

FINAL REPORT
PINEHOUSE DIPPER TRADITIONAL USE STUDY

January 2003

Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary	1
2.0	Introduction	3
3.0	Methodology	6
4.0	Findings/Summary of Community/Regional Level Data	11
4.1	Regional Level Traditional Use Activity Map	17
4.1.1	Regional Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	18
4.1.2	Regional Hunting & Big Game Calving Areas	19
4.1.3	Regional Water Fowl Hunting & Nesting Areas	20
4.1.4	Regional Gathering Activities	21
4.1.5	Regional Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial & Burial Sites	22
4.1.6	Regional Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	23
4.2	Beauval Community Level Traditional Use Activity Map	24
4.2.1	Beauval – Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	25
4.2.2	Beauval – Hunting and Big game calving Areas	26
4.2.3	Beauval – Water Fowl, Bird Nesting and Special Areas	27
4.2.4	Beauval – Gather Activities	28
4.2.5	Beauval – Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial & Burial Sites	29
4.2.6	Beauval – Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	30
4.3	Ile-a-la-Crosse Community Level Traditional Use Activity Map	31
4.3.1	Ile-a-la-Crosee – Trapping Fishing Spawning Areas	32
4.3.2	Ile-a-la-Crosse – Hunting & Big Game Calving Areas	33
4.3.3	Ile-a-la-Crosse – Water Fowl, Bird Nesting Areas	34
4.3.4	Ile-a-la-Crosse – Gathering Activities	35
	Ile-a-la-Crosse – Family Camping, Historic Settlements Ceremonial & Burial Sites	36
4.3.5	Ile-a-la-Crosse – Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	37
4.4	Patuanak/English River First Nation Community Level Traditional Use Map	38
4.4.1	Patuanak – Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	39
4.4.2	Patuanak – Hunting and Big Game Calving Areas	40

4.4.3	Patuanak – Gathering Activities	41
4.4.4	Patuanak – Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial & Burial Sites	42
4.4.5	Patuanak – Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	43
4.5	Pinehouse Community Level Traditional Use Map	44
4.5.1	Pinehouse – Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	45
4.5.2	Pinehouse - Hunting and Big Game Caving Areas	46
4.5.3	Pinehouse – Water Fowl, Bird Nesting and Special Areas	47
4.5.4	Pinehouse - Gathering Activities	48
4.5.5	Pinehouse – Family Camping, Historic Settlement, Ceremonial & Burial Sites Map	49
4.5.6	Pinehouse – Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	50
5.0	Other Documentation	51
6.0	Conclusions	52
7.0	Recommendations	55
8.0	Considerations for Conducting Future Traditional Use Studies	56
9.0	Budget Summary	58
10.0	Acknowledgements	59
11.0.	Appendix I:	
	- Interview Questionnaire	
	- Informed Consent Form	
	- Data Collection Standards and Processing Procedures	
	- Interview Checklist	
	- Data Collection Sheet: Unique Identifiers	
	- Regional Land Use Planning Board Terms of Reference	
	- Incorporating Traditional Use Studies in Land Use Planning: A Proposed Approach by the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board. March 2001.	
12.0	Appendix II:	
	- Interview Transcripts (unpublished in Public copies)	
13.0	Appendix III:	
	- Digital Images from Public Consultation	I
	Open Houses	
	- Beauval	I
	- Ile-a-la-Crosse	V
	- Patuanak/English River First Nation	IX
	- Pinehouse	XIV

List of Figures

	Page
Figure 1 – Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Area	5
Figure 2 – Regional Level Traditional Use Map	17
Figure 3 – Regional Trapping, Fishing & Spawning Areas	18
Figure 4 – Regional Big Game Hunting & Calving Areas	19
Figure 5 – Regional Water Fowl Hunting & Nesting Areas	20
Figure 6 – Regional Gathering Activities	21
Figure 7 – Regional Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial & Burial Sites	22
Figure 8 – Regional Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	23
Figure 9 – Beauval Community Level Traditional Use Map	24
Figure 10 – Beauval Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	25
Figure 11 – Beauval Hunting (Big Game), Calving Areas	26
Figure 12 – Beauval Water Fowl, Bird Nesting & Special Areas	27
Figure 13 – Beauval Gathering Activities (Food, Berries, Medicinal)	28
Figure 14 – Beauval Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial and Burial Sites	29
Figure 15 – Beauval Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	30
Figure 16 – Ile-a-la-Crosse Community Level Traditional Use Map	31
Figure 17 – Ile-a-la-Crosse Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	32
Figure 18 – Ile-a-la-Crosse Hunting (Big Game), Calving Areas	33
Figure 19 – Ile-a-la-Crosse Water Fowl, Bird Nesting and Special Areas	34

Figure 20 – Ile-a-la-Crosse	Gathering Activities (food, Berries, Medicinal)	35
Figure 21 – Ile-a-la-Crosse	Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial and Burial Sites	36
Figure 22 – Ile-a-la-Crosse	Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	37
Figure 23 -	Patuanak/English River First Nation Community Level Traditional Use Map	38
Figure 24 – Patuanak	Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	39
Figure 25 – Patuanak	Hunting (Big game), Calving Areas	40
Figure 26 – Patuanak	Gathering Activities (Food, Berries, Medicinal)	42
Figure 27 – Patuanak	Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial and Burial Sites	43
Figure 28 – Patuanak	Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	44
Figure 29 –	Pinehouse Community Level Traditional Use Map	45
Figure 30 – Pinehouse	Trapping, Fishing, Spawning Areas	46
Figure 31 – Pinehouse	Hunting (Big game), Calving Areas	47
Figure 32 – Pinehouse	Water Fowl, Bird Nesting and Special Areas	48
Figure 33 – Pinehouse	Gathering Activities (Food, Berries, Medicinal)	49
Figure 34 – Pinehouse	Family Camping, Historic Settlements, Ceremonial and Burial Sites	50
Figure 35 – Pinehouse	Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	51
Figures 36 - 39	Beauval: Digital Images from Public Consultation Open House, December 3, 2002	I - IV
Figures 40 - 43	Ile-a-la-Crosse: Digital Images form Public Consultation Open House. November 26, 2002	V - VIII
Figures 44 - 47	Patuanak/English River: Digital Images	IX - XIII

From Public Consultation Open House
November 15, 2002

Figures 48 - 52

Pinehouse: Digital Images from Public
Consultation Open House.
November 28, 2002

XIV - XVII

1.0 Executive Summary

The Pinehouse Dipper Traditional Use Study was conducted for the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board and Saskatchewan Environment by Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) between August 2001 and January 2003.

Community Coordinators completed 73 interviews with residents of the four participating communities of Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Patuanak/English River First Nation and Pinehouse.

Traditional Use Activities documented through the interview and mapping procedures included the following activity clusters:

- Trapping, fishing and spawning areas
- Hunting and Big game calving areas
- Water fowl hunting and nesting areas
- Gathering Activities (Food, Berries, Medicinal)
- Family Camping, Historic Settlement and Ceremonial and Burial Sites
- Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages

Digital maps were generated using ESRI Arc View/ARC/Info Geographic information System (GIS) software. **Individual Level maps** were produced for each of the 73 respondent's interview/mapping data. **Community Levels maps** (4) were produced by

merging the data for all respondents in a specific community. At the community level data was also plotted for six (6) general “activity” clusters. Finally, a comprehensive **Regional Level map** was produced by merging data from the four community level maps. The digital mapping production and final mapping products were donated by Saskatchewan Environment.

The Pinehouse Dipper Traditional Use Study was funded by Saskatchewan Environment and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation.

2.0 Introduction

The Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board (The Board) is comprised of representatives from the following communities and non-government organizations:

- Northern Village of Beauval
- Northern Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse
- Northern Village of Pinehouse
- Northern Hamlet of Patuanak, and
- English River Dene Nation

- Beauval Co-Management Board
- Mudjatic Co-Management Board
- Sakitawak Resource Management

The Pinehouse Dipper region is located in the west central region of the province. (see Figure 1: Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Area).

The Board advised Saskatchewan Environment to contract SIAST to coordinate and provide project management of the Traditional Use Study. SIAST recruited and trained four residents of the participating communities as Community Coordinators. The duties of the community coordinators included:

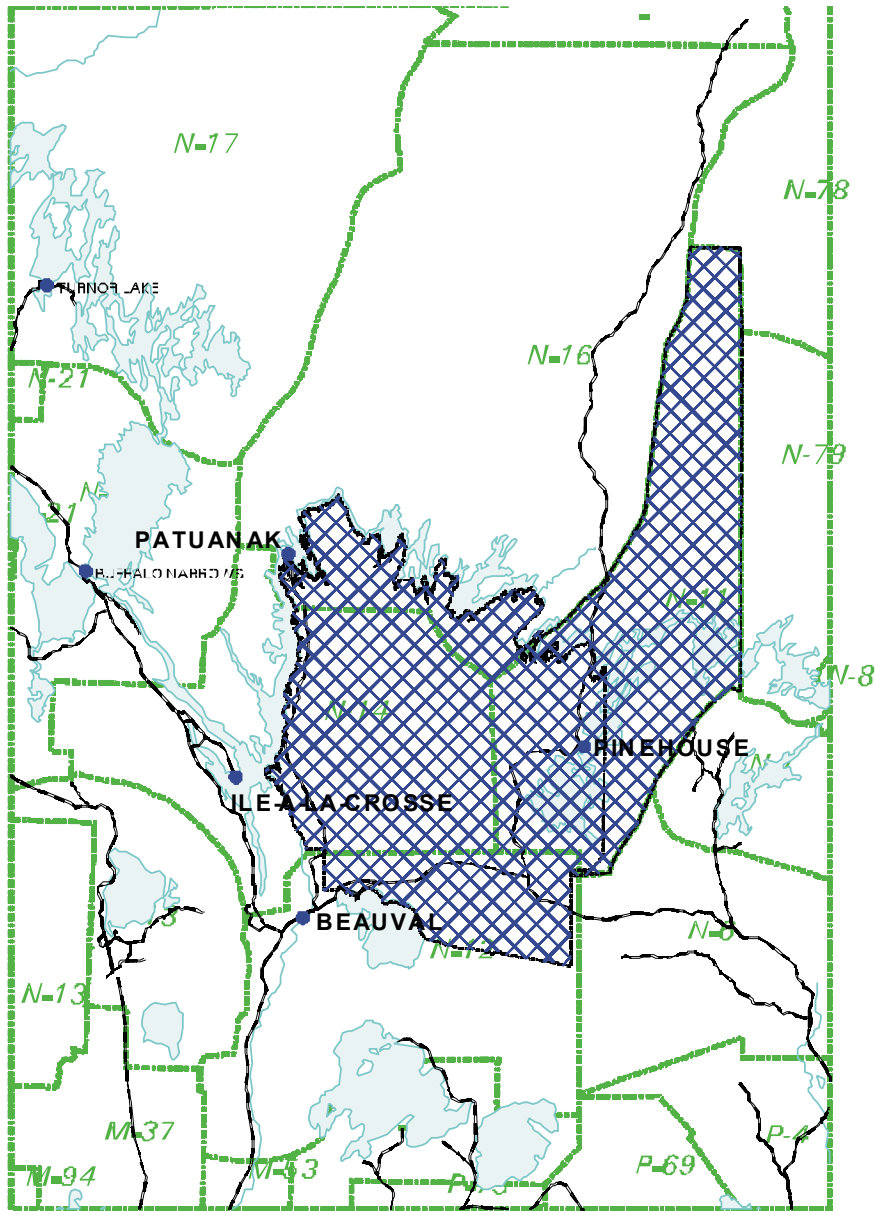
- Identify local resource users (residents, groups and organizations) involved in traditional use activities and inform them of the purpose of the study and invite them to participate in the interview and mapping procedures.
- Schedule interviews
- Conduct interviews, transcribe interviews, and prepare initial 1:50,000 maps, verifying accuracy of interview transcripts and digital maps with respondents

and assisting with Public Consultation Open Houses in their home community.

The representatives from the participating communities and Saskatchewan Environment felt that information about traditional resource usage practices and related ecological knowledge was important and should be a component of land use planning and resource management. The Traditional Use Study was implemented to provide for the formal documentation of “Traditional Knowledge” so it could be utilized in Saskatchewan Environment’s Integrated Forest Land Use Planning process.

The Pinehouse Dipper Integrated Forest Land Use Planning project represents the first time that Saskatchewan Environment has formalized a process where a community-based Traditional Use Study has been an integral component of the planning process.

Figure 1: Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Area



3.0 Methodology

A review of qualitative and quantitative research methods suggested a qualitative community-based ethnographic research methodology be used to design and conduct the Traditional Use Study.

The Traditional Use Study was intended to involve local residents in describing their traditional resource and land use activities and practices. The working principles of a community-based ethnographic action research methodology are to:

- **Build Relationships** within and between the stakeholder groups
- **Foster communications** based upon listening, respect and understanding
- Involve local residents through their **Active Participation**
- **Be Inclusive**

Within these working principles several characteristic features of the research process which emerge are:

- **Decision-making processes** become participatory and **Decentralized** from government agencies (i.e. Saskatchewan Environment) to the local/regional level (i.e. The Board).
- The acquisition of data is not focused on facts and figures but rather on **Descriptive, qualitative information** that can be used to assist in giving meaning to understanding local situations, customs and practices.

- **Cooperative, consensual, collaborative approach** to resource management and planning. As the stakeholders become aware of and sensitive to the needs, concerns and realities of other stakeholders a **Collective Vision** and sense of community emerges.
- **Validate participants' sense of belonging** and self worth by giving expression and meaning to individual life experiences, beliefs and ideas.

The Community Coordinators were provided with orientation training in map reading, mapping procedures, interviewing techniques, data collection and processing standards, and administrative procedures.

Each Community Coordinator, in consultation with a Co-Management Board member from their community, and/or local Saskatchewan Environment representative(s) compiled a list of local residents involved in traditional use activities.

Public notices informing local residents about the purpose of the Traditional Use Study were placed on bulletin boards throughout the communities and also broadcast on local radio and television stations.

Individuals were approached by the Community Coordinator and invited to participate in the Traditional Use Study. The purpose of the Traditional Use Study and its relationship

to the Forest Inventory Project that was carried out in the region was explained. All participants were advised the data they provided would be treated as confidential and no personal identifying information would appear on the Community and the Regional Level Digital Maps produced from the study. All participants were advised they would receive an honorarium gift (Cotton Thermal Blanket) and a Certificate of Appreciation.

A **structured interview questionnaire** was prepared by Saskatchewan Environment and the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board for the Community Coordinators to administer. (See Appendix I)

Informed Consent forms were reviewed with each respondent and signed prior to each interview. (See Appendix I) Respondents were provided with the option of not having their interview recorded. As the Community Coordinator conducted each interview they would also mark information on the relevant 1:50,000 map sheets provided. Data would be entered on the map sheets according to the Data Collection and Processing Standards developed by Saskatchewan Environment (see Appendix I).

A total of 73 interviews and individual level mapping sessions were conducted August 2001 through March 2002.

Once an interview was completed the Community Coordinators transcribed the recorded interview and forwarded the interview transcript to SIAST for further word processing. The preliminary mapping data was forwarded to Saskatchewan Environment for digitizing.

The Individual Level digital map products were returned to the Community Coordinators who verified the accuracy of the maps and the interview transcripts with the respondent interviewee. Once each respondent was satisfied that their interview transcript and mapped data were accurate and complete they were asked to sign a Verification of Data Release Form (See Appendix 4) Verification of the interview transcripts and mapping data took longer than originally planned due to unanticipated delays in producing the digital maps, budget considerations and seasonal employment and resource harvesting activities pursued by many of the respondents. The Data Verification phase was completed in late 2002 in conjunction with the Public Consultation Open Houses that were held in each community. Initially, it was hoped that some of the data could be ground truthed using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, however this was not possible due to delays in conducting interviews and extremely cold winter temperatures.

The purpose of the “Open House’ events was to provide all community residents with an opportunity to review, edit, revise and comment on the Community Level digital maps generated from the interviews with local residents involved in traditional resource and land use activities.

The community coordinators had a great deal of difficulty in getting residents to participate in the study. The most common reasons given for not participating were:

- Reluctant to provide Saskatchewan Environment (due to its law enforcement role) with information on hunting locations.
- Thought Saskatchewan Environment already had the information.
- Residents were too busy with resource harvesting, employment, family and community responsibilities.
- Weather conditions and health concerns prevented elderly residents from getting out to participate in interviews or attend Open House events.

Throughout the study the Community Coordinators were questioned by local residents about the purpose of the study. Despite repeated public notices, local radio/TV broadcasts, explanations by community coordinators, the project coordinator, regional integrated forest land use planning board members and Saskatchewan Environment some residents remained dubious or confused about the purpose of the study. In some cases, even where residents did participate in an interview, the Coordinators felt the participant may not completely understand what the information will be used for. Some participants who also attended the Public Consultation Open Houses indicated they thought that because they did an interview and mapped their trap line or fishing or hunting areas that no other type of land use would/could occur in that area in the future.

4.0 Summary of Community/Regional Level Data

In total, seventy-three residents were interviewed as summarized below:

<u>Community</u>	<u>No. Interviews</u>
• Northern Village of Beauval	24
• Northern Village of Ile-a-la-Crosse	22
• Northern Village of Pinehouse	12
• Northern Village of Patuanak/English River Dene Nation	<u>15</u>
Total	73

The most common traditional land and resource use activities identified in the study were:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Ranking</u>
1. Trapping, Fishing and spawning areas	1
2. Hunting and Big game calving areas	5
3. Water Fowl hunting and nesting areas	2
4. Gathering activities (Food, Berries, Medicinal)	6
5. Family Camping, Historic Settlements and Ceremonial and Burial Sites	3
6. Cabins, Trails, Canoe Routes/Portages	4

The number of respondents involved in each community represented only a small number of the actual residents involved in traditional land and resource use activities. The information represented on the maps may be used by each of the communities as a base line for the collection of additional land and resource use information. The information presented on the maps is not comprehensive and as such represents a more generalized picture of where communities use the land and resources.

No information that could be used to identify any of the respondents by name is included in this report. Saskatchewan Environment records which could identify individuals is not included to protect the individuals privacy and confidentiality.

The Public Consultation Open Houses proved to be very worthwhile for verification/correction of existing data and for the collection of additional information from persons in attendance. Attendance was low, however, the Open Houses provided local residents with an opportunity to review the draft community maps in a forum that was quite conducive for discussion between local residents. This discussion added a considerable amount of detailed information to each community's traditional land and resource usage data base. See Figures 31 – 47 for digital images from the Open House events.

Trapping areas were mapped for each community. Saskatchewan Environment maintains records which identify the active and inactive trappers in each Fur Block.

Saskatchewan Environment records do not indicate the area covered by individual trap lines. The regional and community level maps will assist in identifying where existing land and resource use activities. This will assist in the development of more open communications between the various resource users so that appropriate mediation strategies can be agreed upon prior to new developments in the region. The Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning area includes all of the N-11 Pinehouse Fur Block); some of N-12 Beauval Fur Block; some of N-16 Patuanak Fur Block; and most of N-14 Ile-a-la-Crosse Fur Block (see Figure 1). Each fur block has an active Trappers Association which discusses trapping issues and trends, and advises Saskatchewan Environment on issues affecting their industry at the local/block and regional level.

Fish Harvesting (Commercial and Domestic) areas shown on the community and regional level maps are quite comprehensive.

Big game hunting, calving and seasonal habitats were possibly the most sensitive and difficult information to document. The information collected in the Individual interviews was reviewed and expanded upon during the Public Consultation Open Houses held in each community.

Water fowl nesting and hunting areas were reported by many of the respondents. The result is a reasonably comprehensive illustration of nesting and hunting areas in the study region.

Gathering activities were difficult to identify by geographic areas, in part due to the limited number of elders who participated in the study. Respondents and persons in attendance at the Open Houses in each community routinely indicated that the data could be expanded if certain elders would have participated in the study. This data may be the most under represented category of traditional use activities shown on the maps.

Family camping, Historic settlements, Ceremonial and Burial site information represents data, that in many cases, has never been previously documented. Some of this information not only identified areas which extended families had used as seasonal homes for several generations, but also information about a time that predates the existence of today's communities. In several interviews, the respondents described social, economic, political relationships and territorial areas utilized by extended families on a seasonal and yearly basis. Several previously undocumented grave sites of residents of the area and a couple of unidentified Americans were identified at the Open House events.

Trapping cabins and regional off-road transportation routes including canoe routes/portages were identified by respondents. The location of historic family "camping: areas and cabins erected up to 75 years ago were identified by several respondents. Historic travel/transportation and canoe routes and portages were identified.. These routes were used by many residents of the area to travel to and from trapping and hunting areas. Several respondents identified routes, extending over 300 Km, they had traveled as young men by canoe in the 1940's and 1950's.

Saskatchewan Environment maintains permit records for all permanent/seasonal domestic cabins and commercial ventures (fishing/hunting lodges). The owner's name and the buildings location is recorded by Longitude and latitude. This information is not included in this report as it has already been collected by Saskatchewan Environment.

Wild rice was not entered on the traditional use maps because Saskatchewan Environment already has records which indicate the Permit Holder's name and the location of the cropped areas.

The interview transcripts (not published in this report) included several interviews, which provided a rich qualitative accounting of life in the region over the past 85 or more years. (See Appendix 2)

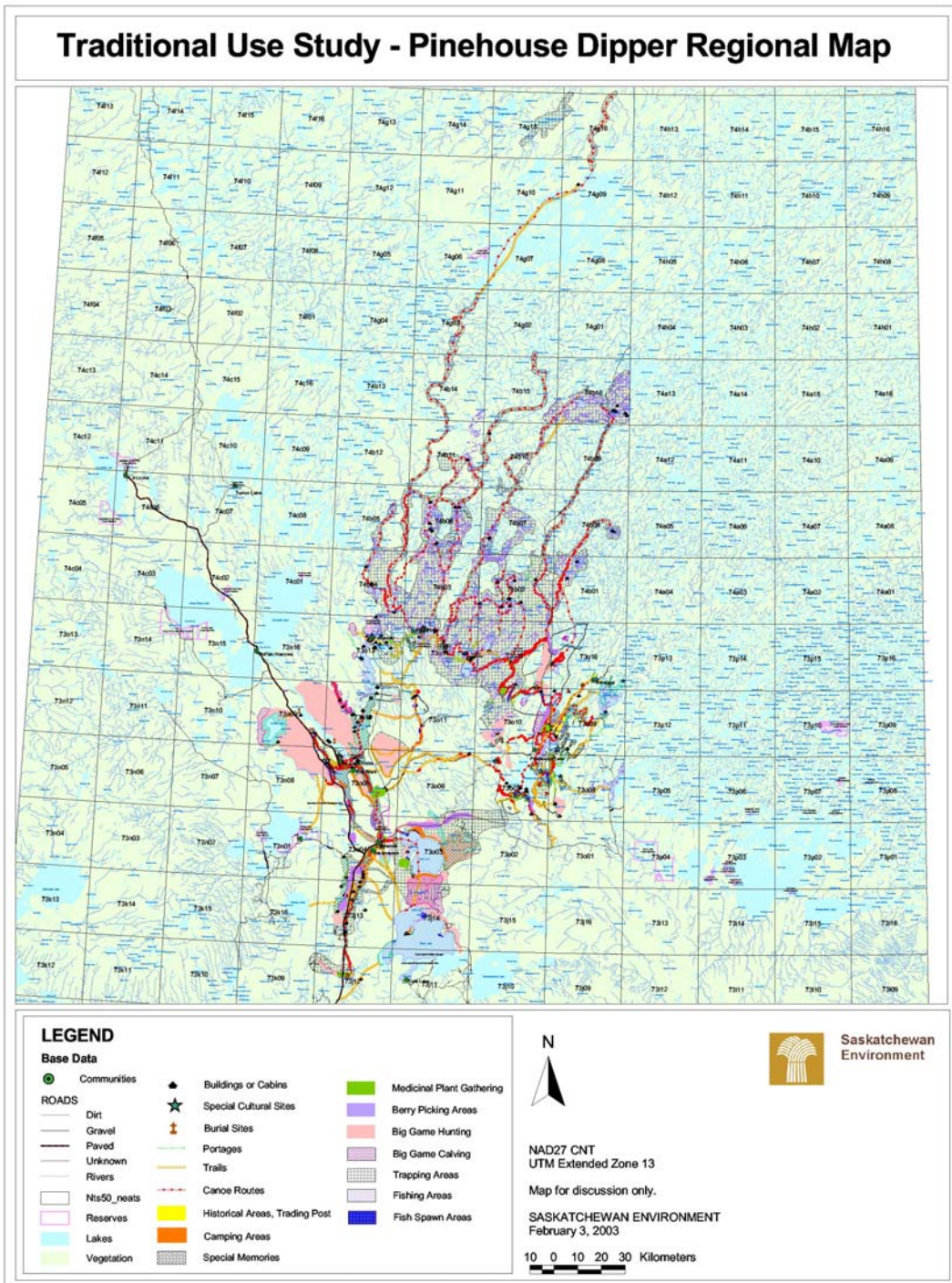
Saskatchewan Environment maintains detailed records of Traditional Use Activities for the Pinehouse Dipper Region through its licensing and permit records. Permits, licenses and related data related to the Traditional Use Study includes:

<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Type of Documentation</u>
• Wild Fur Harvest System –	Annual Records
• Subsistence Fishing Licenses -	Annual Records
• Indian Fishing License -	Annual Records
• Net Fishery Licenses (Domestic & Commercial)	by lake and Year
• Wild Rice Permits & Licenses	by size and general location by lake

- Lease Property Status Report by Region & Lat/Long coordinates

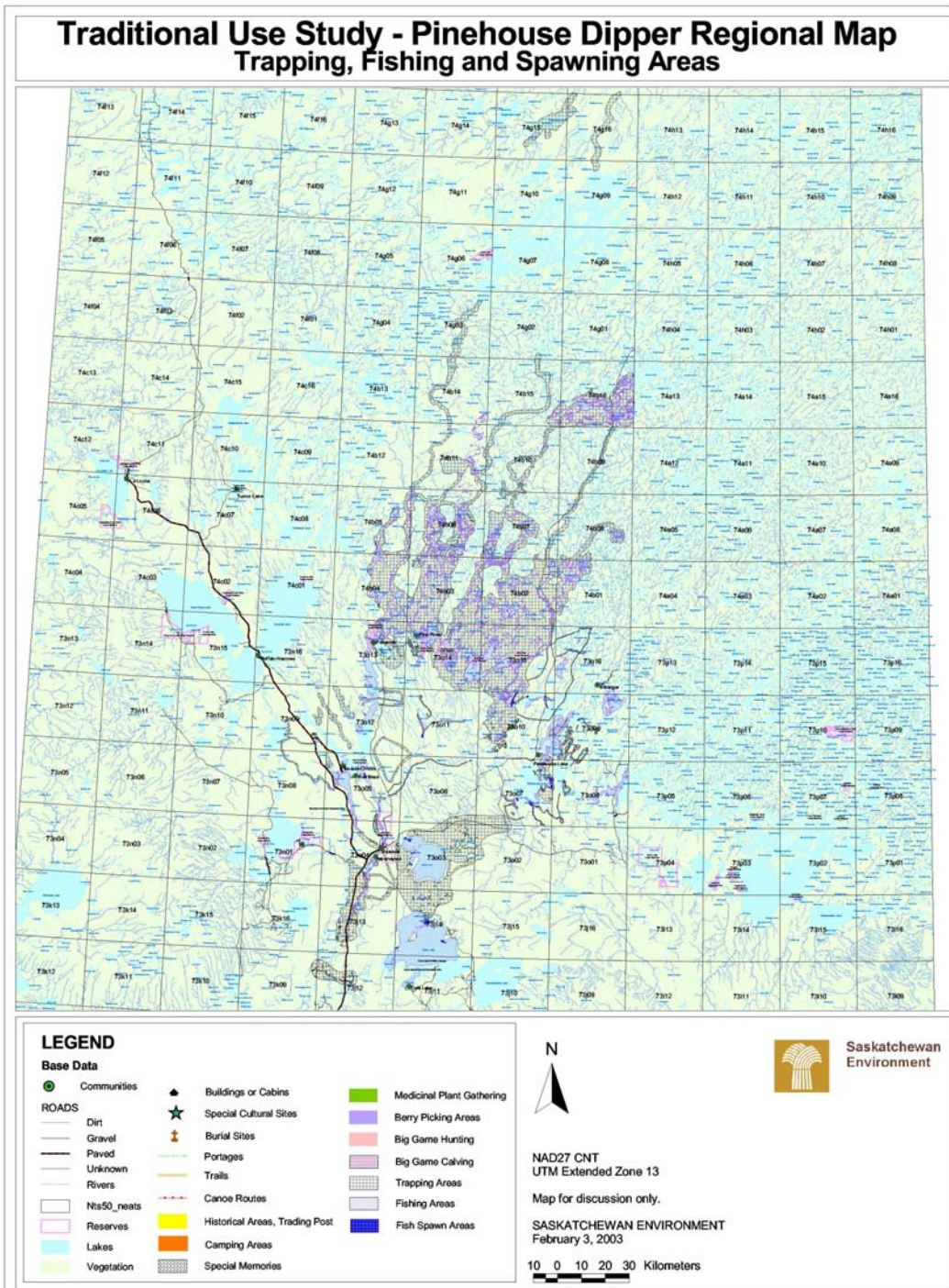
The comprehensive Regional Level Traditional Use Maps (Figure 2 - 8) illustrate the wide range of traditional activities residents of the study area are involved in. These activities occur over a wide geographic area, including most lands and water bodies within the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning area (see Figure 1).

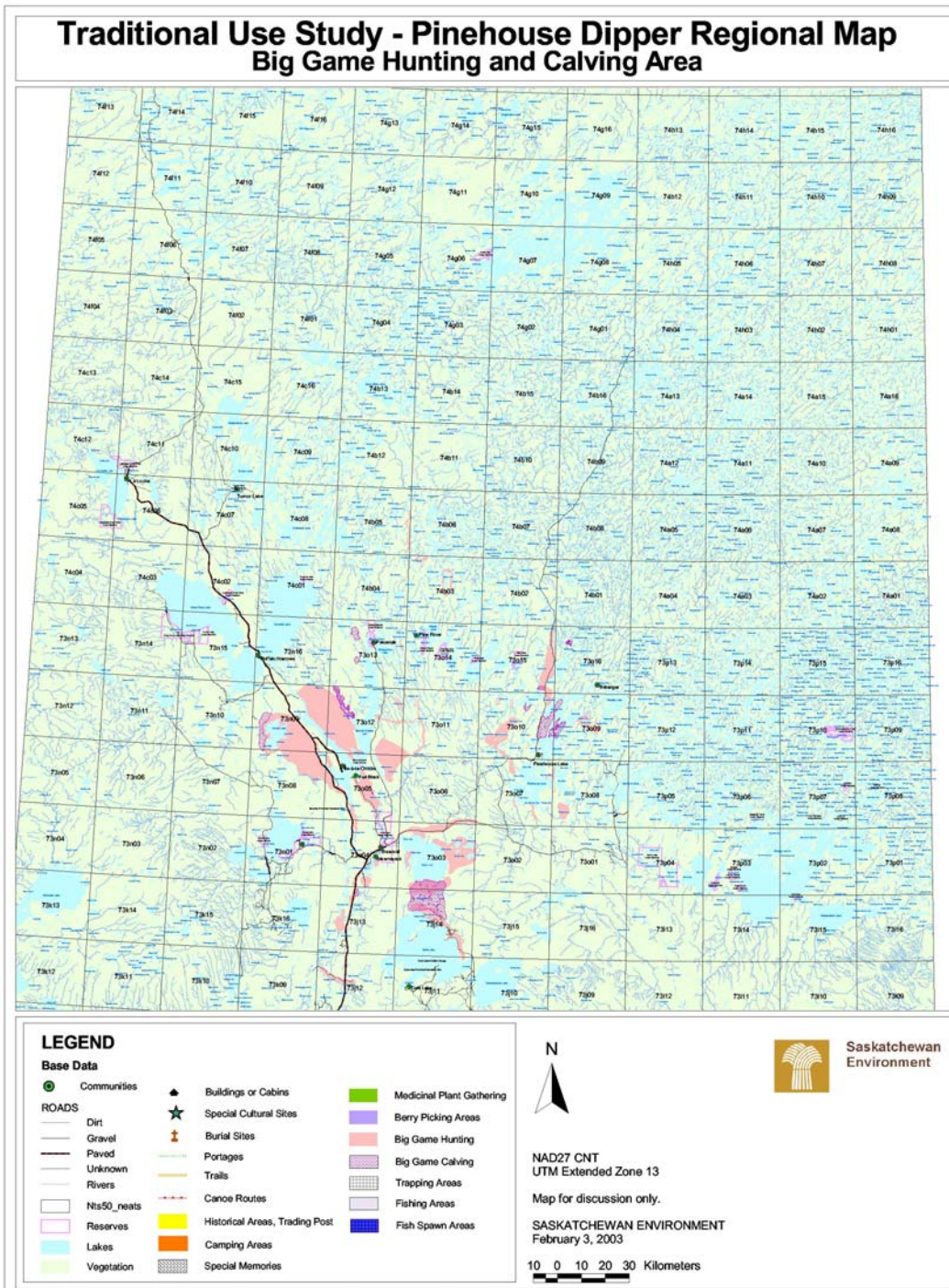
The Community Level maps (Figures 9 – 36) are presented alphabetically by community. The maps for each community depict a rich and varied level of traditional land and resource utilization practices.



4.1.1

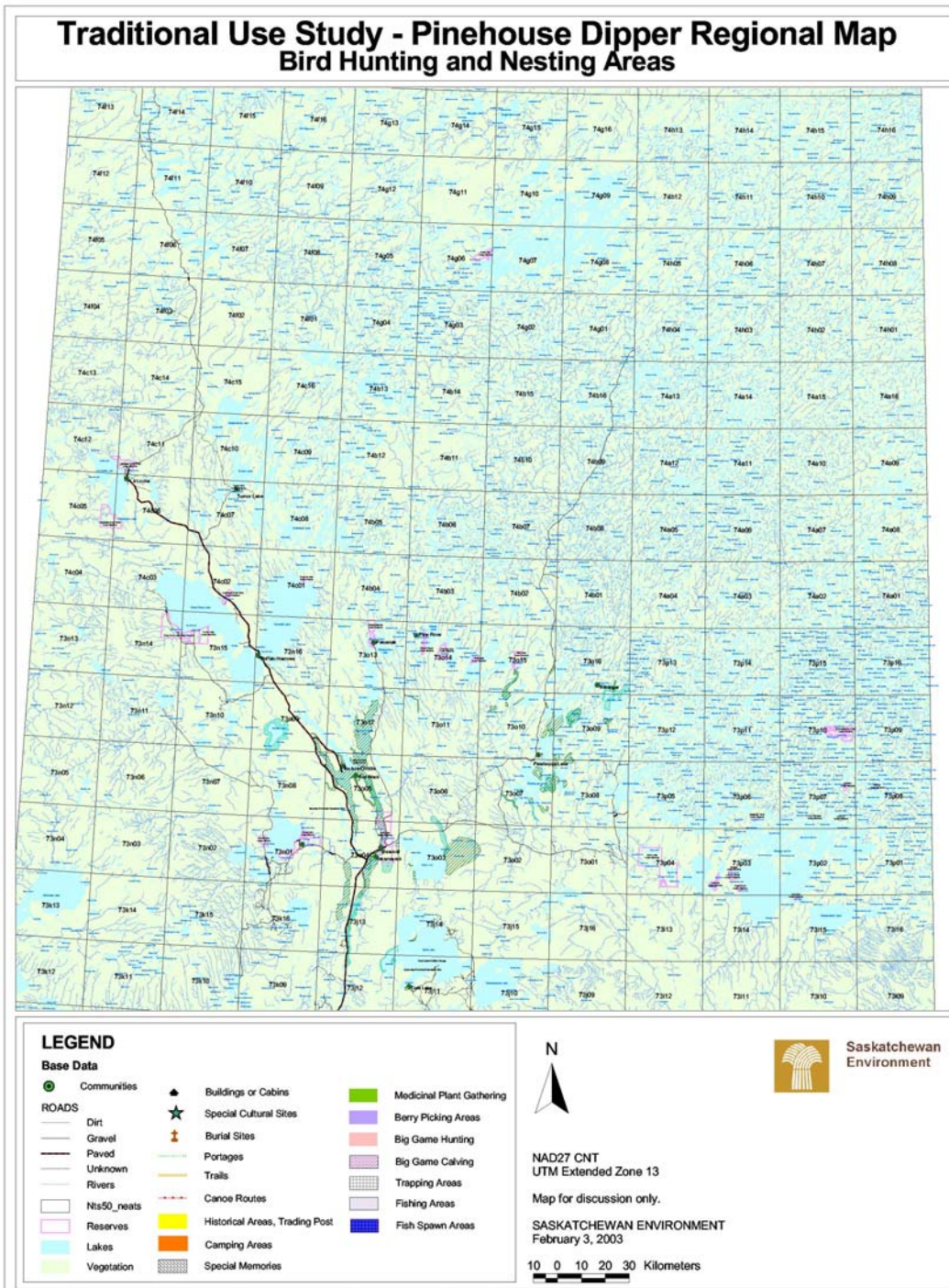
Figure 3

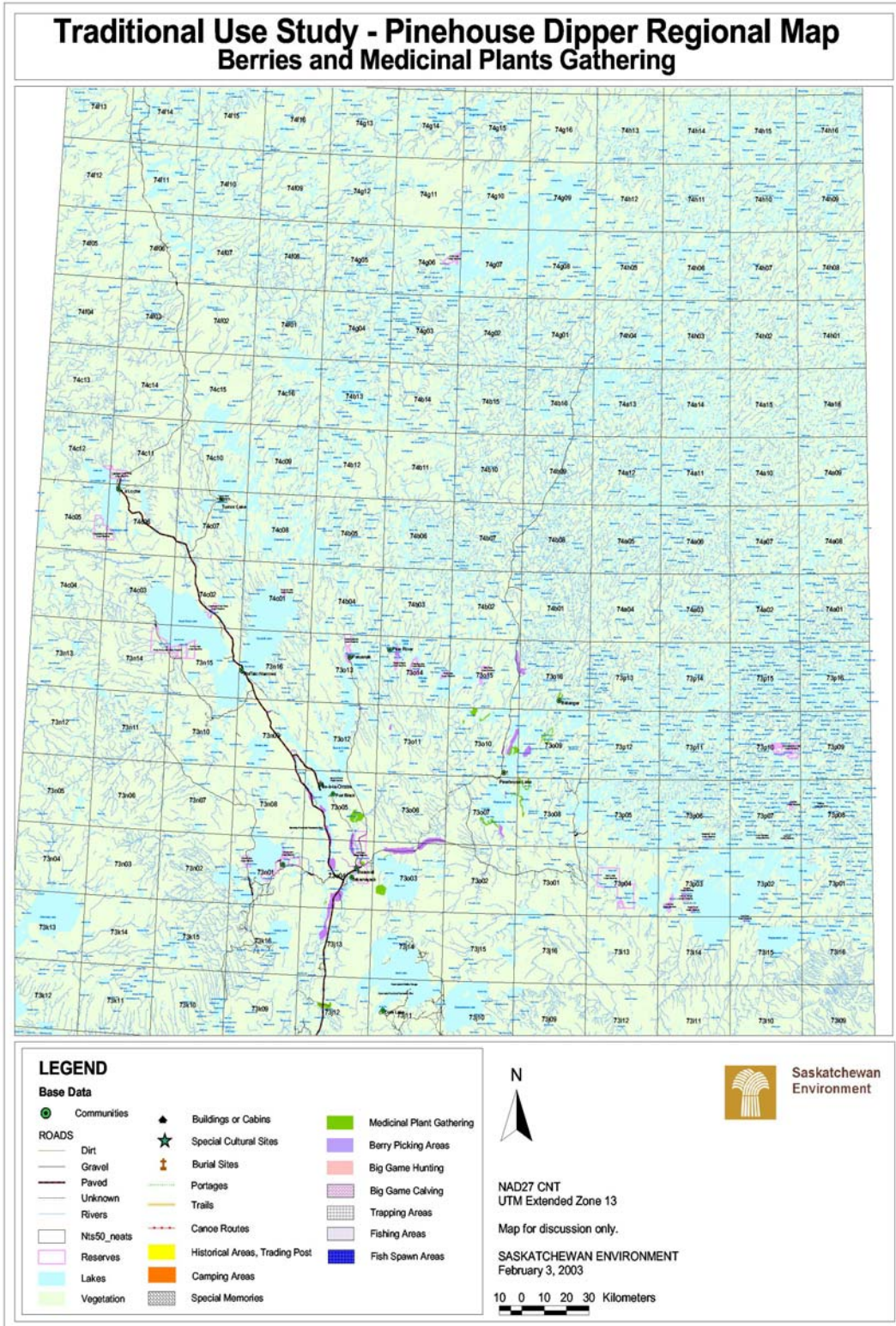




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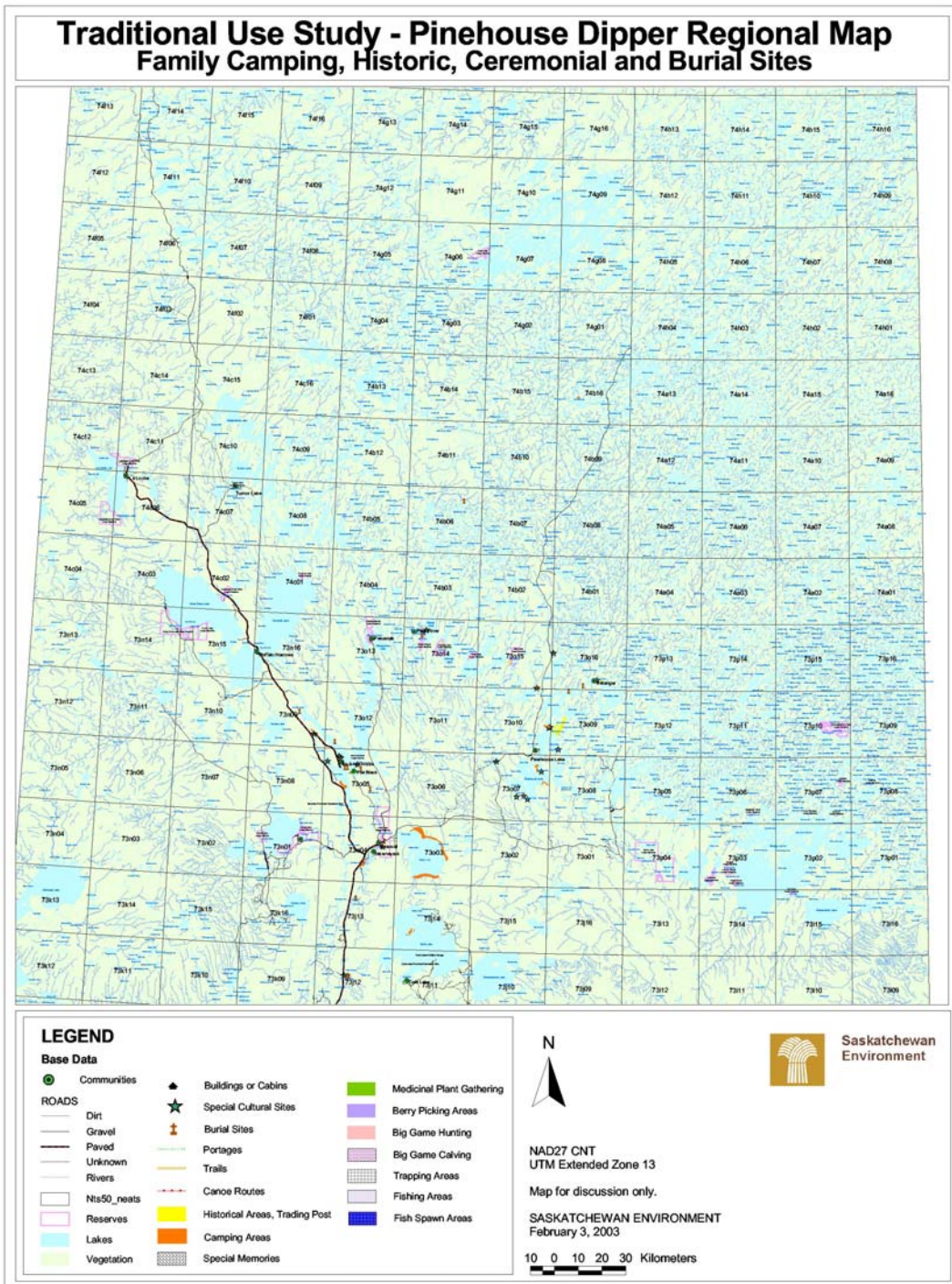
Figure 5





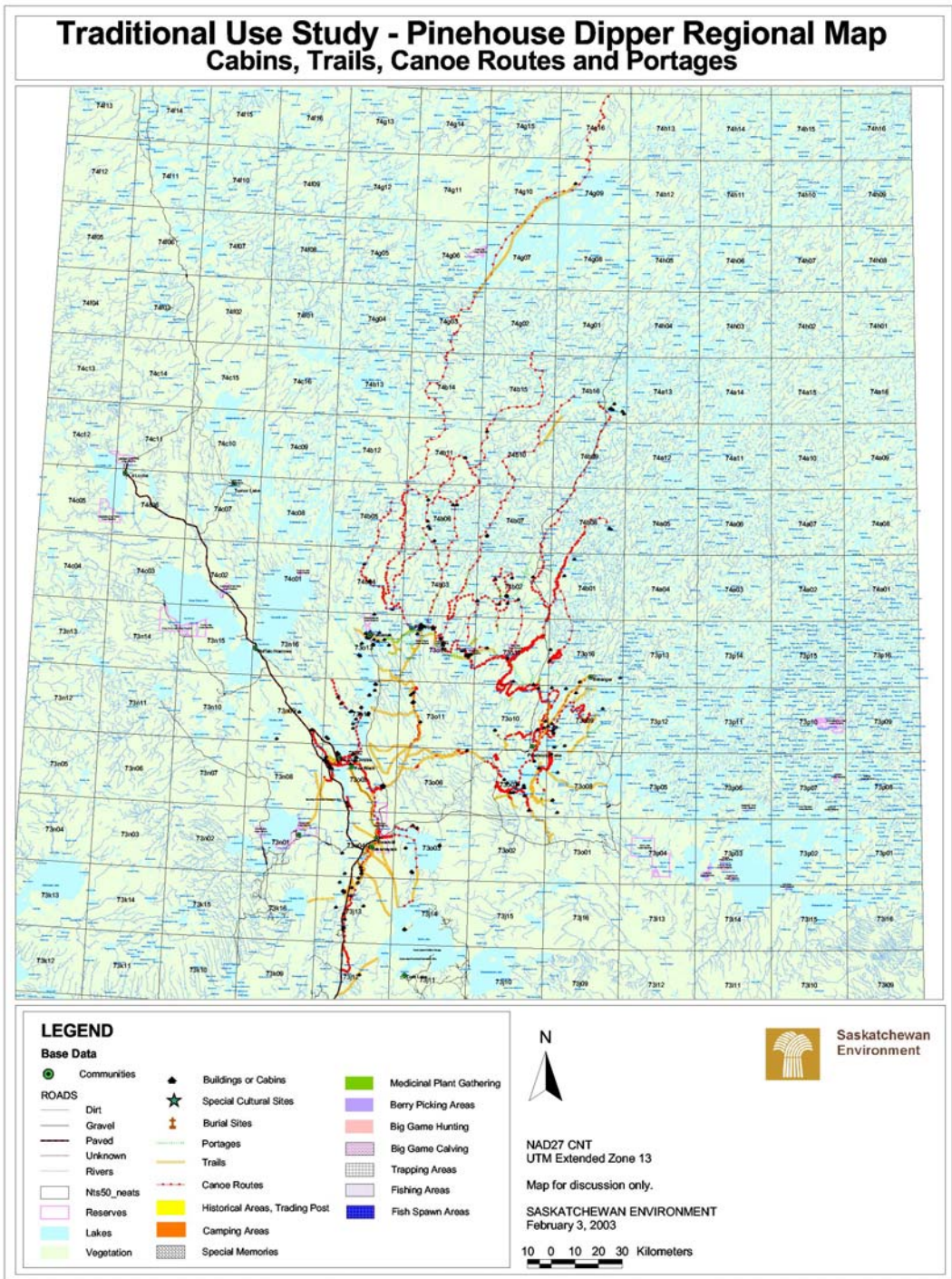
4.1.5

Figure 7



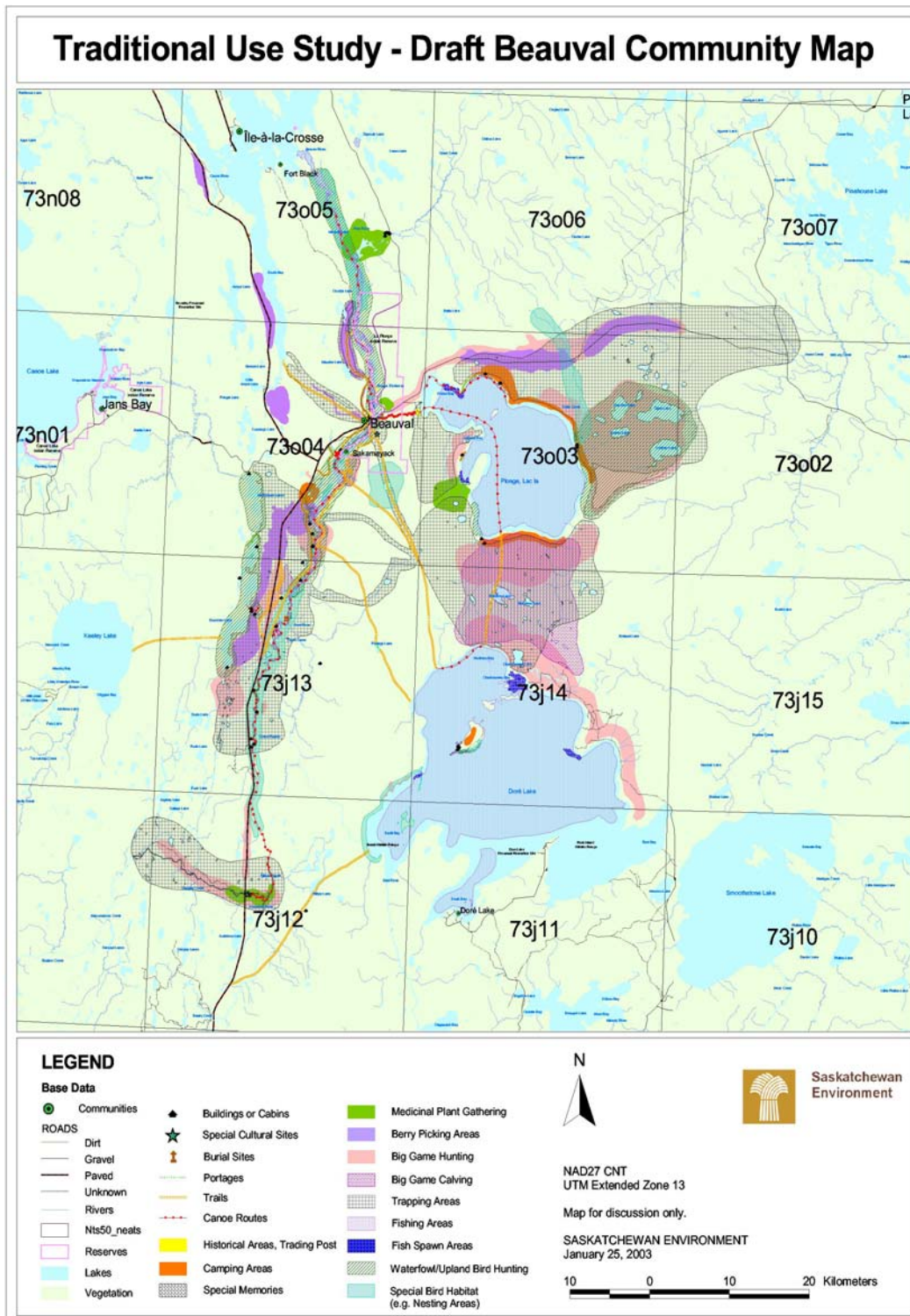
4.1.6

Figure 8

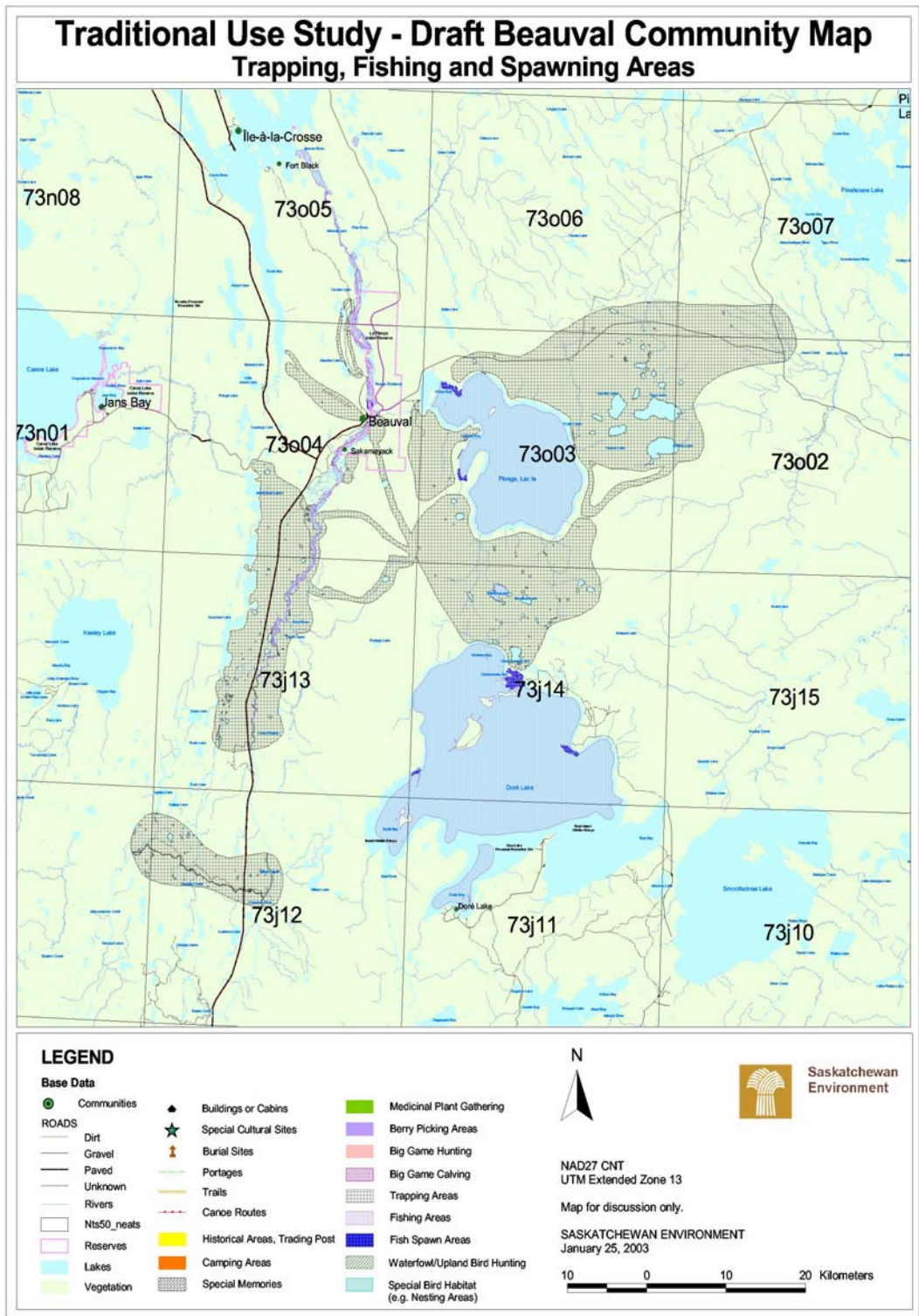


4.2 Beauval

Figure 9

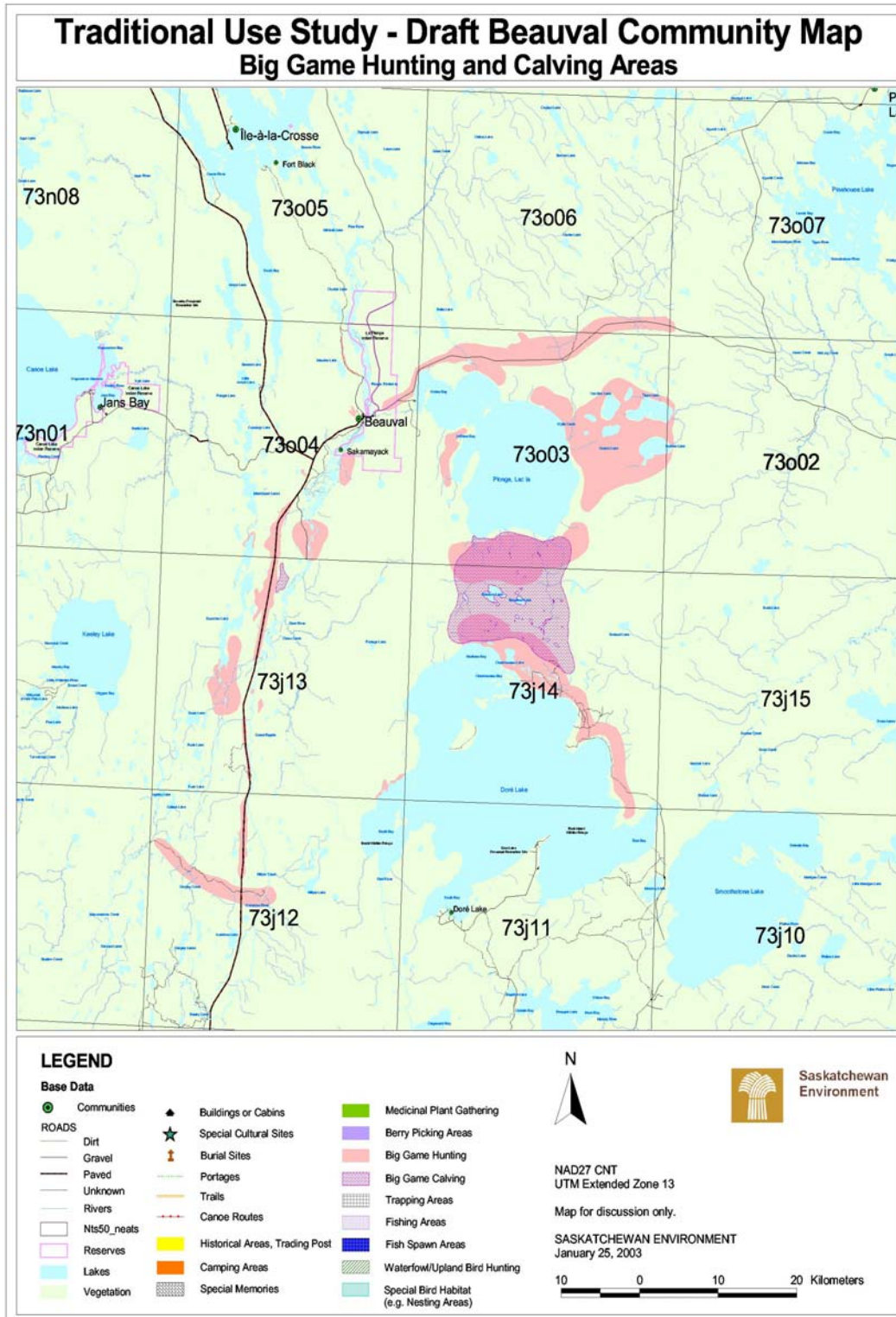


4.2.1 Beauval Figure 10



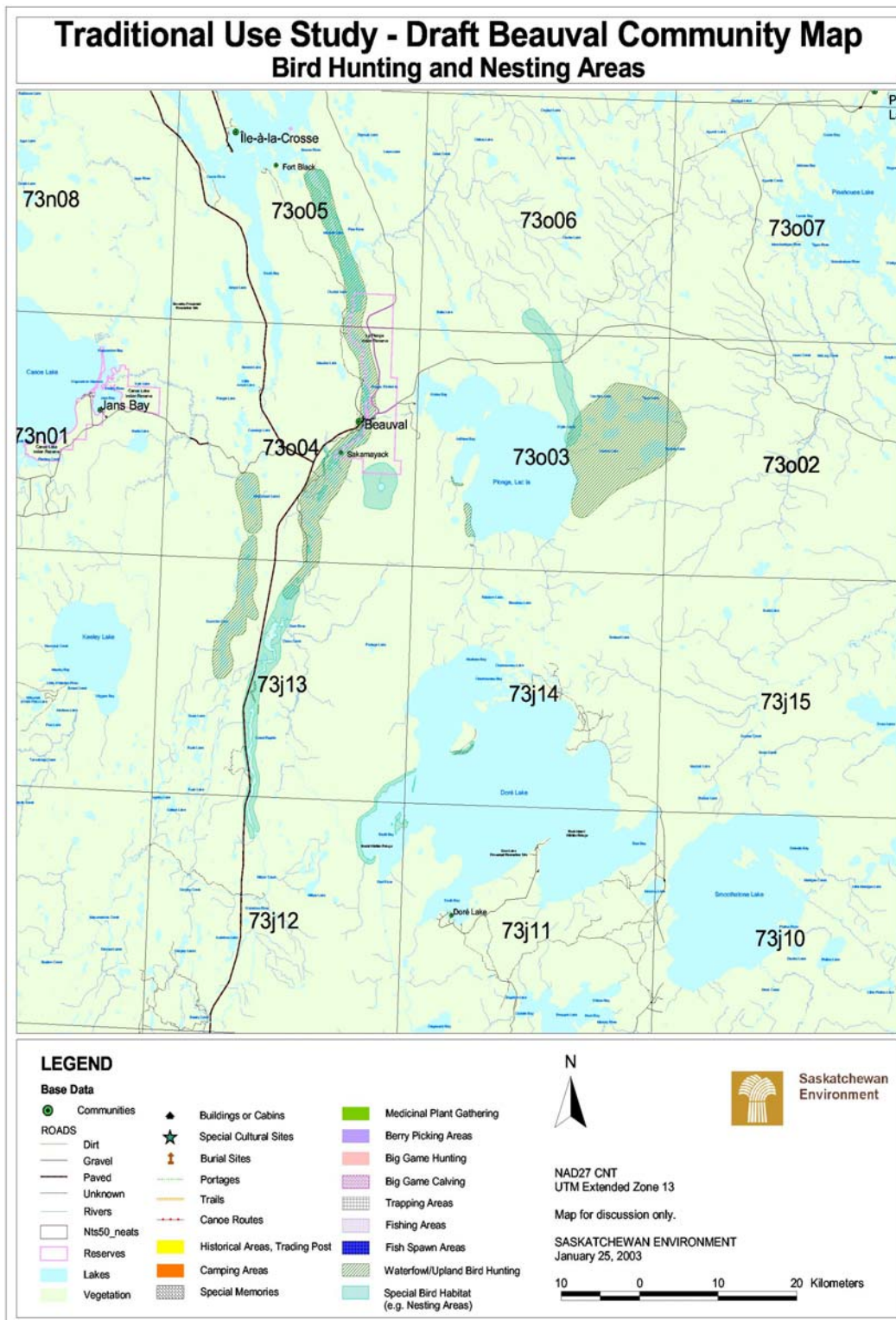
4.2.2 Beauval

Figure 11



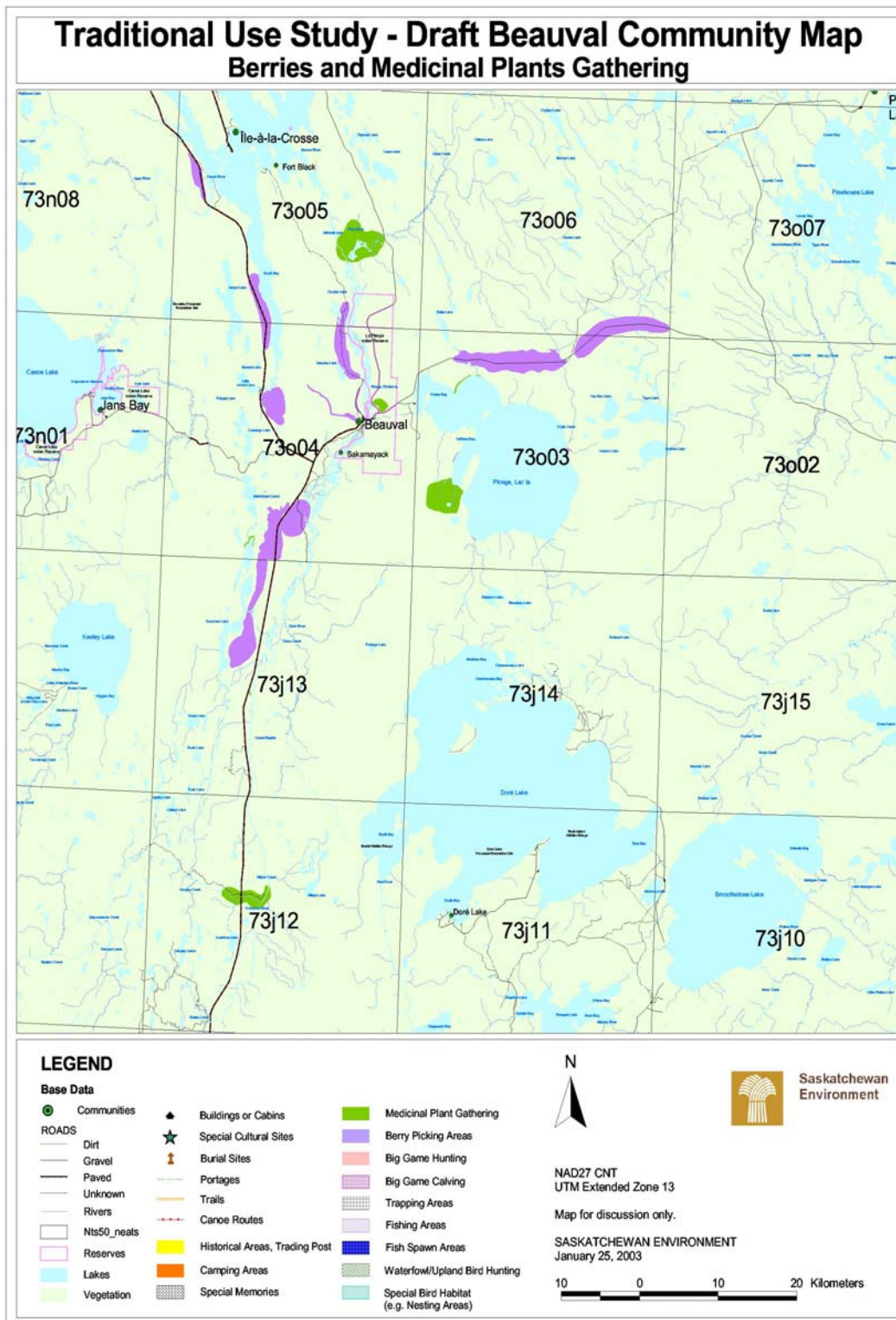
4.2.3 Beauval

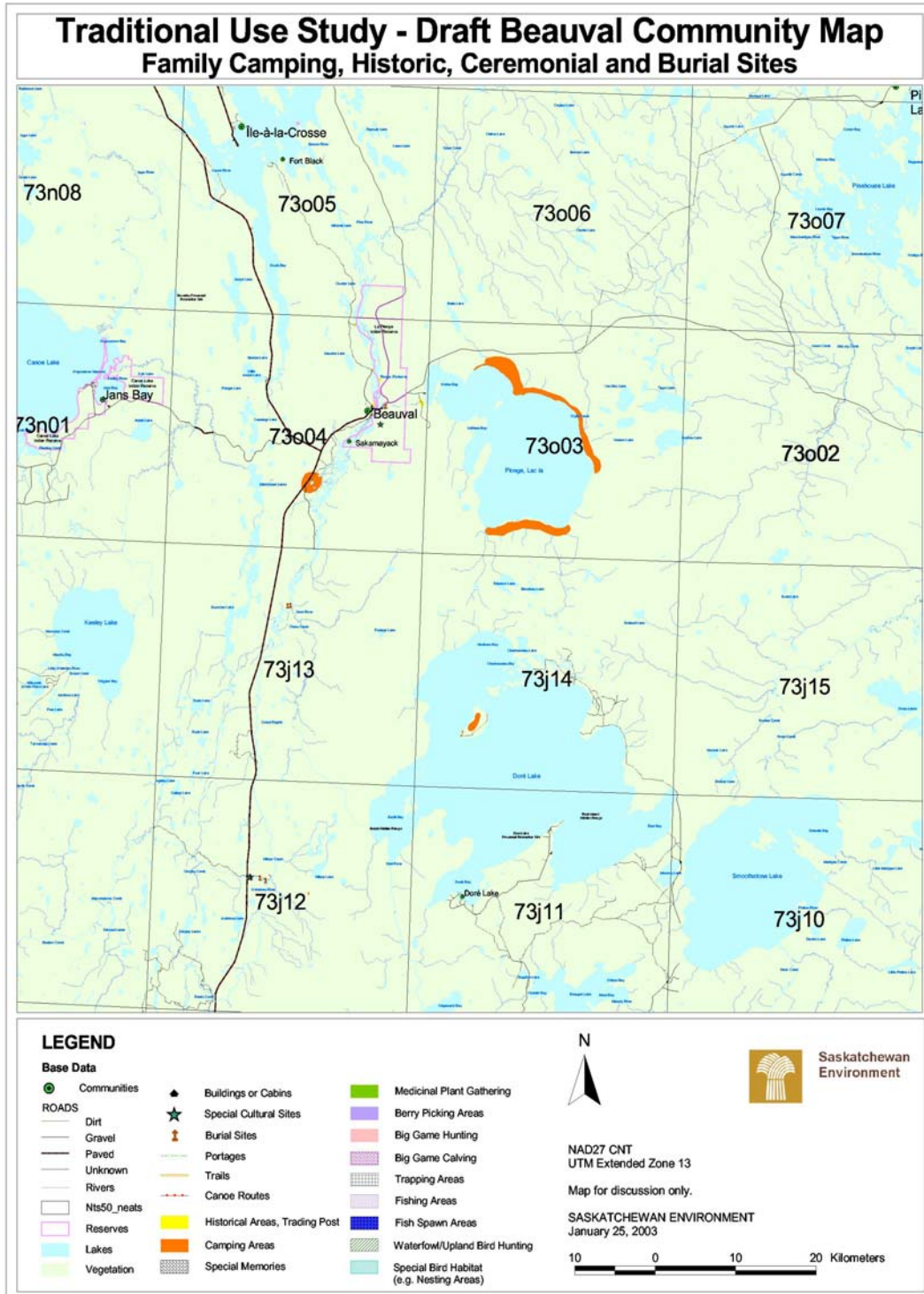
Figure 12



4.2.4 Beauval

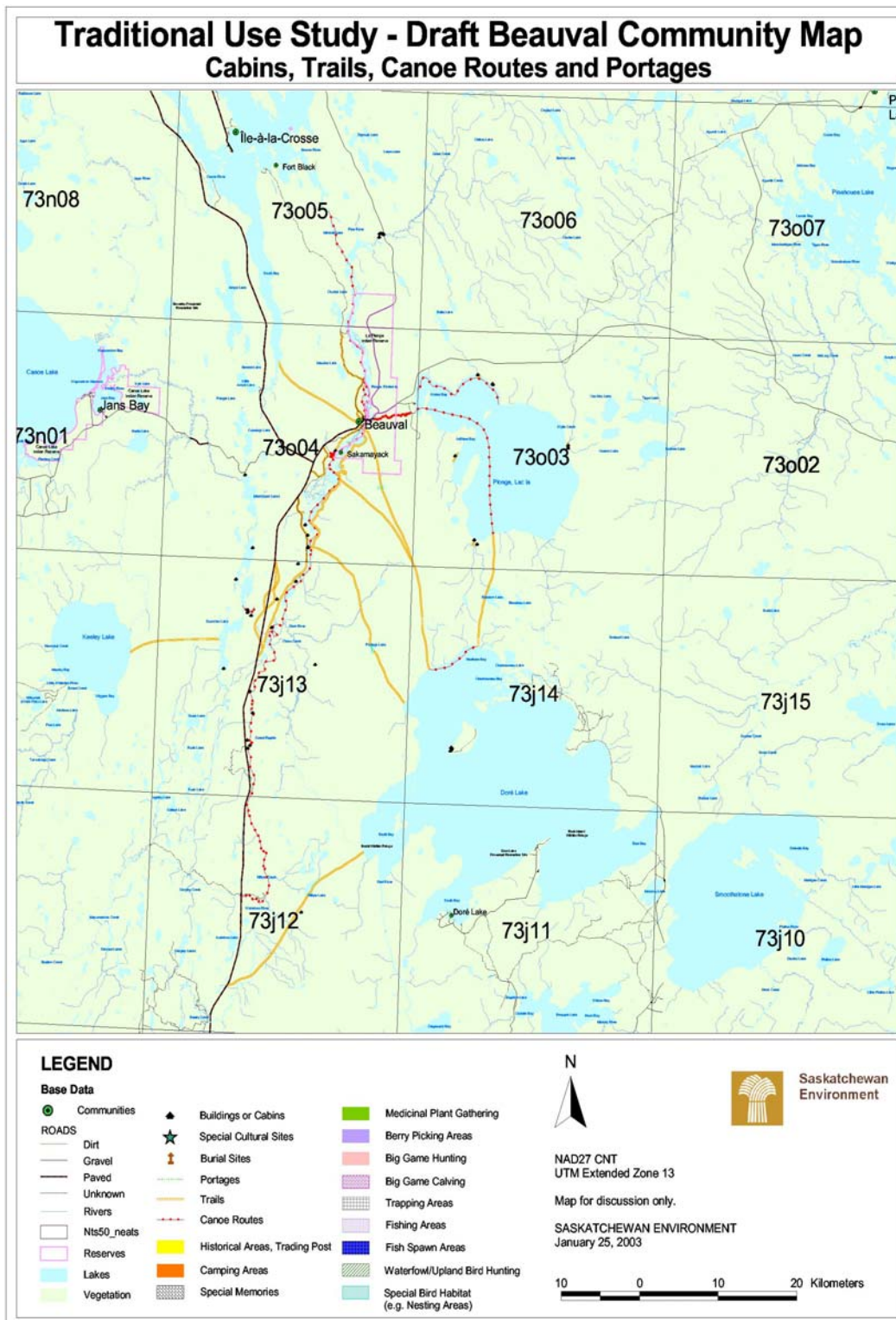
Figure 13





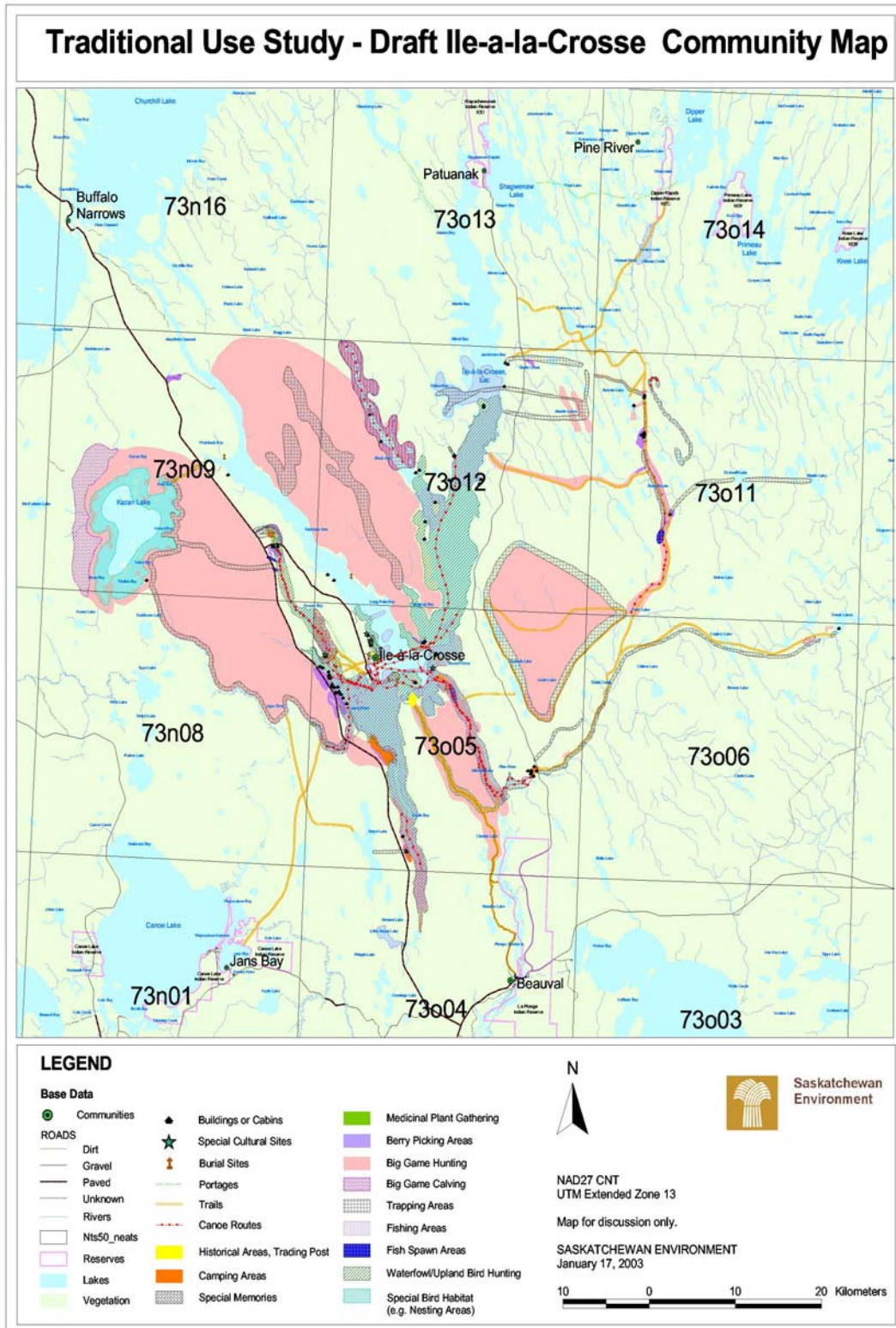
4.2.6 Beauval

Figure 15



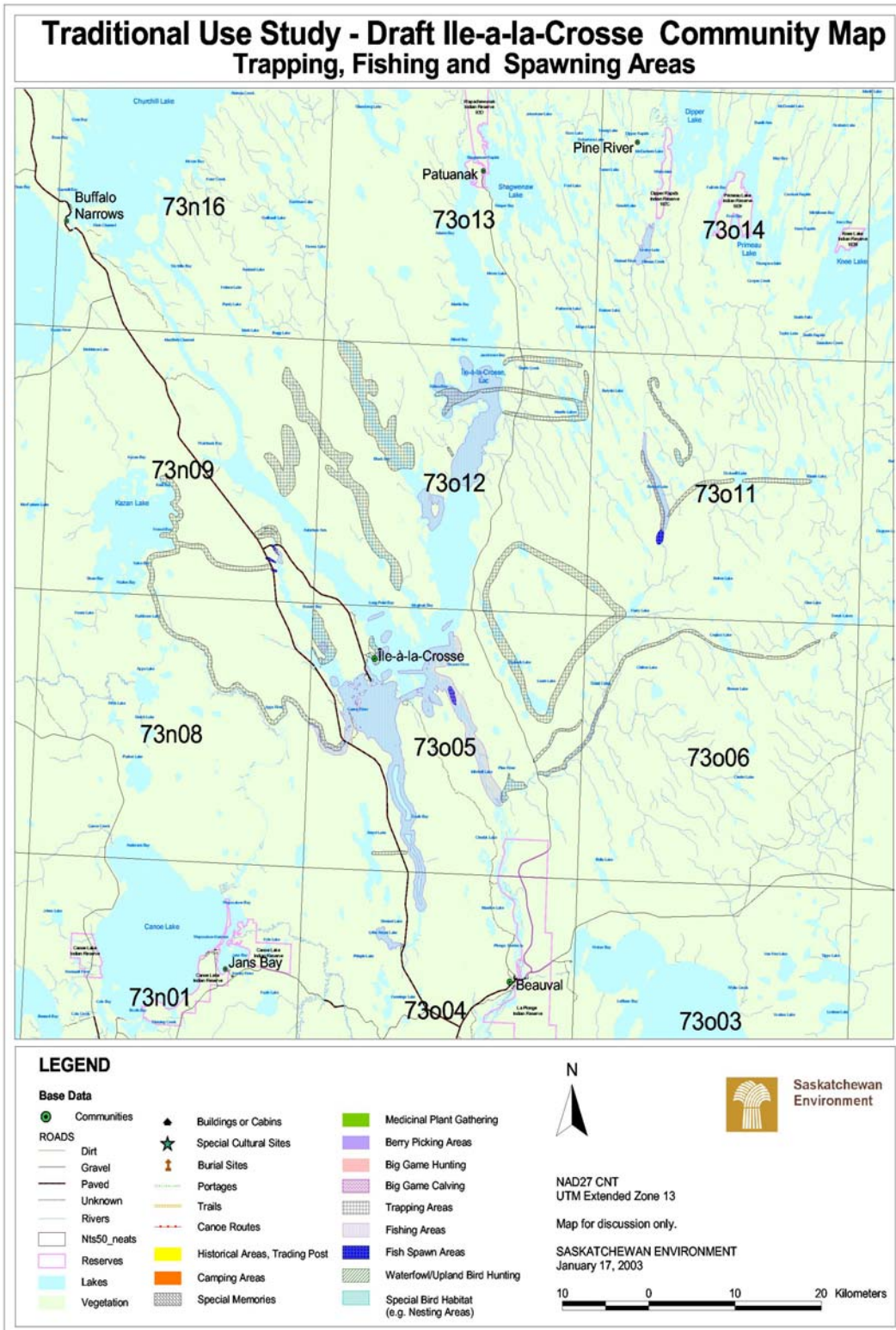
4.3 Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 16



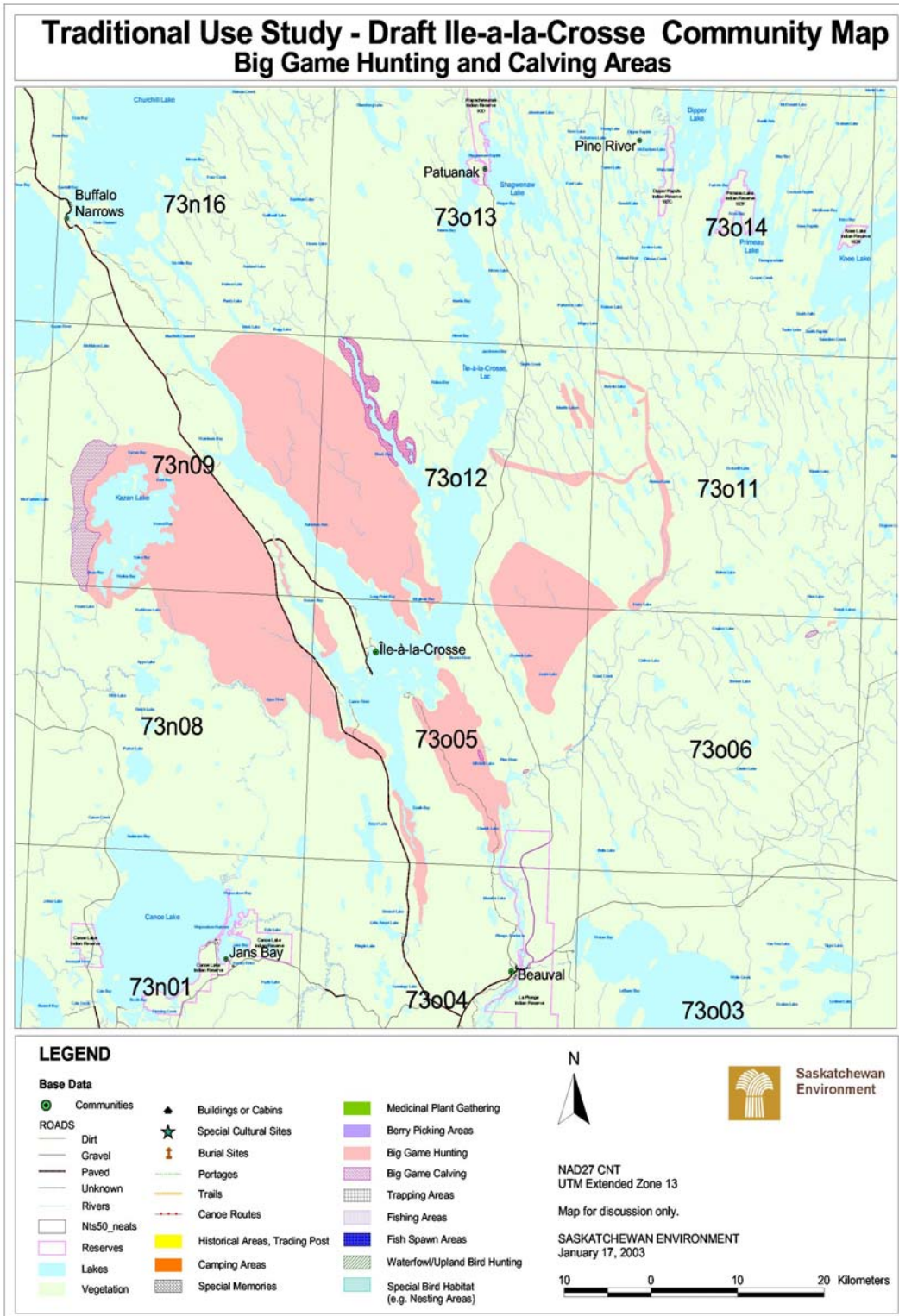
4.3.1 Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 17



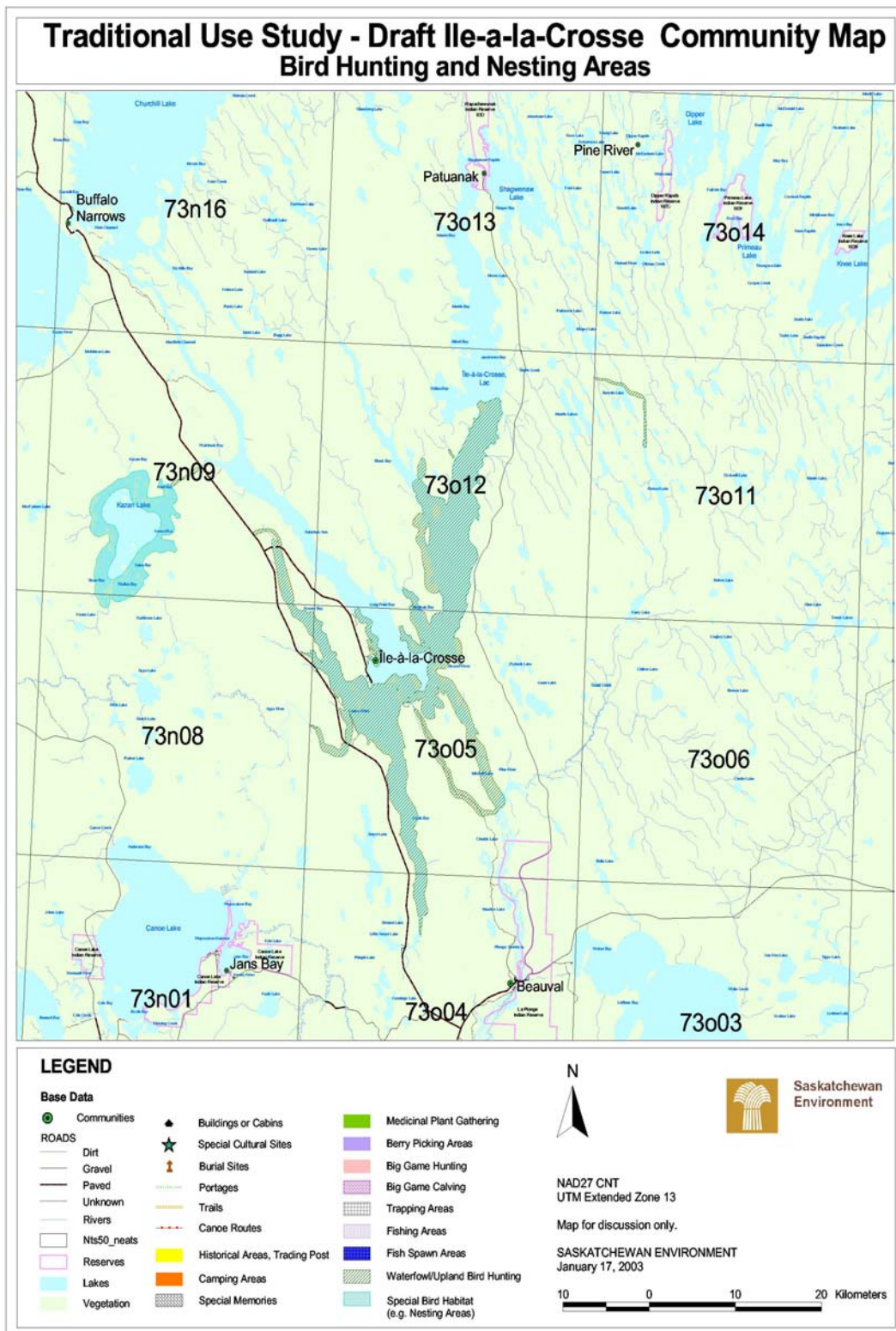
4.3.2 Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 18



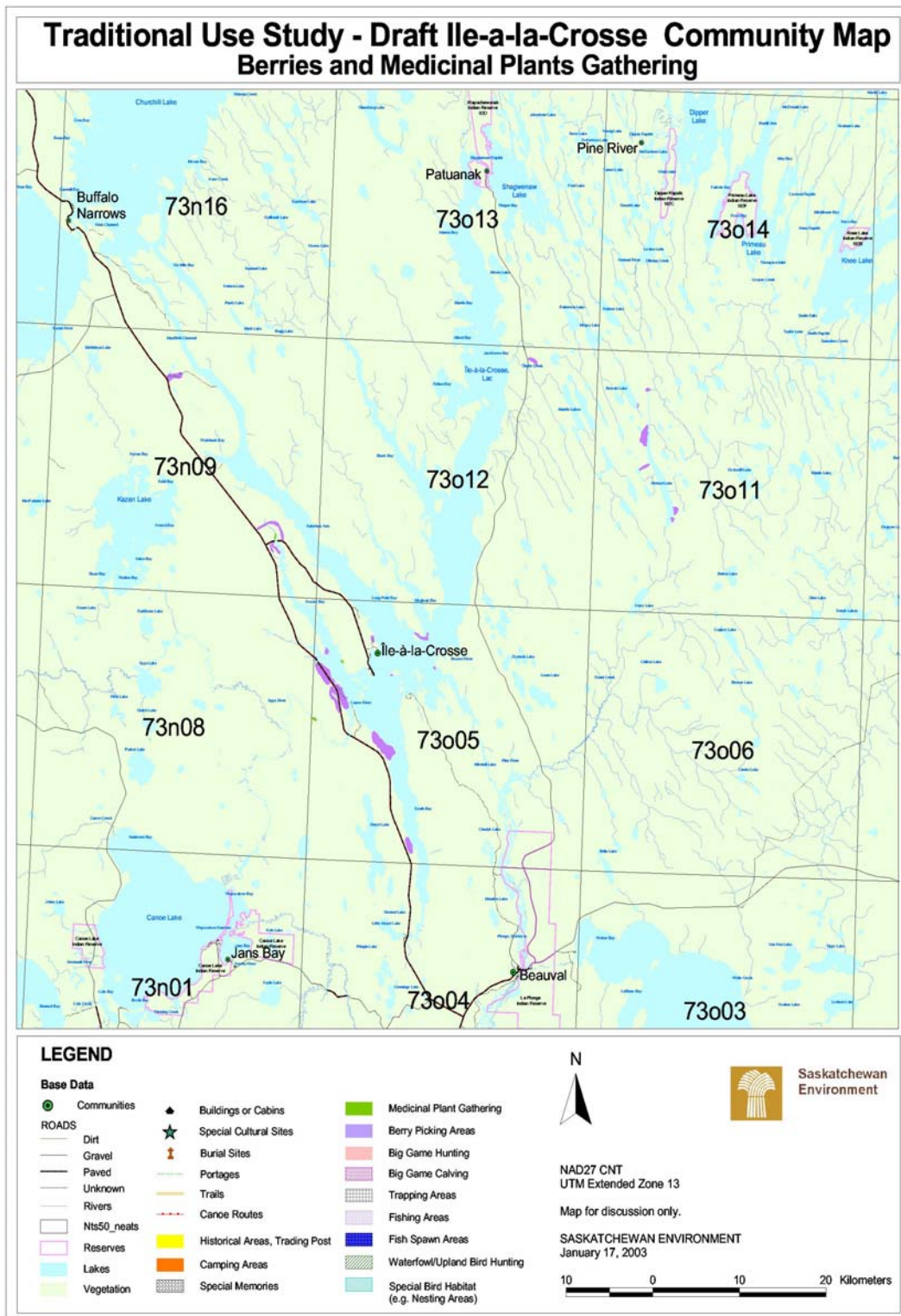
4.3.3 Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 19



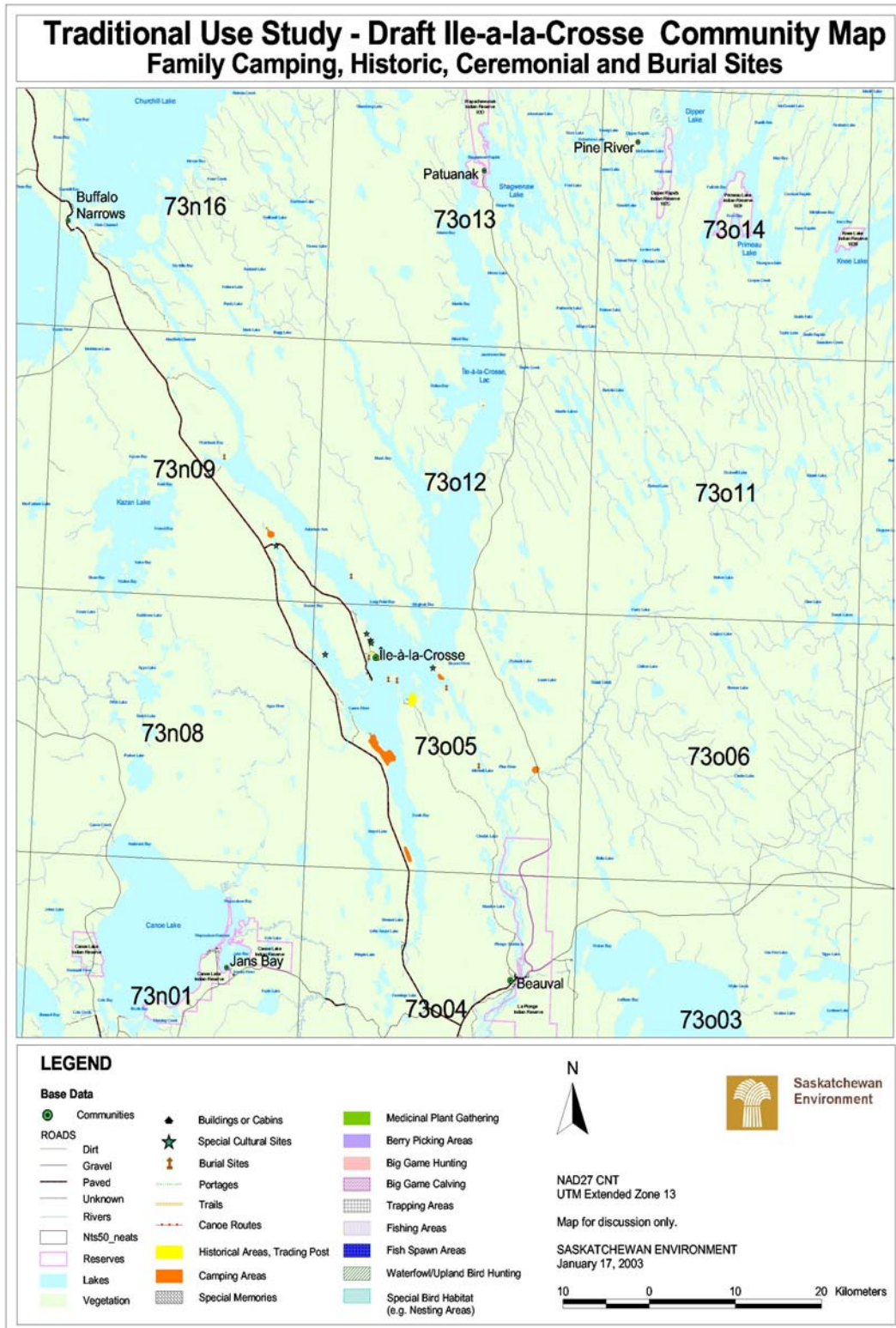
4.3.4 Ile-a-la-Crosse

Figure 20



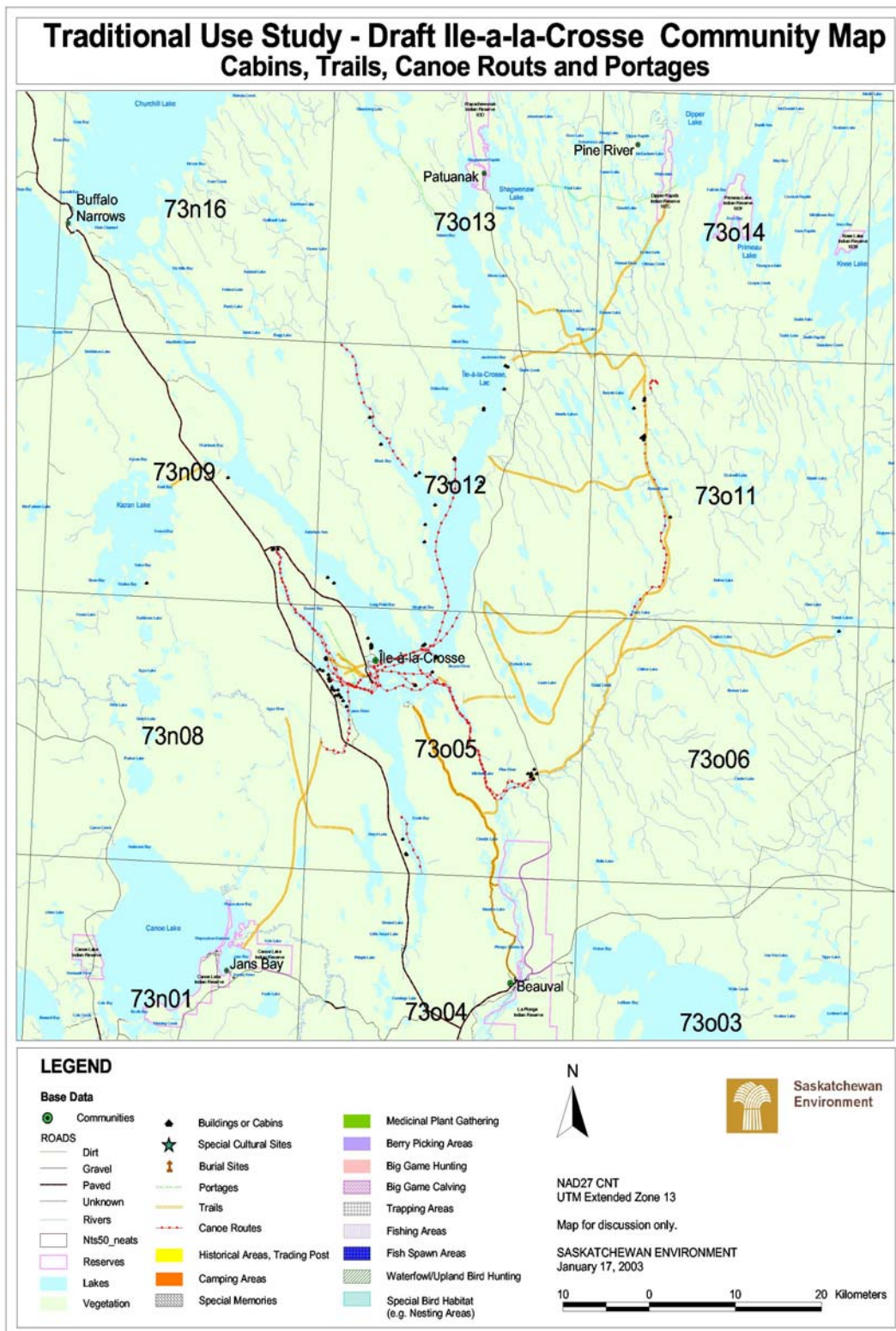
4.3.5 Ile-a-la-Crosse

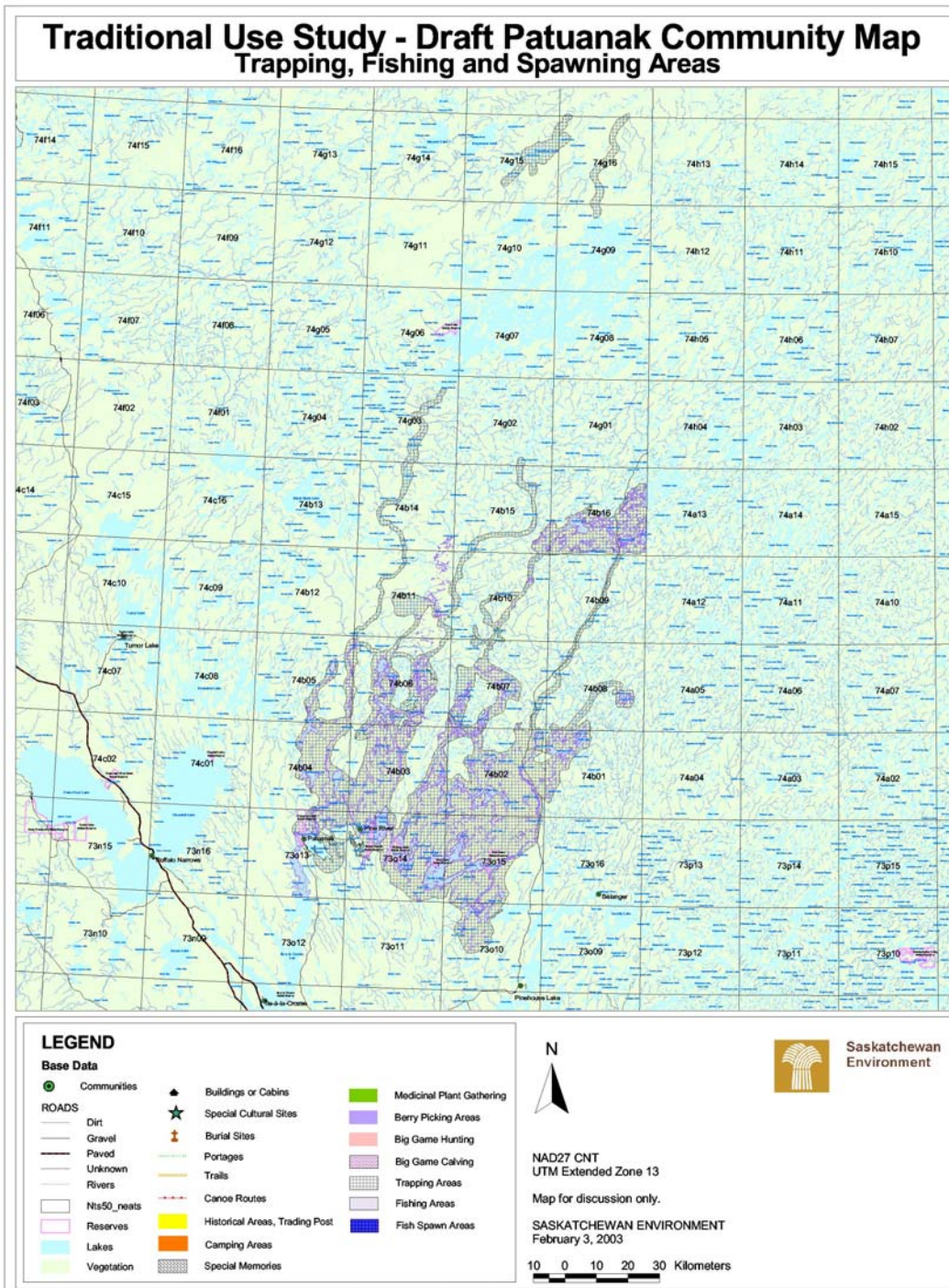
Figure 21



4.3.6 Ile-a-la-Crosse

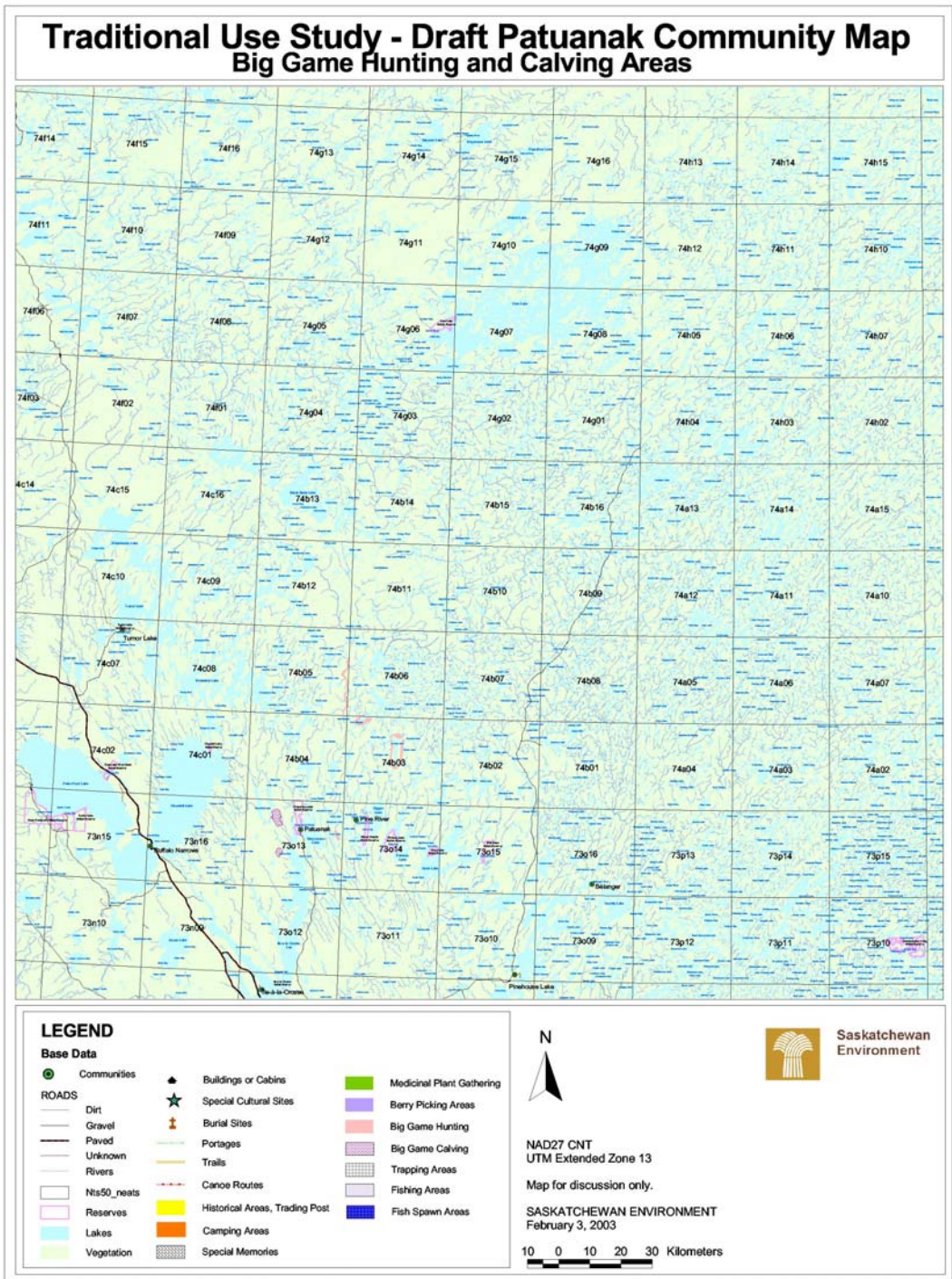
Figure 22





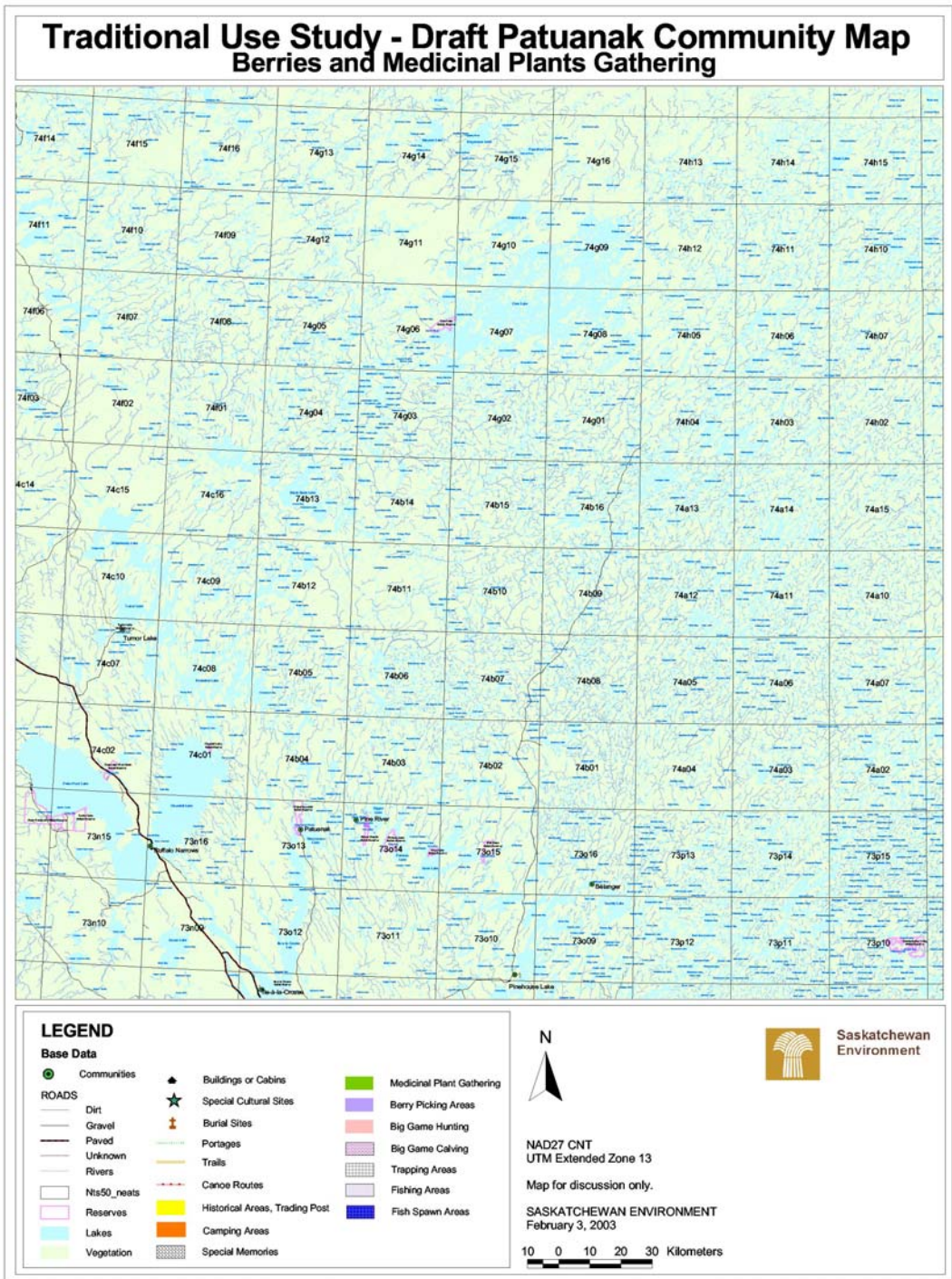
4.4.2 Patuanak

Figure 25



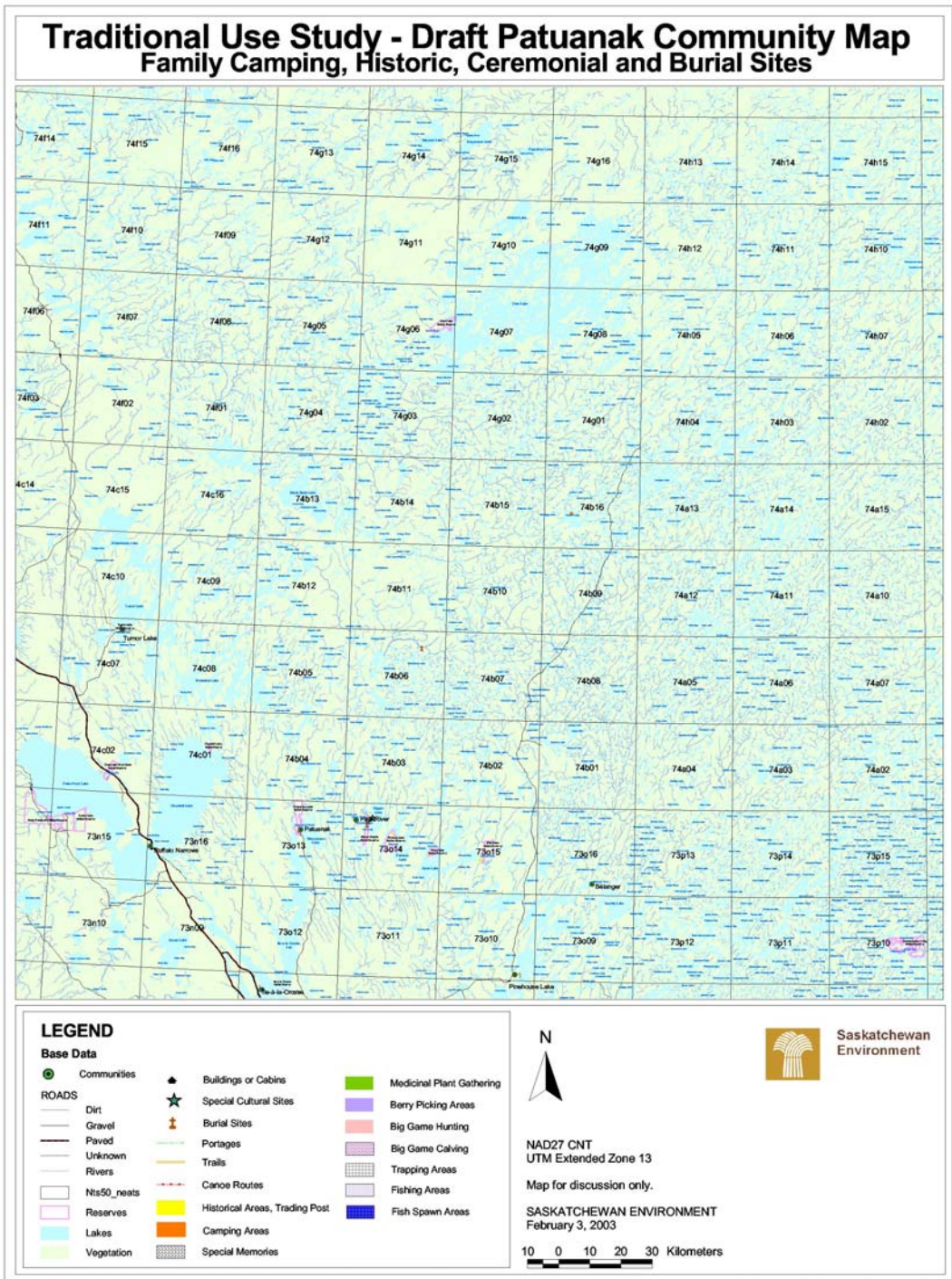
4.4.4 Patuanak

Figure 26



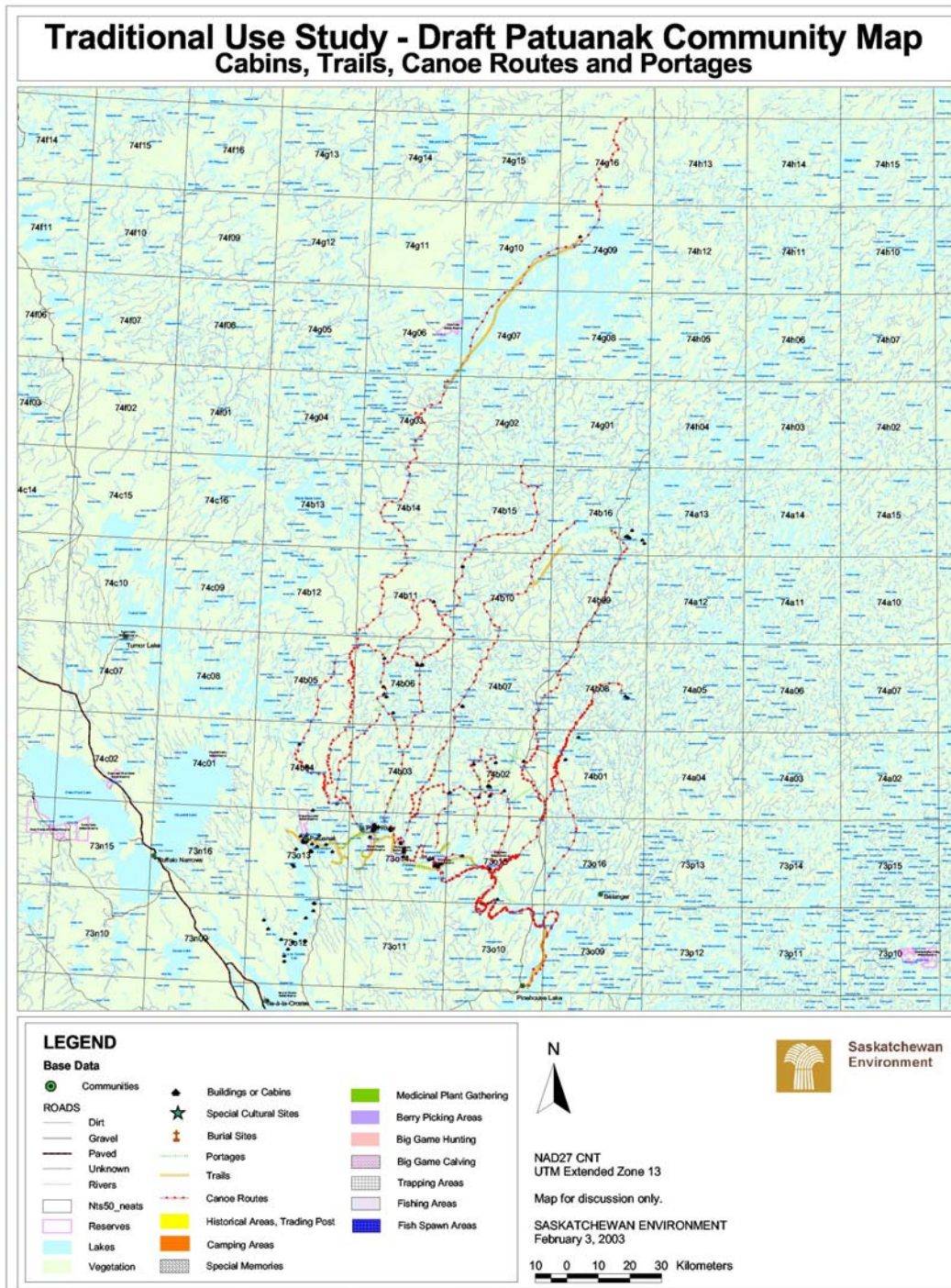
4.4.4 Patuanak

Figure 27



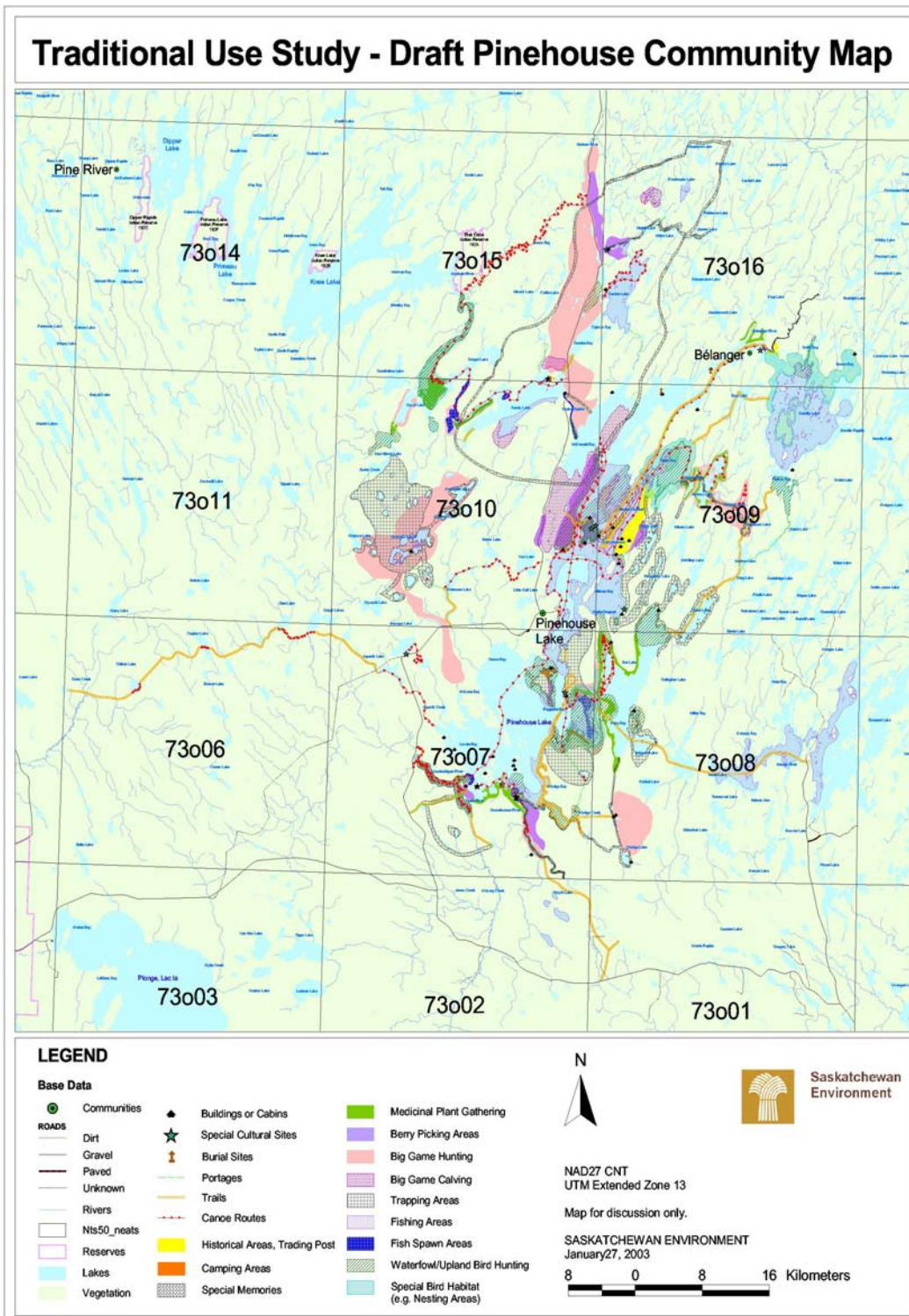
4.4.5 Patuanak

Figure 28



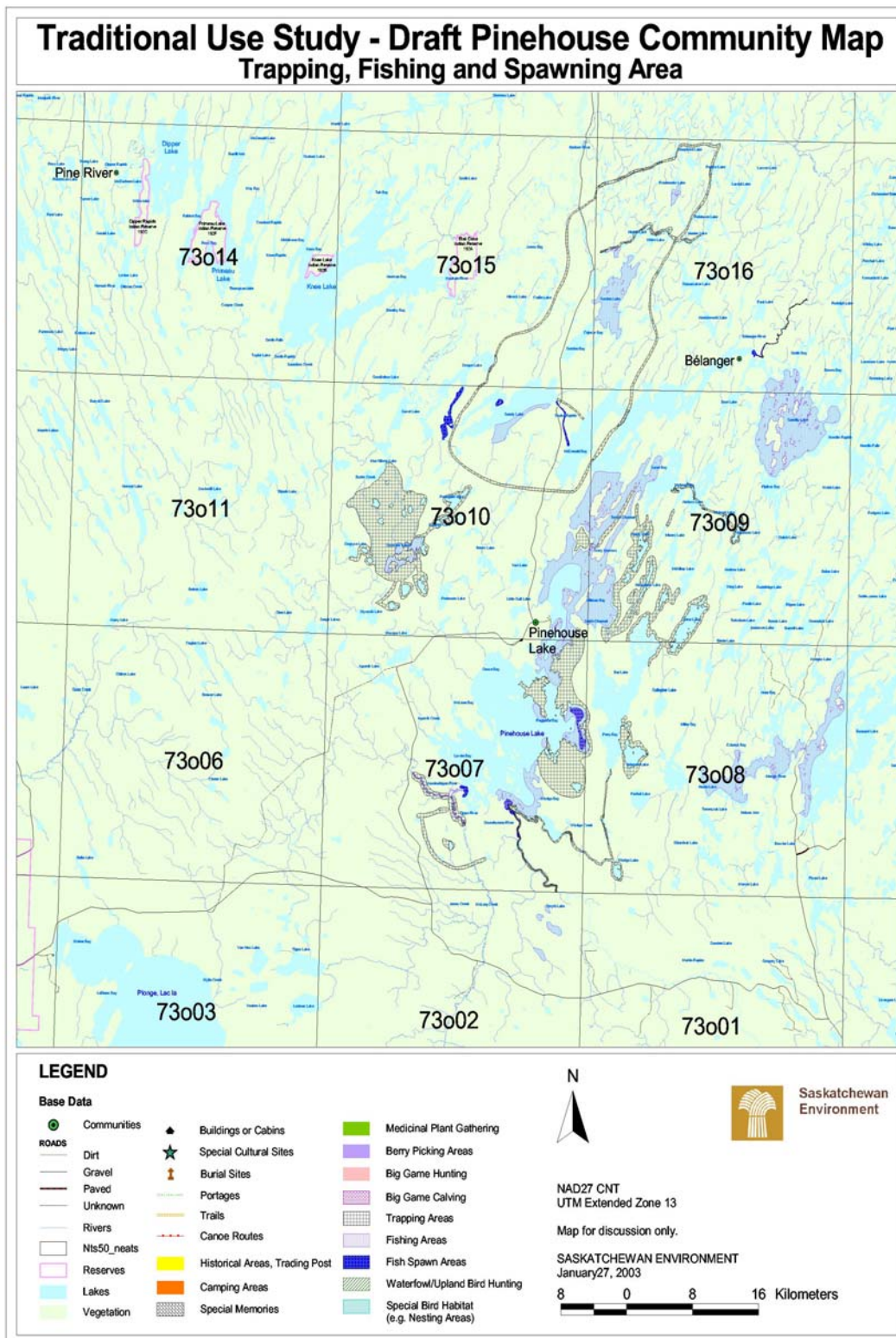
4.5 Pinehouse

Figure 29



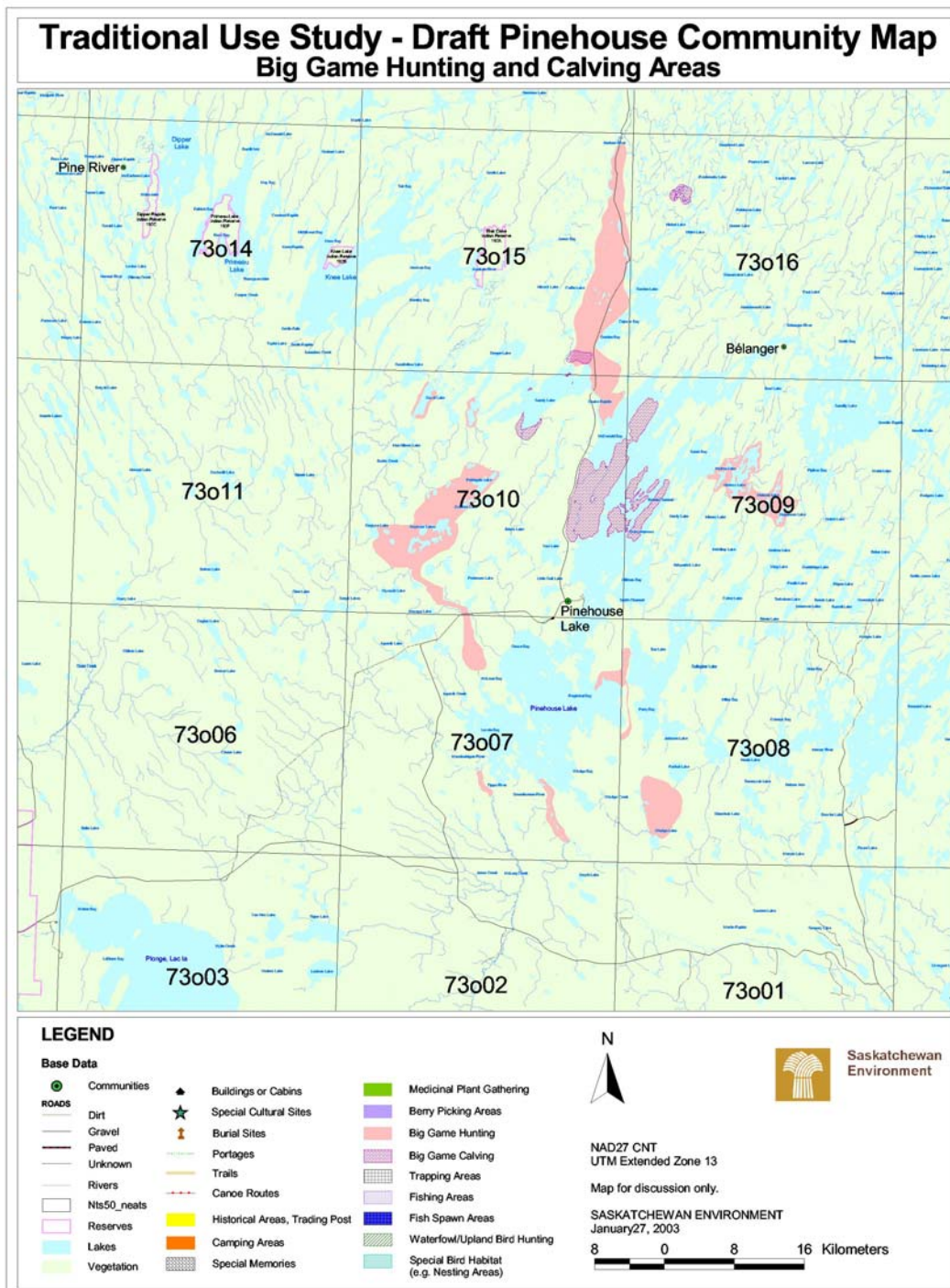
4.5.1 Pinehouse

Figure 30



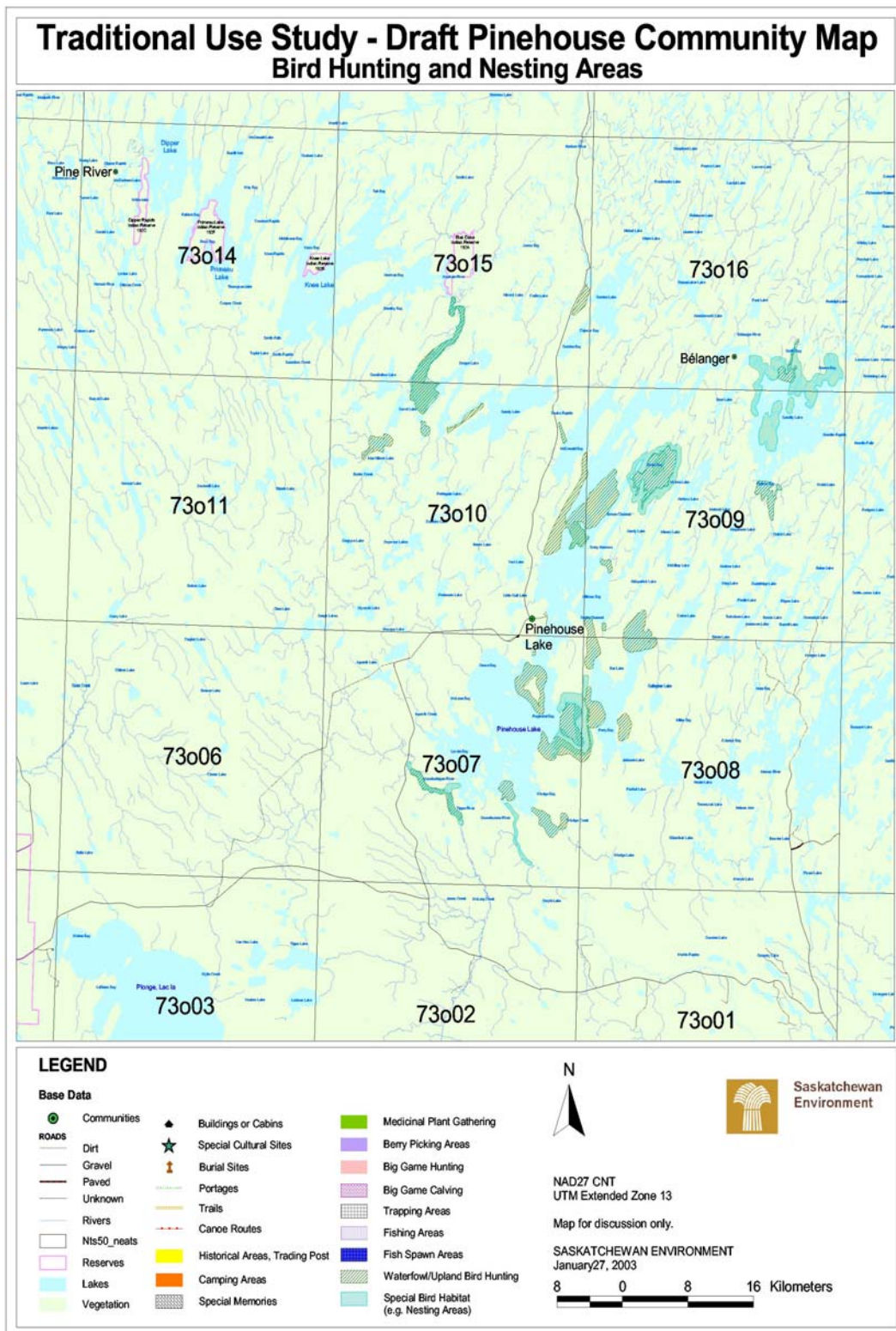
4.5.2 Pinehouse

Figure 31



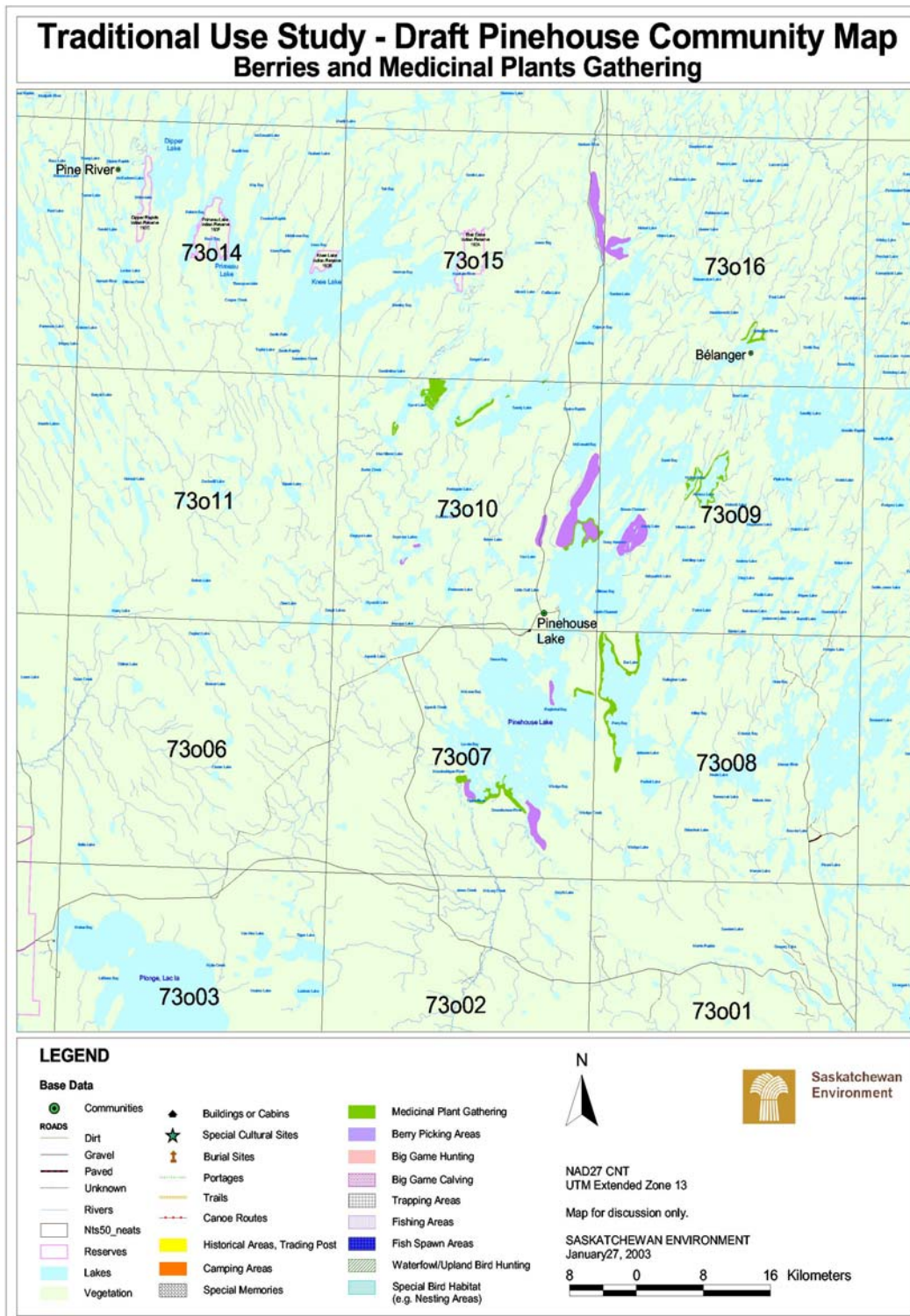
4.5.3 Pinehouse

Figure 32



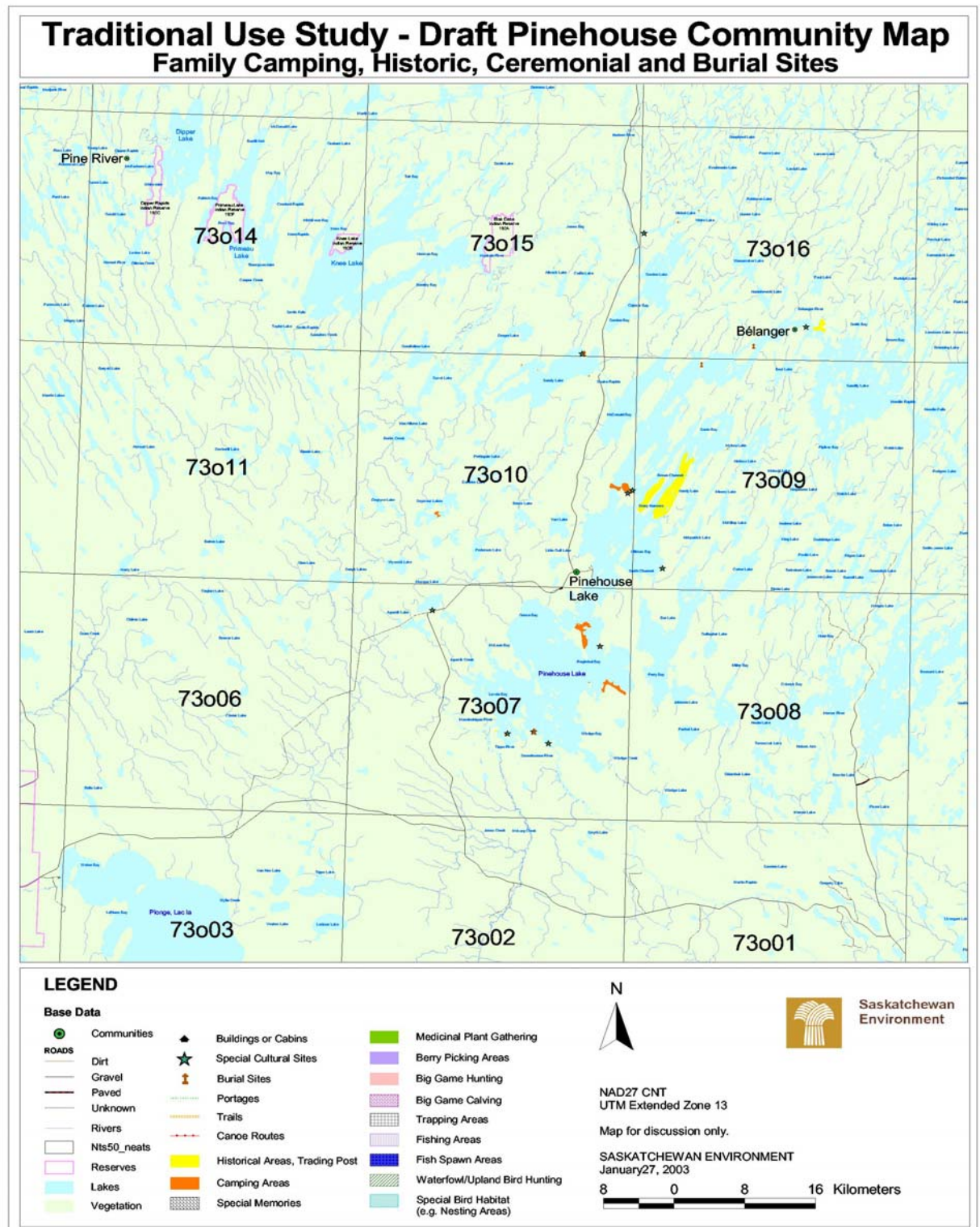
4.5.4 Pinehouse

Figure 33



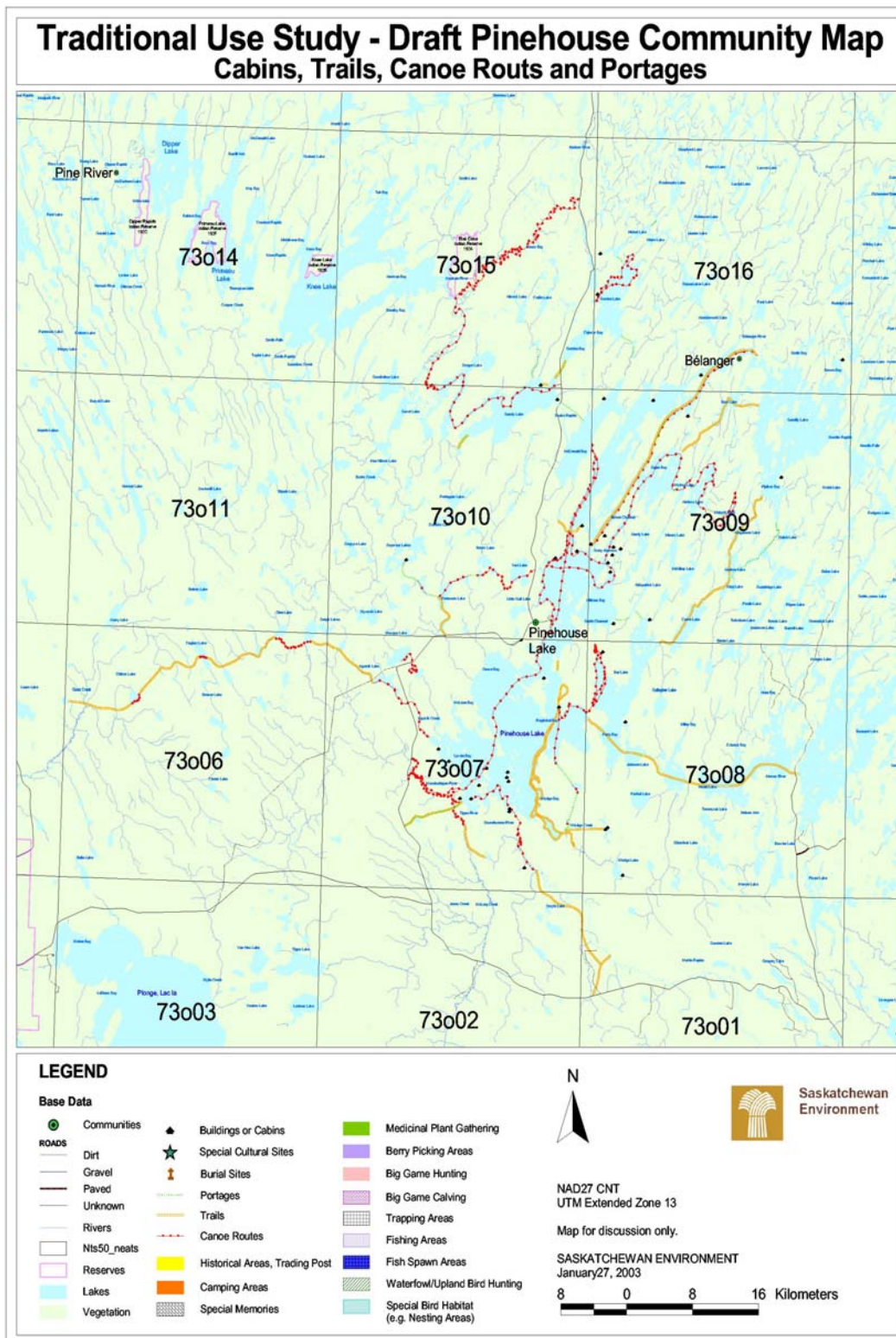
4.5.5 Pinehouse

Figure 34



4.5.6 Pinehouse

Figure 35



5.0 Other Documentation

Additional archival and published sources of information identified in the study included the following publications:

Tobias, Terry. 1987. *Northern Village of Pinehouse: Pinehouse Planning Project Technical Appendix 1: Bush Harvest Study*. Pinehouse, Saskatchewan

Jarvenpa, Robert. 1980. The Trappers of Patuanak: Toward a Spatial Ecology of Modern Hunters, National Museum of Man Mercury Series. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 67. Crown Copyright Reserved, Ottawa, Canada.

Longpre, Robert. 1977. Ile-a-la-Crosse: 1776 – 1976. Sakitawak Bi-Centennial. Published by Ile-a-la-Crosse Bi-Centennial Committee. Ile-a-la-Crosse Local Community Authority.

The Tobias study maybe a significant resource to land use planners as many of the original maps prepared by Terry Tobias and residents of Pinehouse in the 1980's were recovered in the community. These original hand coloured maps have been scanned and duplicated by Saskatchewan Environment. The maps will be returned to the community and Saskatchewan Environment will maintain a duplicate set for archive purposes.

5 Conclusions

The Traditional Use Study was undertaken by the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board and Saskatchewan Environment. The purpose of the study was:

- To involve local/regional residents who are/were active in Traditional Use activities in the development of land use and resource management decision-making processes.
- To begin a process whereby traditional, cultural, recreational, commercial and industrial land and resource utilization practices can be identified and documented to help guide in the development of land use, resource management policies, conflict resolution and mitigation strategies appropriate to the Pinehouse Dipper region.

By their very nature public consultation and public policy initiatives are evolutionary. As the level of public and stakeholder understanding of the various land and resource use interests increases the process of understanding each group's needs evolves. As outlined earlier in our discussion of methodological considerations, the involvement of the various stakeholders and the public in the decision-making process hold the potential to build relationships, foster communications, and enhance a sense of belonging and community due to its inclusive nature. The involvement of community representatives on the Pinehouse Dipper Land Use Planning Board and the local community resident's participation in the Traditional Use Study can contribute to the development of

cooperative, collaborative, consensual community and regional goals. As the level of public understanding increases concerns and conflicts will no doubt emerge, however, due to the consensual, community-based nature of the decision-making and planning processes adopted by the Board and Saskatchewan Environment community-based conflict resolution and mitigation strategies may be determined at the community and regional level. This represents a decentralized, participatory approach to policy development that has the potential to facilitate the resolution of many public and stakeholder concerns at the local and regional level.

The data collected in the study should be of assistance to and help guide The Board and Saskatchewan Environment in developing land use recommendations and policies for the region. The data will enhance the type and the quality of data available to Saskatchewan Environment and proponents of new development initiatives such as forestry operations that are proposed in the region. At the present time, Saskatchewan Environment, through the issuance of permits and licenses, and their monitoring and enforcement procedures collects information on individuals and companies involved in a wide range of traditional, recreational, commercial and industrial activities. In some cases involving traditional use activities the present permit and licensing data collected does not identify the actual spatial area where an activity occurs (e.g.; a trapping license will identify the name of the individual and the fur block they are licensed to trap in but will not identify the actual location of the trap line).

The study has been useful in mapping a number of trap lines and other traditional use activity sites in the Pinehouse Dipper region that may be impacted by future economic development projects such as forest harvesting activities (road construction, harvesting, and silviculture), mineral exploration and tourism. This data may be of assistance to regulatory agencies and proponents of future development initiatives by providing them with detailed information about specific types and locations of land usage and thereby provide them with an opportunity to develop appropriate policies and procedures that will mitigate or minimize impacts and potential conflicts.

7.0 Recommendations

- To help facilitate the ongoing collection of traditional use data it is recommended that hardcopies of the Regional Level map and the community specific traditional use maps be placed in a public location in each community. These maps could be mounted on an interior wall at the local municipal or the Co-Management Board offices. Additional data could be entered on the maps by local residents as (if) they become more comfortable with sharing their personal land use information.
- Hardcopies of the maps could also be placed in local Saskatchewan Environment offices in the participating communities. Saskatchewan Environment personnel could encourage local residents to take some time to update the traditional use maps when the individuals are renewing their annual permits/licenses.
- Proponents of new land and resource use activities could be encouraged or required to consult with other resource users in the area of their proposed develop initiatives to communicate their intentions; identify where the other resource users' activities occur and discuss/document their concerns; and develop appropriate mitigation plans and/or agreements
- The information presented in the Traditional Use Study Report could be made available to schools within the region as an educational resource to the curricula, teachers and students.

8.0 Considerations for Conducting Future Traditional Use Studies

A number of situations and challenges arose during the course of conducting the Pinehouse Dipper Traditional Use Study which impeded the timely conclusion of the study and affected the quality and quantity of data obtained.

- The lead research consultant and the Regional Land Use Planning Board representative and local Co-Management Board representatives should meet with each of the land and/or resource harvesting groups:
 - (i.e. Trappers Association, Fishermen’s Association, etc...) to explain the purpose of the study, request the group and its members participation, and establish a procedure where the research consultant can provide the group with regular progress reports.
 - Mapping information with participants could be undertaken on an individualized basis or in small groups. The utilization of small groups of people with common land/resource use interests could serve to improve the scope and quality of the data. The collective memories and interests would serve to validate individual information and could yield more reliable and comprehensive information. This became very evident during the Public Consultation Open House events.
- Local persons hired to conduct interviews and map participants traditional use information should visit with Elders in their homes or the local Senior

Citizen's home or drop in centre at times convenient to the Elders to conduct interviews. Small group interview and mapping sessions would provide the benefit of social interaction and the group's collective experiences and memories.

- The local municipality or First Nation should be contracted to hire and supervise local research personnel.
- At least one week should be devoted to training local research personnel in Map Reading, Interview Techniques and Transcript/Mapping Procedures.

9.0 Budget Summary

<u>Phase/Activity</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Value</u>
• Phase I	Sask Environment	\$50,000
• Phase II	Sask Environment	35,000
• Phase III	Sask Environment	16,000
	Sask Heritage Foundation	5,000
• GIS Map Products (Income in Kind Contribution)	Sask Environment	<u>130,000</u>
Total Project Budget		<u>\$236,000</u>

10.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the Pinehouse Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board, Saskatchewan Environment for providing us with the opportunity to contribute to the development of land and resource management planning for the Pinehouse Dipper region.

We would also like to thank the residents of Beauval, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Patuanak and English River First Nation, and Pinehouse for their cooperation and contributions to this study.

Special thanks is extended to the Community Coordinators in each community: Ovide McCallum (Beauval), Nathan Favel (Ile-a-la-Crosse), Donna McIntyre and Craig Aubichon, Margaret Aubichon (Patuanak/English River First Nation), and Clinton Sanderson (Pinehouse) for their contributions to the project.

Finally, we would like to thank Saskatchewan Environment and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation for their generous support of the Pinehouse Dipper Traditional Use Study.

Appendix I

Interview Guide (Questionnaire)

Informed Consent Form

Data Collection Standards and Processing Procedures

Interview Checklist

Individual Map Verification Release

**Incorporating Traditional Use Studies in Land Use
Planning: A Proposed Approach by the Pinehouse
Dipper Regional Land Use Planning Board, March
2001**

Appendix II

Interview Transcripts

(not included in publicly distributed copies of this report to maintain confidentiality of respondent's information).

13.0 Appendix III Digital Images from Public Consultation Open House Events:

Figure 37 Beauval Open House



Figure 38

Beauval Open House



Figure 39

Beauval Open House



Figure 40

Beauval Open House



Figure 41

Ile-a-la-Crosse Open House



Figure 42 Ile-a-la-Crosse Open House



Figure 43

Ile-a-la-Crosse Open House



Figure 44 Ile-a-la-Crosse Open House



Figure 45 Patuanak/English River First Nation Open House



Figure 46 Patuanak/English River First Nation Open House



Figure 47 Patuanak/English River First Nation Open House



Figure 48 Patuanak/English River First Nation Open House



Figure 49 Patuanak/English River First Nation Open House



Figure 50

Pinehouse Open House



Figure 51 Pinehouse Open House



Figure 52 **Pinehouse Open House**



Figure 53

Pinehouse Open House

