

Pheasant and Partridge Brood Forecast – Summer 2014

Our late summer surveys indicate another good year for grey partridge and pheasants in southern Alberta. Dogs and handlers walked approximately 30 km in some of the best habitat the south has to offer. With a late harvest underway these surveys were more difficult to conduct and generally delayed by 3 weeks compared to previous years. The flush rate for pheasants is similar to last year although brood size is down. On the other hand, the flush rate for partridge is more than 2 fold greater compared to 2013. Over all we flushed 73 pheasants and 397 partridge in just 12.7 hrs! The dogs were busy with 1.96 pheasant flushes and 3.53 partridge coveys per hour. Averaged over the entire sample period this equates to roughly 5.5 flushes of either partridge or pheasant per hour. That's a flush every 11 minutes. Not bad! Looked at from a different angle, we flushed 2.43 pheasants and 13.2 partridge for each km walked. So while the brood success of pheasants appears to be lower this fall, it promises to be a memorable year for partridge.

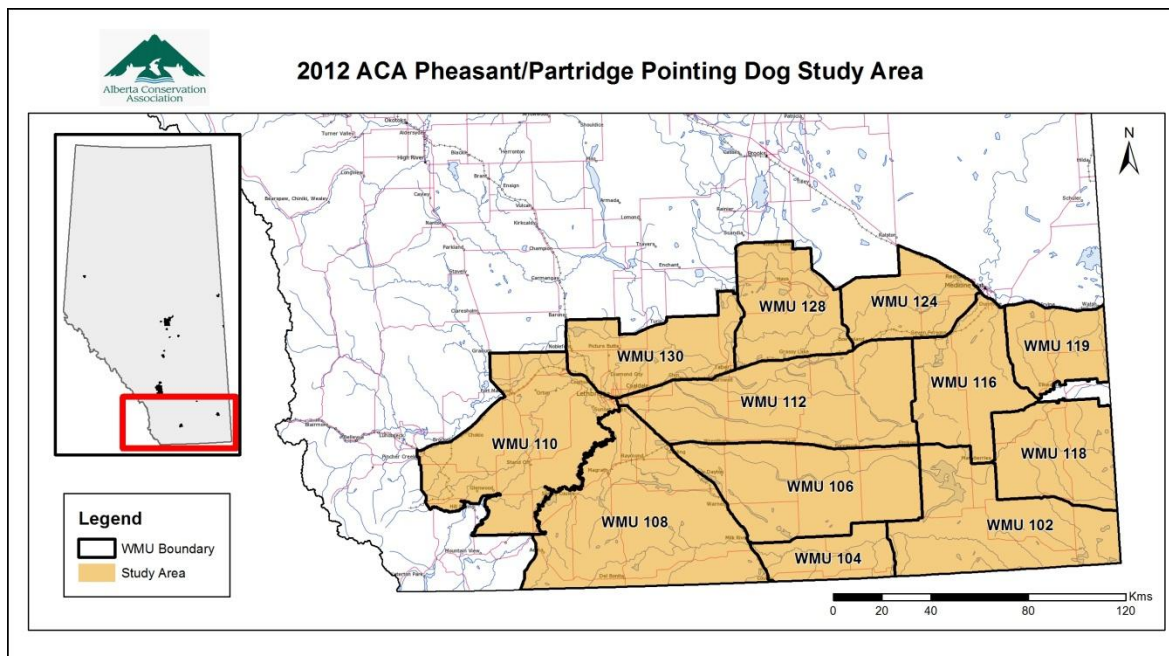


Figure 1. General study area of pointing dog transect surveys.