

Ministry of Environment

Annual Report for 2020-21

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Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable
Warren Kaeding
Minister of
Environment

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Kaeding".

Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment



Sarah Harrison
Deputy Minister of
Environment

The Honourable Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report for the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah H.".

Sarah Harrison
Deputy Minister of Environment

Ministry Overview

The purpose of the ministry is established in *The Ministry of Environment Regulations, 2007*.

Vision	Mission	Mandate
A healthy, resilient environment.	We will manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province and its people.	The Ministry of Environment's role is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a responsible manner that supports sustainable growth through objective, transparent and informed decision-making, and stewardship.

The Ministry of Environment's mandate in 2020-21 was supported by three core lines of business:

1. Environmental protection, which includes mining and industry regulation, hazardous materials management, responding to spills, air quality monitoring, environmental assessment, and waste management.
2. Resource management, which provides stewardship for the province's fisheries, wildlife, Crown lands and forests, and includes the province's conservation officer service.
3. Climate change, which includes greenhouse gas emissions regulation, policy coordination for small modular reactors and cumulative effects modelling and analysis.

These core lines of business support Government of Saskatchewan goals by ensuring the responsible management of our natural resources and protection of the province's people. They also contribute individually and collectively to the province's 10-year Growth Plan by providing goals and guidance for responsible and sustainable development.

The ministry derives its mandate, responsibilities and authority from several Acts and regulations. Acts currently assigned to the Minister of Environment, either solely or jointly, are:

<i>The Conservation Easements Act</i>	<i>The Ecological Reserves Act</i>
<i>The Environmental Assessment Act</i>	<i>The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010</i>
<i>The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 2020</i>	<i>The Forestry Professions Act</i>
<i>The Forest Resources Management Act</i>	<i>The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act</i>
<i>The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act</i>	<i>The Natural Resources Act</i>
<i>The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act</i>	<i>The Provincial Lands Act, 2016</i>
<i>The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act</i>	<i>The Wildlife Act, 1998</i>
<i>The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act</i>	

The Annual Report for 2020-21 reports on progress made towards objectives outlined in the 2020-21 Operational Plan, which can be found at saskatchewan.ca/environment.

Ministry COVID-19 Response Highlights

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged government operations during the 2020-21 fiscal year. The expected operations of programs and services may have significantly changed as the Government of Saskatchewan worked quickly to support citizens and businesses. Annual Reports for the 2020-21 fiscal year provide information on the impacts of COVID-19 and recognize the work of the Government of Saskatchewan in responding to the pandemic.

Organization COVID-19 Response Highlights

Support to the Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 response:

- When travel to northern Saskatchewan was restricted due to an outbreak of COVID-19, conservation officers – along with other provincial law enforcement officers – supported the travel restrictions by setting up road checkpoints across the north. At one point, 12 checkpoints were established by the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, including checkpoints near the communities of La Loche and Beauval. The checkpoints operated 24 hours a day, every day, with approximately 45 conservation officers supporting enforcement and working closely with the public to explain the restrictions that were in place.
- The ministry supported the province's response by redeploying staff as needed to assist the Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency. Examples include:
 - Supporting communications;
 - Supporting individuals in hotel isolation;
 - Assisting with notification of negative COVID-19 results;
 - Data entry; and
 - Vaccine bookings.

Support to business impacted by the pandemic:

- The ministry provided support to commercial outfitting operations facing financial challenges due to the pandemic. Support to outfitters unable to operate in 2020 included the following, which will continue in 2021:
 - Forsaking outfitting licence fees for those who did not operate.
 - Allowing outfitters to retain the right to a licence in 2021, as well as maintaining the ability to advertise for the 2021 season.
 - Reducing fees for those who did decide to operate to \$20 for each licence, endorsement, day-use lake fee and outcamp fee.
 - Creating an outfitter category in the Crown Resource Land commercial fees item, and charging no fees for commercial outfitting dispositions in 2020-21, or for associated dispositions held by outfitters.
- In order to fulfill the province's duty to consult requirements during the pandemic, the ministry worked with Indigenous communities and proponents accommodate permitting extensions when needed, so communities could evaluate potential environmental impacts prior to making decisions on mineral exploration projects.

- The ministry deferred payments for Crown resource land dispositions until July 31, 2020 and waived interest from April 1 to July 31, 2020.
- The ministry published a *Temporary Enforcement Policy during the COVID-19 Pandemic* effective March 27 to August 31, 2020 to assist proponents in meeting legislative requirements during the pandemic. The temporary policy modified enforcement guidelines for environmental regulations at all industrial and municipal operations regulated by the ministry. Uptake on the temporary enforcement changes was minimal.
- The ministry extended the deadline for approved applicants to remit receipts to the Net Metering program, given equipment supply issues for renewable energy vendors in the province and delays in site inspections due to COVID-19.

Adapting our work to keep our clients and staff safe:

- In-person compliance assurance inspections and audits were paused for a period of time while the regulated community adjusted to operating during a pandemic.
- A number of risk-based concessions were provided to mining and industrial facilities regulated under the Environmental Management and Protection Act (EMPA), while ensuring the environment and public remains protected.
- The ministry hosted a virtual electricity emissions pricing seminar on March 25, 2021 to ensure stakeholders and staff could participate remotely.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry had a variety of work arrangements based on employee safety and service needs. These include working from home full-time, part-time or on rotation where it was possible to do so.
- The ministry introduced guidelines and safety procedures in the workplace to ensure the ongoing safety of employees and reduce the risk of transmission.

Progress in 2020-21

Government Goals



A Strong
Economy



Strong
Communities



Strong
Families

Government Direction

Protect the environment.

Ministry Goal

Safe communities and a healthy environment.

Performance Measure Results

Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from electricity sector:

- In 2019, the latest year for which data is available, the electricity sector released 14.7 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, a decrease from 14.8 in 2018.

Emissions intensity of Saskatchewan's economy (GHGs per unit of gross domestic product):

- In 2019, the latest year for which data is available, Saskatchewan had an emissions intensity of 864 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per million chained 2012 dollars in gross domestic product, a decrease from 873 tonnes in 2018.

Amount of waste generated in kilograms per capita:

- In 2018, the latest year for which data is available, 744 kilograms of waste were generated per capita in Saskatchewan. A significant and decreasing trend has been observed since 2010.

Number of contaminated Crown land sites remediated:

- In 2020-21, 25 contaminated Crown land sites were remediated.

More information can be found in the *2021 State of the Environment Report*, available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/state-of-the-environment> and the *2021 Climate Resilience Measurement Framework* available at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/environmental-protection-and-sustainability/a-made-in-saskatchewan-climate-change-strategy/climate-resilience-framework-and-reports>.

Strategy

Coordinate the development and implementation of provincial policy to enhance Saskatchewan's resilience to the cumulative effects of climate change.

Key Actions

- Lead cross-government collaboration of *Prairie Resilience* through established working groups and committees.
 - The ministry continues to work with its Government of Saskatchewan partners to make progress on the goals identified in *Prairie Resilience*. The ministry leads the work on 14 commitments in the strategy, and chairs several cross-government working groups, including a new working group established to develop a small modular reactor strategy for the province.
- Monitor federal, provincial, territorial and international climate policies for opportunities and impacts on *Prairie Resilience*.
 - Throughout 2020-21, the federal government announced climate policies that will impact *Prairie Resilience*, for which the ministry continues to review and explore policy options, including:
 - the strengthened climate plan as outlined in *A Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy*, which includes increasing the federal carbon price by \$15 per year, starting in 2023, to \$270 per tonne of carbon emission by 2030;
 - the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act;
 - the Clean Fuel Standard; and
 - federal direction regarding offsets as outlined in the *Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations*.
- Analyze and report on results of the *Saskatchewan Climate Resilience Measurement Framework* to facilitate its implementation throughout the ministry.
 - The second annual report on the *Saskatchewan Climate Resilience Measurement Framework* was released in June 2020. The report describes the status of the 25 performance measures included in the Framework. Eighteen measures in the second report were classified as good, an increase from 15 in the 2019 report. Six measures are classified as fair, with no measures classified as poor.
- Continue to design and implement well-informed policies and programs that better prepare the province for climate change.
 - The ministry continued to design and implement future-focused policies and programs, including:
 - Coordinating program and policy work to support development of small modular reactors (SMRs);
 - Enacting the policy for best performance credits under the Output-Based Performance Standards program;
 - administering rebates for the Net Metering program, which concluded on December 31, 2020; and,
 - advancing development of a provincial greenhouse gas offset program to support voluntary emissions reductions and provide a compliance option for regulated emitters.

Strategy

Implement the Solid Waste Management Strategy to improve the health of Saskatchewan's people and environment, and stimulate new growth opportunities to attract investment into the province.

Key Actions

Lead collaboration to implement the Solid Waste Management Strategy commitments, including:

- Establish a Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee.

- Proposed committee members have been selected, and the ministry has completed the final approval process.
- Review and assess barriers to municipal participation in regional solutions for waste management and identify options to reduce them.
 - Work on this item was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The ministry plans to engage with municipalities when appropriate.
- Engage with stakeholders, including municipalities, restaurants, whole food distributors and the public, to reduce food waste to help meet reduction targets.
 - Limitations on engagement activities due to COVID-19 have delayed progress on this item. The ministry has developed a project charter and engaged in research to determine next steps and is participating in Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council's Organics Working Group.
- Review the program for household paper and packaging to identify opportunities for improvement.
 - Engagement with stakeholders began in March 2021. Outcomes from the engagement sessions will inform the program review in 2021-22.
- Support implementation of the new household hazardous waste program.
 - In April 2020, Call2Recycle's product stewardship program for household batteries was approved with the program being launched on January 1, 2021. ProductCare's product stewardship program for waste household hazardous materials and pesticides was approved in June 2020 with the program launching on April 1, 2021.

Strategy

Identify, prevent and mitigate risks to human health and safety through the development of comprehensive plans and regulations.

Key Actions

- Continue to work with the ministries of Agriculture and Health to implement the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management plan.
 - The ministry continues to work with the ministries of Agriculture and Health under a One Health management approach to review priorities including CWD, wildlife rehabilitation and West Nile virus surveillance programming. Additional resources provided to the CWD voluntary hunter surveillance program reduced testing times, with 2,987 sample submissions completed this year.
- Continue to evaluate risks and formulate corrective action plans for non-uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan.
 - The ministry worked with SNC-Lavalin on further assessment for remediation of the Western Nuclear site and has begun preparation for remediation of the Newcor Mine in 2022-23. Ministry staff completed additional site inspections at mines throughout the province.
- Deliver an ambient air monitoring program that aligns with the Air Quality Management System and influences air quality management policies and regulatory programs.
 - The ministry published the *2016-2018 Air Zones Report* and continues to work with air zone associations in the province to monitor air quality.

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Government Direction

Improve Saskatchewan's natural resource sustainability.

Ministry Goal

Sustainable landscapes and wildlife populations that are resilient and biologically diverse.

Performance Measure Results

Total protected areas in Saskatchewan:

- Each year, protected areas are added to the provincial Representative Areas Network. To date, 6,354,385 hectares, or 9.76 per cent, of Saskatchewan is contained within the network.

Forest type and age class distribution of forests:

- Forest management in Saskatchewan aims to emulate natural disturbance. By emulating natural disturbance, the natural range of ecosystems should be maintained, resulting in a more resilient system.

Population status of game species:

- The quantity, quality and availability of habitat is an essential component of species management. Habitat connectivity, barriers to animal movement and the amount of human disturbance are monitored to develop management plans for species of interest.

More information can be found in the *2021 State of the Environment and 2019 State of the Environment: A Focus on Forests* reports available at www.saskatchewan.ca/environment.

Strategy

Conduct and use cumulative effects analysis to better support evidence-based decision-making on environmental impacts and issues.

Key Actions

- Develop and implement an invasive species and insect and disease management framework.
 - The draft Invasive Species and Insect and Disease Management framework is complete and currently under review, and will be finalized in 2021-22.
- Apply cumulative effects analysis to strengthen landscape management decision-making through analysis of values, benefits and risk.
 - The ministry continued to strengthen cumulative effects analysis through research on carbon accounting methodologies, approaches for valuation of biodiversity and advanced data storage and analysis tools for examining landscape GHG emissions and land cover dynamics. The ministry began exploring the implementation of nature-based solutions within the province.

- Develop and implement the habitat management plan to guide habitat conservation while supporting responsible growth.
 - The ministry continued development of the habitat management plan in 2020-21, which included predictive modelling and habitat assessment, technical meetings with industry associations and conservation partners, and developing targets and viability assessments. Work on this plan will continue into 2021-22.

Strategy

Work with our partners to develop and implement programs and policies to protect the province's biodiversity.

Key Actions

- Maintain a reliable forest resource inventory to better evaluate forest health issues and identify resource development opportunities.
 - The Forest Inventory Code Chapter and Standard were enacted this year to support forest management in the province. The ministry began work on the forest inventories in support of mountain pine beetle reconnaissance for western Saskatchewan in 2020-21.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Resources, ensure timely and effective consultation with Indigenous communities for approval of exploration and development projects to better address duty to consult requirements.
 - Due to COVID-19, there were delays to the ministry's ability to engage where duty to consult was triggered. A risk-based approach to permitting became essential as the pandemic progressed, and ministry staff worked with both Indigenous communities and companies to issue permits on priority projects for industry, while continuing consultation efforts on other projects.
- Work with First Nations and Métis communities to support the establishment of Indigenous protected and conserved areas.
 - In 2020-21, the ministry worked with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources to develop plans for establishing Indigenous protected and conserved areas in northern Saskatchewan.
- Continue to develop and implement landscape-based plans for maintaining and recovering species at risk, such as the SK West Range Plan for Woodland Caribou recovery.
 - The ministry continued work on a multiple species approach to manage critical habitat on Crown land to include a Critical Habitat Working Group that spans the ministries of Environment, Agriculture, and Energy and Resources. The ministry also completed a final draft of the SK2 West Range Plan.

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Government Direction

Deliver comprehensive, clear and transparent regulation and enforcement.

Ministry Goal

Knowledgeable, compliant and engaged regulated communities.

Strategy

Collaboratively design and implement regulatory tools and processes to enhance environmental outcomes.

Key Actions

- Continue to implement and coordinate regulatory frameworks to reduce GHG emissions and environmental risks from industrial and mining operations.
 - Throughout 2020-21, the ministry continued work to support development and implementation of the Saskatchewan Technology Fund and output-based performance standards to reduce GHG emissions and environmental risks from industrial and mining operations within the province.
- Implement a provincial performance credit framework to administer the output-based performance standards.
 - The ministry continues to work with industry partners and the federal government in development of a best performance credit framework that will meet industry concerns and align with *Prairie Resilience*.
- Reduce risk of contamination from landfills through compliance assurance activities.
 - The ministry has been working with Indigenous Services Canada, First Nations and northern municipalities on regional landfill projects in the north central and northwest areas of the province. The ministry also continued to work with Government Relations to review applications as part of the Landfill Closure Program within the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- Review and improve regulations, programs, policies and procedures to conserve Crown lands for future generations
 - The ministry worked with the ministries of Agriculture, Government Relations, and Parks, Culture and Sport to review and develop policies and processes to ensure Crown land conservation. This included work on the Enterprise Crown Land Management System (eCLMS), which will provide clients the ability to submit applications and access services through an online public portal.
- Engage with stakeholders and partners on the design of the provincial carbon offset system
 - Due to COVID-19, stakeholder engagement that was planned for 2020-21 was delayed, but will continue throughout 2021-22. The ministry has deferred implementation of this program until 2022.

Government Goals



**A Strong
Economy**



**Strong
Communities**



**Strong
Families**

Government Direction

Be a high-performing organization.

Ministry Goal

An engaged organization committed to excellence.

Performance Measure Results

Employee engagement index:

- The current employee engagement index is 63 per cent, with a target to maintain or increase each survey cycle. The next survey will be completed in fall 2021.

Strategy

Proactively build strong, collaborative relationships with First Nations and Métis communities and organizations.

Key Actions

- Work with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to develop an agreement regarding application of Métis Aboriginal rights to hunt and fish for food.
 - The ministries of Environment, Justice and Government Relations have been working with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to explore negotiation and determine a plan to advance this work. Much of this work was delayed due to COVID-19 and will continue into 2021-22.
- Work with First Nations to identify sustainable wildlife management principles that can inform future wildlife management initiatives.
 - The ministry continued to work with the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) in support of this work. COVID-19 created challenges for in-person engagement, and due to the nature of the engagement, sessions are currently on hold until in-person sessions can be safely held.
- Continue to work with First Nations at their request on development and implementation of provincial environmental regulations on reserve
 - Work with Whitecap Dakota First Nation progressed this year, which included permitting for transfer station and hazardous storage as well as fee for service.

Strategy

Increase client satisfaction through improved service.

Key Actions

- Enhance government and public use of geomatics data for decisions related to land use.
 - The ministry works collaboratively with the Provincial Office of Geomatics Co-ordination and government-wide working groups to advance priority projects and initiatives through the enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS) platform. The ministry increased its public datasets available on GeoHub, a self-service initiative for published spatial data, from 22 to 43 datasets as of March 31, 2021.
- Increase ministry use of the saskatchewan.ca public access portal to enhance client access to current online services.
 - In 2020-21 the ministry, in collaboration with the ministries of Agriculture, Parks, Culture and Sport and SaskBuilds and Procurement continued to work towards launching improved online Crown land-related services to clients. This work will continue through 2021-22.
- Review business processes in order to determine IT support requirements.
 - The ministry worked with a third party vendor to conduct a business process and technology review to inform transformation recommendations to better facilitate modern online citizen and business service delivery. The review will provide the ministry recommendations to achieve its desired future state, and will conclude in 2021-22.

Strategy

Foster a culture that reflects the Saskatchewan Public Service core values.

Key Actions

- Continue to ensure that internal committee work plans champion accountability, innovation and safety
 - The ministry has three internal committees – Innovation and Culture; Workplace Health and Safety; and Union Management – which developed and executed work plans that champion accountability, innovation and safety throughout the ministry. The Innovation and Culture committee is developing a ministry-specific diversity and inclusion strategy.
- Continue to implement provincial safety council recommendations regarding *Mission Zero* and National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace
 - Ministry employees participated in a physical and psychological safety climate survey conducted by the University of Regina. Results of the survey will be assessed in 2021-22. The ministry implemented exposure control plans that included safe work procedures and guidelines to ensure employee and client safety in the workplace during the COVID-19 pandemic. The ministry also began participation in Not Myself Today®, a workplace mental health initiative designed to reduce stigma and foster a safe and supportive culture.

Financial Summary

The ministry's approved appropriation for 2020-21 was \$109.8 million. Total 2020-21 expenditures were \$106.1 million, a variance of \$3.7 million from the ministry's approved estimate. The under-expenditure was primarily a result of a decrease in the grant to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund due to lower hunting and angling licence sales. Vacancies, project delays, reduced engagement, travel and training also contributed to the variance.

The ministry's budgeted revenue was \$76.5 million for 2020-21. Actual revenue recorded by the ministry in 2020-21 was \$136.5 million. The variance of \$60.0 million was primarily due to increased forest revenue due to high commodity prices.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Impacted Sites Fund. Explanations and financial statements for these funds are found on pages 18 and 19, respectively.

In 2020-21, the ministry's full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization was 489.1, which is a decrease of 282.5 FTEs from 2019-20, due primarily to the transfer of wildfire management to the SPSA.

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893>

Allocation of the ministry's actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram

	2019-20 Actuals (\$000s)	2020-21 Budget (\$000s)	2020-21 Actuals (\$000s)	2020-21 Variance (\$000s)	
Subvote					
Central Management and Services (EN01)					
Minister's Salary	54	51	53	2	
Executive Management	1,933	2,001	2,003	2	
Central Services	10,913	9,036	9,578	542	1
Accommodation Services	5,824	6,018	5,692	-326	2
Subvote Total	18,724	17,106	17,326	220	
Climate Change and Adaptation (EN06)					
Climate Change	9,053	5,873	5,886	13	
Cumulative Impacts and Science	1,205	1,374	1,257	-117	
Subvote Total	10,258	7,247	7,143	-104	3
Fish, Wildlife and Lands (EN07)					
Fish, Wildlife and Lands Program	9,514	9,907	9,466	-441	4
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	4,932	4,953	3,884	-1,069	5
Subvote Total	14,446	14,860	13,350	-1,510	
Compliance and Field Services (EN08)					
	19,938	19,883	19,269	-614	6

Environmental Protection (EN11)				
Environmental Protection Program	5,372	5,045	4,972	-73
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship	1,378	1,705	1,269	-436
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	27,013	31,817	31,817	0
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	328	-	0	0
Business Support Services	3,817	4,409	3,623	-786
Subvote Total	37,908	42,976	41,681	-1,295
Forest Service (EN09)				
Forest Programs	5,530	6,518	5,662	-856
Insect and Disease Control	1,238	1,246	1,657	411
Subvote Total	6,768	7,764	7,319	-445
Wildfire Management (EN10)				
Forest Fire Operations	212,713	0	0	0
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	3,051	0	0	0
Forest Fire Capital Projects	15,264	0	0	0
Remediation of Contaminated Sites	39	0	0	0
Subvote Total	231,067	0	0	0
Total Appropriation	339,109	109,836	106,088	-3,748
Capital Assets Acquisitions	-14,393	-1,180	-638	542
Capital Assets Amortization	5,472	2,612	1,822	-790
Non-spending Control Items	-5,069	0	1,259	1,259
Total Expense	325,119	111,268	108,531	-2,737

Explanation of major variances

1. Pressures associated with IT hardware and software expenses.
2. Facilities projects lower than anticipated.
3. Vacancy and travel savings.
4. Travel and business expense savings due to COVID-19 and operational efficiencies.
5. Decrease in grant as a result of lower hunting and angling licence sales due to COVID-19 border closure.
6. Reduced training costs due to COVID-19 and operational efficiencies.
7. Vacancy savings and project delays.
8. Vacancy and travel savings.
9. Additional expenditures for the control of Mountain Pine Beetle
10. The Wildfire Management Branch transferred to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency in November 2019.

Third Party Funding

In 2020-21, the ministry provided \$39.4 million in funding to third parties.

Revenues

Most of the revenue collected by the Ministry of Environment relates to environmental handling charges, hunting and angling licence fees, forestry fees and dues, and receipts from other governments. These revenues are collected on behalf of the government and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The ministry's budgeted revenue for 2020-21 was \$76.5 million; actual revenue recorded was \$136.5 million. This \$60 million variance was primarily due to increased forestry revenue and unredeemed bottle deposits.

Description of revenue	2020-21 Budget (\$000s)	2020-21 Actuals (\$000s)	2020-21 Variance (\$000s)
Own-source revenue			
Investment income	50	226	176 ¹
Other fees and charges	61,156	113,708	52,552 ²
Miscellaneous	10,504	20,413	9,909 ³
Transfers from the federal government	4,742	2,104	-2,638 ⁴
Total revenue items	76,452	136,451	59,999

1. Higher interest on beverage container program.
2. High forestry commodity prices.
3. Increase in unredeemed bottle deposits.
4. Budgeted program funding received by Government Relations.

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund established under *The Natural Resources Act*. The ministry uses the fund to support habitat protection and fish and wildlife management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and hunting, angling and trapping licence fees collected by the province, less \$180,000, which is allocated for other grants. The FWDF also receives seven per cent of Crown land sales. Expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase, management and enhancement of habitat.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the FWDF for 2020-21.

Audited financial statements will be available at www.saskatchewan.ca under the Ministry of Finance public accounts section.

(Based on unaudited figures)	2020-21 budget	2020-21 actual	Variance	
	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	
Revenue	5,520	4,194	-1,326	1
Expenses:				
Fish enhancement projects	1,983	1,661	-322	2
Wildlife habitat projects	2,735	2,161	-574	3
Grants in lieu of taxes	365	374	9	4
Total expenses	5,083	4,196	-887	
Excess of revenue over expenses	437	-2	-439	

Explanation of variances:

1. Decrease in grant as a result of lower hunting and angling licence sales due to COVID-19 border closure.
2. Vacancy savings and a decrease in grants.
3. Vacancy savings and lower wildlife survey costs.
4. Grants in lieu of taxes were higher than anticipated.

Impacted Sites Fund

The Impacted Sites Fund was established on April 2, 2015 by the *Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010*. The fund receives all revenue from fines and administrative penalties imposed in accordance with the Act. Other revenues may include interest, gifts, donations, grants or moneys appropriated by the legislature. The Act permits expenditures from the fund to reclaim, restore and remedy orphaned environmentally impacted sites and to pay the expenses of administering the fund.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the fund for 2020-21.

Audited financial statements will be available at www.saskatchewan.ca under the Ministry of Finance public accounts section.

(Based on unaudited figures)	2020-21 Budget (\$000s)	2020-21 Actuals (\$000s)	2020-21 Variance (\$000s)
Fines and penalties	65	27	-38
Interest	3	2	-1
Revenue	68	28	-40 ¹
Expenses:			
Grants	200	0	-200
Total expenses	200	0	-200 ²
Excess of revenue over expenses	-132	28	160

1. Fines and penalties were lower than anticipated.
2. No eligible funding requests were received.

For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Toll-free in North America 1-800-567-4224

3211 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 5W6

This annual report is also available electronically at saskatchewan.ca/environment.