



Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Project Research Summary

Ecosystem Studies

The Pimachiowin Aki planning area lies within the southern portion of the world's Boreal Forest / Taiga Biome. Several studies will be undertaken to document and describe the features and characteristics of the Pimachiowin Aki ecosystem, the context of the Boreal Shield ecozone, the broader boreal forest in North America and Canada and the boreal forest globally.

There are several geological themes of particular interest for Pimachiowin Aki. These include: Tectonic and structural features: elements of global-scale crustal dynamics, and Ice Ages: patterns of continental ice sheet expansion and recession with particular emphasis on wave-washed bedrock and glacial erosion associated with the world's largest glacial lake: Lake Agassiz.

The data exists to examine global boreal perspectives for aquatic and terrestrial values such as freshwater, land cover and soil organic carbon for example. Ecosystem and species diversity are other topics of interest.

A specific focus on the water/wetland ecosystem of Pimachiowin Aki will review the glacial history of the area and describe and quantify features such as drainage basins, the number of rivers, rapids and waterfalls in the area and the number and types of lakes and wetlands.

Other studies will examine the status of various wildlife species, as well as their habitats and patterns of migration and seasonal movements in and around the Pimachiowin Aki project area. Well known species as woodland caribou, wolverine and sturgeon as well as more common species will be considered.

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