

British Columbia's Agricultural Land Commission



Gordon Bednard, Regional Planner
Jessica Daniels, Land Use Planner
Agricultural Land Commission

ALC

BNRD Agriculture Forum

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Agricultural Land Commission

- ALC is an independent administrative tribunal
- Carries out mandate set out in ALC Act
- Interprets & applies the legislation written by gov't



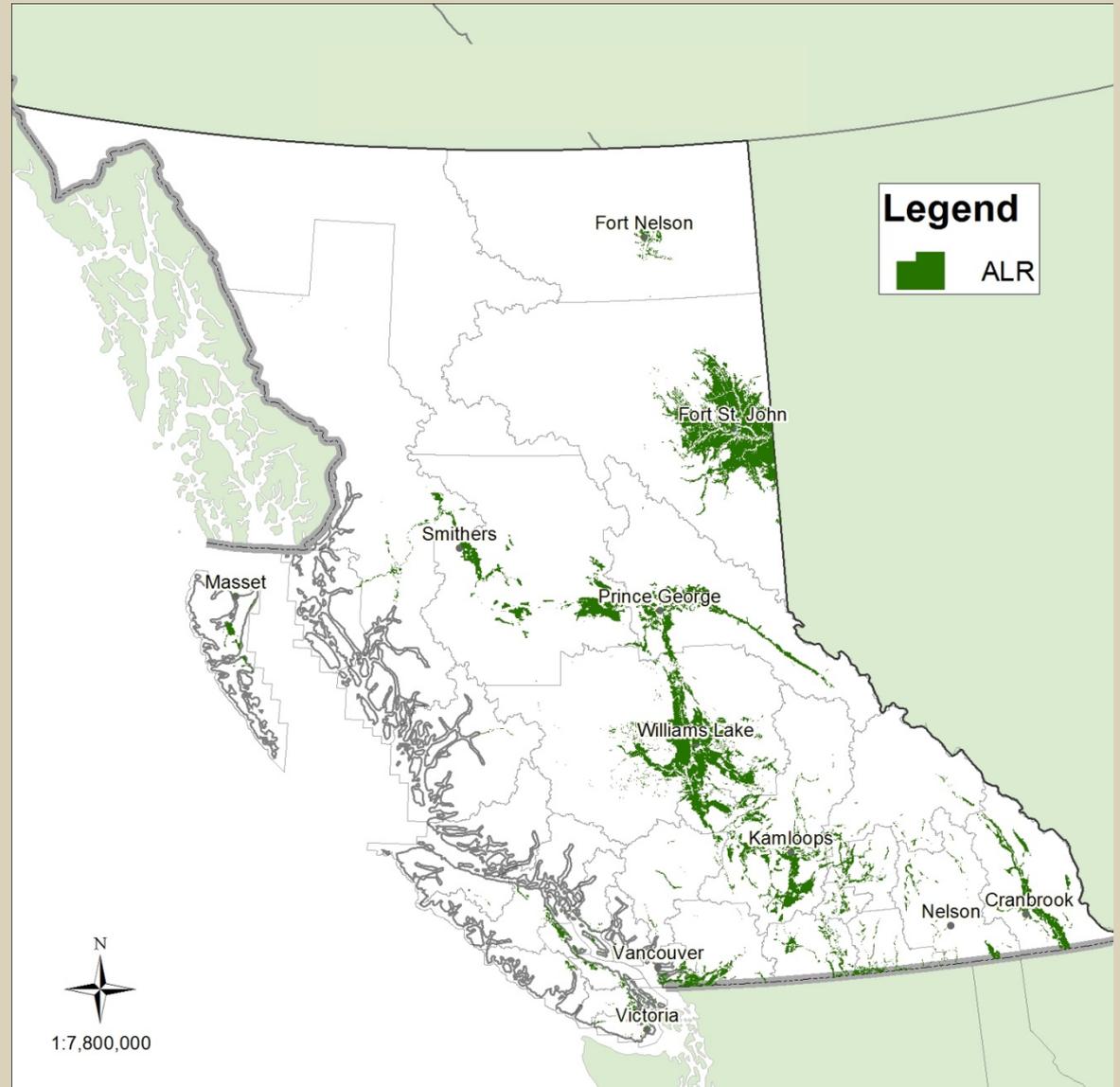
History of the ALR

- December 21, 1972 – “Land Freeze”
- 1972-1974 - ALC staff and local governments (RDs and Municipalities) work to define boundaries
- 1974 - ALRs designated by Regional District areas
- 1974 to present - ALR continues to be refined/defined by applications, planning reviews, local government / ALC initiatives, legislative change.

Sec. 6 Purpose of the ALC Act

- Preserve agricultural land
- Encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest
- Encourage local governments, First Nations, the government & its agents to enable & accommodate farm use of agricultural land & uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws & policies

The ALR
is a finite
resource.
Only
5%
of the
Province



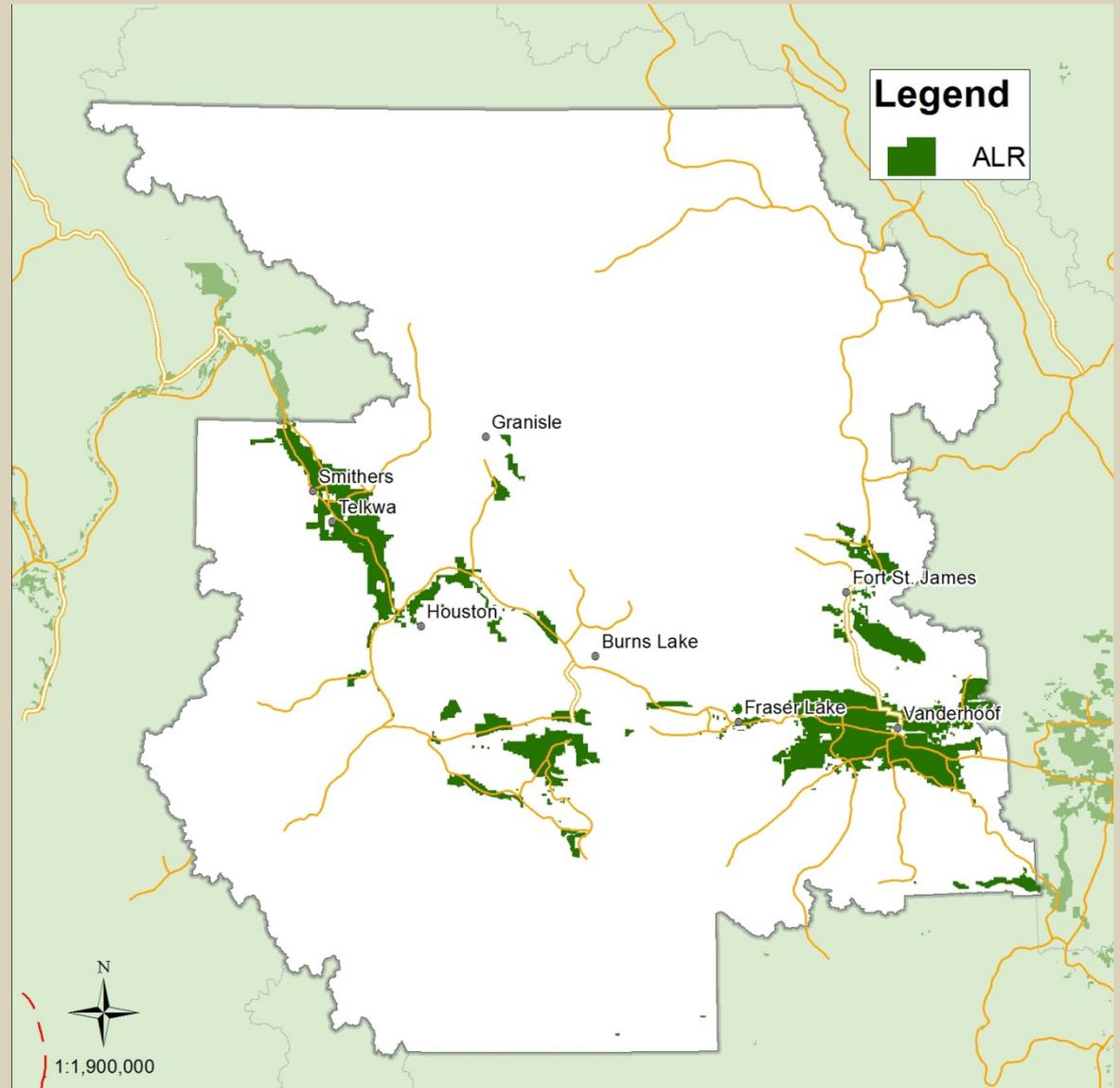
ALC

Geography of the ALR

ALR IN
BNRD

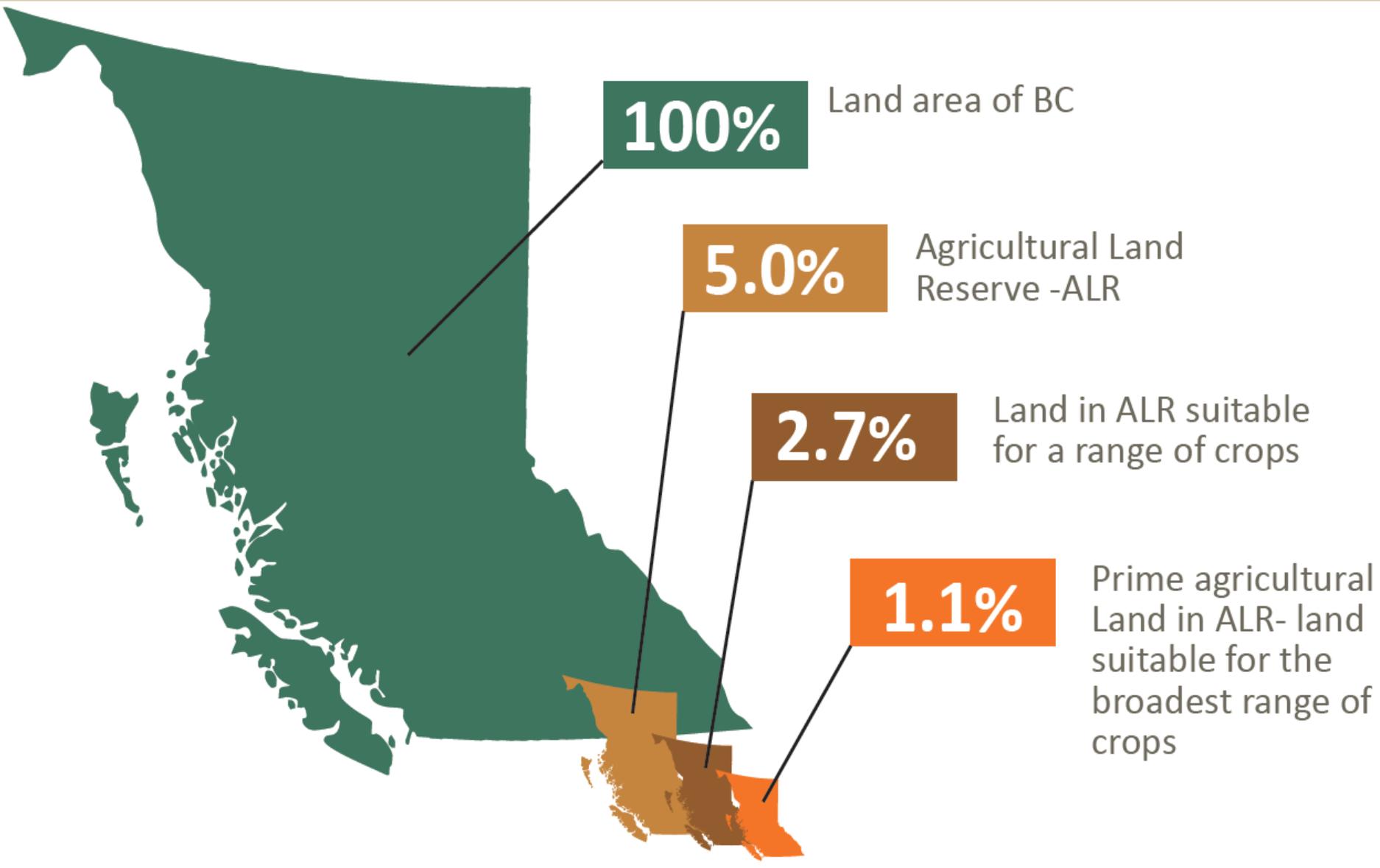
ONLY
5%

OF THE
REGIONAL
DISTRICT



ALC

ALR in Bulkley Nechako RD (370,000 ha)



ALR by Region

North Panel – 48 %

Interior Panel – 33%

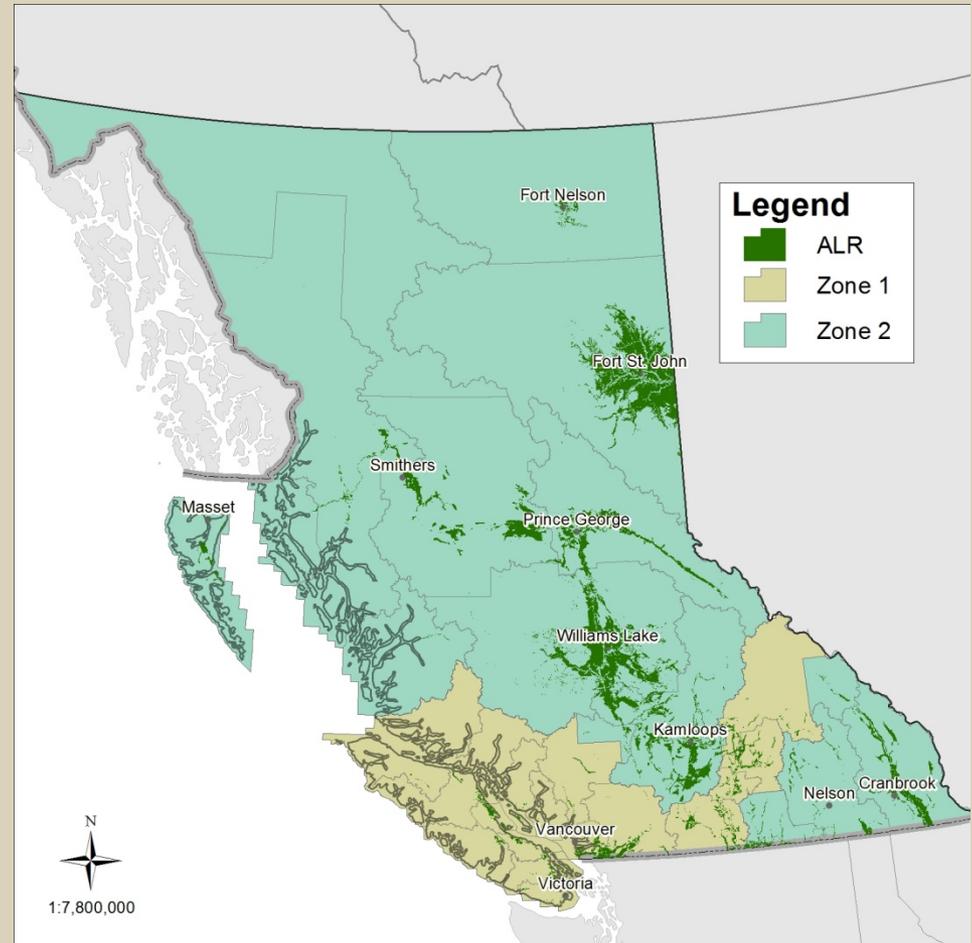
Kootenay Panel – 8 %

Okanagan Panel – 5%

South Coast Panel – 3%

Island Panel – 3%

ALR by Zone



BILL 24 – ALC Act Changes

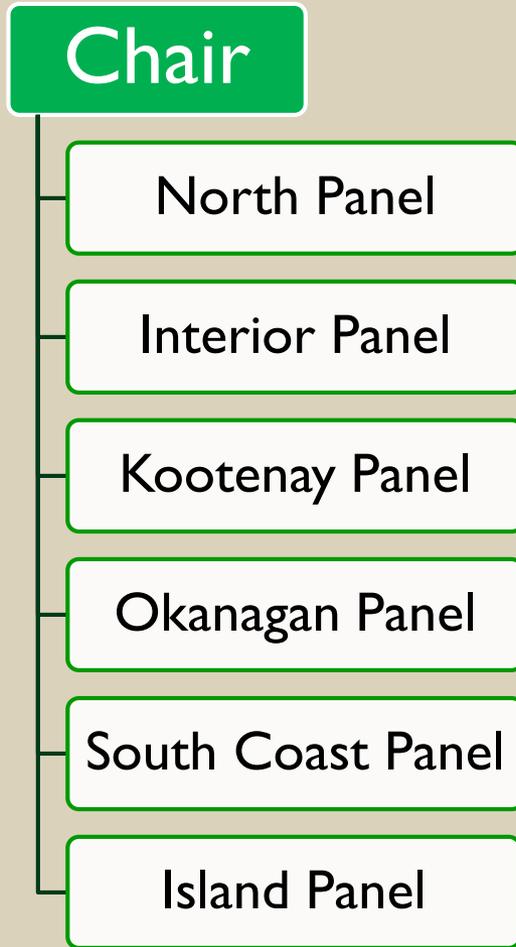
- September 5, 2014 - Came into force
- Split ALR into two zones (Zone 1 and Zone 2)
- Legislated 6 independent panels
- Role of the Chair defined
- Section 4.3 new considerations in zone 2 (economic, cultural and social values)

Section 4.3 of the ALC Act

When exercising a power under this Act in relation to land located in Zone 2, the commission must consider all of the following, in descending order of priority:

- (a) the purposes set out in Section 6;
- (b) economic, cultural and social values;
- (c) regional and community planning objectives;
- (d) other prescribed considerations.

ALC Governance Model



Full Commission = 19 members

Regional Panels = 1 Vice Chair + 2 Commissioners

Executive Committee = Chair + 6 Vice Chairs

Chair

Chair Oversight – Application Process

Refers all applications

- Region Panel
- Executive Committee (EC)

Reviews all panel decisions
(within 60 days)

- Re-affirms decision
- Directs EC to reconsider



ALC

Governance

REGULATION CHANGES - FARM USES

- Farm retail sales
- Storage, packing & processing of farm products
- Land development works for farm use
- Agri-tourism activities*
- Timber production/harvest
- Agroforestry
- Horse riding & boarding
- Production, storage & application of Class A compost for 100% farm use
- Construction of farm buildings
- Medical marihuana*
- Lease for farm use*
- Winery/cidery
- Brewery/distillery/meadery*

REGULATION CHANGES - NON-FARM USES

- Agri-tourism accommodation
- Additional residential uses Zone 1 & 2*
- Home occupation
- Bed & Breakfast
- Breeding of pets/kennels
- Education/research facility
- Small aggregate extraction
- Telecom equipment
- Unpaved airstrips
- Production, storage & application of Class A compost (50% used on farm)
- Retired farmer residence lease*
- Open land park
- **Gathering for an event* (cannot prohibit)**

Bill 25 – Act/Regulation Changes

- **Agri-tourism & Gathering for events**
- **Exclusion of land by Commission's own initiative or application by local government**—the Commission may not exclude land without written consent of property owners



2016/2017 BUDGET LIFT

- base-budget increase to better support:
 - regional panel decision making process
 - planning work with local governments
 - compliance and enforcement



Operational Changes

- Monthly Panel and Executive Committee meetings
- 60 business day application process
- A doubling of ALC land use planning staff and compliance and enforcement officers
- Increased engagement with regional and municipal governments now possible
- Development of comprehensive compliance and enforcement strategy

A scenic landscape featuring rolling green hills under a vast, cloudy sky. A dirt road winds through the middle ground, leading towards a small farmstead with a barn and other buildings. The foreground is dominated by tall, vibrant green grass, with a single wooden fence post visible. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and rural.

Thank you