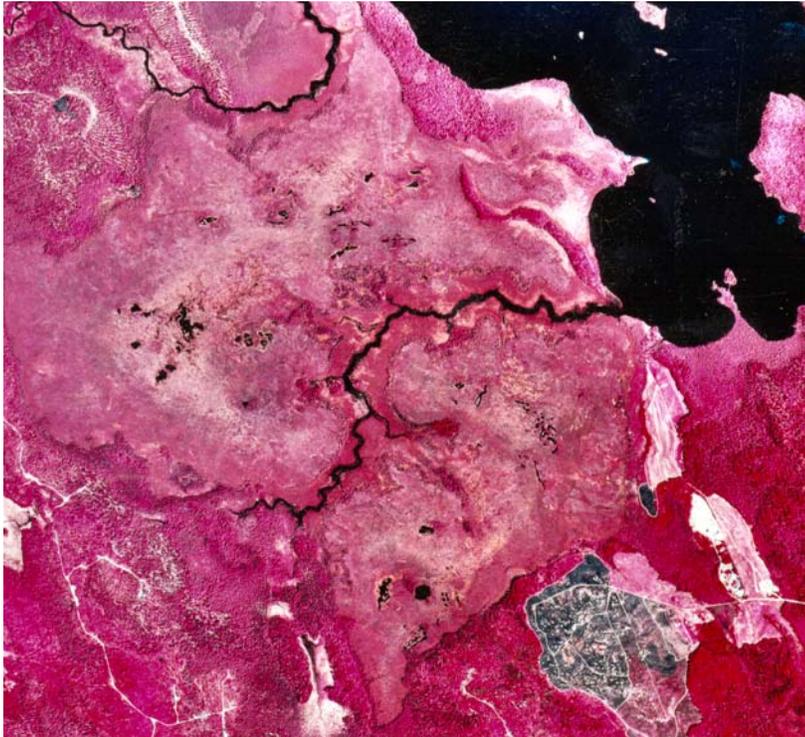


Meddybemps Heath

Alexander, Cooper, and Meddybemps

Description:

At just over 2,500 acres, Meddybemps Heath is the second largest domed bog ecosystem in the Eastern Coastal and Eastern Interior regions; Great Heath is the largest. Meddybemps Heath lies at the southwest side of Meddybemps Lake, where Sixteenth Stream and Fifteenth Stream converge at the lakeshore.



Meddybemps Heath, 1992 color infra-red air photo

This large peatland is embedded within remnant geologic features including an elongate esker that separates much of the lake from the interior of the bog. The peatland has distinct morphological characteristics: two prominently raised areas are each coalesced into a pair of peat domes on either side of Fifteenth Stream, creating a complex of four raised domes. Various portions of the peatland exhibit different types of patterning: some domed areas exhibit concentric patterns, and some of the waterways draining the raised areas have parallel patterns. Secondary pools occur atop each of the four raised domes, and serve as important breeding habitat for rare dragonflies such as the muskeg darner (*Aeshna subarctica*). Slumping and erosion of peat banks has been occurring along water tracks and tributaries entering Fifteenth Stream, and an abnormal string of secondary pools is present along the slope of one of the domes



"Secondary pool" in Meddybemps Heath

south of Fifteenth Stream. These features suggest subtle impacts of fluctuating lake water levels (Davis and Anderson 1999). Transitional streamshore ecosystems without patterns or secondary pools occur in valleys and open basins between the domed portions.

In terms of specific natural community types, nearly half of this peatland is dwarf shrub bog, according to Davis and Anderson (1999). Other natural community types include, in descending order, crowberry-lichen bog, sweetgale mixed shrub fen, peatland lagg, black spruce bog woodland, leatherleaf bog lawn, and mixed cedar woodland fen. The crowberry-lichen association is characteristic of coastal peatlands and reaches its inland extent in this area.

Rare Species and Exemplary Natural Community Table for Meddybemps Heath

Common Name	Latin Name	S-RANK	G-RANK	State Status
<i>Exemplary Natural Communities</i>				
Domed Bog Ecosystem		S3	N/A	N/A
Mossy Bog Mat		S4	N/A	N/A
Dwarf Shrub Bog		S4	N/A	N/A
<i>Rare Animals</i>				
Muskeg darner	<i>Aeshna subarctica</i>	S?	G5	SC

Other Habitats Mapped by MDIFW:

Waterfowl / Wading Bird Habitat

Deer Wintering Area

Conservation Considerations:

- Gradual alteration of the lake level may be contributing to erosion of the bog perimeter. Davis and Anderson (1999) observed peat surface beneath the lake level, and Dorian (2001) used a corer to determine that the lake level was formerly several meters below the current level.
- In general, threats to peatlands include peat mining, cranberry harvesting, timber harvest around the forested perimeters, and development.
- The ecological integrity of peatlands, including all the processes and life forms they support, is dependent on the maintenance of the current hydrology and water quality of these systems. Intensive timber harvesting, vegetation clearing, soil disturbance, new roads, and development on buffering uplands can result in greater runoff, sedimentation, and other non-point sources of pollution.
- In general, threats to peatlands include invasive species (e.g., purple loosestrife), peat mining, hydrologic alteration including draining, and cranberry conversion.

Protection Status:

Meddybemps Heath is entirely held in private ownership.