

# Status Update

January 21, 2025

## Chapter 12, Agriculture – Conserving Agricultural Crown Land, 2023 Report Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>1. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture track all critical habitat on Crown land it is responsible for in its IT system.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	80	Implemented	<p>The ministry has been tracking general critical habitat reservations since 2018 on each lease; however, not critical habitat for individual species at risk (i.e., species-specific critical habitat reservations). What this has meant is when a species comes off of or has been downgraded on the federal Species At Risk Act list, we were unable to determine if the species' critical habitat was part of a lessee's lease.</p> <p>Since the 2023, the ministry has added species-specific critical habitat reservations on each parcel of land for 21 out of 22 federally designated species at risk and is currently entering species-specific critical habitat reservations on each parcel of land for the final species at risk.</p> <p>Each reservation has been reviewed following entry to confirm accuracy. Once complete, critical habitat reservations for each individual species at risk can be tracked on all leases.</p>	N/A	Implemented - 2024
<p><b>2. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture formalize factors it considers when determining which</p>	84	Partially Implemented	The revised First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework was implemented in January 2024.	Approval of formal policy is required.	Partially Implemented – planned for spring of 2025

<p>Indigenous communities to consult with when proposing the lease or sale of Crown land.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>			<p>The ministry has worked to formalize the factors it considers when determining which Indigenous communities, it consults with in a draft policy.</p> <p>The draft policy clearly follows guidance from the revised First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework to identify communities proximate to the location or where there is knowledge of the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights and traditional uses.</p>		
<p><b>3. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture complete baseline range health assessments of pasture association leases.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	86	Partially implemented	<p>The ministry, through the Regional Services Branch and Lands Branch is fully engaged in completing the baseline range health assessments on pasture association leases within the established 10-year timeframe as part of their ongoing role and work, along with post range health assessment follow up extension with clients. Approximately 2/3 of the range health assessments have been completed to date.</p>	Approximately 1/3 of the range health assessments remain to be completed.	Partially Implemented – planned for 2028
<p><b>4. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture communicate the results of range health assessments to pasture associations timely.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	87	Implemented	<p>The ministries Regional Services staff and Land Management Specialists, meet with the pasture associations to discuss their range health assessments during the pasture association’s annual meetings.</p> <p>All inspection notes, photos, etc. are stored in Enterprise Crown Land Management System.</p>	N/A	Implemented - 2024
<p><b>5. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture make implementation of key recommendations to lessees in the range health assessments mandatory and set consequences for non-compliance.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	88	Implemented	<p>The Lands Management Specialists will develop lease utilization plans to address administrative or management issues detected during range health assessments.</p> <p>Lease utilization plans may contain several required actions including, mandatory reductions in stocking rate, mandatory periods of rest, removal of livestock</p>	N/A	Implemented – spring of 2024

			<p>owned by non-patrons or weed control, if these are not followed, it could lead to lease cancellation.</p> <p>The ministry uses the Enterprise Crown Land Management System to electronically to track lease utilization plans.</p>		
<p><b>6. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture conduct timely inspections on individually leased Crown land and centrally track results.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	89	Partially Implemented	<p>The ministry will continue to review and assess individual lessee’s lands ahead of their lease renewals, targeting 300-400 lease renewals/inspections per year. Additional review and assessment of individual lessee’s lands ahead of their lease renewals is something the ministry is working on as part of good client service and continued review of our Crown land leases.</p> <p>Over the last several years we have implemented tools that will help us to improve inspection of leases and ensure tracking of Crown leases.</p> <p>All inspection notes, photos, etc. are stored in the Enterprise Crown Land Management System.</p>	<p>The ministry is reviewing resource utilization to ensure a risk-based approach is taken with respect to inspections.</p> <p>This review will determine if leases are inspected on a more regular basis, rather than 33-year cycle.</p>	Partially implemented – planned for 2028
<p><b>7. New Recommendation:</b> We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture monitor the implementation of range health assessment recommendations and require actions from lease utilizations plans.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	90	Implemented	<p>If there are serious concerns from the range health assessment, the ministry will enter a lease utilization plan with the pasture association. These are mandatory requirements.</p> <p>The ministry uses the Enterprise Crown Land Management System to electronically to track lease utilization plans.</p> <p>Recommendations that are over and above what is required by the lease agreement are not mandatory. If the pasture association requires assistance from the ministry to implement these</p>	N/A	Implemented – spring of 2024

			recommendations, ministry staff will work with them to provide support and assistance (e.g., Regional Services will work with pasture associations on managing invasive weeds).		
<p><b>8. New Recommendation</b>  We recommend the Ministry of Agriculture track and evaluate trends of non-compliance it observes when completing range health assessments or inspections.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> New</p>	90	Partially implemented	The lease utilization plans are being entered into the Enterprise Crown Land Management System, which will allow for data tracking.	The ministry will collect data over multiple years to allow for the evaluation of trend information/data.	Partially Implemented – planned for 2028

## Status Update

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### Chapter 17, Agriculture – Mitigating Pests in Crops and Pastures, 2023 Report Volume 2

Recommendation and Status at Time of Audit (Indicate whether new or outstanding)	Page	Current Status (implemented, partially implemented, not implemented)	Actions Taken to Implement Since PA Report	Planned Actions for Implementation	Timeline for Implementation
<p><b>1. Outstanding Recommendation:</b> We recommended the Ministry of Agriculture revisit how it will conduct surveillance to determine populations of Richardson’s ground squirrel. (2020 Report – Volume 2, p. 120, Recommendation 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 8, 2021)</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Partially Implemented</p>	161	Implemented	<p>The ministry will continue to evaluate gopher populations using the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Cooperation (SCIC) claims data.</p> <p>The ministry developed an online survey to evaluate gopher populations in the province. The results from the 2023-2024 online survey have been analyzed and reported. The survey has been updated and released again for 2024-2025.</p> <p>SCIC claims data and the ministry online survey data have been compiled and are being modeled to determine factors that most influence populations.</p> <p>The ministry continues to provide financial support to RMs, FNs and producers under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Gopher Control Program, incorporating integrated pest management.</p>	N/A	Implemented
<p><b>2. Outstanding Recommendation:</b> We recommended the Ministry of Agriculture proactively provide producers with written guidance about detecting and reporting the</p>	162	Partially implemented	With The Plant Health Act in full force, the ministry is in the process of finalizing science-based communication plans for regulated pests which will be made available by the start of the 2025 growing season.	The ministry will finalize and implement science-based communication plans for bacterial ring rot, late blight and potato	Spring-summer 2025

<p>presence of late blight and bacterial ring rot. (2020 Report – Volume 2, p. 121, Recommendation 2; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 8, 2021)</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Partially Implemented</p>			<p>The ministry supports producers by providing potato extension publications on the Government of Saskatchewan website.</p> <p>The ministry collaborated with industry to develop the Farm Biosecurity Guide for Saskatchewan Vegetable Producers, which also has response plans that help producers reduce the risk of crop pests in potato operations.</p>	<p>wart, which includes extension tools, disease detection, reporting, management practices and response plans.</p>	
<p><b>3. Outstanding Recommendation:</b> We recommended the Ministry of Agriculture, working with its key stakeholders, provide producers with written guidance on developing response plans for grasshoppers, late blight, bacterial ring rot, and brown or Norway rat. (2020 Report – Volume 2, p. 123, Recommendation 4; Public Accounts Committee agreement February 8, 2021)</p> <p>Status – Partially Implemented</p>	163	Partially implemented	<p>With The Plant Health Act in full force, the ministry is in the process of finalizing science-based communication plans for regulated pests which will be made available by the start of the 2025 growing season.</p> <p>The ministry provides rural municipalities, producers, and industry with guidance on integrated pest management for declared pests and nuisance pests through extension materials, presentations and extension events.</p> <p>The ministry supports producers, industry, and stakeholders in providing funding towards education, monitoring, and control of declared pests and nuisance pests such as grasshoppers, Richardson’s ground squirrels, and the brown or Norway rat.</p>	<p>The ministry will finalize and implement a science-based communication plans for regulated pests which includes extension tools, disease detection, reporting, management practices and response plans for the 2025 growing season.</p>	Spring-summer 2025