

Site Name:	Hand Hills
Site Type:	Ecological Reserve
Status:	Order-in-council (OC)
Subtype:	
PA Site ID (Map Ref #):	486
O.C. No. (Land Ref. Manual):	33/88
Site # (Parks Website):	403
Reserved Area:	0.00 ha. (0.00 ac.)
Designated Area:	2229.01 ha. (5507.88 ac.)
Total Area:	2229.01 ha. (5507.88 ac.)
Additional Protected Areas:	none
Lat/Long Co-ordinates:	51.3985132226 N, -112.285140776 W
Natural Region:	Grassland
Natural Subregion(s):	Northern Fescue
IUCN Classification:	VI
Operated By:	Parks Division
Info Phone:	403-823-1749
Steward(s) Aug2002:	Not Available
Steward(s) Aug2003:	Not Available
Steward(s) Dec2011:	no
Petroleum & Natural Gas Surface	
Access Aug2002:	No Surface Access
Day Use Site(s):	Hand Hills
Recreation Activities:	Hiking - backcountry

Access: Reserve can be reached from Hwy. 573, which is less than one kilometre from the reserve; public access in the reserve is normally restricted to foot only; although motorized vehicles are normally not allowed, motorized access is sometimes permitted for grazing lessees to access their grazing reserves.

Notes: Hand Hills Ecological Reserve (22.29 km²) is part of the largest remaining fescue grassland in the world. Habitats include lush fescue grassland, moist meadows, shrub thickets and aspen woodland. The endangered piping plover nests along Little Fish Lake on the edge of the reserve.

The reserve is situated on the lower south slopes of Hand Hills upland; elevations from 815 to 970 metres above sea level; over 130 bird species; variety of amphibians, reptiles & mammals in the area; porcupine grass, June grass, spear grass & northern wheat grass on lightly grazed areas, blue gamma grass & low sedge on more heavily grazed sites; threatened ferruginous hawk & prairie long-tailed weasel occur here; endangered peregrine falcon & piping plover have also been observed (Alberta Parks web site, 2012).

Images:



