

Mapping Survey Results for the 2-Year Forestry Management Operating Plan in Forest Management Licence Area #2

Manitoba Métis Federation

July 21, 2023



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1.0 Introduction

Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation (NFMC) is a forestry services provider located in The Pas, Manitoba and is responsible for the forest management activities in Forest Management License Area #2 (FML #2). NFMC has prepared a 2-Year Forest Management Operating Plan (FMOP) that outlines timber harvesting, road access development, and forest renewal activities within FML #2 (Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation, 2023).

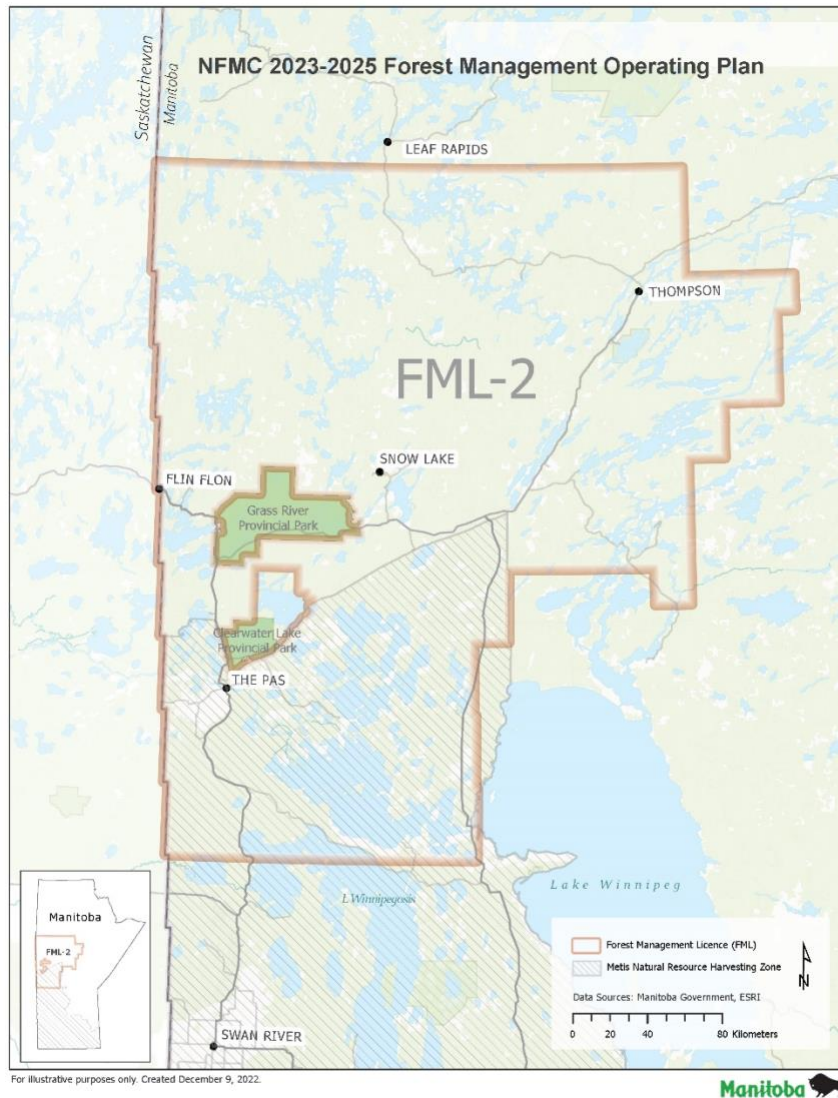


Figure 1. NFM 2023-2025 Forest Management Operating Plan Area

The MMF engaged Red River Métis Citizens who live and harvest within FML #2 with a map-based survey to assess any potential impacts to Red River Métis rights, claims and interests, and to identify areas of interest and concern, in relation to the proposed NFM FMOP. The results of the analysis of this survey, as well as previously mapped Red River Métis values and land use in the FMOP area are presented in this report.



The information provided in this report includes sensitive information shared with the MMF by our Red River Métis Citizens, with the understanding that it would be kept confidential and would not be disclosed other than by the MMF. Our Citizens have entrusted the MMF, as their democratically elected Red River Métis Government, to safeguard and appropriately use this information on their behalf. The information provided in this report is the property of the MMF and cannot be duplicated or distributed without the MMF’s written consent. The information described within this report is considered “high-level”, meaning it is based on the data that was available at the time of writing and prepared within the limited budget allotted by the Province of Manitoba, and should be considered a very partial overview of the Red River Métis collective’s overall land and resources use within the appropriate forest areas.

2.0 Red River Métis History and Identity

We have been known by many names throughout our history, such as Bois Brûlés, Flower Beadwork People, Otipemisiwak (The People Who Own Themselves), Riel’s People, Les Michif, and Manitoba Métis – from the beginning, they have all referred to the same people – the Red River Métis.

The Red River Settlement, which is present day Winnipeg, Manitoba was the birthplace of the Red River Métis and continues to be the heart of the Red River Métis Homeland. This proud independent Red River Métis population constituted a historic rights-bearing community in present day Manitoba and beyond within the Northwest. Since the early 1800s, the Red River Métis has asserted themselves as a distinct Indigenous collectivity with rights and interests in its Homeland. The Red River Métis share a language, national symbols, and culture – including music, dance, and dress.

“In early times, the Red River Métis were mostly nomadic. Later, they established permanent settlements centred on hunting, trading and agriculture” (Alberta v. Cunningham, at para. 5). The Red River Métis were employed by both of the fur trade’s major players, the Hudson’s Bay Company and the Northwest Company. At the same time, however, the Red River Métis became extensively involved in the buffalo hunt.

With respect to the Red River Métis and their rights as a distinct Indigenous People — the Supreme Court of Canada wrote the following in the MMF v. Canada case:

“[21] The story begins with the Aboriginal peoples who inhabited what is now the province of Manitoba—the Cree and other less populous nations. In the late 17th century, European adventurers and explorers passed through. The lands were claimed nominally by England which granted the Hudson’s Bay Company, a company of fur traders’ operation of out London, control over a vast territory called Rupert’s Land, which included modern Manitoba. Aboriginal peoples continued to occupy the territory. In addition to the original First Nations, a new Aboriginal group, the Métis, arose [...]

[23] In 1869, the Red River Settlement was a vibrant community, with a free enterprise system and established judicial and civic institutions, centred on the retail stores, hotels, trading undertakings and saloons of what is now downtown Winnipeg. The Métis were the dominant demographic group in the



Settlement, comprising around 85 percent of the population [approximately 10,000 Métis], and held leadership positions in business, church and government.”

The fur trade was vital to the ethnogenesis of the Red River Métis and was active in Manitoba from at least the late 1770s, and numerous posts and outposts were established along cart trails and waterways throughout the North-West. These trails and waterways were crucial transportation networks for the fur trade (Jones 2014; 2) and were the foundation of the Red River Métis’ extensive use of the lands and waters throughout the province. In the early 20th century, the Red River Métis continued to significantly participate in the commercial fisheries and in trapping activities, which is well documented in provincial government records.

2.1 MMF

On July 6, 2021, Canada and the MMF signed the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement which acknowledged the Red River Métis “was established with its own identity, language, culture, institutions, and way of life centred in the Red River Valley, and whose Citizens and individuals entitled to become Citizens are today located within what is now Manitoba as well as elsewhere inside and outside of Canada.” This Agreement will be followed by a Treaty between the MMF and Canada and ensures that the MMF will continue to provide responsible and accountable self-government.

The MMF is the democratically elected government of the Red River Métis. The MMF is duly authorized by the Red River Métis Citizens for the purposes of dealing with their collective Red River Métis rights, claims, and interests, including conducting consultations and negotiating accommodations (as per MMF Resolution No. 8).

While the MMF was initially formed in 1967, its origins lie in the 18th century with the birth of the Red River Métis and in the legal and political structures that developed with it. Since the birth of the Red River Métis in the Red River Valley, the Red River Métis asserted and exercised its inherent right of self-government. For the last 50 years, the MMF has represented the Red River Métis at the provincial and national levels.

During this same period, the MMF has built a sophisticated, democratic, and effective Red River Métis governance structure that represents the collective Red River Métis, regardless of their residency. The MMF was created to be the self-government representative of the Red River Métis—as reflected in the Preamble of the MMF’s Constitution (also known as the MMF Bylaws):

“WHEREAS, the Manitoba Métis Federation has been created to be the democratic and self-governing representative body of the Manitoba Métis Community;”

In addition, the following is embedded within the MMF’s objectives, as set out in the MMF Constitution as follows:



“1. To promote the history and culture of the Manitoba Métis, also known as the Red River Métis, and otherwise to promote the cultural pride of its Citizenship.

2. To promote the education of its Citizens respecting their legal, political, social, and other rights.

3. To promote the participation of its Citizens in community, municipal, provincial, federal, Aboriginal, and other organizations.

4. To promote the political, social, and economic interests of its Citizens.

5. To provide responsible and accountable governance on behalf of the Manitoba Métis, also known as the Red River Métis, using the constitutional authorities delegated by its Citizens.”

The MMF is organized and operated based on centralized democratic principles, some key aspects of which are described below.

President: The President is the leader and spokesperson of the MMF. The President is elected in a national Election every four years and is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the MMF.

Cabinet: The MMF Cabinet leads, manages, and guides the policies, objectives, and strategic direction of the MMF and its subsidiaries. All 23 Cabinet Members are democratically elected by Red River Métis Citizens.

Regions: The MMF is organized into seven regional associations or "Regions" throughout the province (Figure 3): The Southeast Region, the Winnipeg Region, the Southwest Region, the Interlake Region, the Northwest Region, the Pas Region, and the Thompson Region. Each Region is administered by a Vice-President and two Regional Executive Officers, all of whom sit on the MMF Cabinet. Each Region has an office which delivers programs and services to their specific geographic area.

Locals: Within each Region are various area-specific "Locals" which are administered by a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer (or a secretary-treasurer, as the case may be). Locals must have at least nine Citizens and meet at least four times a year to remain active. There are approximately 140 MMF Locals across Manitoba.

The MMF has created an effective governance structure to represent the Red River Métis. It is important to bear in mind that there is only one large, geographically dispersed, Red River Métis. Red River Métis Citizens live, work, and exercise their section 35 rights throughout and beyond the provincial boundaries of Manitoba.



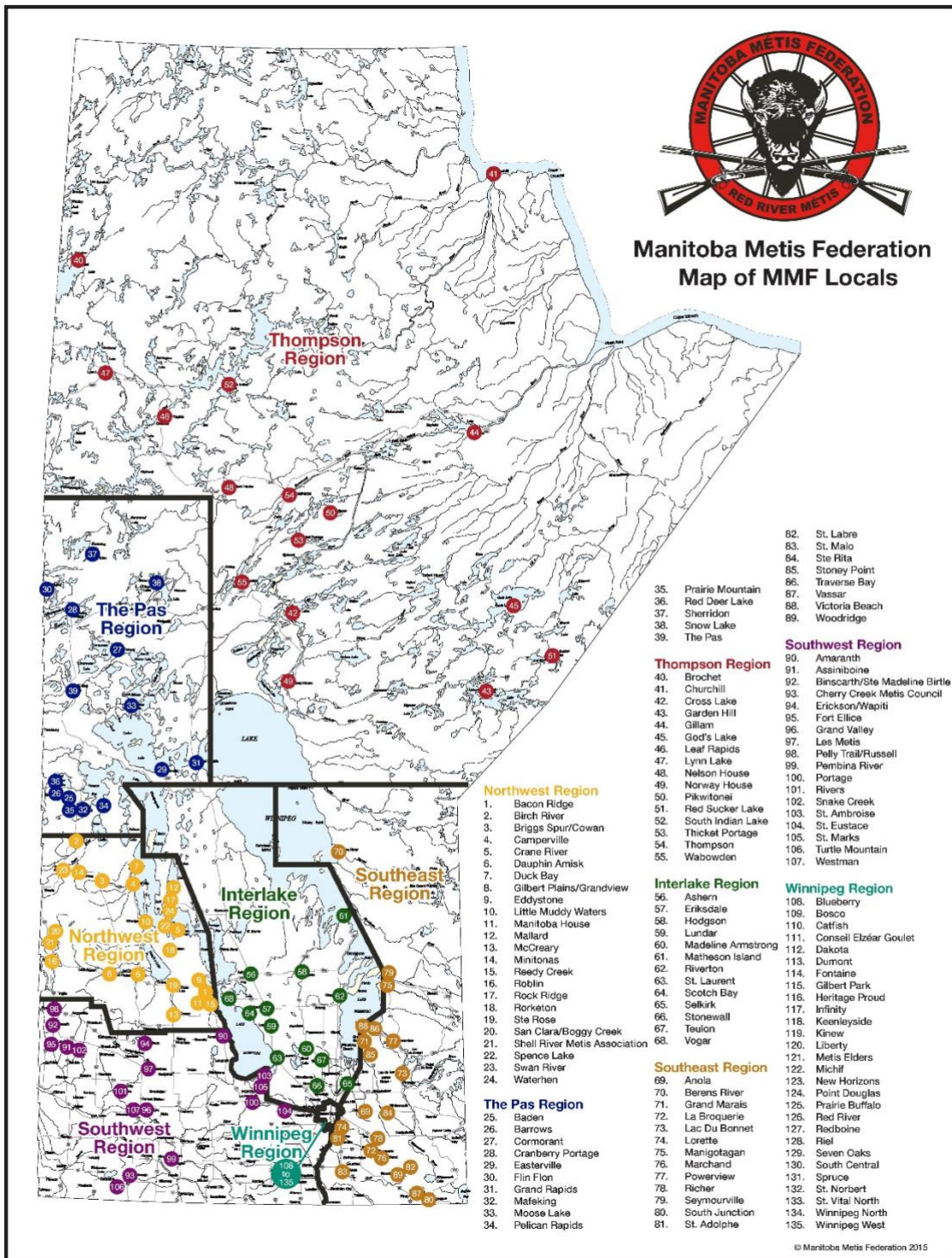


Figure 2. Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Regions.



2.2 MMF Resolution No. 8

Among its many responsibilities, the MMF is authorized to protect the Aboriginal rights, claims, and interests of the Red River Métis, including those related to harvesting, traditional culture, and economic development, among others.

In 2007, the MMF Annual General Assembly unanimously passed and adopted Resolution No. 8 that sets out the framework for engagement, consultation, and accommodation to be followed by Federal and Provincial governments, industry, and others when making decisions and developing plans and projects that may impact the Red River Métis. Under MMF Resolution No. 8, direction has been provided by the Red River Métis for the MMF Home Office to take the lead and be the main contact on all consultation undertaken with the Red River Métis. Resolution No. 8 reads, in part that:

...this assembly continue[s] to give the direction to MMF Home Office to take the lead and be the main contact on all consultations affecting the Red River Métis and to work closely with the Regions and Locals to ensure governments and industry abide by environmental and constitutional obligations to the Métis...

The MMF Home Office works closely with the Regions and Locals to ensure the rights, interests, and perspective of the Red River Métis are effectively represented in matters related to consultation and accommodation.

Resolution No. 8 has five phases:

Phase 1: Notice and Response

Phase 2: Research and Capacity

Phase 3: Engagement or Consultation

Phase 4: Partnership and Accommodation

Phase 5: Implementation

Each phase is an integral part of the Resolution No. 8 framework and proceeds logically through the stages of consultation.

2.3 Red River Métis Rights, Claims, and Interests

The Red River Métis possess Aboriginal rights, including pre-existing Aboriginal collective rights and interests in lands recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Manitoba court recognized these pre-existing, collectively held Métis rights in *R. v. Goodon* (at paras. 58; 72):



I conclude that there remains a contemporary community in southwest Manitoba that continues many of the traditional practices and customs of the Métis people. I have determined that the rights-bearing community is an area of southwestern Manitoba that includes the City of Winnipeg south to the U.S. border and west to the Saskatchewan border.

As affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada, such rights are “recognize[d] as part of the special aboriginal relationship to the land” (R. v. Powley, 2003 SCC 43, at para. 50) and are grounded on a “communal Aboriginal interest in the land that is integral to the nature of the Métis distinctive community and their relationship to the land” (MMF v. Canada, at para. 5). Importantly, courts have also recognized that Métis harvesting rights may not be limited to Unoccupied Crown Lands (R. v. Kelley, 2007 ABQB 41, para. 65).

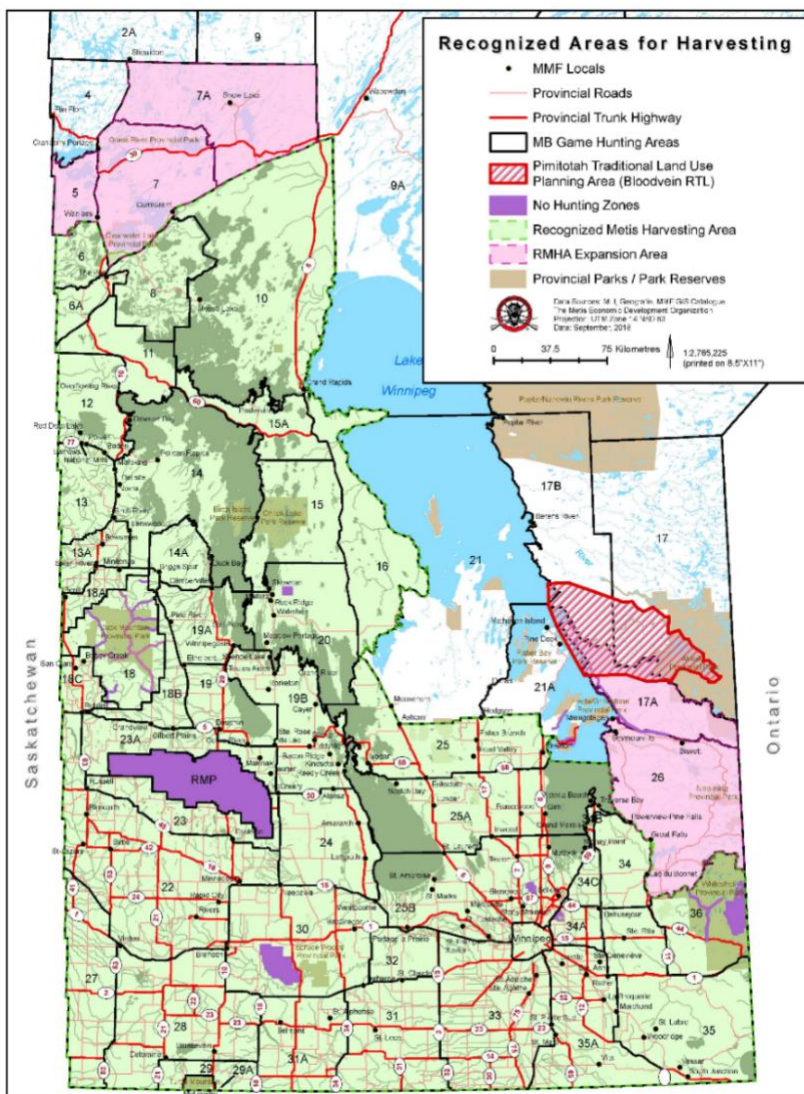


Figure 3. MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement Recognized Manitoba Métis Harvesting Zones.



The Crown, as represented by the Manitoba government, has recognized some aspects of the Red River Métis' harvesting rights through a negotiated agreement: The MMF-Manitoba Points of Agreement on Métis Harvesting (2012) (the MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement). This Agreement was signed at the MMF's 44th Annual General Assembly and "recognizes that collectively held Métis Harvesting Rights, within the meaning of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, exist within the [Recognized Métis Harvesting Zone], and that these rights may be exercised by Red River Métis Rights Holders consistent with Métis customs, practices and traditions..." (MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement, section 1). In particular, the MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement recognizes that Métis rights include "hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering for food and domestic use, including for social and ceremonial purposes and for greater certainty, Métis harvesting includes the harvest of timber for domestic purposes" throughout an area spanning approximately 169,584 km² (the "Métis Recognized Harvesting Area") (MMF-Manitoba Harvesting Agreement, section 2; Figure 4). The MMF further asserts rights and interests exist beyond this area, which require consultation and accommodation as well.

Beyond those rights already established through litigation and recognized by agreements, the Red River Métis claims commercial and trade-related rights. Courts have noted that Métis claims to commercial rights remain outstanding (*R. v. Kelley* at para. 65). These claims are strong and well-founded in the historical record and the customs, practices, and traditions of the Red River Métis, and it is incumbent on the Crown and Proponents to take them seriously.

As noted above, the Red River Métis has its roots in the western fur trade (*R. v. Blais*, 2003 SCC 44 at para. 9 [Blais]; *R. v. Goodon* at para. 25). The Red River Métis are descendants of early unions between Aboriginal women and European traders (*MMF v. Canada* at para. 21). As a distinct Métis culture developed, the Métis took up trade as a key aspect of their way of life (*R. v. Powley* at para. 10). Many Métis became independent traders, acting as middlemen between First Nations and Europeans (*R. v. Goodon* at para. 30). Others ensured their subsistence and prosperity by trading resources they themselves hunted and gathered (*R. v. Goodon* at para. 31, 33, & 71). By the mid-19th century, the Red River Métis had developed the collective feeling that "the soil, the trade and the Government of the country [were] their birth rights." (*R. v. Goodon* at para. 69(f)). Commerce and trade are, and always have been, integral to the distinctive culture of the Red River Métis. Today, the Red River Métis have an Aboriginal, constitutionally protected right to continue this trading tradition in modern ways to ensure that their distinct community will not only survive, but also flourish.

Unlike First Nations in Manitoba, whose commercial rights were converted and modified by treaties and the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) (*R. v. Horseman*, [1990] 1 SCR 901), the Métis' pre-existing customs, practices, and traditions—including as they relate to commerce and trade—were not affected by the NRTA (*R. v. Blais*) and continue to exist and be protected as Aboriginal rights. First Nations' treaty rights in Manitoba are, for example, inherently limited by the Crown's power to take up lands (*Mikisew Cree First Nation v Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage)*, [2005] 3 SCR 388 at para 56). Métis rights, in contrast, are not tempered by the "taking up" clauses found in historic treaties with First Nations. Métis rights must be respected as they are, distinct from First Nations' rights and unmodified by legislation or agreements.



In addition to the abovementioned rights to land use that preserve the Métis culture and way of life, the Red River Métis have other outstanding land related claims and interests with respect to lands. These include claims related to the federal Crown’s constitutional promise to all Aboriginal peoples, including the Red River Métis, as set out in the Order of Her Majesty in Council Admitting Rupert’s Land and the North-Western Territory into the Union (the “1870 Order”) which provides that, upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian Government, the claims of the Indian tribes to compensation for lands required for purposes of settlement will be considered and settled in conformity with the equitable principles which have uniformly governed the British Crown in its dealings with the aborigines.

The manner in which the federal Crown implemented this constitutional promise owing to the Red River Métis—through the Dominion Lands Act and the resulting Métis scrip system—effectively defeated the purpose of the commitment. Accordingly, the MMF claims these federal Crown actions constituted a breach of the honour of the Crown, which demand negotiations and just settlement outside of the ‘old postage stamp province’ within Manitoba as well.

The MMF also claims that the Dominion Lands Act and the resulting Métis scrip system were incapable of extinguishing collectively held Métis title in specific locations where the Red River Métis are able to meet the legal test for Aboriginal title as set out by the Supreme Court of Canada. These areas in the province, which the Red River Métis exclusively occupied—as an Indigenous people—prior to the assertion of sovereignty, establish a pre-existing Métis ownership interest in these lands.

The Red River Métis also have an outstanding legal claim within what was the ‘old postage stamp province’ of Manitoba relating to the 1.4 million acres of land promised to the children of the Métis living in the Red River Valley, as enshrined in section 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 (MMF v. Canada at para 154).

This land promised was a nation-building, constitutional compact that was meant to secure a “lasting place in the new province [of Manitoba]” for future generations of the Métis people (MMF v. Canada at para 5). This “lasting place” was to have been achieved by providing the Red River Métis a “head start” in securing lands in the heart of the new province (MMF v. Canada at paras 5-6).

Instead, the federal Crown was not diligent in its implementation of section 31, which effectively defeated the purpose of the constitutional compact.

In March 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada found that the federal Crown failed to diligently and purposefully implement the Métis land grand provision set out in section 31 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 (MMF v. Canada at para 154). This constituted a breach of the honour of the Crown. In arriving at this legal conclusion, the Court wrote:

“What is at issue is a constitutional grievance going back almost a century and a half. So long as the issue remains outstanding, the goal of reconciliation and constitutional harmony, recognized in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 and underlying section 31 of the Manitoba Act, remains unachieved. The



ongoing rift in the national fabric that section 31 was adopted to cure remains unremedied. The unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import (MMF v. Canada at para 140).”

This constitutional breach is an outstanding Métis claim flowing from a judicially recognized common law obligation which burdens the federal Crown (MMF v. Canada at paras 156; 212). It can only be resolved through good faith negotiations and a just settlement with the MMF (see for example: R v Sparrow, [1990] 1 SCR 1075 at paras 51–53; R v Van der Peet, [1996] 2 SCR 507 at paras 229, 253; Haida at para 20; Carrier Sekani at para 32). Lands both within the ‘old postage stamp province’ as well as in other parts of Manitoba—since little Crown lands remain within the ‘old postage stamp province’—may need to be considered as part of any future negotiations and settlement in fulfillment of the promise of 1.4 million acres, together with appropriate compensation. It should also be noted that the Aboriginal rights of the Red River Métis and the claims referred to above are not necessarily restricted to the province of Manitoba.

On November 15, 2016, the MMF and Canada concluded a Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation (the “Framework Agreement”). The Framework Agreement established a negotiation process aimed, among other things, at finding a shared solution regarding the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in MMF v. Canada and advancing the process of reconciliation between the Crown and the Red River Métis. It provides for negotiations on various topics including, but not limited to, the “quantum, selection and management of potential settlement lands.” Negotiations under the Framework Agreement are active and ongoing.

On July 6, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation and Canada signed the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement. The Agreement signed by Minister Carolyn Bennett and Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand is Canada’s first Métis self-government agreement that gives immediate recognition to an existing Métis government. In doing so, the agreement recognizes the Manitoba Métis Federation as the national government of the Red River Métis and the only federally recognized Métis government. The Agreement also recognizes that the MMF is the national government for Red River Métis Citizens located anywhere inside and outside of Canada.

3.0 Methodology

The MMF created a survey to engage Red River Métis Citizens who live and harvest within FML #2 to assess potential impacts to areas where Citizens harvest, travel, and practice other activities important to their culture, heritage, and way of life. The survey also asked Citizens what mitigation or accommodation measures they would like to see incorporated into the 2-Year Forest Management Operating Plan.



The survey consisted of 22 questions with an interactive map component to allow Citizens to indicate areas on the map where they use the lands and waters currently, as well as in the past, and intend to use in the future. The survey was designed using Esri’s Survey123 and map location and text data were stored securely on the MMF’s ArcGIS Online account.

The survey was advertised on the MMF’s social media channels. The link and project details were also shared with The Pas and Thompson Region Vice-Presidents who dispersed the information at the local level. The survey went live on June 12, 2023, and closed on June 20, 2023. Survey results were analyzed and maps with previously collected Red River Métis values were prepared to present the results in the next section below.

In addition to the survey, researchers analyzed the catalogue of Red River Métis Knowledge and Land Use values in FML#2 to assess interactions between Red River Métis values and NFMC proposed cut blocks and access roads. Results of the survey and values analysis are described below.

4.0 Survey Results and Métis Values in FML#2

Survey Results

A total of 29 Red River Métis Citizens responded to the survey and 18 respondents (62%) indicated that they currently use the lands and waters in FML#2 for harvesting or cultural way of life practices. Two participants indicated that though they do not currently use the area, they have in the past. The majority of respondents using FML#2 have been using the area for more than five years, with one-third using it for more than 15 years (Table 1).

Table 1. Time Frame of Current Use of FML#2 by Survey Respondents

Time Frame of Use	# of Respondents
1-5 years	3
5-10 years	6
10-15 years	3
15+ years	6

Fourteen respondents indicated that their Red River Métis ancestors have also used the area for harvesting and cultural practices.

The types of activities Citizens are using FML#2 for include:



- Use of access routes
- Use of summer cabins
- Trapping for furbearers
- Fishing
- Hunting (upland and migratory game birds, deer, and moose)
- Gathering (firewood and timber, berries, mushrooms, medicines, wild rice, and other plants)
- Sites used for cultural events and ceremonies

A total of eight survey respondents marked locations in FML#2 where they either currently harvest or have harvested in the past. All but one respondent indicated that they intend to use areas within FML #2 in the future for resource harvesting as well. These sites are labeled one through eight on the map (Figure 4) and survey responses for each are detailed in Table 2 that follows.

Two mapped locations are within Grass River Provincial Park and thus not part of the FMOP harvest plan, and one site is not near any 2023-2025 plan areas, but the remaining five sites marked are in or near areas planned for 2023 harvest and renewal plans. Red River Métis Citizens hunt, gather and fish in these areas and express concerns about forestry plans impacting their access to their areas, disrupting animal habitats, and affecting quality of life for Citizens. One participant expressed concerns about a past experience where a family burial grounds on the east side of Wekusko Lake had been destroyed by clear cutting practices.



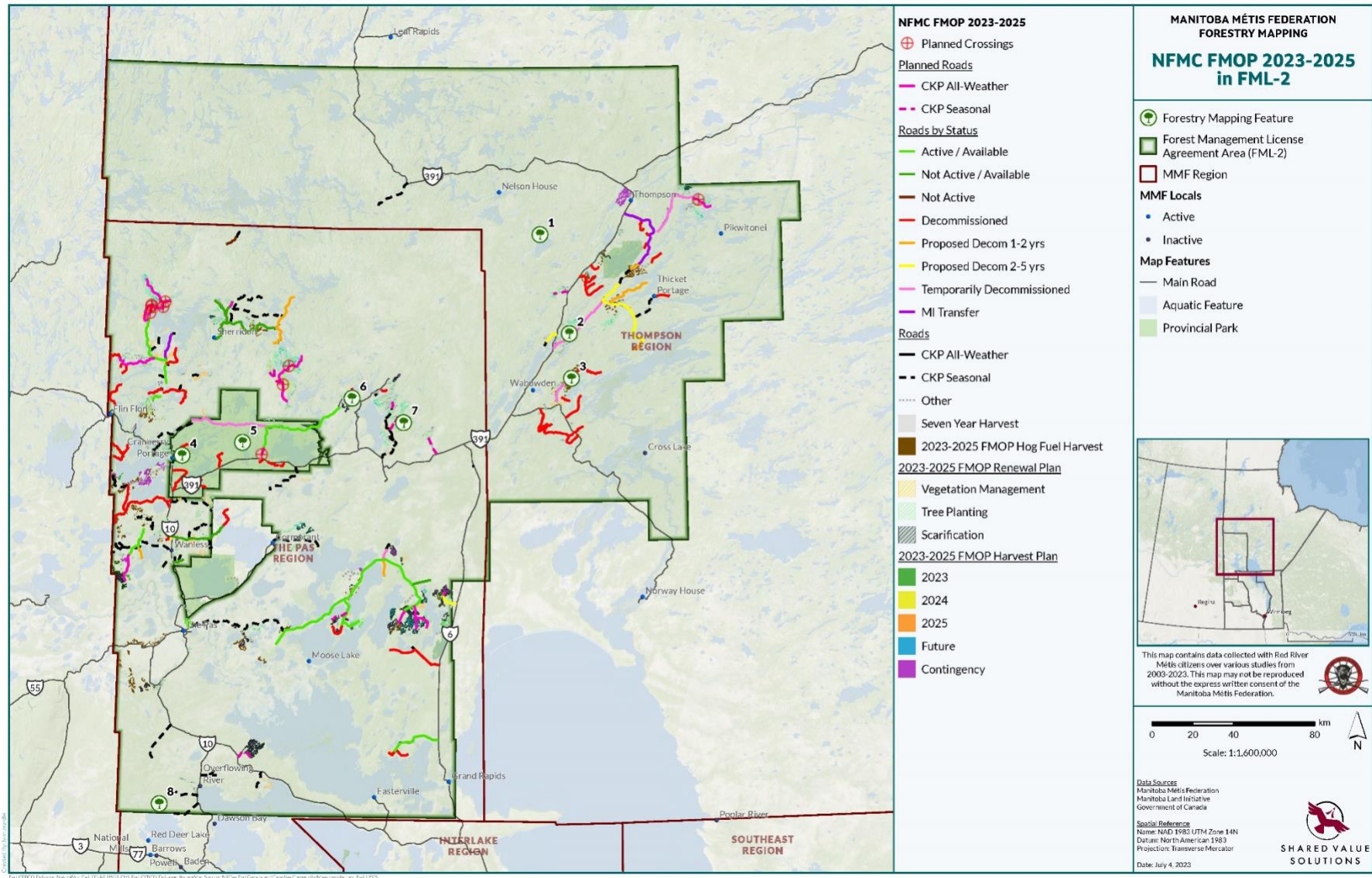


Figure 4. NFMFC Forestry Survey Land Use Locations.



Table 2. Survey detail of mapped features.

ID #	Current Land Use Type	Time Frame for Current Use	Ancestors' Land Use in FML#2	Potential forestry impacts on travel in FML#2	Connection to Red River Métis culture, heritage, and way of life in FML#2	Concerns about impacts from proposed forestry activities	What mitigation or accommodation measures would you like to see incorporated into the 2-Year Forest Management Operating Plan?
1	Firewood & Timber, Fishing	5-10 years	Deer Hunting, Medicine Collection, Moose Hunting	If the proposed forestry activity involves extensive land clearing or road construction, it could temporarily or permanently affect travel routes and accessibility. Road closures, detours, or restricted access to certain areas may be implemented during the forestry activity, which could limit travel options. Additionally, if the activity disrupts natural habitats or leads to environmental changes, it could impact recreational activities, including hiking, camping, or exploring the area.	Engaging in activities within the region can provide opportunities for individuals to immerse themselves in the cultural aspects, traditions, and practices of the Red River Métis.	Forestry activities can have various potential impacts, including environmental, economic, social, and cultural consequences. For example, the loss or alteration of land and resources can have profound cultural and social impacts. Additionally, forestry activities may cause changes in the visual landscape, recreational opportunities, and access to traditional lands, potentially affecting the overall quality of life for individuals residing in	Sustainable harvesting practices: Incorporating sustainable forestry practices that promote the long-term health and productivity of forests. This may include selective logging, reduced impact logging techniques, or adherence to recognized forestry certification standards that ensure responsible management of the forest resources.



						or near the impacted areas.	
2	Berries Mushrooms Medicines Wild Rice and Other Plants, Firewood and Timber, Fish	15+ years	Berry Picking, Firewood Collection, Fishing	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	Furbearer, Fish	5-10 years	Fishing, Mushroom Picking	If the proposed forestry activity involves extensive land clearing or road construction, it could temporarily or permanently affect travel routes and accessibility. Road closures, detours, or restricted access to certain areas may be implemented during the forestry activity, which could limit travel options. Additionally, if the activity disrupts natural habitats or leads to environmental changes, it could impact recreational activities, including hiking, camping, or exploring the area.	Engaging in activities within the region can provide opportunities for individuals to immerse themselves in the cultural aspects, traditions, and practices of the Red River Métis.	Forestry activities can have various potential impacts, including environmental, economic, social, and cultural consequences. For example, the loss or alteration of land and resources can have profound cultural and social impacts. Additionally, forestry activities may cause changes in the visual landscape, recreational opportunities, and access to traditional lands, potentially affecting the overall	Conservation of ecologically significant areas: Including measures to identify and protect ecologically significant areas, such as old-growth forests, wildlife habitats, or sensitive ecosystems. This may involve setting aside designated conservation areas or implementing specific logging practices that minimize impacts on these areas.



						quality of life for individuals residing in or near the impacted areas.	
4	Upland and Migratory Game Bird, Berries Mushrooms Medicines Wild Rice and Other Plants, Fish	15+ years	Fishing, Moose Hunting	NA	Our family history of hunting, fishing, and gathering has taken place in this area. We have moose camps and access our fishing areas here.	No, as long as the forestry continues in an environmentally sustainable manner.	I would like to see spraying for spruce budworm that is destroying old growth trees and increasing the danger of forest fires in the region.
5	Furbearer, Upland and Migratory Game Bird, Berries Mushrooms Medicines Wild Rice and Other Plants, Firewood and Timber	10-15 years	Access Route, Deer Hunting, Firewood Collection	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	Big Game, Furbearer, Fish	15+ years	Access Route, Berry Picking, Firewood Collection, Fishing, Moose Hunting, Trapping	When they cut the trees, they leave the areas almost impassable.	Yes I have trapped, commercial fished, hunted and travelled this area since I acquired this trapline from my father in the early 1970's.	Quite possible, I had a confrontation with the cutters one time, and they told me they had the rights to all the wood in the north and they would take it as instructed to do so. These companies devastate any area they clear cut	Transplant trees back at an accelerated rate, e.g., 25 trees for every one that is cut.



						through. For example, they clear cut on the east side of Wekusko Lake where I regularly visit my sisters' grave. We have other relatives in that graveyard, and when we in there last summer we could not see any sign of the graveyard. They had clear cut right through the whole area.	
7	Berries Mushrooms Medicines Wild Rice and Other Plants, Fish	1-5 years	Berry Picking				Don't spray any more Glyphosate near Flin Flon.
8	Big Game, Furbearer, Firewood and Timber	15+ years	Access Route, Berry Picking, Ceremonies, Cultural Events, Deer Hunting, Firewood Collection, Fishing, Medicine Collection, Moose Hunting, Mushroom	Yes, because all the roads are blocked after logging is completed.	Yes, because this is my tradition and way of life and how I support my family.	Yes, it would cause the animals in the area to relocate.	Don't log in all areas that are crown lands, because that is where we trap and fish. Leave the blocks where there is hunting and trapping, because once it is logged the animals leave.



			Picking, Trapping				
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Impacts to Access

Half of the survey respondents indicated they felt that the proposed forestry activity in FML#2 would impact their travel to their resource harvesting areas. Some of the reasons expressed about this concern include road closures, temporary traffic delays, limited access to recreational areas, and road closures after operations are complete.

If the proposed forestry activity involves extensive land clearing or road construction, it could temporarily or permanently affect travel routes and accessibility. Road closures, detours, or restricted access to certain areas may be implemented during the forestry activity, which could limit travel options. Additionally, if the activity disrupts natural habitats or leads to environmental changes, it could impact recreational activities, including hiking, camping, or exploring the area.

When they cut the trees, they leave the areas almost impassable.

Yes, because all the roads are blocked after logging is completed.

I would be happy if they would leave the logging roads open, so trappers can travel them.

Impacts to Red River Métis Culture and Way of Life

The survey asked Citizens if their activities within FML #2 support their connection to their Red River Métis culture, heritage, and way of life. Many respondents indicated that their harvesting and cultural practices in the area were a vital part of their identity, as is exemplified by these quotes from respondents below.

My Red River Métis culture is a very important part of who I am. It is a big part of the reason why I am so passionate about the environment and preserving it for future generations. This is something that my parents instilled in me at a young age and something that has stuck with me ever since.

Engaging in activities within the region can provide opportunities for individuals to immerse themselves in the cultural aspects, traditions, and practices of the Red River Métis.

I am able to connect to my cultural background because I am able to learn about what it means to be Métis through the stories that are shared in FML #2. I feel that these stories give me a better understanding of what being Métis means and how it has played an important role in who I am today.

Yes, I have trapped, commercial fished, hunted and travelled this area since I acquired this trapline from my father in the early 1970's.

Yes, because this is my tradition and way of life and how I support my family.



Other Impacts Discussed

Participants reported several different concerns about the potential impact of the proposed forestry activities from soil erosion, potential damage to fish and other aquatic life with sedimentation and/or contaminated runoff into streams and rivers, loss of habitat for flora and fauna and the increased risk of forest fire:

I live in a rural area and rely on healthy forests to provide clean air and water and to protect wildlife habitat. The proposed forestry activities would increase the risk of forest fires, which would endanger my family and me. Also, logging can increase erosion and runoff into nearby rivers, which can harm fish and other aquatic life.

I am concerned that the proposed logging activity will result in a loss of habitat for some animals and plants, which will have an impact on their numbers and distribution. In addition, I am also worried about the impact of this activity on the microclimatic conditions of FML #2.

One participant emphasized the important role forests play in a healthy environment:

Minimize erosion and reduce the impairment of water quality due to sedimentation. Forests purify of the air we breathe, filter of the water we drink, prevent erosion, and forests are an important buffer against climate change.

Some participants were very concerned about larger cultural impacts for the Red River Métis:

These companies devastate any area they clear cut through, example they clear cut on the east side of Wekusko Lake, I visited my sisters grave on a regular basis and other relatives in that graveyard, I went in there last summer and could not see any sign of the graveyard they had clear cut right through the whole area.

...the loss or alteration of land and resources can have profound cultural and social impacts

Mitigation Measures Requested

Survey respondents offered several mitigation and/or accommodation measures they would like to see incorporated into the 2-Year Forest Management Operating Plan. Several respondents offered ideas around sustainable harvesting practices and conservation of ecologically significant areas they would like to see:

Sustainable harvesting practices: Incorporating sustainable forestry practices that promote the long-term health and productivity of forests. This may include selective logging, reduced impact logging techniques, or adherence to recognized forestry certification standards that ensure responsible management of the forest resources.



Conservation of ecologically significant areas: Including measures to identify and protect ecologically significant areas, such as old-growth forests, wildlife habitats, or sensitive ecosystems. This may involve setting aside designated conservation areas or implementing specific logging practices that minimize impacts on these areas.

Transplant trees back at an accelerated rate like 25 trees for everyone cut.

I'm hoping that the 2-Year Forest Management Operating Plan will include a provision to allow for the planting of native species of trees. I think this would be beneficial in reducing erosion and improving wildlife habitat, particularly for birds and other small animals.

I'd like to see more attention paid to the preservation of ecosystems, especially those that are at risk or threatened. This could be done by including a section on how we can help preserve these areas in the plan and make sure they are protected from harmful activities. This would help us protect those areas while still allowing us to use them for other purposes if necessary.

Other frequently discussed recommendations focused on the importance of protecting biodiversity, habitats, and culturally significant areas:

Incorporate a plan to prevent, minimize, and mitigate the impact of forest management on wildlife.

Identify any potential effects on local communities, including on access to water and food resources, as well as cultural practices.

Include measures for restoring degraded areas, especially those that are culturally significant or important for biodiversity conservation.

Don't log in all areas that are crown lands, because that is where we trap and fish. Leave the blocks where there is hunting and trapping, because once it is logged the animals leave.

Two participants stressed the importance of cultural awareness and education for forestry employees to ensure that Indigenous communities are respected in the forestry management plan process:

I would like to see the inclusion of a policy that requires all new employees to be trained in cultural competency and the importance of recognizing and respecting Indigenous spiritual practices. This is an important step toward ensuring that all employees, including those with limited experience in working on a First Nations reserve, are aware of the history behind the land they are working on.

I would also like to see a policy that requires that all employees receive annual training on how to approach Indigenous communities with respect and care. This includes knowledge about how to deal with Elders and other community members, as well as information on appropriate dress codes.



Some concern was expressed about the use of herbicide spraying near populated areas, and one participant wanted to see some pesticide use to control spruce budworm:

Don't spray any more Glyphosate near Flin Flon.

I would like to see spraying for Spruce Budworm that is destroying old growth trees and increasing the danger of forest fires in the region.

Some comments focused on the forestry planning process itself, wanting to see full transparency, cooperation, and thorough consultation:

I'd like to better understand why this project is taking place. Is it absolutely necessary? Has consultation with First Nations in the territory taken place? I feel that the project hasn't been put out there enough for Citizens to truly understand the scope, impacts etc.

I'd like to see more transparency and accountability in the planning process. Specifically, I'd like to see more information about how the Forest Service is going to incorporate public input into this plan. Also, I'd like to know what the plan looks like before it's finalized, so that we can have a chance to review it and provide feedback.

Red River Métis Values in FML#2

A review of past Red River Métis Knowledge and Land Use (MKLU) values collected by the MMF show 3,119 features mapped within FML#2. Two thirds of those features are subsistence harvesting (hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping) sites, and the remainder include cultural sites, occupancy sites, access routes, commercial harvesting, and Métis ecological knowledge. A series of maps in Appendix A illustrate these values in relation to the proposed NFMC FMOP.

Harvesting

Harvesting by Red River Métis Citizens occurs throughout almost all areas of the proposed FMOP where harvest areas and access roads are planned. Heavier concentrations of use occur around Kississing Lake, Sherridon, Cranberry-Portage, all areas around Athapapuskow and Goose Lake, areas southeast of Paint Lake Provincial Park, Brostrom Lake, Atik and Rocky Lakes, and areas just south of the Pasquia River near Askandigau Lake where FMOP activities are planned.

Access, Cultural, Occupancy

Access, Cultural and Occupancy sites are particularly clustered around the northwest and southern edges of Kississing Lake, near Pisew Falls Provincial Park on Setting Lake, lac Aimée and Alberts Lake, Fay Lake, the northeast and southern shores of Athapapuskow Lake, Overflowing River on Lake Winnipegosis, and near Wanless where 2023 harvesting, planting and herbicide application are planned.



Métis Ecological Knowledge

Areas where Red River Métis Citizens noted areas of ecological knowledge for sensitive fish, animal, bird and plant habitats include areas around the northwestern and southern edges of Kississing Lake, Wekusko Lake, northern edge of Kotyk Lake, areas to the northwest and southeast of Paint Lake Provincial Park, several areas surrounding Athapapuskow and Goose Lakes, areas northeast of Cormorant, and many along the route between the Pas, Westray, and Overflowing River.

Changes

Red River Métis Citizens have mapped several areas in FML#2 where they have noticed changes happening to the lands and waters due to a variety of climate change and development related factors, including past forestry operations. Citizens noted changes to fish populations in Athapapuskow and Goose Lakes, and near Sherridon. Changes to plant habitats were noted on the eastern side of Wekusko Lake and changes to blueberry patches on the western side of Blueberry Lake. Lower moose populations were noted at Snow Lake, southeast of Paint Lake Provincial Park, around Wanless, through the Moose Lakes, and lower moose and ptarmigan populations north and south of Cranberry-Portage. General changes to the environment were mapped on the western side of Kississing Lake, as well as several changes to the environment near Overflowing River.

5.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

This report presents a high-level summary of Red River MKLU data and results from the recent NFMC FMOP survey. The vast inventory of MKLU data mapped by Red River Métis Citizens in FML#2, as well as the concerns noted in the survey indicate planned forestry activities in this management plan area will impact Red River Métis Rights and interests in the area. Use of the lands and waters in FML#2 for harvesting, cultural practices, occupancy, and knowledge sharing are extensive throughout, with several areas where forestry activities are planned for 2023-2025 highlighted.

The survey highlighted how harvesting and cultural practices in FML#2 are a vital part of Red River Métis identity and exposed several concerns about access to harvesting and cultural areas, and damage to ecosystems. These are addressed in the recommendations below.

Recommendation 1: The MMF requests advance notice of road closure and areas of planned harvest activities to allow for ample time to communicate this to Red River Métis Citizens using the area. This is especially relevant where Red River Métis cultural sites may be disturbed.

Recommendation 2: The MMF would like to see the implementation of sustainable harvesting practices (e.g., selective logging, reduced impact logging techniques) and adherence to recognized forestry certification standards. This includes the identification and protection of ecologically significant areas - such as old-growth forests, wildlife habitats, or sensitive ecosystems and may involve setting aside



designated conservation areas or implementing specific logging practices that minimize impacts on these areas.

Recommendation 3: Regarding the use of chemical controls for undesired regrowth, NFMC should consider the impacts of herbicide application on plant and wildlife ecosystems, and impacts to Red River Métis Citizens harvesting in FML#2. The province is also asked to consider the use of chemical controls for Spruce Budworm.

Recommendation 4: The Province should include measures for restoring degraded areas, especially those that are culturally significant or important for biodiversity conservation.

Recommendation 5: To ensure full transparency, cooperation, and thorough consultation, the MMF requests that additional opportunities be provided for the MMF to be further engaged in determining appropriate mitigations and specific cut block prescriptions for areas of concern that we have identified, specific to these two-year OPs.

6.0 References

Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation. (2023, June 27). *Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation Operating Plan 2023-2025*. Retrieved from <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d3e3fbb33b01421a98c5ae4c75c8f7cc/page/FMOP-2023-2025/>



Appendix A: Métis Values in FML#2



