

Canada's Boreal Forest Wetlands: An Approach For Conservation and Sustainable Development

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Outline

- Wetland definition and values
- Need for wetland management
- Wetland management framework



What is a Wetland?

“A wetland is defined as: land that is saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated by poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation and various kinds of biological activity which are adapted to a wet environment”

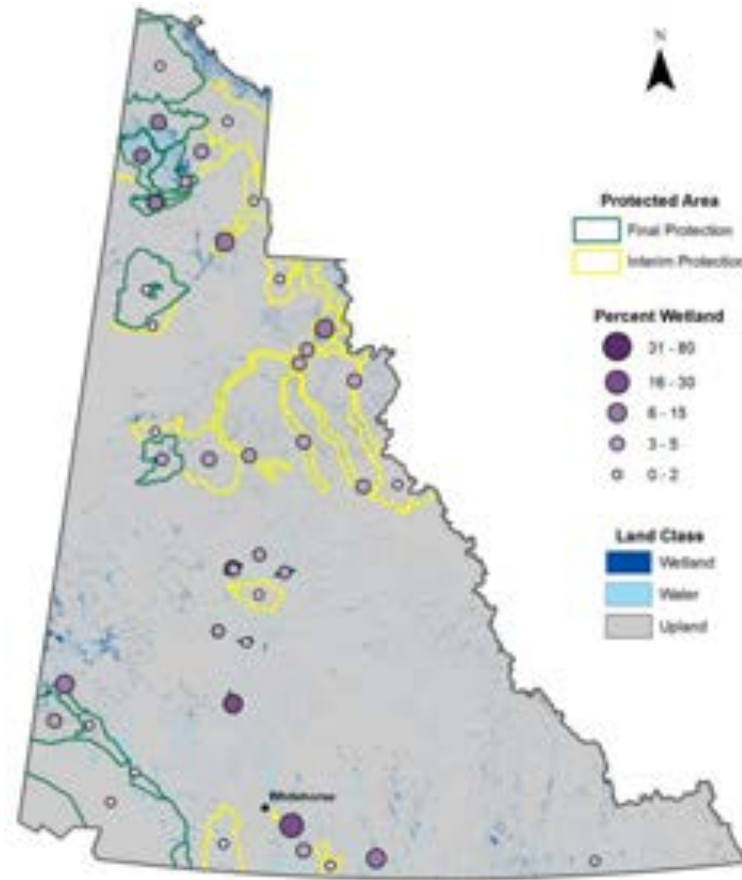
National Wetlands Working Group 1988



What is a Wetland?



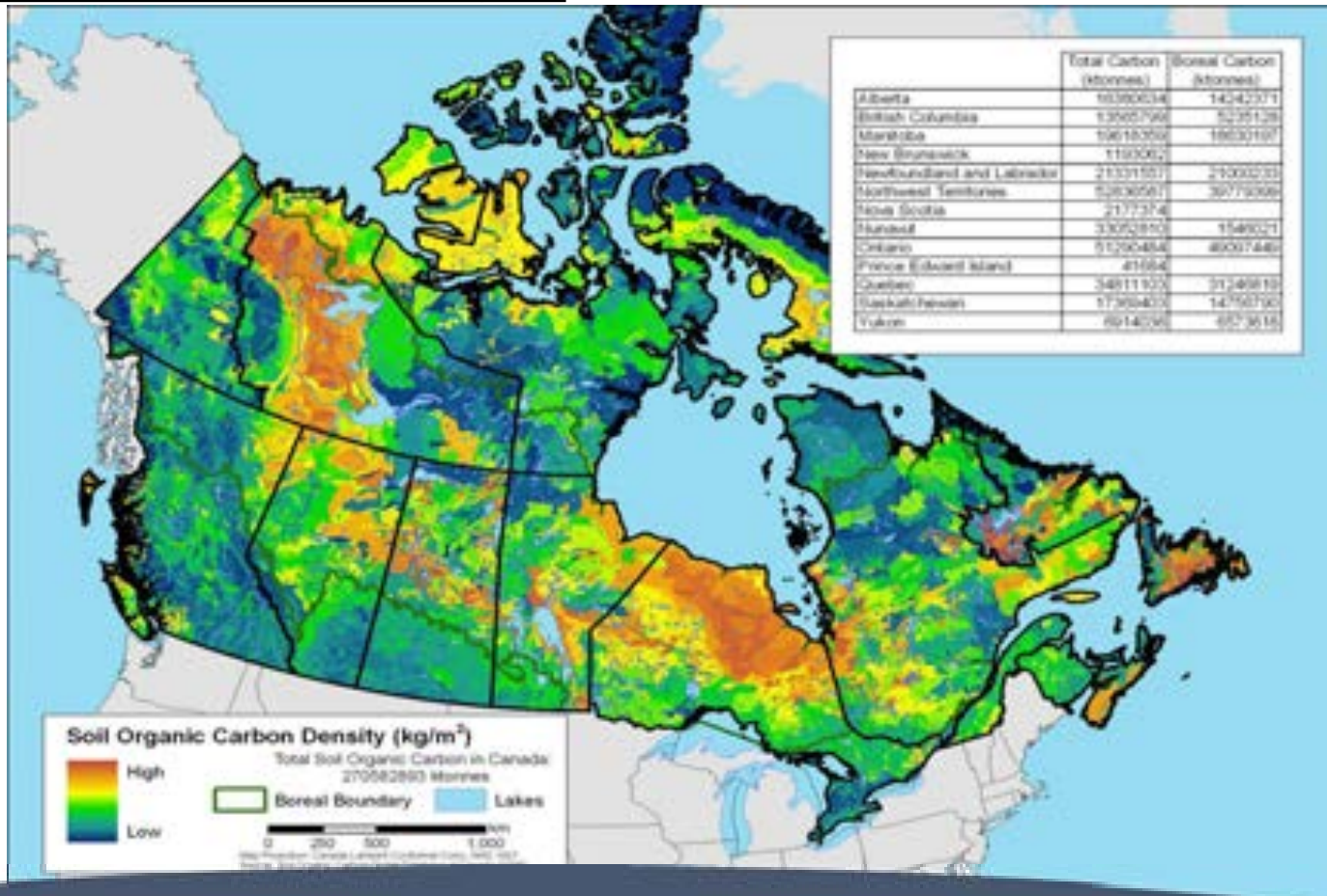
Wetlands Are Important To People



Wildlife Habitat

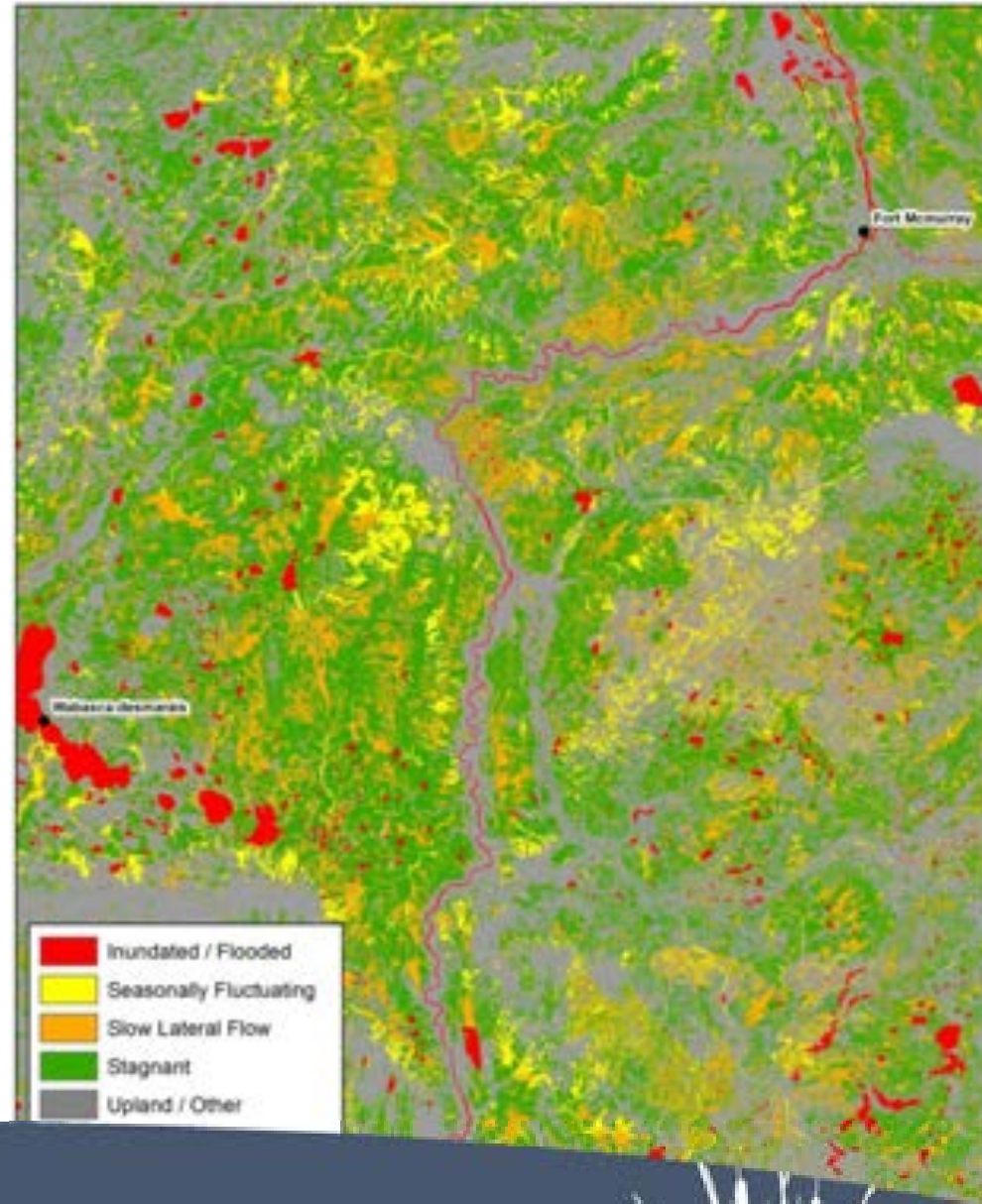


Carbon Storage



Hydrology

- Water storage
- Filters water



Wetland Conservation Issues

- Limited knowledge of wetland extent
- Unknown levels of loss and degradation



Wetland Loss and Degradation



Wetland Conservation Issues

- Limited knowledge of wetland extent
- Unknown levels of loss and degradation
- Increasing threats



Change is Happening

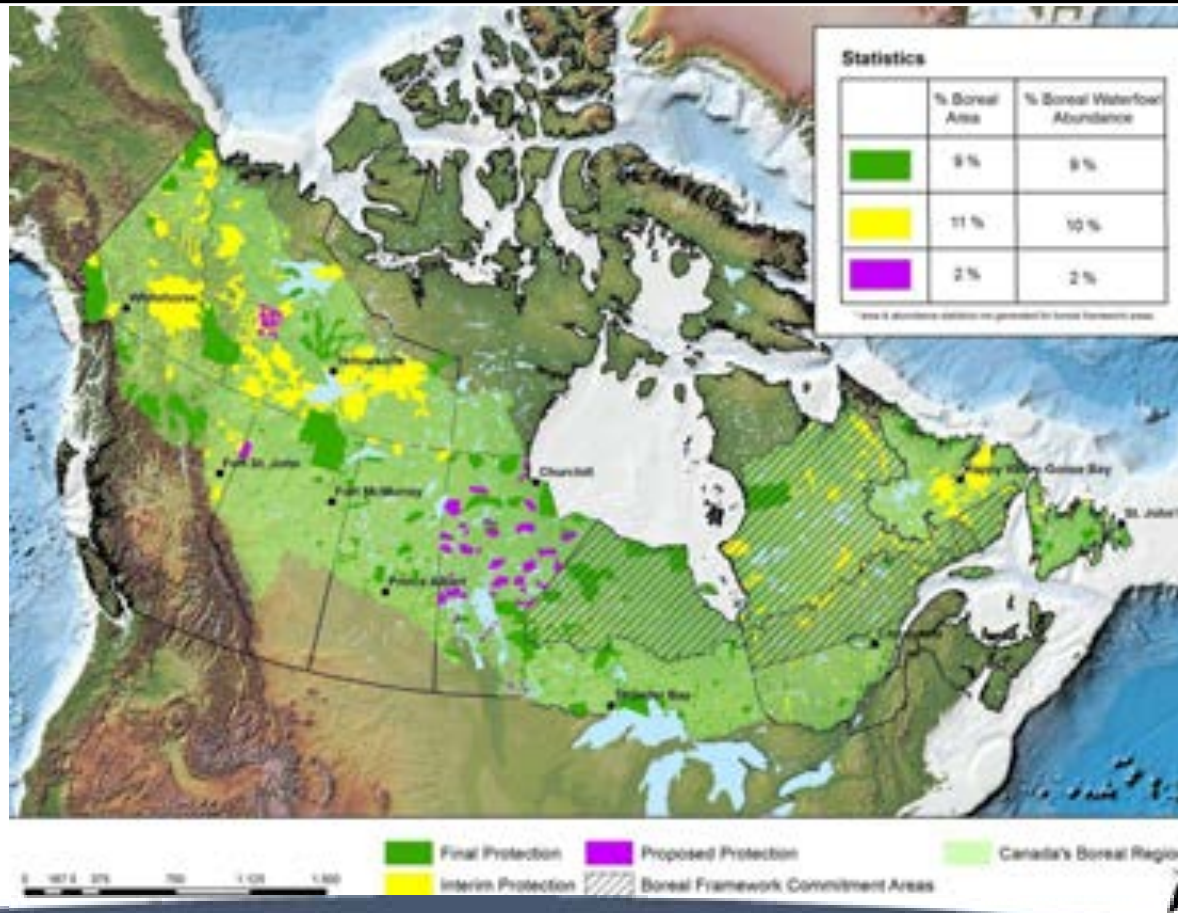


Wetland Conservation Issues

- Limited knowledge of wetland extent
- Unknown levels of loss and degradation
- Increasing threats
- Lack of regulatory clarity



Current Wetland Conservation



Wetland Framework Outcomes

- Avoid loss and associated restoration costs
- Strengthen land use plans
- Maintain EG&S
- Provide certainty to development processes
- Climate change
- Allow Canada to be world leader



Wetland Framework Components

1. Clear goal statement
2. Legal, regulatory or policy imperative
3. Harmonization and alignment with existing regulatory and policy frameworks
4. What wetlands are included



Wetland Framework Components

5. Defined comprehensiveness (scope and scale)
6. Mitigation framework
 - a) Avoidance
 - b) Minimization
 - c) Compensation



Wetland Framework Components

7. Adequate information to support decision making
 - a) Assessment of ecological function and values
 - b) Wetland inventory/classification system
 - c) Effective monitoring
8. Appropriate Consultation



Other Important Considerations

1. Linkage to best management practices
2. Clear oversight
3. Implementation considerations
 - a) Compliance
 - b) Enforcement
 - c) Monitoring and evaluation



Other Important Considerations

4. Consideration of cumulative impacts
5. Science and research requirements
6. Link to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts



Summary

- Wetlands are diverse
- Wetlands have many values worthy of conservation
- Existing conservation measures require additional support
- A wetland specific framework is needed



Questions?

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