

# APPENDIX J-3 2012 TERRESTRIAL BASELINE





### RAINY RIVER GOLD PROJECT 2012 TERRESTRIAL BASELINE STUDY

#### Submitted by:

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure a division of AMEC Americas Limited 160 Traders Blvd., Suite 110 Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 3K7

> On behalf of: Rainy River Resources 1111 Victoria Avenue East Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 1B7

> > December 2012 TC111504





November 28, 2012 TC111504

Mr. Kyle Stanfield, P.Eng Vice President, Environment & Sustainability Rainy River Resources Ltd. 1111 Victoria Avenue East Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1B7

Dear Mr. Stanfield,

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure is pleased to submit the attached 2012 Terrestrial Baseline Study for the Rainy River Gold Project.

The 2012 Baseline Study augments the 2010 Baseline Study conducted by Klohn Crippen Berger and the 2011 study by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure by including surveys in project areas that were not yet mapped.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide support for your Rainy River Gold Project. Should you have any questions regarding the study, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

**AMEC Environment & Infrastructure,** a division of AMEC Americas Limited

Matt Evans, Ph.D. Senior Biologist

Matt Evans

Sheila Daniel, M.Sc. P.Geo. Senior Associate Geoscientist Head, Environmental Management



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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, a division of AMEC Americas Limited (AMEC), was retained by Rainy River Resources Ltd. (RRR) to conduct 2012 terrestrial baseline environmental surveys at the Rainy River Gold Project (RRGP). The RRGP is located in the Township of Chapple, District of Rainy River, in northwestern Ontario, approximately 65 kilometres (km) northwest of Fort Frances, and 420 kilometres west of Thunder Bay (Figures 1 and 2).

Plant and wildlife baseline surveys were carried out for the immediate RRGP site area by Klohn Crippen Berger (KCB) in 2009 and 2010 (KCB 2011a) to support advanced exploration activities. A 2011 gap analysis conducted by AMEC recommended that additional terrestrial baseline studies be carried out to provide greater areal and temporal coverage of the RRGP site to support the Project environmental assessment and permitting phases, including additional information on Species at Risk (SAR). Accordingly, in 2011, AMEC conducted supplementary surveys on birds and amphibians and to a lesser extent on mammals, reptiles and insects (butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies) in the Local Study Area (LSA) (AMEC 2011a). A major focus of all the previous baseline studies, including the AMEC 2011 baseline studies, has been SAR surveys confirming the presence of SAR and their habitats (KCB 2011b, AMEC 2011b, AMEC 2012a).

With development of the RRGP Project Description report (AMEC 2012b) and a proposed Project layout, it was determined that further baseline studies were required for certain Project components whose precise locations had yet to be determined during previous studies. Therefore, additional wildlife and vegetation baseline surveys were conducted in 2012 to further augment the database. This report presents the results of the 2012 baseline studies. This report also presents habitat classification polygons within the LSA based on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) mapping data.

#### 2.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the 2012 terrestrial baseline surveys were to:

- Conduct plant and wildlife surveys in Project component areas that were not yet mapped when previous baseline surveys were conducted;
- Compile species inventory lists and characterize existing site conditions for these new areas to support environmental approvals processes;





- Conduct another year of SAR surveys and SAR habitat mapping throughout the LSA in order to provide a higher degree of confidence in the final SAR list of species present and their habitat distribution within the LSA;
- Classify and map habitats within the LSA and ground-truth MNR FRI mapping and habitat classification polygon boundaries; and
- Collaborate with the MNR and Trent University on a 2011-2012 Whip-poor-will study.

#### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Bird Surveys

AMEC conducted focused surveys on breeding birds, marsh birds and waterfowl, owls and other crepuscular/nocturnal avian species (Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk), using established MNR approved survey protocols described in detail below. A raptor survey was conducted in April 2012, the results of which are provided in a separate report (AMEC 2012c).

The following surveys were conducted during June 18 to 22 and July 3 to 7. Weather conditions during these two survey periods were generally sunny to overcast, with winds between 0 (Calm) and 3 (Gentle Breeze) on the Beaufort Scale. Wildlife surveys were not conducted during periods of rain. Temperatures during the morning and evening wildlife surveys ranged between 5 and 17 degrees Celsius.

#### 3.1.1 Breeding Bird Surveys

The breeding bird surveys were conducted in accordance with the protocol described in the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (Cadman et al. 2007). Surveys were conducted at 104 predetermined survey stations located at least 300 m apart from each other (Figure 3). At each station, all birds seen or heard within a 10 minute continuous period were recorded and mapped. Surveys began one-half hour prior to sunrise and ended at 10:00 a.m.

#### 3.1.2 Marsh Bird and Waterfowl Surveys

Although marsh bird monitoring was not a formal part of the studies conducted within the RRGP LSA, marsh birds were recorded opportunistically during other surveys, including the breeding bird surveys, owl surveys and amphibian surveys. Marsh bird surveys conducted during the night-time owl and amphibian surveys took place during the time frame considered to be standard for marsh bird monitoring and the amphibian survey points were located near habitats suitable for marsh birds. Contrary to methods used for the Marsh Monitoring Program (Bird Studies Canada 2009a), call playback tapes were not used.





## 3.1.3 Nocturnal Bird Surveys (Owls, Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk)

The nocturnal bird surveys were conducted using the Northern Ontario Nocturnal Owl Protocol described in Takats et al. (2001) as a guideline. Nineteen owl survey stations (Figure 4) were surveyed by playing recordings of six owl species previously recorded in the study area: Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aeogolius acadicus*), Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*), Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Great Grey Owl (*Strix nebulosa*), and Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). Calls of each species were played for 20 seconds, followed by a one minute listening period. The survey at each station began with a two-minute listening period. Species calls were played in order of the size of the owl species beginning with the lightest species and ending with the heaviest species. All owls recorded were recorded on a datasheet. Surveys began one-half hour after sunset and concluded at midnight.

Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks were surveyed at 54 survey stations (Figure 5) using standardized protocols outlined in *Whip-poor-will Roadside Survey Participant's Guide* (BSC, 2012). These surveys were conducted within the recommended timing window starting 30 minutes after sunset and continued until midnight. Surveys at each station lasted six minutes. The June surveys were conducted under overcast conditions but the July surveys were conducted with clear skies and during a full moon phase. Results of the Whip-poor-will surveys are presented in the 2012 Species at Risk Report (AMEC 2012b).

#### 3.1.4 Avian Species at Risk Surveys

Surveys were conducted for provincially (COSARO, ESA) and federally (COSEWIC, SARA) listed avian Species at Risk (SAR). Results are presented and discussed in the 2012 Species at Risk Report (AMEC 2012b).

#### 3.2 Amphibian Surveys

Amphibian survey methods followed the Marsh Monitoring Program Amphibians Survey (Bird Studies Canada 2009b). Two rounds of point count call surveys were conducted (June 18 to 22 and July 3 to 7) in order to ensure that early and late-breeding frog species were detected. A total of 51 amphibian point count stations were surveyed once during each round of surveys (Figure 6). Calling amphibian species were recorded during a three minute period with a recording radius of unlimited distance. The calls of each amphibian species were assigned specific 'call level codes' according to the Marsh Monitoring Program Amphibians Survey (Bird Studies Canada 2009b; see Table 1 below). Surveys began one-half hour after sunset and ended at midnight.





# TABLE 1 CALL LEVEL CODES USED TO DESCRIBE CALLING AMPHIBIAN SPECIES DURING AMPHIBIAN SURVEYS (BIRD STUDIES CANADA 2009b)

Call Level Code	Description
0	None heard
1	Individuals can be counted, calls not overlapping
2	Numbers of some individuals can be estimated or counted
3	Full chorus, calls continuous and overlapping, individuals not distinguishable

#### 3.3 Other Taxa

Mammal, reptile and insect species observed within the LSA were recorded opportunistically during all surveys (as were birds and amphibians when observed outside of the formal bird and amphibian surveys). Observations included, but were not limited to, visual observations, hearing vocalizations, road kills, tracks, droppings, burrows, and nests.

#### 3.4 Vegetation Surveys and Habitat Classification

The 2012 vegetation surveys were conducted on June 18 to 21 and July 3 to 7. Surveys were undertaken by two botanists and typically lasted ten hours each day. Site investigations were targeted at several irregularly-shaped polygons within the LSA (Figure 7). These vegetation survey polygons covered approximately 1,300 hectares and overlapped with new locations for certain Project components and supplemented vegetation studies conducted by Klohn Crippen Berger in 2009 and 2010 (KCB 2011a).

#### 3.4.1 Vegetation Community Mapping

Existing Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) mapping (Figures 8a, b, c) was acquired from the MNR prior to site investigations and was used to guide field transects during surveying. Each of the FRI communities within each vegetation survey polygon was visited to confirm the community classification. A plant species list was compiled for the LSA during this FRI ground-truthing.

#### 3.4.2 Plant Species at Risk

Surveys were conducted for provincially (COSARO, ESA) and federally (COSEWIC, SARA) listed plant Species at Risk (SAR) species. These surveys occurred concurrently with the vegetation community mapping, as described above (Section 3.4.1) and the results are presented and discussed in the 2012 Species at Risk Report (AMEC 2012b).





#### 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Avian Community

A total of 121 bird species were observed within the LSA during the various wildlife surveys conducted in June and July (103 species were observed within the proposed mine footprint and 62 species were observed along the proposed transmission line corridor). Of the 121 bird species, 114 are suspected to be nesting within the LSA. The breeding bird point count surveys recorded 115 different species which are listed in order from most common to least common in Table 2.

TABLE 2
MOST COMMON BIRD SPECIES TALLIED DURING 2012 BREEDING BIRD POINT COUNTS

Common Name	Latin Name	Probability of Occurrence*	Average Maximum Occurrence**
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	0.798	1.769
Nashville Warbler	Oreothlypis ruficapilla	0.702	1.337
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	0.702	1.337
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	0.692	1.26
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	0.577	0.875
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	0.577	0.74
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	0.538	0.904
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	0.500	0.779
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata	0.481	0.625
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	0.452	0.769
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica	0.452	0.635
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	0.394	0.548
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	0.385	0.51
Mourning Warbler	Oporornis Philadelphia	0.279	0.394
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	0.269	0.413
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	0.26	0.394
Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga magnolia	0.25	0.337
American Goldfinch	Carduelis tristis	0.24	0.327
Common Raven	Corvus corax	0.231	0.337
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	0.231	0.327
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	0.221	0.413
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga virens	0.212	0.356
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	0.192	0.356
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	0.192	0.24
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	0.183	0.394
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus	0.183	0.221
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	0.173	0.202
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago delicata	0.173	0.183
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	0.163	0.356
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	0.163	0.25
Clay-colored Sparrow	Spizella pallid	0.135	0.337





		Probability	Average	
Common Name	Latin Name	of	Maximum	
		Occurrence*	Occurrence**	
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	0.125	0.356	
Sandhill Crane	Grus canadensis	0.125	0.221	
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	0.106	0.115	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata	0.106	0.115	
Northern Parula	Setophaga americana	0.096	0.154	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	0.096	0.135	
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	0.096	0.135	
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitaries	0.087	0.115	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	0.087	0.115	
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	0.087	0.115	
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	0.087	0.106	
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus	0.087	0.087	
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	0.087	0.087	
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	0.087	0.087	
Black-billed Magpie	Pica pica	0.077	0.173	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens	0.077	0.096	
Common Loon	Gavia immer	0.077	0.087	
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	0.077	0.087	
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	0.077	0.077	
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	0.067	0.087	
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	0.058	0.317	
Pine Siskin	Carduelis pinus	0.058	0.231	
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus platensis	0.058	0.077	
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	0.058	0.077	
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens	0.058	0.058	
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	0.048	0.106	
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	0.048	0.087	
Le Conte's Sparrow	Ammodrammus	0.048	0.067	
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	0.048	0.058	
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca	0.048	0.048	
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	0.048	0.048	
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	0.048	0.048	
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	0.038	0.135	
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	0.038	0.087	
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum	0.038	0.067	
Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis	0.038	0.048	
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	0.038	0.048	
Woodpecker sp	_	0.038	0.048	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	0.038	0.048	
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon	0.038	0.038	
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	0.038	0.038	
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	0.029	0.067	
Connecticut Warbler	Opornis agilis	0.029	0.038	
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	0.029	0.029	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga caerulescens	0.029	0.029	
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	0.029	0.029	





Common Name	Latin Name	Probability of Occurrence*	Average Maximum Occurrence**
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	0.029	0.029
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus buccinator	0.019	0.135
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus	0.019	0.077
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	0.019	0.029
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus	0.019	0.029
Black-backed Woodpecker	Picoides arcticus	0.019	0.019
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	0.019	0.019
Brown Creeper	Certhia americana	0.019	0.019
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	0.019	0.019
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	0.019	0.019
Purple Finch	Carpodacus purpureus	0.019	0.019
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	0.019	0.019
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus	0.019	0.019
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	0.019	0.019
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia leucoptera	0.019	0.019
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla	0.019	0.019
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	0.019	0.019
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	0.01	0.048
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus	0.01	0.029
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	0.01	0.019
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	0.01	0.019
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	0.01	0.019
Tennessee Warbler	Oreothlypis peregrina	0.01	0.019
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	0.01	0.01
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Picoides tridactylus	0.01	0.01
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	0.01	0.01
Barred Owl	Strix varia	0.01	0.01
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonica	0.01	0.01
Cape May Warbler	Setophaga tigrina	0.01	0.01
Common Merganser	Mergus merganser	0.01	0.01
Gray Jay	Perisoreus canadensis	0.01	0.01
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus	0.01	0.01
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	0.01	0.01
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus borealis	0.01	0.01
Pine Warbler	Setophaga pinus	0.01	0.01
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	0.01	0.01
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Tympanuchus phasianellus	0.01	0.01
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	0.01	0.01

<sup>\*</sup> Probability of Occurrence represents the total number of point count stations at which a species was observed divided by the total number of point count stations surveyed

The avian species diversity and population densities found within the LSA reflect the area's mosaic of mixed, deciduous-dominated forest, shrubby wetlands, and open field habitats.



<sup>\*\*</sup> Average Maximum Occurrence represents the total of the highest number of individuals observed at each point count divided by the total number of point counts surveyed.



Nine provincially and/or federally listed avian SAR species were observed in the LSA during the 2012 surveys and these are presented and discussed in the 2012 Species at Risk Report (AMEC 2012b).

#### 4.1.1 Forest Bird Species

Approximately half of the LSA is covered by poplar-dominated forest (Figure 8) and thus the area supports a wide variety of forest-dwelling species. Twenty-six Area-Sensitive species of birds were recorded in the 2012 surveys and 20 of these were forest-dwelling species. Among the most numerous forest-dwelling bird species recorded during breeding bird counts were species such as the White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Nashville Warbler (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), and Redeyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Areas of coniferous forest and bog present within the LSA supported boreal species such as the Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*) Connecticut Warbler (*Oporonis agilis*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), and LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). These results are consistent with the most frequently observed forest birds reported by Klohn Crippen Berger (2011) and AMEC (2011a).

Most forest-breeding species observed have extensive Canadian breeding ranges that extend from eastern Canada, across the boreal zone, and into western Canada. The Eastern Woodpewee (*Contopus virens*) was an observed forest-dwelling species occurring at the northern edge of its North American range.

Three species of forest-dwelling owls were recorded during the 2012 owls surveys: a Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), and a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) were all recorded in the vicinity of the proposed Transmission Line Corridor.

#### 4.1.2 Grassland and Open Country Bird Species

Pasture and agricultural lands cover approximately 17% of the LSA (Figure 8) and the following grassland and open country bird species were recorded in these fields: Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Clay-coloured Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), Bobolink and Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*).

Grassland and open country species at the northern edge of their North American range included Golden-winged Warbler and Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*), Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) and Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus campestris*) are prairie species whose Ontario population is concentrated wholly or in part in the Rainy River area. The Black-billed Magpie's breeding range in Ontario is restricted to the districts of Kenora and Rainy River. This species was commonly observed in agricultural lands close to anthropogenic features. The Prairie subspecies of the Sharp-tailed Grouse exists as two disjunctive populations in Ontario: one





Rainy River population and one population along the North Shore of Lake Huron. The *T. p. campestris* subspecies originated in the prairies and only occupies open plain and farmland habitats, and occupies different ecological and geographical niches than the Northern subspecies, *T. p. phasianellus* (Cadman et al. 2007). Brewer's Blackbird also occupies only two population centres in Ontario, one of which occurs in the Rainy River area and the other along the north shore of Lake Huron extending south into the Bruce Peninsula.

#### 4.1.3 Wetland Bird Species

Wetlands cover approximately 25% of the LSA (Figure 8) and include riparian wetlands, meadow marshes, treed and open fens, and bogs. The most common wetland species recorded included Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza Georgiana*) and Wilson's Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*). These species are common residents of riparian wetlands which bordered a great proportion of both woodlands and open country within the study area and were thus well represented during breeding bird surveys.

Colony-nesting swamp species that were recorded included Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), though no heronries were found in the LSA. Open water breeding species recorded included American White Pelican, Herring Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) and Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). These species are wide-ranging in their search of food and will use the area for foraging. Colonies of these species are known to occur on Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, Kakagi Lake and other large lakes in the Rainy River District, yet no suitable breeding habitat occurs within the LSA.

Waterfowl were not readily observed in the study area, though five species were recorded which included Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). All four species nest in or near swamps or wooded ponds which are common in the study area. Canada Geese were most often observed near ponds in agricultural fields or pasture. Wood Ducks nest in tree cavities. The breeding bird atlas indicates that a small Trumpeter Swan breeding population exists in the Rainy River area and it is one of only four breeding populations in Ontario for this species.

Marsh bird species observed included American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosis*) and American White Pelicans. American Bittern was commonly encountered within the LSA and was recorded during breeding bird, nocturnal bird, and amphibian surveys. American White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) were observed flying over the LSA numerous times in 2012 (typically in flocks of 5 to 20 birds) and 4 individuals were observed on a small marsh north of Teeple Road.

#### 4.2 Amphibians

Only four amphibian species were recorded within the LSA during the designated amphibian surveys (Table 3): Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris* 





maculata), American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) and Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*). However, three more species were recorded opportunistically during other wildlife surveys (i.e., during breeding bird surveys and/or owl surveys): Northern Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*), Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) and Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvatica*). No salamander species were observed.

TABLE 3
ABUNDANCE RANK AND FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF AMPHIBIAN SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE 2012 AMPHIBIAN SURVEYS (N = 51 AMPHIBIAN SURVEY STATIONS)

Species	Abundance Rank	Probability of Occurrence*
Gray Treefrog	1	0.5
American Toad	2	0.04
Spring Peeper	3	0.04
Boreal Chorus Frog	4	0.02

<sup>\* =</sup> Probability of Occurrence represents the total number of survey stations at which a species was observed divided by the total number of stations surveyed.

#### 4.3 Mammals (Incidental Observations)

A total of nine mammalian species were recorded within the LSA (listed in Appendix A). White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were commonly observed throughout the LSA as were their tracks and droppings, indicating a high level of local habitat use by this species. Aerial surveys recorded deer wherever a mosaic of agricultural and forested lands was found. White-tailed Deer was the only cervid species recorded during 2012 studies in region where Moose (*Alces alces*) and Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) may also occur.

In 1998 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources created The Plan for the Restoration of Elk in Ontario and between 1998 and 2001, 443 Elk were released at four sites across Ontario including Cameron Lake near Lake of the Woods (the other three sites included French River, Bancroft and the north shore of Lake Huron). The Cameron Lake region was within the historic range of Ontario's Elk population and was considered by the MNR to continue to provide suitable elk habitat. The Cameron Lake Elk population was been continually monitored by the MNR since their reintroduction and unfortunately the population has suffered high mortality rates due to wolf predation and poaching by hunters. The MNR estimates that there are currently 28 Elk located between Cameron Lake and Barwick, near Rainy River. No Elk have been observed within the RRGP study area during the 2008 – 2012 RRGP environmental studies.

Evidence of Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity such as dams, lodges, and chewed stumps were widespread throughout the LSA. Aerial surveys in April 2012 recorded at least one beaver lodge in most marshes in the LSA. High prevalence of beaver suggests this species exerts a strong ecological influence on wildlife diversity in the LSA through the modification of numerous and widespread marsh habitats in the region.





Three commercial traplines overlap with the LSA and fur returns for these traplines between 1993 to 2008 include Beaver, Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*), American Marten (*Martes americana*), Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and American Mink (*Mustela vison*). A number of other small mammal species are also likely to be present in the LSA but small mammal trapping studies were not conducted.

American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) was occasionally observed over the course of the 2012 field studies. Bears were seen along access roads in proximity to the proposed transmission lines.

#### 4.4 Reptiles (Incidental Observations)

The baseline surveys recorded two reptile species: Eastern Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) and Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*).

#### 4.5 Invertebrates (Incidental Observations)

The baseline surveys recorded ten dragonfly and damselfly species, and 27 butterfly species (Appendix A).

#### 4.6 Vegetation and Habitat Classification

The Project site is located in a low density rural area within which some agricultural (focused on cattle and fodder cropping) and logging activities occur. Adjacent areas show mainly second growth poplar-dominated forests and wetlands. Lands in the immediate Project site vicinity are typically gently rolling to flat, with forested wetlands occurring in low-lying areas, and rounded bedrock outcrops and subcrops occurring in upland areas, and some of the area has been cleared for agricultural development. Local drainage systems are characterized by numerous small creeks draining to the Pinewood River, which drains most of the Project site area. Portions of the natural drainage systems have been altered near the RRGP site through the development of agricultural drains, road development and ongoing beaver activities. Area creeks are also small and frequently intermittent in nature. There are no lakes within the immediate RRGP site area except along the LSA transmission line corridor.

A total of 252 vascular plant species were observed in the LSA (Appendix B). The majority (85%) of these species are provincially ranked as S5 (Secure) and globally ranked as G5 (Very Common). Approximately 15% of the recorded species are exotic weeds typically associated with pastureland, roadsides and other disturbed habitats..





#### 4.6.1 Vegetation Community Mapping

Ground-truthing surveys determined that the existing MNR FRI classifications and polygon boundaries are accurate and require only a few minor adjustments. The FRI data shown in Figure 8 illustrates the general mosaic of habitat types located in the LSA. Some minor discrepancies in the FRI classification were discovered during the ground-truthing surveys but these discrepancies were deemed to be insignificant to the overall LSA description. For example, Larch (*Larix laricina*) communities were, on rare occasions, incorrectly identified as Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja* occidentalis) communities, however, both may represent coniferous treed wetland habitats. Similarly, a few White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) communities were classified as Eastern White Cedar communities, both of which may represent upland forest communities. Photographs of FRI communities visited are found in Appendix C.

The most frequently occurring vegetation community types include: "Poplar – Regular" (37% cover), "Black Spruce – Regular" (12% cover), "Poplar – Barren and Scattered" (10% cove), and "Designated Agricultural Land" (8% cover).

"Poplar – Regular" communities are dominated by Trembling Aspen with an understory of Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*), raspberry species (*Rubus* spp.), and other deciduous shrubs. The ground layer is most commonly dominated by typical hardwood forest species such as Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) and White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*). "Poplar – Barren and Scattered" communities are those which tend to be younger and regenerating, or those which include pockets of exposed bedrock which is a limiting factor to their frequency and size.

Rocky outcrops were commonly encountered within parts of the northeastern portion of the LSA. These communities are typically dominated by pine species (*Pinus* spp.) and/or spruce species (*Picea* spp.). They have typically been described in the FRI classification system as "Jack Pine – Regular" and "Jack Pine – Barren and Scattered". The herbaceous layer of these communities includes Large-leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophyllus*), Pale Corydalis (*Corydalis flavula*), Blueberry species (*Vaccinium* spp.), and Fringed Black Bindweed (*Polygonum cilinode*).

"Cedar – Regular" communities are dominated by Eastern White Cedar and can be found in association with either upland forests or lowland swamp habitats. Those communities which occur on higher ground tend to be dry, dominated by needle litter, and deficient in understory species diversity. In those cedar stands occurring in wet lowland areas Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) is common in the understory while the ground cover layer includes wetlands species such as Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*). Other treed wetland communities were dominated by either Larch (classified as "Larch – Regular") or Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) (classified as "Black Spruce – Regular"). *Sphagnum* mosses are abundant in these latter two communities as are low lying shrubs such as Labrador Tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) and occasionally Dwarf Birch (*Betula pumila*).





"Treed Muskeg" and "Open Muskeg" communities were also recorded in the LSA. "Treed Muskeg" communities consist of shrub species such as Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*) and willow species (*Salix* spp.) are often found as thickets along the peripheries of wetlands and "Open Muskeg" communities. "Open Muskeg" communities are predominantly comprised of grass species such as Canada Blue-joint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and various sedge species (*Carex* spp.), as well as Common Cattail (*Typha latifolia*).

Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) and White Elm (*Ulmus americana*) were occasionally recorded within the habitat polygons but they were not common enough to be individually mapped as their own communities.

Active and fallow agricultural fields are common throughout the proposed Project area, particularly in the southwest portion of the LSA. These fields tend to be dominated be non-native grasses and herbs such as Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Smooth Brome (*Bromus inermis*) and clovers (e.g., Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*).

#### 4.6.2 Plant Species at Risk and Provincially Rare Species

No plant SAR or rare plant species were observed within the LSA during the 2012 vegetation surveys. KCB (2011) observed two provincially rare species within the LSA during the 2009 to 2010 vegetation surveys. The New England Violet (*Viola novae-angliae*), provincially ranked as S3 (Vulnerable) was observed at three locations in the LSA and the Field Sedge, also ranked as S3 (Vulnerable), was observed at two locations (Figure 13.7 in KCB 2011). These two species are not considered Threatened or Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) and therefore are not afforded protection under Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA). The New England Violet occurs in rock outcrops, meadows and grassy lake terraces, and may be distinguished from other violets on the basis of leaf shape and dentation (Coffin and Pfannmuller 1988). The Field Sedge is known to occur in moist meadows and prairies, or on sandy or gravelly beaches near the normal water line of lakes and ponds. This species flowers four to six weeks after the recession of spring water levels, typically in late June (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2012).

A review of existing literature and the MNR's NHIC database revealed that approximately 90 provincially rare plant species (provincially ranked as S1: Critically Imperiled, S2: Imperiled, or S3: Vulnerable) occur in the Rainy River area (Oldham and Brinker 2009, MNR 2012). However, most of these species are associated with the shorelines of Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake and Rainy River which are outside of the LSA, or with prairie and savannah habitats which do not occur within the LSA. Two other provincially rare plant species listed in the MNR's NHIC database were historically known to occur in the LSA (NHIC 10 x 10 km square codes: 15VQ20, 15VQ21, 15VQ31). Muskroot (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Eastern Swamp Saxifrage (*Micranthes pensylvanica*) are both provincially ranked as S1 (Critically Imperiled) but have not been recorded in the area since 1946 and 1961, respectively. Neither of these species were observed during AMEC's 2012 vegetation surveys nor during surveys conducted by KCB in 2009 to 2010.





Muskroot grows in moist, rich hardwood forests. It flowers in the spring season (April to May) though its distinctive foliage may persist until late summer (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2012). The Eastern Swamp Saxifrage grows in swamp and marsh habitats and blooms in May and June (Michigan Flora Online 2011).

The MNR's NHIC database does not list any rare plant communities within the LSA (MNR 2012) and none were recorded during the baseline surveys.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The primary objective of the 2012 Terrestrial Baseline Study was to conduct plant and wildlife surveys in Project component areas that were not yet mapped when previous baseline surveys were conducted, in order to more fully compile species inventory lists and characterize existing site conditions.

A total of 121 bird species were observed within or adjacent to the LSA in the June and July surveys. Point count surveys recorded a total of 103 species within the proposed mine footprint and 62 species along the proposed transmission line corridor. Of these 121 bird species, 114 are suspected to be nesting within the study area. This relatively high level of avian species diversity reflects the LSA's mosaic of mixed, deciduous-dominated forest, shrubby wetlands, and open field habitats. Of the 121 bird species were observed within the LSA, nine are provincially and/or federally listed SAR species (including three *Species of Special Concern*, and six *Threatened* species). These are presented and discussed in the 2012 Species at Risk Report (AMEC 2012b).

The vast majority of the species observed in the LSA are migratory species and therefore, compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA 1994), regulations and guidelines for vegetation clearing, as recommended by Environment Canada, needs to be considered during the project's construction and operation phases. In order to minimize the potential for incidental take of any nesting migratory birds, clearing of vegetation and any proposed work activities in migratory bird habitat should be undertaken outside of the active breeding season. Clearing is generally to be avoided from mid-May to August 1. If clearing (or other work) in migratory bird habitat is required during the nesting season, a nest survey should be conducted by a qualified avian biologist immediately (i.e., within two days) prior to commencement of the works to identify and locate active nests of species covered by the MBCA. An adaptive mitigation plan (which may include establishing appropriate buffers around active nests) should then be developed to address any potential impacts on migratory birds or their active nests, and should be reviewed by Environment Canada prior to implementation.

Six amphibian species were recorded within the LSA and none of these are considered SAR. The six species recorded were American Toad, Northern Green Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Spring Peeper, Tetraploid Gray Treefrog, and Wood Frog. No salamander species were





observed. The baseline surveys also recorded 10 mammalian species, 2 reptile species, 10 dragonfly and damselfly species, and 27 butterfly species (all listed in Appendix A).

A total of 252 vascular plant species were observed in the LSA (Appendix B). The majority of these species (85%) are provincially ranked as S5 (Secure) and globally ranked as G5 (Very Common). Approximately 15% of the recorded species are exotic weeds typically associated with pastureland, roadsides and other disturbed habitats.

#### 6.0 REFERENCES

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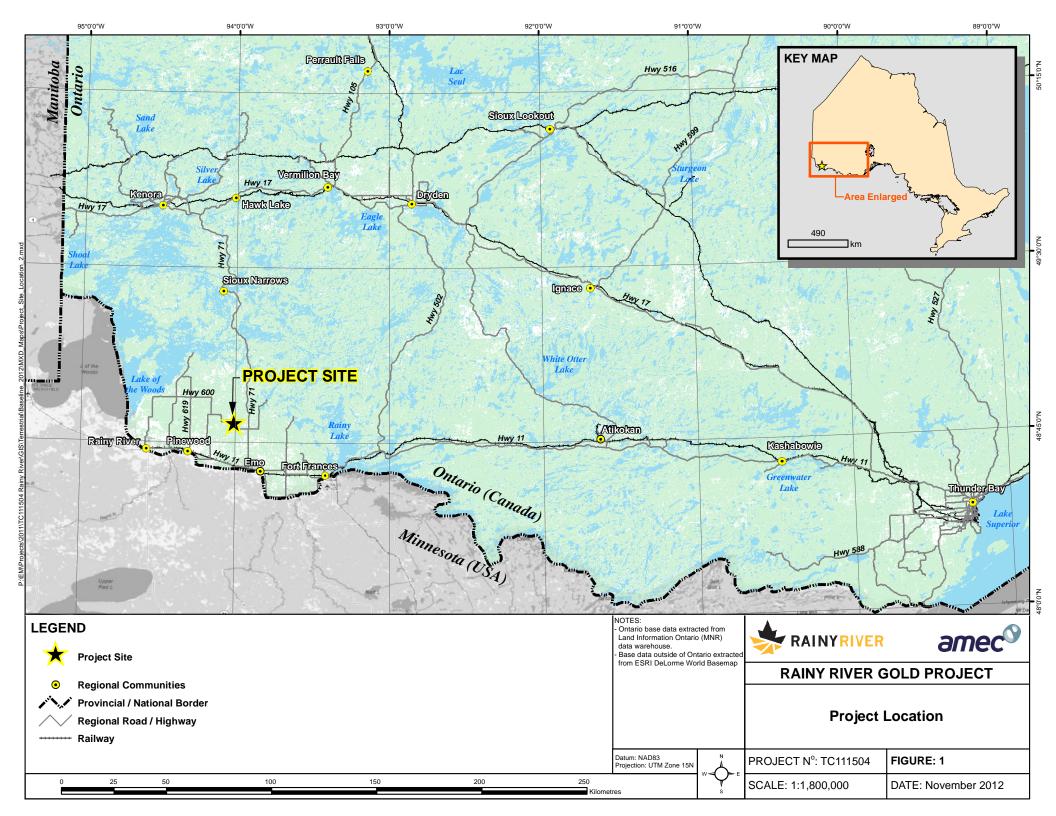


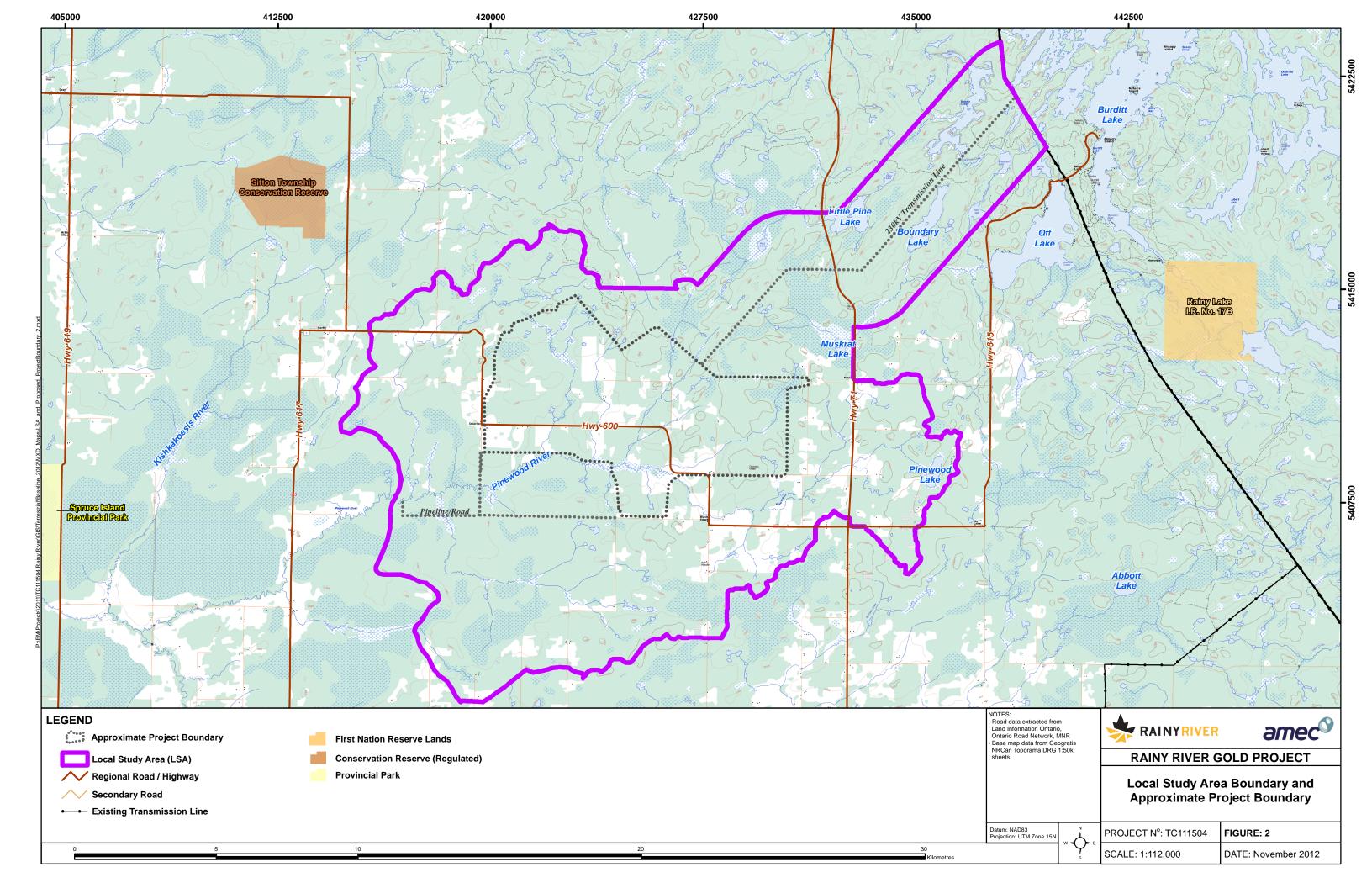


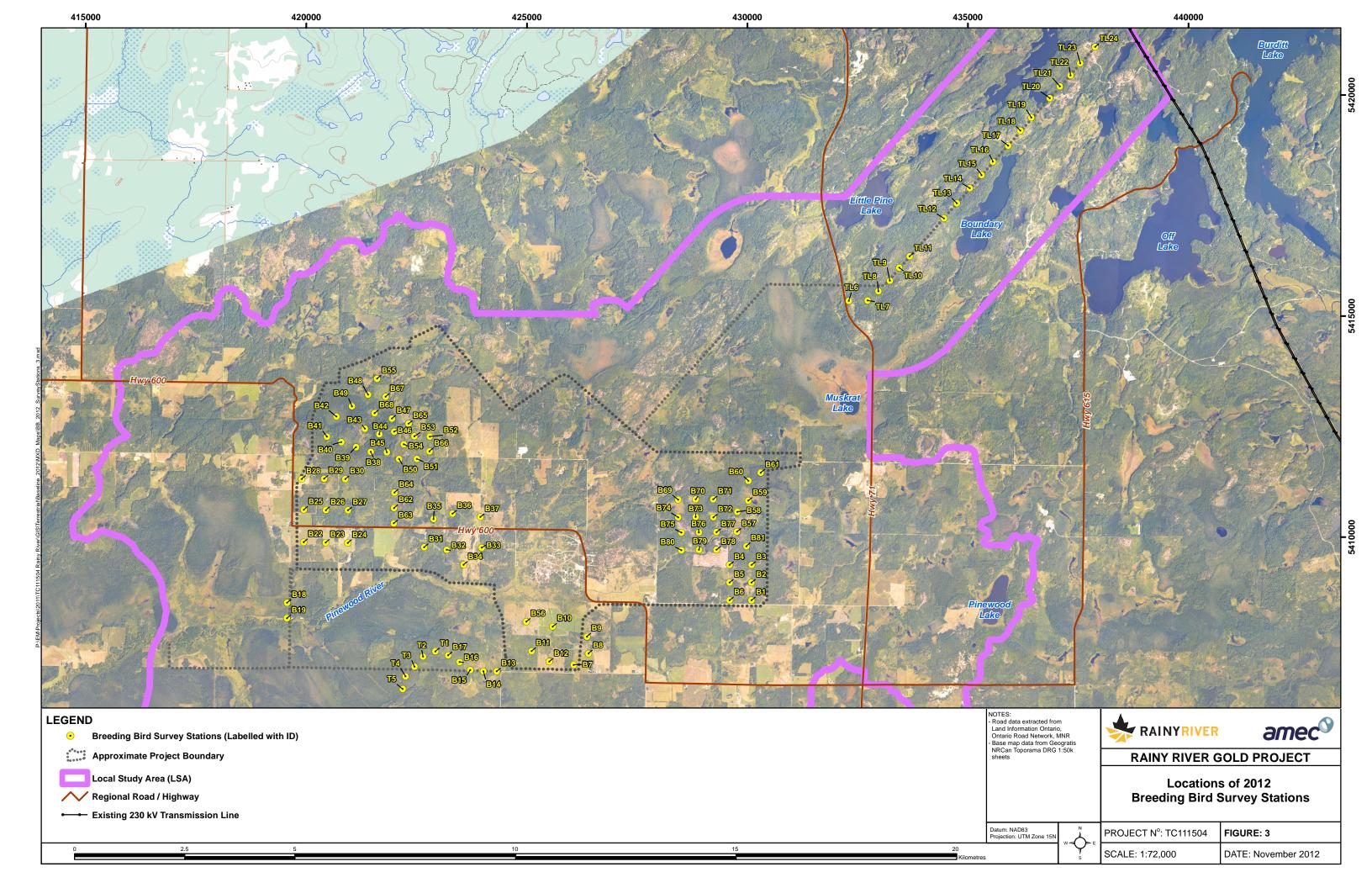
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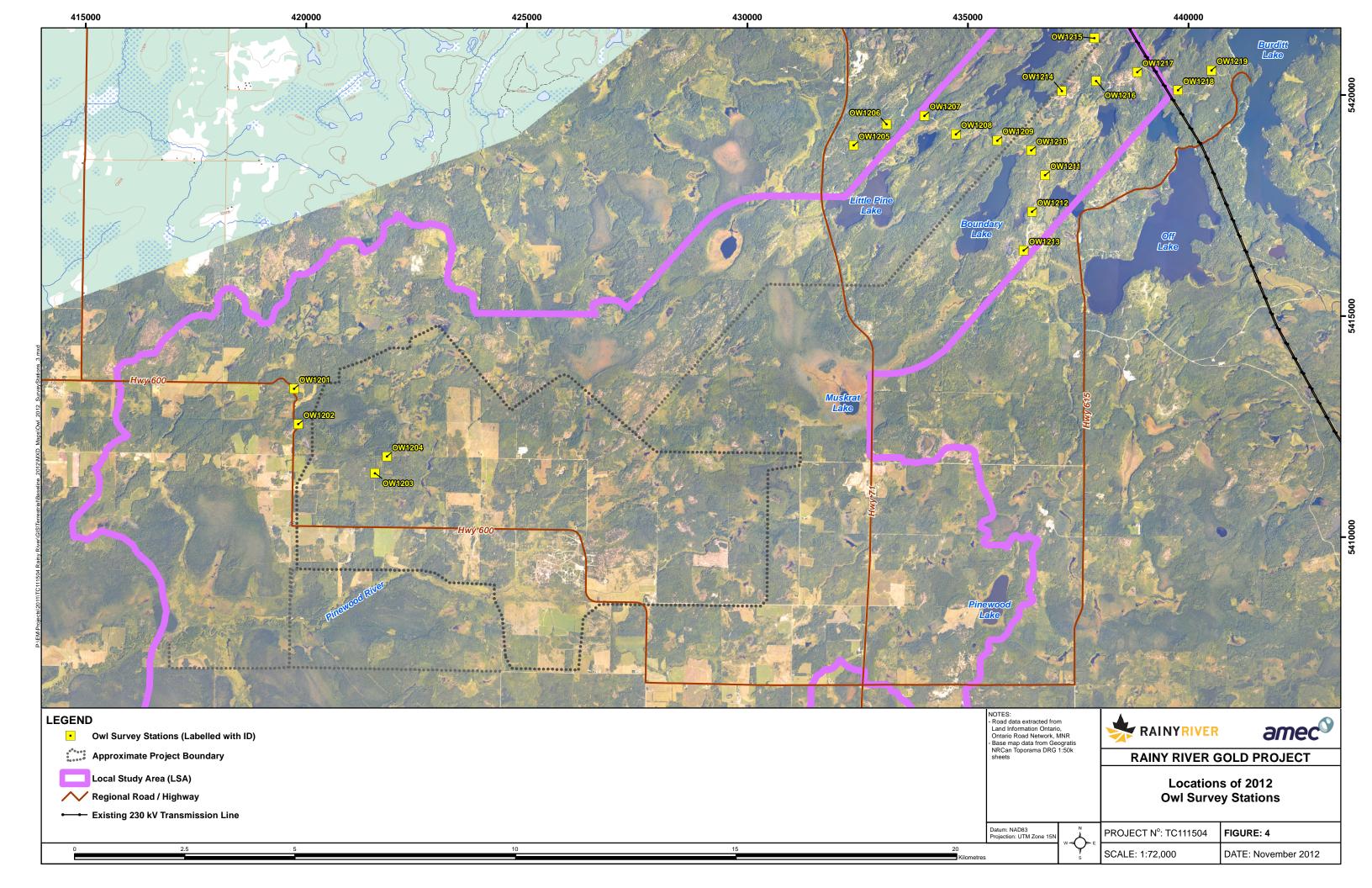
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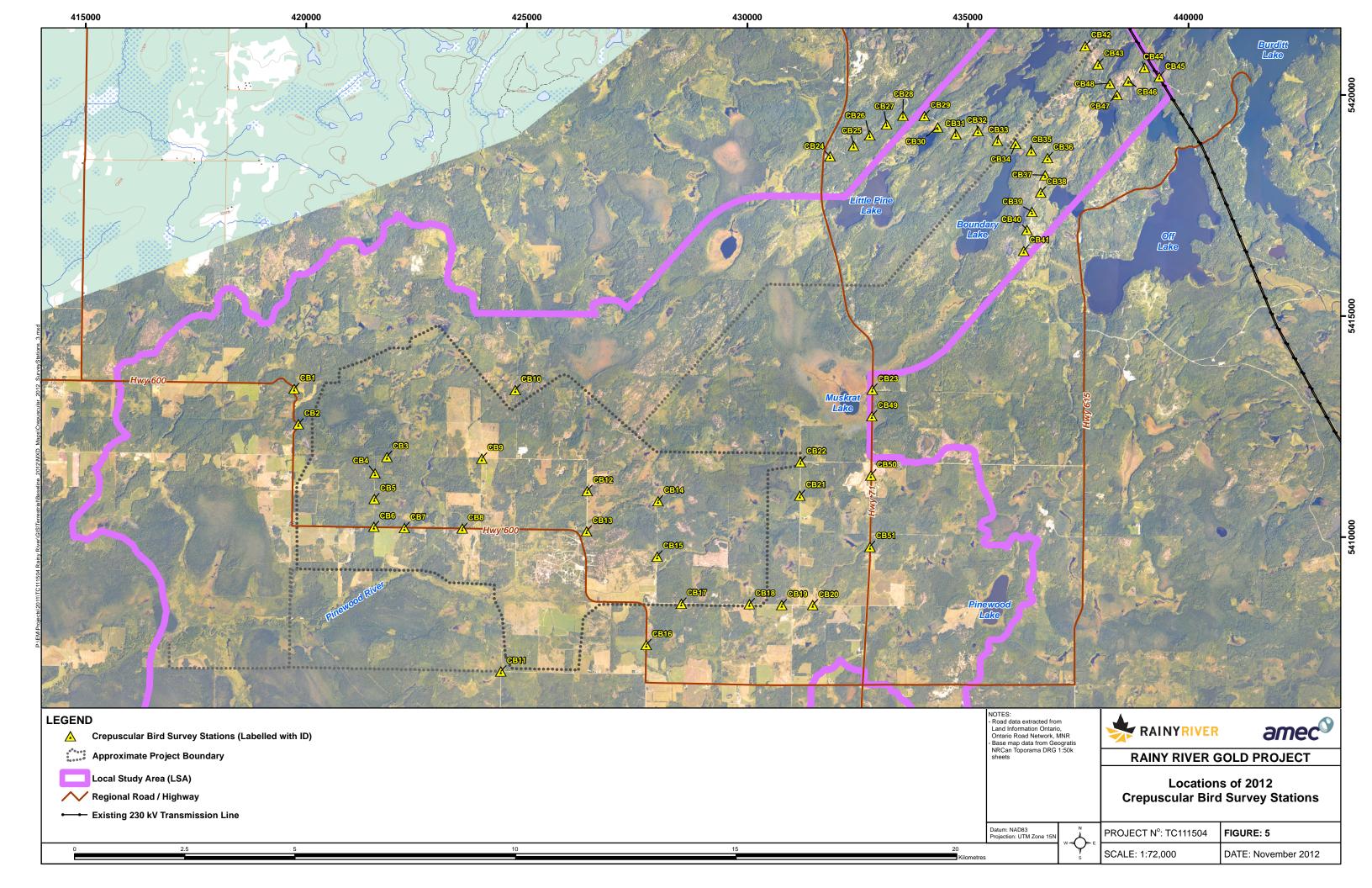


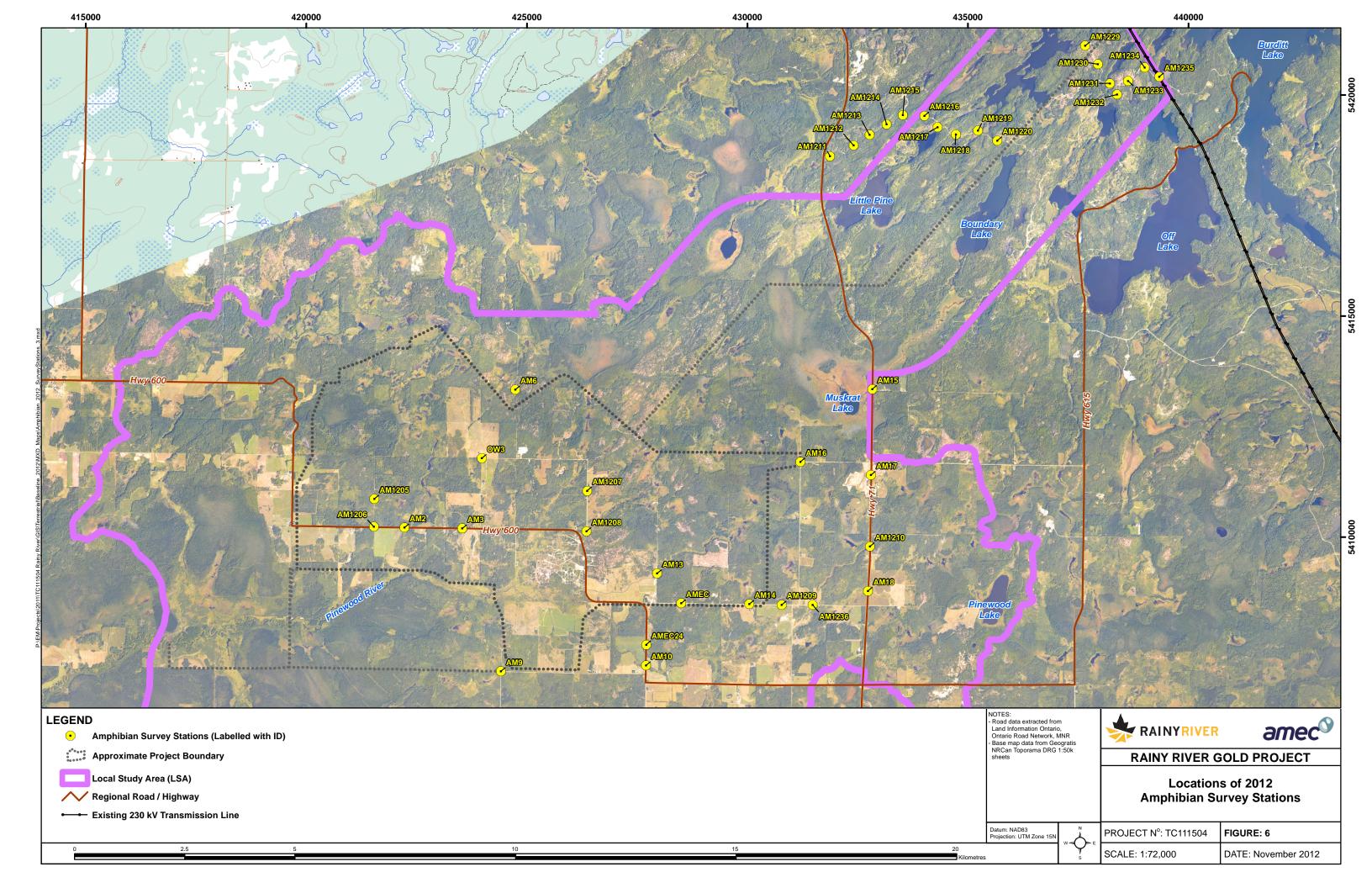


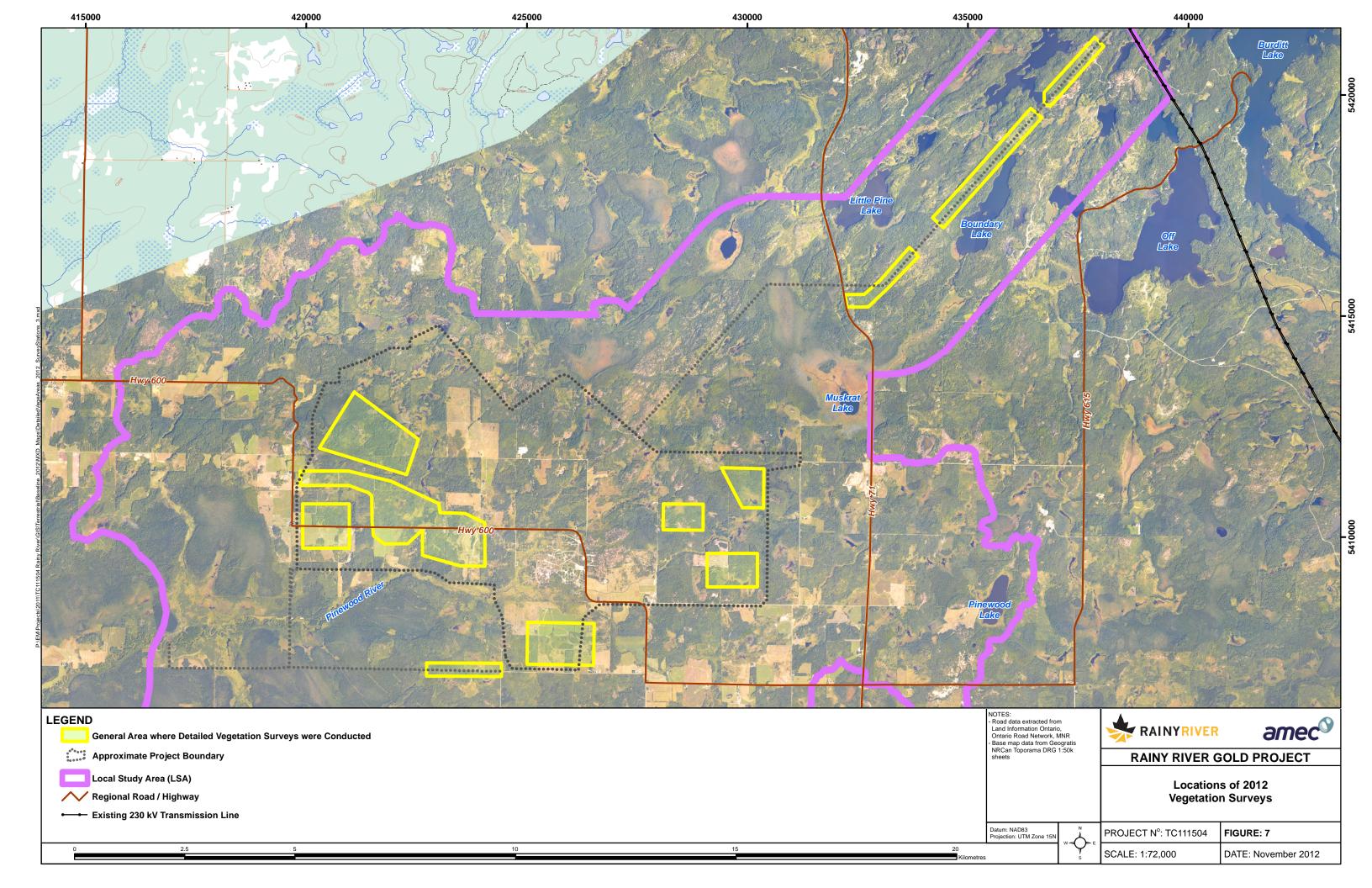


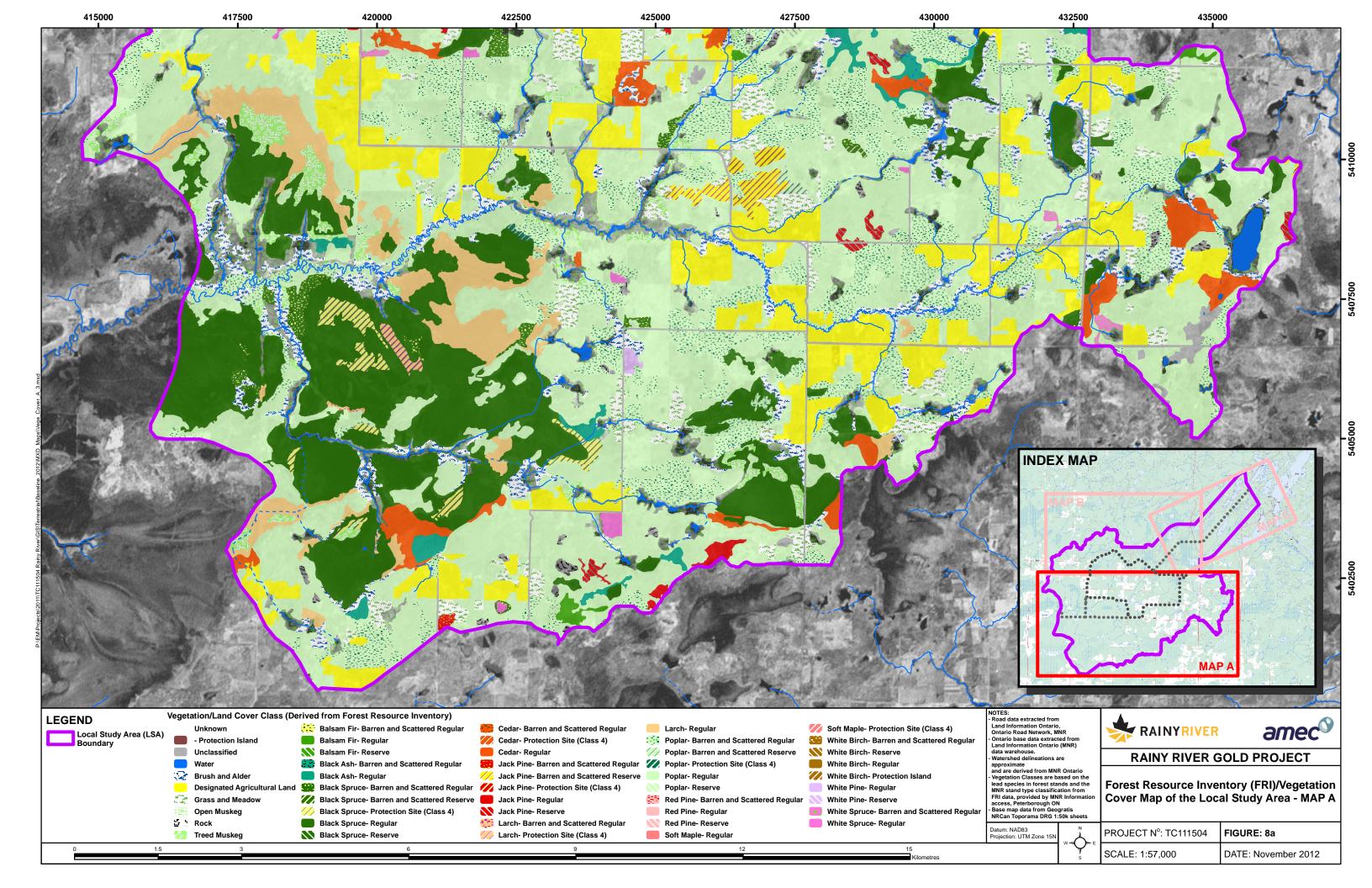


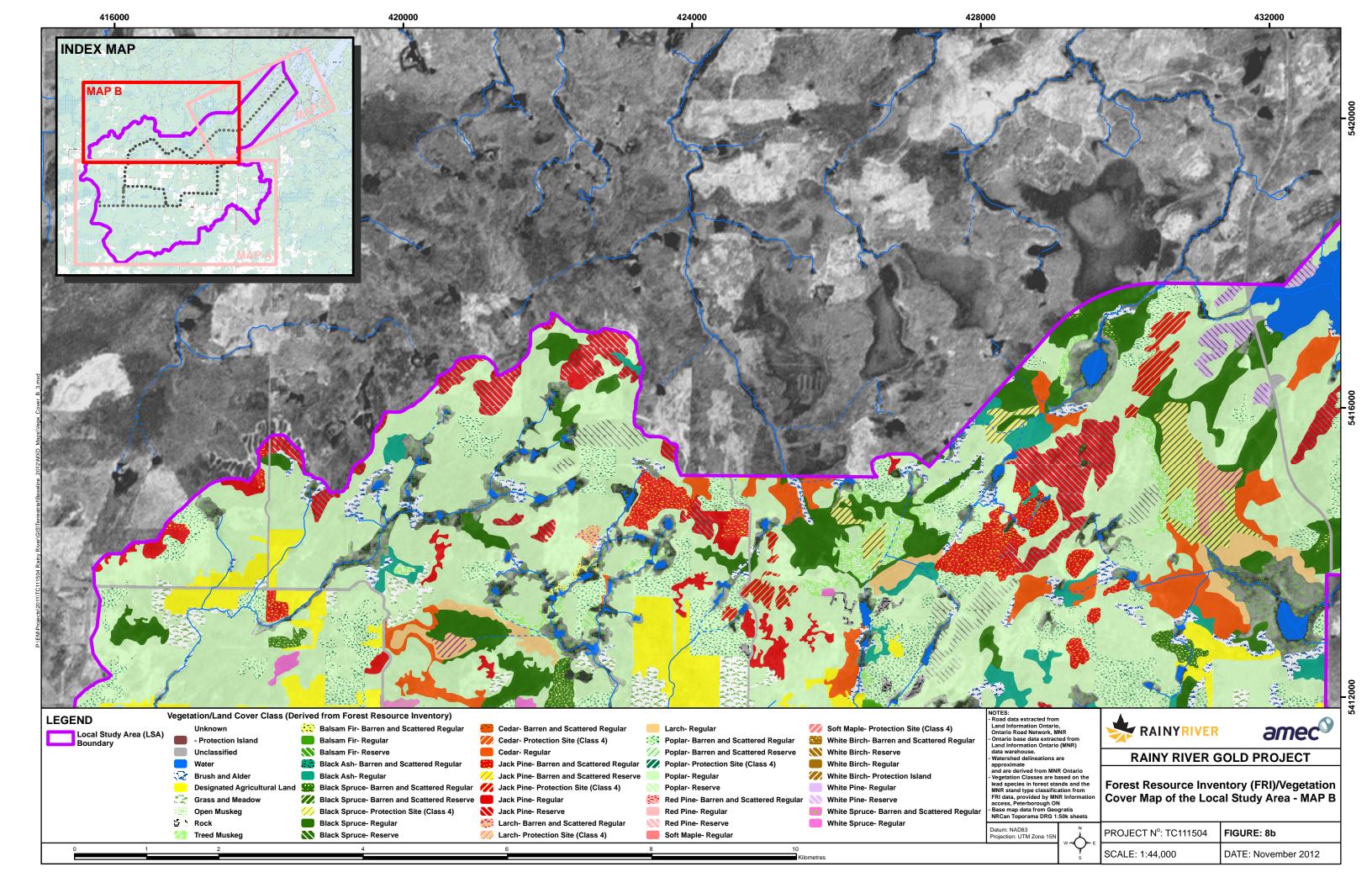


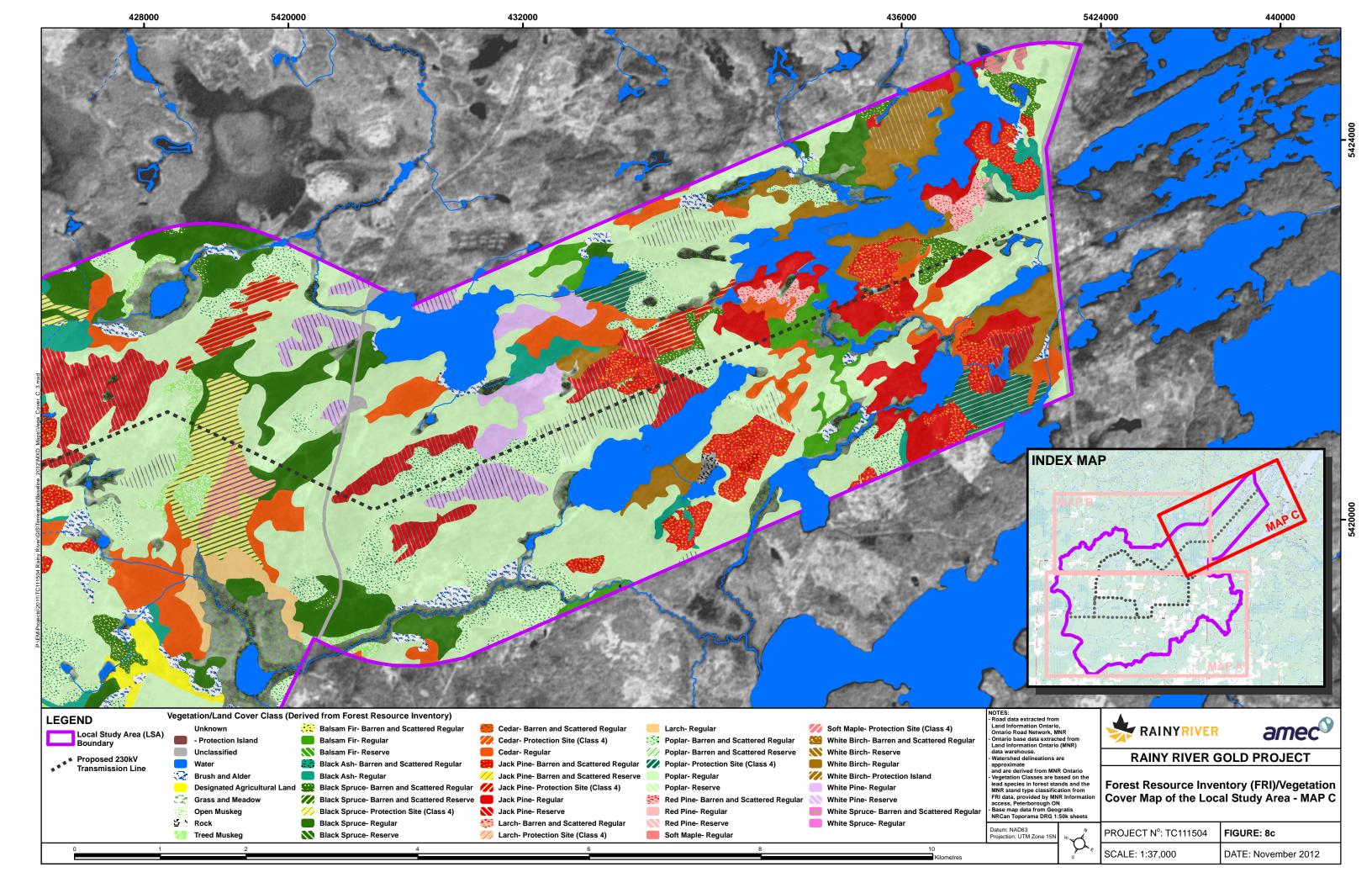














# APPENDIX A WILDLIFE SPECIES LIST





# Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
MAMMALS				
Beaver	Castor canadensis			S5
Black Bear	Ursus americanus	NAR	NAR	S5
Eastern Chipmunk	Tamias striatus			S5
Little Brown Bat	Myotis lucifugus			S5
Red Squirrel	Tamiasciurus hudsonicus			S5
Snowshoe Hare	Lepus americanus			S5
Striped Skunk	Mephitis mephitis			S5
White-tailed Deer	Odocoileus virginianus			S5
Wolf	Canus lupus			S5
Woodchuck	Marmota monax			S5
BIRDS				
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum			S5B
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			S4B
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos			S5B
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis			S5B
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius			S5
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla			S5B
American Robin	Turdus migratorius			S5B
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Picoides dorsalis			S4
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	NAR	THR	S2B
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor			S5N
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	NAR	SC	S4
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula			S4B
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	THR	THR	S4B
Barred Owl	Strix varia			S4S5
Belted Kingfisher	Ceryle alcyon			S4B
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia			S5B
Black-backed Woodpecker	Picoides arcticus			S4B
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus			S5B
Black-billed Magpie	Pica pica			S3?
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca			S5B
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus			S5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga caerulescens			S5B
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga virens			S5B
Blue Jay	Cyanocitta cristata			S5B



# Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius			S5B
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	THR	THR	S4B
Boreal Chickadee	Poecile hudsonica			S5
Brewer's Blackbird	Euphagus cyanocephalus			S4B
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus			S5
Brown Creeper	Certhia americana			S5B
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum			S4B
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater			S4B
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis			S5B
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	THR	SC	S4B
Cape May Warbler	Setophaga tigrina			S5B
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum			S5B
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica			S5B
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina			S5B
Clay-coloured Sparrow	Spizella pallida			S4B
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula			S5
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula			S5B
Common Loon	Gavia immer	NAR	NAR	S5B, S5N
Common Merganser	Mergus merganser			S5B, S5N
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	THR	SC	S4B
Common Raven	Corvus corax			S5B
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas			S5B
Conneticut Warbler	Oporornis agilis			S4B
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis			S5B
Downy Woodpecker	Picoides pubescens			S5B
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus			S4B
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe			S5B
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Antrostomus vociferus	THR	THR	S4B
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Contopus virens			S4B
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris			SNA
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus			S4B
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa			S5B
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	THR	SC	S4B
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis			S4B
Gray Jay	Perisoreus canadensis			S5B
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias			S5



#### Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus			S4B
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus			S5
Hairy Woodpecker	Picoides villosus			S5B
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus			S5B
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus			S5B
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon			S5B
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea			S4B
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus			S5B
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus			S4B
LeConte's Sparrow	Ammodramus leconteii			S4B
Long-eared Owl	Asio otus			S4
Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga magnolia			S5B
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos			S5
Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis philadelphia			S4B
Nashville Warbler	Oreothlypis ruficapilla			S5B
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus			S4B
Northern Parula	Setophaga americana			S4B
Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis			S5B
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus borealis	THR	SC	S4B
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla			S4B
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum			S5B
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus			S5B
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus			S5
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus			S5B
Pine Warbler	Setophaga pinus			S5B
Purple Finch	Haemorhous purpureus			S5B
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra			S4B
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis			S5
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus			S5B
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus			S4
Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis			S5B
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus Iudovicianus			S4B
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula			S4B
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris			S5B
Ruffed Grouse	Bonasa umbellus			S5B
Sandhill Crane	Grus canadensis	NAR	NAR	S5B



#### Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis			S4B
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea			S4B
Sedge Wren	Cistothorus platensis	NAR	NAR	S4B
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	NAR	NAR	S5
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Tympanuchus phasianellus			S4
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia			S5B
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus			S4B
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana			S5B
Tennessee Warbler	Oreothlypis peregrina			S5B
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor			S4B
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus buccinator	NAR	NAR	S4
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura			S5B
Veery	Catharus fuscescens			S4B
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus			S5B
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis			S5B
White-winged Crossbill	Loxia leucoptera			S5B
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago delicata			S5B
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla			S4B
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes			S5B
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa			S5B
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina			S4B
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia			S5B
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris			S5B
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius			S5B
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata			S5B
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons			S4B
REPTILES				
Eastern Gartersnake	Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis			S5
Western Painted Turtle	Chrysemys picta bellii			S5
MPHIBIANS				
American Toad	Anaxyrus americanus			S5
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata			S5
Northern Green Frog	Lithobates clamitans			S5
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens	NAR	NAR	S5
Spring Peeper	Pseudacris crucifer			S5
Tetraploid Gray Treefrog	Hyla versicolor			S5



#### Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
Wood Frog	Lithobates sylvatica			<b>S</b> 5
BUTTERFLIES				
American Painted Lady	Vanessa virginiensis			S5
Atlantis Fritillary	Speyeria atlantis			S5
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail	Papilio canadensis			S5
Clouded Sulphur	Colias philodice			S5
Common Wood-Nymph	Cercyonis pegala			S5
European Skipper	Thymelicus lineola			SE
Great Spangled Fritillary	Speyeria cybele			S5
Grey Comma	Polygonia progne			S5
Harris' Checkerspot	Chlosyne harrisii			S4
Harvester	Feniseca tarquinius			S4
Hoary Comma	Polygonia gracilis			S4
Little Wood-Satyr	Megisto cymela			S5
Meadow Fritillary	Boloria bellona			S5
Milbert's Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis milberti			S5
Monarch	Danaus plexippus	SC		S2N, S4B
Mourning Cloak	Nymphalis antiopa			S5
Mustard White	Pieris oleracea			S4
Northern Cloudy Wing	Thorybes pylades			S5
Northern Crescent	Phycoides pascoensis			S5
Northern Pearly Eye	Enodia anthedon			S4
Orange Sulphur	Colias eurytheme			S5
Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui			S5
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta			S5
Silver-bordered Fritillary	Boloria selene			S5
Tawny Crescent	Phyciodes batesii			S4
Variegated Fritillary	Euptoieta claudia			SNA
White Admiral	Limenitis arthemis			S5
ODONATA				
Belted Whiteface	Leucorrhinia proxima			S5
Canada Darner	Aeshna canadensis			S5
Chalk-fronted Corporal	Ladona julia			S5
Dot-tailed Whiteface	Leucorrhinia intacta			S5
Four-spotted Skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata			S5
Frosted Whiteface	Leucorrhinia frigida			S5



## Appendix A 2012 Wildlife Species List

Common Name	Latin Name	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Provincial S-Rank (NHIC)
Hudsonian Whiteface	Leucorrhinia hudsonica			S5
Lilypad Clubtail	Arigomphus furcifer			S3
River Jewelwing	Calopteryx aequabilis			S5
Saffron-bordered Meadowhawk	Sympetrum costiferum			S4

#### \*\*\*Provincial S-RANK (NHIC)

S1 Critically Imperiled

S2 Imperiled

S3 Vulnerable

S4 Apparently Secure

S5 Secure

S? Not Ranked Yet: if follow a rank, Rank Uncertain

SNR Unranked
SNA Not Applicable
NAR Not at Risk
SC Special Concern
THR Threatened
B Breeding
N Nonbreeding



## APPENDIX B

**PLANT SPECIES LIST** 





Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
HERBACEOUS FLO	WERING SPECIES								
Agrimony	Agrimonia gryposepala	2	2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Agrimony Woodland	Agrimonia striata	-	-	S4?	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Alfalfa	Medicago sativa ssp. sativa	-	5	SE5	-	-	G?T?	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Anemone Canada	Anemone canadensis	3	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Aster Hairy	Symphyotrichum pilosum var. pilosum	4	2	S5	-	-	G5T5	-	-
Aster Heart-leaved	Symphyotrichum cordifolium	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Aster Large-leaved	Eurybia macrophyllus	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Avens White	Geum canadense	3	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Avens Yellow	Geum aleppicum var. strictum	2	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Baneberry sp.	Actaea sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barren Strawberry	Waldsteinia fragarioides	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bedstraw Marsh	Galium palustre	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bedstraw Northern	Galium boreale	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bedstraw Rough	Galium asprellum	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Bellwort Sessile- leaved	Uvularia sessilifolia	7	1	S4	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Birds-foot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	-	1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Bishop's-cap Naked	Mitella nuda	6	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Black Medic	Medicago lupulina	-	1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Bloodroot	Sanguinaria canadensis	5	4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bluebells Northern	Mertensia paniculata	-	-	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Blue-eyed Grass Strict	Sisyrinchium montanum	4	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Blueflag	Iris versicolor	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bog-orchid Northern	Platanthera hyperborea	-	-	S4	-	-	-	-	-
Boneset Common	Eupatorium perfoliatum	2	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bugleweed Northern	Lycopus uniflorus	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Burdock Common	Arctium minus ssp. minus	-	-	SNA	-	-	GNRTNR	-	-
Buttercup Bristly	Ranunculus hispidus var. hispidus	8	0	S3	-	-	G5T5	-	-
Buttercup Tall	Rananculus acris	-	-2	SNA	-	-	G5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Campion White	Lychnis alba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catnip	Nepeta cataria	-	1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Cattail Common	Typha latifolia	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Chickweed Common Mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum	-	3	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Cinquefoil Marsh	Comarum palustre	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cinquefoil Rough- fruited	Potentilla recta	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Clintonia	Clintonia bporealis	7	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Clover Red	Trifolium pratense	-	2	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	5	1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Comandra Northern	Geocaulon lividum	0	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Corydalis Pale	Corydalis flavula	7	5	S5	-	-	G4G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cow-parsnip	Heracleum maximum	3	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cow-wheat American	Melampyrum lineare	6	1	S4S5			G5	SECURE	SECURE
Crane's-bill Bicknell Northern	Geranium bicknelli	5	5	S4	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Daisy Ox-eye	Leucanthemum vulgare	-	-	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Dandelion Common	Taraxacum officinale	-	3	SNA	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Dock Curly	Rumex crispus	-	-1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Dogbane Spreading	Apocynum androsaemifolium ssp. androsaemifolium	3	5	<b>S</b> 5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Enchanter's Nightshade	Circaea quadrisulcata	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evening Primrose Common	Oenothera biennis	0	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Everlasting Pearly	Anaphalis margaritacea	3	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fleabane Daisy	Erigeron strigosus	0	1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fleabane Philadelphia	Erigeron philadelphicus	1	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Gentian Spurred	Halenia deflexa	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Goldenrod Marsh	Solidago uliginosa	9	-5	S5	-	-	G4G5	SECURE	SECURE
Goldenrod Tall	Solidago altissima var. altissima	-	-	S4?	-	-	-	-	-
Goldthread	Coptos trifolia ssp. groenlandica	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia	7	1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Hawksbeard Narrow-leaf	Crepis tectorum	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Hawkweed Orange	Hieracium aurantiacum	-	-	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Hedge-nettle Marsh	Stachys palustris	-	-5	SNA	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Hempnettle Bristle- stem	Galeopsis tetrahit	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Herb-robert	Geranium robertianum	-	5	SNA	-	-	G5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Indian-paintbrush Scarlet	Castilleja coccinea	9	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Arisaema triphyllum ssp. triphyllum	5	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Jewel-weed Spotted	Impatienscapensis	4	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Joe-pye-weed Spotted	Eupatroium maculatum spp. maculatum	-	-	S5	-	-	G5TNR	-	-
Lady's-slipper Pink	Cypripedium acaule	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Lady's-slipper Showy	Cypripedium reginae	7	-4	S4	-	-	G4	SECURE	SECURE
Lady's-slipper Yellow Large	Cypripedium parviflorum var. pubescens	5	-1	S5	-	-	G5T5	-	-
Lettuce Prickly	Lactuca serriola	-	0	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Lobelia Great Blue	Lobelia siphilitica	6	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Loosestrife Fringed	Lysimachia ciliata	4	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Loosestrife Tufted	Lysimachia thyrsiflora	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Mandarin Yellow	Disporum Ianuginosum	8	5	S4	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Marsh Marigold	Caltha palustris	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Meadow-rue Tall	Thalictrum pubescens	5	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Mustard Tower	Arabis glabra	4	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Nettle Stinging	Urtica dioica ssp. gracilis	2	-1	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Nettle Tall	Urtica procera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nettle Wood	Laportea canadensis	6	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Nodding Trillium	Rilliuum cemuum	8	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Penny-cress Field	Thlaspi arvense	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Pineapple-weed	Chamomilla sauveolens	-	-	SNA	-	-	G5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Pipsissewa	Chimaphila umbellata spp. cisatlantica	8	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Plantain Common	Plantago major	-	-1	SNA	-	-	G5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Poison Ivy	Toxicodenron radicans ssp. negundo	5	-1	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Ragwort Balsam	Senecio pauperculus	7	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Rattlesnake-plantain Dwarf	Goodyera repens	8	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Rattlesnake-root White	Prenanthes alba	6	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Rose Twisted Stalk	Streptopus roseus	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sarsaparilla Bristly	Aralia hispida	8	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sarsaparilla Wild	Aralia nudicaulis	4	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Self-heal	Prunella vulgaris ssp. Lanceolata	5	5	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Shephard's Purse Common	Capsella bursa- pastoris	-	1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Skullcap Hooded	Scutellaria galericulata	6	-5	S5	-,	-,	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Snakeroot Black	Sanicula marilandica	5	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Snakeroot White	Ageratina altissima var. altissima	5	3	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Solomon's Seal Three-leaf	Maianthemum trifolium	10	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sorrel Sheep	Rumex acetosella spp. acetosella	-	-	SE	-	-	-	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Star-flower	Trientalis borealis ssp. borealis	6	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Stitchwort Chickweed	Stellaria media ssp. pallida	-	-	SNA	-	-	GNRTNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Stitchwort Longleaf	Stellaria longifolia	2	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Strawberry Wild	Fragaria virginiana	2	1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Strawberry Woodland	Fragaria vesca ssp. americana	4	4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sweet- clover White	Melilotus alba	-	3	SNA	-	-	G5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Sweet-cicely Hairy	Osmorhiza claytonii	5	4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sweet-coltsfoot Arrow-leaved	Petasites sagittatus	-	-	S5	-	-	G5	-	-
Sweet-coltsfoot Northern	Petasites frigidus	8	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Tansy Common	Tanacetum vulgare	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Thistle Bull	Cirsium vulgare	-	4	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Thistle Canada	Cirsium arvense	-	3	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Vetch Cow	Vicia cracca	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Vetchling Peavine	Lathyrus palustris	6	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Violet Kidney-leaf	Viola renifolia	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Violet sp.	Viola sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Viper's-bugloss Common	Echium vulgare	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Water-parsnip Hemlock	Sium suave	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Water-plantain Common	Alisma plantago- aquatica	-	-	S4?	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Carrot	Daucus corata	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC



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Wild-ginger Canada	Asarum canadense	6	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Wild-lily-of-the- valley	Maianthemum canadense	5	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Wintergreen Pink	Pyrola asarifolia	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Yarrow Common	Achillea millefolium var. millefolium	-	3	SNA	-	-	G5T5?	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
GRASSES, SEDGES	AND RUSHES								
Blue-joint Canada	Calamagrostis canadensis	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Brome-grass Smooth	Bromus inermis ssp. inermis	-	5	SNA	-	-	G5TNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Grass Orchard	Dactlylis glomerata	-	3	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Grass Rough Hair	Agrostis scabra	0	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Awned	Carex atherodes	6	-5	S4S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Bebb's	Carex bebbii	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Bladder	Carex intumescens	6	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Blunt Broom	Carex tribuloides	5	-4	S4S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Chestnut- colored	Carex castanea	7	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Fox	Carex vulpinoidea	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Fringed	Carex crinita	6	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Graceful	Carex gracillima	4	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Hop	Carex lupulina	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Lake-bank	Carex lacustris	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



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Sedge Mud	Carex limosa	10	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Rosy	Carex rosea	-	-	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Sallow	Carex lurida	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Slender	Carex lasiocarpa	8	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Slender	Carex tenera	4	-1	S4S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Stalk-grain	Carex stipata	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Stellate	Carex radiata	4	5	S4	-	-	G4	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Tussock	Carex stricta	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Water	Carex aquatilis	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Grass Poverty Oat	Danthonia spicata	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Sedge Three-way	Dulichium arundinaceum	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Spike-rush Blunt	Eleocharis obtusa	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Grass Quack	Elymus repens	-	3	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Cotton- grassTussock	Eriophorum vaginatum	10	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cottongrass Green Keeled	Eriophorum viridicarinatum	9	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Mannagrass American	Glyceria grandis	5	-5	S4S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Manna-grass Fowl	Glyceria striata var. stricta	-	-	S4S5	-	-	G5T5	-	-
Rush Canada	Juncus canadensis	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



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Rush Soft	Juncus effuses spp. solutus	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Rush Path	Juncus tenuis	0	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Grass Reed-canary	Phalaris arundinacea	0	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Timothy	Phleum pratense	-	3	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Bluegrass Canada	Poa compressa	0	2	SNA	-	-	GNR	SECURE	SECURE
Bluegrass Fowl	Poa palustris	5	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bluegrass Kentucky	Poa pratensis spp. pratensis	0	2	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Bulrush Black	Scirpus atrovirens	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5?	SECURE	SECURE
Wool-grass	Scirpus cyperinus	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bulrush sp.	Scirpus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cattail Common	Typha latifolia	3	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
AQUATIC PLANTS	•		•	•	1	•	•		
Arrowhead Broadleaf	Sagittaria latifolia	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Calla Wild	Calla palustris	8	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Coontail Hornwort	Ceratophyllum demersum	4	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Duckweed Great	Spirodela polyrihiza	-	-	S5	-	-	G5	-	-
Lesser duckweed	Lemna minor	2	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Pondweed Floating- leaf	Potamogeton natans	5	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



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Yellow Cowlily	Nuphar lutea ssp. variegata	-	-	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
FERNS AND ALLIES	S		•		•		•	•	
Clubmoss Stiff	Lycopodium annotinum	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Clubmoss Tree	Lycopodium obscurum	6	3	S4	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fern Bracken	Pteridium aquilinum	2	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fern Interrupted	Osmunda claytoniana	7	-1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fern Ostrich	Matteuccia struthiopteris var. pensylvanica	5	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fern Rattlesnake	Botrychium virginianum	5	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fern Sensitive	Onoclea sensibilis	4	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Horsetail Field	Equisetum arvense	0	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Horsetail Water	Equisitum fluviatile	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Pine Running	Lycopodium clavatum	6	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Polypody Rock	Polypodium virginianum	6	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Spleenwort Maidenhair	Asplenium trichomanes spp. trichomanes	8	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Wood Fern Crested	Dryopteris criststa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Fern sp.	Dryopteris sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Fern Spinulose	Dryopteris carthusiana	5	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Woodsia Rusty	Woodsia ilvensis	8	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
VINES	1	l							
Bindweed Field	Convolvulus arvensis	-	5	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Bindweed Fringed Black	Polygonum cilinode	2	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Fir Balsam	Abies balsamea	5	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Honeysuckle Fly	Lonicera canadensis	6	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Honeysuckle Hairy	Lonicera hirsuta	7	0	S5	-	-	G4G5	SECURE	SECURE
Virginia Creeper	Parthenocissus quinquefolia	6	1	S4?	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
CONIFEROUS TREE	S AND SHRUBS		1			1			
Cedar Eastern White	Thuja occidentalis	4	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Hemlock Eastern	Tsuga canadensis	7	3	S5	-	-	G4G5	SECURE	SECURE
Juniper Common	Juniperus communis	4	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Larch	Larix laricina	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Pine Eastern White	Pinus strobus	4	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Pine Jack	Pinus banksiana	9	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Pine Red	Pinus resinosa	8	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Spruce Black	Picea mariana	8	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Spruce White	Picea glauca	6	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
DECIDUOUS SHRUE	BS								
Alder Speckled	Alnus incana ssp. rugosa	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Arrow-wood Downy	Viburnum rafinesquianum	7	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Birch Dwarf	Betula pumila	9	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Blackberry Allegheny	Rubus allegheniensis	2	2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Blueberry Late Low- bush	Vaccinium angustifolium	6	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Blueberry Velvetleaf	Vaccinium myrtilloides	7	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Buckthorn Alder- leaved	Rhamnus alnifolia	7	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Buckthorn sp.	Rhamnus sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bunchberry	Cornus canadensis	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Bush-honeysuckle Northern	Diervilla lonicera	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cherry Choke	Prunus virginiana ssp. Virginiana	2	1	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Cloudberry	Rubus chamaemorus	-	-	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Cranberry High- bush	Viburnum opulus var. americanum	5	-3	S5	-	-	G5T5	SECURE	SECURE
Cranberry Large	Vaccinium macrocarpon	10	-5	S4S5	-	-	G4	SECURE	SECURE
Cranberry Small	Vaccinium oxyoccos	10	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Creeping Snowberry	Gaultheria hispidula	8	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Currant Bristly Black	Ribes lacustre	7	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Currant Northern Wild Black	Ribes hudsonianum	8	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Currant Swamp Red	Ribes triste	6	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Dogwood Grey	Cornus foemina ssp.racemosa	2	-2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Dogwood Red-osier	Cornus sericea	5	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Dogwood Round- leaved	Cornus rugosa	6	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Gooseberry Prickly	Ribes cynosbati	4	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Hazel Beaked	Corylus cornuta	5	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Huckleberry Dwarf	Vaccinium caespitosum	-	-	S4?	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Labrador Tea	Ledum groenlandicum	9	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Leatherleaf	Chamaedaphne calyculata	9	-5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Maple Mountain	Acer spicatum	6	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Meadow-sweet Narrow-leaved	Spiraea alba	3	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Mountain-ash Northern	Sorbus decora	8	3	S5	-	-	G4G5	SECURE	SECURE
Raspberry Common Red	Rubus idaeus ssp. Idaeus	-	-	SE1	-	-	G5T5	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Raspberry Dwarf (Catherinettes Berry)	Rubus pubescens	4	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Rose Prickly Wild	Rosa acicularis	7	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Rosemary Bog	Andromeda polifolia var. glaucophylla	-	-	S5	-	-	G5T5	-	-
Serviceberry sp.	Amelanchier sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sumac Smooth	Rhus glabra	1	5	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Twinflower	Linnaea borealis	7	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Willow Crack	Salix fragilis	-	-1	SNA	-	-	GNR	EXOTIC	EXOTIC
Willow Meadow	Salix petiolaris	3	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Willow Shining	Salix lucida	5	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Willow sp.	Salix sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DECIDUOUS TREES		•							
Ash Black	Fraxinus nigra	7	-4	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE



Common Name	Latin Name	Coefficient of Conservatism*	Wetness Index**	Provincial S-RANK*** (NHIC)	Federal COSEWIC Status	Provincial SARO Status	Global G-RANK ****	Ontario General Status	Canada General Status
Aspen Large-tooth	Populus grandifolia	5	3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Aspen Trembling	Populus tremuloides	2	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Birch White	Betula papyrifera	2	2	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Elm White	Ulmus americana	3	-2	S5	-	-	G5?	SECURE	SECURE
Maple Red	Acer rubrum	4	0	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE
Poplar Balsam	Populus balsamea	4	-3	S5	-	-	G5	SECURE	SECURE

Reference: Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). 2012. Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). Accessed July, 2012 from https://www.biodiversityexplorer.mnr.gov.on.ca/.

Total Species: 252 Species; Native Species: 214 (85%); Exotic Species: 38 (15%).

\*Coefficient of Conservatism: Values for range from 0 for extremely weedy species, to 10 for those species which exhibit a marked fidelity to specialized habitats. Plants found in a wide variety of plant communities, including disturbed sites, are ranked 0 to 3. Taxa that typically are associated with a specific plant community, but tolerate moderate disturbance, are assigned ranks of 4 to 6. Rankings of 7 to 8 apply to those taxa associated with a plant community in an advanced successional stage that has undergone minor disturbance. Those plants with high degrees of fidelity to a narrow range of synecological parameters are assigned a value of 9 to 10.

\*\*Wetness Index: The "+" sign denotes that the species generally has a greater estimated probability of occurring in uplands. The "-" sign denotes that the species generally has a lesser estimated probability of occurring in wetlands. A value of -5 is assigned to obligate wetland species and a value of 5 to obligate upland species.

#### \*\*\*Provincial S-RANK (NHIC)

S1 Critically Imperiled

S2 Imperiled

S3 Vulnerable

S4 Apparently Secure

S5 Secure

S? Not Ranked Yet: if follow a rank, Rank Uncertain

SNR Unranked

SNA Not Applicable

#### \*\*\*\*Global G-RANK

G1 Extremely rare

Rainy River Gold Project 2012 Terrestrial Baseline Investigation Report December 2012



#### Appendix B 2012 Plant Species List

G2 Very rare

G3 Rare to Uncommon

G4 Common G5 Very common

T# Rank applies to a subspecies or variety (# corresponds to GRANK)
G? Unranked or tentatively assigned rank (if placed after a ranking)

GNR Unranked GNA Not Applicable



#### **APPENDIX C**

PHOTOS OF SOME REPRESENTATIVE HABITAT TYPES PRESENT IN THE LSA





# Appendix C Photographs of Vegetation Communities



Photo 1: "Poplar Regular" community with dense shrub and ground cover layer.



Photo 2: "Jack Pine – Barren, Scattered" community typical of rock outcrops.



# Appendix C Photographs of Vegetation Communities



Photo 3: "Cedar Regular" community found in both upland and wetland habitat.



Photo 4: Typical "Open Muskeg" community containing grasses, sedges, and cattails. Often bordered by a Willow Thicket "Treed Muskeg".



# Appendix C Photographs of Vegetation Communities



Photo 5: Less common "Black Spruce Regular" bog with Labrador Tea understory.

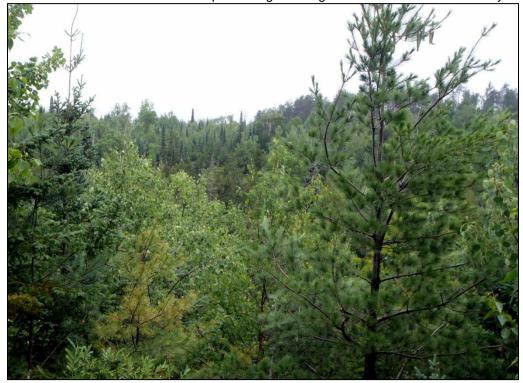


Photo 6: Typical forest community along the transmission line route, "Jack Pine – Barren, Scattered" rock community pockets interspersed within a Poplar communities, often associated with coniferous species.