



Application Guide

Agricultural Land Reserve

What is the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)?

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zoning mechanism in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are controlled.

The ALR covers approximately 4.7 million hectares and includes private and public lands that may be farmed, forested or left vacant. Some ALR blocks cover thousands of hectares while others are small pockets of only a few hectares. In total, the ALR comprises those lands within BC that have the potential for agricultural production.

The ALR takes precedence over, but does not replace other legislation and bylaws that may apply to the land. Local and regional governments, as well as other provincial agencies, are expected to plan in accordance with the provincial policy of preserving agricultural land.

The [Agricultural Land Commission \(ALC\)](#) is the provincial governing agency who oversees ALR lands and ALR applications. The [Agricultural Land Commission Act](#) sets the legislative framework for the establishment and administration of the agricultural land preservation program.

When do I need to apply to the ALC?

An application to the ALC is needed if a property owner wishes to:

- include land in the ALR
- exclude land from the ALR
- subdivide land in the ALR
- use land in the ALR for non-farm purposes

Procedure for applying to the ALC

The CSR D is a referral agency in ALR applications; CSR D staff provides a

recommendation to the ALC who makes the final decision regarding an application.

1. Prior to submitting an application the property owner should discuss details of the application with CSR D staff.
2. Applications can be made through the [Application Portal](#) on the Provincial ALC website. The applicable application fee should be submitted to the CSR D office.
3. CSR D staff will review the application and refer it to various agencies (e.g. Advisory Planning Commission, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, Interior Health Authority, etc.) for input.
4. CSR D staff prepare a Report (taking into consideration input from referral agencies, policies of the Official Community Plan and regulations of the Zoning Bylaw) to be considered by the CSR D Board.
5. The Board will make a decision regarding the application with two potential outcomes:
 - a) If the application is authorized for submission to the ALC with a recommendation **TO APPROVE**, a letter is sent to the applicant advising of the decision and the application is forwarded to the ALC for their consideration. The applicant will be notified directly by the ALC of their decision.
 - b) If the application is authorized for submission to the ALC with a recommendation **NOT TO APPROVE**, a letter is sent to the applicant advising of the decision and the application is forwarded to the ALC for their consideration. The applicant will be notified directly by the ALC of their decision.

Timing

The CSRD Agricultural Land Reserve application process normally takes approximately **three to six months** to complete (CSRD portion only). The time frame, however, depends upon the complexity of the application, the current workload of CSRD staff, the timing of Board meetings, and the relation of the proposal to broader planning issues which may require resolution and the need for additional information from the applicant during the process. The [Provincial Agricultural Land Commission](#) application process timeline is separate from the CSRD timing.

Information

Please direct any further inquiries to:

Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Development Services Department
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Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1

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*These are simple guidelines to assist applicants with the process and do not address all potential requirements. Please address questions to the Development Services Department.