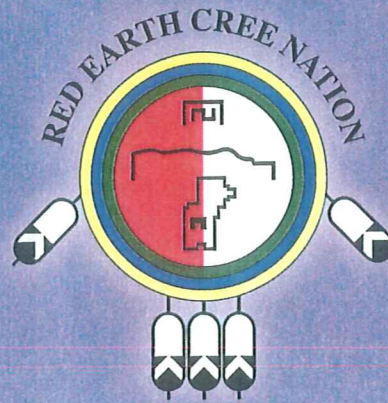




STAR-ORION SOUTH DIAMOND PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 5.4.2-E

Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Mapping



Report to
SHORE GOLD INC.
for the

TRADITIONAL LAND USE AND OCCUPANCY MAPPING (TLUOM) PROJECT AND STAR-ORION SOUTH DIAMOND PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

November 15, 2010



HOBBS
AND ASSOCIATES

Prepared by Red Earth Cree Nation and



2. RESEARCH CONDUCTED

Memory Mapping

Map biography, also called memory mapping, is a record of the life events and experiences of an individual over a particular area of land. This involves the use of base maps that represent areas of interest to Members. Through details placed in relation to the maps, a dynamic picture of land use, harvesting, management and other cultural matters, and also of past patterns, can be understood. The use of maps also helps Elders and resource users to identify the locations of historical events, along with Aboriginal place names, specific resource use, and anecdotal information related to personal activities.

Memory mapping is a term used to describe a facilitated interview technique that involves respondents in the identification of specific locations where designated research activities took place, using colour-coded marks placed on plastic Mylar sheets over base maps, and corroborated by audio recordings and corresponding translations and transcriptions of the interviews.

In addition to memory mapping on Mylars, a digital audio recorder was the basic piece of equipment used to corroborate the land use interviews. Digital recorders are small (hand sized) and were easier to transport from interview to interview. Once an interview was recorded digitally, it was downloaded to a computer, making translation and transcription easier and more accurate.

Most often Elders and resource users are more comfortable speaking in their first language. These interviews required translation into English in order to complete the analysis and thematic studies. Each hour of interviewing in a first language required at least four hours for translation. This included the initial listening of the recording and note-making, two hours for actual translation, and another hour for review for accuracy. Given the tight timeframes of this project, transcriptions and translations were outsourced to language-capable REC� Members.

The interview guide used during these facilitated interviews with eligible REC� respondents was developed during the initial training session in Winnipeg on June 2 and 3 by the Community Coordinator, with the assistance of the Project Manager and the Anthropologist. The work plan accommodated final revisions to the interview guide during the on-the-job training that occurred from June 7 to June 18, but no revisions were required. Shore Gold requested a copy of the interview guide on June 11, and it was provided on July 7 (see APPENDIX F).

This memory mapping process was used to find out what participating REC� Members knew about the Fort à la Corne Forest, and what they remembered about the area from the past. The implementation of this methodology accommodated interviews at Members' homes (when required), and some interviews were conducted in the local Cree dialect.

The base maps used were National Topographic Maps (NTS), produced from air



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photos and ground verification. The map scale for the base maps was 1:50,000. Registration marks placed on the individual memory mapping Mylars enabled the Cartographer / GIS Technician to accurately situate event locations for GIS database entry.

Participant Pre-Screening

Phase one funding for the RECN TLUOM project was provided by Shore Gold with the agreement that the field research conducted would focus specifically on RECN Members with knowledge and experience of the Star-Orion South Diamond Project study area or the Fort à la Corne Forest.

A pre-screening exercise was conducted on June 9, 2010, immediately after and in conjunction with the Elders' Meeting – Project Introduction at Red Earth (see APPENDIX D).

To minimize the potential bias of participant self-selection, a series of large-scale (1:250,000) NTS maps were posted at this Elders' Meeting. Without sole specific reference to Shore Gold, the Star-Orion South Diamond Project, or the Fort à la Corne Forest, all attendees were invited to indicate the approximate locations where they had exercised Constitutionally-protected Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.

Of 35 meeting attendees, eight with knowledge and experience of the Fort à la Corne Forest were identified, and six RECN Members were subsequently interviewed. (One was unavailable during phase one for health reasons, and one was determined not to be a RECN Member.)

Several hunting sites in the Fort à la Corne Forest were identified by these six participants, associated with the harvesting of country foods, specifically ducks, geese and grouse.

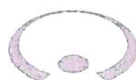
GIS Database and Traditional Territories Cartography

Upon completion of all TLUOM phase one field research data entry, it was possible to produce a preliminary draft map of RECN Traditional Territories within the Fort à la Corne Forest (see APPENDIX C).

Note that this map is not intended for publication in its current form, as it is based on interviews with only six RECN Members, from a community with a registered population of 1,496 Members as of September 2010 (INAC web site).

Rather, this preliminary draft map was produced and presented at Red Earth to fulfil two parallel purposes:

- To confirm the exercise of Constitutionally-protected Treaty and Aboriginal Rights by RECN Members in the study area for the Star-Orion South Diamond Project EIS; and
- To facilitate the provision of TLUOM project feedback to project participants and other RECN Elders and Members, and to facilitate future



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stakeholder negotiations with respect to subsequent phases of RECN's TLUOM project.

The research supports Red Earth Cree Nation's contention that a significant portion of the Fort à la Corne Forest is within RECN Traditional Territories.

Only six RECN Members were identified and interviewed for phase one of the TLUOM research. RECN leadership believes that other RECN Members may yet contribute to these TLUOM findings in subsequent phases of the research. Therefore the TLUOM Cartographer / GIS Technician adopted the institution of a ten-kilometre radius around specific locations identified by phase one TLUOM respondents. This approach attempts to mitigate data collection inadequacies introduced by the phased approach to the TLUOM research that the funding required, and recognizes that traditional country food harvesting activities are not limited to specific locations, but are more commonly practised over more generalized areas.

Not including transportation routes, eleven unique harvesting sites within five kilometres of the Fort à la Corne Forest were identified by three of the six respondents. The cartography produced for this report applies the ten-kilometre radius to all identified harvesting and transportation points in the vicinity.

Under the terms of the May 12, 2010 Information Gathering Agreement between RECN and Shore Gold, Hobbs and Associates is providing hard copy cartography, and corresponding summarized GIS data sufficient to replicate that cartography. This cartography is constrained to the Fort à la Corne Forest, which for the purposes of this research, was identified by Shore Gold as an adequate proxy for the Star-Orion South Diamond Project EIS study area.

Participating RECN Members retain intellectual property rights to their individual field research products, while Red Earth Cree Nation retains all rights with respect to aggregated field research data.

Literature Review

Under the terms of the Information Gathering Agreement signed by RECN and Shore Gold on May 12, 2010 at Nipawin, copies of several technical documents and related correspondence were provided digitally in mid-May and late July. These were reviewed by Hobbs and Associates technical consultants (see APPENDIX A for annotated bibliography).

Generally speaking, these reports document work performed by Shore Gold's consultants with respect to Heritage Resources Impact Assessments and Mitigation (primarily concerned with the classification of archaeological artifacts), and other historical and land use research to support the Star-Orion South Diamond Project's EIS.

In the Western Heritage 2006 Report, commissioned by Shore Gold, the authors note:



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The sites recorded in the provincial archaeological database suggest that this portion of the Saskatchewan River Valley has been intensively occupied for at least the past 9,000 years. Moreover, ongoing HRIA work in the immediate area of Shore Gold Inc.'s Star Kimberlite Underground Exploration Project is showing that archaeological deposits in this area are quite rich.

The Fort à la Corne Forest Area: a Survey of the Historical Documents, also prepared by Western Heritage Services for Shore Gold, cites the Cree groups active in the area before and after Treaty.

The La Corne area was at the intersection of two Cree bands ... The Basquia Cree utilized the area from Candle Lake east to the north end of the Basquia Hills, while the Pegogamaw were found from La Corne west to the Eagle Hills ... In tough winters, however, the Basquia Cree would go into the adjacent parkland in search of bison. Similarly, the Pegogamaw Cree sometimes sought refuge in the forest to escape attacks by other plains groups. ...

... The Cree who had utilized the upper Saskatchewan were initially granted various reserves in the area: James Smith (IR #100) ... and Cumberland (IR #100A) at La Corne; Pas Mountain/Flute River (later extinguished) and Red Earth (IR #29A), both on the north side of the Pasquia Hills; Muscoday (IR #99) and Chekastaypaysim (later extinguished) on the South Saskatchewan; and William Twatt (later Sturgeon Lake #IR 101) northwest of Prince Albert ...

Upon the conclusion of RECN analyses of the field research conducted during phase one of the TLUOM project, the technical reports provided by Shore Gold were again reviewed in the context of identified activities involving RECN Members. A brief technical note (see APPENDIX B) summarizes those aspects of the supplied technical reports relevant to Constitutionally-protected traditional activities engaged in by RECN Members in the Fort à la Corne Forest.





3. CONCLUSIONS

The field research pre-screening exercise, conducted at Red Earth on June 9, 2010, acknowledged eight Members, of the 35 in attendance, who self-identified as having knowledge and experience relating to the Fort à la Corne Forest. Six of these Members were available to be interviewed during phase one of the on-going RECN TLUOM project, and three of them identified eleven unique locations in the area of the Fort à la Corne Forest where they had harvested grouse, ducks and geese. Transportation routes to these locations also informed the identification of RECN Traditional Territories. Given the funding and timing constraints on the TLUOM field research conducted, and following the rationale for the methodology employed, a ten-kilometre radius was applied to all unique points identified by the field research. This approach yielded the preliminary draft map provided in APPENDIX C, which confirms RECN as a stakeholder with respect to the Star-Orion South Diamond Project.

RECN leadership intends to continue its TLUOM research activities as supporting funding is identified and secured, in accordance with its strategy of linking the identification of RECN Traditional Territories to negotiations with the Crown and third-party resource developers. The Crown's duty to consult with Aboriginal stakeholders, and to accommodate RECN abilities to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal Rights potentially infringed by Crown-licensed resource developments, increasingly seems to be delegated to those developers as part of their EIS process requirements. RECN leadership appreciates Shore Gold's acceptance of its responsibility to acknowledge, identify and mitigate adverse effects on Aboriginal stakeholders from its proposed operations at the Star-Orion South Diamond Project.

It should be acknowledged that there may be other RECN Members with knowledge and experience of the Fort à la Corne Forest that have not yet been identified, due to the timing and funding constraints of TLUOM phase one. As subsequent phases of the TLUOM project are implemented, news of any additional land use information relevant to the Star-Orion South Diamond Project EIS will be communicated to Shore Gold, in compliance with the terms and conditions of then-extant Agreements between RECN and Shore Gold.

It is likely that many people, be they RECN Members or not, have and continue to exercise their Constitutionally-protected Treaty and Aboriginal Rights in the Fort à la Corne Forest.

Preliminary TLUOM research indicates that RECN interests with respect to development of the Star-Orion South Diamond Project must include, at a minimum, recognition of Members' country food harvesting activities and the continuing protection of the exercise of those Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

