

MANITOBA MAPLE NEAR LA RONGE, SASKATCHEWAN

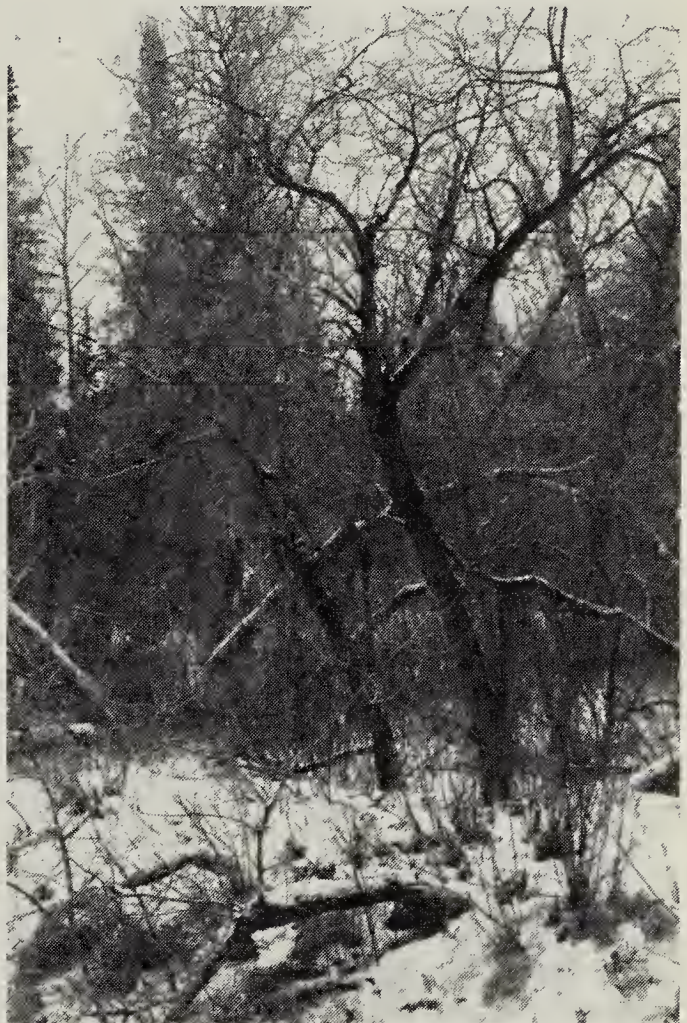
WARD HARRIS, Resource Officer, Saskatchewan Parks, Recreation and Culture, Box 970, Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. S0E 0Y0

During the early winter of 1987 (6 December 1987) while checking access to a potential sawtimber area along Bow River, a small stand of Manitoba Maple was found. Several trees were growing by a bend of the river. Alluvial deposits are probably common.

Location of site: 25 km, Azimuth 177° from town of La Ronge, UTM Z13 67 N608063, latitude 54° 47' 30". On 2 December 1987 an aerial reconnaissance revealed several sites at this point down river and all along lower reaches of the channel to Lac La Ronge.

Tree diameters were taken at breast height and were 22.9, 43.5, 22.0 cm. The sampled trees were estimated to range from 7.6 - 9.1 m high. One tree was sampled for age and found to contain 70 - 72 annual rings at 0.3 m stump height. With a correction factor of +2 for maple, the estimated age was 74 years (H.J. Desjarlais, pers. comm.). Twig cuttings and samaras were also collected.

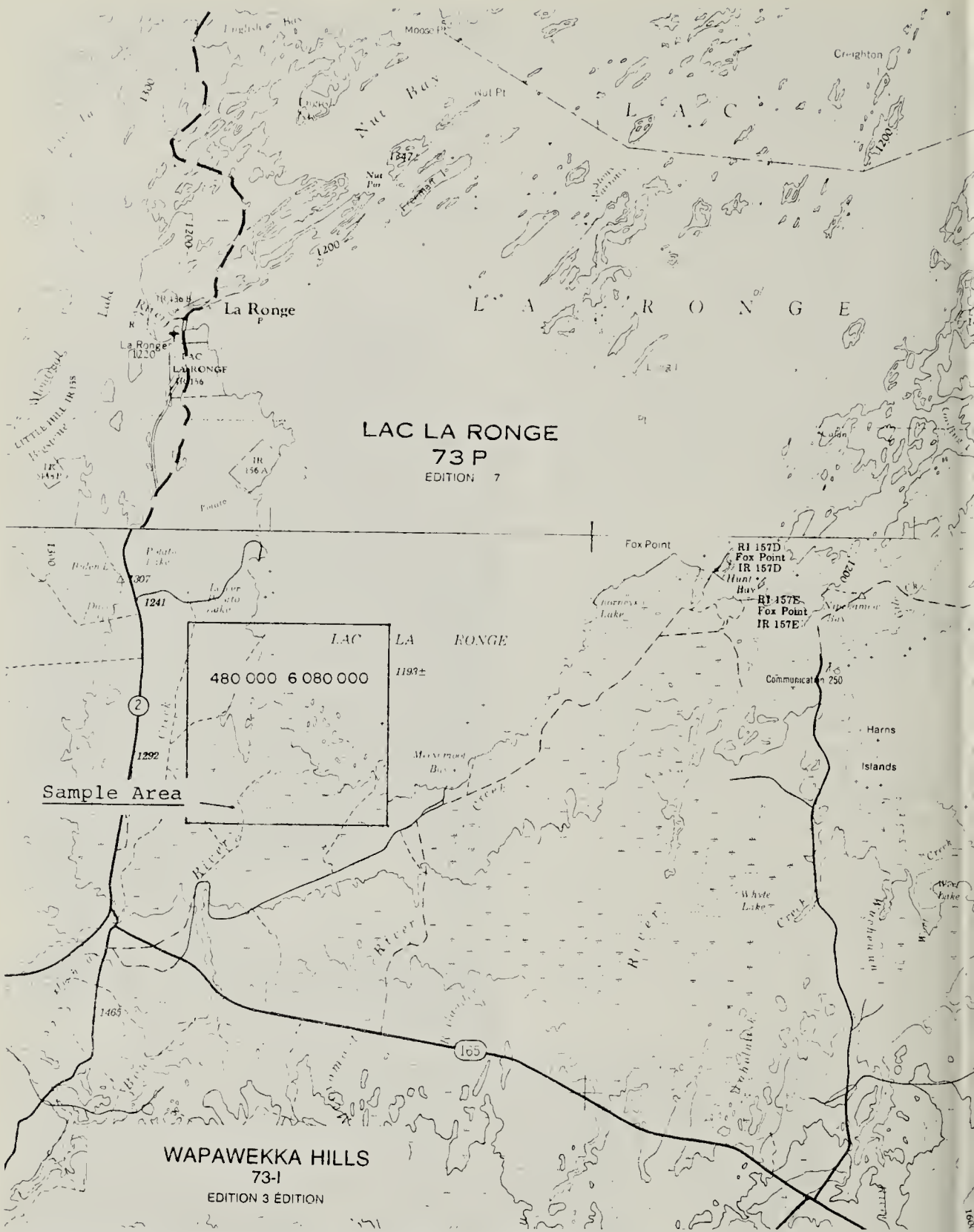
This site and the others along the river near La Ronge are approximately 370 m above sea level; the trees are probably growing on alluvial sites. At this point there is what appears to be a levee on the west side of the river and the maximum distance the species is found from the river appears not to exceed 50 meters. A cross section of the area would reveal that no deep valley exists but that it cuts through level land. The area through which the river flows at this point is comprised of swamp



Manitoba Maple on Bow River

E.H. Harris

and supports Black Spruce with other commercial species in association. White Spruce and aspen dominate any higher ground with better drainage (including the levee). The area is described as Southern Boreal, Upper Churchill ecological region, in what is a glacial lake bottom.^{1 2}The area immediately to the south varies from 375 to 460 m above sea level and appears not to support any Manitoba Maple along the river. No reports were received during the intensive salvage logging operations conducted in the McKenzie Burn from 1980 to 1983. However, verbal

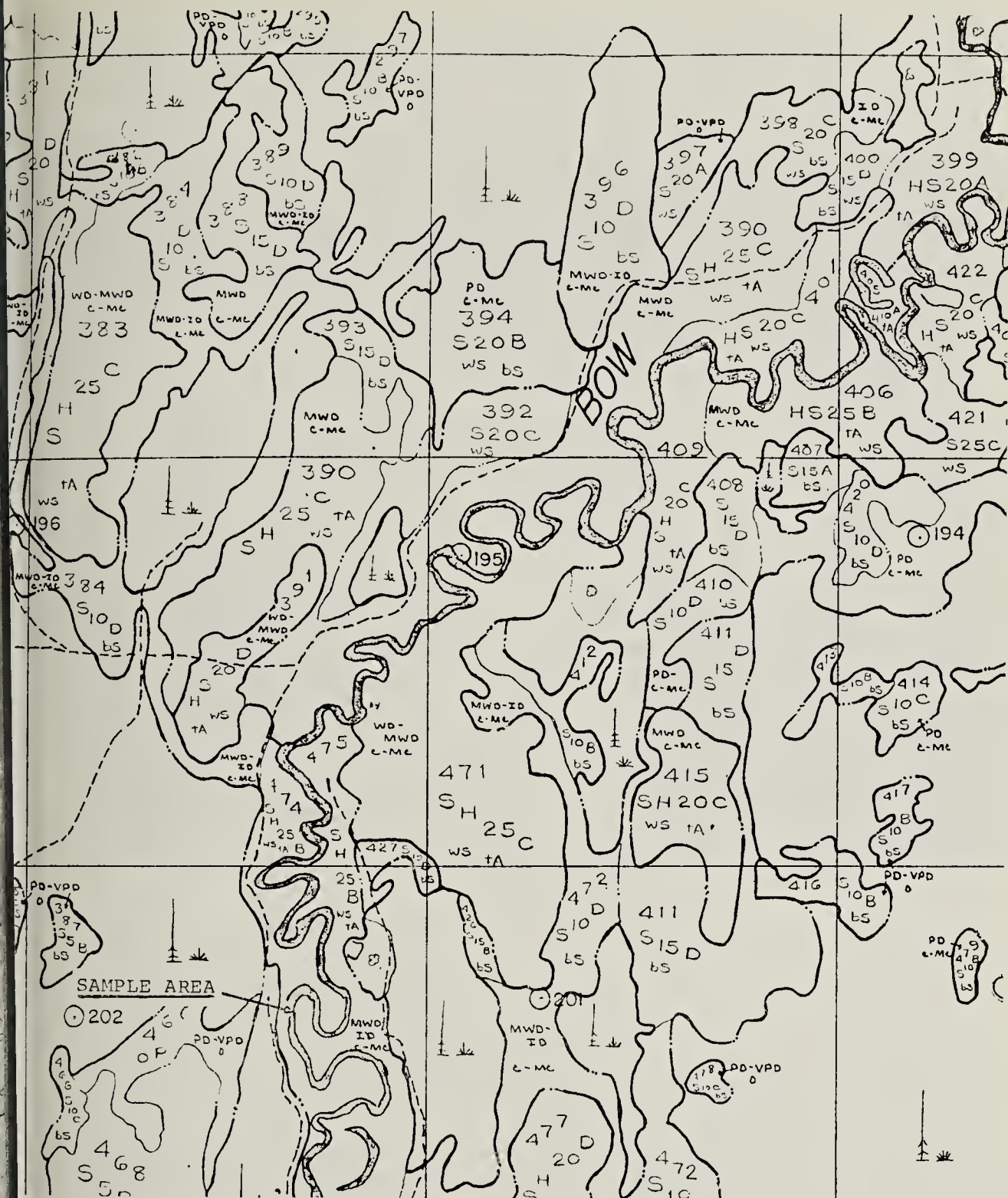


Location of sample area (topographic Series map)

report of this species growing in the Wapawekka Hills, possibly along the base at a similar elevation has been received (K. Dahl, pers. comm.). An additional report was received in the spring of 1988 of this species growing along the Mossey River on the east slope of the Cub Hills (G. Frey and D. Brown, SPRC, pers. comm.). However official publications do not record this

species as growing far north of the katchewan River outside of Manitoba lowlands.³

Why this species exists in such a remote area and whether or not it exists in other isolated pockets may be answered by further investigation. More information as the location of the actual lake shoreline, temper



Location of sample area on Forest Inventory map

presence of the species and ability of... to influence local climate may... provide answers in the future.

(deceased), who reviewed the manuscript.

protection of this site and all along the... to Lac La Ronge should be considered. Incorporation into the La... Provincial Park may be one solution.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation is expressed to Henry... and Greg Anderson

¹ DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT 1966. Native trees of Canada. Bull. 61. 291 pp.

² HARRIS, W.C., A. KABZEMS, A.L. KOSOWAN, G.A. PADBURY and J.S.

ROWE 1983. Ecological regions of Saskatchewan. Sask. Parks and Renewable Resources Tech. Bull. No. 10. 57 pp.

³ RICHARDS, J.H. and K.I. FUNG. Atlas of Saskatchewan. Dept. of Geography, U. of Sask., Saskatoon. 236 p.



Aerial view of Manitoba Maple location

Edward rris

PROJECT BIRDWATCH

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society has available limited funds to reimburse expenses (fuel and lodging) to a **maximum of \$100 per application** for birdwatchers collecting data between 1 June and 1 August for use in Society publications, particularly for *The Birds of Saskatchewan*.

Data collected north of 55° latitude on bird species, numbers, habitat, behaviour, evidence of breeding will all be useful, but particularly important are the general areas a) Buffalo Narrows to Cluff Lake and b) Besnard Lake to Pinehouse Lake to Key Lake. Other areas will also be of interest; please enquire if you are going to any unusual birding location in the province.

Information being sought includes date and time in the area; weather, habitat,

species detected and, where possible, numbers; species singing, young seen and other indications of nesting; field photos, etc. Individuals will be given credit for data used.

Up to two people on any one trip will be eligible for reimbursement. Individuals making more than one trip may apply each time but preference will be given to first-time applicants. If you wish to apply for funds, please contact, PREFERRED IN ADVANCE, either:

Mary Gilliland [902 University Drive, Saskatoon, SK. S7N 0K1; PH. (306) 597-5970] OR **Bernie Gollop** [220 Avenue, Saskatoon, SK. S7J 1J1; PH. (306) 343-1027].

Results of the trip and receipts for fuel and lodging should be submitted with request for reimbursement to Mary Gilliland NO LATER THAN 10 AUGUST 1990.