



2019-78

MAR 12 2019

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
(ssga@sasktel.net)

chad
Dear Mr. MacPherson:

I am writing to respond to resolution number two from the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) semi-annual meeting resolutions.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to protecting 12 per cent of Saskatchewan's terrestrial and inland water habitats in support of the federal Target 1 goal. We fully recognize that, for some of the ecoregions of Saskatchewan, to achieve this we will need to develop innovative solutions that meet the needs of Saskatchewan residents, while still delivering on protection and accountability goals.

We are currently exploring the possibilities around "Other Effective Conservation Measures" (OECMs) as a means to incorporate the stewardship activities of your members on native grasslands. OECM requirements are still being determined, but we would be happy to have staff work with SSGA as this becomes clearer.

I would urge you to examine the IUCN website (iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/guidelines_for_recognising_and_reporting_oecms_-_january_2018.pdf) for their draft definition as guidance. We would be interested in working with SSGA on determining how OECMs could be defined and implemented in Saskatchewan, then work to determine and document how the modified SARPAL agreements might meet the criteria of an OECM. I would also urge you to look at how the documenting and reporting on the achievement of the goals of these projects would be undertaken.

I appreciate the work SSGA is doing on this file and look forward to further opportunities to continue this work in a meaningful way. Please contact Ms. Yeen Ten Hwang at YeenTen.Hwang@gov.sk.ca or (306) 787-5079 to further discuss OECMs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan'.

Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment

cc: Yeen Ten Hwang, Fish, Wildlife and Lands, Ministry of Environment