

From: Alison Feargrieve [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Give Islands Trust legislative clout

Hello.

I am writing today as I was unable to attend today's meeting and would like my voice to be heard.

The Islands Trust was created by the provincial government with the sole purpose of “preserving and protecting the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia.

I have been growing increasingly alarmed that nothing stands between someone buying a wooded 10 acre lot, clear cutting that lot, selling the wood and then selling the property. This is one deeply concerning example of a total disregard or understanding of the fine balance of ecological subtleties on our islands and how vulnerable the beauty of these islands and their unique habitats are.

I would like to see legislation to prohibit clear-cutting and logging of old growth in the Trust Area, and authority to regulate tree cutting in the Trust Area.

Some people don't care or will not come to understand before too much is gone, what ravaging the land does. New homes are being built at an accelerated pace and new people buying here as well. So often decisions that are oblivious to the protecting of this unique environment, are being made.

Our Island's Trust is there to protect these lands and animals but has no power to stop unsustainable development.

I am also deeply concerned that with all the tree cutting happening that our island will become dangerously vulnerable to drying effects in a warming and droughting climate, and poses serious threat of fire.

Our Trustees should be imbued with the same ability to legislate as they do in municipalities where bylaws effectively stop the destruction. Self interested or ignorant people cannot be relied upon to regulate themselves or care about things like having a helicopter in a very sensitive Garry Oak and raptor nesting environment for example which poses a fuel and fire hazard, a noise nuisance and a threat to the rights of the wildlife.

The Raincoast report outlined these points which I think should be implemented as soon as is humanly possible:

1. Pursue development permit areas to protect forest ecosystems and regulate forest practices on private lands.
2. Seek enforceability of development permits.
3. Pursue the implementation of tree-cutting permits and forest management regulations.
4. Explore options for using zoning (i.e. “conservation zoning”) as an approach to regulating tree removal and retention on private lands.
5. Prioritize the use of the current tools available for “preserv[ing] and protect[ing] the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment”, such as conservation covenants.
6. Amend the Trust Policy Statement to reflect the dual obligation of local trustees, and the wider trust federation, to uphold the trust’s object.

Thankyou for your attention in this matter,

Alison Feargrieve

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Pender Island