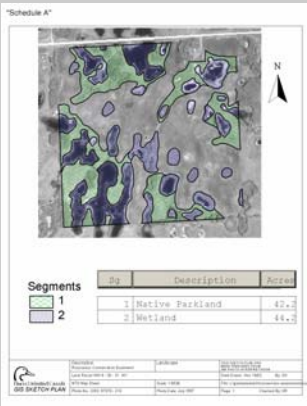




# CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

## PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



“I need surface water available to run cattle, so keeping the wetland intact is important to me,” says Rousseaux. His contact at Ducks Unlimited Canada suggested placing a CE on the property. Rousseaux continues, “Having a CE is great – I get reimbursed for something I was going to do anyway! It’s a win-win situation all around. I benefit, the habitat benefits, the ducks benefit, and so will future generations. I like to hunt, so having ducks around is important, too.”

Brian Rousseaux  
Cattle Producer  
Vanguard, SK

### WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT (CE)?

A Conservation Easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a government or qualified conservation organization, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). A CE is intended to preserve the natural integrity of the land by limiting the amount and type of development that can occur on a property in the future.

### TYPES OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:

CE’s are negotiated on an individual basis, taking into account your intentions for the future use of the land, financial implications and environmental benefits of each CE. It is the landowner’s choice as to the type of CE that would suit their interests.

1. **Managed for Agriculture CE:** These CE’s allow landowners to maintain agricultural uses of the land such as haying and grazing. However, agricultural uses shall not include any destructive activities such as breaking, cultivation, burning or conversion on these lands. The landowner shall remain responsible for and have sole discretion over management decisions on lands.
2. **Managed for Wildlife CE:** Optimizes the land’s habitat quality for wildlife and waterfowl habitat by placing management decisions in the hands of the CE holding agency (DUC). DUC will be responsible for determining appropriate management activities (grazing, haying, burning, etc) and associated management costs or revenue.

### RETURNED VALUE TO THE LANDOWNER:

The landowner can choose to benefit from the placement of a CE through either a cash value (paid) or a tax receipt (donated). The benefits of a paid versus donated CE is strictly dependent upon the landowner’s individual financial position.

1. **Donated CE:** Landowners can donate a CE to DUC and use Environment Canada’s eco-gift program allowing for additional tax benefits. A charitable donation tax receipt through the eco-gift program can spread out for up to 5 years and has a reduced capital gain liability.
2. **Paid CE:** Landowners receive a payment for the habitat protected by the CE based on the assessment, market value and # of acres protected under the CE. The payment is a one time payout following the registration of the easement.

### LAND USE AND DECISION-MAKING:

The CE will be attached to the land title and will apply to all future landowners. In addition, the landowner shall retain all rights and privileges not specified in the CE agreement and shall be responsible for all taxes and obligations associated with land ownership.

*A CE provides an opportunity to preserve your family’s natural heritage. Placing a CE on your property is a big decision and there are many factors to consider including the transfer or sale of the land in the future, financial implications, and the environmental benefits.*