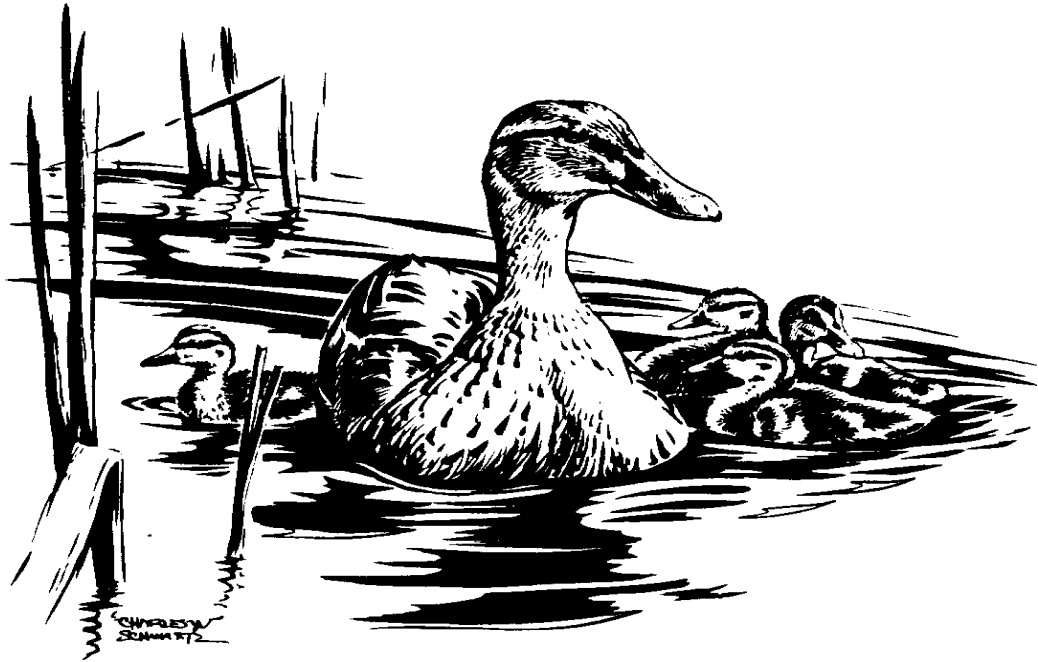


2008 PRAIRIE WATERFOWL STATUS REPORT



A Briefing Document

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INTRODUCTION

May pond estimates in the prairie provinces of western Canada of 3.05 million represented a 39% decrease from 2007. Pond numbers were 6% below the 10-year average, and 12% below the long-term average.

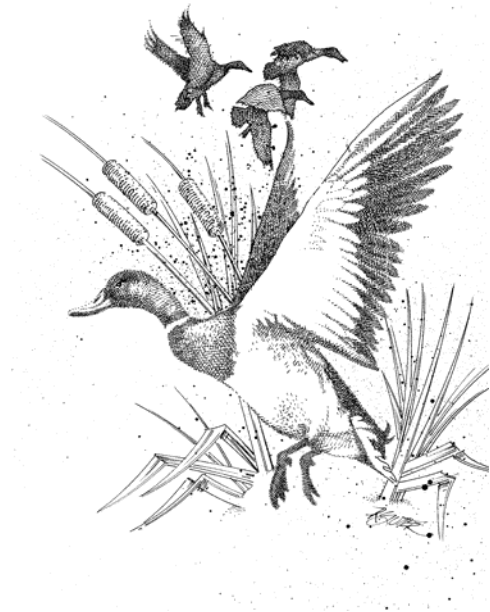
The mallard population estimate in southern prairie Canada decreased in 2008 to a value 6% below that of 2007 (3.163 million). The estimate is also lower than the 10-year (-2%), and long-term averages (-11%). For prairie Canada as a whole mallard numbers in 2008 were similar to those for 2006 (+1%), but remain below the 10-year average (-4%), and long-term average (-13%).

Northern pintail numbers decreased in southern strata, but increased in northern strata in 2008. Overall in prairie Canada there was a decrease when compared to 2007 (-33%). Estimates were below the 10-year (-15%) and long-term (-58%) averages.

Estimates for total ducks in prairie Canada decreased in 2008 compared to 2007 (-6%), increased compared to the 10-year average (8%) and remained similar to the long-term average (1%).

Prairie Canada duck regulations are based on the Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy (PCMHS). The 2008 breeding population of 5.06 million estimated in the North American pothole region is still above the range requiring a traditional framework. Prairie Canada mallard harvest rate reductions were well in excess of the percentage required by the PCMHS.

All jurisdictions are encouraged to continue to work towards improved populations through the various NAWMP initiatives.



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. Spring habitat conditions, as measured by the number of **MAY PONDS**, decreased in 2008 in Prairie Canada. There were 39% less May ponds in 2008 compared to 2007. There were 6% less May ponds in 2008 compared to the 10-year average, and 12% less compared to the long-term average (*Table 1; Figure 1*).

In southern Manitoba the 2008 May pond estimate of 598 thousand was 27% less than that recorded for 2007, 3% less than the 10-year average and 14% less than the long-term average. In southern Saskatchewan, the 2008 May pond estimate of 1.6 million was 46% below that recorded for 2007, 17% less than the 10-year average, and 20% less than the long-term average. Water conditions were also poor in southern Alberta in the spring of 2008 with 849 thousand ponds estimated. This represents a 31% decrease compared to 2007, a 6% decrease compared to the 10-year average, and a 12% decrease compared to the long-term average.

2. The 2008 **TOTAL DUCK** population decreased by 13% in southern Prairie Canada, and increased by 6% in northern Prairie Canada compared to 2007 (*Table 1; Figures 2 and 3*). Total duck numbers are 14% higher than the 10-year average in southern Prairie Canada. In northern Prairie Canada, the population is 2% higher than the 10-year average. Total duck numbers were 9% higher and 12% less than the long-term average in southern and northern Prairie Canada, respectively.

In 2008, for northern and southern Prairie Canada combined, total duck numbers were

6% less than in 2007, 8% more than the 10-year average, and 1% less than the long-term average.

3. The **MALLARD** population estimate in southern Prairie Canada in 2008 was 6% less than in 2007, 2% less than the 10-year average, and 11% less than the long term average (*Table 1; Figure 1 and 4*). The mallard population estimate in northern Prairie Canada in 2008 increased (17%) from 2007, but remained below the 10-year (-6%), and long-term averages (-16%) (*Table 1; Figure 4*).

For Prairie Canada as a whole the 2008 mallard population estimate was 1% more than 2007, 4% lower than the 10-year average, and 13% less than the long-term average (*Table 1*).

4. **NORTHERN PINTAIL** numbers decreased in southern Prairie Canada in 2008 (*Table 2; Figure 5*) compared to 2007 (-47%). The numbers were also below the 10-year average (-32%), and long-term average (-66%). In northern Prairie Canada the northern pintail numbers increased in 2008 compared to 2007 (+40%). They were above the 10-year average (+76%) but remain below the long-term average (-19%).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined the population estimate in 2008 was 33% less than in 2007, 15% less than the 10-year average, and 58% less than the long-term average (*Table 2*).

5. The **SCAUP** population in southern prairie Canada in 2008 was 8% less than

that of 2007, 15% less than the 10-year average, and 45% lower than the long-term average (*Table 2*). In northern Prairie Canada the numbers increased compared to 2007 (+29%), were unchanged from the 10-year average (0%), and below the long-term average (-36%) (*Table 2; Figure 6*).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined the estimate for 2008 was 20% more than that for 2007, 3% less than the 10-year average, and 38% lower than the long-term average.

6. Numbers of **CANVASBACK** in southern Prairie Canada in 2008 were below the previous year (-48%) (*Table 2; Figure 7*) as well as the 10-year average (-16%), and the long-term average (-10%). Estimates of canvasback in northern Prairie Canada (*Table 2; Figure 7*) decreased in 2008 compared to 2007 (-38%), as well as the 10-year average (-23%), and long-term average (-13%).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined (*Table 2*) the 2008 estimate was 45% less than in 2007, 18% less than the 10-year average, and 11% less than the long-term average.

7. Migratory game bird **PERMIT SALES** for residents were higher in 2007 (*Table 3*) in Manitoba (+3%), Saskatchewan (+7%), and Alberta (+10%). Sales of non-resident permits, primarily U.S. in origin, were lower in 2007 compared to 2006 in Manitoba (-12%) and Alberta (-11%) but remained slightly higher in Saskatchewan (+2%). For all of prairie Canada, this represents a 7% increase in resident permit sales, and a 5% decrease in non-resident permit sales. (*Figure 8*).

11. The **WEIGHTED MALLARD POPULATION ESTIMATES** for the Prairie Pothole Region in 2008 are higher than 75% of the NAWMP goal (*Figure 9*). The PMHS dictates an adherence to traditional (liberal) mallard seasons.

APPENDIX A

Tables & Figures

Table 2. A comparison of May breeding populations of northern pintail, scaup and canvasback for Prairie Canada: 2007 versus 2006, 1997-2006 and 1955-2006. (numbers in thousands)

R E G I O N	NORTHERN PINTAIL									SCAUP						CANVASBACK								
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% diff 06	% diff 97-06	% diff 55-06	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% diff 06	% diff 97-06	% diff 55-06	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% diff 06	% diff 97-06	% diff 55-06
Southern Manitoba	40	68	57	15	29	97	-48	-74	31	60	97	50	60	19	-8	-56	70	48	87	77	31	-60	-52	-46
Southern Saskatchewan	474	858	1024	960	423	-56	-41	-65	185	381	391	302	256	-15	-15	-38	121	162	287	324	166	-49	-20	-10
Southern Alberta	161	282	611	324	240	-26	0	-67	124	127	214	182	176	-4	-16	-50	50	43	76	127	79	-38	43	24
SOUTHERN SUBTOTAL	675	1208	1692	1299	692	-47	-32	-66	340	568	702	535	492	-8	-15	-45	241	253	450	529	276	-48	-16	-10
Northern Man & Sask	10	8	6	5	4	-25	-62	-89	575	349	335	271	355	31	-7	-30	50	39	13	34	23	-32	-34	-53
Northern Albt NWT BC	193	108	126	234	331	41	84	-11	1624	1361	1169	1261	1627	29	2	-37	109	98	109	139	84	-40	-20	14
NORTHERN SUBTOTAL	204	117	132	240	335	40	76	-19	2200	1710	1504	1532	1982	29	0	-36	159	137	122	173	107	-38	-23	-13
PRAIRIE TOTALS	878	1324	1824	1539	1027	-33	-15	-58	2540	2278	2206	2067	2473	20	-3	-38	400	389	573	702	383	-45	-18	-11

Table 3. Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit sales in Prairie Canada: 1997 - 2007.

PROVINCE (TYPE)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	07 vs 06
MANITOBA												
Resident	13149	12147	11051	10338	10475	9570	9550	8813	8990	9212	9470	3
Alien	5769	6298	6382	5472	4563	5262	5574	5431	4844	4929	4335	-12
TOTAL	18918	18445	17433	15810	15038	14832	15124	14244	13834	14141	13805	-2
SASKATCHEWAN												
Resident	13379	14185	12396	11775	10136	8917	8948	8641	8868	8982	9569	7
Alien	6730	7637	9289	10133	8242	8041	9207	9632	9690	9518	9706	2
TOTAL	20109	21822	21685	21908	18378	16958	18155	18273	18558	18500	19275	4
ALBERTA												
Resident	24471	19541	18456	18212	16321	14324	14631	14910	15079	15450	16931	10
Alien	2376	2697	2959	3580	3206	3490	3741	3858	4243	3907	3464	-11
TOTAL	26847	22238	21415	21792	19527	17814	18372	18768	19322	19357	20395	5
PRAIRIE CANADA												
Resident	50999	45873	41903	40325	36932	32811	33129	32364	32937	33644	35970	7
Alien	14875	16632	18630	19185	16011	16793	18522	18921	18777	18354	17505	-5
TOTAL	65874	62505	60533	59510	52943	49604	51651	51285	51714	51998	53475	3

* From Canadian Wildlife Service record of sales to July 8, 2008.



Figure 1. Estimates of Mallards and May Ponds in Southern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

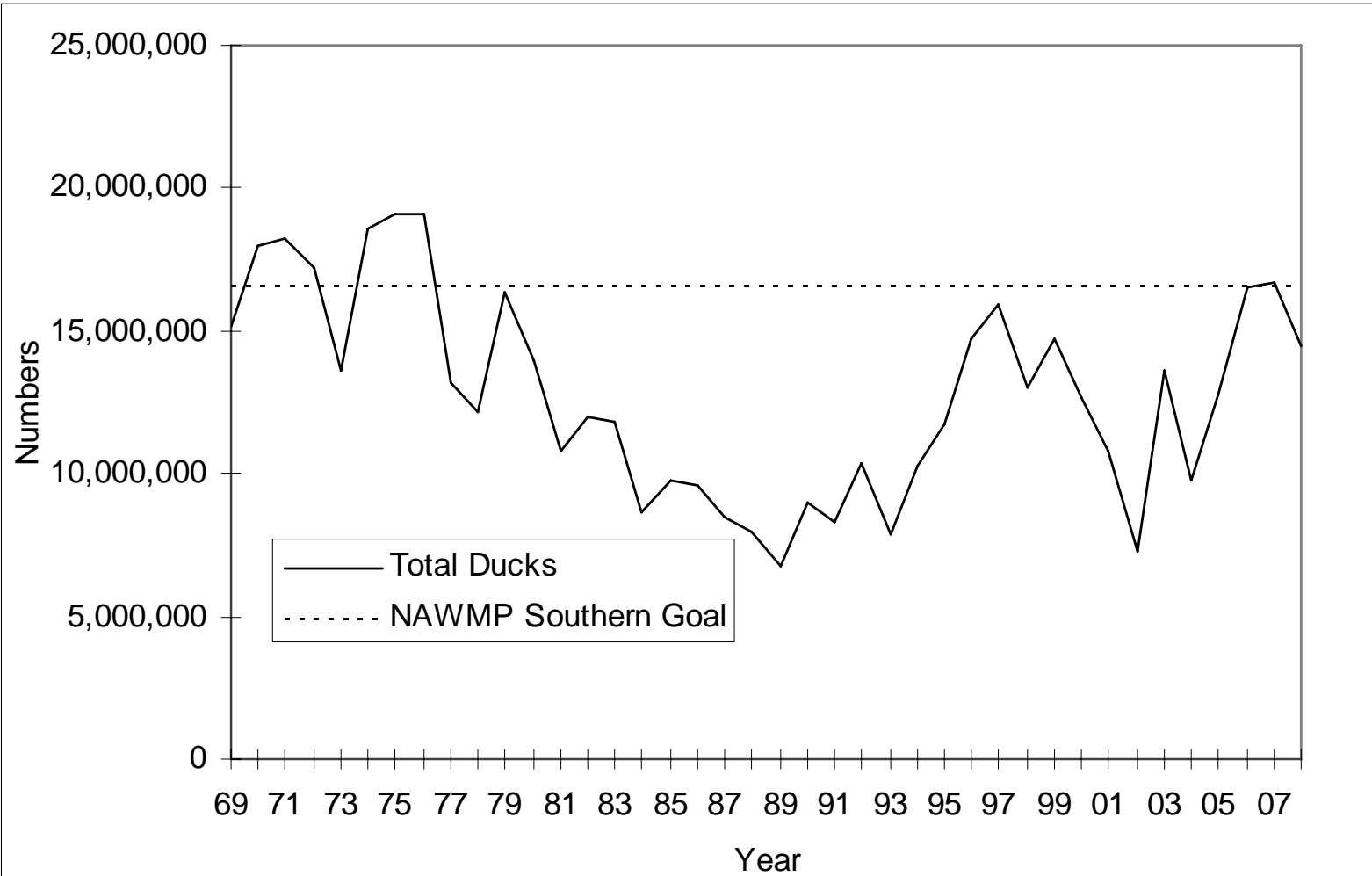


Figure 2. Estimates of Total Ducks in Southern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

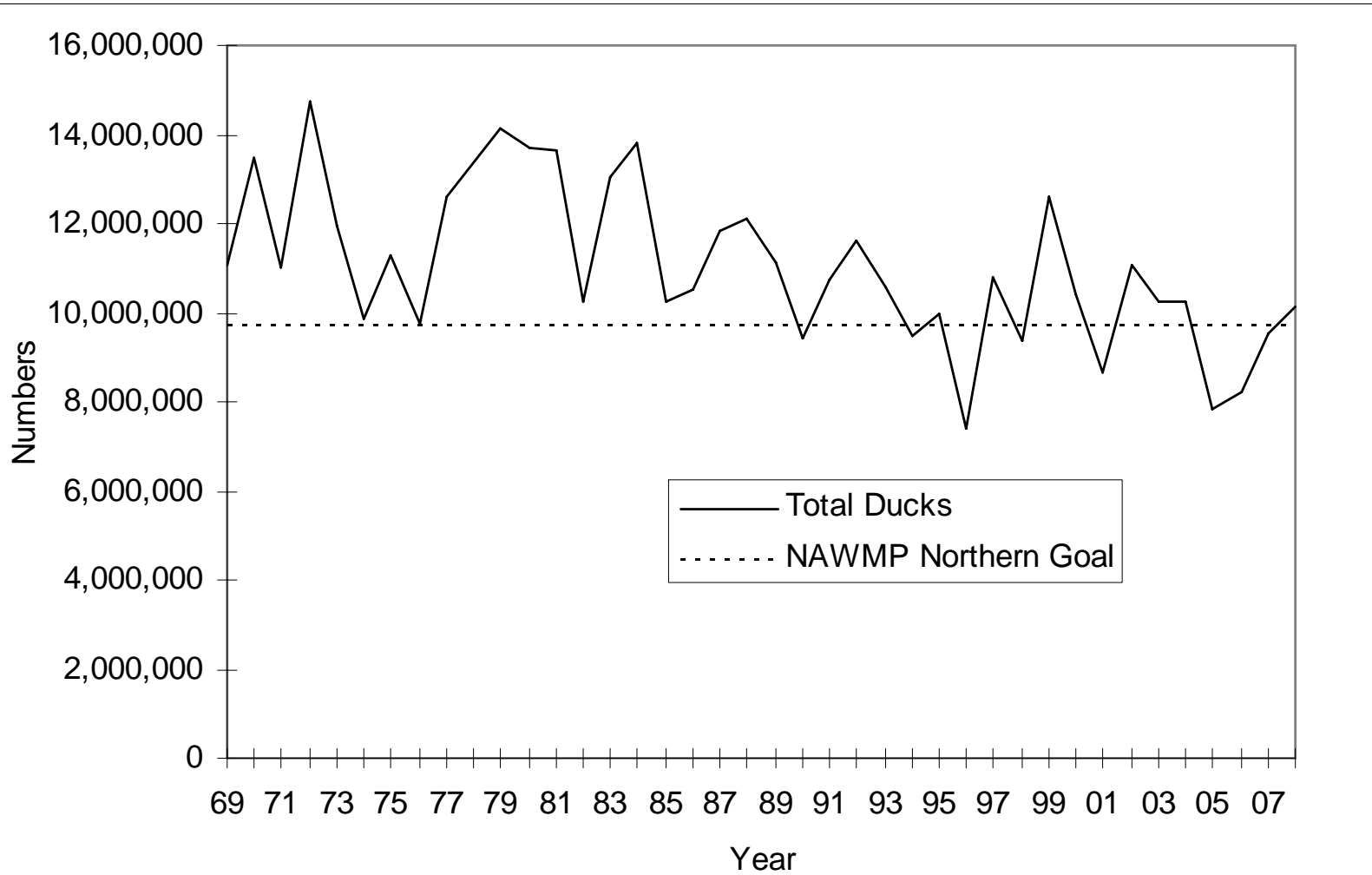


Figure 3. Estimates of Total Ducks in Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

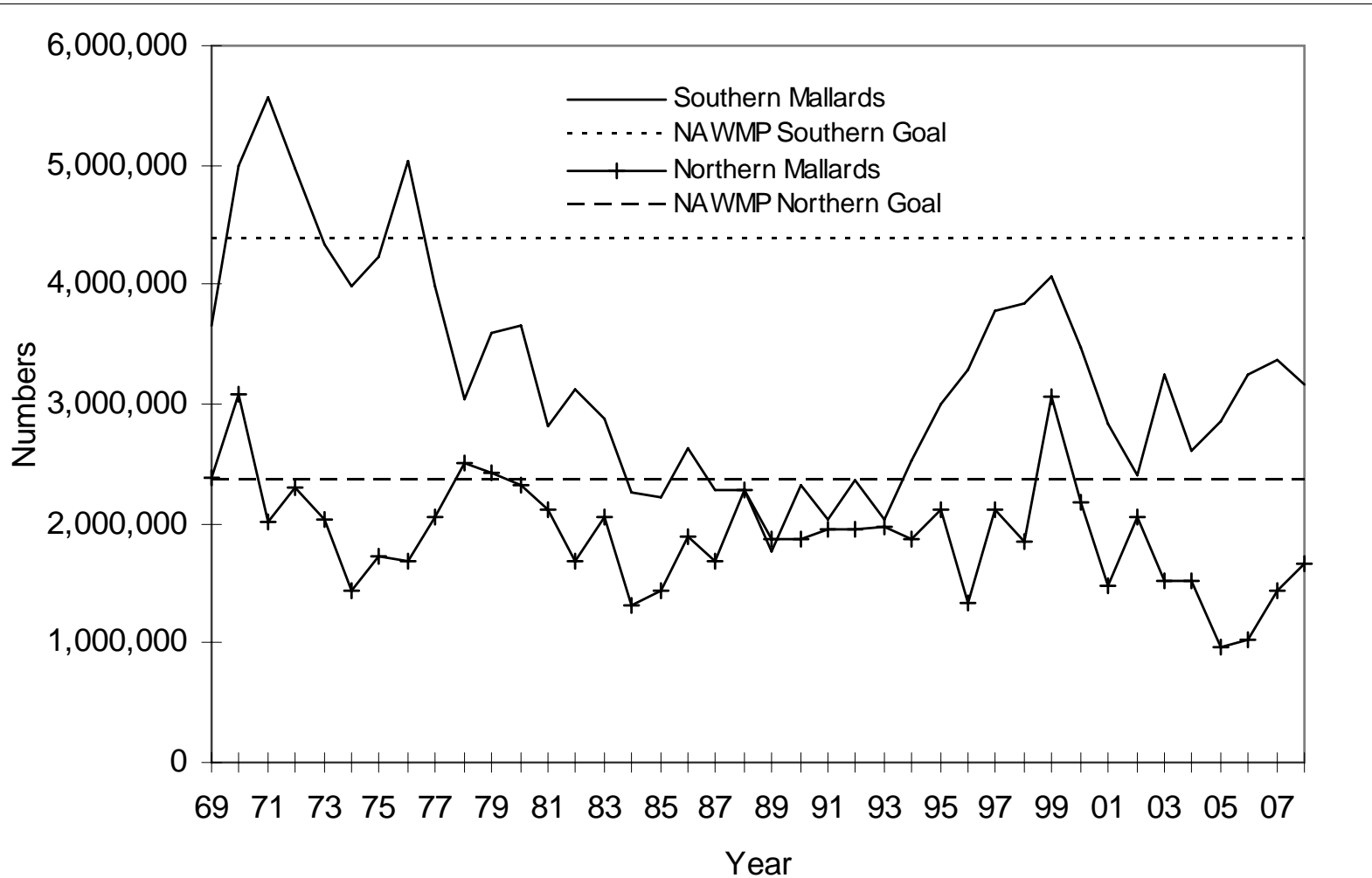


Figure 4. Estimates of Mallards Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

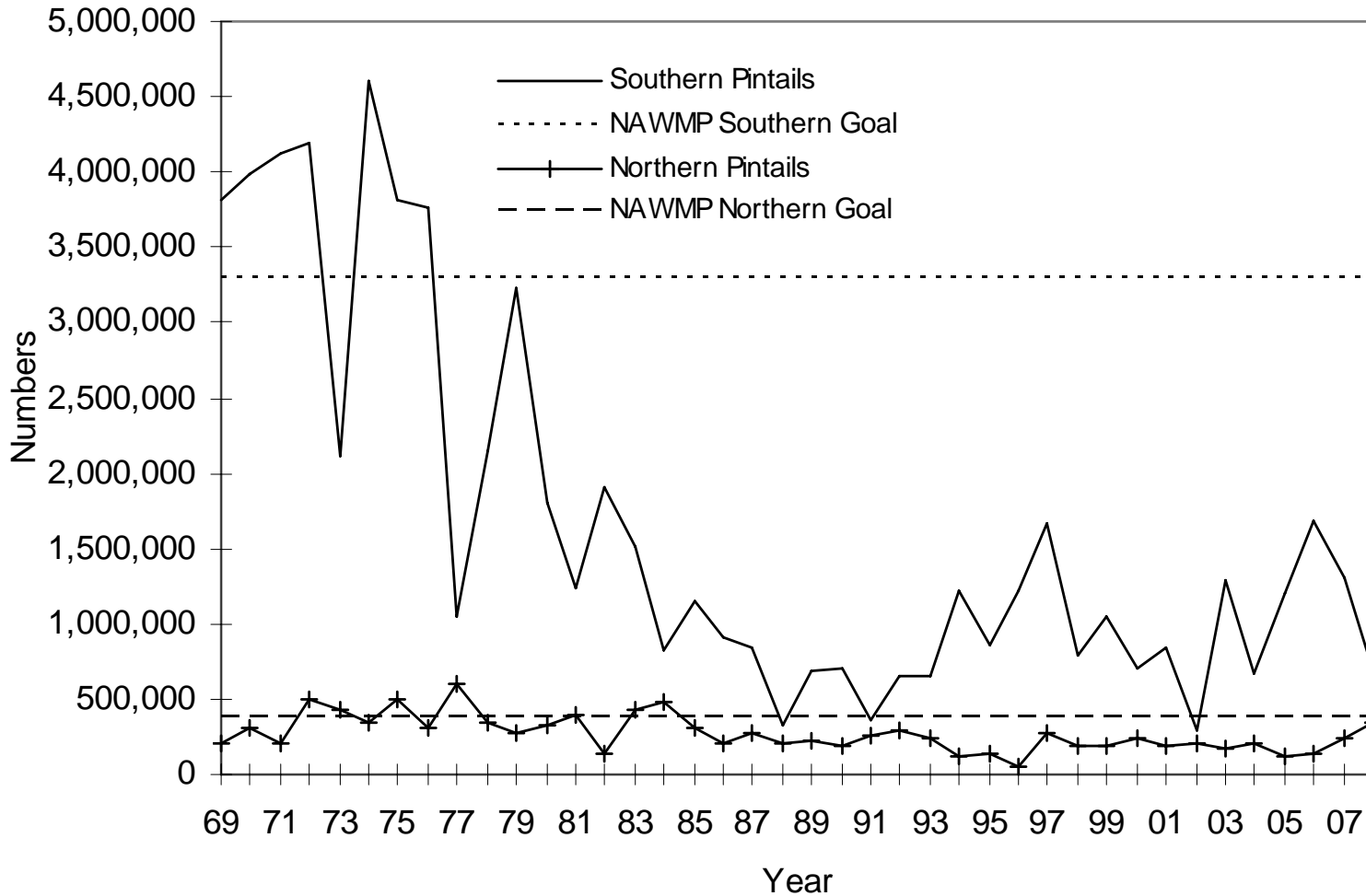


Figure 5. Estimates of Northern Pintail Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

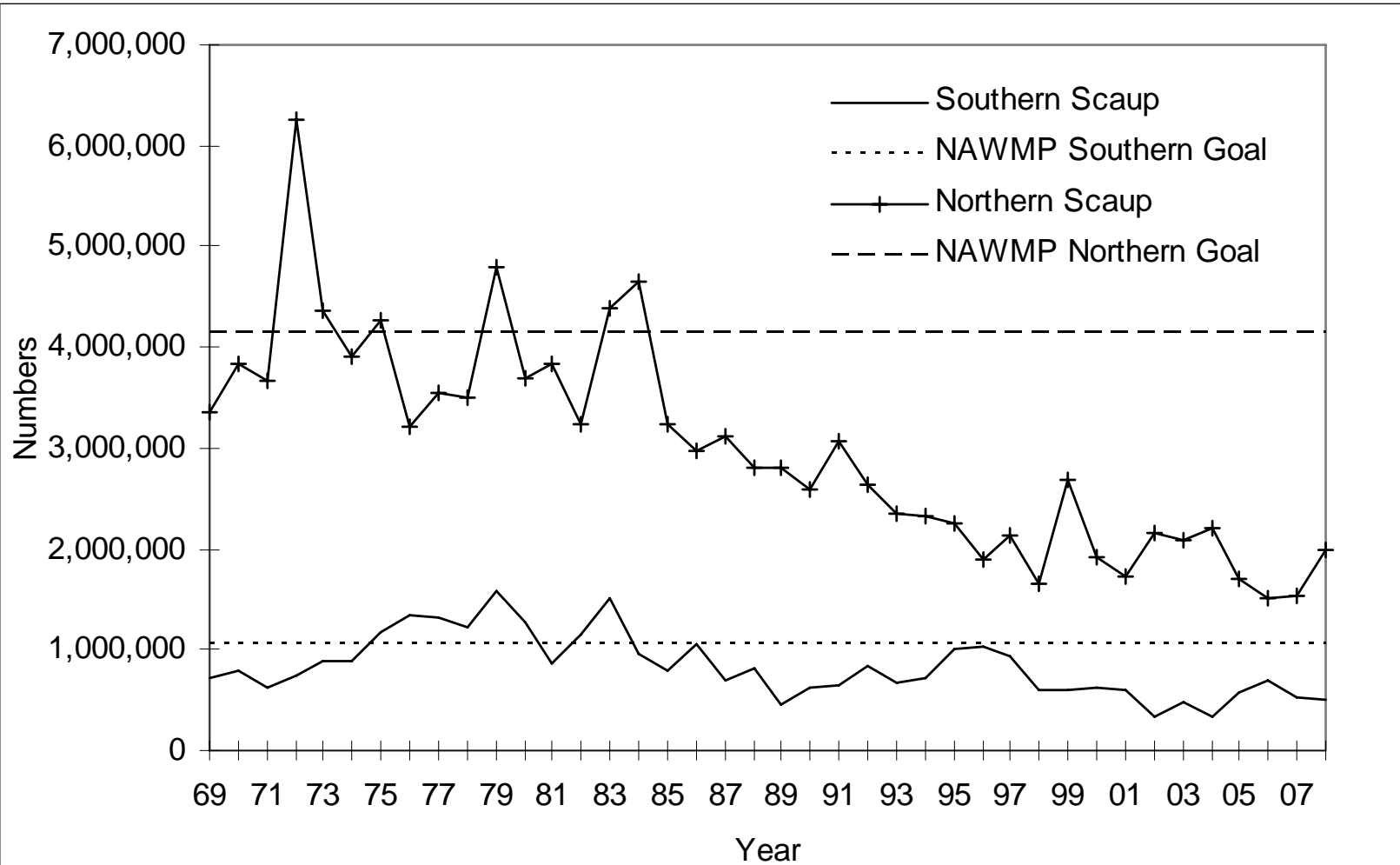


Figure 6. Estimates of Scaup Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

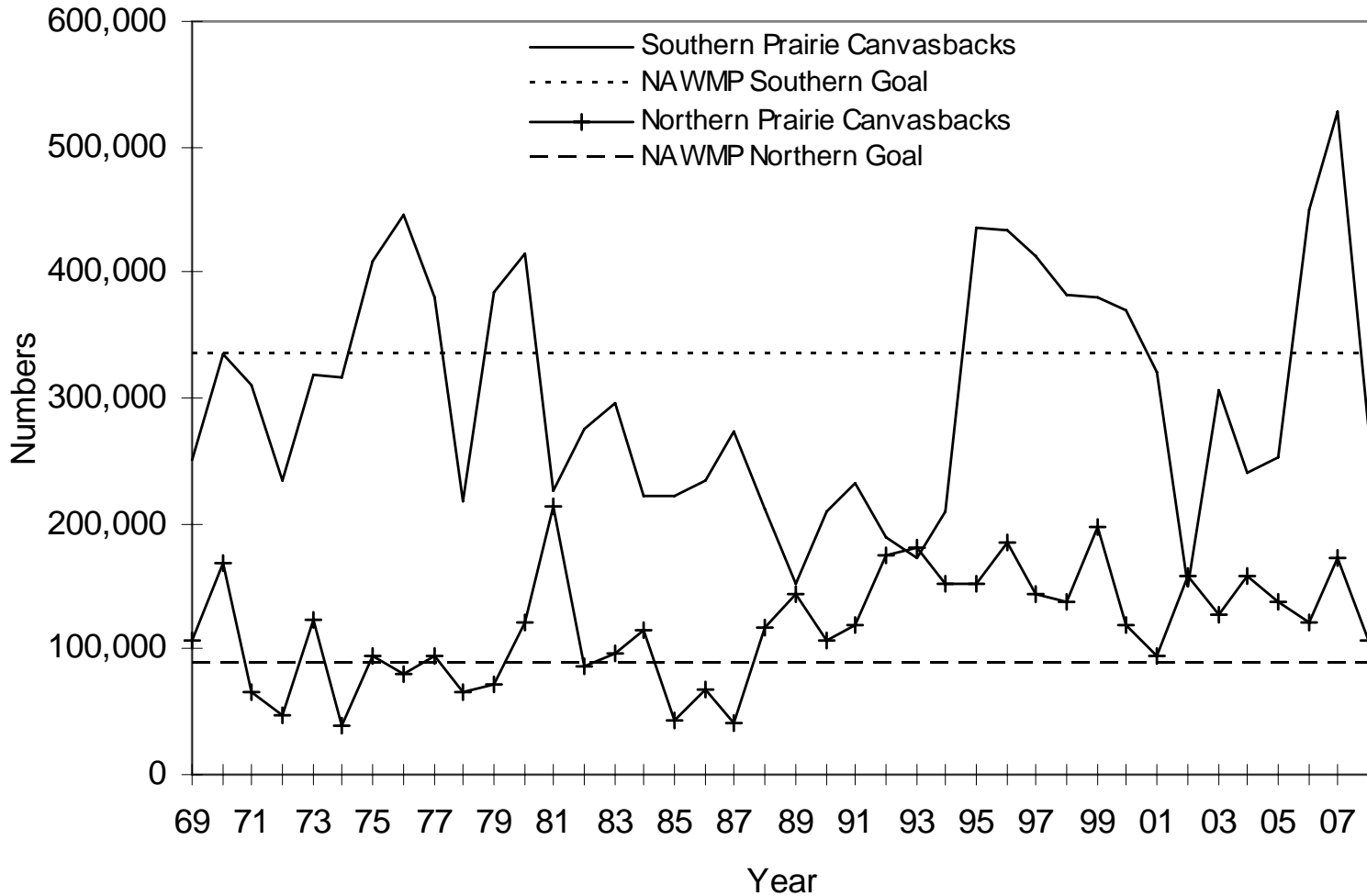


Figure 7. Estimates of Canvasback Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2008.

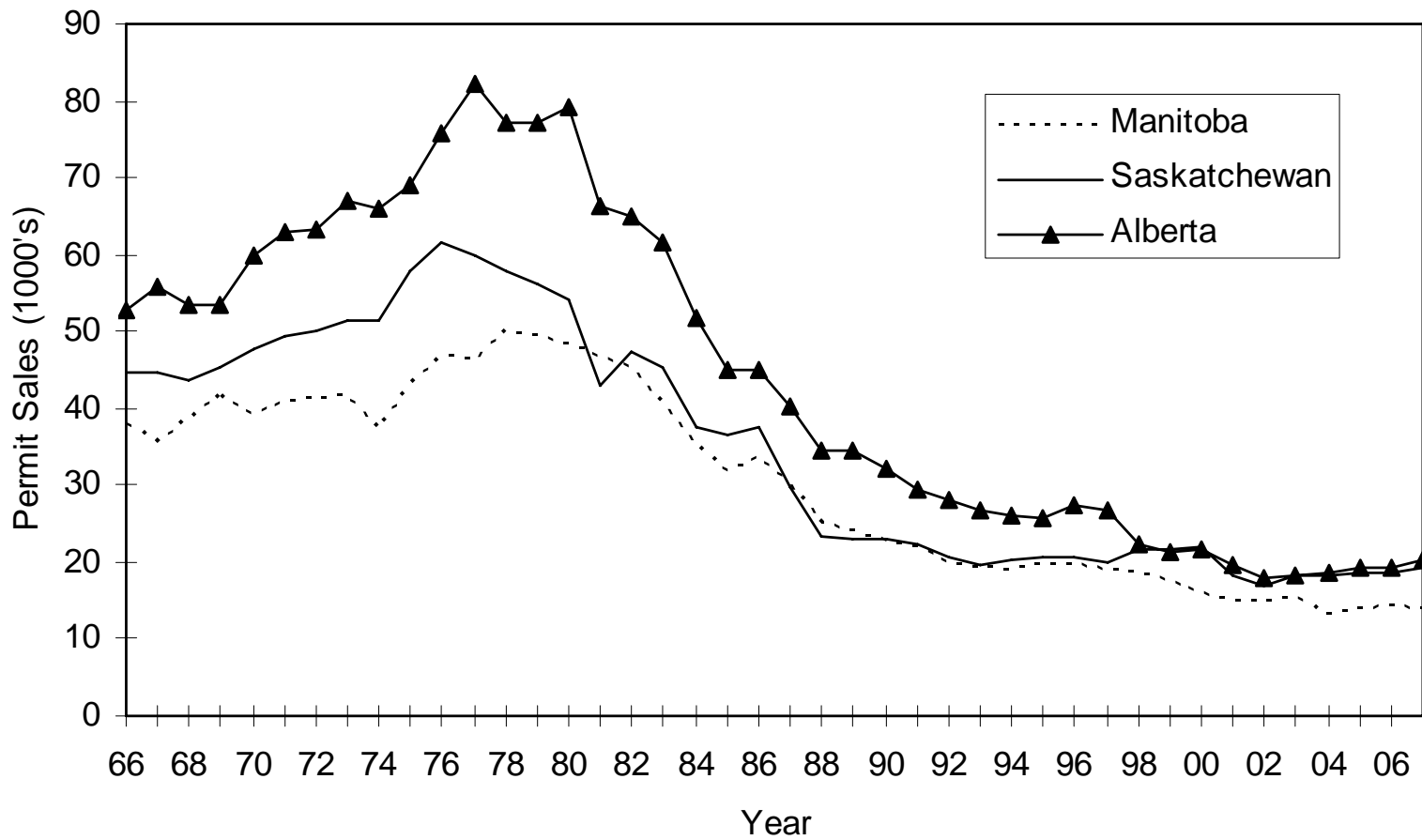


Figure 8. Sales of Migratory Bird Permits in Prairie Canada, 1968-2007.

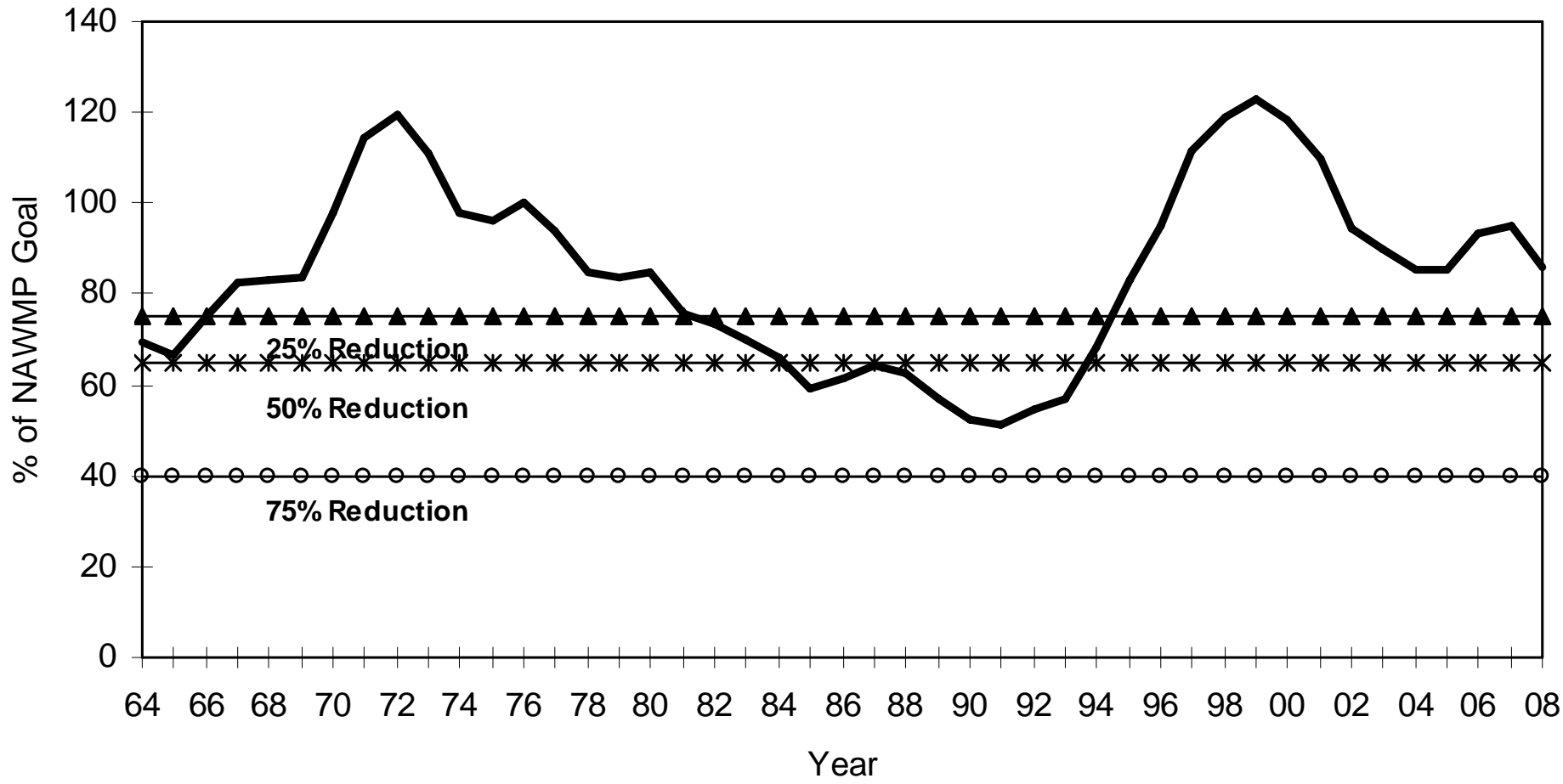


Figure 9. Weighted Mallard Population Estimates in the Prairie Pothole Region (Strata 26-49)

APPENDIX B

Precipitation Maps courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.



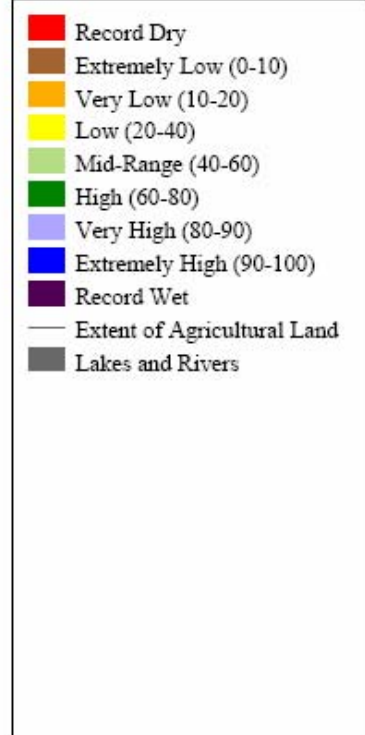
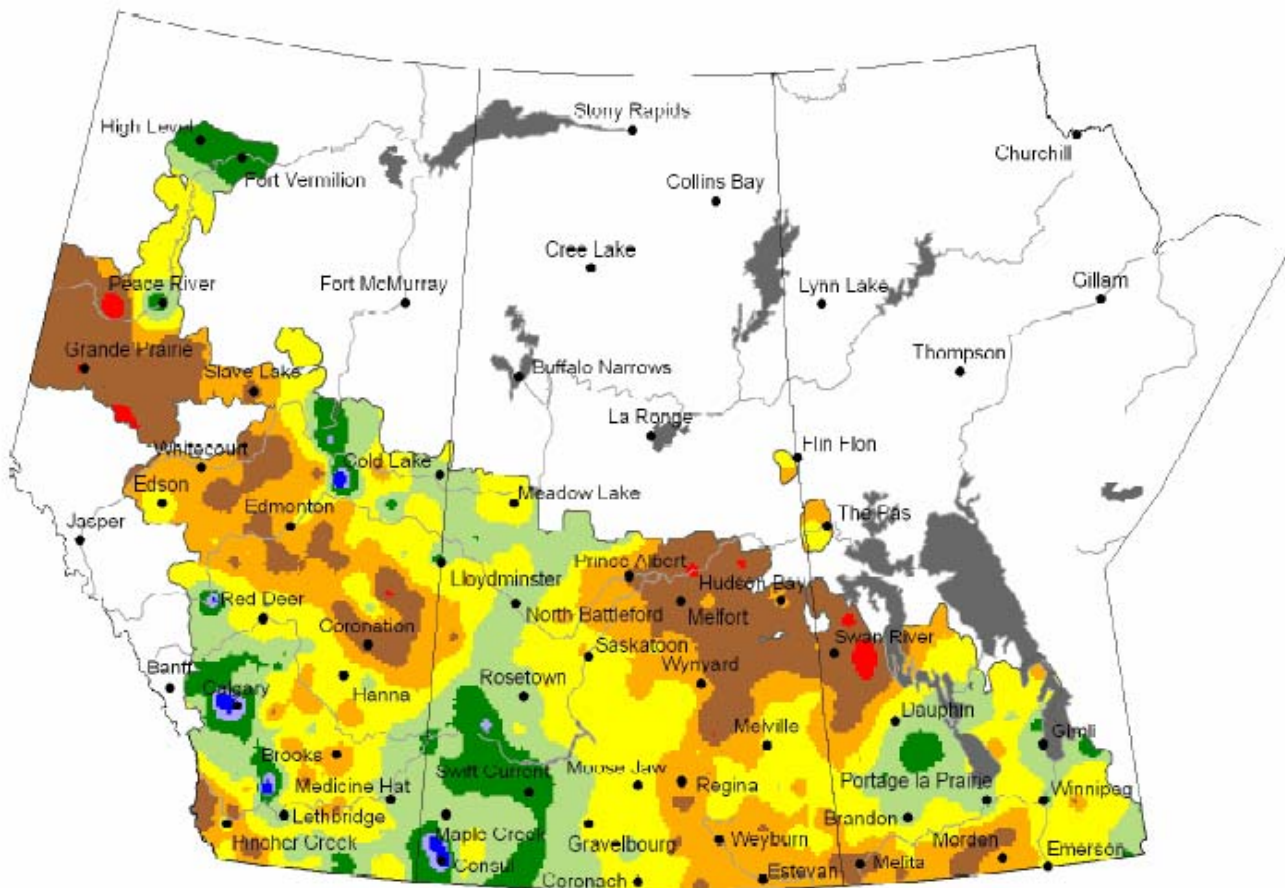
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Canada

Precipitation Compared to Historical Distribution (Prairie Region)

September 1, 2007 to July 7, 2008



Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.

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Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS). Data provided through partnership with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and many Provincial agencies.

Created: 07/08/08
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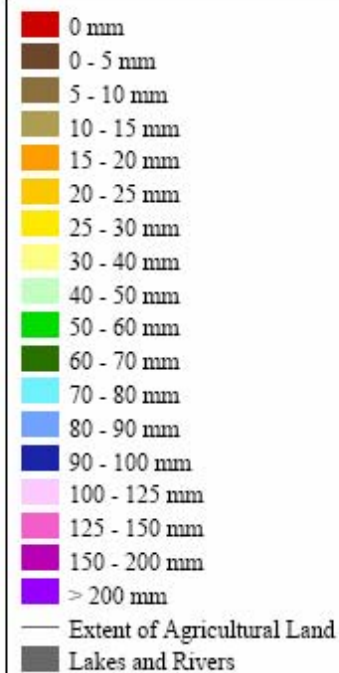
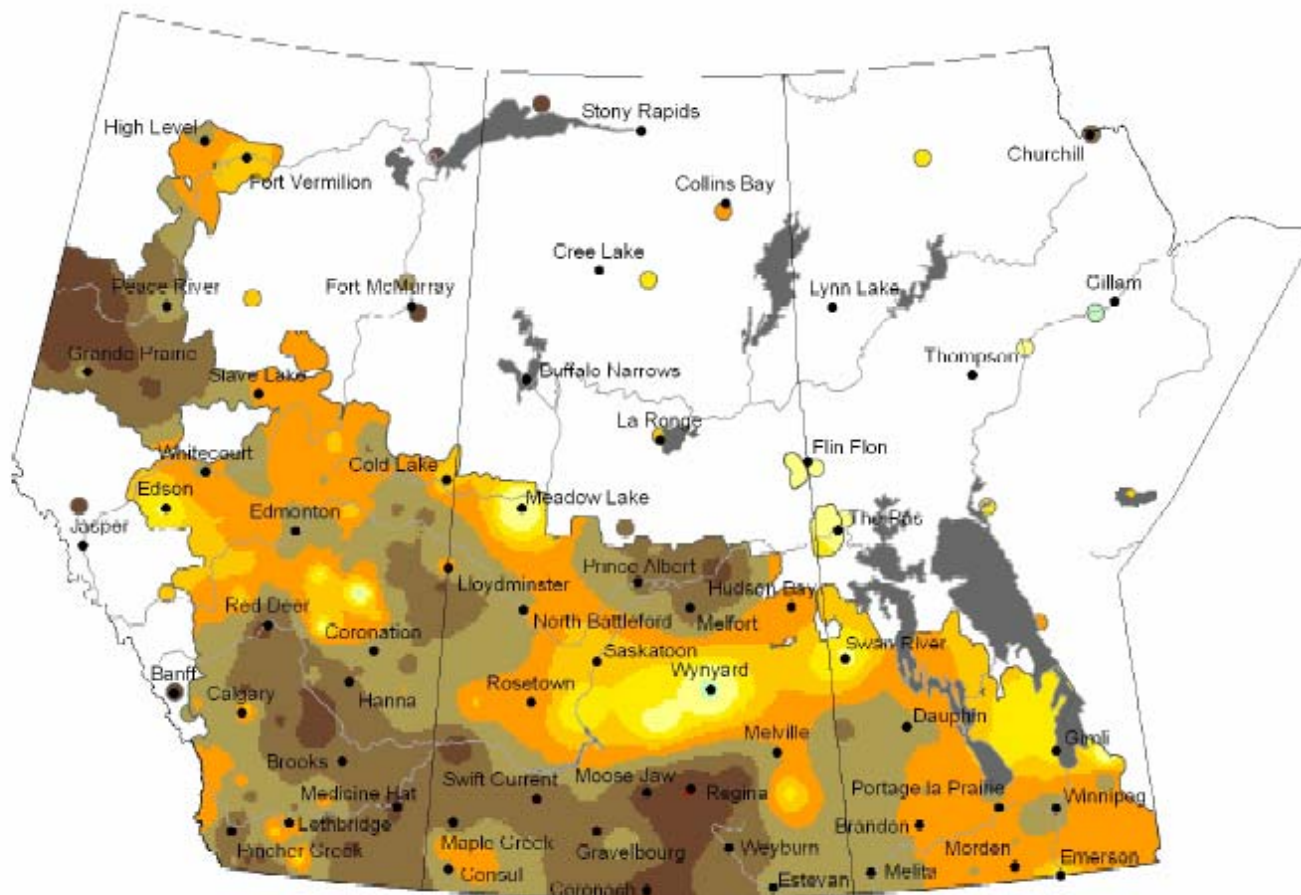
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Canada

7 Day Accumulated Precipitation (Prairie Region)

July 1, 2008 to July 7, 2008



Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.

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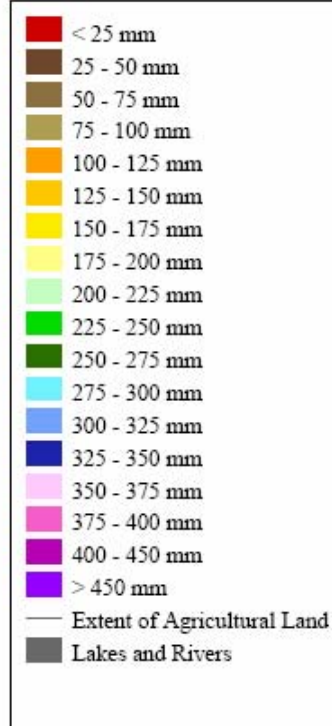
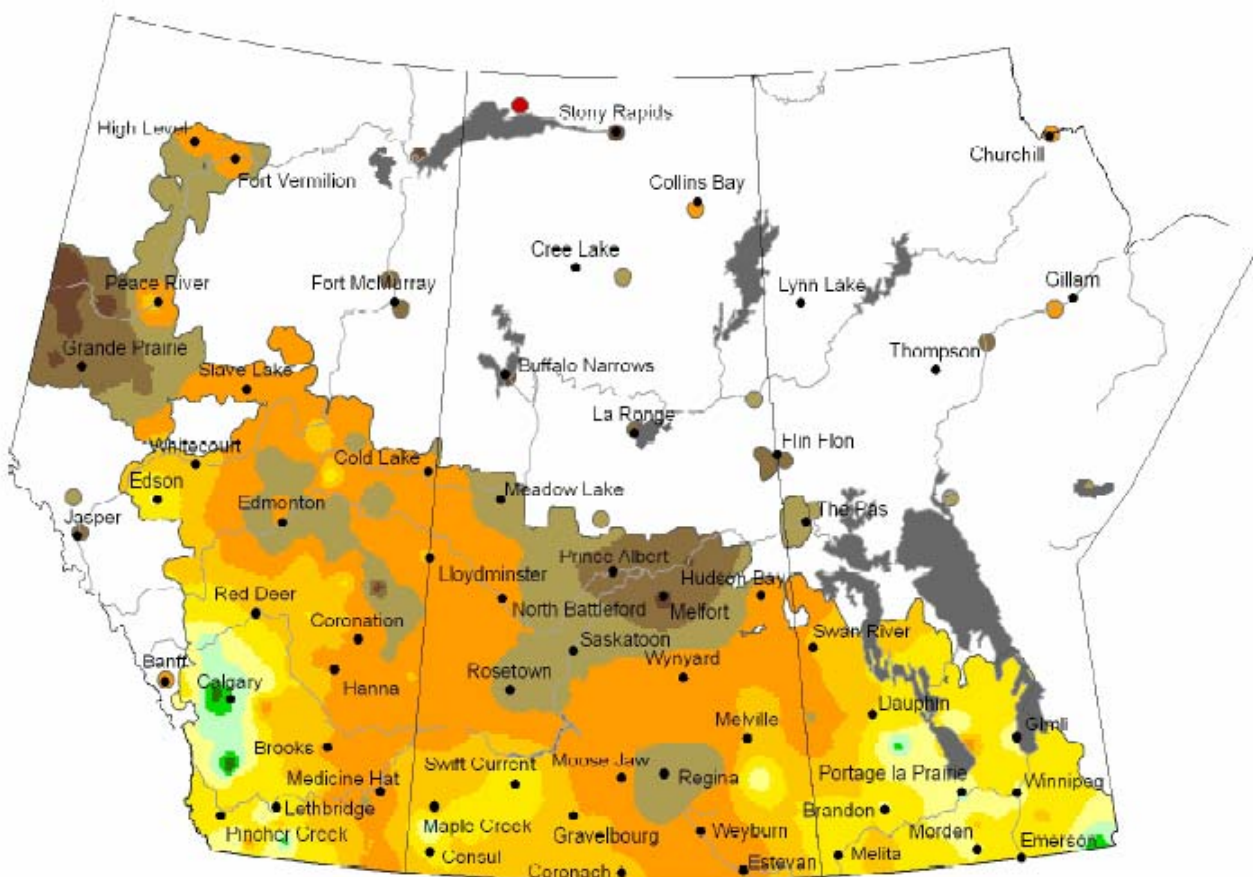
Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS). Data provided through partnership with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and many Provincial agencies.

Created: 07/08/08
www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought



2 Month (60 Days) Accumulated Precipitation (Prairie Region)

May 9, 2008 to July 7, 2008



Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.



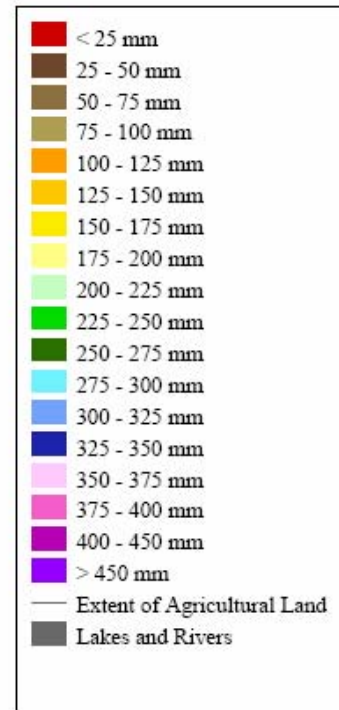
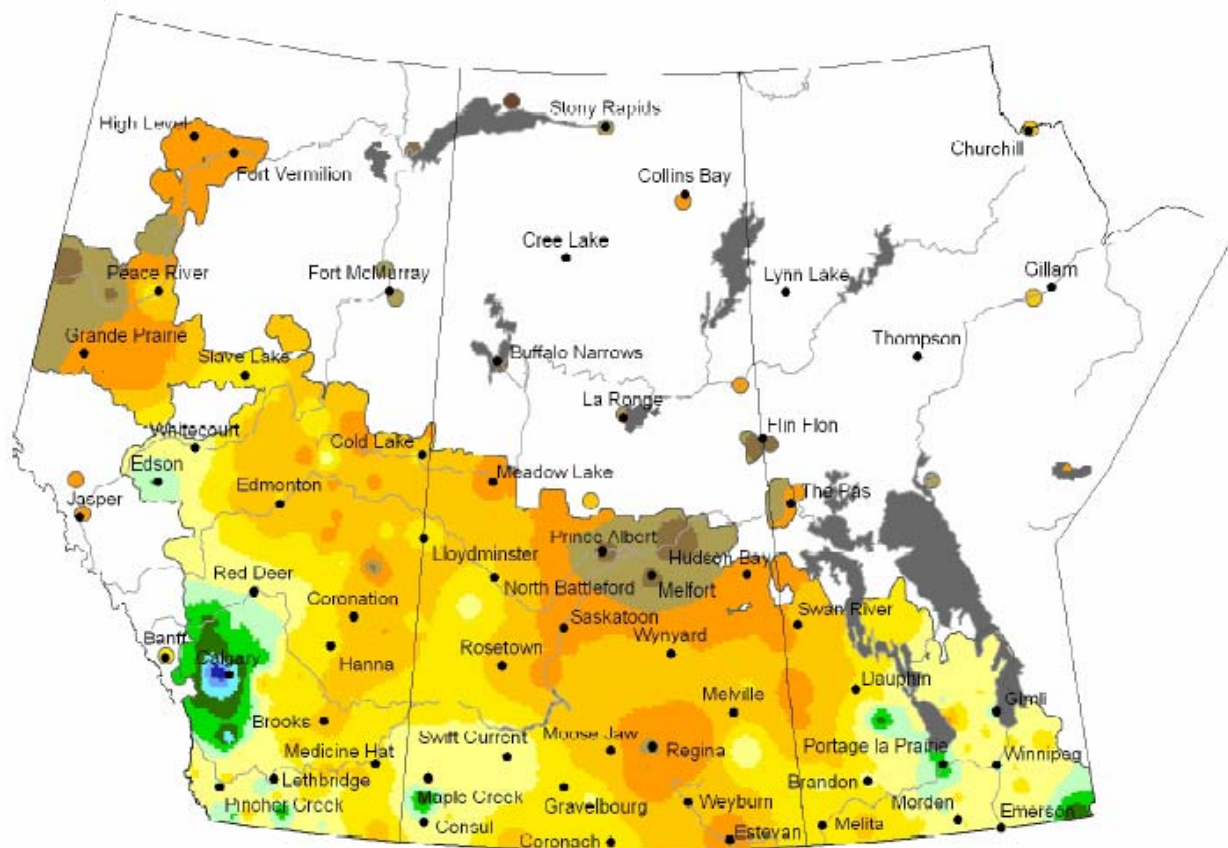
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3 Month (90 Days) Accumulated Precipitation (Prairie Region)

April 9, 2008 to July 7, 2008



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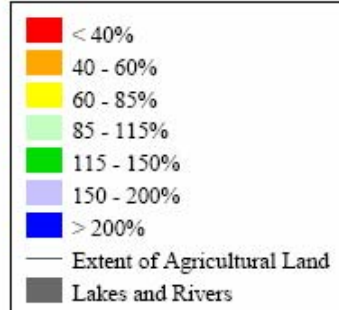
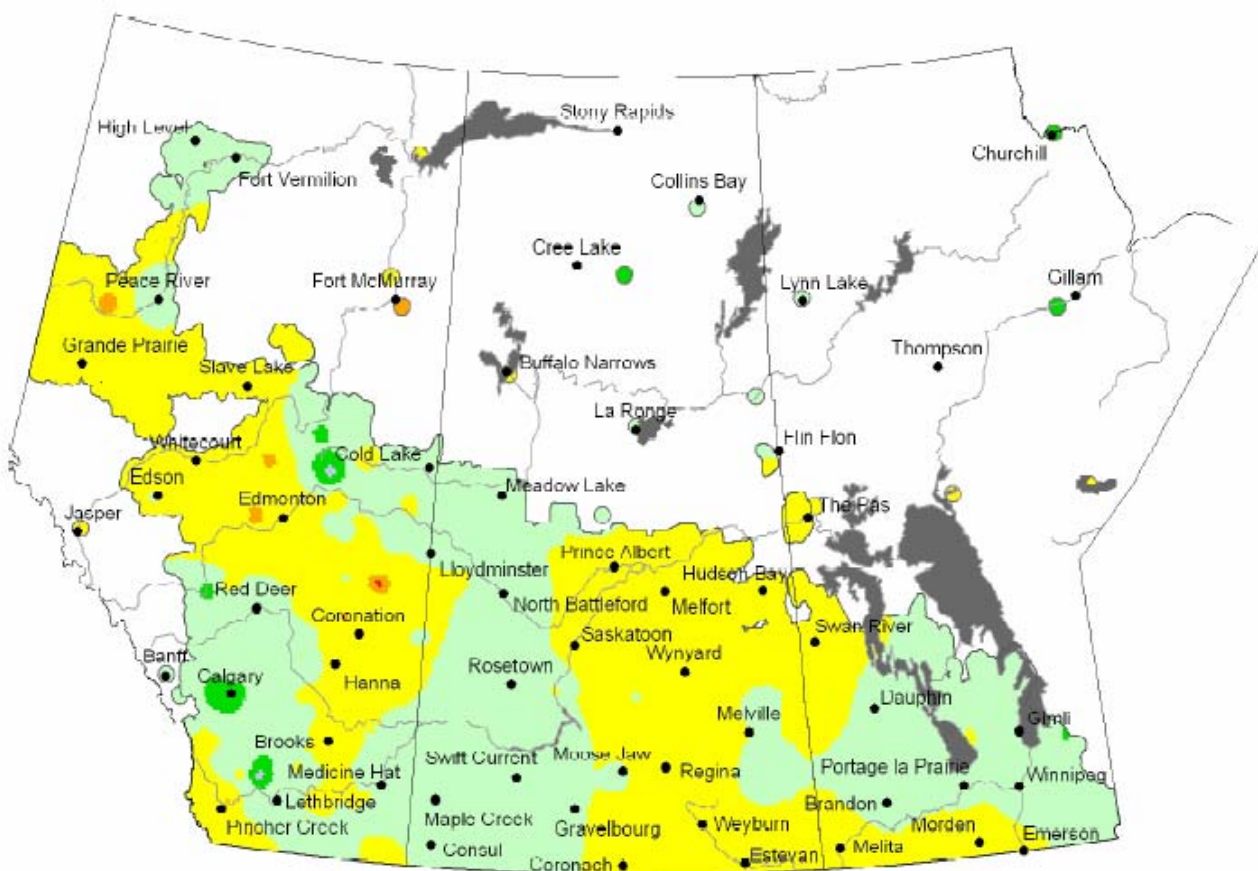
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www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought



Percent of Average Precipitation (Prairie Region)

September 1, 2007 to July 7, 2008



Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.



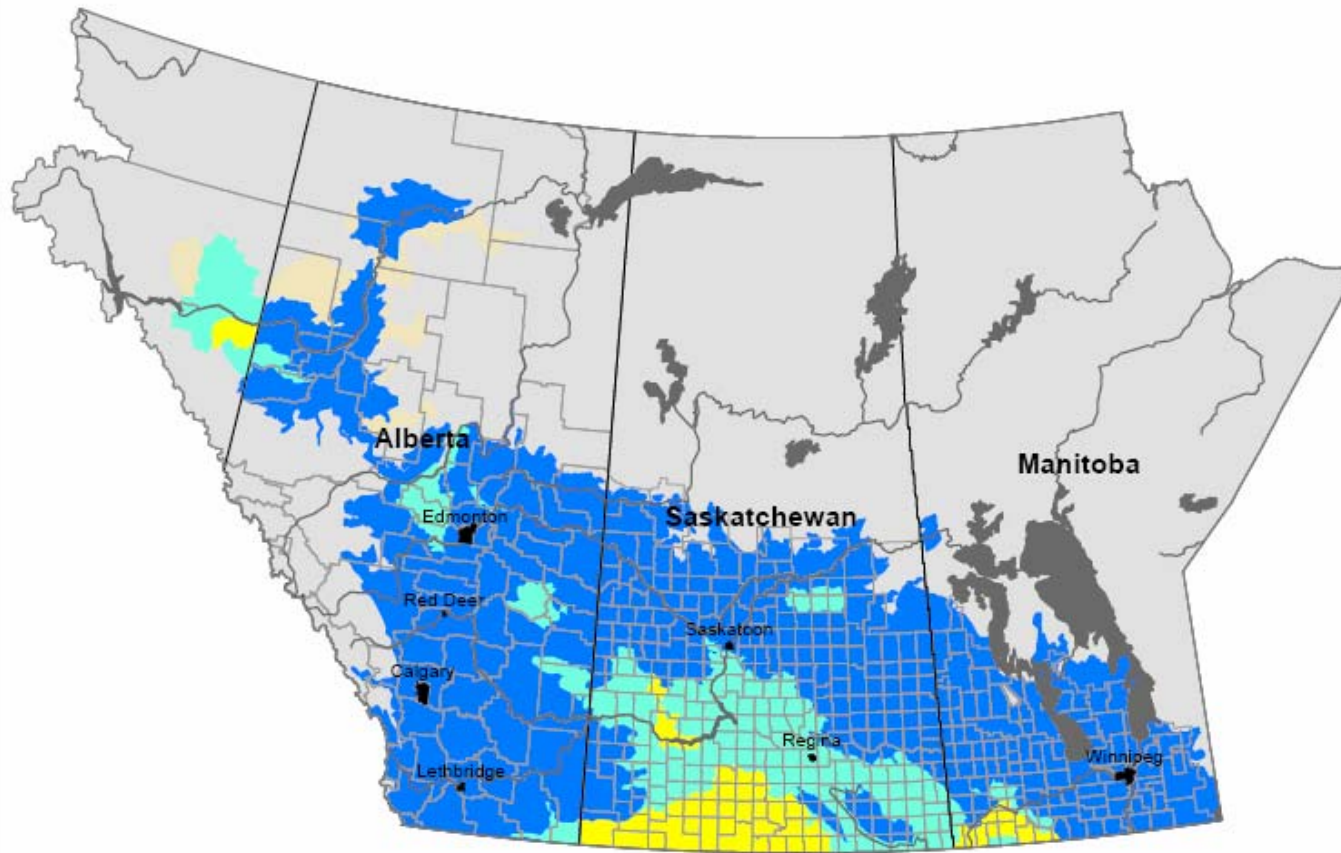
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On-Farm Surface Water Supplies

July 1, 2008



On-Farm Surface Water Supplies

- Water unavailable/unusable
- Water shortages occurring
- Some water shortages anticipated
- No water shortages anticipated
- Insufficient data/non-agricultural areas
- No report

The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and localized conditions.

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