

Red Rock Ecological Reserve

Backgrounder

Land Designation

Ecological reserves play a key role in Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative 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 485 hectare Red Rock Ecological Reserve, adjacent to the Tom Lamb Wildlife Management Area, is approximately 40 kilometres southeast of The Pas. Situated in the Mid Boreal subregion of the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region, this site is relatively flat, sloping slightly towards both Red Rock Lake and Crooked Lake, and is made up of mixed wood forests on beach ridges and marsh.



Outstanding Features

The Red Rock Ecological Reserve represents great vegetative diversity and is a good representation of typical Saskatchewan Delta plant and animal communities. It is a typical beach ridge and marsh complex that contains eight major plant communities: submerged meadows, emergent marshes, open to closed shrub, open to closed deciduous forest, pure aspen stands, closed mixed wood stands, pure conifers stands, and open mixed wood stands.

The area has a canopy composed of a variety of trees including white spruce, Manitoba maple, green ash, tamarack and bur oak, making it the most northerly recorded population of bur oak in Manitoba. The area contains a number of shallow eutrophic lakes and ponds, small watercourses, and a large stream that are all surrounded by typical marsh vegetation including softstem bulrush. Red Rock Ecological Reserve is also abundant in wildlife including water fowl such as geese, swans, buffleheads, widgeons, mallards and shovelers as well as moose, deer, black bear, muskrats and beaver.



The Red Rock Ecological Reserve will be maintained for the preservation and protection of the most northerly reported stand of bur oak in Manitoba. 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 will 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 Ia – 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.