

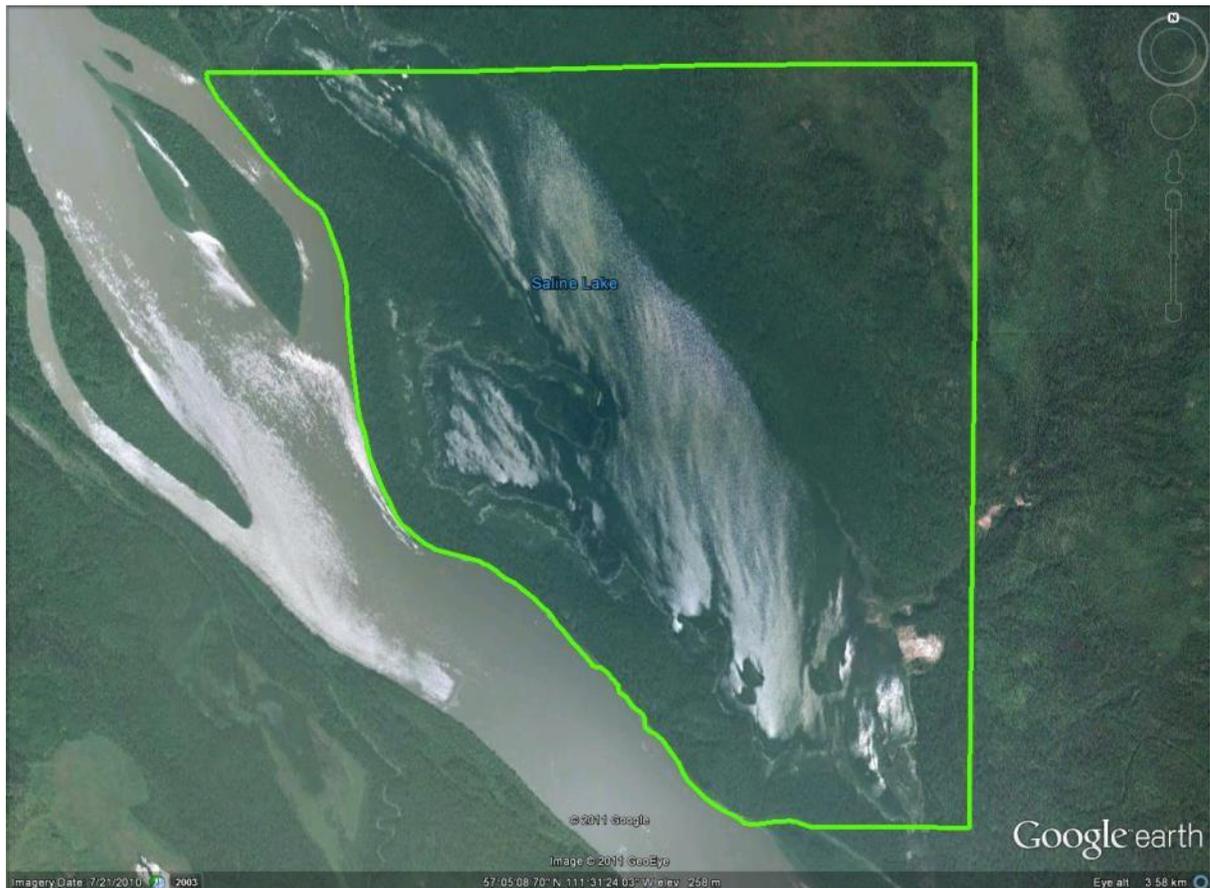
Site Name:	La Saline
Site Type:	Natural Area
Status:	Order-in-council (OC)
Subtype:	Conservation
PASite ID (Map Ref #):	435
O.C. No. (Land Ref. Manual):	327/90
Site # (Parks Website):	483
Reserved Area:	0.00 ha. (0.00 ac.)
Designated Area:	292.00 ha. (721.53 ac.)
Total Area:	331.00 ha. (817.90 ac.)
Additional Protected Areas:	see PNT area
Lat/Long Co-ordinates:	57.0806947001 N, -111.52346418 W
Natural Region:	Boreal
Natural Subregion(s):	Central Mixedwood
2nd Natural Region:	
2nd Natural Subregion(s):	
IUCN Classification:	III
Operated By:	Parks Division
Info Phone:	780-743-7437
Steward(s) Aug2002:	Volunteer(s) 1
Steward(s) Aug2003:	Volunteer(s) 1
Steward(s) Dec2011:	yes
Petroleum & Natural Gas Surface Access Aug2002:	Conditional
Day Use Site(s):	La Saline
Recreation Activities:	Birding
Access:	There are no developed trails to the natural area - best access is from the Athabasca River.

Notes: La Saline Natural Area (2.92 km²) preserves an oxbow along the Athabasca River north of Fort McMurray. There are a number of springs in the area with tufa cones and various mineral deposits and crystal formations. The area's salt licks attract ungulates and the lake is the most productive in the region for waterfowl. The Natural Area includes the largest tufa deposits in the region. At La Saline, tufa has formed a cone 3 metres wide. Tufa deposits formed here because the bedrock under much of the area consists of oil-bearing sandstones with underlying limestone formations. Spring water flows through the formations, dissolving some of the limestone & combining with carbon dioxide in the water to form bicarbonate. Water from the area's springs bubbles to the surface in the Athabasca River valley where the sandstones & limestones meet. When the flow surfaces at La Saline, the carbon dioxide is lost to the atmosphere, leaving behind calcium carbonate; this substance will not dissolve in water, so it precipitates out forming the

hard, crust-like white deposit known as tufa (or travertine). The water collects in a shallow pool, then flows down an embankment to Saline Lake, leaving a white trail of tufa behind. Saline Lake is one of the most important waterfowl lakes in the area. Birding: The Athabasca River serves as an important migration route for many species of birds, particularly the thousands of ducks and geese that nest on the Peace-Athabasca Delta each year. On their way to and from the nesting grounds, many birds stop to rest and feed on the quiet backwater of Saline Lake. Some, including coots, mallards, widgeons, buffleheads and green-winged teal, stay and nest on the lake.

This site lies in the Boreal Forest Natural Region, Central Mixedwood Sub-region. There is excellent representation of all 11 of the level 1 natural history themes that define the environmental diversity of the Central Mixedwood Sub-region. All 48 level 2 themes are similarly well represented within the parks and protected areas network (Alberta Parks web site, 2012).

Images:





Mildred Lake

Saline Lake

• Mildred Lake

© 2011 Google
Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe
Image Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Image © 2011 GeoEye

Google earth

Imagery Date: 7/21/2010 2006

57°05'02.18" N 111°33'03.80" W elev 236 m

Eye alt 11.94 km



© 2011 Google
Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe
© 2011 Cnes/Spot Image
Image © 2011 GeoEye

• Fort McMurray

Google earth

56°39'41.60" N 111°37'18.75" W elev 418 m

Eye alt 45.17 km