



**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**FOR**

**Information: X**

**Decision:**

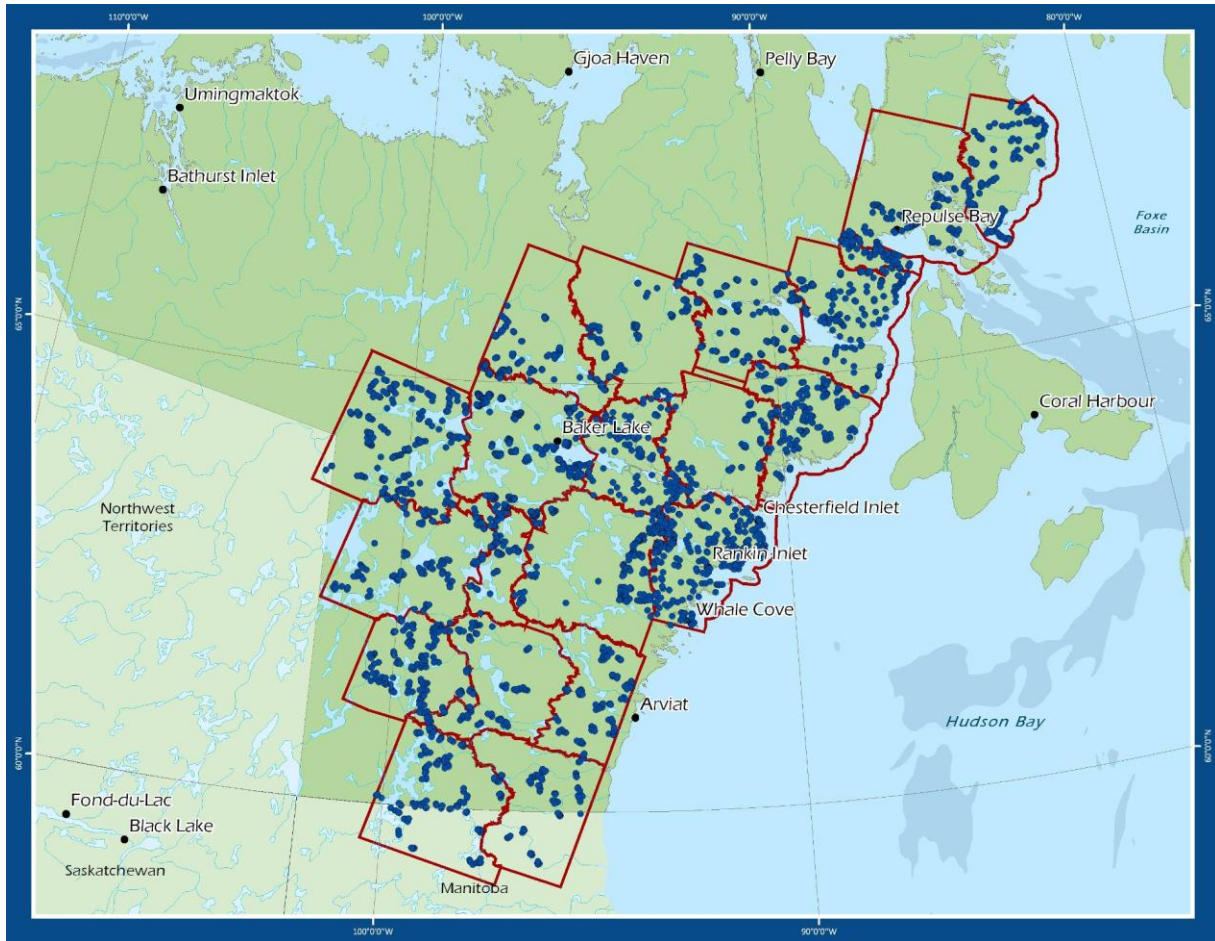
**Issue: The Kivalliq Ecological Land Classification Project Map Atlas**

**Background:**

The Kivalliq Habitat Mapping project began as a pilot study in July/August 2000. Its success led to expansion to cover the entire Kivalliq Region. In August 2000, approximately 200 plant communities in the Banks Lake study area were visited and plant type and percent cover recorded. During August 2001 160 sites were visited and plants and their percent cover values recorded in the Tehak Lake area. In August 2002 240 plant communities were examined in the Beverly lake area and 65 sites in the Lyon Inlet area, again in August 2003 240 sites in the Lyon Inlet area were sampled, in 2004 600 sites were sampled in the Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Snowbank River areas, while in 2005 450 plant communities were sampled in the Princess Mary Lake and Brown Lake areas. The 2006 growing season was our largest to date having investigated 550 sites in the Henik, Edehon, Nulitin, Maguse and Hicks Lake areas south to the Manitoba border. Finally, in August 2007, 483 sites were sampled in the Tulemalu Lake and Lorillard River areas (Figure 1 and 2). These sites represent over 90% of the entire Kivalliq Region



**Figure 1** Landsat scenes sampled and mapped for the Kivalliq vegetation mapping program.



**Figure 2** Mapping extents and sample sites for the Kivalliq vegetation mapping program.

## **Current Status**

The goals and objectives of this study were to create a database that includes vegetation type as its foundation but also includes; wildlife location data, hydrological records, weather records, geology, and topography, hunter observations. Through the use of GIS software this database will be used to identify the biotic and abiotic characteristics of any geographic location and/or area within the Kivalliq Region and identify the components of these characteristics important to various species of wildlife.

The project was successfully completed and has been developed into an electronic and paper map atlas. The intent is to have this atlas used by Regional Wildlife Organizations and biologists to assess proposed land use activities in a manner that could predict, and as a result restrict or mitigate, negative impacts on wildlife and habitat important to wildlife, before they occur. Also, the information collected at numerous sites across the region over a range of many habitat types can be re-visited at some future date to document the effects of climate change and what these effects may mean to Nunavut's wildlife distributions and numbers.

## **Conclusions**

This project had to overcome many technical challenges to arrive at this final deliverable. We most sincerely thank all supporting agencies for their patience. We believe the value of the final product makes the effort and expense worthwhile and hope our co-management partners agree. The map atlas will soon be available to co-management partners and funding partners. We hope that the value of this document will lead to similar mapping programs across Nunavut.