



The Agricultural Land Reserve as a Propertied Landscape

Dr. Arthur 'Gill' Green
Okanagan College
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Central Question

How do different discourses and ideas about property influence government policy regarding agricultural lands?

Case study of BC's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

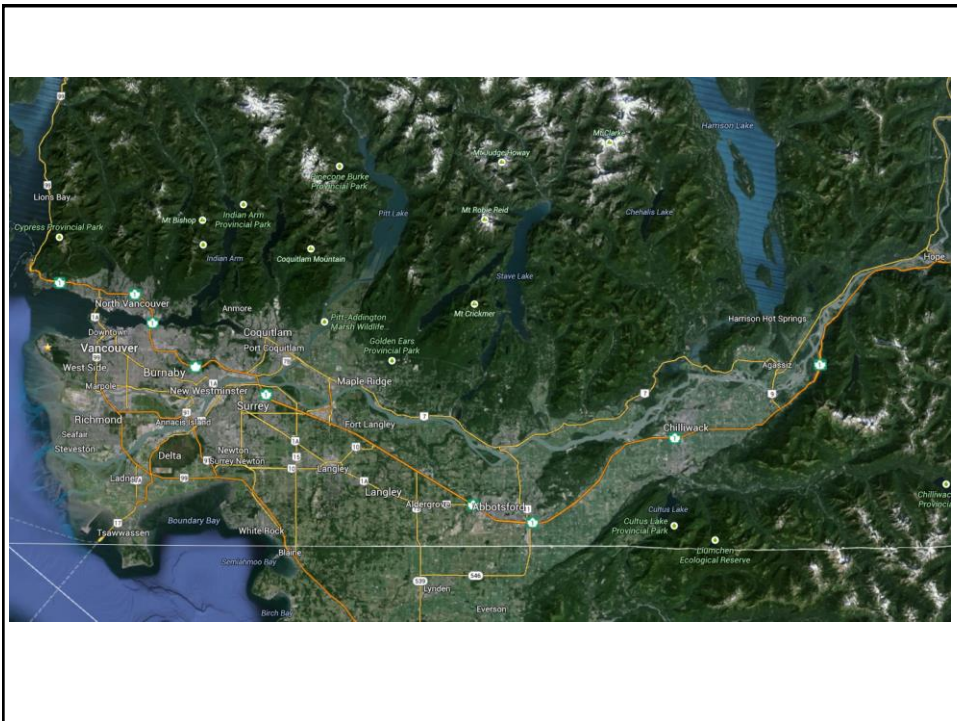
- Creation of ALR
- Periodic legislative changes
- Current political debate
- Action on the ground (farming practices and applications for exclusion, inclusion, and variance) specifically in the Okanagan Valley

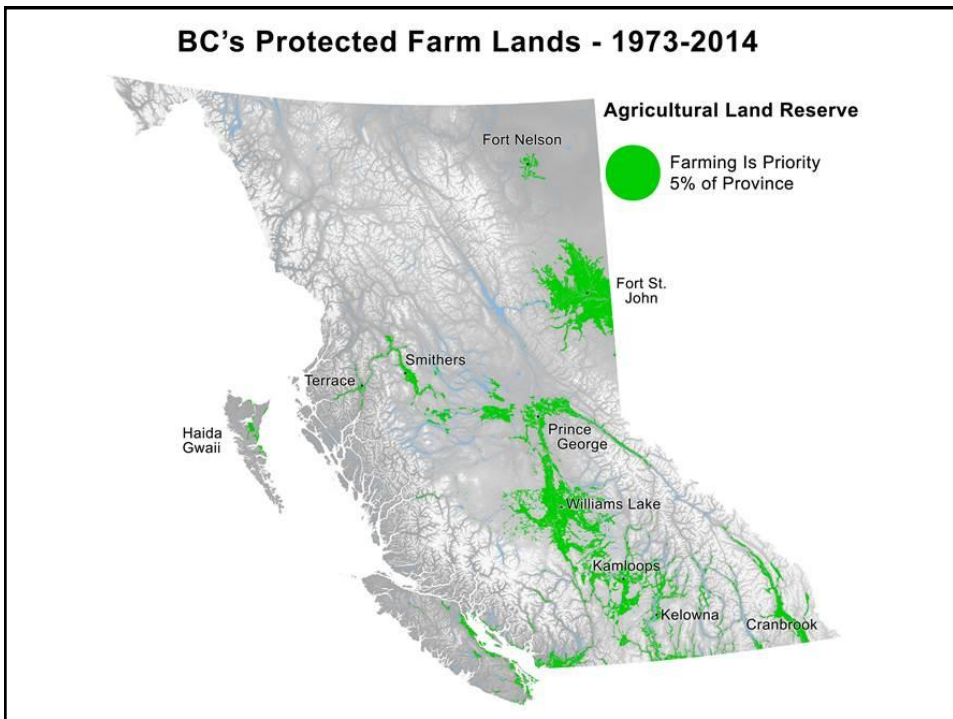
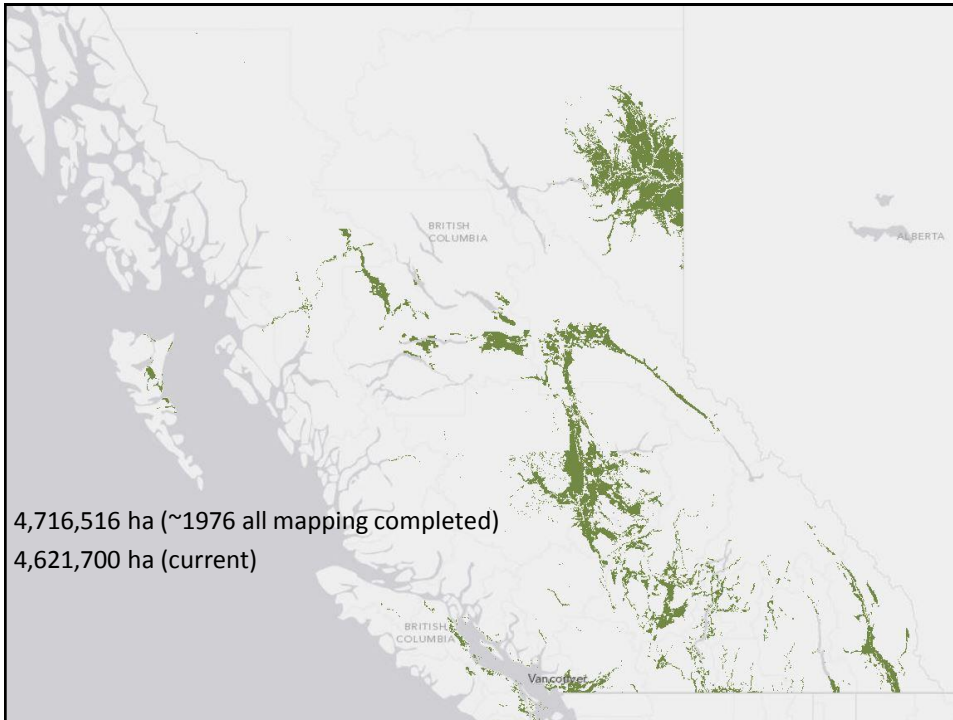


Fraser River

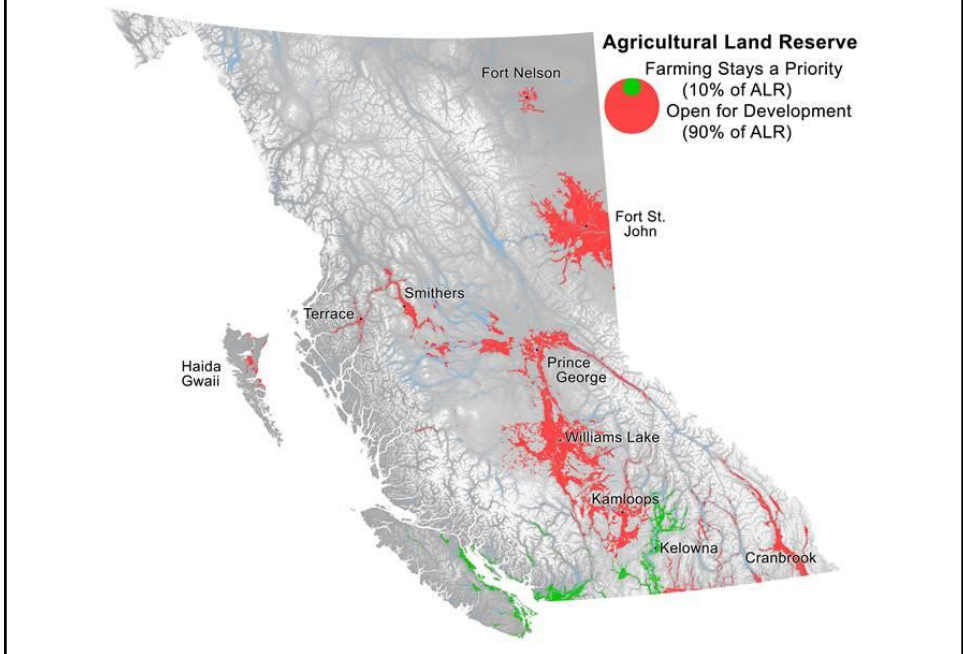


Skeena River

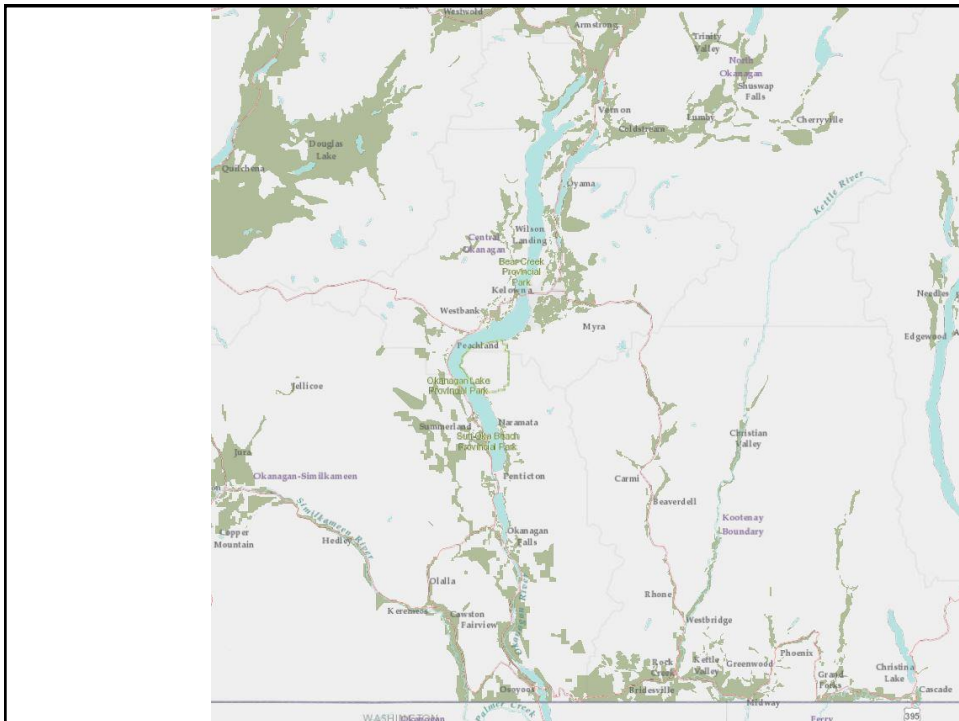
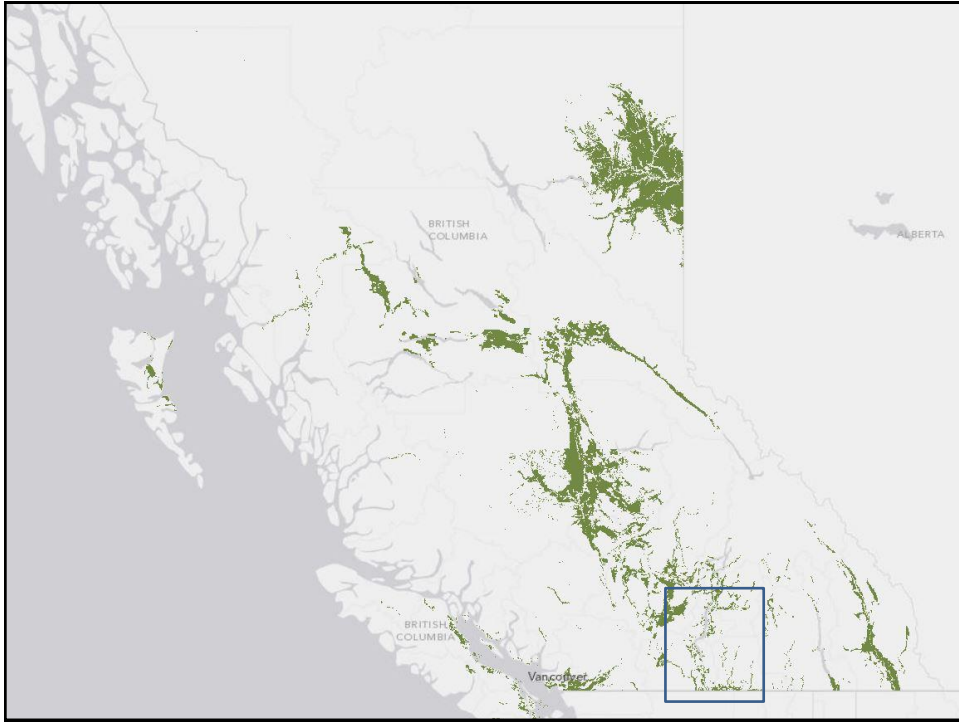


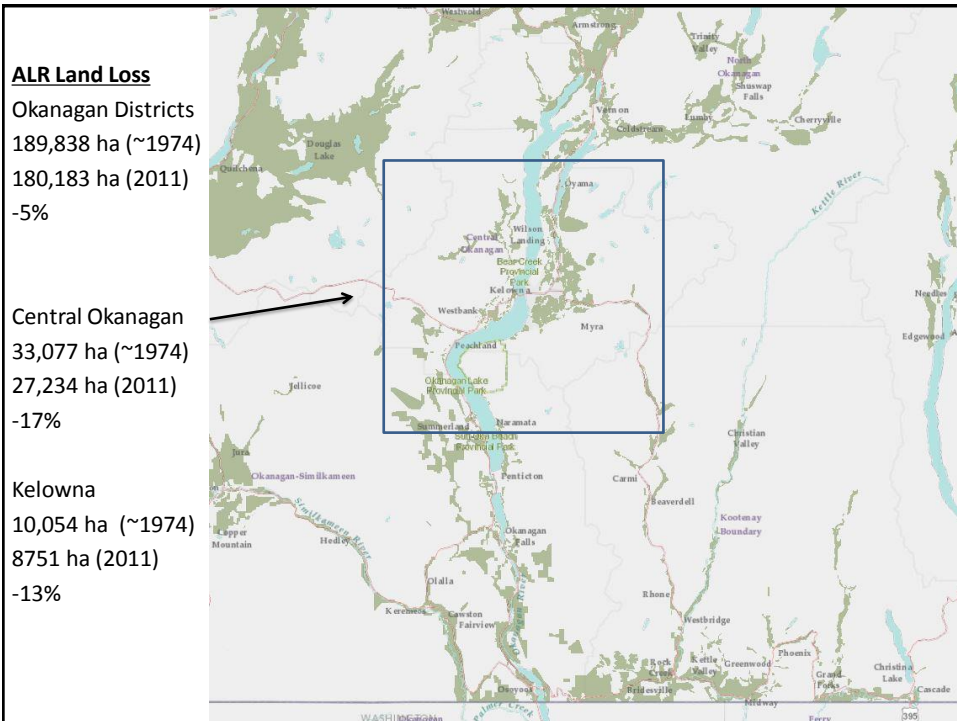


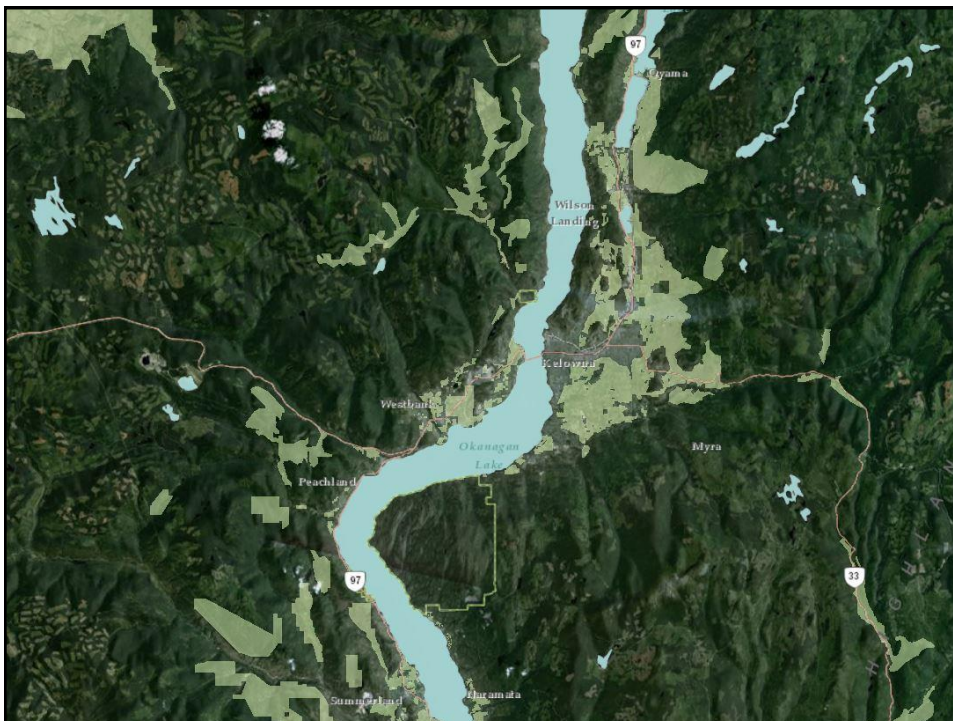
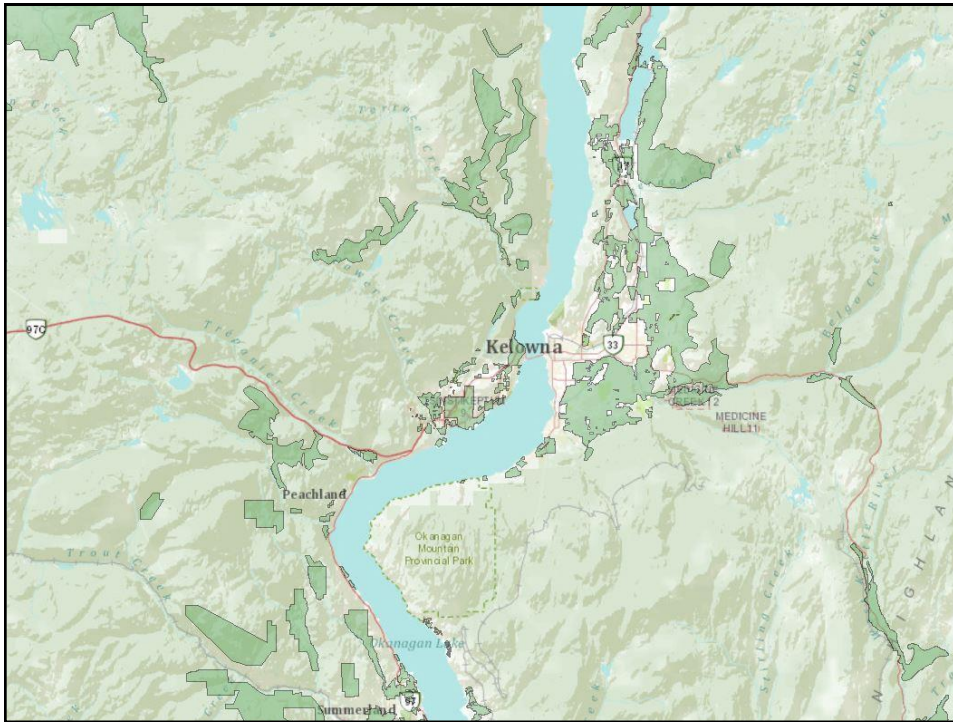
BC's Farm Lands Open for Development



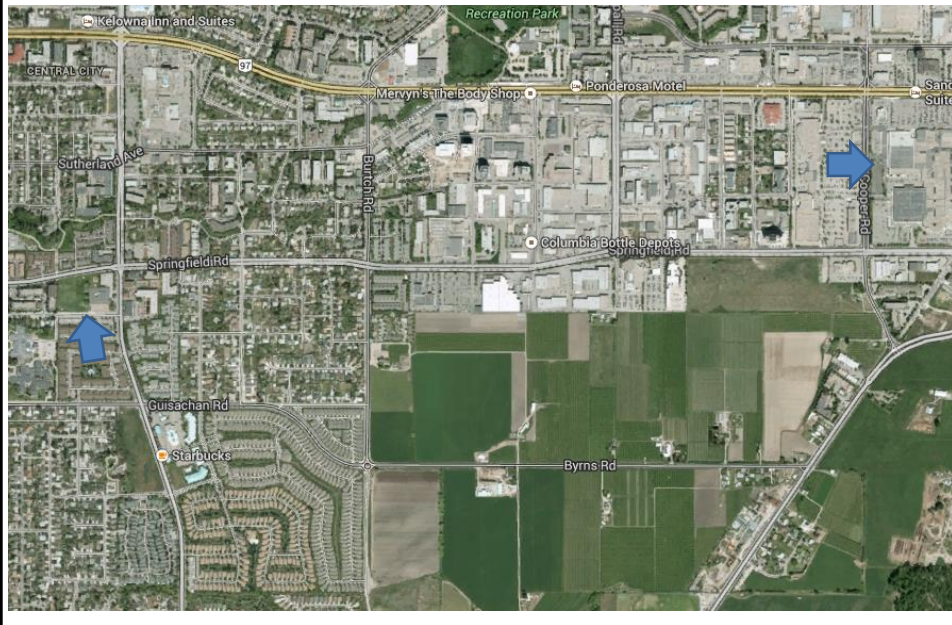








Urban-Agricultural Interface on Old Orchards



What does this have to do with property?

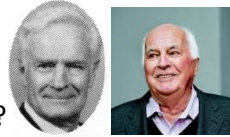
- The “ownership model” has driven and continues to drive many legislative changes, the public debate, and actions on the ground. Poses farmer property rights vs. regulation.
- On the other side, the argument is about obligations – establishing what obligations of agricultural property should be through enacting property in legal texts, political debates, and landscape processes.
- Not just about regulating in the public interest rather creating a property discourse that recognizes obligations of agricultural property to society as internal to that property itself.
- Property right is not about exclusion, it is about the right to political power in determining statutory property relations.

Constructing Obligations, Constructing Property

- Early and ongoing debates

- Stupich and Williams:

- Form of ALR = Public or private asset?



- Public Obligations? Food security, environment, identity...

- 'It is inconceivable that the Liberal government can even consider reducing protection for farmland in British Columbia when there is overwhelming evidence and concern at the global and national level about the looming food security crisis across the world and in our own backyards.' – Jenny Horn, BC farmer, *Letter to Premier* April, 2014.

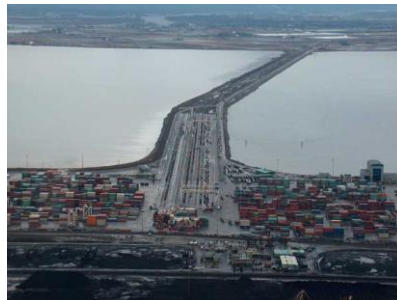
- 'Agricultural land is important for local and provincial food security, it's beautiful, it's economically important, and should continue to be protected because, once developed, it will never grow food again.' – Okanagan orchardist

Constructing Obligations, Constructing Property

- Models of governance and vague definitions

- Who knows how to manage obligations best?

- Regional panels? Central tribunal? Municipalities? Oil and Gas Commission?



Constructing Obligations, Constructing Property

Landscape as discourse:



Conclusion

- Owners have social obligations as well as rights – while obvious, this simple point becomes clouded over in political debate
- Discourse analysis of the obligations of property
- Propertied landscape view as the socio-spatial dimension of legal texts
- Food talk horizon and the challenge to property

Image Credits:

<http://enactusoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Kelowna-scene.jpg>

<https://twitter.com/ALRwatch>

#felfie

#farmers4ALR

Data: ALC April 2014 ALR Polygon Shapefile

Google Maps

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