

Grazing agreements

www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture/info.html

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This fact sheet explains the process of applying to the Yukon government for a grazing agreement. It also covers the continuing occurrence of multiple public use within a grazing agreement.

Introduction

In order to meet the grazing needs of Yukon livestock owners, the Yukon government grants grazing rights on designated areas of public land to eligible applicants. Grazing rights are given to the applicant in the form of a grazing agreement. The Yukon grazing policy provides for multiple use of and public access to grazing agreements. The Agriculture Branch accepts applications for grazing agreements.

May I apply for a grazing agreement?

You may apply for a grazing agreement if:

- you are a Canadian citizen or have permanent resident status;
- you have resided in the Yukon for one year prior to application; and
- are at least 19 years of age.

Also eligible for grazing rights are:

- companies where Yukon residents hold the majority of shares; and
- grazing associations where the majority of members are Yukon residents.

How do I apply for a grazing agreement?

Before you apply for a grazing agreement, contact the Agriculture Branch for information about the grazing program and policies. Staff will also confirm if the area you are interested in is available.

Application forms are available at the Agriculture Branch or online at www.gov.yk.ca/forms/#a. If you decide to apply for a grazing agreement, you must give the Agriculture Branch:

- a completed grazing application form. This will include information on your proposed use and operational need for the grazing land, as well as a map showing the location and size of the requested grazing area; and
- an application fee of \$25 plus GST.

How is my application for a grazing agreement processed?

All reviews are subject to environmental assessment as required by the *Yukon Environmental Assessment Act/Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.

The Agriculture Branch will make an assessment of the suitability of your chosen grazing land. This includes determining grazing capacity and preparing a Grazing Management Plan, which will outline management practices you must follow for the sustained use of the grazing agreement area.

ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

Controls the majority of all vacant land in the territory.

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

Lands Branch accepts applications to sell, lease, develop and use land under Yukon government control.

Agriculture Branch administers Yukon agricultural and grazing programs.

Minerals Management Branch administers placer and quartz claims, rights and use in the territory.

Forestry Branch administers timber permits and forestry planning.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Land Planning manages zoning regulations in rural Yukon and administers subdivision outside Whitehorse and Dawson City. Also provides mapping services.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS

Control their own settlement lands.

MUNICIPALITIES

Administer lands, community plans and zoning bylaws within their jurisdictions.

Whitehorse and Dawson City also control subdivision within their boundaries.

The Government of Canada, through Natural Resources Canada, Legal Surveys Division provides maps and plans for a fee.

The Agriculture Branch will distribute your grazing application form to the Agricultural Land Application Review Committee (ALARC). ALARC includes representatives from Yukon government agencies with responsibility for resource management. ALARC makes a recommendation to proceed with further review, defer if more information is needed, or deny your application. You will be advised in writing of the government's decision based on the committee's recommendation. You have 60 business days to accept or appeal the decision.

If ALARC recommends that your application proceed to further review, the Agriculture Branch undertakes consultation with the public, First Nations and municipalities.

Your grazing agreement application will next be considered by the Land Application Review Committee (LARC). This committee, which includes representatives from government, First Nations, and community agencies, also conducts public consultations.

You will be advised in writing of the government's decision based on the LARC recommendation. You or any intervener may appeal the decision. Applicants have 60 business days to accept or appeal the decision; interveners have 20 days to appeal the decision.

After your grazing agreement application is approved, the Agriculture Branch will grant permission for you to have a Canada Lands Surveyor prepare a certified sketch that accurately describes your grazing agreement site.

The Agriculture Branch will grant you a grazing agreement once you submit the certified sketch.

How long will this process take me?

The time it takes depends on the complexity of your application and whether or not other land use issues are involved. Assessment of grazing capacity must be conducted during the growing season, so the date your application is submitted can affect overall timing.

Most applications will be dealt with between 12 to 24 months.

How much will a grazing agreement cost me?

In addition to an annual administration fee of \$50 plus GST, you must pay an annual grazing fee of \$1 per animal unit month. Animal unit months are a measure of grazing capacity determined by the Agriculture Branch. They are forgiven for the first and second scheduled payments.

As a grazing agreement holder, you must also pay Yukon land taxes.

CONTACTS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

Lands Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5215

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, ext 5215

Fax: (867) 667-3214

land.disposition@gov.yk.ca

- land applications
- sale of developed lots
- land use permits

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building Safety

Tel: (867) 667-5741

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 5741

Fax: (867) 393-6249

- building and construction permits (outside Whitehorse)

JUSTICE

Land Titles

Tel: (867) 667-5612

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 5612

Fax: (867) 393-6358

YUKON HOUSING CORPORATION

Loans Administration

Tel: (867) 667-8114

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 8114

Fax: (867) 667-3664

- lot financing
- A/S program

OTHER AGENCIES

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Planning Services

Tel: (867) 668-8335

Fax: (867) 668-8395

- development cost charges
- land planning and zoning

Building Inspection

Tel: (867) 668-8340

Fax: (867) 668-8395

CITY OF DAWSON

Tel: (867) 993-7400

Fax: (867) 993-7434

- subdivision approval
- land planning and zoning

NRCAN LEGAL SURVEYS DIVISION

Tel: (867) 667-3950

Fax: (867) 393-6707

- legal survey maps, plans, approvals

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Tel: (867) 667-8391

Fax: (867) 667-8322

- septic systems