

Native Orchid Conservation Inc.
Lewis Bog Field Trip, July 11, 2015

The Government of Manitoba is proposing to expand the Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve, located in Agassiz Provincial Forest, approximately 14 km northwest of Hadashville. This proposal would increase the reserve from ca. 570 hectares to ca. 5,240 hectares. The area is an excellent example of the diversity of wetlands found in southeastern Manitoba. 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 proposed expansion also supports extensive tamarack and 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 (the Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve is its only known remaining location in Manitoba) and rose pogonia. Fourteen other very rare to uncommon plant species occur in the area, including swamp-pink orchid, ram's-head lady's-slipper, wild ginger, closed gentian, large-leaved pondweed, interrupted fern, white wood aster, 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 here where it finds an ideal habitat in the bogs and fens. This site also provides habitat for the uncommon yellow rail and the rare mottled duskywing.

Species List - July 10/15 Contour Fen Aster spp. American licorice (*Glycyrrhiza epidota*)
Sticky False Asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*) Philadelphia fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*) Senecio ssp.
Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) Tall lungwort (*Mertensia paniculata*) Wild rose (*Rosa* spp.)
Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) Canada columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Wood anemone (*Anemone quinguefolia*) Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) (in bud)
Northern starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)
Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) High bush-cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*)
Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) Common blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*)
Rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) Green bog orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis*)
Showy lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*)
Common red paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata*) Common pink wintergreen (*Pyrola asarifolia*)
Seneca snakeroot (*Polygala senega*) Common goat's-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)
Wild ginger (N49 52.754, W96 12.564) (Just inside forest edge)
White adder's-mouth (*Malaxis monophylos*) Hooded Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*)
Narrow-leaved collomia (*Collomia linearis*) Spruce Siding Road Western Blue flag (*Iris missouriensis*)
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum* var. *maculata*)
Tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*) Western wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum* var. *andinum*)
Lewis Road (off Spruce Siding Road) Death camas (*Zigadenus elegans*)
Marsh hedge nettle (*Stachys palustris*) Northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*)
Fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*) Common Yarrow (*Achillia millefolium*)
Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) Tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago Canadensis*) Self heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)
Yellow Lady's-slipper (*C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) Bullrush (*Scirpus* spp.)
White adder's-mouth (*Malaxis monophylos*) Green bog orchid (*Platanthera aquilonis* or *huronensis*)

Spurred gentian (*Halenia deflexa*) Canada buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)
Hazel Creek (Spruce Siding Road) Yellow pondlily (*Nuphar variegata*)
Narrow-leaved Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*) Marsh Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*)
Sagimay Trail (Sandilands Forest Centre) Long-fruited anemone (*Anemone cylindrica*)
Marsh hedge nettle (*Stachys palustris*) Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Green wintergreen (*Pyrola virens*) Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Prince's-pine (*Chimaphila umbellata*) Three-toothed cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*)
Dwarf blueberry (*Vaccinium caespitosum*) Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Twin flower (*Linnaea borealis*) Ground cedar (*Lycopodium complanatum*)
Richardson's Alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*)