

Owens Creek Fens



Located: 0.25 miles north, 0.5 miles east, and 1 mile north of Ortley, South Dakota

Roberts County, Twp 122N Rng 52W Sec 8 & 9.

Access: No off-road parking, narrow gravel road with no shoulder. Only view this environmentally sensitive site from road. Tribal Trust Land managed by the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Oyate.

Owen's Creek Fen (photo by Dennis Skadsen)

Description:

This site is one of the largest and best examples of a *Bog Birch-Willow Rich Fen* community in northeastern South Dakota. These fens occupy approximately 100 acres along the north fork of Owens Creek. Rare plants inhabiting this fen include bogbean, rush aster, sage willow, and slender cottongrass. Most of these plants can be viewed from the road. Birds inhabiting the fen include the Swamp sparrow, and both Marsh and Sedge wrens. Owens Creek is one of the few waterbodies in South Dakota inhabited by the Central mudminnow.



Bog Buckbean
(photo by D. Skadsen)

