



Grazing Agreements

This info sheet explains the process of applying to the Yukon government for a grazing agreement. Grazing rights are given to eligible applicants on designated areas of public land.

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 2015 Yukon Grazing Policy *provides for multiple use of and public access to lands under 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 are at least 19 years of age.

Also eligible for grazing rights are:

- companies incorporated in Canada which are controlled by a person who is eligible to apply for a grazing agreement.

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 office or online at www.gov.yk.ca/forms/#a under Agriculture. 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 approximate size of the requested grazing area; and
- An application fee of \$25.00 plus GST.

How is an application for a grazing agreement processed?

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

If the land included in your grazing application is suitable for grazing, further review will be required through either the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)* or the Yukon Government Energy, Mines and Resources review.

General info:

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

Map viewer:

www.mapservices.gov.yk.ca/lands

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ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

Manages the majority of Yukon (public) land in the territory.

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

Agriculture Branch accepts applications to acquire agriculture and grazing lands. Supports the Yukon agriculture industry through extension and research.

Land Management Branch accepts applications to buy, lease, and use public land. Administers Yukon government's non-titled land registry, develops lots outside Whitehorse.

Land Planning Branch manages local area plans, zoning regulations and subdivision requests (outside Whitehorse and Dawson).

Mineral Resources Branch administers placer and quartz claims, rights and use in the territory.

Forest Management Branch administers timber permits and forestry planning.

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.

CANADA

Natural Resources Canada provides the survey system for Canada Lands (national parks, territories, offshore land, and Indian reserves).

Most grazing land applications are subject to a YESAA assessment, for which you will be required to submit a YESAA Project Proposal Form, your Grazing Application Form and your Grazing Management Plan to the appropriate Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) Designated Office. The YESAB Designated Office solicits information from Government, First Nations, community agencies and the general public. The Designated Office evaluates the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of the proposed grazing agreement and recommends to the Director of Agriculture whether the project should proceed and under what terms and conditions.

If the grazing land application is not subject to a YESAA assessment, the application will be reviewed by the Agriculture Application Technical Working Group (AATWG). AATWG includes representatives from Yukon Government agencies with responsibility for resource management. AATWG recommends whether the project should proceed and under what terms and conditions. If AATWG recommends that your application proceed to further review, the Agriculture Branch undertakes broad Government reviews, notice and consultation with the general public, First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, communities and municipalities.

The Director of Agriculture makes a decision on your grazing application based on the review. You will be advised in writing of the government's decision on your grazing land application.

If the grazing application is approved, the Agriculture Branch will grant a grazing agreement. The grazing agreement can be for a term of up to 27 years following a 3 year probationary period. It will have specified terms and conditions along with a GMP which will be reviewed every 5 years.

How long will this process take?

The time it takes depends on the complexity of your application. Assessment of grazing capacity must be conducted during the growing season, so the date your application is submitted can affect overall timing. The YESAA timelines are regulated. Once the project is accepted by the Designated Office, the YESAA review and recommendation process may be less than 74 days and will not take longer than 135 days. The final disposition decision will be as timely as possible.

How much will a grazing agreement cost?

In addition to an annual administration fee of \$50.00 plus GST, you must pay an annual grazing fee of \$3.00 plus GST 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 year scheduled payments for a new grazing agreement.

CONTACTS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

Agriculture Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5838

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, ext 5838

Fax: (867) 393-6222

agriculture@gov.yk.ca

- agriculture spot applications, planned land applications, grazing applications

Land Management Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5215

Fax: (867) 667-3214

land.disposition@gov.yk.ca

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

Land Planning Branch

Tel: (867) 667-3530

Fax: (867) 393-6340

land.planning@gov.yk.ca

- subdivision and zoning in rural Yukon

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building Safety

Tel: (867) 667-5741

Fax: (867) 393-6249

- building and construction permits outside Whitehorse

JUSTICE - Land Titles

Tel: (867) 667-5612

Fax: (867) 393-6358

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Tel: (867) 667-8391

Fax: (867) 667-8322

- septic systems

OTHER AGENCIES

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

www.city.whitehorse.yk.ca

Planning Services

Tel: (867) 668-8335

- development charges, planning, zoning

Building Inspection

Tel: (867) 668-8340

Fax: (867) 668-8395

CITY OF DAWSON

www.cityofdawson.ca

Tel: (867) 993-7400

- subdivision, planning and zoning

NRCAN SURVEYOR GENERAL

Tel: (867) 667-3950

Fax: (867) 393-6707

- legal survey maps, plans, approvals

Survey plans available at <http://cls.nrcan.gc.ca/planssearch-rechercheplan-eng.php>