

Lewis 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

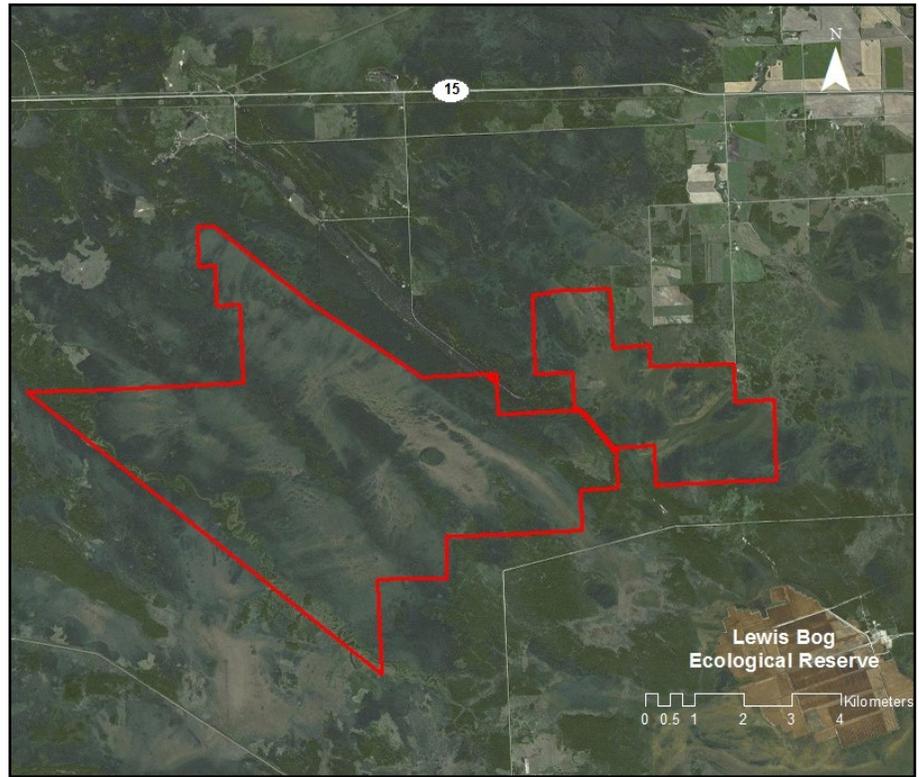
Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve is located in Aggasiz Provincial Forest, approximately 14 km northwest of Hadashville. The expansion increases Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve from 570 hectares to 5,240 hectares; an increase of 4,670 hectares. The expansion is an excellent example of the diversity of wetlands that can be found in southeastern Manitoba.



Outstanding Features

Shallow water open areas support grasses, sedges and reeds interspersed with higher peat islands supporting black spruce and tamarack. Small Sphagnum mounds support bog cranberry while the pitcher plant grows around the edges of the mounds. The expansion also supports extensive tamarack bogs, black spruce bogs and black spruce, tamarack, and trembling aspen forests.

Two species of very rare orchids have been identified within the wetlands: the ragged fringed orchid and the rose pogonia. Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve is the only known remaining location of ragged fringed orchid in Manitoba. Fourteen other very rare to uncommon plant species occur in the area including wild ginger, closed gentian, swamp-pink orchid, large-leaved pondweed, interrupted fern, white wood aster, fringed orchid, ram's head, lady's slipper, New Jersey tea, large white-flowered ground cherry, and Porter's chess. The rare northern bog lemming, which has only been discovered in a few locations in Manitoba, reaches the northeastern limits of its range in the Lewis Bog area where it finds ideal habitat in the bogs and fens. This site also provides habitat for the uncommon yellow rail and the rare mottled duskywing.



Commercial peat harvesting and agricultural activities near Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve have the potential to impact the ecological integrity of the ecological reserve. The expansion will help mitigate the risk to the area and the rare species it supports by affording increased protection to the larger wetland complex.

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.

Lewis 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.