

## SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

**A G E N D A:** County Council Meeting to be held for the purpose of discussing the **Agricultural Service Board**

on

**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Held virtually through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373522079?pwd=MVhtdnlXSFBjdkpzNitYUTNWeVBWZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7352 2079 Passcode: 185835

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### 1. Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order.

### 2. Agenda:

Acceptance of Agenda:  
as presented or  
subject to additions or deletions.

### 3. Minutes:

3.1 Adopt minutes of **June 15, 2021** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©

**Recommendation:** Motion to Adopt.

3.2 Agricultural Service Board Meeting: June 15, 2021 – **Action List.** ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

### 4. Request for Decision:

4.1 Policy Statement 62-28-04 Mowing Program. ©

### 5. Issues for Information:

5.1 ASB Chairman's Report. ©

5.2 Agricultural Department Report. ©

5.3 2021 Pest Monitoring Update ©

5.4 2021 Weed Inspection Update. ©

- 5.5 2021 Mowing Progress Map. ©
- 5.6 2021 Herbicide Progress Map. ©

## 6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Letter received from Jody Wilson, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66, dated June 10, 2021 RE: Concerns for open Pit Coal Mining in the Eastern Rocky Mountains. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.2 Letter received from Kevin Grumetza, Reeve, Thorhild County, dated June 15, 2021 RE: Funding for Agricultural Service Boards. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.3 Letter received from Dallas Ekstrom, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Brazeau County, dated June 16, 2021 RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.4 Letter received from Bruce Hamblin, Director of Inspection and Investigation Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, dated June 22, 2021 RE: Agreement for the Implementation of Wild Boar Containment Standards. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.5 Letter received from Robert Brochu, Agricultural Service Board Chair and Reeve, M.D. of Smoky River, dated July 14, 2021 RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

## 7. Delegation(s):

- 7.1 Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) @9:30am re: LARA Update

**8. Executive Session:**

**9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s):**

**Adjournment**

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **June 15, 2021**, at 9:05 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting and physically in County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Councillor Dan Gawalko in the presence of the following persons:

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Tuesday, June 15, 2021</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Present in Chambers
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Randy Orichowski	Absent
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Present in Chambers
Assist. CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh McMullin	Present in Chambers
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present

\*\*\*\*\*

No Members of the Media were Present.  
No Members of the Public were Present.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, were virtually present for the meeting as a key contacts for Smoky Lake County.

**2. Agenda:**

837-21: Lukinuk      That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 15, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**3. Minutes:**

838-21: Halisky      That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

839-21: Cherniwchan      That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, be filed for information.

Carried.

**7. Delegation:**

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

Virtually present before Smoky Lake County Council from 9:08 a.m. to 9:16 a.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, to provide an update, which included but was not limited to the following points:

- LARA's three summer students started work at the beginning of May.
- LARA sent away clubroot samples on four possible plot sites. Three out of the four came back with very high traces of clubroot.
- Plot site is on Darrell Ketsa's land just off of Highway 28.
- Amanda applied for hemp license and received approval at the beginning of June.

- The Smoky Lake plot site was seeded on May 27, 2021, all of the plots are seeded besides the Flax and Hemp demo as not all of the seed has arrived.
- Trials in Smoky Lake for 2021 are (Environmentally Smart Nitrogen) ESN Barley, ESN Wheat, Top Dressing Nitrogen on Spring Wheat, (Regional Silage Trial) RST Winter/Spring Cereals. (Regional Variety Trial) RVT Oats, LARA RVT and two demonstration trials hemp and flax.
- There will be five flax varieties and eight hemp varieties for the demo.
- Hemp received are Vega, Altair, Anka and Silesia other four varieties on the way as first batch got lost in mail, should hopefully arrive Wednesday.
- Smoky Lake plot tour will be July 22, 2021. More details will be provided to the council for the event at a later date.
- LARA will be soil benchmarking in the Smoky Lake County this summer as there have been multiple producers phoning to be a part of the trial.
- Alyssa will be returning to manager position as she is returning to LARA July 5, 2021.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, virtually left the meeting, time 9:16 a.m.

#### **4. Request for Decision:**

##### **Year-2021 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day**

840-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, take no action to host the Year-2021, 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Plot Tour scheduled for July 22, 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the possibility of hosting an appreciation day in conjunction with the County's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Fall 2021 subject to pandemic restrictions; and approve to provide LARA with appropriate door prizes for their said event.

Carried.

##### **Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

841-21: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, accept the report from Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P. Eng., Environmental Program Manager, LARA, for information as presented on June 15, 2021.

Carried.

#### **5. Issues for Information:**

##### **Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report**

The Agricultural Service Board Chairperson: Dan Gawalko Councillor Division 1, provided a written Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report as follows:

LARA Meeting - April 19, 2021

Dan Gawalko Councillor Division 1

- Amanda reported on FARM RITE had 1 meeting introducing LARA and what each association has to offer, she also gave the managers' report, sent in the reporting for the 2020 core grant. Attended ASS meeting with Kellie in Smoky Lake County via zoom. They also met with Amanda and Carleigh, still waiting for approval for hemp license.
- Research report presented by Stephanie started flagging trials at LARA, sourcing seed for the regional trials, servicing equipment sent in soil samples away for liming trials, soil sampling club root sampling and will be starting seed prepping.
- Kellie gave the AESA (Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture) report she presented to Lamont County on April 17, 2021, met with Craignend Agricultural Society and drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2.2 acres on NE-05-6S-13-W4 and discussed the purpose and use of the research site, succession planning webinar will be on LARA you tube channel, and she also signed the LARA Rhap agreement.
- The financials were reported by Amanda.
- No report on HR.
- LFA presented by Stephanie they are organizing the board.

Upcoming Events

- April 27 Grazing Planning
- April 29 Water Well Webinar
- July 19-21 Soil health academy St. Paul County
- July 22 Smoky Lake - Field Day
- July 28 Fort Kent - Field Day
- August 5 St. Paul - Field Day
- August 11 Lac La Biche - Field Day

*Dan Gawalko Councillor Division 1, Verbally added:*

*LARA Meeting - June 14, 2021*

- Working on updating policies.
- Next meeting will be in August.

842-21: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's written and verbal report from March 30, 2021, to June 15, 2021, in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), be accepted for information.

Carried.

Carole Dowhaniuk, GIS Officer, and Kyle Schole, Planning and Development Assistant, virtually joined the meeting, time 9:30 a.m.

Dave Franchuk, Natural Gas Manager, virtually joined the meeting, time 9:50 a.m.

**Agricultural Fieldman Report**

843-21: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Fieldman's written Report as of June 8, 2021, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Resolution Responses & Grading**

844-21: Cherniwchan

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, support the grades assigned by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) to the Year-2021 Resolutions and submit notice of same to the ASBPC as follows, by the deadline of June 30, 2021:

RESOLUTION	GRADE	COMMENTS
1-21: Weed issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta	Accept in Principle	All the concerns from the resolution were addressed in the response. The Committee will follow up with the Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Forestry for updates. May 25, the Committee brought the resolution and the responses to the attention of ADM John Conrad who committed to checking in on the status and getting back to the Committee. The Committee will be sure to bring this up when they meet with Minister Dreeshen later this year.
2-21: Pesticide Container Collection Program	Unsatisfactory	The ASBPC feels that this response, does not address the issue brought forward by the resolution and has asked for further clarification from AEP as to the legal responsibilities of the municipalities should they choose to close their pesticide container collection site; who would become responsible for improperly disposed of pesticide containers, and how would the legislation be enforced. Additional response from AEP was not yet received on May 31. On May 25 the ASBPC brought this resolution to the attention of ADM for Primary Agriculture John Conrad and he agreed to speak to AEP on behalf of the ASBs as well. Once the second response from AEP is received it will be posted on the ASB website.
3-21: An Effective Solution for Control of RG Squirrels in Alberta	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.
4-2: 1 Registration of 2% liquid Strychnine	Accept the Response	The Committee graded the responses to 3-21 as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.

5-21: Fusarium Testing After Cleaning	Incomplete	The ASBPC graded this response as Incomplete because the response was not received on time and so was at the time of Committee review, Incomplete. Since this response was received the Committee has distributed the response to all the ASBs so they can provide their feedback through the email address provided by the Minister.
6-21: Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response because it addressed the resolution as presented.
8-21: Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.
9-21: Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed		The Committee grading this response as Incomplete because it did not specify how ASBs and farmers could present their perspectives, offer feedback and participate in next steps in the process. The Committee wrote to Siddika Mithani to ask for further information on the process and how to participate.  Additional Response received May 27, 2021.
10-21: Federal Fuel Charge	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.

Carried.

**2021 Brush Spraying**

845-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, accept the Agricultural Service Board Departments' Year-2021 Brush Spraying report as of June 8, 2021, as presented for information.

Carried.

**6. Correspondence:**

**Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions**

846-21: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, file the letter received by Smoky Lake County from Ian Sundquist, Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Chair, MD of Willow Creek, dated April 20, 2021, concerning the resolution session at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference being flawed, for information.

Carried.

**Agricultural Service Board Grant Reduction**

847-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, file the copied letter received by Smoky Lake County addresses to the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, from Leanne Beaupre, Reeve, County of Grande Prairie No.1, dated May 14, 2021, requesting the Provincial government reconsider not reducing the amounts of Agricultural Service Board grant funding provided to municipalities for supporting the important work which the province has tasked to municipalities, and provide greater access to subject matter experts to address concerns and questions from agricultural producers; for information.

Carried.

**Farm Safety Centre**

848-21: Cherniwchan That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, acknowledge receipt of the letter received from Jordan Jensen, Executive Director, Farm Safety Centre, dated May 7, 2021, thanking the County for contributing funds in the amount of \$518.00 to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre's Year-2021 "Safety Smarts" school-based-farm-safety program.

Carried.

**Additional Mowing Request at Bonnie Lake Resort**

849-21: Cherniwchan That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, take no action to the email received from Ed Basaraba, Bonnie Lake Resort Developer, dated June 8, 2021, requesting additional mowing at Bonnie Lake Resort near the municipal address 59536 Range Road 132A, as the proposed area is an environmental sensitive wetland area.

Carried.

Kyle Schole - Planning and Development Assistant, Carole Dowhaniuk - GIS Officer and Dave Franchuk - Environmental Operations Manager, virtually left the meeting, time 10:08 a.m.

**8. Executive Session:**

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

850-21: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, go into Executive Session to discuss a Legal issue in regard to providing public access to information from Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 16: third party business interests, time 10:08 a.m.

Carried.

851-21: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acting on behalf of County Council, go out of Executive Session, time 10:23 a.m.

Carried.

One member of the Public virtually joined the meeting, time 10:26 a.m.

**Next Meeting**

852-21: Halisky That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 **and/or** physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

853-21: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of June 15, 2021, be adjourned, time 10:27 a.m.

Carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER





4  
GOALS

75%  
GOAL COMPLETION

● Draft ● Not started ● Behind ● On Track ● Overdue ● Complete → Direct Alignment --- Indirect Alignment

### COUNCIL MOTIONS/INQUIRY PLAN

#### COUNCIL MOTIONS 2021

Meeting Date	Council Motion #	Goal	Details	Owner	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date
		2021 06 15 ASB Meeting		-		Overdue	2021/06/15

2021/06/15

840-21

→ **Year-2021 19th Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day**

That Smoky Lake County take no action to host the Year-2021, 19th Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Plot Tour scheduled for July 22, 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the possibility of hosting an appreciation day in conjunction with the County's 60th Anniversary in Fall, 2021 subject to pandemic restrictions; and approve to provide LARA with appropriate door prizes for their said event.

Agricultural Fieldman

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** Promotional items received from Jenna on July 21st in preparation for the Field Day on July 22nd.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** Notified LARA via e-mail on June 15th that we will not be hosting our Farmers Appreciation Event on July 22nd, but rather we will donate door prizes for those producers who choose to attend the Field Day.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

Complete

2021/06/15

2021/06/15

844-21

→ **Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Resolution Responses & Grading**

That Smoky Lake County Council support the grades assigned by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) to the Year-2021 Resolutions and submit notice of same to the ASBPC as follows, by the deadline of June 30, 2021:

Agricultural Fieldman

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** Resolution Grading sent to Linda Hunt of the ASB Provincial Committee on June 16th, 2021

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

Complete

2021/06/15

R	G	COMMENTS
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O D L E T I O N	
1 - 2 1 : W e e n d i s s u e s : R u r a l A l b e r t a	A All the concerns from the resolution were addressed in the response. The Committee will follow up with the Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Forestry for updates. May 25, the Committee brought the resolution and the responses to the attention of ADM John Conrad who committed to checking in on the status and getting back to the Committee. The Committee will be sure to bring this up when they meet with Minister Dreeshen later this year.
2 - 2 1 : ti	U The ASBPC feels that this response, does not address the issue brough

**Achievements:**

Resolutions  
Responses and  
Grading sheet sent  
to the ASB  
Provincial  
Committee June  
16th, 2021.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*



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c containers, and  
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n enforced.  
P Additional  
r response from  
o AEP was not yet  
g received on May  
r 31. On May 25  
a the ASBPC  
m brought this  
resolution to the  
attention of ADM  
for Primary  
Agriculture John  
Conrad and he  
agreed to speak  
to AEP on behalf  
of the ASBs as  
well.  
Once the second  
response from  
AEP is received it  
will be posted on  
the ASB website.

3 A The Committee  
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6 - 2 1 : A g r i c e R u l t e u s r e p o n s e s e a r c h A s s o c i a t i o n C h e c k O f O p t i o n	A The Committee graded this resolution response as p Accept the Response because it addressed the resolution as presented.
8 - 2 1 : R t e t i h	A The Committee graded this resolution response as p Accept the Response as it addressed the



<p>ne s t a t i n g P r o v i n c i a l A g r i c u l t u r e D e p a r t m e n t S t a f f</p>	<p>resolution as presented.</p>
<p>9 - 2 1 : P r o t e c t F a</p>	<p>The Committee grading this response as Incomplete because it did not specify how ASBs and farmers could present their perspectives, offer feedback and participate in next steps in the</p>





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process. The Committee wrote to Siddika Mithani to ask for further information on the process and how to participate.

Additional Response received May 27, 2021.

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A The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.



2021/06/15

849-21

↳ **Additional  
Mowing Request  
at Bonnie Lake  
Resort**

That Smoky Lake County take no action to the email received from Ed Basaraba, Bonnie Lake Resort Resident, dated June 8, 2021, requesting additional mowing at Bonnie Lake Resort near the municipal address 59536 Range Road 132A, as it is an environmental sensitive area.

Agricultural Fieldman

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** E-mail sent to Mr Basaraba on June 16th, 2021 notifying him of Councils decision to not accept his request for additional mowing at Bonnie Lake Resort.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** E-mail send to Ed Basaraba on June 16th, 2021 notifying him that Council denied his request due to the proximity to the water and the potential for getting stuck or leaving ruts as this is a wet area.

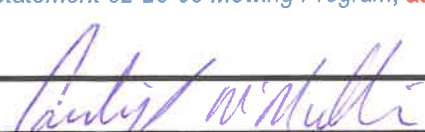
**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/06/15

Complete



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	August 10, 2021	4.1
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>Policy Statement 62-28-04 Mowing Program</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<p>To bring Policy Statement 62-28-03 Mowing Program forward to make changes and bring clarity to the guidelines.</p> <p>To include Twp Rd 610 between Range Rd 181 East to Hwy 855 to be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts that receive two seasonal mowing passes before July long weekend and before August long weekend.</p>			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN</b>				
Mowing is a core program under the Weed Control Act section of the Ag Service Board Business Plan				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>			Fulfilling legislative duties under the Weed Control Act of Alberta	
<b>BENEFITS</b>	The Agricultural Fieldman will be able to give mower operators clear direction and expectations, thus leading to a more efficient mowing program. By including this section of road in the mowing policy it will provide a higher level of safety to our ratepayers and truck drivers due to the high volume of traffic it receives in the summer months.			
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>				
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
Operating Costs: N/A		Capital Costs: N/A		
Budget Available: N/A		Source of Funds: N/A		
Budgeted Costs: N/A		Actual Costs: N/A		
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>				
That the Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement 62-28-03 Mowing Program, as presented.				
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>				

# SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



<b>Title: Mowing Program</b>		<b>Policy No.: 28-03</b>
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Code: P-R</b>	<b>Page No.: 1 of 3</b>

*E*

<b>Legislation Reference:</b>	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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<b>Purpose:</b>	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.
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<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>	
<b>1. STATEMENT:</b>	
1.1	Smoky Lake County will mow developed road allowances annually to maintain safe visibility for the travelling public and to improve drainage of infrastructure.
1.2	The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.
1.3	The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.
<b>2. DEFINITION(S):</b>	
2.1	<b>County Lands:</b> Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County
2.2	<b>Developed Road Allowances:</b> Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.
<b>3. OBJECTIVES:</b>	
3.1	Define areas that will be mowed within the right-of-way and on County lands.
3.2	Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.
3.3	The County`s desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the right-of-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road</li><li>▪ to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way</li><li>▪ to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public</li><li>▪ to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way.</li></ul>

<b>Title: Mowing Program</b>		<b>Policy No.: 28-03</b>
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Code: P-R</b>	<b>Page No.: 2 of 3</b>

*E*

<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To prevent drifting on roads, where the blowing snow will travel across the road, rather than being trapped by standing vegetation which will travel across</li> </ul>	
<b>4. GUIDELINES:</b>	
4.1	The mowing program will be developed and planned by the Agricultural Service Board and implemented through the Agricultural Services Department. The defined mowing areas consist of three (3) zones, divided using range road 150 and Highway 855 as boundaries.
4.2	Ditch clean-up and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.
4.3	One-pass herbicide mowers will begin mowing operation the first week of June for more effective weed control. Non-herbicide mower operations will begin the last week of June. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1 <sup>st</sup> .
4.4	Mowing Operations consist of three (3) tractors and mowers used to cut grass, brush, and noxious weeds. These mowers are able to accomplish a significant amount of mowing and right-of-way clearing very efficiently when compared to other methods of mechanical control.
4.5	Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following:
4.5.1	Developed Road Allowances: All grassy areas along, oiled, or gravel roads will be mowed once a year mowing from roads edge to property line where conditions allow. Which may require several mowing passes to accomplish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These secondary passes should be a minimum of 5ft.</li> <li>• Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)</li> <li>• Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to Hwy 855 will be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts prior to July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)</li> <li>• The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season</li> <li>• It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program</li> </ul>
4.6	All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to <b>Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing</b>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>
-------------	--------------------------

Approved	May 24, 2018	# 581-18 - Page # 13130
Amended	October 22, 2018	#1030-18 - Page # 13312
Amended	April 13, 2021	

Section 62

Policy: 28-03



**SCHEDULE "A"**  
**APPROVED ADDITIONAL MOWING**

<p>Metis Crossing</p> <p>Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds</p> <p>Smoky Lake Air Strip</p> <p>Hamlin Ball Diamonds</p> <p>Waskatenau Ball Diamonds</p> <p>Bellis Ball Diamonds</p> <p>Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626</p>
---



7  
GOALS

60%  
GOAL COMPLETION

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PLAN  
(ASB) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal	Progress Update	Current Com...	Start Date	Due Date
Administrative Activity: 100%	<p><b>NEW Carleigh McMullin:</b></p> <p><b>Achievements: Meetings &amp; Training attended from June 15th- August 10th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing School for Woman Webinar: June 23rd</li> <li>• ASB Field Visit: June 29th</li> <li>• Managers Review of Re-Opening: June 30th</li> <li>• Joint Health &amp; Safety Meeting: July 8th</li> <li>• Departmental Meeting: July 20th</li> <li>• LARA Field Day: July 22nd</li> <li>• Grazing School for Woman Meeting: July 28th</li> <li>• InnoTech Hemp Field Day Vegreville: July 29th</li> <li>• Special County Council Meeting RE: Ag Disaster August 5th</li> </ul> <p><b>Ag. Department Highlights: June 15th-August 10th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had two students join us on June 17th from the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance to help Trevor install pone levelers, these two students will be joining us again on August 19th.</li> <li>• Natural Resources Canada came out on July 15th to do our Mag Inspection- passed with flying colours.</li> <li>• Issued Alberta Transportation more weed letters for along Secondary 652, more to come for along Hwy 28</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b> <i>No value</i></p> <p><b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/05/11</p>	<p>84% 84 / 100% 6% behind</p>	2017/12/31	2021/12/31

**Blasting Activity (ASB): 100%**

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- Working closely with Trevor ensuring we are getting proper DFO and AEP approvals for areas where we need to blast or do dam removal with equipment or by hand.

**Challenges:**

- In order to do work on Crown land a DCL (Damage Control License) is needed. Fish and Wildlife used to issue DCL's but this duty has been given to the Provincial Biologists. Our Biologist is located in Athabasca, and so far it has taken 2 months of back and forth correspondence and we still have not received approval for one of our DCL's.
- The Biologist has also stated that he would like to see the bulk of Smoky Lake County's trapping to occur within the trapping season to prevent the need for the issuance of DCL's and special permits. The trapping season is from October 15th-May 15h.

**Next Steps:** *No value*  
2021/08/03

**Weed Control (ASB): 100%**

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:** As of August 3rd, 2021 there have been 277 weed inspections completed.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*  
2021/08/03

**Mowing Activity (ASB): 100%**

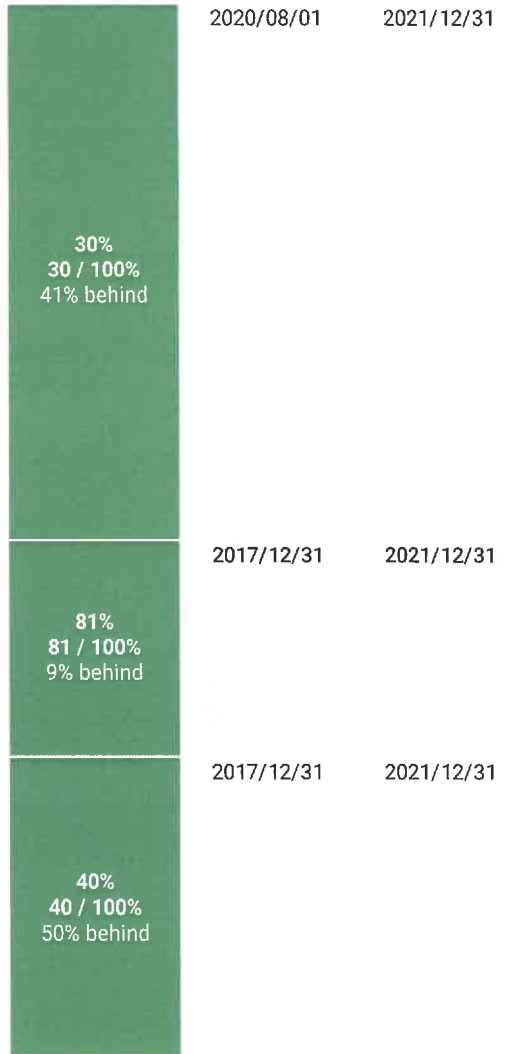
**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- Mowing in all zones has started and is going very well. Completing second passes wherever it's possible.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*  
2021/07/12





**Spraying (ASB): 100%**

**NEW Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**

- Brush spraying and spraying where PW hydro-axed in 2020 has been completed as of July 8th.
- Noxious weed spraying began June 28th, 2021.
- Weed spraying is going very well in comparison to 2020. Having 2 spray crews to complete brush spraying was much more efficient than having 1 crew.
- Now we will be following the mowers spraying to the fence line where they can't quite reach to get full weed control in the right-of-ways.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/07/12



2017/12/31

2021/12/31

**Pest Control (ASB): 100%**

**NEW Carleigh McMullin:**

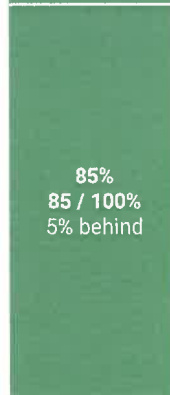
**Achievements:**

- 142 beavers as of August 3rd, 2021.
- Bertha Armyworm monitoring is done and numbers were low.
- Grasshoppers were higher this year in comparison to previous wet years, however according to the provincial guidelines these numbers are considered low or 'light damage'.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/08/03



2017/12/31

2021/12/31

**Safety Activity (ASB)**

**NEW Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**

- Attended both June and Julys Joint Health & Safety Meeting.
- Bear awareness training completed.
- Attending Monday morning "toolbox" meetings.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/08/03



2020/01/01

2021/12/31

## 2021 Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

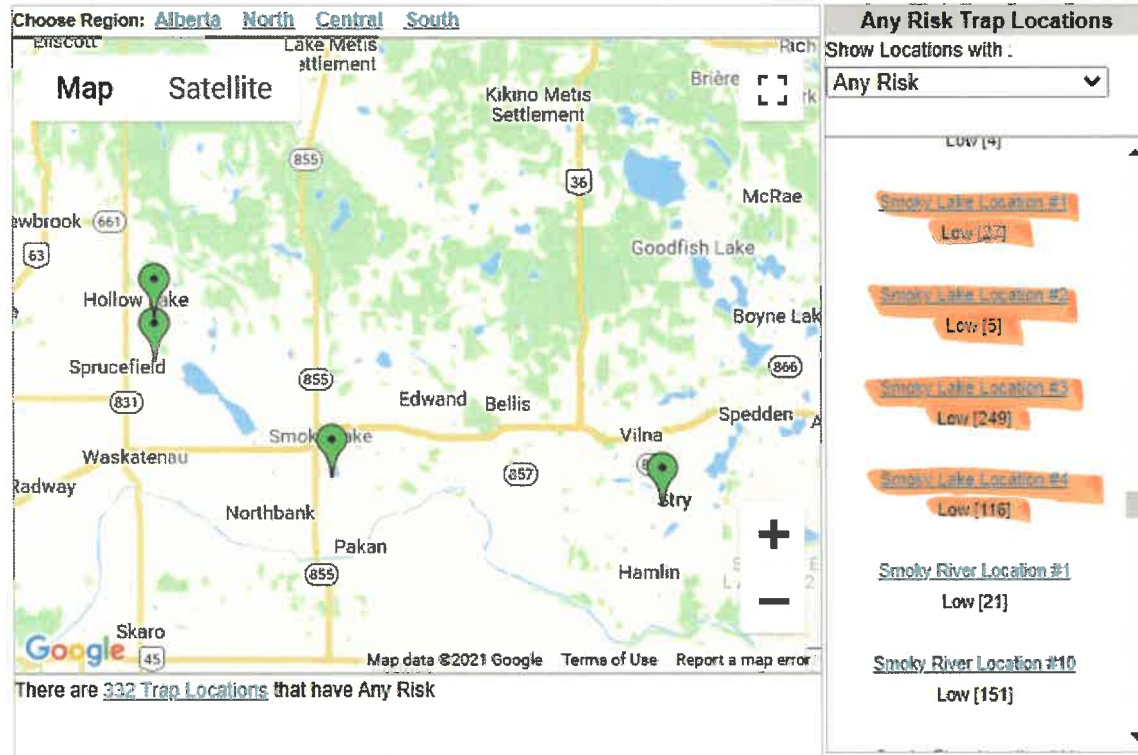
Date	June 23	June 30	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
<b>West</b>	0	3	22	48	42	15
<i>NW-15-60-19 W4</i>						
	0	1	15	42	25	17
<b>Central</b>	0	3	26	109	55	30
<i>SE-3-59-17 W4</i>						
	0	2	37	129	76	34
<b>East</b>	0	0	15	16	62	21
<i>SW-29-58-13 W4</i>						
	0	0	17	27	53	24

Traps set up on: June 16, 2021

Traps taken down on: July 28, 2021

# 2021 Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

## Bertha Armyworm Survey Results (forecast)



## Legend

Cumulative Number of Moths/Trap		Larval Infestation Risk Level	
From	To	Icon	Description
0	300		<b>Low</b> - Infestations are unlikely to be widespread, but fields should be inspected for signs of insects or damage.
300	900		<b>Medium</b> - Infestations may not be widespread, but fields that were particularly attractive to egg-laying females could be infested. Check your fields.
900	1200		<b>High</b> - Canola fields should be sampled regularly for larvae and for evidence of damage.
1200	1500+		<b>Severe</b> - Canola fields should be sampled frequently for larvae and for evidence of damage.

## 2021 Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

It will be critical to have very good coverage of pheromone traps in 2021 to develop an early warning of potential problems during the coming season. This trend, however, indicates that a bertha armyworm outbreak is possible or even likely in Southern and Peace regions of Alberta.

Normally, weather and natural enemies keep bertha armyworm populations in check. Parasitism rates of 50 to 60% in bertha larval populations have indicated the end of a local outbreak in the following year. In addition, as we saw in 2013, disease outbreaks can have a major impact on the bertha armyworm populations. Snow cover encourages successful overwintering, in contrast low snow cover with cold temperatures reduces winter survival. Monitoring, even in low flight years, allows us to pick up trends and better predict when bertha armyworm populations start to build-up and lead into new outbreaks.

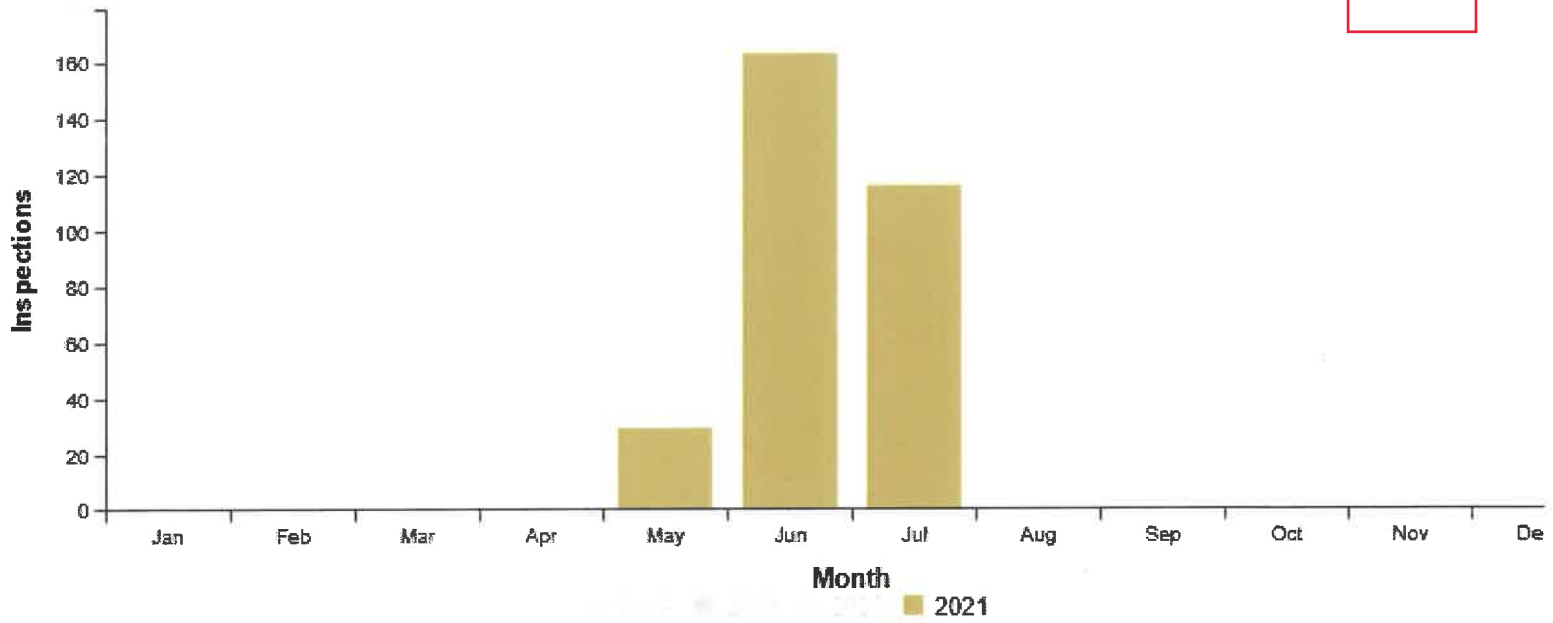
Potential damage from bertha armyworm may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather and crop conditions and localized population dynamics. An insecticide application is recommended when the larval numbers meet the [economic threshold](#).

During the monitoring season, the reported trap counts are displayed on a Google map. The map allows the viewer to zoom in and click on the individual balloons. Clicking on a balloon will display the organization responsible for the trap location, municipality where the trap is located, and both the weekly and cumulative counts. All counts displayed are the average of the two traps at the site. (All counts displayed are the average between the two traps at a site). During the trapping period, the information is updated as the entries are made into the data collection website. The resolution is not so fine as to pinpoint the exact location of individual trap locations.

The objective of the monitoring is to increase the awareness of canola producers to the damage potential of bertha armyworm. Forecast maps DO NOT replace field scouting. No field should be treated for bertha armyworm without proper field scouting. Moth catches indicate the potential for damage but the actual populations must be assessed. Experience from previous outbreaks has shown us that adjacent fields or even different parts of the same field can have greatly different bertha armyworm numbers. Producers growing peas and faba bean also need to pay close attention to the bertha monitoring system as bertha armyworm has been known to feed on both those crops.

## Inspections By Month By Year

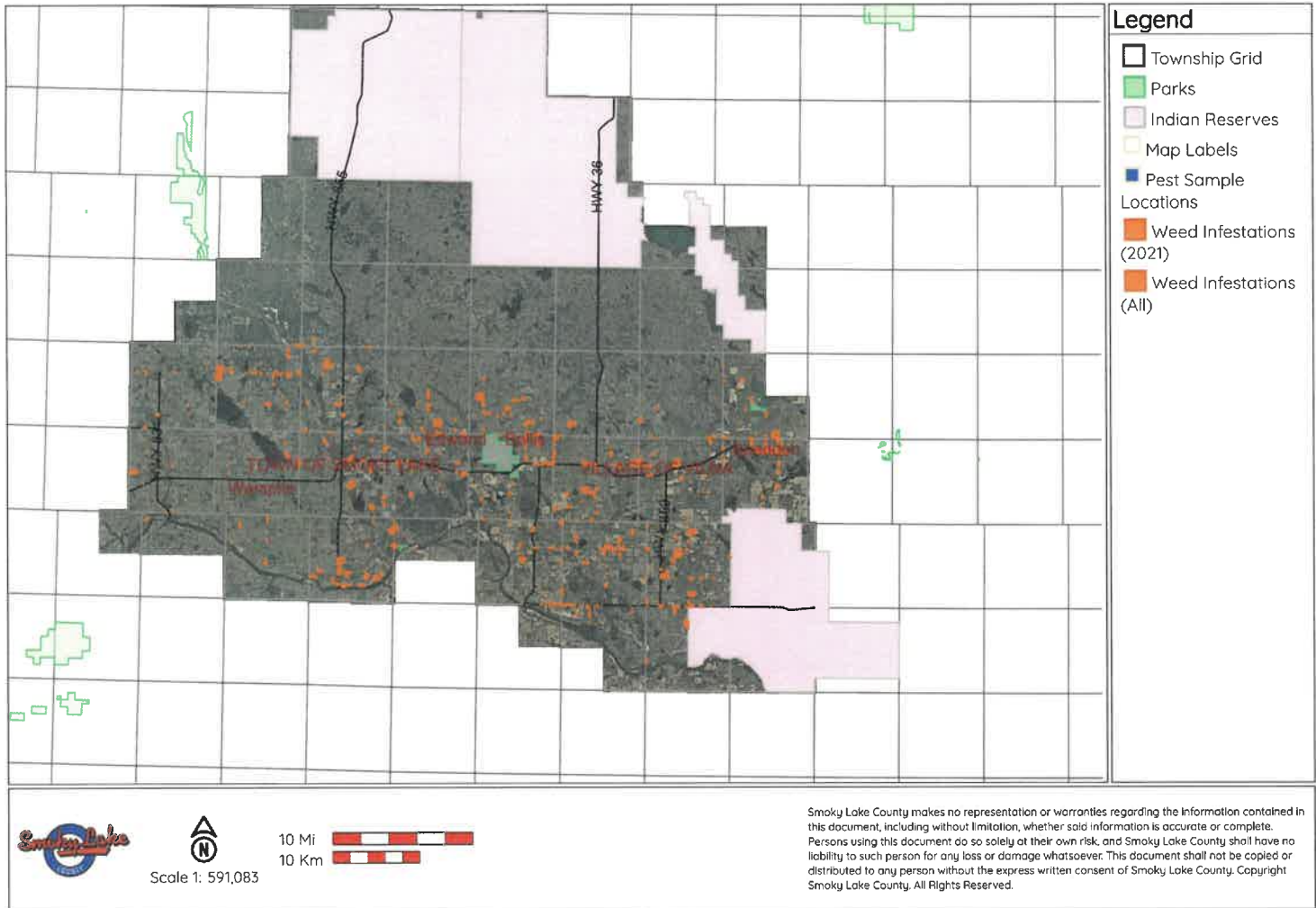
5.4



Weed Inspections as of: Aug 3, 2021.

277 Inspections completed as of Aug 3, 2021

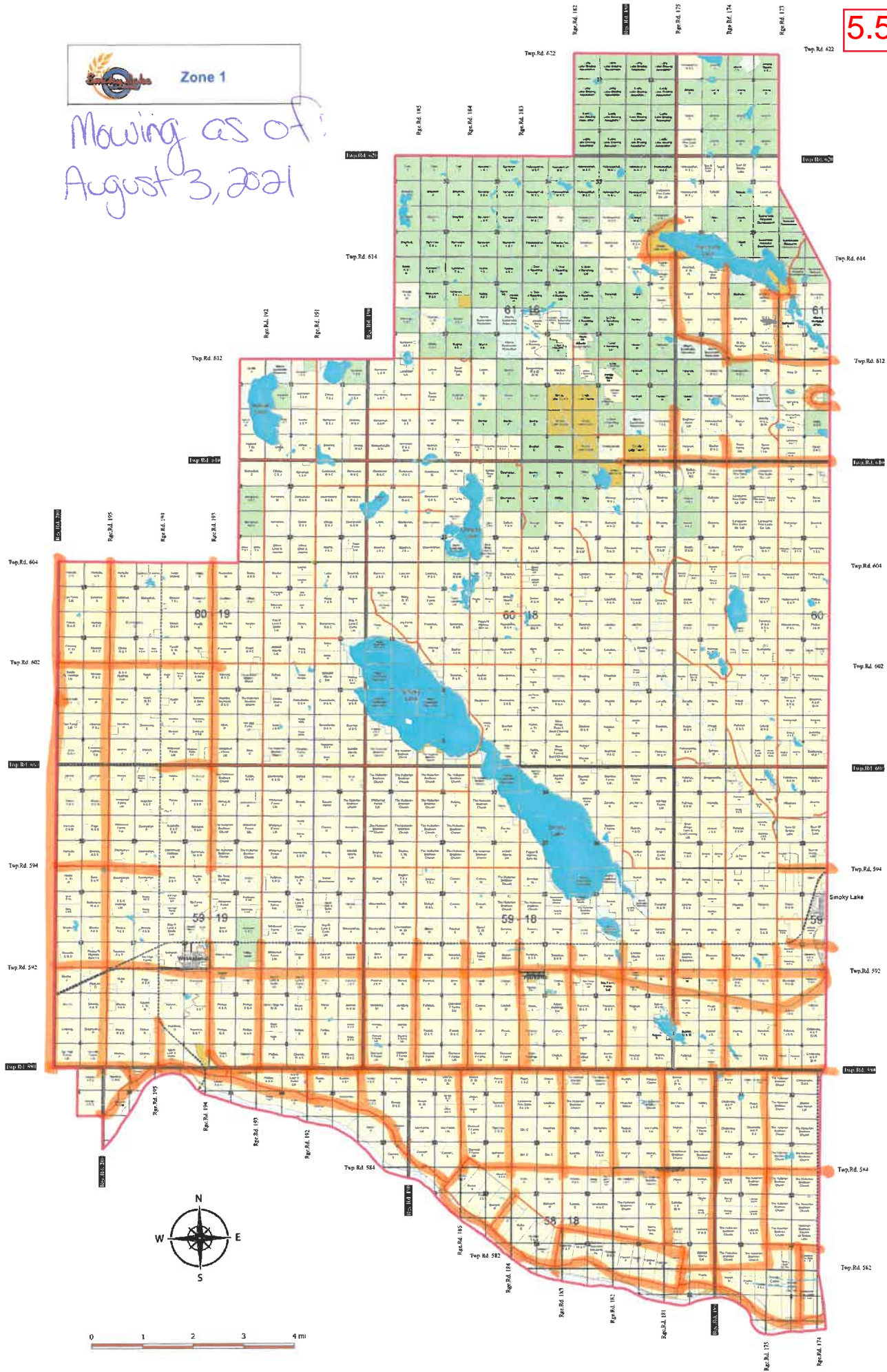
Weed Inspections  
as of: Aug 3, 2021

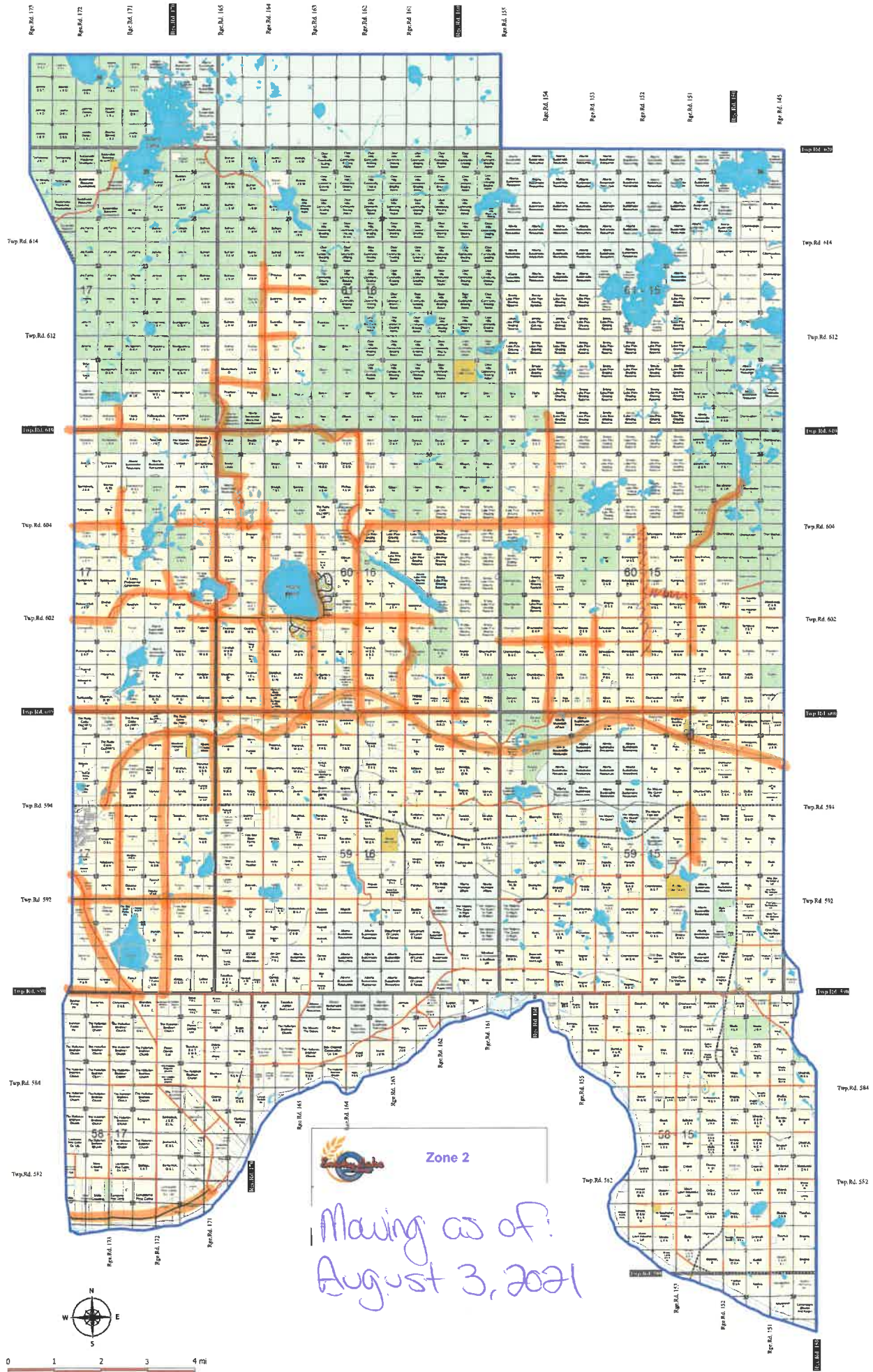




Mowing as of:  
August 3, 2021

5.5



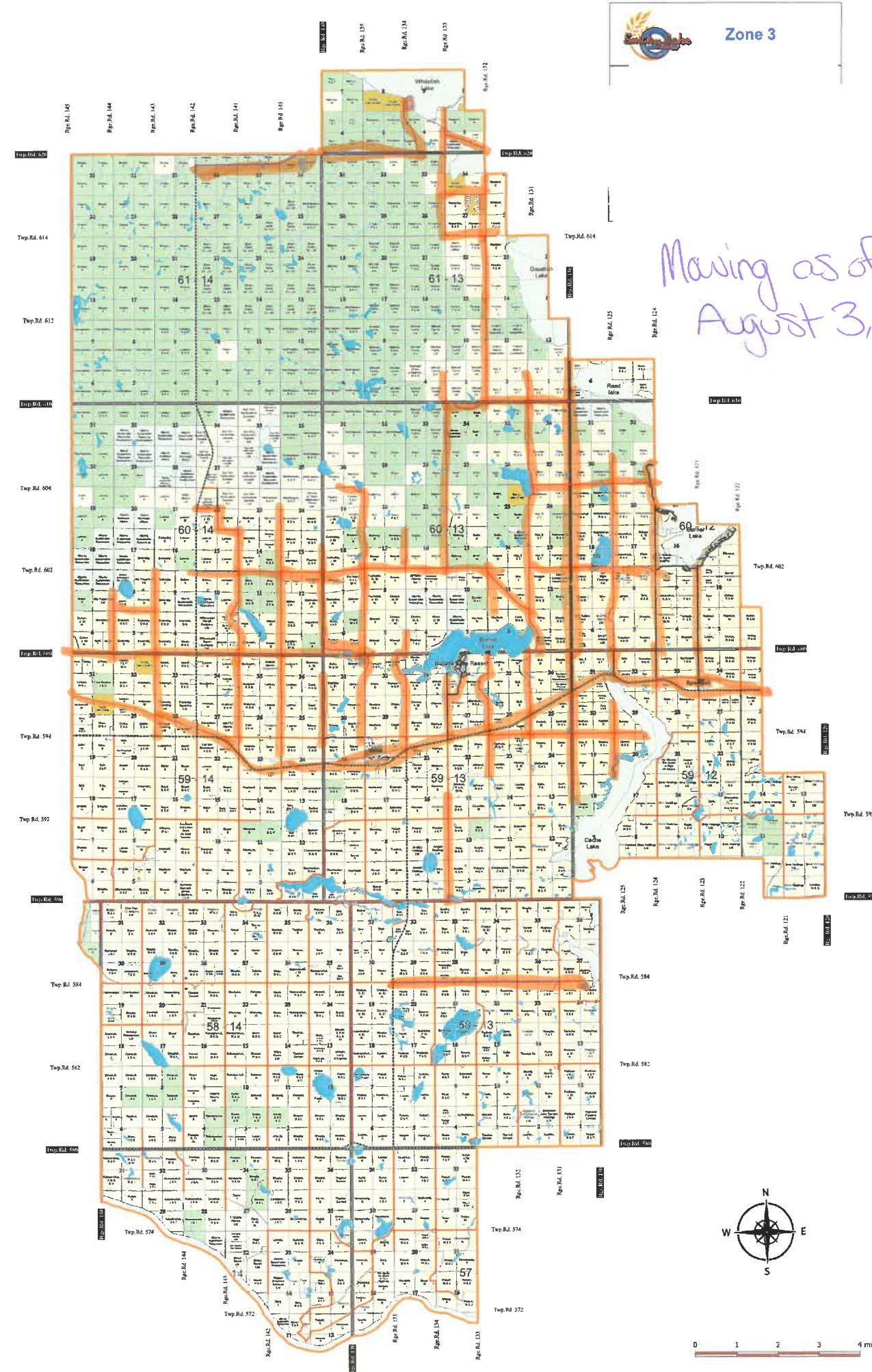


Zone 2

Mapping as of:  
August 3, 2021







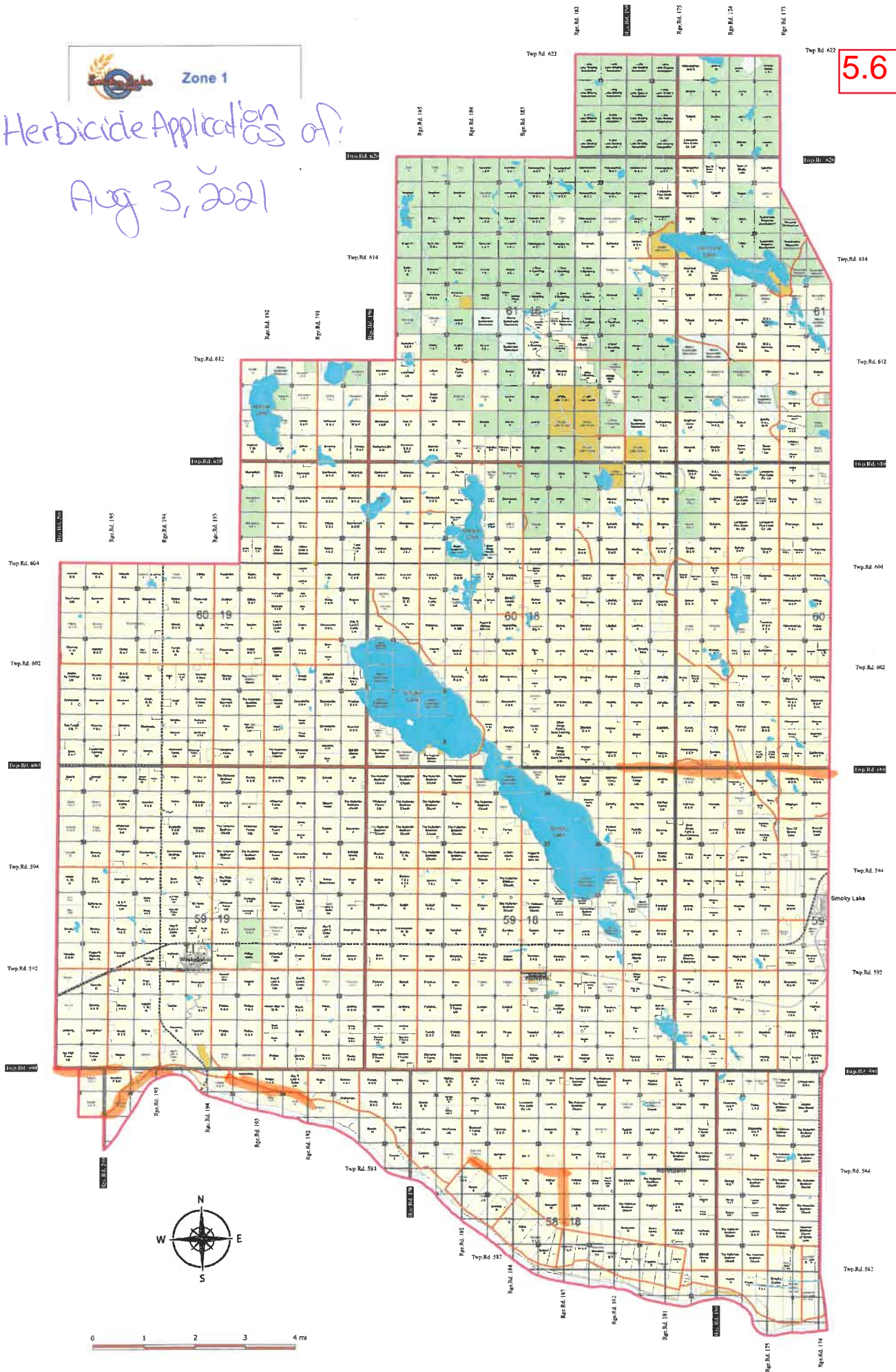
Mowing as of:  
August 3, 2021

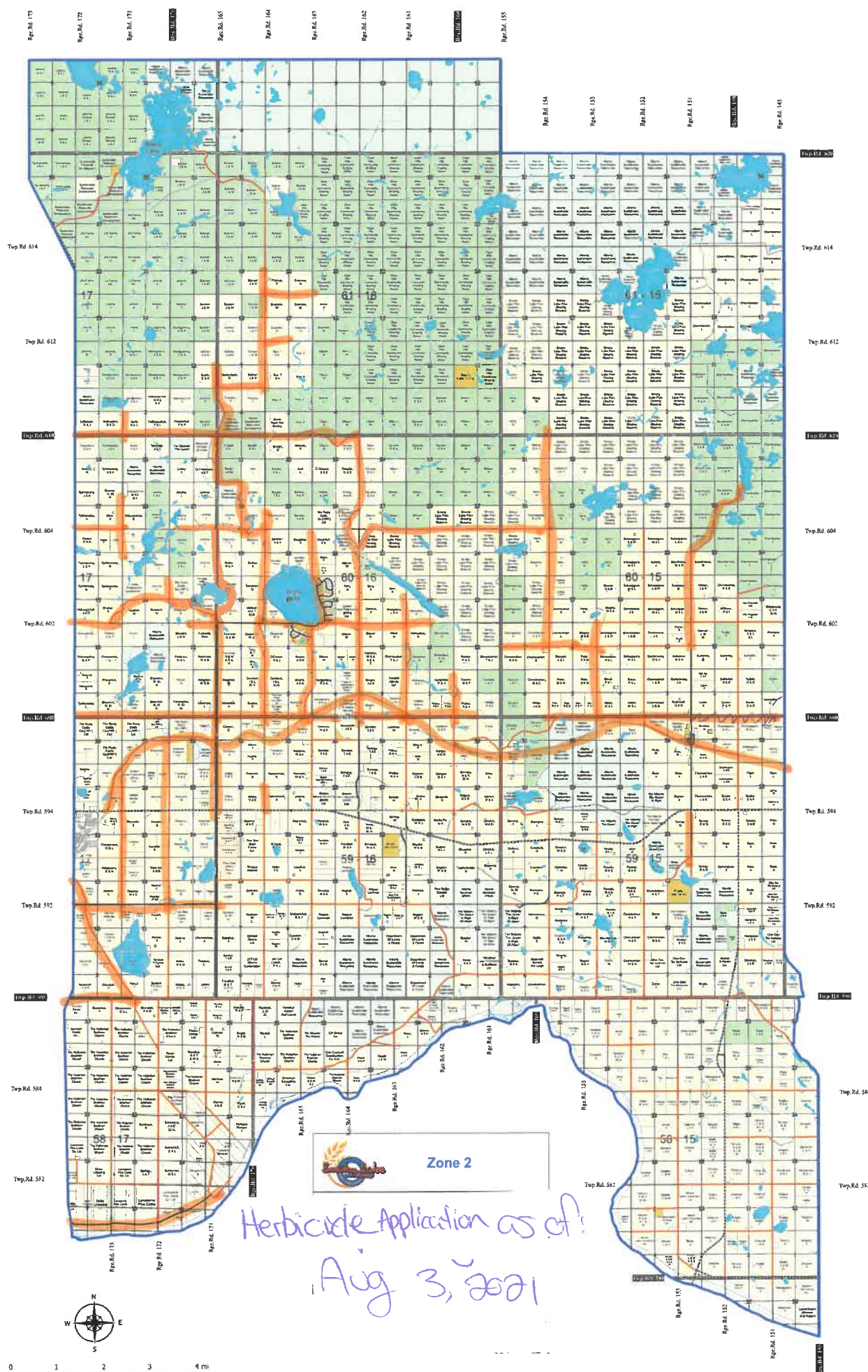


Zone 1

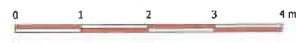
Herbicide Application of:  
Aug 3, 2021

5.6

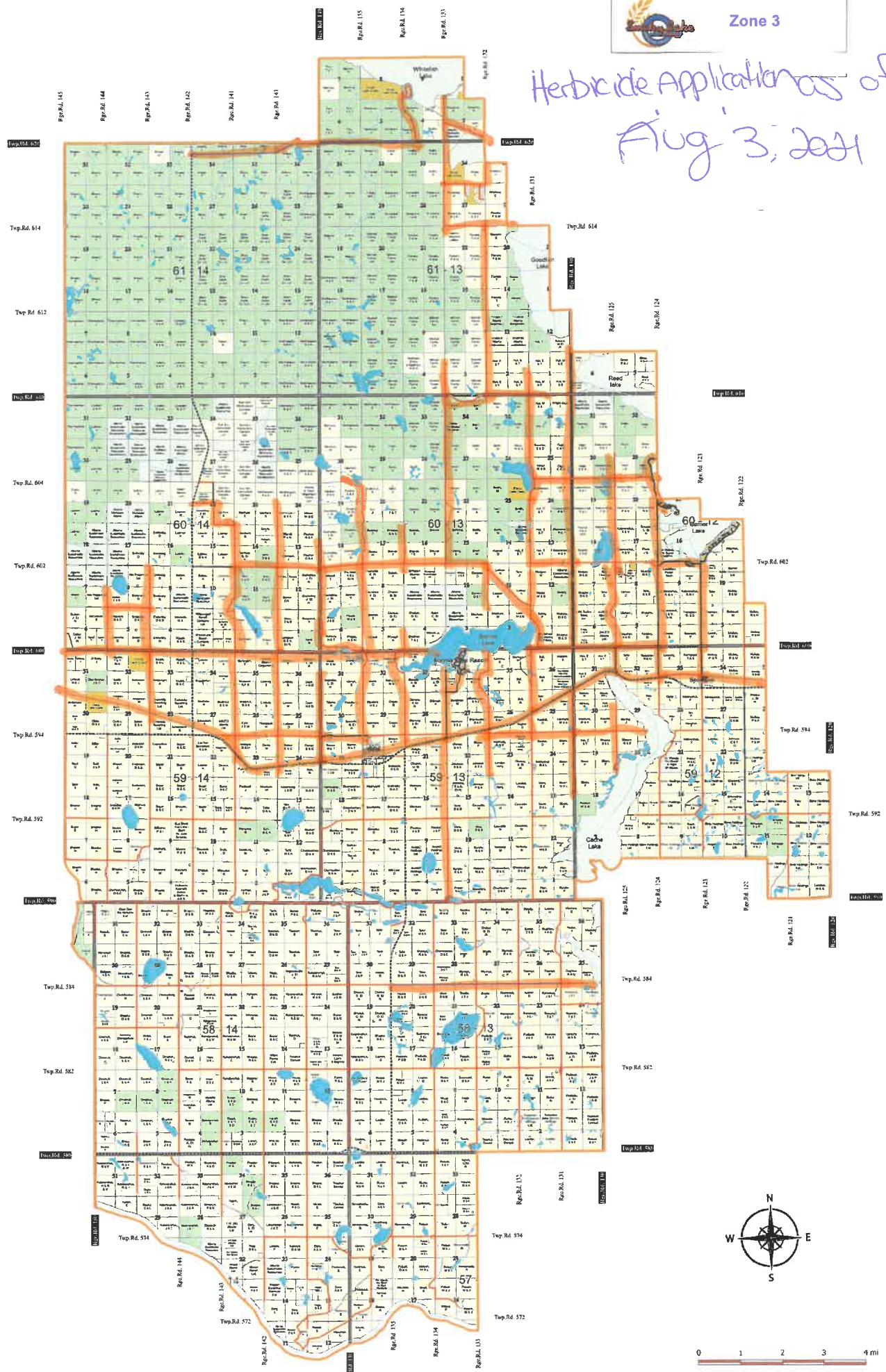




Herbicide Application as of:  
 Aug 3, 2021



Herbicide Applications of:  
Aug 3, 2021





## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCHLAND NO. 66

P.O. Box 1060, NANTON, ALBERTA T0L 1R0 • Ph. 403-646-3131 Fax 403-646-3141

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June 10, 2021

Ron Wallace  
Chair, Coal Policy Committee

**Re: Concerns for Open Pit Coal Mining in the Eastern Rocky Mountains**

To Committee Members,

The MD of Ranchland Agricultural Service Board wishes to express its concerns regarding the proposed construction of open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rocky Mountains, including loss of water quality, rangelands, and livelihoods.

Water quality and contamination is a major concern of ours. Toxic byproducts of open pit mines leach into surrounding water supplies, impacting water quality for not only our residents but many in southern Alberta. Evidence of extensive municipal water contamination in areas surrounding Teck Corporation's Elk Valley mines can already be found in British Columbia. Establishing these open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rockies is sentencing our residents and numerous Albertans to irreversible water quality issues.

Another concern is loss of our rangelands. The areas planned for mining are home to countless native species, including species at risk such as bull and cutthroat trout, grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. Native species are slow to recolonize disturbed areas and instead invasive species take over. Animals rarely return to inhabit an area that has changed so drastically from human influence. Constructing open pit mines means more loss of rangelands, habitats, and native organisms.

Many of our residents derive their livelihoods by grazing livestock on lands proposed for/impacted by coal mines. This area boasts some of the best quality grazing lands in the province. Our producers use them responsibly and have demonstrated decades of environmental stewardship. In addition, these lands are popular areas for recreation and tourism. Both residents and visitors alike would be devastated by the creation of open pit mines.

Just because establishing open pit coal mines is "not an unlawful decision" does not make it a good decision. These are some of the most environmentally sensitive areas of the province. Implementing these mines would cause permanent, irreversible damage to the environment and the livelihoods of our residents. Our concerns deserve to be heard.

Though there may be economic benefit to allowing these mines, the environmental and social costs are simply too high. On behalf of members of the Agricultural Service Board, the residents of our community, and citizens across Alberta, do not build open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rocky Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jody Wilson**

**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66**

**Cc: Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy  
Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks  
Roger Reid, MLA Livingstone-Macleod  
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards**



PO Box 10  
801 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Thorhild, Alberta  
T0A 3J0

Phone: (780) 398-3741

[www.thorhildcounty.com](http://www.thorhildcounty.com)

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June 15, 2021

The Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
307 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6K 2B6

Via email: [Innisfail.SylvanLake@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Innisfail.SylvanLake@assembly.ab.ca)

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**RE: Funding for Agricultural Service Boards**

Dear Honorable Devin Dreeshen,

Thorhild County Council would like to echo the message initiated by County of Grande Prairie No. 1 in its letter dated May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 addressing the importance of Agricultural Service Boards and their work for agricultural producers within all Alberta municipalities. Today, Agricultural Service Boards serve both the province, and agricultural producers, by bearing the responsibilities for the administration of the *Weed Act*, the *Pest Act* and the *Soil Conservation Act* of Alberta. Agricultural Service Boards are very active throughout the year. They participate in weed, pest and disease survey each year, provide assistance to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff, provide support to the *Line Fence Act*, the provincial veterinarian in case of a livestock disease outbreak and various other things.

Over the past decade, provincial funding for Agricultural Service Boards has been stagnant at a maximum of \$150,000 per year, with an additional \$18,000 made available at certain times. In 2020, this funding was reduced to \$123,907 per year for the next five years, while the activities required to maintain funding eligibility were not reduced. This reduction in funding comes while more provincial tasks are being downloaded to municipalities. With the loss of 'Ropin' the Web', the virtual impossibility of locating the wealth of information formerly contained on that site, as well as the changes made to the 310-FARM telephone line, more and more questions are coming into our agriculture departments to locate information. The loss of research and specialized staff means resource people, formerly available to answer questions are no longer available to assist residents and producers. Producer groups can be an excellent source, but they may not be as fully well-versed as a subject matter expert with broader base knowledge to draw from.

While the funding received from the province is greatly appreciated, it in no way begins to cover the costs of inspections and activities we are required to do to maintain eligibility for our annual grant. We appreciate that Alberta has spent more on agricultural services than other provinces in the past. Perhaps that is what allowed us to become world leaders in agricultural production, research, and development. To compare other provinces to Alberta agriculturally, and reduce funding accordingly does our province a great disservice. For our province to remain competitive and continue to grow this powerful sector, we need the support of the province.

Thorhild County understands the challenging financial times in which we are operating. We draw your attention to the fact that agriculture is the backbone of our province. Reducing support to the vital economic driver Albertans rely on, is counterproductive to maintaining a viable and thriving industry. By putting increased pressure on municipalities to deliver more with less, you compromise our ability to properly support our agricultural producers and through them the provincial economy.

Thorhild County Council requests that your government reinstitute recent cuts supporting the important work the province has tasked municipalities through the operation of all Agricultural Service Boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Grumetza', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Grumetza  
Reeve

Cc: Honourable Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock,  
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards





# Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1  
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770  
[www.brazeau.ab.ca](http://www.brazeau.ab.ca)

June 16, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Wilkinson;

**RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions**

Brazeau County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express their concern regarding the Federal Government's emissions target for synthetic fertilizer.

While we recognize the importance of the reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions, we support Fertilizer Canada's concern on how the reduction is measured and achieved.

There is currently a focus on increasing Canadian agricultural exports and increasing production of crops used for bio fuels. In order to achieve this production increase, a proportionate increase in fertilizer is also required. A reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions essentially places a cap on overall synthetic fertilizer use. In essence, this will limit the production of crops.

Fertilizer Canada is suggesting that rather than a straight 30% reduction of total emissions allowable from fertilizer, a reduction in emission intensity or a measurement based on bushels produced may be more appropriate.

We strongly encourage you to continue to review how best to achieve the fertilizer emissions target without placing limits on overall crop production. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dallas Ekstrom  
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson

cc: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Member of Parliament Gerald Soroka  
MLA Mark Smith, Drayton Valley-Devon  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards

June 22, 2021

Smoky Lake County  
PO Box 310  
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Dear Smoky Lake County:

This letter is in reference to our Agreement for the Implementation of Wild Boar Containment Standards under the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA) made effective on February 7, 2019 and expires on December 23, 2023.

As per Section 6 of this Agreement, our Minister shall submit a written status report to the county or municipality annually, for the proceeding twelve month period ending June 30, during the term of this Agreement to the date of the termination indicating activities undertaken by the Minister pursuant to the responsibilities of the Minister under this Agreement.

As you are aware, our Inspection and Investigation staff have been working closely with your Agricultural Fieldmen in an attempt to locate and identify any wild boar producers within your county. The administration of the *Agricultural Pests Act* is a combined responsibility of the province and counties/municipalities required under Section 6 of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (duty of local authority to take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests).

The risks associated with wild boar escaping containment and establishing a new "at-large" population are considerable. In order to manage these risks, inspections of wild boar production farms will be conducted at least once per year, or more if there are any compliance issues. Our inspectors will contact your Agricultural Fieldman in order to plan for joint inspections.

Agriculture and Forestry will continue with active wild boar at-large eradication that involves surveillance, trapping and euthanizing wild boars in order to eliminate the at-large population. If there is a report of wild boar at-large in your county, please call 310-FARM (3276) so we may work together towards a solution. Wild boar reports can also be sent to [AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca). More information about wild boar in Alberta can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/wild-boar-in-alberta.aspx>.

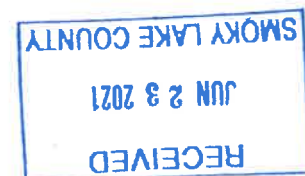
To date, our Inspection Unit in conjunction with your Agricultural Fieldman have identified one a wild boar farm in Smoky Lake County. On November 27, 2019 the producer advised he has no animals at his farm, and has left the industry. Please advise if you hear of anyone else who might be in possession of wild boar in your county.

If you have any questions regarding the agreement, please do not to hesitate to contact me at 403-948-8510 or [bruce.hamlin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:bruce.hamlin@gov.ab.ca). I look forward to your continued cooperation with the implementation of the wild boar minimum containment standards.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.H.M.", likely representing Bruce Hamblin.

Bruce Hamblin  
Director, Inspection and Investigation Section





# Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

## RE: Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions

Honourable Minister Wilkinson;

The M.D. of Smoky River wishes to echo the concerns raised by Brazeau County in their June 16<sup>th</sup> letter.

The M.D. of Smoky River is a rural municipality renown for both its cropping and apiculture industries. Our producers count on synthetic fertilizers and innovative technologies to raise crops, and our beekeepers count on the healthy crops being grown (primarily canola) for honey production and to ensure their bees are healthy enough to survive our winter.

Canada has an opportunity to increase its agricultural production for exports (increasing GDP), to feed our population and also for use in green energy via biofuels. The proper utilization of synthetic fertilizers can be improved, and Government supported research, development and public acceptance of improved crop production via GMO & CRISPR technologies will also play a part. The technology can bring producers Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) crops and introduce Nitrogen Fixation into crops which are not naturally able to do so, like wheat and corn.

Our Canadian Agricultural Industry can achieve the emissions reductions, but only by embracing innovation. The industry must not be hobbled with a simplistic "let's cut fertilizer emissions by cutting use" approach.

As stated in the Brazeau County letter: *"We strongly encourage you to continue to review how best to achieve the fertilizer emissions target without placing limits on overall crop production."*

Feel free to contact me with any questions in this regard.



Robert Brock  
M.D. of Smoky River Reeve and A.S.B. Chair  
780-837-0522

Cc: Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards