RSA		
Energy and Linear Infrastructure	LSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Includes the PDA and a 5 km buffer from the PDA boundary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Project may alter the land available and access to lands for energy and linear infrastructure purposes.
	RSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Economic RSA with the exception of the Province of Ontario, which includes the unorganized regional districts of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cochrane, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constance Lake First Nation • Fort Albany First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The area capturing the regional context for energy and linear infrastructure developments including cumulative effects to the sector.





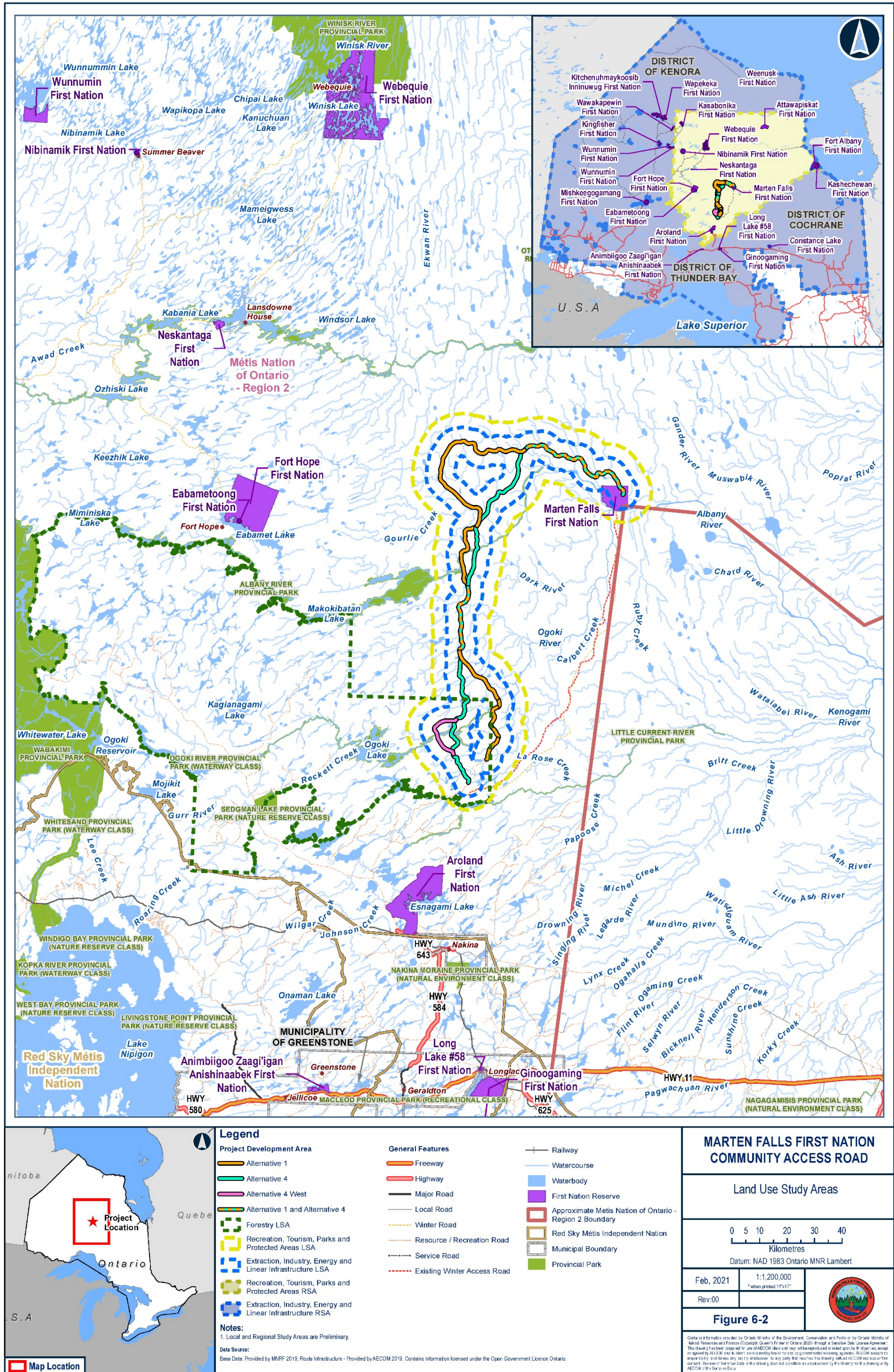
Valued Component	Study Area	Geographic Extent	Rationale
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Kenora, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attawapiskat First Nation • Eabametoong First Nation • Kasabonika First Nation • Kashechewan First Nation • Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug • Kingfisher Lake First Nation • MFFN • Mishkeegogamang First Nation • Neskantaga First Nation • Nibinamik First Nation • Wapekeka First Nation • Wawakapewin First Nation • Webequie First Nation • Weenusk First Nation • Wunnumin Lake First Nation – Thunder Bay, including the following Indigenous communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation • Aroland First Nation • Ginoogaming First Nation • Long Lake #58 First Nation • Red Sky Independent Métis Nation • Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Region 2 	

Notes: The Extraction Industry RSA and the Energy and Linear Infrastructure RSA is inclusive of all Indigenous communities identified in **Table 4-1**.





Figure 6-2: Land and Resource Use Local and Regional Study Areas





7. Baseline Study Design

7.1 Desktop Assessment

A desktop review of existing information sources will be completed to identify information gaps that will need to be addressed through further study possibly including primary data collection activities. A preliminary list of applicable information sources has been included in **Appendix A** and reflects federal and provincial guidance received to date. This Study Plan focuses on the additional studies that are anticipated to be required to gather information beyond what is currently available through existing information sources, including those as described in **Section 7.2** 'Sources of baseline information' in the Agency's TISG for this Project.

7.2 Baseline Data Collection

Data collected for the Land and Resource Use Assessment will be used to inform the impact assessment. Overall, data collection will be completed in support of the following objectives:

- Provide an understanding of the current state of each VC including relevant trends;
- Describe Land and Resource Use conditions including information relevant to identity, as applicable and as volunteered during the primary data program;
- Define access and ownership of land tenures including those for forestry, biophysical resource harvesting, mining and aggregate; and,
- Provide relevant historical background on Land and Resource Use for the applicable study area.

As previously noted, the Land and Resource Use Study Plan focuses on features of the environment such as parks, harvesting jurisdictions, trails, access points and industry tenure rights. As these features are agender and non-human, GBA+ principles will be integrated into the Land and Resource Use Assessment when information on land user groups is available, including demographics of typical users. Where applicable, efforts will be made to consider identity in reporting Land and Resource Use data. This may include defining gendered access and control for public entities.

These objectives will be reflected in the data collection processes and which data are included in the IS / EA Report. The purpose of the data collection will be to assess the impacts of the Project on Land and Resource Use and define mitigation measures which improve the Project and its impacts on Land and Resource Use.





The Land and Resource Use Assessment will examine Indigenous land use for non-traditional purposes, as it is anticipated that Indigenous communities will be the major land users in the study area. Indigenous communities identified in the **Table 4-1** may be engaged for the purposes of data collection related to Indigenous land use for non-traditional purposes. If required, the following potentially impacted groups and stakeholders identified in the Public Participation Plan may be engaged for the purposes of Land and Resource Use data collection:

- Canada Chrome Corporation;
- Greenstone District Trappers Council;
- KWG Resources Inc.;
- Leuenberger Air Service;
- Noront Resources Ltd.;
- Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters;
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters;
- Ontario Forest Industries Association;
- Wabassi Resources; and
- Wilderness North.

The following sections detail secondary and primary Land and Resource Use data collection methods.

7.2.1 Secondary Data Collection

Secondary source data will be collected on relevant Land and Resource Use activities within the Project area. The information will be collected for the purposes of assessing the effects of the Project on Land and Resource Use. The secondary data will be collected from (including example sources):

- Spatial databases
 - CANVEC, LIO
- Municipal, provincial and Indigenous government websites;
 - Provincial websites such as Ontario Parks and Protected Areas (Government of Ontario 2020);
- Municipal plans and reports;
 - Municipal plans such as Official Plans for Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina (Municipality of Greenstone n.d.);





- Provincial plans and reports;
 - Provincial plans such as the Provincial Policy Statement 2020 (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2020);
- Local service providers;
 - Local service providers such as those listed in Greenstone Resorts, Outfitters & Charters (Municipality of Greenstone 2014);
- Regional reports;
 - Regional Reports such as Remoteness Sells: A Report on Resource-Based Tourism in Northwestern Ontario (CPAWS Wildlands League & Ontario Nature 2005);
- Industry reports;
 - Industry reports such as North American Hunters in Northern Ontario (Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd. 2014);
- Academic research;
 - Academic research such as journal articles, dissertations and other relevant academic publications.
- Web-based sources such as firm websites; and,
- Previous relevant EAs.
 - Previous EAs such as the Hardrock Project Environmental Assessment (Greenstone Gold 2017).

Other secondary data sources publicly and readily available will also be considered and utilized as applicable. This will include sources identified in Appendix 1 of the TISG. With respect to GBA+, Land and Resource Use data collection will focus on features of the environment (e.g., parks, harvesting jurisdictions, trails, access points and industry tenure rights). As these features are agender and non-human, GBA+ data will not be considered. However, when data on land user groups is available, these data will be discussed with respect to GBA+, including demographics of typical users. When information on Land and Resource Use is obtained through general engagement or the Indigenous Knowledge Program, these data will be presented and analyzed considering GBA+ principles (**Section 4.3**).

7.2.2 Primary Data Collection

Primary data collection will involve the collection of qualitative data on Land and Resource Uses within the Land and Resource Use study areas, as defined in **Section 6.2**. The MFFN CAR Project Team will





undertake telephone and email interviews with relevant land users including applicable Indigenous communities and those who operate businesses, clubs / associations or have other interests related to Land and Resource Use within the relevant Land and Resource Use study areas. Questionnaires with land users will be designed to directly support the Land and Resource Use Baseline Study and will relate specifically to the stakeholders Land and Resource Use activities within the Land and Resource Use study areas.

The Land and Resource Use primary data collection program will be informed by the same objectives as the overall baseline data collection. However, the primary data collection program will have the added focuses of filling gaps identified in secondary data and informing further secondary data collection based on issue-specific items raised through primary data collection. It is also anticipated that the primary data collection undertaken as part of the Social and Economic disciplines and Indigenous Knowledge collection program may also inform components of the Land and Resource Use Assessment. This targeted data collection approach differs from the engagement activities outlined in the IS / EA Consultation Plan and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan.

The Land and Resource Use primary data collection program will select key knowledge holders to participate in the data collection program. The selection of participants will be informed by secondary data collection, lists of geospatial features in relevant study areas as well as information obtained through general engagement activities and the Indigenous Knowledge collection program. To attract participants, the MFFN CAR Project Team will email participants directly with relevant mapping and questions lists when soliciting their interest. If required, the MFFN CAR Project Team will conduct follow-up phone calls to the potential participants and answer any questions they may have.

7.3 Study Methods

The study methods that will be employed to characterize the Land and Resource Use baseline conditions include data collection, data analysis and qualitative and quantitative descriptions. The Land and Resource Use Assessment will be informed by academic literature, best practices in impact assessment and previous similar EAs and will include gathering local and agency knowledge and utilising inputs from consultation activities to analyze the concerns of interested and affected persons and communities related to the VCs and indicators.

Multiple sources of data, including primary, secondary, engagement and Indigenous Knowledge, will be utilized for the purposes of Land and Resource Use data collection. Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members in the Land and Resource Use LSAs and RSAs may be engaged regarding the





assessment of land and resources use impacts, the analysis of alternatives and the preparation of mitigation and monitoring plans.

Data collection methods are detailed in **Section 7.2**. The data collection process can be conceptualized as a matrix. For each indicator listed in **Section 9.2**, data collection attempts will be made targeting land users groups of interests (e.g., communities, subgroups within the community). The data collected will be tracked and assessed using this approach.

Data analysis will involve translating, processing and interpreting the Land and Resource Use data collected. Spatial data will be used to determine the extent of spatial displacement on the Land and Resource Use features caused by the Project. In addition, primary and secondary data collected will inform the qualitative and quantitative descriptions of Land and Resource Use VCs. The data analysis will be summarized and presented in the Land and Resource Use Assessment.

The qualitative and quantitative descriptions and spatial displacement calculations will provide the baseline information to characterize and inform the Land and Resource Use Assessment. To support GBA+ objectives, data used in the Land and Resource Use Assessment will include identity considerations (age, sex and other relevant factors), subject to data availability, and analyzed to understand differences in norms, roles and relations for diverse subgroups; the different level of power they hold; their differing needs, constraints and opportunities, and the effects of these differences in their lives related to the Land and Resource Use criteria and indicators. This approach provides a comprehensive and holistic background to consider and assess changes in a dynamic environment. These study methods are standard practices for Land and Resource Use impact assessments.

The scope of the Land and Resource Use baseline study will be tailored to the Project context and consider Indigenous community inputs and priorities. The scope of this study will be inclusive of the temporal and spatial boundaries identified in **Section 6.1** and **Section 6.2**. The Project phases and the Land and Resource Use LSAs and RSAs will inform data collection and data analysis.

The Land and Resource Use primary data collection is anticipated to be conducted in Q2-Q3 2021, however this timing is subject to change and dependent on the larger Project schedule, the timing of consultation and engagement activities and possible restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Other Land and Resource Use baseline study methods will occur throughout the IA / EA process.





8. Data Management and Analysis

Data management including quality assurance / quality control (QA / QC) will be employed to minimize potential for data entry and analysis errors, prepare data sets for analysis and limit sensitive data distribution in accordance to established agreements.

It is expected that there will be a multitude of data issues and limitations based on the Project area. This may include:

- Incomplete data sets for spatial features;
- Secondary data available on land use features including lack of sources and non-public / dated information sources; and,
- Lack of spatial usage data.

The above list is not comprehensive. It is anticipated that the MFFN CAR Project Team may encounter additional data issues and limitations. Data issues and limitations will be tracked for the duration of the Project and, when possible, addressed with supplementary sources of information. To address these issues, the MFFN CAR Project Team intends to reach out to government sources such as the provincial ministries to provide additional data on features such as parks and protected areas. Previous experience suggests these ministries retain newer, more detailed data on features such as parks and protected areas than published sources. The MFFN CAR Project Team will also address usage data issues by conducting targeted primary data collection.

The Land and Resource Use data collection program will involve a data verification component. Those that participate in Land and Resource Use data collection activities, including Indigenous community members, will have the opportunity to review, comment and discuss possible changes to the information presented in the Land and Resource Use baseline study report. When appropriate, Community Consultation Coordinators will also support and inform the data verification process. The data verification process will be clearly documented.





9. Effects Assessment

The following sections provide discipline-specific input and considerations as they pertain to the methodology for effects assessment. The Project is in the early stage of the IS / EA Report preparation and it is expected that the effects assessment methodology will be refined iteratively based on regulatory agency guidance, professional judgment and input received through the Project consultation and engagement process.

9.1 Project-Environment Interactions

The Project activities that may result in changes to the environment are described within the identified temporal and spatial boundaries. This includes identification of both direct and indirect changes by comparing the existing setting to the conditions anticipated to occur as a result of the Project. For each environmental discipline, the likely Project-environment interactions will be identified based on professional judgment, activities listed in TISG Section 3.2 as well as projects of similar magnitude and / or location.

A preliminary analysis of Project-environment interactions for the Land and Resource Use Assessment is provided in **Table 9-1** and will be confirmed during the IA / EA process to identify the Project-environment interactions that are likely to have a potential effect, and to identify measures to avoid or minimize potential negative effects and enhance benefits.

Table 9-1: Project – Environment Interactions

Project Phases	Project Activities	Land and Resource Use
Construction Phase	<i>Mobilization of Equipment and Supplies</i>	X
	<i>Temporary Construction Staging Areas¹</i>	X
	<i>Temporary Access Roads and Trails¹</i>	X
	<i>Temporary Construction Camps¹</i>	X
	<i>ROW Clearing and Grubbing</i>	X
	<i>Brush and Timber Disposal</i>	X
	<i>Pits and Quarries¹</i>	X
	<i>Drilling / Blasting / Aggregate Production</i>	X
	<i>Road Construction (stripping, subgrade excavation, embankment fill placement, grading, ditching)</i>	X
	<i>Bridge and Culvert Installation (approach embankments, foundations, substructures, superstructures, traffic protection, erosion controls)</i>	X
	<i>Construction Site Restoration</i>	X





Project Phases	Project Activities	Land and Resource Use
Construction Phase: Decommissioning	<i>Pits and Quarries</i>	X
	<i>Temporary Camps, Roads / Trails and Staging Areas</i>	X
Operations Phase	<i>Road Usage</i>	X
	<i>Maintenance²</i>	X

Notes: 1. Includes construction and use of.
 2. Includes General Maintenance (e.g., grading, erosion control, quarrying, borrow pits), Seasonal Maintenance (e.g., snow clearing, bridge and culvert maintenance), and Special Maintenance (e.g., slope failures, road settlement / break-up.).

9.2 Valued Components and Indicators

VCs are the environmental, health, social, economic or additional elements or conditions of the natural and human environment that may be impacted by a proposed project and are of concern or value to the public, Indigenous peoples, federal authorities and interested parties (the Agency 2020b). Indicators represent the resource, feature, or issue related to the VC that, if changed, may demonstrate an effect on the environment. The indicators and rationale for selection and measurement of potential effects, to be used to assess and evaluate the alternative routes and assess the overall effects of the Project in the IS / EA Report are provided in **Table 9-2**. The table includes both quantitative and qualitative indicators. The final list of VCs and indicators to be used in the IS / EA Report will be based on regulatory agency guidance, professional judgement and input received through the Project consultation and engagement processes.

The VCs for Land and Resource Use discipline have been determined through consideration of the following factors listed in the TISG⁸:

- VC presence in the study area;
- The extent to which the VC is linked to the interests or exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Indigenous peoples, and whether an Indigenous group has requested the VC;
- The extent to which the effects (real or perceived) of the Project and related activities have the potential to interact with the VC;
- The extent to which the VC may be under cumulative stress from other past, existing or future undertakings in combination with other human activities and natural processes;

8. The TISG also states that information from ongoing and completed regional assessments in the proposed area of the Project should be used to inform VCs for the Project. In February 2020 a regional assessment of the Ring of Fire region commenced; however, it is not sufficiently advanced at this time to inform the Project VCs. The VCs will be consulted and engaged on early in the IA/ EA process and finalized taking into consideration the input received. Therefore, only information relevant to the Project that arises from the regional assessment of the Ring of Fire within an appropriate timeline will inform the VCs for the Project.





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- The extent to which the VC is linked to federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government priorities (e.g., legislation, programs, policies);
- The possibility that adverse or positive effects on the VC would be of particular concern to Indigenous groups, the public, or federal, provincial, territorial, municipal or Indigenous governments; and,
- Whether the potential effects of the Project on the VC can be measured and / or monitored or would be better ascertained through the analysis of a proxy VC.

Inputs received to date from Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons through the Consultation and Engagement Program, including inputs received on the Draft ToR, have also been used to inform the selection of the VCs and indicators for the Land and Resource Use discipline.

The Land and Resource Use Assessment will draw on other impact assessments completed for this Project to ascertain effects to environmental conditions, which is a proxy for perceived quality, with respect to the nature of the activity and the expectations for that activity when utilizing the land.

Specific to parks and protected areas, effects are evaluated against the preservation of natural, cultural and recreational values which aligns with the value for which these areas are regulated. This approach aligns with other recent EAs undertaken for linear projects in northwest Ontario.





Table 9-2: Land and Resource Use Indicators

Valued Component	Indicator	Sub-Indicator	Rationale for Selection	Information Sources
Land Use Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use compatibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binary alignment with established planning policy requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project should be compatible with existing land use designations within the PDA as much as possible. Alternatively, amendment processes will be noted and addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); Land use plans (municipal, regional, provincial and federal); and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provincial Policy Statement 2020 (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 2020); – Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry 2011); – Official Plans for Beardmore, Geraldton, Nakina and Longlac (Municipality of Greenstone n.d.). Community-based land use planning; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marten Falls Community Based Land Use Plan Terms of Reference (MNRF 2019b);
Parks and Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural, Cultural and recreational Values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to features and environmental conditions supporting natural values Change to features and environmental conditions supporting cultural values Change to features and environmental conditions supporting recreational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial parks, Dedicated Protected Areas and protected areas are regulated in Ontario for their preservation of these values. Consideration of potentially effected values will include physical, social and natural science considerations in relation to these values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Indigenous government information; Spatial Data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); Provincial reports and plans; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ontario Parks and Protected Areas (MECP 2020); Community-based land use planning; and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marten Falls Community Based Land Use Plan Terms of Reference (MNRF 2019b). Atmospheric Environment Study Plan, Acoustic and Vibration Environment Study Plan, Surface Water Study Plan, Vegetation Study Plan, Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan, Wildlife Study Plan, Visual Environment Study Plan.





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Valued Component	Indicator	Sub-Indicator	Rationale for Selection	Information Sources
Recreation and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and waterway disruption and access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to access to land utilized for tourism and / or recreation Disruption (temporary or permanent) of lands used for recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation and tourism are important for community well-being and economic opportunity within the Project area. The Project has the potential to disrupt existing recreation and tourism land and waterway uses and generate new access opportunities within the Project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marten Falls First Nation Community Profile (Matawa 2014); Industry and regional reports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-based Tourism (MNRF 2019); – Remoteness Sells: A Report on Resource-Based Tourism in Northwestern Ontario (CPAWS Wildlands League & Ontario Nature 2005); Interest group information; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Greenstone Resorts, Outfitters and Charters (Municipality of Greenstone 2014); Web-based data; Academic research; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Effects of Road Quality and Other Factors on Water-Based Recreation Demand in Northern Ontario (Hunt and Dyck 2011); Atmospheric Environment Study Plan, Acoustic and Vibration Environment Study Plan, Surface Water Study Plan, Vegetation Study Plan, Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan, Wildlife Study Plan, Visual Environment Study Plan; and, Indigenous Knowledge Program.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to environmental conditions including Atmospheric Environment, Acoustic Environment, Surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation and tourism relies on a distinct environmental setting including a remote and wilderness character. The Project may change the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b);





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Valued Component	Indicator	Sub-Indicator	Rationale for Selection	Information Sources
		Water, Vegetation, Fish and Fish Habitat, Wildlife and Visual Aesthetics	environmental conditions in recreation and tourism areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marten Falls First Nation Community Profile (Matawa 2014); ■ Industry and regional reports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-based Tourism (MNRF 2019); – Remoteness Sells: A Report on Resource-Based Tourism in Northwestern Ontario (CPAWS Wildlands League & Ontario Nature 2005); ■ Interest group information; ■ Web-based data; ■ Academic research; and, ■ Atmospheric Environment Study Plan, Acoustic and Vibration Environment Study Plan, Surface Water Study Plan, Vegetation Study Plan, Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan, Wildlife Study Plan, Visual Environment Study Plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Resource availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Change to target species, including species identified in the Fish and Fish Habitat and Wildlife Study Plans ■ Change to the habitat for those species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Many recreation and tourism activities involve resource harvesting such as fishing, trapping and hunting. Changes to the availability of target species may impact the recreation and tourism environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; ■ Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); ■ Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; ■ Industry and regional reports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – North American Hunters in Northern Ontario (Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd. 2014); ■ Interest group information; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Anglers in Northern Ontario (RTO13): A Situation Analysis (Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd. 2015); ■ Web-based data; ■ Academic research; and,





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Valued Component	Indicator	Sub-Indicator	Rationale for Selection	Information Sources
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atmospheric Environment Study Plan, Acoustic and Vibration Environment Study Plan, Surface Water Study Plan, Vegetation Study Plan, Fish and Fish Habitat Study Plan, Wildlife Study Plan, Visual Environment Study Plan.
Extractive Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to access to extractive land features Change to use of extractive lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project has the potential to physically remove land areas with the potential for extraction activities. In addition, changes to land use near the Project may alter access to existing extractive features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNR 2020b); Provincial and federal reports; Industry and regional reports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mining Readiness Strategy: An Integrated Regional Economic Development Plan (Advantage Northwest 2013); – Mining in Northwestern Ontario – Opportunities and Challenges (Ambassador’s Northwest 2012); Interest group information; Web-based data; and, Academic research.
Forestry Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to access to forestry lands Change to use of forestry lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry has an important role in the northern Ontario economy and requires the use of large areas of land with planning considerations. The Project has the potential to physically remove land areas with the potential for forestry. In addition, changes to land use near the Project may alter access to existing forestry features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land Information Ontario Database (MNR 2020b); Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forest Management – The Ogoki Forest (Agoke Development Corporation n.d.); Industry and regional reports and plans; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Forestry Management Planning (MNR 2020c); Web-based data; and Academic research.





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Valued Component	Indicator	Sub-Indicator	Rationale for Selection	Information Sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect disruption to forestry activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to access of forestry area due to caribou habitat fragmentation Change to use of forestry area due to habitat fragmentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruptions to caribou habitat may change forest harvesting opportunities within FMUs as caribou habitat continuity is a key consideration in forest harvest planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Management Planning (MNRF 2020c); Forest Management – The Ogoki Forest (Agoke Development Corporation n.d.); Industry and regional reports and plans; Web-based data; Academic research; and, Other impact assessments such as the Wildlife IA.
Energy and Linear Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change to access to lands for energy or linear infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project has the potential to physically remove land areas with the potential for energy infrastructure or existing linear infrastructure activities. In addition, changes to land use near the Project may alter access to existing features. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to secondary data gap analysis, primary data may be collected, including questionnaires; Spatial data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Information Ontario Database (MNRF 2020b); Indigenous and Municipal government plans, reports and web-based data; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Nations Energy Inc. Fort Albany and Kashechewan (Five Nations 2012) Industry and regional reports; Provincial and federal plans and reports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term Energy Plan, 2017 (Energy Ontario 2017); Local service providers; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote Community Connection Plan (IESO 2020); Web-based data; and Academic research.





9.3 Potential Effects

A direct effect occurs through the direct interaction of an activity with an environmental discipline. The Project-environment interactions currently anticipated, based upon preliminary analysis, to result in direct effects to the Land and Resource Use discipline have been identified in **Table 9-1**. The potential direct effects resulting from the Project-environment interactions will be confirmed during the IA / EA process and will be based on input received through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and Consultation and Engagement Program, regulatory agency guidance and professional judgement.

An indirect effect occurs when a change to one environmental discipline resulting from a Project activity causes a change to another environmental discipline (e.g., changes in environmental quality could indirectly affect use of recreation areas / features). **Table 9-3** provides a preliminary identification of how the Land and Resource Use discipline VCs may be affected by changes to other environmental disciplines.





Table 9-3: Potential Discipline Interactions

Discipline and Associated Valued Components	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests	Atmospheric Environment	Acoustic and Vibration Environment	Physiography, Geology, Terrain and Soils	Surface Water	Groundwater and Geochemistry	Vegetation	Wildlife	Fish and Fish Habitat	Social	Economy	Land and Resource Use	Human Health and Community Safety	Visual Aesthetics	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
Land and Resource Use ■ Land Use Compatibility ■ Parks and Protected Areas ■ Extractive Industries ■ Forest Industries ■ Energy and Linear Infrastructure ■ Recreation and Tourism	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X

Notes: X = Potential pathway for indirect effect as a result of the Project.
 - = No pathway for indirect effect is anticipated as a result of the Project.





9.4 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Once potential effects have been identified, the effects assessment will explore technically and economically feasible mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the identified negative effects and enhancement measures to increase positive effects beyond those that are already inherent to the design. These measures will consist of industry-standard practices, federal and provincial standard specifications, regulator-mandated measures, best management practices, Indigenous and community recommendations and recommendations from industry and environmental professionals based on expertise, scientific publications, experience and judgement.

It is important that mitigation and enhancement measures are achievable, measurable and verifiable and monitored for compliance and effectiveness during all temporal phases as part of the Project follow-up monitoring plan. Required environmental monitoring will verify the potential environmental effects predicted in the IS / EA Report, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement measures, and identify the process the Proponent will follow if mitigation and enhancement measures are not effective.

It should be noted that many land use mitigation measures will draw on mitigation measures for other disciplines, such as for noise and air quality as they will influence the use of land and waterways.

9.4.1 TISG Section 20 Requirements

The following provides a response to the fulfillment of TISG Section 20 requirements.

Item #	TISG Section 20 Requirement	Response
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe mitigation measures that are specific to each environmental, health, social or economic effect identified. Mitigation measures are to be written as specific commitments that clearly describe when and how the proponent intends to implement them, what decision-making criteria will be used, and the outcome these mitigation measure are designed to address; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land and Resource Use Assessment will include a description of applicable mitigation measures deemed to be required subject to the results of the IA / EA.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe mitigation measures that are specific to identified effects to Indigenous peoples; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land and Resource Use Assessment will include a description of applicable mitigation measures deemed to be required subject to the results of the IA / EA, including measures that may be specific to Indigenous people.





Item #	TISG Section 20 Requirement	Response
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe mitigation measures proposed by Indigenous peoples and the consideration of those in the Project; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land and Resource Use Assessment will include a description of applicable mitigation measures deemed to be required subject to the results of the IA / EA, including measures that may be specific to Indigenous people including measures that may have been suggested by Indigenous people.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose differentiated mitigation measures for all potential adverse effects identified, if applicable, so that adverse effects do not fall disproportionately on vulnerable populations, certain Indigenous groups, or certain communities, and they are not disadvantaged in sharing any development benefits and opportunities resulting from the Project. These mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with those who are vulnerable and / or disadvantaged; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of applicable mitigation measures will take into account identified potential impacts on vulnerable populations and developed with the input of interested persons from those vulnerable populations.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how disproportionate effects that were identified in the GBA+ results were used to inform mitigation and enhancement measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land and Resource Use Assessment will describe identified disproportionate effects to sub-populations.

9.5 Residual Effects

Residual effects are the effects remaining after the application of mitigation measures. The IS / EA Report will describe in detail the potential adverse and positive residual effects in relation to each temporal phase of the Project (e.g., construction, operation). Residual effects will be described using criteria to quantify or qualify adverse and positive effects, taking into account any important contextual factors. The residual effects will therefore be described in terms of the direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, likelihood, and whether effects are reversible or irreversible⁹. Ecological and socio-economic context may also be relevant when describing a residual effect. Context relates to the existing setting, its level of disturbance and resilience to adverse effects. Context can also relate to timing as it applies to assessing the worst-case scenario (e.g., effect during migratory or calving season for wildlife). Where appropriate, information regarding residual effects will be disaggregated by sex, gender, age and other community relevant identifying factors to identify disproportionate residual effects for diverse subgroups.

For magnitude, Land and Resource Use-specific definitions are required and are proposed below in **Table 9-4**.

9. TISG Section 13.1 identifies additional effects characteristics for certain disciplines (e.g., wetlands, birds, terrestrial wildlife, species at risk). These additional effects characteristics are described in the respective discipline-specific study plans.





Table 9-4: Land and Resource Use Magnitude Definition

Magnitude Level	Definition	Rationale
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect that may or may not be discernible but is within the historical variability as defined by baseline conditions. The effect is within the capacity of the Land and Resource Use system to respond and / or will not alter the current Land and Resource Use structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negligible effects are small and may not be noticeable. These effects do not represent a change in day-to-day Land and Resource Use.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect that is small but discernible and within historical variability as defined by baseline conditions. The effect is within the capacity of the Land and Resource Use system to respond and / or will not alter the current Land and Resource Use structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low effects are noticeable to some land and resource users. These effects do not represent a change in day-to-day activities.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect that is clearly discernible and beyond the historical variability as defined by baseline conditions. The effect is within the capacity of the Land and Resource Use system to respond and / or will not alter the current Land and Resource Use structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium effects are noticeable to some land users. These effects may or may not represent a change to day-to-day activities but can be adjusted to within the current Land and Resource Use system.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect that is clearly discernible and beyond the historical variability as defined by baseline conditions. The effect is beyond the capacity of the Land and Resource Use system to respond and / or will alter the current Land and Resource Use structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High effects are noticeable to land and resource users. These effects represent a change to day-to-day land use. In the case of adverse effects, these changes cannot be responded to within the current land and resource system resulting in systemic change.

9.6 Consideration of Sustainability Principles

The following provides a generic description of how sustainability principles will be considered in the effects assessment. The extent to which sustainability principles apply to a specific VC will vary depending on the nature of the VC and the potential for Project effects on the VC. The effects assessment approach for the Project has included the consideration of the sustainability principles outlined in the Project TISG and the Agency’s guidance on sustainability. The sustainability principles that have been considered include:

1. Consider the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems;
2. Consider the well-being of present and future generations;
3. Consider positive effects and reduce adverse effects of the Project; and
4. Apply the precautionary principle by considering uncertainty and risk of irreversible harm.





The interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems will be considered through the assessment of potential indirect effects of each alternative. An indirect effect occurs when a change to one environmental discipline resulting from a Project activity causes a change to another environmental discipline (e.g., changes in vegetation could indirectly affect wildlife). A preliminary assessment of indirect effects has been included in **Section 9.3**.

The well-being of present and future generations will be considered in the effects assessment through the application of the long-term operations phase temporal boundary of 75 years (**Section 6.1**) and through the effects characteristics description of duration and reversibility for each residual effect predicted.

The consideration of positive effects and reducing adverse effects of the Project is fundamental to the effects assessment methodology through the identification of mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse effects and the identification of the preferred alternative through the evaluation of advantages (e.g., positive effects) and disadvantages (e.g., adverse effects).

The effects assessment will apply the precautionary principle by clearly describing and documenting all uncertainties and assumptions underpinning the analysis and identifying information sources. The effects assessment will consider risk of irreversible harm through the effects characteristics description of reversibility for each residual effect predicted and will describe any uncertainty associated with the assessment of residual effects.

The scope of the sustainability assessment will be defined by issues of importance identified by Indigenous communities and interested persons through consultation and engagement activities, while also ensuring to be inclusive of the diversity of views expressed. The selection of VCs that will be the focus of the sustainability assessment will be aligned with the issues of importance identified by Indigenous communities and interested persons, as well as residual effects identified through the effects assessment process. The sustainability assessment will describe how the planning and design of the Project, in all phases including follow-up monitoring, considered the sustainability principles.

9.7 Consideration of Identity and Gender-Based Analysis Plus in Effects Assessment

The Proponent recognizes that communities and sub-populations within those communities may be impacted differently by the Project with respect to VCs and indicators. As such, the Project aims to collect baseline information for the purpose of assessing differential effects and establishing relevant mitigation measures, as further elaborated on in **Section 4.3**. GBA+ will not be limited to community feedback, when





offered or discussed in secondary texts, additional sub-population information as is applicable to the relevant assessment will be incorporated.

As noted in **Sections 7.2 and 7.3**, GBA+ will be integrated throughout the Land and Resource Use Assessment. This analysis will be derived from our matrix-based approach for baseline data collection, which will be foundational to understanding and assessing the differential effects to sub-populations.

9.8 Follow-up Programs

A follow-up program verifies the accuracy of the effects assessment and evaluates the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Section 26 of the TISGs do not specifically outline required Land and Resource Use related monitoring activities that are to be included, other than the tracking of issues that would be the responsibility of overall Project engagement and consultation activities. The identification of follow-up programs for the Project are not described in this Study Plan as the information needed to determine monitoring requirements is dependent on the outcome of the impact assessment and on the results of consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons. Therefore, the Proponent will include information on follow-up programs, that address the requirements outlined in Section 26 of the TISG, in the IS / EA Report and will identify the compliance and effects monitoring activities to be undertaken during all phases of the Project, as required.

Based on the results of the Land and Resource Use Assessment work, follow-up program recommendations will be made subject to their applicability and necessity. These programs may be targeted to specific land and resource users and / or specific adverse effects and / or potential positive effects of the Project.





10. Assumptions

The MFFN CAR Project Team is not aware at this time of key assumptions that will be recognized in the Land and Resource Use Assessment. These will be determined during the IA / EA process. Key assumptions made and used in the assessment of Land and Resource Use impacts will be documented in the IS / EA Report.





11. Concordance with Federal and Provincial Guidance

This section provides the best information currently available on how federal and provincial requirements identified for the Project to date will be addressed. **Table 11-1** outlines how the Land and Resource Use Assessment will confirm with the TISG. Presented in **Table 11-2** are the comments received on the draft Provincial Terms of Reference that relate to the Land and Resource Use Assessment.

The final concordance with federal and provincial requirements will be included in the IS / EA Report, and will be based on regulatory agency guidance, professional judgement and input received through the Project consultation and engagement process.

At this time, the Proponent has not identified any TISG requirements applicable to the Land and Resource Use Assessment that it requests a deviation from.





Table 11-1: Study Plan Federal Concordance – Conformance with Requirements

ID #	Federal TISG Reference ¹⁰	Requirement / Comment / Concern	Response	Study Plan Reference
1	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline information is required on existing social conditions and must include social well-being and social activities for all potentially impacted local communities, including municipalities, and Indigenous groups. The scope and content of the social baseline conditions should be tailored to the specific project context, take into account community and Indigenous input and priorities, and should include indicators and information that are useful and meaningful for the effects analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline information will be provided within the Land and Resource Use Assessment as it relates to land and resource uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.0
2	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any relevant indicators and how Indigenous knowledge and engagement contributed to defining them; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria and indicators have been developed and will be refined based on Indigenous Knowledge and engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.2
3	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sufficient to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current state of each valued component, including relevant trends; Describe how community and Indigenous knowledge was used in establishing social baseline conditions, including input from diverse subgroups; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A current state including relevant trends will be prepared as part of existing conditions with respect to the Land and Resource Use Study Areas. These existing conditions will consider engagement and Indigenous Knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.2 Section 5.0 Section 7.0
4	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, ownership and use of resources (e.g., land tenure, forestry, minerals, aggregate, food, water, social infrastructure, current road systems and seasonal roads), including ownership of land surrounding water crossings; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and ownership of land tenure, forestry, minerals and aggregate will be provided with respect to the Land and Resource Use Study Areas. Road infrastructure will be described similarly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.0
5	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to and control over resources from a gender perspective (e.g., information, knowledge and services); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When applicable and available, resource control and access will be described from a gendered perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.0
6	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant historical community background and applicable history with previous developers, including historical and recent proponents of mineral and other natural resource exploration and development projects and aspirations for future social and economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant historical information will be included as part of existing conditions and considered in the assessment. Goals will also be described as indicated through written documents and engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.0
7	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the current use of land and water bodies in the study area for outdoor recreational and teaching purposes, including youth recreation, recreational hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on recreation activities will be provided as part of existing conditions consistent with the criteria and indicators. This will include information on recreational hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering such as traplines, seasons, designations and other information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7.0 Section 9.2
8	Section 10 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing navigable waterways and navigation use including type, volume, seasonality, manoeuvrability, and physical characteristics (e.g., width, depth, etc.), bank/bottom features, biological components, flow/tides, etc.; describe past, current, and anticipated future use of all waterways and waterbodies, including recreational uses by Indigenous groups and the public (including special events, fishing, cottagers, etc.); describe the use of water-ways with Indigenous cultural importance (e.g., Albany River, Ogoki River and Attawapiskat Rivers); and potential of obstructions, restrictions, or expansions of access to navigable waterways (e.g., portage routes and access roads). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the biophysical nature of waterways will be included in relevant biophysical reports such as the Surface Water Assessment. Descriptions on the current, planned future and historical use of waterways, including land ownership at crossings will be described in the Land and Resource Use Assessment. This will include recreational events, uses by Indigenous persons and cultural importance. Project-related or existing obstructions, restrictions and expansions of navigable waterways will be described consistent with information available. This will include portage routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface Water Study Plan Section 7.0 Section 9.2
9	Section 17.2 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe predicted effects to recreation (e.g., hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, aesthetic enjoyment) by the community and Indigenous groups, and youth within these communities, including effects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to the resources; quantity and quality of the resources; and overall experience when undertaking recreational activities, including noise, odours/air quality, and effects on visual landscapes. describe effects to community well-being due to changes to viewsapes and soundscapes resulting from the Project; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Land and Resource Use Assessment will consider potential effects to all listed items with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to community well-being due to changes in Land and Resource Use will be addressed in the Social Assessment. Changes to environmental conditions will be considered as a proxy for quality with the assumption that changes in the environmental conditions may impact the quality of the experience for some users based on their expectations for the experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2 Social Study Plan

10. Federal TISG Reference should be the Section or subsection, page etc. that clearly identifies where comment/issue we are addressing can be found (ex. Section 8.1 of TISG)





ID #	Federal TISG Reference ¹⁰	Requirement / Comment / Concern	Response	Study Plan Reference
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe the potential interactions of the Project with local and regional land use and resource activities, including adverse and positive effects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transportation, utilities and communication corridors (including community airports and winter roads); • residential land use; • forestry and logging operations; • mining operations; • mineral exploration activities; • commercial outfitters; • land use for traditional purposes; and • agriculture and other land uses. ■ Identify predicted effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of ground or surface water and implications for recreational uses. 		
10	Section 17.3 of the TISG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe effects to navigable waterways, including to physical characteristics (e.g., width, depth, etc.), bank/bottom features, biological components, flow/tides, etc.; - describe ancillary project components that will be constructed in, on, under, over, through or across navigable waterways to support the Project; - describe potentially affected waterway users and describe consultation with waterway users and Indigenous groups regarding navigational use, issues raised and how issues were addressed; and - describe project effects to navigation and navigation safety, including potential obstructions to navigation (natural/man-made, other works, navigation aids, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Land and Resource Use Assessment will consider potential effects to all listed items with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes to physical characteristics will be considered in the Surface Water Assessment. The effects of these changes on use will be considered within the Land and Resource Use Assessment. - The use of waterways for traditional purposes will be covered under the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 5.0 ■ Section 7.0 ■ Section 9.0 ■ Surface Water Study Plan ■ Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan





Table 11-2: Study Plan Draft ToR Provincial Concordance – Conformance with Requirements

ID #	Comment from Regulatory Agency	Requirement / Comment / Concern	Response	Study Plan Reference
1	Draft ToR Comment MECP (ID# 163)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Planning: The Municipality of Greenstone is the closest organized municipal area to the proposed undertaking. The City of Thunder Bay is the closest major centre. The TOR indicates that both municipalities will be consulted during the process. This is appropriate, however, the distance between the location of the undertaking and the borders of these municipal areas is substantial, making it unlikely that the undertaking would negatively impact policies and direction as outline in their Official Plans. Northern Region EA/Planning is not aware of any conflicts between the direction in the Official Plans for these municipalities and the proposed undertaking that correspond with MECP's mandated areas of concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing land use designations will be considered within the IA/EA as they are not limited to municipal land designations but also include Indigenous community, provincial and federal designations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2
2	Draft ToR Comment Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries (ID# 302)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Effects on Recreation and Tourism Changes to recreational and commercial lands used for trapping hunting, fishing and other activities. The project could also result in a loss of economic activity due to access related impacts for those businesses that rely on remoteness for their product. That loss should also be highlighted as a potential effect. The interview process will identify whether tourism operators are concerned in this regard. There is also a potential for noise impacts, particularly at the construction stage, if accommodations (sensitive uses) are within the area of influence. The CAR will provide year-round access to the Far North, which is likely to increase access for recreational use. " 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to economic activity will be considered in the IA/EA under the regional economy VC/criterion, which will include tourism. Changes to access will be considered in the assessment of effects to land and resource use activities. MFFN acknowledge and will consider that negative effects to commercial operators may include loss of economic activity. Changes to noise levels will be considered as will potential effects on air quality, fish and fish habitat, and wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2 Economic Study Plan
3	Draft ToR Comment Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries (ID# 303)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAR will provide year-round access to the Far North, which is likely to increase access for recreational use. As noted earlier, potential impacts on remoteness are noted in Section 2.1.8.4 of the Draft Alternatives Development supporting document. This acknowledgement should be reflected in the final ToR as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerations of remoteness are reflective of how changes to environmental conditions are perceived by land users. The Land and Resource Use Assessment in the IA/EA will consider changes to environmental conditions and will describe how these changes may influence land use and the character of the region within the IA/EA study areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2
4	Draft ToR Comment Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (ID# 454)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Sec. 7.1.4.12 pg.42 "Approximately ten tourism operators have been identified as potentially having overlapping operating areas within 2.5km of the centreline of each alternative route". The EA will need to evaluate the impacts of the proposed CAR related to these businesses. " 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects to tourism establishments will be considered in the IA/EA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2
5	Draft ToR Comment Long Lake First Nation (ID# 554)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism opportunities: LL58 understands that increased traffic in LL58's homelands in the future will result in increased tourism opportunities for LL58 businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New tourism opportunities will be considered with respect to the appropriate study areas (Economic or Land and Resource Use). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9.2





12. References

AECOM Canada Ltd., 2020:

Marten Falls First Nation Proposed Terms of Reference Marten Falls Community Access Road – Environmental Assessment, Appendix B: Consultation & Engagement Plan to Support the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement.

Agoke Development Corporation, n.d.:

Forest Management – The Ogoki Forest. <https://www.agokedevcorp.ca/forest-management>

Ambassador's Northwest, 2012:

Mining in Northwestern Ontario – Opportunities and Challenges.

<http://www.thunderbayventures.com/upload/documents/mining-in-northwestern-ontario.pdf>

CPAWS Wildlands League & Ontario Nature, 2005:

Remoteness Sells: A Report on Resource-Based Tourism in Northwestern Ontario.

https://ontarionature.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/remoteness_sells.pdf

Five Nations, 2012:

Five Nations Energy Inc. Fort Albany and Kashechewan.

<https://www.fivenations.ca/index.php/community/fort-albany-and-kashechewan>

Hunt, L.M. and A. Dyck, 2011:

The Effects of Road Quality and Other Factors on Water-Based Recreation Demand in Northern Ontario, Canada, *Forest Science* 57(4), August 2011, Pages 281–291,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/forestscience/57.4.281>

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2019:

Impact Assessment Act. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/l-2.75/>

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2020:

Public Participation Plan for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment.

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Indigenous Partnership and Engagement Plan for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project Impact Assessment. <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80184/133936E.pdf>

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2020b:

Glossary of Terms for the impact assessment of designated projects under the IAA.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/glossary-of-terms.html>

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, 2020c:

Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project.

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p80184/133937E.pdf>

IESO, 2014:

Remote Community Connection Plan. <http://www.ieso.ca/Get-Involved/Regional-Planning/Northwest-Ontario/Remote-Community-Connection-Plan>

Matawa, 2014:

Marten Falls First Nation: Community Profile: http://community.matawa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CULPOR_Marten-Falls_Profile.pdf.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), 2020:

Ontario Parks and Protected Areas. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-parks-and-protected-areas#section-4>

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019a:

Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-based

Tourism. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/management-guidelines-forestry-and-resource-based-tourism>

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019b:

Marten Falls Community Based Land Use Plan Terms of Reference

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/marten-falls-community-based-land-use-plan-terms-reference>

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020a:

Fisheries Management Zone 2. <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-2>





Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020b:

Land Information Ontario Database. <https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/>

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020c:

Forest Management Planning. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-management-planning>

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, 2011:

Growth Plan for Northern Ontario. <https://www.ontario.ca/document/growth-plan-northern-ontario>

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Ontario Government, 1990a:

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Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd., 2015:

Anglers in Northern Ontario (RTO13): A Situation Analysis. https://destinationnorthernontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/rto13_anglers_summary_june_18_2015.pdf?utm_source=sootoday.com&utm_campaign=sootoday.com&utm_medium=referral

Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd., 2014:

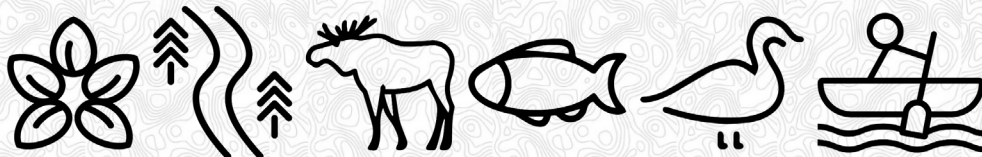
North American Hunters in Northern Ontario <https://destinationnorthernontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/RTO13-Hunting-Report-Final-Feb-2010.pdf>





Appendix A

Preliminary List of Data Sources





Agoke Development Corporation. n.d.:

Forest Management – The Ogoki Forest. <https://www.agokedevcorp.ca/forest-management>

Ambassador's Northwest, 2012:

Mining in Northwestern Ontario – Opportunities and Challenges.

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/forestscience/57.4.281>

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019a:

Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-based

Tourism. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/management-guidelines-forestry-and-resource-based-tourism>





MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Land and Resource Use Study Plan

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<https://www.ontario.ca/page/marten-falls-community-based-land-use-plan-terms-reference>

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Fisheries Management Zone 2. <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-2>

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Municipality of Greenstone, n.d.:

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Research Resolution and Consulting Ltd., 2014:

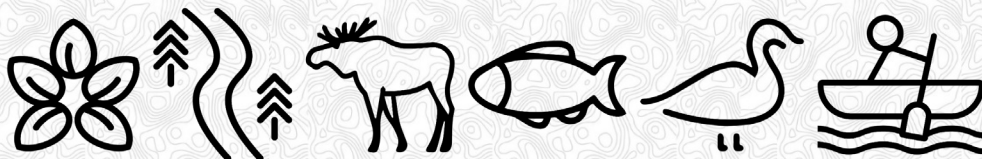
North American Hunters in Northern Ontario <https://destinationnorthernontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/RTO13-Hunting-Report-Final-Feb-2010.pdf>





Appendix B

Agency Comments on the Draft Study Plan





Comment # / Ref #	DRAFT Study Plan Section	TISG Section	Comment / Context	Action Item	Final Response	Study Plan Reference
General Comment	General Comment	■ N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In addition to the required actions detailed below, other required actions to be addressed in the update to this study plan are detailed in a separate table titled “2020-07-02 – IAAC to MFFN - General Comments on MFCAR Draft Study Plans”. The Agency has provided these other required actions to highlight common sections of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) where requirements were not met in the draft study plans submitted to the Agency. These additional actions must be addressed in the updated study plans. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We have reviewed the relevant comments and incorporated where appropriate. Please refer to the General Comments Table Response submitted separately to the Agency for specific responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Various Sections
1	Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sections 10 and 17 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 2 of the study plan states that the plan focuses on the use of land and resources for Indigenous non-traditional purposes. ■ According to Sections 10 and 17 of the Guidelines, social baseline data should not limit data collection to Indigenous people but should also engage with potentially impacted community groups and municipalities. The Agency expects the proponent to engage the stakeholders identified in the Public Participation Plan (PPP). ■ It is unclear whether, and how, the study plan will meet the requirements of Sections 10 and 17 of the Guidelines with regard to non-Indigenous land and resource use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update the study plan to reflect the requirements of Sections 10 and 17 of the Guidelines regarding non-Indigenous land and resources use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 4 of the study plan outlines consultation and engagement activities to support the Land and Resource Use Assessment. Section 7.2 provides a list of public interest groups that are expected to be engaged with for data collection purposes related to Land and Resource Use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 4 ■ Section 7.2
2	Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 6.2 of the Guidelines; Refer to the comment for changes according to this section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 3 of the study plan states that “Due to sensitivities regarding these data, it is not expected a table similar to Table 1 will be provided. Instead, Indigenous Knowledge collected through means other than engagement (Indigenous Knowledge program and Socio-economic Primary Data Collection program) will be integrated into the reporting with relevant contextual information provided at a level of detail consistent with the confidentiality requested by participants.” ■ Section 6.2 of the Guidelines states that the proponent is required to describe the type of confidential information provided by each Indigenous group without compromising stipulations in the confidentiality agreements and state how that information impacted the project design, baseline data, effects assessment or mitigation measures. The proponent is required to provide evidence to the Agency in the form of a letter from the Indigenous group that provided confidential information confirming that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Indigenous group that provided confidential information is satisfied with the way the Impact Statement was informed; – the Indigenous group that provided confidential information is satisfied with the way the issue was solved or addressed. ■ It is unclear how the approach proposed in the study plan will meet the requirements of Section 6.2 of the Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update the study plan to reflect how the requirements of Section 6.2 of the Guidelines will be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 5 of the Study Plan describes how Indigenous Knowledge will be collected and considered in the IS / EA for the Project. Section 2.1 has additional information on the Project’s approach to handling confidential information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 2.1 ■ Section 5





Comment # / Ref #	DRAFT Study Plan Section	TISG Section	Comment / Context	Action Item	Final Response	Study Plan Reference
3	Sections 3 and 4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 6.2 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More detail is required on the methodology of baseline information collection for the Agency and federal experts to understand the work that the proponent is planning to undertake. Sections 3 and 4.1 identify Indigenous knowledge as a source of information for baseline data, where provided by an Indigenous group. It is unclear how Indigenous groups will be provided opportunities to provide Indigenous knowledge and validate the collected baseline data. (According to Section 6.2 of the Guidelines, permission from Indigenous groups should be sought before including any confidential information, such as Indigenous knowledge, in the Impact Statement.) Comment with regard to Action #4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Action #1: Provide detail on what baseline information will be sourced from primary information sources, and what will be sourced from secondary information sources so that it is clear where information is being sourced for the criteria and indicators listed in the study plan. ■ Action #2: Regarding primary information collection, the study plan requires additional detail on how the collection methodology would meet the expectations of the Guidelines, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify other types of engagement activities (surveys, community sessions, chief and council sessions, workshops, etc.), additional to questionnaires that are indicated in Section 4.1 of the study plan. – Describe how Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) has been applied to the consideration of engagement activities. Identify any specific methods targeted to specific subgroups. – Specify participants in engagement activities (reflecting the Indigenous groups listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and members of the public listed in the PPP) including rationale for how the selection of participants meets the objectives of the study and demonstrates accessibility considerations (e.g., language requirements) and GBA+. – Describe the approach the proponent intends to take to encourage or attract participation, including how opportunities to participate will be planned and advertised. – Describe how Indigenous knowledge will be used to inform types of engagement activities and participant selection, including the identification of community consultation co-ordinators. – If sample surveys, interview questions, or other data collection tools exist, identify them in an appendix to the study plan, and provide clear links to how they relate to the social criteria. – Identify past public or Indigenous engagement activities that have taken place and are being used to inform this study plan. ■ Action #3: For secondary information collection, provide specific information sources to be used, and for which criteria and indicators they apply. The study plan should provide a clear outline of which criteria and indicator data will come from existing secondary sources and what those sources are. Provide more detail on how the proponent has considered GBA+ requirements in the identification of secondary information sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 4.2 outlines how Indigenous communities will be engaged with including for the purposes of data verification. Section 5 of the Study Plan describes how Indigenous Knowledge will be collected and considered in the IS / EA for the Project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 4.2 ■ Section 5





Comment # / Ref #	DRAFT Study Plan Section	TISG Section	Comment / Context	Action Item	Final Response	Study Plan Reference
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action #4: Provide a clear description in your study plan how Indigenous groups will have opportunities to provide Indigenous knowledge, including the validation of the baseline collected. The description should include the proposed methods for data collection, management of confidentiality, and information storage. This should also include a methodology for tracking information that has been approved by the group, to demonstrate that guidance outlined in Section 6.2 of the Guidelines has been incorporated into this study plan. 		
4	Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 5.2, 6.3 and 10 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study plan indicates in Section 4 that disaggregated data may not be required for land and resource use and will be incorporated where possible. The study plan does not provide any further information on how the GBA+ analytical framework will be applied to data collection methodology and analysis. Refer to Agency guidance for more information on the GBA+ approach: https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/gender-based-analysis.html Section 5.2 of the Guidelines state that the Impact Statement must include, at a minimum, a description of efforts made by the proponent to engage diverse populations, including groups identified by gender, age or other community relevant factors (e.g., recreational hunters) to support the collection of information needed to complete the GBA+;The proponent should seek to solicit information necessary to support the GBA+, and if unsuccessful, efforts made should be described in the Impact Statement. Section 6.3 of the Guidelines state that the Impact Statement must include, at a minimum, a description of efforts to engage diverse populations of each Indigenous group in culturally appropriate ways, including groups identified by gender, age or other community relevant factors (e.g., hunters, trappers, and other harvesters) to support the collection of information needed to complete the GBA+;Section 10 of the Guidelines states that baseline information must be sufficiently disaggregated and analyzed to understand the differences in norms, roles and relations for diverse subgroups; the different level of power they hold; their differing needs, constraints and opportunities; and the impact of these differences in their lives, including consideration of disproportionate effects to surrounding communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the study plan to demonstrate how GBA+ has been integrated into all aspects of data collection methodology and the assessment of effects and impacts.This should include a description of how the proponent will engage diverse populations to collect information necessary to support the GBA+ analysis and how the information will be tracked, considered and reported in the Impact Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.3 speaks to how GBA+ requirements will be accommodated as part of the Land and Resource Use Assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4.3





Comment # / Ref #	DRAFT Study Plan Section	TISG Section	Comment / Context	Action Item	Final Response	Study Plan Reference
5	Section 5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 5, 6, and 7.4 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study plan does not reflect if the public and Indigenous groups informed the study areas for each indicators in Table 2: Land and Resource Use Study Areas. Sections 5 and 6 of the Guidelines provide direction on the Agency's expectations for meaningful engagement with members of the public and public groups (at a minimum those listed in the PPP), as well as Indigenous groups (at a minimum those listed in the IEPP) during the impact assessment process. The Agency expects the proponent to engage equitably with the members of the public and public groups listed in the PPP and all Indigenous groups listed in the IEPP to gather baseline data and to assess the Project's effects. Additionally, Section 7.4 of the Guidelines states that the spatial and temporal boundaries to be used in the impact assessment are outlined and discussed through the tailoring process, and include comments and input from federal and provincial government departments and agencies, local government, Indigenous groups, the public and other interested parties. The proponent should engage with Indigenous groups when defining spatial and temporal boundaries for valued components, especially for those that are identified by Indigenous groups. It is unclear how the approach proposed in the study plan will meet the requirements of Sections 5, 6 and 7.4 of the Guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the study plan to demonstrate whether the public and Indigenous groups were engaged to define the spatial boundaries for valued components, especially for valued components that are identified by Indigenous groups. Alternatively, provide clarity regarding when Indigenous groups and public groups will be able to contribute to the definition of the spatial and temporal boundaries of valued components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6 of the Study Plan describes the rationale for the temporal and spatial boundaries for the Project. Section 6.2 of the Study Plan identifies how the PDA (formerly PSA), LSA and RSA have been defined for the Project, including for the Land and Resource Use Environment. This section also identifies that the study areas can be further refined based on input from neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6
6	Section 5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1.1 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.1.2 of the study plan states "The land use and resource study areas are defined to capture the potential effects of the Project on the surrounding environment. For each criteria, a local study area (LSA) and regional study area (RSA) are defined to reflect the extent to which the Project has the potential to affect the environment. The extent of the potential effects includes both direct and indirect effects." Section 1.1 of the Guidelines states that "the factors [to be considered in an impact assessment] are listed in subsection 22(1) of IAA and prescribe that the impact assessment of a designated project must take into account:a) the changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions and the positive and negative consequences of these changes that are likely to be caused by the carrying out of the designated project, including:..." The assessment of effects on the land and resource use should not only consider the extent to which the Project has the potential to affect the environment, but also consider potential changes to health, social and economic conditions. The land and resources use study area should be defined to capture the land and resource use area of influence of the Project, including effects not directly linked to adverse effects to the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the study plan to define study areas that capture the Project's effects on land and resources use due to potential changes to environment, health, social and economic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table 6-1, which explains each of the study areas, includes references to how the extent of impact areas of other study disciplines is to be considered in the Land and Resource Use Assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table 6-1





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7	Section 5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sections 7 and 17 of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More detail is required in the description of indicators listed in Table 3 to understand the work that the proponent is planning to undertake. The criteria provided do not align with the specifics from the Guidelines outlined in the concordance table in Section 7 of the study plan. The criteria should refer to the wording used in the Guidelines to provide clarity to the reviewer. ■ Section 17 of the Guidelines states that “Indicators should be developed by the proponent using best practice, Agency guidance, and through engagement with Indigenous groups and the public. Rationale for the indicators chosen should be provided”. ■ Criteria should be included in the study plan as laid out in the concordance table, but with additional details on the indicators that will be used to describe each criterion. Indicators must provide data (either quantitative or qualitative) that can be measured and used to identify changes due to the Project. The two examples below are a representative sample of indicators from the study plan that require more detail, not a complete list of the indicators that require more detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Example 1 – In Table 3 of the study plan, the use of the indicator “Natural Cultural and Recreational Values” for the criterion of “Parks and Protected Areas” does not provide adequate detail on what will be evaluated or measured (for change) by the proponent in relation to the criterion of “Parks and Protected Areas”. – Example 2 - In Table 3 of the study plan, the “Recreation and Tourism” criterion specifies “Land and waterway disruption and access” as an indicator. This does not provide detail on what indicators will be used to describe the baseline for land and waterways or how the indicator will be used to measure the potential changes to land and waterways (including any change in access). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Update Table 3 of the study plan to include detailed criteria, detailed and measurable indicators, and rationale for the indicators selected to demonstrate how the requirements in Section 17 of the Guidelines would be met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Study Plan has been updated to include a list of the VCs, indicators, sub-indicators and their rationale for inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Table 9-2





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