

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WYNYARD MAP SHEET AREA, 72P

The area covered by the Wynyard map sheet lies in central Saskatchewan and forms part of the Saskatchewan Plains or Second Prairie Steppe. Six physiographic divisions are defined. The Touchwood Hills (2050 to 2300 feet) are located in the east-central part of the area, the Allan Hills (1850 to 2200 feet) in the west-central part, and the Last Mountain Upland (2000 to 2200 feet) in the south-central part. These uplands are surrounded by the Assiniboine River Plain, which has an elevation of 1650 to 2100 feet. Parts of the Quill Lake Plain and the Saskatchewan Rivers Plain (1750 to 1850 feet) occur to the northeast and northwest respectively.

The gently undulating to rolling Assiniboine River Plain is comprised of till deposits, glaciolacustrine and alluvial deposits, and glaciofluvial or outwash deposits. The till deposits are Weyburn and Oxbow loam to light loam textured soils and their complexes, and the lacustrine deposits are mainly Elstow clay loams. Outwash deposits are the gravelly loam to light loam Biggar, Asquith, and Meota soil associations and their complexes. Drainage is by way of several creeks that empty into Last Mountain Lake.

The Quill Lake Plain is an undulating to rolling region comprised mainly of till and outwash deposits. The till deposits are Yorkton, Weyburn, and Oxbow loam to light loams, whereas the glaciofluvial deposits are mainly the gravelly loam textured Whitesand soil association and its complexes. Drainage is into the Quill lakes.

The gently undulating Saskatchewan Rivers Plain consists of glaciolacustrine and till deposits. The soil associations on these deposits are Elstow silty clay to clay textured soils and Weyburn clay loam to loams, respectively, and their complexes.

The gently to strongly rolling morainic deposits of the Allan Hills, Last Mountain, and Touchwood Hills uplands are comprised mainly of the Oxbow and Weyburn associations and their complexes. Weyburn clay loam to loam textured soils predominate in the Allan Hills, Oxbow and Oxbow-Weyburn loams on Last Mountain, and Oxbow loam to light loam textured soils in the Touchwood Hills. The more heavily wooded parts of the Touchwood Hills are characterized by loam textured Dark Gray Luvisols of the Whitewood association and the Gray Luvisols of the Waitville association and their complexes.

Most of the area is in the Dark Brown soil zone, but about one-third of it lies in the Black soil zone. The Black soils extend from the Touchwood Hills to the Last Mountain Upland and include most of the Quill Lake Plain. An extensive band of Saline Regosol soils extend southwest from the Quill lakes to the Last Mountain Lake.

Wheat farming predominates in the Dark Brown soil zone, with coarse grain and cattle production becoming more prevalent to the east. Extensive potash fields have been developed, which have added considerable economic impetus to the region. Potash mines are located near Colonsay and Lanigan.

CLIMATE

The area has a continental semiarid to subhumid climate. Annual temperatures average 36°F over most of the area, but the Touchwood Hills average 33°F. The mean temperatures for January and July are 1°F and 62°F. The extreme southwest has slightly warmer January and July mean temperatures of 3°F and 67°F respectively.

Over the western two-thirds of the area, annual precipitation is 12 to 14 inches. The eastern third of the area has a slightly higher rate of 14 to 16 inches. May to September precipitation is 8 to 9 inches in the west and 10 to 11 inches in the Touchwood Hills and Quill lakes area. The average monthly snowfall from December to March increases from 5.2 inches in the southwest to 7.4 inches in the northeast.

ECOLOGY

The grassland structure in the area is very complex. The Allan Hills and a large part of the Saskatchewan Rivers Plain are characterized by western porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea* var. *curtiseta*), northern wheat grass (*Agropyron dasystachyum*), and rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella*) communities and by associated aspen grove (*Populus tremuloides*) and slough and moist prairie complexes. The extreme northwestern and northern parts of the Assiniboine River Plain lack the aspen grove cover. The region surrounding the Allan Hills and bounded by Last Mountain Lake and the saline complexes in the center of the area is characterized by the Stipa-Agropyron, the Stipa-Bouteloua-Agropyron, and the Festuca communities. Fescue prairie becomes dominant along the western part of the Quill Lake Plain, where it is associated with the Stipa-Agropyron and aspen grove communities. The region bounded by Last Mountain Lake, the Touchwood Hills, and saline complexes is characterized by the Stipa-Agropyron, Festuca, and aspen grove communities.

Festuca communities occur infrequently and only on north-facing slopes on the mixed prairie of the Dark Brown soil zone. Fescue reaches its maximum abundance on the higher elevations of the Allan Hills and in areas adjacent to the Black soils. In the Dark Brown soil zone, aspen bluffs are restricted to sheltered and moist depressions where the associated vegetation is mainly low shrubs and herbs. On coarse-textured soils, aspen occurs on fairly level terrain, but is absent on heavy clay and fine-textured soils.

In the Touchwood Hills and the region surrounding the Quill lakes, aspen grove is the dominant vegetative community. The Stipa-Agropyron, Festuca, and slough and moist prairie complexes exist as codominants. Aspen forest with slough and moist prairie complexes occur on the higher elevations of the Touchwood Hills. Except for this small tract of aspen forest, all the soil associations are from the Black soil zone. These soils are characterized by well-defined shrub cover, which includes beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) on well-drained sites, red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) in moister lowlands, and highbush-cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*) on moist upland sites. Roses (*Rosa spp.*), red choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), pin cherry (*P. pensylvanica*), saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), and western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*) are very abundant on these rich soils, particularly at the forest margins.

The most important ungulate species is the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), which occur throughout the area but are most common in the Touchwood Hills.

LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR UNGULATES

The area has good capability for ungulate production. About 75 percent of the area is Class 4 or better. Units of lower capability are found around the Allan Hills and between the Quill lakes and Last Mountain Lake.

Glacial till deposits have been rated Class 2 or Class 3. Aridity and landform in areas of lower relief, are the main limitations. In the Black soil zone, poor interspersion of landforms is the main limiting factor, and climate is a secondary limitation.

Outwash deposits have Class 4 capability for ungulates. Most of these deposits occur in the Dark Brown soil zone and usually have landform and aridity limitations. Some localities have specific moisture and adverse soil characteristics as limitations. Lacustrine deposits, rated as Classes 5 and 6, are the lowest in capability. In addition to the limitations common to the rest of the area, these lands are limited by topography. Outwash and lacustrine deposits in the Black soil zone also have a climate limitation.

The Last Mountain region has the best deer winter range in the area, although the Touchwood and Allan hills are also important.

Access is good throughout most of the area, and a greater harvest of white-tailed deer could be sustained. At present, hunting is confined mainly to the Touchwood Hills, the Last Mountain Upland, and the eastern extremity of the Allan Hills.

Capability classification by T. W. Rock and K. R. Scheelhaase, Fisheries and Wildlife Branch, Department of Natural Resources.

DESCRIPTION DU TERRITOIRE DE LA FEUILLE DE WYNYARD – 72P

Le territoire représenté par la feuille de Wynyard, situé dans le centre de la Saskatchewan, appartient à la région des plaines de la Saskatchewan ou deuxième palier de la prairie. Il comporte six subdivisions naturelles. Les collines Touchwood (2 050 à 2 300 pi) se trouvent dans le centre-est, les collines Allan (1 850 à 2 200 pi), dans le centre-ouest, et les hautes terres du mont Last (2 000 à 2 200 pi), dans le centre-sud. La plaine de la rivière Assiniboine dont l'altitude varie de 1 650 à 2 100 pi, entoure ces hautes terres. Des portions de la plaine du lac Quill et de la plaine des rivières Saskatchewan (1 750 à 1 850 pi) occupent le nord-est et le nord-ouest du territoire.

La plaine de la rivière Assiniboine légèrement ondulée à vallonnée, est recouverte de dépôts de till, d'alluvions et de dépôts grossiers proglaciaires. Les tilles ont donné naissance aux loams et aux loams légers Weyburn et Oxbow ainsi qu'à leurs complexes tandis que les loams argileux Elstow se sont développés sur les dépôts lacustres. Les dépôts grossiers proglaciaires ont donné les loams graveleux et les loams légers des associations Biggar, Asquith et Meota et leurs complexes. Plusieurs petits ruisseaux qui se jettent dans le lac Last Mountain assurent le drainage.

La plaine du lac Quill possède un relief ondulé ou vallonné et contient surtout des moraines de fond et des dépôts grossiers proglaciaires. Les moraines portent les loams légers et les loams Yorkton, Weyburn et Oxbow tandis que sur les dépôts fluvio-glaciaires se sont surtout développés les loams graveleux de l'association Whites et ses complexes. Les lacs Quill recueillent les eaux de drainage.

Du till et des dépôts glacio-lacustres recouvrent la plaine des rivières Saskatchewan au relief légèrement ondulé. Ces matériaux ont respectivement donné naissance aux argiles et aux argiles limoneuses de l'association Elstow ainsi qu'aux loams et aux loams argileux de l'association Weyburn et à leurs complexes.

Sur les dépôts morainiques légèrement à fortement vallonnés des collines Allan, du mont Last et des hautes terres des collines Touchwood se sont surtout développés les sols des associations Oxbow et Weyburn et leurs complexes. Les loams argileux et les loams Weyburn l'emportent dans les collines Allan, les loams Oxbow et Oxbow-Weyburn, sur le mont Last, les loams et les loams légers Oxbow, dans les collines Touchwood. Dans les parties les plus densément boisées des collines Touchwood, on trouve les luvisols gris foncé texture loameuse de l'association Whitewood et les luvisols gris de l'association Waitville ainsi que leurs complexes.

La majeure partie du territoire appartient à la zone des sols brun foncé; un tiers seulement appartient à la zone des sols noirs. Les sols noirs vont des collines Touchwood aux hautes terres du mont Last et couvrent la majeure partie de la plaine du lac Quill. Une large bande de régolsols salins s'étend des lacs Quill au lac Last Mountain, au sud-ouest.

La culture du blé domine dans la zone des sols brun foncé tandis qu'à l'est on s'adonne surtout à la culture des céréales et à l'élevage. L'exploitation d'importantes mines de potasse situées près de Colonsay et de Lanigan a donné un essor économique considérable à toute cette région.

CLIMAT

Le climat est de type continental semi-aride à sub-humide. Dans presque tout le territoire la température annuelle moyenne est de 36°F; dans les collines Touchwood, toutefois, elle n'atteint que 33. Les températures moyennes en janvier et en juillet sont de 1 et 62°F; les températures moyennes enregistrées dans l'extrême sud-ouest sont un peu plus élevées, soient 3 et 67°F respectivement.

La précipitation annuelle varie de 12 à 14 po dans les deux tiers ouest du territoire. Les tiers oriental du territoire reçoit de 14 à 16 po d'eau. De mai à septembre, la précipitation varie de 8 à 9 po dans l'ouest et de 10 à 11 dans la région des collines Touchwood et des lacs Quill. La chute de neige mensuelle moyenne, de décembre à mars, varie de 5.2 po dans le sud-ouest à 7.4 dans le nord-est.

ÉCOLOGIE

La structure de la prairie est très complexe dans le territoire. Les collines Allan et une grande partie de la plaine des rivières Saskatchewan présentent des communautés de stipes (*Stipa spartea* var. *curtiseta*), d'agropyre du nord (*Agropyron dasystachyum*) de fétuque scabre (*Festuca scabrella*) associées au peuplier faux-tremble (*Populus tremuloides*) et à des espèces typiques des dépressions et de la prairie humide. Il n'y a pas de tremble dans l'extrême nord-ouest et le nord de la plaine de la rivière Assiniboine. Les groupes stipe-agropyre, stipe-bouteloue-agropyre et fétuque sont caractéristiques de la région entourant les collines Allan qui limite le Lac Last Mountain et les régions salines du centre du secteur. La prairie à fétuque domine le long de la partie ouest de la plaine du lac Quill où elle est associée à la communauté stipe-agropyre et à la tremble. Les groupements caractéristiques de la région qui limitent le lac Last Mountain, les collines Touchwood et les régions salines se composent de stipe-agropyre, de fétuque et de tremble.

Les associations à fétuques sont assez rares et n'apparaissent que sur les pentes exposées au nord dans la prairie mixte de la zone des sols brun foncé. C'est dans les endroits les plus élevés des collines Allan et dans les secteurs voisins des régions de sols noirs que la fétuque atteint son abondance maximum. Dans la zone des sols brun foncé, le peuplier faux-tremble ne croît que dans les dépressions abritées et humides, associé surtout à des arbisseaux bas et à des herbes. En présence de sols de texture grossière, le tremble croît dans ces terrains plats mais on ne le trouve pas sur les argiles lourdes et sur les sols de texture fine.

Dans les collines Touchwood et la région entourant les lacs Quill, la tremble domine. Viennent ensuite les associations stipe-agropyre, fétuque et les communautés typiques des dépressions et de la prairie humide. La forêt de tremble et les associations de la prairie humide apparaissent dans les endroits les plus élevés des collines Touchwood. Sauf dans ce petit espace occupé par la forêt de tremble, les associations pédologiques sont celles de la zone des sols noirs. Ces sols sont couverts d'arbisseaux comprenant le noisetier à long bec (*Corylus cornuta*) dans les sites bien drainés, le cornouiller stolonifère (*Cornus stolonifera*) dans les terres basses humides, la viorne trilobée (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*) dans les secteurs humides des hautes terres. Les rosiers (*Rosa spp.*), le cerisier de Virginie (*Prunus virginiana*), le cerisier de Pennsylvanie (*Prunus pensylvanica*), l'amélanchier alnifolia et la symphorine occidentale (*Symporicarpos occidentalis*) abondent sur ces sols riches, surtout en bordure des forêts.

Le cerf de Virginie est la principale espèce d'ongulé; on le trouve un peu partout à travers le secteur mais il est plus commun dans les collines Touchwood.

POSSIBILITÉS POUR LES ONGULÉS

Les possibilités d'utilisation des terres pour la production d'ongulés sont bonnes. Environ 75% des terres appartiennent à la classe 4 ou à une classe supérieure. Les unités les moins favorisées se trouvent autour des collines Allan et entre les lacs Quill et le lac Last Mountain.

Les terrains couverts de till sont de classe 2 ou 3. L'aridité et le relief, dans les régions moins accidentées, sont les principales limitations. Dans la zone des sols noirs, la mauvaise répartition des modèles du terrain est la principale limitation, le climat étant la seconde. Les terrains couverts de dépôts grossiers proglaciaires appartiennent à la classe 4 en ce qui concerne les Ongulés. La plupart de ces dépôts se trouvent dans la zone des sols brun foncé; le relief et l'aridité sont leurs principales limitations. Dans certains endroits, les limitations proviennent de l'humidité et d'autres caractères du sol. Les terrains couverts de dépôts lacustres sont les moins bons; ils ont été placés dans les classes 5 et 6. La topographie limite aussi les possibilités de des terres. Dans la zone des sols noirs, les secteurs couverts de dépôts grossiers proglaciaires et de dépôts lacustres présentent également une limitation d'ordre climatique.

La région du mont Last offre le meilleur habitat d'hiver pour les Ongulés mais les collines Touchwood et Allan sont aussi utilisées.

Les voies d'accès sont bonnes dans la majeure partie de ce secteur; il serait en outre possible d'intensifier la chasse au cerf de Virginie. A l'heure actuelle, la chasse n'est pratiquée que dans les collines Touchwood, les hautes terres du mont Last et l'extrémité orientale des collines Allan.

Classement des possibilités par T. W. Rock et K. R. Scheelhaase, direction des Pêches et de la Faune, ministère des Ressources naturelles de la Saskatchewan.

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<h3>CLIMATE</h3>	
The area has a continental semiarid to subhumid climate. Annual temperatures average 36°F over most of the area, but the Touchwood Hills average 33°F. The mean temperatures for January and July are 1°F and 62°F. The extreme southwest has slightly warmer January and July mean temperatures of 3°F and 67°F respectively.	
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<h3>ECOLOGY</h3>	
The grassland structure in the area is very complex. The Allan Hills and a large part of the Saskatchewan Rivers Plain are characterized by western porcupine grass (<i>Stipa spartea</i> var. <i>curtiseta</i>), northern wheat grass (<i>Agropyron dasystachyum</i>), and rough fescue (<i>Festuca scabrella</i>) communities and by associated aspen grove (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) and slough and moist prairie complexes. The extreme northwestern and northern parts of the Assiniboine River Plain lack the aspen grove cover. The region surrounding the Allan Hills and bounded by Last Mountain Lake and the saline complexes in the center of the area is characterized by the Stipa-Agropyron, the Stipa-Bouteloua-Agropyron, and the Festuca communities. Fescue prairie becomes dominant along the western part of the Quill Lake Plain, where it is associated with the Stipa-Agropyron and aspen grove communities. The region bounded by Last Mountain Lake, the Touchwood Hills, and saline complexes is characterized by the Stipa-Agropyron, Festuca, and aspen grove communities.	
Festuca communities occur infrequently and only on north-facing slopes on the mixed prairie of the Dark Brown soil zone. Fescue reaches its maximum abundance on the higher elevations of the Allan Hills and in areas adjacent to the Black soils. In the Dark Brown soil zone, aspen bluffs are restricted to sheltered and moist depressions where the associated vegetation is mainly low shrubs and herbs. On coarse-textured soils, aspen occurs on fairly level terrain, but is absent on heavy clay and fine-textured soils.	
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<h3>LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR UNGULATES</h3>	
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Access is good throughout most of the area, and a greater harvest of white-tailed deer could be sustained. At present, hunting is confined mainly to the Touchwood Hills, the Last Mountain Upland, and the eastern extremity of the Allan Hills.	
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