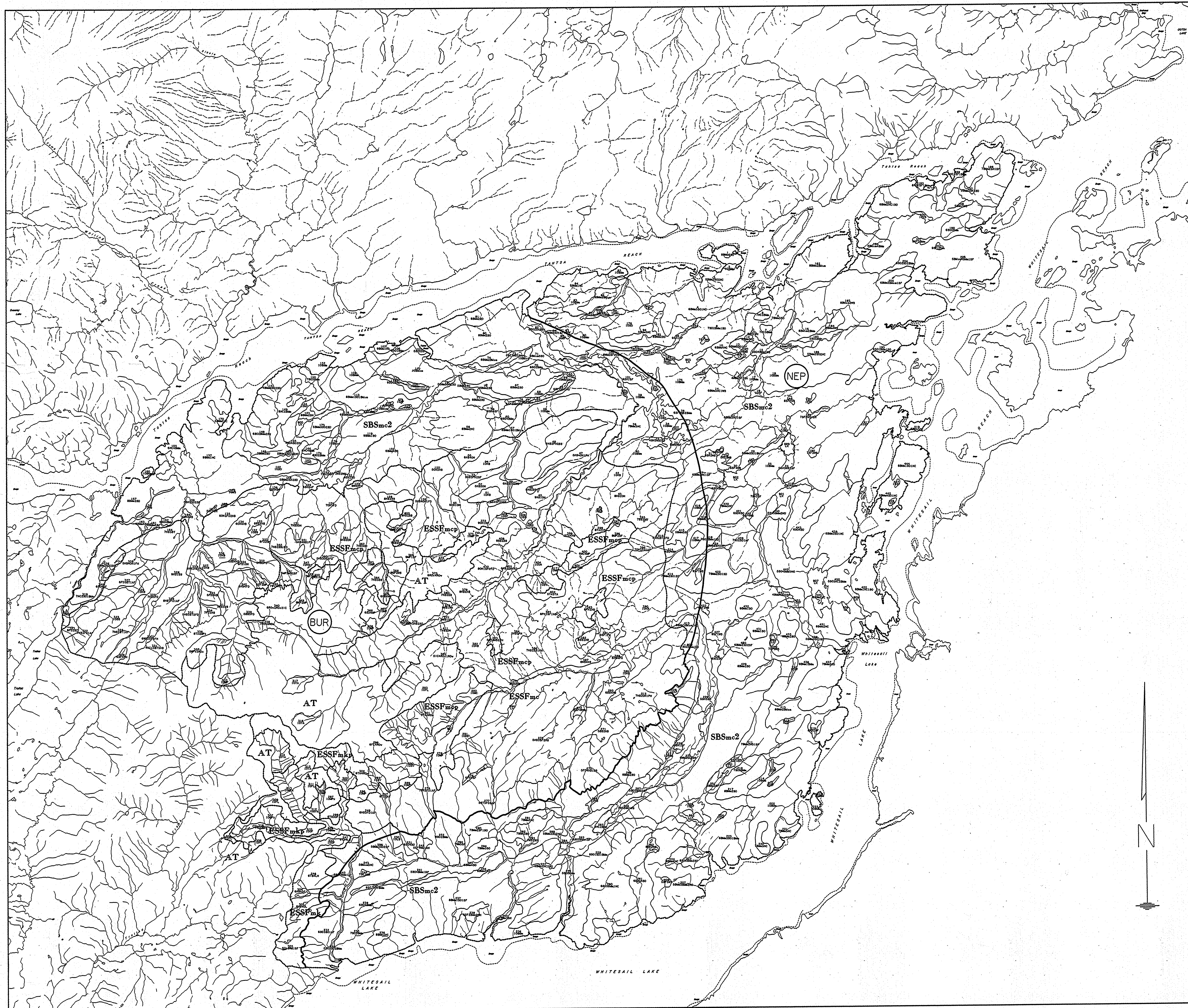


WILDLIFE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION

for the WHITESAIL AREA



LEGEND

- Ecoregion Boundary (NEP)
- - - Biogeoclimatic Subzone Boundary
- Habitat Unit Boundary
- ~~~ Lakes, Rivers

WILDLIFE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION

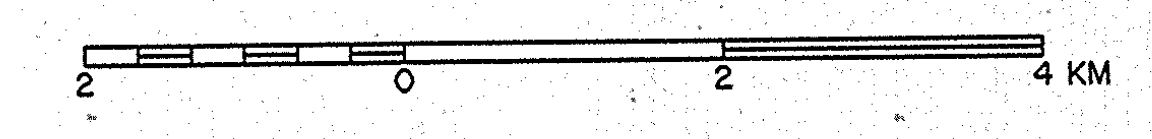
INTRODUCTION
This biophysical mapping project covering the Whitesail area was initiated in 1995 at the request of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Houston, B.C. The primary objective of the project was to inventory and map habitat for wildlife (1:50,000 scale). The study area covers 48,000 ha and is located 100 km south of Houston between Tatasee Reach and Whitesail Lake.

FIELD WORK
Map units polygonal were delineated as areas relatively uniform in form, seasonal stage, and landscape position. Field checking was carried out in October 1995 following sampling procedures outlined in Bonner et al. (1990). Biogeoclimatic site series (Bonner et al., 1993) and structural stages (Ecosystems Working Group, 1994) were identified in each polygon. Biogeoclimatic habitat units (Demaree et al., 1990) were correlated with biogeoclimatic site series (see report) using information presented in Leo et al. (1993).

WILDLIFE HABITAT CLASSIFICATION
This map represents a biophysical classification of wildlife as described by Demaree et al. (1993). The biophysical approach begins with the most fundamental wildlife needs: food and cover. Food and cover availability were evaluated based on an assessment of the vegetation and terrain in each polygon. This information is then used to determine a biophysical habitat unit (BHU) which is judged to have differences significant to wildlife management.

As a result of the heterogeneity of the habitat or seasonal habitat use within a polygon, some polygons were associated with more than one type of BHU or notes. These "complex polygons" may be composed of up to 3 different habitat types. For example, a polygon with a label of "SBSm3S02HC" indicates that 50% of a habitat contains the BHU "S01" (Bursberry-moss meadow, moorland), 30% contains "S0" (Spruce oak fern, moist), and 20% contains "HC" (Huckleberry-Cladonia xeric, outcrop).

SCALE 1:50000



Date Produced March 1996

CREDITS

Ecosystem Mapping by:
OIKOS Ecological Services Ltd.,
Keystone Wildlife Research

Digital Mapping by:
Laing and McCulloch Forest Management Services Ltd.