

# St. Labre Bog

## 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.

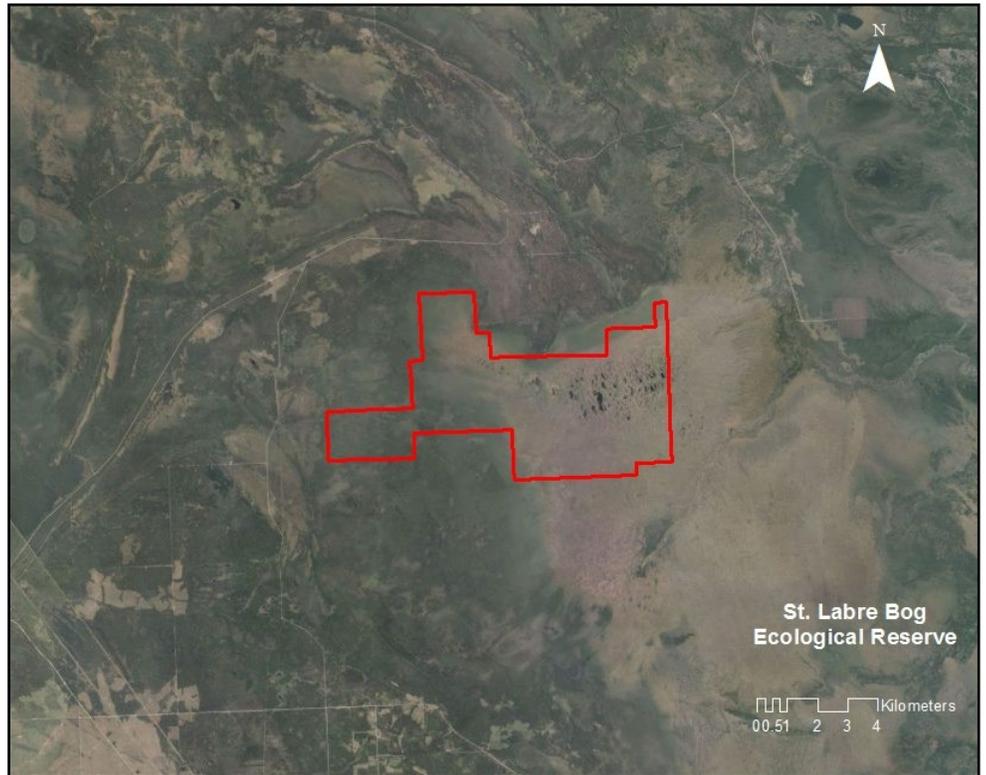
### Landscape Description

St. Labre Bog Ecological Reserve is located approximately 40 km east of Steinbach, and is an estimated 3,840 hectares in size. The site is an excellent example of a patterned fen and string bog complex located along the Whitemouth River.

### Outstanding Features

St. Labre Bog Ecological Reserve consists of a diversity of wetland types including string bogs, tamarack dominated treed muskeg, black spruce dominated treed muskeg, open muskeg, ponds, and fens. Patterned fens are herb and shrub dominated peatland mosaics fed by groundwater and characterized by a series of peat ridges and hollows oriented parallel to the slope of the landform and perpendicular to the flow of groundwater. Consequently, a large area needs to be protected in order to maintain their structure and function. String bogs (or patterned bogs) are features associated with periglacial climates and have patterns of narrow, low ridges oriented at right angles to the direction of drainage with wet depressions occurring between the ridges. Unlike patterned fens, they receive their water from precipitation. Both patterned fens and string bogs are located on expansive, poorly drained sandy glacial lake plains, such as that of Glacial Lake Agassiz which covered this area. They occur as part of larger wetland complexes and border other peatland types, making them attractive for commercial peat harvesting. These types of peatlands require large areas of naturally, actively moving water to form and maintain their structure and function.





St. Labre Bog provides habitat types for a diversity of wildlife including eight amphibian, five reptile, 165 bird and 46 mammal species, including six species of shrew and the star nosed mole. Wildlife observed in St. Labre Bog include rare mottled duskywing, rare to uncommon red pine, uncommon wild ginger, moose, deer, sandhill crane, grouse, various song birds, bald eagle, woodpecker, beaver, Canada goose, and other water fowl and garter snakes.

*The Ecological Reserves Act* specifies that ecological reserves are set aside in the interests of the people of Manitoba to enhance the overall well being of present and future generations of Manitobans. Ecological reserves may be used for research, education, and nature study but they are not set aside as recreational, resource harvest, or multiple use areas.

The rights of Indigenous people to access this area for hunting, trapping, fishing and other traditional pursuits will continue to be respected.

St. Labre Bog Ecological Reserve is categorized as an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area management category 1a - 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, exploring for or harvesting peat, and any other activities that may significantly or adversely affect habitat.