

From: Islands2050
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Establishing Tree Protection Bylaws for Islands Trust Lands

From: Adrienne Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:28 PM
To: information <information@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Establishing Tree Protection Bylaws for Islands Trust Lands

As a resident of Mayne Island, I am writing to ask for an acceleration of the review of the Trust Policy Statement to allow tree bylaws. This would involve separating it from the group of updates that failed to achieve first reading in July. The reason for this request is that tree protection policies are long overdue and need to be established to counter the effects of climate change happening *today*.

Mayne Island is particularly vulnerable to loss of biophysical integrity and habitat loss because most of the land is privately owned, and new owners are clearing property without considering the environmental impacts or the rural character of the landscape. Unfortunately, the Islands Trust is currently unable to preserve and protect the natural terrestrial environment without bylaws that protect trees on private lands.

Tree removal alters groundwater storage, decreases humidity and aerosols, and decreases temperature buffering in the face of temperature extremes. Beyond these effects drought conditions and limited water supplies make it difficult to support the survival of replacement trees.

Research recently completed by the Rainforest Conservation Foundation sets out the first step as the Islands Trust securing the “fundamental power” to “regulate, prohibit and impose requirements” in relation to trees (as municipalities do under the Community Charter). Establishment of this power would be followed by the introduction of tree protection bylaws that include the following best practices:

- Bylaws that apply to the entire jurisdiction.
- Clear definitions of which trees are protected (above a specified size, protected species, trees in ESAs)
- Permitted reasons for removal: Dead, dying or dangerous trees or for permitted development.
- Requirements for replacement.
- Tree density and canopy cover targets
- Land use regulations that require sufficient space for trees.

Will it be possible to separate this item from the other proposed revisions to the Trust Policy Statement so it can be advanced before the end of 2021 with tree protections brought into force in 2022?

With the climate crisis rapidly impacting ecosystems everywhere, such policies will mitigate loss of environmental integrity by simply preventing damage and loss before it happens. This is not only more effective than restoration, but is the most cost-effective approach.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Brown

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Mayne Island, BC

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