



FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LANDS

CURRENT TRENDS

Food and Agriculture

Agricultural Land Reserve. 3% of lands in Area I are within the ALR. ALR lands are present in Glade, Tarrys and Pass Creek areas. A total of 399 parcels are within the ALR.

Pressure on Farm Land. The percent of ALR in RDCK that is assessed as farm land is 16%. In Area I it drops to 6.8% (27 parcels).

ALC Applications. In the past decade 12 applications in Area I have been made to the Agricultural Land Commission resulting in 3 new lots in the ALR & 0.1 ha of land excluded.

Small Scale Farming. Beyond the agricultural hub of Creston, other areas of the RDCK are equally suitable for farming, though generally on a smaller scale. A number of smaller farms are present in the area.

Variety of Products. Products grown in the area include: beef, poultry, fruit, vegetables, grain & forage and flowers.

Access to Food. Farmers Markets operate in Nelson, Castlegar and Pass Creek in the warmer months. Some farms in the area have farm gate sales or product available in local grocery stores.

Employment. In Area I 5.2% of the labour force works in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry – the 5th largest sector. In 2006 there were 562 people actively engaged in farming in the RDCK.

Localvores. Many residents and local businesses embrace the goal of securing more of our food supply closer to home.



Photo: CKFPC

Rural Lands

A Rural Community. The rural population of the RDCK is much higher than the Canadian average, with 61% living in communities of 5,000 or less.

Hobby Farms and More. Many of these rural residents contribute significantly to their own food supply through large gardens, fruit trees and small-lot livestock.

CONSIDERATIONS

A vibrant farming and food system in the RDCK will enable current and future residents to more fully enjoy the economic, nutritional, environmental and cultural benefits of agriculture.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT OCP SAY?

Agricultural Objectives

Identify lands with continuing value for agriculture.

Encourage the protection and agricultural use of land with continuing value for agriculture.

Encourage optimum use and development of agricultural activities on agricultural land.

Encourage agricultural practices that do not adversely affect the surrounding environment nor compromise the capability of the land for future food production.

Minimize conflicts between agriculture and other land uses.

Propose options for the marketing of locally produced agricultural products.

Promote buffered cluster development to maximize the preservation of suitable agricultural land within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Rural Objectives and Policy

Maintain the rural character, environmental integrity, the social and cultural diversity of the Plan Area.

Average lot sizes of 2 hectares for rural residential designated lands.

CHALLENGES

- Development and subdivision pressures on large parcels of land
- Continuing loss of farmland, farmers and their expertise
- Farm income cannot support the purchase of land at residential/recreational market values
- Limited local equipment, supplies and processing facilities
- Shortage of seasonal and permanent local market options

OPPORTUNITIES

- Identify actions to support the viability of farming
- Ensure that the agricultural capability of the area is realized and protected
- Foster a secure food supply for the region
- Support multi-generational farmers and emerging farmers
- Improve the interconnection between food production and the environment
- Plan for resilience to climate change

RESOURCES

Agriculture Area Plan (2011)

Agriculture Land Use Inventory (2016)

Agricultural Water Demand Modelling (2017)

Central Kootenay Food Policy Council

Central Kootenay Farm and Food Directory

Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors



Stay Involved:
<https://rdck.ca/PlanArea1>