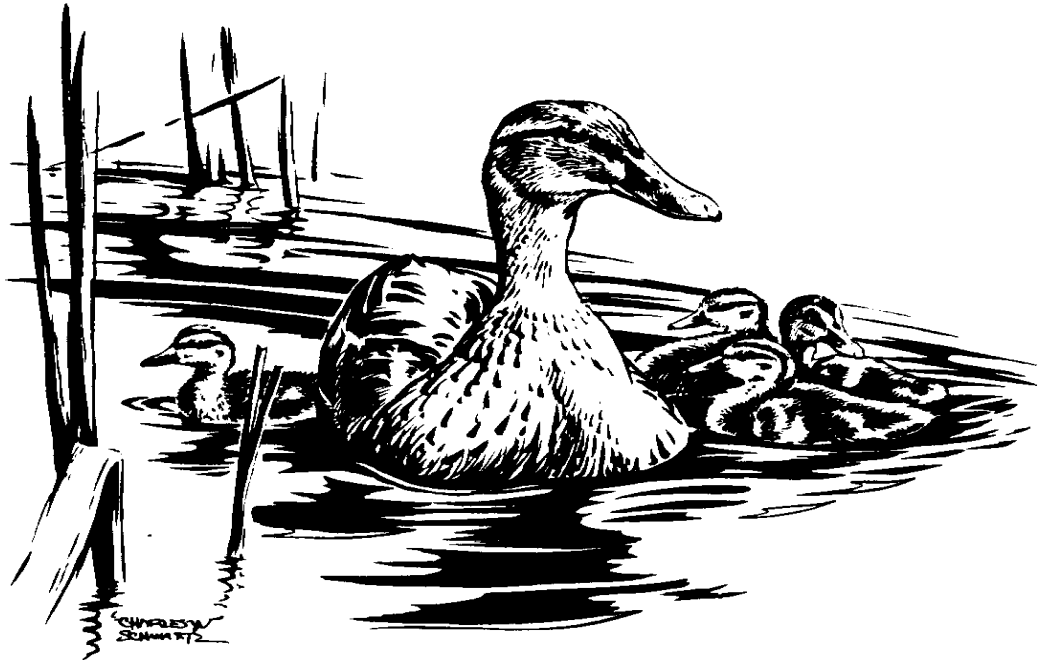


# **2009 PRAIRIE WATERFOWL STATUS REPORT**



**A Briefing Document**

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Prairie and Northern Region  
Winnipeg**

**July 2009**



## INTRODUCTION

May pond estimates in the prairie provinces of western Canada of 3.57 million represented a 17% increase from 2008. Pond numbers were 8% above the 10-year average, and 2% above the long-term average.

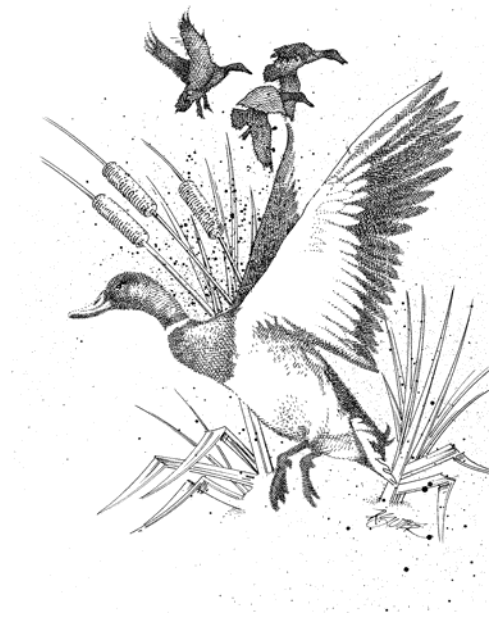
The mallard population estimate in southern prairie Canada decreased in 2009 to a value 4% below that of 2008 (3.038 million). The estimate is also lower than the 10-year (-3%), and long-term averages (-14%). For prairie Canada as a whole mallard numbers in 2009 remained unchanged compared to 2008 and the 10-year average, and were below (-13%) the long-term average.

Northern pintail numbers decreased in southern and northern strata in 2009. Overall in prairie Canada there was a decrease when compared to 2008 (-10%). Estimates were also below the 10-year average (-21%) and the long-term average (-62%).

Estimates for total ducks in prairie Canada decreased slightly in 2009 compared to 2008 (-2%), increased compared to the 10-year average (6%) and decreased compared to the long-term average (-2%).

Prairie Canada duck regulations are based on the Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy (PCMHS). The 2009 breeding population of 5.99 million estimated in the North American pothole region is still above the range requiring a traditional framework. Prairie Canada mallard harvest rate reductions were well in excess of the percentage required by the PCMHS.

All jurisdictions are encouraged to continue to work towards improved populations through the various NAWMP initiatives.





## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. Spring habitat conditions, as measured by the number of **MAY PONDS**, increased in 2009 in Prairie Canada. There were 17% more May ponds in 2009 compared to 2008. There were 8% more May ponds in 2009 compared to the 10-year average, and 2% more compared to the long-term average (*Table 1; Figure 1*).

In southern Manitoba the 2009 May pond estimate of 671 thousand was 12% more than that recorded for 2008, 10% more than the 10-year average and 4% less than the long-term average. In southern Saskatchewan, the 2009 May pond estimate of 2.2 million was 37% above that recorded for 2008, 14% more than the 10-year average, and 9% more than the long-term average. Water conditions were poor in southern Alberta in the spring of 2009 with 687 thousand ponds estimated. This represents a 19% decrease compared to 2008, a 7% decrease compared to the 10-year average, and a 9% decrease compared to the long-term average.

2. The 2009 **TOTAL DUCK** population decreased by 12% in southern Prairie Canada, and increased by 13% in northern Prairie Canada compared to 2008 (*Table 1; Figures 2 and 3*). Total duck numbers are 1% lower than the 10-year average in southern Prairie Canada. In northern Prairie Canada, the population is 16% higher than the 10-year average. Total duck numbers were 5% higher and did not change (0%) compared to the long-term average in southern and northern Prairie Canada, respectively.

In 2009, for northern and southern Prairie Canada combined, total duck numbers were 2% lower than in 2008, 6% more than the 10-year average, and 2% less than the long-term average.

3. The **MALLARD** population estimate in southern Prairie Canada in 2009 was 4% less than in 2008, 3% less than the 10-year average, and 14% less than the long term average (*Table 1; Figure 1 and 4*). The mallard population estimate in northern Prairie Canada in 2009 increased (6%) from 2008, and the 10-year average (5%), but remained below the long-term average (-2%) (*Table 1; Figure 4*).

For Prairie Canada as a whole the 2009 mallard population estimate did not change compared to 2008 and the 10-year average, but was 13% less than the long-term average (*Table 1*).

4. **NORTHERN PINTAIL** numbers decreased in southern Prairie Canada in 2009 (*Table 2; Figure 5*) compared to 2008 (-4%). The numbers were also below the 10-year average (-32%), and long-term average (-67%). In northern Prairie Canada the northern pintail numbers decreased in 2009 compared to 2008 (-22%). They were above the 10-year average (+31%) but remain below the long-term average (-35%).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined the population estimate in 2009 was 10% less than in 2008, 21% less than the 10-year average, and 62% less than the long-term average (*Table 2*).

5. The **SCAUP** population in southern prairie Canada in 2009 was 38% more than that of 2008, 29% more than the 10-year average, and 23% lower than the long-term average (*Table 2*). In northern Prairie Canada the numbers increased compared to 2008 (+19%), and the 10-year average (21%), but remained below the long-term average (-23%) (*Table 2; Figure 6*).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined the estimate for 2009 was 23% more than that for 2008, 23% more than the 10-year average, and 23% lower than the long-term average.

6. Numbers of **CANVASBACK** in southern Prairie Canada in 2009 were above the previous year (+38%) (*Table 2; Figure 7*) higher than the 10-year average (+16%), and higher than the long-term average (+23%). Estimates of canvasback in northern Prairie Canada (*Table 2; Figure 7*) increased in 2009 compared to 2008 (+28%), decreased compared to the 10-year average (-2%), and increased compared to the long-term average (+10%).

For northern and southern Prairie Canada combined (*Table 2*) the 2009 estimate was

35% more than in 2008, 11% more than the 10-year average, and 20% more than the long-term average.

7. Migratory game bird **PERMIT SALES** for residents were higher in 2008 (*Table 3*) in Manitoba (+3%), Saskatchewan (+9%), and Alberta (+14%). Sales of non-resident permits, primarily U.S. in origin, were lower in 2008 compared to 2007 in Manitoba (-20%), Saskatchewan (-14%) and Alberta (-29%). For all of prairie Canada, this represents a 10% increase in resident permit sales, and a 19% decrease in non-resident permit sales. These sales of permits indicate a continued general decline since peak sales in the mid-1970's (*Figure 8*).

11. The **WEIGHTED MALLARD POPULATION ESTIMATES** for the Prairie Pothole Region in 2009 are higher than 75% of the NAWMP goal (*Figure 9*). The PMHS dictates an adherence to traditional (liberal) mallard seasons.

## **APPENDIX A**

*Tables & Figures*



Table 2. A comparison of May breeding populations of northern pintail, scaup and canvasback for Prairie Canada: 2009 versus 2008, 1999-2008 and 1955-2008. (numbers in thousands)

R E G I O N	NORTHERN PINTAIL									SCAUP									CANVASBACK								
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% diff 08	% diff 99-08	% diff 55-08		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% diff 08	% diff 99-08	% diff 55-08		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% diff 08	% diff 99-08	% diff 55-08	
<b>Southern Manitoba</b>	68	57	15	29	48	63	-1	-56		60	97	50	60	70	17	16	-47		48	87	77	31	48	59	-20	-14	
<b>Southern Saskatchewan</b>	858	1024	960	423	444	5	-36	-63		381	391	302	256	324	26	16	-21		162	287	324	166	280	69	37	50	
<b>Southern Alberta</b>	282	611	324	240	172	-28	-26	-76		127	214	182	176	287	63	54	-17		43	76	127	79	52	-34	-16	-21	
<b>SOUTHERN SUBTOTAL</b>	1208	1692	1299	692	664	-4	-32	-67		568	702	535	492	680	38	29	-23		253	450	529	276	381	38	16	23	
<b>Northern Man &amp; Sask</b>	8	6	5	4	20	385	131	-47		349	335	271	355	676	91	83	35		39	13	34	23	49	109	50	-1	
<b>Northern Albt NWT BC</b>	108	126	234	331	243	-27	26	-34		1361	1169	1261	1627	1685	4	7	-34		98	109	139	84	88	5	-18	18	
<b>NORTHERN SUBTOTAL</b>	117	132	240	335	263	-22	31	-35		1710	1504	1532	1982	2362	19	21	-23		137	122	173	107	137	28	-2	10	
<b>PRAIRIE TOTALS</b>	1324	1824	1539	1027	927	-10	-21	-62		2278	2206	2067	2473	3042	23	23	-23		389	573	702	383	517	35	11	20	

Table 3. Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit sales in Prairie Canada: 1998 - 2008.

PROVINCE (TYPE)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	08 vs 07
<b>MANITOBA</b>												
Resident	12147	11051	10338	10475	9570	9550	8813	8990	9212	9236	9554	3
Non-Resident	6298	6382	5472	4563	5262	5574	5431	4844	4929	4993	3991	-20
TOTAL	18445	17433	15810	15038	14832	15124	14244	13834	14141	14229	13545	-5
<b>SASKATCHEWAN</b>												
Resident	14185	12396	11775	10136	8917	8948	8641	8868	8982	8996	9801	9
Non-Resident	7637	9289	10133	8242	8041	9207	9632	9690	9518	9560	8249	-14
TOTAL	21822	21685	21908	18378	16958	18155	18273	18558	18500	18556	18050	-3
<b>ALBERTA</b>												
Resident	19541	18456	18212	16321	14324	14631	14910	15079	15450	15465	17675	14
Non-Resident	2697	2959	3580	3206	3490	3741	3858	4243	3907	3914	2791	-29
TOTAL	22238	21415	21792	19527	17814	18372	18768	19322	19357	19379	20466	6
<b>PRAIRIE CANADA</b>												
Resident	45873	41903	40325	36932	32811	33129	32364	32937	33644	33697	37030	10
Non-Resident	16632	18630	19185	16011	16793	18522	18921	18777	18354	18467	15031	-19
TOTAL	62505	60533	59510	52943	49604	51651	51285	51714	51998	52164	52061	0

\* From Canadian Wildlife Service record of sales to June 15, 2008.

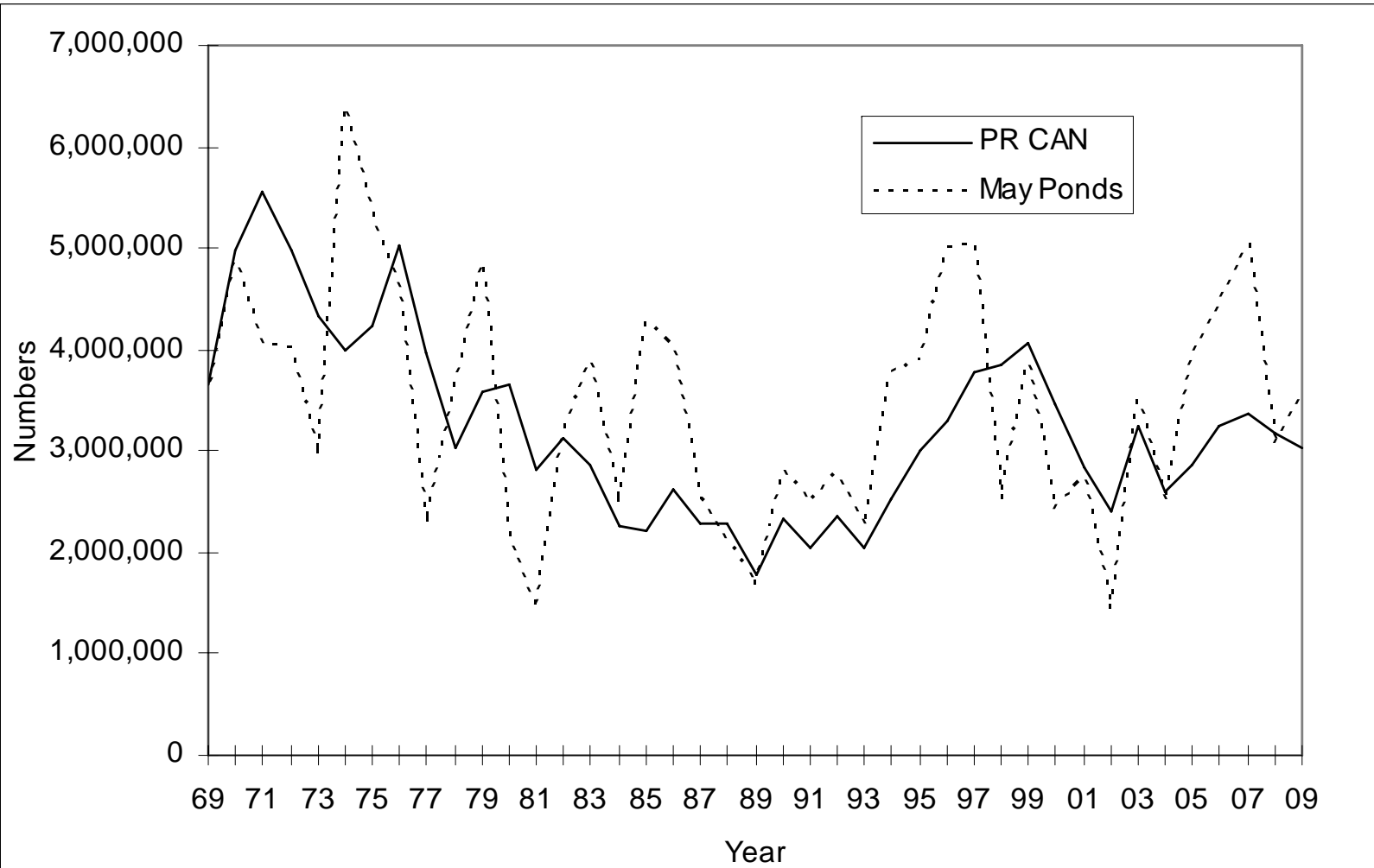


Figure 1. Estimates of Mallards and May Ponds in Southern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

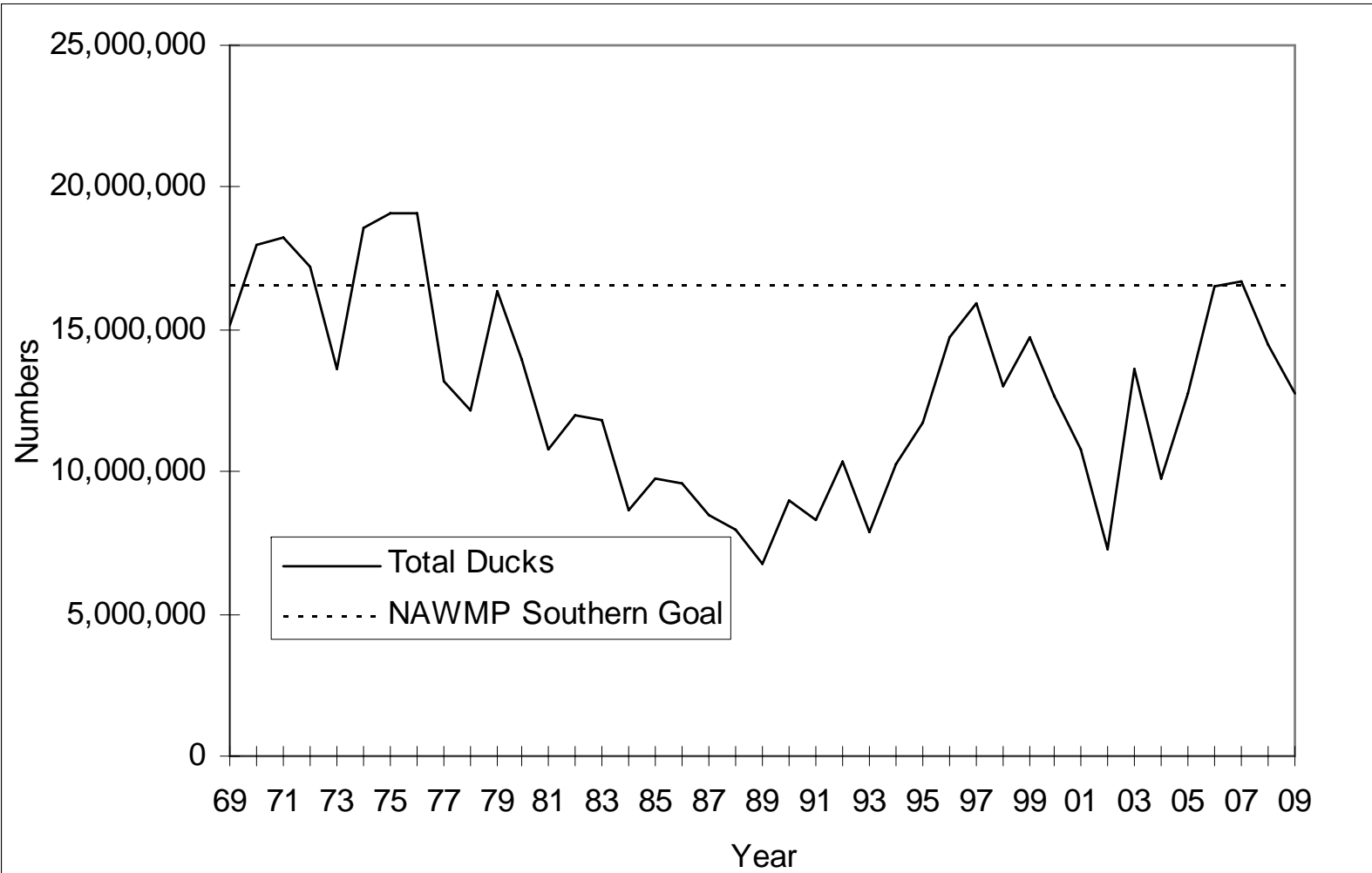


Figure 2. Estimates of Total Ducks in Southern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

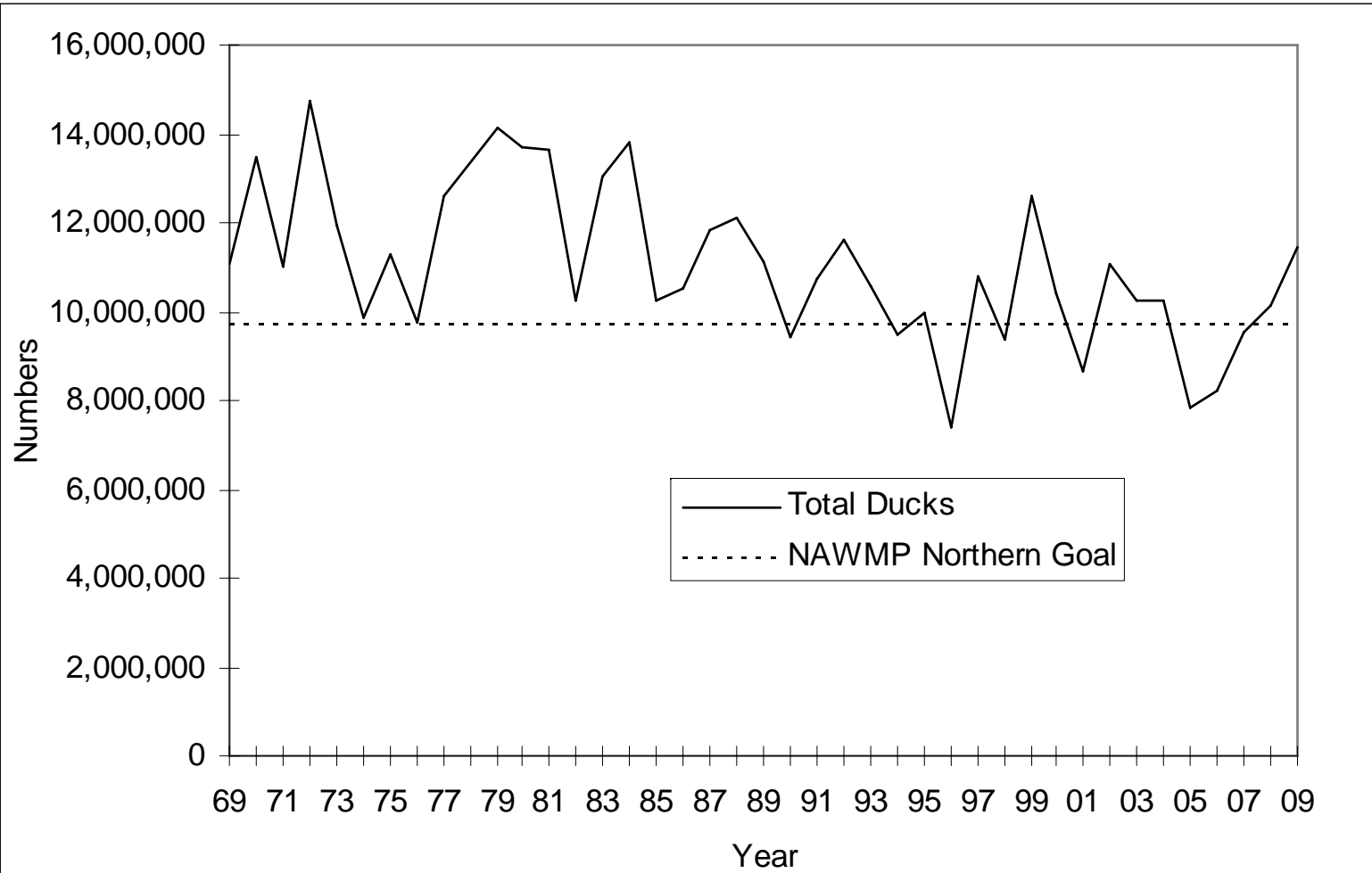


Figure 3. Estimates of Total Ducks in Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

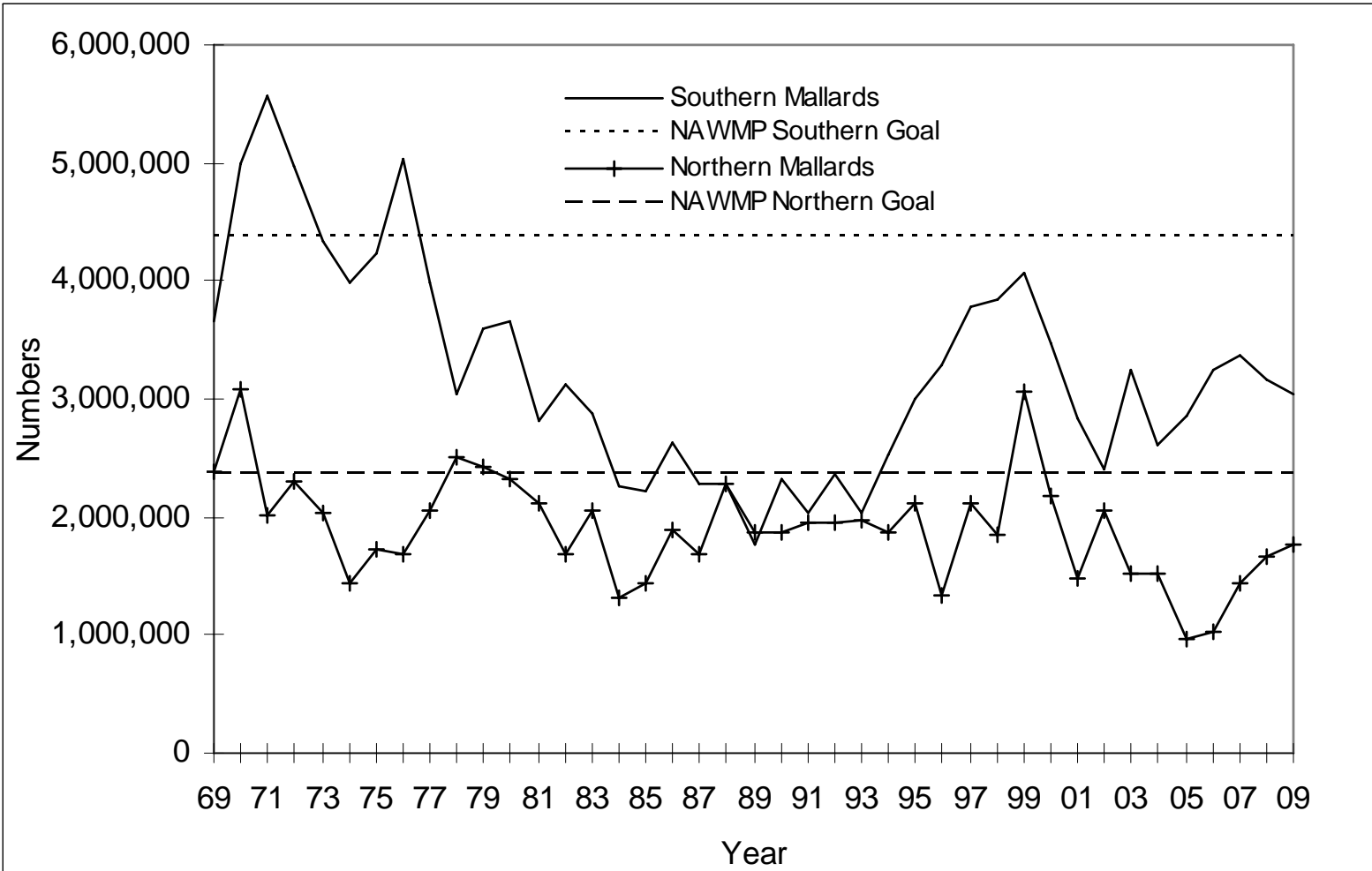


Figure 4. Estimates of Mallards Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

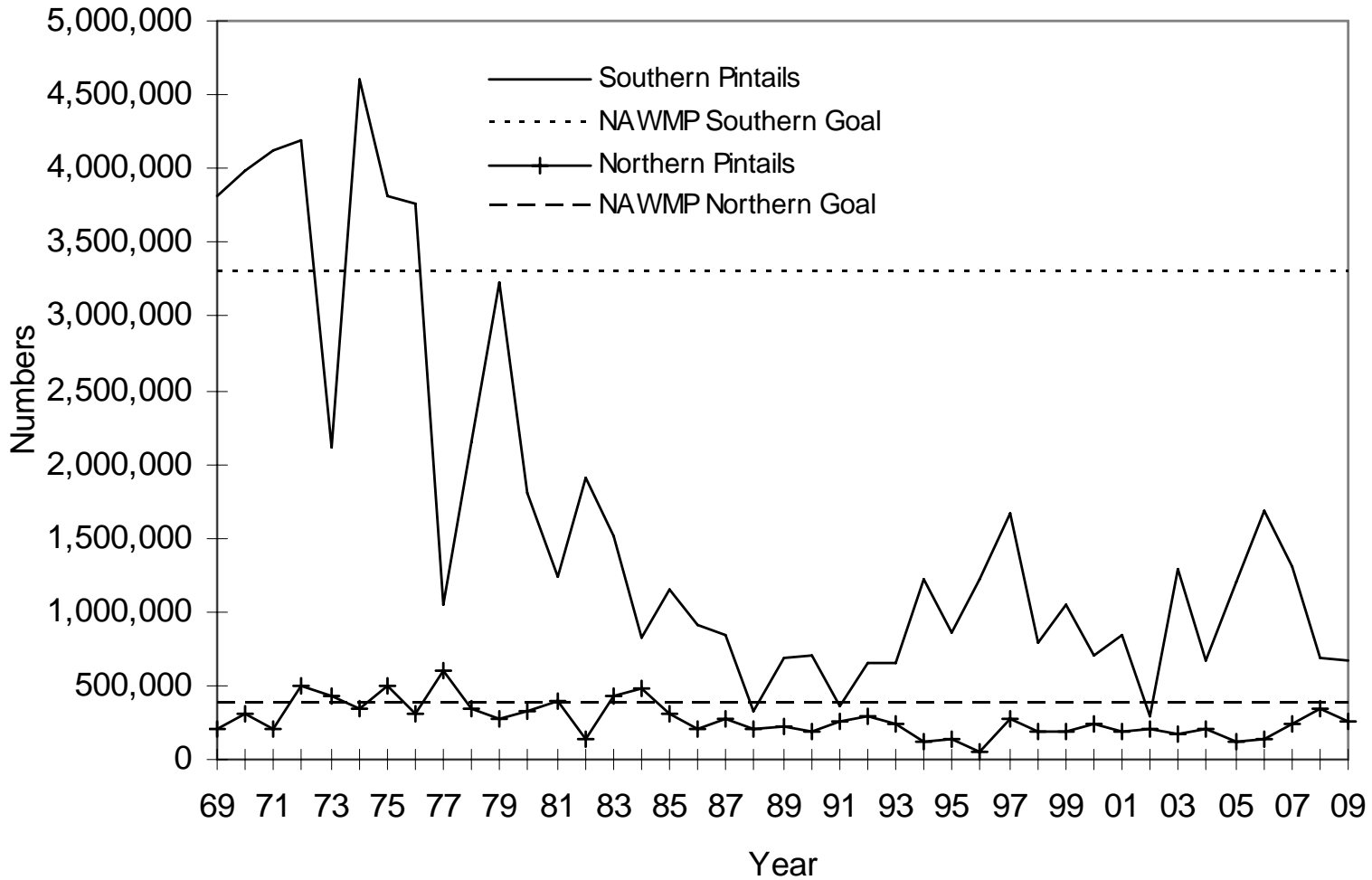


Figure 5. Estimates of Northern Pintail Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

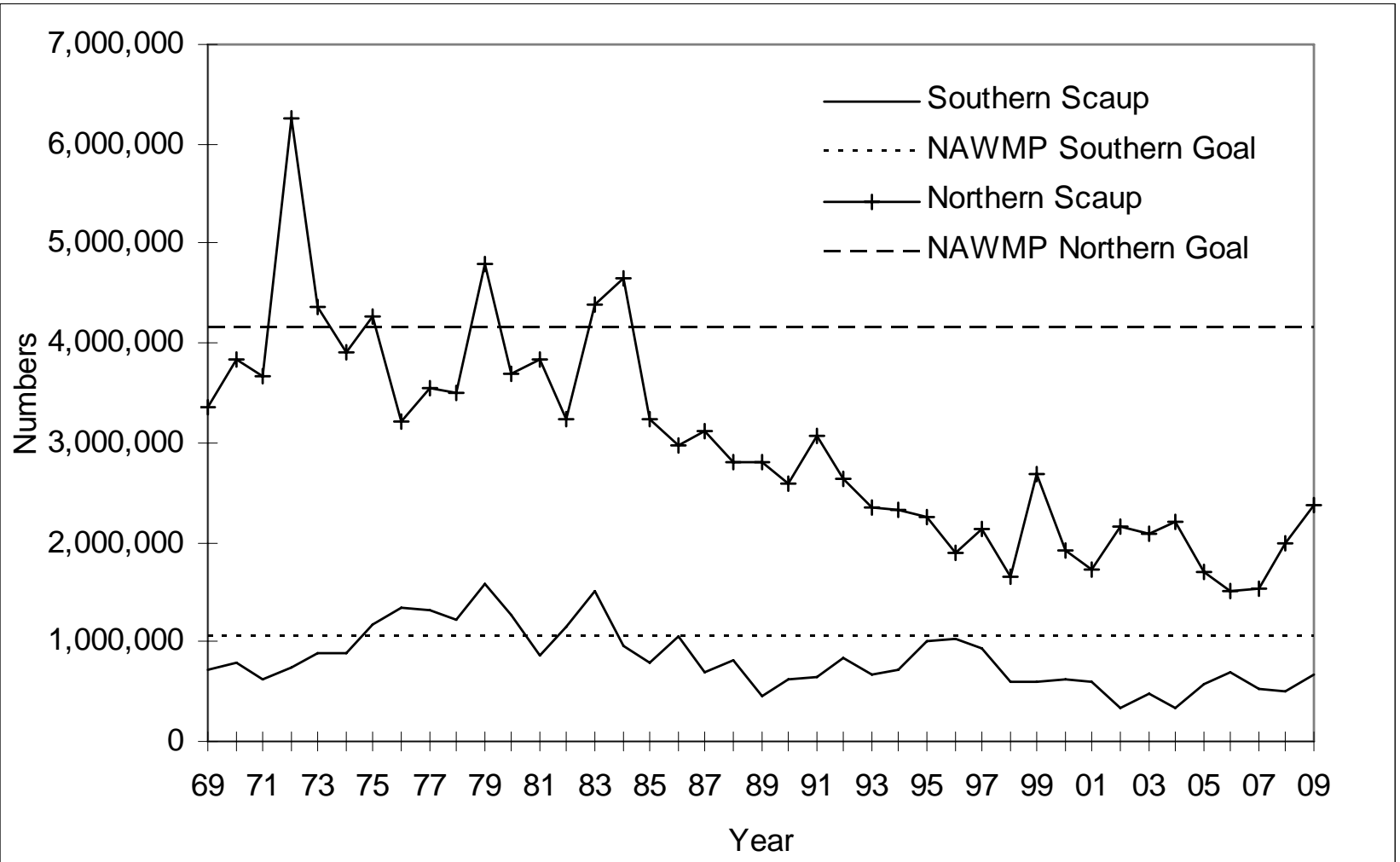


Figure 6. Estimates of Scaup Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

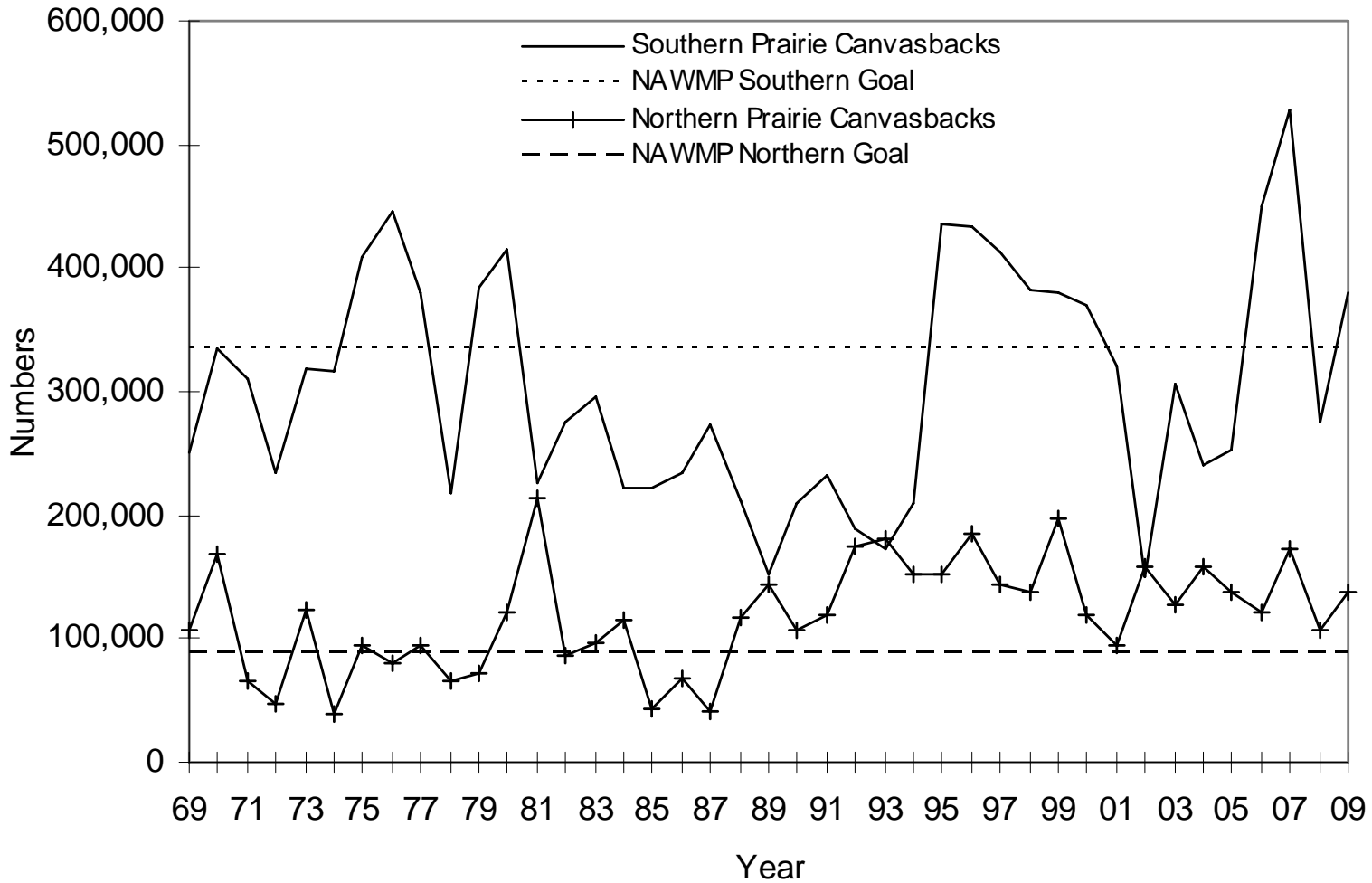


Figure 7. Estimates of Canvasback Numbers in Southern and Northern Prairie Canada, 1969-2009.

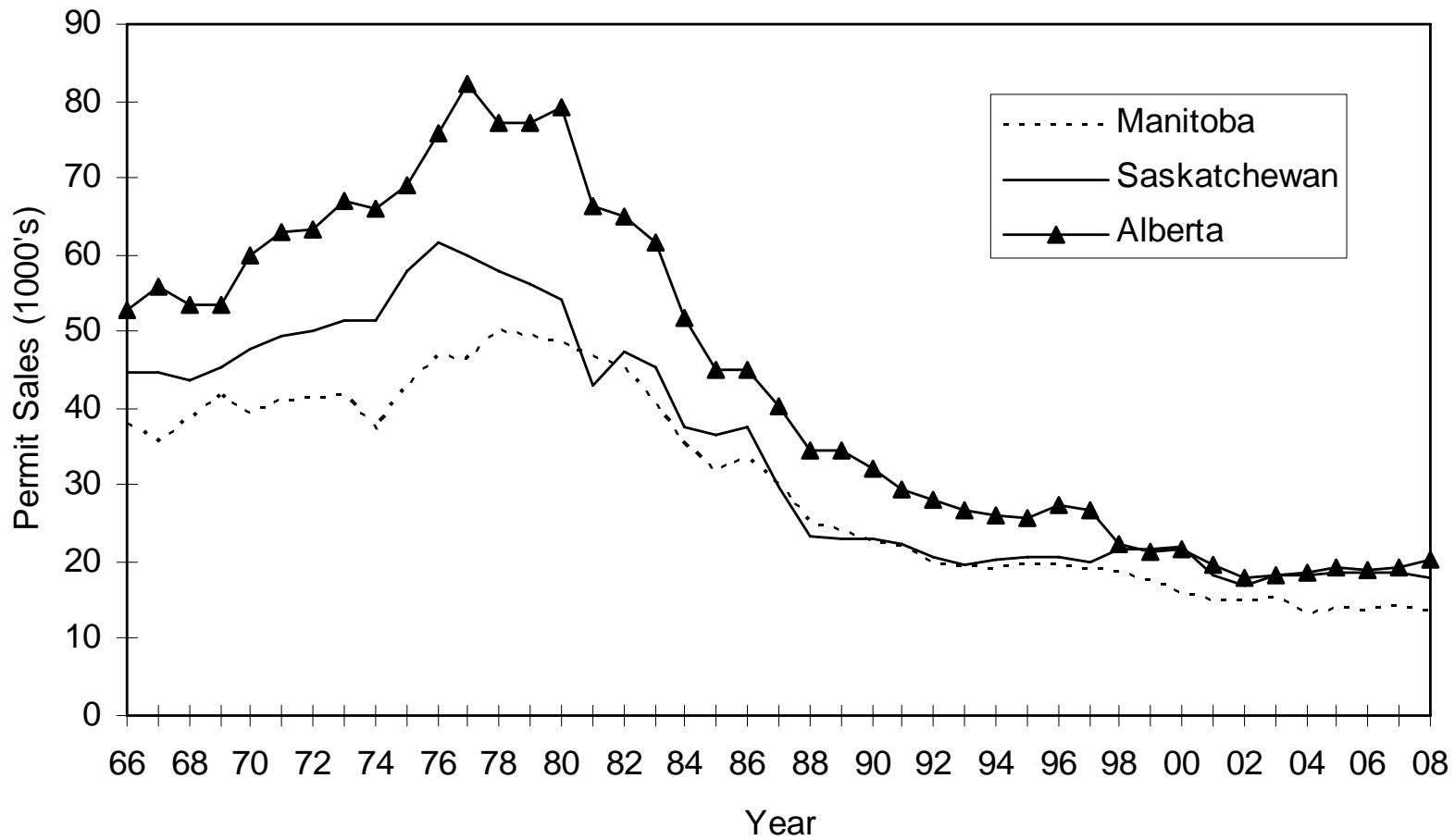


Figure 8. Sales of Migratory Bird Permits in Prairie Canada, 1968-2008.

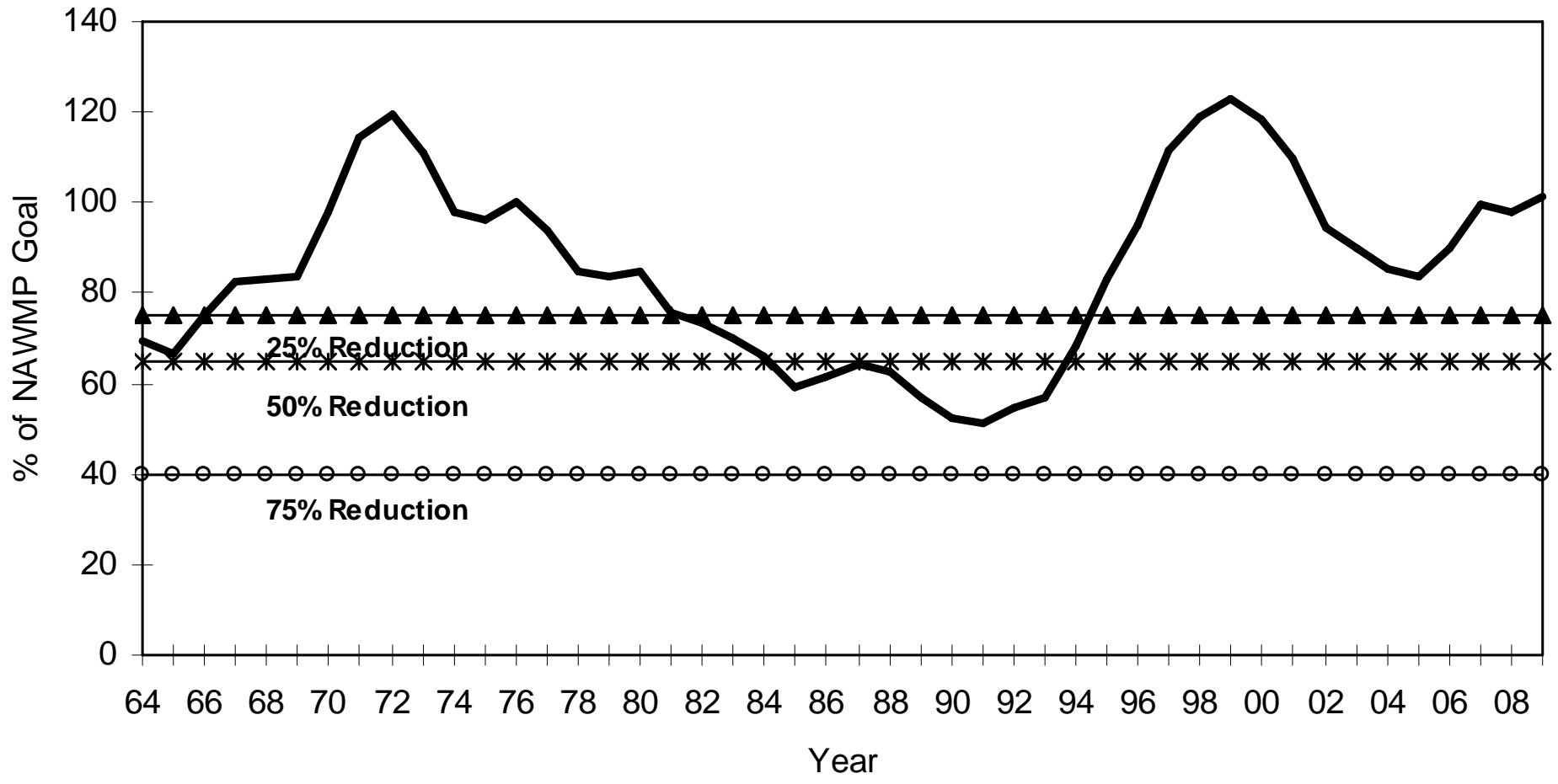


Figure 9. Weighted Mallard Population Estimates in the Prairie Pothole Region (Strata 26-49)

## **APPENDIX B**

*Precipitation Maps courtesy of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.*





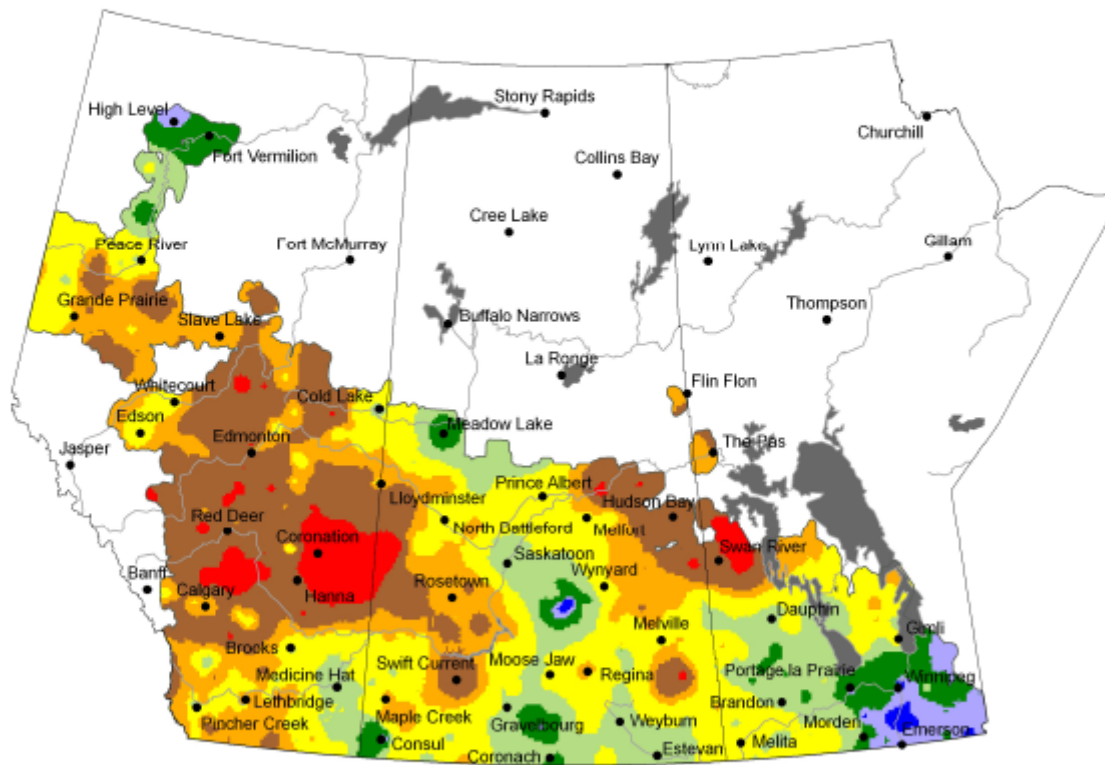
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## Precipitation Compared to Historical Distribution (Prairie Region)

September 1, 2008 to July 13, 2009



- Record Dry
- Extremely Low (0-10)
- Very Low (10-20)
- Low (20-40)
- Mid-Range (40-60)
- High (60-80)
- Very High (80-90)
- Extremely High (90-100)
- Record Wet
- Extent of Agricultural Land
- Lakes and Rivers

Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.

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Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS). Data provided through partnership with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and many Provincial agencies.

Created: 07/14/09  
[www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/drought)



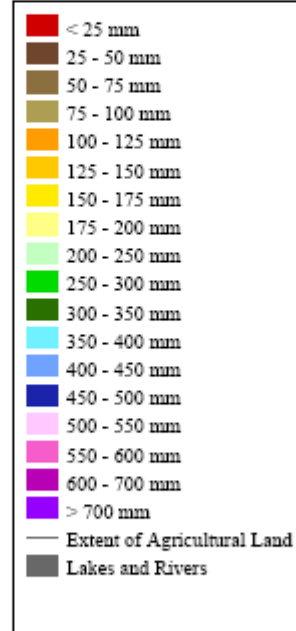
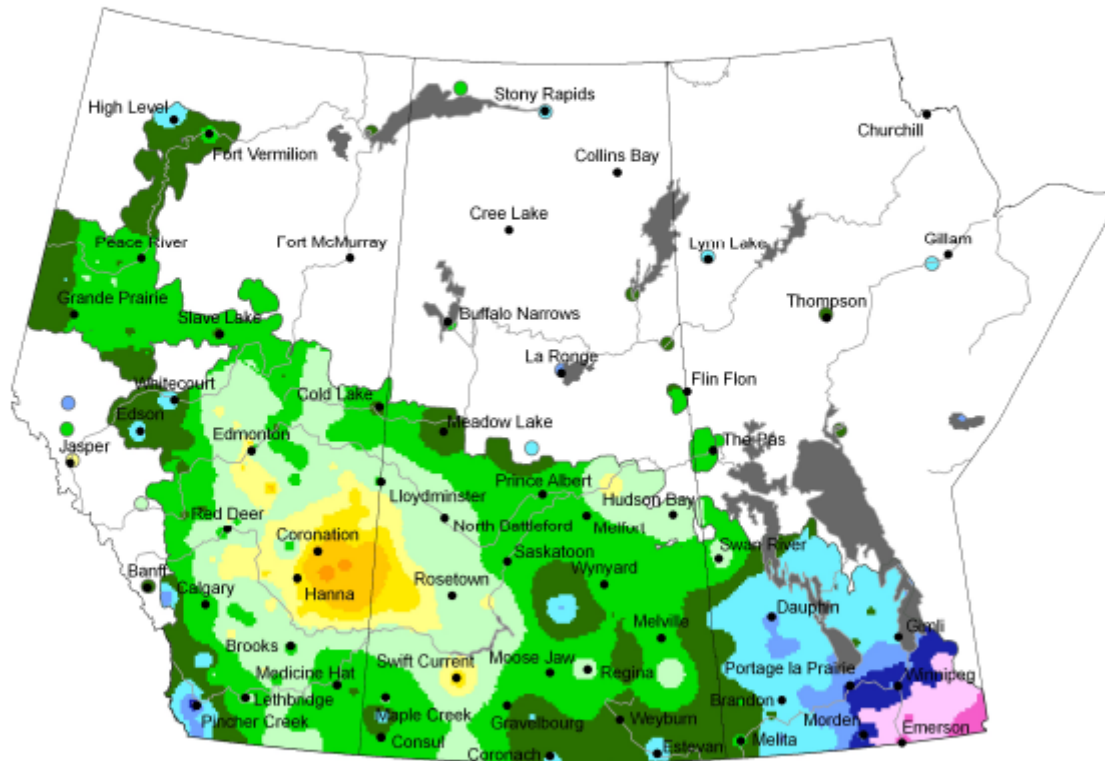
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## Accumulated Precipitation (Prairie Region)

September 1, 2008 to July 13, 2009



Produced using near real-time data that has undergone initial quality control. The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and data errors.

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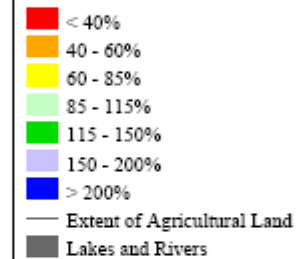
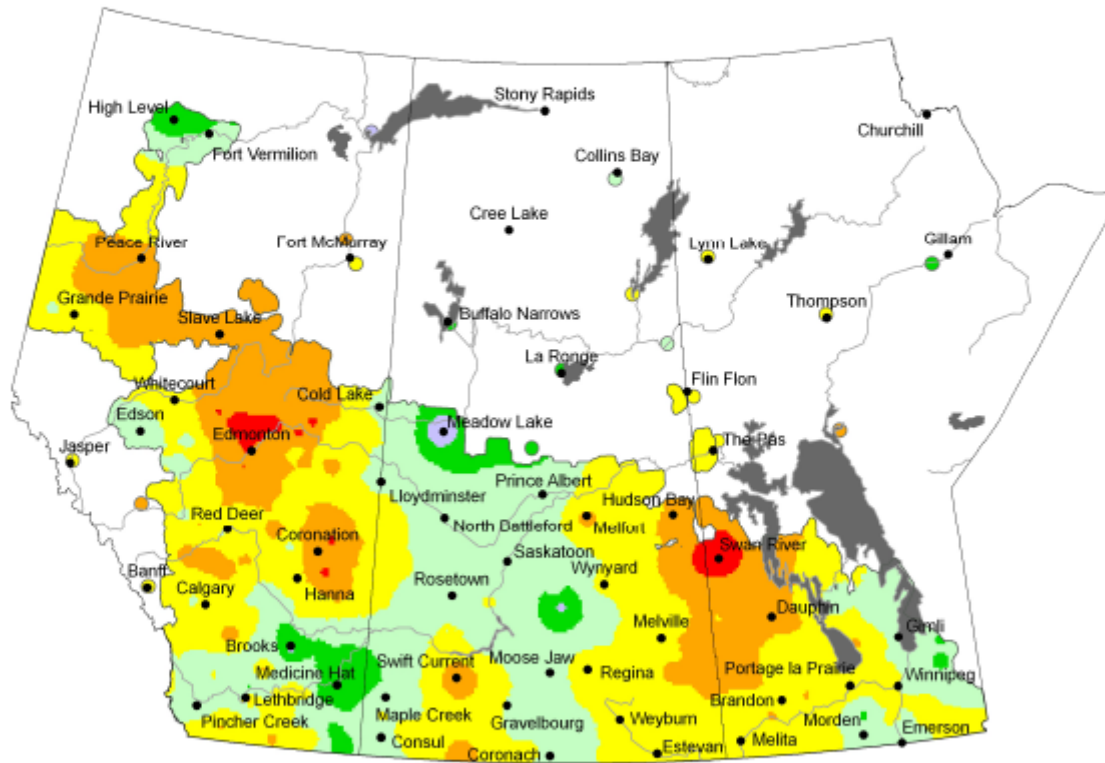
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## 2 Month ( 60 Days) Percent of Average Precipitation (Prairie Region)

May 15, 2009 to July 13, 2009



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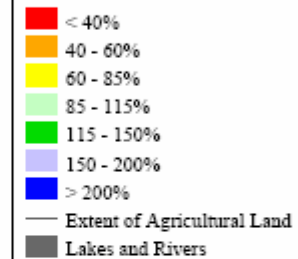
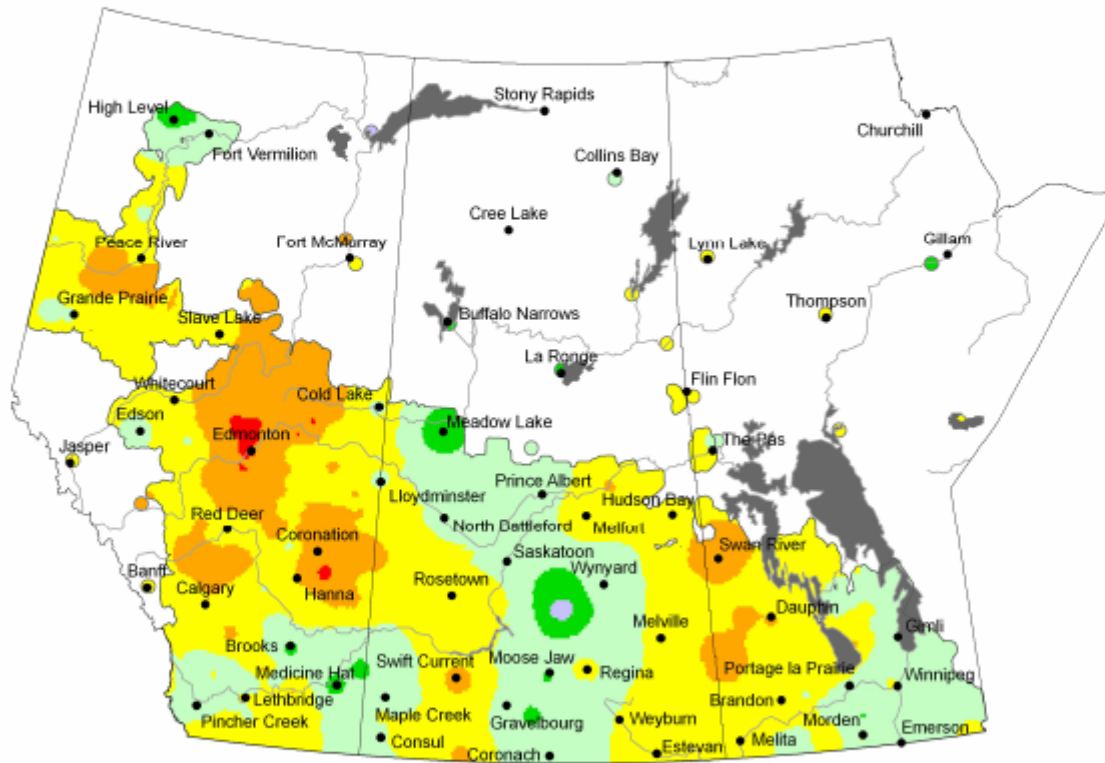
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## 3 Month (90 Days) Percent of Average Precipitation (Prairie Region)

April 15, 2009 to July 13, 2009



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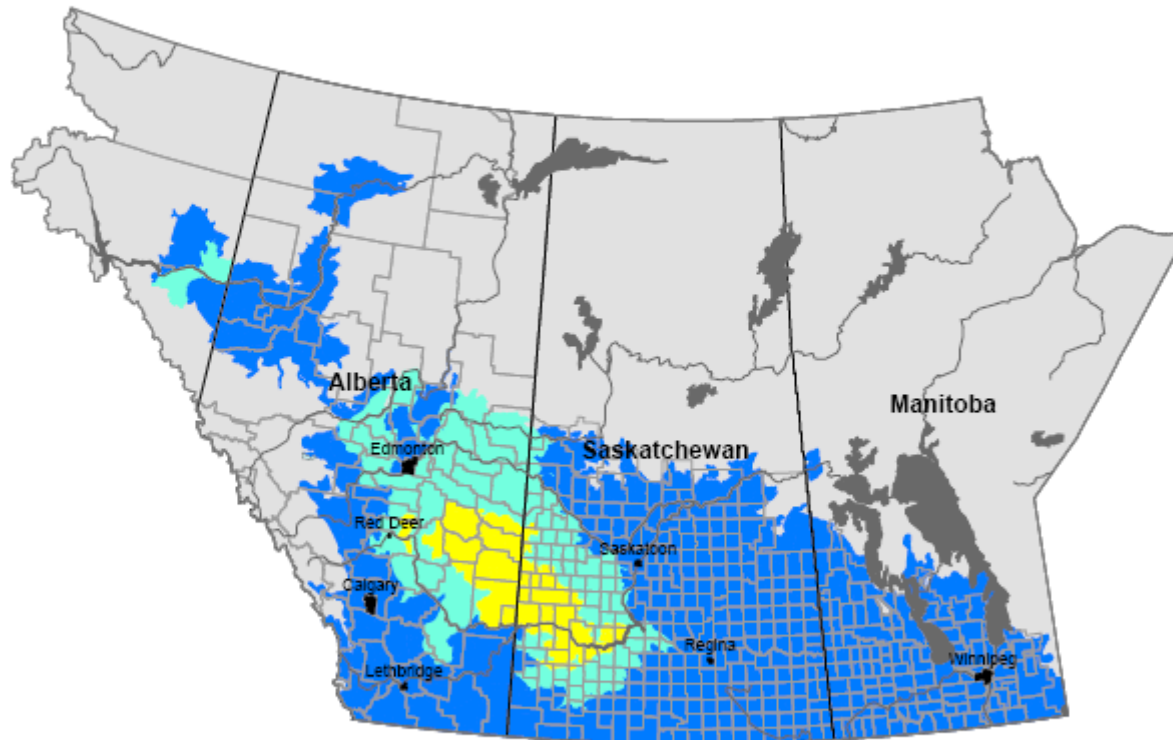
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## On-Farm Surface Water Supplies

July 1, 2009



### On-Farm Surface Water Supplies

- Water unavailable/unusable
- Water shortages occurring
- Some water shortages anticipated
- No water shortages anticipated
- Insufficient data/  
non-agricultural areas

The map may not be accurate for all regions due to data availability and localized conditions.

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