

From: Silvaine Zimmermann [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 6:44 PM
To: Islands2050; FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Bowen Municipality
Subject: The Importance of our forests in the Islands Trust

To the
Islands Trust Chair, Peter Luckham and
Katherine Conroy, Minister of Forests
And
Bowen Islands Municipal Council Islands Trust Chairs

We pay too much property tax for sure, but at least make sure that all the Islands, especially Bowen, are exempt from the Ministry's clear cutting policies. All the islands' water supplies depend on it's trees and their root systems. Without water building lots on these islands are worthless, no matter how many millions they cost. Water is already a problem on several parts of Bowen Island. We were once the 'affordable part' of the GVRD, but no more. Water problems make it even more expensive. "Preserve and protect?!" The water problems make it clear, that we can not afford to become a suburb of West Vancouver --- if we want to preserve and protect, we have to limit building ... what we need, is affordable housing for the people who live here already, not attract more people to make more money.

As the daughter of a forester in Germany, I grew up in the woods, where my father worked, and later became Chief Forester of the 'province' of Hessa. When we immigrated to Canada, I was astounded by what is called forestry here. The forests are handed over to the logging interests, to do as they please, which is making money, exclusively, with out regard or even understanding of the needs of the trees and the living composition of their ecological niches or biomes - for example, their mycorrhiza fungal networks - old trees, as well as new saplings, need these to grow efficiently.

It seems that all the logging companies here do is clearcut, and then burning the stuff they left behind, thereby damaging the once living ground even more, and without considering the greenhouse gases and other pollutants this causes. They have no respect the tree monuments - not even ones close to 1000 years old - whereas they should be venerated as memorials within their living biomes, because of all the other creatures that depend on them.

Real forestry would take good care of our remaining ancient forests, and stop creating clearcuts because of the ecological and 'forestry' disaster they are, not doing so means you have no understanding of ecological processes.

As overpopulated as Germany is, it still has recreational woods around all of its cities because recreational needs of the public come before purely fiscal considerations of private logging companies ... never would forests be cut against the wishes of the local people - such as what happened in Whistler, especially when they too have interests, such as tourism. Profit is not the uppermost aim of forestry, but the well being of people, its creatures, and their forest. Today

especially, city dwellers need natural forests for recreation, recovery, and a healthy life - especially, but not only, during COVID times. In Germany, and increasingly here too, you see people walking in the forests even in the pouring rain - we love the woods that much:)

When I flew back from Europe, crossing over our northern latitudes, I saw that the northern woods were cut into squares, like a chess-board ... is that the way that Canada sees ideal forestry!? Did anyone try to ascertain how this affects living creatures ... it seems that forestry here has little or nothing to do with natural geographies, biomes, or ecosystems!

All the Gulf Islands need their remaining forests desperately, to regulate and maintain their local water supplies intact. Ecologically respectful Tourism is the only permanent source of revenue for people here but destroying our forest landscapes would ruin that - all things considered, forever. Maximum greed of logging companies should never dictate forest policies anywhere ... and logging jobs have been lost much more efficiently by mechanization than they would be via ecological forestry policies. Tourism can replace any potentially lost logging jobs much better than what the devastation of clearcutting practices could ever offer.

Sincerely,
Imke Zimmermann

Sent from my iPad