



Assiniboine Watershed: Rare and At Risk Species

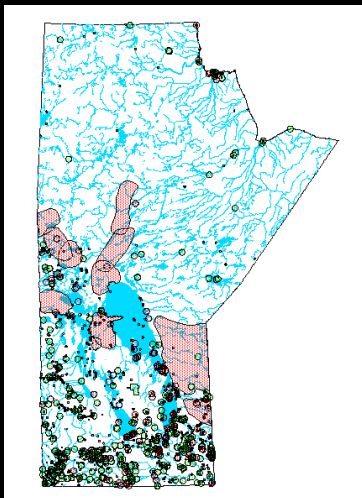
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Overview

- Manitoba Conservation Data Centre – housed within Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch – has been asked to provide rare species information for all watershed planning teams
- Focus is on rare species, and Species at Risk

CDC Database



- Known locations of rare plants, animals and native plant communities
- Manitoba's authoritative source of information on rare species and species at risk

Species at Risk

- Species listed under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, and/or Manitoba's *Endangered Species Act*
- Species that are at risk of extirpation or extinction, if the factors responsible for their decline are not reversed

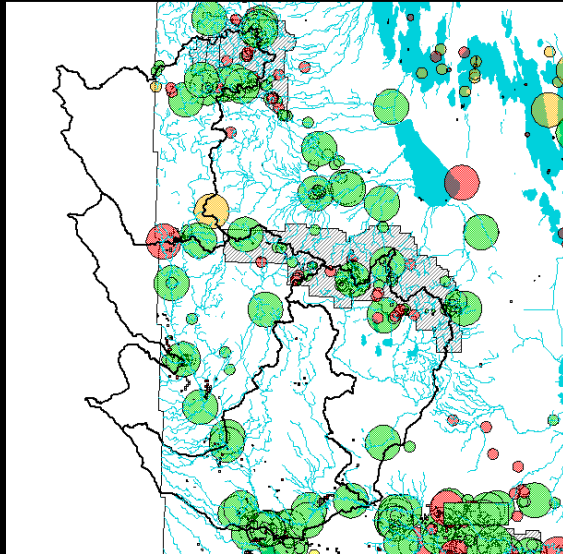
Species at Risk

- Terms
 - Extinct
 - Extirpated
 - Endangered
 - Threatened
 - Special Concern or Vulnerable

Species at Risk

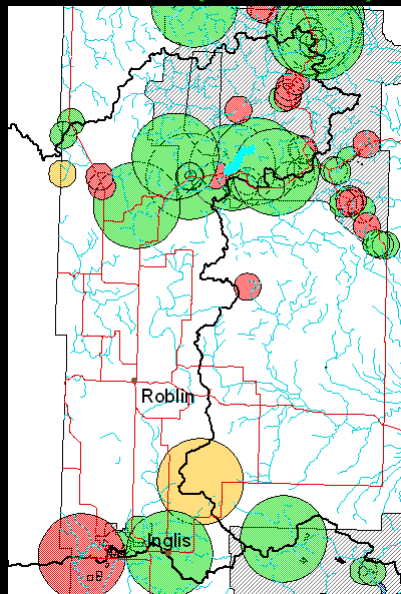
- Legislation prohibits activities that damage or destroy the species or their habitat
- Listing triggers development of recovery strategies and recovery action plans
 - heavy emphasis on education and outreach, and working with landowners and other stakeholders to conserve habitat

Rare Species



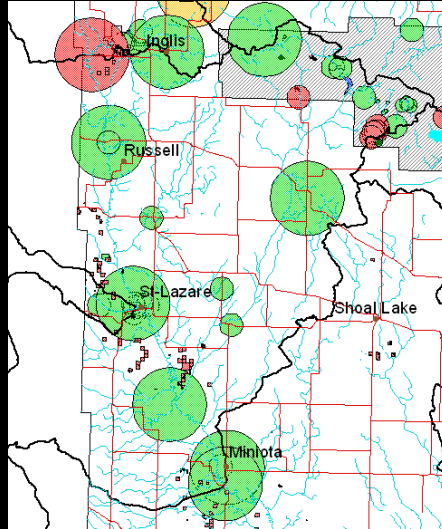
Shell River Watershed (05MD)

- 58 occurrences
 - 36 plant records (26 species)
 - 19 animal records (4 species)
 - 3 snake hibernacula
- Most records along PR 366 and 367
- One bird species at risk
 - Sprague's Pipit



Birdtail-Assiniboine West Watershed (05ME)

- 92 occurrences
 - 50 plant records (24 species)
 - 33 animal records (8 species)
 - 1 snake hibernacula
 - 8 plant communities
- Clusters of rare species around St-Lazare, in RMNP, and following the valley



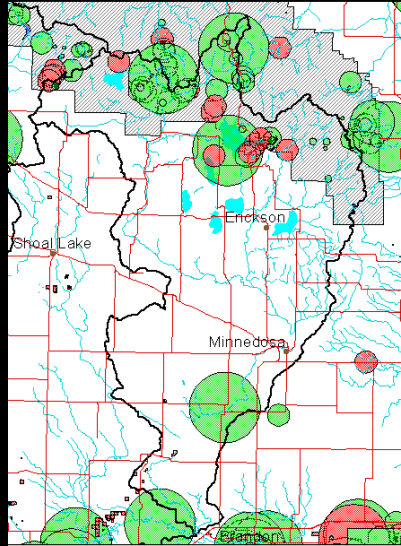
Birdtail-Assiniboine West Watershed

- Baird's Sparrow
- Trumpeter Swan
- Sprague's Pipit
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Yellow Rail



Little Saskatchewan River Watershed (05MF)

- 79 occurrences
 - 36 plant records (26 species)
 - 38 animal records (8 species)
 - 1 snake hibernacula
 - 4 plant communities
- Vast majority of rare species occurrences in this watershed are in RMNP



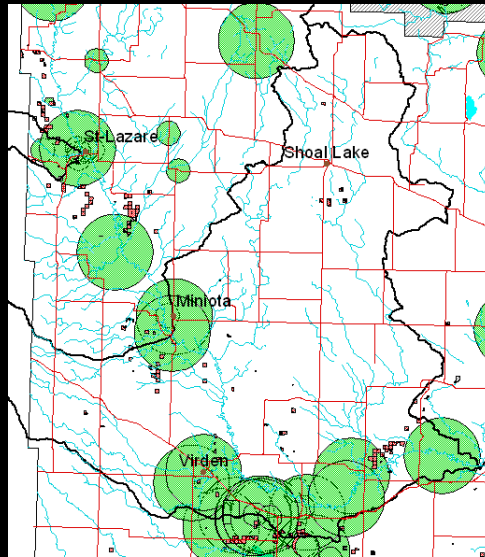
Little Saskatchewan River Watershed

- Baird's Sparrow
- Trumpeter Swan
- Sprague's Pipit
- Rusty Blackbird
- Yellow Rail
- Red-headed Woodpecker



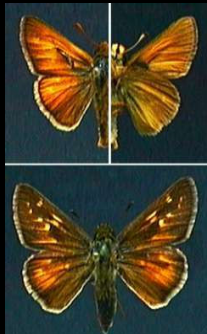
Oak River Watershed (05MG)

- 76 occurrences
 - 35 plant records (23 species)
 - 38 animal records (7 species)
 - 2 snake hibernacula
 - 1 plant community
- Rare species clustered near river, and in vicinity of Routledge and Oak Lake Sandhills



Oak River Watershed

- Baird's Sparrow
- Burrowing Owl
- Sprague's Pipit
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Dakota Skipper
- Mule Deer
- Smooth Goosefoot
- Western Spiderwort



A word on snakes...



Threats

- In the prairies, most species at risk have declined for the same reasons, or face similar threats:
 - Habitat loss – conversion, development, road maintenance
 - Habitat degradation – woody species encroachment, invasive species, accumulation of thatch, over- or under-grazing (loss of natural disturbance regime)
 - Altered reproduction – hybridization, inbreeding, limited pollinators

Stewardship and Recovery

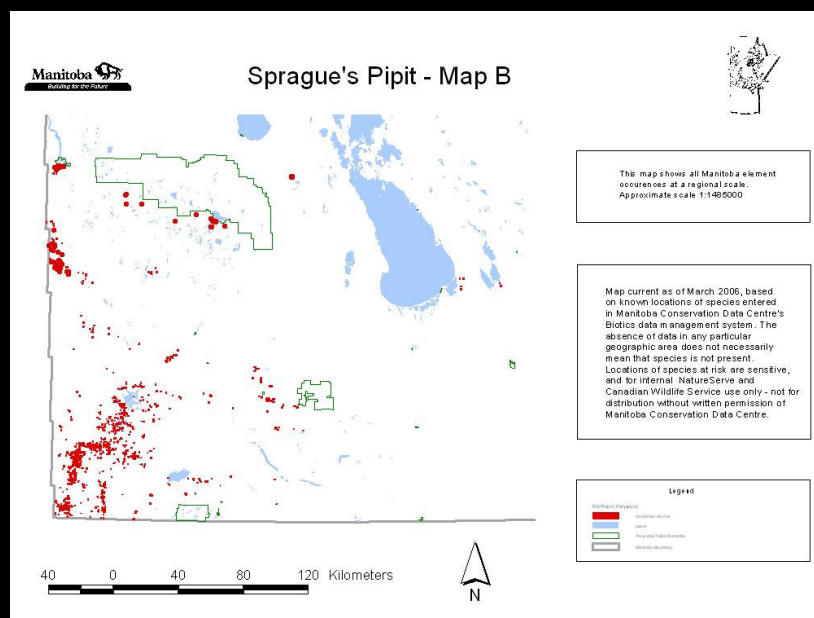
- Presence of a rare or at risk species is a sign of sound land stewardship!
 - Maintain native habitat
 - Time disturbances such as haying after flowering or seed set
 - Work with organizations like MHHC, DU, NCC, PFRA or others
 - Contact local office of Manitoba Conservation if you have questions

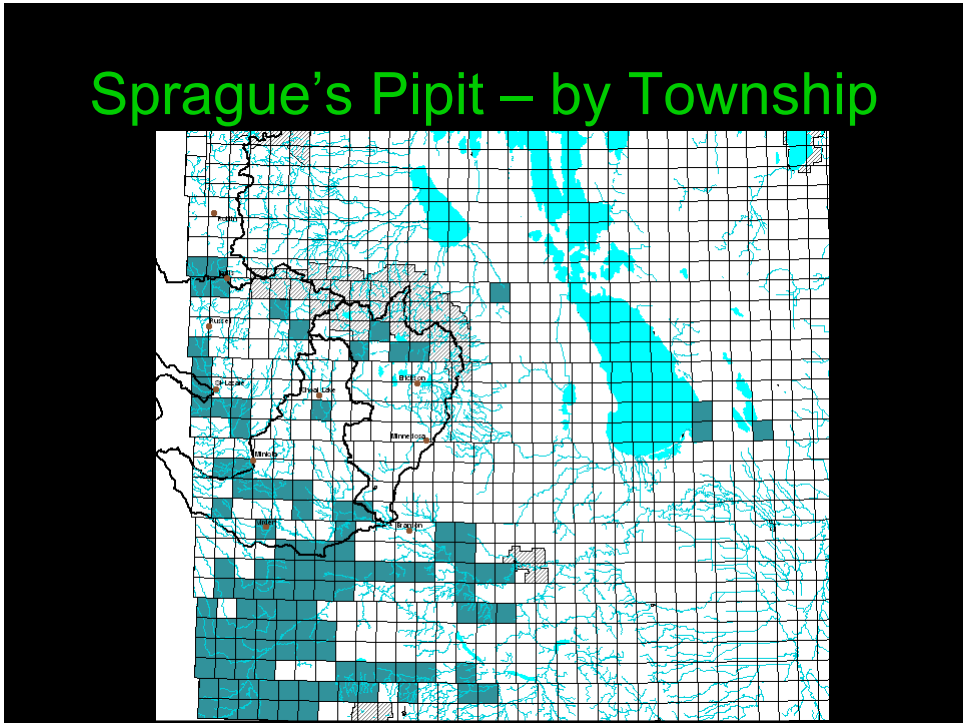
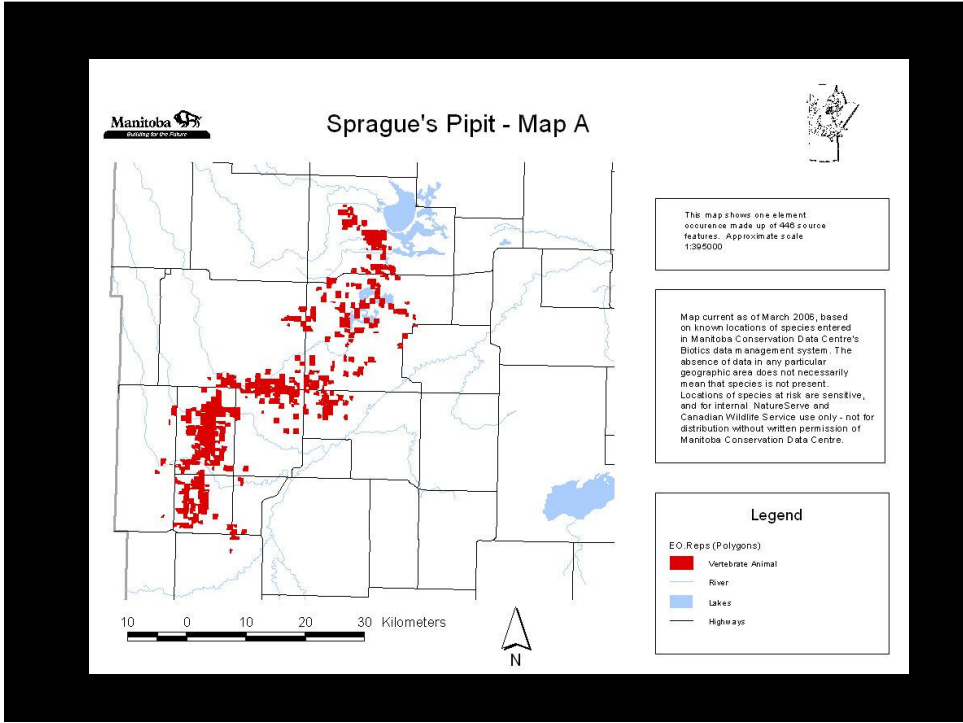
Data Provision

- Locations of rare and at risk species are considered sensitive
 - Some species may attract attention - could be negatively affected by increased human traffic
 - Landowners have provided permission to observers to access private land in many cases

Data Provision

- Are exact locations needed for planning purposes?
- If so, what restrictions in data use are needed?
- If not, at what level of detail can data be provided to satisfy planning needs and keep locations confidential?





Other options

- Species in each ecodistrict
- Species in each municipality
- Other?
 - Can enough information be provided?
- Exact locations, but no species names
 - Requires more consultation

For more information

www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife

www.sararegistry.gc.ca

www.natureserve.org

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