

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING
between
THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS
and
ISLANDS TRUST
concerning

**The establishment of Woodlots in the Islands Trust Area that respect the
Object of the Islands Trust while supporting the local island forest
Economic base**

This Letter of Understanding develops an ongoing consultative process between Islands Trust and Ministry of Forests to co-ordinate respective roles related to forestry and environmental protection within the Islands Trust Area.

1.0 PURPOSES

- 1.1 Define decision-making processes based on criteria and objectives that treat all parties openly and fairly.
- 1.2 Share database and mapping resources in a co-ordinated and mutually supportive manner.
- 1.3 Standardize the process for communications between agencies at each level of review and decision-making.
- 1.4 Define a process for Islands Trust involvement during the establishment of the boundaries of a woodlot licence to ensure the exclusion of key areas and development of measures to ensure adequate conservation of the licence area.

2.0 PRINCIPLES

Both parties acknowledge the respective legislative mandate of the other party including:

- 2.1 The object of the Islands Trust is set out in Section 3 of the *Islands Trust Act*

"The object of the trust is 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 British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia."

- 2.2 One of the mandates of the Ministry of Forests, is to administer Ministry policy and promote the development of woodlot licence tenures while protecting sustainability of forest use.

Nothing in this Agreement alters the legislatively mandated roles, responsibilities and duties of either of the parties.

3.0 LAND USE PLANNING PROCESSES

- 3.1 Islands Trust planning processes will provide 30 days for referral of proposed plans or bylaws to the Ministry of Forests for comment.
- 3.2 The Ministry of Forests will provide information as to good or acceptable forestry practices and resource information for consideration by local communities during planning processes.
- 3.3 Islands Trust and the Ministry of Forests will share relevant information from their respective databases in a digitized format.
- 3.4 The areas the Islands Trust has identified as needing protection from disturbance shall be provided to the Ministry of Forests in a GIS database.
- 3.5 Where a local community plan includes support for woodlot opportunities or other forestry activities, the Ministry of Forests will assist the Islands Trust in identifying methods for transshipment of logs.

4.0 REVIEW PROCESSES

- 4.1 The Ministry of Forests will notify Islands Trust 30 days prior to a decision to consider placing certain land into the Provincial forest.
- 4.2 Islands Trust will be provided the opportunity for input into the criteria for evaluating applications for woodlot licences within the Islands Trust Area.
- 4.3 Proposals for the creation of woodlot licences will be circulated to Islands Trust for comment.
- 4.4 Woodlot licence management plans and forest development plans or major amendments to a forest development plan will be referred to Islands Trust for 30 days.
- 4.5 All written comments received from Islands Trust within the 30 day referral period will be addressed by the woodlot licensee prior to the approval of the plan.

5.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 5.1 Either party may request a meeting to discuss outstanding concerns. Such a meeting will occur within ten working days of the request or other time period as may be mutually agreed to by the parties.
- 5.2 The meeting will be arranged with the Forest District staff where possible, or with the Senior Woodlot Forester and Islands Trust Local Trustees and staff if necessary.
- 5.3 The meeting will be arranged with other persons as mutually agreed.

6.0 TERMS

- 6.1 The key persons responsible for the administration of this Letter of Understanding are the Executive Director of the Islands Trust and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations or their designates.
- 6.2 The parties agree that this Letter of Understanding may be amended at any time by mutual consent and may be terminated at any time by either party upon 90 days notice.
- 6.3 On an annual basis, the Executive Director of the Islands Trust and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations Division will meet to review the implementation of this agreement at the request of the Executive Director of the Islands Trust.
- 6.4 The Agreement is not limited to the above signatories and may include other agencies as agreed to by the original signatories.