



Applying for Range Improvements

Lands Division
Sustainable Resource Development

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Overview

Range improvements on agricultural public land may be made for several reasons. Improvements maintain or boost range production, make it easier to manage livestock and may help address other resource values such as wildlife habitat and soil or water quality. Before most range improvements can be undertaken, approval must be obtained.

Procedure

Application

If a leaseholder wishes to undertake a range improvement, they must complete a Range Improvement Application or make a request in writing. If a written application is made, it should include:

- The disposition holder's name
- Address and phone number
- Disposition number
- Legal land location of subject area
- Description of planned improvements, including type and size
- Sketch of the location of improvements relative to lease boundaries or permanent distinguishable landmarks

Applications should be submitted to the local range agrologist.

Review

The range agrologist will review the application to determine if the proposed improvements will conflict with other land uses and if First Nation consultation is required. A review of local agreements, policies or integrated plans will also be done to determine if any restrictions on developments exist, or if any specific procedures must be followed (e.g. wildlife surveys, timber salvage).

The range agrologist will usually conduct a site inspection and an assessment of the improvement's impact on range management and disposition use. The details of the proposed activity may be negotiated to the mutual satisfaction of the lessee, range agrologist and any concerned referral agencies.

If the proposed improvement will result in a substantial footprint on the land and/or be carried out in several phases, a range management plan specifying how and when the development will occur may be required. For example, a range management plan would be required to convert the land to tame pasture. Incidental improvements such as dugouts, woody re-growth management and rejuvenation of older pastures are often approved without a management plan.

Authorization

A final decision will be made as to whether or not to approve the request based on the field inspection and referral input from other agencies. The agrologist provides authorization to the disposition holder as written approval in the form of a

- Temporary field authorization, or a
- Letter of authority

A sketch of the location of the improvements and a range management plan may be attached to the authorization if they were determined to be necessary.

Inspection

Range agrologists conduct follow up inspections to determine if the project has been completed and if it aligns with the approval.