



Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Media Release

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For Immediate Release

The SWF Opposes Dismantling the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) continues to have grave concerns surrounding the recent Legislation aimed at dismantling the Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA), the legislation that was created almost 30 years ago and is still considered to be one of the most visionary conservation programs ever developed in North America.

The over 3 million acres presently protected in the Act would now be controlled under regulation and would be able to be sold or changed at the discretion of the Minister. Under WHPA, any lands that were removed or changed were required to be debated in the Legislature and allowed for public scrutiny. Under the new legislation there would be no transparency. In addition, the newly passed Conservation Easement Legislation that the Saskatchewan Government would place on most of the sold parcels gives the Minister the power to remove or change the easement without public knowledge or recourse.

“The combination of a lack of consultation and the aggressive time line on this Bill has effectively made it impossible to address our concerns and left many important questions unanswered.” states Darrell Crabbe, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF). “We need the Minister to table this Legislation until all the variables can be properly addressed.”

The SWF sees a “no net loss” agreement, as has been the policy of every Provincial Government since the WHPA was introduced; changes to create public transparency; the establishment of a Conservation Lands Fund and the continuation of protection of properties under WHPA legislation; as the most pressing issues and is prepared to work with the Government towards this goal.

“The SWF is a predominately rural organization. A recent poll on our member base indicates that we have over 7,000 landowners and over 3,000 livestock producers in our membership. We recognize that the present operators that lease many of these properties have, and continue to be excellent stewards of these lands. We want to work with all the stakeholders to hopefully create a win – win scenario for all involved. We need the cooperation and commitment of the Provincial Government to make that happen” states SWF President Ray Wild.

The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation has over 30,000 members in 121 branches across Saskatchewan and is, per capita, the largest wildlife conservation organization of its kind in the world.

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