



# Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area

## Land Designation

Protected Provincial Forest

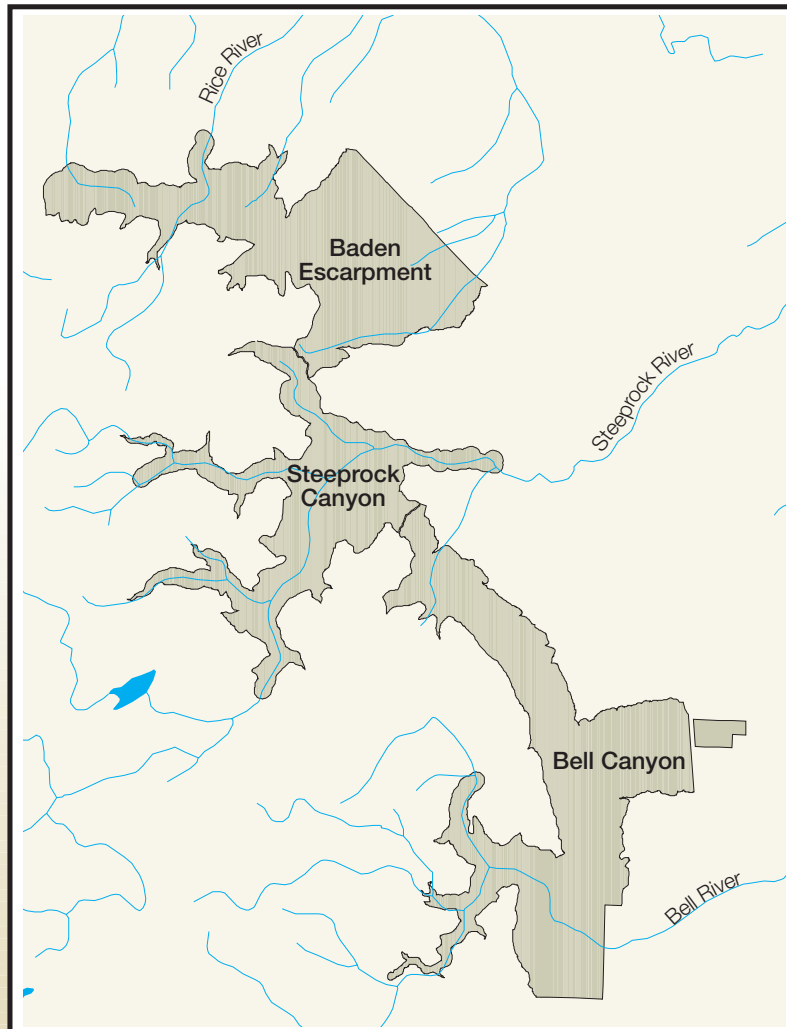
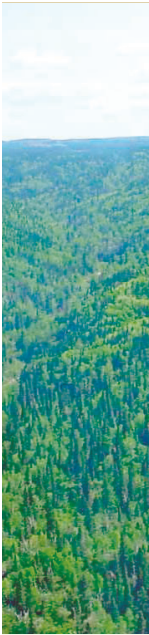
## Landscape Description

Total protected area is 11,310 hectares, comprised of Bell and Steeprock Canyons and the Baden Escarpment. Located in northeast Porcupine Provincial Forest, approximately 75 km north of Swan River, the protected area captures a cross-section of the Manitoba Escarpment complex and spectacular river canyons.

## Outstanding Features

The Porcupine Hills are the northernmost extent of the Manitoba Uplands. The escarpment complex is a product of the interaction of glacial Lake Agassiz beach ridges, glacial till, land slides, and slumps. Combined with post glacial drainage and relief, this varied landscape results in a high degree of biodiversity over a relatively small area. The canyons, carved as a result of glacial melt water, are the most outstanding feature within the escarpment.

Mature spruce and pine trees dominate on the upper portions of the protected area changing to aspen down the steep sandy slopes along the escarpment. Wetland complexes dot the escarpment creating suitable habitat for breeding, moulting and staging areas for numerous migratory birds. In the crisp mornings of May the skies are filled with flocks of Canada Geese and Sandhill Cranes.



Rugged yet pristine, this habitat is home to large ungulates such as Moose, Elk, and White-Tailed Deer. The area is also home to a large population of off colour-phase Black Bears. These inquisitive bears can be admired in blonde, chocolate, black and cinnamon phases.

The Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area is a species rich, diverse and unique landscape encompassing spectacular forests, wetlands, clear lakes and deeply cut river valleys. The protection of this ecologically significant landscape ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to explore and enjoy this wilderness.