



#### **PHOTO 19: MATURE BLACK SPRUCE FOREST ON MINERAL SOIL**

This stand of black spruce occurs with scattered paper birch on the moderately well drained crest and upper slopes of hummocky terrain in the southern part of our homeland ecosystem. The understory consists of Labrador tea with low shrubs such as blueberry and bunchberry and a ground cover of feathermoss.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- mixed forest;
- many mosquitoes even in a dry season so may be avoided for this reason;
- berries are present;
- many medicinal plants are present; and
- good cover in these areas for fur-bearing animals.



**PHOTO 20: UNEVEN AGED STABLE BLACK SPRUCE FOREST ON MINERAL SOIL**

This semi-open black spruce forest is situated on gentle lower slopes of hummocky mineral surface materials in the southern part of our homeland ecosystem.

OWL Members provided the following additional comment:

- not enough growth in these areas and they are avoided as there are few opportunities here.





**PHOTO 21: VEGETATION ON UPPER SLOPE OF DRUMLIN RIDGE**

This photo shows evenly spaced and even-aged jack pine with an alder shrub layer and little or no regeneration. The pine is about 40 years old and 25 feet tall (7.6 metres). The thick leaf litter is comprised of mixed feathermoss and leaf fall from low shrubs such as Labrador tea, rose, blueberry and bunchberry. Patches of open ground occur, and lichens cover the moss layer where more light penetrates.

OWL Members offered no additional comments.



**PHOTO 22: BLACK SPRUCE REGENERATION ON RIDGED MINERAL SOIL**

The black spruce stand at this site was burned about two years earlier. Shrubs such as rose, blueberry, bunchberry, Labrador tea, fireweed and jack pine are colonizing the site. The large boulders are typical of many glacial ridges in the area.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- moose will eventually feed on new growth; and
- berries prosper in recently burned areas.





**PHOTO 23: SHORELINE OF LITTLE LIMESTONE LAKE CONSISTING OF A THICK DEPOSIT OF MINERAL MATERIAL SORTED AND DEPOSITED BY WATER FLOWING FROM A MELTING GLACIER (GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSIT)**

This prominent upland with 15 to 30 percent slope consists of silt and sand. It is from 3-6 miles (5-10 km) wide and rises about 10 m above the water.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- this area burned 2-3 years ago;
- many wolves and moose here;
- rainbow trout are plentiful; and
- good trapping potential.



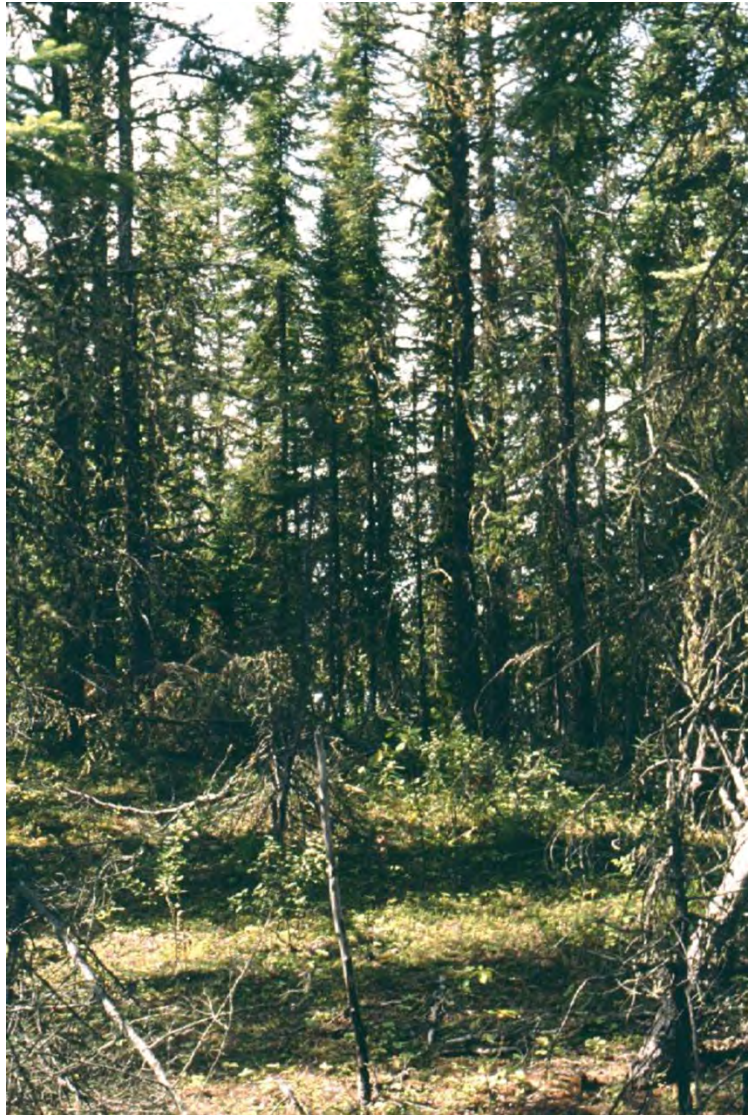
**PHOTO 24: DISSECTED SIDE-SLOPES OF GLACIOFLUVIAL COMPLEX**

Dissection of steeper sloping portions of a glaciofluvial complex results in diversity of slope and aspect that, in turn, results in a range of different habitats over a short distance that is attractive to wildlife. The generally better drained conditions of the area enable easier access but also increase the potential for more frequent fire.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- no berries here;
- good moose hunting;
- moose will congregate in these areas if they are wet and will not come down to lakes and rivers;
- these areas are difficult to move through;
- they are more easily accessed by snowmobile in winter;
- good area for moose hunting and trapping; and
- beaver can be found around willows.





**PHOTO 25: CONIFEROUS FOREST ON A GLACIOFLUVIAL RIDGE OF COARSE MINERAL MATERIAL**

This stand of black spruce and jack pine with mixed woody shrub and herbaceous layer and feathermoss and lichen groundcover is 65 to 75 years old. The openness of the site with little groundcover indicates that the site is relatively dry.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- nice hiking area;
- good area for rabbits, grouse, caribou; and
- good area for firewood because it is a dry area.



**PHOTO 26: MIXED FOREST ON SILTY GLACIOFLUVIAL MATERIALS**

This photo shows a semi-open stand of jack pine and birch on ridged glaciofluvial deposits. This forest stand and sparse groundcover is characteristic of well drained silty materials which are subject to a frequent fire history.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- nice hiking area;
- insufficient growth;
- no fur-bearing animals;
- easy to move through; and
- similar to previous photo.





### PHOTO 27: BEDROCK EXPOSURE

Bedrock outcrops are not common in our homeland ecosystem. The Precambrian rock underlying this area is usually covered by glacial till deposits, lacustrine sediments or organic deposits.

Exposures of bedrock occur mainly along river and stream channels where the surface materials are thin and discontinuous. The exposure is often visible as rapids in the stream or river bed.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- rocky area with a bit of swamp;
- some berries but little growth in general;
- some fur-bearing animals;
- squirrels and mice exist near shoreline;
- migrating fish - esp. Sturgeon; and
- moose and fur-bearing animals come here.



**PHOTO 28: LANDSCAPE DOMINATED BY POORLY DRAINED ORGANIC SOILS ON  
LEVEL TO GENTLY SLOPING TERRAIN**

The small pond in the foreground of this photo and the stream draining it to a larger water body are typical of small waters in the organic material landscape. The pond would not overwinter fish, but may be a jackfish spawning and nursery area. The stream is too small for easy canoe travel. Larger lakes containing several species of food fish are in the background.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- some berries present in summer but no hunting in these areas;
- some trapping takes place near shore; and
- some medicinal plants can be collected here on foot.





**PHOTO 29: FIRST FALLS ON ODEI RIVER**

Although the falls are a barrier to upstream fish movement, spawning of several species including sturgeon occurs in the turbulent water just below. The Odei River is a significant travel route, and spring social gatherings occurred at this site due to the abundance of fish and the ease of their capture in the spawning season.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- everyone knows this area;
- domestic fish harvesting area;
- commercial trapping area;
- some trappers use fish as bait in their traps;
- sturgeon spawning area;
- pickerel are present here;
- animals go to the falls to drink – they follow the sound; and
- this area is a landmark to people and animals.



### PHOTO 30: MOUTH OF FORK CREEK

This small creek flows from a couple of small lakes located about three miles (five km) inland into the Nelson River just upstream of Birthday Rapids. It is a spawning stream for forage fish and jackfish.

OWL Members provided no additional comments.





### PHOTO 31: MOUTH OF SEEBESIS CREEK IN A DRY YEAR

A number of species spawn in this creek, including forage fish, longnose and white sucker and jackfish. Pickerel may spawn near the mouth. Keeyask will flood the lower reaches of this creek. This creek has three branches, the longest of which reaches about two miles (three km) inland. It is situated about seven miles (11 km) upstream from Keeyask Rapids.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- otter, beaver, muskrat here;
- all kinds of fish – jack, northern pike, pickerel; and
- this is known as Rabbit Creek, south of Gull Lake.



**PHOTO 32: MOUTH OF SEEBESIS CREEK IN A WET YEAR**

The seasonal flow reversal of the Nelson River has made access and navigation unpredictable.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- this is known as Walrus Bay – south of Gull Lake;
- this is a fishing area in spring;
- moose come here; and
- there are some cabins here now.





**PHOTO 33: RABBIT FUR CREEK**

This stream in the organic area is located about 10 miles (16 km) upstream from Keeyask Rapids. It has two branches, and reaches about two miles (3 km) inland. It has limited fish potential apart from jackfish and some minnows, but would be useful as a canoe route for moose and waterfowl hunting.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- this is known as Rabbit Fur Creek – near Gull Lake; and
- similar activities and habitat to previous photo.



**PHOTO 34: MOUTH OF PORTAGE CREEK (FLOWING FROM CARSCADDEN LAKE INTO NELSON RIVER)**

This large creek, with two branches, empties into the Nelson River about 14 miles (23 km) upstream from Keeyask Rapids. It has good flow velocity and seasonal duration, and is an important spawning stream for pickerel, suckers and jackfish. It is large enough for canoe travel but is less than 10 miles (16 km) from mouth to headwaters. The area it drains is predominantly organic surface materials but includes local areas of mineral surface materials.

OWL Members provided no additional comments.





**PHOTO 35: GULL RAPIDS**

These rapids on the Nelson River would be navigable when going downstream by experienced canoe travellers. A large number of fish spawn in the turbulent water, including sturgeon. Large social gatherings would occur during spawning season, when the fish are plentiful and easy to catch.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- Based on the location of the proposed Keeyask Project, the cultural importance of this area has been explained and is understood.



**PHOTO 36: LILLIAN ISLAND**

The offshore areas surrounding this island in the Nelson River would be important spawning habitat for minnows, pickerel, and whitefish. The Nelson River is the most important travel route in the SLRMA, and this island would be a regular stopping-off place.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- this is known as Lillian Island – named for Lillian Beady;
- It is a ceremonial/sacred site and a gathering site; and
- TCN Members plan to go there often as this area will soon be lost/flooded, as it is located less than a mile (less than 1.6 km) upstream from Gull Rapids.





**PHOTO 37: GULL RAPIDS CREEK**

This stream would serve as travel route for moose and waterfowl hunting on the small lake that is less than half a mile (less than 1.6 km) from the Nelson River immediately below Keeyask Rapids. Fish potential would be limited due to shallow depth and acidity.

OWL Members provided the following additional comments:

- this is on the south side of the Nelson River and very near Gull Rapids;
- there are moose and caribou here as well as aquatic fur-bearing animals; and
- this is an area of the spring goose hunt.