



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Canadian Section

Tel: (301) 897-9770 • Fax: (301) 530-2471

E-mail: tws@wildlife.org

Manitoba Water Council
Seeking Manitobans Perspectives on Wetlands
Manitoba Water Stewardship
Box 11- 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3W3

The Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to comment on Manitoba's Perspectives on Wetlands. Our organization of over 170 wildlife biologists, managers and students has a mandate to conduct research, provide education, and support professional wildlife management in Canada. Our parent society, representing North American wildlife professionals, numbers nearly 9600 members. Many of these professional biologists and managers are experts in wildlife habitat management, which include wetlands and aquatic environments. Our members are employed by government organizations, non-government organizations, industry, professional consultants and universities across Canada.

In Manitoba, we are very concerned about threats to wetlands. Among the top threats is the increasing competition by invasive, nonnative species with native, wetland plants. The large increase in wetland drainage in southern Manitoba is also of serious concern. Many of Manitoba's endangered and threatened wildlife species spend a portion of their life-cycle in these wet environments. Forestry and mining can be and has been a significant threat to water and wetland quality in the boreal forest. As wildlife professionals, we are well aware of the excellent conservation programs offered in Manitoba, such as the Heritage Marsh Program and Conservation Agreements Program that allow landowners to manage and protect wetlands and overcome some of the threats listed in your booklet.

The Wildlife Society has prepared some 40 position statements on wildlife management and conservation. We refer you to The Wildlife Society webpage (www.wildlife.org) to browse these position statements. In particular, and related to wetland conservation, we are attaching position statements on *Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats* and *Recognition of Wildlife Needs in Watershed Planning* for your immediate information. These statements are what guide all wildlife professionals in their work and we believe that the contents should be reflected in a wetland policy for Manitoba.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on a wetland policy for Manitoba. We wish you much success in bringing all of the information together and sharing it in a summary document.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur R. Rodgers
President

Darren Sleep
Conservation Affairs Committee

On behalf of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society