Publicly Owned Rangelands in Saskatchewan
• The “natural grasslands” once covered 61 Million Hectares of the Canadian Prairie Provinces.

• Seven million hectares now remain in Saskatchewan
Administrators of Public Rangeland

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
- Water Security Agency
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Parks Canada
- Environment Canada
- Department of National Defence
History

• Federal Department of Interior

• Settlers given 65 hectares of land
  – Required to “prove up”
  – By 1930 80% of Saskatchewan’s grasslands were cultivated

• Natural Resources Transfer Act (1930)
Economic and Ecological Disaster

- Drought causing crop failure and major erosion.
- Many settlers:
  - Left farming.
  - Moved north.
  - Were re-settled.
- Resulted in much abandoned land that should never have been cultivated.
Land Utilization Board

• Established in 1935 and authorized to deem lands as unsuitable for agricultural purposes and acquire them.

• Re-grassed, fenced, water sources.
  – Community pastures
  – Grazing co-ops
  – Fodder projects
  – Individual leases
Grazing Leases

- 65 to 23,000 hectares in size.
- Allocated through a scoring system.
  - Proximity
  - Resource Base
  - Age
- Common for leases to be assigned through generations or assigned with sale of farm/ranch.
- Rent determined by annual formula:
  - price per pound x 46 pounds x animal unit month rating x 0.8 x 12.75%
  - $10.87/AUM in 2016
- Carrying capacity is component of lease.
Grazing Co-operatives

- Lease is with the cooperative.
- Jointly manage the land, and commonly the cattle.
Community Pastures

- Government owned and managed pastures
- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
  - 50 pastures; 324,808 hectares (1890 – 31,635 hectares)
- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (former PFRA pastures)
  - 62 pastures; 650,000 hectares
  - 2859 - 40,899 hectares
  - 33 have transitioned to Provincial administration. The remainder by March 2018.
Community Pastures (2)

• Full livestock care.
• Conserve the resource a main objective.
• Charge on a per day per head basis (per season for calves).
• Government and patron operated breeding programs.
• Resource extraction, hunting, and research among other uses.
Federal Pasture Transition

- 1939/49 agreements if Federal government stops operating community pastures land reverts to the province.
- Lands being leased to patron entities.
- For profit or not for profit corporations.
- Many are keeping pasture manager, and operating similar to community pasture.
- Various fee structures.
- Canada Community Pasture Transition Program.
- Range, livestock and business management expertise available.
Grasslands National Park
Dundurn Military Base
Last Mountain Lake
National Wildlife Area
Provincial Ministries

• Environment, Provincial Parks, Water Security Agency
• Permits to graze
Brant Kirychuk
Executive Director: Fish, Wildlife & Lands
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
306-787-2309
Brant.Kiryuchuk2@gov.sk.ca