

KINROSS

Great Bear

Great Bear Gold Project Impact Statement

Appendix P-3:

**Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report:
Manoomin Field between
Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2**



GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

GREAT BEAR PROJECT

CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT: MANOOMIN FIELD BETWEEN UNNAMED WATERBODIES 1 AND 2, KENORA DISTRICT, ONTARIO

FEBRUARY 2026





GREAT BEAR PROJECT

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GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

FINAL

PROJECT NO.: OMEMA2303
FEBRUARY 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) was retained by Great Bear Resources Limited (Great Bear Resources), a subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation, to complete a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) for a wild rice field (manoomin marsh) located between Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2 (the Study Area) as part of the Federal Impact Assessment for the Great Bear Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act*. The Study Area is situated within the Great Bear Property in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 25 kilometres southeast of the Municipality of Red Lake, within the District of Kenora.

The Project involves the development, operation, and eventual decommissioning and closure of an underground and open pit gold mine, with an associated process plant to produce gold doré bars, as well as supporting infrastructure. In 2024, WSP prepared a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage Report) for the Project. The Cultural Heritage Report determined that the Project is anticipated to result in direct impacts to one potential Cultural Heritage Landscape - a wild rice field along the shores of Unnamed Waterbody 1 (identified as CHR 3 in the Cultural Heritage Report). Accordingly, the Cultural Heritage Report recommended that a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) be completed to evaluate the potential Cultural Heritage Landscape against the criteria for cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) prescribed in Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg 569/22) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c. O.18)

In 2025, WSP completed a CHER for the Study Area, which determined that it meets three criteria under O. Reg. 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Drawing on historical background research, confidential Indigenous knowledge studies prepared for the Project, and review of existing conditions, the Study Area was found to fulfill three criteria of O. Reg 9/06 for historical / associative and contextual reasons. The CHER recommended that a CHIA be prepared prior to construction to determine the impacts of the proposed work on the Study Area, assess the considered alternative development options, identify conservation strategies, and provide mitigation measures to reduce negative impacts and conserve the cultural heritage value or interest of the landscape. This report documents the CHIA process.

Following guidance developed by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as part of Info Bulletin #3: Heritage Impact Assessments for Provincial heritage properties (MCM 2017) of the Ontario Heritage Tool Kit and Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Parks Canada 2010) the results of this CHIA concluded that the proposed work will result in direct adverse impacts to the CHVI and heritage attributes of the Study Area. The following recommendations are made:

1. Retain a record of the existing conditions of the Study Area prior to construction. Environmental baseline studies such as the *Great Bear Project 2024 Fisheries Resources Baseline Report* (WSP 2025c) along with cultural heritage reporting, including the Cultural Heritage Report (WSP 2025a) and CHER (WSP 2025b), provide valuable documentation of baseline conditions and consultation related to the Study Area. These reports should be maintained together to serve as a comprehensive reference for informing future restoration and documentation initiatives.
2. Complete the Wild Rice Enhancement Study and initiate the Wild Rice Revitalization project to restore manoomin-bearing waterways, strengthen the health and yield of marshes on Wabaskang Lake, to offset potential effects of Project infrastructure on manoomin loss at Unnamed Waterbody 1.
3. While appropriate ecological conditions may not be present to sustain manoomin, as part of the post-closure revegetation efforts in the regulatory closure plan, in consultation with engaged Indigenous Nations, manoomin planting will be considered.
4. The results of this CHIA have been included in the Great Bear Project Impact Statement submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the Impact Assessment process.
5. This report must be submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) for information purposes.

ABBREVIATIONS

ANA	Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CHIA	Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
CHP	Canada's Historic Places
CHP S&Gs	Canada's Historic Places Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
Great Bear Resources	Great Bear Resources Ltd.
ha	Hectare
LSFN	Lac Seul First Nation
km	Kilometres
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
MCM S&Gs	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
NWOMC	Northwestern Ontario Métis Community
OHT	Ontario Heritage Trust
O.Reg.	Ontario Regulation
SCHVI	Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
TLRU	Traditional Land and Resource Use
WFN	Wabauskang First Nation
WSP	WSP Canada Inc.

GLOSSARY

Adjacent lands	Those lands contiguous to a protected heritage property or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan (Government of Ontario 2024).
Built Heritage Resource	<p>Means a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Built heritage resources are located on property that may be designated under Parts IV or V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, or that may be included on local, provincial, federal and/or international registers.</p>
Conserved	Means the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment that has been approved, accepted or adopted by the relevant planning authority and/or decision maker. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments (Government of Ontario 2024).
Cultural Heritage Landscape	<p>Means a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Cultural heritage landscapes may be properties that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, or have been included on federal and/or international registers, and/or protected through official plan, zoning by-law, or other land use planning mechanisms.</p>
Heritage Attributes	<p>Means, as defined under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, in relation to real property, and to the buildings and structures on the real property, the attributes of the property, buildings and structures that contribute to their cultural heritage value or interest (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Heritage attributes are the principal features or elements that contribute to a protected heritage property's cultural heritage value or interest, and may include the property's built, constructed, or manufactured elements, as well as natural landforms, vegetation, water features, and its visual setting (e.g. significant views or vistas to or from a protected heritage property).</p>

Protected Heritage Property

Means property designated under Part IV or VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; property included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; property subject to a heritage conservation easement or covenant under Part II or IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; property identified by a provincial ministry or a prescribed public body as a property having cultural heritage value or interest under the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties*; property protected under federal heritage legislation; and UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Government of Ontario 2024).

Significant:

In regards to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 2024).



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) was retained by Great Bear Resources Limited (Great Bear Resources), a subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation, to complete a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) for the wild rice field (manoomin marsh) located between Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2 (the Study Area) as part of the Federal Impact Assessment for the Great Bear Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act*, S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1. The Study Area is situated within the Great Bear Property in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 25 kilometres (km) southeast of the Municipality of Red Lake, within the District of Kenora.

The Project involves the development, operation, and eventual decommissioning and closure of an underground and open pit gold mine, with an associated processing plant to produce gold doré bars, as well as supporting infrastructure.

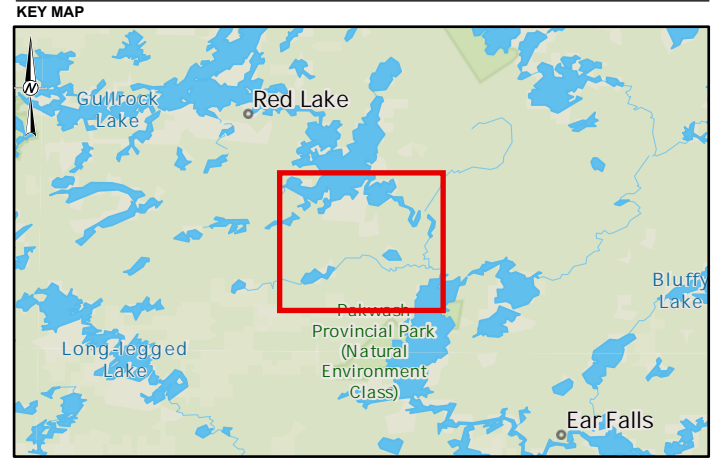
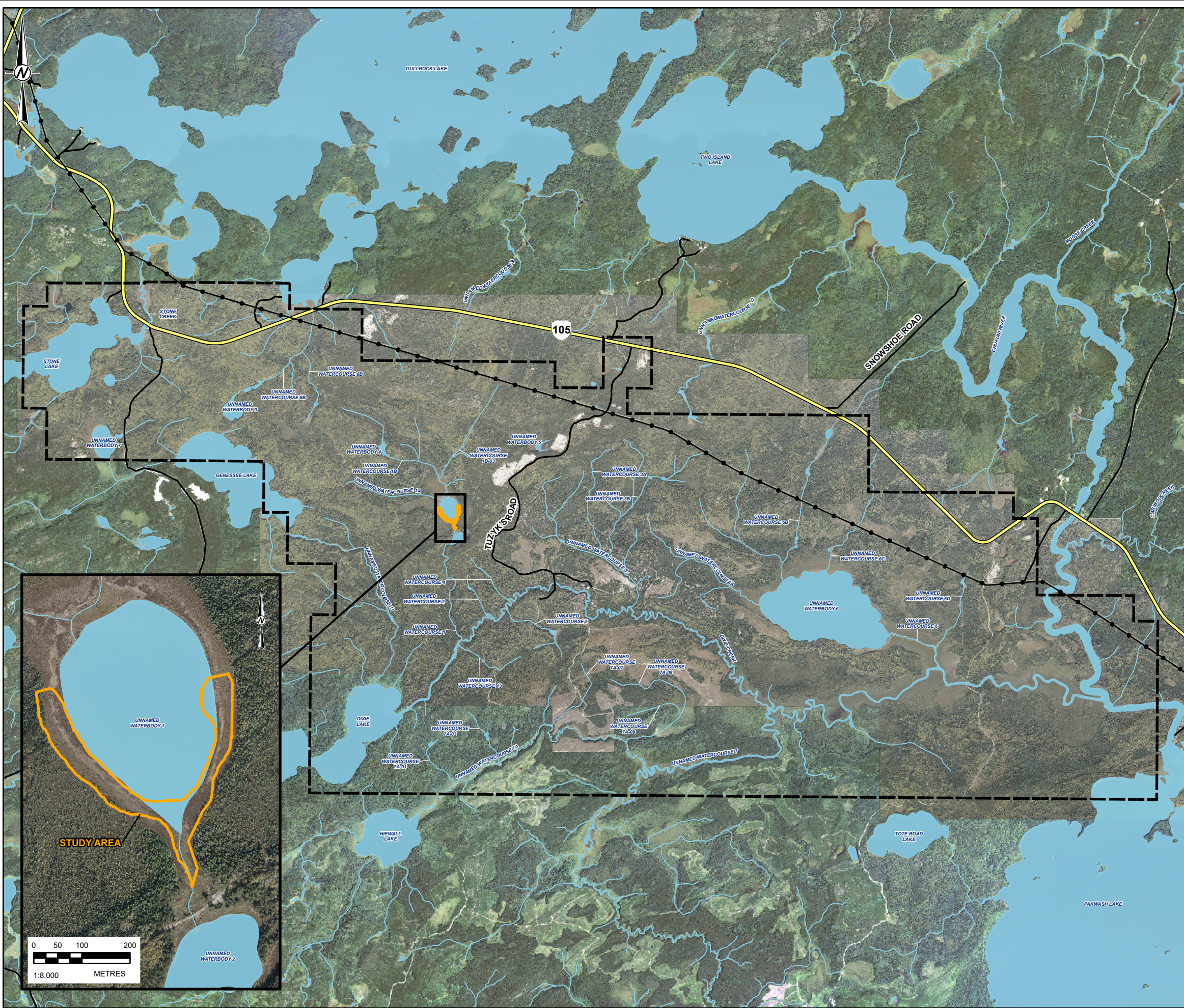
A *Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment* (Cultural Heritage Report) was prepared by WSP (2025a) to support the Impact Statement being prepared pursuant to the federal Impact Assessment Act for the Project. The Cultural Heritage Report determined that the Project is anticipated to result in direct impacts to one potential Cultural Heritage Landscape - a wild rice field located along the shores of Unnamed Waterbody 1 (identified as CHR 3 in the Cultural Heritage Report). As the proposed land disturbance activities associated with the Project are anticipated to alter natural drainage patterns and ecological conditions critical to the growth of wild rice, the Cultural Heritage Report recommended that a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) be undertaken to evaluate the potential Cultural Heritage Landscape against the criteria for cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) prescribed in Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg 569/22) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c. O.18).

The CHER (WSP 2025b) was completed by WSP in 2025 and determined that the Study Area meets three criteria under O. Reg. 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Drawing on historical background research, confidential Indigenous knowledge studies prepared for the Project, and review of existing conditions, the Study Area was found to fulfill three criteria of O. Reg 9/06 for historical / associative and contextual reasons. The CHER recommended that a CHIA be prepared prior to construction to determine the impacts of the proposed work on the Study Area, assess the considered alternative development options, identify conservation strategies, and provide mitigation measures to reduce negative impacts and conserve the cultural heritage value or interest of the landscape.

1.2 STUDY AREA

The Study Area for this CHIA comprises an approximately 10.5 ha wild rice (manoomin¹) marsh situated between two unnamed waterbodies. For the purposes of this report, these are referred to as Unnamed Waterbody 1 (to the north) and Unnamed Waterbody 2 (to the south). The Study Area boundary is delineated in **Figure 1**.

¹ In support of reconciliation and acknowledging First Nations' cultural traditions and lifeways, the term *manoomin* (the Anishinaabemowin word for wild rice or *Zizania palustris*) is used throughout this report when referencing the plant in the context of Indigenous use. The term *wild rice* is used selectively when referring to the plant in European or colonial contexts; where no evidence of intentional Indigenous cultivation exists; or when referring to Métis community contexts.



SCALE: 1:1,000,000

- LEGEND**
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - STUDY AREA
 - HIGHWAY
 - LOCAL ROAD
 - EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE
 - WATERCOURSE
 - WATERBODY



NOTE(S)
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

- REFERENCE(S)**
1. AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES (SCENE DATE: SEPTEMBER 2022).
 2. PROPERTY BOUNDARY PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022.
 3. ROADS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022.
 4. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
 5. BASE MAP: SOURCES: ESRI, TOMTOM, GARMIN, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY
 6. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

CLIENT
GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT
GREAT BEAR PROJECT, GREAT BEAR RESOURCES PROPERTY, KENORA, ONTARIO

TITLE
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA WITHIN THE GBR PROPERTY

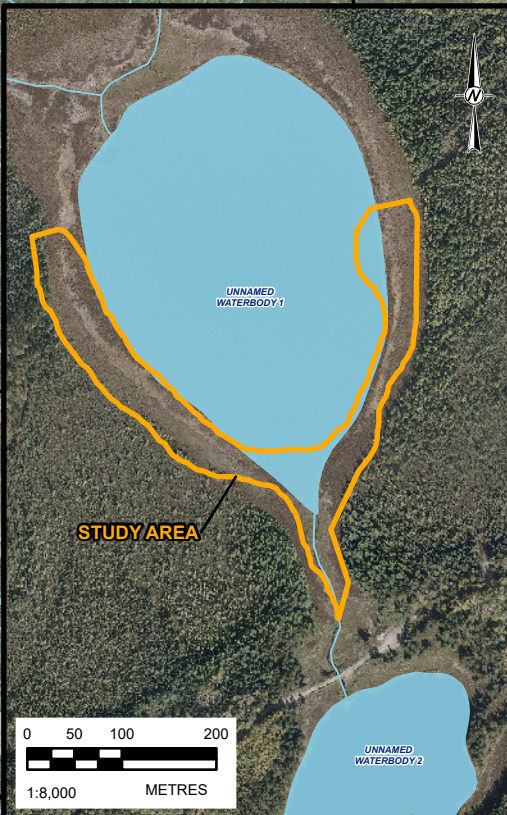
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DESIGNED	AF	
PREPARED	MD/BR	
REVIEWED	AF	
APPROVED	JK	



PROJECT NO. CA0031271.9255 CONTROL 0004 REV. 1 FIGURE 1

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1.3 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Project work within the Study Area consists of the construction of dams and impoundments at and upstream of Unnamed Waterbody 1, which will require draining the existing waterbody, which will alter the associated heritage features. A comprehensive alternatives assessment determined that this location for the works was preferred on balance over all other locations.

The assessment of impacts of the Project to the Study Area provided in Section 6 has determined that without conservation or mitigation measures, the Project will result in direct adverse impacts to the heritage attributes of the Study Area that are irreversible, localized, permanent, and will occur once. Under the proposed development, the identified heritage attributes associated with the Study Area will be removed, and the land will be redeveloped for the Project. As a result, the Study Area's CHVI and its associated heritage attributes in their current form will be lost.

All alternative alignments, configurations, and avoidance strategies were examined and determined technically or operationally infeasible given site hydrology and safety constraints. As such, the removal of cultural heritage features is an unavoidable last resort, undertaken only after considering all other reasonable options. Mitigation through documentation, restoration, and long-term ecological offsetting is therefore proposed as the most appropriate and practicable mitigative response.

Mitigation recommendations outlined in Section 7 focus on comprehensive documentation, ecological restoration, and support for Indigenous-led manoomin restoration and revitalization initiatives. The existing suite of technical studies including the CHER (WSP 2025a), Cultural Heritage Report (WSP 2025 b), Fisheries Resources Baseline Report (WSP 2025c), Marine Archaeology Report (WSP 2025d) provides a detailed record of environmental and cultural baseline conditions and should serve as the foundation for restoration and reclamation planning following mine closure. Support for the Wild Rice Enhancement and Revitalization initiatives led by Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN) and Wabauskang First Nation (WFN) is recommended as part of efforts to offset manoomin habitat loss through targeted restoration activities on Wabaskang Lake. While appropriate ecological conditions may not be present to sustain manoomin, as part of the regulatory closure plan, manoomin planting has been considered.

2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 INTERNATIONAL AND FEDERAL POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

At the federal level, the Project is being guided by the *Impact Assessment Act*, however, additional federal and international cultural heritage policies and guidance documents have been used to inform the development of this deliverable (Table 1).

Table 1: Federal and International Policies and Guidance Documents

Title	Type	Description
<i>Impact Assessment Act</i> , S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1.	Federal Legislation	The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project issued pursuant to the Act, calls for the consideration of physical and cultural heritage when assessing predicted effects of the Project on the environment. The requirements to consider the effects on physical and cultural heritage are outlined in Section 7(1)(c)(i and iii) of the Act, which note that the proponent of a project must not do any act or thing that will impact, with respect to the Indigenous peoples of Canada, physical and cultural heritage, and any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, palaeontological or architectural significance.
Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Canada's Historic Places 2011)	Federal Guidance Document	The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (CHP S&Gs) was released by Canada's Historic Places (CHP), a federal, provincial, and territorial pan-Canadian collaboration, in 2011. The CHP S&Gs outlines the conservation decision-making process and defines three conservation strategies: preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration. The document also includes general guidelines for heritage conservation as well as guidelines that are specific to different types of heritage resources and materials, including cultural landscapes/heritage districts, archaeological sites, buildings, engineering works (civil, industrial, and military works), and materials.
Various publications by the International Council on Monuments and on Sites (ICOMOS)	International Guidance Documents	The International Council on Monuments and on Sites (ICOMOS) Canada was established in 1975 as a national committee of heritage professionals that actively contributes to the development of theory and practice of cultural heritage conservation. Internationally, ICOMOS is the only global non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of the world's cultural heritage places (ICOMOS 2025). ICOMOS has released numerous publications and guides to establish international best practices for heritage conservation. ICOMOS publications that serve to inform WSP's work include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS 2011)

Title	Type	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter (ICOMOS 2013) ▪ Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (ICOMOS 2022)

2.2 PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The *Ontario Heritage Act* is the primary piece of legislation that determines policies, priorities, and programs for the conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage. A summary of provincial legislation and associated guidance documents that have informed this CHIA is provided in Table 2.

Under Section 2.0 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the MCM is responsible for the development and implementation of policies, priorities, and programs for the conservation, protection, and preservation of Ontario's cultural heritage. To support this mandate, the MCM issued guidance documents and information bulletins to conserve cultural heritage resources in Ontario. MCM guidance documents that were used to inform this CHIA include *Information Bulletin No. 3: Heritage Impact Assessments for Provincial Heritage Properties* (Information Bulletin 3) (MCM 2017).

Table 2: Provincial Policies and Guidance Documents

Title	Type	Description
<i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> , R.S.O 1990, Chapter O. 18	Provincial Legislation	The <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> provides a framework for the protection of cultural heritage resources in the province. It gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to protect heritage properties and archaeological sites. The Act includes two regulations for determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI): <i>Ontario Regulation</i> (O. Reg.) 9/06 and O. Reg. 10/06. O. Reg. 9/06 provides criteria to determine the CHVI of a property at a local level while O. Reg. 10/06 provides criteria to determine if a property has CHVI of provincial significance.
Info Bulletin #3: Heritage Impact Assessments for Provincial Heritage Properties (MCM 2017)	Provincial Guidance Document	The MCM has produced the <i>Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties</i> (MCM S&Gs), a document that outlines the overall principles, general provisions, and a series of comprehensive policies for how Ministries and public bodies shall operate to maintain, use, and dispose of provincial heritage properties. This information bulletin forms part of the MCM S&Gs and provides guidance and information on the impact assessment process. Info Bulletin 3 was used to guide the general preparation of this report.
<i>Eight Guiding Principles in the Conservation of Historic Properties</i> (MCM 2012)	Provincial Guidance Document	Determining the optimal conservation strategy is further guided by these MCM principles, which encourage respect for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Documentary evidence – restoration should not be based on conjecture 2) Original location – do not move buildings unless there is no other means to save them since any change in site diminishes heritage value considerably 3) Historic material – follow minimal intervention and repair or conserve building materials rather than replace them

Title	Type	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Original fabric – repair with like materials 5) Building history – do not destroy later additions to reproduce a single period 6) Reversibility – any alterations should be reversible 7) Legibility – new work should be distinguishable from old 8) Maintenance – historic places should be continually maintained.

3 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

3.1 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The manoomin (Wild Rice) marsh is an approximately 10.5 ha stand located at Unnamed Waterbody 1, which is connected via an unnamed tributary to Dixie Creek southwest of Highway 105, in the District of Kenora, Ontario. The manoomin marsh grows within the southern outlet of Unnamed Waterbody 1. The marsh is encircled by a 50 m wide vegetated zone of grasses, sedges, and aquatic plants, transitioning into a shrub-dominated forest with mature trees. The wetland forms an enclosed watershed with limited connection to broader regional drainage systems, creating ecological conditions needed for manoomin.

3.2 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

Manoomin marshes have historical and associative value due to the direct and sustained connection of manoomin (both wild and cultivated) to the cultural traditions, ways of life, land use practices, spirituality, and resource stewardship of local Anishinaabe communities, such as LSFN, WFN, and ANA. Similarly, manoomin marshes also possess historical and associative value through their direct and sustained connection to the cultural traditions, lifeways, and land use practices of the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC). For the Anishinaabe, manoomin is regarded as a sacred gift from the Creator. Both cultivated and naturally occurring manoomin beds are considered part of *Gichi-manidoo gitigaan*, or the Great Spirit's Garden. Early Ojibwe Anishinaabe migrations to the Great Lakes were guided by a prophecy that foretold the discovery of "the food that grows on water" (Smith 2018). Since that time, manoomin has remained a vital symbol of the Anishinaabe's enduring spiritual connection to the land. Manoomin marshes are associated with LSFN, WFN, Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA), and NWOMC traditional land and resource use (TLRU), supporting a range of seasonal activities such as manoomin harvesting, waterfowl hunting, and plant gathering. Archaeological evidence of a temporary Indigenous campsite located within 200 metres of the manoomin marsh suggests that the Study Area may have been used in the past for harvesting of manoomin or other seasonal subsistence activities.

The Study Area holds contextual value as part of a broader landscape that supports TLRU practices. Situated within an identified plant harvesting zone, the Study Area exhibits characteristics consistent with spaces that contribute to the continuity of traditional harvesting practices, spiritual belief, and land-based identity of the WFN, LSFN, ANA, and NWOMC.

The Study Area has contextual value as it is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Unnamed Waterbody 1 is hydrologically connected by a minor tributary to Dixie Creek, which flows into the Chukuni River, forming part of an interconnected network of lakes, streams, and marshlands. These features are connected to well-documented historical water travel systems used by Indigenous communities and fur traders, linking the area to broader patterns of seasonal mobility and land use. The Study Area lies within a medium-density plant harvesting zone formally identified by LSFN and WFN. At the time of writing this report, there is no confirmed Indigenous use of Unnamed Waterbody 1. The ecological characteristics of Unnamed Waterbody 1 and the wild rice marsh, combined with their proximity to high-activity traditional harvesting zones such as Pakwash Lake, the Chukuni River, and the waterways between Red Lake and Ear Falls suggest their inclusion within a broader traditional harvesting network.

3.3 HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Heritage attributes that contribute to the historical or associative and contextual value of the landscape includes:

- Natural heritage features which support TLRU for LSFN, NWOMC, ANA, and WFN and traditional ecological context including:
- Manoomin marsh situated on the southern shoreline of Unnamed Waterbody 1.

4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The Study Area is situated within the Canadian Shield physiographic region, which consists of a large mass of crystalline Precambrian rock that covers 48% of Canada's land surface, extending south from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut into the northern portions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. Most of the Canadian Shield is forested, with 16% covered by freshwater lakes and Arctic islands. Approximately half of the Canadian Shield is classified as upland, defined by its relative elevation to the Hudson Bay lowlands and interior plains (Historica Canada 2012).

Within the Canadian Shield, the Study Area falls in the Uchi Subprovince, where 25% to 30% of the area consists of variably deformed and recrystallized volcano-sedimentary rocks. These rocks likely represent the southwestern end of the Birch Lake-Uchi Lake greenstone belt (Muir 1994). The topography of the Study Area, as described by Northwest Archaeological Assessments (2023), features glaciofluvial sediments, primarily composed of sand, from post-glacial delta and outwash deposits. Neilson's terrain mapping indicates that an esker, an elevated landform, likely passes through the existing aggregate source area (Neilson 1989).

The Study Area, located within the Dixie Lake region, lies south-southeast of Red Lake. It is geographically surrounded by Gullrock Lake, part of the Red Lake system, to the west; Dixie Lake to the southwest; and Pakwash Lake, which is part of the English River system, to the northeast and southeast. The area is interspersed with several watercourses and small bodies of water, including Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2.

Where present, cultivated and wild rice beds are commonly found along the shores of rivers and streams in shallow waters, where it can form dense, continuous beds. In lakes, wild rice is less common and usually grows near inlets and outlets where the water current is steady. The presence and density of manoomin in supporting waterbodies is subject to considerable interannual variability. Natural regeneration may not occur consistently each growing season. Contributing factors to this variability include fluctuations in water levels, increased frequency and severity of storm events, outbreaks of disease and insect pests, and inadequate overwintering conditions (Tribal Manoomin Task Force 2018).

4.2 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Study Area is located within the Great Bear Property, an irregularly shaped parcel of land situated on the Canadian Shield in northwestern Ontario (see Figure 1). It lies approximately 25 km southeast of the Municipality of Red Lake, within the District of Kenora, and is positioned south of Ontario Highway 105. The site is situated northeast of Dixie Lake and southwest of Highway 105 and is accessible via an unpaved forestry access road locally referred to as Tuzyk's Road, which connects to Highway 105 in the northwest quadrant of the broader region. The Study Area lies within the traditional territory recognized by LSFN, WFN, ANA and NWOMC.

The following description of existing conditions is informed by field surveys conducted by WSP in August 2023 and June 2025, as well as Northern Bioscience in 2024 (Northern Bioscience 2025). On-site investigations included photographic documentation and written observations of physical conditions. The Study Area comprises an approximately 10.5 ha manoomin marsh located on the borders of Unnamed Waterbody 1. A narrow drainage corridor hydrologically connects Unnamed Waterbody 1 and Unnamed Waterbody 2 and is intersected by an existing forestry access road. This corridor forms the backbone of a small, enclosed watershed that supports the manoomin bed, with surface runoff from the north serving as the primary hydrological input. Shallow water conditions, particularly near the drainage outlet at the southern end of Unnamed Waterbody 1, are especially conducive to the proliferation of manoomin (Plate 1 and Plate 2).

The wetland environment is characterized by a broad marsh zone, approximately 50 m in width, encircling the wild rice bed. Vegetation density increases closer to the adjacent lake and transitions into a wetter, sparser terrain toward the waterbody margins. Dominant marsh vegetation includes a mixture of grasses, sedges, and aquatic plants (see Plate 3). From the southeastern shore of Unnamed Waterbody 1, a dense manoomin stand is visible when facing northwest, while the drainage outlet between the lakes offers a clear vantage northward toward the primary wild rice bed (Plate 4). The Study Area supports ecological conditions for the growth of manoomin and reflects a unique and relatively isolated hydrological system that is only narrowly connected to larger regional drainage features (Figure 7).

Interannual variability has been observed relating to the extent and volume of manoomin observed in the Study Area. In 2025, photographic documentation collected by the WSP team during fieldwork documented a sparse manoomin population in Unnamed Waterbody 1, in contrast to denser growth observed in the previous year (Plate 6, Plate 7, and Plate 8). However, this level of fluctuation is not atypical in the shallow lakes and marshes that support manoomin across northern Ontario.

Surrounding Unnamed Waterbody 1 is an open, shrub-dominated forest interspersed with mature deciduous and coniferous trees, extending approximately 100 to 250 m in all directions. The eastern shore includes upland vegetation such as a low shrub shore fen and a black spruce conifer swamp (Plate 3) while the southern perimeter features intermittent stands of mature trees and provides access to the base of an esker ridge that ascends sharply in elevation. This portion of the Study Area presents a mixture of low-lying shrubs and mature coniferous species-oriented northward, contributing to the site's vegetative diversity and ecological distinctiveness.

The site is not designated as a protected heritage property and is not listed under municipal, provincial, or federal heritage registers (Government of Canada 2023; Ontario Heritage Trust 2023; UNESCO 2023). The landscape represents relatively undisturbed marshland that plays a role in supporting the cultural and subsistence value of manoomin.



Plate 1: View of manoomin marsh from the southeast shore of Unnamed Waterbody 1 facing northwest (2024; Northern Bioscience 2025)



Plate 2: Close-up View of manoomin marsh from the southeast shore of Unnamed Waterbody 1 facing northwest (2024; Northern Bioscience 2025)



Plate 3: Aerial view of manoomin, shore fen, and conifer swamp near the outlet of Unnamed Waterbody 1, facing east (2024; Northern Bioscience 2025)



Plate 4: View of manoomin in the outlet channel from Unnamed Waterbody 1 covering the surface, facing north (2024; Northern Bioscience 2025)



Plate 5: View of low shrub shore fen and black spruce conifer swamp along east side of Unnamed Waterbody 1 facing north (2024; Northern Bioscience 2025)



Plate 6: A view of Unnamed Waterbody 1 and surrounding landscape facing west (2025)



Plate 7: A view of Unnamed Waterbody 1 facing east (2025)



Plate 8: A view of Unnamed Waterbody 1 facing south (2025)

5 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK

Great Bear Resources is proposing to development of a large-scale underground and open pit gold mining project. The Project will cover an area of approximately 9,100 ha and is centred at the location of underground mineralization. Primary access will be provided via Highway 105, with the site located between the communities of Red Lake and Ear Falls. A detailed site plan is available in Figure 2.

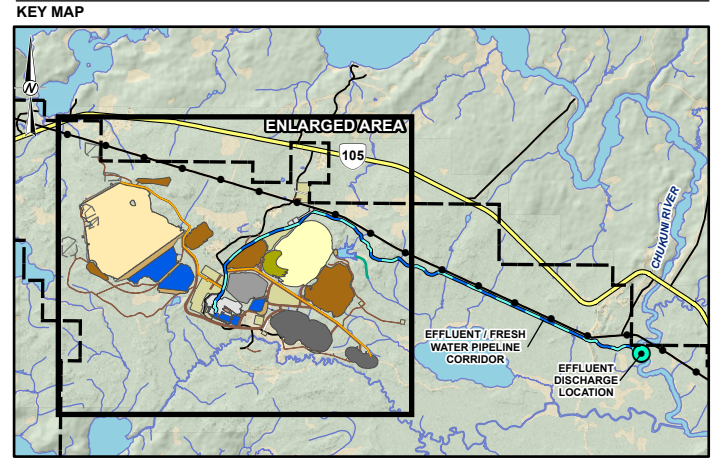
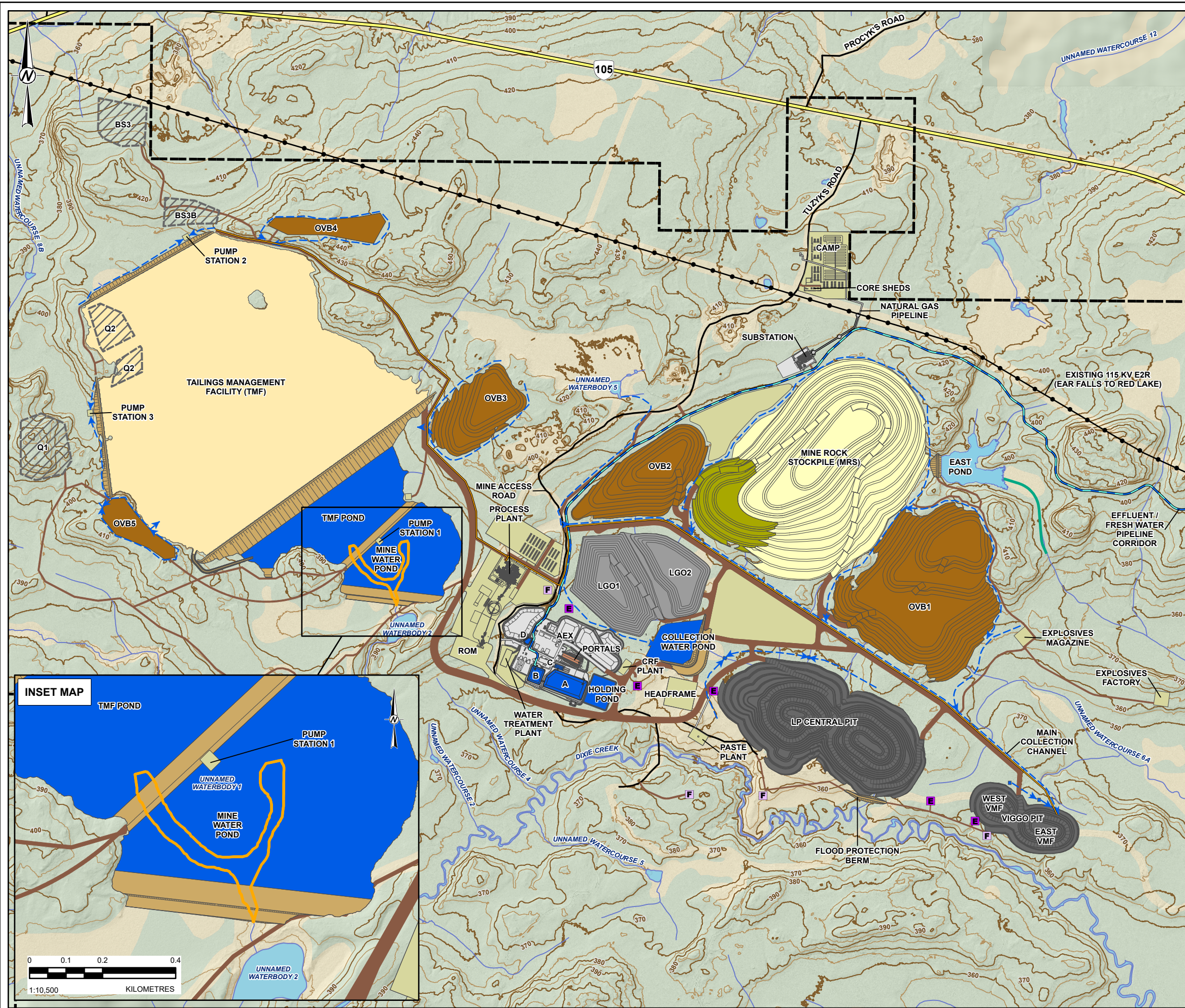
The purpose of the Project is to extract and process gold ore in a manner that is economically viable while complying with provincial and federal regulatory frameworks for environmental protection, Indigenous consultation, and cultural heritage conservation. In a broader land use and community context, the Project is expected to contribute to the economies of Red Lake and Ear Falls while operating in an unorganized area of the Kenora District. Its location within Treaty No. 3 territory requires ongoing consultation and accommodation with Indigenous communities, as well as coordination with provincial ministries and municipal authorities where off-site infrastructure may be required. Development of the high-grade ore deposits will contribute to regional and provincial economic growth.

The main components of the Project include:

- Open pits
- Underground workings
- Stockpiles
- Primary buildings and facilities
- Tailings and water management systems
- Other onsite infrastructure such as access roads, power and accommodations.

The Project is organized into three major phases: construction, operations, and closure and reclamation, totaling approximately 31 years. Contact water will be collected and managed throughout these phases, resulting in changes to the local hydrology, including watersheds that would otherwise support the existing wild rice field.

A tailings management facility (TMF) is required to store tailings produced by processing ore at the process plant and to support integrated contact water management. Based on the comprehensive alternatives assessment, which was prepared consistent with the federal Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations, the TMF will be constructed northwest of the Study Area. Two ponds will be created downstream of the TMF as part of the integrated contact water management system. The TMF pond, which is located immediately downstream, will be constructed in parallel with the TMF starting during the construction phase of the Project. The proposed mine water pond downstream of the TMF pond will be developed later during the operations phase. Dams will be created to contain the contact water in the TMF pond and mine water pond, including a proposed dam that will effectively divide the existing Unnamed Waterbody 1. Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2 will be permanently changed as a result of Project development.



LEGEND

PROPERTY BOUNDARY	WATERCOURSE
STUDY AREA	WATERBODY
HIGHWAY (INCLUDING ENBRIDGE PIPELINE)	MAJOR CONTOURS (10 M INTERVAL)
LOCAL ROAD	MINOR CONTOURS (5 M INTERVAL)
EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINE	
PROPOSED MINE FEATURE	
OPEN PIT	PORTAL
MINE ROCK STOCKPILE (NPAG)	ADVANCED EXPLORATION SITE
MINE ROCK STOCKPILE (PAG)	AGGREGATE SOURCE
LOW GRADE ORE STOCKPILE (LGO)	DIVERSION CHANNEL
OVERBURDEN STOCKPILE (OVB)	EXHAUST VENT RAISE
TAILINGS MANAGEMENT FACILITY (TMF)	FRESH AIR VENT RAISE
DAM	TRANSMISSION LINE
POND	TAILINGS PIPELINE
COLLECTION DITCH	EFFLUENT / FRESH WATER PIPELINE CORRIDOR
MINE FACILITIES / INFRASTRUCTURE	EFFLUENT DISCHARGE LOCATION
ROAD	

0 0.25 0.5 1
1:26,500 KILOMETRES

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE
2. VMF: VIGGO MANAGEMENT FACILITY
3. ROM: RUN OF MINE ORE
4. AEX PONDS: A-AEX MINE WATER POND, B-AEX TREATED WATER POND, C-AEX SETTLING POND, D-AEX SEDIMENT POND

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. CONTOURS ACQUIRED FROM 2022 LIDAR SURVEY
3. PROPERTY BOUNDARY PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2024
4. ROADS INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, AUGUST 2022
5. SITE PLAN BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GREAT BEAR RESOURCES, DECEMBER 2024 / JUNE 2025
6. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 15N

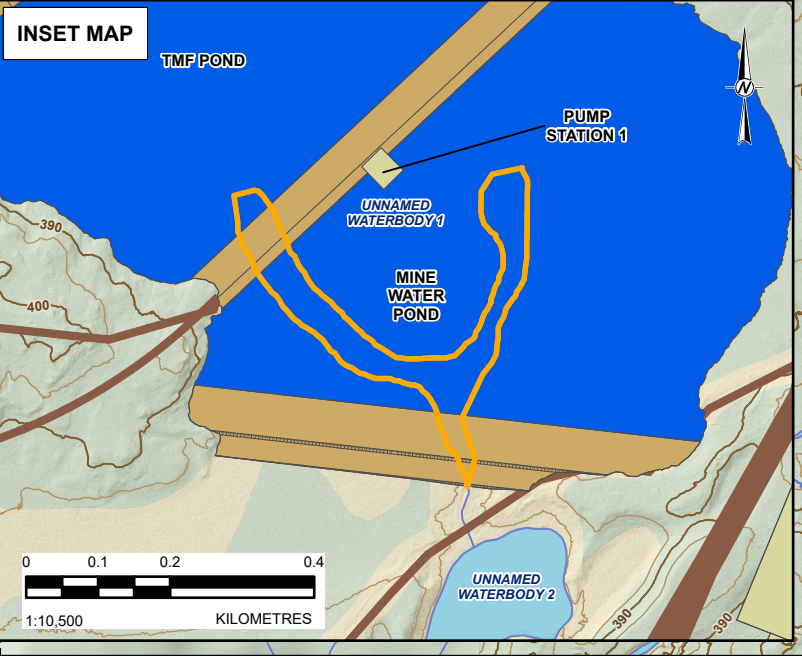
CLIENT
GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT
GREAT BEAR PROJECT, GREAT BEAR RESOURCES PROPERTY, KENORA, ONTARIO

TITLE
TOPOGRAPHIC SITE PLAN OF PROPOSED WORK ON THE GREAT BEAR PROPERTY

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2025-11-14
DESIGNED	AF	
PREPARED	MD/BR	
REVIEWED	AF	
APPROVED	JK	

PROJECT NO. CA0031271.9255 CONTROL 0004 REV. 1 FIGURE 2



PRTN: S:\Client\Kenora\Great_Bear_Prop\1000_PROJ\CA0031271_9255\4004_CAD\CAD\031271_9255-0004-HC-0000\CA0031271_9255-0004-HC-0000.aprx PRINTED ON: AT: 3:38:40 PM
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6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Methodology

Information Bulletin 3 (MCM 2017) gives guidance on how to complete CHIAs for public bodies prescribed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, used here to inform the preparation of this CHIA, recognizing that the Project is a private project and not subject to the requirements for Ontario public bodies.

The purpose of the CHIA is to identify and assess the proposed activity to determine impacts (positive or negative, direct or indirect) that the proposed activity may have on the resource's CHVI. For the purpose of this CHIA, the following definitions of direct, indirect, and positive impacts are used:

- **Direct Adverse Impact:** A permanent or irreversible negative affect on the CHVI of a property or result in the loss of a heritage attribute on all or part of the provincial heritage property.
- **Indirect Adverse Impact:** An impact that is the result of an activity on or near the property that may adversely affect its cultural heritage value or interest and/or heritage attributes.
- **Positive Impact:** An impact that may positively affect a property by conserving or enhancing its cultural heritage value or interest and/or heritage attributes.

Since provincial or federal sources of guidance do not include advice to describe magnitude, the ranking provided by ICOMOS (2022) is also adapted here to measure the nature and extent of impact to cultural heritage resources. Though largely superseded by the ICOMOS 2022 *Guidance*, the ICOMOS 2011 *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* provides examples to illustrate how this ranking system may be applied to real property. The ICOMOS impact assessment ranking is:

- **Major:** Large change to the attribute.
 - Change to key historic building elements, such that the resource is totally altered.
 - Comprehensive changes to the setting.
- **Moderate:** Some change to the attribute.
 - Changes to many key historic building elements, such that the resource is significantly modified.
 - Changes to the setting of an historic building, such that it is significantly modified.
- **Minor:** Negligible change to the attribute.
 - Change to key historic building elements, such that the asset is slightly different.
 - Slight changes to the setting that hardly affect it.
- **Neutral:** No change would occur to the attribute
 - No change to fabric or setting.

ICOMOS (2022) also outlines the following characterizations of impacts and alterations, which have been applied in the assessment of the Study Area:

- **Frequency of Action:** Once, continuous or intermittently
- **Duration of Action:** Short or long-term
- **Reversibility of Action / Change to the Attribute:** Irreversible or reversible
- **Longevity of Change to the Attribute:** Temporary or permanent.

An assessment of the impacts resulting from the proposed development on the Study Area provided in the following section.

6.2 ASSESSMENT OF ADVERSE IMPACTS

As outlined in Section 5, the proposed works will result in a one-time, irreversible, permanent alteration to the Study Area, which will result in the permanent removal of the existing wild rice CHVI as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Impact Assessment

Impact Category	Potential Impact	Y/N	Discussion	Magnitude	Summary of Impacts without Mitigation Measures
Direct Adverse	<i>Removal or demolition of all or part of any heritage attribute.</i>	Y	Under the proposed development, all heritage attributes associated with the Study Area will be removed, and the land associated with the Study Area redeveloped for the Project.	Major	Long-term Irreversible Localized Permanent Once
	<i>Alteration that is not sympathetic or is incompatible, with the historic fabric and appearance</i>	Y	Under the proposed development, all heritage attributes associated with the Study Area will be removed, and the land associated with the Study Area redeveloped for the Project.	Major	Long-term Irreversible Localized Permanent Once
	<i>Removal or demolition of any building or structure on the provincial heritage property whether or not it contributes to the cultural heritage value or interest of the property (i.e. non-contributing properties).</i>	N	Under the proposed development, no existing buildings or structures will be removed or demolished.	Neutral	Not applicable
	<i>Any land disturbance, such as change in grade and/or drainage patterns that may adversely affect a heritage property, including archaeological resources.</i>	Y	The proposed development will result in land disturbance, including the flooding of the Study Area to create a Mine Water Pond, which will eliminate its associated heritage attributes.	Major	Long-term Irreversible Localized Permanent Once
	<i>Alterations for access requirements or limitations to address factors as accessibility, emergency egress, public access, or security.</i>	N	Under the proposed development, the Study Area will be flooded to create a mine water pond. As a result, alterations for access requirements are not planned or required.	Neutral	Not applicable
	<i>Introduction of new elements that diminish the integrity of the property</i>	Y	The proposed development will result in the introduction of new elements including the damming of waterbodies to create a mine water pond over the Study Area, which will eliminate its associated heritage attributes.	Major	Long-term Irreversible Localized Permanent Once
	<i>Change in use for the heritage property that could result in permanent, irreversible damage or negates the property's cultural heritage value or interest.</i>	Y	Under the proposed development, the Great Bear property, in which the Study Area is located, will be used for mineral extraction.	Major	Long-term Irreversible Localized Permanent Once
	<i>Continuation or intensification of the use of the heritage property without conservation of heritage attributes.</i>	Y	Intensification of land use in and around the Study Area is planned under the proposed development.	Major	Irreversible Localized Permanent Continuous
Indirect Adverse	<i>Isolation of a heritage attribute from its surrounding environment, context, or a significant relationship</i>	N	Under the proposed development, all heritage attributes within the Study Area will be removed. Therefore, no isolation related impacts are anticipated.	Neutral	Not applicable
	<i>Shadows that alter the appearance of a heritage attribute or change the visibility of an associated natural feature or plantings.</i>	N	Under the proposed development, all heritage attributes within the Study Area will be removed. Therefore, no shadow related impacts are anticipated.	Neutral	Not applicable
	<i>Direct or indirect obstruction of significant views or vistas within, from, or of built and natural features</i>	N	No significant views or vistas from, within, or associated with the Study Area have been identified as heritage attributes. Accordingly, no alternations or obstruction of a significant views are anticipated.	Neutral	Not applicable
Positive Impacts	<i>Changes or alterations that are consistent with accepted conservation principles, such as those articulated in MCM'S Eight Guiding Principles in the Conservation of Historic Properties, Heritage Conservation</i>	N	Under the proposed development, all heritage attributes associated with the Study Area will be removed, and the land associated with the Study Area redeveloped for the Project.	Neutral	Not applicable

Impact Category	Potential Impact	Y/N	Discussion	Magnitude	Summary of Impacts without Mitigation Measures
	<i>Principles for Land Use Planning, CHP's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada</i>				
	<i>Adaptive re-use of a property: alteration of a heritage property to fit new uses or circumstances of the property in a manner that retains its CHVI</i>	N	Adaptive reuse is not planned or practicable for the Study Area under the proposed development.	Neutral	– Not applicable
	<i>Public interpretation or commemoration of the heritage property</i>	N	No public interpretation or commemoration is planned as part of the proposed work.	Neutral	– Not applicable

6.3 RESULTS OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.3.1 SUMMARY OF ADVERSE IMPACTS

The preceding assessment has determined that without conservation or mitigation measures, the Project will result in direct adverse impacts to the heritage attributes of the Study Area that are irreversible, localized, permanent, and will occur once. Under the proposed development, all identified heritage attributes associated with the Study Area will be removed, and the land will be redeveloped for the Project. As a result, the Study Area's CHVI and its associated heritage attributes in their current form will be fully lost.

No indirect adverse impacts, including isolation of heritage attributes, obstruction of significant views or vistas, changes in land use context, or land disturbances can be meaningfully assessed, as all heritage attributes will be removed under the proposed development. Accordingly, the overall impact is characterized as a direct adverse effect resulting in the complete loss of CHVI within the Study Area.

6.3.2 SUMMARY OF POSITIVE IMPACTS

There are no potential positive impacts to the Study Area posed by the proposed work.

7 CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1 WILD RICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Project infrastructure creates an overprint at Unnamed Waterbody 1 and otherwise alters the existing manoomin-bearing habitat within the Study Area and the shared territory of LSFN and WFN. Both Nations have expressed concern over the potential loss of manoomin-bearing waterbodies within their traditional shared territory. To address these concerns and offset the anticipated loss of a manoomin-bearing waterbody within the Great Bear Property, Great Bear Resources commissioned Northern Bioscience and Harris Ecological Consulting to lead a study focused on enhancing manoomin-bearing conditions in traditional harvesting areas such as Wabaskang Lake.

The purpose of the initiative is to restore ecological conditions that support the enhanced and expanded growth of manoomin, strengthening both habitat resilience and cultural continuity. The work builds upon ongoing community-led enhancement efforts undertaken by WFN and LSFN, aligning ecological restoration with cultural stewardship priorities.

A Wild Rice Enhancement Project has been established on WFN reserve lands to implement targeted measures including hydrological and habitat restoration, site preparation, and long-term monitoring. These actions aim to restore ecological function, strengthen food sovereignty, and reinforce intergenerational knowledge transfer through direct community participation in planning, implementation, and oversight. The research is informed by input from LSFN and WFN through outreach and traditional knowledge sharing, ensuring that cultural priorities guide technical findings and contribute to a holistic understanding of regional manoomin conditions.

In addition to ecological restoration, the initiative emphasizes education and knowledge-sharing on sustainable harvesting practices, reinforcing traditional methods and supporting intergenerational learning. LSFN and WFN community members are actively engaged in all phases of the Project, ensuring it aligns with cultural values and advances food sovereignty.

The Project also serves as a pilot for broader manoomin revitalization across the region. Its findings, methods, and outcomes can be adapted by other Indigenous communities, extending the benefits beyond the immediate area. Through the integration of restoration, education, and stewardship, the initiative strengthens the long-term resilience of manoomin habitats, reaffirms their cultural significance, and sustains their ecological function within the regional landscape.

LSFN is also advancing complementary efforts to restore and expand manoomin beds within their community. The planting, tending, and harvesting of manoomin have resumed and are expected to increase substantially in the coming years. Future plans include expanding commercial harvesting within their territory. Recommendations from the Wild Rice Enhancement Study and Project will guide this future expansion and the continued management of manoomin beds.

A summary record of engagement between Great Bear Resources, LSFN, and WFN regarding manoomin concerns, initiatives, and studies is presented in Section 8.

7.2 CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES

Alternative approaches and mitigation measures are required when impacts are anticipated to affect a resource with CHVI. There is no single, correct way to mitigate the impacts of new construction on heritage resources, but best practice for heritage conservation generally attempts minimal intervention; that is, to maintain the resources in as close to the condition they were encountered.

In the case of the Study Area, direct adverse impacts have been identified. To address these potential impacts, the following alternatives are considered:

1. Option 1: Preserve and maintain the Study Area in its current form
2. Option 2: Redesign the Project to preserve a portion of the Study Area
3. Option 3: Demolition or removal of the Study Area

An options analysis for each mitigation option is provided in the subsections below.

7.2.1 OPTION 1: PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE STUDY AREA IN ITS CURRENT FORM

This option involves retaining the Study Area and leaving its CHVI unaltered by not proceeding proposed works (TMF and mine water pond) that are located within the manoomin marsh.

Advantages: This is generally the most preferred of conservation options since, through minimal intervention, it has the highest potential for retaining all heritage attributes of the property, as well as its setting and context. Retaining the Study Area in its current form would adhere to the CHP S&Gs recommended guideline of “retaining intact ecological features and degraded ecological features that can be returned to good ecological condition” (CHP 2010: 76).

Disadvantages: While minimal intervention is generally the most preferred approach, in this case it may prove detrimental to the long-term sustainability of the manoomin stand. Given the nature and location of the proposed mineral deposit and the location of the Study Area as wholly within the Project area, the continued viability of the manoomin stand is tenuous as the upstream hydrology will be irrevocably altered which supports the growth of the manoomin. As the CHVI of the Study Area is directly linked to the presence of manoomin and the environmental conditions that support its growth, a major change to the broader environment would be detrimental to the CHVI of the Study Area. Adjusting the Project footprint to avoid the Study Area and the required upstream watershed would result in a much larger footprint for the Project and would lead to considerably greater environmental impacts to other valued components, including but not limited to air quality, other vegetation communities and wildlife. It would introduce technical challenges and design / engineering constraints, and much higher capital and operating costs for the Project.

Feasibility:

This option is not feasible due to:

- Challenges for long term sustainability and viability of the Study Area.
 - Technical challenges and design / engineering constraints and
 - Considerably greater adverse effects to other valued components associated with the Project.
-

7.2.2 OPTION 2: REDESIGN THE PROJECT TO PRESERVE A PORTION OF THE STUDY AREA

This option involves retaining portions of the Study Area by redesigning the Project.

Advantages: This is generally the second most preferred conservation option since, through minimal intervention, it has the potential for retaining portions of the heritage attributes of the Property in situ, as well as its setting and context.

Disadvantages: While minimal intervention is the most preferred approach, retaining a portion of the Study area would not provide for the long-term sustainability for the manoomin marsh or retention of the CHVI, as the sustainability of the marsh is linked to the larger upstream area, and not just the immediate surroundings. Adjusting the Project footprint and the required upstream watershed to retain a portion of the Study Area would introduce technical challenges and design / engineering constraints that would

result in a much larger footprint for the Project and would lead to considerably greater environmental impacts to other valued components, including but not limited to air quality, other vegetation communities and wildlife. It would introduce technical challenges and design / engineering constraints, and much higher capital and operating costs for the Project.

Feasibility:

This option is not feasible due to:

- Challenges for long term sustainability and viability of the Study Area
 - Technical challenges and design / engineering constraints.
 - Considerably greater adverse effects to other valued components associated with the Project.
-

7.2.3 OPTION 3: DEMOLITION OR REMOVAL OF THE STUDY AREA

This option involves recording the Study Area prior to its removal and considers the support of local manoomin revitalization initiatives in progress as part of the Project.

Advantages: Although generally the least preferred conservation option due to the complete removal of the Study Area, this approach allows for documentation of existing conditions, heritage attributes, and landscape features prior to disturbance. As the CHVI of the Study Area is directly linked to the presence of manoomin and the environmental conditions that support its growth, supporting local initiatives aimed at revitalizing manoomin within recognized, utilized, and well-established harvesting areas will help offset the loss of this culturally important resource within LSFN and WFN territories.

Disadvantages: Preservation by documentation is generally the least desirable conservation option. This option will result in the complete removal of Study Area and its associated identified heritage attributes.

Feasibility:

This option is feasible because:

- It conserves the Study Area by documenting the existing conditions
 - It assumes that Great Bear Resources will participate in local manoomin enhancement initiatives, which will revitalize manoomin within recognized, utilized, and well-established harvesting areas.
-

7.3 SUMMARY

Option 3 (removal of the manoomin within the Study Area) is identified to be the most feasible as the environmental conditions of the Study Area on balance of all environmental valued components. Once mine development commence, the manoomin marsh will no longer be viable at its current location. As the CHVI of the Study Area is directly linked to the presence of manoomin and the environmental conditions that support its growth, Option 3 will conserve the Study Area through documentation and revitalization initiatives that are in progress as part of the Project.

8 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

8.1 INFORMATION GATHERING

As part of the Cultural Heritage Report (WSP 2025b), information-gathering letters were issued in February 2024 to the MCM, the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Municipality of Red Lake, the Municipality of Ear Falls, and the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre to confirm the presence or absence of built heritage resources and CHLs on the Property. Follow-up information-gathering letters were subsequently issued in December 2025 as part of this CHIA, with requests for updated information directed to the MCM, OHT, MNR, and the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre. A summary of the correspondence completed for the CHIA is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Information Gathering

Organization/ contact	Date of Inquiry	Contact Method	Query	Date of Response(s)	Response
Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) Samuel Bayefsky, Real Property Coordinator	2025-12-17	Email	WSP requested any updated information on the cultural significance or heritage status of the CHIA-specific study area, along with any relevant heritage information for adjacent lands.	2025-12-22	The OHT confirmed that it does not own, protect, or plaque any properties within or adjacent to the study area. Their review found no Part IV–designated properties in the area, though they advised confirming heritage status with the local municipality due to possible gaps in the provincial Register. ² They noted that they have no additional heritage information to provide for the study area or surrounding lands.
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) Anastasia Abrazhevich, Staff Heritage Planner	2025-12-17	Email	WSP requested any updated information on the cultural significance or heritage status of the CHIA-specific study area along with any relevant heritage information for adjacent lands.	2025-12-23	The MCM confirmed that it has no records of any provincial heritage properties within or adjacent to the study area. They provided their HIA Information Bulletin and noted that they are currently reviewing the cultural heritage studies for the Great Bear Gold Project, with additional comments expected once that review is completed in February. They indicated no further information is available at this time but invited follow-up if needed.

² Response received from the Municipality of Red Lake during the production of the Cultural Heritage Report indicated that the municipality does not have cultural information for this area. While no response was received during the production of the Cultural Heritage Report from the Municipality of Ear Falls, the municipal boundaries do not extend northwest of Pakwash Lake and do not encompass the study area.

Organization/ contact	Date of Inquiry	Contact Method	Query	Date of Response(s)	Response
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) J. Andrew Carnegie, Geospatial Data Analyst	2025-12-17	Email	WSP requested any updated information on the cultural significance or heritage status of the CHIA-specific study area, along with any relevant heritage information for adjacent lands.	2025-12-18	The MNR provided geospatial data identifying the locations of known manoomin stands and manoomin-bearing waterways in Northern Ontario. Their spatial files confirm that the study area falls within these mapped features. No additional commentary, information, or interpretation was provided.
Red Lake Heritage Centre	2025-12-17	Email	WSP requested any updated information on the cultural significance or heritage status of the CHIA-specific study area, along with any relevant heritage information for adjacent lands.	N/A	No response received.

8.2 CONFIDENTIAL INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE STUDIES

To support the community engagement process, Great Bear Resources has funded and facilitated documentation of local Indigenous knowledge and traditional land and resource use. Great Bear Resources has also been supporting the development of an independent, Anishinaabe-led Impact Assessment that is understood to be rooted in collaboration, information sharing, and trust-building. A series of confidential Indigenous knowledge reports have been completed that identify community concerns and document cultural values. This information has been used by Great Bear Resources to inform Project planning and guide mitigation strategies. Ongoing engagement between Great Bear Resources and local Indigenous Nations will provide an avenue for continued sharing of information.

Between 2021 and 2024, LSFN compiled a Project-specific Indigenous knowledge database for the Great Bear Project, based on community interviews documenting historical and contemporary land use, resource harvesting, and stewardship activities. These datasets covered topics such as: furbearing and trapping, fishing, plant gathering, archaeology, sacred and ceremonial sites, social and cultural areas, human health, food harvesting, climate, water use and travel routes. A confidential report prepared for LSFN in September 2024 expanded this work by documenting cultural heritage, land use, Treaty rights, and project-specific values across the LSFN territory, confirming the significance of seasonal hunting, fishing, habitation, water use, and manoomin harvesting. A confidential memo prepared for LSFN in September 2025 provided additional detail on manoomin harvesting practices and revitalization initiatives. These reports did not identify the CHER Study Area as a past or present manoomin harvesting site.

Great Bear Resources also engaged WFN, located approximately 35 km south of the Township of Ear Falls, with respect to the proposed mineral development activities approximately 66 km north of the WFN reserve lands. The Study Area lies within the WFN traditional territory and is understood to have been subject to continuous and historical stewardship by WFN members. A confidential report prepared for WFN in July 2025 documented over 5,400 records of land use values, including harvesting areas, traplines, travel routes, water crossings, spiritual sites, and ecologically important areas in their Traditional Territory. Seasonal land use practices, including manoomin harvesting, were confirmed within the WFN territory; however, no historical or current use of manoomin was identified specifically within the CHER Study Area in the report.

A confidential report prepared jointly for LSFN and WFN in support of the Anishinaabe-led Impact Assessment process. The report summarized key cultural values and traditional land use practices for both communities, emphasizing seasonal activities across northwestern Ontario. While no historical or current use of manoomin was identified specifically within the CHER Study Area, the report highlighted the importance of all manoomin-supporting waterbodies within the region.

The NWOMC was also engaged during the information gathering and consultation process. A confidential Indigenous knowledge report prepared for NWOMC documented land use activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, plant gathering, and camping across their traditional land use areas. The report indicates that the Métis have maintained a sustained and active presence in area of northwestern Ontario. The NWOMC did not identify historical or current use of wild rice specifically within the CHER Study Area.

ANA is currently undertaking a Land Use and Occupancy Study. At the time of writing, the results of the Land Use and Occupancy Study are not yet available. The provision of the full study and its content remain at the discretion of ANA.

8.3 INFORMATION SESSIONS, COMMUNICATION, AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Table 5 provides a consolidated summary of engagement activities related to the Study Area, manoomin, and associated wild rice projects and initiatives, including studies, information requests, community workshops, information sessions, and other correspondence.

Table 5: Record of Engagement Relating to the Study Area and Wild Rice (Manoomin)

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
WFN LSFN Northern Bioscience Sapo'nuk Sustainability Dillon Consulting SOAR	2023-06-12	In person	A two-day orientation workshop was held to review the environmental baseline and identify potential gaps in existing workplans. The workshop noted that wild rice will require consideration as the Project proceeds. The First Submission of the Impact Statement identified wild rice as a culturally important Indigenous food and habitat and outlined measures to assess, map, protect, and manage potential Project effects, including those related to invasive species, wetland disturbance, and water quality. The submission also noted that any unavoidable effects on wild rice habitat would be addressed through compensatory habitat.
WFN LSFN	2023-07-20	Email	Kinross Great Bear provided Wabauskang First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation with the presentation materials for the 21 July meeting, along with the Traditional Foods Workplan. The Traditional Foods Workplan incorporates references from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs regarding wild rice.
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)	2023-11-10	Email	Kinross providing access to the Great Bear Project Draft Detailed Project Description to the IAAC. Discussing how Wild rice is identified as a resource of concern, with requests for further information on potential project impacts to Indigenous land use, cultural practices, and rights, and noted as present in marshes within unnamed waterbodies.
Ontario Ministry of Energy & Mines (MOEM)	2023-11-14	Email	Kinross provided the Ministry of Mines with details of the Great Bear Advanced Exploration Program Closure Strategy. The submission identifies wild rice as an important marsh habitat type and notes that wild rice marshes within an unnamed waterbody support waterfowl staging habitat. These marshes represent the nearest wetlands to the Advanced Exploration Program site and are located approximately 800 m from the proposed activities.
MOEM	2023-11-15	Email	GBR communicated with the Ministry of Mines by providing the updated information letter for the Advanced Exploration Program Closure Plan to the Aboriginal Notification Administrator, which was subsequently circulated to all participants from the 10 November meeting. The letter reiterates that wild rice provides important marsh habitat, noting that wild rice marshes within an unnamed waterbody support waterfowl staging habitat and represent the nearest wetlands to the Advanced Exploration Program site, located approximately 800 m from the proposed activities.

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
MOEM	2024-01-22	Email	GBR distributed the Advanced Exploration Program Closure Plan to the Ministry of Mines. The submission describes wild rice as an important marsh habitat type and notes that wild rice marshes within an unnamed waterbody support waterfowl staging habitat. These wetlands represent the nearest marsh features to the Advanced Exploration Program site and are located approximately 800 m from the proposed activities.
MOEM ANA	2024-03-26	Letter	Attachments provided by the Chief and Council through the Aboriginal Notification Administrator regarding GBR include multiple references to wild rice. Within these materials, wild rice is described as a commonly consumed traditional food and an integral component of Anishinaabe seasonal subsistence, with late-summer harvesting closely associated with cultural identity, intergenerational community practices, and local environmental conditions. The documents note that water level variability can substantially influence harvest success.
WFN LSFN Sapo'nuk Sustainability Dillon Consulting Shared Spirits	2024-04-05	Email	Distribution of the Updated Closure Plan to Shared Spirits, WFN, and LSFN to fulfill the commitment in the register. Wild rice is discussed as providing important marsh habitat, with wild rice marshes on an unnamed waterbody supporting waterfowl staging habitat.
WFN	2024-04-16	In person	GBR provided a project overview April 16, 2024. Some concerns mentioned in the meeting included wild rice only being one important value of the area.
MOEM ANA	2024-05-28	Letter	GBR distributed the response to the Riverbank Mercury Methylation Study, prepared for the Great Bear Project, to the Aboriginal Notification Administrator Lands Protection team. The document identifies wild rice as a vital traditional food and cultural practice for downstream First Nations and notes concerns that Project-related effects could limit future generations' ability to harvest wild rice, emphasizing the Crown's obligation to protect associated treaty rights.
WFN	2024-05-30	In person	Great Bear Resources attended the May WFN Resource Day to present technical updates on the Great Bear Project and the ongoing IAA process. Discussions identified potential effects on manoomin habitats and emphasized the integration of Traditional Knowledge, and culturally informed engagement as triggers for continued collaboration on resource stewardship.
WFN LSFN Sapo'nuk Sustainability	2024-06-14	Email	Distribution of the draft Socio-Economic Baseline Study to WFN and LSFN for comments and validation of the current assumptions and views presented

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
Dillon Consulting SOAR			within the report. Within the study it mentions Land Use being used for wild rice harvesting.
LSFN	2024-06-17	In person	On June 17, 2024, Great Bear Resources hosted a community information session for LSFN to present updates on the Great Bear Project, including engagement activities, permitting and approvals, operational updates, and ongoing studies. The session highlighted the Wild Rice Enhancement Project, which addresses off-site mitigation for the loss of manoomin from Unnamed Waterbody 1 (the Study Area) and aims to provide compensatory manoomin forage for migrating waterfowl, improve harvest opportunities, and help restore historic manoomin production on Wabaskang Lake.
LSFN	2024-09-03	Email	Great Bear Resources contacted LSFN to learn about the Lac Seul Wild Rice Revitalization Project, including its scope, partners, and potential collaboration opportunities. Great Bear Resources plans to visit Lac Seul in September to discuss manoomin as a Species of Importance and explore support for ongoing stewardship efforts.
LSFN	2024-09-26	Email	Great Bear Resources contacted LSFN regarding their wild rice revitalization project with Lakehead University to understand the project scope, key participants, and potential opportunities for Great Bear Resources to provide support.
Lakehead University	2024-09-26	Email	Great Bear Resources informed Lakehead University that the proposed 5-year partnership focused on First Nation related research topics including reclamation, manoomin rehabilitation, and other key areas has been approved. Great Bear Resources will arrange a call to discuss annual funding, review the draft agreement, and identify potential research topics to advance this collaborative initiative.
Red Lake Municipality	2024-10-07	In person	GBR hosted a presentation to Age-Friendly Group in Red Lake. Focus of presentation was a general overview of the Kinross Great Bear Project which mentioned Teardrop (Unnamed Waterbody 01) and Rice Lake harbor potentially significant wetlands, including wild rice marshes that are of significant value to waterfowl.
LSFN	2024-10-09	Email	Great Bear Resources following up with previous requests to set-up a meeting with LSFN to discuss the manoomin rehabilitation work which has been done in Lac Seul so far.
LSFN WFN	2024-10-10	In person	An Archaeology Site Tour was conducted with Shared Spirits, WFN, LSFN, and Great Bear Resources representatives. The tour began with an overview

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
			of the environment and geography around Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 2. Discussion included questions about manoomin observed in Unnamed Waterbody 1 and its historical harvesting; Great Bear Resources noted that while such use is plausible, no harvesting activity has been documented during over three years of fieldwork and trail camera monitoring.
LSFN WFN	2024-10-15	In person	In the October 15, 2024 Environmental Management Committee meeting Great Bear Resources expressed interest in supporting manoomin enhancement initiatives in collaboration with LSFN and WFN, who shared previous project findings and proposed further coordination to advance revitalization effort
WFN	2024-10-16	Email	WFN distributing the Wild Rice files mentioned to GBR including shapefiles, the 2017 Project Report for the previous studies, and sediment analysis.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits	2024-10-24	Email	GBR distributed the Environmental Management Committee minutes from 15 October 2024. The minutes document discussions identifying wild rice as a potential enhancement and revitalization initiative that GBR is willing to fund and support, with the intention that the project be led by WFN and LSFN. Gawley's Bay was identified as a preferred location based on prior work and accessibility, with plans to build on earlier revitalization efforts, involve researchers and academic partners, engage community members, and draw on existing data to inform subsequent steps.
WFN LSFN WSP	2024-11-05	On site	GBR participated in ALIA Kick Off Meeting November 5-6, 2024 ALIA Kick-Off Meeting, discussing wild rice presence and rehabilitation, vegetation and wild rice surveys, and confirmed wild rice in Teardrop Lake, Rice Lake, and an unnamed waterbody.
LSFN	2024-11-11	Email	Great Bear Resources requested information and updates from LSFN regarding more information about the wild rice program and wild rice revitalization program.
WFN	2024-11-13	Virtual	GBR and WFN held a resource meeting, during which concerns related to wild rice revitalization were raised. Follow-up actions included inquiries regarding the Impact Assessment Guidelines, distribution of presentation materials, and scheduling of upcoming workshops on fish compensation and closure planning.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits Tamarack Environmental	2024-12-19	Email	GBR distributed Cultural Sensitivity Induction slides to the Environmental Management Committee as a follow-up to the December meeting. One of the identified actions requested guidance from Lac Seul First Nation regarding the

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
			wild rice revitalization program on Lac Seul, including clarification of completed work to date and opportunities for GBR to provide support.
LSFN Many Paths WSP Shared Spirits Pathfinder	2025-02-18	In person	GBR held a Fish Compensation Workshop on February 18, 2025. Wild Rice was discussed as a possible compliment to the Fish Offsetting program and opportunities to integrate Wild Rice into the compensation plans was discussed.
LSFN WSP Shared Spirits	2025-03-26	In person	GBR hosted an SAR workshop, Wild rice was discussed as a culturally important species present in the Project area (including Teardrop Lake), with communities emphasizing its importance and asking about protection, harvesting, and revitalization. Kinross Great Bear acknowledged its significance and indicated they are working with communities to explore harvesting, seed use, and transplanting as part of a community-led wild rice revitalization and offsetting effort, alongside ongoing monitoring and water quality considerations.
LSFN	2025-04-15	Email	Great Bear Resources requested more information on LSFN's ongoing wild rice revitalization activities, confirming a meeting to exchange updates and discuss future plans.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits Pathfinders	2025-04-22	In person	GBR held in-person workshops with LSFN and WFN to discuss Great Bear Project closure planning and respond to community questions regarding wild rice.
LSFN Pathfinder	2025-05-01	Memo	LSFN provided a response memo to the Impact Statement. The memo references the importance of wild rice to the LSFN community.
WSP Great Bear Gold Project Transport Canada	2025-06-09	Email	GBR following up with Transport Canada regarding Indigenous Consultation or Engagement Records which pertain to navigability which took place regarding the Great Bear Project. Concerns were raised which included wild rice.
LSFN	2025-06-17	On site	GBR provided a project update noting that feedback received emphasized the importance of wild rice preservation and restoration. The presentation highlighted the Wild Rice Revitalization Initiative and identified it as a potential complementary measure to fish-offsetting projects.
WFN	2025-07-02	Report	WFN provided GBR with Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. The report identified wild rice as a culturally important resource for the WFN community.

Organization	Date	Communication Type	Summary
IAAC GBR WSP SLR	2025-07-11	Virtual meeting	During an update on Great Bear Resources' ongoing engagement and consultation activities supporting the federal Impact Assessment submission, the Agency provided clarification on manoomin habitat relevance, proxy data use, and communication with ANA.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits	2025-08-26	Email	GBR emailed LSFN, WFN, and Saugeen Saulteaux to provide the wild rice field-work plan. The plan outlined sampling dates at Gawley's Bay on 28–29 August; Teardrop Lake and Rice Lake on 29–30 August; and Keystone Lake, Ord Lake, Fatty Lake, and the Unnamed and Hiewall waterbodies on 1–4 September. GBR identified the scope of work as habitat reconnaissance to assess viable wild rice conditions and requested interest in participating in the field program. Saugeen Saulteaux confirmed availability for participation on the Friday.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits Tamarack Environmental	2025-09-22	Email	GBR contacted LSFN and WFN to distribute the first phase of the Impact Statement submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on 18 September, noting that subsequent phases will be shared as they are completed. The submission identifies wild rice as a culturally important Indigenous food and habitat and outlines measures to assess, map, protect, and manage potential effects, with compensatory habitat proposed where impacts cannot be avoided.
MNO	2025-09-22	Email	GBR provided MNO with information on key issues identified by IAAC through the Impact Assessment process and requested feedback.
WFN LSFN Shared Spirits Tamarack Environmental Pathfinder	2025-09-25	In person	GBR hosted an EMC meeting September 25, 2025 which discussed participation in wild rice activities and an update.
LSFN Pathfinder	2025-09-30	Report	LSFN provided GBR with Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. The report identified wild rice as a culturally important resource for the LSFN community.
NWOMC KnowHistory	2025-10-16	Report	NWOMC provided GBR with Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. The report identified wild rice as a culturally important resource for the NWOMC community.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WSP was retained by Great Bear Resources to prepare a CHIA for the manoomin marsh located between two unnamed waterbodies in the District of Kenora, northwestern Ontario. A Cultural Heritage Report completed for the Project identified potential direct impacts to a potential Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHR 3: the manoomin marsh) and recommended that a CHER be undertaken to assess the site's cultural heritage value under Ontario's heritage regulations. The CHER determined that the Study Area retains CHVI, meeting three criteria under O. Reg. 9/06 for its historical/associative and contextual value. Based on those findings, the CHER recommended a CHIA to evaluate potential impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures. This report fulfills that recommendation.

The results of this CHIA determined that the proposed work will:

Will result in direct adverse impacts to the CHVI and heritage attributes of the Study Area.

Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

1. Retain a record of the existing conditions of the Study Area prior to construction. Environmental baseline studies such as the *Great Bear Project 2024 Fisheries Resources Baseline Report* (WSP 2025c) along with cultural heritage reporting, including the Cultural Heritage Report (WSP 2025a) and CHER (WSP 2025b), provide valuable documentation of baseline conditions and consultation related to the Study Area. These reports should be maintained together to serve as a comprehensive reference for informing future restoration and documentation initiatives.
2. Complete the Wild Rice Enhancement Study and initiate the Wild Rice Revitalization project to restore manoomin-bearing waterways, strengthen the health and yield of marshes on Waubaskang Lake, to offset potential effects of Project infrastructure on manoomin loss at Unnamed Waterbody 1.
3. While appropriate ecological conditions may not be present to sustain manoomin, as part of the post-closure revegetation efforts in the regulatory closure plan, in consultation with engaged Indigenous Nations, manoomin planting will be considered.
4. The results of this CHIA have been included in the Great Bear Project Impact Statement submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the IAA process.
5. This report must be submitted to the MCM for information purposes.

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Appendix A

Assessor Qualifications



Heidy Schopf, MES, CAHP – Cultural Heritage and Social Sciences Team Lead – Heidy Schopf is the Cultural Heritage and Social Sciences Team Lead for WSP Canada Inc. She has worked in the field of cultural resource management since 2007. Ms. Schopf is a Professional Member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP). Ms. Schopf has worked on a wide variety of cultural heritage projects in Ontario, including Cultural Heritage Reports, Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports (CHERs), Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), Strategic Conservation Plans (SCPs), heritage documentation (photography, photogrammetry, and LIDAR), Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Studies and Plans, and heritage peer review. She regularly provides cultural heritage conservation guidance to public and private sector clients. Heidy is a Senior Project Manager and has managed and delivered cultural heritage work under a variety of processes, including: *Impact Assessment Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act*, *Transit Project Assessment Process* (TPAP), and the *Ontario Heritage Act*. She has extensive and applied knowledge of Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) guidance documents for heritage properties. Ms. Schopf has had the privilege of working with Indigenous Nations on several projects to gather Indigenous perspectives on cultural heritage and integrate this shared learning into WSP's heritage work.

Role: Senior Review and QA/QC

Johanna Kelly, MSc., CAHP – Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist– Ms. Kelly has worked in the field of Cultural Resource Management since 2007. She is skilled in the identification and evaluation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes and mitigation of proposed impacts on heritage resources. She has worked on a wide variety of projects throughout Ontario, including cultural heritage resources assessments, heritage impact assessments, cultural heritage evaluations, documentation reports, strategic conservation plans, heritage conservation district studies and plans, and archaeological assessments. Ms. Kelly has extensive experience applying local, Provincial, and Federal heritage guidelines and regulations to evaluate protected and potential cultural heritage properties. Ms. Kelly has completed cultural heritage projects under a variety of processes, including: the Environmental Assessment Act, Planning Act, Ontario Heritage Act, and the Transit Project Assessment Process. Ms. Kelly She is a professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) and holds a Professional Archaeological License (P1017) issued by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

Role: Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist and Technical Review

Austin Foster, MA, CAHP Intern - Cultural Heritage Specialist – Austin Foster is a heritage professional with interdisciplinary experience in archaeology, archival stewardship, municipal heritage planning, and public history. He holds an Honours BA in Classical Studies and Public History from the University of Guelph and an MA in History from the Tri-University Graduate Program (Guelph, Laurier, and Waterloo). He also holds certifications in genealogical research, arts and heritage management, and archival management. Austin is a professional member of the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and an intern member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP), currently working toward full membership. Austin has authored and contributed to Municipal Heritage Designation Reports, Heritage Character Area Studies, Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports, Heritage Conservation Plans, and large-scale cultural heritage documentation projects. He has experience working with municipal heritage committees, councils, and community stakeholders, and is well-versed in interpreting and applying municipal, provincial, and federal legislation in heritage contexts.

Role: Cultural Heritage Specialist and Report Writer