

MARY RIVER PROJECT STEENSBY RAILWAY

Soil, Vegetation, and Wildlife Field Reconnaissance
from the Mine Site to KM40/Ravn River



Prepared For

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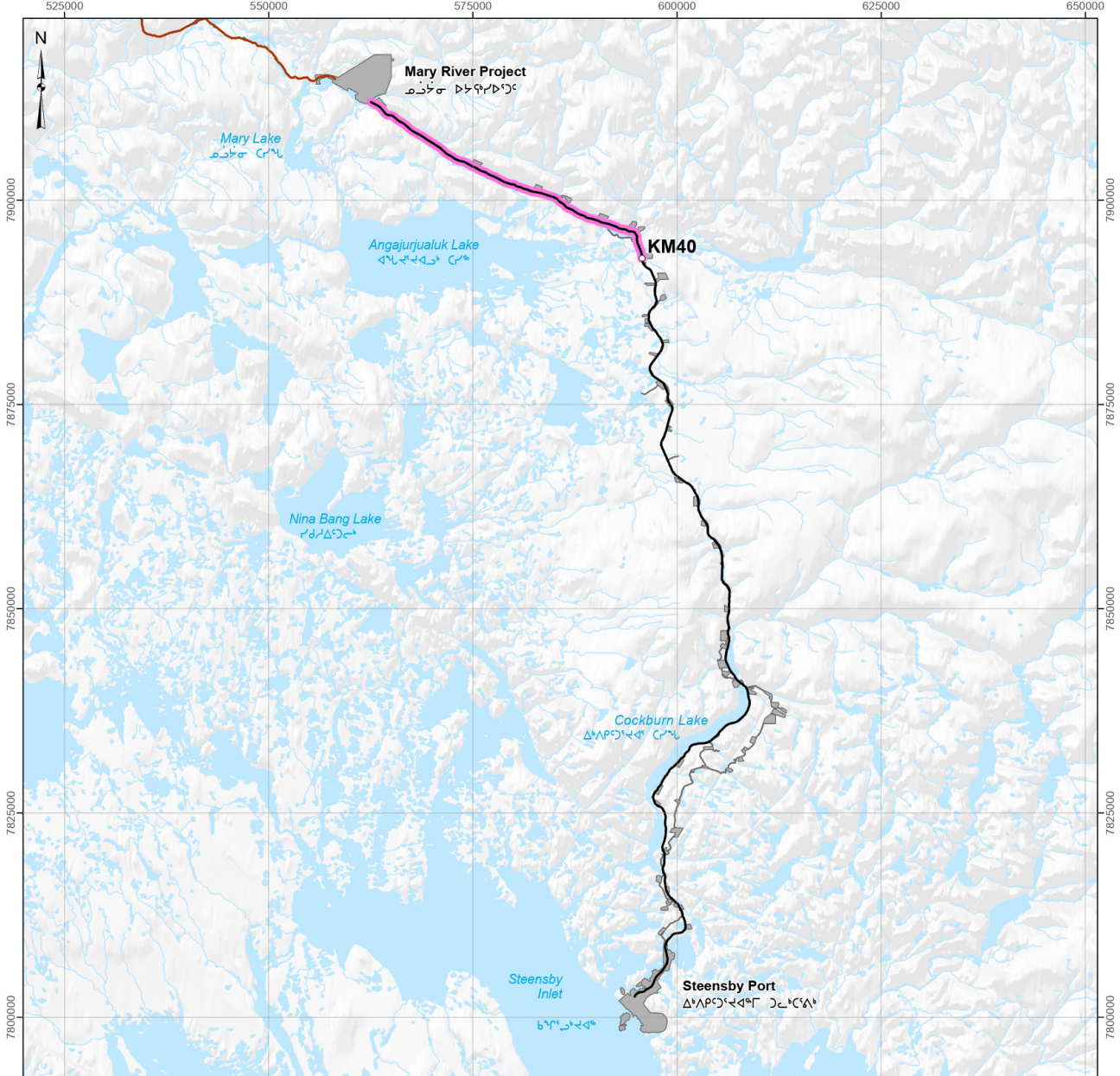
1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Mary River Mine Project (the Project) refers to an open-pit iron ore mine and its ancillary features located in the Qikiqtani Region of North Baffin Island, Nunavut. The Project — owned and operated by Baffinland Iron Mine Corporation (Baffinland) — began construction in 2013 and has been operational since 2014. Project permitting and approval was supported by terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife baseline studies completed from 2006 to 2008 (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010) and from 2006 to 2011 (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012). These baseline surveys addressed the proposed Mine Site, Milne Port, Tote Road, Steensby Railway, and Steensby Port. The baseline surveys combined traditional knowledge, historic data, and comprehensive field assessments to inform the Project’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2012) and its approach to environmental protection and mitigation.

The Project has been approved for the construction of the Steensby Railway that will extend 149 km south from the Mine Site to an all-season, deep-water port and ship-loading facility at Steensby Port (Map 1). Pre-construction activities are anticipated to begin in 2026. To inform construction planning and refinement of environmental mitigations during construction and operations, EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) was retained to conduct vegetation and soil ground-truthing and wildlife habitat reconnaissance surveys along the Steensby Railway to supplement previous baseline studies and (where applicable) update documentation of existing conditions. Reconnaissance surveys were completed August 5–20, 2025, and focused on the 40 km segment of the Steensby Railway alignment from the Mary River Mine Site to KM40/Ravn River (2025 Southern Alignment Study Area). The 2025 reconnaissance survey locations were informed by the 2006 to 2011 baseline surveys; field data capture was used to confirm the existing conditions and, if/where required, update the Project’s environmental inventory for terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife along the Steensby Railway. This report summarizes the methods and results of the 2025 surveys and provides descriptions of new data in the context of findings from the 2006 to 2011 baseline surveys.



Photo 1. Landscape view (southeast) of the Steensby Railway.



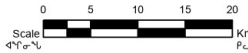
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- Project Study Area
- Southern Rail Alignment
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- Tote Road
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- Potential Development Area
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2025 Southern Alignment Study Area

NOTES ᐅᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 Potential Development Area (2019) and Southern Rail Alignment (2025) provided by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.
 The Project Study Area is the first 40 kilometres of the Southern Rail Right-of-Way extending just past Raven River.
 This document is not an official land survey and the spatial data presented is subject to change without notice.





2 METHODS

Project permitting and approval was supported by terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife baseline studies completed from 2006 to 2008 (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010) and from 2006 to 2011 (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012) that addressed the proposed Mine Site, Milne Port, Tote Road, Steensby Railway, and Steensby Port. A total of 760 sites were surveyed across the entire Project footprint, accounting for proposed mine infrastructure areas, transportation corridors, and the proposed Steensby and Milne Port areas. Survey methods, assumptions and limitations are described in the vegetation baseline summary report (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010).

The 2025 Terrain, Soil and Vegetation Reconnaissance Survey was conducted to verify site conditions along the Steensby Railway (i.e., relative to the 2005 to 2008 vegetation baseline survey) and, if/where required, update the Project's environmental inventory for terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife along the Steensby Railway. Project-specific studies and baseline surveys were reviewed before field deployment to determine the scope of assessment and the survey locations. As described below, reconnaissance survey methods were consistent with and/or comparable to those used during the baseline studies from 2005 to 2008 (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010) and from 2006 to 2011 (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012).

2.1 TERRAIN, SOIL AND VEGETATION

Terrain, soil and vegetation reconnaissance surveys comprised characterization of terrain/landscape, soil profiles, and predominant vegetation communities and cover type. Field-based terrain, soil, and vegetation reconnaissance surveys were conducted by two EDI Qualified Environmental Professionals and one Inuit participant in August 2025 during the Summer growing season (i.e., snow-free, unfrozen ground conditions) to optimize vegetation observations and species identification. Thirty-two (32) sites were surveyed along the first 40 km of the proposed Steensby Railway alignment (Map 2). Site locations were pre-determined based on historic baseline conditions and field-fit depending on landscape features and the location/distribution of representative plant communities. Field survey locations were supported by ortho/aerial mapping. All data were collected using standardized forms; all survey sites were photo-documented and georeferenced.

Survey procedures for characterizing landscape, terrain, and soil were adapted from the *Field Manual for Describing Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2nd Edition* (BC Ministry of Forests and Range and BC Ministry of Environment 2010) and the *Canadian System of Soil Classification, 3rd Edition* (Soil Classification Working Group 1998). Survey procedures for characterizing vegetation surface cover and composition were based on the *Canadian Tundra and Taiga Experiment (CANTTEX) Field Manual* (Bean and Henry 2003, Bean et al. 2003) and the *Field Manual for Describing Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2nd Edition* (BC Ministry of Forests and Range and BC Ministry of Environment 2010). At each survey location, vegetation cover and structural composition were assessed using a 1 m x 1 m vegetation plot (i.e., a 1 m x 1 m quadrat). Each plot was replicated at three locations along a transect representative of the predominant vegetation association.

Vegetation species were recorded using various taxonomic reference guides (Bean and Henry 2003, Aiken et al. 2011, Mallory and Aiken 2012). Vegetation communities were characterized based on field observations



and baseline classifications developed for the 2005 to 2008 vegetation baseline surveys (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010). This classification system was tailored to represent the updated local conditions, species, and surficial geology of the assessed 2025 Southern Alignment Study Area (the Study Area). At each survey location, soil profile characteristics (e.g., horizon depths, texture, and structure) were evaluated by digging a soil pit, approximately 30 cm wide and up to 50 cm deep, in an area that best represented surficial land features, topography, and vegetation (usually at the centre of the transect).

2.2 WILDLIFE

Wildlife reconnaissance surveys followed the methods used during the 2006 to 2010 barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) trail surveys, completed during the 2006 to 2011 wildlife baseline surveys (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012). Field personnel (EDI biologists and one Inuit participant) conducted a ‘sweep’ of the landscape by walking approximately 25 to 50 m apart within the study area, referring to the 40 km segment of the Steensby Railway from the Mary River Mine Site to KM40/Ravn River.

Field personnel scanned the ground and surrounding area, noting all wildlife sightings, signs, and habitat features. All wildlife sightings, sign, and habitat features were recorded with UTM coordinates, georeferenced photos, and species information, if available. Caribou sightings, trails, and other signs (i.e., antlers, pellet groups, bones, and tracks) were prioritized. In this summary, caribou trails refer to the alteration of the local environment by animals repeatedly travelling over the same area. The paths of these trails may be determined by landscape obstacles or by the trail itself, providing an opportunity for more energy-efficient movement as each caribou alters their trail by travelling over it and removing obstacles. Caribou trails were recorded by a biologist walking along identifiable trails and recording the path with a continuous GPS track. Trails were identifiable across multiple substrates (i.e., sand, gravel, pebbles, and vegetation), with additional signs of recent use (i.e., tracks and pellets) recorded when present. The collected spatial data were imported into ArcGIS Pro 3.6 to calculate the density of caribou trails per kilometre along the Project Study Area.

Insights from Inuit participants, including anecdotal reports of local hunting activity, were used to further refine evidence of caribou use in the area. Inuit participants also influenced the surveyors' search patterns by providing advice on likely sign locations and seasonal effects on the substrate.



3 RESULTS

The following subsections summarize findings from the 2025 reconnaissance survey. Map 2 presents survey locations for the terrain, soil and vegetation reconnaissance survey. Map 3 presents survey locations and the distribution of caribou trails for the wildlife reconnaissance survey. Soil and vegetation field data collected at each survey location are presented in Appendix A. A list of observed and potential vegetation species is presented in Appendix B.

3.1 SOIL AND TERRAIN

As summarized in the terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife baseline studies completed from 2006 to 2008 (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010), the 2025 Study Area is located in the Northern Arctic Ecozone. It encompasses part of the Borden Peninsula Plateau, Melville Peninsula Plateau, and Baffin Island Uplands Ecoregions (Ecological Stratification Working Group 1995). The terrain is mostly eroded and generally consists of undulating glacial deposits and high-elevation plateaus where permafrost is continuous and bedrock outcroppings are common. The Study Area occurs on a variety of parent materials, largely mapped by the Geological Survey of Canada as sandy and gravelly materials with high coarse-fragment content. These include glaciofluvial deposits, pro-glacial lake sediments, and sandy till. Low-lying areas often feature a thin (10 to 30 cm) layer of fibric peat (Of horizon) overlying sandy materials where water is near the surface. Other materials include bouldery and blocky till overlying non-carbonate bedrock (boulder fields), frost-shattered bedrock (felsenmeer), and areas of frost-heaved stones and boulders.

Surface soils in the Study Area are characteristic of a high Arctic environment, reflecting development under cold, dry, and permafrost-dominated conditions. These soils are primarily classified as Cryosolic soils (Cryosols) according to the Canadian System of Soil Classification (Soil Classification Working Group 1998). Cryosols are typically thin and immature (i.e., underdeveloped) and are characterized by permafrost within 100 to 200 cm of the soil surface. Cryosols are sub-classified as Turbic or Static depending on moisture levels, soil texture (e.g., coarse or fine), and the presence of frost action or 'cryoturbation' (i.e., soil movement that results in mixed soil profiles). Drainage is generally poor due to the permafrost barrier, resulting in saturated, low-lying areas that support sedge wetland communities.

Soil profiles are typically comprised of a thin surface organic layer or vegetative mat (3 to 6 cm in depth), a shallow Ah/Ahy horizon (humic and/or cryodisturbed; 3 to 10 cm in depth), and poorly differentiated Bm/Bmy and C/Cy horizons (weathered and/or cryodisturbed; up to 50 cm in depth). Soil textures are predominantly loamy sand, sandy loam, or sand with varying amounts of integrated coarse material. Surface geology ranges from a few to many rocks and cobbles. Lithic (i.e., rocky) or permafrost-restrictive horizons commonly occur at depths of 20 to 50 cm. Seepage and saturated subsoils (20 to 30 cm in depth) commonly occur in low-lying areas and near water.



3.2 VEGETATION

Vegetation communities vary depending on topography, surface substrate, and soil moisture regimes. Based on these site characteristics and the predominant vegetation types, the 2005 to 2008 vegetation baseline surveys identified specific vegetation classes, community types, and associations for the Project (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010). During the 2025 reconnaissance survey, five primary vegetation community types (further defined as vegetation associations) were identified at survey locations within the 2025 Study Area.

- Wetland (lowland) class
 - Sedge communities
 - Willow communities
- Upland class
 - Dwarf shrub tundra communities
 - Snowbed communities
 - Barrens communities

These vegetation community types — including their respective dominant plant species and soil moisture regimes — are consistent with findings from the 2005 to 2008 baseline surveys. No new features, landscape attributes, and/or sensitivities were identified during the 2025 reconnaissance survey. A total of 155 vascular plant species were observed during the 2005 to 2008 vegetation baseline surveys and the 2025 reconnaissance survey. A comprehensive list of these species, as well as species that potentially occur in the Project Study Area (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2010), is provided in Appendix B. Brief descriptions of the identified vegetation communities are provided in the following subsections. Table 1 summarizes vegetation baseline conditions for each community type, including predominant terrain, surface soil conditions and moisture regime, and the predominant vegetation assembly.

3.2.1 WETLANDS

3.2.1.1 Sedge Communities

Sedge communities (i.e., graminoid-dominated) are characterized as “W1. Sedge/grass, moss wetland” by the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map system (Alaska Geobotany Centre 2007). These communities occur in areas with higher moisture (i.e., subhygric to hygric moisture regimes), usually in low-lying basins or drainages. The soil is typically saturated, and there are generally few or no boulders. Vegetation is predominantly composed of carex sedges and/or cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* sp.). Three distinct sedge associations make up these communities: **Non-tussock**, **Tussock**, and **Sedge-moss** (Photo 2).

Non-tussock sedge association — Characterized by the absence of tussocks (i.e., hummocks or tufts) where sedge growth is relatively flat and uniform. Non-tussock sedges and other graminoids dominate this association. These include water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), short-leaf sedge (*Carex fuliginosa*), fragile sedge (*Carex*



membranacea), common cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Arctic grass (*Arctagrostis latifolia*), and purple reedgrass (*Calamagrostis pupurescens*).

Tussock sedge association — Characterized by the presence of tussocks formed by the densely tufted growth of certain graminoid species, namely tussock cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*). Mosses and heath tundra plants may colonize tussocks, while non-tussock sedges may establish in areas between the tussocks. This association is uncommon in the Project Study Area.

Sedge-moss association — Typically developed in poorly drained areas with a shallow (<100 cm) underlying permafrost layer. Vegetation consists of plants rooted in moss, such as non-tussock carex sedges (e.g., water sedge), woodrushes (e.g., northern wood rush [*Luzula confusa*]), willows (e.g., Arctic willow [*Salix arctica*]), and some forbs (e.g., yellow marsh saxifrage [*Saxifraga hirculus*]).

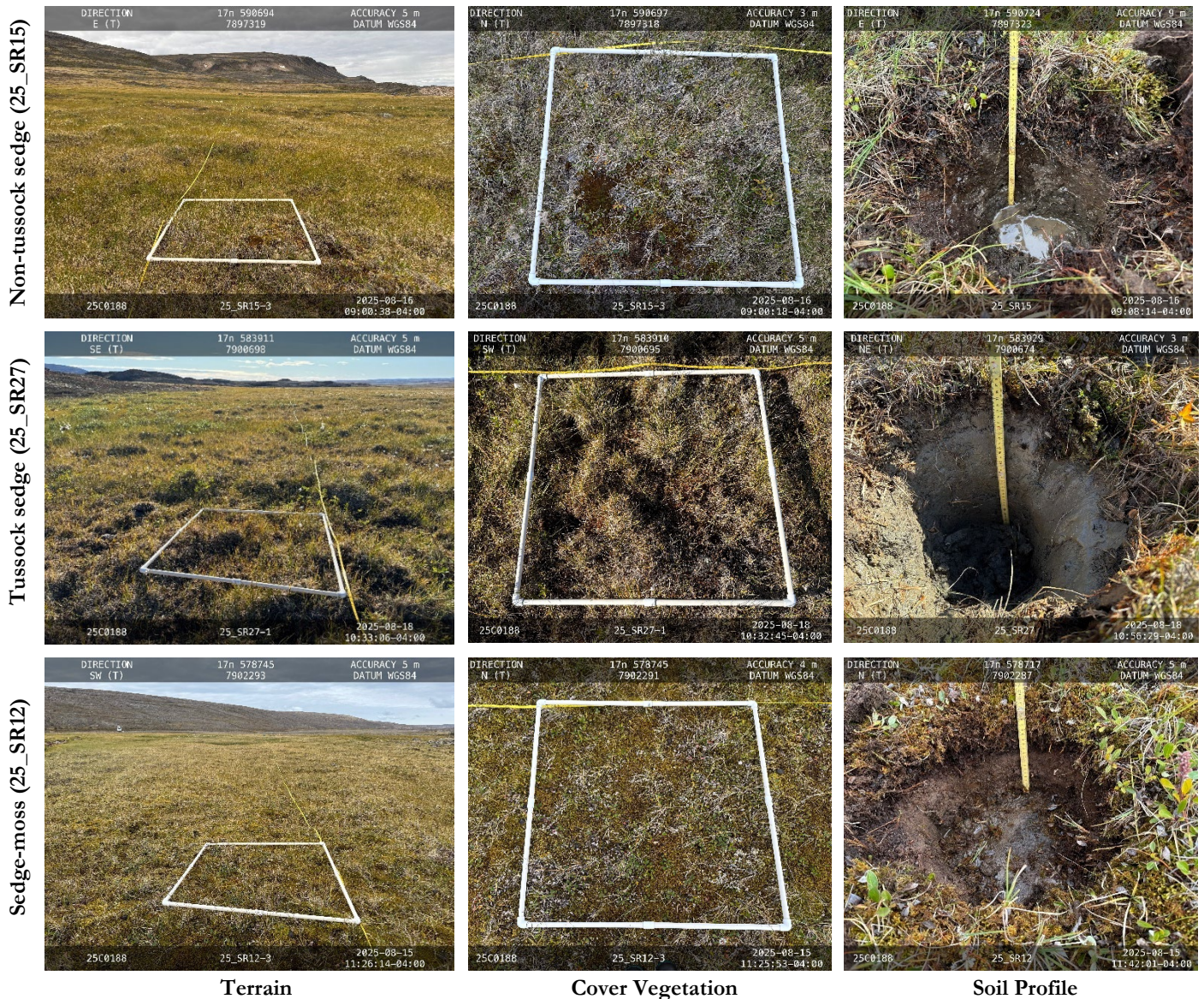


Photo 2. Representative terrain, vegetation, and soil conditions of sedge communities.



3.2.1.2 Willow Communities

Wetland willow communities are generally characterized as “S2. Dwarf Shrub” by the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map system (Alaska Geobotany Centre 2007). These communities occur in mesic to subhygric moisture regimes, typically on valley slopes, along stream channels, or in sheltered areas with snow accumulation. Soils are generally moist but not saturated and the boulder content is higher than in sedge wetlands. The dominant willow species is Richardson’s willow (*Salix richardsonii*). Two distinct associations make up these communities: **Willow shrubland** and **Riparian willow** (Photo 3).

Willow shrubland association — Characterized by open shrubland dominated by evenly distributed Richardson’s willow, which averages 20 to 40 cm in height. Moisture from snow melt is present throughout much of the growing season, supporting a mixed understory that can include aquatic sedges (e.g., water sedge, fragile sedge, and Bigelow’s sedge [*Carex bigelowii*]) and heath tundra species, such as blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) or Arctic heather (*Cassiope tetragona*).

Riparian willow association — Characterized by Richardson’s willow growing adjacent to streams or rivers. Some willows reach heights over 50 cm due to higher moisture and nutrient inputs from flowing water. Mossy mounds, heath tundra species (e.g., Arctic heather and mountain avens [*Dryas integrifolia*]), and other willows (e.g., Arctic willow and net-vein willow [*Salix reticulata*]) are common in the understory. Sedges such as water sedge and common cottongrass occur in wet spots. The riparian willow association commonly occurs where stream water flows over boulders.

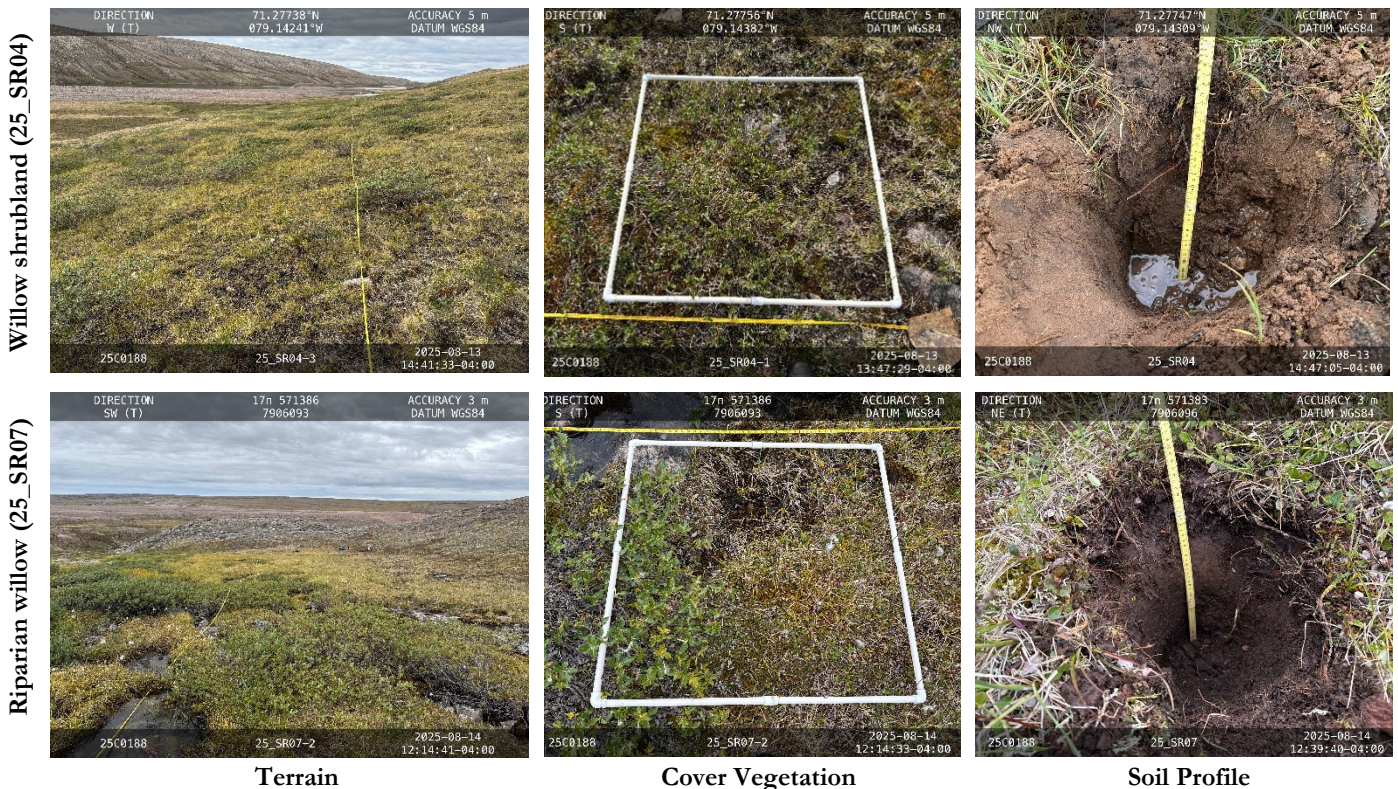


Photo 3. Representative terrain, vegetation, and soil conditions of willow communities.



3.2.2 UPLANDS

3.2.2.1 Dwarf Shrub Tundra Communities

Dwarf shrub tundra communities (i.e., woody shrub dominated) are characterized as “P1. Prostrate dwarf-shrub, herb tundra” and “P2. Prostrate/hemiprostrate dwarf-shrub tundra” by the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map system (Alaska Geobotany Centre 2007). These communities typically occur on well-drained, dry to moist slopes and relatively sheltered banks. The ground is often scattered with boulders. Vegetation composition is generally diverse, consisting primarily of shrubs (e.g., ericaceous species, prostrate willows, or mountain avens) and sedges, grasses, rushes, forbs, lichens, bryophytes, and fungi. Three distinct associations make up these communities: **Cassiope heath**, **Blueberry heath**, and **Avens tundra** (Photo 4).

Cassiope heath association — Characterized by a dominance of Arctic white heather (*Cassiope tetragona*). This association typically occurs in areas with sufficient shelter where snow cover may remain until early July. The vegetation understory is diverse, typically composed of graminoids (e.g., Arctic grass, northern wood rush, and curly sedge [*Carex rupestris*]), other dwarf shrubs (e.g., mountain avens), willows (e.g., Arctic willow and net-vein willow), and some forbs (e.g., purple saxifrage [*Saxifraga oppositifolia*] and Maydell’s crazyweed [*Oxytropis maydelliana*]). A high percentage of lichens and dry mosses are usually present.

Blueberry heath association — Characterized by the dominance of low to prostrate blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) with Arctic white heather and mountain avens. This association is found on gentle, moderately well-drained slopes or terraces, often amid embedded boulders. The vegetation understory is diverse and may consist of scattered Arctic willow, graminoids such as Arctic wood rush (*Luzula nivalis*), northern wood rush, curly sedge, northern single spike sedge (*Carex scirpoidea*), Bellardi bog sedge (*Kobresia myosuroides*), and Arctic bluegrass (*Poa arctica*), and forbs such as Maydell’s crazyweed, mouse-ear chickweed (*Cerastium alpinum*), alpine bistort (*Bistorta vivipara*), and several species of draba (*Draba* sp.).

Avens tundra association¹ — Characterized by an open to semi-continuous cover of mountain avens (*Dryas integrifolia*). This association is common in the Project Study Area, usually occurring on dry (xeric), wind-exposed slopes and ridges where snow cover is reduced. Vegetation commonly includes Arctic willow, purple mountain saxifrage, xeric sedges (curly sedge and spike sedge [*Carex nardina*]), and some lichens. Avens tundra is also characterized as a barren land community due to very sparse vegetation and high rock content (see ‘Avens-Xeric Sedge Barrens Association’ in Section 3.2.2.3).

¹ The Avens Tundra association was previously classified under Avens Barrens in the 2005-2008 baseline study report. Avens Tundra was reclassified in this report as a distinct/independent association. This distinction is based on observations of high vegetation cover (60-100%) in the Avens Tundra communities, which deviates/differs from the Avens Barrens criteria of low or sparse cover (<20%).

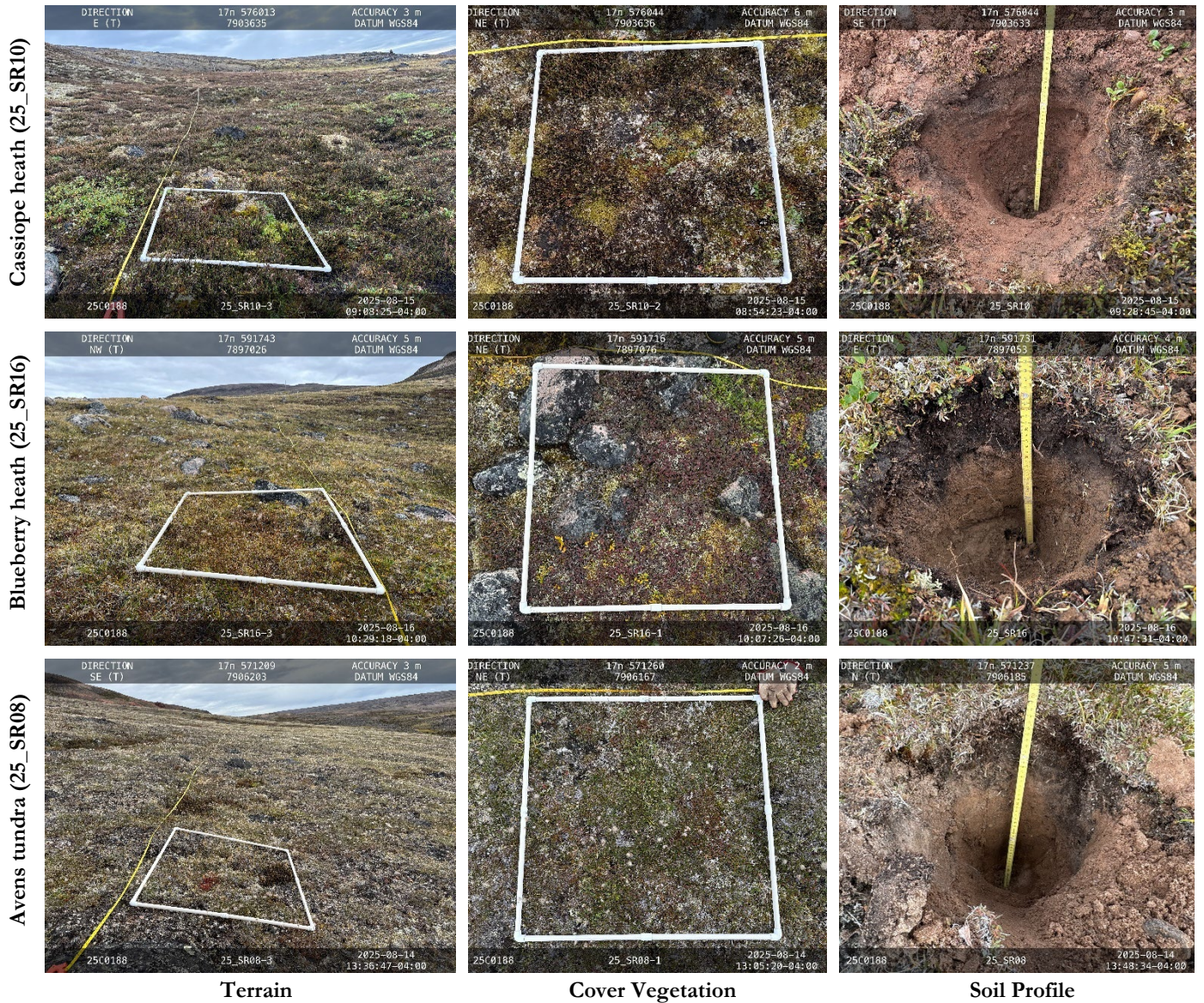


Photo 4. Representative terrain, vegetation, and soil conditions of dwarf shrub tundra communities.



3.2.2.2 Snowbed Communities

Snowbed² communities are in areas with sheltered topography (i.e., depressions and leeward slopes) that result in late-lying snowdrifts. Due to slow melt, the growing season is short and the soil is typically saturated with meltwater during the early phase of thaw. Vegetation is predominantly composed of dwarf shrubs and/or forbs that tolerate a shorter growing cycle. Two distinct snowbed associations make up these communities: **Forb snowbed** and **Willow snowbed** (Photo 5).

Forb snowbed association — Characterized by a dominance of non-woody herbaceous plants (forbs) where snow persists. The snow protects from winter wind and provides a continuous water supply in early summer. The plants are capable of rapid growth upon melt. Dominant species include mountain sorrel (*Oxyria digyna*), snow buttercup (*Ranunculus pygmaeus*), Arctic woodrush, and grey mealy lichen (*Stereocaulon tomentosum*). This association often contains minimal woody shrubs and represents the shortest possible growing season.

Willow snowbed association³ — Characterized by a dominance of low-growing, dwarf willow shrubs that occupy moisture-rich areas beneath persistent snow. The dominant species is prostrate dwarf willow (*Salix herbacea*). Other common species include white Arctic heather, mountain avens, mountain sorrel, capitate lousewort (*Pedicularis capitata*), bluegrass species (*Poa* sp.), and some mosses. Lichens are not common, but they are almost always grey mealy lichen.

² The term ‘Snowbed’ in this report was used to replace ‘Snowbank’ as used in the 2005-2008 baseline study. This more accurately describes the site-specific topographical characteristics and relevant ecological terminology.

³ The willow snowbed community was described in the 2005-2008 baseline study data but was not classified as a distinct association in the report. To provide comprehensive characterization of all vegetation types identified during the 2025 reconnaissance survey, willow snowbed is recognized as an individual association in this report.

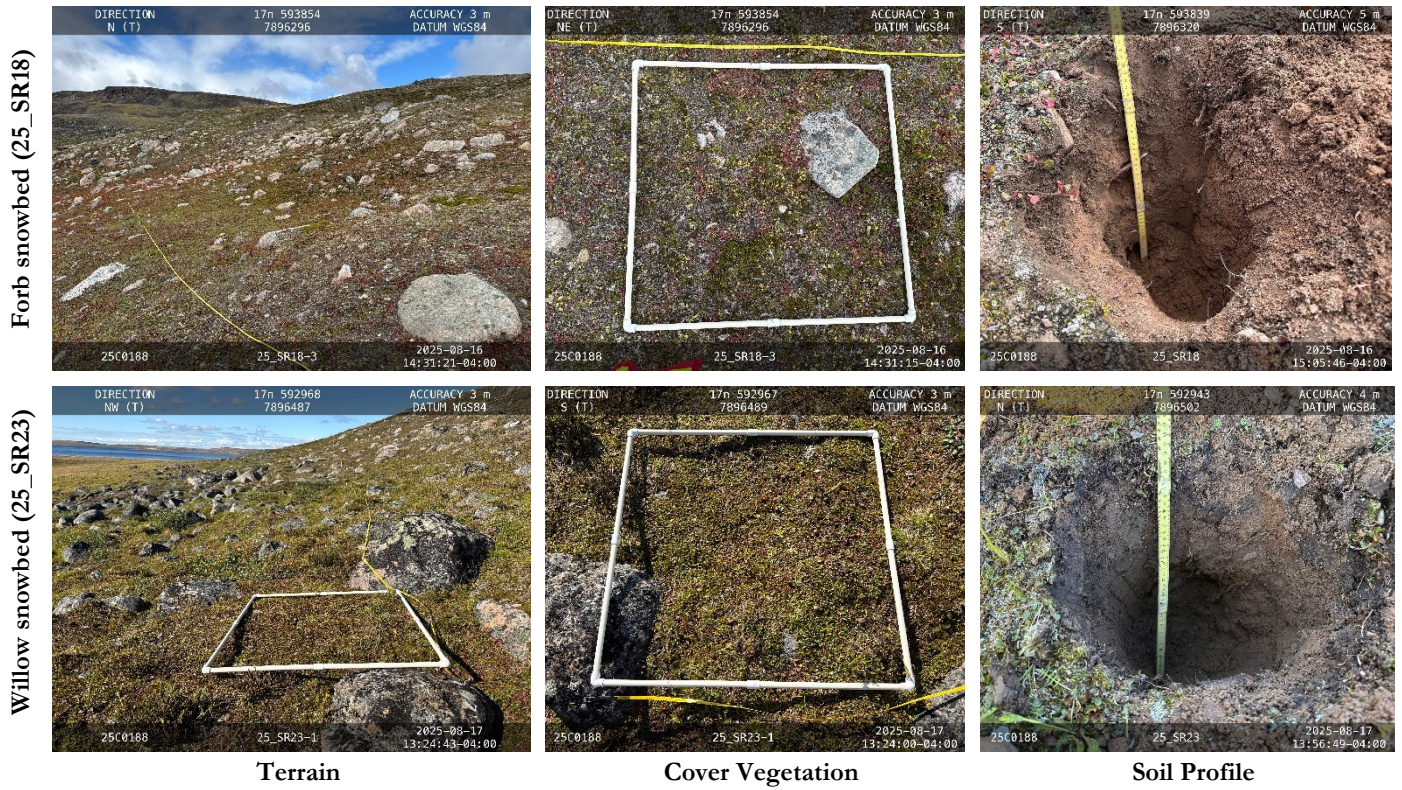


Photo 5. Representative terrain, vegetation, and soil conditions of snowbed communities.



3.2.2.3 Barren Land Communities

Barren land communities (i.e., sparsely vegetated) are generally characterized as “B1. Cryptogram, herb barren” and “P1. Prostrate dwarf-shrub, herb, lichen tundra” by the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map system (Alaska Geobotany Centre 2007). These communities occur in areas with a high proportion of exposed rock and low amounts of moisture (i.e., subxeric to xeric moisture regimes), usually on exposed ridges, rocky slopes, or high plateaus. Vegetation cover is sparse (< 20%) and predominantly composed of prostrate dwarf shrubs, cushion plants, xeric graminoid species, and cryptogams (lichens and mosses). Three distinct barrens associations make up these communities: **Avens barrens**, **Luzula barrens**, and **Lichen-rock barrens** (Photo 6).

Avens-xeric sedge barrens association — Characterized by very sparse, patchy vegetation cover dominated by mountain avens (*Dryas integrifolia*) and sedges adapted to dry and windy conditions, such as curly sedge (*Carex rupestris*) and spike sedge (*Carex nardina*). This association is typically found on well-drained, alkaline (calcareous) substrates composed of weathered sandstone, sand, or limestone. Other common vegetation species include purple mountain saxifrage, dry mosses, and some lichens. This community is common in the Project Study Area.

Luzula barrens association — Characterized by a sparse dominance of woodrushes (e.g., northern wood rush) and other specialized forbs/graminoids, such as Arctic poppy (*Papaver radicum*), prickly saxifrage (*Saxifraga tricuspidate*), and bluegrass (*Poa* sp.). This association is typically found on dry, non-calcareous (acidic) rocky or gravelly substrate (e.g., granite and basalt) with very low vegetation cover and minimal shrubs. Generally, only few lichens (e.g., whiteworm lichen) are present. Mosses are typically uncommon.

Lichen-rock barrens association — Occurs throughout the Project Study Area, typically on rock outcrops or in large boulder fields. The rocks are about 30% covered with crustose lichens (map lichen, *Pseudephebe* sp., sunburst lichen), with foliose lichens (*Cladonia* sp. and *Cladina* sp.) growing in sheltered areas amongst the boulders. Rooted vegetation is minimal (often less than 10% cover) and typically consists of prickly saxifrage, Arctic fireweed (*Chamaenerion latifolium*), and snow cinquefoil (*potentilla nivea*). Small amounts of fragrant wood fern (*Dryopteris fragrans*) are common between the boulders.

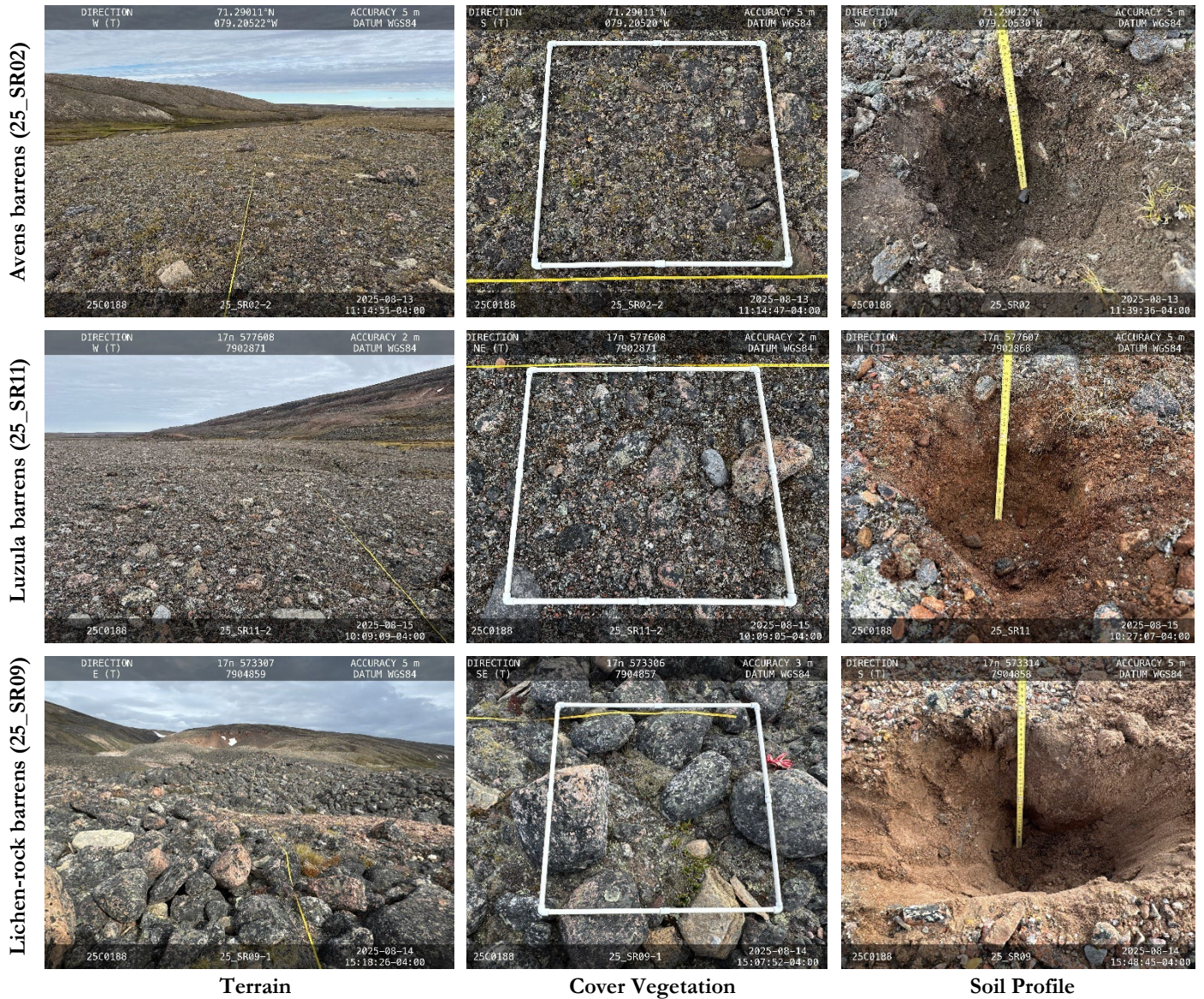


Photo 6. Representative terrain, vegetation, and soil conditions of barren land communities.



Table 1. Summary of soil and vegetation baseline conditions within the 2025 Southern Alignment Study Area.

Vegetation Community	Sedge Wetland	Willow Wetland	Dwarf Shrub Tundra	Snowbed	Barren Land
Survey Site Identifiers	25_SR05, 12, 13, 15, 27, 30	25_SR04, 07, 17	25_SR01, 03, 08, 10, 14, 16, 19, 20-22, 24-26, 31, 32	25_SR18, 23, 29	25_SR02, 06, 09, 11, 28
Vegetation Associations	Non-Tussock, Tussock, Sedge-Moss	Shrubland, Riparian	Cassiope Heath, Blueberry Heath, Avens Tundra	Forb, Willow	Avens-Xeric Sedge, Luzula, Lichen-Rock
Elevation	182–201 m	182–206 m	155–211 m	151–186 m	191–210 m
Slope	0–5%	2–10%	2–30%	20–40%	0–5%
Surficial Geology	Sandy, gravelly low-lying areas, basins and drainages	Sandy, gravelly, few boulders along drainage channels and in sheltered areas	Cobbly, gravelly, sandy slopes and sheltered banks	Cobbly, gravelly, sandy, few boulders on sheltered slopes	Cobbly, gravelly, sandy, boulder fields, plateaus and terraces
Moisture Regime	Hygic to Sub Hygic	Sub Hygic to Mesic	Sub Hygic to Xeric	Mesic to Xeric	Sub Mesic to Very Xeric
Nutrient Regime	Rich to Poor	Rich to Medium	Medium to Poor	Medium to Poor	Poor
Cover %	85–100%	95–100%	60–100%	80–100%	5–20%
Predominant Species	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> , <i>Carex membrenacea</i> , <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	<i>Salix richardsonii</i> , <i>Carex aquatilis</i> , <i>Carex membrenacea</i> , <i>Carex bigelowii</i>	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , <i>Dryas integrifolia</i>	<i>Oxyria digyna</i> , <i>Salix herbacea</i>	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <i>Carex rupestris</i> , <i>Carex nardina</i>
Predominant Soil Horizons*	Of, Bg/Btgj, Cg/Cgj	Org, Ah, Bm, Cgj	Org, Ah/Ahy, Bm/Bmy, C/Cy	Org, Ah/Ahy, Bm/Bmy, BC, C	C
Soil Textures	Sandy Loam, Loamy Sand, Silt Loam, Clay Loam	Sandy Loam, Loamy Sand, Silt Loam, Loam	Sandy Loam, Loamy Sand, Sand, Loam	Loamy Sand, Sand	Sand
Restrictive Horizon	Permafrost at 15–40 cm	Lithic at 40 cm	Lithic at 30–50 cm	Permafrost at 50 cm	Lithic at 20–40 cm

*Of/Org = surface organic material

Ah/Ahy = enriched with organic matter/cryodisturbed

Bg/Btgj = gleyed/clay accumulation

Bm/Bmy = slightly modified from parent material/cryodisturbed

C/Cg/Cy = parent material/gleyed/cryodisturbed



3.3 WILDLIFE

3.3.1 CARIBOU

Sixty-eight trails or trail fragments were detected during the 2025 wildlife reconnaissance survey within the first 40 km of the Steensby Railway alignment (2025 Study Area, Map 3, Photo 7 to Photo 10). This represents a higher detection rate within the 40 km Study Area than the 53 trails detected along the total 174 km Steensby Railway alignment between 2006 and 2010. These recently recorded trails frequently coincided with trails previously identified in the original baseline mapping. Spatial analysis showed that 30 trails/trail fragments occurred within 100 m of an original trail, and 49 trails/trail fragments occurred within 500 m of an original trail. At least 13 trails were accompanied by recent caribou droppings and/or tracks, with one area containing many tracks and trails converging at a natural ‘pinch-point’ on the landscape (Photo 7). Trails were often found near the edge of water features or at natural crossing points on the landscape, as described in the 2006 to 2011 wildlife baseline survey report (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012).

The ability to detect caribou trails may depend on the local environment. Gravel trails with exposed red sand were the easiest to follow and trace a continuous path, with some trails persisting since the 2010 caribou trail surveys (Photo 8). Two of the trails were detected in vegetated areas where caribou had trampled the vegetation to a degree detectable relative to the surrounding vegetation. Determining whether gravel trails persist in the environment due to continuous use or to the local microenvironment, which prevents erosion/covering of these trails, was outside the scope of this analysis; however, the trails in vegetation were likely more recent, as trampled vegetation is replaced by new growth every year. Trails were often not found in the boulder fields within the Project Study Area. This may be due to caribou avoiding poor terrain or to the lack of a small substrate that travelling caribou could move to create a trail.

Analysis of caribou trail distributions and densities was conducted using software for trails located within 250 m of every 2 km segment of the Project Study Area. The resulting trail densities (categorized as low, medium, and high) were then mapped along the length of the Project Study Area. Trail density was determined using three equal categories between the highest and lowest densities recorded during the 2025 reconnaissance surveys. Trail densities in the original baseline report were combined with other caribou surveys to represent potential caribou travel routes. The density analysis for the 2025 reconnaissance survey was repeated on the 2006 to 2010 data to provide a direct comparison. The relative density of caribou trails along this segment of the 2025 Study Area largely corresponds with the original mapping, with the overall trend that more caribou trails in total were detected along the length of the Study Area than in previous surveys (Map 3).



Photo 7. Multiple caribou trails on a gravelly landscape.



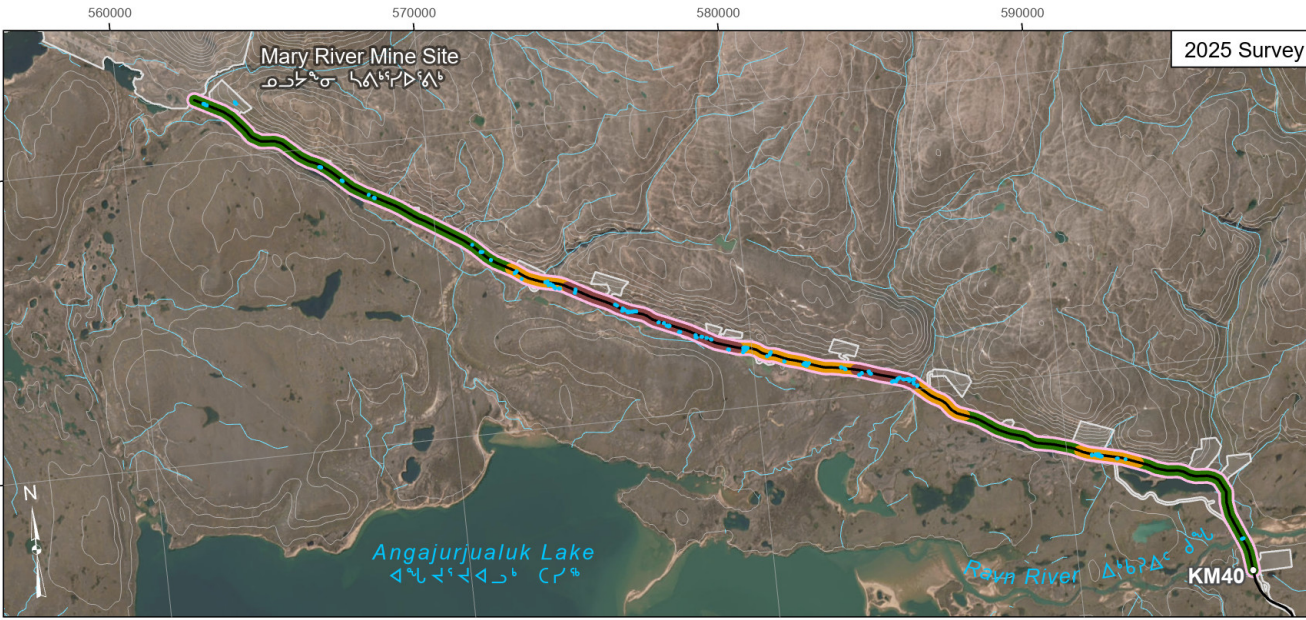
Photo 8. Caribou trails on a gravelly landscape.



Photo 9. Caribou trail on cobbly landscape.










Photo 10. Caribou trail on a sparsely vegetated landscape.

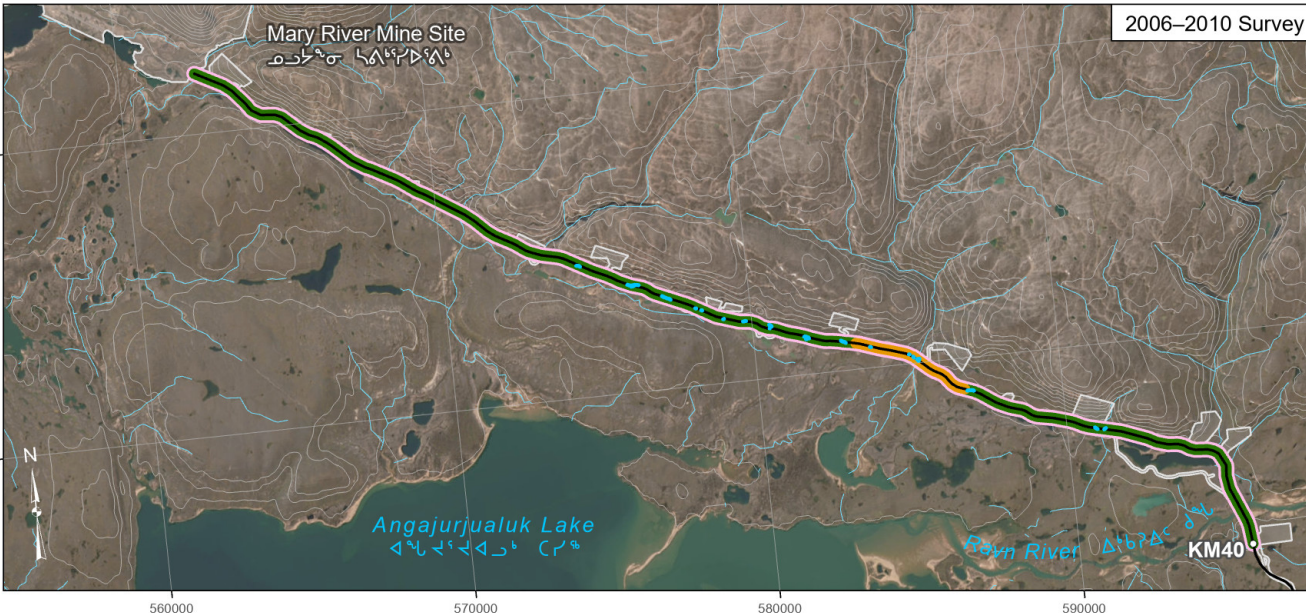


2025 Survey



LEGEND ᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

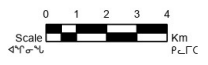
-  Caribou Trail
-  Southern Rail Alignment ᐅᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
-  Project Study Area
- Caribou Trail Concentration
 -  High
 -  Medium
 -  Low
-  Potential Development Area ᐅᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ



2006–2010 Survey

NOTES ᐅᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
 Potential Development Area (2019) and Southern Rail Alignment (2025) provided by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation.
 The Project Study Area is the first 40 kilometres of the Southern Rail Right-of-Way extending just past Raven River. 2025 surveys were conducted by EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. and an Inuit participant in August.
 This document is not an official land survey and the spatial data presented is subject to change without notice.



Spatial Distribution of Caribou Trails Recorded in 2006–2010 and 2025 Surveys



Date: 2025-12-09

MAP 3



Caribou use was commonly observed within the 2025 Study Area during the 2025 reconnaissance survey, as observed by the detection of 33 bone fragments, 108 droppings, 17 antler sheds, and 16 tracks (Photo 11 to Photo 14). Vegetated areas with good foraging habitat, such as wetlands, watercourse flood plains, and open slopes along large waterbodies, often had the highest density of droppings. The bone fragments and antler sheds were often clean of gristle, sun-bleached, and scattered, likely several years old, with a few grown over by lichen and vegetation. Old antler sheds and bones were often found in flood paths and may have been swept from an original location into the Project Study Area by the flooding of these watercourses during spring melt (Photo 11). Caribou tracks were detected in the sand along the shores of waterbodies, in gravel near trails, and occasionally in crushed plants/moss.

Seven caribou sightings were documented during the reconnaissance surveys (including during the soil and vegetation component). Although caribou sightings may include repeated viewings of the same individuals travelling within the Project Study Area. The caribou sighted were all adult males and were foraging or travelling when sighted by the crews. Caribou were seen in proximity to previously identified trails and were observed crossing the Steensby Railway alignment and travelling parallel to the alignment.

Observations made during the 2025 summer reconnaissance may not fully capture caribou movement patterns throughout the year, as trails identified in snow-free months do not necessarily reflect winter travel routes. Previously, EDI conducted aerial caribou surveys from March 24 to 27, 2023, during snow cover prior to the calving season (Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation 2023). The survey detected 112 caribou across 36 groups, primarily in the southern subregion (around the Steensby Raily Alignment). In combination with the 2025 reconnaissance findings the 2023 aerial caribou surveys showed some increase in caribou presence and use of the Steensby Railway alignment year-round.



Photo 11. Old caribou shed.



Photo 12. Old caribou jawbone.



Photo 13. Recent caribou droppings.



Photo 14. Caribou track in sand near a watercourse.

3.3.2 OTHER WILDLIFE

Few signs and sightings of carnivores were detected during the 2025 reconnaissance survey. No Arctic wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*) signs or sightings were detected. Arctic foxes (*Vulpes lagopus*) were sighted twice, and nine instances of fox sign (i.e., scat, digs, and old dens) were recorded during the survey. The low density of carnivore sign is consistent with the findings of the 2006 aerial inventory of carnivores (EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. 2012).

Rodents were sighted multiple times during the 2025 reconnaissance survey, and signs of rodents, particularly lemmings, were abundant in the Steensby Railway alignment (Photo 15). One Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*) was sighted on the Steensby Railway alignment during the surveys, and 11 observations of hare sign, mostly droppings, were recorded. Thirty-six (36) observations of lemming (i.e., brown lemming [*Lemmus trimucronatus*] and Peary land collared lemming [*Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*]) usage were recorded during the reconnaissance survey, including dens, winter stockpiles, droppings, and bones.

Multiple avian species were recorded during the 2025 reconnaissance surveys, including Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Snowy Owl (Photo 16), Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*), American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), and Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Most avian detections (102), which were largely goose droppings, consisted of wildlife sign sighted within the Steensby Railway alignment. The presence of large waterbodies, vegetated plains, wetlands, prey species, and cliffs, all within proximity to the Steensby Railway, has the potential to support a diversity of habitats for inland bird species.



Photo 15. Remnant lemming winter nest.



Photo 16. Snowy Owl nest filled with rodent bones.



4 SUMMARY

EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) was retained to conduct vegetation and soil ground-truthing and wildlife and wildlife-habitat reconnaissance surveys along the Steensby Railway to supplement previous baseline studies and, where applicable, update documentation of existing conditions. Reconnaissance surveys were completed August 5–20, 2025, and focused on the 40 km segment of the Steensby Railway from the Mary River Mine Site to KM40/Ravn River. The 2025 reconnaissance survey locations were informed by the 2006 to 2011 baseline surveys; field data were used to confirm existing conditions and, where required, update the Project’s environmental inventory for terrain, soil, vegetation, and wildlife along the Steensby Railway. Key findings from the 2025 reconnaissance survey include the following:

Terrain, Soil and Vegetation

Terrain, soil characteristics, and vegetation associations were documented within the Study Area. Cryosolic soils predominate the landscape. Soil substrates consist predominantly of sand, loamy sand, or sandy loam textures and varying amounts of integrated coarse gravel. Surface geology ranges from a few to many rocks and cobbles. Permafrost and/or rocky restrictive horizons commonly occur at depths of ~20 to 50 cm. Seepage and saturated subsoils commonly occur near water.

Vegetation cover and composition include sedge- and willow-dominated wetland communities, dwarf-shrub tundra communities, snowbed communities, and barren land communities. These communities vary in relation to elevation, surface geology/surface soil substrates, and soil moisture regimes. Common vegetation includes carex sedges, willows, dwarf shrubs, forbs, bryophytes, and lichens.

Terrain and soil characteristics and vegetation associations are consistent with previous baseline studies. No new features, landscape attributes, and/or sensitivities were identified.; only minor refinements to characterizations of associations (based on observations and data capture) were recorded.

Wildlife

Evidence of wildlife and wildlife habitat was documented within the Study Area, including Caribou, Arctic fox, rodents, and avian species. Notably, Caribou trail data from the 2025 reconnaissance survey and the previous 2023 aerial caribou survey suggest an increase in caribou presence within the Steensby Railway alignment, consistent with cyclical abundance patterns described in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. The relative density of caribou trails throughout the Project Study Area in 2025 roughly corresponds with density findings from the 2006 to 2010 baseline surveys; however, a notable overall increase in caribou detections was documented during the 2025 reconnaissance survey. If the local caribou population continues to increase, caribou use of these established trails and/or the creation of new travel paths may increase.



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APPENDICES



APPENDIX A VEGETATION AND SOIL FIELD DATA



Appendix Table A-1. Vegetation and soil field data.

Site Characteristics							Vegetation Cover and Composition (Transect/Plot Averages)										Soil Profile Characterization					
Site ID	Date	Location	Elev.	Slope		SMR / SNR	Vegetation Community and Association		Species and % Cover of Each				% Cover by Layer				Soil Horizons and Depths	Texture	Rest. Horizon	Seepage	Coarse Frags.	Soil Class
				%	Aspect (°)				Shrubs	Herbs	Lichen, Moss	Other	Shrub	Herb	Lichen Moss	Other						
25_SR01	8/13/2025	17U 562917 7911860	192	0-2%	210	Mesic / Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Avens Tundra	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 28 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 17 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 5 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 3 <i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i> , 2	<i>Carex nardina</i> , 13 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 7 <i>Tofieldia coccinea</i> , 6 <i>Pedicularis lanata</i> , 2 <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , 1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 1	<i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 9 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 7 <i>Thamnolia</i> , 6 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 2 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 12 Rocks, 9	54	28	29	19	Org, 3-0 cm Ahy, 0-5 cm Cy, 5-60+ cm	Loamy Sand/Sand	No	Yes, 53 cm	10-20%	Regosolic Trubic Cryosol
25_SR02	8/13/2025	17U 564249 7910705	207	0-2%	Level	Sub Mesic/Poor	Barrens	Avens Barrens	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 15 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 2 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , <1	<i>Carex nardina</i> , 5 <i>Carex myosuroides</i> , 3 <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , 2 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 1	<i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 5 Mosses, 3 Rock lichen, 3 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , 2 <i>Vulpicida juniperina</i> , 1 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , <1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1	Rocks, 62 Cryptobiotic soil, 10	18	11	16	72	C, 0-30 cm	Loamy Sand	Lithic, 30 cm	No	50-60%	Regosolic cryosol
25_SR03	8/13/2025	17U 565361 7910186	211	10-15%	268	Sub Xeric/Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Avens Tundra	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 43 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 13 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 4	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 21 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 4 <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> , 2 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 2 <i>Pedicularis lanata</i> , 2 <i>Silene acaulis</i> , 1	Mosses, 6 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 3 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 3 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 13 Rocks, 10 Fungi, 1	60	31	12	24	Org, 1-0 cm Ah, 0-8 cm Ae, 8-10 cm C, 10-42 cm	Sandy Loam/Loamy Sand	Lithic, 42 cm	No	25-55%	Regosolic static cryosol
25_SR04	8/13/2025	17U 566515 7909365	200	5-10%	209	Sub Hygric/Medium	Willow	Shrubland	<i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 17 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 13 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 3 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 2	<i>Carex nardina</i> , 18 <i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 13 <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> , 11 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 5 <i>Pedicularis lanata</i> , 2 <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> , 1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 1 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , <1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1	Mosses, 37 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1	Rocks, 6	36	52	38	6	Org, 3-0 cm Ah, 0-3 cm C, 3-37 cm	Loamy Sand/Sand	Lithic, 37 cm	Yes, 22 cm	3-10%	Regosolic static cryosol
25_SR05	8/14/2025	17U 568279 7908056	201	0-2%	69	Hygric/Medium	Sedge	Non-Tussock	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 13 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 4 <i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 1 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 1	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> , 50 <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> , 2 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 2 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 1 <i>Equisetum variegatum</i> , 1 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , <1 <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> , <1	Mosses, 32 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 2 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 1 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , <1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Cladonia</i> , <1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1	Rocks, 13	20	58	37	13	Of, 19-0 cm Cgj, 0-46 cm	Loamy Sand	No	Yes, 32 cm	0-7%	Static cryosol
25_SR06	8/14/2025	17U 570577 7906653	210	0-2%	337	Xeric/Poor	Barrens	Avens barrens	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , <1 <i>Salix arctica</i> , <1	<i>Carex rupestris</i> , 6 <i>Carex nardina</i> , 3 <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , 1 <i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i> , <1 <i>Chamerion latifolium</i> , <1 <i>Poa sp.</i> , <1	Rock lichen, 19 Mosses, 4 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , 3 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1	Rocks, 96 Cryptobiotic soil, 3	<1	11	27	99	C, 0-35 cm	Sand	Lithic, 35 cm	No	70-80%	Regosolic cryosol
25_SR07	8/14/2025	17 U 571383 7906096	206	2-5%	276	Sub Hygric/Rich	Willow	Riparian	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 20 <i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 17 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 12 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 6 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , <1	<i>Carex membranacea</i> , 20 <i>Carex aquatilis</i> , 13 <i>Equisetum sp.</i> , 5 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 2 <i>Bistorta vivipara</i> , 1 <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> , 1 <i>Luzula nivalis</i> , 1 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , 1 <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> , <1	Mosses, 38 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 2 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 7 Rocks, 2	55	45	30	8	Of, 6-0 cm Ah, 0-3 cm Bm, 3-19 cm Cgj, 19-40 cm	Sandy Loam	Lithic, 40 cm	No	0-2%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR08	8/14/2025	17U 571237 7906185	205	20-30%	218	Sub Xeric/Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Avens tundra	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 52 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 3 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 3	<i>Carex rupestris</i> , 8 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 3 <i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i> , 2 <i>Poa arctica</i> , 2 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 2	Mosses, 7 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 5 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 4 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 3	Cryptobiotic soil, 16 Rocks, 3 Fungi, <1	58	18	21	19	Org, 4-0 cm Ah, 0-8 cm Ae, 8-12 cm Bm, 12-36 cm C, 36-46 cm	Sandy Loam/Sand	No	No	5-30%	Brunisolic static cryosol



Appendix Table A-1. Vegetation and soil field data.

Site Characteristics							Vegetation Cover and Composition (Transect/Plot Averages)										Soil Profile Characterization					
Site ID	Date	Location	Elev.	Slope		SMR / SNR	Vegetation Community and Association		Species and % Cover of Each				% Cover by Layer				Soil Horizons and Depths	Texture	Rest. Horizon	Seepage	Coarse Frags.	Soil Class
				%	Aspect (°)				Shrubs	Herbs	Lichen, Moss	Other	Shrub	Herb	Lichen Moss	Other						
25_SR16	8/16/2025	17U 591731 7897053	180	15-20%	175	Mesic/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Blueberry heath	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 31 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 25 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 3 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 3 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 2	<i>Carex rupestris</i> , 3 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 6 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 2 <i>Poa arctica</i> , 1 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , 1 <i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , <1	Mosses, 11 Rock Lichen, 3 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 3 <i>Thamnolia</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , <1 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , <1 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , <1	Rocks, 13 Cryptobiotic soil, 1 Fungi, <1	63	15	19	15	Org, 4-0 cm Ah, 0-6 cm Bm, 6-31 cm C, 31-36+ cm	Loam/L oamy Sand	No	No	30-40%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR17	8/16/2025	17U 592475 7896789	182	30-40%	210	Mesic / Medium	Willow	Riparian	<i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 22 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 22 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 17 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 5 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 2 <i>Salix arctica</i> , <1	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 13 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 4 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , 3 <i>Oxyria digyna</i> , 3 <i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> , 3 <i>Poa sp.</i> , <1 <i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> , 1 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , <1 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , <1 <i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 1 <i>Saxifraga sp.</i> , <1 <i>Stellaria longipes</i> , <1 <i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i> , <1 <i>Chamerion latifolium</i> , <1	Mosses, <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 1 Rocks, <1	68	33	<1	2	Org, 4-0 cm Ah, 0-6 cm Bm, 6-25 cm BC, 25-46 cm C, 46-64+ cm	Loam/Si lt Loam/S andy Loam	No	No	2-20%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR18	8/16/2025	17U 593839 7896320	151	20-30%	274	Xeric/ Poor	Snowbed	Forb	<i>Salix herbacea</i> , 7 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 1 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , <1	<i>Oxyria digyna</i> , 20 <i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i> , 12 <i>Saxifraga cernua</i> , 7 <i>Cerastium alpinum</i> , 4 <i>Poa sp.</i> , 3 <i>Minuartia biflora</i> , 3 <i>Erigeron humilis</i> , 2 <i>Antennaria alpina</i> , <1 <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> , <1	Mosses, 19 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 5 Rock lichen, 1	Cryptobiotic soil, 28 Rocks, 27	9	55	26	55	Org, 1-0 cm Ah, 0-10 cm Bm, 10-32 cm BC, 32-45+ cm	Loamy Sand, Sand	No	No	10-25%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR19	8/16/2025	17U 593753 7896379	155	15-20%		Mesic/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Mixed cassiope heath	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 19 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 16 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 6 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 5 <i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 3 <i>Salix arctica</i> , <1	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 4 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 2 <i>Oxyria digyna</i> , 2 <i>Poa glauca</i> , 2 <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> , 2 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 2 <i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i> , 1 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , 1 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , <1 <i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> , <1 <i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i> , <1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1	Mosses, 8 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 2 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	Rocks, 15 Cryptobiotic soil, 10 Fungi, <1	73	18	11	25	Org, 5-0 cm Ah, 0-8 cm Bm, 8-27 cm C, 27-38 cm	Silt Loam/S and	Lithic, 38 cm	No	30-40%	Static cryosol
25_SR20	8/17/2025	17U 581917 7901141	183	2-5%	195	Sub Hygric/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Blueberry heath	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 12 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 10 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 3 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 1	<i>Carex rupestris</i> , 8 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , 4 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 1 <i>Carex aquatilis</i> , 1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , <1 <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Silene acaulis</i> , <1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1	Mosses, 13 Rock lichen, 3 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , <1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1 <i>Cladonia</i> , <1 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , <1 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , <1	Rocks, 12 Cryptobiotic soil, 10	25	17	20	23	Org, 6-0 cm Ah, 0-3 cm Bm, 3-29 cm C, 29-43+ cm	Sandy Loam/L oamy Sand	No	Yes, 32 cm	10-20%	Static cryosol



Appendix Table A-1. Vegetation and soil field data.

Site Characteristics							Vegetation Cover and Composition (Transect/Plot Averages)										Soil Profile Characterization					
Site ID	Date	Location	Elev.	Slope		SMR / SNR	Vegetation Community and Association		Species and % Cover of Each				% Cover by Layer				Soil Horizons and Depths	Texture	Rest. Horizon	Seepage	Coarse Frags.	Soil Class
				%	Aspect (°)				Shrubs	Herbs	Lichen, Moss	Other	Shrub	Herb	Lichen Moss	Other						
25_SR21	8/17/2025	17U 587886 7898372	178	0-2%	240	Sub Xeric/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Cassiope heath	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 11 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 10 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 3 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 2 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 1	<i>Hierochloe alpina</i> , 2 <i>Carex rupestris</i> , 2 <i>Tofieldia coccinea</i> , 1 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , <1 <i>Tofieldia coccinea</i> , 1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1 <i>Carex bigelowii</i> , <1 <i>Silene acaulis</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 48 <i>Cladonia</i> , 4 <i>Rock lichen</i> , 3 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 3 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , <1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1 <i>Thamnia</i> , <1 <i>Vulpicida juniperina</i> , <1	Rocks, 9 Cryptobiotic soil, 1	27	9	61	10	Org, 4-0 cm Ahe, 0-4 cm Bm, 4-25 cm C, 25-35 cm	Loamy Sand/Sand	Lithic, 35 cm	No	5-15%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR22	8/17/2025	17U 589188 7897783	174	5-10%	279	Sub Hygric/ Medium -Rich	Dwarf shrub tundra	Avens tundra	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 32 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 7 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 1 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , <1	<i>Carex membranacea</i> , 30 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 5 <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> , 2 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , 1 <i>Tofieldia coccinea</i> , 1 <i>Pedicularis lanata</i> , <1 <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> , <1 <i>Silene acaulis</i> , <1 <i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> , 2 <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> , <1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Juncus triglumis</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 7 <i>Flav niv</i> , <1 <i>Flav cuc</i> , <1 <i>Thamnia</i> , <1	Crypto soil, 3 Rocks, 3 Fungi, <1	41	45	9	6	Org, 4-0 cm Ah, 0-8 cm Cg1, 8-29 cm Cg2, 29-51 cm	Loam/Loamy Sand	Lithic, 51 cm	Yes, 20	15-30%	Regosolic static cryosol
25_SR23	8/17/2025	17U 592943 7896502	153	30-40%	232	Mesic/ Medium	Snowbed	Willow	<i>Salix herbacea</i> , 77 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 5 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , <1	<i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 5 <i>Oxyria digyna</i> , 3 <i>Equisetum sp.</i> , 2 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 2 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , 1 <i>Poa sp.</i> , 1 <i>Potentilla hyparctica</i> , <1 <i>Astragalus sp.</i> , <1 <i>Arnica angustifolia</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 27 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 4 <i>Cladonia</i> , <1	Rocks, 11 Cryptobiotic soil, 3 Fungi, <1	82	15	31	14	Org, 2-0 cm Ahy, 0-7 cm Bmy, 7-28 cm BC, 28-48 cm Cz, 48+	Loamy Sand	Permafrost, 48 cm	No	10-30%	Turbic cryosol
25_SR24	8/17/2025	17U 592944 7896572	177	20-30%	214	Xeric/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Avens tundra	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 53 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 13 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 1	<i>Carex rupestris</i> , 5 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , 3 <i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i> , 3 <i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> , 3 <i>Poa sp.</i> , 1 <i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 1 <i>Trisetum spicatum</i> , 1 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , 1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1 <i>Bistort vivipara</i> , <1 <i>Potentilla hyparctica</i> , <1 <i>Hierochloe alpina</i> , <1	<i>Rock lichen</i> , 8 <i>Mosses</i> , 4 <i>Flav cuc</i> , 2 <i>Thamnia</i> , <1 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , <1	Rocks, 17 Cryptobiotic soil, 2 Fungi, <1	68	21	15	19	Org, 4-0 cm Ah, 0-7 cm Bm, 7-36 cm BC, 36-48 cm	Loamy Sand/Sand	Lithic, 48 cm	No	5-15%	Brunisolic static cryosol
25_SR25	8/17/2025	17U 595076 7895849	159	0-2%	250	Mesic/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Cassiope heath	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 60 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 15 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 1 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , <1 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , <1	<i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , 2 <i>Carex scirpoidea</i> , 2 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1 <i>Carex capillaris</i> , <1 <i>Hierochloe alpina</i> , <1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 15 <i>Rock lichen</i> , 3 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , 2 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 2 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 2 <i>Cladonia</i> , 2 <i>Cetraria</i> , 1 <i>Hyperzia sp.</i> , <1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	Rocks, 14 Cryptobiotic soil, 2	77	7	29	16	Org, 2-0 cm Ahy, 0-7 cm Bmy, 7-34 cm	Sandy Loam/Loamy Sand	Lithic, 34 cm	No	5-10%	Turbic cryosol
25_SR26	8/18/2025	17U 583285 7900872	181	0-2%	228	Mesic/ Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Cassiope heath	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 45 <i>Salix herbacea</i> , 6	<i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 4 <i>Craex scirpoidea</i> , 2 <i>Hierochloe alpina</i> , 1	<i>Mosses</i> , 20 <i>Cladonia</i> , 7 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	Rocks, 4 Cryptobiotic soil, 2	57	10	28	6	Org, 4-0 cm Ahy, 0-9 cm Bmy, 9-26 cm	Loam/Loamy Sand	Lithic, 42 cm	No	15-30%	Turbic cryosol



Appendix Table A-1. Vegetation and soil field data.

Site Characteristics							Vegetation Cover and Composition (Transect/Plot Averages)								Soil Profile Characterization											
Site ID	Date	Location	Elev.	Slope		SMR / SNR	Vegetation Community and Association		Species and % Cover of Each				% Cover by Layer				Soil Horizons and Depths	Texture	Rest. Horizon	Seepage	Coarse Frags.	Soil Class				
				%	Aspect (°)				Shrubs	Herbs	Lichen, Moss	Other	Shrub	Herb	Lichen Moss	Other										
									<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 5 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 1	<i>Luzula confusa</i> , 1 <i>Silene acaulis</i> , <1 <i>Oxyria digyna</i> , <1											BCy, 26-42 cm					
25_SR27	8/18/2025	17U 583929 7900674	185	0-2%	205	Hygric/Poor	Sedge	Tossock	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 6 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 2 <i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 2 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 2 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 2 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , <1	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> , 22 <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> , 18 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 2 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , <1 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , <1 <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 13 <i>Cladonia</i> , <1	—	14	44	14	—	Of, 7-0 cm Btg, 0-38 cm Cz, 38+	Clay Loam	Permafrost, 38 cm	No	None		Gleysolic cryosol			
25_SR28	8/18/2025	17U 585077 7900353	193	2-5%	123	Very Xeric/Poor	Barrens	Luzula	—	<i>Luzula confusa</i> , 3 <i>Hierobloë alpina</i> , 1 <i>Chamerion latifolium</i> , <1 <i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i> , <1	<i>Rock lichen</i> , 4 <i>Dactylina</i> , 3 <i>Mosses</i> , 3 <i>Cladonia</i> , 1 <i>Alectoaria ochroleuca</i> , <1 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , <1	Rocks/sand, 96 Cryptobiotic soil, 4	—	5	13	100	C, 0-50 cm	Sand	No	No	30%	Regosolic cryosol				
25_SR29	8/18/2025	17U 585175 7900292	186	0-2%	288	Xeric/Poor	Snowbed	Willow	<i>Salix herbacea</i> , 10 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 6 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , <1	<i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 4 <i>Luzula confusa</i> , 4 <i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i> , <1 <i>Poa arctica</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis capitata</i> , <1 <i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i> , <1 <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 47 <i>Cladonia</i> , 4 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 9 Fungi, <1	17	10	52	10	Org, 2-0 cm BC, 0-24 cm C, 24-50+ cm	Sand	No	No	65%	Regosolic static cryosol				
25_SR30	8/18/2025	17U 585632 7899837		0-2%	182	Hygric/Rich	Sedge	Non-Tussock	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 22 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 3 <i>Salix richardsonii</i> , 3 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 1 <i>Salix arctica</i> , <1	<i>Carex membranacea</i> , 22 <i>Carex nardina</i> , 4 <i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i> , 2 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> , 1 <i>Carex aquatilis</i> , <1 <i>Pedicularis sp.</i> , <1 <i>Carex fuliginosa</i> , <1 <i>Luzula sp.</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 4 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 7 Rocks, 7	29	32	6	13	Of, 19-16 cm Om, 16-8 cm Oh, 8-0 cm Bg, 0-23 cm Cg, 23-37 cm	Sandy Loam/Sand	No	Yes, 17 cm	20-30%	Static cryosol				
25_SR31	8/12/2025	17U 595416 7893816		5-10%	260	Xeric/Poor	Dwarf shrub tundra	Cassiope heath	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 67 <i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 7 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 8 <i>Salix arctica</i> , 2	<i>Carex bigelowii</i> , 8 <i>Stellaria longipes</i> , 1 <i>Poa arctica</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 22 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 21 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 4 <i>Hypogemnia</i> , 1 <i>Cladonia</i> , 1 <i>Dactylina</i> , 1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1 <i>Flavocetraria nivalis</i> , <1	Cryptobiotic soil, 5	85	10	51	5	Org, 2-0 cm C, 0-52 cm	Sand	No	No	None	Regosolic cryosol				
25_SR32	8/12/2025	17U 595311 7894106		2-5%	177	Mesic/Medium	Dwarf shrub tundra	Mixed cassiope heath	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i> , 17 <i>Cassiope tetragona</i> , 17 <i>Dryas integrifolia</i> , 5 <i>Salix reticulata</i> , 3	<i>Pyrola grandiflora</i> , 5 <i>Carex membranacea</i> , 5 <i>Carex nardina</i> , 1 <i>Poa arctica</i> , <1	<i>Mosses</i> , 27 <i>Cladonia</i> , 18 <i>Stereocaulon</i> , 10 <i>Flavocetraria cucullata</i> , 3 <i>Hypogemnia</i> , <1 <i>Thamnolia</i> , <1 <i>Dactylina</i> , <1	—	49	12	61	—	Org, 5-0 cm Ah, 0-6 cm Bm, 6-20 cm C, 20-32 cm Cz, 32+	Sandy Loam/Loamy Sand	Permafrost, 32 cm	No	None	Static cryosol				



APPENDIX B VEGETATION SPECIES LIST



Appendix Table B-1. Vegetation species list.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
Ferns (Polypodiaceae)	<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Fragile Fern	Damp rocky slopes
	<i>Dryopteris fragrans</i>	Fragrant Shield Fern	Non-calcareous rocks, cliffs and screes
	<i>Woodsia glabella</i>	Woodsia	Uncommon, moist calcareous slopes, crevices
Horsetails (Equisetaceae)	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail	Damp areas, stream or banks
	<i>Equisetum variegatum</i>	Variegated Horsetail	Wet alluvial sand and clay, sometimes in moss
Club-moss (Lycopodiaceae)	<i>Huperzia selago</i>	Mountain Club-Moss	Turfy and mossy tundra
Grasses (Poaceae)	<i>Elymus violaceus</i>	High Wild Rye	Well-drained calcareous sand or clay
	<i>Alopecurus magellanicus</i>	Alpine Foxtail	Wet tundra, lakeshores, brooks mostly seacoast, nitrophilous hillsides, disturbed areas
	<i>Anthoxanthum arcticum</i>	Arctic Sweet Grass	In sphagnum, wet tundra, not littoral but coastal lowland
	<i>Anthoxanthum monticola</i>	Alpine Sweet Grass	Dry tundra, rocky places, acidic rocks
	<i>Arctagrostis latifolia</i>	Polar Grass	Damp turf tundra
	<i>Calamagrostis purpurascens</i>	Purple Reedgrass	Well-drained calcareous sand or stony areas slight range extension
	<i>Deschampsia brevifolia</i>	Tufted Hairgrass	Hummocky, frost-heaved turf areas
	<i>DuPontia fisheri</i>	Fisher's Tundrgrass	Wet meadows, littoral, brackish
	<i>Festuca baffinensis</i>	Baffin Fescue	Moist disturbed soils, frost cracks, floodplains; organic, moist, or nitrophilous environment, often on old campsites
	<i>Festuca brachyphylla</i>	Alpine Fescue	Sandy, gravelly, rocky
	<i>Festuca hyperborea</i>	Boreal Fescue	Damp sites, imperfectly drained areas, river terraces. Sometimes abundant on old campsites
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Sandy, silty areas, including dunes
	<i>Festuca rubra ssp. rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Calcareous, sandy sites; good possibility as a soil stabilizer
	<i>Leymus mollis</i>	American Dunegrass	Beaches, dunes, halophyte
	<i>Phippsia algida</i>	Icegrass	Wet clays, lakeshores, snowbanks
	<i>Pleuropogon sabinei</i>	Semaphore Grass	Shallows, small sheltered ponds
	<i>Poa abbreviata</i>	Northern Bluegrass	Calciphile, dry tundra, owl perches
	<i>Poa alpina</i>	Alpine Bluegrass	Snowbanks, calcareous soils, usually southern arctic
	<i>Poa arctica</i>	Arctic Bluegrass	Not too moist tundra, lake shores and brooks
	<i>Poa arctica ssp. caespitans</i>	Arctic Bluegrass	Hummocks, owl perches, colluvial slopes
	<i>Poa glauca</i>	White Bluegrass	Open, sandy, gravelly spots
	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass	Moist, well-drained disturbed sites, human habitation, below bird cliffs, polygons, tundra, rich meadows, variety of sites
	<i>Poa pratensis ssp. alpigena</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass	Same as <i>P. pratensis</i>



Appendix Table B-1. Vegetation species list.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Poa pratensis</i> ssp. <i>colpodea</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass	Same as <i>P. pratensis</i>
	<i>Puccinellia phryganodes</i>	Creeping Alkaligrass	Littoral, arctic islands and coast
	<i>Puccinellia tenella</i> ssp. <i>langeana</i>	Slender Alkaligrass	Littoral, islands; arctic Quebec
	<i>Puccinellia vahliana</i>	Vahl's Alkaligrass	Littoral
	<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Spike Trisetum	Rocky, gravelly spots
Sedges (Cyperaceae)	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water Sedge	Wet tundra, shallow ponds, emergent
	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> ssp. <i>stans</i>	Water Sedge	Wet tundra, shallow ponds, often emergent
	<i>Carex atrofusca</i>	Darkbrown Sedge	Drooping female flowers, wet places, snowbanks
	<i>Carex bigelowii</i>	Bigelow's Sedge	Small in dry spots, larger in wet
	<i>Carex bigelowii</i> ssp. <i>bigelowii</i>	Bigelow's Sedge	High, dry ledges and ridges, rebound beaches, often with <i>Empetrum</i> and <i>Arctous</i>
	<i>Carex bigelowii</i> <i>bigelowii</i> ssp. <i>lugens</i>	Bigelow's Sedge	Marshes, river terraces, tundra (shrubby or marshy); imperfectly drained; silt, till; peat (older deposits), or with high organic content. Range mostly western, low arctic
	<i>Carex capillaris</i> ssp. <i>capillaris</i>	Hair Sedge	Moist pond margins
	<i>Carex capillaris</i> ssp. <i>fuscidula</i>	Hair Sedge	Pond margins, streams, tundra slopes, sometimes in drier habitats, with avens, dwarf fireweed, and yellow crazyweed
	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>	Creeping Sedge	Imperfectly drained moist areas, edges of ponds (often with <i>Hippurus vulgaris</i> and <i>Ranunculus pallasii</i>), beaches, stream margins, sea shores
	<i>Carex fuliginosa</i> ssp. <i>misandra</i>	Short-Leaved Sedge	Variety of habitats, xeric, dry turfy places, rocky spots, river terraces, pond margins, hummocks, lower beach plains
	<i>Carex glacialis</i>	Glacier Sedge	Calcareous sandy, gravelly places
	<i>Carex glareosa</i>	Saltmarsh Sedge	Seashore plant, flat tussocks, seabird nesting sites
	<i>Carex holostoma</i>	Arctic Marsh Sedge	Hummocks, pond margins, seepage slopes, river terraces, mostly acidic soils
	<i>Carex marina</i>	Sea Sedge	Seashores, silty areas or flats
	<i>Carex marina</i> ssp. <i>marina</i>	Sea Sedge	Seashore plant, halophyte
	<i>Carex maritima</i>	Curved Sedge	Mostly littoral, sandy, gravelly, sometimes inland
		<i>Carex membranacea</i>	Fragile Sedge
	<i>Carex nardina</i>	Spike Sedge	Xeric, calcareous sands, gravels, dry slopes
	<i>Carex norvegica</i>	Norway Sedge	Stream margins, tundra slopes, dry terraces, mostly acidic soils, often with <i>C. Membranacea</i> , <i>Luzula arctica</i> , and <i>Carex capillaris</i> . On drier sites, with <i>Cladonia</i> lichens or grasses



Appendix Table B-1. Vegetation species list.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Carex rariflora</i>	Looseflower Alpine Sedge	Wet peaty spots, wet moss by brooks and ponds
	<i>Carex rupestris</i>	Curly Sedge	Xeric, dry turfy places, rocky ledges, often with Dryas
	<i>Carex saxatilis</i>	Rock Sedge	Shallow water, acid tundra ponds, lakeshores
	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Northern Singlespike Sedge	Xeric, dry turfy places, calcareous soil
	<i>Carex subspatheacea</i>	Hoppner's Sedge	Seacoast, wet clay on beaches
	<i>Carex supina</i>	Weak Arctic Sedge	Xeric, non-calcareous, dry, rocky, sandy
	<i>Carex ursina</i>	Bear Sedge	Littoral, seashores, inundated at high tide
	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	Shallows, non-tussock
	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> <i>ssp. triste</i>	Tall Cottongrass	Non-tussock
	<i>Eriophorum callitrix</i>	Arctic Cottongrass	Calcareous, turfy, tussock-forming
	<i>Eriophorum russeolum</i>	Red Cottongrass	Mud, shallow ponds, non-tussock
	<i>Eriophorum scheuchzerii</i>	White Cottongrass	Wet meadows, shallows, non-tussock
	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Tussock Cottongrass	Peaty soils, tussock-forming
	<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> <i>ssp.</i> <i>spissum</i>	Sheathed Cottongrass	Tussock-forming
	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i>	Bellardi Bog Sedge	Calciphile, dry ridges
	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>	Simple Bog Sedge	Wide variety of habitats, damp calcareous gravels, seepage slopes, dry calcareous rock or tundra, often with avens, in dry sites
	<i>K. simpliciuscula</i> <i>ssp.</i> <i>subbolarctica</i>		Variety of habitats, see above
Rushes (Juncaceae)	<i>Juncus arcticus</i>	Arctic Rush	Wet sand/clay shores, lakes/rivers, sometimes strand flats
	<i>Juncus biglumis</i>	Twoflowered Rush	Wet sand or clay
	<i>Juncus castaneus</i>	Chestnut Sedge	Wet sand or clay lakeshores
	<i>Juncus triglumis</i>	Three-Flowered Rush	Calcareous clay or sand, pond edges
	<i>Luzula confusa</i>	Northern Woodrush	Xeric, dry turfy places, rocky slopes and ledges
	<i>Luzula nivalis</i>	Arctic Woodrush	Heath and damp tundra, snowbanks
False asphodels (Tofieldiaceae)	<i>Tofieldia coccinea</i>	Red False Asphodel	Calcareous soils, often dry sites
	<i>Tofieldia pusilla</i>	Scottish Asphodel	Moist calcareous turfy places
Willows (Salicaceae)	<i>Salix arctica</i>	Arctic Willow	Extremely variable in form and habitat, highly used by Inuit
	<i>Salix arctophila</i>	Northern Willow	Wet mossy tundra
	<i>Salix calcicola</i>	Woolly Willow	Shrub, calcareous rocky, gravelly places
	<i>Salix herbacea</i>	Least Willow	Snowbank indicator species



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Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Salix reticulata</i>	Net-Veined Willow	Moist tundra, beaches, stream banks, frost polygons, snowbeds, often on calcareous soils, usually in places well-protected by snow cover
	<i>Salix richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Willow	Well-watered sandy, gravelly places, terraces, silty river beds, drumlin fields, gravel ridges, cliff ledges, and snow beds
Smartweed (Polygonaceae)	<i>Koenigia islandica</i>	Island Purslane	Wet moss or springs, wet sand or silt
	<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Snowbanks, cool moist ravines, below bird cliffs, etc.
	<i>Pericaria vivipara</i>	Alpine Bistort	Turfy, rocky, moist grassy areas, animal dens
Pinks (Caryophyllaceae)	<i>Arenaria humifusa</i>	Sandworts	Moist calcareous gravels, crevices
	<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine Mouse-Ear Chickweed	Rocky, sandy, gravelly, also bird cliffs and animal dens
	<i>Cerastium arcticum</i> var. <i>arcticum</i>	Arctic Mouse-Ear Chickweed	Hummocks, snow patches, terraces, solifluction slopes, moderately well-drained areas, acidic soils
	<i>Cerastium beeringianum</i>	Bering Chickweed	Rocky, sandy, gravelly, tends to be "western" range extension
	<i>Cerastium regelii</i>	Regel's Chickweed	Hummocks, snow patches, pond margins, terraces, lake shores, tundra
	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Seabeach Sandwort	Sandy or gravelly beaches, Rowley River flats
	<i>Minuartia biflora</i>	Mountain Stitchwort	Calcareous grassy slopes and herb mats with snow cover
	<i>Minuartia rossii</i>	Ross' Sandwort	Not too dry, turf, gravelly, sandy calcareous
	<i>Minuartia rubella</i>	Reddish Sandwort	Dry, sandy, gravelly places, exposed
	<i>Minuartia stricta</i>	Bog Stitchwort	Wet places, tundra
	<i>Sagina caespitosa</i>	Tufted Pearlwort	Recorded fr. Mid-south baffin, seepage slopes
	<i>Sagina nivalis</i>	Snow Pearlwort	Moist sand or gravel by lakeshores, wet clay, disturbed sites
	<i>Silene acaulis</i>	Moss Champion	Well-drained gravelly or turf
	<i>Silene involucreta</i>	Arctic Bladder Champion	Along streams, river terraces, slopes, cliffs
	<i>Silene sorensensis</i>	Three-Flowered Champion	Wet, lakeshores, snowbeds
	<i>Silene uralensis</i> ssp. <i>arctica</i>	Red Bladder Champion	Moist areas, seepage slopes, lakeshores
	<i>Stellaria humifusa</i>	Seashore Chickweed	Salt flats, seashores, Steensby, Rowley River flats
	<i>Stellaria longipes</i>	Long-Stalked Starwort	Varies, but often around den sites, and bird nests
	Buttercups (Ranunculaceae)	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	White Water-Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i>		Arctic Buttercup	Shallow fresh or brackish water, among sedges/grasses
<i>Ranunculus lapponicus</i>		Lapland Buttercup	Damp moss under willows, sphagnum bogs
<i>Ranunculus nivalis</i>		Snow Buttercup	Wet moss, by brooks, often snowbanks
<i>Ranunculus pedatifidus</i>		Bird's-Foot Buttercup	Calcareous gravelly, sandy or grassy spots



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Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Ranunculus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Buttercup	Snowbank communities, moist areas
	<i>Ranunculus sabinei</i>	Sabine's Buttercup	Snow patches, marshes, wet slopes
	<i>Ranunculus sulphureus</i>	Sulphur Buttercup	Moist gravelly tundra, wet meadows, snow patches
Poppies (Papaveraceae)	<i>Papaver radicatum</i> ssp. <i>radicatum</i>	Arctic Poppy	Wet calcareous gravelly spots
	<i>Papaver radicatum</i> ssp. <i>polare</i>	Iceland Poppy	High areas recently freed from ice, wet, poorly drained
Mustards (Brassicaceae)	<i>Arabidopsis arenicola</i>	Rock-Cress	Calcareous sand/gravel, lake shores or riverbanks
	<i>Braya glabella</i> ssp. <i>purpurascens</i>	Purple Braya	Calcareous clay and gravel
	<i>Cardamine bellidifolia</i>	Bitter Cress	Wet mossy places, shady crevices
	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo Flower	Sedge meadows
	<i>Cochlearia groenlandica</i>	Scurvygrass	Rocky islands, peninsulas, near bird nest sites
	<i>Draba alpina</i>	Alpine Whitlowgrass	Snowbeds, moist tundra, clay in wet gravelly barrens
	<i>Draba arctica</i>	Arctic Whitlowgrass	Dry, rocks, sand, silt
	<i>Draba cinerea</i>	Greyleaf Whitlowgrass	Calcareous rocky barrens and sunny cliffs
	<i>Draba corymbosa</i>	Flattop Whitlowgrass	Dry calcareous barrens, rocky places
	<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	Fladniz Whitlowgrass	Gravelly slopes, similar to <i>D. lactea</i> , but fl. Pure white
	<i>Draba glabella</i>	Smooth Whitlowgrass	Rocky grassy situations, strongly nitrophilous, nest/den sites
	<i>Draba lactea</i>	Milky Whitlowgrass	Not too dry turfey places, snowbanks
	<i>Draba nivalis</i>	Snow Whitlowgrass	Dry, rocky gravelly places
	<i>Draba oblongata</i>	Canadian Arctic Whitlowgrass	Moist areas, calcareous, snow patches, gravels
	<i>Draba subcapitata</i>	Ellesmereland Whitlowgrass	Calciphile, dry, gravelly tundra
	<i>Erysimum pallasii</i>	Pallas' Wallflower	Calciphile, bird islands
	<i>Eutrema edwardsii</i>	Edward's Mock Wallflower	Calcareous soils, nitrophilous, not too dry turfey tundra
	<i>Lesquerella arctica</i>	Arctic Bladderpod	Dry rocky places, calcareous cliffs
	Saxifrages (Saxifragaceae)	<i>Chryso-splenium tetrandrum</i>	Golden Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>		Yellow Mountain Saxifrage	Edges of lakes or ponds, damp areas, calcareous
<i>Saxifraga cernua</i>		Nodding Saxifrage	Moist ledges, moss or wet sand by brooks or lakeshores
<i>Saxifraga cespitosa</i>		Tufted Saxifrage	Rocky, gravelly areas
<i>Saxifraga foliolosa</i>		Leafy Saxifrage	Mossy, springy places, lakeshores, brooks, wet tundra



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Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Saxifraga hieracifolia</i>	Hawkweed-Leaf Saxifrage	Uncommon, moist turfy calcareous habitats, flowers greenish purple. Was found in large quantities along old tote road
	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage	Sedge meadows
	<i>Saxifraga hyperborea</i>	Arctic Saxifrage	Streams, seashores, calcareous soils
	<i>Saxifraga nivalis</i>	Snow Saxifrage	Dry rocky slopes, ledges
	<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Purple Mountain Saxifrage	Moist calcareous gravels, wet cliffs
	<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	White Mountain Saxifrage	Calcareous rocks
	<i>Saxifraga platysepala</i>	Spider Plant	Long radiating stolons, flowers yellow
	<i>Saxifraga rivularis</i>	Brooklet Saxifrage	Wet gravelly mossy places, nitrophilous, bird nesting areas
	<i>Saxifraga tenuis</i>	Ottertail Pass Saxifrage	Wet gravelly places, mossy places, brooks, lakeshores
	<i>Saxifraga tricuspidata</i>	Prickly Saxifrage	Dry rocky gravelly spots
Roses (Rosaceae)	<i>Dryas integrifolia</i>	Mountain Avens	Rocky, gravelly spots, exposed ridges
	<i>Potentilla chamissonis</i>	Chamisso's Cinquefoil	Rocky, gravelly, calcareous slopes, similar to P. Nivea
	<i>Potentilla hyparctica</i>	Arctic Cinquefoil	Rocky places, ravines, talus slopes
	<i>Potentilla nivea</i>	Snow Cinquefoil	Rocky sunny spots, animal burrows, cliffs, mid-south Baffin
	<i>Potentilla pulchella</i> var. <i>gracicauli</i>	Pulchella Cinquefoil	Sandy, gravelly dry spots, strand flats, Milne inlet
	<i>Potentilla rubricaulis</i>	Red-Stemmed Cinquefoil	Cushionlike mats, five leaflets
	<i>Potentilla vahliana</i>	Vahl's Cinquefoil	Dense cushions, calciphile, bright yellow fl
Peas (Fabaceae)	<i>Astragalus alpinus</i>	Alpine Milkvetch	Flowers delicate blue
	<i>Oxytropis arctica</i>	Arctic Crazyweed	Flowers magenta w/white blaze
	<i>Oxytropis maydelliana</i>	Yellow Crazyweed	Dry tundra, many places
	<i>Oxytropis nigrescens</i>	Blackish Crazyweed	Dry exposed ridges
Crowberry (Empetraceae)	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	Dry sandy areas, spreading patches, all south of the Mary River
Evening primrose (Onagraceae)	<i>Epilobium arcticum</i>	Arctic Willowherb	Wet clay on tundra barrens
	<i>Chamenerion angustifolium</i>	Tall Fireweed	South Baffin; if it appears in Project Study Area, will have been brought in
	<i>Chamenerion latifolium</i>	Arctic Fireweed	Dry gravels, sandbars in rivers, dry slopes
Water milfoil (Haloragaceae)	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	Mare's Tail	Emergent in edges of ponds, bays of lakes
Wintergreen (Pyrolaceae)	<i>Pyrola grandiflora</i>	Arctic Wintergreen	Shady areas under willows, sunny slopes



Appendix Table B-1. Vegetation species list.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
Heaths (Ericaceae)	<i>Arctous alpina</i>	Alpine Bearberry	Acid, rocky to gravelly, mid-south Baffin
	<i>Cassiope tetragona</i>	Arctic White Heather	Tundra, snowbank edges
	<i>Ledum palustre</i>	Labrador Tea	Shrub moss-lichen heath, ledges
	<i>Rhododendron lapponicum</i>	Lapland Rosebay	Dry rocky tundra, stony slopes
	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>	Blueberry	Acid soil; common on Cockburn cliffs/slopes, and on glaciofluvial plains near Cockburn Lake
Diapensia (Diapensiaceae)	<i>Diapensia lapponica</i>	Pincushion Plant	Exposed ridges, mid-south Baffin
Primrose (Primulaceae)	<i>Androsace septentrionalis</i>	Northern Fairy-Candelabra	Disturbed sites, sandy, dry sites
Leadwort (Plumbaginaceae)	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Thrift	Gravelly tundra, floodplains, lake shores
Borage (Boraginaceae)	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>	Seaside Bluebells	Gravels or sands, by seashore
Snapdragon (Scrophulariaceae)	<i>Pedicularis albolabiata</i>	White-Lipped Lousewort	Wetlands, pond and stream margins
	<i>Pedicularis langsдорffii</i> ssp. <i>arctica</i>	Arctic Lousewort	Moist tundra barrens
	<i>Pedicularis capitata</i>	Capitate Lousewort	Gravelly, calcareous tundra or heath
	<i>Pedicularis flammea</i>	Flame-Tipped Lousewort	Moist calcareous tundra, snowbeds
	<i>Pedicularis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Lousewort (Pink)	Stony sandy tundra, riverbanks
	<i>Pedicularis lanata</i>	Woolly Lousewort	Moist stony tundra
	<i>Pedicularis sudetica</i>	Sudetan Lousewort	Wetlands, edges of ponds, marshes
Harebells (Campanulaceae)	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Round-Leafed Bluebell	Rocky, gravelly turfey places
	<i>Campanula uniflora</i>	One Flowered Harebell	Calcareous cliffs and gravelly screes
Daisies (Asteraceae)	<i>Antennaria friesiana</i>	Pussytoes	Rocky lichen-covered slopes
	<i>Antennaria monocephala</i> ssp. <i>angustata</i>	Pygmy Pussytoes	Moist solifluction slopes, disturbed, unstable areas
	<i>Arnica angustifolia</i>	Narrow-Leaved Arnica	Dry sandy gravelly slopes, animal dens, bird cliffs
	<i>Crepis nana</i>	Dwarf Hawksbeard	Rosette, dry calcareous screes or slopes
	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Cut-Leaved Fleabane	
	<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	Fleabane	Below snowbank associations, damp slopes; mossy, grassy places, non-calcareous areas, nitrophilous
	<i>Erigeron uniflorus</i> ssp. <i>erocephalus</i>	Fleabane	In moist, grassy places, often in herb mats below snowbanks, also well-drained sand and silt, in calcareous soils, among boulders, etc.
	<i>Hulteniella integrifolia</i>	Entire-Leafed Daisy	Stony calcareous barrens
	<i>Taraxacum hyparcticum</i>		Calciphile, bird nesting spots, dens



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Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Habitat Notes
	<i>Taraxacum hyperboreum</i>	Dandelion; Mid-South Baffin	Moist places, seashores
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Narrow-Leafed Dandelion	Moist, mineral soils seashores, den sites, bird cliffs, etc.
	<i>Taraxacum phymatocarpum</i>	Dwarf Species, Lemon Yellow	Stony, gravelly mineral soil
	<i>Tepbroseris palustris congesta</i>	Mastodon Flower	Seashores, salt marshes, wetlands
	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> ssp. <i>phaeocephalum</i>	Seashore Chamomile	Moist sandy seashores, salt marshes, halophyte