



Robinson Huron WAAWIINDAMAAGEWIN

Use and Occupancy Study

The Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin will be conducting a Treaty-wide Use and Occupancy Study for the 21 signatory First Nations. The study will be divided into five phases and will take place over the next four or five years.



What is the Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin?

The Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin (RHW) is an initiative undertaken by the 21 First Nations of the Robinson Huron Treaty to create a Treaty level body capable of addressing many issues that have, until this time, been addressed within the Canadian government created agencies and systems of governance.

The goal is to develop a collective Anishinaabe decision making body progressing the interests and inherent rights of our people. We recognize the Treaty helps protect our inherent rights and can build on the strength of this collective to enhance and foster health and wellness for our people.

Waawiindamaagewin is the Anishinaabe word for Treaty, which translates to 'promises'.

What is the Robinson Huron Treaty?

The Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) was signed on September 9, 1850, on Whitefish Island in Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario). Lake Huron Anishinabek leaders, Chiefs and Principle Men, entered

into a Treaty with the Crown. The Treaty is a Nation-to-Nation Agreement that promised Lands set aside for the exclusive use of the Anishinaabe, Guaranteed Hunting and Fishing Rights and provides for Treaty Annuities.

What is the Use and Occupancy Study?

A series of map-based interviews will be conducted with the Anishinaabe of the Robinson Huron Treaty Territory for approximately four years. The Use and Occupancy Study (UOS) data collected through these interviews will be crucial in asserting jurisdiction and protecting areas of Anishinaabe importance.

Use and occupancy mapping tells the story of a person's life on the land in picture form and is collected through interviews. The UOS will include Anishinaabe who have extensive personal use of their homelands.

Why is this project important?

A community with robust maps will discover them to be an asset for all kinds of purposes in the coming decades.

This research will be valuable in many areas:

- Protect Anishinaabe Rights and Interests
- Monitor the ecosystem within Treaty Territory
- Clarify Use and Occupancy of our Treaty Lands
- Assist with understanding overlapping jurisdiction
- Provide valuable evidence for litigation
- Resource Development Strategy for the Treaty Territory
- Add to baseline understanding and determine impacts

Use and Occupancy mapping has proven to be extremely valuable in asserting and protecting Indigenous rights. We believe that undertaking a robust Use and Occupancy Study is foundational for supporting and fostering treaty leadership.

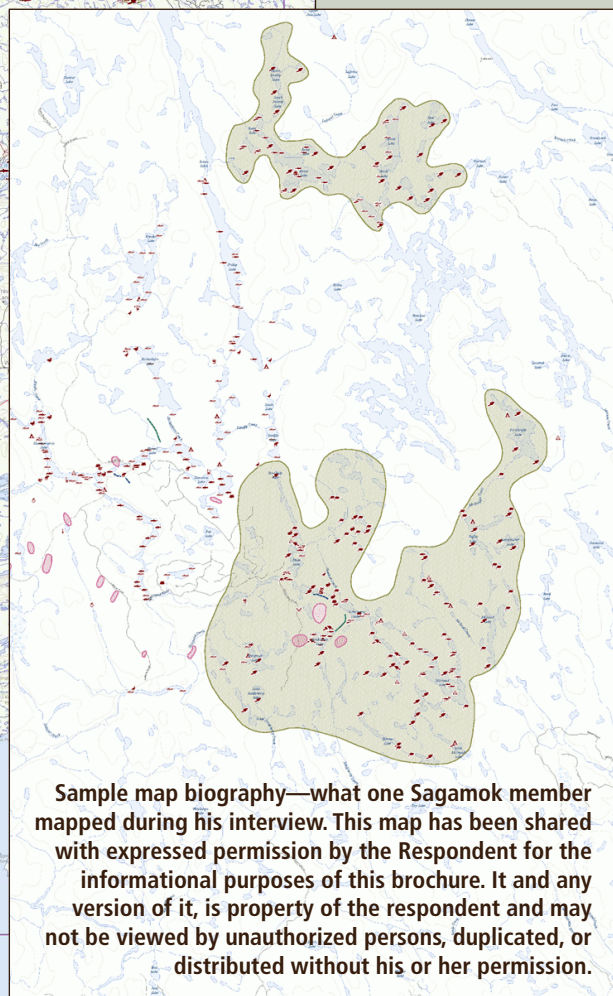
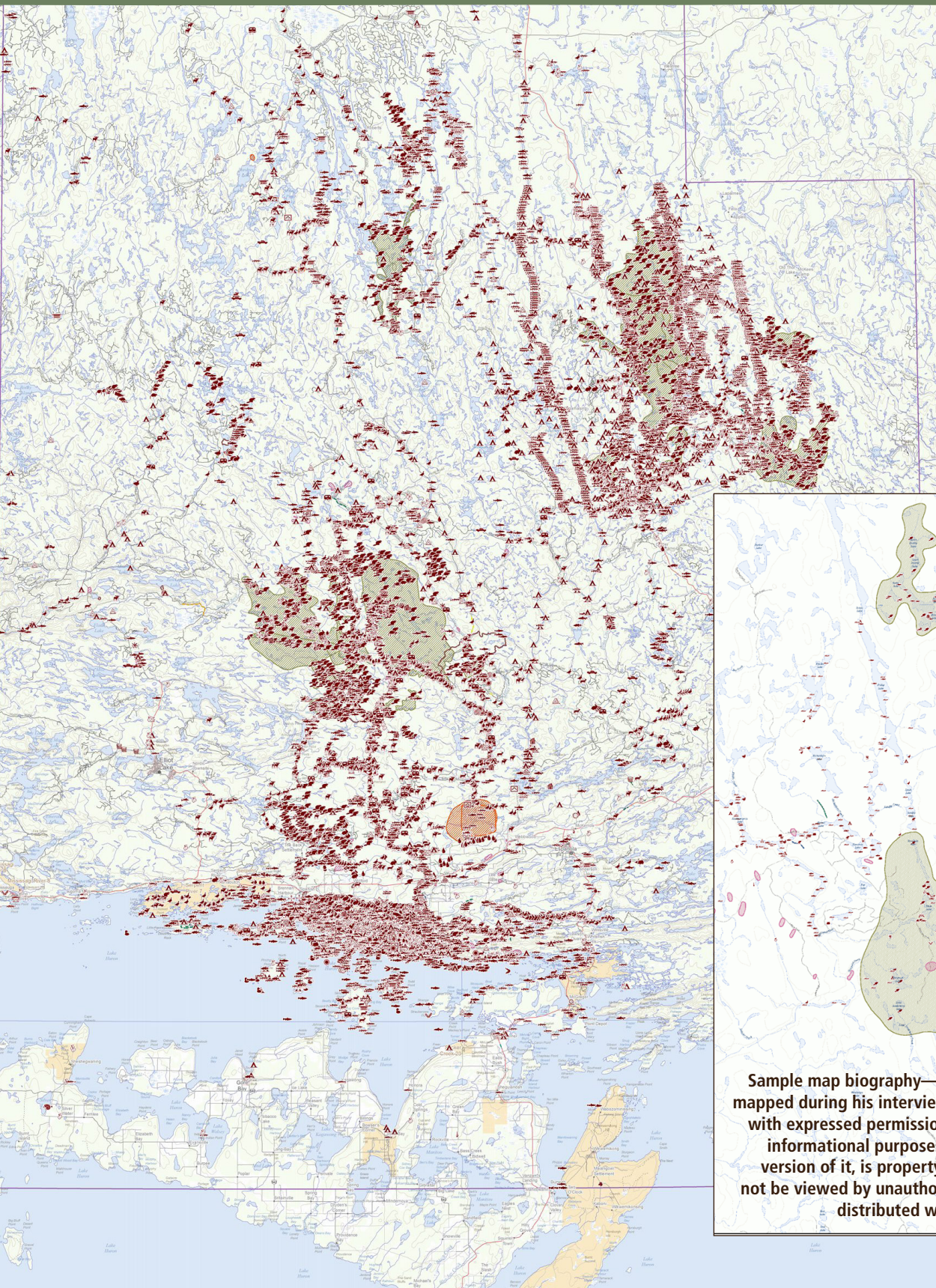
What the research will NOT do:

- Prejudice or otherwise impact the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund Annuities Claim
- Define RHT Boundaries
- Limit Anishinaabe rights to the study area, we will continue to exercise our rights where we always have.

What do excellent maps look like?

They look like Sagamok's maps. In 2013, our project Research Director led a team that interviewed 115 Sagamok members. Those members carefully mapped 23,000 sites where they had done trapping, fishing, hunting, gathering and stayed out on the land. Shown below is a map displaying all 23,000 of the First Nation's recorded sites.

Through the project, we will gather data points of each of the 21 member Nations and overlay them on a Treaty-wide map detailing our current use of our territory. Much of the harvesting of interest is off-reserve and demonstrates the full use of the territory.



Sample map biography—what one Sagamok member mapped during his interview. This map has been shared with expressed permission by the Respondent for the informational purposes of this brochure. It and any version of it, is property of the respondent and may not be viewed by unauthorized persons, duplicated, or distributed without his or her permission.

The UOS will take place over several years in five phases, three of which will see data collection take place in communities according to which part of the Treaty area—eastern, central or western—they are located.

» PHASE 1 | *Research Design and Testing Methodology*

Research Design workshops were held in most (seven) of the First Nations of the Eastern Group. Harvesters at these meetings defined the topics that will be covered in the use and occupancy study. Approximately 20 interviews will be done in these communities, two from each First Nation. This will help fine-tune the methodology before full-scale data collection takes place.

» PHASE 2 | *Eastern Group Data Collection*

Some 330 interviews will be done with harvesters from the group of eastern communities that include Atikameksheng Anishinaabek, Dokis, Henvey Inlet, Magnetawan, Nipissing, Point Grondine, Shawanaga, Wahnapiatae and Wasauksing.

» PHASE 3 | *Central Group Data Collection*

Some 330 interviews will be done with harvesters from the group of central communities that include Aundeck-Omni Kaning, M'Chigeeng, Sagamok, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning, Whitefish River and Zhiibaahsing.

» PHASE 4 | *Western Group Data Collection*

Some 330 interviews will be done with harvesters from the group of western communities that include Batchewana, Garden River, Mississauga, Serpent River and Thessalon.

» PHASE 5 | *Community Verification Meetings*

A community feast and verification meeting will be held in each community, during which it will be determined if the research findings are sufficiently complete. Phase 5 will also include the drafting of methodology reports that will be the proof, if needed in the future, that the research is solid.

Throughout the project, our goal is to interview over 1000 Anishinaabe.

The target number of participants per community is based on an estimated study population, and our target percentage of community members we feel are essential to interview. The adjacent table shows the number of respondents per phase.

Will I get paid if I do an interview?

Yes. There will be a \$150 honorarium. Also, at the end of the project, there will be a feast in your community at which you will receive a large laminated, professionally made map biography displaying the information you provided at your interview. These maps are beautiful, and people love receiving them. It's a way that your First Nation can thank you for providing them with something to help them protect your homeland and advocate for your rights.

None of the personal information provided by respondents during these interviews will be shared publicly.

PHASE 2: EASTERN GROUP

Community	No. of Interviews
Atikameksheng Anishinaabek	330
Dokis First Nation	
Henvey Inlet First Nation	
Magnetawan First Nation	
Nipissing First Nation	
Point Grondine	
Shawanaga First Nation	
Wahnapiatae First Nation	
Wasauksing First Nation	

PHASE 3: CENTRAL GROUP

Aundeck-Omni Kaning First Nation	330
M'Chigeeng First Nation	
Sagamok Anishinawbek*	
Sheguiandah First Nation	
Sheshegwaning First Nation	
Whitefish River First Nation	
Zhiibaahsing First Nation	

PHASE 4: WESTERN GROUP

Batchewana First Nation of Ojibways	330
Mississauga #8 First Nation	
Ojibways of Garden River	
Serpent River First Nation	
Thessalon First Nation	

***Sagamok members who participated in the 2013 study need not be reinterviewed. These map biographies have a long shelf-life and we say miigwech for your contribution. If you are a Sagamok member who has NOT been interviewed, we would love to have you participate in this study.**

Use and Occupancy Study Interview

Can I participate?

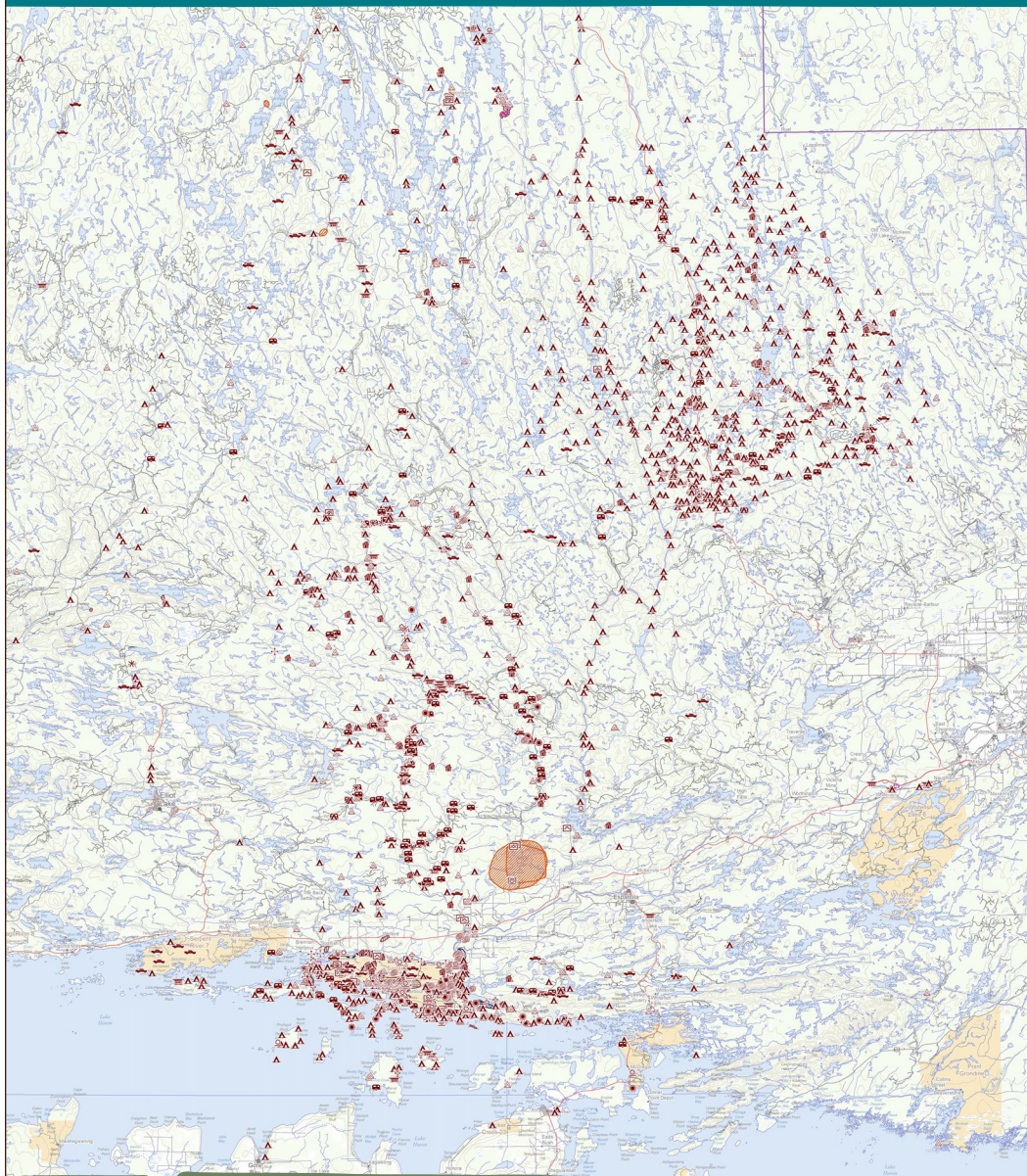
If you're an adult Anishinaabe land user from Robinson Huron Treaty Territory and have direct and extensive personal harvesting experience (i.e. hunting, fishing, trapping, medicines, maple syrup, etc.). We invite you to sign up for an interview; the more respondents we have, the stronger our final data and research will be. Your knowledge will be essential to our Treaty study process and the protection of our Treaty lands.

What is the interview like?

It only takes, on average, less than two hours. The questions are straightforward because, after all, you are the world's top expert on the topic of your life on the land. The well-trained interviewers are competent and respectful and love working with harvesters to help them produce their map biographies. Most participants end up commenting that they enjoyed the experience. Believe it or not, being interviewed for this is fun.

ALL COVID protocols will be respected. The utmost care will be taken to ensure the safety of participants and facilitator. Interviews will not take place in any community until its First Nation leadership has determined that any risk associated with COVID has been successfully managed and people feel safe.

This map from the Sagamok Anishinawbek 2013 Use and Occupancy Map Survey shows cultural sites like overnight camping sites, cabins, sacred areas, and other fixed cultural sites. This map was shared with the permission of Sagamok Anishinawbek in order to demonstrate the importance of our Treaty communities in participating in this foundational Use and Occupancy research.



www.waawiindamaagewin.com

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the Use and Occupancy Study, please contact:

Your First Nation's Lands Department, or:

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