

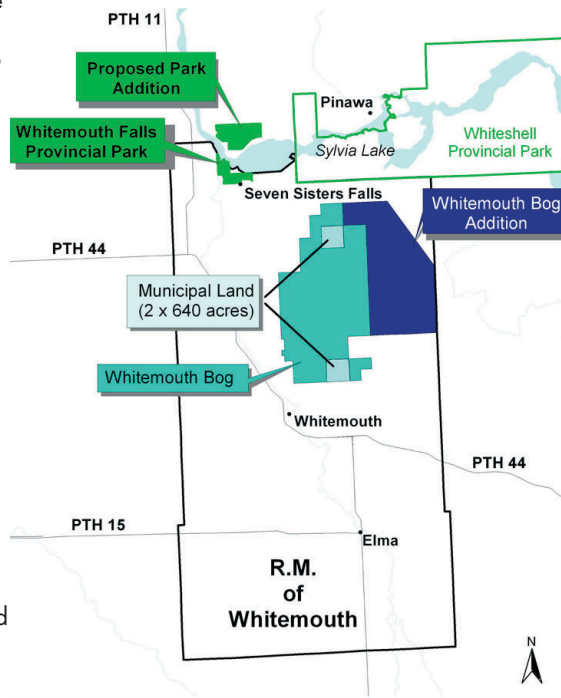
whitemouth bog background



Since 1994 the Whitemouth Bog has been under consideration as a possible candidate area worthy of protection. The area is known to be ecologically important with several noteworthy plants and animals having been reported from the bog. These include the rare orchid, Rose Pogonia, the uncommon bird, Yellow Rail, and two uncommon plants, Yellow Twayblade and Bog Goldenrod. The Yellow Rail is listed as a national Species of Special Concern under Canada's Species at Risk Act. Several other noteworthy plants and animals are reported from the area surrounding Whitemouth Bog.

The bog occupies an organic deposit with woody forest peat soils enduring feature. Although this enduring feature is the most common and abundant enduring feature in the natural region, it is not significantly represented in existing protected areas. Several candidate areas of special interest including Whitemouth Bog have been identified in the natural region to improve representation of this enduring feature. Although Crown land covers most of the natural region, options for establishing protected areas

are severely curtailed by the presence of a wide variety of existing or potential allocations. Various minerals interests, notably peat leases, mining claims and quarry withdrawals, cover much of the region, along with some greenstone belts and other high potential mineralization



whitemouth bog location map

areas. Forestry interests and allocations are also common throughout the natural region with many areas having high productivity including several of the candidate protected areas. In many cases, sites with low mineral interest have high forestry interest and vice versa, further reducing the potential for agreement in creating a protected area.

The Whitemouth Bog area appears to be a site with relatively few encumbrances. It is considered one of the best opportunities to significantly increase representation of this enduring feature and, at the same time, protect an area known to provide habitat for several rare and uncommon plants and animals. The two sections of municipal land that would be acquired in exchange for part of Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park would add to the integrity of the proposed protected area.

Forestry potential of the Whitemouth Bog has been reviewed and is considered low. The western edge of the Whitemouth Bog candidate area is affected by part of a large Manitoba Hydro quarry withdrawal established in 1959. This mineral allocation is included in discussions of a possible land exchange involving Whitemouth Falls provincial park and the acquisition and designation of municipal land within the bog for protected purposes. If successful, these discussions will result in an adjustment to the quarry withdrawal boundary to remove the Whitemouth Bog area from the mineral allocation.

The Protected Areas Initiative is also evaluating the feasibility of considering protection of additional lands immediately east of Whitemouth Bog (see map). They cover enduring features that are unrepresented or inadequately represented in a protected area. These have yet to be reviewed in detail for encumbrances and forestry and mineral interests. Protecting this area would add to the ecological integrity of the Whitemouth Bog, but is not necessary to protecting Whitemouth Bog.