

Cariboo Regional District Agricultural Area Plan



Presentation

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- Engagement
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Introductions

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- Upland Agricultural Consulting
 - Ione Smith, Agrologist and Project Manager
 - Kazlyn Bonnor, Agrologist and Research Coordinator
 - Sydney Hnatiuk, Data Analyst and Engagement Support

- Urban Food Strategies
 - Janine de le Salle, Senior Planner and Engagement Lead

DELIVERED BY:

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:



Project Objectives

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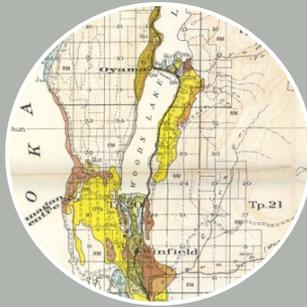
1. Strengthen and enhance the CRD's current Regional Growth Strategy, Official Community Plans, and land use bylaws regarding agriculture.
2. Identify current issues facing the region's agricultural sector and recommend key, implementable actions to strengthen the long-term viability of agriculture.

Project Process

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**Background
Research and
regulatory
review**



**Site visits and
stakeholder
engagement**



**Feedback from
stakeholders**

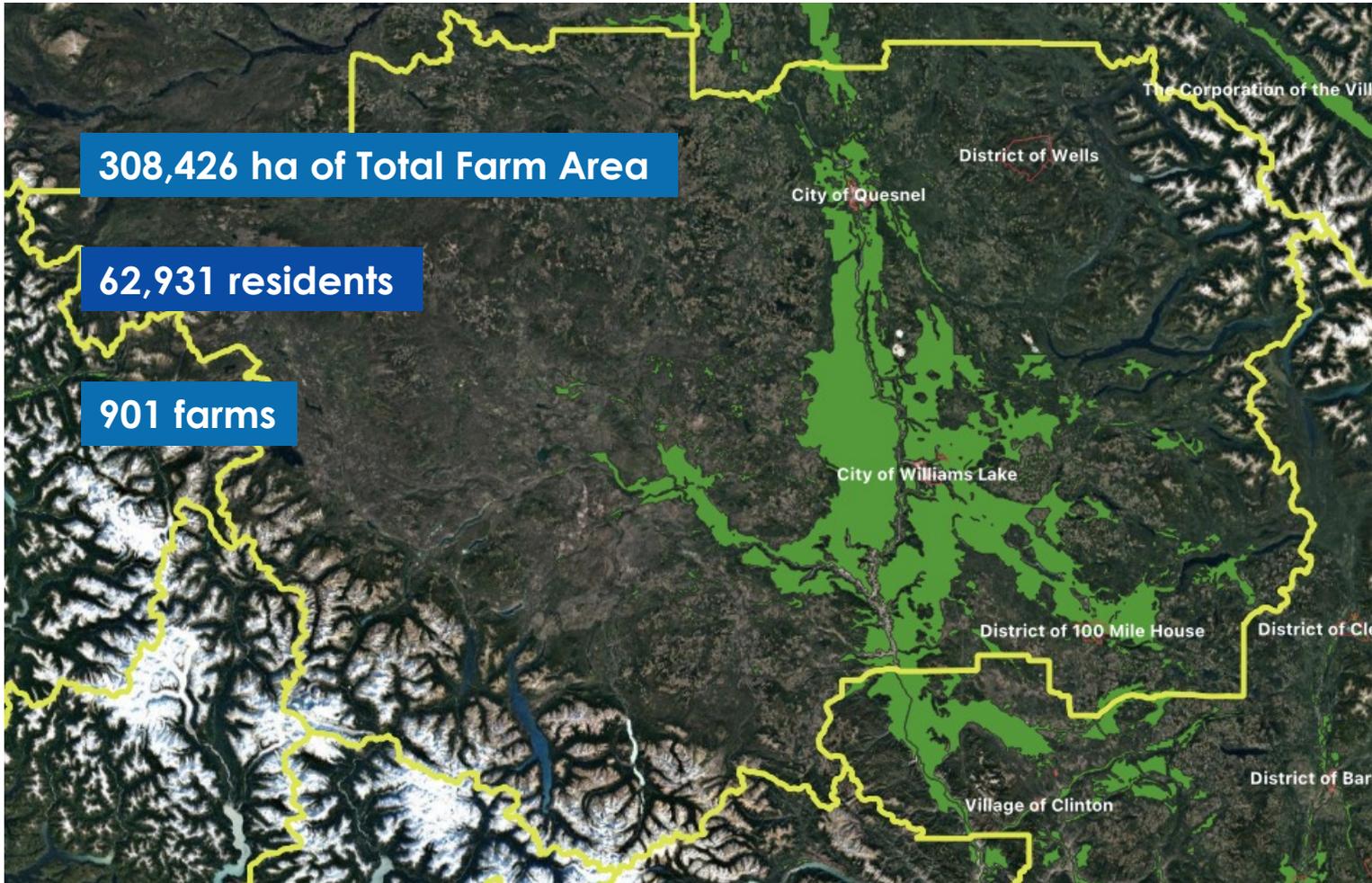


**Development of
Agricultural Area
Plan**

January to November 2022

Agricultural Land Overview

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Engagement Review

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4 ADAC Meetings

43 Survey Responses

2 Community Events

Long Table Dinner - Quesnel

Open House - Williams Lake

21 Stakeholder Interviews

- Producers
- NGO operators
- Government Staff
- Agrologists
- Association reps



Agricultural Plan Overview

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VISION STATEMENT

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

5 Goals

- 1: Support agriculture through updates to CRD government processes, policies, and regulations.
- 2: Build upon regional economic development initiatives
- 3: Build and share emergency planning and preparedness resources
- 4: Increase channels of collaboration, communication, and education
- 5: Promote environmentally beneficial management practices

Goals & Recommendations

- 1: Support agriculture through updates to CRD government processes, policies, and regulations.
 - 1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the ALR for agricultural uses.
 - 1.2 Update the Zoning Bylaws and Rural Land Use Bylaws to align with best planning practices and ALC Act and Regulations.
 - 1.3 Work on developing a temporary farmworker housing policy.
 - 1.4 Work with the province to improve information access for agricultural users.
 - 1.5 Develop a policy resource guide for farmers and new residents in agricultural areas.
 - 1.6 Continue to support the role of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee.

Goals & Recommendations

- 2: Build upon regional economic development initiatives
 - 2.1 Collaborate with partners to promote diversity within the agricultural sector.
 - 2.2 Expand the role of the Economic/Community Development Officer to allow focus on the regional agricultural sector.
 - 2.3 Develop an agri-tourism study for the regional agricultural sector.
 - 2.4 Promote the development of a regional meat processing sector.
 - 2.5 Continue to support community food hub initiatives.
 - 2.6 Advocate for taxation policies that incentivize agricultural production in the ALR.

Goals & Recommendations

- 3: Build and share emergency planning and preparedness resources

3.1 Continue to incorporate agriculture in ongoing climate action planning initiatives and strategies.

3.2 Improve cell phone and internet connectivity and infrastructure.

3.3 Continue to develop and support the Community Liaison Program for emergency preparedness communication.

Goals & Recommendations

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- 4: Increase channels of collaboration, communication, and education

4.1 Advocate for strengthening agriculture education in the classroom environment.

4.2 Provide agricultural learning opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.

4.3 Explore policy and zoning options to increase access to local food products, seeds, and resources.

4.4 Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in the Cariboo.

4.5 Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.

Goals & Recommendations

- 5: Promote environmentally beneficial management practices
 - 5.1 Ensure that sector development and diversification occurs with climate change and the environment as key priorities.
 - 5.2 Support the protection of ecological services on farmland.
 - 5.3 Promote water cycle management, water conservation practices and water licensing within the agricultural community.
 - 5.4 Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing programs and initiatives.
 - 5.5 Support the protection of native grasslands within the ALR.

Implementation Strategy

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- Roles & Responsibilities: lead and supporting departments, organizations

Cariboo Regional District

Member municipalities

ADAC

Agricultural Land Commission

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Farmers Institutes

School Districts

Real Estate Board

Cariboo – Chilcotin Invasive Plant Committee

Community Futures

Interior Health

Northern Health

Front Counter BC

FARMED

Farmers & Ranchers

Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance

Implementation Strategy

- Budgetary requirements: if additional/ external funding is required
- Level of priority: Ongoing, high, medium, low
- Monitoring and evaluation plan: a score-card for implementation

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.	
Average score for goal 5				
Average score for all goals				

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)
Goal 1: Support agriculture through updates to CRD government processes, policies, and regulations.				
1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the ALR for agricultural uses.			% change in area of farmland 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 (TPWH) policy.			Presence of new TPWH policy.	
Goal 4: Promote agricultural learning and education opportunities for CRD staff and Elected Officials.				
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 agricultural 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.	
Goal 5: Promote environmental Beneficial Management Practices.				
5.4 Ensure that sector development and application occurs with little change and the permit as key priorities.			Presence and level of agricultural environmental issues in OCP and ZBL. Number of CRD farms with Environmental Farm Plans increases.	
5.5 Support the protection of agricultural services on land.			CRD as a supporter of Farmland Advantage or a novel regional approach is developed. Number of CRD farms participating in Farmland Advantage increases.	
Promote water conservation practices and licensing 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.	

Endorsement

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- We are requesting **endorsement** from the Regional Board to indicate support for moving into the implementation stage of the **Cariboo Regional District Agricultural Area Plan**.



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