

From: Louise Blight [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 11:58 PM
To: Islands2050
Cc: rob.botterell.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Islands 2050 feedback

Dear Islands Trust Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement. I offer the following comments on the draft document.

Guiding Principles

Recommendation: Guiding Principle 2.1.2, below, should be modified to read "To place priority on preserving, protecting, and restoring the natural environment as a foundational principle" and its heading or title should be "Prioritize Protection of the Natural Environment".

"Preserving, protecting, and supporting restoration of Indigenous cultural heritage etc." should be given its own number as a new, additional guiding principle, with the title of "Prioritize Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection"

2.1.2 Prioritize Environmental and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Protection

To place priority on preserving, protecting and restoring the environment, and preserving, protecting, and supporting restoration of Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision making.

Recommendation: Guiding Principle 2.1.3, below, should be modified to read "...in order to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and natural environment."

For 2.1.4, "ecosystems" should be replaced with "native ecosystems".

And similarly, 2.1.5 should read "...to safeguard the natural environment..."

2.1.3 Limit the Rate and Scale of Development

To define and maintain appropriate limits for the rate and scale of development in order to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment.

2.1.5 Take Guidance from the Precautionary Principle

To be guided by the precautionary principle in all decision making to safeguard the environment and cultural heritage where there is uncertainty over the potential for serious or irreversible damage from development.

Recommendation: Guiding Principle 2.1.6, below, should be modified to read "...cultural heritage sites, native ecosystems, and native species and their habitats."

2.1.6 Account for Cumulative Effects

To strive to account for the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development to avoid detrimental effects on watersheds, groundwater supplies, culturally sensitive areas and cultural heritage sites, and species and their habitats.

Recommendation: name of Guiding Principle 2.1.7, below, should be modified to read "Foster Informed, Open, and Transparent Decision Making".

2.1.7

Foster Informed and Balanced Decision Making

To be informed by a broad range of sources in its decision-making processes, including Indigenous Knowledge, institutional knowledge, local community knowledge, and science.

I recommend that a Guiding Principle about climate change (e.g., "Incorporate Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation into All Decisions") be added.

Cooperation Principles

Recommendation: Working with the Islands Trust Conservancy Board should not be limited to "core" conservation areas but should more broadly support a preserve and protect approach to the islands' natural environment. I recommend that the wording be modified to read "...collaborate closely with, and be informed by, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, including but not limited to the areas of science-based conservation planning, ecosystem mapping, identification of [delete 'core'] conservation areas and other ecologically important areas, including protected area networks, and the identification and protection of species and ecosystems at risk."

2.3.1

Collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy Board

To collaborate closely with, and be informed by, the Islands Trust Conservancy Board, particularly in the areas of science-based conservation planning, ecosystem mapping, identification of core conservation areas and protected area networks, and protection of species and ecosystems at risk.

In general in this section, "Work Towards" is weak and should be replaced with something like "Commit to" or "Demonstrate".

Goal 3

Recommend changing the title of this goal to read "Preserve and Protect Healthy and Biodiverse Native Ecosystems as the Foundational Goal of This Policy, and Considering the Carrying Capacity of Island Ecosystems."

Recommendation: Reword 3.3.3 to recognise the importance of trees and forests as habitat in various patch sizes, and the importance of tree canopy cover for shading, water retention, etc. "Identify forest ecosystems and other treed areas providing shade, wildlife habitat, and/or value to human communities, and prioritize their preservation, restoration, and protection from development and other land use, including the maintenance and restoration of ecological integrity. These protections should be based on habitat patch size."

3.3.3

Forest Ecosystems

Identify forest ecosystems and prioritize the preservation, protection, and restoration of unfragmented forests, with a particular focus on the maintenance and restoration of their ecological integrity.

In general, the word "environment" should be replaced with the more specific "natural environment" throughout this Policy Statement, and "ecosystems" should be replaced with "native ecosystems". The islands' unique amenities are its natural environment, marine and terrestrial, and the Policy Statement must continue to uplift the carrying capacity of island ecosystems as the most important principle. Development of housing and other amenities must be constrained to existing village areas, and provide truly affordable (not "attainable") housing; development must also respect the ecological integrity of each island and the ability of natural ecosystems to support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Trust Policy Statement.

Sincerely,

Louise Blight

Salt Spring Island
V8K 1G3