



July 15, 2014

2014-180

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
PO Box 4752
REGINA SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for forwarding the resolutions from the 101st Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Annual General Meeting. In your letter, you specifically requested a response from the Ministry of Environment on resolution number seven which states: “be it resolved that SSGA to lobby the federal and provincial governments to enable the sections of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) that support voluntary conservation agreements that are fully compensated and recognized by the act”.

The Government of Saskatchewan is not in a position to enable sections of federal legislation such as SARA. Saskatchewan’s legislation to manage species at risk (SAR) and their habitat includes The Wildlife Act, 1998, and The Wild Species at Risk Regulations.

Although provincial legislation does not have any sections that reference compensation and recognition of voluntary conservation agreements, the Government of Saskatchewan is fully supportive of encouraging voluntary stewardship-based approaches to the conservation of SAR. The provincial government has been an active leader, working together with the various departments of the federal government (e.g., Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada and Parks Canada Agency) to develop and implement results-based stewardship mechanisms to conserve SAR in southwestern Saskatchewan, recognizing the contributions of ranchers as good stewards of the land. Voluntary conservation agreements are one of the many tools, including regulatory approaches, which will result in effective management of SAR and protection of critical habitat within our province.

To this effect, a non-profit delivery organization called South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc. (SODCAP) has been formed. Its mission is to champion partnerships for coordinated and innovative land management practices to help sustain and recover multiple SAR and their habitats in the South of the Divide region, in balance with sustainable land and resource use.

I hope your organization and members will actively participate in this organization and continue to be part of the South of the Divide initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Moe'.

Scott Moe
Minister of Environment