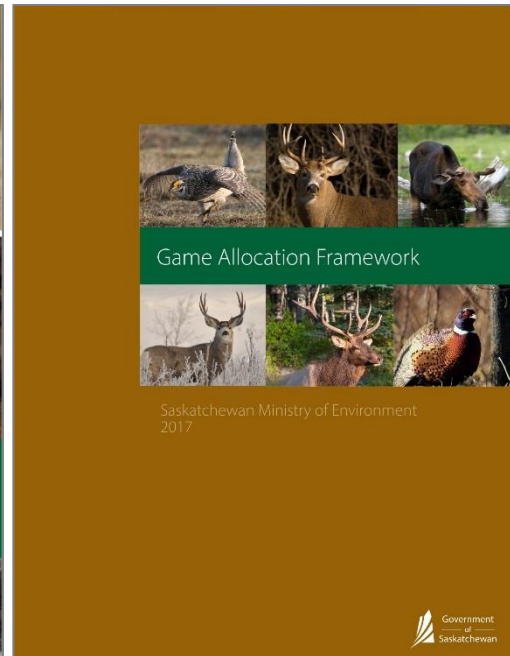


# An Overview of Wildlife Management

SARM Division Meetings  
Fish & Wildlife Branch  
June 2023

# Guiding Documents



Also includes annual reports:

- Hunters' and Trappers' Guide
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Management Report

All documents found at: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/parks-recreation-heritage-and-arts/hunting-trapping-and-angling/game-management-plan>

# Data Used in Wildlife Management

- Ground-Based Trend Surveys
  - Spring Deer Recruitment Surveys
  - Pronghorn Herd Structure Survey
  - Spotlight Deer Surveys
- Aerial Surveys
  - Population Density
  - Herd Structure
- Citizen Science Surveys
  - Hunter Harvest Survey
  - Co-operative Wildlife Management Survey
  - Annual Status of Furbearers Survey
- Research

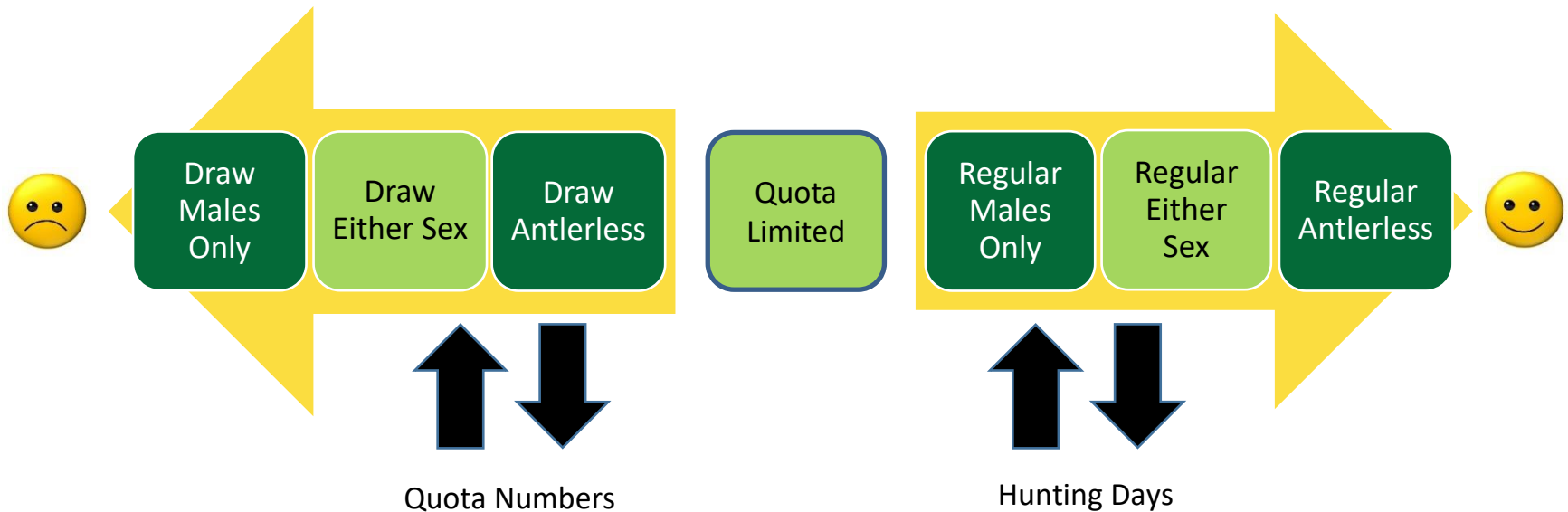
- Weather Severity
  - Winter Severity Index
  - Drought Index
- Habitat Availability
  - Habitat Management Plan
  - Habitat Suitability Indices
- Disease
  - Chronic Wasting Disease
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

- Socio-economic Indicators
  - SCIC Claims Data
  - SGI Claims Data
  - Licence Sales
- Field Reports
  - Staff (ecologists, conservation officers)
  - Communities (Indigenous, municipalities)
  - Public (landowners, hunters)
  - Wildlife Advisory Committee

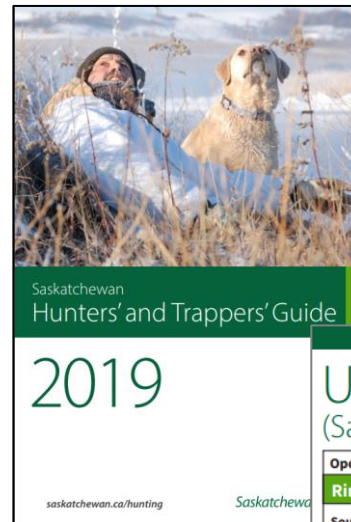
# Tools to Manage Harvest



- **Season Type:** Closed, Draw, Quota Limited, Regular, Open
- **Dates:** length (long/short), aligned with/avoiding important time periods (for example: rut, breeding season)
- **Quotas/Bag Limit:** increased/decreased, single/multiple, animal class
- **Firearm Type:** increase/decreased success



# Species Management Plans | *in Action*



<b>Sharp-tailed Grouse</b>		
<b>Recommended Harvest Strategy</b>	<b>Examples of Associated Management Actions</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
		<b>Harvest Rate Threshold</b>
<b>Base</b>	Daily Bag Limit: 3 Possession Limit: 6	>2.0 (3 Year Average)
<b>Restrictive</b>	Daily Bag Limit: 2 Possession Limit: 4	1.0-2.0 (3 Year Average)
<b>Closed</b>	No Season	<1.0 (3 Year Average)

Government of Saskatchewan

Welcome, Katherine My Account | Sign Out

HOME MY ACCOUNT PURCHASE A LICENCE RESIDENCY VERIFICATION ISSUERS KEY DATES FAQ

My Account Hunter Harvest Surveys

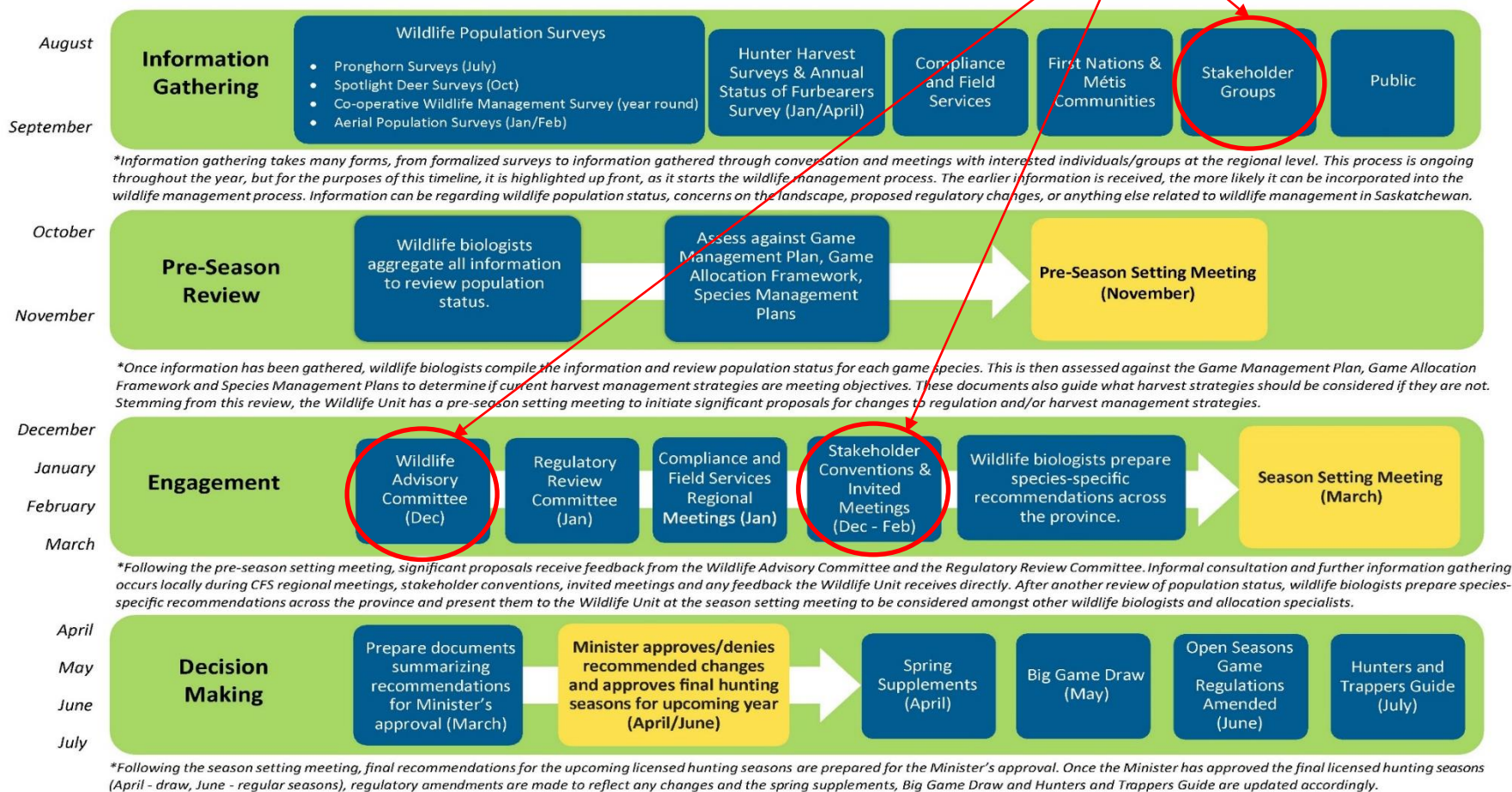
Account Summary Pending Completed

35		
Upland Game Birds (Saskatchewan Residents Only)		
<small>Note: If you only plan on hunting upland game birds, you do not require a migratory game bird permit.</small>		
Open Game Bird Districts	Season Dates	Bag Limit
<b>Ring-necked Pheasants</b>		
<b>South Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 1 to 4	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	Daily limit: 3 (cocks only) Possession limit: 6
<b>Sharp-tailed Grouse</b>		
<b>South Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 1 to 4	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14	Daily limit: 2; Possession limit: 4
<b>North Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Unit 5	Sept. 15 - Dec. 7	Daily limit: 2; Possession limit: 4
<b>Game Bird Management Unit 6</b>	Sept. 15 - Dec. 7	<b>Daily limit: 3; Possession limit: 6</b>
<b>Gray (Hungarian) Partridge</b>		
<b>South Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 1, 2 and 4	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	Daily limit: 4; Possession limit: 8
<b>Game Bird Management Unit 3</b>	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	<b>Daily limit: 8; Possession limit: 16</b>
<b>North Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 5 and 6	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	Daily limit: 4; Possession limit: 8
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>		
<b>South and North Game Bird Districts</b> Game Bird Management Units 1 to 6	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	Daily limit: 10; Possession limit: 20
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>		
<b>North Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 5 and 6	Sept. 15 - Dec. 31	Daily limit: 10; Possession limit: 20
<b>Ptarmigan (Willow and Rock)</b>		
<b>North Game Bird District</b> Game Bird Management Units 5 and 6	Nov. 1, 2019 - Mar. 31, 2020	Daily limit: 10; Possession limit: 20
<b>Additional Information</b>		
<b>South Game Bird District includes:</b> <b>Game Bird Management Unit 1</b> WMZs 1-14 and 19, Saskatchewan Landing and Cypress Hills (West Block) provincial parks, Webb National Wildlife Area and prairie national wildlife areas units 5, 10, 11, 14-21 and 23-26 <b>Game Bird Management Unit 2</b> WMZs 15-18, 31-36, Regina/Moose Jaw WMZ, Moose Mountain Provincial Park, and prairie national wildlife areas unit 27. <b>Game Bird Management Unit 3</b> WMZs 23-30, 44, 45E, 45W, 46, Saskatoon WMZ, that portion of Douglas Provincial Park located west of Diefenbaker Lake (Gordon McKenzie Arm), Bradwell National Wildlife Area and prairie national wildlife areas units 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 22 and 28.		



# Wildlife Management Process

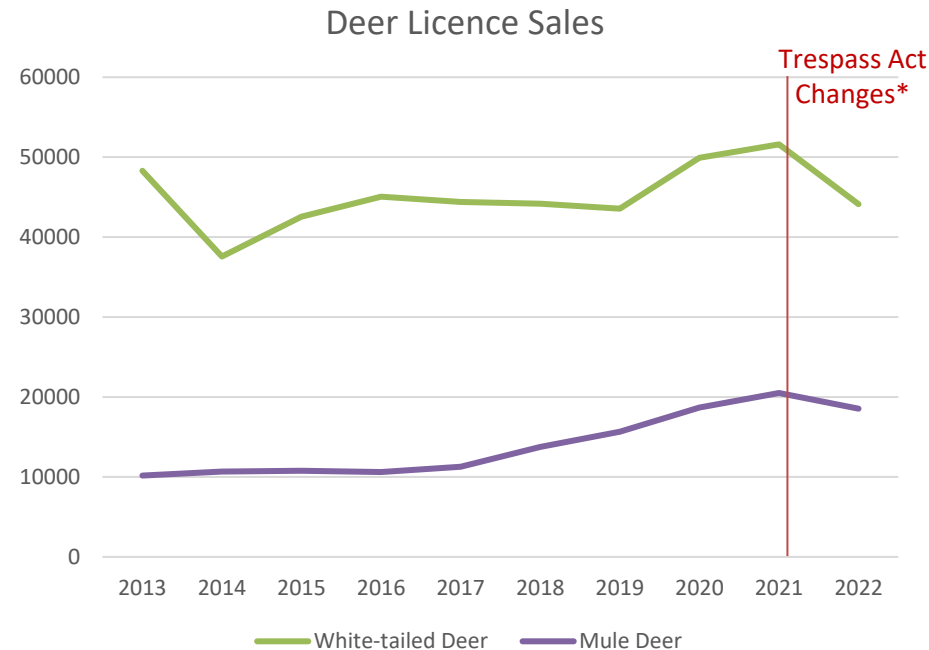
## Opportunities for Input





# Trespass to Property Act

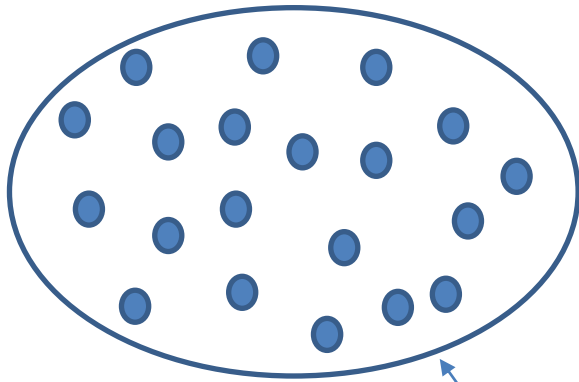
- As of January 1, 2022 the new *Trespass to Property Act* has come into force.
- Permission is required to access private and leased Crown land (excepting community pastures) for any purpose.
  - Permission can be written, electronic, verbal or through signage.
- Community pastures follow access provisions in the Hunters and Trappers Guide.



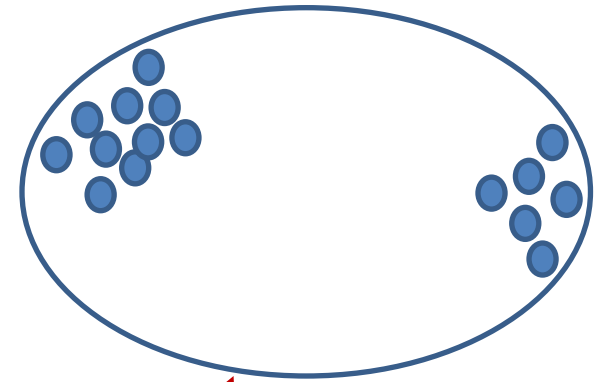
\*One year of decreased licence sales is a signal, not necessarily cause and effect and there may be confounding variables. Licence sales will continue to be monitored.

**Hunting seasons only work when hunters can  
access the animals.**

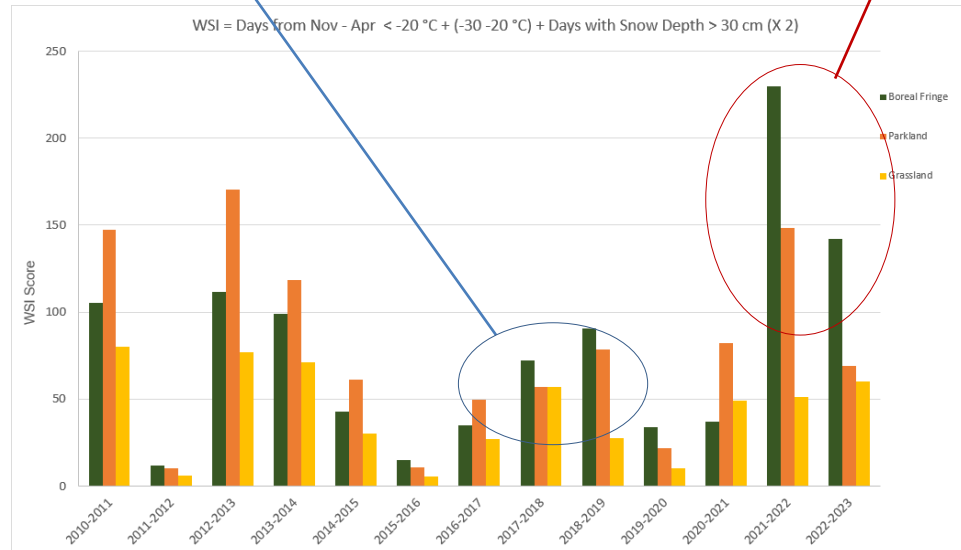
# Population vs. Congregation



Moderate  
Winter



Severe  
Winter





# Dealing with Congregations

- ***Role of the Landowner: Prevent access to food and shelter.***
  - Animals will congregate in places where food and shelter are most easily accessible.
- ***Role of SCIC: Deliver the Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation Programming***
  - Provide funding for prevention methods and compensation for losses.
- ***Role of ENV: Manage wildlife populations at a level that balances the needs of all users using regulated harvest.***
  - Ensure sustainable populations that support constitutionally-protected rights-based harvest and regulated hunting opportunities within socially-acceptable levels.
  - Primary management occurs through annual regulated hunting seasons.
  - In situations where preventative measures have not been successful, additional harvest opportunities may assist with local human-wildlife conflict.
- ***Role of CPPS: Assist in situations involving dangerous wildlife.***

# Big Game Management Extended Season Hunts

**Purpose:** A big game management extended season hunt will be established for the specific purposes of managing big game species of wildlife that are a threat to agricultural products from overpopulation.

- Builds on existing policy work within the principles of the Game Management Plan and Game Allocation Framework.
- Ministry of Environment will work with SCIC and SARM to identify areas of high wildlife damage.
- Ministry of Environment and working group members will develop criteria for when a Big Game Management Extended Season Hunt would be triggered.
- Once triggered, ENV, SARM, SCIC will propose allocation that is sustainable and aligned with the Game Management Plan, Game Allocation Framework and Species Management Plans.
- ENV will be responsible for setting big game management seasons and issuing licences through the Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licensing (HAL).
- Landowners providing access permission to hunters will be an important aspect.

# Questions?

