



prairie habitat
joint venture

Prairie Habitat Joint Venture

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Today's Presentation

- **North American Waterfowl Management Plan**
- **Importance of the Cdn Prairies & Wetlands**
- **Prairie Habitat Joint Venture**
 - Program Area, Vision, Objectives
 - Importance to Waterfowl
 - PHJV Foundations: Science, Planning, Partnerships
 - Achievement Highlights
 - Benefits of PHJV to Agriculture & Vice Versa
 - Current Challenges & Future Direction



North American Waterfowl Management Plan

In 1986, Canada and the United States signed NAWMP, Mexico signed in 1994.

Goal of Continental Plan:
restore waterfowl populations
to levels of the 1970s.

**Plan delivery through regional
partnerships – Joint Ventures**

PHJV est. to deliver NAWMP in Prairie Canada





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NAWMP & Joint Ventures

- **Funds to JVs leverage-based: U.S. and Canada: federal/state/provincial/NGO**
- **North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) a major source of U.S. contributions to Canada**
- **Program Focus: wetland and associated upland habitat targeted towards waterfowl and increasingly more attention on all bird conservation**
- **Activities: on-the-ground habitat delivery and land use policy**

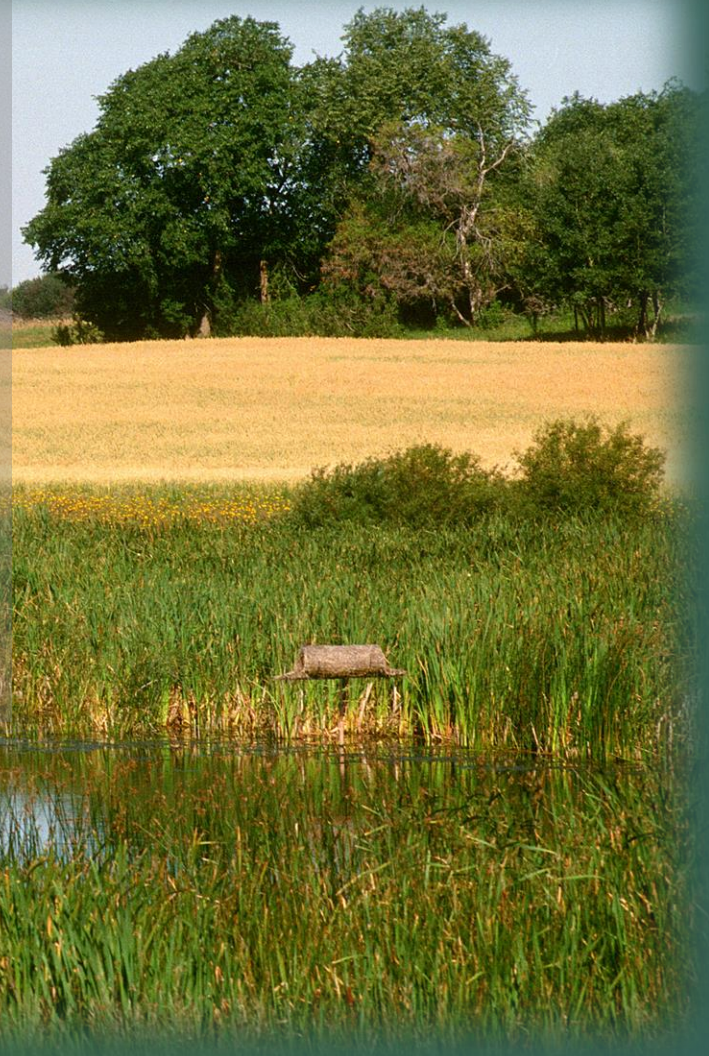


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Importance of the Canadian Prairies & Wetlands

Wetlands provide:

- clean water
- flood protection
- drought protection
- carbon sequestration
- wildlife protection
- recreation / human health



Importance of the Canadian Prairies & Wetlands

The Canadian Prairies have been bountiful producers of cereal grains and rich grazing grasses for farmers and ranchers for over a century.

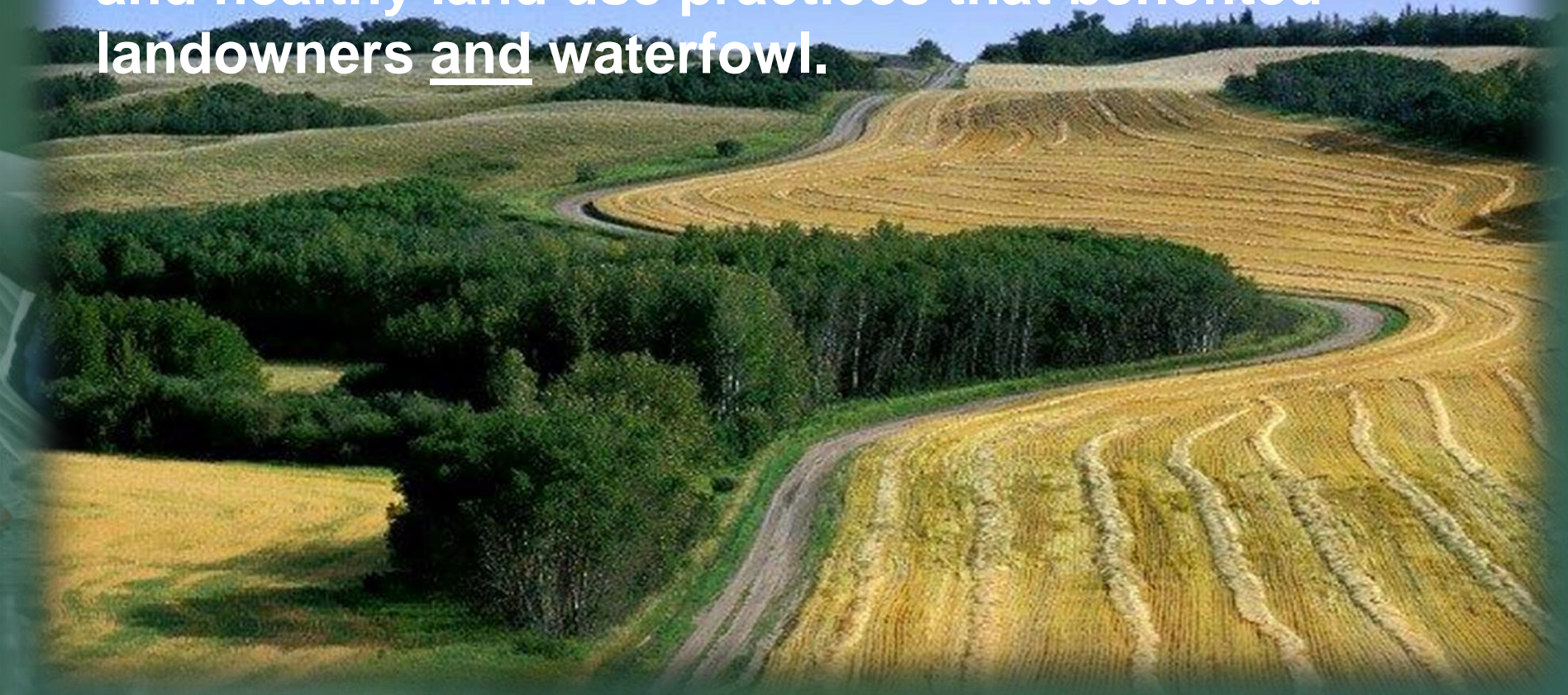
- Represents 82% of Canada's Agriculture lands.
- 4.6M acres of wetlands in PHJV target areas.

The most important breeding grounds for waterbirds on the continent.

Modernization of the landscape including pressures on landowners for intensive agriculture productivity, led to significant negative impacts to wetlands across the prairies resulting in plummeting waterfowl populations.

Importance of the Canadian Prairies & Wetlands

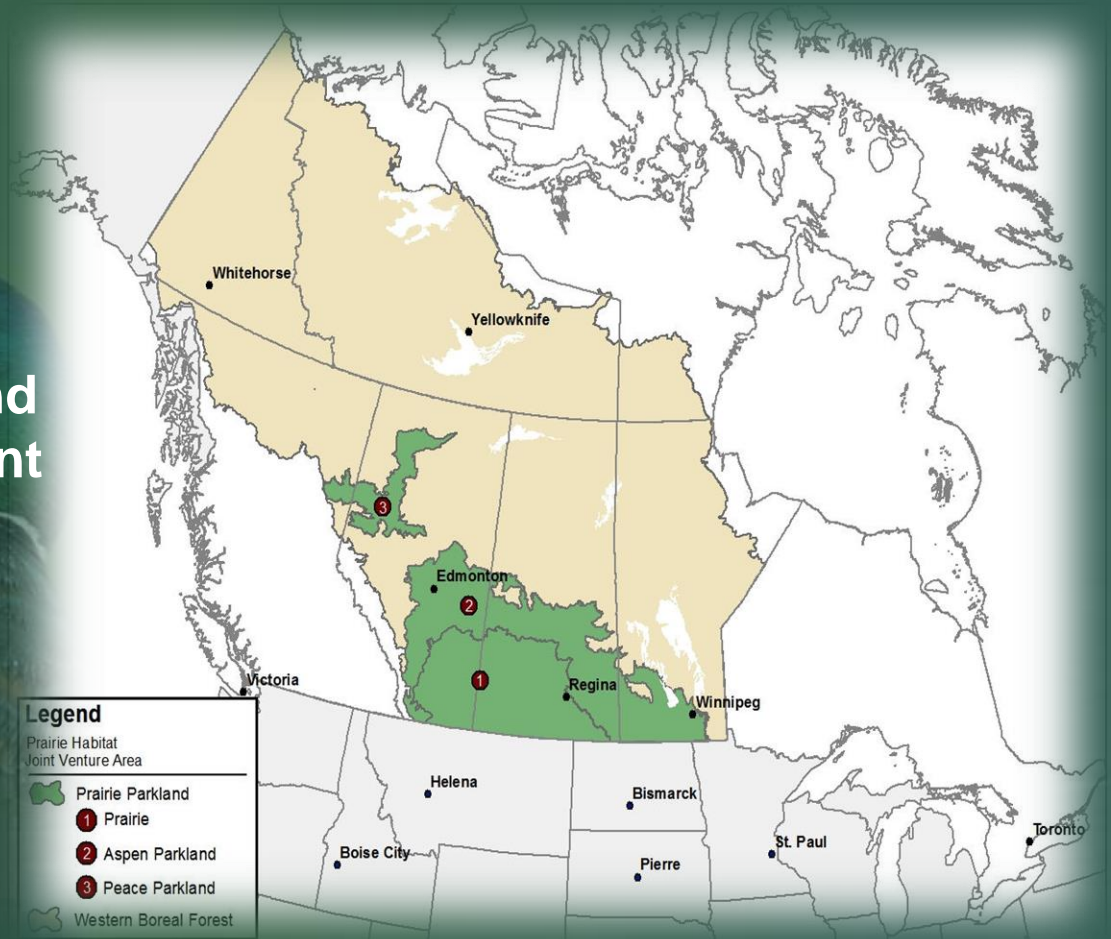
NAWMP and the PHJV were born out of an urgent need to address the complex dilemma of sustainable and healthy land use practices that benefited landowners and waterfowl.



PHJV Program Area & Vision

Healthy prairie, parkland and boreal landscapes that support sustainable bird populations and provide ecological benefits to society.

- PHJV delivers NAWMP through objectives established for Birds, Habitat, and People.
- Largest JV in Canada and one of the most important continentally
- Success of NAWMP depends on the PHJV





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Importance of PHJV to Waterfowl

70% of waterfowl breed
in Canada.



On average, about 26
million ducks breed in
Canada annually.



Central and Mississippi Flyways

Science

- Waterfowl and modeling
- Wetland and water quality
- Landscape change science (Ag census)
- Wetland inventory (PPR currently underway)
- PHJV Science contributes to our Decision Support System



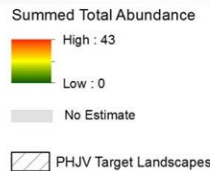
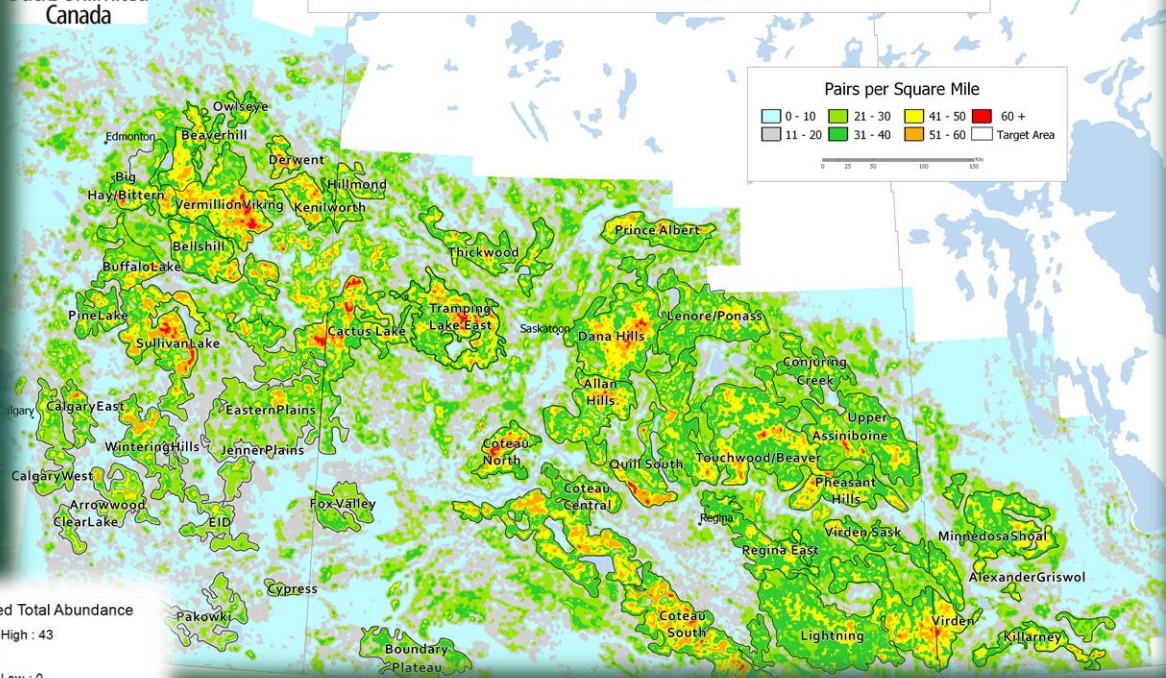


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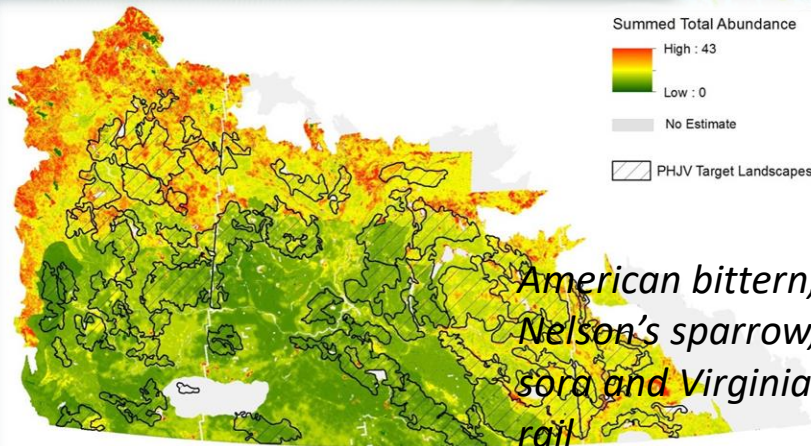
PHJV science used
to target priority
landscapes &
habitats for
waterfowl.
Developing similar
for other priority
birds



Estimated Waterfowl Breeding Distribution in
Prairie Canada v.2



Predicted Abundances
of 4 species



Decision support tool (DST)
for marsh bird species
(K. Drake, Bird Studies Canada)



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PHJV Foundations – Planning Implementation Plans

**Series of Implementation Plans
have guided the PHJV Program**

**Beginning in the late 1980s with
detailed provincial plans**

**Updated in the 1990s and mid-
2000s**

Our most current 2013-2020

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

**PRAIRIE HABITAT JOINT VENTURE
THE WESTERN BOREAL FOREST**

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2013-2020

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



**PRAIRIE HABITAT JOINT VENTURE:
THE PRAIRIE PARKLANDS**

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2013-2020



PHJV Foundations - Partnerships

**PHJV science and planning is rigorous and important,
but we can't achieve anything without partnerships.**

**Federal Govts of Canada and U.S.
AB, SK, MB, BC, NWT and YT, and 23 States
35 Cdn regional and local govts
360 Cdn NGOs and 22 U.S. NGOs**

**17,000
landowners**



PHJV Foundations – Partnerships

PHJV Advisory Board

- **David Ingstrup** Environment & Climate Change Canada (CWS)
- **Travis Ripley**, Alberta Environment & Parks and Alberta NAWMP
- **Brant Kirychuk**, Saskatchewan Environment
- **Glen McMaster**, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency
- **James Duncan**, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
- **Tim Sopuck**, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- **Scott Stephens**, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- **Kevin Teneycke**, Nature Conservancy of Canada
- **Cameron Mack**, Wildlife Habitat Canada



PHJV Foundations - Partnerships

NAWMP-PHJV Provincial Steering Committees

Alberta NAWMP Partnership

Chair Travis Ripley, Coordinator Terra Simieritsch

Saskatchewan NAWMP Committee

Chair Corie White

Manitoba NAWMP Committee

Chair Stephen Carlyle

PHJV Science Committee Chair: Jim Devries

PHJV Policy Committee Co-Chairs: Pete Joyce / Shane Gabor,

Policy Coordinator: Hugh Hunt

PHJV Communications Committee Chair: Dave Kustersky

PHJV Coordinator: Deanna Dixon





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PHJV Foundations - Partnerships

annual partnership commitment ~ \$40M/year

32% U.S. Federal

21% U.S. NGO

4% U.S. State Govts

57% U.S. Partners

17% Cdn. Federal

17% Cdn. Other

9% Cdn. Provincial/Local

43% Canada Partners

- Partnership Commitment spans 30 years
- Injection of \$ into agriculture economy
- Majority of funds to provinces, municipalities, farmers, to deliver the PHJV conservation program



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PHJV Achievement Highlights 1986-2017

- Protection of 6.8M acres of existing habitats through agreements ranging from 10 yrs to perpetuity
- Improvement of 2.7M acres (ex. wetland, grassland restoration)
- Manage 9.5M acres

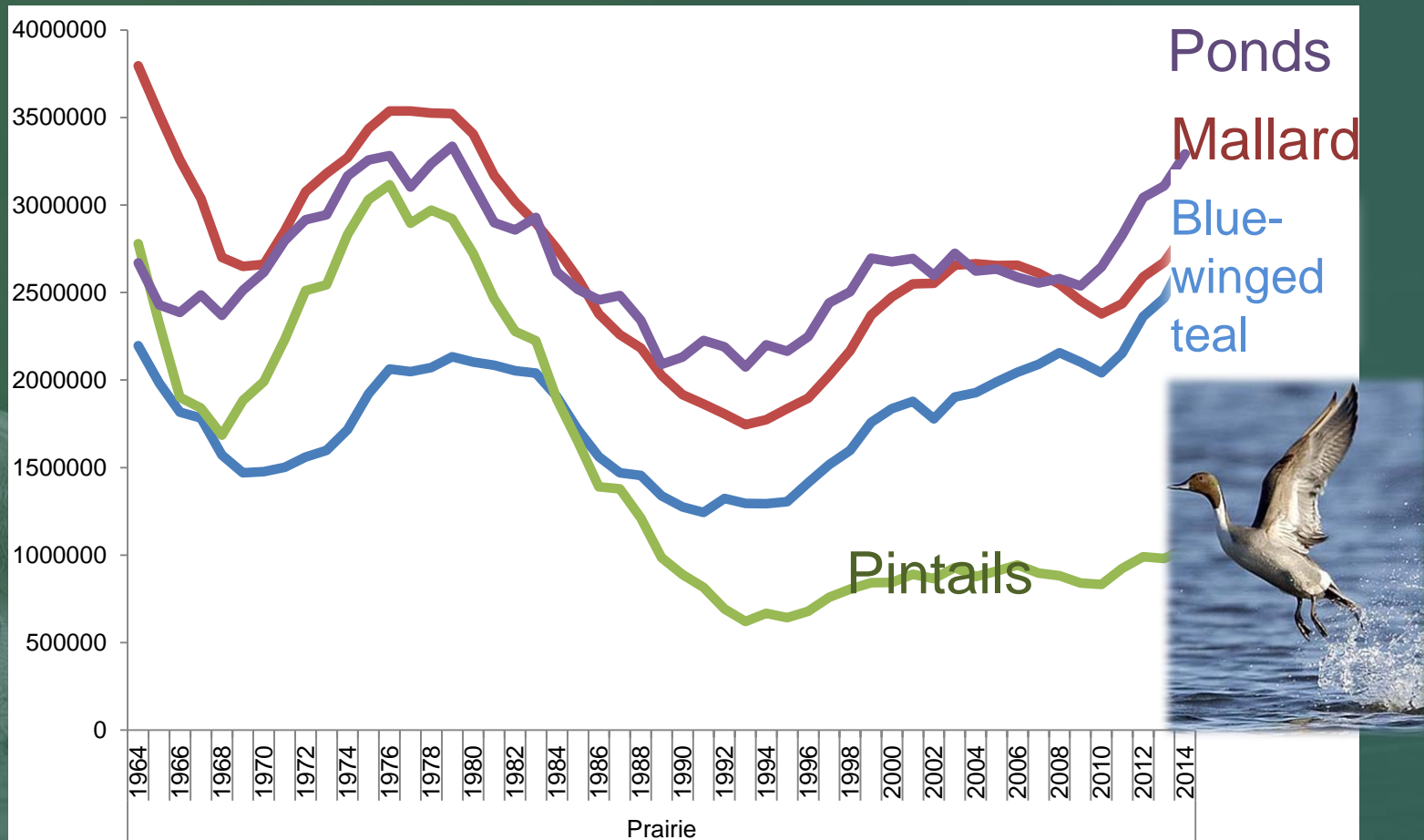


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PHJV Population Highlights 1986-2017

PHJV changes to the landscape have contributed to population response under these wet conditions.

10-year running mean duck population sizes and
pond counts



Year

Courtesy of Blake Bartzen

PHJV/NAWMP Benefits to Agriculture Community

A few examples:

- zero till seed drills
- winter wheat
- expertise and support to landowners:
 - rotational grazing systems
 - conversion of cultivated land to forages
- encourage uptake of conservation BMPs including some top-ups from PHJV partners.

Agriculture Community Benefits to PHJV/NAWMP

Wetland conservation and sustainable landscapes can only be achieved through the cooperation of the Agriculture Community.



In particular, the cattle industry is necessary to ensure there is enough grass on the landscape for waterfowl and wetland birds.

Their importance to NAWMP cannot be overstated.



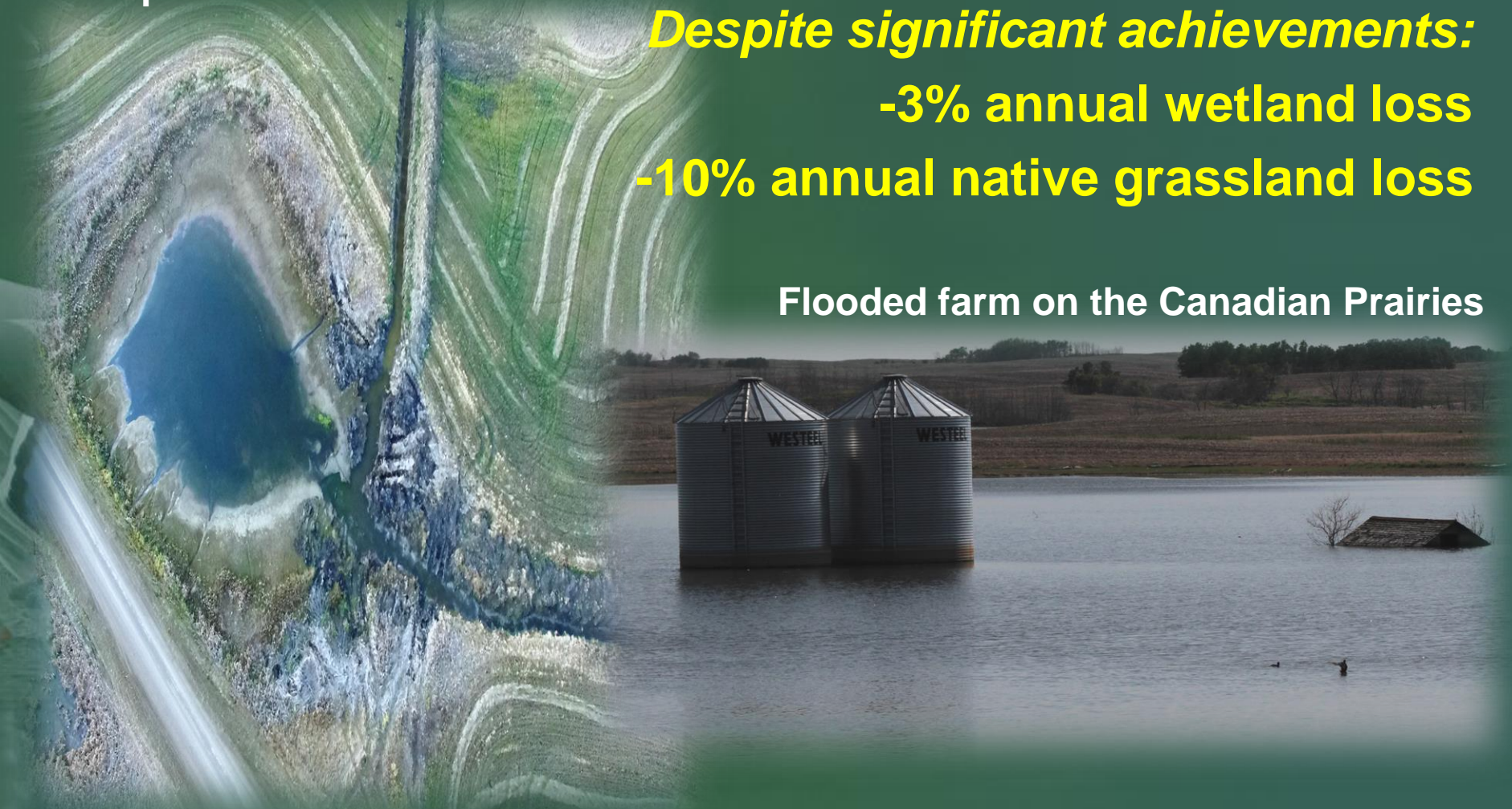
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Continuing Challenges

Large ditch network to drain multiple
semi-permanent wetlands.

Despite significant achievements:
-3% annual wetland loss
-10% annual native grassland loss

Flooded farm on the Canadian Prairies



Future Direction NAWMP / PHJV

NAWMP Plan 2018 Update underway

- Reaffirms PPR cornerstone to achieving continental goals
- Strengthen the connections between society and nature

PHJV

- Land use policies are critically important across a landscape of this magnitude.
- Continue to partner with the agriculture community to more appropriately value ecological benefits and services of wetlands





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Thank you

Graphs, Photos & Statistic Acknowledgements

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- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
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- Brian Wolitski, DUC

