



Grazing agreements

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

One of a series of info sheets published by the
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

May 2008

This info sheet explains the process of applying to the Yukon government for a grazing agreement. It also covers the continuing occurrence of multiple public use within a grazing agreement.

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 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 have resided in the Yukon for one year prior to application; and
- You are at least 19 years of age.

Also eligible for grazing rights are:

- Companies where Yukon residents hold the majority of shares; and

- Grazing associations where the majority of members are Yukon residents.

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, which will outline management practices you must follow for the sustained use of the agreement area.

ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

Controls the majority of all vacant land in the territory.

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

Lands Branch accepts applications to sell, lease, develop and use land under Yukon government control.

Agriculture Branch administers Yukon agricultural and grazing programs.

Minerals Management Branch administers placer and quartz claims, rights and use in the territory.

Forest Management Branch administers timber permits and forestry planning.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Development Division develops planned subdivisions and local area plans, manages zoning regulations in rural Yukon, administers subdivision outside Whitehorse and Dawson City, and provides mapping services.

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.

The Government of Canada, through Natural Resources Canada, Canada Centre for Cadastral Management provides maps and plans for a fee.

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.

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 Public, First Nations, Resource Council, 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 your grazing land application is approved, the Agriculture Branch will grant permission for you to have a Canada Lands Surveyor prepare a certified correct sketch that accurately describes your grazing agreement site.

The Agriculture Branch will grant you a grazing agreement once you submit the certified correct sketch.

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 \$1.00 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

Lands Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5215

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408, ext 5215

Fax: (867) 667-3214

land.disposition@gov.yk.ca

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Land Planning Branch

Tel: (867) 667-8945

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 8945

Fax: (867) 393-6258

- subdivision and zoning in rural Yukon

Building Safety

Tel: (867) 667-5741

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 5741

Fax: (867) 393-6249

- building and construction permits outside Whitehorse

JUSTICE - Land Titles

Tel: (867) 667-5612

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 5612

Fax: (867) 393-6358

YUKON HOUSING CORPORATION

Loans Administration

Tel: (867) 667-8114

Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext 8114

Fax: (867) 667-3664

- lot financing, A/S program

OTHER AGENCIES

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

Planning Services

Tel: (867) 668-8335

Fax: (867) 668-8395

- development cost charges
- land planning and zoning

Building Inspection

Tel: (867) 668-8340

Fax: (867) 668-8395

CITY OF DAWSON

Tel: (867) 993-7400

Fax: (867) 993-7434

- subdivision approval
- land planning and zoning

NRCAN CANADA CENTRE FOR CADASTRAL MANAGEMENT

Tel: (867) 667-3950

Fax: (867) 393-6707

- legal survey maps, plans, approvals

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Tel: (867) 667-8391

Fax: (867) 667-8322

- septic systems

Yukon

Energy, Mines and Resources