

**From:** Gary Kahne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:47 PM  
**To:** Islands2050  
**Subject:** Draft Policy Statement, tree cutting.

TO: Islands Trust Trustees & Staff concerned with the new Draft Policy Statement:

I have, in another letter, expressed my concerns regarding the PROCESS of creating the draft policy statement.

Here I will raise one concern with the content as distinct from the process.

I have always been a strong proponent of the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect. I also love trees and do not like to see them cut down: unnecessarily nor unsustainably.

Nonetheless the prohibitions on tree cutting, as written, go much too far and are certainly not appropriate for a rural community.

I do not think that there are many Islanders who are supportive of clear cutting and efforts to prevent that would likely meet with public acceptance.

Perhaps there is a role for The Trust to be involved when more than a specified number or area of trees are to be cut. This could also speak to the size or types of trees.

But as written the statement appears to apply to any and all trees.

Has consideration been given to the necessity of utilities, roads/telephone/hydro sewers etc maintenance. Will these activities be subject to extra costs and delays due to the proposed need for permits to cut a tree?

Additionally, there will be cases where due to storms, age, illnesses or other phenomena affecting trees, that a tree may pose a danger of falling and or injuring persons or property. Again in such circumstances the need to apply for a permit and have it processed (inspections as well) will result in costly but also dangerous delays. In the alternative, more enforcement officers will have to be hired and a priority system created. There is already public concern about the time for the Trust to approve permits. THis will only add to the public dissatisfaction.

Let us look at wording that is significantly more nuanced. There are certain actions which are never acceptable and prohibited by law in all circumstances. Tree cutting is not among these.

Thank you for your consideration of my points,

Dr. Gary Kahne