

From: Robert McCallum [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 9:13 PM
To: Islands2050
Subject: Give Islands Trust legislative clout

Hello,
I'd like to add my voice in support of the islands Trust gaining the ability to protect the islands.

The Trust was mandated " to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents..."

As a resident of Pender Island I've been growing concerned about an activity that has been growing here on the island, people buying land and clearing all or most of the trees from it. I believe people should have a right to clear trees for approved buildings and to take out trees that are sick or pose a danger, but the excessive tree cutting could have many downstream detrimental effects.

The most immediate problem with this activity is the effect this has on neighboring properties. Clearing the trees from one lot makes the trees on surrounding lots less stable, from increased exposure to wind storms and changes in the soil and groundwater. I know a fellow on the island who has a house downhill from a lot that was mostly cleared and he suddenly had a river running through his property that wasn't there before.

In addition to the effect it has on immediate neighbors, there are issues like loss of habitat for local creatures threatening biodiversity, water and soil retention, and shade, which is valuable on an island that usually has months long summer droughts.

The Islands Trust should have the ability to regulate this activity, for the good of the islands and the people who live here.

Rob McCallum

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Pender Island