

November 14, 2025

Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship
Government of British Columbia
PO BOX 9012 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9L6

Sent via email: PermittingSolutions@gov.bc.ca

Subject: BCAC Response to Best Management Practices for Changes in and About a Stream

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of British Columbia's farmers and ranchers, BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) appreciates the efforts by the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to improve permitting under the *Water Sustainability Act* and other relevant legislation and regulations. We also appreciate the Ministry's commitment to engage with the public on such important topics as responsible stream management.

BCAC is the unified voice of the B.C. agriculture industry, representing over 20,000 farm families and 96% of our province's farmgate sales through our 29 member associations. We work to advance policies that support a strong and competitive agriculture sector across B.C. As a participant in the Premier's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy, we are committed to actively supporting the Government of B.C.'s work to improve the permitting environment for water resources.

Regarding the best management practices (BMPs) for changes in and about a stream, we do not see a need for any changes or updates to the Government of B.C.'s 2022 guide. The BMPs for site restoration included in the guide are practical and necessary for the responsible management of streams. Without changes to Section 39(1) of the *Water Sustainability Regulation*, it is also unclear how revisions to the 2022 BMP guide would support effective and efficient permitting or project delivery. Preserving the current guide but establishing a routine process for future review that involves both the Ministry and stream restoration professionals would avoid confusion over changing requirements and expectations.

In case of any need for additional information or details regarding our submission in response to this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Synotte, BCAC's Executive Director, via email at dsynotte@bcac.ca or via telephone at 604-854-4454.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to contribute the perspective of B.C. farmers and ranchers! We look forward to responding to other Ministry consultations regarding permitting improvements in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Woike, President
BC Agriculture Council