



## **Cariboo Regional District Agricultural Area Plan**

Prepared for the Cariboo Regional District

Prepared by



2022

# Acknowledgements

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# Acronyms

AAC	Agricultural Advisory Committee
AAP	Agricultural Area Plan
ACARN	BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network
ADAC	Agricultural Development Advisory Committee
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
CARA	Cariboo Agriculture Research Alliance
EMBC	Emergency Management BC
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
GCC	Grasslands Conservation Coalition
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation
LGA	Local Government Act
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
MOTI	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
OCP	Official Community Plan
RLUB	Rural Land Use Bylaw
TFW	Temporary Farm Worker
TFWH	Temporary Farm Worker Housing
ZBL	Zoning Bylaw

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# 1.0 Introduction

Agriculture and farming have a long history in the Cariboo and continue to be a vital part of the economic, social and environmental fabric of the region. The regional agriculture sector is mainly characterized by ranching and forage with a variety of other smaller scale agriculture activities and food production opportunities.

It has been 15 years since the *Cariboo-Chilcotin Agriculture Sector Strategy* was completed and due to the evolving nature of the agriculture and food sector and the regulations surrounding land-use planning policies, the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) embarked on a project to update the 2007 document.

The planning process, which occurred throughout 2022, has culminated in the development of the *Cariboo Regional District Agricultural Area Plan* (AAP). The primary objective of the AAP is to produce a comprehensive agricultural planning document that focuses on the Cariboo Regional District's jurisdiction and provides guidance in identifying opportunities to strengthen the regional agricultural sector and contribute to its long-term sustainability. The AAP recommends actions to address current and anticipated changes, challenges and opportunities specific to the role of the CRD.

Four key steps in the planning process were undertaken to develop the AAP. These steps included:

1. **A background report** to provide an update on the current trends in the agricultural sector since the 2007 Strategy was completed;
2. An **analysis of current policies and regulations** relating to the agriculture sector in the CRD;
3. **Engagement with agricultural producers and the public** (including interviews, surveys and meetings with the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC)) to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats affecting the agriculture sector and land base; and
4. **The creation of an implementation strategy** to facilitate a community-based approach to strengthening agriculture, along with a monitoring and evaluation framework to track implementation progress.

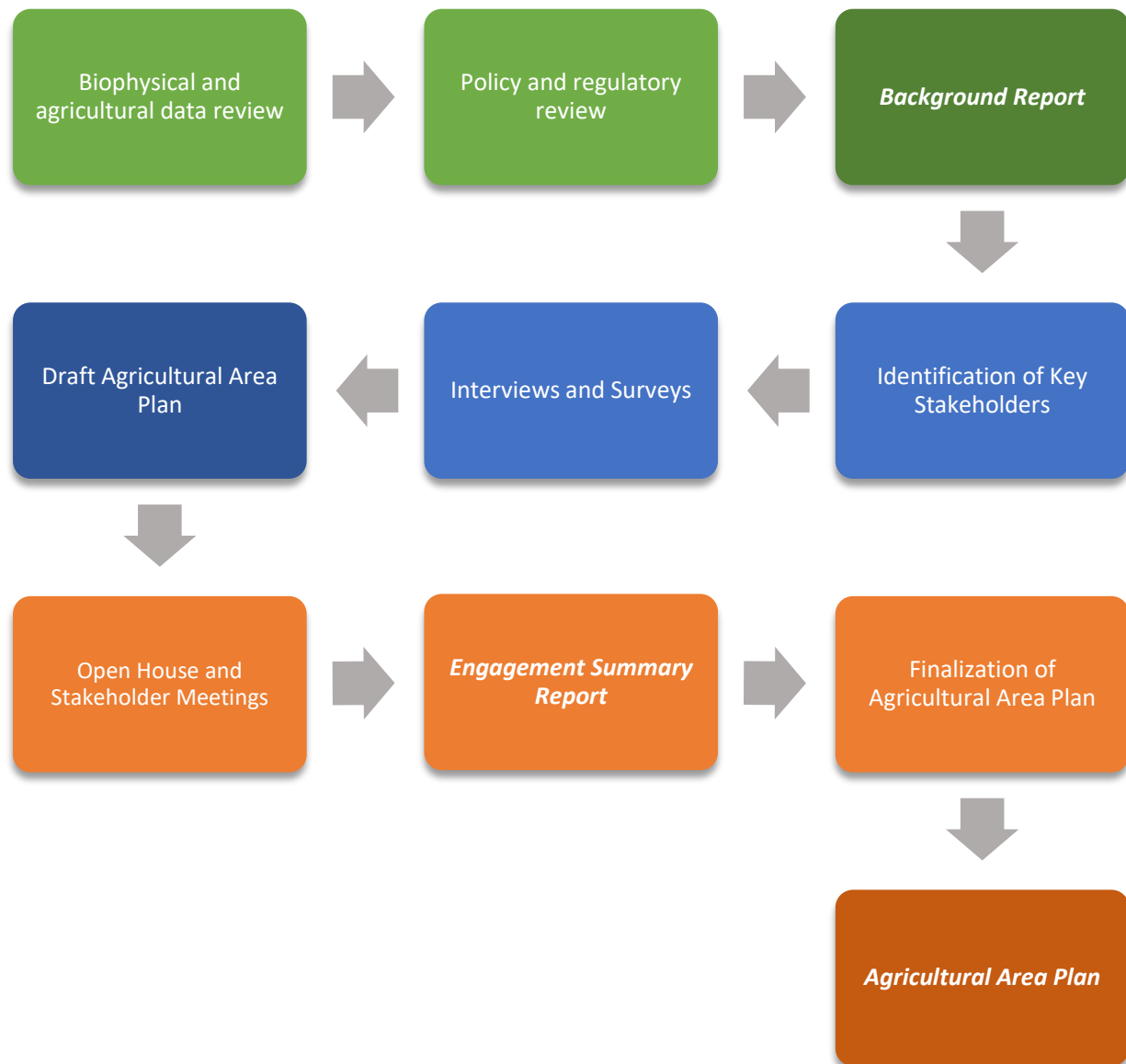
## 1.1 Purpose of an Agricultural Area Plan

The AAP allows the following goals to be integrated into a more current and responsive policy document:

1. Strengthen and enhance the CRD's current Official Community Plans (OCP) policies and land use bylaws regarding agriculture, and,
2. Identify current issues for the Cariboo's agriculture industry and recommend key, implementable actions to strengthen the long-term viability of agriculture.

## 1.2 Agricultural Planning Process

The planning process for preparing the CRD's AAP included the following elements:



### 1.3 Agricultural Planning Engagement

One of the strengths of agriculture and food security in the Cariboo is the vast range of community knowledge and involvement. The process to develop this Plan tapped into that expertise, and input was sought from the public and stakeholders on the strengths and challenges of the agriculture sector. A separate Engagement Summary Report provides details of those efforts, and an overview is provided here.

The objective of this engagement was:

- Connect with the agriculture sector and food community to identify existing food and agriculture assets, gaps, challenges, and opportunities.
- Identify champions who will support the planning process and the implementation of the AAP.
- Provide elected officials with a clear, rational set of recommendations for decision-making.
- Gain support and acceptance in the broader Cariboo region for the AAP and its implementation.
- Work with the CRD to notify the public on ways to become involved in the process and obtain media coverage by issuing press releases at key points in the process.

A variety of engagement methods were used to ensure meaningful feedback. Engagement activities took place during the entire project's process and targets included three meetings with the ADAC.

A total of 21 key stakeholder interviews took place between April and August 2022. This included 18 interviews with farmers & ranchers and three with government staff. A wide representation of the farming community was reached through the interview process and included the following sectors:

- Cattle ranching and forage production,
- Poultry and egg production,
- Vegetable production,
- Nursery tree operations,
- Organic production,
- Value-added production (e.g., birch syrup, honey), and
- Abattoir operations.

Two surveys were developed to seek input for the AAP. One survey was developed for community members and a second survey was developed for producers. While some questions were similar in both surveys, the focus of the community survey was to explore overall support for local agricultural practices and products and the producer survey's objective was to get a better understanding of challenges and priorities and to uncover opportunities for the CRD to play a more supportive role in agriculture. A detailed analysis of the survey responses is provided in the Engagement Summary Report.

The results of the research and engagement pointed to several priority areas that emerged to form the basis for AAP recommendations:

- There is a diverse agriculture sector in the CRD with room to grow.
- There is a desire from the agriculture sector to be prepared for emergencies.
- Producers desire assistance in streamlining paperwork for grants and administrative applications.

- Lack of regional meat processing capacity is a persistent challenge for producers and processors.
- Newer non-farming residents to the region need to be sensitized to agricultural realities.
- More public education and school curriculum on food and agriculture is wanted.

## 2.0 Agricultural Overview of the Cariboo

With fertile soils and a favourable growing climate, the Cariboo is a major ranching hub, known for horses, cattle, hay, and forage production. Diversity of production is on the rise, with dairy, field-based vegetables, poultry, honey, and mixed farming becoming a greater proportion of farms. The large number of multi-generational family-run farms make agriculture an important economic contributor within the Cariboo region.

### 2.1 The Cariboo Regional District

The CRD is in the centre of BC's Interior, bordered on the west by the Coast Mountains. The region is home to 12 electoral areas and 4 incorporated municipalities: Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Wells (Figure 1). The population of the region totals 62,931 as of the 2021 Census.<sup>1</sup> As of 2016, 16% of Cariboo's population identified as descending from Aboriginal Ancestry.<sup>2</sup> The CRD falls within the traditional territories of many indigenous communities. These communities are members of the Dakelh, Secwepemc and Tsilqot'in Nations.<sup>3,4</sup> Specific communities include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • ?Esdilagh First Nation/Alexandria Band                       | • Tl'etingox Government/Anaham                     |
| • Esk'etemc/Alkali Lake Band                                   | • Tsq'escenemc/Canim Lake Band                     |
| • Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation/Kluskus Band                           | • Tsideldel First Nation/Alexis Creek First Nation |
| • Lhtako Dené Nation/ Red Bluff Band                           | • Ulkatcho First Nation                            |
| • Ndazkoh/Nazko First Nation                                   | • Xats'ull First Nation/Soda Creek Band            |
| • Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation/Dog Creek/Canoe Creek Bands | • Xení Gwet'in First Nations Government            |
| • T'exelc/Williams Lake First Nation                           | • Yunesit'in Government/Stone Band                 |
| • Tl'esqox/Toosey Band   |  |

Fishing for salmon in the Fraser River and its tributaries along with hunting, fishing and gathering of food and medicines within their traditional territories have sustained these communities both spiritually and culturally for thousands of years and so continue today.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. [Census Division Population](#). 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. [Cariboo](#). Accessed March 28, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> [First Nations Communities](#), Cariboo Regional District, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Powell, G. [A Regional Profile of Non-Timber Forest Products Being Harvested from the Cariboo-Chilcotin, British Columbia Area](#). Royal Roads University. 2005.





Figure 1. Location of the Cariboo Regional District (source: Wikipedia, 2022).

## 2.2 Agricultural Land in the Cariboo

Approximately 11% (over 936,000 ha) of the CRD's overall area is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) (Figure 2).<sup>6</sup> The majority of agricultural land is located along Highway 97 (which follows the Fraser River), and along Highway 20 East (which follows the Chilcotin River) to Alexis Creek. There are also large amounts of land outside of the ALR that are being used for agricultural production, predominantly for forage and pasture for cattle ranches.<sup>7</sup> Crown land used for forage both within and outside the ALR, provides about 40% of the annual forage requirements of the region's ranching industry.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup>BC Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture in Brief, [Cariboo Regional District](#). 2016.

<sup>7</sup> BC Ministry of Agriculture. [Green Lake OCP Area Agriculture Land Use Inventory](#). 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Cariboo Region: Regional Adaptation Strategies. 2014. Climate and Agriculture Initiative BC.

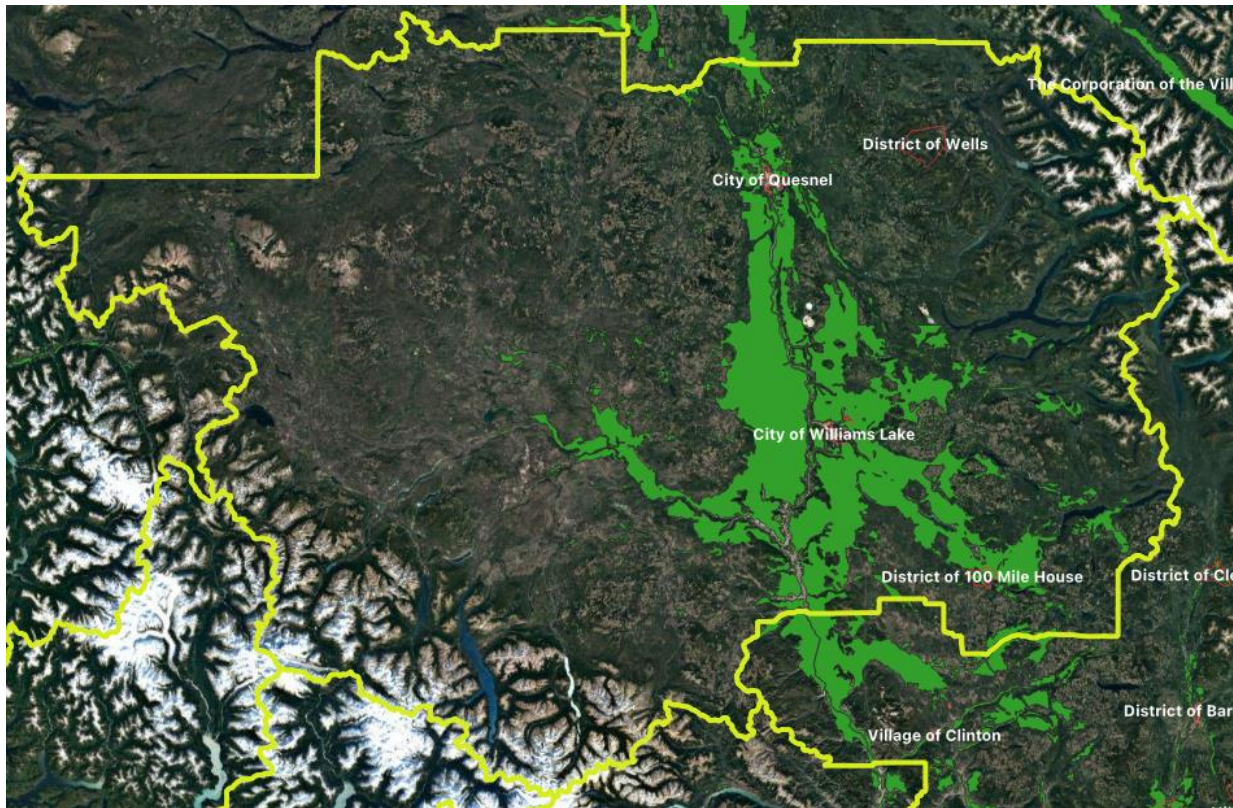


Figure 2. Agricultural Land Reserve (green) in the Cariboo Regional District (Source: Soil Information Finder Tool, 2022).

## 2.3 Agricultural Operations in the Cariboo

According to Statistics Canada’s 2021 Census of Agriculture, the number of commercial farm operations (901) decreased in the region by 18% since 2011. However, this reduction may be attributed in part to a change in the definition of a ‘farm’ applied by Statistics Canada and not necessarily to an actual reduction of farming on the land base.<sup>9</sup> The 2021 BC Assessment data, which includes self-reported commercial farms inside and outside the ALR, lists 1,837 properties as having Farm Class tax status.

The land in the region supports a wide diversity of farm sizes from under 10 acres to over 3,520 acres (Table 1). Over half of farms in the Cariboo are under 180 acres in size while 18% of farm are over 760 acres.

<sup>9</sup> In the 2011 and 2016 Census, a “farm” was defined as any “agricultural operation” that grows or produces agricultural products with the intent to sell these products. This means that farms with no to very low farm revenues were included as long as the agricultural products produced are intended for sale. In the 2021 Census, the definition of a farm changed so that: a “farm” or an “agricultural holding” (i.e., the census farm) now refers to a unit that produces agricultural products and reports revenues or expenses for tax purposes to the Canada Revenue Agency. The new definition removes ambiguity in the definition of a farm, focusing on business-oriented agricultural operations. This change affects the comparability of farm counts and related statistical data from previous census years.

Table 1. Farm size in CRD. (Source: Census of Agriculture 2011, 2016, 2021)

	2011	% of Farms	2016	% of Farms	2021	% of Farms
<b>Total Number of Farms</b>	1,123	100%	919	100%	901	100%
<b>Under 10 acres</b>	56	5%	54	6%	84	9%
<b>10 – 69 acres</b>	214	19%	170	19%	179	20%
<b>70 – 129 acres</b>	136	12%	88	10%	104	12%
<b>130 – 179 acres</b>	160	14%	126	14%	132	15%
<b>180 – 239 acres</b>	51	5%	59	6%	52	6%
<b>240 – 399 acres</b>	107	10%	86	9%	87	10%
<b>400 – 559 acres</b>	78	7%	64	7%	62	7%
<b>560 – 759 acres</b>	58	5%	50	6%	40	4%
<b>760 acres and over</b>	263	24%	222	24%	161	18%

Census data indicates that the most common types of farm operations in the region are beef cattle and hay operations (Table 2). Horse and equine operations are common. Sheep, apiculture and chicken egg production are notable as well as a small number of vegetable and fruit producers. Dairy has increased in the region in the last 5 years from 2 to 8 operations.

Table 2. Select farm types in the CRD. (Source: Census of Agriculture 2011, 2016, 2021)

	2011 (1,123 Farms)	2016 (919 Farms)	2021 (901 Farms)
<b>Beef cattle ranching</b>	353	332	328
<b>Hay</b>	321	238	219
<b>Horse and equine</b>	202	117	98
<b>Sheep</b>	21	19	31
<b>Chicken egg production</b>	17	21	26
<b>Apiculture</b>	7	7	19
<b>Vegetable</b>	8	17	16
<b>Goat</b>	8	6	13
<b>Nursery tree</b>	14	11	12
<b>Dairy cattle</b>	7	2	10
<b>Fruit and tree nut</b>	4	2	8
<b>Floriculture</b>	14	8	0

Additional details including farmer demographics, farm profitability, and support services for the agriculture sector can be found in the Background Report accompanying this AAP.

## 2.4 Climate Change in the Cariboo

Climate projections for the CRD from the Pacific Climate Impact Consortium suggest significant increases in temperature as early as the 2050's, overall reduced snowfall in winters with increased precipitation as rain, and an extension of the productive season through increased growing degree days and frost-free days. Table 4 offers a more in-depth look at the current projections.

*Table 3 Climate Projections for the Cariboo region in the 2050s and 2080s (PCICS, 2014)<sup>10</sup>.*

Characteristic	Season	2050 change from 1961-1990 baseline		2080 change from 1961-1990 baseline	
		Range	Median	Range	Median
Mean Temperature	Annual	+2.1°C to +4.1°C	+3.2°C	+3.7°C to +6.6°C	+5.0°C
Precipitation	Annual	+0.62% to +13%	+5.1%	+2.7% to +21%	+9.2%
	Summer	-21% to +13%	+2.9%	-29% to +18%	-5.0%
	Winter	-0.58% to +9%	+2.6%	+1.9% to +17%	+11%
Snowfall	Winter	-22% to -15%	-19%	-35% to -20%	-25%
	Spring	-51% to -34%	-43%	-71% to -51%	-60%
Growing Degree Days	Annual	+327 to +817 degree days	+557 degree days	+607 to +1420 degree days	+900 degree days
Frost-free days	Annual	+35 to +64 days	+47 days	+61 to +95 days	+76 days

With rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns, the Cariboo can expect dramatic secondary effects on agricultural production. A reduced snowpack in the winters and only marginal increases in rainfall in the summers can result in rivers with lower streamflow, increasing pressure on fresh water sources, creating strain on crop and livestock water needs. These changing hydrological systems along with higher summer temperatures will likely increase the risk of wildfires and extreme weather events such as storms and prolonged droughts.<sup>11</sup> Warmer winters may be favourable to new pests and diseases which will be able to over-winter and expand their territory into the Cariboo, impacting both agricultural production and the forestry industry.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. [Plan2Adapt tool](#). Accessed December 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Climate and Agriculture Initiative BC. [Cariboo Regional Adaptation Strategies](#). 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Climate and Agriculture Initiative BC. [Priority Pests of the Cariboo-Chilcotin](#). George W. Powell. 2018.



## 2.5 Agriculture Extension and Support Services in the Cariboo

Agricultural support services, such as extension officers, farm equipment dealers, irrigation and drainage specialists, local processing, and value-added infrastructure can all assist in maximizing the ability for individual farming operations to succeed. The local food system is connected through storage, distribution, and retail channels as well.

The following are examples of organizations providing extension and support services to Cariboo producers. This is not an exhaustive list of organizations supporting the agricultural sector as many may not have an online presence and new organizations may frequently pop up. The Cariboo is well-served by a wide range of industry organizations.

### Suppliers and Processors

- Highlands Irrigation
- 100 Mile Feed and Ranch Supply
- Beaver Valley Feeds
- Co-op Agro Centre
- Bouchie Lake Country Store
- ABC Poultry, Quesnel
- Chilcotin Harvest, Red Stone
- K.J Rohl's Livestock, 150 Mile house
- Rainer Custom Cutting, Darfield (located outside of the CRD)

### Farmers Markets

- Williams Lake Farmers Market
- Quesnel Farmers Market
- South Cariboo Farmers Market
- McLeese Lake Farmers Market
- Wilson Square Community Market (located Prince George, outside the CRD)
- Prince George Farmers Market (located outside CRD)

### Industry groups

- BC Cattlemen's Association (11 local associations in the Cariboo)
- BC Sheep Producer's Association

- BC Livestock Producers Co-op – Williams Lake Stockyard
- Cariboo Central Interior Poultry Producers Association
- Quesnel Beekeepers Community Club (Central Cariboo branch of the BC Honey Producers Association)

### Other Resources

- Cariboo Agriculture Research Alliance
- Cariboo Growers Co-op – Cariboo Food Collective
- Cariboo Region 4-H Clubs
- Central Cariboo Community Food Hub
- FARMED – North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association
- Growing North Cariboo Society
- Kersely Farmers Institute
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Regional Agrologist
- Quesnel Community Food Coordination Program
- Sprout Kitchen – North Cariboo Food Hub
- Thompson Rivers University – Williams Lake Campus
- Young Agrarians

## 2.6 Local Government Policy and Agriculture in the Cariboo

As part of developing the AAP, the project team examined seven OCPs, three Zoning Bylaws (ZBLs) and three Rural Land Use Bylaws (RLUBs) that exist within the CRD in the four municipalities of Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Wells in addition to the 12 Electoral Areas. Other plans related to agriculture have also been considered. The objectives of this policy review were to:

- 1) Identify any possible gaps and flag updates based on 'housekeeping items' to address current trends (e.g., climate adaptation, market opportunities) that the AAP may address; and
- 2) Create a common framework for the CRD and member municipalities to use in updating their respective policies and plans.

The CRD contains a diverse fabric of policy pertaining to food and agriculture. Overall, there is reasonable consistency between the OCPs, ZBLs, and RLUBs. The age of the plans varies with some older than 10 years and some completed in the last two years. Consolidation and harmonization of policies over time has already been identified by the CRD as a need and will help to integrate agriculture policy consistently throughout the region.

Some communities have progressive policies developed around growing the local food economy, establishing food zones, etc. Other local governments have more basic policy frameworks, which could be a function of the size of the community or the historic form of agriculture (e.g., extensive agriculture vs. intensive farming). Most of the policy documents require some level of updating to be in-line with current planning context and Provincial regulations, particularly the *ALC Act* and regulations. Several recommendations and observations surfaced and have been captured and are included in this AAP, including:

- Nesting agriculture in statutory and non-statutory plans.
- Recognizing the jurisdiction of the ALC in planning documents and recognizing the ALC Act.
- Updating permitted residential uses in the ALR as per ALC rules and regulations.
- Connecting climate change and emergency planning policies directly to agriculture.
- Providing consistent terminology across documents.
- Reinforcing urban/rural boundaries through planning, zoning, education, and support materials.
- Updating and integrating current OCP directions into ZBLs (e.g., including food processing and distilleries as a permitted use in commercial and light industrial zones).
- Developing policies for temporary farm worker housing.
- Developing criteria and policies for the form of cannabis cultivation within the ALR.

In addition, several potential gaps in policies, bylaws, and plans were noted which could be partly addressed in an AAP. These include:

- Underscoring the importance of UNDRIP and working with Indigenous communities to build relationships and identify common objectives around agriculture and food security.

- Highlighting the importance of environmental protection and ecosystem services on farmland (e.g., protection of native grasslands and riparian areas).
- New water licencing requirements and the need for water cycle management and water conservation under a changing climate.
- Advocating to all levels of government for additional regional emergency preparedness and response resources.
- Working cohesively across Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities on agricultural initiatives such as wildfire prevention and/or restoration.

## 3.0 Vision, Goals and Recommendations

There are several key components to the CRD Agricultural Area Plan:

- **Vision:** The vision statement describes a clear, comprehensive future state and intention for agriculture in the CRD, while anticipating possible future events and developments with insight and wisdom.
- **Goals:** The goals reflect the vision statement and overall aims articulated and amalgamated through feedback received during engagement. These goals provide direction to identify specific actions to strengthen the local agriculture sector. The goals and associated actions are not presented in order of importance.
- **Recommendations:** The recommendations break down each goal into issues that can be tackled through specific actions. They refer specifically to an expected or desired outcome through recommendations. These are proposed actions for how the CRD and stakeholders should work to achieve the vision, goals, and objectives of the plan.
- **Implementation strategy:** The implementation strategy sorts the recommendations into prioritized categories while indicating roles and responsibilities.
- **Monitoring and evaluation framework:** This “report card” style evaluation plan sets out a framework to track the implementation of recommended actions.

### 3.1 Vision

*The Cariboo is a place where farming is sustained by building economic and environmental resiliency, where local policies and plans champion agricultural land, producers, and processors, and where all community members share a passion for local food and agricultural products.*

## 3.2 Goals and Recommendations

### Goal 1: Support agriculture through updates to CRD government processes, policies, and regulations.

Land use regulations by local governments are established under the Community Charter and the *Local Government Act*. Tools include the OCP, Zoning Bylaws, Rural Land Use Bylaws, Development Permit Guidelines, and other plans and bylaws. Agriculture is a cross-cutting topic that requires inter-jurisdictional and inter-sectoral responses to key issues. Opportunities exist for the CRD to update these statutory and non-statutory guiding documents and work with producers and food processors to further strengthen this valued sector from a land use planning perspective. There is a desire and an opportunity to be proactive, and to develop policies for potentially complex uses of agricultural land before they emerge as significant issues, such as Temporary Farmworker Housing. Easing tensions within and along the rural edge, and ensuring alignment between local and provincial regulations, particularly regarding housing on farmland and tenure arrangements on ALR Crown land, will help to support farming.

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the Agricultural Land Reserve for agricultural uses.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that all planning documents, such as the OCP, RLUBs, ZBLs, etc., clearly state support for the ALR and recognize agricultural uses as the highest priority within the ALR.</li> <li>Continue to assign large minimum lot sizes in the ALR to reduce subdivision speculation and development pressure.</li> <li>Develop, implement, and enforce robust edge planning strategies on the urban/suburban and ALR edge to minimize land use conflicts.</li> <li>Continue to show agricultural land use planning leadership by following ALC guidelines and MAF bylaw standards regarding sizing and siting of residential uses on farmland. The MAF's Guide to Bylaw Development in Farming Areas and MAF's Guide to Edge Planning are key resources.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD
<b>1.2 Update the Zoning Bylaws and Rural Land Use Bylaws to ensure alignment with best planning practices and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure definitions and permitted uses related to agriculture and the ALR match and reference ALC policies and regulations.</li> <li>Refer draft OCP, RLUB, and/or ZBL updates to the ALC before third reading for an opportunity to comment.</li> <li>Continue to ensure that local policies and zoning direct the establishment of large-scale food processing and food retail activities into industrial and commercial areas rather than farmland.</li> <li>Identify potential zones for agri-industrial activities such as food processing, wool/fibre processing, animal feed processing.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD  Support: ALC



Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>1.3 Work on developing a temporary farmworker housing (TFWH) policy.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with the agricultural community to discuss challenges and solutions to TFWH needs.</li> <li>Ensure that amendments/changes to ZBLs and RLUBs reflect the current and changing needs of the agricultural community with respect to TFWH and align with Federal and Provincial regulations particularly around footprint of living areas and amenity spaces.</li> <li>Include Interior Health representatives in discussions related to safe and sanitary housing conditions for farm workers (e.g., sense of safety, suitable ventilation, proximity to active transportation infrastructure) to inform the TFWH policy.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD  Support: ALC CRD Interior Health Northern Health
<b>1.4 Work with provincial ministries and agencies to improve information access for agricultural users.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with Ministry of Forests on a strategy to improve access to Crown land in the ALR for agriculture use.</li> <li>Advocate for the improvement of the FrontCounterBC experience for landowners in the ALR.</li> <li>Advocate for the streamlining of water licensing and other provincial permitting and approvals.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD  Support: FrontCounterBC
<b>1.5 Develop a policy resource guide for farmers and new residents in agricultural areas.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a summary of key policies and regulations that farmers in the CRD must be aware of (e.g. residential use in the ALR, water licencing, emergency preparedness, invasive species and noxious weeds, nuisance complaints/Right to Farm).</li> <li>Work with Real Estate agents and BC Cattleman's Association to communicate the realities of rural living, especially in the context of properties' neighbouring farms.</li> <li>Clearly communicate the <i>Livestock Act</i>, and roles and responsibilities regarding livestock fencing, in order to reduce conflicts between rural and rural edge neighbours, which are often conflicts between producers vs. non-producers.</li> <li>Engage with MAF's Regional Agrologist and/or Environmental Farm Plan advisors to update checklists and guidelines to assist farmers with local government regulatory processes, encourage pre-application meetings, and conduct site visits to gain understanding of proposed farm improvements where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD  Support: BCCA MAF
<b>1.6 Continue to support the role of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to send CRD staff representatives to ADAC meetings.</li> <li>Keep ADAC members updated on any CRD projects related to agriculture.</li> <li>Support the ADAC in their efforts to implement their 2021 Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD

## Goal 2: Build upon Regional Economic Development initiatives

Local agriculture brings a variety of community economic development opportunities to the Cariboo, including employment, supporting direct sales, sharing knowledge, and creating a productive land base. Promoting the benefits of the region through marketing strategies, as a means to recruit new farmers and farm workers, can address multiple challenges producers are currently facing. Sector-specific infrastructure, such as meat processing facilities and community food hubs,, are also important components of a strong and viable agricultural industry in the Cariboo. This type of sector development can be supported by the CRD. Collaborations with First Nations communities offer specific opportunities to partner on agricultural development initiatives.

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b><i>2.1 Collaborate with partners to promote diversity within the agricultural sector.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a marketing strategy to promote awareness of the agriculture industry and the opportunities available in the region. Land costs are rising but are still relatively low compared to other regions in BC. This creates an opportunity to attract new entrants and existing farmers who would like to expand their operations.</li> <li>• Work with the CRD Economic/Community Development Officer to recruit a diversity of agricultural operations to the Cariboo, including diversified livestock, greenhouse, dairy, and horticulture.</li> <li>• Meet with First Nations partners to explore areas of common interest in agricultural economic development (such as food processing, cultivating niche products).</li> <li>• Promote information such as lower land costs, existing networks, and relative proximity to the lower mainland and associated markets.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: First Nations communities Real Estate Board Community Futures Local businesses, non-profit organizations</p>
<b><i>2.2 Expand the role of the Economic/Community Development Officer to allow focus on the regional agricultural sector</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the initiation of a regional economic development webpage for agriculture, which can be both an investment and talent attraction tool.</li> <li>• Facilitate collaboration between producers and the Economic/Community Development Officer to ensure available grants are relevant and practical for the agriculture sector.</li> <li>• Ensure that sub-regional Economic Development Services (e.g. North Cariboo EcDev, Central Cariboo and Chilcotin EcDev, South Cariboo EcDev) continue to prioritize agricultural sector investment.</li> <li>• Increase connections and communication with First Nations communities, local Chambers of Commerce, and other potential partners to align and pursue agricultural economic development initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD Economic/Community Development Officer</p> <p>Support: First Nations communities Chambers of Commerce</p>

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>2.3 Develop an agri-tourism study for the regional agricultural sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a regional agri-tourism study to determine the rate of interest amongst farm operators, the range and type of agri-tourism opportunities available, and to develop an inventory of regional agritourism initiatives.</li> <li>• Create producer and processor profiles that can be used to highlight local businesses online through websites, social media, and in print media.</li> <li>• Support the success of FARMED's North Cariboo Agriculture Awareness and Marketing initiative and consider making it a region-wide brand and linking it to BuyBC by providing funding to sector organizations.</li> <li>• Establish a regional "buy local" marketing campaign for the Cariboo region and associated products (for examples, see Kootenays and Okanagan regions).</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: Tourism Association</p>
<b>2.4 Promote the development of a regional meat processing sector.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide links to the provincial meat processing license application system on the CRD website.</li> <li>• Support the ADAC in its efforts to develop and expand the Cariboo's meat processing sector. This may include supporting the advertisement of workshops or funding streams.</li> <li>• Advertise to attract skilled individuals in slaughter or processing to the region to improve capacity of existing abattoirs.</li> <li>• Partner with First Nations communities in developing the regional meat processing sector.</li> <li>• Meet regularly with MAF and BC Meats to help address labour challenges in the sector and seek opportunities to increase cut and wrap capacity.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: ADAC</p> <p>Support: CRD First Nations communities MAF</p>
<b>2.5 Continue to support community food hub initiatives.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertise workshops, seminars, equipment, and resources being offered by community food hubs in the Cariboo to help connect and re-localize the food system.</li> <li>• Make resources, reports, and maps available at local government offices and online.</li> <li>• Explore the viability of additional farmers markets within the region as well as the feasibility of year-round indoor sites to extend sales.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: Food hubs</p>
<b>2.6 Advocate for taxation policies that incentivize agricultural production in the ALR.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for opportunities to better match tax rates with farmland production activities (e.g. higher BC Farm Tax Status minimum thresholds; changes to the application of the school tax on inactive farmland).</li> <li>• Meet with MAF and BC Assessment regarding taxation policies that impact the agriculture sector and ALR landowners.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: MAF, BC Assessment</p>

### Goal 3: Build and share emergency planning and preparedness resources

Climate change is anticipated to bring some benefits to the Cariboo agricultural sector, such as an increase in growing degree days and an extension in the frost-free season, which will in turn allow for a greater diversity and yield in crop production. However, new pests and disease challenges have arisen. Forest fires and subsequent floods over the last 10 years have also brought about increased risks associated with climate change. Furthermore, agricultural water demands are expected to increase as climate change leads to hotter summers and longer growing seasons. Through the survey and interview process, farmers communicated that one of the best ways for the CRD to support the agriculture sector is to continue to focus on emergency planning and preparedness. Following the 2017 fire season, efforts have been made to strengthen emergency preparedness and response, offering residents a higher sense of security and confidence in the Cariboo's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Although much was learned and amended since the 2017 fires, some real challenges persist and there are some clear paths forward which can contribute to greater efficiency and effectiveness of emergency preparedness and response in the CRD. The desire of the agriculture sector for local support must be appropriately matched with the capacity and resources of the CRD and other levels of government, including First Nations communities.

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>3.1 Continue to incorporate agriculture in ongoing Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide leadership as an active partner in developing a regional climate action plan with MAF.</li> <li>• Include and engage the agriculture sector in CRD climate change plans and strategies and ensure that agriculture-specific climate action policies are included in CRD plans and strategies.</li> <li>• Continue to promote Cariboo Agriculture Research Alliance (CARA) as a research and information hub for producers of Cariboo.</li> <li>• Work with MAF to update the Agricultural Land Use Inventory and associated Agricultural Water Demand Model on a regular basis (e.g., every 5 years).</li> <li>• Work with Investment Agriculture Foundation to disseminate existing information regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation.</li> <li>• Recognize the role that extensive agriculture (e.g. forage, grazing) plays in carbon sequestration and wildfire prevention (e.g. targeted grazing and fuel management).</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: ADAC MAF IAF</p>
<b>3.2 Improve cell phone and internet connectivity and infrastructure.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to identify and prioritize gaps in cellular and internet connection across the region.</li> <li>• Work with service providers to prioritize upgrades in rural agricultural areas.</li> <li>• Ensure the CRD Grant Writer Program specifically caters to the agricultural sector despite barriers such as broadband connectivity and computer use competency.</li> <li>• Support access to hub spaces where connectivity is available.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: Telecom providers</p>

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>3.3 Continue to develop and support the Community Liaison Program for emergency preparedness communication.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information regarding provincial initiatives such as PremisesID on the CRD website to facilitate quick access to resources as well as clear communication of livestock whereabouts during emergency situations.</li> <li>• Encourage local farmers institutes and other agricultural organization to develop, promote, and share Cariboo-relevant livestock evacuation plans.</li> <li>• Include a producer perspective when reviewing local emergency response plans.</li> <li>• Consider the implications of an emergency that disrupts the local food system; support a food system that ensures adequate food supply in the event of an emergency.</li> <li>• Work alongside all levels of government, including First Nations, to ensure that plans capture the unique needs of agricultural landowners, particularly those who have farms in the Cariboo that cross jurisdictional boundaries.</li> <li>• Support the Farmers Institutes in providing information sessions for farmers on wildfire preparedness with access to meeting rooms, permits or funding.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: Farmers Institutes EMBC First Nations communities BCCA regional liaisons</p>

#### Goal 4: Increase channels of collaboration, communication, and education

Support for a local food system is largely based on public knowledge and awareness of agricultural products and processes. Interview and survey results indicated that there is room to improve awareness of the Cariboo agricultural sector within the school setting, including traditional forms of Indigenous food harvesting and collection. Similar opportunities existing to raise aware of the sector with existing residents and newcomers, and CRD staff and Elected Officials. By supporting opportunities for the community to directly engage with different aspects of the food system, the CRD can help strengthen the public's understanding of the importance of the agricultural sector, historic forms of food harvesting and production, as well as increase participation in the food system through purchasing and succession planning.

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>4.1 Advocate for strengthening agriculture education in the classroom environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist School Districts with obtaining Farm-to-School BC and Agriculture in the Classroom grants. This may include letters of recommendation, or an indication of matching or in-kind support.</li><li>• Support new and/or existing schools' programs on school grounds. This may include providing soil or compost, fencing, or other in-kind support for these projects.</li><li>• Partner with First Nations communities on disseminating information regarding traditional and cultural food practices, and foster collaboration between School Districts and First Nations communities.</li><li>• Advocate to UBCM, School Districts, and the Ministry of Education for mandatory agricultural education and career awareness in elementary and secondary schools.</li><li>• Assist with the distribution of FARMED's North Cariboo Educator's Resource Guide (Agriculture Education Program) and support the development of similar guides for the 100 Mile House and Williams Lake areas. This guide was developed as a component of the Agricultural Education Program Implementation plan.</li></ul>	Lead: ADAC  Support: CRD First Nations communities School District 27 School District 28 FARMED
<b>4.2 Provide agricultural learning opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support annual farm tours and ensure that CRD staff and Elected Officials are invited to attend.</li><li>• Collaborate with First Nations partners on developing educational materials regarding traditional and cultural food practices.</li><li>• Provide regular agriculture updates at Board meetings on topics affecting the agricultural community.</li><li>• Stay up to date with other projects and initiatives being led by the ADAC, Cariboo Agricultural Research Association, FARMED, Farmers Institutes, and others.</li></ul>	Lead: ADAC  Support: CRD First Nations communities Kersley Farmers Institute Local farmers, agricultural businesses, non-profit organizations

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>4.3 Explore policy and zoning options to increase access to local food products, seeds, and resources.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider allowing pop-up markets in some commercial and residential areas on a temporary basis.</li> <li>Develop and adopt a local food procurement policy for local government events and meetings.</li> <li>Ensure that regional farmers markets have adequate facilities and potential for year-round and/or winter markets (e.g. Alex Fraser Park).</li> <li>Identify potential sites for new/expanded community gardens for growing food within the urban context within the CRD.</li> <li>Work with regional libraries and community associations to develop seed collection for accepting and distributing seeds.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD and member municipalities</p> <p>Support: ADAC Non-profit organizations, libraries</p>
<b>4.4 Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in the Cariboo.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support First Nations partners, NGOs, and other groups who organize annual events to celebrate food production in the Cariboo to enable the public to get to know local farmers. Options include but are not limited to: A farm-to-table dinner; Slow-food cycle; Farm tours.</li> <li>Integrate Cariboo food and agriculture into existing community events (e.g., local catering, information booth, handouts, quick surveys, guest speakers).</li> <li>Convey a spirit of community support for and pride in agriculture and Cariboo farmers in print, on-line, and in-person communications.</li> <li>Support the creation of community garden box programs to increase the visibility of agriculture and food throughout CRD communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: First Nations partners ADAC Local businesses, non-profit organizations</p>
<b>4.5 Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Real Estate Board or Association to provide information about land use restrictions, normal farm practices, the <i>Livestock Act</i> (regarding fencing) and the <i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i> to property buyers and developers. This can be achieved by building on work led by the BC Cattlemen's Association around compliance and enforcement.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: Real Estate Board BCCA</p>

## Goal 5: Promote Environmentally Beneficial Management Practices

While climate change may challenge future growing conditions and increase wildfire risk, there are also opportunities for innovative policies and practices to emerge that focus on maintaining and enhancing the natural environment. Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that promote regenerative farming, such as the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program, will help to conserve water, replenish the soil, and provide habitat for pollinators. Practices like these can be encouraged through facilitating partnerships between environmental organizations and the agriculture community, as well as compensation programs for farmers such as IAF's Farmland Advantage program.

Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b><i>5.1 Ensure that sector development and diversification occurs with climate change and the environment as key priorities.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote awareness of Environmental Farm Plans and how to pursue funding opportunities to complete innovative projects (e.g., energy and waste management technologies) and prepare for climate change adaptation.</li> <li>Work with the agricultural community to increase green waste and organic waste drop-off options and reduce the use of open burning to manage agricultural vegetative debris.</li> <li>Continue to work towards an agricultural plastics recycling program.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: ADAC</p> <p>Support: CRD and member municipalities MAF</p>
<b><i>5.2 Support the protection of ecological services on farmland</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider a regional approach to identifying ecosystem services that are stewarded on farmland in the CRD and explore opportunities to better protect these natural assets, such as through a regional conservation fund that all residents contribute to.</li> <li>Continue to promote existing payment for ecosystem services initiatives such as Investment Agriculture Foundation's Farmland Advantage program.</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD and member municipalities</p> <p>Support: ADAC IAF</p>
<b><i>5.3 Promote water cycle management, water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage agricultural landowners to apply for water licences through FrontCounterBC.</li> <li>Provide links to online water stewardship and conservation resources and/or distribute printed materials, such as brochures, during mail-outs (e.g., with annual property tax information).</li> </ul>	<p>Lead: CRD</p> <p>Support: ADAC FrontCounterBC</p>



Recommendation	Description	Responsibilities
<b>5.4 Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing programs and initiatives.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support, augment, and promote the CRD's Invasive Plant Management program.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with provincial ministries for improved management of invasive species on Crown Land.</li> <li>• Continue to promote the Landowner Assistance Program to support landowners who wish to control invasive plants.</li> <li>• Maintain invasive/noxious species and agricultural best practices signage along the trails in agricultural areas.</li> <li>• Continue to support the efforts of the Cariboo Chilcotin Invasive Plant Committee.</li> </ul>	Lead: CRD  Support: Cariboo-Chilcotin Invasive Plant Committee
<b>5.5 Support the protection of native grasslands within the ALR.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the protection of the carbon sequestration abilities of natural grasslands and promote and incentivize the use of BMPs such as targeted grazing and alternatives to tillage to protect carbon in soils.</li> <li>• Share information from the Grasslands Conservation Coalition (GCC); ACARN; CARA; and other regionally-relevant sources of grasslands management with the agricultural sector.</li> </ul>	Lead: ADAC  Support: CRD ACARN CARA GCC

## 4.0 Implementation Strategy

The recommendations are presented in the following tables to identify roles regarding implementation and potential budgetary requirements.

Relevant CRD departments, as well as external organizations, are identified whenever possible. With regards to funding, “Operational Base” refers to existing staff/roles while “External Funding” refers to either an annual budget request, other funding sources, or a combination thereof.

Table 4. Implementation strategy: key responsibilities and funding.

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Priority level</i>	<i>Community Planning and Development</i>	<i>Emergency Planning – Community Liaison</i>	<i>Economic Development Officer</i>	<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>ADAC</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations</i>	<i>Additional/ external funding</i>
1.1	<i>Continue to protect and preserve the ALR for agricultural uses.</i>	Ongoing	X			X			
1.2	<i>Update the ZBLs and RLUBs to ensure alignment with best planning practices and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.</i>	Highest	X			X		ALC	
1.3	<i>Work on developing a temporary farmworker housing (TFWH) policy.</i>	Lower	X					ALC Interior Health Northern Health	
1.4	<i>Work with provincial ministries and agencies to improve information access for agricultural users</i>	Medium	X				X	FrontCounterBC	
1.5	<i>Develop a policy resource guide for new residents in agricultural areas</i>	Highest	X					BCCA	
1.6	<i>Continue to support the role of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC).</i>	Ongoing	X			X	X		

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Description</i>		<i>Community Planning and Development</i>	<i>Emergency Planning – Community Liaison</i>	<i>Economic Development Officer</i>	<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>ADAC</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations or Departments</i>	<i>Additional funding</i>
2.1	<i>Collaborate with partners to promote diversity within the agricultural sector.</i>	Ongoing	X		X		X	<b>First Nations communities Real Estate Board Community Futures Local businesses, non-profit organizations</b>	
2.2	<i>Expand the role of the Economic/Community Development Officer to allow focus on the regional agricultural sector.</i>	Medium	X		X			<b>First Nations communities Chambers of Commerce</b>	
2.3	<i>Develop an agri-tourism study for the regional agricultural sector.</i>	Highest	X		X		X	<b>Tourism Association</b>	\$
2.4	<i>Promote the development of a regional meat processing sector</i>	Medium	X		X			<b>First Nations communities</b>	
2.5	<i>Continue to support community food hub initiatives.</i>	Ongoing	X		X		X	<b>Food Hubs</b>	
2.6	<i>Advocate for taxation policies that incentivize agricultural production in the ALR.</i>	Medium	X			X	X		
3.1	<i>Continue to incorporate agriculture in ongoing Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.</i>	Ongoing	X	X			X	<b>MAF IAF</b>	
3.2	<i>Improve cell phone and internet connectivity and infrastructure.</i>	Medium	X	X	X			<b>Telecom providers</b>	

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Description</i>		<i>Community Planning and Development</i>	<i>Emergency Planning – Community Liaison</i>	<i>Economic Development Officer</i>	<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>ADAC</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations or Departments</i>	<i>Additional funding</i>
3.3	<i>Continue to develop and support the Community Liaison Program for emergency preparedness communication.</i>	Ongoing	X	X				Farmers Institutes EMBC First Nations communities BCCA	\$
4.1	<i>Advocate for the strengthening of agriculture education in the classroom environment</i>	Ongoing				X	X	First Nations communities SD 27 SD 28 FARMED	\$
4.2	<i>Provide agricultural learning opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.</i>	Medium	X			X	X	First Nations communities Local farmers, Farmers institutes, agricultural businesses, non-profit organizations	\$
4.3	<i>Explore policy and zoning options to increase access to local food products</i>	Medium	X		X		X	Non-profit organizations, libraries	
4.4	<i>Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in the Cariboo.</i>	Ongoing	X		X	X	X	First Nations partners Local businesses, non-profit organizations	\$

4.5	<i>Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.</i>	Medium	X		X		X	Real estate board BCCA	\$
<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Description</i>		<i>Community Planning and Development</i>	<i>Emergency Planning – Community Liaison</i>	<i>Economic Development Officer</i>	<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>ADAC</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations or Departments</i>	<i>Additional funding</i>
5.1	<i>Ensure that sector development and diversification occurs with climate change and the environment as key priorities.</i>	Ongoing	X				X	CRD and member municipalities	
5.2	<i>Support the protection of ecological services on farmland.</i>	Highest	X	X		X	X	IAF	\$
5.3	<i>Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.</i>	Ongoing	X				X	FrontCounterBC	
5.4	<i>Control invasive plants and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing programs and initiatives.</i>	Medium	X				X	Cariboo-Chilcotin Invasive Plant Committee	
5.5	<i>Support the protection of native grasslands within the ALR.</i>	Medium	X				X	ACARN CARA GCC	

## 5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

### 5.1 Purpose

The purpose of the monitoring and evaluation framework is to measure progress towards goals of CRD's AAP as well as estimate the impact of these actions. The use of this framework is intended to be led primarily by local government. Frequency of conducting the evaluation should occur annually, or as new data becomes available (i.e. BC Assessment, Census, Agriculture Census, Community Profiles) as to allow for course corrections and adaptation to emerging circumstances.

### 5.2 Data Sources

The metrics used in the framework are focused on where data is readily available or nearly attainable. This includes the Federal Census of Agriculture, BC Assessment, Agricultural Land Use Inventories, and Community Profiles, as well as internal reporting and information sharing, among others. The measurement of progress towards goals will be variable based on the frequency that data is made available (e.g. Census of Agriculture every 5 years, BC Assessment every year).

### 5.3 Scoring and Metrics

Scoring is based on two factors:

- 1) A rating out of 50 that measures the degree of implementation, with 0 being not yet started and 50 being fully executed and complete. Ongoing items can receive a high score, provided they are actively being addressed.
- 2) A rating out of 50 that estimates how much impact that implementation is having on the ground, with 0 being no impact and 50 being the most impact. Where possible, data sources should be used to compare to a 2022 baseline level of information to track progress over time.

Combining these two scores will give each goal area an aggregate score out of 100. Averaging scores for each goal area will then provide an overall score that helps the CRD to understand how much progress is being made on implementing the plan as well as how much impact actions are having. This will help to inform where resources can be shifted strategically as well as determine if any course corrections on the AAP are required. Goal area scores could also be weighted to indicate priority areas.

CRD Agricultural Area Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
Goals and objectives	Degree of implementation score (out of 50)	Estimated impact score (out of 50)	Possible metrics for scoring	Combined Score (out of 100)
<b>Goal 1: Support agriculture through updates to CRD government processes, policies, and regulations.</b>				
1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the ALR for agricultural uses.			% change in area of farmland Amount of land in the ALR under production	
1.2 Update the ZBLs and RLUBs to ensure alignment with best planning practices and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.			Presence of updated zoning bylaws and RLUBs	
1.3 Work on developing a temporary farmworker housing (TFWH) policy.			Presence of new TFWH policy.	
1.4 Work with provincial ministries and agencies to improve information access for agricultural users			Attendance at meetings with other levels of government to discuss topic	
1.5 Develop a policy resource guide for new residents in agricultural areas			Presence of new policy guide.	
1.6 Continue to support the role of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee (ADAC).			CRD staff attend ADAC meetings regularly.	
<i>Average score for goal 1</i>				
<b>Goal 2: Build upon regional economic development initiatives.</b>				
2.1 Collaborate with partners to promote diversity within the agricultural sector.			Number and types of farms in the CRD. Value-added infrastructure and businesses increase.	
2.2 Expand the role of Economic/Community Development Officer to allow focus on the regional agricultural sector			Tracking of one-on-one conversations, group meetings and other engagement points regarding economic development and infrastructure projects for agriculture.	
2.3 Develop an agri-tourism study for the regional agricultural sector.			Presence of an agri-tourism study/assessment. Presence of a regional brand.	

CRD Agricultural Area Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
Goals and objectives	Degree of implementation score (out of 50)	Estimated impact score (out of 50)	Possible metrics for scoring	Combined Score (out of 100)
2.4 Promote the development of a regional meat processing sector			Number of collaborations with other partners.  Presence of expanded meat sector infrastructure.	
2.5 Continue to support the community food hub initiatives.			Uptake of services and membership at Sprout kitchen.	
2.6 Advocate for taxation policies that incentivize agricultural production in the ALR.			Issue raised at meetings with other levels of government. Evidence of advocacy e.g. letters/ meetings with Ministry representatives, UBCM motions	
<i>Average score for goal 2</i>				
<b>Goal 3: Build and Share Emergency Planning and Preparedness Resources</b>				
3.1 Continue to incorporate agriculture in ongoing Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.			Presence and degree of representation of agriculture in Climate Action Planning	
3.2 Continue to develop and support the Community Liaison Program for emergency preparedness communication.			Presence and degree of representation of agriculture in emergency planning and response. New support from other levels of government for agriculture emergency planning and response.	
3.3 Improve cell phone and internet connectivity and infrastructure.			Meetings with utility providers Expanded high quality service areas.	
<i>Average score for goal 3</i>				
<b>Goal 4: Increase channels of collaboration, communication, and education.</b>				
4.1 Advocate for the strengthening of agriculture education in the classroom environment.			Number of conversations between local government, Ministry representatives and educators to increase agriculture learning in school.  Number and type of agriculture learning opportunities provided	



CRD Agricultural Area Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
Goals and objectives	Degree of implementation score (out of 50)	Estimated impact score (out of 50)	Possible metrics for scoring	Combined Score (out of 100)
			to students at school and extracurricular.	
4.2 Provide agricultural learning opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.			Number of farm tours, harvest dinners and other events that Board and Staff participate in.	
4.3 Explore policy and zoning options to increase access to local food products			Presence of feasibility assessment	
4.4 Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in the Cariboo.			Presence of celebration events, displays, take home information	
4.5 Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.			Number of complaints from non-farming residents about farmland. Tracking changes to industry standards in Real Estate towards providing an appropriate level of information to land buyers.	
<i>Average score for goal 4</i>				
<b>Goal 5: Promote environmental Beneficial Management Practices.</b>				
5.1 Ensure that sector development and diversification occurs with climate change and the environment as key priorities.			Presence and level of agri-environmental issues in OCP and ZBL. Number of CRD farms with Environmental Farm Plans increases.	
5.2 Support the protection of ecological services on farmland.			CRD as a supporter of Farmland Advantage or a novel regional approach is developed. Number of CRD farms participating in Farmland Advantage increases.	
5.3 Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.			Number of CRD farms with Environmental Farm Plans increases. Number and type of ways that water conservation is being implemented on-farm. Estimate of how much water is being saved through these measures.	

CRD Agricultural Area Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework				
Goals and objectives	Degree of implementation score (out of 50)	Estimated impact score (out of 50)	Possible metrics for scoring	Combined Score (out of 100)
5.4 Continue to control invasive plants and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing programs and initiatives.			Level of invasive species declines.	
5.5 Support the protection of native grasslands within the ALR.			Level of collaboration and involvement in GCC, Farmland Advantage, and other grasslands conservation initiatives	
<i>Average score for goal 5</i>				
<b><i>Average score for all goals</i></b>				