**Interview Schedule**

**Forest Change and wildlife conservation:**

**Insights from traditional knowledge holders in Ontario**

Interview #:

Date:

Time:

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Location:

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Gender (optional):

Name: (optional):

Age class: Youth Adult Senior

**Introductory statement**

One of the things I’m looking at in this research is how and why landcover types or types of forests change over time, and how that affects habitat for wildlife like moose, deer, and caribou. Over the years we see some areas shift from being predominantly birch to balsam fir, in some areas from balsam fir to black spruce, and so on. I’m interested in Indigenous knowledge on these shifts from one forest type to another. What is your understanding of how these forest types change or transform, whether it’s understanding that comes from knowledge passed down from previous generations or it’s what you know from your experience being out on the land?

**Part I – General knowledge:** **Perspectives on forest change**

1. What changes have you observed in the forests within your community over time?
2. What do you believe are the main causes of these changes?
3. How are the forest plants (/forest types) listed below described in indigenous language?

Birch:

Balsam Fir:

Black spruce:

Conifer:

1. What is your understanding of how landcover types or forest types change or transform? For example:

Birch - Balsam Fir:

Balsam Fir - Black spruce:

Black spruce – Conifer:

Balsam Fir – Birch:

1. How have these changes affected the health and biodiversity of forests in your area?

**Part II – Impacts on wildlife conservation: caribou, moose, and deer**

1. What changes have you noticed in caribou, moose, and deer populations over the years?
2. Which of these species (caribou, moose, and deer) do you feel are most affected by forest changes? Why?
3. How have these changes impacted traditional hunting, fishing, or gathering practices?

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**Part III – Cultural and socio-economic implication**

1. How do forest and wildlife changes affect your community’s cultural practices and traditions?
2. Are there any species or forested areas that hold particular cultural significance?
3. What economic impacts has forest change had on your community?

**Part IV – Management and future directions**

1. What conservation strategies or practices does your community use to protect forests and wildlife?
2. How does your community contribute to managing caribou, moose, and deer conservation?
3. How well do you think current forest management and conservation policies address the needs of wildlife and Indigenous communities?
4. What barriers or challenges does your community face in influencing forest and wildlife policies?
5. What changes would you like to see in forest and wildlife conservation policies?
6. What do you think are the most critical steps for protecting forests and wildlife for future generations?

**Part V – History of provincial parks**

1. Biigtigong residents: what do you know about the formation of the Slate islands provincial park?
2. What do you know about the formation of the Michipicoten Island Provincial Park?
3. Any other concerns to share?