

# Manitoba's Provincial Forests

AGASSIZ, BELAIR  
BRIGHTSTONE SAND HILLS  
CAT HILLS  
CORMORANT  
DUCK MOUNTAIN  
MOOSE CREEK  
NORTHWEST ANGLE  
PORCUPINE  
SANDILANDS  
SPRUCE WOODS  
SWAN-PELICAN  
TURTLE MOUNTAIN  
WAMPUM  
WHITESHELL

Manitoba  
Conservation



## THE HISTORY OF PROVINCIAL FORESTS



Before the Province of Manitoba was established, European settlers were promised 160 acres of free land if they lived on it and cleared it for agriculture. As a result, farms began replacing our southern forests. The federal government decided they must retain some forests for building material. In 1895 they established Turtle Mountain, Spruce Woods and Riding Mountain (now a national park) as timber reserves. Duck Mountain and Porcupine Mountain followed in 1906. What started out as federal timber reserves 100 years ago have become our provincial forests of today.

Manitoba now has 15 provincial forests totalling almost 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>. These forests are among the highest quality timber stands in the province. Today, our provincial forests are much more than reserves for timber. They are also places for wildlife, recreation and research.

## WHO MANAGES OUR FORESTS?

Control of Manitoba's forests was transferred from the federal to the provincial government in 1930. Provincial forests are Crown lands owned by the people of Manitoba. Manitoba Natural Resources manages provincial forests for a variety of uses.

The forests are managed on a sustained yield basis by calculating the Annual Allowable Cut for an area. That means that the amount of timber harvested in a year must equal the amount grown, so the total amount of forest remains constant.

## FOREST HARVESTING AND REGROWTH

Harvesting trees on Crown lands is only allowed through licence or permit, which tells the holder how much of what type of trees they can harvest and where.

As part of their Forest Management License, large companies must regenerate forest lands they have harvested. Individuals or small companies pay a forest renewal fee which is directed to reforestation.

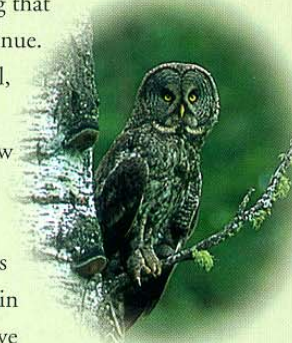
*The 25 km North Star Trail in Belair Provincial Forest was developed in 1996 by Manitoba Natural Resources and the Manitoba Model Forest to demonstrate current forest management practices.*

## ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND PARKS

Not all provincial forests are designated just for commercial timber harvesting. Forests containing Ecological Reserves or Wildlife Management Areas do not allow harvesting, or require modified practices in those areas.

Some of Manitoba's provincial forests have had provincial parks designated within their boundaries with the understanding that harvesting would continue. Parks in the Whiteshell, Duck Mountain, and Cormorant forests allow forest harvesting only in approved areas.

Other provincial forests such as Turtle Mountain and Spruce Woods, have greatly reduced commercial forestry activities as recreation and other non timber values have exceeded those of commercial harvesting.



*Sandilands has a Great Gray Owl Voluntarily Protected Area*

*Walk the Forester's Footsteps self-guiding trail in the Whiteshell Provincial Park for more information on forestry.*

## MANY USES FOR FORESTS

Provincial forests are used for a variety of activities as long as there is no permanent loss of the forest. Some contain rich deposits of sand and gravel which can be extracted then rehabilitated to forest. Local clubs maintain recreation trails for snow-mobiling or cross-country skiing in several provincial forests. People use the forests to pick

berries and mushrooms, to hunt for upland game birds and deer, or to harvest traditional medicines.

Scientific research also takes place in provincial forests. Researchers study bird migrations, tree growth and diseases, effects of different harvesting techniques, and more. The forests contain a wealth of resources and information.

Provincial forests began as reserves for timber. Over time, the role of Manitoba's provincial forests has evolved to provide a variety of benefits to forest users. As we move toward managing whole ecosystems, our provincial forests will continue to meet the varied needs of Manitobans.

## FOREST EDUCATION CENTRES

*The Manitoba Forestry Association, a nonprofit education agency, runs the Duck Mountain and Sandilands Forest Centres. For more information call (204) 453-3182*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Q Can I visit a provincial forest?

A Visitors are welcome but are asked to use caution with fire, to clean-up their own garbage and to watch for logging trucks. Camping is only allowed in designated campgrounds.

### Q Can I use the trails in provincial forests?

A Please use only the designated forest trails. Mountain bikes, horses and ATV users who leave marked trails can become lost, erode fragile soils and cause damage to seedlings.

### Q Can I hunt in a provincial forest?

A Some provincial forests have restricted areas. Check your hunting guidebook or ask your local Natural Resources Officer.

### Q Can I cut down a Christmas tree in a provincial forest?

A The Province of Manitoba does not have a Christmas tree cutting program, but trees can be cut in some designated areas with a permit. For information contact your local Natural Resources office.

### Q Can I collect firewood in a provincial forest?

A Firewood can be cut in designated cutting areas, with a permit. Small wood pieces and branches that remain after harvesting should be left on harvest sites to rebuild the soil and protect fragile soils from erosion.

*For more information on provincial forests contact:*

**Manitoba Conservation**

Forestry Branch

200 Saulteaux Crescent

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Phone (204) 945-7989 Fax: 948-2671

#### 1 CORMORANT PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 1,479 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1947  
Additional uses: The most northern provincial forest includes Clearwater Lake Provincial Park, extensive cross country ski trails and a ski chalet used by Manitoba Forestry for education.

#### 2 SWAN-PELICAN PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 3,705 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1987  
Additional uses: Includes Kettle Stones Provincial Park one of four kettle stone sites in Canada. Also used for commercial blueberry harvest.

#### 3 PORCUPINE PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 2,090 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1906  
Additional uses: Research on tree growth and yields; insect and disease damage and bird populations. Also, contains three provincial recreation parks.

#### 4 DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 3,770 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1906  
Additional uses: Includes Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

#### 5 SPRUCE WOODS PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 601 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1895  
Additional uses: Contains Spruce Woods Provincial Park and the oldest Scots pine plantation in western Canada.

#### 6 TURTLE MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 181 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1895  
Additional uses: Contains Turtle Mountain Provincial Park. No commercial harvesting since 1980.

#### 7 SANDILANDS PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 2,772 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1923  
Additional uses: Contains Sandilands Forest Centre and extensive cross country ski, horse and snowmobile trails. Also includes Wampum, Popcock Lake and Whitemouth ecological reserves and historic Dawson Trail.

#### 8 MOOSE CREEK PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 658 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1987  
Additional uses: Includes a joint Wildlife Management Area, moose population studies and traditional medicines harvest.

#### 9 BRIGHTSTONE SAND HILL PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 133 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1984  
Additional uses: Snowmobile trails and gravel extraction.

#### 10 BELAIR PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 204 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1954  
Additional uses: Sand and gravel extraction and a game bird refuge. Includes Catfish Wildlife Management Area and 25 km self-guiding North Star Trail. Part of Manitoba's Model Forest and its applied research projects.

#### 11 WHITESHELL PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 3,442 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1931  
Additional uses: Includes Whiteshell Provincial Park and Forester's Footsteps Self-guiding Trail.

#### 12 AGASSIZ PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 795 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1954  
Additional uses: Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve, peatmoss extraction and snowmobile trails.

#### 13 NORTHWEST ANGLE PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 2,129 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1956  
Additional uses: Snowmobile trails, peatmoss extraction. Contains many plant species unique to Manitoba. Located on the most western tip of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region.

#### 14 CAT HILLS PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 16 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1981  
Additional uses: Snowmobile and walking trails, berry picking and federal research plots. Contains natural and red pine stands.

#### 15 WAMPUM PROVINCIAL FOREST

Size: 10 km<sup>2</sup>  
Established: 1987  
Additional uses: Snowmobile and ATV trails, berry picking, deer and upland game bird hunting.

# MANITOBA'S PROVINCIAL FORESTS

