



# Saskatchewan Co-operative Wildlife Management Survey Report – 2020





# Co-operative Wildlife Management Survey Report

Thank you for your interest in the Co-operative Wildlife Management Survey (CWMS). Below, you will find summarized information on observations for white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, elk, sharp-tailed grouse, wild turkey and woodland caribou collected throughout Saskatchewan this past year.

## Key Observation Period

Participants are encouraged to actively record observations during the data collection periods outlined below. Focused observation periods help biologists standardize wildlife observation data to assist with wildlife management decision making each year.

**White-tailed deer and Mule deer:** September 1 to November 30

**Moose:** September 1 to December 31

**Elk:** September 1 to February 15

**Woodland caribou:** year round

**Sharp-tailed grouse:** March 1 to July 15

**Wild turkey:** December 1 to March 1

From January 1 to December 31, 2020 there were 108 active participants who recorded at least one wildlife observation in 61 wildlife management zones in the province using the CWMS app. Throughout this time period, participants recorded 1,732 wildlife observations totaling 8,056 individual animals.

Species specific summaries are presented below.

Species	Total Observations	Total Individuals
White-tailed deer	734	3,342
Mule deer	482	2,691
Moose	330	650
Elk	55	633
Sharp-tailed grouse	129	844
Wild turkey	1	10
Woodland caribou	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,861</b>	<b>8,173</b>

**Table 1.** Number of observations by species collected - January 1 to December 31, 2020.

## White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

**Summary:** During the key observation period for white-tailed deer in 2020 (September 1 to November 30), a total of 522 observations were made totaling 1,636 white-tailed deer in 47 wildlife management zones throughout the province (Table 1).

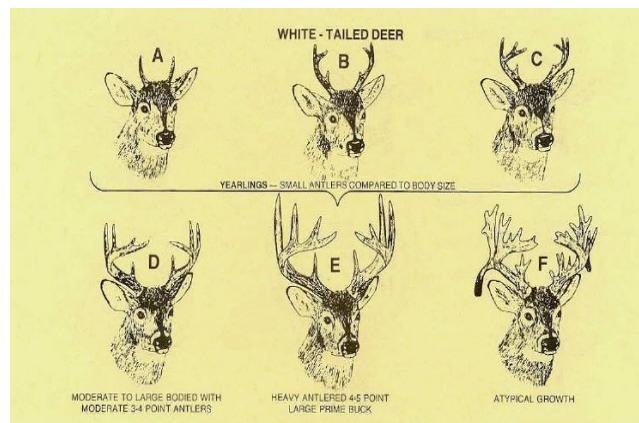
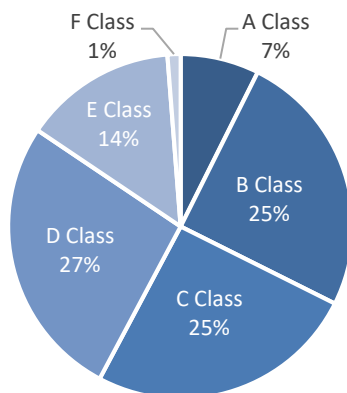
The provincial fawn-to-doe ratio in 2020 was 66 fawns per 100 does, which was lower than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 75 fawns per 100 does.



The provincial buck-to-doe ratio was 35 bucks per 100 does, which was similar to the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 38 bucks per 100 does. The number of mature white-tailed deer bucks (class D, E & F) made up 42 per cent of total buck observations, which was similar to the previous three-year average (2017-2019) where mature bucks made up 40 per cent of total buck observations (Figure 1).

Ecoregion	WMZs	Number of Observations	Bucks	Does	Fawns
Grassland	1-29	110	106	252	138
Parkland	30-46	340	113	413	310
Forest Fringe	47-55	55	41	63	35
Boreal Forest	56-76	11	6	12	12
Urban	RMZ, SMZ, PAMZ	6	1	15	3

**Table 2.** Number of observations and total number of bucks, does and fawns observed during the 2020 observation period for white-tailed deer.



**Figure 1.** Percentage of white-tailed deer bucks observed according to antler class in 2020 and the white-tailed deer antler classification chart.



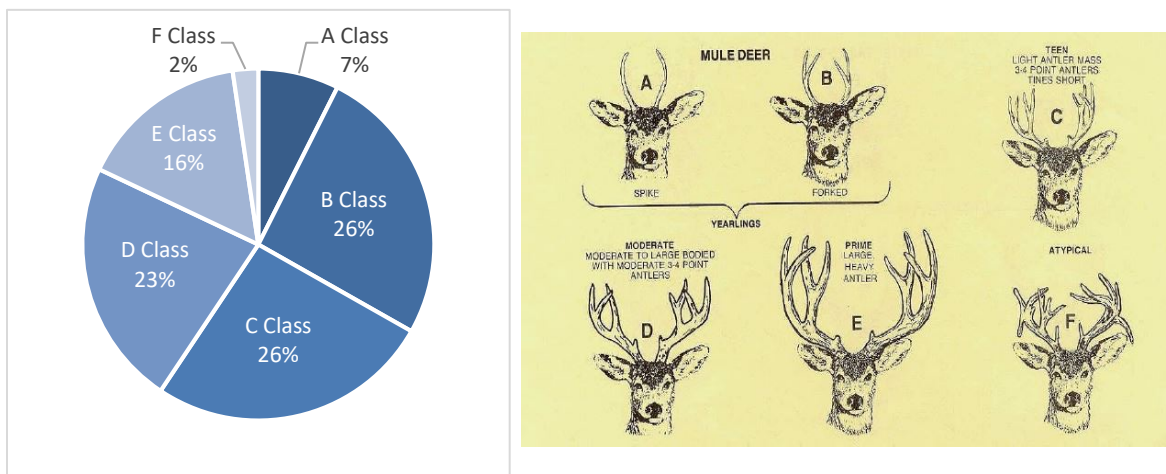
## Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

**Summary:** During the key observation period for mule deer in 2020 (September 1 to November 30), 281 observations were made totaling 1,583 mule deer in 43 wildlife management zones throughout the province (Table 3). The provincial fawn-to-doe ratio was 46 fawns per 100 does, which was lower than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 66 fawns per 100 does. The provincial buck-to-doe ratio was 31 bucks per 100 does, which was lower than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 51 bucks per 100 does. The number of mature mule deer bucks (class D, E & F) made up 40 per cent of observations, which was similar to the previous three-year average (2017-2019) where mature bucks made up 41 per cent of total buck observations (Figure 3).

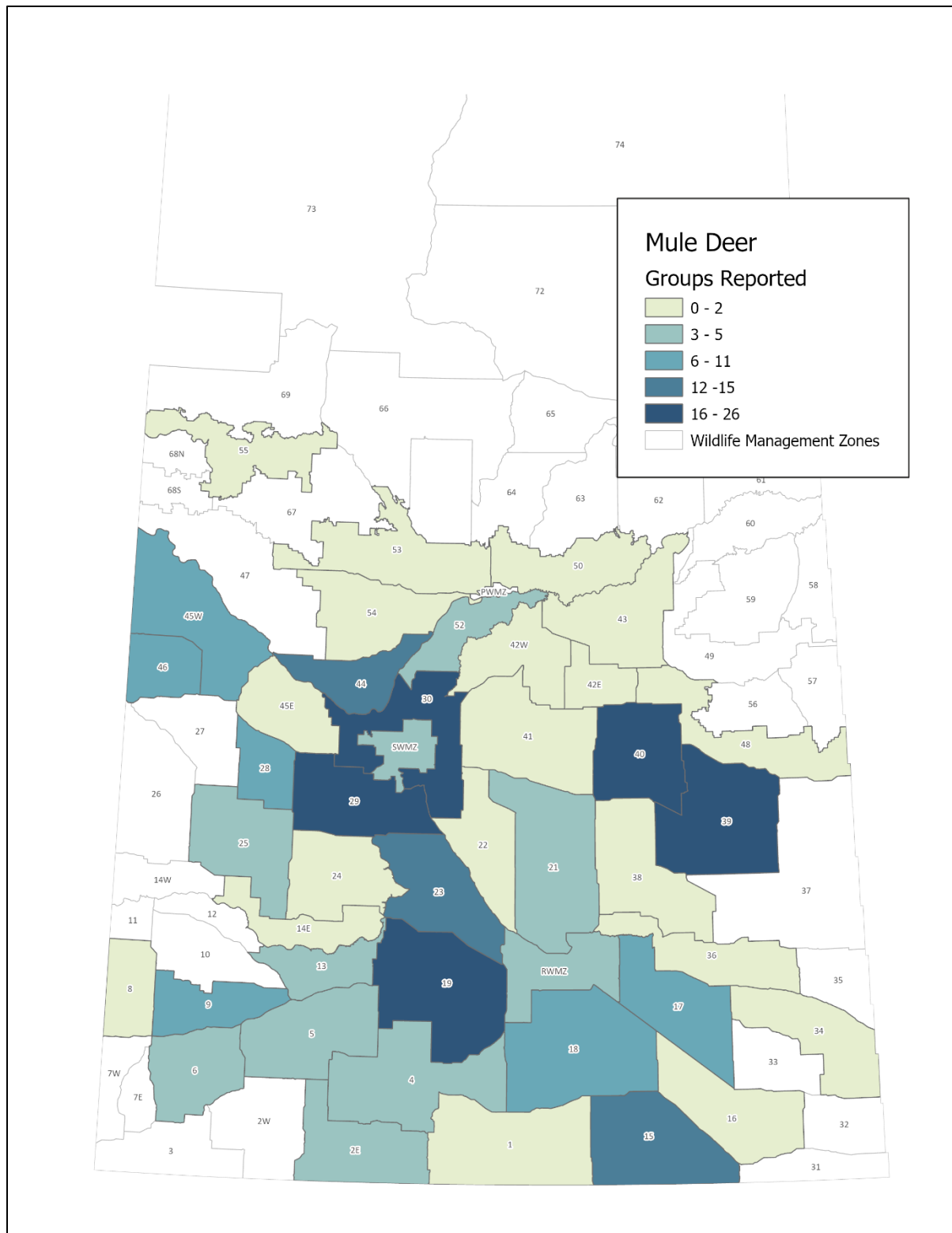


Ecoregion	WMZ	Number of Observations	Bucks	Does	Fawns
<i>Grassland</i>	1-29	145	174	607	261
<i>Parkland</i>	30-46	118	78	226	125
<i>Forest Fringe</i>	47-55	10	5	14	9
<i>Boreal Forest</i>	56-76	0	0	0	0
<i>Urban</i>	RMZ, SMZ, PAMZ	8	8	12	3

**Table 3.** Number of observations and total number of bucks, does and fawns observed during the 2020 observation period for mule deer.



**Figure 3.** Percentage of mule deer bucks observed in CWMS according to antler class in 2020 and the mule deer antler classification chart.



**Figure 4.** Summary of mule deer observations collected per wildlife management zone during the key observation period for mule deer in 2020.

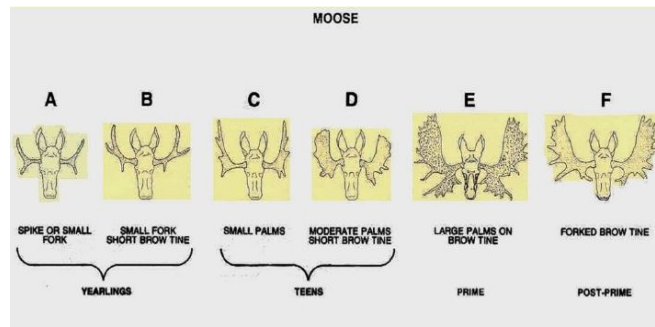
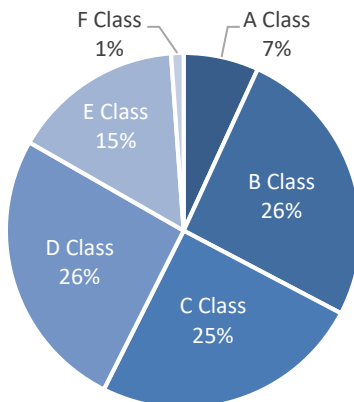
## Moose (*Alces alces*)

**Summary:** During the key observation period for moose in 2020 (September 1 to December 31), a total of 241 observations were made totaling 488 moose in 33 wildlife management zones throughout the province (Table 4). The provincial calf-to-cow ratio was 74 calves per 100 cows. This was similar to the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 75 calves per 100 cows. The provincial bull-to-cow ratio was 81 bulls per 100 cows, which was similar to the previous 3-year average (2017-2019) of 83 bull per 100 cows. The number of mature bull moose (class D, E & F) made up 44 per cent of observations, which was higher than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) where bull moose made up 37 per cent of total bull observations (Figure 5).



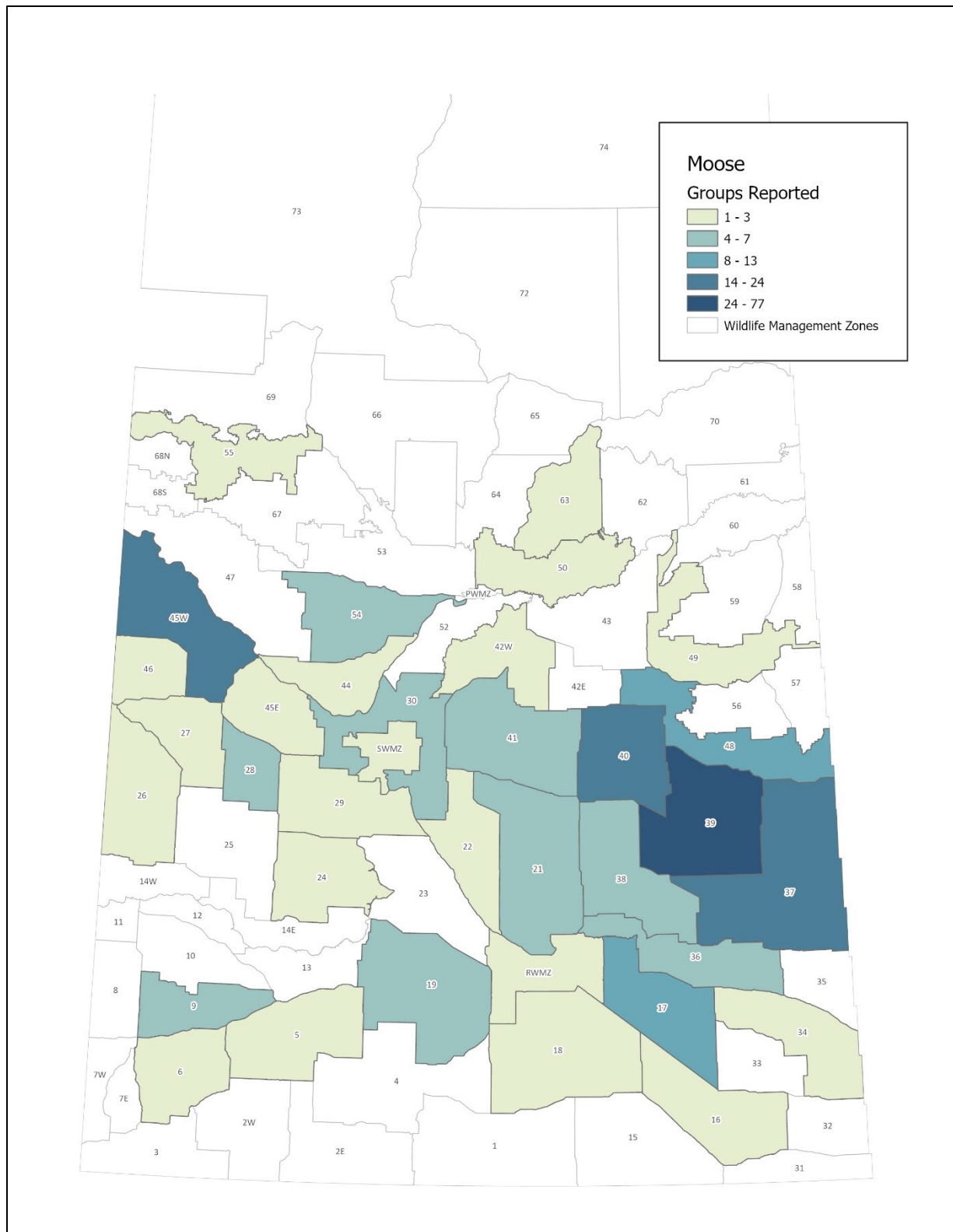
Ecoregion	WMZ	Number of Observations	Bulls	Cows	Calves
Grassland	1-29	45	32	46	36
Parkland	30-46	168	107	120	87
Forest Fringe	47-55	22	9	18	13
Boreal Forest	56-76	2	2	0	0
Urban	RMZ, SMZ, PAMZ	2	1	1	1

**Table 4.** Number of observations and total number of bulls, cows and calves observed during the 2020 observation period for moose.



**Figure 5.** Percentage of bull moose observed in CWMS according to antler class in 2020 and the moose antler classification chart.





**Figure 6.** Summary of moose observations collected per wildlife management zone during the key observation period for moose in 2020.



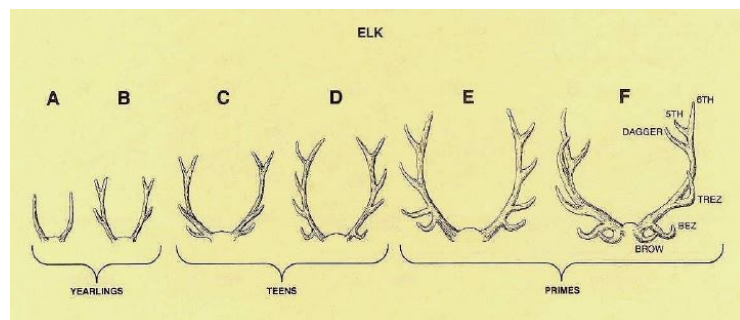
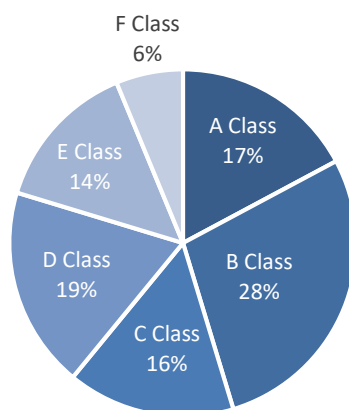
## Elk (*Cervus canadensis*)

**Summary:** During the key observation period for elk in 2020-2021 (September 1 to February 15), a total of 29 observations were made totaling 400 elk in 14 wildlife management zones throughout the province (Table 5). The provincial calf-to-cow ratio was 33 calves per 100 cows, which was lower than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 47 calves per 100 cows. The provincial bull-to-cow ratio was 43 bulls per 100 cows, which was lower than the previous three-year average (2017-2019) of 72 bulls per 100 cows. The number of mature elk bulls (class D, E & F) made up 39 per cent of total bull observations, which was similar to the previous three-year average (2017-2019) where mature bulls made up 44 per cent of total bull observations (Figure 7).

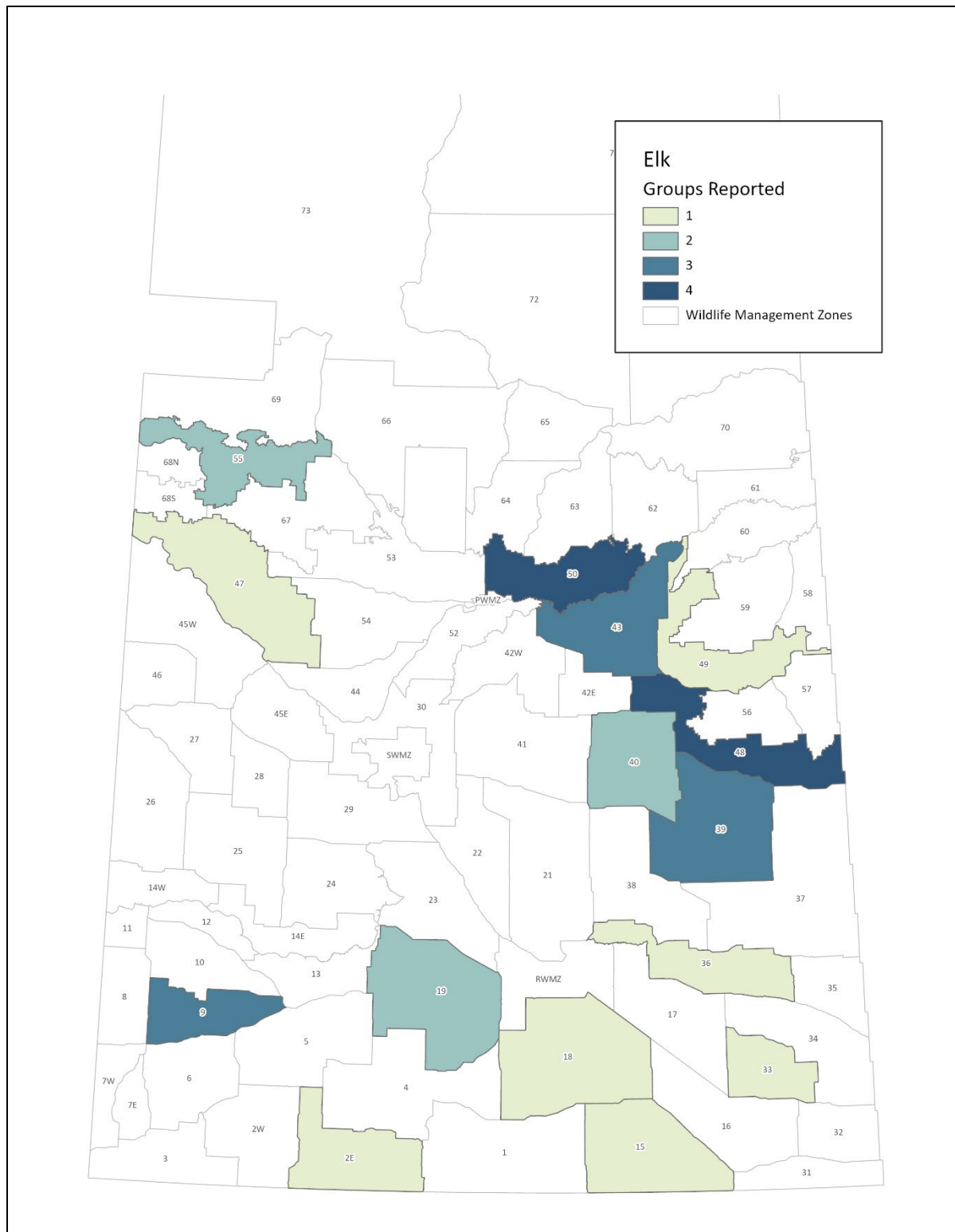


Ecoregion	WMZ	Number of Observations	Bulls	Cows	Calves
Grassland	1-29	8	28	7	1
Parkland	30-46	10	12	22	14
Forest Fringe	47-55	12	27	146	43
Boreal Forest	56-76	0	0	0	0
Urban	RWMZ, SWMZ, PWMZ	0	0	0	0

**Table 5.** Number of observations and total number of bulls, cows and calves observed during the 2020 observation period for elk.



**Figure 7.** Percentage of bull elk observed in CWMS according to antler class in 2020 and the elk antler classification chart.



**Figure 8.** Summary of elk observations collected per wildlife management zone during the key observation period for elk in 2020.

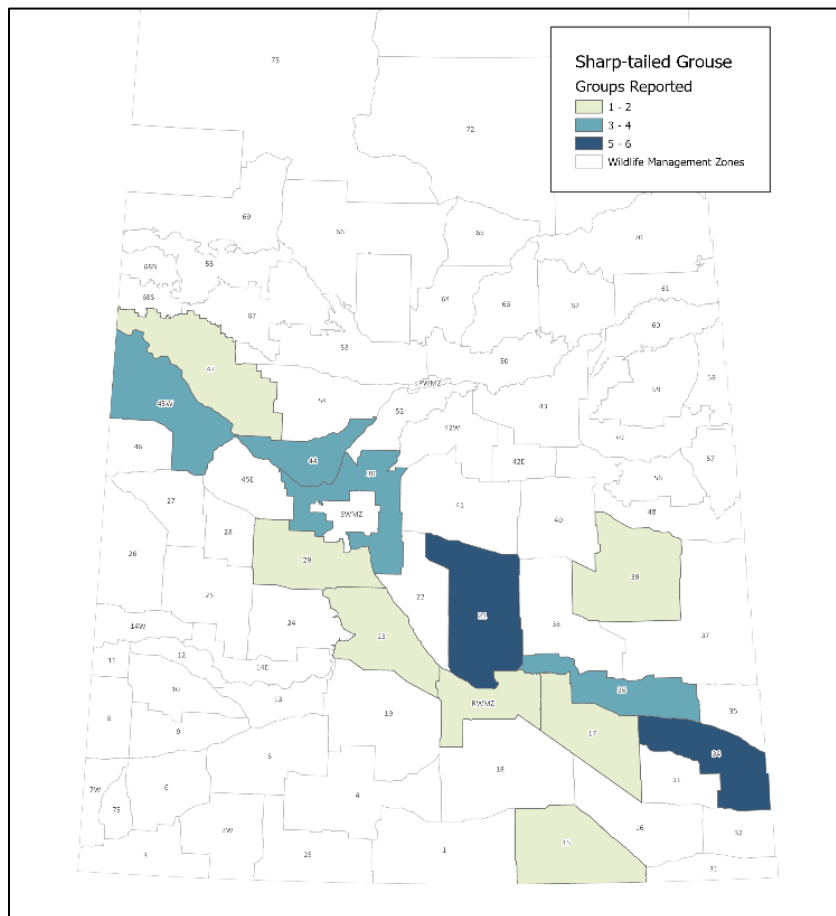
## Upland Game Birds

**Summary:** During the key observation period for sharp-tailed grouse in 2020 (March 1 to July 15) a total of 34 observations were made totaling 155 sharp-tailed grouse in 13 wildlife management zones throughout the province (Table 6). One sharp-tailed grouse lek site was reported with a total of seven sharp-tailed grouse observed on the lek (Table 6). During the key observation period for wild turkey in 2020 (December 1-March 15), no observations were made. (Table 6).



Species	Number of Observations	Number of Birds Observed	Number of Leks Reported	Number of Birds Observed on Leks
Sharp-tailed grouse	33	148	1	7
Wild turkey	0	0		

**Table 6.** Summary of upland bird observations during key observation periods in 2020.



**Figure 9.** Summary of sharp-tailed grouse observations collected per wildlife management zone during the key observation period for sharp-tailed grouse in 2020.



## Help spread the word

Results of the CWMS provide information that help inform the management of game species in Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Environment is seeking to enhance participation and you can help by spreading the word about the CWMS with your friends and family. We appreciate your involvement.

For more information on Ministry of Environment wildlife surveys, and annual wildlife management reports, please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/parks-culture-heritage-and-sport/hunting-trapping-and-angling/wildlife-population-surveys>

Check out the Saskatchewan Game Management Plan, Game Allocation Framework and Big Game and Game Bird species Management Plans online here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/parks-culture-heritage-and-sport/hunting-trapping-and-angling/game-management-plan>

If you'd like to discuss game populations or wildlife management with the Ministry of Environment Wildlife Management team, please contact the following species managers:

Species	Manager	
	Phone	Email
Elk	(306) 229-3279	<a href="mailto:Kayla.Hatzel@gov.sk.ca">Kayla.Hatzel@gov.sk.ca</a>
Moose	(306) 240-6023	<a href="mailto:Gerry.Kuzyk@gov.sk.ca">Gerry.Kuzyk@gov.sk.ca</a>
Mule deer	(306) 940-6280	<a href="mailto:Tom.Perry@gov.sk.ca">Tom.Perry@gov.sk.ca</a>
Upland game birds	(306) 933-5304	<a href="mailto:Katherine.Conkin@gov.sk.ca">Katherine.Conkin@gov.sk.ca</a>
White-tailed deer	(306) 940-6280	<a href="mailto:Tom.Perry@gov.sk.ca">Tom.Perry@gov.sk.ca</a>
Woodland Caribou	(306) 930-8015	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Tokaruk@gov.sk.ca">Matthew.Tokaruk@gov.sk.ca</a>

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