

Peatlands - 60-Second – Captioned for the Visually Impaired

MUSIC: "HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO" THEME

ANNOUNCER: (V.O.):

About one-third of the world's peatlands are in Canada. People once thought them to be wastelands, but today we know that peatlands are home to some unusual wildlife.

[Host in a peatlands]

Peatlands are mostly made from layers of waterlogged sphagnum moss that can accumulate over thousands of years. This happens because low oxygen levels slow down decomposition.

[Different images of plants found in peatlands]

Certain highly specialized plant species survive here, like the carnivorous pitcher plant and thread-leaved sundew. These plants supplement their diet by trapping insects and spiders.

[Host crouching in a peatlands]

Many mammals, birds, and amphibians also depend on peatlands. Even species at risk like the spotted turtle are found here.

[Moose, bird, frog, turtle, deers]

Peatlands are important for people too. They filter groundwater and store carbon that would otherwise remain in our atmosphere.

We need to conserve these complex ecosystems. And that's just a start.

To learn more about peatlands, visit hww.ca.