

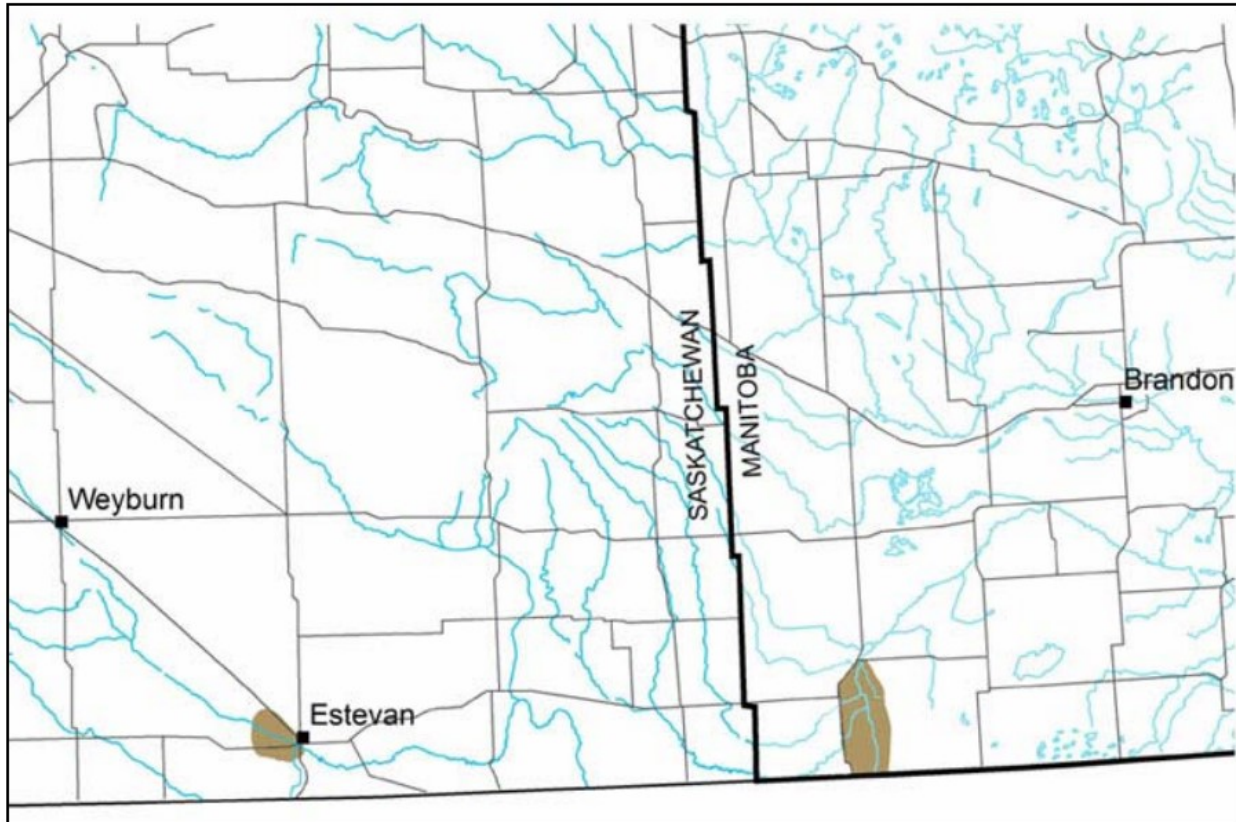


Species at Risk Profile Series: Buffalograss



- Buffalograss is considered Special Concern in Canada.
- It resembles Blue Grama grass, which is much more common on the Canadian prairies.
- Male and female Buffalograss flowers occur on different individuals, while the opposite is true for Blue Grama.
- Female Buffalograss plants have a protective bur-like cluster that contain the seeds.
- Buffalograss is tolerant of dry conditions and increases with grazing pressure.
- Buffalograss retains a large amount of protein and nutrients after dying from frost, making it an excellent winter forage crop.
- Buffalograss is at its northern range limit in Canada and less than 1% of the total and historical population is found here.
- Buffalograss prefers clay soils and can tolerate alkali conditions.
- Its horizontal stems (used for asexual reproduction) can grow at a rate of 2.5 cm per day.
- Buffalograss seeds may lie dormant for up to 35 years.





Conservation

- Coal mining, and the associated destruction of the topsoil, is potentially the largest threat, given the grass population's proximity to ongoing mining operations.
- Loss or disruption of disturbances like grazing or fire and flooding by dams are also considered to be threats.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Buffalograss [here](#).
- Continue or begin grazing in areas where Buffalograss exists.
- Control invasive plants such as Kentucky Blue Grass, Sweet Clover, or Leafy Spurge.

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Buchloe dactyloides by Matt Lavin retrieved from https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant_diversity/3903537073 licensed under CC-BY-SA <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/> (inset)

Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2011. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Buffalograss *Bouteloua dactyloides* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. x + 39 pp.