



The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation

Media Release

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THE SWF APPLAUDS THE NEW SOUTHERN CONSERVATION LANDS STRATEGY

Today, after several years of consultation with Conservation and Agriculture stakeholders, the Saskatchewan Government unveils the new Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy.

The Strategy will utilize a newly developed ecological assessment value system that will classify the 3.4 million acres of the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA) Lands in to 3 categories.

- 1.7 million acres of high ecological value will remain under the protection of the WHPA Legislation. These lands will not be sold.
- 1.3 million acres of moderate ecological value will be offered for sale to the existing lease holder, at market value, with the placement on the newly created Crown Conservation Easement on the title.
- 525,000 acres of low ecological value lands may be sold without restrictions.

All initial and future transactions will be subject to scrutiny from the Southern Crown Lands Committee which is comprised of Conservation and Agriculture interest groups. The easements will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure compliance. Also, 7% of all sales will be directed to the Saskatchewan Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) for habitat securement and conservation efforts.

“I am pleased to support the amended refinements to the WHPA, which provide real and enforceable transparency in identifying saleable lands from within WHPA while also affording the conservation community the opportunity to identify other suitable Crown lands for inclusion under WHPA protection. The co-operative approach by the ministries of Environment and Agriculture through Minister Cheveldayoff and Minister Stewart and their respective staffs is noteworthy and provides a sound example of how government can work with its stakeholders when it comes to protecting our natural resources”, says David Pezderic, President of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation proudly represents over 33,000 members from over 120 branches across Saskatchewan and is considered to be, per capita, the largest wildlife conservation organization of its kind in the world.

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