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## AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES REVIEW

# OBJECTIVES

- **Complete a current state assessment of agriculture**
- **Review programs and services**
- **Make recommendations**

Work completed within project charter timelines

**Thanks to ASB and staff**

# DO THE TRENDS CONTINUE?

Number of Farms					
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Alberta	59,007	53,652	49,431	43,234	40,638
Parkland	1196	1144	979	782	679

Total Area in Farmland (millions of acres)					
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Alberta	51.964	52.059	52.158	50.499	50.250
Parkland	0.483	0.476	0.456	0.402	0.375

# PLEASE TELL ME THERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS!

Gross Farm Receipts (\$ Millions)					
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Parkland	\$80	\$82	\$85	\$98	\$119
<b>Inflation Equaled +3%</b>					
<b>Net Farm Receipts +37%</b>					

Farm Capital (\$ Millions)					
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Parkland	\$667	\$897	\$1219	\$1466	\$1658
<b>Prov Av \$100 now \$258</b>					
<b>Parkland 20 years 320% vs inflation 45.4%</b>					

## OTHER INTERESTING STATS?

Parkland Age of Farmers	2001	2006	2011	2016
Under 35 years	165	95	45	60
35-54	880	710	495	340
55+	615	655	600	610

- Renewable Energy Generating Systems → 18
- Irrigation → 18 (427 acres)

# A CONVERSATION ABOUT AGRICULTURE

- Blueberry Hall – June 27
- 57 agricultural producers + ASB
- Overall rating: 2.94= “Good”
- Strong correlation between budgetary \$ and “most value” programs
- Agricultural plastics, containers, waste
- Increase communication with us
- Need for stronger policy approach on fragmentation, conversion and right to farm

# A COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN PARKLAND COUNTY VERSUS FIFTEEN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

- 12 Alberta, one each Saskatchewan, Ontario, Maryland
- Call with Agricultural Fieldman – average call length: 38 minutes 16 seconds

- **Weed Control**
  - Equivalent in all categories
  - Superior – mower mounted sprayer and weed inspectors
- **Problem Wildlife/Pests**
  - Equivalent in all categories
  - Superior in problem wildlife officer
- **Environmental Programming**
  - Equivalent in all categories
  - Superior ALUS, Other, and acreage-focused programming
  - Unusual in organizational approach
- **Extension Services**
  - Equivalent in most categories
  - Inferior in communicating programs and services to landowners
  - Superior in extension funding and educational bursaries

- **Economic Development**
  - Equivalent in all areas
  - Slightly superior in scope of activities
- **Rural Broadband/GPS**
  - Equivalent in all areas
  - Superior in tower installation
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Equivalent in most areas
  - May be inferior in ag plastics/containers/waste
- **Open Comments**
  - 80% social license
- **Conclusion**
  - 31 equivalent
  - 2 inferior
  - 10 superior

# IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

- **18 producers**
- **427 acres**
- Water available but reduced in stream flow and growth in other uses may restrict license availability in future
- Increasingly hotter and dryer summers suggest future value of irrigation

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **1. Increase Prime Agricultural Area by 40%**

- Current County Area – 599,000 acres
- Current Census Farmland Base – 375, 449 acres
- Current Prime Agricultural Areas – 231, 768 acres
- Add 92,707 acres
- Total 324,475 acres Prime Agricultural
- = 86% farmland base and 54% of total County Area

## **2. Improve Agricultural Waste Management Services**

## **3. Strengthen Communications to Farmers, Ranchers and Acreage Holders**

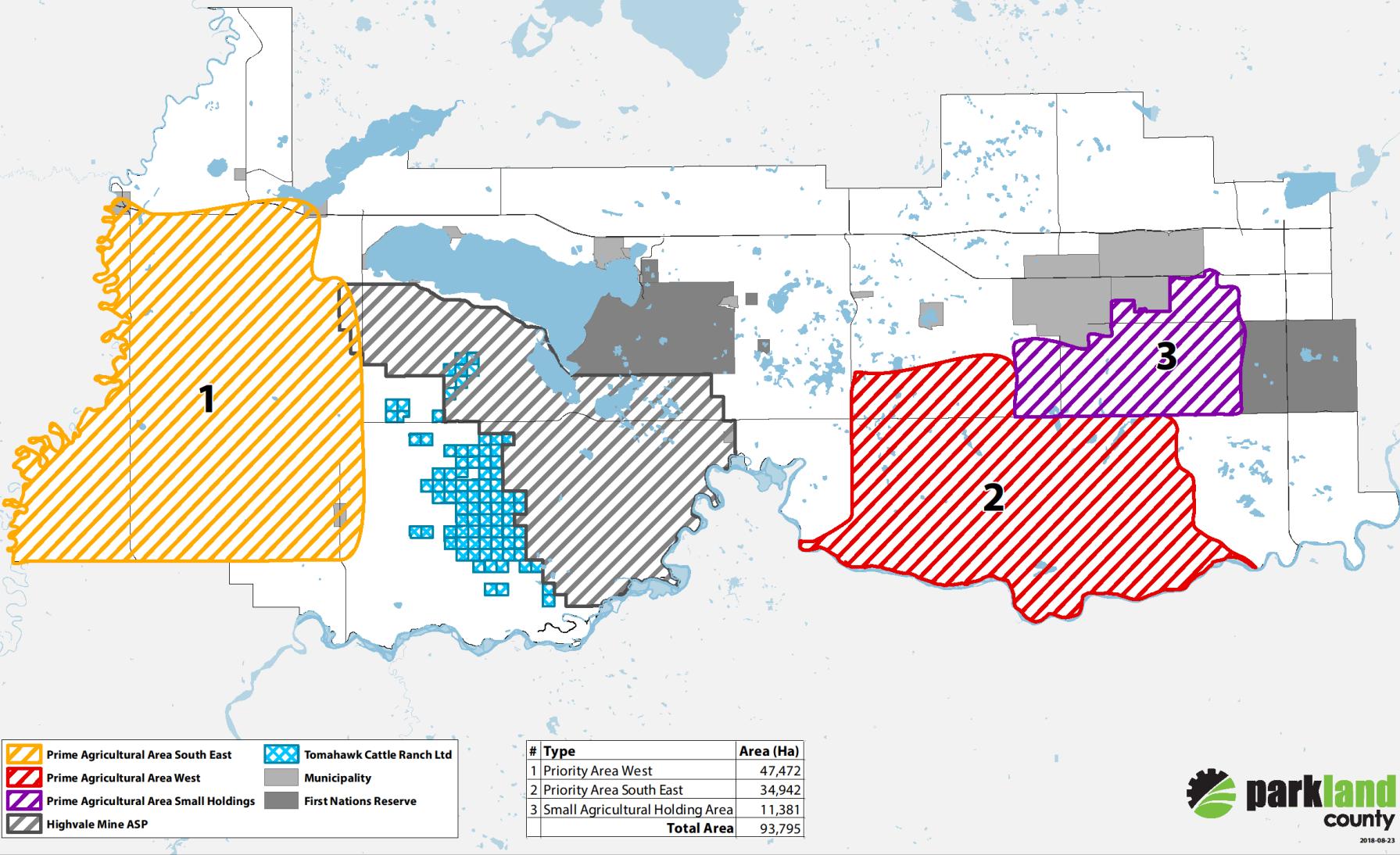
## **4. Irrigation – Move to Stage II**

No increases in staff numbers, no significant budget increases

We heard you!

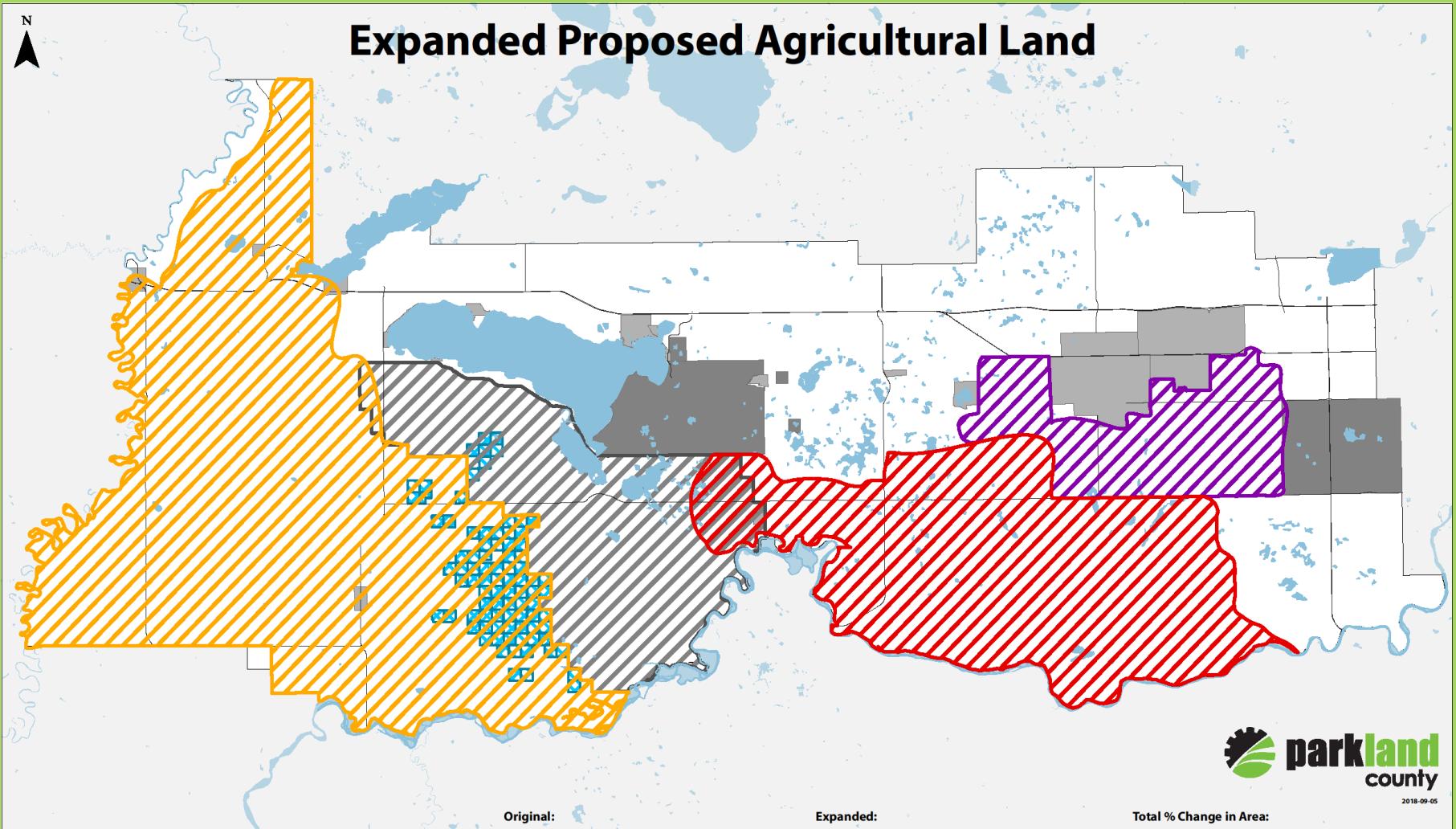
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# Original Proposed Agricultural Land





# Expanded Proposed Agricultural Land



	Prime Agricultural Area South East
	Prime Agricultural Area West
	Prime Agricultural Area Small Holdings
	Highvale Mine ASP

	Tomahawk Cattle Ranch Ltd
	Municipality
	First Nations Reserve

## Original:

#	Type	Area (Ha)
1	Priority Area West	47,472
2	Priority Area South East	34,942
3	Small Agricultural Holding Area	11,381
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>93,795</b>

## Expanded:

#	Type	Area (Ha)
1	Priority Area West	79,151
2	Priority Area South East	42,062
3	Small Agricultural Holding Area	14,326
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>135,539</b>

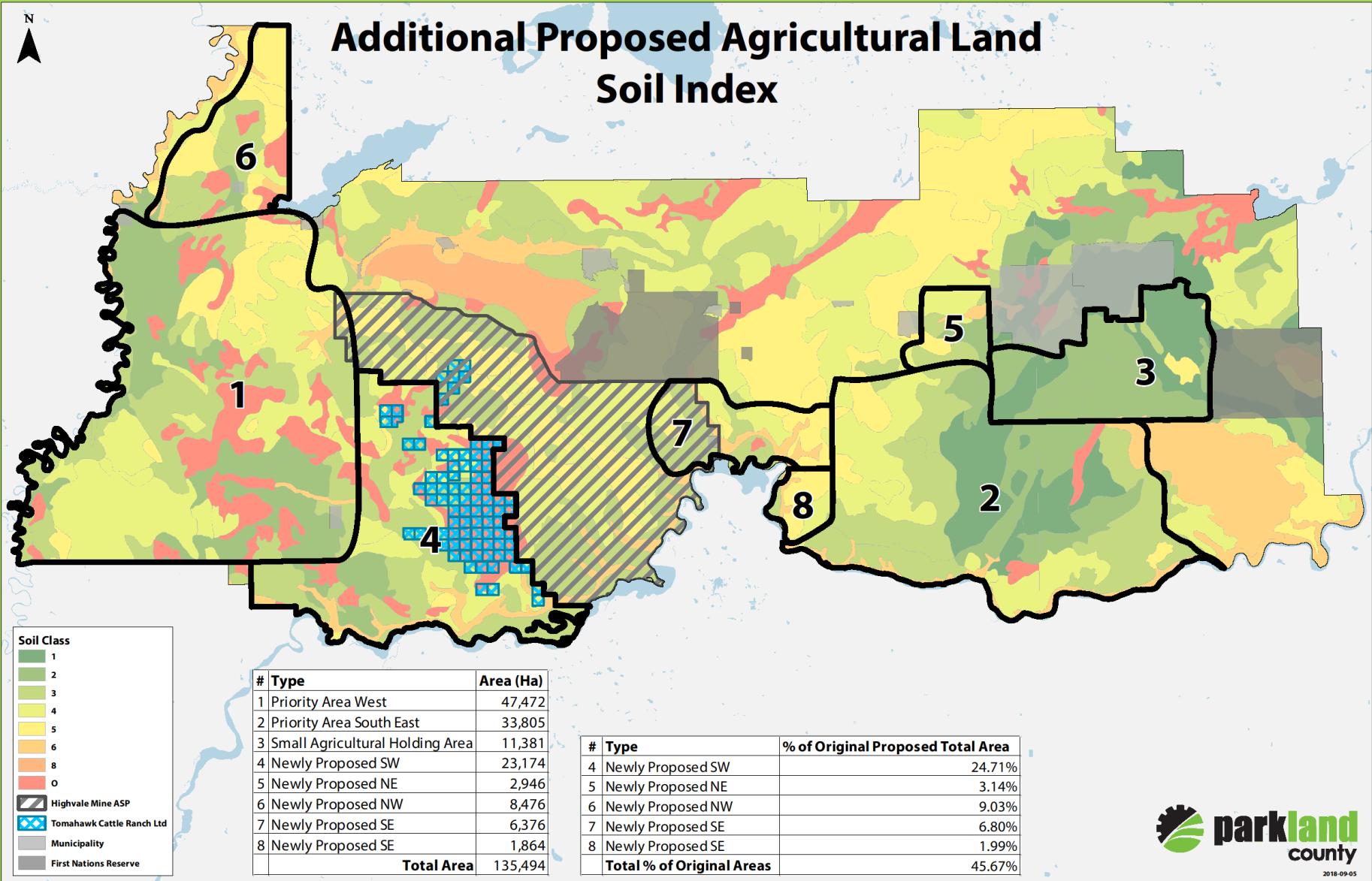
## Total % Change in Area:

#	Type	% Change
1	Priority Area West	66.73%
2	Priority Area South East	20.38%
3	Small Agricultural Holding Area	25.88%
<b>Total % Change</b>		<b>44.51%</b>



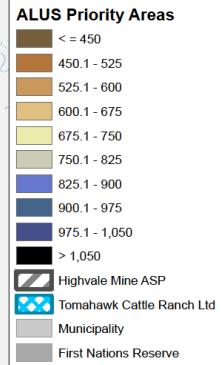
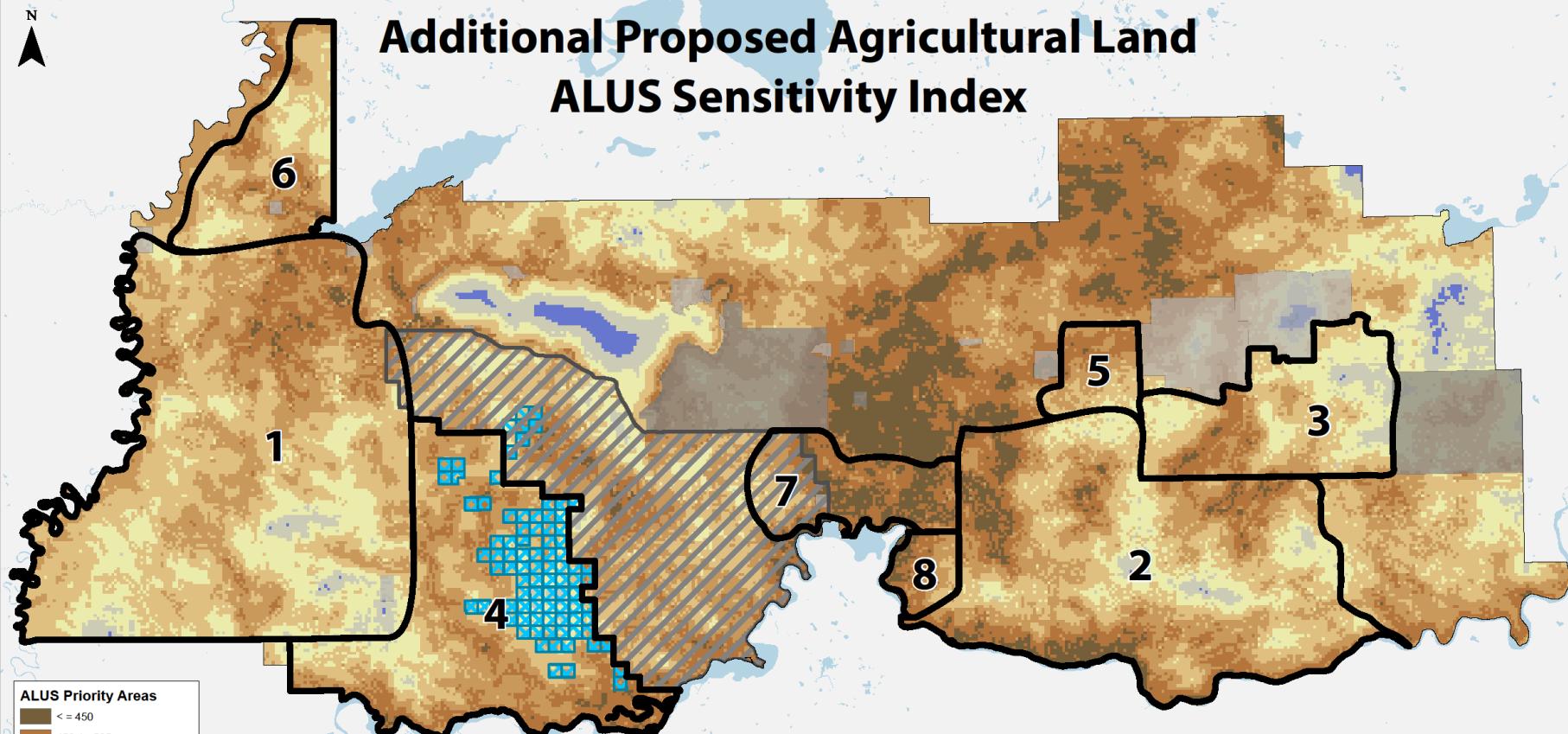
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# Additional Proposed Agricultural Land ALUS Sensitivity Index



#	Type	Area (Ha)
1	Priority Area West	47,472
2	Priority Area South East	33,805
3	Small Agricultural Holding Area	11,381
4	Newly Proposed SW	23,174
5	Newly Proposed NE	2,946
6	Newly Proposed NW	8,476
7	Newly Proposed SE	6,376
8	Newly Proposed SE	1,864
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>135,494</b>

#	Type	% of Original Proposed Total Area
4	Newly Proposed SW	24.71%
5	Newly Proposed NE	3.14%
6	Newly Proposed NW	9.03%
7	Newly Proposed SE	6.80%
8	Newly Proposed SE	1.99%
<b>Total % of Original Areas</b>		<b>45.67%</b>