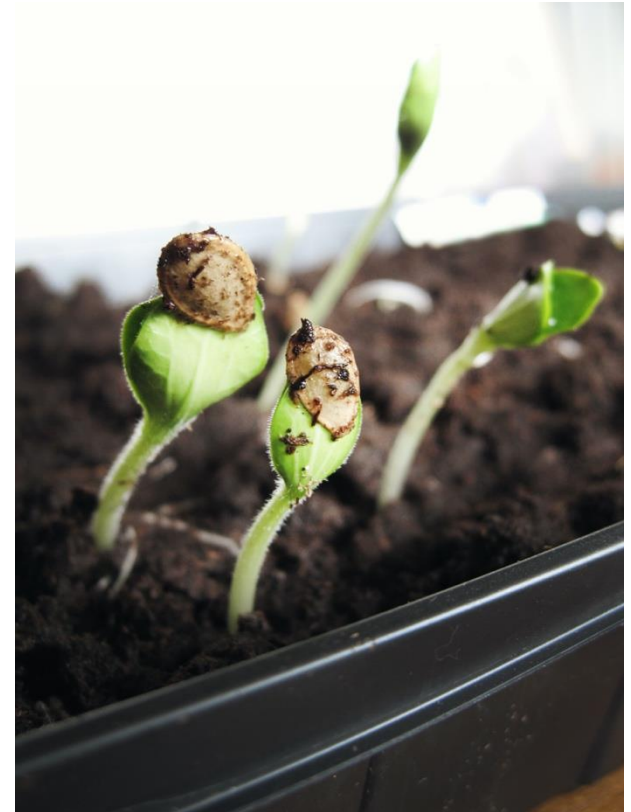


RDCO Agricultural Background Report

RDCO Board Meeting
Sept 26, 2022



upland agricultural consulting



Sept 26 2022

Outline

2

- Introductions
- Project Objectives
- Process and Timeline
- Next Steps



Introductions

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- Upland Agricultural Consulting
 - ▣ Ione Smith, PAg - Project Lead
 - ▣ Kazlyn Bonnor, PAg - Research Coordinator
 - ▣ Sydney Hnatiuk, Agroecologist - Data Analyst

- Urban Food Strategies
 - ▣ Janine de la Salle, RPP, MCIP - Engagement Lead

- Licker Geospatial
 - ▣ Aaron Licker - GIS and Mapping Specialist

Project Objectives

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1. Provide a detailed overview of the agricultural conditions and policy framework in the region;
2. Create an agricultural profile for the region;
3. Engage stakeholders to identify and understand the challenges being experienced by the agricultural community.

Project Process

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**1. Review and assess
data, maps and
reports**



2. Engage stakeholders



**3. Prepare
background report**

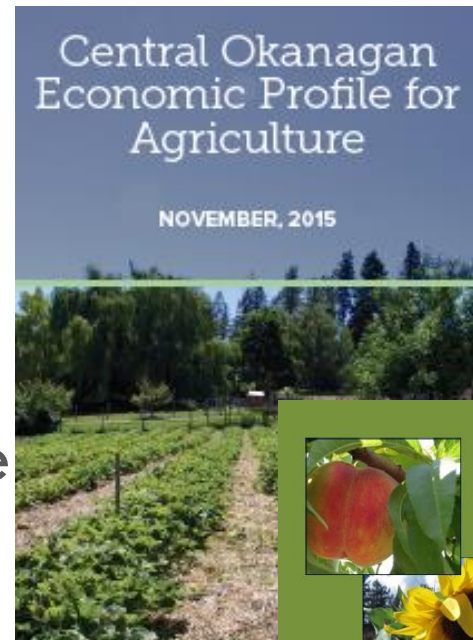


Stage 1: Review and Assessment of Key Background Information

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September - October

- Scoping of existing plans, policies, regulations
- Mapping analysis
- Statistical analysis
- Biophysical review
- Develop agricultural profile
- Assessment of agriculture-re



Stage 2: Engage Stakeholders

7

September - November

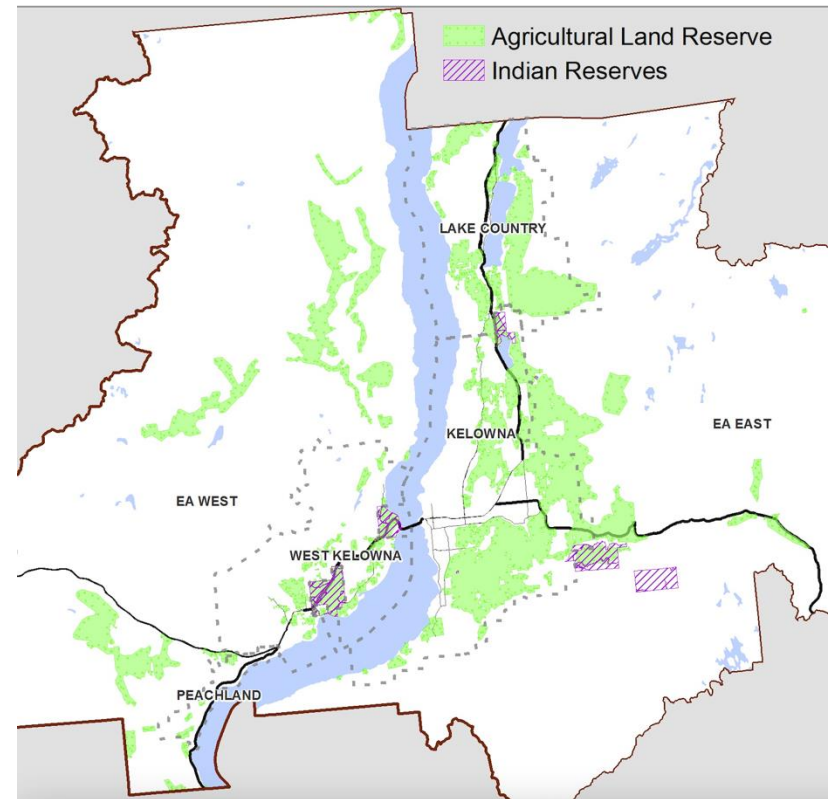
- Meetings: AAC; Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee; Governance and Service Committee
- Engagement strategy
- ~20 Interviews (September)
- Online survey (September)
- Open house (mid-late October)

Stage 3: Prepare Background Report

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November - December

- Market opportunities
- Policy analysis
- Biophysical review
- Agricultural profile
- Maps of ALR land




Completed Task 1: Project Bulletin

Project Information Summary

- Objectives
- Process
- Scope
- Funding

Please help us share this bulletin out



Regional Agricultural Background Report

Background
The Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) is launching a process to develop a Regional Agricultural Strategy.

The first phase of this project will take place from September to December 2022 and will result in an Agricultural Background Report. This will inform the future development of a Regional Agricultural Strategy, slated for 2023.

The previous regional Agricultural Strategy was endorsed in 2005. A new Regional Agricultural Strategy will provide much-needed updates while identifying new issues or re-confirming existing objectives.

This Background Report will be informed by other initiatives such as the BC Tree Fruit Stabilization Plan and RDCO Member Municipality Agriculture Plans, among others.

Why Take a Regional Approach to Agriculture?
With a large farming community, robust agricultural land base, long-history of agriculture and proximity to urban markets and regional, national, and international distribution nodes, agriculture in the Central Okanagan has many assets.

However, with a fast-growing population base, increasing commercial and industrial development growth pressure on farmland, and the need for climate change resiliency, require that agriculture become prioritized within the context of regional planning.

To better plan for the strategic growth of agriculture within the community, the RDCO is undertaking this process to develop an Agricultural Background Report.


Agricultural Background Report Objectives
There are 3 key objectives the Agricultural Background Report:

1. Provide a detailed overview of the agricultural conditions and policy framework in the RDCO.
2. Create an agricultural profile for the RDCO.
3. Engage stakeholders to identify and understand challenges and potential opportunities for the agricultural community land base.

Agricultural Background Report Process
The RDCO Agricultural Background Report process will occur in 4 key steps:

 1. Review of data, maps, and reports.
 2. Policy and regulatory analysis.
 3. Public input through interviews, survey, and open house.
 4. Development of the final Background Report document.

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Key Steps

Review of Data, Maps and Reports
The consulting team will review documents from municipal, regional, provincial, and federal governments. Reports from the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission, Okanagan Basin Water Board, Agricultural Industry groups, and others will also be included.

Policy and Regulatory Analysis
The consulting team will focus on municipal and regional plans and regulations such as the Regional Growth Strategy, Official Community Plans, and Zoning Bylaws to examine opportunities to support agriculture.

Opportunities for Input
A survey will be published on the YourSay.RDco.com website from October to November 2022. The consultants will interview key players in the Central Okanagan agricultural sector. A public Open House will be planned for late October 2022.

Agricultural Background Report
The final Agricultural Background Report document will be developed based on the information uncovered during the previous steps. The report will be presented to the Regional Board in December 2022.

Project Scope
The report will focus on the agricultural sector within the RDCO, including Electoral Area West, Electoral Area East, and member municipalities of Peachland, West Kelowna, Kelowna, and Lake Country.

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Project Funding
This RDCO Agricultural Background Report was funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of British Columbia through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C.

Presentations
The consulting team will provide regular updates to the following groups:
• Agricultural Advisory Committee
• Regional Growth Strategy Steering Committee
• Regional Board

Survey
A survey will be launched on the YourSay.RDco.com website from October to November 2022.

DELIVERED BY: IAF Investment Agriculture Foundation, RDCO Regional District of Central Okanagan

FUNDING PROVIDED BY: BRITISH COLUMBIA, Canada, URBAN FOOD STRATEGIES

2 | Last Updated: September 2022



In-progress Task 2: Review of Key Documents

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Key Context for the Background Report

- Regional and municipal plans
- COEDC reports
- Ministry of Ag studies (soil, ALR, Ag Land Inventory)
- Regional initiatives: OKSIR, OBWB
- Other agricultural plans
- Agricultural bylaws in rural areas and member municipalities

In-progress Task 3: Implementing the Engagement Strategy

11

Outlines engagement points

- AAC & RGS Committee meetings
- RDCO Board meetings
- Survey
- Interviews
- Open house

Regional Agricultural Background Report *Regional District of Central Okanagan*

Engagement Strategy

September 2022

Developed by:



In-progress Task 4: Compile Stakeholder Interview List

12

- Target 20 interviews between now and end of October
- Aim for 8-10 farmers, 10-12 ag support stakeholders
 - City of Kelowna planner
 - City of West Kelowna Planner
 - District of Lake Country planner
 - District of Peachland planner
 - OKIB territorial director
 - Westbank First Nations planner
 - COEDC
 - MAF Regional Agrologist
 - Interior Health
 - ALC planner
 - AAC members
 - Farmers: cattle, vineyards, fruit, vegetables

Next Steps

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- Conduct interviews
- Develop and launch survey
- Host open house late Oct/early Nov



Contact

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