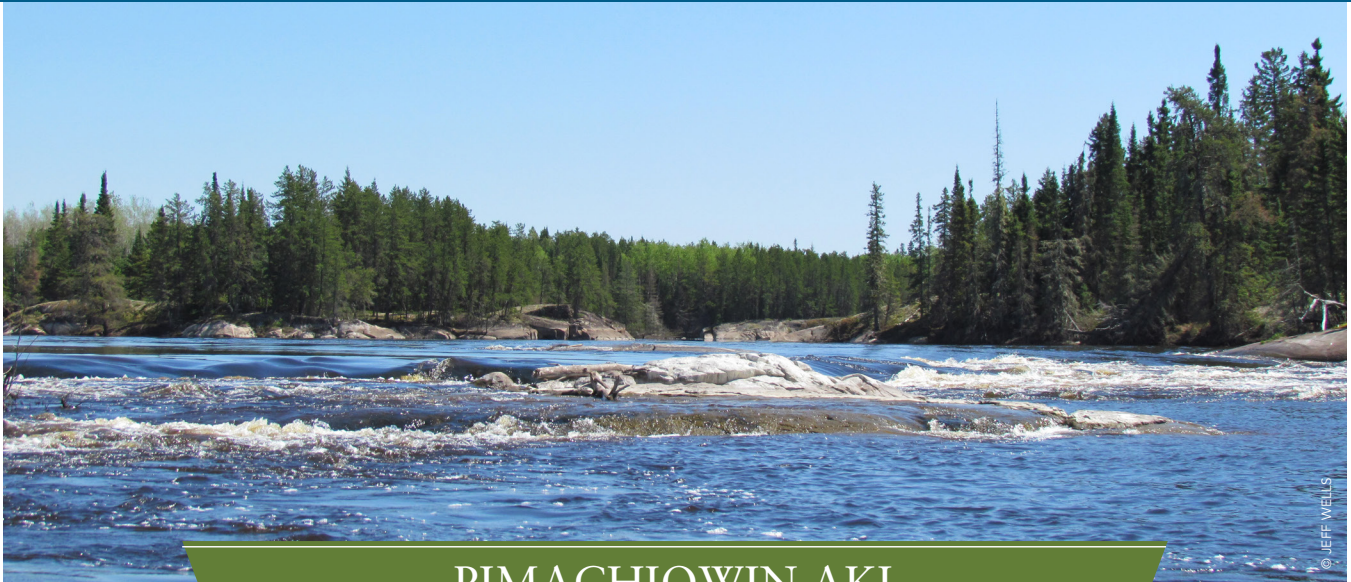


Manitoba's Blue Mosaic

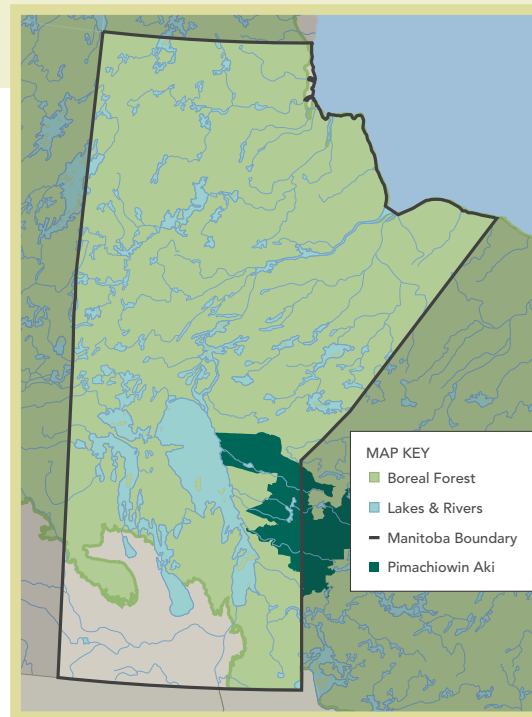


PIMACHIOWIN AKI

Pimachiowin Aki, which means “the land that gives life” in Anishinaabe, is a fitting name for one of the largest and most intact examples of the southern boreal shield ecoregion remaining in Canada.

This 33,400 square-kilometre (8 million-acre) area has been nominated as a UNESCO natural and cultural World Heritage Site. Pimachiowin Aki comprises a remarkable collection of boreal forest habitats within a series of watersheds that originate in Ontario and flow westward to the eastern side of Lake Winnipeg. In fact, the region's four largest rivers provide the ailing lake with more than six million cubic metres of clean fresh water each year. This nominated area is still highly pristine and represents an integral and diverse portion of one of the single largest blocks of intact forest left on Earth.

Pimachiowin Aki is home to more than 40 native mammals, including some of Canada's most well-known: wolverine, moose, beaver, and timber wolf. It also encompasses much of the range of the Atikaki-Berens woodland caribou herd as well as other populations of woodland caribou further north. The vast network of streams and rivers also produce healthy populations of walleye, lake trout, lake sturgeon, and northern pike. A wide variety of songbirds thrive in the expansive, intact forests



of the region, including some of Canada's most threatened. There are at least eight bird species represented in Pimachiowin Aki that are considered Species at Risk by COSEWIC: Piping Plover, Short-eared Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Canada Warbler, and the Rusty Blackbird. Having declined by more than three-quarters in recent decades, these species depend heavily on the intact forests of Pimachiowin Aki. In total, as many as 216 bird species rely on the region, reinforcing its reputation as a stronghold for migratory birds.

The five First Nations—Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids,

Pauingassi, Pikangikum, and Poplar River—whose ancestors have lived in the area for more than 6,000 years, are working together with the governments of Ontario, Manitoba and Canada toward a common goal: to protect, preserve, and gain international recognition of this most important boreal forest.



This fact sheet was derived from a subsection in *Manitoba's Blue Mosaic: Six Aquatic Strongholds of Manitoba's Boreal Forest*, a comprehensive report summarizing the vast aquatic values of Manitoba's boreal forest. For more information and literature cited, please refer to the full report.

Wells, J., D. Childs, C. Smith, S.M. Siegers, and P. Badiou. 2014. *Manitoba's Blue Mosaic: Six Aquatic Strongholds of Manitoba's Boreal Forest*. Boreal Songbird Initiative, Seattle, Washington, and Ducks Unlimited Canada, Stonewall, Manitoba.

The report is also viewable online at:
<http://borealbirds.org/sites/default/files/pubs/mb-report.pdf>

All content copyright © 2014 Boreal Songbird Initiative and Ducks Unlimited Canada.