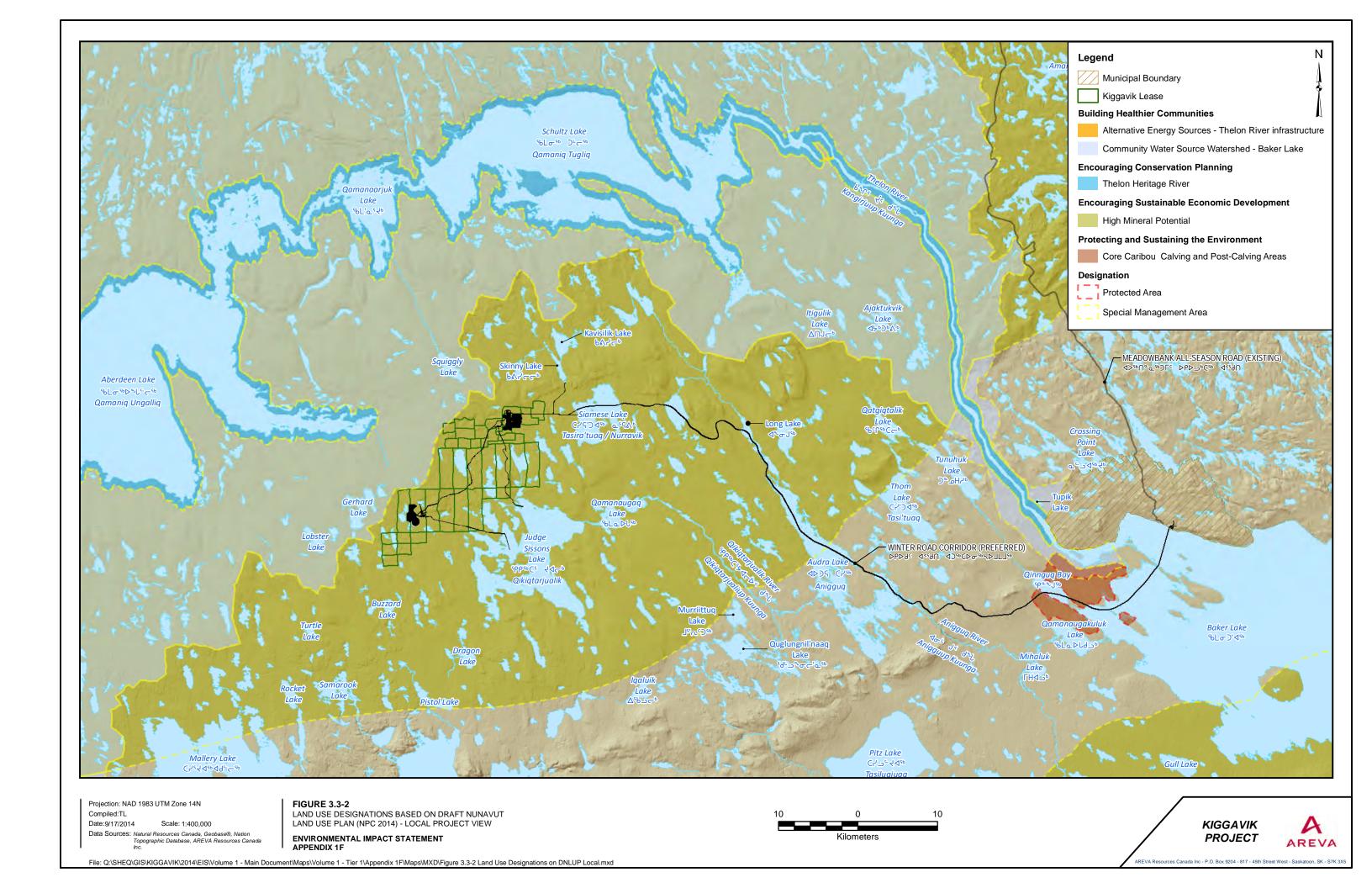


File:Q:\SHEQ\GIS\KIGGAVIK\2014\EIS\Volume 1 - Main Document\Maps\Volume 1 - Tier 1\Appendix 1F\Maps\MXD\Figure 3.3-1 Land Use Designations Based on the DNLUP\_(NPC2014).mxd





## 4 Local Context – Baker Lake

## 4.1 Historical Resource and Land Use and Cultural Sites

### 4.1.1 Pre-1950's

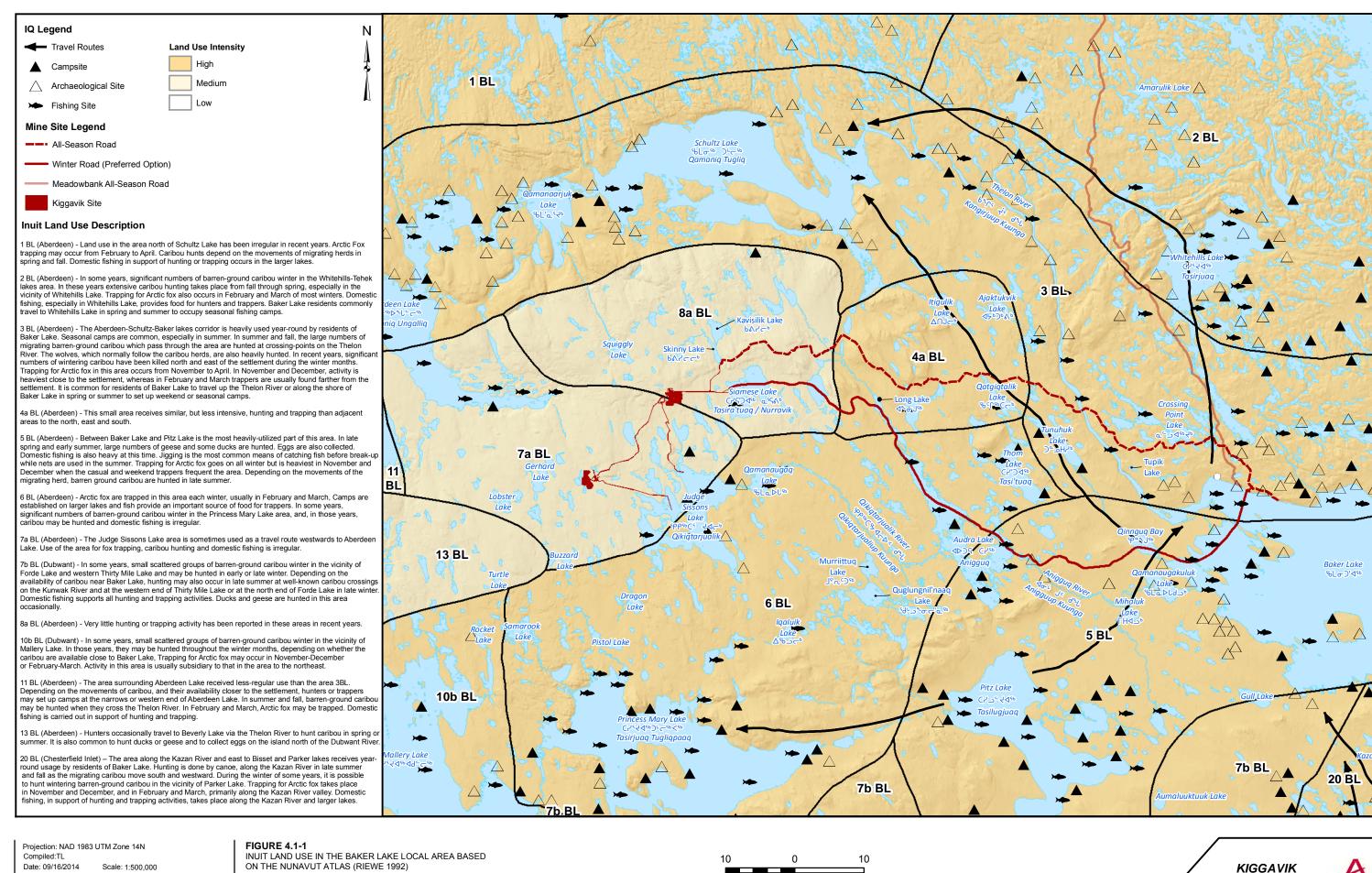
The barren lands were vast landscapes covered by small congregations of Inuit that hunted caribou in camps of two to three families, with the occasional aggregation of multiple camps for short periods. As presented in Tier 3, Technical Appendix 9B, Inuit cultural sites are primarily found along major river and lake watersheds of the Kazan, Dubawnt, and lower Thelon. Traditionally, the Baker Lake Inuit lived a nomadic lifestyle following caribou migration routes and established camps at preferred hunting locations. Below is a list of groups that occupied the Baker Lake area:

- North of Baker Lake
- Ahiarmiut/Ahialmuit: Qamanirjuaq Lake area near caribou calving grounds during the summer, and northward during the winter to follow the herds
- Kihlirnirmiut: Garry Lake area
- Hanningajurmiut: Garry Lake south of the Utkuhiksalingmiut
- Utkuhiksalingmitut: Back River area near Chantrey Inlet; The Natsilingmiutut are a subdialect
- Northwest of Baker Lake
- Akilinirmiut: Thelon River area north of Beverly Lake; Some lived near Qairnirmiut and Hauniqturmiut northwest of Baker Lake, however many relocated to Aberdeen Lake during the famine of the mid 1950s
- East to northwest of Baker Lake
- Qaernermiut: Northern group that extended from the coastline to Baker and Beverly Lakes
- Hauniqturmiut: Small group who lived near the coast by Wilson and Ferguson rivers
- South of Baker Lake
- Harvaqtuurmiut: Kazan River, Yathkyed Lake, Kunwak River, Beverly Lake, and Dubawnt River
- Ihalmiut: Located along Kazan River, Ennadai Lake, Little Dubawnt Lake, and north of Thlewiaza
- Paalirmiut: Padlei River region located south of the Hauniqturmiut and Harvaqtuurmiut

#### 4.1.2 1950 to Recent

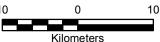
Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, famine and the opening of both the federal school and health centre influenced Inuit relocation, including to Baker Lake. As noted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in 1953, Baker Lake had a population between 40 and 50 people with 17 being Inuit. Few Inuit were employed and approximately 400 remained nomadic across the barren lands in small groups of two or three families (Baker Lake 1979). By 1960, the Baker Lake population grew to between 150 and 200 (Baker Lake 1979). The health centre was built in 1956, and was later followed by the construction of the school in 1957 for children between six and 16. Many Inuit relocated to be near their children, and most had relocated from the Baker Lake, Kazan, Thelon, and Back River areas by the mid-1960s. Following settlement into Baker Lake, the year-round occupation of the barren lands largely ceased, but Inuit continue seasonal travel to camps and harvest areas.

In 1972, the Inuit land Use and Occupancy Project was initiated with the intention of providing a comprehensive record of Inuit Land use and occupancy from prior to the arrival of traders to the 1970s. This information was later published in 1992 as the Nunavut Atlas (Riewe, 1992). Figure 4.1-1 shows Inuit Land Use Descriptions presented in the Nunavut Atlas in relation to the Kiggavik Project. In general, land near the community of Baker Lake and extending north, east and south have higher designations of land use intensity than some land areas to the west.



Data Sources: Rick Riewe (Editor). 1992. Nunavut Atlas. Canadian Circumpolar Institute and the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut. Edmonton, AB.Art Design Printing Inc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT** APPENDIX 1F







#### 4.1.2.1 Homeland Visits

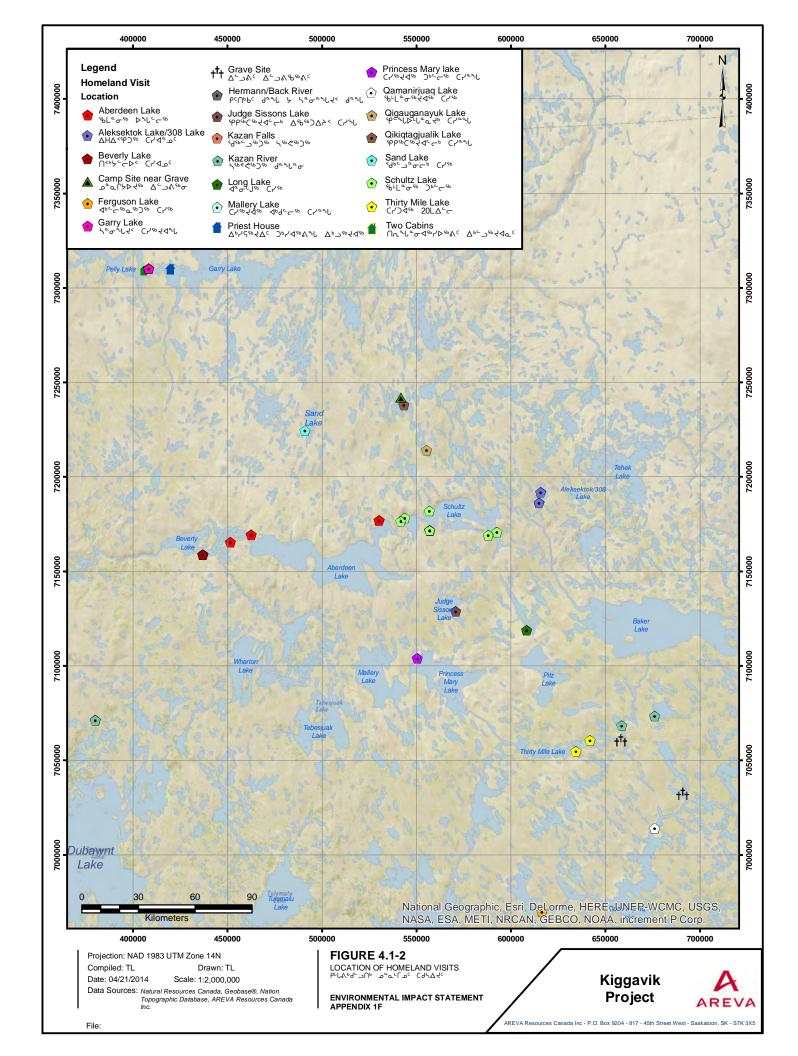
AREVA has conducted the Homeland Visit Program (Program) since 2006 to give residents of Baker Lake the opportunity to return to their homelands. The spatial area of the visits was limited by the helicopter capability to travel extended distances from the Kiggavik camp. During the Program, participants from Baker Lake were taken to visit those gravesites and homelands within approximately 200 km north to 150 km northwest to 170 km south of Baker Lake.

Many of the Homeland Visits were to seasonal hunting and fishing camps, many in proximity to Aberdeen, Beverly, and Schultz lakes and near caribou migration routes. Summer and winter camps near Aberdeen Lake consisted of both tent rings and cabins. Caribou crossings and camping areas were located across the northern shores of Schultz Lake where igloos were used throughout the winter and tents in the summer; hunting grounds on Schultz Lake were visited near Horseshoe Island. Northwest of Schultz Lake, there is one outpost camp near Sand Lake and an old campsite close to traditional hunting grounds and trapping areas. East of Schultz Lake is the homeland near 308 Lake where camping areas and grave sites are located (IQ-Riewe 1992<sup>6</sup>).

Homelands also extended south towards Thirty Mile Lake, Ferguson Lake, and Qamanirjuaq Lake. It was mentioned during one visit that caribou are common at Thirty Mile Lake in the spring. The area north of Qamanirjuaq Lake was a prominent calving ground for caribou and also regularly hunted (IQ-Riewe 1992). Traditionally, Inuit travelled between homelands, such as the family who wintered near Thirty Mile Lake, but then travelled to Parker Lake during the spring and summer. Occasionally, they would travel northwest to visit the people of the Aberdeen Lake area. While visiting Ferguson Lake and Qamanirjuaq Lake, an old fishing shack was located where fishing with small spear occurred and a camping area with a frame building and a homemade boat was also located. During one visit to the eastern side of Judge Sissons Lake, tent rings and traditional hunting areas were noted. During travels to Mallery Lake and Princess Mary Lake, a meat drying area, old cooking areas, and living areas were identified close to the hunting areas nearby. Between Princess Mary Lake and Baker Lake, there is a camping area on a hill near Long Lake where they would build an igloo and do a lot of fishing on the southern portion of Long Lake.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> IQ-Riewe 1992: The land far north of Baker Lake, between Schultz Lake and the north coast, as well as northwest of Beverly Lake was irregularly used in the past for trapping Arctic fox and hunting caribou



### 4.1.2.2 Archaeological Surveys

Archaeological surveys have been conducted in proximity to the Kiggavik Project area, Baker Lake, and Thelon River. Archaeological sites have included camps with stone features, tent rings, caches, hunting blinds and kayak stands. The studies concluded that archaeological sites are present in high concentrations along the shores of Baker Lake, adjacent to the Thelon River, and the southern end of Skinny Lake (FEIS Tier 2, Volume 9, Part 2 Heritage Resources). These studies were consistent with previous archaeological studies that found encampments around large lakes and near caribou migration routes. Before settlement and consistent with territorial land use patterns, Inuit hunted around all the lakes in the Baker Lake region (Baker Lake 1979).

The homeland visit initiative and archaeologically important areas show generally consistent land use intensity areas to those presented in Riewe 1992. Of note, areas east and north of the Kiggavik Project tend to have higher levels of historic land use intensity than area in proximity to the mine sites.

# 4.2 Contemporary Resource and Land Use

The influences of food security, wage economy, and rising costs of travel on the land have influenced harvest patterns. The inland community of Baker Lake primarily harvests caribou, arctic char, and trout. Other species of importance include fox, wolf, muskox, and various waterfowl, birds and eggs (Tier 3, Volume 6, Terrestrial Environment, Appendix 6C Wildlife Baseline).

Caribou harvesting is recorded by Baker Lake residents west of the Thelon in both the NWMB study and the more recent hunter harvest study (Figure 4.2-1), but this harvest represents a low percentage (<1%) of the overall harvest (DEIS Tier 3, Volume 6, Terrestrial Environment, Appendix 6C, Section 5.1.5.6). The NWMB study concluded that the area west of the Thelon had been subject to little harvest pressure due to low animal densities, as well as being difficult to access the area (DEIS Tier 2, Volume 9, Socio-economics and Community, Part 1 Socio-Economic Environment, Section 9.1.2). Based on the Baker Lake Hunter Harvest Study that AREVA has supported since 2007, there is some preference for harvest near home, cabins and established travel routes.

Inuit harvest density based on information from the Kivalliq Inuit Association is shown in Figure 4.2-2. Caribou, muskox, wolf, and waterfowl hunting areas, as identified in IQ interviews and workshops, are shown in the Figure 4.2-3. Cabins, camps and camping areas, travel routes, tent rings, sod houses, gravesites, caching areas, and areas of spirituality as identified in IQ interviews and workshops are presented in Figure 4.2-4.