



# Integrated Watershed Management Plan Update North Saskatchewan River Watershed

**Third Annual  
AEPA Agri-Environmental Forum  
Nisku  
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Kootenay Plains & Abraham Lake

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# NSR near Drayton Valley









ALBERTA

Edmonton

Calgary

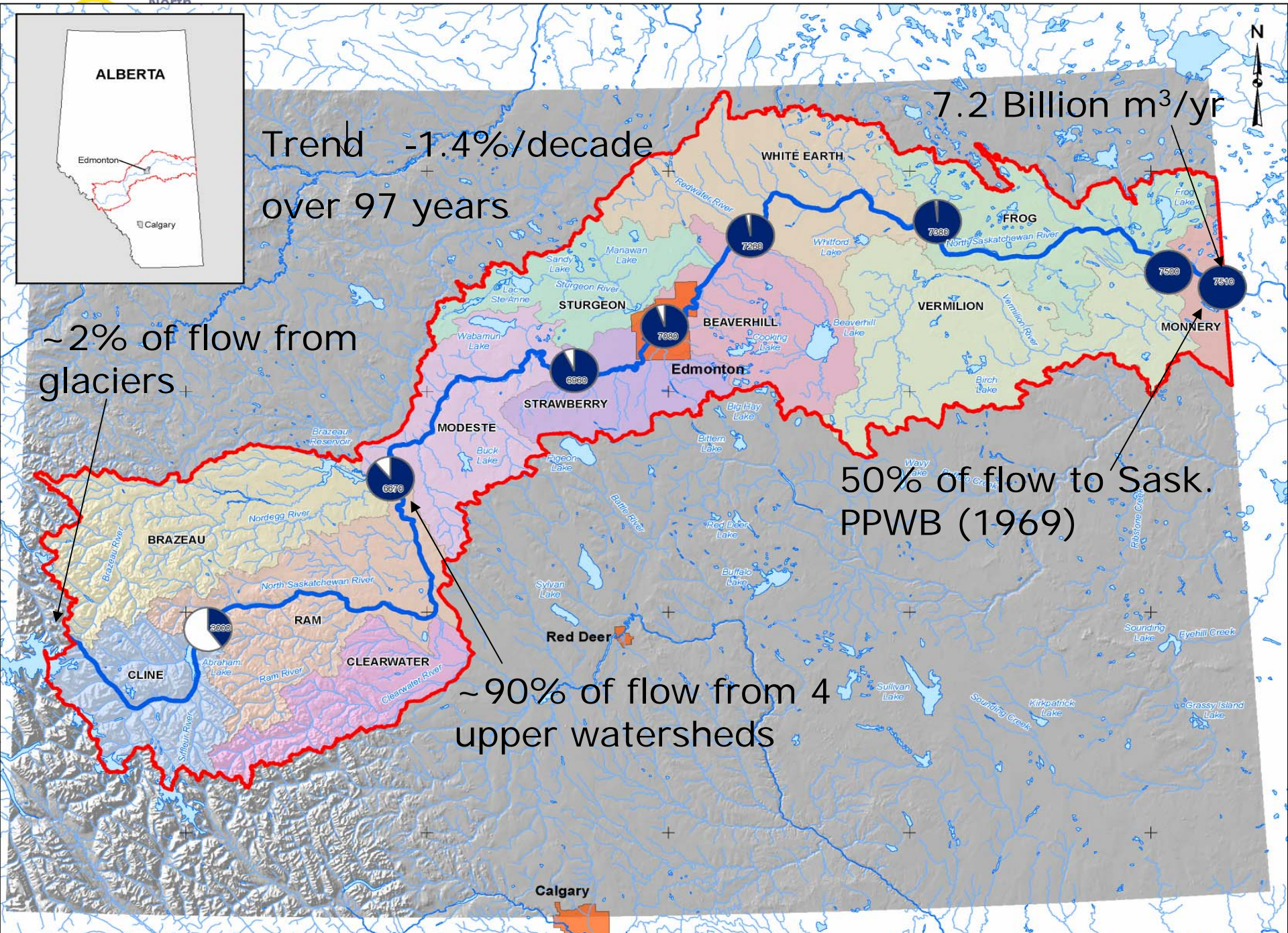
Trend -1.4%/decade  
over 97 years

7.2 Billion m<sup>3</sup>/yr

~2% of flow from  
glaciers

50% of flow to Sask.  
PPWB (1969)

~90% of flow from 4  
upper watersheds



## Objectives of the IWMP Process

- Develop strategies to sustain drinking water, aquatic ecosystems and economies for future generations
- Identify land-use practices and impacts that affect water resources; develop strategies to reduce negative impacts
- Identify critical gaps in watershed knowledge and identify agencies or programs to address them
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public to guide the planning and implementation

## Planning Challenge

- Several planning issues (water quality/quantity, groundwater, etc.)
- Several public sector jurisdictions
- Several economic and non-profit sectors
- Different scales of work: NSR mainstem and sub-basins (tributaries and lakes)
- Expectation to plan “collaboratively”



# Planning Challenge

**Challenge:** to align multiple planning initiatives

- Water for Life (NSWA)
- Industrial Heartland WMF (AENV)
- Capital Region Growth Management Plan (CRB)
- North Sask. Regional Plan (LUF)
- Municipal Development Plans
- National Parks, Forest Management Agreements, etc

# Agricultural Issues

- Protection of agricultural land
- Protection of ground water quality and quantity
- Oilfield injection with impacts on GW
- Impact of many resource roads
- Erosion leading to sediment and nutrient run-off
- Gravel extraction and its effects
- Protection of lakes and shore areas
- Loss of wetlands and riparian areas

## NSWA's Current Tasks

- Discussion Paper
- Workbook survey questionnaire
- Public consultation and stakeholder engagement
- Prepare a Final IWMP; submit it to GOA and stakeholders - end of 2011
- Build a collaborative partnership of stakeholder working groups to implement the plan
- Advise, assist and support users to implement the recommended actions
- Monitor and report on implementation

# IWMP Draft Recommendations

- **5 Goals** – high-level statements of what we want to achieve in the watershed, e.g., water quality protection
- **20 Watershed Management Directions** - measurable conditions to achieve the Goals, e.g., develop water quality objectives
- **61 Actions** – specific statements of who is to do what to achieve the Directions – strategies and best management practices, e.g., NSWA to lead a workgroup to finalize water quality objectives