

Table of Contents

	Page #
Executive Summary	i
Introduction	1
Irrigation in Saskatchewan	3
Some Benefits of Irrigation in Saskatchewan Today	33
Saskatchewan's Irrigation Development Potential	50
A Saskatchewan Irrigation Evaluation Scenario	72
Saskatchewan Irrigation Outlook Scenario Evaluation Results	76
Sensitivity Analysis Evaluating Alternative Futures	91
Irrigation Issues, Perceptions, Constraints & Knowledge Gaps	98
A Provincial Strategy for Irrigation Development	118
Conclusions	121
References and Readings	124
Technical Annex	132

List of Tables

Page

Table 1 - Private & District Irrigation Acres in Saskatchewan	5
Table 2 - Private & District Irrigation Acres and Shares, Alberta & Saskatchewan	5
Table 3. Irrigation Practice Systems and Water Use Efficiency, 2008	10
Table 4. Water Needs of Selected Prairie Crops During the Growing Season, 2006	11
Table 5. Variability in Rivers Flowing into Saskatchewan from Alberta, 1996 & 2002	14
Table 6. Irrigated Agriculture as a Share of Total Agricultural Activity, Irrigation Development Regions and Saskatchewan, 2006	17
Table 7 Storage Reservoirs in Southwest Saskatchewan Constructed by PFRA, Year of Construction and Storage Capacity	20
Table 8 Irrigated Area in Southwest Saskatchewan by Jurisdiction, 2002	22
Table 9 Irrigation Districts in the Southwest Irrigation Development Area	22
Table 10 Agriculture Statistics in the SWDA, 2006	24
Table 11 Non-Irrigation Water Users in the SSWSS Project Region	25
Table 12 Agriculture Statistics in the LDDA and in Saskatchewan, 2006	16
Table 13 Irrigation Districts in the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Development Area	28
Table 14 Some Non-Agricultural Benefits from Irrigation Water Storage and Management	29
Table 15 Irrigation Districts in the Northern Irrigation Development Area	31
Table 16 Agriculture Statistics in the Northern Irrigation Development Area and in Saskatchewan, 2006	31
Table 17 Irrigation Districts in the Southeast Irrigation Development Area	32
Table 18 Agriculture Statistics in Southeast Irrigation Development Area and in Saskatchewan, 2006	32
Table 19 Comparison of Dryland and Irrigated Crop Yields for Selected Crops 2007 Crop Budgets Under Average Climatic Conditions	33
Table 20 Comparison of Dryland and Irrigated Returns/Acre 2007 Crop Budgets Under Average Climatic Conditions	34
Table 21 Primary Production Impacts of Irrigation in Alberta	34
Table 22 Incremental Value Added and Employment Impacts of Irrigation over Dryland Agriculture, Alberta, 1999 (\$ Millions)	35
Table 23 Yield of Selected Crops in the LDDA Region Under Drought and Non-Drought Conditions, in bu/acre	36
Table 24 Change in the Net Revenue per Acre in Dollars from Crop Production under Dryland and Irrigation under Drought and Non-Drought Conditions	37
Table 25 Estimated Economic Impact of Irrigation during a Drought and Non-drought Period for LDDA	37
Table 26 Municipalities Served from Irrigation and Benefiting From Agriculture Water Supply and Storage	39
Table 27 Estimated Direct Economic Impacts of Recreational Activities based on Southern Alberta's Irrigation Infrastructure	45

List of Tables (Continued)	Page #
Table 28 Economic Impacts Associated with Expenditures by Canadian Parks Agencies & Visitor Spending, Saskatchewan, Alberta & Canada	45
Table 29 Water Efficiency Gains in Moving from Flood to Pivot Irrigation	53
Table 30 Irrigation Land Suitability for Meridian Dam Irrigation in Saskatchewan	55
Table 31 Rating of Key Issues Identified on Project Options, North Saskatchewan River, Highgate Dam Project	65
Table 32 Summary of Benefits and Costs on Three Project Options for the North Saskatchewan River, Highgate Dam Project	65
Table 33 Saskatchewan Aquifer Irrigation Potential, 1987	68
Table 34 Ranges of Irrigation Expansion Possibilities, Irrigation Development Areas, Saskatchewan, 2008	70
Table 35 An Irrigation Development Evaluation Scenario from Existing and Expansion Irrigation Acres and % Regional Distribution, Irrigation Development Areas and Saskatchewan	72
Table 36 Irrigation Value Added Building Blocks	73
Table 37 Composition of Total Economic Impact of Irrigation in the Province on Saskatchewan's Economic Indicator	79
Table 38 "Building Blocks" included in the Economic Impact Assessment of Irrigation	79
Table 39 Change in the Crop Mix, Irrigated Area of the Province of Saskatchewan	79
Table 40 Total Economic Impacts on Sales of All Industries in Saskatchewan from Capital Investment Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Infrastructure, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	82
Table 41 Total Economic Impacts on Gross Domestic Product of Saskatchewan from Capital Investment Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Infrastructure, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	82
Table 42 Total Economic Impacts on Household Income in Saskatchewan from Capital Investment Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Infrastructure, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	82
Table 43 Total Economic Impacts on Employment of Saskatchewan from the Capital Investment Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Infrastructure, Total for 40 Year Period, Person-years	82
Table 44 Total Economic Impacts on Sales of All Industries in Saskatchewan from Operations Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Activities, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	85
Table 45 Total Economic Impacts on Gross Domestic Product of Saskatchewan from Operations Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Activities, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	85
Table 46 Total Economic Impacts on Household Income in Saskatchewan from Operations Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Activities, Total for 40 Year Period, Million Dollars	85
Table 47 Total Economic Impacts on Employment in Saskatchewan from Operations Phase of Saskatchewan Irrigation Development and Associated Activities, Total for 40 Year Period, Person-years	85

List of Tables (Continued)	Page #
Table 48 Cost Benefit Ratios for Returns to Regional Water Investments in Saskatchewan for Irrigated Agriculture & Agriculture plus Value Added Development, Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion for Three Discount Rates	89
Table 49 Existing and Future Municipal Water Supply Benefits from Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Development Projects	90
Table 50 IPCC Possible Impacts of Climate Change in the Canadian Prairies and Saskatchewan	91
Table 51 Comparison of Cost Benefit Ratios	95
Table 52 Comparison of Cost Benefit Ratios under a 40 Year Irrigation Adoption Scenario (Base Case) and a Faster 20 Year Irrigation Adoption Scenario	96
Table 53 Geographic Distribution of Benefits Associated with Major Irrigation Projects in Western Canada	97
Table 54 Index of Provincial Perceptions on Irrigation Expansion Potential and Provincial Priority for Irrigation Development, 2005	98
Table 55 Differences In Federal and Provincial Estimates of Total Irrigated Acres in Saskatchewan Irrigation Development Areas	101
Table 56 Existing and Expanded Irrigation Water Demands, Estimated Annual Supply, Lake Diefenbaker	103
Table 57 Irrigation Water Conservation Practices	104
Table 58 Value of Water in Irrigation and Other Alternative Uses	106
Table 59 Estimated Water Values by Selected Field, Vegetable and Fruit Crops, 1996	107

List of Figures

Figure 1 Saskatchewan Irrigated Acreage 1901-2005	3
Figure 2 First Saskatchewan Irrigation Licence on Battle Creek	3
Figure 3 Increase in Acres and % Increase in Irrigated Acres, Saskatchewan by Decade 1901 – 2005	4
Figure 4 Shares of Provincial Irrigation, Private and District, Alberta & Saskatchewan, 2005	5
Figure 5 Irrigation Practice by Type, Saskatchewan, 2000	10
Figure 6 River Flows in Major Saskatchewan Rivers, 1974 – 2003	15
Figure 7 Annual Daily Discharge in Three Saskatchewan Rivers	16
Figure 8 Irrigated Crop Acres, Saskatchewan, 2000	18
Figure 9 Expenditures on Development of Water Supply Infrastructure, Southwest Saskatchewan, 1936 – 2000	21
Figure 10 Distribution of the Irrigated Areas of Southwest Saskatchewan Irrigation Development Area by Crop, 2000	25
Figure 11 Private and District Irrigation, Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Development Area	28
Figure 12 Crop Mix in the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Development Area	28

List of Figures (Continued)	Page #
Figure 13 Population Trends for Selected Municipalities on the Irrigated Eastside and Non-Irrigated Westside of Lake Diefenbaker, 1921 – 2006	29
Figure 14 Increase in the Provincial Household Income during a Drought Year from Irrigation in the LDDA over a 40 Year Period	38
Figure 15 Saskatoon South East Water Supply System	39
Figure 16 Internal Drainage Systems to Old Wives Lake in Southern Saskatchewan and Selected Water Storage Reservoirs	42
Figure 17 Rate of Change in Population on the Westside of Lake Diefenbaker without Irrigation and the Eastside of Lake Diefenbaker with Irrigation 1921 – 1951 and 1951 - 2006	46
Figure 18 Rural Population, Saskatchewan 1901 - 2006	48
Figure 19 Daily River Flows on the Frenchman River at the International Boundary, Maximum, Minimum and Mean Flows, 1917 – 2003	52
Figure 20 % Distribution of Water Use and Apportionment in S.W. Saskatchewan, 2000	53
Figure 21 Schematic Representation of the Irrigation Development Process for the Irrigation Evaluation Scenario	74
Figure 22 Trend of Development in the Irrigated Area in the Province of Saskatchewan	77
Figure 23 Estimated Trend in Direct Investment for Development of Off-Farm Water Supply Infrastructure for the Province of Saskatchewan	80
Figure 24 Distribution of Total Economic Impacts on Sales of Goods and Services in Saskatchewan from Provincial Level Irrigation Related Investment, by Type of Impacts	83
Figure 25 Distribution of Total Economic Impacts on Provincial Sales of Goods and Services from the Provincial Level Related Investment by Source of Investment	83
Figure 26 Distribution of Total GDP Increase from Operations Phase of the Irrigation Development in Saskatchewan, by Type of Impact	86
Figure 27 Distribution of Total Employment by Source, in Saskatchewan Created through Operations Phase of the Provincial Level Irrigation Development, 40 Year Period	87
Figure 28 Time Path of New Employment Generated Through Various Activities Related To Irrigation Development in Saskatchewan	87
Figure 29 Wildcat Hills Tree Ring Chronology, 1411 – 2005	94
Figure 30 Constraints to Irrigation in Saskatchewan, 2005	99
Figure 31 Federal and Provincial Estimates of Irrigated Acreage in Saskatchewan	100
Figure 32 Surface and Groundwater Rights in Saskatchewan by Decade to 2004	102
Figure 33 National US Water Values by Use in US\$/acre-foot of Water, 1996	107
Figure 34 Distribution of Irrigation System Rehabilitation Financing, Alberta 1969/70 – 2004/05	115

List of Maps	Page #
Map 1 Location of Private Irrigation in Saskatchewan, 2000	6
Map 2 Irrigation Development Areas and Irrigation Districts in Saskatchewan, 2000	7
Map 3 Average Annual Water Deficits, Saskatchewan & Irrigation Development Areas	8
Map 4 Agricultural Drought Frequency in Saskatchewan, 1959 - 2002	8
Map 5 Percent of Average Precipitation, 1989 and 2002	9
Map 6 Water Levels in Dugouts, Saskatchewan, September 9 th , 2002	9
Map 7 Drainage Basins in Prairies and Saskatchewan	12
Map 8 Mean Annual Discharge on Major Saskatchewan Rivers in Southern Saskatchewan	13
Map 9 Surface Water Flows In and Out of Saskatchewan, Average Ten Years to 2002	14
Map 10 Mean Annual Gross Evaporation, Saskatchewan	15
Map 11 PFRA Constructed Reservoirs and Capacity, Southwest Saskatchewan	20
Map 12 Federal – AAFC-PFRA Irrigation Projects in Southwest Saskatchewan	23
Map 13 Provincial Irrigation Projects in Southwest Saskatchewan	23
Map 14 Irrigation Districts in the Lake Diefenbaker Area	27
Map 15 Water Storage and Diversion Opportunities in Saskatchewan Identified by the Saskatchewan Nelson River Basin Study, 1972	50
Map 16 Areas in Saskatchewan with Potential for Irrigation Expansion, 1985	51
Map 17 Saskatchewan Montana Border Water Storage Options on the Frenchman River and Battle Creek	54
Map 18 Meridian Dam Location	56
Map 19 Meridian Dam Irrigation Development Potential	56
Map 20 Irrigation Development Potential in the Lake Diefenbaker Area	57
Map 21 SSRID Irrigation Infill and Expansion Project	58
Map 22 Six Development Phases of the Luck Lake Irrigation Infill & Expansion Project	59
Map 23 The Full Expansion of the Riverhurst Irrigation District	60
Map 24 Location, Qu'Appelle Irrigation Expansion Project	61
Map 25 Stages of Development of the Westside Irrigation Expansion Project	62
Map 26 Irrigation Development Areas Suitability of the Proposed Project Location	64
Map 27 Groundwater in Saskatchewan	67
Map 28 - Old Age Dependency Ratios, in the Lake Diefenbaker	111