

From: Brad Smith <bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 12:20 PM
To: '██████████' <██████████>
Cc: North Pender Island Local Trust Committee
<NorthPenderIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Raptor DPAs

Hello Michael,

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me at your property last week. Yes, based on my onsite observations, it is my professional opinion that the DPA tree in question still has the criteria needed to be a viable nest/perching site for raptors. As we discussed, it would be fair to say that if the structure of the tree goes through further significant changes, it can be reassessed as a viable nesting or perching structure.

I have followed up directly with the QEP that authored the report and he concurs with my findings. As such, staff will be recommending that the tree continue to be maintained as a Raptor DPA tree for now.

Best regards,

Brad

Brad Smith, PAg

Island Planner, Southern Team
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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

I respectfully acknowledge that the Islands Trust Area is located within the treaty lands and territories of the BOKÉĆEN, Cowichan Tribes, K'ómoks, Lyackson, MÁLEXEŁ, Qualicum, scəwəθən, səliwətəʔ, SEMYOME, shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, Snaw-naw-as, Snuneymuxw, Songhees, Spune'luxutth', S'ÁUTW, Stz'uminus, ʔaʔəmen, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Wei Wai Kum, We Wai Kai, WJOLEŁP, WSIKEM, Xeláltxw, Xwémalhkwu, Xwsepsum, and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm First Nations. Islands Trust is committed to reconciliation and to working together to preserve and protect this ecologically, culturally, and spiritually significant region in the Salish Sea.

From: David Maude <dmaude@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 3:15 PM
To: Brad Smith <bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: Raptor DPAs

Mayne Island Trustee
Trust Council Vice Chair

Wi'la'mola - *we are all travelling together*

From: michael <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 21, 2024 12:36 PM
To: David Maude; Aaron Campbell; Deb Morrison
Subject: Raptor DPAs

Hello N. Pender LTC: I am writing concerning your current review of raptor nest DPAs. When we purchased our home and property in 2007 we were excited about it having an eagle nest on the property. Shortly after purchasing we learned that the eagles had abandoned the nest two or three years earlier. In the intervening 17 years the nest gradually deteriorated and there is no longer any trace of it. The tree, which was already basically a large snag, has also deteriorated and is down to one large branch.

As there has been no nesting activity in this tree; no eagles, no osprey, no herons, no ravens, in the past twenty years and as all the structure necessary to support a larger nest is gone, I contacted your planner, Brad Smith, and requested that this tree be removed from your raptor DPA roster. I invited him to visit the site to see the conditions. It was clear from my conversation with him, and his conduct when he visited, that he had already made up his mind on the matter. He stated, without having seen the site, that it could be "potentially viable" and repeated this conclusion when he arrived here and again when viewing the tree.

So, you now have a protected "raptor tree" which has no raptor nesting activity, hasn't had for about 20 years, and has not been used by any other large avian species in that time despite the tree being open and available. It is shown on your map as an eagle nest but no eagle will ever nest in it again as there is no structure to support an eagle nest. The phrase "junk science" comes to mind. This kind of conduct is what has led to the Islands Trust losing credibility in the community.

Regards,
Michael Symons

[REDACTED]
Pender Island