

From: Sandra Leckie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 8:55 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: Laura Patrick
Subject: Feedback on Draft Trust Policy Statement

Subject: Formal Submission: Feedback on Draft Trust Policy Statement

To the Islands Trust Council and Trustee Laura Patrick,

As a full time resident of Salt Spring Island, I am writing to provide feedback on the draft Trust Policy Statement (TPS).

I believe the Trust's top priority must be the protection of land and marine ecosystems, and that all development must be limited by the physical and biological capacity of this land to maintain ecosystem integrity. For the Islands Trust to fulfill its provincial mandate of "preserve and protect", the Trust Policy Statement must provide firm, enforceable requirements through "shall" wording, rather than the optional suggestion of "should".

One of my primary concerns is that the term "unique amenity" should apply only to features inherent to the Trust Area such as the Gary Oak and Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems, the marine environment and Indigenous cultural heritage. I oppose the broad reinterpretation of "amenities" to include general infrastructure, tourism or housing.

As to some specific details contained in the draft TPS I offer the following:

I request that the following sections be amended from "should" to mandatory "shall" (must) directive policies

Forest Stewardship: Reinstate mandatory directives stating that clearcutting is inappropriate across the Trust Area to protect the Douglas-fir and Garry Oak ecosystems

Groundwater Protection: Change guidelines to mandatory directives requiring Local Trust Committees to protect groundwater recharge areas when establishing zoning and providing development permits. (The [Golder Report](#) - 2019 -on aquifer mapping for Salt Spring Island indicates specific areas like **Scott Point** already exceed their sustainable "demand-to-storage" ratio. And in more recent studies on surface water, the University of Victoria (UVic) and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) show that evapotranspiration is increasing at a much faster rate than previously modelled.)

Ecosystem Integrity: Ensure that policies regarding the protection of sensitive areas are mandatory, non- discretionary requirements for all local committees and that any development is determined by the island's physical and biological capacity. Indeed the Trust's own Trust Conservancy Plan identifies the Coastal Douglas Fir zone as requiring "mandatory" protection.

I request that the TPS include a mandatory directive requiring all Local Trust Committees to conduct independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies that update Carrying Capacity information—specifically regarding groundwater and ecosystem vulnerability—before approving changes in zoning or any increases in density.

Furthermore, I request that the Trust formalize a process to integrate local community knowledge (ie. residents observations of well levels, forest/marine health, and wildlife) alongside technical data to establish clear, science-based limits to any increase in

growth for the Gulf Islands.

Sincerely,

Sandra Leckie

 Salt Spring Island