

Saskatchewan Farmland Ownership

Joint presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture by:

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

June 11, 2015



DUC Saskatchewan

- Private, not for profit, registered charity, engaged in P3 for delivery of national and provincial conservation targets
- Partner with governments, NGOs, industry, foundations, individuals and landowners on a voluntary basis
- Secure ecologically significant areas through purchase, and land donations
- Since 1938, DUC has protected over 188,000 acres in Saskatchewan

DUC Saskatchewan

- Use scientific techniques to acquire and steward high value conservation land for the benefit of waterfowl and their habitats
 - Protect and restore permanent cover, wetland acres
 - DUC uses science based methods to target high value waterfowl and wetland habitat areas to work in
- DUC lands available to livestock producers for grazing/haying
- Independent appraisers used to determine Fair Market Value
 - DUC does not pay more than 10% above FMV

Ducks Unlimited Canada Purchase Projects Southern Saskatchewan

- DUC Purchase Project
- DUC Target Areas



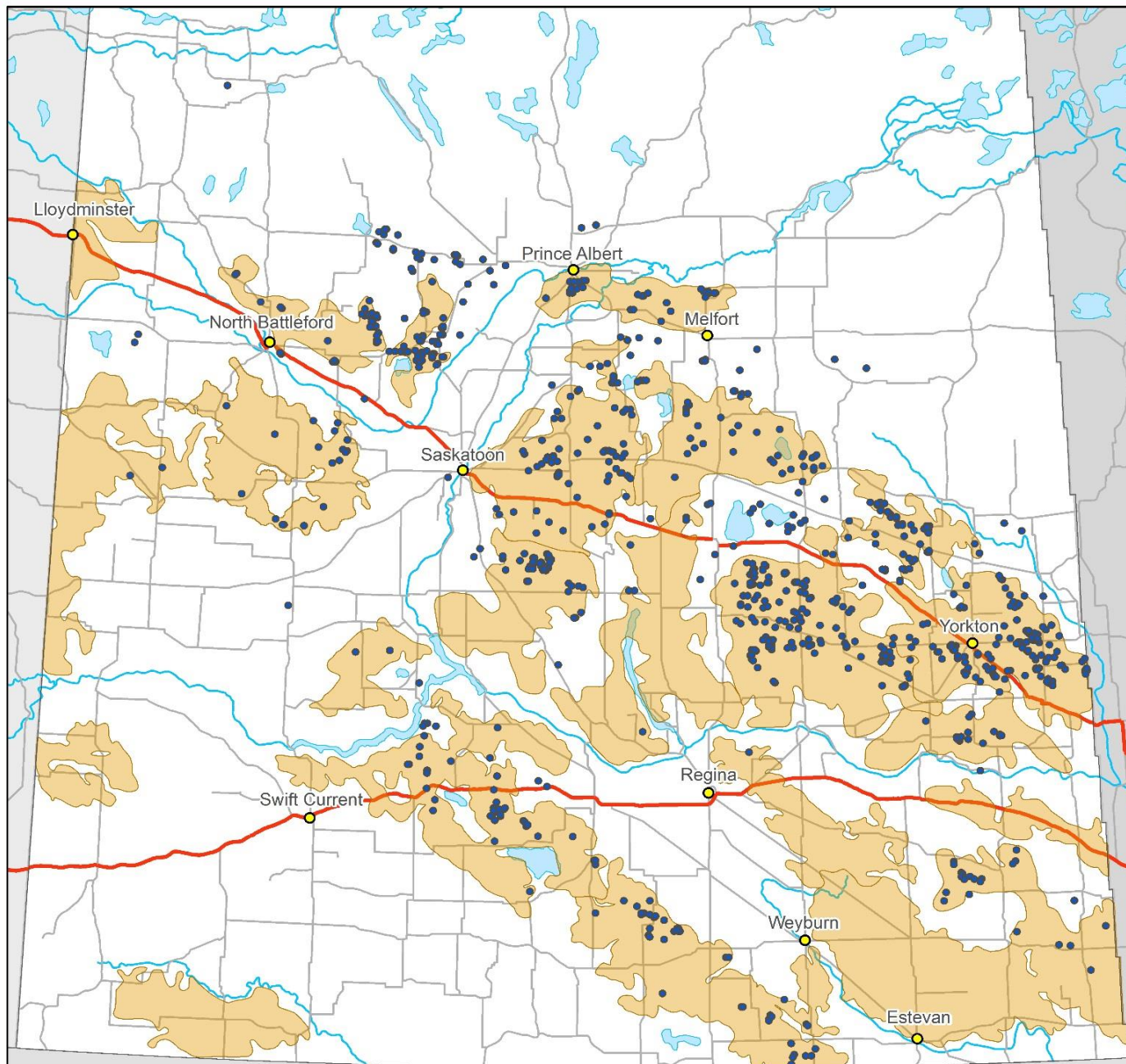
0 25 50 100

Kilometers

NAD83 UTM Zone 13N



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands



Sources:
DUC Purchase Inventory, Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2015;
Cartographic Data, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), 2015.

NCC Saskatchewan

- Private, nonprofit, non-advocacy, engaged in P3 for delivery of national and provincial conservation targets
- Partner with governments, NGOs, industry, foundations, individuals and landowners on a voluntary basis
- Secure ecologically significant areas through purchase, land donations and conservation easements
- Since 1962, NCC has protected over 2.7 million acres across Canada, 151,000 acres in Saskatchewan
 - 35,000 acres over 72 fee simple properties, 106,000 acres on 210 easements, one 10,000 acre Crown lease



NCC Saskatchewan

- Use scientific techniques to acquire and steward high value conservation land for the benefit of wildlife and species at risk and their habitats
 - Restore permanent cover, fence for livestock, install remote watering systems, monitor range health
- Majority of easements in the SW and Missouri Coteau
- NCC-owned lands available to livestock producers for grazing
- Use independent, 3rd party appraisers to determine Fair Market Value (FMV); by policy NCC cannot pay more than 5% above FMV



Conservation Progress to Date

Nature Conservancy of Canada
Saskatchewan Region
Fall 2014

Southern Saskatchewan

Key to Features

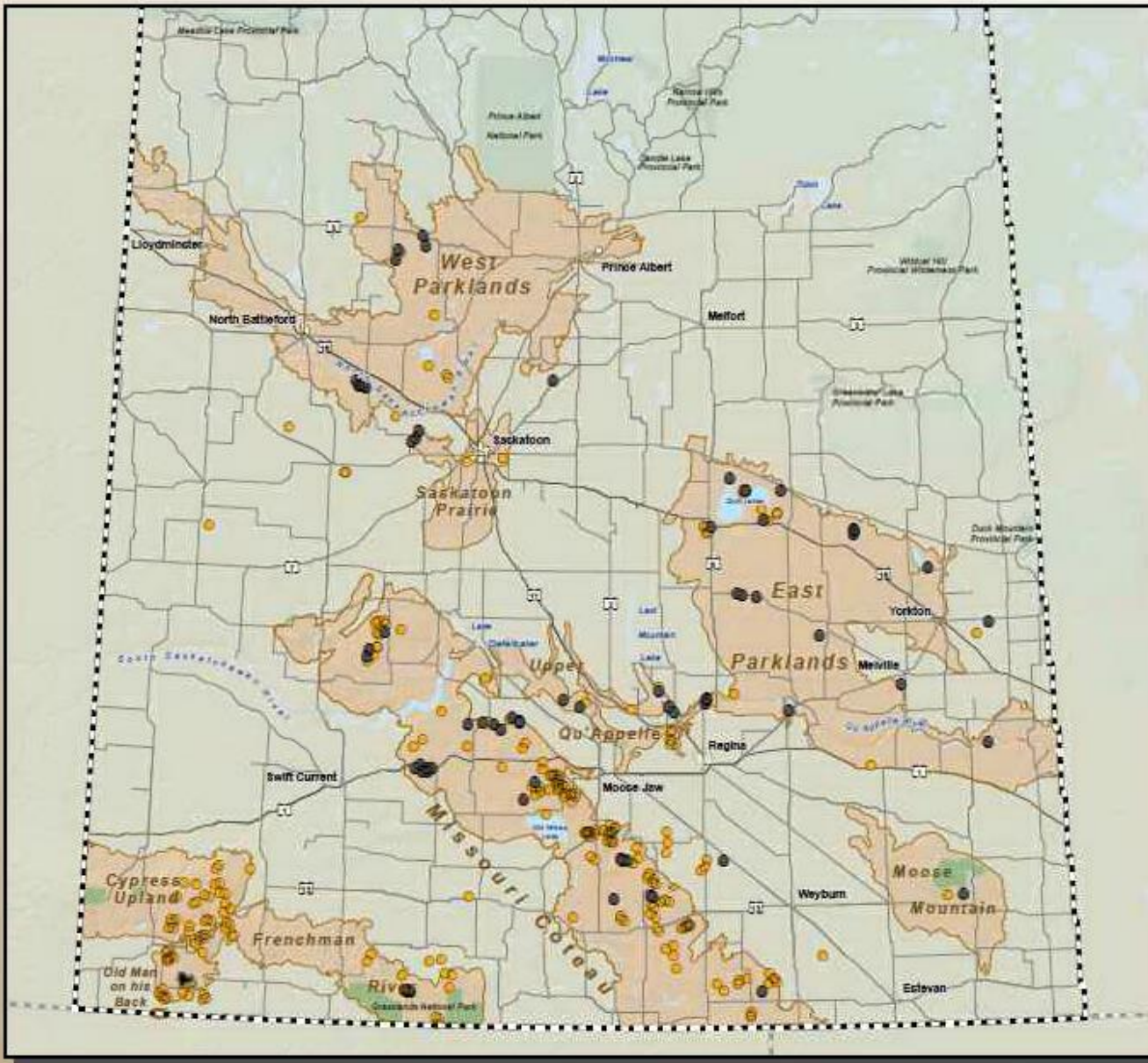
● NCC Saskatchewan Owned Property
Total Area Conserved (approximate): 42,700 acres (17,300 ha)

● NCC Conservation Agreement
with Private Landowners
Total Area Conserved (approximate): 98,800 acres (40,000 ha)

Total Area Conserved by the Nature Conservancy of Canada,
Saskatchewan Region (approximate): 141,550 acres (57,300 ha)

■ Natural Area Boundary

■ National or Provincial Park

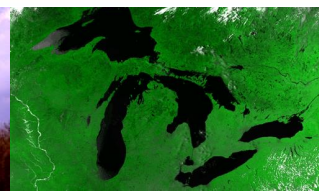


Disclaimer:
This map is illustrative only. It is not intended to be a precise indicator of
property boundaries. Actual boundaries of reserves may be a grade or two higher.
The map may contain errors and omissions.

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Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

- Established in 1929
- Represents 34,000 members from 122 predominantly rural branches across Saskatchewan
- A strong proponent for the Saskatchewan Outdoor Community
- Presently holds title to 67,000 acres and manages an additional 15,000 acres of land

Common Interests

- Conservation of biodiversity and ecologically significant landscapes
- Owners and future purchasers of agricultural land in Saskatchewan
- Support producers and the agricultural economy by maintaining opportunities for grazing and haying
- Land managers that balance conservation with multiple land uses and users



Consultation Questions

Vision for agriculture in Saskatchewan over the next 30 years

- Productive farmland will be of unprecedented value
- Sound science-based methods of farming and land stewardship are practised to maintain land productivity
- Best stewardship practices are encouraged, potentially regulated
- A wide range of ownership structures and financing arrangements to enable maximum appropriate land use and production
- Native prairie is protected, and drainage activity in wetland areas regulated effectively



Consultation Questions

Do you feel we need changes on this issue?

- Alberta farmland ownership rules provide a good model
- Sufficient protection to Canadian sovereignty is required
- Pension plans, investment trusts and entities majority but not wholly Canadian owned should be permitted to own Saskatchewan farmland
- More liberalized rules would allow more variety in farming operations –opportunities for young farmers and retiring farmers
- Increased science-based restrictions on land use to maximize stewardship of Saskatchewan farmlands and to protect sensitive and critical habitat



Consultation Questions

Is farmland inherently different from other assets?

- Yes
- Dominant foreign ownership could threaten sovereignty
- Agriculture supports food security for Canada
- Agricultural production provides a significant contribution to Canada's GNP and balance of foreign trade



Consultation Questions

Under what conditions do you think government can or should impose restrictions on the private sale of land?

- Sovereignty concerns
- Best land use for agricultural production
- Consideration for the increasing monetary and social value of productive farmland



Consultation Questions

Effect of current rules on sellers and purchasers of farmland?

- Impact on land values as competition is somewhat restricted
- Restrictions on financing purchases
- Young farmers challenged to raise capital



Consultation Questions

Should the powers of the Farm Land Security Board be enhanced to ensure compliance with the law? Should the onus be on the purchaser to prove to the satisfaction of the Board that the transaction is in compliance with the law?

- The Board should have powers and staff required to investigate and ensure compliance with the law
- Purchasers and potential purchasers must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the Board that the transaction is in compliance with the law.



Thank you!

