

Farming for Info in the Cariboo: Agrologists coming to a field near you

Agrologists will be touring the Cariboo region this summer to collect information on crops, irrigation, livestock, and land-use for farming areas in the region. The data will be used to estimate agricultural water demand for current and predicted future climate scenarios.

Agriculture is an important sector in the Cariboo and for it to succeed, water must be available. To help ensure the long term viability of both the natural resource and the industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC are working together to complete an Agricultural Land Use Inventory and Water Demand Model for the region.

This summer, agrologists will navigate public roads and observe the land from within the vehicle to confirm information gathered from satellite imagery.

Watch for a light brown Ford F150 pickup with Ministry of Agriculture signs on both door panels in Williams Lake, Electoral Area D and Electoral Area A from July 16th to August 10th and 100 Mile House and Electoral Area L from August 13th to 31st.

Once complete the Agricultural Land Use Inventory will:

- Define the amount of actively farmed land in the region as of 2018;
- Provide a benchmark for monitoring land use change;
- Identify land use trends for areas with historic ALUIs; and
- Assist land use planning including official community plans & Crown land use planning.

The Agricultural Water Demand Model will:

- Enable examination of water management alternatives that consider future land use changes;
- Define potential impacts of climate change and identify appropriate adaptation strategies; and
- Inform future water storage modelling projects.

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