



February 22, 2024

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Ref: 201816

Brian Thomas, President
British Columbia Cattlemen's Association
4-10145 Dallas Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4
bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca

Dear Brian Thomas:

Thank you for your letter dated December 11, 2023, addressed to the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture and Sport, and myself. Your letter expresses concern over the recreational use of Crown land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and suggests new measures to make agriculture and food production an explicit priority for the ALR Crown lands. As your inquiry falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry), I am pleased to respond.

As you acknowledge in your letter, the ALR contributes to food security because it helps provide a provincial food supply. The preservation of ALR land for agricultural use remains a key goal for the Province. The Ministry recognizes the critical role that Crown forage plays in the competitiveness and resiliency of ranchers and the British Columbia (B.C.) beef sector.

The Ministry appreciates the BC Cattlemen's Association feedback and understanding the concern about the impact that recreational and unregulated land uses have on the ALR. As you know, agricultural land in B.C. continues to face pressures from development, recreation, industrial, and other natural resource uses. With this in mind, it is important for government, First Nations, industry, and other stakeholders to come together to address challenges and propose potential solutions.

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The Ministry welcomes input from the BC Cattlemen's Association. To initiate these discussions, please contact Laura Code, Beef Livestock and Industry Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, at laura.code@gov.bc.ca or 250 312-7257.

Thank you again for writing in on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Alexis".

Honourable Pam Alexis
Minister

cc: Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport