



Crown Resource Land Survey Report

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Participation

As part of the Ministry of Environment's review of *The Crown Resource Land Regulations, 2017* and *The Wild Rice Regulations, 2005*, the Government of Saskatchewan consulted the public on its thoughts and experiences with the ministry's land administration regulations and policies. These regulations allow for the disposition of Crown lands administered by the Ministry of Environment and fall under *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*.

An online survey was used to gather input on the effectiveness and efficiency of the ministry's current administration of public Crown resource lands. The survey was available to the public on the Government of Saskatchewan website from December 11 to December 31, 2017.

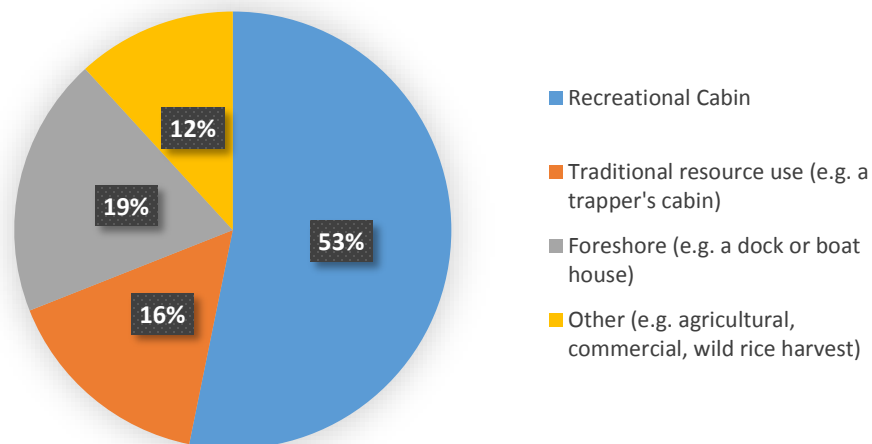
The province sought input from Crown resource land disposition holders, ministry partners, First Nations, Métis communities and other interested citizens. Disposition holders are those who hold leases, permits, licences or easements, giving them permission to enter, use or occupy lands governed under *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*.

Survey questions covered a range of topics. There were questions specific to land dispositions and business operations on Crown resource land. As well, the ministry sought opinions on whether administrative practices, procedures and rates on Crown lands should be the same across different ministries.

In all, we received 529 responses from a range of disposition holders and public participants, of which:

- the majority of respondents were Crown resource land disposition holders (66 per cent);
- survey respondents with dispositions primarily held leases (85 per cent); and
- the dispositions were primarily held for recreational cabins, with respondents also holding dispositions for traditional resource use, foreshore developments, wild rice harvesting and commercial purposes.

Type of Lease Held by Respondents



Summary of results from public engagement

Key findings included:

Client needs are being met

Regulations and processes are generally meeting the needs of our clients while ensuring effective management of Crown resource lands. Survey respondents were either neutral or satisfied with the disposition application and administration process, with less than 20 per cent of respondents unsatisfied with the process. There was broad agreement (83 per cent) to maintain the Ministry of Environment's authority to cancel a disposition if property taxes on lessee land are not paid. Survey respondents agreed authorization should continue for all Crown resource land uses currently requiring authorization.

Harmonization support

Currently, the Ministry of Environment administers Crown resources lands and the Ministry of Agriculture administers agriculture Crown lands. There was broad support (74 per cent) for the two ministries to have the same administrative practices and procedures when practical. The majority of survey participants (67 per cent) also agreed that when practical, rates and fees should be the same.

The province also sought respondents' opinions on integrating *The Wild Rice Regulations, 2005* into *The Crown Resource Land Regulations, 2017* to reduce the amount of regulations prescribing disposition criteria for Crown resource land use. Survey respondents were in favour of this proposal, with 62 per cent agreeing that the wild rice provisions could be included in *The Crown Resource Land Regulations, 2017*.

Private ownership

The provincial government currently provides limited sale opportunities of Crown resource land. There was continued support (64 per cent) for the government to make some Crown resource land available for sale. All current disposition types had support for making them available for purchase, with the majority of respondents agreeing that recreational cabins and residential sites should be available for purchase.

Charge appropriate rates and fees

There was broad support (78 per cent) for the concept of charging appropriate fees for the private use of public resources. This included the majority of participants (93 per cent) supporting the use of administrative penalties for disposition holders failing to comply with required processes or conditions. Survey respondents also agreed that different rates should be charged for different uses of Crown resource land (84 per cent).

Require financial assurances

The ministry sought respondents' opinions on requiring financial assurances on dispositions to ensure adequate reclamation of Crown resource lands when operations are complete. Overall, the majority of respondents supported requiring financial assurances on dispositions for Crown resource land use.

Next steps

The Ministry of Environment is considering how the information gathered in the survey can improve our administrative processes and whether changes to the regulations are necessary. Further engagement may occur if amendments are considered to these regulations or land administration policies.

The Government of Saskatchewan would like to thank all participants for sharing their views on this important issue.