



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Food Security Emergency Plan Livestock Emergency Plan Agricultural Water Plan

Agricultural Development Committee

November 18, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

The ACRD recognizes and appreciates that work to develop these projects is conducted in the Tseshaht First Nation and Hupačasath First Nation Territories. This land acknowledgement intends to remind us of the colonial history of Vancouver Island and reminds all of us that the lands and waters are a precious resource that host us and sustain our wellbeing.



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan**
- **Livestock Emergency Plan**
- **Agricultural Water Plan**



Funding Support

DELIVERED BY:



FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

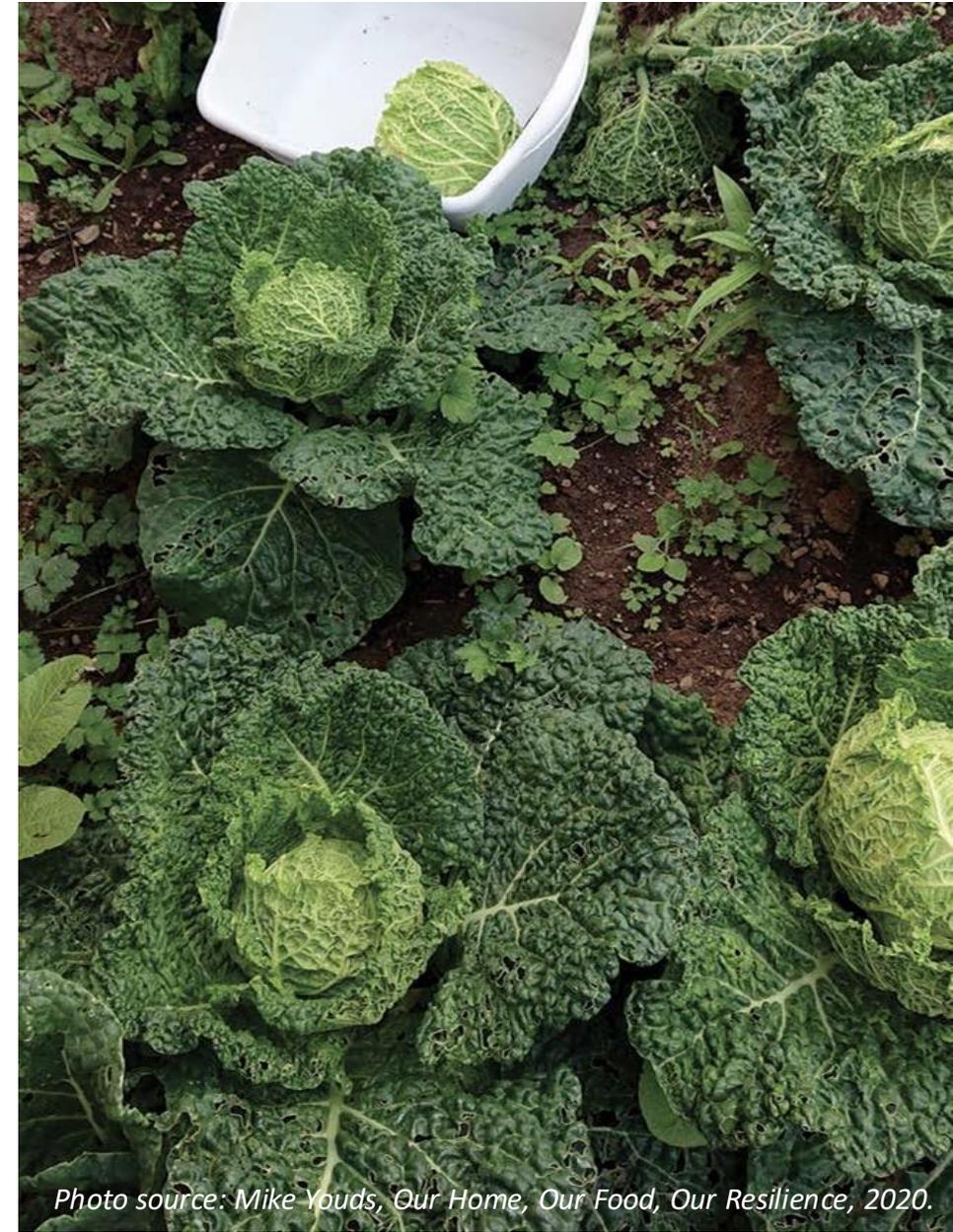


Photo source: Mike Youds, Our Home, Our Food, Our Resilience, 2020.



Project Team



Amy Needham PAg
ACRD Sustainability Planner
Project Lead



Ione Smith PAg
Upland Agricultural Consulting
Senior Agrologist



Kazlyn Bonnor PAg
Upland Agricultural Consulting
Senior Analyst



Geoff Hughes-Games
PAg
Emergency Planning Specialist



Anna Lewis
Engagement and Food System Advisor



Alan R. Thomson
MRM, PEng
Mountain Station Consulting
Water Systems Engineer



Projects Process and Timeline



Overall timeline: Fall 2024 to December 2025



FSEP Project Goals

- Identify opportunities for the ACRD to better support community food security in emergency preparedness and response;
- Determine food security priorities for Alberni Valley; and
- Develop recommendations to support community food resiliency across the region.



Alberni Valley
Food Security Emergency Plan

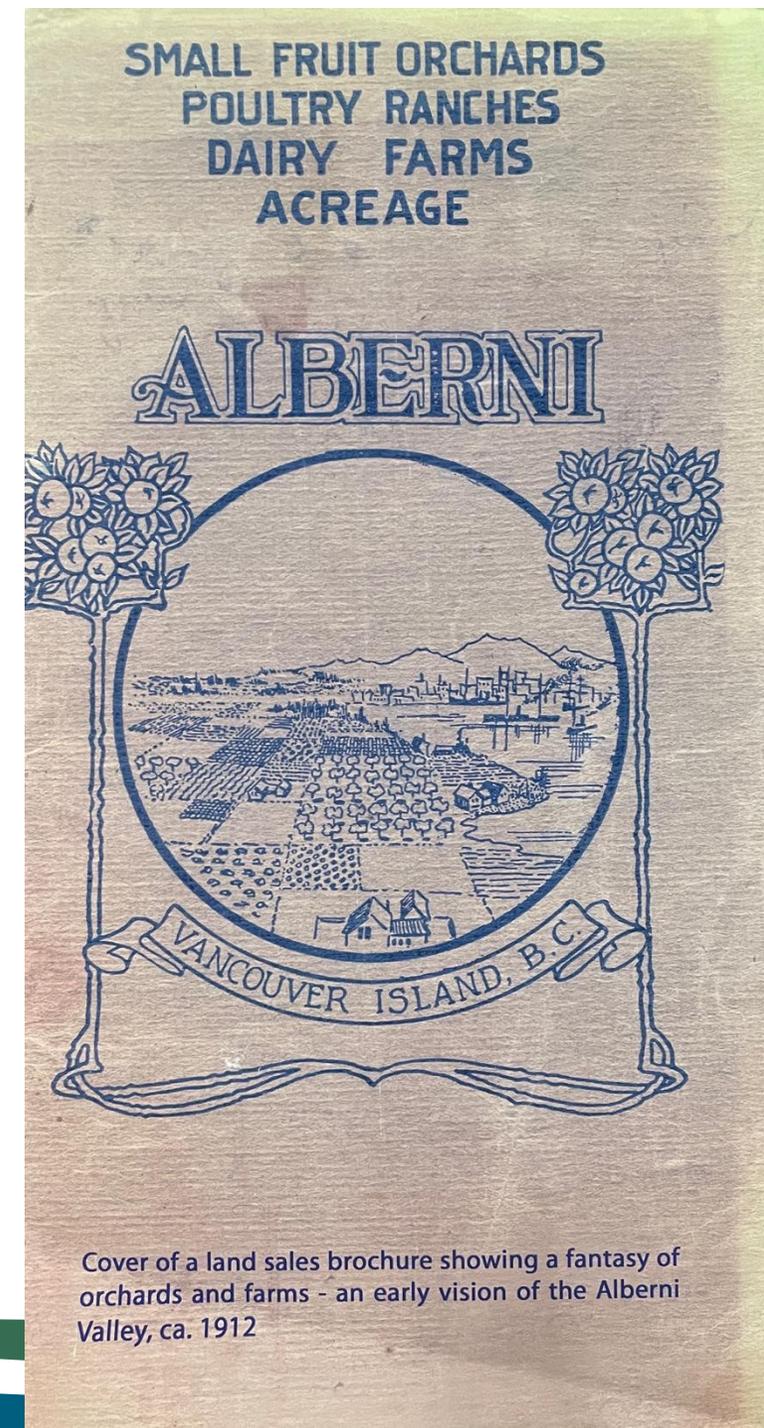
2025

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

upland
agricultural consulting

Report Components

- Engagement
 - Meetings with the ADC, the AVFSS, ACRD Emergency Management Network, the City of Port Alberni
 - AFI meetings (Nov 2024, April 2025, Oct 2025)
 - Food Security Emergency Planning Survey
 - Interviews
 - Meetings with First Nation communities
 - Farm site visits (April 2025)
- Hazard Impacts on Food Security Summary
- Food Security Needs Assessment



Recommendations

Three categories:

- Food Security Emergency Management Planning and Preparedness Actions
- Long-term Food Security Actions for Increased Community Food Resiliency
- Actions to Support First Nations' Food Sovereignty and Emergency Food Security

For each recommendation: lead and supporting actors, timelines, resource level, and priority are identified.



Planning and Preparedness Actions

1. Funding for **backup generators** for cold storage.
2. Conduct a **post-disaster assessment** of impacts to food security.
3. Advocate for **improved connectivity** along transportation routes
4. Assess **adequacy of food storage** at Reception Centres.
5. Create a **food distribution strategy** to activate in an emergency.
6. Provide support for developing a **Farm Emergency Plan**.
7. Support **preparedness for livestock evacuations**.
8. Advocate for **alternative emergency routes**.



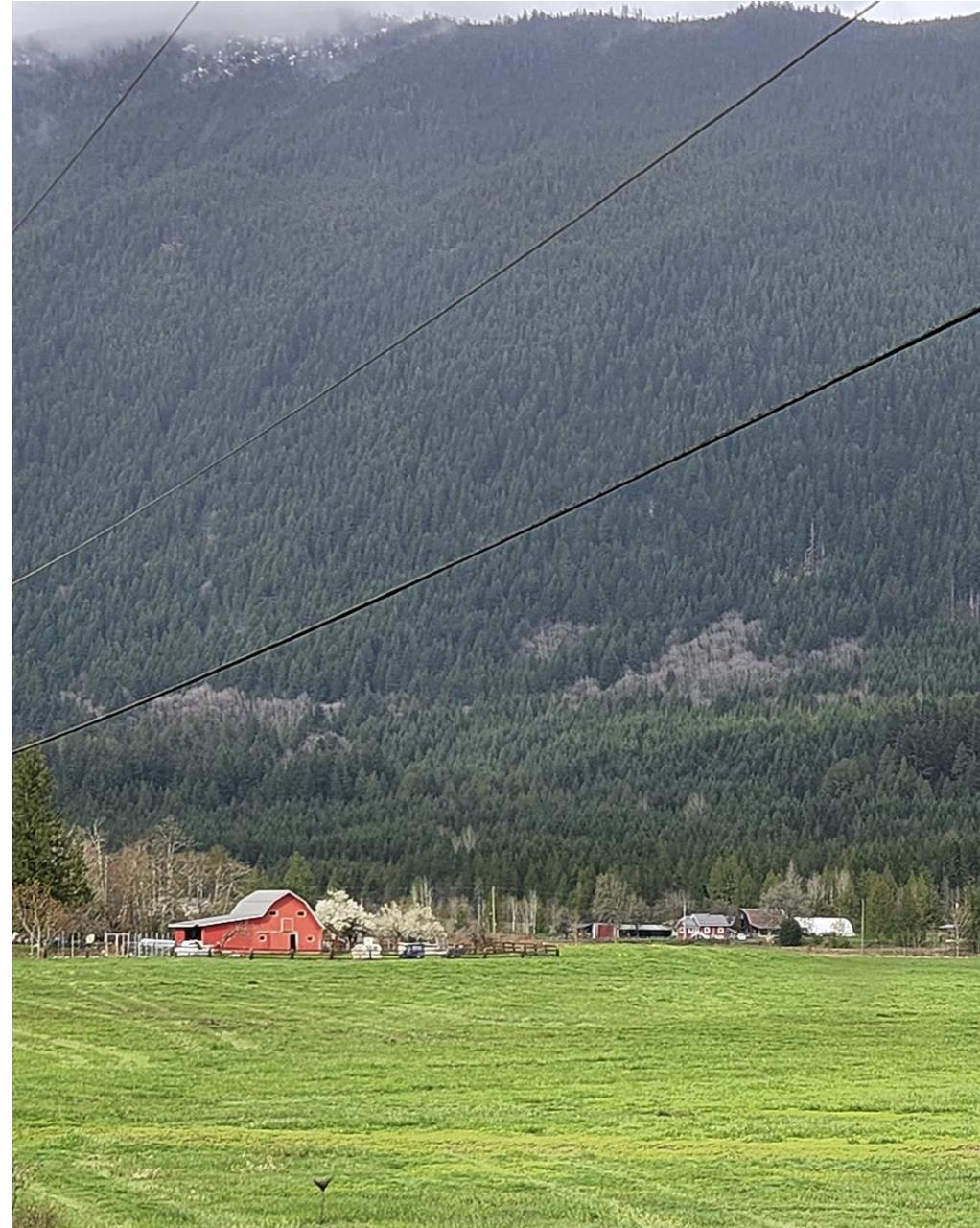
Planning and Preparedness Actions

9. Convene a meeting with large grocer retailers to **discuss food distribution challenges** during an emergency.
10. Expand the **Alberni Valley Gleaning Project** to be able to mobilize during an emergency.
11. Collaborate with relevant partners to **support agri-food business continuity** planning efforts.
12. Update the **ACRD Disaster and Emergency Management Plan** to reference recent planning documents.



Long-term Food Resiliency Actions

13. Promote increased utilization of **publicly-owned land** for agriculture and food growing.
14. Promote increased **utilization of private agricultural lands** for increased production.
15. Support organizations working on **public education** related to food security.
16. Advocate to the province to **streamline meat processing permits** and regulations.
17. Support existing and **new food and seafood processing businesses**.



Long-term Food Resiliency Actions

18. Support **refrigerated and frozen cold storage** space with backup generators outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

19. Allow **water use for food production** year-round.

20. Increase access to **water for agriculture for irrigation**.

21. Continue and expand the **municipal organic waste** diversion program.

22. Explore options for the development of a **year-round, permanent centralized farmers market**.



Livestock Emergency Plan

- Identifies roles and responsibilities for livestock producers and ACRD, before, during and after an emergency.
- 17 recommendations – mostly for ACRD operations and planning



Livestock Emergency Plan for the Alberni Valley

2025

Prepared for: Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Prepared by:

upland
agricultural consulting



Recommendations

- Ensure ACRD staff at EOC are **knowledgeable** about the farming community
- Support the Alberni Farmers' Institute in **EOC training**
- **Pre-identify livestock relocation sites** if possible
- Develop a **communication plan with the AFI**
- Clarify **the ACRD's role** in agricultural emergency preparedness, response, and recovery
- Continue to connect farmers to the **FireSmart Farm & Ranch** programs
- Ensure farmers know **how the ACRD is available** to support them during an emergency



Agricultural Water Plan

Project Objectives

Begin moving on the recommendations from the previous reports and drilling down in the actual feasibility of water supply options.

Alberni Valley

Agricultural Water Plan



2025



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

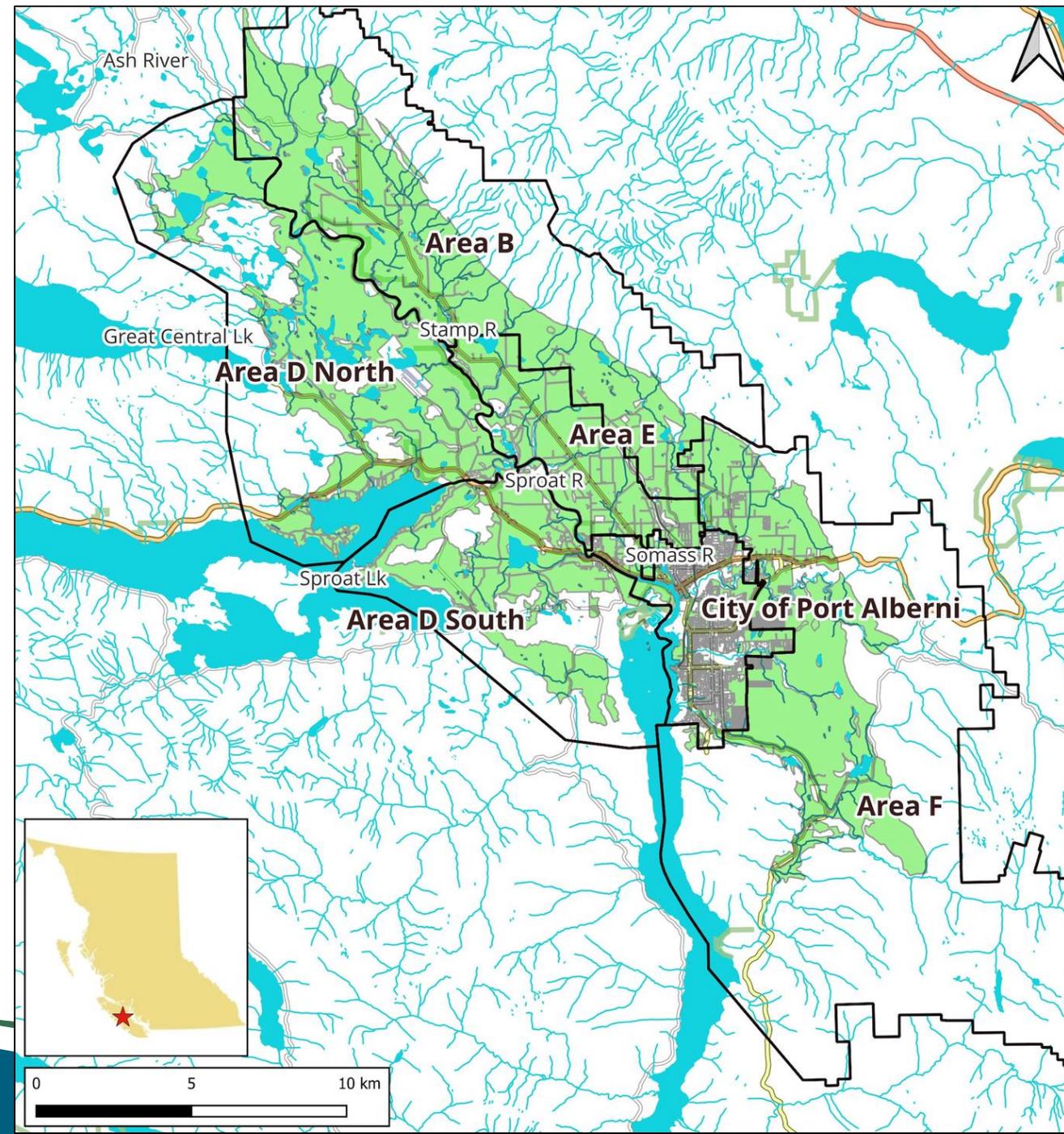


Agricultural water demand modelling:

- All land in the valley Class 1 – 5
- All parcels > 0.25 acre
- If industrial, commercial then excluded

Total area included:

- 175.4 km² (about 10% of total ACRD)
- Area 'E' : 88%
- Area 'D' : 5%



Summary of Feasibility Options

Water Option	Feasibility
Regional reservoirs	Low
Diversion from Great Central Lake and/or Sproat Lake	Low
Creation of a new ACRD Agricultural Water Supply service	Low, and likely unnecessary
Expansion of groundwater wells for irrigation purposes.	Low
Creation of an irrigation district	Low
Partnering with existing licence holders to share water allocation.	Medium
Reactivation of the McKenzie Rd pump station for ag water use.	Medium
Use of on-farm dugouts	High with opportunities for Water Users Community (WUC) framework.

On Farm Dugouts

Regulatory considerations

- Water licence; dam safety regulations; farm tax status (for funding); local permitting.

Sizing considerations

- 120% of demand due to evaporation
- BC Agricultural Water Calculator online

Cost considerations

- Excavation; soil removal/disposal; pipes, pumps, liners.



On Farm Dugouts

Example: 16.5 ha parcel in Electoral Area 'B'

- Range of crop options: berries / vegetables irrigated by sprinkler or forage irrigated by gun

Sizing considerations

- 2,268 to 45,048 m³
- 0.2 ha to 1.4 ha

Cost considerations

- \$8 - \$15 per m³
- \$18,144 to \$675,720

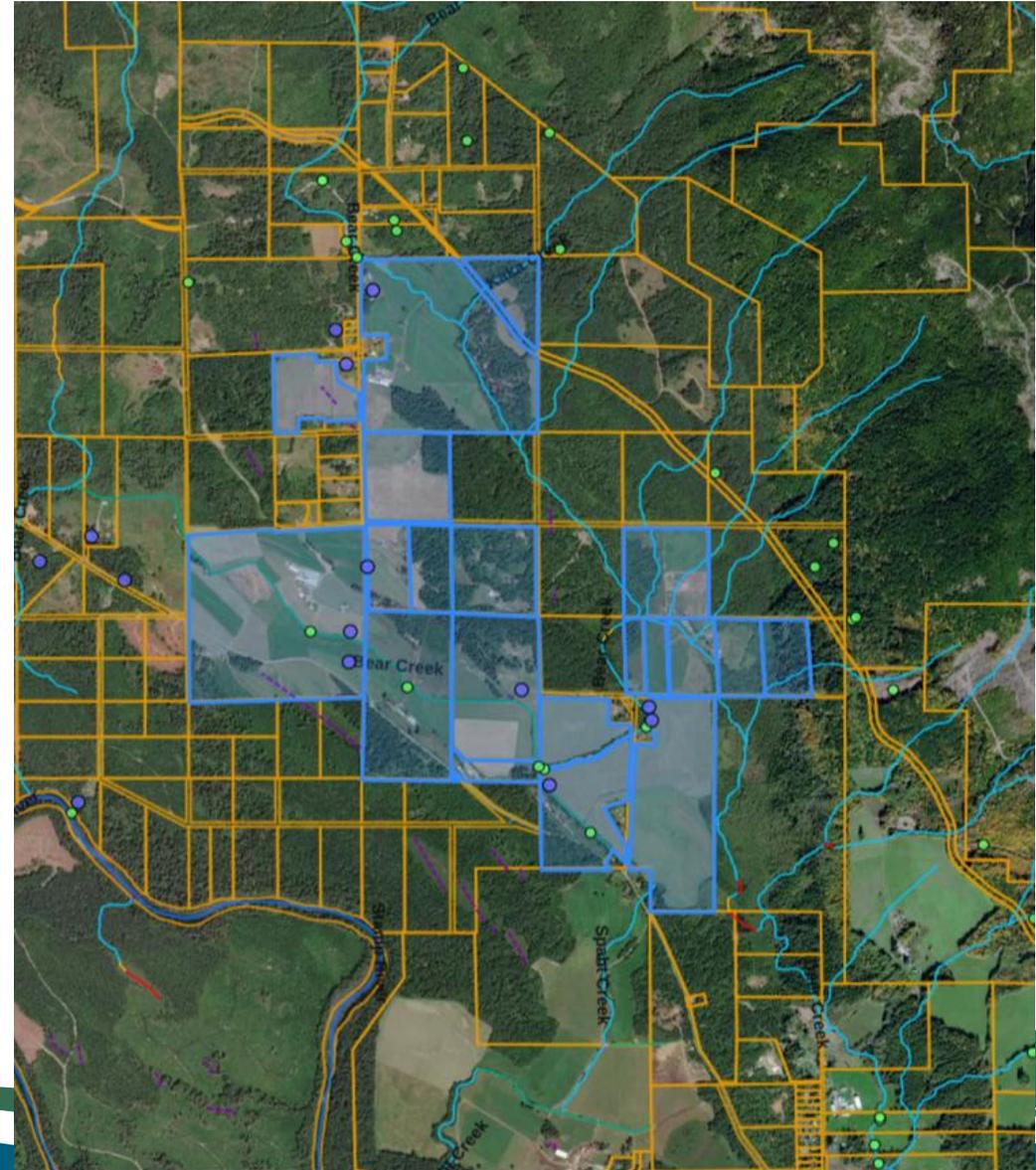


Water Users Community

Adjacent neighbours can formally collaborate to build smaller reservoirs and share costs associated with waterworks equipment.

Example: 370 ha of farmland over 17 parcels would require 700-900 m³ of water (12-16 ha).

Could create several (5 or 6) smaller reservoirs to fill in the winter/spring and distributed in summer/fall across all parcels.



Recommendations

1. Advocate to the Province to install a **groundwater monitoring well** in the Alberni Valley.
2. **Revisit the regional reservoir concept if land and/or capital and/or interest arises.**
3. **Any future work on the municipal system upgrades** include agricultural conveyance in modeling and costing.
4. Seek funding to **complete hydrometric studies on Great Central Lake and Sproat Lake or other lake sources**



Recommendations

5. Review the impacts of a **Partial Transfer** and consider drafting a MoU with Catalyst.
6. Explore **additional partial transfer opportunities** with other large licence holders.
7. **Support Water Users Community groups** if the interest arises.
8. Continue to work with provincial officials to **obtain accurate information on dugouts**.
9. **Explore a regional waterworks governance body if and/or when there is a larger regional-scale projects on the table.**



Next Steps

- Present to ACRD Board of Directors, December 2025



Thank you

Ione Smith

ione@uplandconsulting.ca

778-999-2149

Amy Needham

anneedham@acrd.bc.ca

250-720-2729

