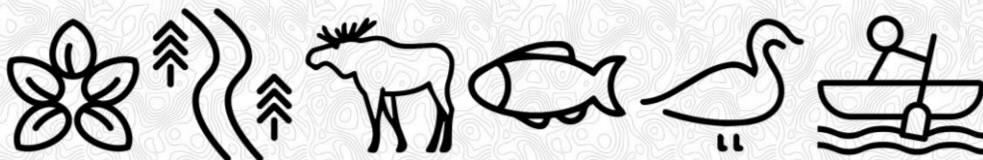




FINAL

Wildlife (non-ungulate, non-bird) Field Logistics Work Plan

September 2021





MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Wildlife (non-ungulate, non-bird) Field Logistics Work Plan

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Wildlife (non-ungulate, non-bird) Field Logistics Work Plan

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MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION
ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

Wildlife (non-ungulate, non-bird) Field Logistics Work Plan

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Acronyms

Agency, the ...	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
ARU	Acoustic Recording Units
CAR	Community Access Road
EA	Environmental Assessment
HaSEP	Health and Safety and Environmental Protection Plan
IA	Impact Assessment
IAA	<i>Impact Assessment Act</i>
JSEA	Job Safety and Environmental Analysis
km	kilometre
LSA	Local Study Area
MECP	Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MFFN	Marten Falls First Nation
PDA	Project Development Area
SAR	Species at Risk
TISG	Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
ToR	Terms of Reference
VC	Valued Component





1. Introduction

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

This document outlines the work plan for the valued component (VC) bats (little brown myotis [*Myotis lucifugus*], northern myotis [*Myotis septentrionalis*], and tri-colored bat [*Perimyotis subflavus*]), fur bearers (American marten [*Martes americana*], beaver [*Castor canadensis*] and wolverine [*Gulo gulo*; *Wishkobish*; *Wiingwa'waake*]), amphibians and reptiles, and pollinating insects recognizing that the results of these field studies will be used to support a coordinated Impact Assessment (IA), required for Project review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), and an Environmental Assessment (EA) required for Project review by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Wildlife Work Plan describes the proposed methods and schedule to complete the field program and considers both the Agency's Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (TISG) (IAAC 2020) and the comments received on the Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) (AECOM 2020).





2. Overview and Approach

The approach and associated study areas for the Wildlife (non-ungulate, non-bird) field program are defined in the Wildlife Study Plan (MFFN CAR 2021a). These considerations were developed based on discussions with both federal and provincial regulators. A brief description of the proposed methodology and staffing plan to complete the Wildlife field program are described below, with the understanding that the technical content is limited to supplementary information (not previously included in the Wildlife Study Plan).

2.1 Methodology

The proposed methodology for the wildlife field program is described in **Table 2-1**, and the corresponding survey locations are shown on **Figure 2-1**, **Figure 2-2**, and **Figure 2-3**.

Table 2-1: Methodology for Wildlife Field Studies

Bat Maternity Roost Habitat and Acoustic Studies	
Permits To Conduct Field Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.
Field Study Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maternity Roost Habitat Survey (snag density surveys): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To be conducted in conjunction with the 2021 upland vegetation ground inspection field surveys. – Three snag density surveys will be completed at each treed (>10 cm diameter at breast height) vegetation station. – Stations will be accessed by helicopter and surveyed on foot. – Detailed survey locations are described in the Vegetation Work Plan (MFFN CAR 2021b). ■ Bat Acoustic Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Seventeen bat acoustic recording units (ARUs) were deployed near suitable bat maternity roost habitat (see Figure 2-1). – ARUs were deployed in June 2021. – ARUs will be retrieved in September 2021 in conjunction with the 2021 vegetation field surveys.
Lab Analysis Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not applicable.





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Amphibian Acoustic Study	
Permits To Conduct Field Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.
Field Study Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Acoustic Surveys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amphibian acoustic survey stations will coincide with the bird ARU stations located near suitable amphibian breeding habitats (e.g., marshes, beaver ponds). – Bird ARUs will be deployed late February 2022 and retrieved November 2022 to coincide with specific bird migration windows; note though that only acoustic data within the amphibian breeding season (May 1 – July 15) will be considered. – Detailed survey locations are described in the Bird Work Plan (MFFN CAR 2021c).
Lab Analysis Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not applicable.

Beaver Lodge Aerial Surveys	
Permits To Conduct Field Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.
Field Study Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Active beaver lodges will be identified incidentally during all wildlife, bird and vegetation field programs.
Lab Analysis Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not applicable.

Wolverine Aerial Transect Survey	
<p>Refer to methods outlined in the Ungulates Work Plan, specifically for Aerial Winter Transect Survey (MFFN CAR 2021d).</p>	

Winter Ground Tracking Survey	
Permits To Conduct Field Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022.
Field Study Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Between January and March 2022, winter ground tracking surveys will be conducted on 30 triangular transects (see Figure 2-2) positioned to intersect the Project Development Area (PDA) and the Wildlife Local Study Area (LSA). ■ Each side of the triangular transect measures 1.5 km; total triangular transect length is 4.5 km. ■ Transect location and orientation were selected at random and are distributed throughout the PDA and Wildlife LSA. ■ Precise transect orientation may be adjusted in the field to avoid unfavourable terrain, habitat or obstacles. ■ Transects will be accessed by helicopter and surveyed on foot.
Lab Analysis Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not applicable.

Motion Sensitive Camera Tracking	
<p>Refer to methods outlined in the Ungulates Work Plan, specifically for Remote Camera Monitoring (MFFN CAR 2021d).</p>	





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Wolverine Hair Snag Trap Survey	
Permits To Conduct Field Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MECP Letter of Authorization to Conduct Research in a Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve; valid from June 01, 2021 to December 31, 2022. ■ MECP Endangered Species Act Permit B - to be obtained prior to hair snag deployment. ■ MNRF Wildlife Animal Care Committee Approval - to be obtained prior to hair snag deployment. ■ MNRF Wildlife Scientific Collectors Authorization - to be obtained prior to hair snag deployment.
Field Study Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The program will run for two years of baseline data collection (mid-February to late May 2022 and mid-February to late-May 2023). ■ 54 baited hair snag survey locations will be established, one within each of the 100 km² hexagon grids (see Figure 2-3) that intersect the wolverine LSA (Koen et al. 2008). ■ Two motion sensitive cameras will be deployed at each hair snag location. ■ Hair snag traps will be preferentially designed using run poles; however, up to 40% of the traps may be of a simpler design to allow deployment of traps in areas where no trees are present. ■ Hair snag traps will be baited with animal meat and scent attractants. ■ Following deployment in 2022 and 2023 (in mid-February), the hair snag traps will be checked every four weeks between March and May 2022 and 2023 (mid-March, mid-April, mid-May, and late-May). ■ During the final check in late-May 2022, the cameras, hair snag devices and bait will be removed; however, the trap infrastructure will be left in place. This will increase efficiencies in the second year of the study. ■ In mid-February 2023, the traps will be re-baited, and the cameras and hair snag devices will be re-installed. ■ During the final check in late-May 2023, the cameras and hair snag traps will be removed entirely (devices and infrastructure). ■ Hair snag trap location selection considered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1) Access (areas that could be safely accessed by helicopter). – 2) Habitat features and land cover (emphasis on habitat features most likely to support wolverine use). – 3) Spatial separation from remote cameras, winter ground tracking stations, and adjacent hair snag stations (maintaining minimum distance of 1 km from remote camera stations and winter ground tracking locations). ■ Trap locations may be adjusted following additional desktop analysis and may also be subject to adjustment in the field based on observations during other ground-based and aerial wildlife field programs. Stations will be preferentially deployed near game trails, scat or tracks, or in areas with suitable visibility for luring wolverine based on observations during tracking surveys. ■ Upon return from the field, all data and biological samples will be reviewed and processed. Photographs from remote cameras will be reviewed by a qualified wildlife biologist.





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Wolverine Hair Snag Trap Survey

Lab Analysis Methods

- Biological samples (hair) will be collected at hair snag survey stations and submitted to Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre for DNA and hormone analysis (e.g. if hair samples are sufficient for hormone analysis, testing will be requested for progesterone to determine if hair sample is from a reproductive female).

Notes: 1. The Wildlife Study Plan (MFFN CAR 2021a) notes that two triangular transects will be surveyed in each 15 randomly selected 100 km² hexagons intersecting the PDA (30 transects total and 135 km total transect length). However, the hexagons do not align properly within the PDA and LSA, therefore it was not feasible to use the hexagon grid as outlined in Koen et al. (2008), rather we have used the approach outlined in the table above.

Notes: PDA = 50 m buffer from centreline of the proposed route; Wildlife LSA = 3 km buffer from centreline of the proposed route; Wolverine LSA = 10 km buffer from centreline of the proposed route (MFFN CAR 2021a).



Figure 2-1: Bat Acoustic Survey Stations

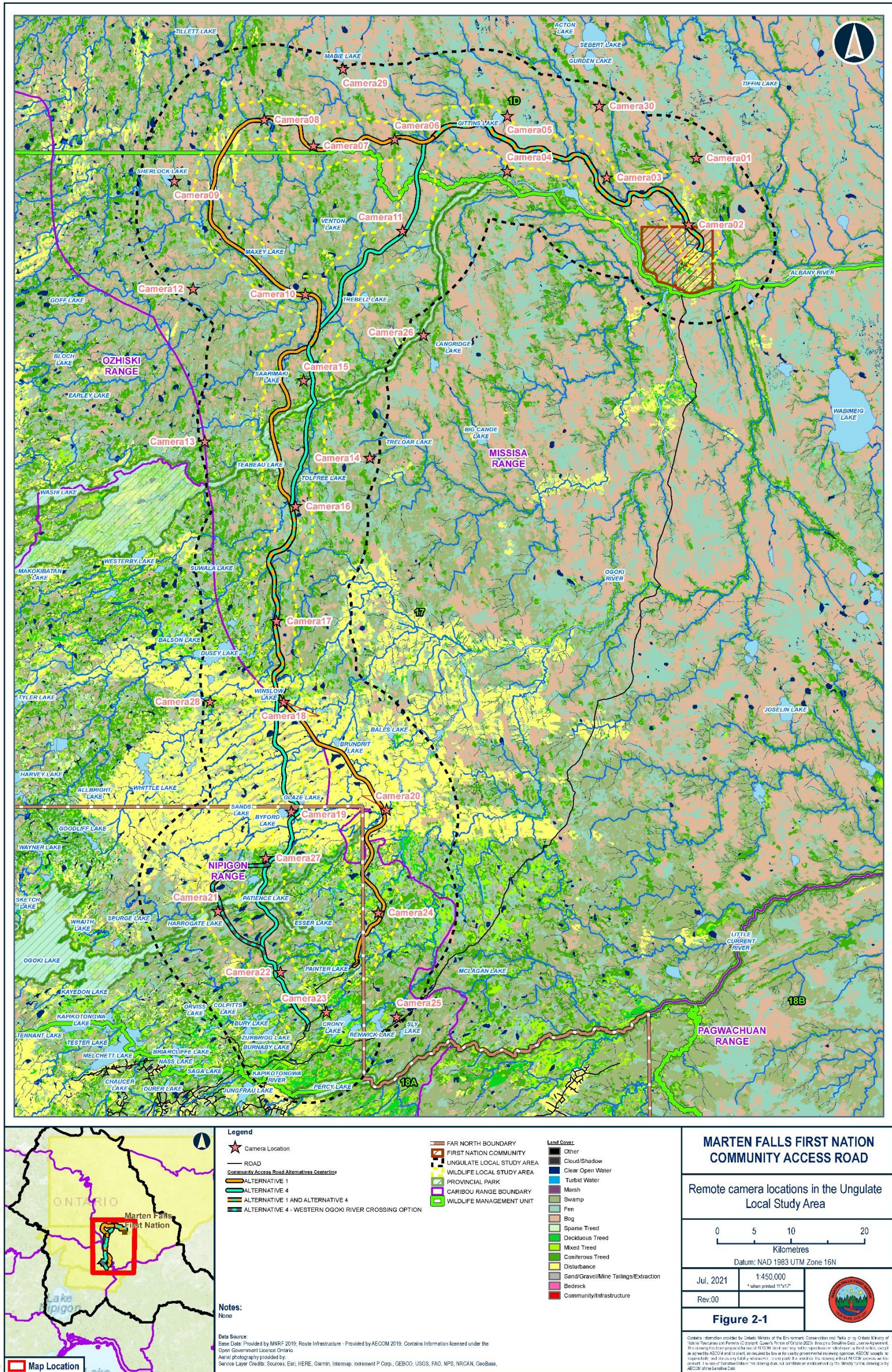




Figure 2-2: Winter Ground Tracking Survey

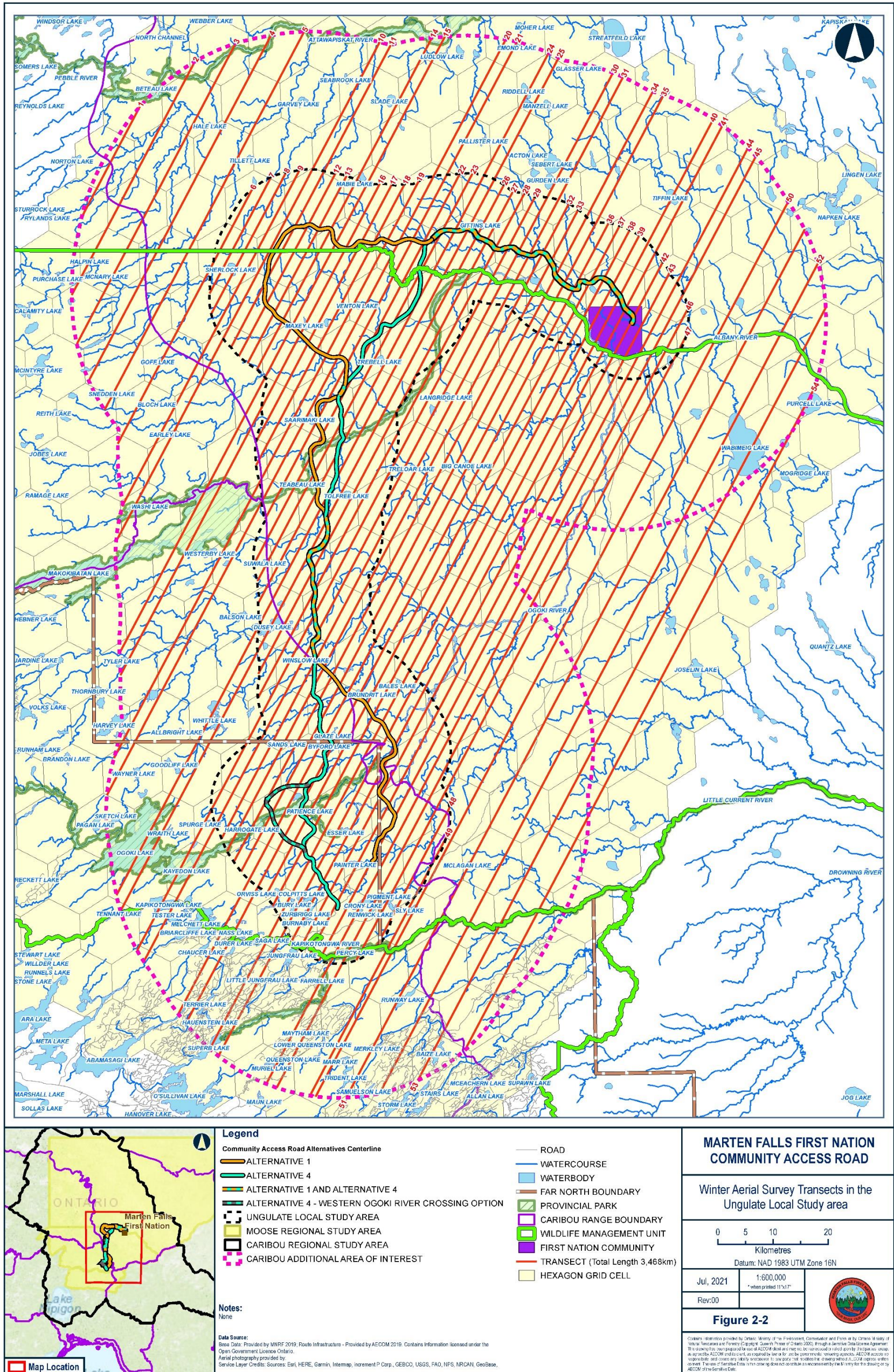




Figure 2-3: Wolverine Hair Snag Trap Survey





2.2 Program Staffing

The proposed staff participating in the Wildlife field program are outlined in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2: Personnel Qualifications

Name	Title	Project Role	Credentials	Years of Experience*
Luke Owens	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Component Lead, Bat Specialist	B.A.	15
Erin Greenaway	Senior Ecologist	Natural Sciences Lead, Senior Adviser, Senior Reviewer	B.Sc.	23
Natalie Blekkenhorst	Junior Biologist	Field Crew Member	B.Sc.	6
Jessica Tratnik	Junior Biologist	Field Crew Member	B.A.Sc.	4
Heather Melcher	Senior Ecologist	Principal, Senior Reviewer	M.Sc.	25
Judah Berkan	Junior Biologist	Field Crew Member	B. Sc.	2
Jamie Weir	Fish and Wildlife Technologist	Field Lead	Dip.	16
Fergus Nicoll	Terrestrial and Wetland Specialist	Field Lead	Dip.	22
Jason Carbone	Environmental Scientist	Field Crew Member	B.Sc.	5
Jack Yurko	Wildlife Biologist	Field Crew Lead	B.Sc.	12
Brianne Jonsson	Terrestrial Biologist	Field Crew Lead	B.Sc.	6
Daniel Coffen	Environmental Technician	Field Crew Lead	Dip.	10
Michael Schumacher	Wildlife Biologist	Field Crew Lead	B.Sc.	5

Note: * Experience as of July 2021

Please note that the staffing for the Wildlife field program may also rely on additional members from the MFFN CAR Project Consultant Team and / or members from local Indigenous communities.





3. Discipline Specific-Schedule

The proposed schedule for the Wildlife field program is presented below in **Table 3-1**. This schedule is subject to change based on evolving climatic conditions in the Project Area, including forest fires.

Table 3-1: Program Schedule

Task / Program	Start Date (MM / YR)	Approximate Duration	Targeted VC Interaction
■ Bat Maternity Roost Study-Acoustic Surveys	■ June 2021	■ Ten nights of recordings during the maternity roosting period of June 1-30	■ Species at Risk Bats
■ Bat Maternity Roost Study-snag density surveys	■ August 2021	■ Two months	■ Species at Risk Bats
■ Amphibian Acoustic Survey	■ May 2022	■ ARU acoustic data within the amphibian breeding season (May 1 – July 15).	■ Amphibians
■ Beaver Lodge Aerial Survey	■ June 2021	■ Two years of incidental observations during field programs from 2021 – 2023	■ Beavers
■ Wolverine Aerial Transect Survey	■ January 2022	■ Ten days, between January and March 2022	■ Ungulates (moose, caribou) ■ Predators (wolf, bear) ■ Wolverine
■ Winter Ground Tracking Survey	■ December 2021, weather dependent	■ Three rounds of five field days between January and March 2022	■ Ungulates (moose, caribou) ■ Fur bearers ■ Wolverine
■ Remote Camera Deployment, Maintenance Checks and Retrieval	■ June 2021	■ Cameras will be active for two years (2021-2023) ■ Ten field days in fall 2021, spring 2022 and fall 2022 for camera maintenance ■ Ten field days in spring 2023 to retrieve cameras	■ Ungulates (moose, caribou) ■ Predators (wolf, bear) ■ Wolverine ■ Fur bearers
■ Wolverine Hair Snag Traps	■ February 2022 ■ February 2023	■ Mid February – end of May 2022 ■ Mid February – end of May 2023	■ Wolverine

Prior to commencement of the field programs, the following groups from the Project Contact List will be notified:

- Indigenous Community Key Contacts
- Tribal Councils, Provincial Territorial Organizations and Métis Nation of Ontario
- Other Indigenous Persons Identified for Consultation (including MFFN community members)





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- Businesses
- Tourism Operators
- Community and Interest Groups and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Interested Parties / Potential Stakeholders – Unaffiliated
- Government Review Team
- Non-Government Review Team agency representatives
- Forest Management Companies
- Mining Claim Holders
- Emergency Medical Services and Law Enforcement
- Neighbouring Projects and their Contacts
- Other Agency Representatives (elected Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament of Ontario)





4. Health and Safety

4.1 General

Golder is committed to the health and safety of employees, clients, contractors and the public, with the understanding that all work performed by Golder is subject to strict health and safety policies and applicable federal, provincial, and municipal acts and regulations. Golder has internal Work Safe Practices for aerial work, remote work, cold weather work, and working around water. All field crew members will be expected to review these protocols prior to commencing surveys. In addition, the Golder survey teams will develop a project specific Health and Safety and Environmental Protection Plan (HaSEP) prior to conducting field work. The Project's HaSEP will be reviewed and discussed with all field crew members (including pilot and Indigenous crew members) prior to the survey's commencement.

The aerial / helicopter support for the Project will be designed and scheduled according to Golder's and the client's health and safety policies, procedures, and training. Restrictions on aircraft type and pilot proficiency will apply. Prior to daily take-off, the pilot will provide an aircraft orientation and safety briefing to all members of the survey team. The briefing will include identifying hazards, emergency response plans and procedures, and general helicopter protocol (including how to exit and enter an aircraft). As part of these briefings, hazards specific to the day's task will also be identified, discussed, and documented on a job safety and environmental analysis (JSEA) form, with a plan for all crew members to sign the JSEA. Field surveys will only occur when weather conditions allow safe aircraft operations, recognizing that (1) field crew members have the right to refuse substandard actions or conditions if the worker feels that these actions / conditions are imminently dangerous to their safety or to the safety of others and (2) field crew members should rely on pilot judgement as well as their own experienced and comfort level to determine if flights should occur or be prematurely terminated.

As part of each field day, field crew members will pack extra food, water, and clothing in case of aircraft mechanical trouble and unexpected delays. In addition, each field crews will carry a survival and first aid kit for emergency situations (supplementary to the aircraft emergency survival kit). Daily check-in times with a designated contact will be pre-determined as part of the HaSEP, noting that satellite phones or satellite communication devices (e.g., Garmin inReach) will be used in areas where cell phone coverage is not reliable.





4.2 COVID-19

All COVID-19 related risk mitigation and recovery measures have been established in line with government protocols and AECOM corporate measures. Field crews will employ preventative COVID-19 actions including daily screening questionnaires and the use of Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves, masks, regular disinfection and social distancing.

Members of the field crews are not to attend site, or must remove themselves from site, if they fit any of the following criteria:

- They have symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, sneezing / running nose or loss of sense of smell);
- They have been confirmed for COVID-19 or are awaiting the results from being tested for COVID-19;
- They have been in close-contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and / or
- They have returned, or been in contact with someone who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days.

When working in the community, field crews will strictly adhere to the COVID-19 preventative measures as described above. Where community access is required to facilitate a field survey, entry will be discussed with the community in advance. As needed, a negative COVID-19 test will be presented prior to entering Indigenous communities.

Field crews will have access to an adequate supply of sanitizer, and, as part of this, the crew members will regularly sanitize their hands. Further to this: field crews will minimize use of shared tools and equipment, as practical (including the use of hand tools, electronic devices, pens, clipboards, and notepads); all work surfaces and equipment used in the course of work will be adequately cleaned and disinfected at the end of the work shift or more frequently when visibly soiled or used repeatedly; and cloth or surgical masks (as a minimum) will be worn by field crews at all times during the course of work and in transit to the work site in line with government direction.





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For all workers, regardless of specific exposure risks, it is always a good practice to:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, noting that, when soap and running water are unavailable, use of an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol is suggested.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze, and immediately dispose of the used tissue.
- Stay home if you are sick.





5. References

AECOM Canada Ltd. (AECOM), 2020:

Marten Falls First Nation Terms of Reference Marten Falls Community Access Road –
Environmental Assessment

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MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION ALL SEASON COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD



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