

Part 4 – Agriculture

The Joe Rich area has a significant agricultural history and its rural nature is an important positive factor for many residents. Most agricultural activities traditionally have been range activities and associated crop production with more recent added variety in the agricultural activities such as horticultural plant production.

Farming is an industry, and farmers individually must be resourceful and creative much as in any other business. More often this is starting to involve secondary farming activities such as produce stands, secondary processing, retail sales of products produced on the farm and agri-tourism. Farmers are looking for new ways to expand the income derived from their land.

Many of the ranches and range activities in Joe Rich are associated with Crown Land in the vicinity. The Crown Land ranges are used (and have been used for decades) as summer forage. As other uses compete for Crown Land resources there is a need to ensure access to this valuable rangeland and find a balance with other uses.

Much of the agricultural land in the Okanagan in within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) of the Province of BC. Land in the ALR cannot be used for non-agricultural purposes or subdivided without the permission of the provincial Agricultural Land Commission. In Joe Rich, for the most part the land in the ALR is located on the more level land in the valley bottom.



4.1 Objective

Identify, protect and preserve land of good agricultural quality.

4.2 Policy

- 4.2.1 Protect and preserve lands of good quality for agriculture and support those uses
- 4.2.2 Support full and part-time farming, crop production and ranching as well as secondary activities that contribute to farming income such as secondary processing and farm sales.
- 4.2.3 Consider the impact of any proposed development on non-farm lands upon the farmland and farm activities in the vicinity.
- 4.2.4 Encourage the Crown to consider the compatibility (or incompatibility) of agriculture versus recreational use of Crown Land and attempt to mitigate possible adverse effects.
- 4.2.5 Support the Agricultural Land Commission in maintaining the integrity of suitable agricultural land.
- 4.2.6 Support the homesite severances for retiring farmers who owned their land prior to 1972 in accordance with the regulations of the Agricultural Land Commission.

- 4.2.7 Support the policies and activities of the Regional District of Central Okanagan in support of farming as an activity and a business such as the Regional District Agricultural Plan and the recommendations it contains, the Regional District Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the Regional District Agricultural Support Officer.
- 4.2.8 Consider support for applications for exemption or exclusion from the ALR where the land is of very poor agricultural quality or where surrounding conflicting, non-ALR land uses permanently prevent the reasonable agricultural use of that land in the long term. The final decision for exemption or exclusion from the ALR rests with the Agricultural Land Commission. Typically, an application will involve including a professional evaluation of agricultural capability.