



February 26, 2016

2016-26

Mr. Chad MacPherson
Executive Director
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
Box 4752
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4
ssga@sasktel.net

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Saskatchewan Parks land area encompasses approximately three million acres. Of that, 90,000 acres are grassland (or 1.3 per cent of the total native grassland in the province). Much of that grassland within the provincial parks system is grazed. Approximately 17,000 head of cattle are presently permitted to graze within provincial parks.

Grazing is permitted on park land where it does not conflict with other park uses. Some areas within the parks system do not have livestock grazing permitted due to conflict with recreational uses for the land, the presence of Species at Risk or when the area has a unique or remarkable feature that may be compromised by livestock grazing. Grazing and grass banking within the provincial parks system must be in compliance with its conservation mandate.

It was informative to meet with you and the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association on February 9, to discuss livestock grazing and the concept of grass banking. The Ministry is willing to work with the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association in accommodating potential areas of interest for grazing purposes. In addition to this, the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture will take the initiative to organize a meeting to further discuss the concept of grass banking.

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If you have any further questions regarding livestock grazing within Saskatchewan parks, please do not hesitate to contact Twyla MacDougall, Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks, at (306) 787-6717 or e-mail at twyla.macdougall@gov.sk.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Docherty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Docherty
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

cc: Michel Tremblay, Landscape Management Specialist, Parks, Culture and Sport
Lee Auten, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs, Agriculture