



BC Parks



Islands Trust

Letter of Understanding

Between

BC Parks, West Coast Region and Galiano Island Local Trust Committee

The purpose of this letter of understanding, signed by BC Parks, West Coast Region and the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee, is to confirm and affirm the direction BC Parks has for existing and new lands at the north end of Galiano Island, in the vicinity of Dionisio Point Provincial Park and Galiano Bog Ecological Reserve. It is proposed by BC Parks that new lands in this area will ultimately be designated under provincial legislation as an addition to Dionisio Point Park under the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, to be managed under the *Park Act*.

Currently the lands involved include District Lot 87, which is Crown Land under the administration and control of the Ministry of Environment. Should any other new lands be acquired by the Ministry of Environment, through donation or other means, those lands would also be designated as an addition to Dionisio Point Park and placed under the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, to be managed under the *Park Act*. This would include any lands acquired by BC Parks as a result of rezoning applications, such as a portion of lands under consideration under the rezoning application by Landworks Consultant Inc. (Islands Trust File GL-RZ-2013.1).

Islands Trust has the mandate 'to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of the province generally'.

BC Parks has the mandate to protect park lands representing the best natural features and diverse environments in the province and to provide province wide opportunities for a diversity of high quality and safe outdoor recreation that is compatible with protecting the natural environment.

In order to meet the dual mandate of conservation and recreation, management plans are used by BC Parks as the guiding tool for park managers and operations staff to meet the goals of protecting natural environments while providing outdoor recreation that is compatible with the natural environment. The management plans guide management actions and set parameters and conditions for activities, development and protection of the protected area values. Management plans are developed with consultation with First Nations and the public.

Dionisio Point Park is presently managed under the Dionisio Point Provincial Park Master Plan, dated May 1995. Unfortunately, many of the provisions and the management direction within the master plan have not been achieved due to the lack of vehicle access to the park. Also, in the intervening years since the master plan was approved, there has been an increased need for BC Parks to work collaboratively with the Penelakut First Nation in protecting archaeological sites within the park that have been disturbed by park visitors.

Letter of Understanding – BC Parks, West Coast Region and Galiano Island Local Trust Committee

At such time as public road access becomes available to the park, the management direction will be re-evaluated. If there are significant changes required to the management direction from those set out in the current master plan, an amendment to the plan would confirm the new direction and would include public and First Nation consultation. At that time, any new lands that have been added to Dionisio Point Park would similarly be evaluated for management direction. It is the intention of BC Parks to request the Galiano Island trustees to consider participating in future management planning for Dionisio Point Park and new lands added to the park in the vicinity, as part of a planning advisory committee (along with representatives of Galiano Island stakeholder groups).

In the interim, BC Parks is also able to work with a Galiano Island community group, through a Group Partnership Agreement, for maintenance of trails within lands under BC Parks administration and control on Galiano Island.



Don Cadden
Regional Director
West Coast Region, BC Parks

July 17, 2014
Date



Ken Hancock
Chair, Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust

July 29, 2014
Date