

**REPORT**

**FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED  
NICO PROJECT  
TRADITIONAL LAND USE BASELINE**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Fortune Minerals Limited (Fortune) is proposing to develop the NICO Cobalt-Gold-Bismuth-Copper Project (the Project), which is located in the central part of the Tłıchǫ lands, Northwest Territories (NWT). The Tłıchǫ lands were described as part of the Tłıchǫ Land Claims and Self Government Agreement (the Agreement), negotiated by the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and the Government of Canada, and signed in August 2005 (INAC 2005, internet site). The current Tłıchǫ lands cover approximately 39 000 square kilometres, including the subsurface resources (INAC 2005, internet site). The Fortune mine claims are located on land that has been excluded from Tłıchǫ lands.

There are 4 primary communities within the Tłıchǫ lands, including Behchokǫ, Whatı, Gamètı, and Wekweètı. The Project is located approximately 80 km north of Behchokǫ, 50 km north of Whatı, and 50 km south of Gamètı. The fourth community, Wekweètı, is located the farthest from the Project, approximately 145 km northeast. The Project is within the traditional land use areas of the Tłıchǫ and the Métis of the North Slave Region (Métis).

As part of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR), Fortune contracted Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder) to assist with Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Traditional Knowledge (TK) studies for the Project. The purpose of the studies was to gather TK to be shared with relevant technical disciplines to provide information for inclusion in their respective sections of the DAR, and to help assess the potential effects of the Project on TLU. After meeting with the local Tłıchǫ governments, and receiving a NWT Research Licence, Fortune and Golder initiated studies with approval from the community Chiefs. Fortune provided financial support for the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) to undertake Métis TK and TLU studies.

This report focuses on the historical and recent TLU and TK of the Tłıchǫ and the Métis. Tłıchǫ TLU and TK information was collected during interviews in the communities of Gamètı and Whatı along with additional information derived from the results of a literature review. TLU and TK information pertaining to the Métis was collected during a literature review of available information. In addition to presenting TK and TLU information pertaining to the Tłıchǫ and the Métis within the TLU and TK section of the DAR, TLU and TK information also has been incorporated into other appropriate sections of the DAR.



## **2 METHODS**

Data collection for the TLU Baseline included interviews and literature review. Interviews were initiated or completed in Whatì and Gamètì. As a result of a death in one of the communities and in consultation with the community governments, the remaining interviews were cancelled. Fortune has provided financial support to the NSMA to conduct their own TK studies for the Project. Further details regarding the status of the TK interviews for the Project are found in Section 2.2.

The following section describes the methods used to collect and document TK and TLU information in this report. Information sources that contributed to the results presented in this report are listed for both the Tłìchǫ and the Métis.

### **2.1 COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION METHODS**

#### **2.1.1 Research Licence**

Pursuant to the *Scientists Act*, all research in the NWT is required to be licensed, which includes research related to TK collection (NWT 1988). Licensing is administered by the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) in Inuvik.

In 2008, Fortune submitted a research application to the ARI to conduct TK interviews in Behchokǫ, Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì. Because the research involved an interview component, the licence application also underwent an ethics review, which was also conducted by the ARI. On 29 July 2008, Fortune received Scientific Research Licence (No. 14406) from the ARI to conduct TK interviews for the Project. The Scientific Research Licence was renewed in 2009 (No. 14447).

#### **2.1.2 Study Areas**

The Regional Study Area (RSA) is shown in Figure 2.1-1 and was developed to include the following:

- the Local Study Area (LSA);
- the proposed NICO Project Access Road (NPAR);
- the communities of Behchokǫ, Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì;
- Hislop Lake and a portion of the Idaa Trail that may be potentially affected by the Project; and

- upstream and downstream waterbodies that may be affected by the Project.

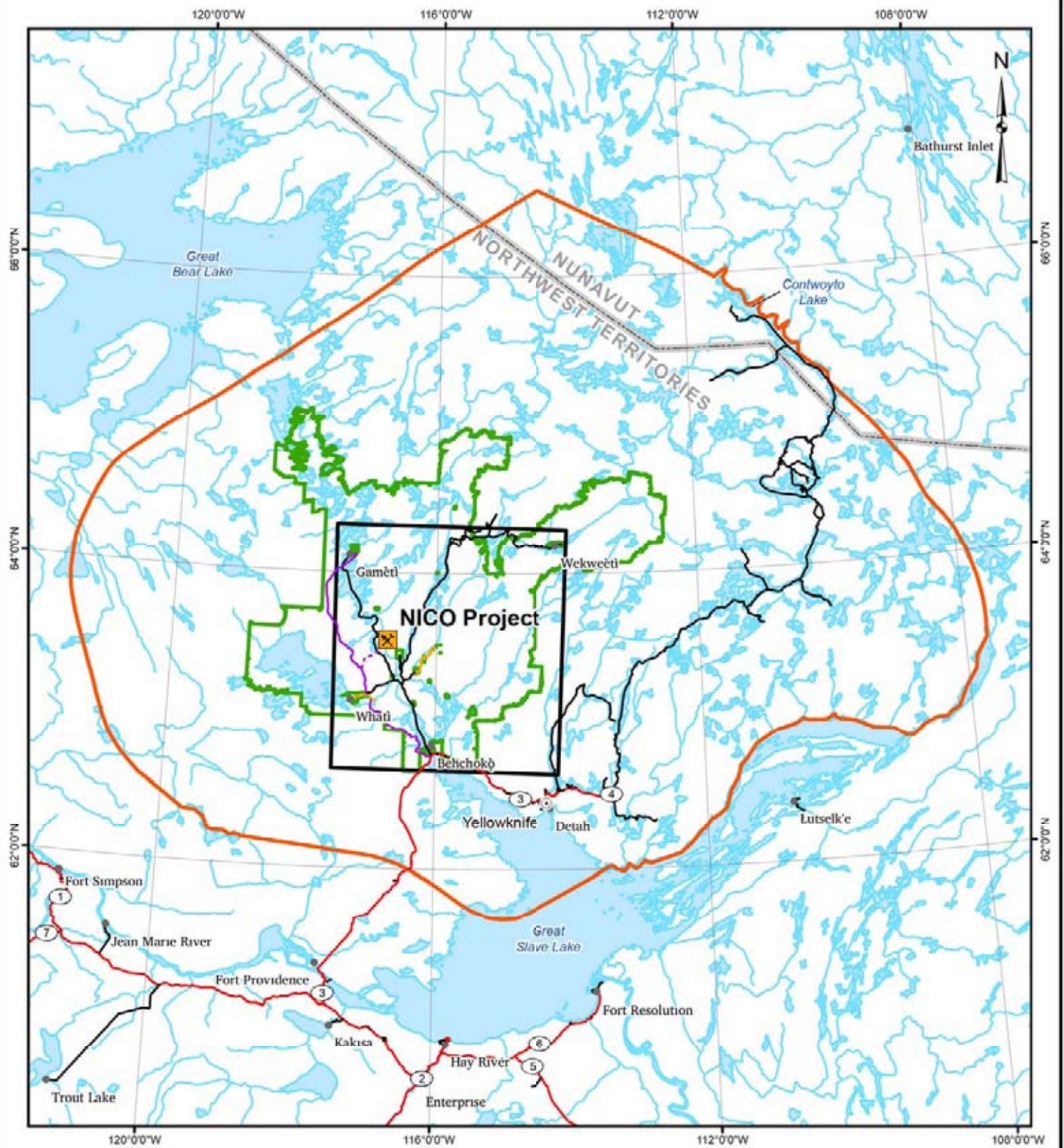
The LSA is shown in Figure 2.1-2 and includes the Project area, as well as a 500 metre (m) buffer surrounding the Project area.

## **2.1.3 Information Sources**

Information for this report was gathered through literature review and interviews in Whatì, and Gamètì.

### **2.1.3.1 Literature Review**

The literature review considered Tłìchʔ and Métis TK and TLU within the RSA. Some traditional activities (e.g., hunting) often occur within the context of geographically large phenomenon, such as caribou migration. Therefore, to provide context, the literature review also describes some traditional activities located outside the RSA. An annotated bibliography and the results of the literature review are found in Section 3 below.



#### LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |                                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
|  | NICO PROJECT                        |  | WATERCOURSE                     |
|  | TERRITORIAL CAPITAL                 |  | MOWIH GOGHA DE NITLLEE BOUNDARY |
|  | POPULATED PLACE                     |  | REGIONAL STUDY AREA             |
|  | HIGHWAY                             |  | TLCHIQ LANDS                    |
|  | EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           |  | WATERBODY                       |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD                |  |                                 |
|  | PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE |  |                                 |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |  |                                 |
|  | TERRITORIAL/PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY     |  |                                 |

#### REFERENCE

Base data obtained from Atlas of Canada, DMTI and ESRI.  
Projection: Canada Lambert Conformal Conic

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SCALE 1:4,000,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED  
NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT

TITLE REGIONAL STUDY AREA

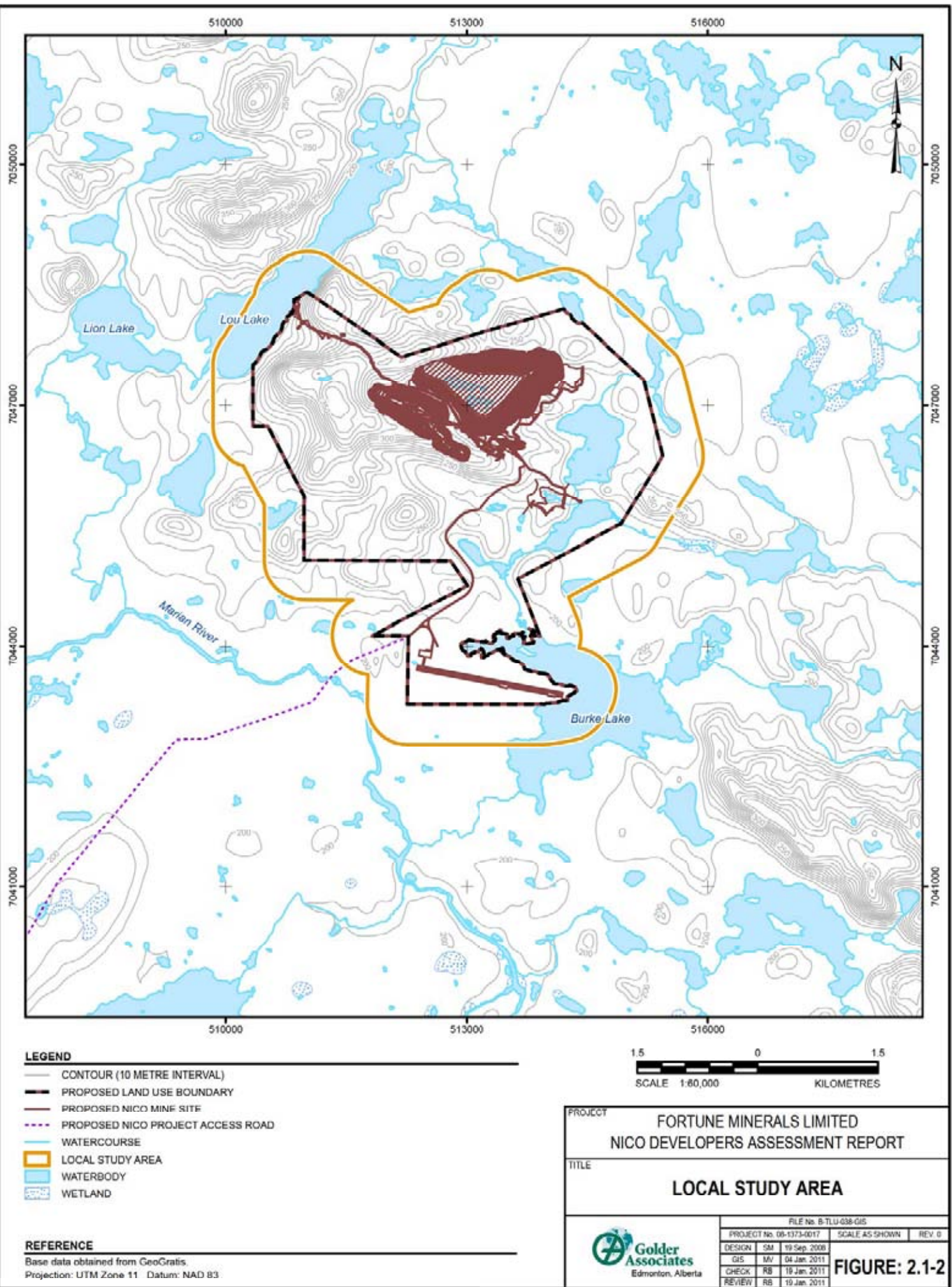


FILE No. B-TLU-025-GIS			
PROJECT No.	08-1373-0017	SCALE	AS SHOWN
DESIGN	EK	25 May 2010	REV. 0
GIS	VOV	23 Dec 2010	
CHECK	RB	19 Jan 2011	
REVIEW	RB	19 Jan 2011	

FIGURE 2.1-1



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### 2.1.3.2 Interviews and Recording of Information

A combination of individual and group interviews was held with participants in Whatì and Gamètì. A semi-structured approach was used during the interviews through the use of open-ended questions that allowed participants an opportunity to provide additional information. An interview guide was prepared as a result of information derived from Fortune's initial consultation with the communities and previous experience with similar projects. A copy of the interview guide is found in Appendix I.

Prior to initiating the interviews, participants were provided an opportunity to review the informed consent form that had been approved by the ARI. The informed consent form outlined the nature of the Project and identified how the information would be used, the participant's right to retain ownership of their specific TK, and identified their consent to named as a participant in the TK studies.

During the interviews, information was recorded in written and audio recordings. Participants were invited to denote relevant information on maps provided by Golder that referenced the Project area and the four communities in the TłìchQ land claim settlement area.

In each community, an interpreter was available when requested by participants who were more comfortable speaking in their own language.

Table 2.1-1 lists the dates of the interviews, and identifies the participants.

**Table 2.1-1 Traditional Knowledge Interviews and Participants**

Community	Date	Community Participants	Interviewers
Whatì	2 February 2009	3 anonymous males 5 anonymous females	Mitchell Goodjohn (Golder)
	3 February 2009	Pierre Beaverho 4 anonymous males 4 anonymous females	Mitchell Goodjohn (Golder)
Gamètì	5 February 2009	Jimmy Wogary Joseph Mantla Pierrra Mantla 1 anonymous male	Mitchell Goodjohn (Golder)
	6 February 2009	Antoine Wetrade Charlie Wetrade Alfred Arrowmaker Frank Arrowmaker Sam Mantla 2 anonymous males	Ross Mitchell (Golder) and Mitchell Goodjohn (Golder)

TłıchQ information derived from interviews and the literature review was organized and documented under the following headings:

- seasonal cycle;
- concerns, comments, and questions;
- hunting and trapping;
- fishing and water;
- plant harvesting; and
- cabins, trails, access routes, and culturally important sites.

Because information related to Métis TK and TLU was limited, the results of the literature review relevant to the Métis were organized and documented as consolidated information. In addition to documenting TK and TLU information in this TLU Baseline, documented information was made available to other disciplines to be incorporated into other sections of the DAR. Further discussion of the incorporation of the TK and TLU into the DAR is found in Section 4.0 (Community Engagement).

The TK information in the following report is presented from the perspective of the Interview Group participants and has not been interpreted.

## **2.2 STATUS OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEWS WITH THE TŁİCHQ AND THE NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE**

### **TłıchQ**

Traditional knowledge interviews were scheduled in the communities of Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì from 2 to 13 February 2009 in consultation with the community governments and the TłıchQ Lands Department. From 2 to 6 February 2009, combinations of individual and focus group interviews with citizens selected by representatives of the community were conducted in Whatì and Gamètì. These interviews involved 17 participants in Whatì, and 11 participants in Gamètì, all of whom identified themselves as TłıchQ citizens. Fortune's TK study team also attended Wekweètì on 8 February 2009 for interviews that had been scheduled for the following day. The team discovered that the community was grieving the sudden death that day of a community member. In consultation with the community government office, scheduled interviews were cancelled with the intent of returning at a more suitable time. Interviews had been planned for Behchokò and Yellowknife, in the weeks to follow, but they have not yet been scheduled at the time of report writing.

In March 2009, Fortune was advised by a consultant representing the Tłıchǫ Government that the government wanted to discuss the study and process with Fortune and enter into a study agreement before interviews resumed. Fortune agreed to suspend further studies until these discussions and any agreements were concluded. In April 2009, to facilitate the process, Fortune provided the interview forms and a proposed draft agreement outline to the Tłıchǫ Government for consideration. As of the date of this submission, Fortune has not had a response to these submissions, nor to subsequent requests to enter into discussions. Fortune is continuing to request discussions on this topic and others with the Tłıchǫ Government. At the time of writing, the interviews have yet to resume. When the results of the Tłıchǫ interviews become available, they will be considered in Project Planning.

#### **North Slave Métis Alliance**

Fortune entered into an agreement with the NSMA in November 2009 for a study scope and process, and to provide funding for the NSMA to conduct its own TK studies for the NICO Project in collaboration with Fortune's consultants. At the time of report writing, the NSMA has completed archival research and Fortune has attended a public meeting called by the NSMA to present the initial results and discuss the future stages of the process with its membership. In the near future, the NSMA plans to interview its membership with guidance from Fortune's TK consultants. At the time of writing, the NSMA have yet to arrange the interviews. When the NSMA interviews have been completed, the results will be considered in the Project planning.

The details of Fortune's consultation efforts with the Tłıchǫ and the NSMA are found in Section 4.0 (Community Engagement).

## **2.3 REPORTING**

The results of the interviews with participants in Whatì and Gamètì represent the views of the participants. The results have been prepared from interview notes and audio recordings. The results represent the views and opinions of the interview participants and have not been interpreted or analyzed.

### 3 RESULTS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW

An annotated bibliography of the results of the literature review is presented below. Because some secondary source information obtained through the literature review predates the signing of the Tłı̄ch̄ Land agreement, the term “Dogrib” is used in some cases to reference the people traditionally using the area currently designated under the Tłı̄ch̄ Land agreement.

#### 3.1 ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Andrews, Thomas, John Zoe, and Aaron Herter. 1998. *On Yamözhah’s Trail: Dogrib Sacred Sites and the Anthropology of Travel*.**

In *On Yamözhah’s Trail: Dogrib Sacred Sites and the Anthropology of Travel*, the authors discuss sacred sites of the Dogrib in the context of stories and travels. Several types of important areas between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake are discussed. Some of these sites are discussed in the context of the Įdaà Trail, which is a historically important trail in the Tłı̄ch̄ region and relevant to the Project location.

**The Bathurst Caribou Mangement Planning Committee (BCMPC). 2004. *A Management Plan for the Bathurst Caribou Herd*.**

In *A Management Plan for the Bathurst Caribou Herd*, the authors provide a framework for long-term plans involving the conservation of the Bathurst caribou herd and the land the caribou use. While the article is not specific to TLU or TK, it provides details regarding the range that caribou occupy on or near Tłı̄ch̄ land.

**Cluff, H.D. 2005. *Survey of Moose Abundance in the Boreal Forest Around Yellowknife, Northwest Territories*. Final Report to the West Kitikmeot/Slave Study Society, Yellowknife, NT, Canada.**

In *Survey of Moose Abundance in the Boreal Forest Around Yellowknife, Northwest Territories*, the author used a geospatial survey to estimate moose abundance around Yellowknife and the north shore of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories. Although the study did not focus on traditional activities, it did discuss concerns of the Dogrib should the moose, caribou, and bison populations be affected in the region.

**Dene Culture Institute (DCI). 1995. *Traditional Methods Used by Dogrib to Redirect Caribou*. Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and Department of Renewable Resources, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT.**

In *Traditional Methods Used by Dogrib to Redirect Caribou*, DCI researchers, translators, investigators, and interpreters discussed the potential of using



traditional knowledge techniques to redirect caribou away from active and inactive mines and tailings ponds. Caribou response to current obstacles, such as flagging tape, was analysed in the context of traditional techniques. The study concluded that community members, including Elders, should be consulted in the planning and design of caribou management. The importance of caribou to the Dogrib was discussed.

**Dene Culture Institute (DCI). 1996. *We Know and Love Tłıchʔ Ndè: Comments and Concerns from the Dechilaot'i Elders*. A report for the Dogrib Renewable Resources Committee, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, GNWT, Yellowknife, NT.**

In *We Know and Love Tłıchʔ Ndè: Comments and Concerns from the Dechilaot'i Elders*, DCI researchers interviewed Tłıchʔ Elders to better understand the impact that the BHP Diamond mines would have on the Ek'ati area and other Tłıchʔ lands. Elders discussed traditional and current uses of the land including laws, harvesting, hunting, trapping, fishing, travel routes, relationships, and development. The study concluded that the Ek'ati area is integral to the Tłıchʔ and that development should consider Tłıchʔ lives, requests, and the environment. Relevant to the Project is a travel route discussed within the publication.

**Diavik Diamonds. 1998. *Diavik Diamonds Project: Environmental Assessment*. Prepared by Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.**

The *Diavik Diamonds Project* environmental assessment was prepared by Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. to comply with the requirements under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* for approval of the Diavik Diamonds Project in the Lac de Gras area. Within the environmental assessment, TK and activities of the Dene, Métis, and Inuit were considered.

**Dogrib Treaty 11 Council. 2001a. *Habitat of Dogrib Traditional Territory: Placenames as Indicators of Biographical Knowledge*. Submitted to the West Kitikmeot Slave Study Society, Yellowknife, NT.**

In *Habitat of Dogrib Traditional Territory: Placenames as Indicators of Biographical Knowledge*, the authors' objectives were to identify and map habitat within the Tłıchʔ area, to compare scientific and Dogrib habitat classification, and to provide baseline data to help develop strategies pertaining to industrial development cumulative impact monitoring. As well as describing the Tłıchʔ region, the article provides details on place names and habitat.

**Dogrib Treaty 11 Council. 2001b. *Caribou Migration and the State of Their Habitat*. Submitted to the WKSS. Yellowknife, N.W.T. March 2001.**

In *Caribou Migration and the State of Their Habitat*, the authors discuss oral narrative in the context of caribou and their habitat. The article provides details on caribou cycles, habits, areas, place names, and hunting. In addition, the relationships between the caribou and the Tłı̄chǫ are discussed.

**Fortune Minerals. 1998. *Technical Report on the Environmental Scoping for Fortune Mineral's NICO and Sue-Dianne Properties*. Prepared by Golder Associates Ltd.**

The *Technical Report on the Environmental Scoping for Fortune Mineral's NICO and Sue-Dianne Properties* presented baseline information derived from an aquatics field survey and literature review. Traditional activities associated with Fortune's development were discussed in the Heritage Resources section of the report.

**Fortune Minerals. 2005. *Final Report on Heritage Resources Impact Assessment: Fortune Minerals NICO Mine All-Weather Access Road Northwest Territories*. Prepared by Golder Associates Ltd.**

The *Final Report on Heritage Resources Impact Assessment: Fortune Minerals NICO Mine All-Weather Access Road Northwest Territories* discussed the archaeological inventory and impact assessment of the mine access road corridor near Nico Lake. Within the context of historical resources, TK of the Dogrib First Nation and the Métis was discussed.

**Helm, J. 1981. Dogrib. In *Handbook of North American Indians*. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, DC.**

In the Dogrib section of the *Handbook of North American Indians*, Helm discussed the history, environment, land use, and culture of the Dogrib people. Details of the Dogrib seasonal rounds are provided along with details of various Dogrib bands and TLU and TK information. The author provided an overview of the lives and diversity of the Dogrib people.

**North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA). 2001. *Can't Live Without Work: North Slave Métis Alliance Environmental, Social, Economic and Cultural Concerns; A Companion to the Comprehensive Study Report on the Diavik Diamonds Project*. North Slave Métis Alliance, Treaty 11.**

In *Can't Live Without Work: North Slave Métis Alliance Environmental, Social, Economic and Cultural Concerns; A Companion to the Comprehensive Study Report on the Diavik Diamonds Project*, the authors discussed the Métis' distinctive social and economic identity and traditions. In addition, they discussed the Métis' relationship with the land and the impact of the Diavik and

other mining projects. While the content of the article is not limited to Tłı̨ch̨ lands, a good description of activities and Métis history within the Tłı̨ch̨ lands is provided.

**Ryan, Joan. 1995. *Doing Things the Right Way. Dene Justice in Lac La Martre, N.W.T.* University of Calgary Press, Arctic Institute of North America Calgary, Alberta.**

In *Doing Things the Right Way. Dene Justice in Lac La Martre, N.W.T.*, the author describes the Dene Traditional Justice Project. The author examined Dene justice in the context of traditions and practices, such as fishing, hunting, and a variety of other activities and relationships.

**Tłı̨ch̨ Government. 2007. *Trails of Our Ancestors: Building a Nation*. Edited by John B. Zoe. Tłı̨ch̨ Community Services Agency, Behchokò, Northwest Territories, Canada.**

In the multi-article volume *Trails of Our Ancestors*, edited by John B. Zoe, several authors contributed to a better understanding of the general history of the Tłı̨ch̨ focusing on the extensive traditional trails used by the Tłı̨ch̨ within their traditional lands. Within the volume a growing and developing Trails of Our Ancestors Program is also discussed, in which students and Elders canoe along traditional travel routes from community to community as a way of teaching aspects of both new society and a traditional life.

## **4 TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

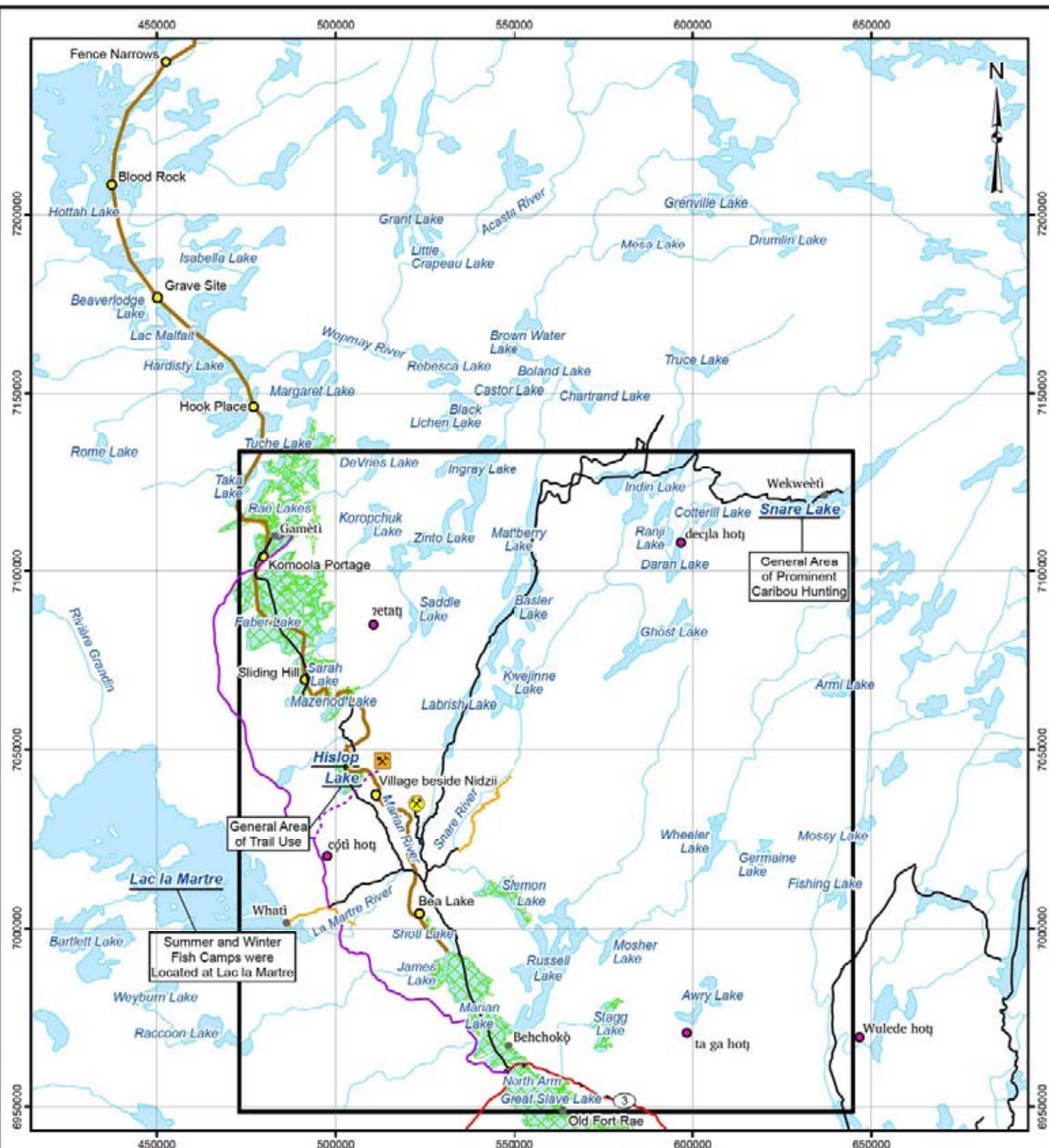
### **4.1 TŁĪCHQ**

#### **4.1.1 Introduction**

For centuries the Northwest Territory Tłıchq have relied on their knowledge of the land and its wildlife in order to survive (Zoe 2007). The Dogrib Elders have described their traditional territory as the area extending north to south between Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake, and extending west to east from the Mackenzie River to Contwoyto Lake, Aylmer Lake, and Artillary Lake in the barren-lands (Helm 1981). The Dogrib elder Mōwhì described a boundary known as the Mōwhì Gogha Dè Nıttı'èè (Mōwhì Boundary) in connection with the 1921 Treaty 11 (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2002) (Figure 2.2-1).

As reported in Helm (1981), there are 6 regional bands identified by the Tłıchq since at least 1900 (Figure 4.1-1). These bands were further divided into more local groups. The 6 primary bands as described by Helm (1981:296-297) included the following:

- ta ga hotı “Follow the Shore People” – occupied camps and hamlets along the North Arm of Great Slave Lake (east shore);
- cōtì hotı “Filth Lake People” – hunted and trapped primarily the areas along waterways draining into Lac la Martre;
- deçila hotı “Edge of Woods People” – most notably travelled and hunted along the Snare and Wecho rivers, as well as other waterways that drained into Russell Lake;
- æetatı “People Next to Another People” – ranged along waterways draining into the Marian River, as well as crossing the land to the chain of lakes draining into Great Bear Lake;
- sati hotı “Bear Lake Dogrib” – travelled between Rae to the chain of lakes to Great Bear Lake, as well as the Deline (Fort Franklin) area; and
- Wulede hotı “Connie River People” – had camps and cabins around Yellowknife Bay, the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, and north to the Enotah – Trout Rock area.



#### LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|  | NICO PROJECT                        |  | DECOMMISSIONED MINE                       |
|  | POPULATED PLACE                     |  | JDAA TRAIL POINT OF INTEREST              |
|  | HIGHWAY                             |  | TRIBAL TERRITORY GENERAL AREA (1850-1970) |
|  | EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           |  | JDAA TRAIL                                |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD                |  | FISHING AREA                              |
|  | PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE |  | REGIONAL STUDY AREA                       |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |  |   |
|  | WATERCOURSE                         |  |   |
|  | WATERBODY                           |  |   |

#### REFERENCE

Base data obtained from Atlas of Canada, DMTI and GeoGratis. Fishing area data obtained from Dene Culture Institute, Diavik Diamonds, Diavik Diamonds Project: Environmental Assessment and Fortune Minerals Limited. IDAA Trail location obtained from Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (Yellowknife).  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

30 0 30  
SCALE 1:1,500,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT  
FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED  
NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT

TITLE  
SELECTED AREAS OF Tłı̨chǫ TRADITIONAL  
LAND USE BASED ON LITERATURE REVIEW



FILE No. B-TLU-026-GIS			
PROJECT No.	08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
DESIGN	EK	25 May 2010	
GIS	DR	1 Oct. 2010	
CHECK	RS	19 Jan. 2011	
REVIEW	RS	19 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE: 4.1-1

A seventh group was not described by name, but up until 1928 closely co-mingled with the Wulede hotį (Helm 1981:297).

The Dogrib continue their traditional activities within 4 main environmental regions that overlap the Tłıchǫ lands. The first region is west of Whatì and Gamètì extending north and south along a large plateau. Both barren-land and woodland caribou are hunted in this area, small fur-bearing animals are trapped, and medicinal plants are located in the area (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001a:16). The western portion of the current Tłıchǫ lands overlaps this area. The second region is a forested area consisting of spruce, poplar, and birch that encompasses the largest portion of the Tłıchǫ lands. It is a heavily forested area along the western portions of the region, but becomes sparse along the Canadian Shield where it turns into the third designated environmental region along the treeline. The fourth environmental region comprises the barren-lands to the east (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:16). The current Tłıchǫ lands northeast of Wekweètì overlap the western portion of the barren-lands.

The following sections summarise the information derived from interviews and a literature review for the Tłıchǫ as categorized under the following headings:

- seasonal cycle;
- concerns, comments, and questions;
- hunting and trapping;
- fishing and water;
- plant harvesting; and
- cabins, trails, access routes, and culturally important sites.

TK and TLU summary information derived from interviews is presented from the perspective of the interview participants unless otherwise referenced. Further, detailed information derived from individual and focus group interviews is presented in Appendix II.

#### **4.1.2 Seasonal Cycle**

The following description of the Tłıchǫ seasonal round (primarily the Rae Dogribs) is a summary of the information presented by Helm (1981:298-299).

Prior to approximately 1950, almost all the Dogrib people lived in the bush year-round with the exception of their time spent at Euro-Canadian installations, such as trading locations. Beaver and muskrat were harvested primarily in April and

May and were brought for trade by men in late June and July. In August, the women prepared dried meat at fish camps and the men hunted caribou at the forest's edge as the caribou migrated. Fish were stockpiled in September from gill-net catches. During this time, the weather was cool and there was no need for drying. Fishing continued after freeze-up, at which time the gill-nets were set beneath the ice. Trapping primarily occurred from late October to December and furs were brought to trade and to participate in festivities. Caribou were hunted as the herds moved through. The most difficult time of the year was January and February when animals were in short supply and moose and caribou were hard to approach due to the cold weather. By March, fishing, snaring, hunting, and trapping improved, and caribou hunting became better especially around Snare Lake (Figure 4.1-1) as the caribou migrated back to the barren ground for feeding and calving. In April and May, the men once again sold furs at the fort and participated in festivities. During June, the waterways opened up.

### **4.1.3 Concerns, Comments, and Questions**

#### **4.1.3.1 Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that there are traditional activities occurring in locations overlapped by the RSA, LSA, and the Project Area. Interviewed Elders reported that people lived much longer in the past and were healthier due in part to traditional medicines.

Interview participants reported that since development arrived in the region there have been changes. Because of past experience with other developments, interview participants indicated that they believe the Project may also affect the animals, fish, and birds. It was reported that mining developments have blocked and changed caribou routes, and it was further noted that the health of game has degraded since development arrived in the area. Multiple concerns were reported regarding development, many of which were raised because of perceived problems with previous developments such as Colomac Mine, Rayrock Mine, and Snare Hydro. Only the former Rayrock Mine is located within the RSA (Decommissioned Mine in Figure 4.1-1). General development concerns and comments reported by the interview participants include:

- potential human health issues due to chemical leaks and blasting dust that may seep into the ground, surrounding water bodies, and animals;
- effects on animal health (especially caribou), populations, and movement;
- associated developments such as airstrip construction;

- perceptions that companies might sacrifice proper development and closure for profit;
- potential effects to waterbodies such as the Marian River, which drains into the Marian Lake;
- participants would like to ensure the area is safe from the chemicals that are utilized to extract minerals;
- air, water, and noise pollution from new developments may also harm the animals, fish, and birds;
- participants would like ongoing communication with the TłìchQ people and monitoring of developments; and
- there is a perceived history of broken promises related to what companies say they will do to manage impacts.

Interview participants said that hunting, trapping, and fishing have always been important to local communities, and that it is important to the TłìchQ Elders of Whatì that traditional lifeways, language, and knowledge be taught to the younger generation so that they see traditional life as having value and to ensure a healthy environment.

#### **4.1.3.2 Gamètì Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that for the TłìchQ of Gamètì it is important that the heads of the companies know the local communities' concerns. Elders indicated that if properly operated the mine should be okay and that jobs for the younger people would be good, but that many people are also afraid that the mine will go ahead. Interview participants indicated that there are too many mines being developed at once and that this might not create sustainable employment as there may not be work when the mines close. Interview participants reported that because of previous and existing mines such as Rayrock, Port Radium, Colomac, and Ekati, there are now concerns over new development. Participants stated that:

- many people died from cancer, including some people who worked at the now decommissioned Rayrock mine;
- young people need money and jobs at the mines, but the jobs come at a cost;
- training programs, bereavement programs, and family support systems need to be in place;
- most of the money from development goes to Yellowknife;
- young people will not be able to use the land when the mines are gone;



- mines are perceived as having destroyed the land through dust pollution and poisons entering into the rivers and land;
- mines cause health problems for animals and people through the food chain; and
- chemical spills and runoff pollute the surrounding lake.

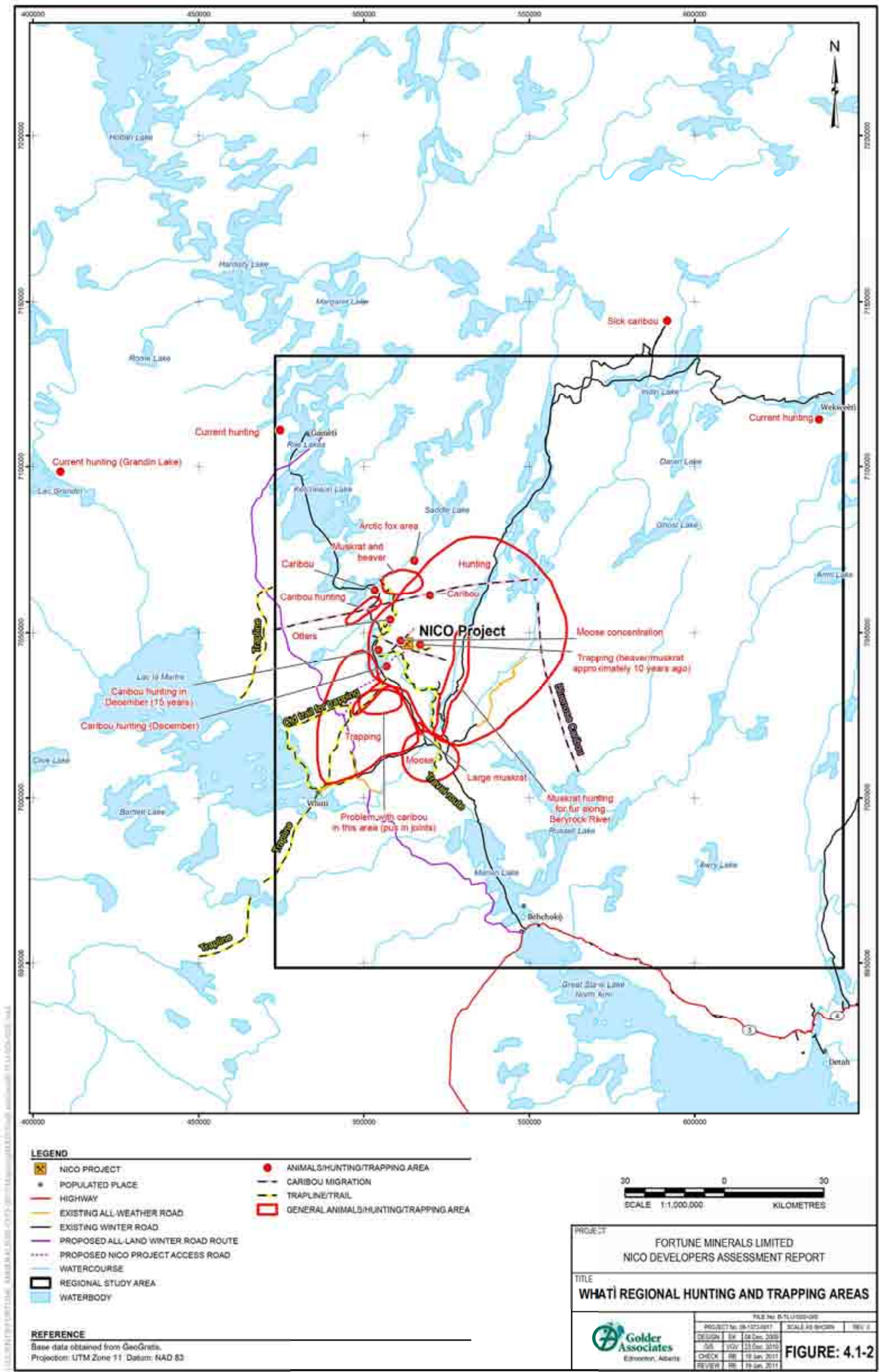
Many people still prefer to go out on the land, particularly in Gamètì where there is more traditional trapping and hunting, but it was also reported that generally people are not living off the land like they had done in the past. Traditional skills are currently being included in the school curriculum, and some, but not many young people are learning to trap. Young people prefer to work in mines and are often not interested in trapping as a way of life. The Elders; however, are interested in passing along TK and trapping skills.

## **4.1.4 Hunting and Trapping**

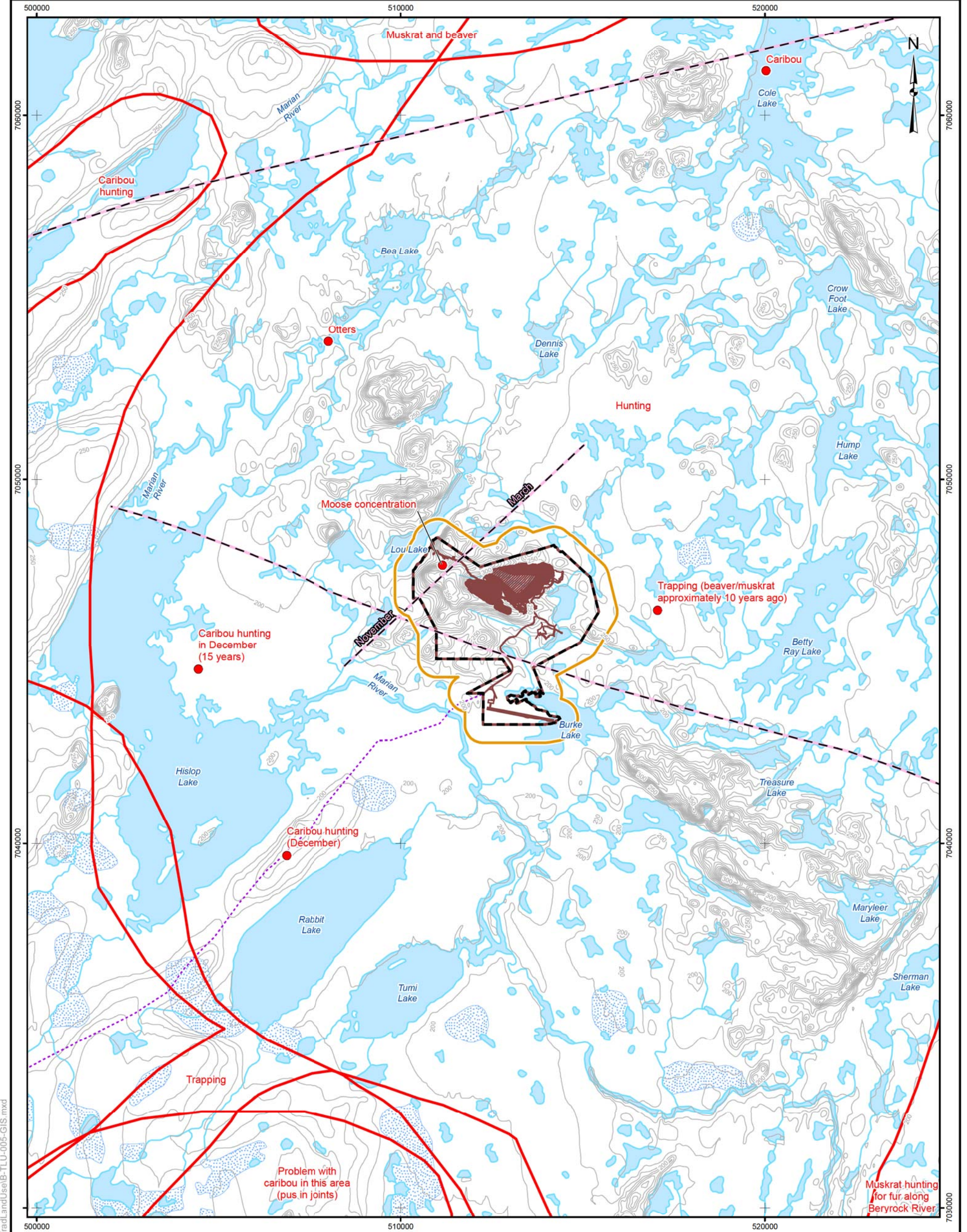
### **4.1.4.1 whatì Interview Summary**

Hunting and trapping continues to occur within the RSA and the LSA areas, as well as in areas overlapping the Project area. Areas identified by interview participants are shown in Figure 4.1-2 and Figure 4.1-3. Animals are harvested for fur and meat, which may be smoked and dried. Areas within the RSA that were used for hunting or trapping in the past include:

- hunting grounds west and north of Hislop Lake to Cole Lake (with a travel route through the Project area);
- traplines northeast, southwest, and northwest of Hislop Lake;
- caribou hunting grounds overlapping the RSA and LSA, as well as to the east and south;
- hunting in the general vicinity of the Project in the old days when Rayrock mine was in operation;
- a trapline west of Lac La Martre, which goes as far as Betty Ray Lake, where fish are present;
- trapping along the winter road on either side of the Marian River; and
- beaver and muskrat trapping area the area east of Peanut Lake.







LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND

●

 ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA

—

 CARIBOU MIGRATION


—

 GENERAL ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		WHATÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA HUNTING AND TRAPPING AREAS		
 Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No. B-TLU-029-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017		SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN	EK	04 Dec. 2009
		GIS	VGW	23 Dec. 2010
		CHECK	RB	19 Jan. 2011
		REVIEW	RB	19 Jan. 2011
		FIGURE: 4.1-3		



Interview participants reported that some specific locations currently used for hunting include the area around Gamètì, Wekweètì, Grandin Lake, Colomac mine area, the northeast arm (and north) of Marian Lake, and at Bea Lake. It was further noted, however, that hunting and trapping currently occurs throughout various portions of the RSA as shown in Figure 4.1-3.

Both caribou and moose are hunted within the RSA, and caribou are also hunted within the LSA (Figure 4.1-3). It was noted that caribou calve on the barren-lands, and black bear and moose give birth and raise their young all over the RSA. Moose hunting occurs along the winter road to Gamètì, and ptarmigan, ducks, grouse are hunted all over the area. Caribou hunting occurs on Burke, Lou, and Rabbit lakes from February to March, and other animals such as fox, wolverine, wolf, and bear are harvested at the same time. The east and south shores of Hislop Lake are used as hunting areas in December. It was also reported that snowmobiles are used to access the trapline from the northeast end of Hislop Lake to Bea Lake.

Interview participants reported that trapping occurs between Whatì and Hislop Lake, and there is a trapline located south of Whatì through to Raccoon Lake, and further south. In general, martin, mink, squirrel, weasel, wolverine, lynx, muskrat, cross fox, and black fox are trapped. Trapping also occurs north of La Martre River, and beaver and muskrat are trapped along the Marian River, as well as in the general vicinity of the Project area. It was noted by interview participants that Gamètì people trap in the area east of Mazenod Lake for muskrat and beaver.

Interview participants reported that the animals are different now than in the past. Differences included taste, behaviour, and appearance. Elders also reported that caribou are often discolored inside and have pus in the joints and skin. Elders indicated these changes have been observed in the Colomac Mine area and near Lac La Martre. Interview participants said that the caribou between Hislop and La Martre Lake do not appear healthy, but the caribou in the BHP Mine area do seem healthy. It was also reported that animals including some ducks and chickens have less fat or a bad smell, and that muskrats harvested near the Rayrock mine are not eaten for fear of contamination from the mine.

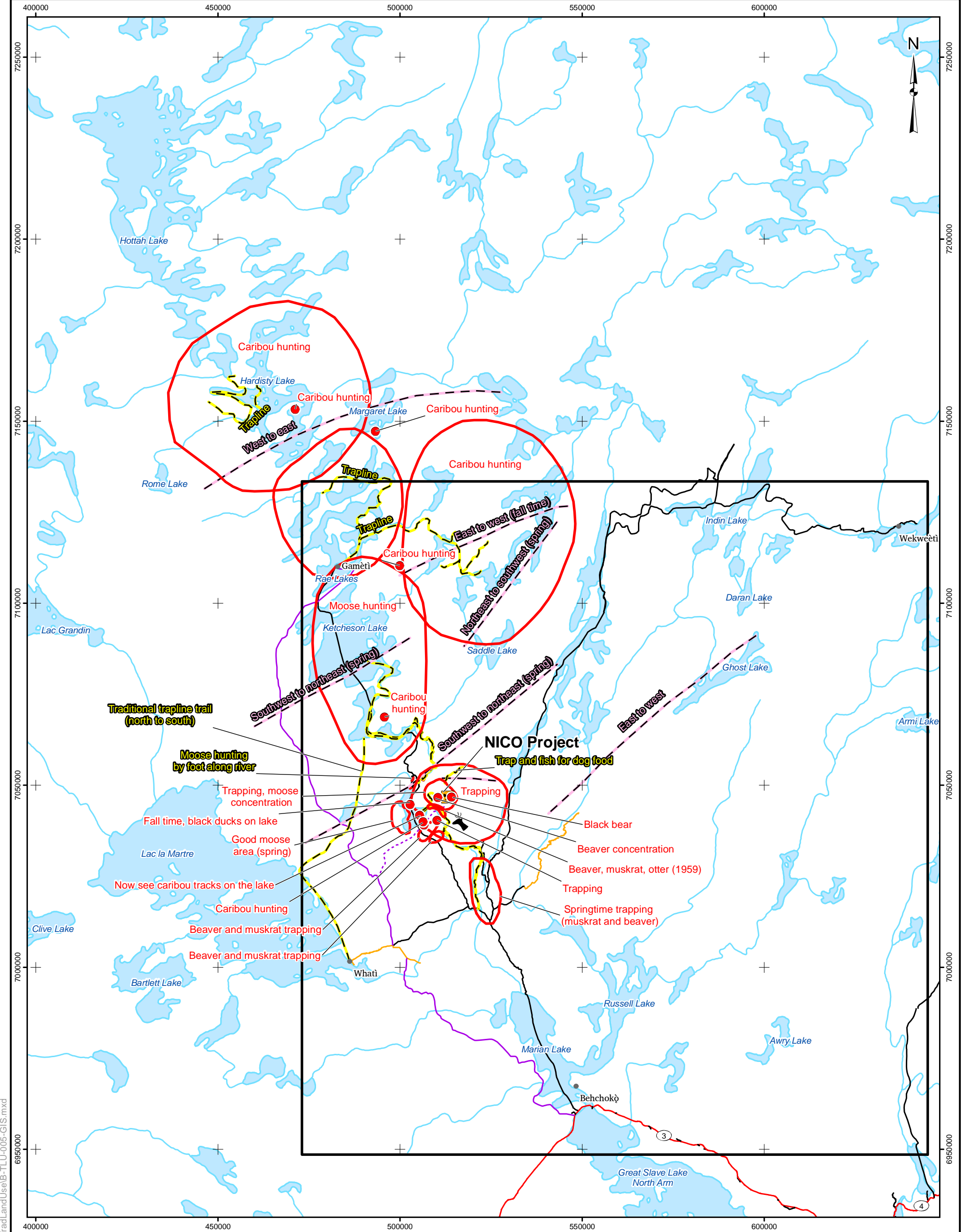
Interviewed Elders said that caribou migration routes have changed, elaborating that there used to be one trail between Kwejinne Lake and Russell Lake, but now the caribou travel in many different directions and are spread out. Several routes are within the RSA including a trail moving from a southwest to northeast direction that overlaps the LSA and Project area, and another located further north of the LSA.

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






#### **4.1.4.2 Gamètì Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that hunting and/or trapping continues to occur in the RSA and LSA, as well as areas overlapped by the Project area (Figure 4.1-4 and Figure 4.1-5). The hills in the general vicinity of the Project (specific location was not provided), were once used by hunters to locate game. Small game and birds such as ptarmigan, grouse, and rabbits were hunted in the general vicinity of the Project. It was noted by an interview participant that some people might still hunt caribou in the area when the Project is finished. It was also noted that historically, people hunted all over the area, and that there are many trails and traplines all over the area. Areas in which hunting and trapping has occurred in the past include the following:

- Hislop Lake area up to Otter Lake (moose, caribou, beaver, muskrat, mallards, ptarmigan, grouse, black ducks, and rabbits);
- trapping from Lou Lake to Bea Lake, as well as to the east;
- along the Marian River south of Hislop Lake and the lakes east of Hislop Lake;
- in the hills located within the general vicinity of the Project (particularly for moose);
- surrounding the north end of Hislop Lake where there are cabins, as well as south and southwest of Hislop Lake;
- beaver and muskrat were trapped in the Peanut/Nico Lake areas, but trapping was also conducted all over;
- northeast through Dennis Lake towards Crowfoot Lake;
- Hardisty Lake area; and
- travelling to the LSA from Hislop Lake to hunt moose.

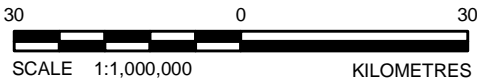


LEGEND

-  NICO PROJECT
-  POPULATED PLACE
-  HIGHWAY
-  EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD
-  EXISTING WINTER ROAD
-  PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE
-  PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
-  WATERCOURSE
-  REGIONAL STUDY AREA
-  WATERBODY
-  ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA
-  CARIBOU MIGRATION
-  ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA
-  CARIBOU MIGRATION
-  TRAPLINE/TRAIL
-  ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA

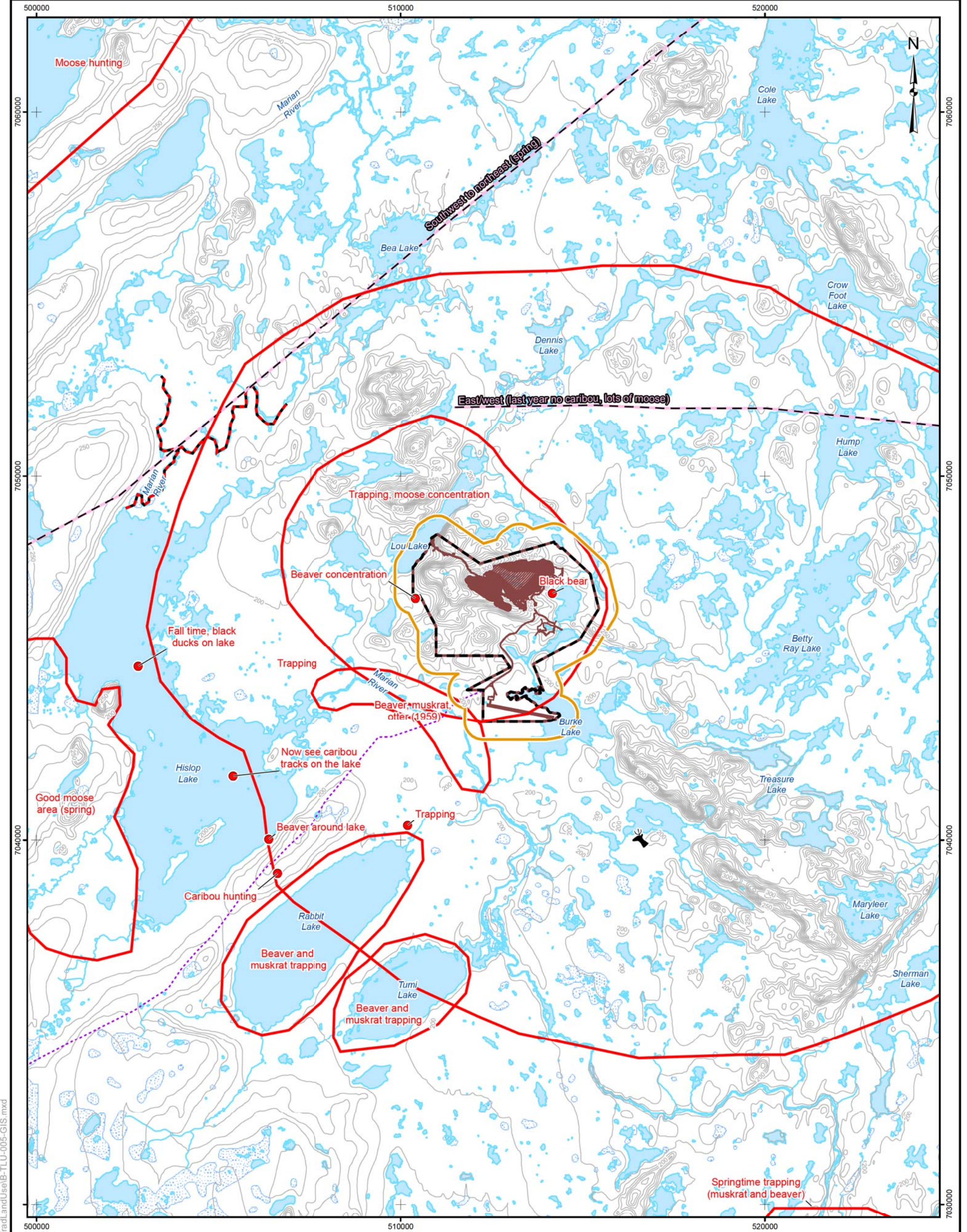
REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		GAMÈTÌ REGIONAL HUNTING AND TRAPPING AREAS		
 Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No. B-TLU-019-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
		DESIGN EK 04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-4	
		GIS VGV 23 Dec. 2010		
		CHECK RB 19 Jan. 2011		
		REVIEW RB 19 Jan. 2011		





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LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND
- ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA
- CARIBOU MIGRATION
- ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA
- CARIBOU MIGRATION
- ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		GAMÈTÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA HUNTING AND TRAPPING AREAS		
 Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No. B-TLU-034-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
		DESIGN EK 04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-5	
		GIS VGV 23 Dec. 2010		
		CHECK RB 19 Jan. 2011		
		REVIEW RB 19 Jan. 2011		



Interview participants reported that people would travel to different places each year to avoid depleting a particular area. They further noted that while it is difficult to predict, caribou tend to migrate past Wekweètì and Colomac and through the Gamètì area around the end of October before returning to the barren-lands when the snow begins to melt. They also migrate north, southwest, and northeast across the RSA and LSA, but migration routes vary and it was also noted that sometimes the caribou do not come at all. Interview participants said that caribou generally follow their food source.

Currently, hunting and trapping occurs within the RSA and LSA, but it was noted that some community members do not hunt in the vicinity of the Project because it is too far away. Trapping overlaps the LSA, extending to Rayrock Mine and east to Snare River, as well as north to Beati Lake. Interview participants further noted that the general area surrounding the Project is considered good beaver country and that it also has populations of bear and moose. It was reported during community interviews that caribou are hunted and rabbits are snared in the general area, but that hunting around the mine site is generally limited to moose and rabbits. Other fur-bearing animals such as muskrat, mink, otter, fox, lynx, wolves, squirrel, martin, and wolverine are also trapped in the general vicinity of the Project. Birds harvested in the RSA include black ducks, pintail, ptarmigan (in winter), and grouse (in fall). Areas within the RSA and/LSA that are used for hunting and trapping include the following:

- moose hunted north from Hislop Lake camp up the Marian River;
- trapping north of Gamètì near Beaverlodge Lake;
- several traplines between Tumi Lake and Lac La Martre, southwest of the general vicinity of the Project;
- springtime muskrat and beaver are trapped southeast of the LSA;
- caribou are hunted in March in the Faber/Marigold Lake area;
- muskrat and beaver are trapped in the Rabbit Lake, Hislop Lake, and Tumi Lake area;
- martin, fox, mink, wolverine, lynx, wolf, squirrel, and rabbit are trapped around the south Coppermine River; and
- caribou hunting and trapping areas are found north and northwest of the LSA as well as areas overlapped by the LSA.

There is a perception by some of the Elders that if the mine is developed, the wildlife in the area may be affected. During the interviews it was also questioned whether it will be possible to continue hunting along the Marian River and if any of the animals around the mining area will be safe to eat. The Elders further



noted that caribou migration may also change because of mining noise, and that other animals may be attracted to the Project because of food smells.

During interviews, Elders reported that they believe the caribou have changed, which they indicated may be due to mining (and possibly tagging) in the barren-lands area through which the caribou migrate. They said that the caribou are less healthy now. They reported that they taste and appear different with the presence of pus, scars, sticky fluids beneath the skin, sores and wounds on the ribs, and worms. Elders are also worried about bear survival if the mine is developed. The Trapper's Focus Group said that there was a noticeable change in the birds and animals, but it was also noted by at least one Elder that there was no change in moose health.

#### **4.1.4.3 Literature Review Hunting and Trapping**

Some animals encountered in the barren-land along the eastern portion of the Tłı̄ch̄ Q lands include Arctic hare, barren-land squirrel, foxes, wolves, otter, grizzly, and various birds, such as snowbird and ptarmigan. Elders have expressed concern that the interconnectedness of the land these animals occupy will be disturbed by development. Elders also indicated that the reduction in berries has affected animals, such as the barren-land squirrel, and that the muskox have now decreased in number (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001a:25).

Caribou are an integral part of Tłı̄ch̄ Q life. Hunting of both woodland caribou and barren-land caribou has occurred during all seasons and throughout the years (DCI 1995:25). There are three caribou herd ranges that overlap Tłı̄ch̄ Q lands, including the Bathurst herd, Bluenose herd, and the Ahiak herd (The Bathurst Caribou Management Planning Committee 2004:8). The relationship between the caribou and the Tłı̄ch̄ Q has been described as one based on respect (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:19). The Snare Lake area was a primary focus for the dēc̄ila hot̄i band spring caribou hunt and drew other groups of Dogrib as well (Figure 2.2-3) (Helm 1981:297). Year-round caribou hunting extended to Point Lake and as far as Contwoyto Lake in some years (Helm 1981:297). During the fall caribou hunt, the Wulede hot̄i travelled to Snare Lake and farther north by way of the Yellowknife River (Helm 1981:297).

In previous studies, Elders have said that barren-land caribou come to the Tłı̄ch̄ Q land from their birthing grounds knowing they will be killed (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:19). The Elders have stressed that no one knows exactly where the caribou will migrate to, but added that some areas have been successful hunting areas in the past, including the Wekwēt̄i area (Snare Lakes). Elders have said that there used to be caribou at What̄i, but because one caribou was mistreated (hit with a stick), there was a loss of caribou for about 30 years.

The barren-land caribou used to come to Great Slave Lake, Old Fort Rae, and farther south (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:38 and 47). Elders explained that if the caribou are not well treated, they will not come back, which is one reason the Elders are cautious about developments. The time-frame in which the individual hit the caribou with a stick coincided approximately with the Rayrock Mine operation (1957 to 1959). The Tłı̨ch̨ Q generally believe the caribou migrate to places where people live and behave well, and that the former Rayrock Mine may have damaged the ndè (land), possibly causing animals and several Dogrib who worked in or near the mine to become ill (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:21).

Elders have previously stated that the barren-land caribou still migrate farther south than Gamètì (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:29). These migrations have fluctuated from time to time, and the barren-land caribou may travel between different environments (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:29). Barren-land caribou generally migrate to the boreal forest area in fall and back to the barren-lands for calving (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:30 and 34). According to some Elders, the caribou may migrate to the boreal forest for more easily accessible food or for shelter (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:32). The caribou travel from the barren-land west to Great Bear Lake (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:35). An Elder indicated in a previous study that the barren-land caribou do not travel through the Wekweètì, Gamètì, or 'Behtsoko' [Behchokò] areas the same way every time (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:34). The traditional harvesting patterns change from year to year, with a possible cyclical shift every 3 or 4 years. The harvesting areas have included the area between Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake, and for the last 73 years, have rotated around Wekweètì (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:54 and 72).

In previous studies, Elders have indicated that the movements of the caribou have been affected by mining activities. Elders reported loud noises and fumes as reasons why the barren-land caribou travelled southeast to Áutselk'e during the Ekati mine operation. Elders also said that the caribou may be getting used to the pollution and although the caribou may avoid sites during grazing, they may go through project areas during migration, in spite of the obstacles (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:56 and 57).

According to oral narratives, the barren-land caribou are still expected to cross part of the Coppermine River during fall and spring (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b: 39). The woodland caribou prefer the plateau area west of Whatì, but eat the same food as the barren-land caribou (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:24).

Trapping territories were traditionally shared, and no firm hunting or trapping territories were specifically held (Ryan 1995:31). Trappers may have passed each

other on the trail as far south as Fort Providence and as far north as Fort Good Hope (Ryan 1995:31).

For the residents of Rae Edzo, trapping has occurred in a large region that includes the Horn Plateau (west of the RSA), along the Snare River system, and along the Marian River north of Rae and Hardisty lakes (Diavik 1998). For the Dogrib of Whatì, trapping has occurred in the spring, primarily along the La Martre lowlands at the confluence of the La Martre, Marian, and Horn rivers. Trapping and hunting activities during the winter have occurred southwest of Whatì, northwest toward Grandin Lake, and along the Horn Plateau (Lutra Associates 1989a as referenced in Diavik 1998). Some of the animals trapped and hunted in the Tłìchǫ Lands include beaver, lynx, porcupine, bear, grouse, ptarmigan, ducks, squirrel, weasel, mink, fox, martin, otter, wolf, and muskrat (DCI 1995:31). Animals trapped in the Snare Lake, Whatì, Rae Lakes, and Rae-Edzo areas include bear, mink, wolf, and beaver (Fortune 1998:59).

Some Dogrib people have said in the past that they are concerned about the potential effects of bison expanding their range northward. The impact of an expanded bison range on moose and caribou in the area are unknown (Cluff 2005:8). Moose are found in the area north of Yellowknife (Cluff 2005).

The primary focus of activities has been on the Marian River, which is used as a travel corridor to the barren-lands for caribou hunting (Fortune 2005:28).

## **4.1.5 Plant Harvesting**

### **4.1.5.1 Whatì Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that many plants and berries are harvested throughout the RSA, as well as the general vicinity of the Project (Figure 4.1-6 and 4.1-7). Participants indicated that plants and berries are harvested for both food and traditional medicines. Specifically, interview participants reported that a good area for rat root is at the confluence of the northwest and northeast arms of Marian Lake, just north of Behchokò, south of the LSA.

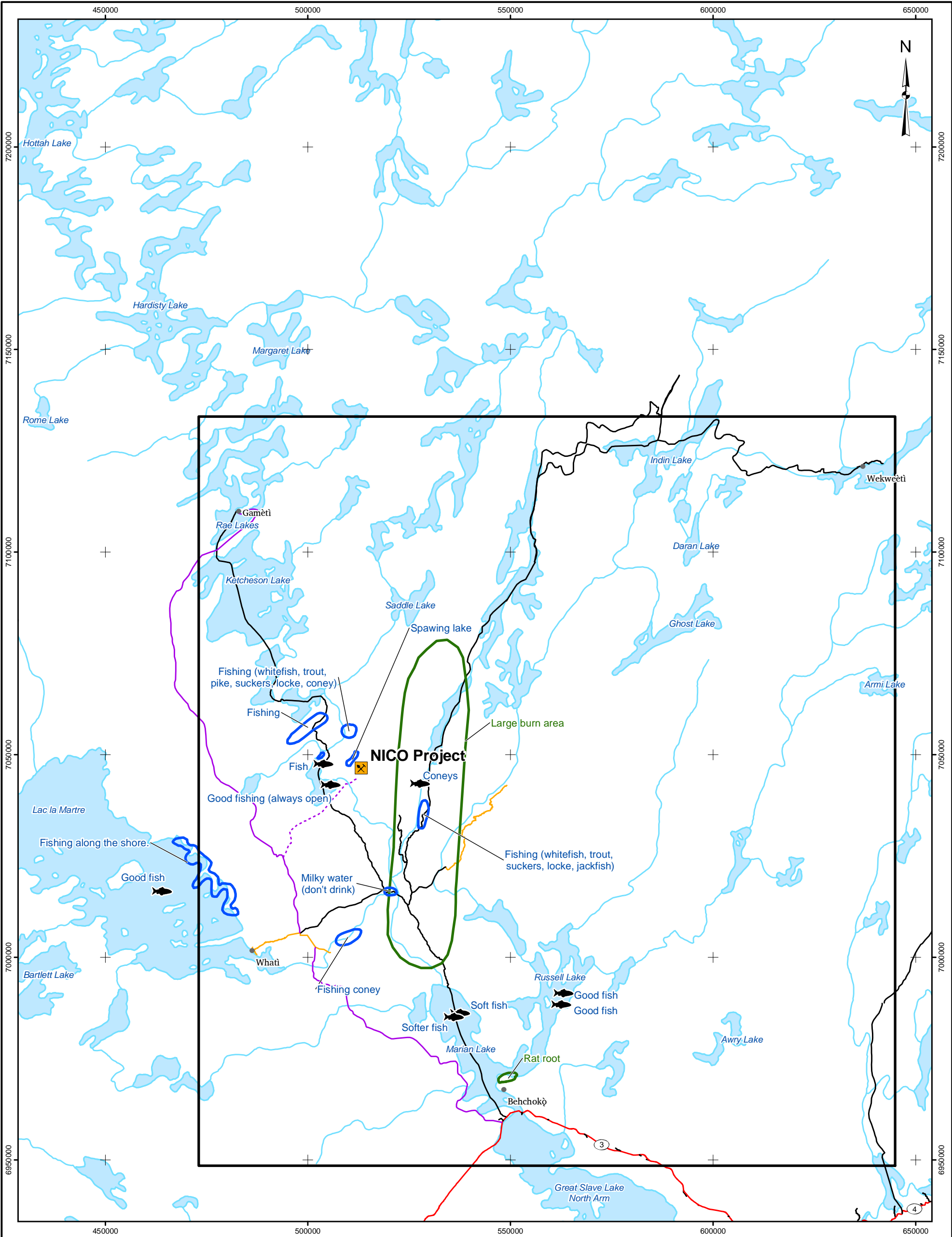
Interview participants reported that there are many different berries found in the RSA including cranberries (both low and high bush), blueberries and cloudberries. These are used as food and as medicine to treat colds, mouth sores, and overall health. Cranberries are used in pemmican and other berries can be used in jams and oils. The berries are also important for wildlife since the bears rely on them to prepare for hibernation. There were no current indications of

difference in productivity or taste of berries harvested. Other plants and trees used for medicine include the following within the RSA:

- birch tree sap and white sticky material under the bark;
- inside bark of willow;
- black spruce sap and gum;
- pine branches for coughs and making a needle tea;
- red roots;
- lichen on spruce; and
- lily pad.

Elders believe that in the past, traditional medicines were at least partly responsible for longevity of life. In modern times, Elders perceive that both people's health and the health of plants have declined, adding that the branches of pine and spruce trees grow up instead of down, which is the common pattern. Interview participants have also noticed that some wood is now discoloured with a reddish colour, and the land is becoming dryer and, as a result, the grass is increasing.

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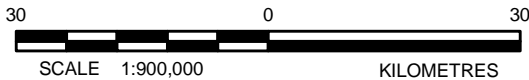


LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | NICO PROJECT                        |  | FISHING/WATER AREA  |
|  | POPULATED PLACE                     |  | FISHING/WATER AREA  |
|  | HIGHWAY                             |  | PLANTS/BERRIES AREA |
|  | EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           |  |                     |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD                |  |                     |
|  | PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE |  |                     |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |  |                     |
|  | WATERCOURSE                         |  |                     |
|  | REGIONAL STUDY AREA                 |  |                     |
|  | WATERBODY                           |  |                     |

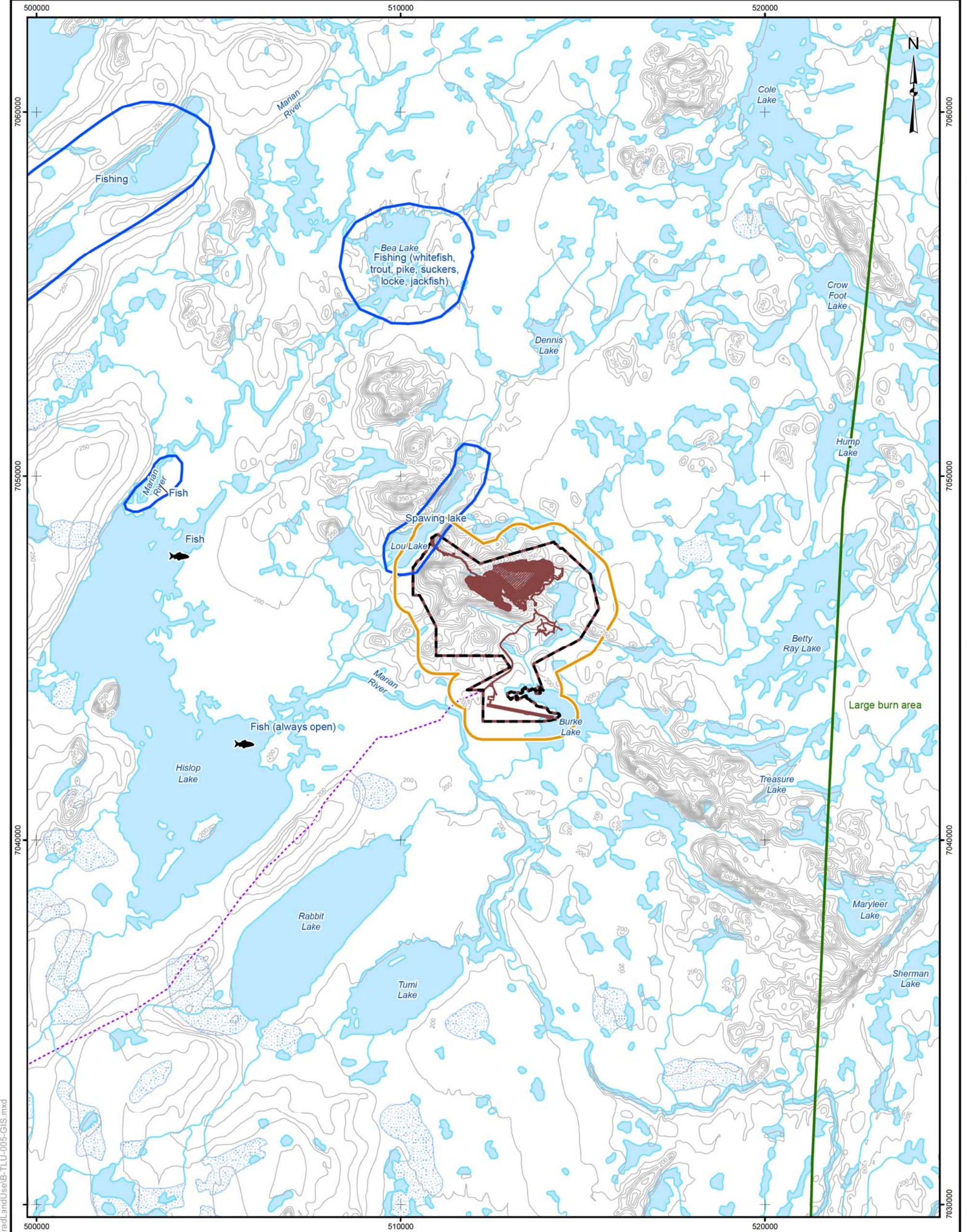
REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		WHATÌ REGIONAL FISHING, BERRY AND PLANT AREAS		
Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No. B-TLU-028-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
		DESIGN EK 04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-6	
		GIS MV 04 Jan. 2011		
		CHECK RB 19 Jan. 2011		
		REVIEW RB 19 Jan. 2011		





LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND
- FISHING/WATER AREA
- FISHING/WATER AREA
- PLANTS/BERRIES AREA

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		WHATÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA FISHING, BERRY AND PLANT AREAS		
 Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No. B-TLU-030-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
		DESIGN EK 04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-7	
		GIS MV 04 Jan. 2010		
		CHECK RB 19 Jan. 2011		
		REVIEW RB 19 Jan. 2011		



#### **4.1.5.2 Gamètì Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that there are many plants and berries used by the local communities. Areas identified by interview participants are shown in Figure 4.1-8 and Figure 4.1-9. Berries include blueberries, cranberries, cloudberrries, Saskatoon berries, gooseberries, strawberries, and blackberries. Berries are generally gathered in July and August and there are generally more berries when there is more rain in the season (which can vary). Blueberries and cranberries are the most important. Areas surrounding the general vicinity of the Project where berries are collected include:

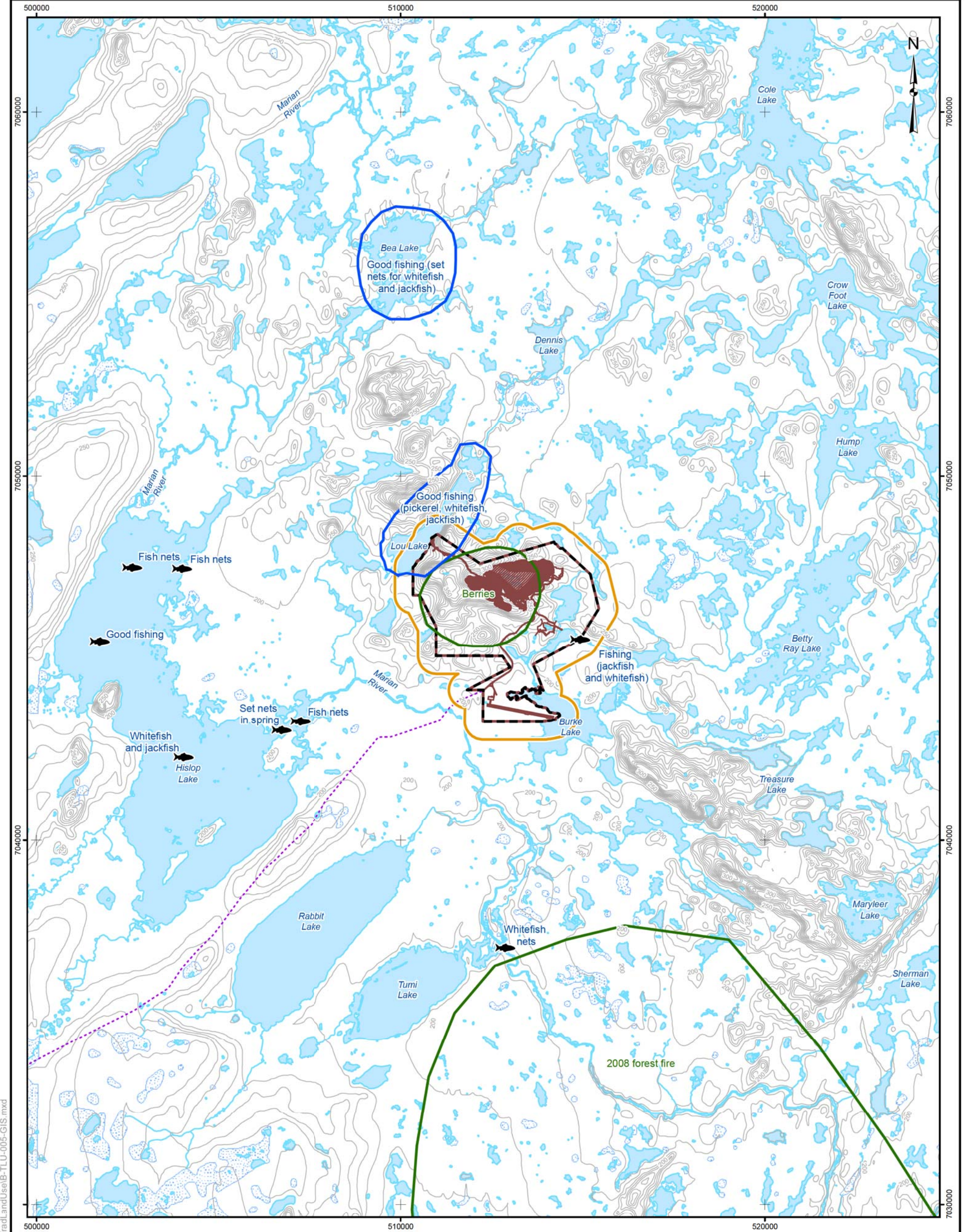
- Lou Lake has been used as staging area to harvest berries along the hills;
- berries are now generally collected from across the lake near Gamètì;
- blueberries, cloudberrries, and cranberries are harvested within the Project area; and
- a large plant and berry area is located southeast of the Project area between Tumi Lake and Shoti Lake.

Interview participants also reported that berries, particularly cranberries, are also used for medicine (berries and trees are utilized within the Project area). Interview participants further reported that people and animals continue to use traditional medicines, but in general they are losing the traditional medicines. Even though berries can be found everywhere, people tend to avoid travelling long distances for this resource and harvest close to where they live. Prior to the Rayrock Mine, people used to pick berries in the general vicinity of that mine, but now stay away from the area. Interview participants questioned whether the plants and berries will be the same after the Project. A berry area was described overlapping the LSA. The LSA was reported to still be a good area for collecting medicinal plants. Some medicines discussed by Elders included:

- juniper roots and branches (often boiled for a medicinal broth);
- birch tree sap;
- spruce branches and bark cones (boiled for a medicinal broth);
- spruce gum;
- pine cones and needles for a medicinal tea; and
- rat root found in the Behchokò area and Hislop Lake.







LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND

 FISHING/WATER AREA FISHING/WATER AREA PLANTS/BERRIES AREA

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		GAMÈTÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA FISHING, BERRY AND PLANTS AREAS		
		FILE No. B-TLU-035-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
DESIGN	EK	04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-9	
GIS	MV	04 Jan. 2010		
CHECK	RB	19 Jan. 2011		
REVIEW	RB	19 Jan. 2011		





### 4.1.5.3 Literature Review: Plant Harvesting

Although in the past, both men and women collected berries anywhere they were found, it was most often done by women and children (DCI 1995:32). Plants for healing were collected by the senior men and women (DCI 1995:32). Table 4.1-1, adapted from Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (2001a:21 to 28), shows the translated names and Latin names (where available) of traditional plants in the Wekweètì area. These plants and habitats are considered important to Tłìchǫ Elders. Elders have commented that there were fewer berries in the muskeg area than before (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001a:20).

**Table 4.1-1 Plants in the Wekweètì Area**

Plants (English Name)	Plants (Latin Name)		Geographical Area
	Family	Scientific Name	
labrador tea	ERICACEAE	<i>Ledum palustre</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweètì, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
unknown	LYCOPODIACEAE	<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>	surrounding Wekweètì,
two types of grass and sedges	POACEAE	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Tam'ik'awodeè
willow	SALICACEAE	<i>Salix sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
alder	BETULACEAE	<i>Alnus crispa</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, just northeast of Edzo
spruce	Pinaceae	<i>Picea sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
white lichen	unknown	Unknown	surrounding Wekweètì, boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
black lichen	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
bearberry	ERICACEAE	<i>Arctostaphylos rubra</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
cranberry	ERICACEAE	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
blueberry	ERICACEAE	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake

**Table 4.1-1 Plants in the Wekweètì Area (continued)**

Plants (English Name)	Plants (Latin Name)		Geographical Area
	Family	Scientific Name	
"barren-land leaf"		<i>Salix sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
plated rocktripe	UMBILICARIACEAE	<i>Umbilicaria mutilenbergii</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
moss	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
"hill of grass/sedge"	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
crowberry	EMPETRACEAE	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
black spruce	PINACEAE	<i>Picea mariana</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, boreal forest area (Nidzika), just northeast of Edzo, Tam'ik'awodeè, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
cloudberry	ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
type of sedge	CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
cotton grass	CYPERACEAE	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
Kw'ah	POLYTRICHACEAE SPHAGNACEAE	<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> <i>Sphagnum sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
sedge	CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex aquatilis, Carex bigelowii</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
a green lichen	unknown	<i>Possibly Peltigera aphthosa</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
flower	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
type of mushroom	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
small leaves	ERICACEAE	<i>Loiseleuria sp. (Possibly-procumbens)</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
unknown	PARMELIACEAE	<i>Masonhalea richard sonii</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
sedge and grass	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì, just northeast of Edzo
small hill of grass	CYPERACEAE sp.	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
black lichen (various types)	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì
saxifrage	SAXIFRAGACEAE	<i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
"old grass"	CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex sp.</i>	surrounding Wekweètì

**Table 4.1-1 Plants in the Wekweètì Area (continued)**

Plants (English Name)	Plants (Latin Name)		Geographical Area
	Family	Scientific Name	
general lichen	unknown	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì, Tam'ik'awodeè, just northeast of Edzo
unknown	STEREOCAULACEAE	<i>Stereocaulon tomentosum</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
unknown	CLADONIAEAE	<i>Cladina mitis</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
type of blue berry	ERICACEAE	<i>Ledum palustre</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
unknown	CYPERACEAE	<i>Carex subspathacea (?)</i>	surrounding Wekweètì
kinnikinnick	ERICACEAE	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, just northeast of Edzo
red willow	SALICACEAE.	<i>Salix sp</i>	surrounding Wekweètì, just northeast of Edzo
type of blackberry	unknown		surrounding Wekweètì
black rock fungus	UMBILICARIAEAE (?)	unknown	surrounding Wekweètì, Whagweeti, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
jackpine	PINACEAE	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
plant used for smoking	unknown	unknown	boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
raspberry	ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
gooseberry	GROSSULARIAEAE	<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i>	boreal forest area, Whagweeti (Nidzika), just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
aspen	SALICACEAE	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	boreal forest area (Nidzika), just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
Saskatoon berry	ROSACEAE	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
birch tree	BETULACEAE	unknown	boreal forest area (Nidzika), Whagweeti, Tam'ik'awodeè, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
white spruce	PINACEAE	<i>Picea glauca</i>	Whagweeti, boreal forest area (Nidzika), just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake

**Table 4.1-1 Plants in the Wekweètì Area (continued)**

Plants (English Name)	Plants (Latin Name)		Geographical Area
	Family	Scientific Name	
wild roses	ROSACEAE	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Whagweeti, just northeast of Edzo, around Faber Lake and Rae Lake
juniper	CUPRESSACEAE	<i>Juniperus sp.</i>	Tam'ik'awodeè
cattails and reeds	unknown	unknown	just northeast of Edzo
rock tripe/black fungus	unknown	unknown	just northeast of Edzo

Adapted from: Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (2001a: 21 to 28)

## 4.1.6 Fishing

### 4.1.6.1 whatì Interview Summary

Interview participants said that in the past all species of fish were used, and all parts of the fish were used for medicine, protein, and calories. Knowledge of fish preparation was passed down by oral tradition. One Elder indicated that fish was eaten almost every day, and that they preferred whitefish and lake trout. Areas identified by interview participants are shown in Figure 4.1-6 and Figure 4.1-7. Interview participants reported that there are still many good fishing grounds present in the RSA including:

- Lou Lake within the LSA;
- Squirrel Lakes north of the LSA;
- Bea Lake to the northwest of the LSA (whitefish, trout, pike, suckers, loche, and coney);
- Riviere La Martre a couple of kilometres north of La Martre Falls (coney);
- Lac La Martre, particularly along the northeastern shore (preferred lake for fishing);
- a trapline west of Lac La Martre, which goes as far as Betty Ray Lake, where fish are present;
- Hislop Lake in general but particularly the southeast area and north side of Hislop Lake west of the LSA (whitefish, suckers, loche, and jackfish); and
- northeast arm of Marian Lake (Russell Lake).

Fishing camps were previously located on Rayrock River, and an Elder indicated that a lake in the Project area used to be good for fishing. There was a fishing camp also located just north of the confluence of the Emile River and Marian River. The lake in the development area used to be good for fishing when travelling there in the past.

Interview participants believe some waterways, as well as fish health, appearance and taste have changed. Fish from Behchokò area are considered soft and thought to be affected by drainage from the Rayrock Mine. Elders have noticed dead fish in the rivers downstream from the Rayrock Mine, but have not noticed any change in fish quality around Whatì.

Interview participants reported that in the last 40 to 50 years the water levels in Lac La Martre have decreased and freezing occurs later in the season. The water in Lac La Martre has been good, and is used to cook. Elders said that there are no mining industries at Lac La Martre and that there are big differences between lakes like Marian Lake and Lac La Martre. Fish caught at the northern edge of Marian Lake in 1999 were considered soft, milky, and not good to eat.

#### **4.1.6.2 Gamètì Interview Summary**

Interview participants reported that in the past, people ate fish every day, but now eat it sporadically. It was also noted that in the past they cooked the fish with the skins on. It was also reported that they occasionally ate the livers. Most parts of the fish were used. Many people do not fish near mine areas now as there are concerns with mine pollution. Areas identified by interview participants are shown in Figure 4.1-8 and Figure 4.1-9. Interview participants reported that there are still lots of good fishing places in the general vicinity of the Project and fish are caught in both summer and winter using hooks and nets. Areas that are fished include:

- waterbodies within the general vicinity of the Project including Lou Lake which overlaps the LSA (pickerel, whitefish, jackfish, and trout);
- Hislop Lake (whitefish and jackfish);
- lakes near Gamètì (whitefish, pickerel, grayling, loche, trout, coney, and jackfish);
- nets are used near a camp on north end of Hislop Lake and in the small arm of the lake to the northeast;
- the discharge area to Marian River (Hislop Lake) and Marian River including (whitefish, catfish, and loche);
- Rae Lakes area (especially grayling);

- the outlet area of Tumi Lake (whitefish, lake trout, and jackfish);
- from Hardisty Lake south to Sarah Lake;
- Beati Lake (big jackfish and whitefish);
- fishing used to be good in Peanut Lake and Nico Lake;
- Faber Lake (trout); and
- Buile Lake (jackfish and whitefish).

Participants explained that generally, the fish move to follow the healthy water, and if the water is not good then the fish will get sick. Some participants said that some fish have pus inside, adding that the water quality in some places was not perceived as good so they used melted snow to drink instead. Other participants said that the water was still good and that there was no change in health and quality of fish. Several specific concerns were noted with respect to the quality of the water. Concerns stated by interview participants included:

- people can not drink water around the general vicinity of the Project;
- water was taken from upstream of the decommissioned Rayrock Mine because the quality is suspect downstream (fish health is poor);
- water in the Gamètì area is not good;
- mining may negatively affect healthy fish in locations such as Lou Lake;
- fish used to be very tasty and fat in the past, but they are less so now;
- there has been no change in the amount of rain or snow, but water levels have decreased; and
- mercury was found in the trout from Rae Lakes.

Interview participants also questioned if it will be possible to continue fishing along the Marian River if the Project is developed as planned.

#### **4.1.6.3 Literature Review Fishing and Water**

In the past, fishing could occur throughout the year, but dry fish for families was primarily made in the spring, and fish for winter dog food was dried in the fall (DCI 1995:25 and 31). In a previous study, it was indicated that domestic fishing occurred in various lakes and waterbodies including Marian, James, Hislop, Shoti, Slemen, and the North Arm of Great Slave lakes (Figure 4.1-2) (Diavik 1998). One Elder said they used to camp at the north end of Hislop Lake and fished in the area (DCI 1995: Appendix A). Stagg Lake has also been fished



(Figure 4.1-2). The Dogrib name for Stagg Lake translates to “there are lots of Jackfish here” (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council 2001b:33).

Some major lakes fished for subsistence include Mazenod, Sarah, Faber, and Rae lakes (Figure 4.1-2). Lakes along river drainages, such as Marian River and Camsell River, and between the large lakes, may also have been fished for subsistence (Fortune 1998:61). Summer and winter fish camps were located at Lac La Martre (DCI 1995:30).

## **4.1.7 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

### **4.1.7.1 Whatì**

Camps have been identified both in the RSA and LSA (Figure 4.1-10 and 4.1-11), as well as locations overlapped by the Project area. Camps reported to have been used in the past and to the current times include:

- a camp on a small lake east of Peanut Lake that was used by an Elder;
- a number of cabins located on the north end of Hislop Lake, one of which is still in use;
- a number of houses along the northern end of Hislop Lake;
- a cabin for trapping on the north end of a lake mid way between Tumi Lake and Tayonton Lake (near the winter road);
- a number of old cabins are also located at southeast corner of Hislop Lake near the Marian River, and at the north end of Marian Lake (former location of Gamètì); and
- camps for fishing and hunting were set up in the past at the north end of Rabbit and Tumi lakes.

Interview participants reported that there used to be an area for fishing and hunting at the location of Tree-hill Point, west of Hislop Lake, but people moved to the settlement at the north end of the Hislop Lake for better fishing around 1962. A cemetery was located across from the settlement at Tree-hill Point.

Before the 1950s and into the 1970s, most people lived in camps, travelling long distances with dog teams and living on the fish and caribou they caught. Marian River is the main travel route north of Marian Lake. Other trails or traplines were reported near or overlapping the LSA as follows:

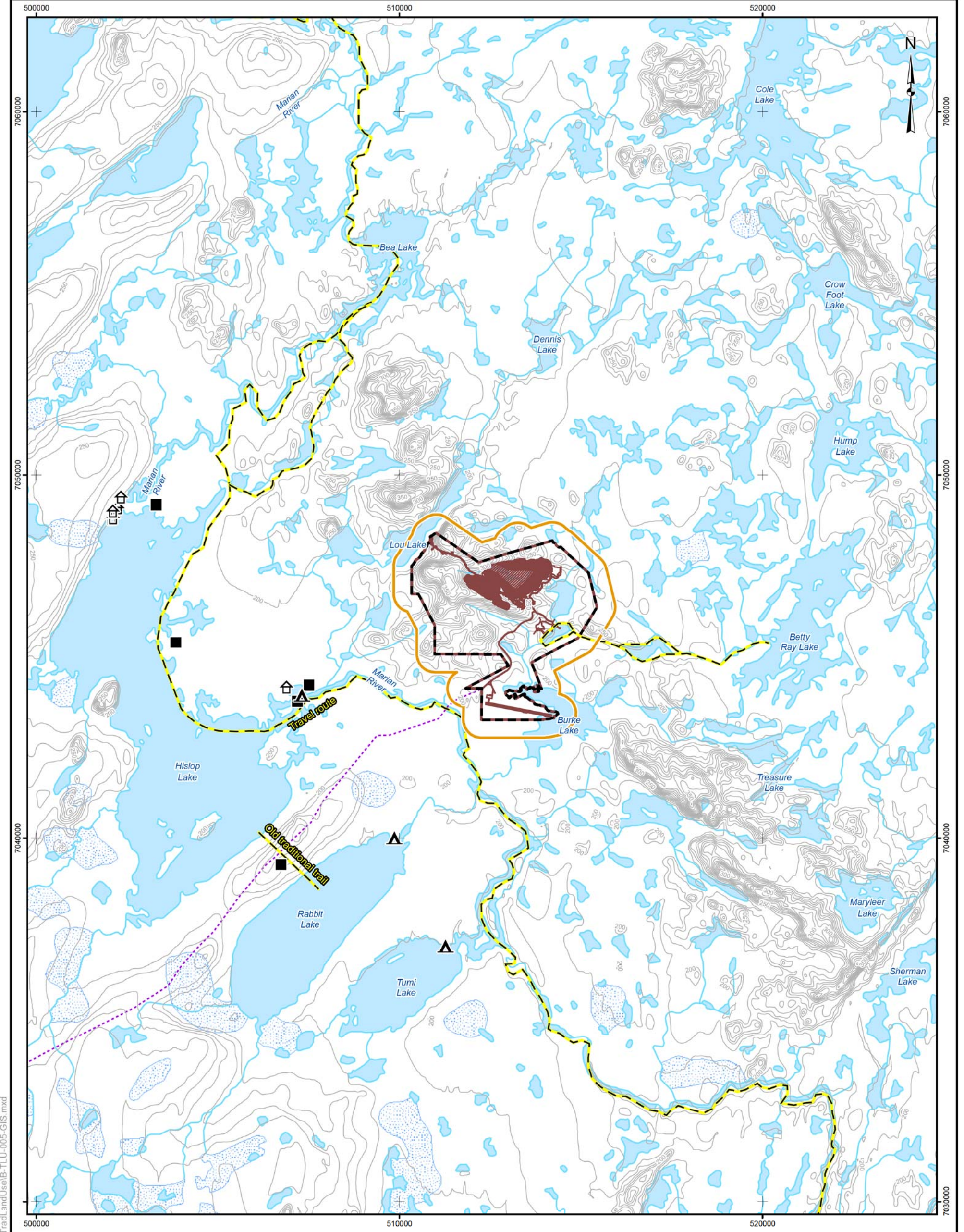
- an old traditional trail between Hislop and Rabbit lakes that goes straight southwest from the east end of a large island in Hislop Lake to a camp on the west shore of Rabbit Lake;
- an old traditional trail connecting Hislop Lake and Rabbit Lake approximately perpendicular to the NPAR;
- a trail just southeast of the LSA;
- a trapline or trail between Peanut Lake in the LSA and Betty Ray Lake;
- several trapline trails were reported between Tumi Lake and Lac La Martre southwest of the LSA; and
- a travel route is marked from Lac La Martre north to a camp at the southeast corner of Hislop Lake near the Marian River.

Other culturally significant sites reported near the LSA include:

- gravesite locations on the east and north sides of Hislop Lake;
- gravesite just south of the NPAR between Hislop Lake and Rabbit Lake;
- an old man may have been buried in the area west of the LSA;
- a number of grave sites are located south of the Whatì winter road near Marian River; and
- oral tradition describes Mezza Lake as the place where Edyou Abatcho made peace.







LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND
- ▲


 CAMPSITE
- GRAVE/BURIAL
- ⌂

 SETTLEMENT/CABIN
- TRAPLINE/TRAIL

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		WHATÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA CAMPSITES, BURIAL, SETTLEMENT AND OTHER AREAS		
		FILE No. B-TLU-031-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
	DESIGN	EK	04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-11
	GIS	VG	23 Dec. 2010	
	CHECK	RB	19 Jan. 2011	
	REVIEW	RB	19 Jan. 2011	

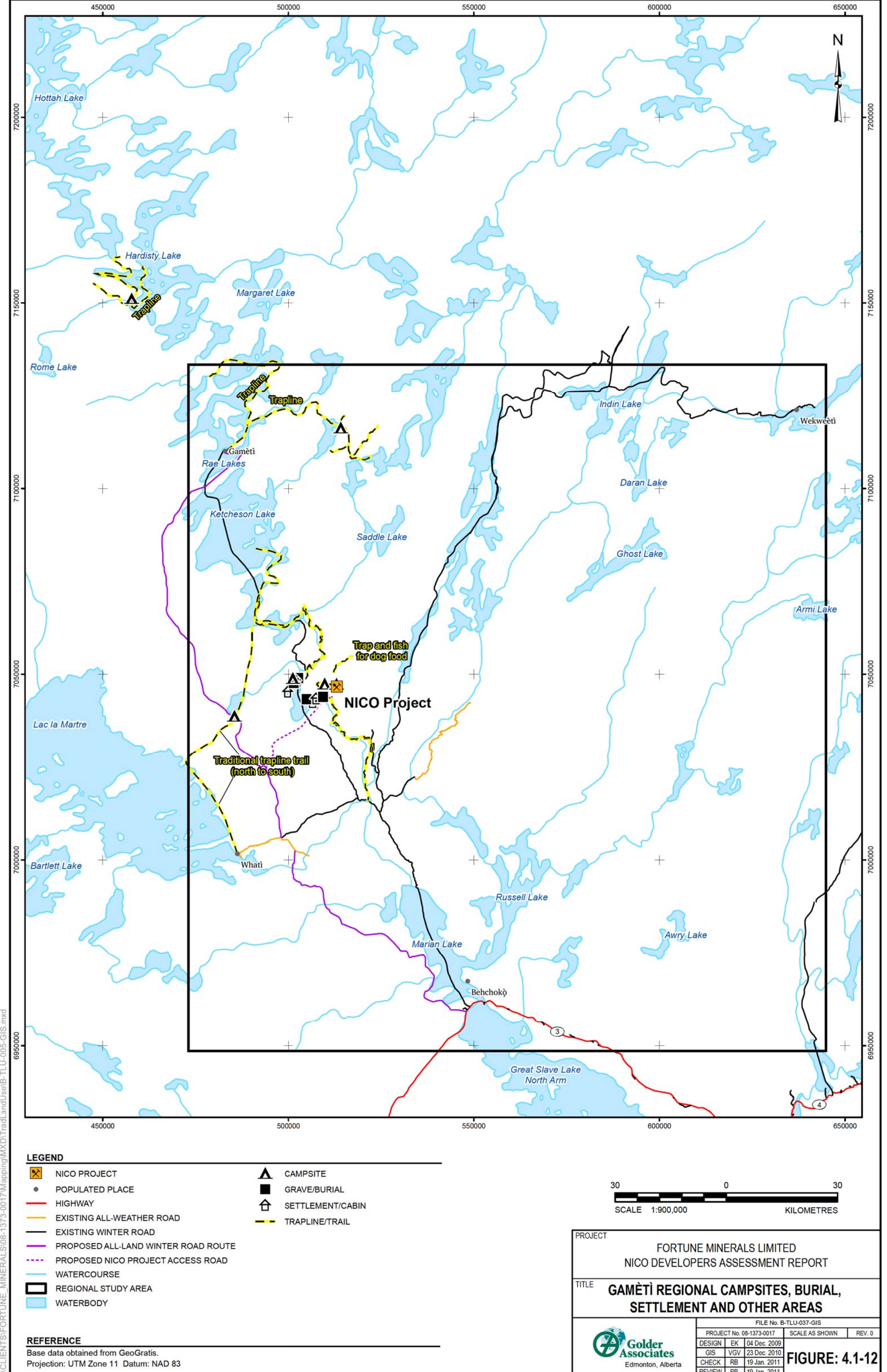


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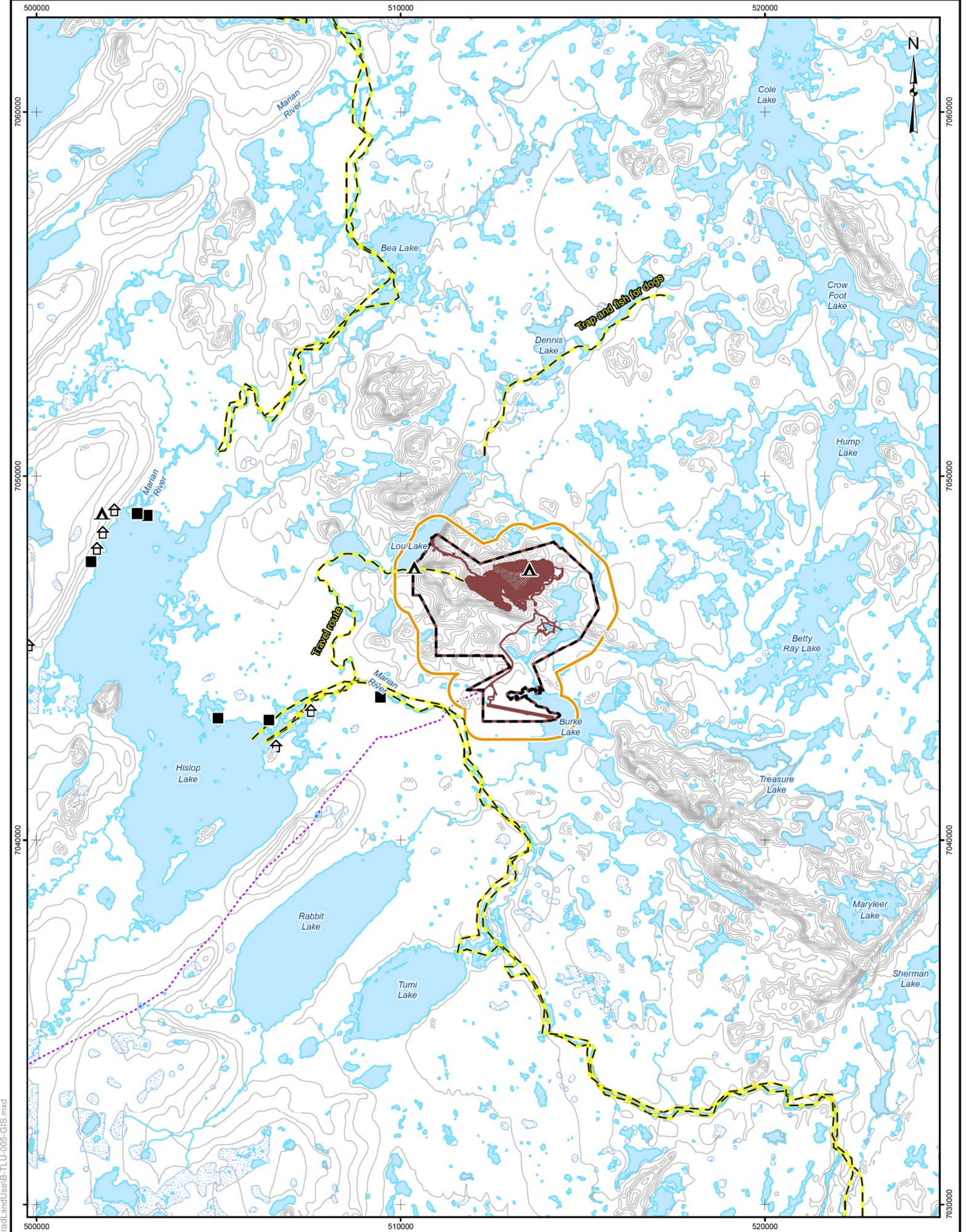
#### 4.1.7.2 Gamètì Interview Summary

Interview participants said that there was a settlement located at Rae Lakes because that was an area of good fishing and trapping. However, when Gamètì was built in 1966, people moved from the Rae settlement to Gamètì. Gamètì was originally intended to be an outpost camp, but instead it became a settlement. Interview participants reported that there are several cabin and camp locations within the RSA and LSA (Figures 4.1-12 and 4.1-13) which include:

- cabins associated with Hislop Lake including 3 on the north side, others on the big island in southeast bay of the lake, and on the west side of the lake;
- stone chimneys may still be standing on the east side of the north bay of Hislop Lake;
- old partial cabins are present near the confluence of the Lac La Martre and Marian rivers;
- cabins on the south end of Marian River;
- fishing cabins on the Marian River just north of Hislop Lake;
- camp sites at the north and east side of Hislop Lake;
- Elders said there used to also camp on Bea Lake for the fishing;
- camp near the outlet area of Tumi Lake;
- south of Sarah Lake, a campsite is located on a smaller lake along the trail;
- camp at Bea (Beati in TłìchQ) Lake for good fishing;
- camping areas along the Marian River, and a camp south of the Marian River discharge from Hislop Lake;
- a tent area located within the LSA on the southeast side of Lou Lake;
- a traditional camp at the north end of Hislop Lake, where people used to live in tents all year round;
- a campsite on top of the hills in the LSA where moose used to be hunted from; and
- camps located at Koropchuk Lake and Hardisty Lake.







LEGEND

- CONTOUR (10 METRE INTERVAL)
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
- PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- LOCAL STUDY AREA
- WATERBODY
- WETLAND

▲

 CAMPSITE

■

 GRAVE/BURIAL

⌂

 SETTLEMENT/CABIN

—

 TRAPLINE/TRAIL

REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		GAMÈTÌ LOCAL STUDY AREA CAMPSITES, BURIAL, SETTLEMENT AND OTHER AREAS		
		FILE No. B-TLU-036-GIS		
		PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
DESIGN	EK	04 Dec. 2009	FIGURE: 4.1-13	
GIS	MV	04 Jan. 2011		
CHECK	RB	19 Jan. 2011		
REVIEW	RB	19 Jan. 2011		





Interview participants reported that several trails overlap the RSA and LSA (Figures 4.1-11 and 4.1-12), and there are burials located just west of the LSA. These include the following:

- a traditional trail between Behchokò and Gamètì that follows the Marian River north to Tumi Lake, Hislop Lake, Bea Lake, Mazenod Lake, Sarah Lake to Faber Lake and north;
- there is a dogsled trail east of the current winter road and south of Tumi Lake;
- several trapline trails run through the RSA including one that runs along the northeast boundary of Lac la Martre to Sarah Lake;
- trapline trails are located at, and connect, Koropchuk Lake, Rae Lake, Tuche Lake, near Hardisy Lake and Lac Malfait;
- a long trail travels through the Bea Lake area;
- burials sites are located at the outflow of the Marian River, and other burial sites are along the Marian River (exact locations are not known);
- approximately 10 gravesites on the east side of Hislop Lake are marked by one large cross;
- burials surrounding Hislop Lake three graveyards south of Marian River and east of Hislop Lake, as well as on the east and west shores of Hislop Lake, and on the north side of outlet bay; and
- a travel route runs east from Hislop Lake through the LSA.

#### **4.1.7.3 Literature Review Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Traditionally, the Tłìchʔ lived according to a yearly cycle which involved travelling along traditional trails in birchbark canoes (Zoe 2007). In the fall they travelled to the barren lands to harvest caribou, and then returned to the area below the tree-line during the winter until spring (Zoe 2007). An important travel route has been described southwest along Wekweètì (Roundrock Lake) (DCI 1996: Map 1). Another major travel route was from Tidee (Great Slave Lake) to Wekweètì (DCI 1996:14). One Elder indicated that they also lived and travelled along trails in the Hislop Lake area (Figure 4.1-1) (DCI 1995: Appendix A). Major winter travel routes included the lower Marian River, Marian Lake, Snare River, Snare Lakes, Russell Lake, and the Lac La Martre winter road (Lutra Associates 1989b, 1989c, and 1989d as cited in Diavik 1998).

A prominent trail that runs west of the Project in a north to south line is the Įdaà Trail (Figure 4.1-1). This trail is very important to the Dogrib people because

approximately 20 sacred sites and 189 graves lie adjacent to it or within it (Andrews et al. 1998). It extends from Great Bear Lake in the north to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake in the south. The 2 rivers that make up the trail include the Marian River and the Camsell River (Andrews and Zoe 1997). In addition, there is a network of interconnecting trails that provide access to the Tłı̄ch̄ land (Andrews and Zoe 1997). Several important cultural sites are located along the trail. The following information on the Įdaà Trail is taken from *Lessons from the Land: A Cultural Journey through the Northwest Territories* (Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Center no date, internet site).

At Bea Lake (Bea Tì), archaeologists and Elders identified the remains of 2 birch bark canoes along with the birch tree that was used to repair them. Birch bark canoes were common along the Įdaà Trail, which continues south past Bea Lake to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake.

North of Bea Lake, on Faber Lake, are the remains of the “Village beside Nidzii” (Nîdzîjka Kôgôłaa), which was the largest of 4 previous villages along the Įdaà Trail. The other seasonal villages located on the Įdaà Trail were Dêta'aa Ts'ahtî Kogolaa, which was located on a small lake north of Rae; Xâeliî Whaédoò Kogolaa, which was located on Marian Lake; and K'agootî Kogolaa, which was located on Hislop Lake. The 4 villages represent a change in economy, architectural style, and leadership during the period of trade with Europeans. All four villages were abandoned in either 1928 or 1929 after an influenza outbreak.

Farther north is the site of Sliding Hill (Hodoòdzoo). People frequently stopped at the hill to slide down. Oral history says that if a person could slide down the hill without turning or twisting then they would have a long life, but if they did not go down straight then they would not reach old age.

Approximately midway along the Įdaà Trail is an important portage site called Komoola Portage (Kômôôłaa) in which several camp sites and graves are located. Farther north is a fishing area called Hook Place (Dahæak 'e) where the deep pools of water make for excellent fishing. Beyond there, in a place called Grave Site (Kw'ôöoyeetî), is one of the 189 graves located along the Įdaà Trail. It is located in an area chosen by the deceased individual so that both canoe and dog team trails passed over. The deceased wanted her family to be able to visit her during any time of the year.

The northernmost notable sites along the Įdaà Trail are a sacred site called Blood Rock (Kweæhdoò), which is a quarry used in the past to make tools, and a second site called Fence Narrows (Kwîñka). This was once an active hunting



area in which large numbers of caribou were herded along fences. In some cases these fences were miles long on lake ice, and were built in March and April to coincide with the northward migration of the Bathurst caribou herd. The fences were an integral part of the yearly harvest and provided enough caribou to last through spring and summer.

Based on Tłıchǫ Government (2007), the Monfwì Trail (also spelled Mǫwhì) also appears to be overlapped by the RSA along the south and eastern boundaries, but does not appear to be overlapped by the LSA. Chief Mǫwhì, for which the trail is named, signed Treaty 11 in 1921 and travelled through the extent of Tłıchǫ land.

Canoe routes described in Tłıchǫ Government (2007) as “Canoe Routes of Our Ancestors” also appear to be overlapped by the RSA. One canoe trail called the Manon River Trail passes just west of the Project area, but appears to be outside the LSA. A program called the “Trails of Our Ancestors” was developed to allow participants including Tłıchǫ Elders and students to canoe through traditional trails between communities as a way to teach youth of the Tłıchǫ Nation in both the context of new society and traditional practices (Zoe 2007).

## 4.2 MÉTIS OF THE NORTH SLAVE REGION

The Métis traditional territory overlaps the Tłıchǫ lands, but the limits of the territory are not defined. A literature review indicated that only limited information is available for their traditional activities occurring within the Tłıchǫ lands. However, the Métis detail their extensive history and provide TLU information and concerns primarily in relation to the development of the Diavik mine in *Can't Live Without Work North Slave Métis Alliance Environmental, Social, Economic and Cultural Concerns: A Companion to the Comprehensive Study Report on the Diavik Diamonds Project* (NSMA 2001). Within this document some details are provided regarding traditional activities that overlap Tłıchǫ lands. In NSMA (2001), the authors indicate that Métis land use and travel in the North Slave region was extensive, including the use of nearby lakes and areas as distant as the barren-lands. Areas such as Old Fort Rae (fur trading), Rae Lakes, Russell Lake area, and the North Arm of Great Slave Lake were noted as either areas used by the Métis, or as wildlife habitat areas (Figure 4.2-1) (NSMA 2001). Old Fort Rae and the North Arm of Great Slave Lake were discussed most prominently.

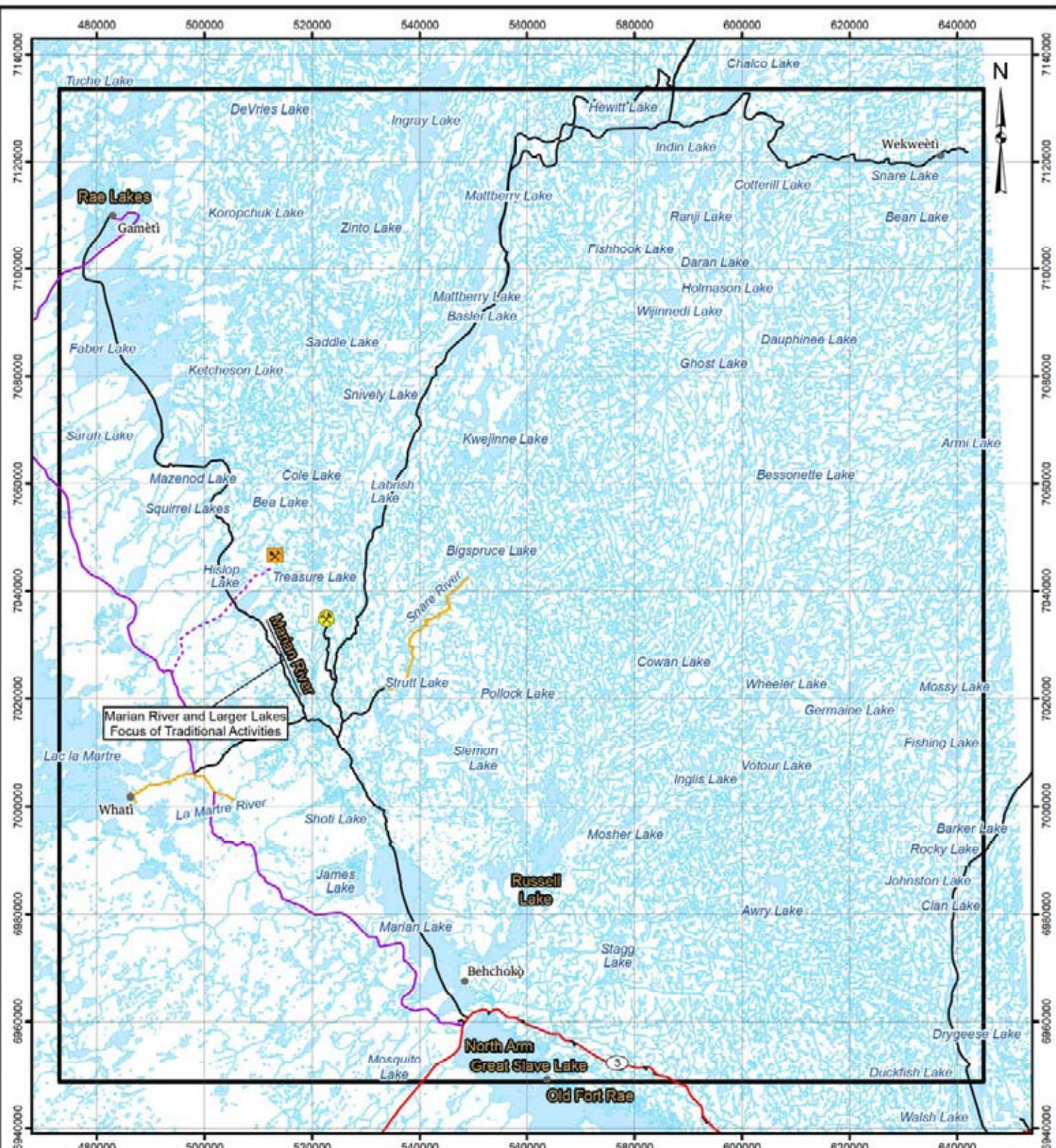
Old Fort Rae played a prominent role in the history of the Métis with burials, log huts, and other evidence of Métis settlement located at the site. Old Fort Rae was initially built in a location that was suitable to take advantage of the caribou

wintering habitat along the North Arm of the Great Slave Lake south of the Project area. The Métis have indicated that caribou used to come to this area before 1940, but since mining production, not very many caribou come. Instead, the caribou diverted to Lac la Martre, Snare Lakes or Gordon Lake (NSMA 2001:103). The Métis have said that they observed caribou and wolves around the Rayrock mine (NSMA 2001:143). They also indicated that they believe that the caribou do not come to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake anymore because of mining activities (NSMA 2001:118). Caribou is of common interest to the Métis and a main topic of discussion (NSMA 2001:103).

The Métis have previously voiced concerns regarding other mining and non-mining activities they believe affect caribou migrations and movement (NSMA 2001:104). The concerns include mining dust, noise, parasites, and global warming. The Métis also indicated that mining has impacted the fishing populations such as at the Discovery Mine (NSMA 2001:124-125), where they believe arsenic and other chemicals were pumped into the waterbodies, polluting first the trout, and subsequently other fish. The Métis also noted that mining has the potential to destroy important waterfowl habitat (NSMA 2001:147). The Métis has indicated that even if the fish look healthy around the Discovery Mine, over time they become polluted (NSMA 2001:129). Additionally, the Métis has said the dust from the mines is not limited to the immediate mining area, but also enters melt water and is carried away downstream (NSMA 2001:129).

The Métis (along with the Tłı̨chǫ) have previously indicated that their traditional activities within the RSA were focused on the Marian River and large lakes (Figure 4.2-1) (Fortune 2005:27).





#### LEGEND

- |  |                                     |  |                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | NICO PROJECT                        |  | DECOMMISSIONED MINE |
|  | POPULATED PLACE                     |  | REGIONAL STUDY AREA |
|  | HIGHWAY                             |  |                     |
|  | EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           |  |                     |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD                |  |                     |
|  | PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE |  |                     |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |  |                     |
|  | WATERCOURSE                         |  |                     |
|  | WATERBODY                           |  |                     |

#### REFERENCE

Base data obtained from Atlas of Canada, DMTI and GeoGratis.  
 General Areas of traditional activity obtained from North Slave Metis Alliance and Fortune Minerals Ltd.  
 Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

25 0 25  
 SCALE 1:1,000,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED  
 NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT  
 TITLE SELECTED AREAS OF IMPORTANCE  
 TO THE NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE  
 BASED ON LITERATURE REVIEW



PROJECT No. 08-1373-0017				FILE No. B-TLU-027-GIS	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV. 0
DESIGN	EK	25 May 2010				
GIS	DR	4 Oct. 2010				
CHECK	RB	19 Jan. 2011				
REVIEW	RB	19 Jan. 2011				

**FIGURE: 4.2-1**



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## 5 SUMMARY

Fortune Minerals Limited (Fortune) is proposing to build the NICO Cobalt-Gold-Bismuth-Copper Project (the Project), located about 50 km north of Whatì, on Tłìcẖ lands in the Northwest Territories. Fortune contracted with Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder) to undertake Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Traditional Land Use (TLU) studies as part of the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) for the Project. After meeting with the community Chiefs of Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì, and receiving the necessary research licences, the studies commenced with the objective of collecting TK information from Tłìcẖ and Métis representatives to provide information for the DAR sections of the various technical disciplines, and to help determine the potential effects of the Project on traditional sites and activities. Fortune provided financial support to the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) to undertake their own studies for the Project and when the results of the study become available, Fortune will consider them in their Project design and operations. As a result of a death in one of the communities and discussions held with the Tłìcẖ government, the remaining TK and TLU interviews (Behchokò, Wekweètì, and Yellowknife) were cancelled. TK and TLU information derived from interviews conducted in the communities of Gamètì and Whatì have been incorporated in the following baseline report. When further TK and TLU information from the interviews with other Tłìcẖ representatives becomes available, it will also be considered in the Project design and operations.

Both Gamètì and Whatì interview participants indicated that hunting and trapping continues to occur within the RSA and the LSA, as well as areas overlapping the Project area. Harvested animals include moose and caribou, as well as smaller game including rabbit, ptarmigan, ducks, and grouse. In general, martin, mink, squirrel, weasel, wolverine, lynx, muskrat, cross fox, and black fox are trapped, although one interview participant indicated that muskrat are not harvested.

Interview participants reported that fishing occurs within both the RSA, LSA, as well as in waterbodies within the Project area. Lou Lake was prominently noted as a fishing area within the LSA, but other lakes immediately surrounding the LSA were also noted including Hislop, Rabbit, Tumi, Bea, and Betty Ray lakes. Other waterbodies further from the LSA, but still within the RSA, were also discussed during interviews.

Both Gamètì and Whatì interview participants indicated that plants and berries are harvested in the RSA, as well as the general vicinity of the LSA including areas overlapping the Project area. Berries found within the RSA include blueberries, cranberries, cloudberries, Saskatoon berries, gooseberries,

strawberries, and blackberries. Other plant or tree materials are also harvested including those from birch, willow, black spruce, pine trees, rat root, juniper roots, red roots, and lily pads.

Interview participants noted that campsites, travel routes, and caribou migrations routes are located within both the RSA and LSA. Burials were identified within the RSA, but outside the LSA. A caribou migration route, travel routes, and campsites were also reported to overlap the Project area.

Concerns, comments, and questions related to the Project and general development were reported and raised by both Gamètì and Whatì interview participants. These generally included effects to human and animal health, air, water, and noise pollution from new developments, effects to the environment, animals, fish, and birds, sustainable employment, effects on traditional activities, and relationships between communities and developing companies.

A literature review was done to document the available Tłìchʔ and Métis TK and TLU information for the study area. The Tłìchʔ TK and TLU information related to seasonal cycle, hunting and trapping, fishing and water, plant harvesting, and culturally important sites and areas. Hunting occurred on the barrenlands as well as in areas closer to the current communities.

Caribou have played an important role in Tłìchʔ life. Elders reported that historically there were caribou near Whatì, but because one of the animals was mistreated, the caribou have not returned to the Whatì area for about 30 years. Elders further reported that caribou migration has been affected by mining activities, including noise and fumes.

Information gathered from the literature review indicated that subsistence fishing occurs in the RSA including drainages between large lakes. Elders further reported that fishing camps were found near the north end of Hislop Lake.

The results of the literature review identified important traditional plants found in the Wekweètì area. Other specific plant locations relevant to the RSA were not noted in the literature review.

Various important travel routes that are overlapped by the RSA were described in the literature review. These include trails from Great Slave Lake to Wekweètì; trails in the Hislop Lake area; winter trails along the lower Marian River, Snare River, Marian, Snare, and Russell lakes; and along the Lac La Martre winter road. Important historical sites were reported near Bea Lake and Faber Lake. Old

seasonal villages and other important sites were also reported along portions of the Jdaà Trail.

Information relating to Métis use of the area was less available. However, Métis land use and trips into the North Slave region has been reported as extensive, including the use of nearby lakes and areas as distant as the barren-lands. Areas such as Old Fort Rae (fur trading), Rae Lakes, Russell Lake area, and the North arm of Great Slave Lake were noted as areas either used by the Métis or as wildlife habitat areas. Old Fort Rae and the North Arm of Great Slave Lake were discussed most prominently. It has also been previously reported that Métis (along with Tłı̨chʼı̨) traditional activities within the RSA were focused on the Marian River and large lakes. The Métis reported that prior to 1940, caribou came to the Old Fort Rae area, but no longer returned because of mining activities. The Métis has voiced concerns about mining and non-mining activities in the region. The concerns primarily relate to noise, air and water pollution, and perceived effects on fish and caribou. The identified Métis traditional sites do not appear to overlap the Project area.

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## **7 GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

### **7.1 ACRONYMS**

ARI	Aurora Research Institute
DAR	Developer's Assessment Report
Fortune	Fortune Minerals Limited
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
Golder	Golder Associates Ltd.
LSA	Local Study Area
NSMA	North Slave Métis Alliance
NWT	Northwest Territories
Project	NICO Cobalt-Gold-Bismuth-Copper Project
RSA	Regional Study Area
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TLU	Traditional Land Use
YDFN	Yellowknives Dene First Nation

## **APPENDIX I**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE**



# **Fortune Minerals NICO Project**

## **Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Interview Guide**

Responses to the following questions will be recorded in field books, and on maps where applicable. The questions serve as topics and elders will be encouraged to talk about other information that they feel is important to know.

**INTERVIEW DATE:**

**INTERVIEW NUMBER::**

**LOCATION:**

**INTERVIEWER(S):**

**ELDER NAME :**

**ELDER SELF-IDENTIFIES AS (DOGRIB, MÉTIS, OTHER):**

**ELDER'S AFFILIATION IS WITH (EG., TLICHO, MÉTIS, OTHER):**

### **Part A**

#### **Questions related to animals and plants in the Project Area**

Questions relating to animal and plant harvesting in the project area

- 1) Do Dogrib/Métis hunt in the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations and species on the map
  - b) Note any cultural uses for particular species
- 2) Are there any special areas for large animals in the project area (eg., birthing areas, mineral licks, migration routes)? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations and species on the map
  - b) Note other information such as time of year (if relevant)
- 3) Are there any special areas for small animals or birds in the project area (eg., nesting areas)? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations and species on the map
  - b) Note other information such as time of year (if relevant)
- 4) Do Dogrib/Métis trap in the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations of traplines and species trapped on the map
  - b) Note any special habitats for trapped species
  - c) Note any cultural uses associated with furbearing animals

- 5) Do Dogrib/Métis fish in the project area? If yes:
    - a) Mark locations and species on the map
    - b) Note any cultural uses for particular species
  - 6) Are there any special areas for fish in the project area (eg., spawning areas)? If yes:
    - a) Mark locations and species on the map
    - b) Note other information such as time of year (if relevant)
  - 7) Do Dogrib/Métis collect berries in the project area? If yes:
    - a) Mark locations and berry species on the map
    - b) Note uses of berries (eg., consumption, dyes, medicines)
  - 8) Do Dogrib/Métis collect other traditional plants in the project area? If yes:
    - a) Mark locations and species collected on the map
    - b) Note uses of traditional plants (eg., medicines, crafts, consumption)
  - 9) Is there anything else about plants or animals that we should know about?
- 

#### **Questions relating to cabins, trails, and other special sites in the Project area**

- 1) Are there any cabins in the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations on the map
  - b) Indicate whether they are abandoned or still used and what they are used for
- 2) Do the Dogrib/Métis use any trails that cross through the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark them on the map
  - b) If any of these trails are in the Project area, what is the best way to protect them?
- 3) Do you know of any gravesites sites within the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark them on the map
  - b) Note identification features
  - c) What is the best way to protect them?
- 4) Do you know of any sites with archaeological significance within the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations on the map
  - b) Describe what they are
  - c) What is the best way to protect them
- 5) Do you know of any special cultural or spiritual sites within the project area? If yes:
  - a) Mark locations on the map
  - b) Describe the importance of the sites
  - c) If any of these sites are in the Project area, what is the best way to protect them?
- 6) Are there any special features or landmarks within the project area that are important because of oral tradition, stories, songs or traditional use? If yes:

- a) Mark locations on the map
- b) Describe why the locations are important
- c) What is the best way to protect them?

7) Are there any other aspects of the land, or culturally important sites that we need to consider?

## **Part B**

### **Questions relating to changes in traditional land use as a result of existing projects**

- 1) Have there been any changes in the way the Dogrib/Métis use the project area as a result of previous development in the project area? If yes:
  - a) Please describe what changes have occurred in the ways that the project area has been used.
- 2) Over the years, have you or other people noticed any changes in the health of the animals that have been hunted or trapped? (Note species, type of change, etc)
- 3) Over the years, have you or others noticed changes in the health of fish?  
(Note species, locations and type of change (appearance, taste) – quality?, quantity? etc.)
- 4) Over the years, have you or others noticed changes in the health of plants or other types of vegetation? (Note species, locations, type of change – quality?, quantity? etc.)
- 5) Please describe any changes in weather patterns that you or others have noticed over the years.
- 6) Please describe any changes in water levels or water quality that you or others have noticed over the years.
- 7) Please describe any changes in wildlife patterns that you or others have noticed over the years.
- 8) Have there been problems with other people interfering with Dogrib/Métis traditional use of the land? If yes:
  - a) Please describe what happened and where it happened
  - b) How was this issue resolved, or not resolved?
  - c) What recommendations would you make to prevent future problems?

## **Part C**

### **Questions related to the future use of the Project area**

**Due to the nature of the Project, there may be disturbance to the land. After the Project is finished, Fortune Minerals plans to reclaim the land. How would the Dogrib/Métis like to see the land reclaimed. Describe future uses of the Project area, and features that will be important to have (Examples of future uses might include: hunting, fishing, trapping, plant and berry harvesting, ceremonies, raising and teaching children, etc.).**

## **APPENDIX II**

### **RESULTS OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEWS**



## WHATI INTERVIEWS

## **II.1 WHATÌ INTERVIEWS**

Five interviews were conducted in Whatì between 2 February 2009 and 3 February 2009. The interviews consisted of groups ranging from 2 to 6 individuals. All interview participants self-identified as TłìchQ. All information is presented from the perspective of the interview participants unless otherwise indicated.

### **II.1.1 INTERVIEW #1 (W1 2009)**

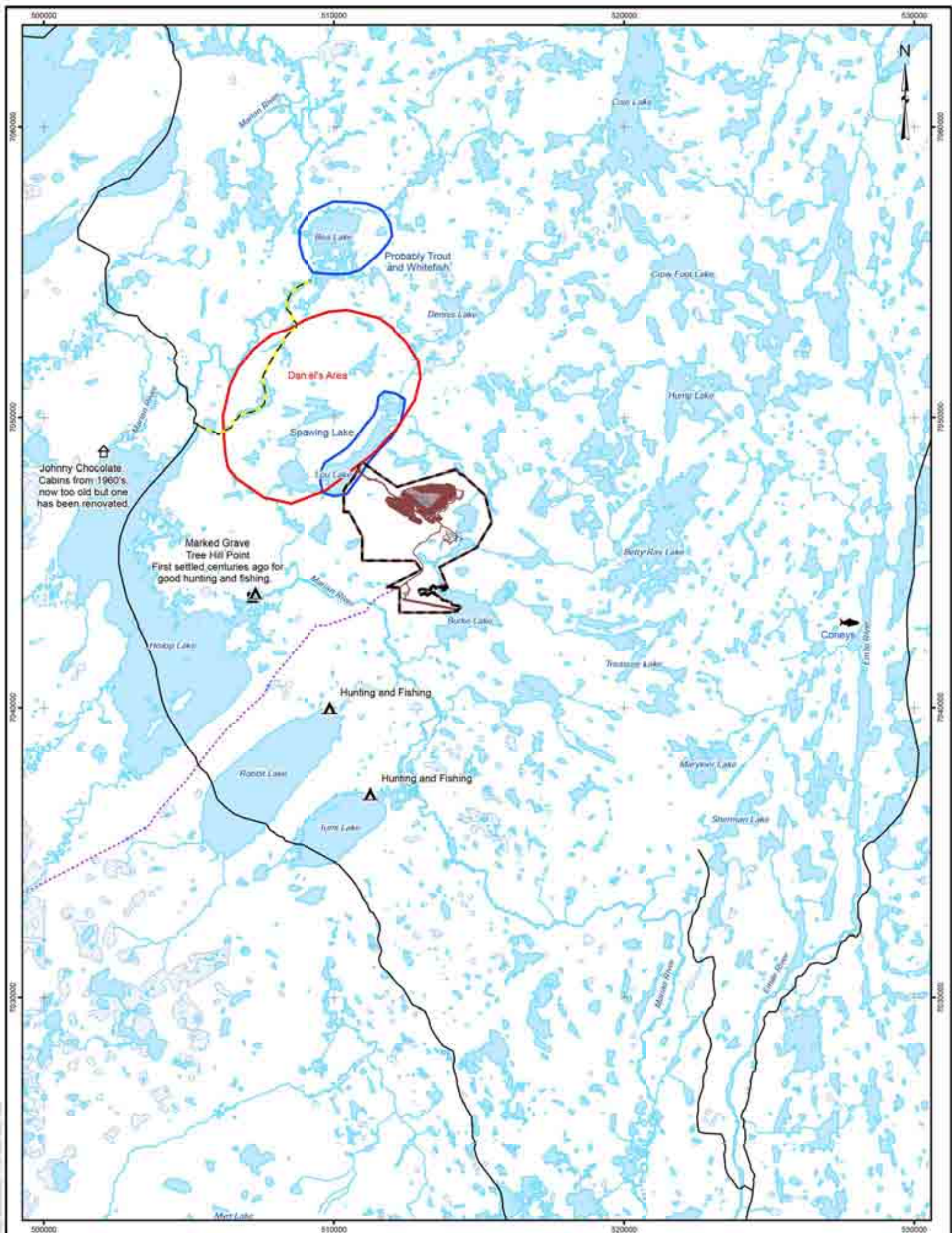
Interview #1 took place on 2 February 2009 in Whatì and consisted of 2 self-identifying TłìchQ members, one of which was male and the other female (W1 2009). Figure II.1-1 shows the TLU identified during the interview.

#### **II.1.1.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

Interview participants reported that portions of the land overlapping and surrounding the Project area have been, and continue to be used for traditional activity. Traditional activities and knowledge are still being taught, and in some cases are included in school programs. It was reported that those who participated in these courses may now have an idea of what the traditional lifestyle was, but those who did not participate may not see a traditional life as having value. Interview participants said that TłìchQ language is very important, but over time things have changed even in the language itself. Many young people do not teach their children Dogrib, and it was indicated that unfortunately these children will not understand it if it is not taught at home. Many of the young families speak English as a first language (W1 2009).

Interview participants questioned as to what will happen when the mine is developed. One concern is that snow melt in spring may be carrying contaminants into the local lakes and rivers that will in turn affect fishing and hunting. Hunting and trapping are important to the local communities and so they do not want to see contaminants reach the Marian River, as this river drains into the Marian Lake. Another concern relates to where the gravel will come from to build the airstrip associated with the mine. It is perceived that any excavations associated with gravel extraction may affect water flow and drainage (W1 2009).





#### LEGEND

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| — PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE             | ▲ CAMPSITE                 |
| — PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY          | 🐟 FISHING/WATER            |
| — EXISTING WINTER ROAD                | ■ GRAVE/BURIAL             |
| --- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD | 🏠 SETTLEMENT/CABIN         |
| — WATERCOURSE                         | — TRAPLINE/TRAIL           |
| — WATERBODY                           | — ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
| — WETLAND                             | — FISHING/WATER            |

#### REFERENCE

Interview #1: Whist 02 Feb. 2009, Louis Franks, Mary Flurke  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

SCALE 1:125,000  
KILOMETRES

PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #1	
<b>Golder Associates</b> Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No: B-TL1004-002	
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-001	SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN: MF 01 Apr. 2009	REV: 0
		CHECK: SF 09 Apr. 2009	
		CHECK: SF 18 Jan. 2011	
		REVIEW: SF 18 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE II.1-1



### **II.1.1.2 Plant Harvesting**

Plants are harvested in the Project area for both food and traditional medicines, and it was further reported that there are many different berries that can be found in the Project area. The weather and water are very important to the growth of the berries and trees since both depend on water. One important plant reported by the interview participants was the low bush cranberry which is used for respiratory ailments, as well as to treat colds (W1 2009).

Interview participants reported that certain trees are used by the Tłı̨ch̨́ to make different types of medicine. For example, the birch tree is important because the resin or juice is used to treat disease or sickness. The bark is peeled and the white sticky stuff under the bark is boiled and used as a medicine for stomach aches. It was further reported that there has been a major change in people's health in modern times. It was also noted that a long time ago, before the Europeans came, no one got sick and people lived a long time, "maybe 200 years". Interview participants said that this is not the case today. The Elders believe the use of traditional medicines in the past was at least partly responsible for this longevity (W1 2009).

### **II.1.1.3 Fishing**

Generally, people stay on one lake as long as there are lots of fish. Usually where people establish cabins or houses means that there is a good fishing ground present. Lou Lake adjacent to the Project area (northwest) is a good fishing lake as it has a water flow in and out of it (Figure II.1-1). The fish go upstream in spring, and then they spawn downstream in the fall. While Bea Lake to the northwest of the Project area is also a good fishing lake, containing both trout and whitefish (Figure II.1-1), most people get their fish from Lac la Martre (W1 2009).

Interview participants reported that because of the hardship in the past, there was no waste. Every part of the fish was consumed, even the intestines. The fish was prepared for food by taking the guts out without wasting anything, and then the fish was cut in half. "Traditionally, you always cook fish with the gills and skin on". This knowledge has been passed from generation to generation through oral tradition, and it was reported that it is possible that young people will not know how to fish traditionally. Older people will eat fish often, and eat every part because it is good medicine, but younger people may eat fish only once a month. It was noted that this is unfortunate as fish provide people with everything that they need. There are certain types of fish that cannot be eaten. The spines of some fish can kill a dog and people cannot eat it because it will cut their stomach on the inside (W1 2009).



It was reported that the lakes in the Project area used to be good for fishing when travelling there in the past, but in general the fish have changed. Historically, they were fatter, and much tastier than they are now. One of the interview participants indicated that he does not live near the lake anymore, and has not heard of any changes to the water. It has been almost half a century since he moved from the community (W1 2009).

#### **II.1.1.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Interview participants reported that in the past, when dog-teams were still in use, the north and west of Hislop Lake was a regular hunting ground. One of the interview participants reported that he and his father travelled through and hunted the Project area. The trapline will be passed down, as this is the traditional way, and this process will be an ongoing cycle (W1 2009).

A snowmobile is now used to access the trapline from the northeast end of Hislop Lake to Bea Lake (Figure II.1-1) (W1 2009).

#### **II.1.1.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Cabins were identified on the northern end of Hislop Lake, along with a number of houses (Figure II.1-1). It was noted that one of the houses is currently being used or renovated. Camps for fishing and hunting have also been set up in the past at the north end of Rabbit and Tumi lakes (Figure II.1-1) (W1 2009).

Interview participants reported that Tree-hill point, an area to the east of Hislop Lake, was identified as the first area to be settled, followed by a move north of the Project area. There was a fishing and hunting area for centuries at Tree-hill Point, but then around 1962 people moved to the north end of the Hislop Lake. Across from the first village was a cemetery area (Figure II.1-1). This information has been passed down by oral tradition. People moved to the north end of Hislop Lake because there was good fishing there (W1 2009).

#### **II.1.2 INTERVIEW #2 (W2 2009)**

Interview #2 took place 2 February 2009 in Whatì and consisted of 3 self-identifying Tłìch̓ members, 2 of whom were female and one of whom was male. Figure II.1-2 shows the TLU identified during the interview.



### **II.1.2.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

Interview participants reported that Tłıchǫ members believe that because of the past experience with other developments (i.e., Colomac Mine, Snare Hydro, and Rayrock Mine), the Project may also affect the animals, fish, and birds. It was reported that the mining developments have blocked the caribou, and as a result changed caribou migration routes. It was further reported that the health of game has also degraded since developments began, and as a result, animals taken from near these developments are not eaten (W2 2009).

Interview participants questioned as to how Fortune will ensure that the area is safe from the chemicals that are utilized to extract minerals. This question was discussed in relation to Long Lake being drained by BHP. After observing the effects of caribou surrounding the Colomac Mine, and the numerous workers from Rayrock Mine who died from cancer, there is concern over how Fortune will prevent chemical leaks into surrounding waterbodies (W2 2009).

### **II.1.2.2 Plant Harvesting**

Interview participants reported that plants are collected in bush areas. One good area identified was the confluence of the northwest and northeast arms of Marian Lake, just north of Behchokǫ (Figure II.1-2). Rat root can be harvested there (W2 2009). Other identified plants include sap recovered from under birch bark. This is used as a cure-all. Spruce gum was chewed for a cough. Black spruce sap/gum is also good for cuts. Pine branches are good for coughs, and are also good for cleansing by making a needle tea from them. Lichen on spruce was chewed and then rubbed on bee-stings. Red roots from river bottoms were used to cure cuts and it was specifically reported that it was used to help cure an axe cut to the foot. The smoke from the red roots is used to cure headaches (W2 2009).

Interview participants reported that trees are dead in the Rayrock Mine area, and that recently, a forest fire affected the area. It was further noted that Elders from Gamètì would know more with respect to these statements as this is the area that they utilize (Figure II.1-2) (W2 2009).

### **II.1.2.3 Fishing**

Fishing areas were identified for whitefish, suckers, choe, and jackfish in the area southeast of Hislop Lake. When one interview participant was young, their camp was located just north of the confluence of the Emile River and Marian River. Fish was eaten a lot, almost every day, and they preferred whitefish and lake

trout. It was further noted that more fish is eaten in the spring, since many people do not winter fish (W2 2009).

In terms of quality, it was reported that the fish have become fatter recently, which gives them a better flavor, and that this is probably because people are fishing less. In the past, more fishing took place for dog food. As a result, the people are now catching bigger fish. Fish from Lac la Martre are preferred (Figure II.1-2). It was noted that fish from Behchokò area are soft, and this is thought to be a result of drainage from the former Rayrock Mine. The fish from the northeast arm of Marian Lake (Russell Lake) are still considered to be in good condition (Figure II.1-2) (W2 2009).

#### **II.1.2.4 Hunting and Trapping**

In the past, the area north from Hislop Lake to Cole Lake, was travelled with dog teams. Interview participants reported that caribou hunting focused on Cole Lake, and there were also a number of traplines northeast, southwest, and northwest of Hislop Lake (W2 2009).

Currently, hunting occurs around Gamètì, Wekweètì, Grandin Lake, the Colomac Mine area, the northeast arm of Marian Lake, and the area north of it (Figure II.1-2). Moose hunting occurs along the winter road to Gamètì (Figure II.1-2). It was further reported that ptarmigan, ducks, and grouse (referred to as chicken) are all hunted, and are located all over the area. Loons were historically hunted to make loon-skin bags, but people did not generally eat the meat as the loons were too difficult to pluck (W2 2009).

Interview participants reported that trapping occurs north of La Martre River. A number of beaver lodges are along the Marian River, and trapping for beaver and muskrat occur in this location (Figure II.1-2). There used to be trapping along the winter road on either side of the Marian River. It was noted that Gamètì people trap in the area east of Mazenod Lake for muskrat and beaver, and muskrats are taken in the Rayrock arrival area, but the meat is not eaten for fear of contaminants from Rayrock Mine (Figure II.1-2) (W2 2009).

It was reported that the caribou migration routes up north have changed. Caribou historically travelled north-south between Kwejinne Lake and Russell Lake, and they used a single trail (Figure II.1-2), but now they are all spread out. Regarding the caribou health, it was reported that in the Colomac Mine area, the caribou have pus inside and the liver sticks to the bones. Also, it was noted that the caribou between Hislop and La Martre Lake are not healthy. One of the interview participants shot 15 caribou last year, and a number of those were not healthy,



including one that had a tumour. It was also noted that the caribou in the BHP area seem good (W2 2009).

### **II.1.2.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Four cabins were identified at the north end of Hislop Lake. There were also a number of old cabins identified at the southeast corner of Hislop Lake near the Marian River (former location of Gamètì). A travel route was identified from Lac La Martre north to a camp there (Figure II.1-2) (W2 2009).

A number of grave sites were identified near Marian River, south of the Whatì winter road. A graveyard is also located at the north end of Hislop Lake (Figure II.1-2) (W2 2009).

### **II.1.3 INTERVIEW #3 (W3 2009)**

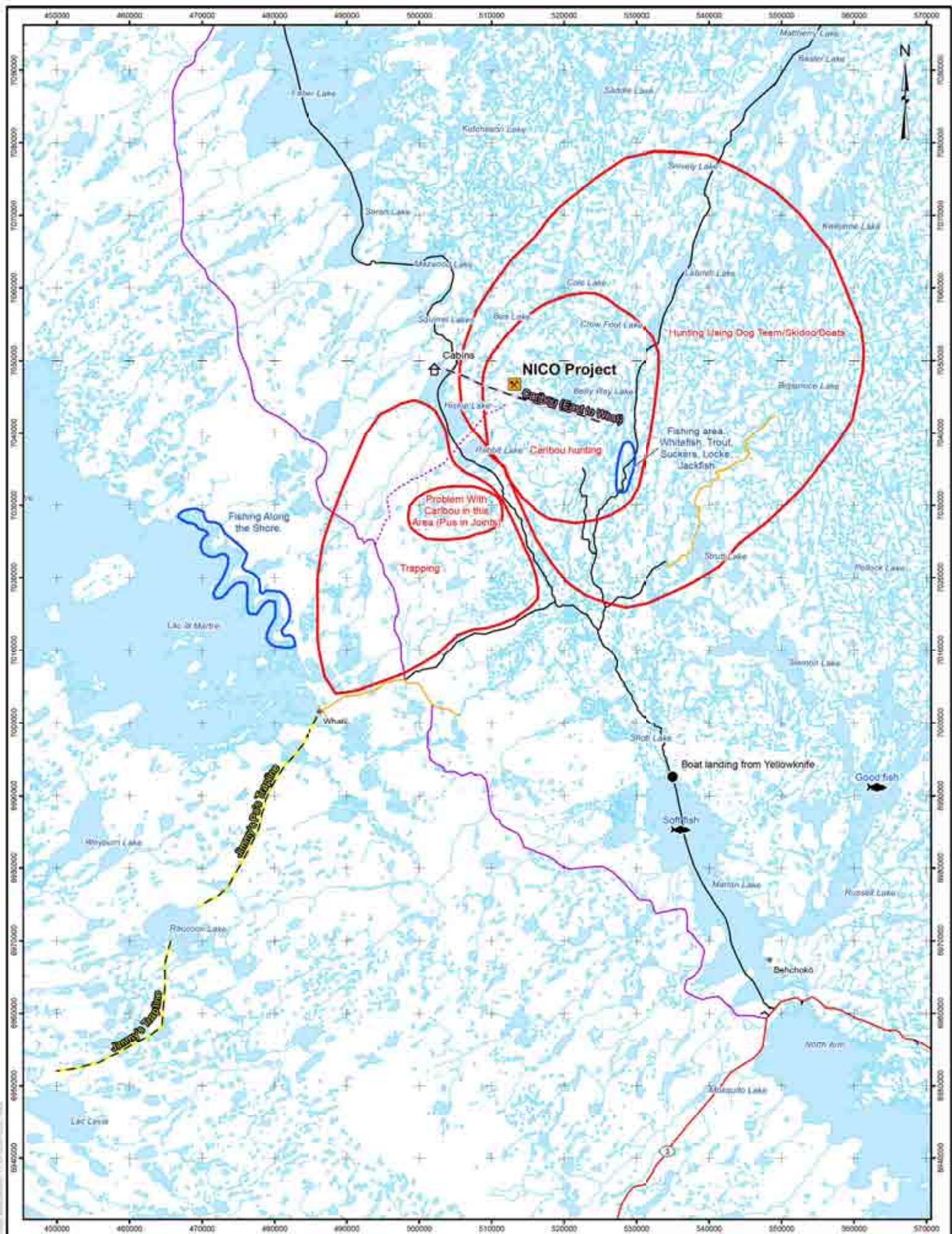
Interview #3 took place 2 February 2009 in Whatì and consisted of 3 self-identifying Tłı̨ch̓ members, one of whom was male and the other 2 female. Figure II.1-3 shows the TLU activity identified during the interview.

#### **II.1.3.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

Interview participants reported that when dog teams were used, there was no community or settlement in Gamètì because it was very far to travel. In the old days, when the Rayrock Mine was in operation, people used to go to the mine to trade because a lot of people lived there. People mainly traded fish for goods. As there were few jobs in those days, many people travelled to Rayrock Mine by dog team and cut wood for the mine furnace. They received less than \$3.00 for a cord of wood and sometimes only received \$140.00 for 100 cords (W3 2009).

Years ago, when dog teams were used, people were poor and there was starvation. Interview participants further said that people needed food for both humans and dogs, and would work selling wood to the mine, but that most of the people who would remember those days are gone now. Last fall, one of the interview participants got sick (tumour of the kidney) and required an operation. He believes his sickness is a result of the Rayrock Mine (W3 2009).



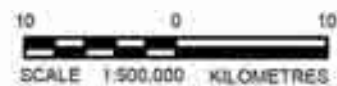


### LEGEND

- |   |                                     |   |                          |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | NICO PROJECT                        |  | FISHING/WATER            |
|  | POPULATED PLACE                     |  | OTHER                    |
|  | HIGHWAY                             |  | SETTLEMENT/CABIN         |
|  | EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           |  | CARIBOU MIGRATION        |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD                |  | TRAPLINE/TRAIL           |
|  | PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE |  | ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |  | FISHING/WATER            |
|  | WATERCOURSE                         |   |                          |
|  | WATERBODY                           |   |                          |

## REFERENCE

Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE <b>TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #3</b>			
 <b>Golder Associates</b> Edmonton, Alberta	FILE No: E-TL000-S02		
	PROJECT No: 06-1073-0017		SCALE AS SHOWN
	DESIGN	BY: 01 Apr 2009	REV: A
	DWG	BY: 01 Apr 2009	
	CHECK	RE: 19 Jan 2011	
	REVIEW	BB: 19 Jan 2011	

**FIGURE: II.1-3**



It was reported that there is concern about the Project causing problems with the environment and that some of the rivers to Marian Lake will be closed. People want to ensure that the water is safe for animals and humans to drink and it was questioned as to how Fortune will protect the waters (W3 2009). It was further reported that it is important to teach young people the traditional way of life, but they do not know what will happen in the future.

### **II.1.3.2 Plant Harvesting**

Interview participants reported that cranberries, both low and high bush, were important food resources and that spruce gum is used for medicine. It was further noted that some areas close by the Project area have spruce and pine trees that produce gum. Other identified resources included black spruce sap which was noted to be useful for injuries. Owl berries (a cloud berry) were identified as good for curing mouth sores. Interview participants said there is no noticeable difference in the amount or taste of berries harvested (W3 2009).

### **II.1.3.3 Fishing**

Previous fishing camps were identified on Rayrock River where whitefish, lake trout, suckers, locke, and jackfish were harvested. Interview participants indicated that there is now only fishing at Lac La Martre, and the good fishing areas are located all around on the lake, but particularly along the northeastern shore (Figure II.1-3). It was noted that there are no mining industries at Lac La Martre like there are at Grandin Lake. Interview participants said that there are big differences in fishing between various lakes (e.g., Marian Lake and Lac La Martre). In 1999, while travelling to the northern edge of Marian Lake, one of the interview participants caught fish that were soft, milky, and not good to eat. By comparison, it was noted that the fish are good in Marian Lake.

An interview participant said that people still eat whole fish cooked with the skin on. It was further reported that the water in Lac la Martre is considered good, and is used to cook (W3 2009).

### **II.1.3.4 Hunting and Trapping**

When Rayrock Mine was operating, caribou hunting was reported to occur in the Project area. Dog teams were initially used to hunt, but more recently snowmobiles are used. It was also reported that people used to travel east and south of the Project area to hunt caribou. Boats were also used to get to preferred hunting areas. Moose in particular, were hunted by boat (W3 2009).

Trapping occurs between Whatì and Hislop Lake, and hunting usually occurs east of this area. There is a trapline that runs south from Whatì, through Raccoon Lake, and further south. Generally, fur bearing mammals are also taken when observed during hunting trips. Martin, mink, lynx, and wolf are taken, but not muskrat (W3 2009).

Caribou calve on the barren-lands, and black bear and moose give birth throughout the area. No grizzlies are located in the Project area. Occasionally, one sees albino bears (W3 2009).

There is a big difference in animals, including taste. Animals used to be boiled or roasted over a fire. It was reported that animals look different now. People used to live only on fish and caribou. The traditional harvest of animals was difficult, but now with snowmobiles, it is easier. It is said that, animals are beginning to act more like humans. For example, they are not afraid of snowmobiles and planes as they were before and people wonder why they have changed their behaviour. It was further noted that caribou used to be seen in the Whatì area in winter, but their migration has changed (W3 2009).

People have noticed a difference in the caribou now. Sometimes when kids bring in meat, there is pus and discolouration at the joints. The people are confused about where the caribou come from, as the caribou are travelling in different routes. In the old days there was one trail to follow; now there are many caribou trails. Figure II.1-3 shows one trail just south of the Project area that was identified by an interview participant. With regard to health, an interview participant reported that a chicken (grouse) was shot on the winter road to Rae which looked peculiar, and when cooked it smelled awful so had to be thrown away (W3 2009).

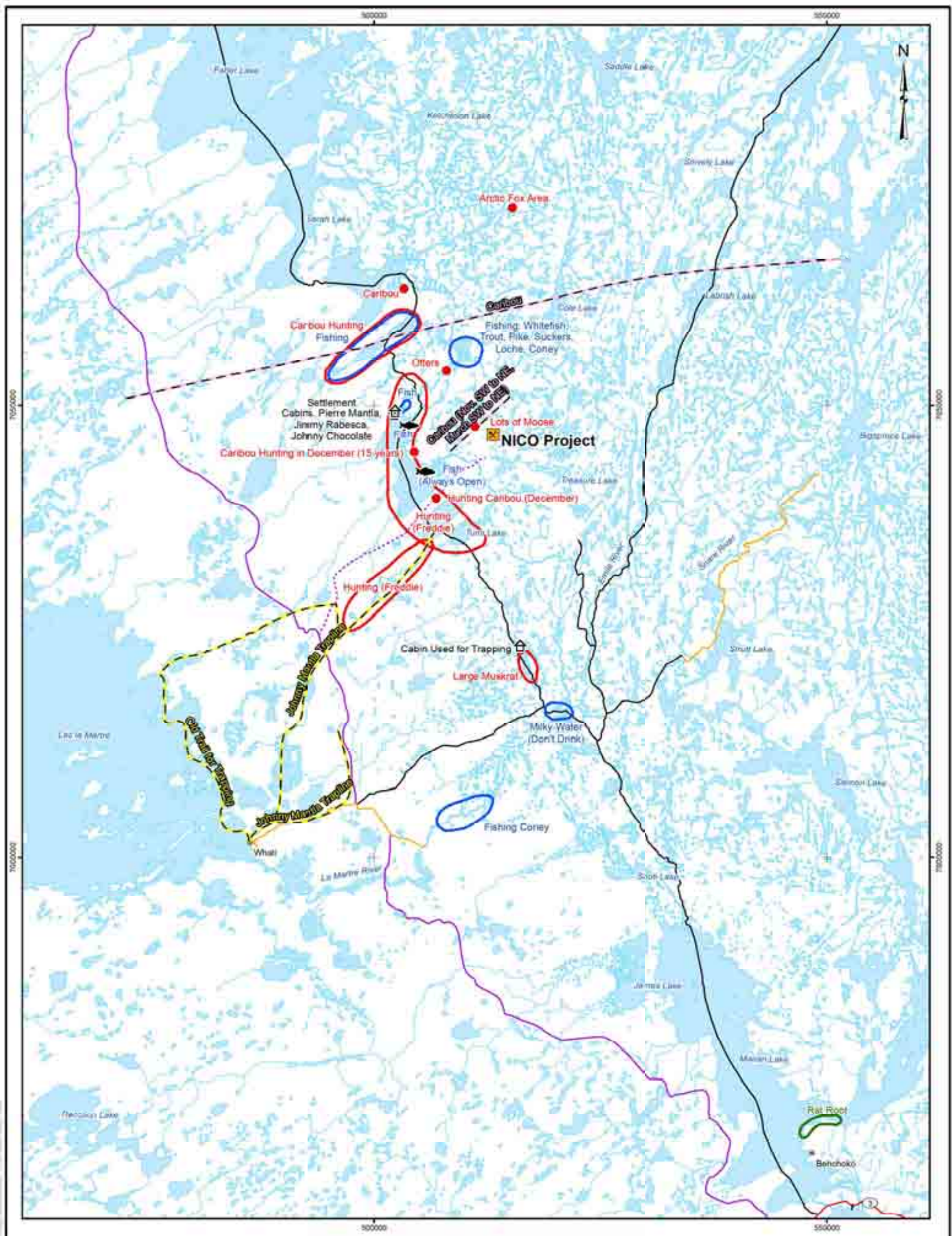
#### **II.1.3.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Cabins were identified at the north end of Marian Lake, where tug boats used to be unloaded. Other cabins are located at the north end of Hislop Lake (Figure II.1-3). It was also reported that an old man may have been buried in the area west of the Project area (W3 2009).

#### **II.1.4 INTERVIEW #4 (W4 2009)**

Interview #4 took place 3 February 2009 in Whatì and consisted of 6 self-identifying Tłìch̓ members, 4 of whom were male and 2 of whom were female. Figure II.1-4 shows the TLU activity identified during the interview (W4 2009).





**LEGEND**

NICO PROJECT

POPULATED PLACE

HIGHWAY

EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD

EXISTING WINTER ROAD

PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE

PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD

WATERCOURSE

WATERBODY

ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING

FISHING/WATER

SETTLEMENT/CABIN

CARIBOU MIGRATION

TRAPLINE/TRAIL

ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING

FISHING/WATER

PLANTS/BERRIES



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #4	
Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No: E-TL0007-008	
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN MT 01 Apr 2009	REV 1
		QA SF 09 Apr 2009	
		CHECK RE 08 Jun 2011	
		REVIEW RB 16 Jan 2011	

**REFERENCE**  
Interview #4: What? 03 Feb. 2009, Fred Bishop; Fred Flunkar; John Mantia; Louisa Niliaya; Nora Romie; Michael Moosensow.  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

FIGURE II.1-4



### **II.1.4.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

One of the interview participants said that people from Whati live far from the Project area and that the Gamètì people would know the Project area better. It was further reported that there is a big difference in lifestyles since development in the 1970s and onwards. Prior to that period, people mostly lived off the land and lived traditional lives. It was reported that now that the Rayrock Mine has caused damage to both land and water. It was further stated that new technologies have changed the atmosphere (e.g., exhaust from planes, and snowmobiles), and when the rain falls these contaminants seep into the ground and cause problems for both animals and humans (W4 2009). “When developers are building mines, they make promises. What will the mine do about chemicals, the water used for mining processes, and waste disposal?”

Interview participants questioned if the mine will be blasting, and if so how far will the associated dust plumes travel? It was further reported that when the mine is in operation, it would be good for the companies to keep the local communities informed as to what is happening in the surrounding areas. A monitoring program by local communities would be good to keep an eye on what is going on, and the mine buildings and workshops should be left for the use of the local Tłıchǫ communities (W4 2009).

### **II.1.4.2 Plant Harvesting**

Interview participants reported that cranberries, blueberries, and cloudbberries are all harvested. Cranberries are the most popular since they preserve well and were used to make pemmican. Berries were also preserved as jams and oils. Besides the food value that they provided, berries were also used as medicine. Berries and plants were identified as distributed throughout the RSA, including the Project area (W4 2009).

Spruce gum was reported to be an important medicine, and other plants were also reported to be medicines. The small buds of the birch tree were chewed in the winter to soothe a sore throat, and were reported to taste almost like rat root. The sap or gum of the black spruce was also used to treat mouth sores, and the inside bark of willow was used as a pain killer. Rat root was heavily used for medicinal purposes, but mostly taken as a preventive medicine and reported to be found throughout the region. It was indicated that wherever there is a river and muskrats, rat root is found. One particular area, north of Behchokò, is known as a place to collect rat root (Figure II.1-4). When rat root is taken from the ground, a form of “payment” is made to the earth (W4 2009).

Recently, interview participants have noticed that the branches of the pine and spruce trees grow up instead of down. People have also noticed that the wood of trees is now discoloured, and reddish in colour. In addition, people have observed an increased amount of grass thought to be a result of the land becoming dryer (W4 2009).

### **II.1.4.3 Fishing**

Fishing is good in Hislop Lake, west of the Project area (Figure II.1-4). In particular, the southeast portion of Hislop Lake where the Marian River discharges, the water is always open and is generally considered good for fishing. Fishing is also considered good on Bea Lake (i.e., whitefish, trout, pike, suckers, loche, and coney) and Squirrel Lake north of the Project area. Fishing for coney was known to occur on the Riviere La Martre, a few kilometres north of La Martre Falls (W4 2009).

Interview participants noted that all parts of the fish are eaten, including the head, gills, bones, fins, spines, and bladders. Fish bladders are used for medicines and fish bones are consumed for protein and calories. It was further reported that all fish are important (W4 2009).

No noticeable change in fish quality around Whatì was reported, but it was noted that dead fish have been observed in the rivers downstream from the Rayrock Mine (W4 2009). It was further reported that water quality is generally good, but the water downstream of the former Rayrock Mine is not trusted.

Interview participants stated that the water levels in Lac La Martre have decreased in the last 40 to 50 years. Also, it used to take 2 to 3 days for the lake to freeze enough for fishing, but interview participants said there is now only enough ice for a winter road between October and January. Interview participants also stated that the lakes historically froze before winter, and there used to be a lot more snow (W4 2009).

### **II.1.4.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Interview participants reported that caribou hunting occurs on Brube Lake, Lou Lake, and Rabbit Lake during February and March. Other animals that are taken include moose, fox, wolverine, and wolf. All are harvested if seen while hunting for caribou. Bear are also harvested during spring (W4 2009). Interview participants reported that muskrats are trapped in the spring, and that they are good to eat, and provide fur. Martin, mink, squirrel, weasel, wolverine, lynx,

cross fox, and black fox are also trapped, and it was noted that there is currently good money for trapping (W4 2009).

In December, caribou are hunted around the east and south shores of Hislop Lake, and it was further reported that there have been many changes in the caribou. It was observed that the caribou are often discoloured inside, with yellow and green pus in the joints and skin. Also, the animals do not have much moisture in them. In the past, the fat dripped from the meat of caribou and ducks, but now no longer does. Caribou migration routes are shown in Figure II.1-4. One of the routes is adjacent to the Project area in a southwest to northeast alignment and the other is located further north of the Project area (W4 2009).

Interview participants said that in ducks the fat is now stuck to the meat. Ptarmigan and rabbits were considered favourite foods, but because the animals that live close to town have gotten into sewage and garbage, this is no longer the case (W4 2009).

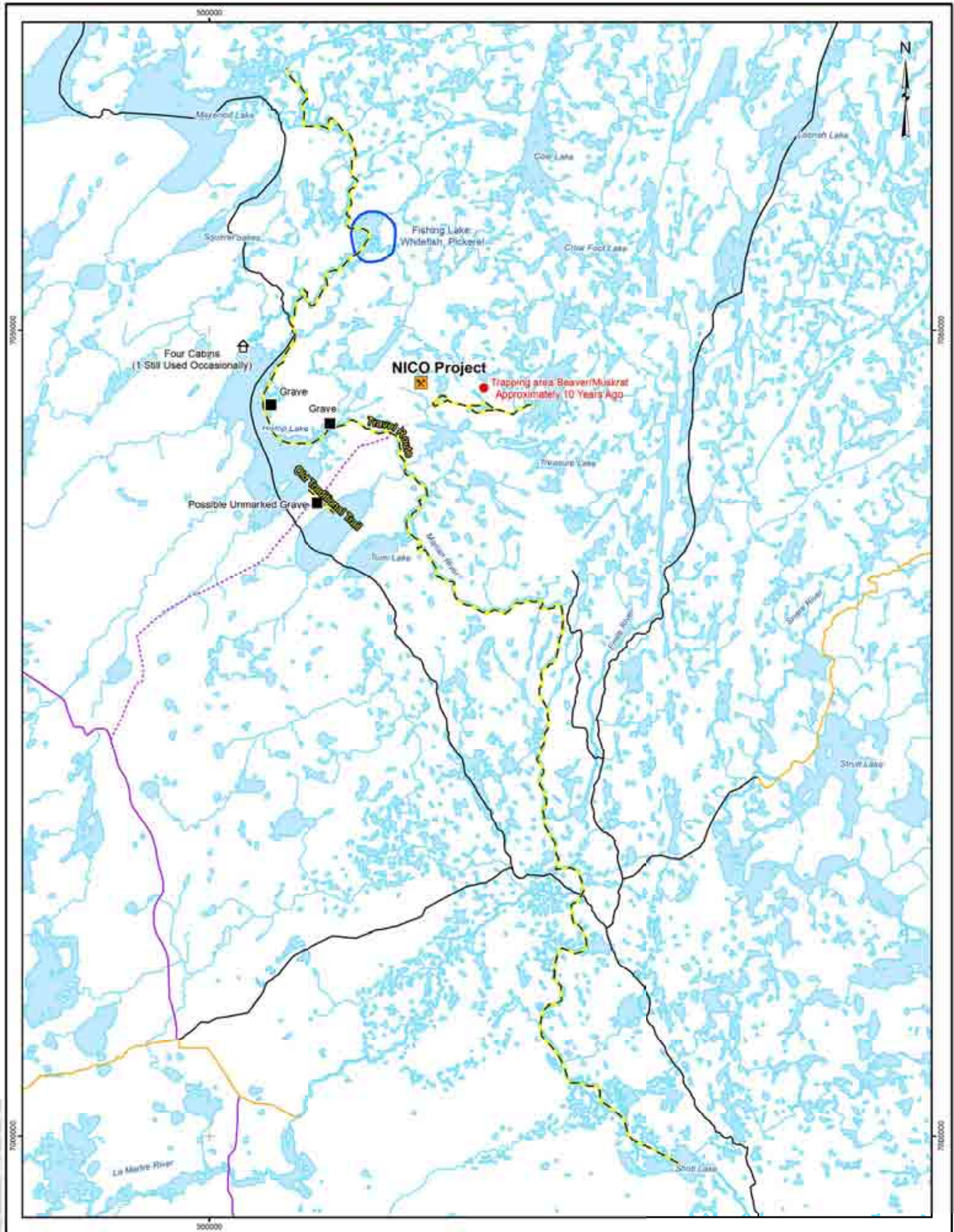
#### **II.1.4.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Interview participants indicated that the Elders would know the locations of cabins and cultural sites. A number of cabins; however, were identified on the north end of Hislop Lake. There is also an additional cabin used for trapping located on the north end of a lake mid way between Tumi Lake and Tayonton Lake, along the winter road. There are no known trails through the Project area. An oral tradition describes Mezza Lake as the place where Edyou Abatcho made peace (this information was not detailed). Several trapline trails were identified between Tumi Lake and Lac La Martre southwest of the Project area (1.4-1) (W4 2009).

#### **II.1.5 INTERVIEW #5 (W5 2009)**

Interview #5 took place 3 February 2009 in Whatì and consisted of 3 self-identifying Tłìch̓ members, one of which was male and 2 of which were female. Figure II.1-5 shows the TLU activity described during the interviews.





LEGEND

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| NICO PROJECT                        | ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
| POPULATED PLACE                     | GRAVE/BURIAL             |
| EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD           | SETTLEMENT/CABIN         |
| EXISTING WINTER ROAD                | TRAPLINE/TRAIL           |
| PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE | FISHING/WATER            |
| PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD   |                          |
| WATERCOURSE                         |                          |
| WATERBODY                           |                          |

REFERENCE

Interview #5: Whistl 03 Feb. 2009, Pierre Beavertox, Mary Adrie Beavertox, Rosa Roma.  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

5 0 5  
SCALE 1:225,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #5		
Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No: E-TL1000-002		
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN	REV: 1
		DESIGN: MT	01 Apr. 2009	
		DWG: SF	08 Apr. 2009	
		CHECK: SB	10 Jan. 2011	
		REVIEW: RB	16 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE II.1-5



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### **II.1.5.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

Interview participants reported that before the 1950s everybody lived in camps and the Whatì settlement did not exist. An interview participant reported that life was tough as a child, travelling long distances for food, helping with the dog teams, and living on the fish and caribou they caught. “In those days of moccasins and the nomadic life, no one got sick despite their constant cold wet feet because of the traditional medicines” (W5 2009).

Interview participants said that there has been a big change in the way that caribou travel, that the animals look different, are slower than they were in the past, and have pus in their joints. It was further reported that the meat has yellow spots and the liver is often adhered to the rib cage when it should be free. The caribou at one time had a lot of fat on them, but not now. Interview participants speculated that it might be aircraft, development explorations, winter roads, and change in the weather that is affecting them. People do not like radio collars on the caribou as it is perceived to affect their behaviour and participants noted that there should be another way to study the caribou. It was thought that the population sizes of caribou were historically much greater than they are now (W5 2009).

Based on previous experience and involvement, interview participants stated that people believe that companies operating the mines are only motivated by money, and there is further concern that the Colomac Mine did not consider the impact to the animals and humans living in the area. Interview participants said that discussions about impacts have occurred in the past and that during discussions promises were made, but then broken. It was stated that in order to “do this right,” the mine must work with the Tłìcẖ. It was further stated that many people will need to be consulted, and Fortune must prevent the chemicals used in processing from leaking. The interview participants said that all the chemicals must be contained and not allowed to affect the surrounding lakes and rivers. They further elaborated that enough money must be put aside to close the mine properly when operations has ceased, and Fortune must work with the Tłìcẖ to see that it gets done properly (W5 2009).

In the past, the people believed jobs were promised, but those jobs did not materialize. It was also stated that many educated young people are not getting jobs at Etaki or other mines, and that if they lose their jobs, they must be given a second chance because of the social problems that can occur. Interview participants stated that because the Project is so close to the communities, it must work with the Tłìcẖ, and that training programs will be needed to make sure people are ready to work. It was further stated that the Project will need

cooperation and good faith on both sides. It was also noted that in the past, the promises made by diamond mines have been broken (W5 2009).

### **II.1.5.2 Plant Harvesting**

Interview participants reported that plants and berries are found throughout the Project area, as well as throughout the general region. They also reported that the berries are important because the bears rely on them to prepare for hibernation. Caribou were noted to rely on twigs and lichen for their food source (W5 2009).

Several varieties of plants were reported to be used. Spruce bough teas were used for vapours to help with colds. Cranberries boiled in water, were also used to help with colds. Both of these were reported to be very strong and bitter to taste (W5 2009).

Rat root in particular was noted to be used frequently and that it was very effective. When fresh, it was reported to have a very strong smell. It was generally hung to dry and preserved. When dry, a bit could be placed on the embers of a fire and the smoke inhaled to help with sinus infections and colds. It was reported to be a very strong medicine that was not to be mixed with other medicines (western and traditional). Tea can be made with rat root to help with internal ailments. Often when youth travelled between communities they would bring it to share with others (W5 2009).

Another plant that is used for medicine was reported to be seen in the spring time growing in ponds and rivers like a lily pad. The stem and root of this plant are used for sore throats. It was also reported as a very strong medicine when boiled or used alone (W5 2009). Spruce gum was a very important medicine used prior to the introduction of modern western medicines, and is still used (W5 2009).

### **II.1.5.3 Fishing**

Fishing occurs on the north side of Hislop Lake. Interview participants said they have travelled along the Marian River from Hislop Lake to Mazenod Lake. Bea Lake, situated halfway between the two was reported to be a very good fishing area; particularly for whitefish and suckers (Figure II.1-5) (W5 2009).

In the past, in the days of the dog teams, all species and all parts of fish were used. Fish bladders were reported to cure scabies. A small bit of fluid from the bladder was put on a cloth or finger and rubbed on the mouth sore (W5 2009).

#### **II.1.5.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Interview participants indicated that caribou and moose are hunted in the Project area. Moose are also known to raise their calves in the general area of the Project. Both beaver and muskrat were indicated to be hunted in the Project area. Interview participants reported that animals were taken for furs, but the meat was smoked and dried for eating. Black bears have been seen within the Project area, but it was noted that this is not unusual as they are present throughout the region. It was further noted that the bears tend to stay close to the rivers because fish and berries are a primary food source for them (W5 2009).

Beaver and muskrat have been trapped in the area east of Peanut Lake in the past. About 10 years ago, one of the participants accompanied an Elder to camp on a small lake east of Peanut Lake (Figure II.1-5). One of the participants has a trapline west of Lac La Martre, which goes as far as Betty Ray Lake, where fish are present (W5 2009).

A caribou was shot last year west of Lac La Martre, but had no tongue and was extremely skinny. It was cut up and hidden to prevent other animals from eating it (W5 2009).

#### **II.1.5.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Interview participants reported that campsites were located in the Project area. One has been used with an Elder on a small lake east of Peanut Lake. There are 4 houses at the north end of Hislop Lake, one of which is still used by children of the original owner when they are on trips in the area (Figure II.1-5) (W5 2009).

Marian River was indicated as the main travel route north of Marian Lake. It would take approximately 2 weeks to make the trip with dog teams, bringing families and supplies (W5 2009).

Some gravesites were reported to be located on the east and north side of Hislop Lake. The participants also noted that they have not travelled within the mine area, so they do not know much about camps and burials, other than those previously identified. It was noted that the residents of Gamètì likely have more information on culturally significant areas close to the mine (W5 2009).

An old traditional trail was thought to be between Hislop Lake and Rabbit Lake (Figure II.1-5). The trail goes straight southwest from the east end of a large island in Hislop Lake to a camp on the west shore, and it was thought that a grave maybe associated with that camp. A trail was also identified just southeast of the Project area (W5 2009).



## **GAMETI INTERVIEWS**

## **II.2 GAMÈTÌ INTERVIEWS**

A total of 7 individual or group interviews took place in Gameti between the dates of 5 February 2009 and 6 February 2009. The number of people participating in the interviews ranged from one to 4 individuals.

### **II.2.1 INTERVIEW #6 (G1 2009)**

Interview #6 took place on 5 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of one male self-identifying Tłìchʔ member. Figure II.2-1 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area.

#### **II.2.1.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

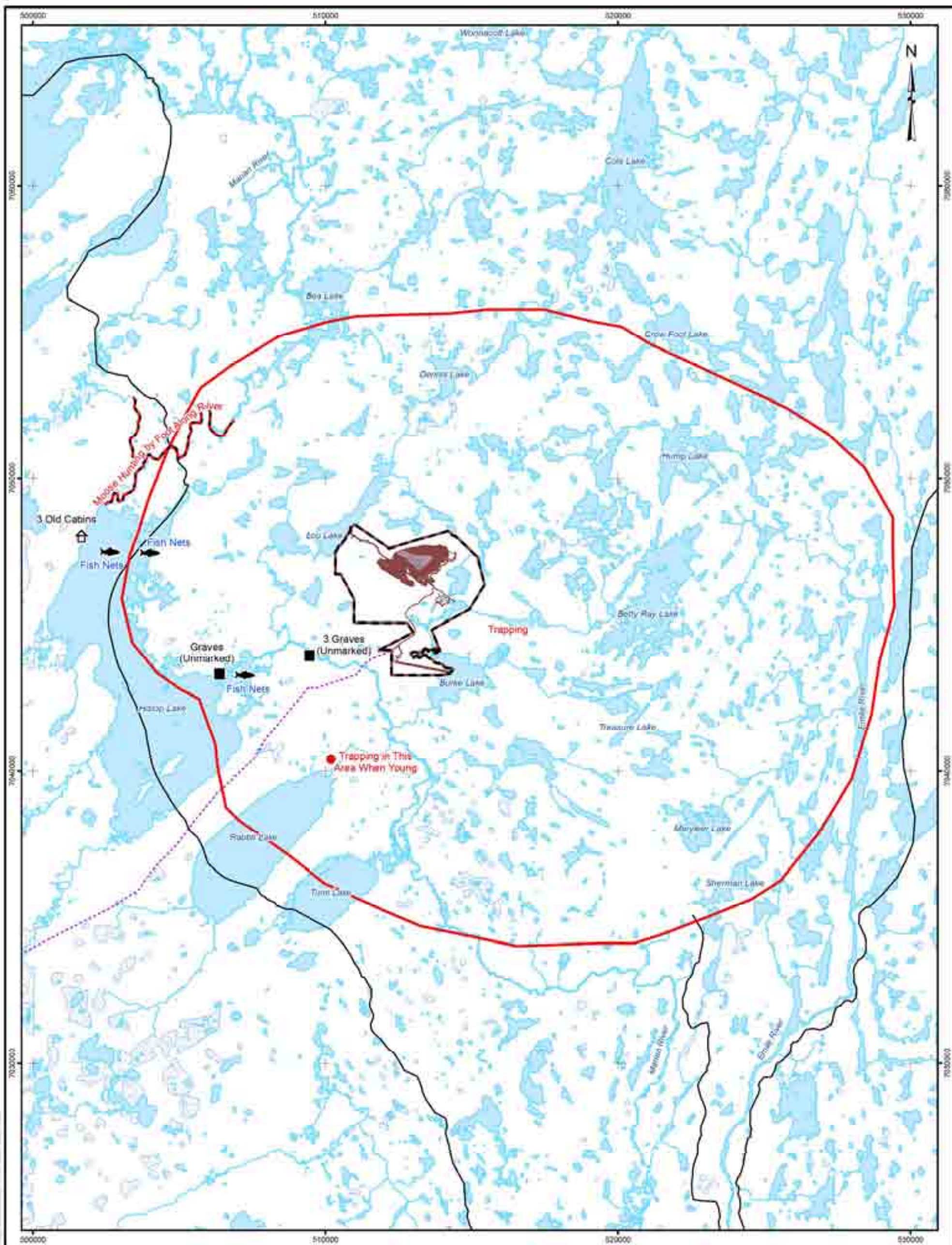
The interview participant stated that many people have died from cancer, and that those who worked at the Rayrock Mine have all died from cancer (G1 2009).

#### **II.2.1.2 Plant Harvesting**

The interview participant reported that berries are found everywhere, so people tend to pick them close to where they live to avoid travelling long distances for this resource. Blueberries, raspberries, cranberries, and cloudberries are all picked. It was further noted that before the Rayrock Mine, people used to pick berries in the area of that mine, but now people stay away from there (G1 2009).

Many plants are used for medicine by the Elders including juniper roots and branches. Birch tree sap is used, as well as pine cones are boiled and the fluid is taken as a medicinal tea. Many other plants are also utilized for medicine including rat root which is only found in the Behchoti area (Deta'ah River the Tłìchʔ name for Behchoti), and it is not available north of here (the interview participant seemed to point to the confluence of Emile and Marian Rivers and Lac La Martre) (G1 2009).





### LEGEND

- |   |                                   |   |                          |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE           |  | ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
|  | PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY        |  | FISHING/WATER            |
|  | EXISTING WINTER ROAD              |  | GRAVE/BURIAL             |
|  | PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD |  | SETTLEMENT/CABIN         |
|  | WATERCOURSE                       |  | ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
|  | WATERBODY                         |  | ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING |
|  | WETLAND                           |   |                          |



PROJECT FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED  
NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT

TITLE	TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #6
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## REFERENCE

Interview #6: Gamill 05 Feb. 2008. Jimmy Rommestrand.  
Base data obtained from GeoGrass.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



**Golder Associates**  
Edmonton, Alberta

PROJECT No. 06-1073-0017			TOTAL AS B
DESIGN	MT	01 Apr. 2009	<b>FIGU</b>
DWG	GF	03 Apr. 2009	
CHECK	MG	19 Jan. 2011	
REVIEW	MG	19 Jan. 2011	

**FIGURE: II.2-1**



### **II.2.1.3 Fishing**

It was reported that there is lots of good fishing in the Project area (the interview participant used to travel the Marian River on his way elsewhere, and it was fished during travel). Fish are also reported to be caught in Hislop Lake (Figure II.2-1). Many people do not fish that area now as there are concerns with mine pollution in that area. Now, fishing is focused on the Gamètì area. Whitefish, pickerel, grayline, loche, trout, cony, and jackfish are caught and eaten. In the past, they used to eat fish every day, but now it is sporadic. The interview participant further noted that they cooked the fish with the skins on and ate the meat and the livers occasionally if the fish were fat (G1 2009).

The interview participant reported that “water around here is no longer drinkable” (it is unconfirmed if this refers specifically to the Project area). He further stated that water was taken from upstream of the Rayrock area because the quality is suspect downstream. Water in the Gamètì area was also reported to be poor, and snow water is used if available (G1 2009).

It was reported that sometimes the fish are not as fat as they have been historically. It was further noted that the fish move around to follow the good water, and if the water is not healthy then the fish will not be healthy (G1 2009).

### **II.2.1.4 Hunting and Trapping**

The interview participant reported that hunting has occurred in the Project area and around the Hislop Lake area all the way up to Otter Lake (Figure II.2-1). Animals harvested include beaver, muskrat, ducks and fish. Mallards, ptarmigan, grouse, and black ducks, as well as others were also hunted. Rabbits were snared. It was further reported that in particular, beaver and muskrats (of all other animals) are taken in the spring. All these hunting areas were accessed by canoe. Big game is also taken, including moose and caribou, but not bear. The large game is usually taken in winter and summer. Caribou are usually hunted in winter. Moose are hunted along the river just north of Hislop Lake (Figure II.2-1) (G1 2009).

The interview participant reported that caribou tend to travel to wherever there is food, and beyond that it is difficult to tell where they would be. The caribou tend to go through the Gamètì area after freeze up (end of October), and then leave again as the snow begins to melt (end of March or April) (G1 2009). The interview participant reported that the game animals, birds and fish were fatter in the past.

The interview participant reported that those people, who hunted on Hislop Lake, also trapped in the Project area. The area along the Marian River and the lakes east of Hislop Lake were also trapped (G1 2009).

### **II.2.1.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Three cabins, which are still in use, were identified as being located at the north end of Hislop Lake near the Marian River (Figure II.2-1). Camp sites were also described at the north and east side of Hislop Lake. Stone chimneys may still be standing, on the east side of the north bay of Hislop Lake. Burials sites were identified here and also at the outflow of the Marian River (cabins and burials). There may also be other burial sites along the Marian River, but the exact locations are unknown (G1 2009).

## **II.2.2 INTERVIEW #7 (G2 2009)**

Interview #7 took place on 5 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of 2 male self-identifying Tłı̨chǫ members. Areas of traditional activities identified on the interview map are shown in Figure II.2-2.

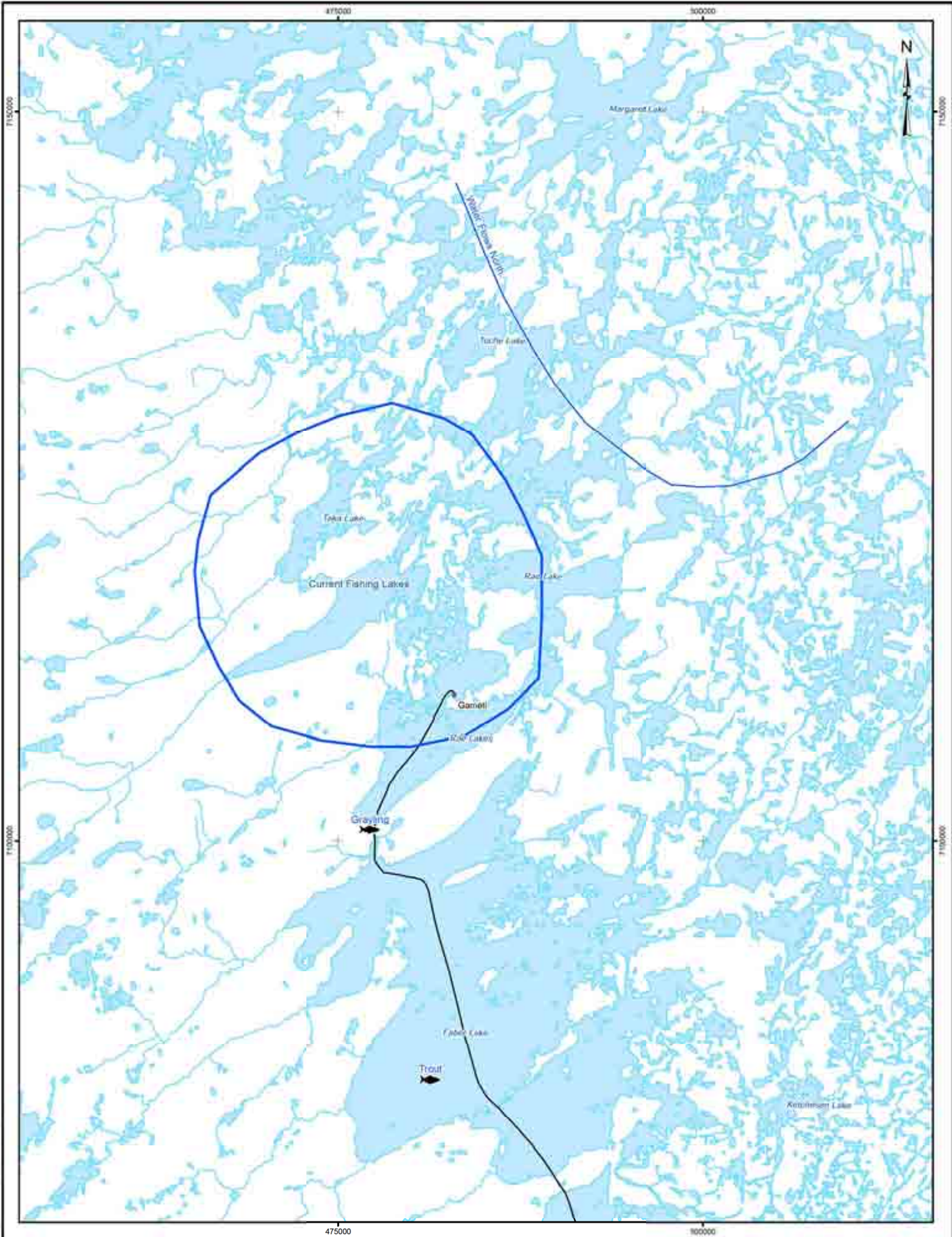
### **II.2.2.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

The hills around the proposed Project were used by hunters to spot game. It was also noted that small game and birds such as ptarmigan, grouse, and rabbits were hunted in this area (G2 2009).

The interview participants stated that if the mine dumps chemicals in the water, it could affect the beavers, muskrats, and fish, and that this will affect humans because chemicals travel up the food chain. It was further reported that the mine development may not be the right thing to do, and that the rest of the community needs to be consulted (G2 2009).

The interview participants stated that it is important for the heads of the companies who stand to benefit from the development that they know the local communities concerns (G2 2009).





LEGEND

- POPULATED PLACE
- EXISTING WINTER ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- FISHING/WATER
- FISHING/WATER
- FISHING/WATER

REFERENCE

Interview #7: Gamell 05 Feb. 2009. Jimmy Wogany, Joseph Mantia.  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

5 0 5  
SCALE 1:250,000 KILOMETRES


PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #7	
		FILE No. B-TLU010-000	
		PROJECT No. 08-1073-001	SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN MT 01 Apr. 2009	REV. 0
		CHECK SF 09 Apr. 2009	
		REVIEW MB 18 Jan. 2011	
		REVIEW MB 18 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE II.2-2



### **II.2.2.2 Plant Harvesting**

Interview participants reported that people pick blueberries, cranberries (the 2 most important), blackberries, raspberries, and cloudberry in the Gamètì area, and that the berries in the proposed mine site are good for bears. Generally, however, berries are now collected from just across the lake near Gamètì. Berries are also used for medicine (especially the cranberries). It was noted that a few drops of cranberry juice (infused tea) put in the eyes overnight is used to help cure snow blindness (G2 2009).

Both people and animals use plants as medicine. Du-eh (Tłìchǫ for a kind of pine) was reported to be used as a medicine. Spruce and birch branches and bark are also used for medicine. The spruce branches and bark are boiled and then the plant material is strained out and the liquid is drunk (G2 2009).

The interview participants questioned if after the mine is developed and later closed, whether the plants and berries would be the same (G2 2009).

### **II.2.2.3 Fishing**

A fishing area was described in the outlet area of Tumi Lake and the Hislop Lake and Marian River area. People also used to camp on Bea Lake for fishing. It was indicated that fishing was also good on Peanut Lake and Nico Lake, particularly for whitefish, jackfish, and lake trout. Fishing areas were also identified at Tumi, Hislop, and Bea lakes. Fish was stored in wood enclosures to keep the dogs and other animals out (G2 2009).

Generally, it was reported that most fishing is conducted near Gamètì now. Grayling are harvested at the south end of Rae Lakes, and trout are harvested in Faber Lake to the south of Gamètì (Figure II.2-2). Interview participants noted that fish are different than they used to be. Some fish are fat (healthy), but not like they used to be before (G2 2009).

Participants questioned as to whether if the mine is developed as planned, would it still be possible to continue fishing along the Marian River (G2 2009).

### **II.2.2.4 Hunting and Trapping**

The interview participants said that people hunted all over the area, and there are many trails and traplines in the area. Hunting has occurred in the hills in the Project area, particularly moose, but all over the area as well. Hunting has also occurred in the area surrounding the north end of Hislop Lake. People used to

tent in the area, prior to the time when cabins were used. One family goes there every year to hunt caribou and fish as soon as the winter road opens (G2 2009).

Although it was reported that there are lots of bears along the rivers where there are fish, and that they are not hunted, participants said that bear gall-bladders can be used as medicine, and that the Chinese will pay quite a lot of money for these. The interview participants said they are worried about how the bears will survive if the mine is developed (G2 2009).

Interview participants said that caribou migrate in both directions across the Project area. With regards to the health of caribou, it was reported that there is concern that the caribou have changed. Caribou used to have smooth healthy skin, but it is now rough and bumpy and the fluids under the skin are stickier than they used to be. It was thought that this may be due to mines on the barren-lands, which the caribou migrate across (G2 2009).

Historically, trapping was conducted all over the Project area. In particular, beaver and muskrat were trapped in the Peanut Lake and Nico Lake areas within the Project area (G2 2009). It was further reported that if the mine is developed as planned, it may affect the wildlife in the area, and it was questioned whether it will be possible to continue hunting along the Marian River. Ducklings have been seen on the pond near Colomac Mine and they wondered whether they would be healthy to eat. The interview participants further stated that wildlife in the area that surrounds the proposed mine, once it is developed, may not be safe to eat (G2 2009).

#### **II.2.2.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

People used to camp near the outlet area of Tumi Lake. They would camp there until the ice went out on the lakes, in spring, and also used to camp at Bea (Beati in Tłı̨chʼı̨) Lake, as there were many islands and good fishing. A big trail travels through the Bea Lake area (G2 2009).

Cabins were identified near the confluence of the Lac La Martre and Marian Rivers which were described as old and now falling apart. Lots of camping and fishing occurred along the Marian River area. A number of cabins were identified, one which is still used, on the south end of Marian River. There are other fishing cabins on the Marian River just north of Hislop Lake (G2 2009).

The dogsled trail used a different route than the one used now (not the river). It generally follows the current winter road across Tumi/Hislop lakes. It was

described to be east of the current winter road and south of Tumi Lake (G2 2009).

Approximately 10 gravesites were identified as being located on the east side of Hislop Lake. It was noted that they are not marked individually, but by one large cross. There are also a number of graves on the south end of Marian River. There are also some marked graves south of the Rayrock Mine on the Marian River, and there are a few other unmarked graves near the confluence of the Marian and Emile rivers (G2 2009).

## **II.2.3 INTERVIEW #8 (G3 2009)**

Interview #8 took place on 5 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of one male self-identifying Tłı̨ch̨ member. Figure II.2-3 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area.

### **II.2.3.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

The interview participant stated that in the past, the mines have destroyed the land, and then animals eat from the land and get sick. It was further stated that it is concerning with the potential for chemicals to pollute the land, but if the mine is operating properly then the mine should be okay (G3 2009).

### **II.2.3.2 Plant Harvesting**

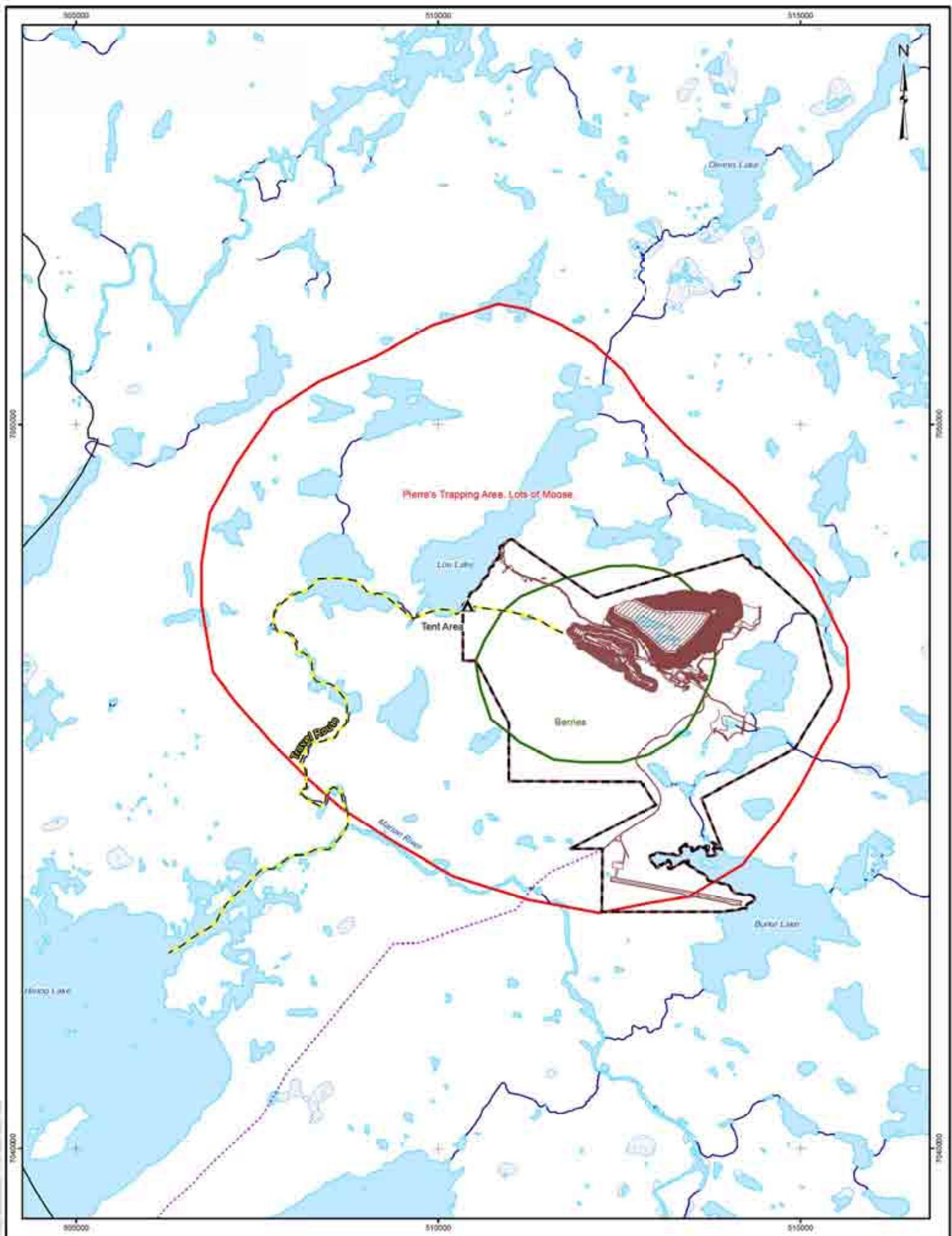
Blueberries, cloudberry, and cranberries were described as being harvested within the Project area (Figure II.2-3). In the past, Lou Lake has been an area to camp just south of the current Fortune camp. From there, the hills can be travelled to harvest berries (G3 2009).

Spruce bark, cones, and branches are boiled, strained and then the broth is taken. Du-eh was also identified as a medicine. When very small it is boiled and taken as a broth. Juniper is often prepared and taken as a medicine in a similar way (G3 2009).

### **II.2.3.3 Fishing**

The interview participant reported that fish are harvested with nets near a camp on north end of Hislop Lake and in the small arm of the lake to the northeast. Also, fish in the discharge area to Marian River are harvested including whitefish, catfish, and Loche. Currently, the interview participant harvests fish in the Rae Lakes area (G3 2009).






- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED NICO MINE SITE
  - PROPOSED LAND USE BOUNDARY
  - EXISTING WINTER ROAD
  - PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
  - WATERCOURSE
  - WATERBODY
  - WETLAND
  - CAMP SITE
  - TRAPLINE/TRAIL
  - ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING
  - PLANTS/BERRIES

**REFERENCE**

Interview #5: Gamit 05 Feb. 2009, Pierre Marfil.  
 Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
 Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83



PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #8		
		FILE No: D-TLUST-002		
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-0011	SCALE: AS SHOWN	REV: 8
		DESIGN: MF	01 Apr. 2009	
		DWG: BF	01 Apr. 2009	
		CHECK: MB	18 Jan. 2012	
		REVIEW: MB	18 Jan. 2012	

**FIGURE II.2-3**

Traditionally, most of the fish was reported to be consumed including flesh, liver, stomach, roe, and head. Bannock is prepared using fish roe. Now, the interview participant only eats the flesh, which is prepared by cooking with the skin on over a fire. The drinking water is made from snow. Fish used to be very tasty and fat in the past, but they are less so now (G3 2009).

#### **II.2.3.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Hunting and trapping occurs within the Project area and surrounding area (Figure II.2-3). The interview participant reported that fur-bearing animals such as fox, lynx, martin, wolverine, and beaver are trapped. In addition, caribou are hunted and rabbits are snared. Wolves would be trapped if their tracks were seen. Bears used to be hunted a long time ago, but not anymore. Ducks have also been hunted, and moose hunting occurs on foot travelling north from Hislop Lake camp up Marian River (G3 2009).

The interview participant said that the entire mine area has been used to trap from Lou Lake to Bea Lake and east, and that there are a lot of moose in this area. The area of trapping extends to former Rayrock Mine and east to Snare River, and then north to Beati Lake (G3 2009).

Caribou were described as normally migrating from the barren-lands past Wekweètì and Colomac west and southwest. They then return to the barren-lands by the same route. Caribou were also reported to now taste different than they have in the past, and that this may be due to the practice of tagging/tracking caribou. There are also much fewer caribou now than in the past (G3 2009).

No change in moose and birds was reported (G3 2009).

#### **II.2.3.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Approximately 3 cabins were described at the north end of Hislop Lake, which are still in use. Three unmarked graves were also identified south of Marian River and east of Hislop Lake. Graves were also identified on the east shore of Hislop Lake, on the north side of outlet bay, which is marked by a stone fence. A tent area is located on the southeast side of Lou Lake and is adjacent to the Project area (Figure II.2-3) (G3 2009).

## **II.2.4 INTERVIEW #9 (G4 2009)**

Interview #9 took place on 6 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of one male self-identifying Tłıchǫ member. Figure II.2-4 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area as identified by the interview participant.

### **II.2.4.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

The interview participant indicated that people used to live at Rae, and that it used to take 10 nights to travel from the area of Gamètì to Rae by boat. The settlement was located at Rae Lakes because of the good fishing and proximity to good trapping areas. Gamètì was built in 1966, and it was noted that after this time they did not go back to Rae (G4 2009).

The interview participant stated that everything was good before the mine, but after the mine is in production nothing will be the same, and the river may get poisoned. It was added that working in the Colomac, Etaki, and Port Radium mines has given cause for concern because there was blasting dust covering the bush, which changed the trees and other plant leaves (G4 2009).

The interview participant reported that many people are afraid that the mine will go ahead. They are concerned over the strong chemicals that are used, and the possibility of pollution and spills. They have had bad experiences with the Colomac Mine, and are concerned about runoff from the mine and access roads draining into the surrounding lakes and polluting them (G4 2009).

It was noted that on the other hand, the mine is in the middle of the traditional Tłıchǫ area, and it is hoped that the young people will be able to get jobs there.

Some young people are learning to trap, but many are not (G4 2009).

### **II.2.4.2 Plant Harvesting**

The interview participant reported that plants grow all over and that all kinds of berries are plentiful in the proposed mine area. Medicine is made from boiling the boughs and needles of trees. A summer plant and berry area surrounding Behchokǫ was also identified (Figure II.2-4) (G4 2009).







### **II.2.4.3 Fishing**

Fishing was said to be good in Lou Lake including pickerel, whitefish, and jackfish. Fishing is also conducted at Hislop Lake for whitefish and jackfish. Whitefish are good on the far bank opposite the Tumi River discharge to Marian River; this is where the nets are set. This was also identified as a good lake for beavers, and for black ducks. Buile Lake is good for jackfish and whitefish.

The interview participant noted that the health of fish is good, but is concerned about the health of Lou Lake should the proposed mine is developed (G4 2009).

### **II.2.4.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Travelling to Hislop Lake used to be done in the fall to hunt. Black ducks were harvested in particular. The interview participant would often stay all winter, and travel into the Project area from Hislop Lake to hunt moose in the hills and in spring, he would travel downstream half way to Behchokò to trap muskrat and beaver, as there are lots of beaver and muskrat along the Marian River south of Hislop Lake. Different places would be travelled to each year to avoid depleting a particular area. Trapping now occurs north of Gamètì (Beaverlodge Lake) (G4 2009).

The Project area was reported to be good beaver country, and that there is also bear, moose, and caribou in the proposed mine area. The caribou usually pass through on their annual migration, but this year there was no caribou. The interview participant further reported that the caribou and moose are still healthy, but that the mine may affect the caribou movement through the area because of the noise (G4 2009).

The animals were reported to be most often trapped are muskrat, beaver, mink, lynx, otter, and wolf. It was thought that the animals will smell the food at the proposed mine, if it is developed, and will be attracted to it. In that case, it would be a very good place to trap then. Spring-time muskrat and beaver are trapped southeast of the Project area (G4 2009).

### **II.2.4.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Three cabins were identified at the north end of Hislop Lake. There are also cabins on the big island in the southeast bay on the east side of Hislop Lake. A campsite was also identified on top of the hills in the Project Area, from where they used to hunt moose (Figure II.2-4) (G4 2009).

Burial sites were identified around Hislop Lake (Figure II.2-4). One is located at the north end, just east of the Marian River, the other is located on a point of land near the discharge of the Marian River into the east end of Hislop Lake (G4 2009).

## **II.2.5 INTERVIEW #10 (G5 2009)**

Interview #10 took place on 6 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of one male self-identifying Tłìchʔ member. Figure II.2-5 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area.

### **II.2.5.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

The interview participant indicated that Gamètì used to be an outpost camp, but it then became a settlement. He used to hunt and trap in the Gamètì area, but grew up in the Hislop Lake area. He moved to Gamètì around 1968 (G5 2009).

What will happen after the mine is developed is of concern to the interview participant. The interview participant has seen dust of different colours after blasting (G5 2009).

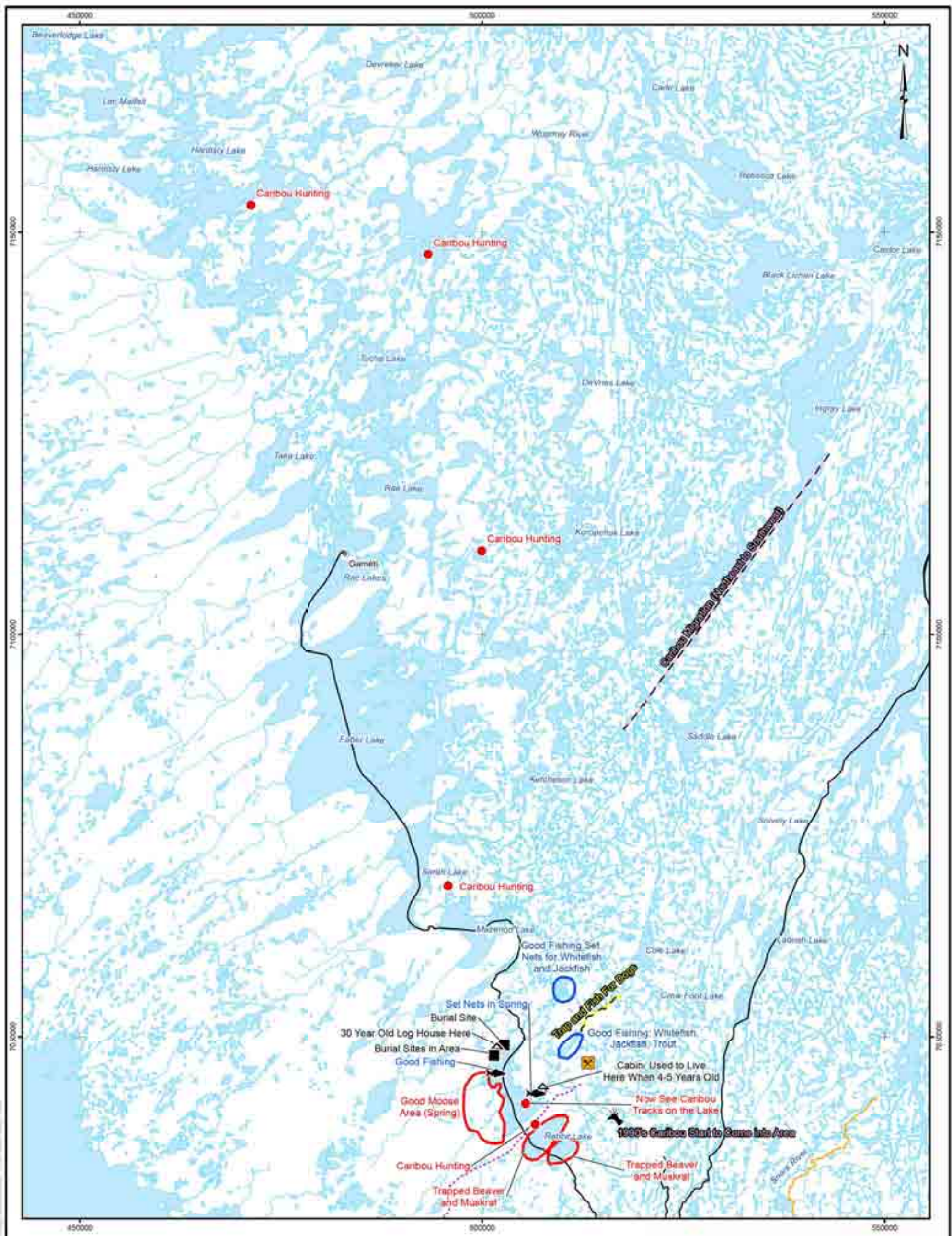
It was reported that the long 2 to 3 week work shifts are difficult for people to manage, especially teenagers. Training programs for young people, including money management are thought to be needed for mine workers. The interview participant indicated that he has sat on numerous boards over the years and indicated that he believes that young people need money, and the jobs that the mines provide are important, but they come at a cost. It was noted that bereavement and sick leave are often limited for mine workers. Bereavement is limited to immediate family members and does not take into account close relationships outside of this (i.e., uncles, cousins, etc.). Family support programs are also reported to be needed at the mine sites (G5 2009).

Traditional skills were reported to be taught as part of the school curriculum. The interview participant indicated that he still takes his children out on the land for short periods of time (G5 2009).

### **II.2.5.2 Plant Harvesting**

Many people continue to use traditional medicines. Rat root was reported to be collected at Hislop Lake, but that there is very little rat root in the Gamètì area. Berries and trees are utilized within the Project area, but generally speaking, the people are losing the traditional medicines (G5 2009).





LEGEND

- NICO PROJECT
- POPULATED PLACE
- EXISTING ALL WEATHER ROAD
- EXISTING WINTER ROAD
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING
- CARIBOU MIGRATION
- FISHING/WATER
- GRAVE/BURIAL
- SETTLEMENT/CABIN
- CARIBOU MIGRATION
- TRAPLINE/TRAIL
- ANIMALS/HUNTING/TRAPPING
- FISHING/WATER

REFERENCE

Interview #10: Games 06 Feb. 2009, Frank Arrowmaker.  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

15 0 15  
SCALE 1:450,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #10	
 Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No: E-TL09/13-002	
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN MT 01 Apr. 2009	REV 2
		CHECK SF 08 Apr. 2009	
		REVIEW SB 12 Jan. 2011	
		RE 19 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE II.2-5



### **II.2.5.3 Fishing**

The interview participant indicated that there is good fishing on Lou Lake (i.e., whitefish, jackfish, and trout) and Beati Lake (big jackfish and whitefish). Fishing is also done at Rae Lakes for whitefish, trout, and jackfish (G5 2009).

Winter fishing was noted to be best at the north end of Hislop Lake where the islands are (Figure II.2-5). It was reported that there is a good place to fish during the spring break up just south of the Marian River discharge from Hislop Lake where nets can be set (G5 2009).

Regarding fish health, the interview participant reported that it seems good and he participated in a fish study about 4 years ago and the fish seemed fine then. However, the fish south of the Rayrock area were thought to be of poorer health (G5 2009).

### **II.2.5.4 Hunting and Trapping**

The area to the southwest and west of the Hislop Lake was indicated as a good place to hunt moose (Figure II.2-5) (G5 2009).

Hunting was reported to usually occur in March in the Faber/Marigold Lake area for caribou. Back in the 1970's there was not many caribou, and diet was supplemented with fishing. In the 1990s, caribou travelled through Lou Lake and Beati Lake areas, and then later they started travelling through the Rabbit Lake and Tumi Lake area. The caribou were thought to be less healthy today than in the past, and this was noticed 4 years ago, as indicated by the prevalence of scars, puss and worms found in caribou compared to in the past (G5 2009).

No changes in moose health have been noticed, but it was noted that few people hunt moose, preferring to hunt caribou (G5 2009).

Some people were reported to still be trapping for muskrat and beaver in the Rabbit, Hislop, and Tumi lakes area and south. The prices for furs are generally perceived as good, and when not working at the mines many people still go trapping to supplement income. However, it was noted that the work rotation schedule at the mine prevented people from continuing to trap as they still need time to complete house maintenance and time to spend with the family. The interview participant used to fish on Lou Lake, and then trap to the northeast through Dennis Lake towards Crowfoot Lake. He also indicated that he used to trap in the Hardisty Lake area, but he stopped trapping about four years ago and now works at Diavik (G5 2009).

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### **II.2.5.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Cabins were identified on the west side of Hislop Lake. There is a camp south of the Marian River discharge from Hislop Lake. There are a number of graves on the west side of Hislop Lake, just south of where the cabins are. There are other graves on a point east of the Marian River at the north end of Hislop Lake (Figure II.2-5) (G5 2009).

## **2.6 INTERVIEW #11 (G6 2009)**

Interview #11 took place on 6 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of one male self-identifying Tłıchǫ member. Figure II.2-6 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area.

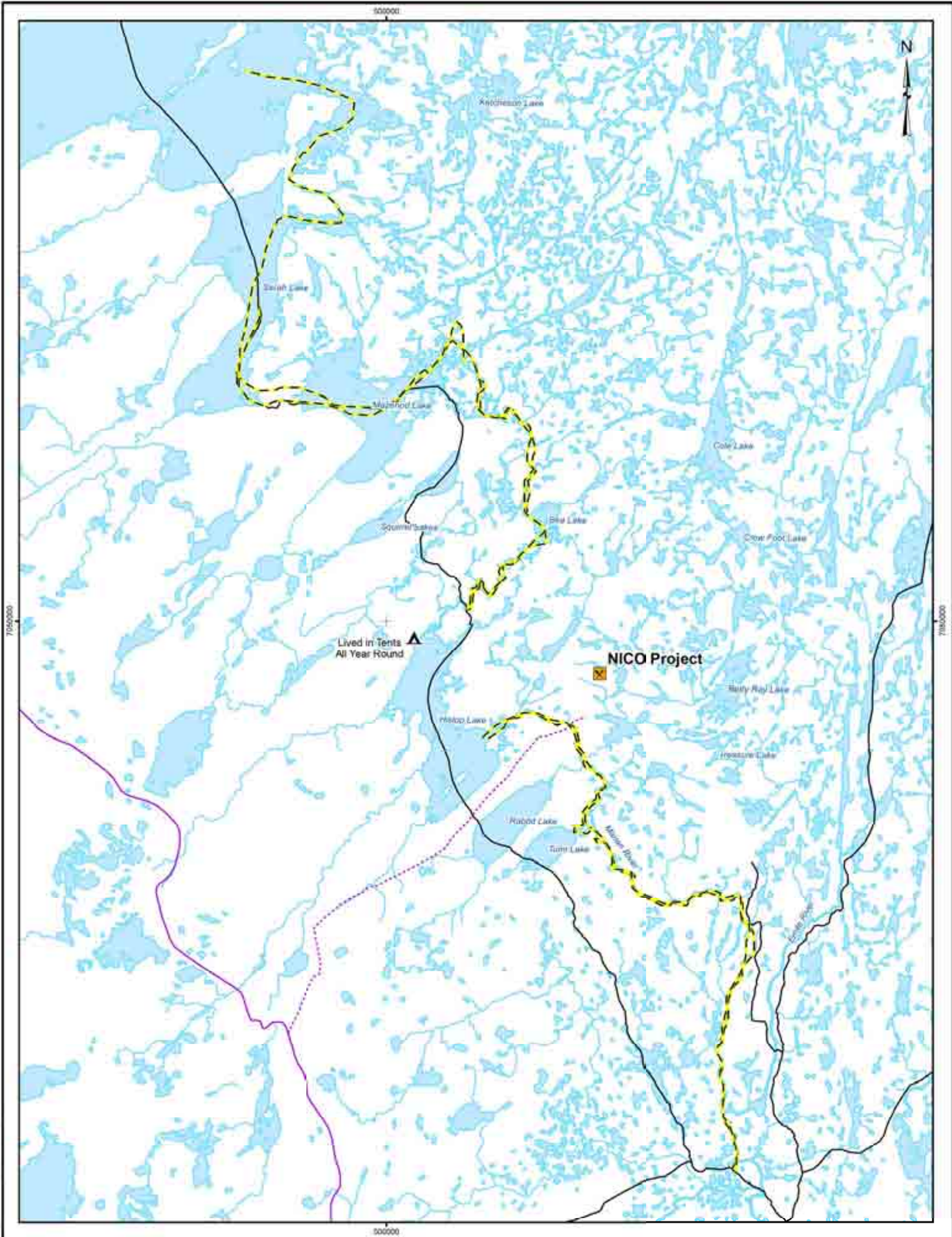
### **II.2.6.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

In terms of reclamation, the interview participant stated that if there are caribou there after they close the mine, they will go hunting there like they have before (G6 2009).

The interview participant said that mines keep popping up all over, and there are too many mines all at once. He questioned if all the mines are operating at once, what will the children do when the mines close down. It was also noted that people who work in the mines have a higher income than their neighbours, and that it is good for the individual, but does not contribute to the community as a whole. The interview participant's parents used to live at the Rayrock Mine, as his dad worked there. His children may work at the mine, which will be good, but once the mine is closed he questioned whether they be able to use the land again. He noticed lots of dead trees along the river by Rayrock, and wondered will they be using the same chemicals/and processes in the proposed mine as they have in past mines. It was further noted that most of the money made from diamond mining seems to go to Yellowknife (G6 2009).

It was reported that the diamond mine people used to come to town, and attendance would be good at these meetings, but people do not go now because they do not trust them. It was also elaborated that there are no problems with other people using the land in the area of the Project (G6 2009).





LEGEND

- NICO PROJECT
- POPULATED PLACE
- EXISTING WINTER ROAD
- PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE
- PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD
- WATERCOURSE
- WATERBODY
- CAMPSITE
- TRAPLINE/TRAIL

REFERENCE

Interview #11: Games 05 Feb. 2009, Sam Martin.  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

SCALE 1:225,000 KILOMETRES

PROJECT		FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT	
TITLE		TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW #11	
Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta		FILE No: E-TL4014-000	
		PROJECT No: 08-1073-0017	SCALE AS SHOWN
		DESIGN: MT 01 Apr. 2009	REV: 1
		CHECK: MB 09 Apr. 2009	
		CHECK: MB 18 Jan. 2011	
		REVIEW: MB 18 Jan. 2011	

FIGURE II.2-6



### **II.2.6.2 Plant Harvesting**

The Project area was identified as good for collecting medicinal plants, and that there are also lots of berries at the proposed mine site (i.e., blueberries, cranberries, cloudberry, blackberries, Saskatoon berries, and gooseberries). It was further noted that if you take something from the land, you have to repay with respect, money, or/and offerings. The berries are good all along the river (G6 2009).

No difference in snowfall has been noticed, and the same goes for rainfall. The amount tends to vary from year to year. It was noted that if there is lots of rain, there are better berries (G6 2009).

### **II.2.6.3 Fishing**

The fishing in Marian River and Hislop Lake was reported as good for whitefish, jackfish, and all kinds of other fish. The interview participant said that nets would be set on the way to Rae. The interview participant also noted that he used to travel to Rae by boat to hunt for ducks, moose, and fish (G6 2009).

Water was reported as still good as well as fish health. However, the river level was noted as being lower this summer as more rocks are showing. No difference in snowfall or rainfall has been noticed, but the amount tends to vary from year to year (G6 2009).

### **II.2.6.4 Hunting and Trapping**

The interview participant indicated that caribou has been hunted in the winter time, and that everybody ate caribou, but did not hunt moose. They would often see bear, but they did not hunt those either. It was noted that caribou health is not as good as it was in the past. They now have sores or wounds on ribs. It was difficult for the interview participant to say whether there has been a change in caribou migration since how they travel is not known. Sometimes they do not get caribou in Gamètì, and the people there need to travel to find the caribou (G6 2009).

Hunting around the Project area was reported as generally limited to moose and rabbits. People from Whatì also hunt in the Hislop Lake area. The area was considered more important as a good fishing area (G6 2009).

The interview participant said that once they made the road to the mine site, it was a good area for moose and caribou. It was a good place for moose to calve

since it was away from the main river. Currently the interview participant hunts caribou in the spring and after the freeze-up. The interview participant now also hunts and traps beaver and muskrat at Hislop Lake in the spring, and until Christmas, he stays in a cabin on the Coppermine River and traps martin, fox, mink, wolverine, lynx, wolf, squirrel, and rabbit (G6 2009).

#### **II.2.6.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

A traditional camp was identified at the north end of Hislop Lake, where people used to live in tents all year round (Figure II.2-6). There is a traditional trail between Behchokò and Gamètì. The trail basically follows the Marian River north to Tumi Lake, Hislop Lake, Bea Lake, Mazenod Lake, Sarah Lake to Faber Lake and north (Figure II.2-6) (G6 2009).

### **II.2.7 INTERVIEW #12, TRAPPERS FOCUS GROUP (TFG 2009)**

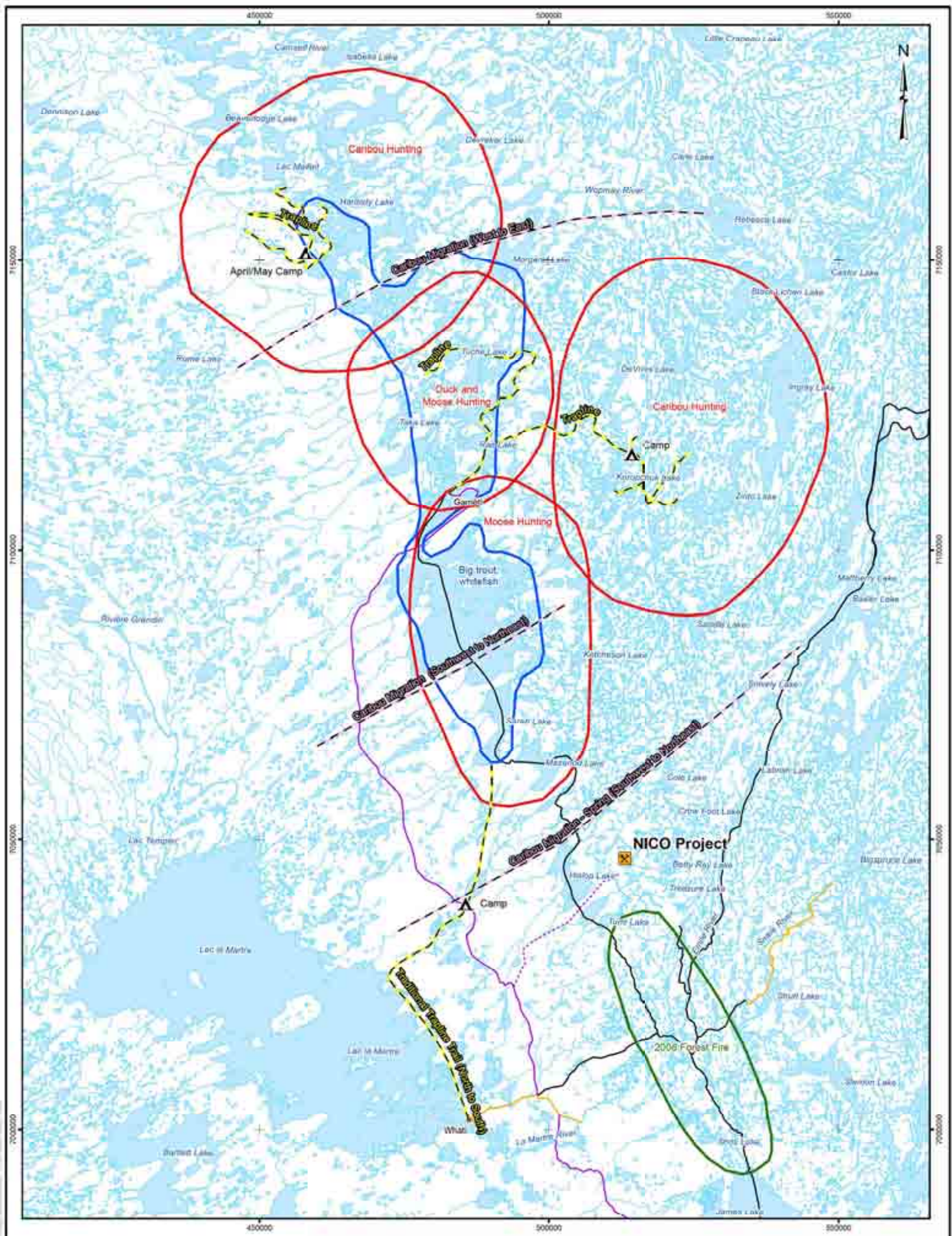
Interview #12 took place on 6 February 2009 in Gamètì and consisted of a trappers focus group. Figure II.2-7 shows the TLU activity occurring within and surrounding the Project area.

#### **II.2.7.1 Historical, Current, and Future Use**

Traditional training for young people on the land is taught by non-working people. It was further noted that young people prefer to work in mines, and that there was not much difference in terms of employment between men and women, but there are more men unemployed than women. Many men prefer to go out on the land, particularly in Gamètì where there is more traditional trapping and hunting. But in general people do not want to live off the land. Currently, only about 10 or so people were reported to trap. People trap in the Gamètì area, and north, east, and west of Gamètì (TFG 2009).

The interview participants reported that young people are not interested in trapping as a way of life, but the Elders are interested in passing along traditional knowledge and trapping skills. Schools take the children out and show them how to set snares and nets (TFG 2009).





**LEGEND**

	NICO PROJECT		CAMPSITE
	POPULATED PLACE		CARIBOU MIGRATION
	EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD		TRAPLINE/TRAIL
	EXISTING WINTER ROAD		ANIMALS HUNTING/TRAPPING
	PROPOSED ALL-LAND WINTER ROAD ROUTE		FISHING/WATER
	PROPOSED NICO PROJECT ACCESS ROAD		PLANTS/BERRIES
	WATERCOURSE		
	WATERBODY		

25 0 25

SCALE 1:625,000 KILOMETRES

REFERENCE

Trappers Focus Group, 06 Feb. 2009. William Chocoma; Antoine Wierade; Charlie Wierade; Alfred Arrowmaker  
Base data obtained from GeoGratis.  
Projection: UTM Zone 11 Datum: NAD 83

PROJECT	FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED NICO DEVELOPERS ASSESSMENT REPORT		
TITLE	TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEW TRAPPERS FOCUS GROUP		
 Golder Associates Edmonton, Alberta	FILE No. E-TL0415-08		
	PROJECT No. 08-1073-017		
	DESIGN	MT	01 Apr. 2009
	CHECK	RE	10 Jan. 2011
	SCALE	AS SHOWN	REV. 2

**FIGURE: II.2-7**



### **II.2.7.2 Plant Harvesting**

Many plants were identified as being used by the local communities including blueberries, cranberries, cloudberry, strawberries, and blackberries. Berries are generally gathered in July and August. It was also reported that during some years there are many blueberries and other years there are few, depending on the weather and amount of rain.

Many plants were reported to be used as medicine. The birch tree is used as cough medicine; spruce bough tea is made; pine cones are boiled and the water drunk, and spruce gum is made. A large plant and berry area was identified between Tumi Lake and Shoti Lake southeast of the Project area (Figure II.2-7) (TFG 2009).

### **II.2.7.3 Fishing**

Species caught and utilized include whitefish, trout, grayling, suckers, jackfish, and loche (no coney because the water is too fresh). Fish are caught in summer and winter using hooks and nets. Interview participants also said that almost all parts of the fish are eaten including the liver, stomach, eggs, and head. No changes in the health or quality of the fish have been noticed, except that the trout have a bit of white puss in them. Many young people go fishing in the summer with hooks (TFG 2009).

It was reported that mercury was found in the trout from Rae Lakes and that you are only supposed to eat one fish per week now. There is government funding for community studies. Fishing is done from Hardisty Lake south to Sarah Lake (TFG 2009).

### **II.2.7.4 Hunting and Trapping**

Interview participants said that they all hunt. Hunting and trapping areas are north and northwest of the Project area (Figure II.2-7). They hunt moose in the fall, and caribou on the barren-lands, as well as locally. It was also noted that people come from Rae and Whatì to hunt, and many of the young people hunt. They do not hunt in the Project area because it is too far away. The caribou migrate north in the spring (April and May). No changes in the health of the animals have been noticed (large game and furbearers) (TFG 2009).

Birds were reported to be hunted, including black ducks, pintail, ptarmigan in winter, and grouse in fall. No change in the birds health has been noticed (TFG 2009).

Interview participants reported that trapped species include marten, wolverine, mink, fox, muskrat, wolf, squirrel, and lynx. It is easy to catch marten. Muskrat is trapped/hunted in the spring and given to ENR, as well as sold. Trapping was noted as a good source of income. There were 2 sales in February and March. However, it was also reported that you still need to supplement this income with outside work including fire fighting and Employment Insurance. One interview participant has quit trapping in the NICO area around 1997 when his father lost his eyesight (TFG 2009).

Interview participants said that the current traps are dangerous, and some people have lost fingers due to unfamiliarity with these new traps (TFG 2009).

Many factors, including the higher fuel costs and a warmer November, which delayed the freeze up, made for a less profitable winter, although it was reported that they were still catching lots of animals (TFG 2009).

#### **II.2.7.5 Cabins, Trails, Access Routes, and Culturally Important Sites**

Several trapline trails were identified through the area. One interview participant indicated that a trail goes along the northeast boundary of Lac La Martre and then north to Sarah Lake (Figure II.2-7). A campsite was identified on a smaller lake along the trail south of Sarah Lake (Figure II.2-7). Other trapline trails are located further north at and connecting Koropchuk Lake, Rae Lake, Tuche Lae, as well as near Hardisy Lake and Lac Malfait. Camps were identified to be located at Koropchuk Lake and Hardisty Lake (TFG 2009).