

From: s becker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Mandate to Protect Environment

Dear Islands Trust People,

Thank you for your service. I am writing to encourage you in your work to preserve and protect the beautiful and delicate ecosystems found on our gulf islands.

As a Gabriola Island resident for 25 years, I have seen the devastating impacts on the once continuous intact eco-zones become parcelled according to the urban road and geometric "plot" that has created islandizations of forest that have become untenable for many species. I urge you to consider prioritizing the biodiversity infrastructure and fulfill a goal of 30-40% land preservation so we do not lose more species.

If we let too much of the urban infrastructure become established, this becomes the new normal for future generations. Who will remember who made what decision in the years to come? What will define this place will be the roads, the houses, the concrete social grid. New interests and attachments relating to the urban experience, the "everywhereness," will replace the specific. Who will miss the spotted owl, the western bluebird then?

Urban expansionist thinking pressuring decision-making will persist, so too the boom and bust of markets, along with humanist concerns for our fellow people's needs. However, the biggest shortfalls of this century, locally and globally, is preserving intact eco-systems that will not be converted to raw materials in the name of markets or to more "equalize" the social contract.

Biodiversity, and the intact ecosystems required for its vital functioning, must be taken out of the speculative decision-making model. Biodiversity should not be at the whim of competing lifestyle and viewpoints. We are not living on a space-ship, where millions of complex decisions have had to be made just to sustain the basics of what we take for granted with the trillions of interactivities in the natural world we have the luxury of not having to consider. Our bodies and their health is the environment. My lung's and their relationship to the air they need did not come into existence through a committee. No one owns this relationship. It's not a debate topic. It's vital for existence. Let's set people's biggest and most vital need first, an environment left to interact in its manifold sustaining vitality, so we don't have to think of everything just to survive.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Shawn Becker

