

**Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek Watershed  
Study Area**

*- Uptake of Environmental Farm Plans and the National Farm  
Stewardship Program -*

**July 16, 2007**

PFRA Input to:

**The Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek Watershed  
State of the Watershed Report**

### Beneficial Management Practices- Producer Awareness and Adoption

Producers currently have the option of participating in the *Canada-Manitoba Environmental Farm Plan Program (CMFSP)* and completing an *Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)*. These programs are being delivered by *The Farm Stewardship Association of Manitoba (FSAM)*, in cooperation with the Governments of Canada and Manitoba. Through the program, producers attend EFP workshops and complete an assessment of their farming operation, including farmstead and field sites, and the surrounding environment. Through this process they identify associated agri-environmental risks, and develop an action plan to mitigate identified risks. Once the farm plan workbook is completed and reviewed, the producer has the option of applying for Federal dollars through the CMFSP. The CMFSP is a program delivered by *Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)*, which provides funding for the implementation of a variety of beneficial management practices (BMPs) on Manitoba farms.

Figures 1 to 3 and Table 1 show uptake of the Environmental Farm Planning (EFP) and Canada-Manitoba Farm Stewardship Program, based on RM and national watershed boundaries, up to **March 31, 2007**.

Figure 1 shows the number of EFP workshops held and their attendance by producers, throughout Manitoba, by RM. A number of workshops have been held throughout the Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek watershed, and the program seems to have been well received by producers within the watershed. The Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek watershed area is highlighted with a circle, showing between 41 and 100 participants per RM. Popular locations for EFP workshops include Poplarfield and Arbora. It is important to note that not all of these producers necessarily farm in the watershed, as well producers from this watershed could have attended workshops held elsewhere.

Figure 2 shows the number of EFP workbooks reviewed, by RM. The numbers range from less than 20 to 60, depending on RM. The attendance of workshops and completed reviews show the awareness and acceptance of agri-environmental issues, as well as the knowledge of BMPs and the CMFSP.

Figure 3 shows the total completed and approved BMPs (all categories) for watersheds throughout Manitoba. The Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek watershed area is highlighted with a circle. Note these are national watershed boundaries, which might be slightly different than the EICDs boundaries.

Table 1 shows the number of approved and completed projects, by BMP category, for the Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek watershed. These numbers are based on the Conservation Districts boundaries. Wintering site management (i.e. portable shelters, windbreaks, alternative watering systems, field access improvements, fence modifications, all to promote out of yard wintering and extended grazing), and improved cropping systems (i.e. guidance systems, variable rate controllers) are among the most popular. Product and waste management (i.e. fertilizer bins, fuel storage) and riparian area management (i.e. fencing off waterways, stream crossings) also have uptake in the watershed area.

The implementation of BMPs proves that producers are not only acknowledging issues, but are adopting these new ideas and making changes to their operations and land. Completed projects show achievable actions and provide support for future projects.

Figure 1: EFP- Workshops and Participants

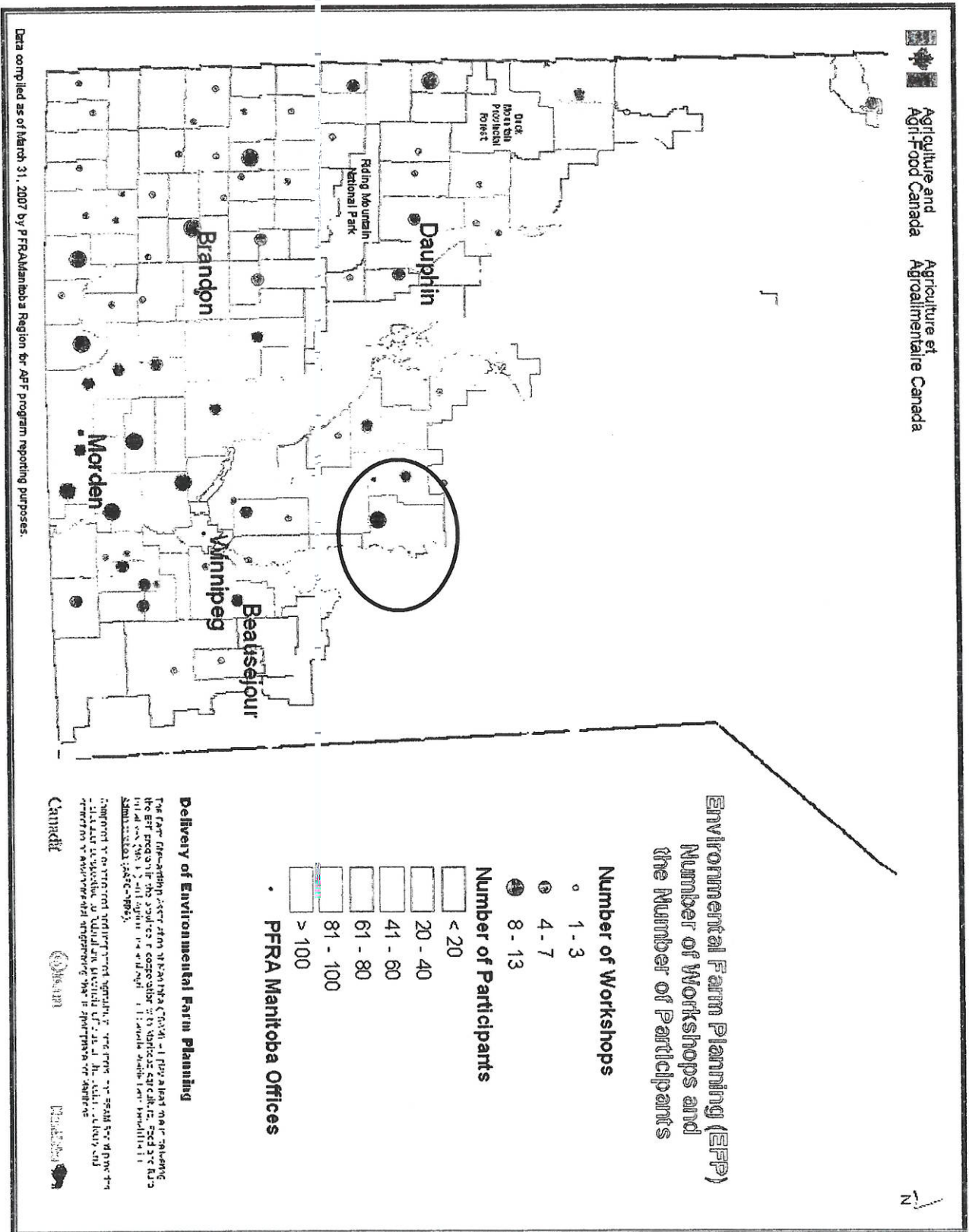
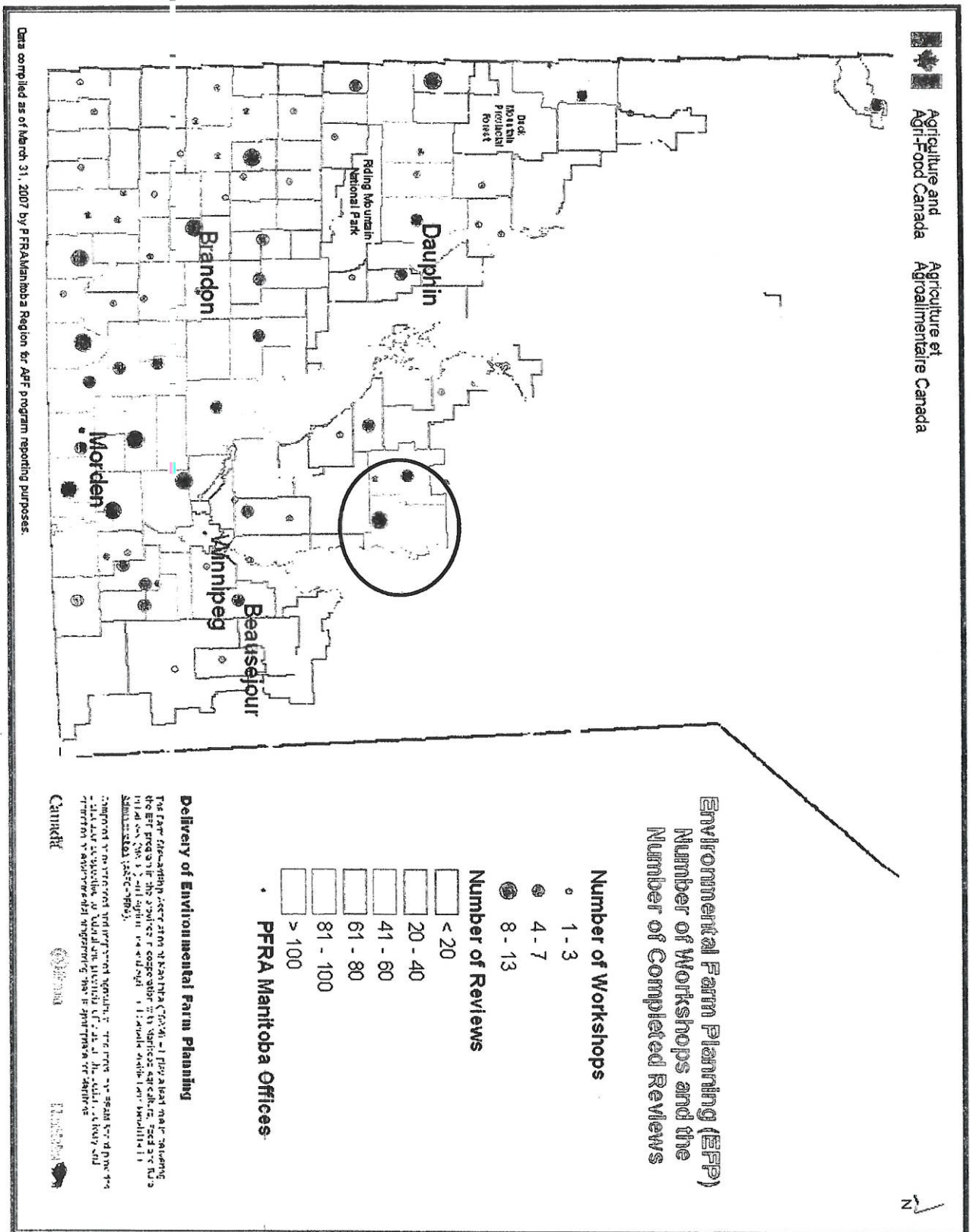


Figure 2: EFP- Workshops and Completed Reviews



**Figure 3: Approved and Completed BMPs**

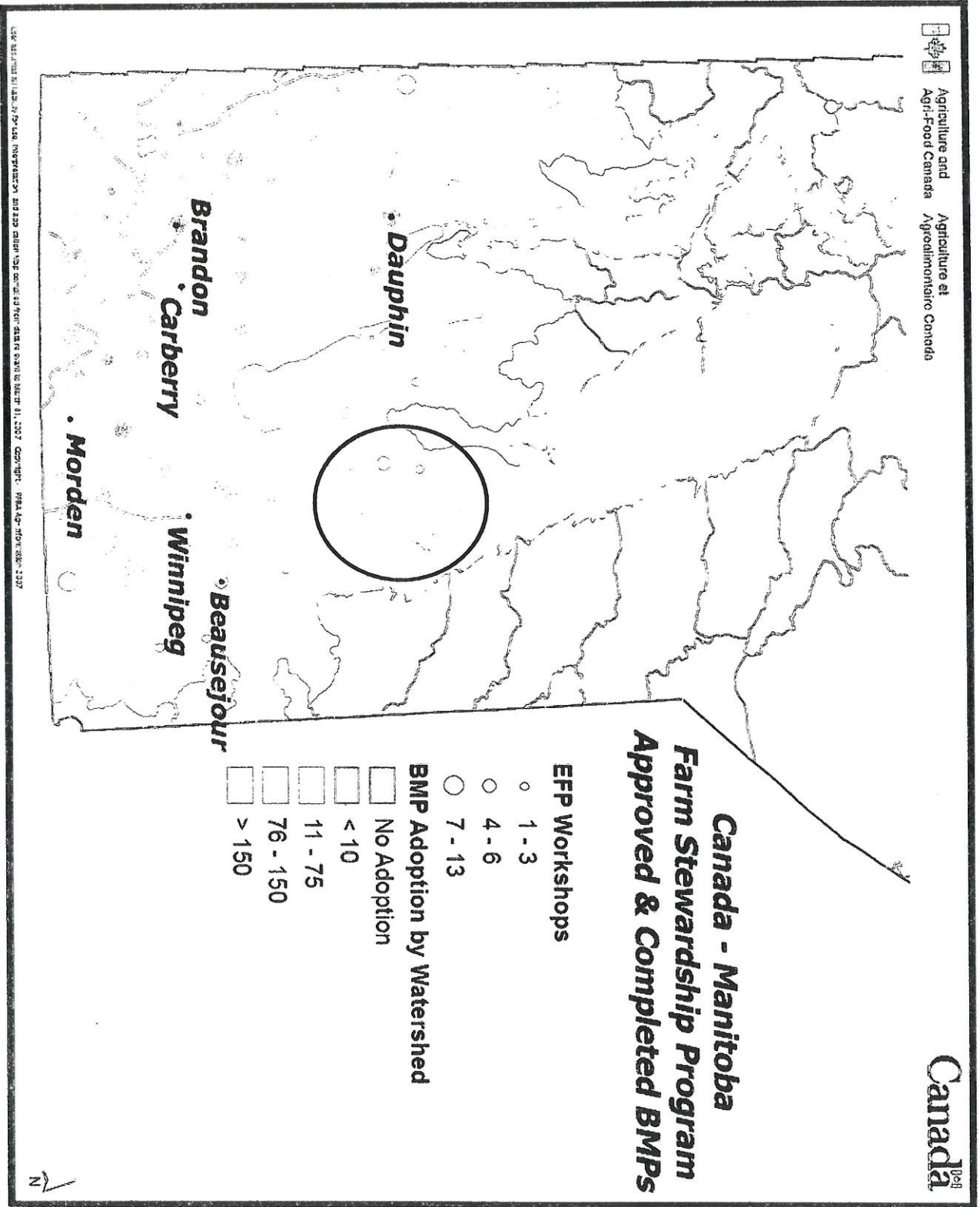


Table 1: Approved and completed projects, by BMP category, for the Icelandic River and Washow Bay Creek Watershed

<u>BMP CATEGORY</u>	<u># Projects Approved and Completed</u>
1- Improved Manure Storage and Handling	<5
4- In-Barn Improvements	<5
5- Farmyard Runoff Control	5
7- Wintering Site Management	19
8- Product and Waste Management	6
10- Riparian Area Management	5
13- Land Management for Soils at Risk	<5
14- Improved Cropping Systems	9
16- Improved Pest Management	<5
19- Shelterbelt Establishment	<5
21- Enhancing Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity	<5
<b>TOTAL APPROVED and COMPLETED</b>	<b>54</b>

References

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (AAFC-PFRA), Manitoba Region, Winnipeg. Report on the National Farm Stewardship Program for March 31, 2007.