

Baralzon Lake Ecological Reserve

Backgrounder

Land Designation

Ecological reserves play a key role in Manitoba's protected areas network by protecting unique, rare and representative examples of plants, animals, geological features and ecosystems. They are the most protected of the provincially designated sites within Manitoba's network of protected areas.

Landscape Description

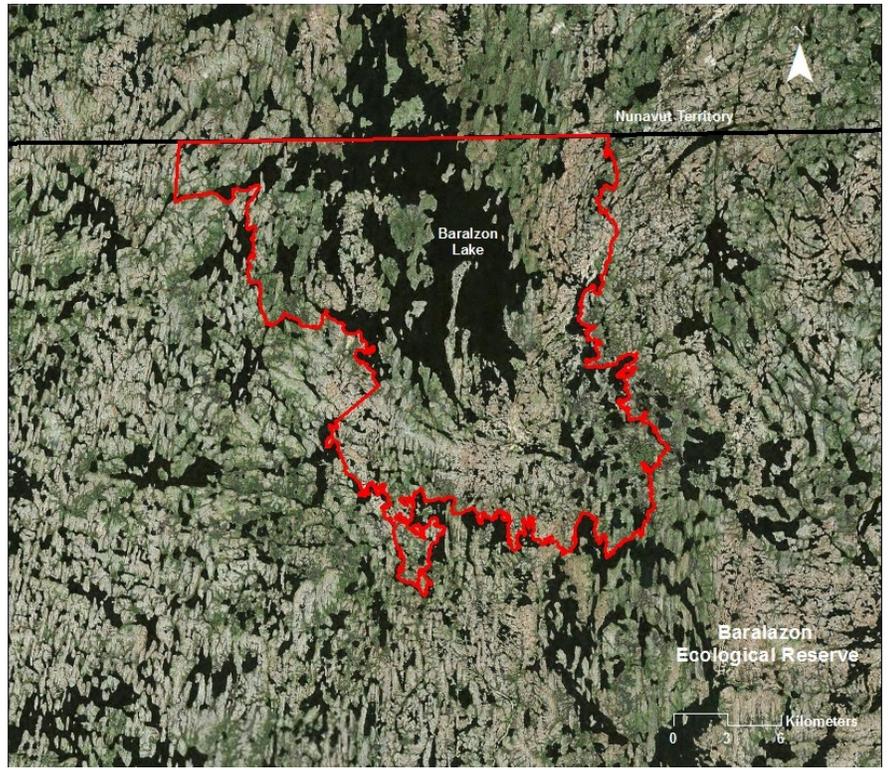
The 39,600 hectare Baralzon Lake Ecological Reserve is located in northern Manitoba along the Manitoba-Nunavut border. This site is rolling and hummocky with esker, tundra lake and riverine ecosystems. It contains a variety of landforms, varied water bodies, and plant species characteristic of the low arctic tundra, on which the site is made up.



Outstanding Features

Among the flora found on the reserve, two high arctic plants at the southern most extreme of their natural range can be found, the purple mountain heather and pincushion plant. Low arctic plants found in the Baralzon Lake Ecological Reserve include graminoids like, beaked sedge, blue-joint grass and tussock cottongrass. Other plant species include: alpine azalea, fragrant woodfern and stiff clubmoss. The region is also covered in a variety of willow, along with both white and black spruce trees.

The Baralzon Lake site will be maintained for the preservation and protection of the pristine low arctic tundra habitat. Sport angling fishers and the use of power boats is permitted on Baralzon Lake and aircraft may land on the lake as per Ministerial Order. Passive non-consumptive recreation on foot is permitted. Indigenous people are permitted to carry out their treaty and aboriginal rights within the ecological reserve. All other activities require prior ministerial approval.



This area is categorized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a protected area under the management category Ib – a protected area managed for strict nature protection available primarily for scientific research and/or environmental monitoring. These protected lands are free from logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, and any other activities that could harm habitat.