



Gambier Island Local Trust Committee

Regular Meeting Addendum

Date: July 26, 2018
Time: 10:45 am
Location: Keats Camp - Pilot House
Keats Camp, Keats Island, BC

		Pages
14.	NEW BUSINESS	11:25 AM - 11:55 AM
14.6	<i>Regional Conservation Plan Briefing from the Trust Conservancy</i>	2 - 5



BRIEFING

To: Local Trust Committees and Bowen Island Municipality **For the Meeting of:** July 26, 2018
From: Islands Trust Conservancy **Date Prepared:** July 17, 2018
SUBJECT: Incorporating the Regional Conservation Plan into Land Use Planning

PURPOSE: The Islands Trust Conservancy is providing all local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality with a briefing to provide information on the ways the Islands Trust Conservancy's 2018-2027 Regional Conservation Plan and associated mapping and data can be incorporated into Official Community Plans, Land Use Bylaws and local planning initiatives and projects.

BACKGROUND:

In March, Trust Council endorsed the Islands Trust Fund's Regional Conservation Plan. At its April 2018 meeting, the Trust Fund Board (now Islands Trust Conservancy) passed the following resolution:

That the Trust Fund Board direct staff to provide a briefing to all local trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality requesting that consideration be given to incorporating elements of the 2018-2027 Regional Conservation Plan (including associated data and mapping) into Official Community Plans.

The Regional Conservation Plan contains significant information about regional conservation priorities that could be considered when making land use planning decisions. This information is informed by conservation area modelling, which uses multiple data sets regarding biodiversity priorities and threats to ecosystems. The information is available by local trust area/island municipality.

Why do we have a Regional Conservation Plan?

The rich diversity of life in the Islands Trust Area makes the region ecologically significant, not only locally, but globally. Most of the region is within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone, one of the rarest of British Columbia's 16 biogeoclimatic zones. The Douglas-fir ecosystems of this zone, including Garry oak and associated ecosystems, are globally rare – in the entire world they occur only on the east coast of southern Vancouver Island, the islands of the Georgia Basin, and a small area of the mainland. The Islands Trust Area is also home to several other sensitive and rare ecosystems and hundreds of rare terrestrial and marine plants and animals.

Despite its ecological significance, biodiversity in the Islands Trust Area is exposed to significant threats. With over 68% of the Islands Trust Area in private land ownership and over 3.3 million people living in the surrounding areas, the pressures to develop and change the natural landscape in the islands are substantial.

Because of the significance of the ecosystems found in the Islands Trust Area and the threats they are under, conservation planning is an important tool to ensure that the natural beauty that draws so many to the region is not lost. Since 2005, the work of the Islands Trust Conservancy has been guided by regional conservation plans. These plans have also, in some cases, supported the planning work of the Islands Trust.

What’s in the Regional Conservation Plan?

The Regional Conservation Plan provides background on the ecosystems in the Islands Trust Area, evaluates their current status, identifies priorities and threats, and sets goals and objectives for the Islands Trust Conservancy for the next ten years. The goals identified in the 2018-2027 Regional Conservation Plan are:

1. Identify, investigate and communicate about important natural areas to generate action on conservation priorities
2. Strengthen relationships with First Nations to identify and collaborate on shared conservation goals
3. Continue to secure and manage Islands Trust Conservancy lands and conservation covenants to maximize ecological integrity
4. Continue to build internal and shared organizational strength and resilience to ensure long-term nature conservation in the Islands Trust Area

There are island profiles in Appendix II of the RCP with information specific to each local trust committee area and Bowen Island.

How can the Regional Conservation Plan support land use planning?

The Regional Conservation Plan can help trustees and planners identify opportunities and inform priorities for land use planning activities across the Islands Trust. During the 2018-2022 local government term, each Islands Trust LTC/IM will identify top priorities for land use planning activities and should ensure that existing Official Community Plans and Land Use Bylaws meet the goals of the Islands Trust Policy Statement and support the goals of the Regional Conservation Plan.

LTCs and BIM can use the following table to identify land use planning projects to initiate during the 2018-2022 term to advance the Islands Trust Policy Statement Goal: *to Foster preservation and protection of the Trust Area’s ecosystems* and the directive policies:

Directive Policy	Available resources (Regional Conservation Plan, mapping, etc.):	What can LTCs/IM do with this information?
3.1 Ecosystems		
<p>3.1.3</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws <i>address the identification and protection of the environmentally sensitive areas and significant natural sites, features and landforms in their planning area.</i></p>	<p>The Regional Conservation Plan highlights the following as biodiversity priorities for the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive ecosystems • Healthy forests • Species and ecosystems at risk • Marine shorelines and nearshore areas • Islets and small islands • Size, corridors and connectivity to other protected areas <p>Available information and data/mapping to support these directive policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated Sensitive 	<p>Development of maps; Official Community Plan (OCP) policy language and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) regulations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas • Identify and protect significant natural sites/features/landforms • Support the development of protected area networks (or “greenways”) • Identify contiguous forest cover <p>Designate Development Permit Areas (DPAs) to protect environmentally sensitive areas</p>
<p>3.1.4</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws <i>address the planning, establishment, and maintenance of a network of protected areas that preserve the representative ecosystems of their planning area and maintain their ecological integrity.</i></p>		

	<p>Ecosystem Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species at Risk/Critical Habitat Mapping • Ecosystem Disturbance Mapping • Priority Lands for Conservation (regional scale) 	<p>and significant natural features</p> <p>Prioritize bylaw investigation and enforcement on matters negatively impacting ecosystem health</p>
3.2 Forest Ecosystems		
<p>3.2.2</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws: <i>address the protection of unfragmented forest ecosystems within their local planning areas from potentially adverse impacts of growth, development and land-use.</i></p>	<p>Available information and data/mapping to support this directive policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of Forested Ecosystems, including forest type and age • Regional Conservation Plan: Biodiversity Priorities; Forest Ecosystem descriptions and statistics • RCP Island Profiles: Sensitive Ecosystems, Forest Ecosystems and Ecosystem Disturbance for each LTA/BIM 	<p>Designate DPAs to protect unfragmented forest ecosystems</p> <p>Reduce site coverage density in land use bylaws</p> <p>Negotiate covenants to protect contiguous forest as conditions of rezoning</p> <p>Integrate conservation subdivision principles into land use bylaw requirements for subdivision (lot clustering, density transfer, conservation planning)</p> <p>Prioritize bylaw investigation and enforcement on matters negatively impacting forest ecosystems</p> <p>Adopt Tree Protection Bylaws (for municipalities)</p>
3.3 Freshwater and Wetland Ecosystems and Riparian Zones		
<p>3.3.2</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws: <i>address means to prevent further loss or degradation of freshwater bodies or watercourses, wetlands and riparian zones and to protect aquatic wildlife.</i></p>	<p>Available information and data/mapping to support this directive policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of Sensitive Ecosystems, including wetlands, freshwater and riparian • RCP: Island Profiles - Sensitive Ecosystems • Watershed mapping • Water courses mapping (TRIM) • Riparian Areas Regulation data/mapping in select areas 	<p>Designate DPA's to protect sensitive freshwater, wetland and riparian areas</p> <p>Implement the <i>Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)</i> including protection of non RAR watercourses</p> <p>Develop LUB setbacks from water bodies</p> <p>Develop LUB landscape buffers along water bodies</p> <p>Implement freshwater planning tools and regulations available in the <i>Water Sustainability Act</i></p> <p>Develop aquifer mapping and water budgets</p>

		<p>Designate DPAs for water conservation for all new construction/development</p> <p>Prioritize bylaw investigation and enforcement on matters negatively impacting freshwater, wetland and riparian ecosystems</p>
3.4 Coastal and Marine Ecosystems		
<p>3.4.4</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws: <i>address the protection of sensitive coastal areas.</i></p>	<p>Available information and data/mapping to support these directive policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eelgrass mapping • Forage fish habitat mapping (for some islands) • Species at Risk Critical Habitat Mapping – Southern Resident Orca • Shorezone mapping • New Sand Ecosystems Mapping • Dock mapping (point data) 	<p>Include mapping of marine ecosystems in OCPs and policies for regulation of development in sensitive coastal areas</p> <p>Designate DPAs to protect sensitive coastal areas and the intertidal zone</p> <p>Include DPA guidelines that address fragmentation of the coastline by subdivision</p> <p>Amend LUBs to create landscape buffers along the shoreline</p> <p>Increase LUB setbacks from the natural boundary of the sea based on the provincial 2100 sea level rise predictions</p> <p>Amend LUBs to limit development of private docks/ structures in the marine zones</p> <p>Prioritize bylaw investigation and enforcement on matters negatively impacting coastal and marine ecosystems</p>
<p>3.4.5</p> <p>LTCs/IMs shall, in their OCPs and regulatory bylaws: <i>address the planning for and regulation of development in coastal regions to protect natural coastal processes.</i></p>		

ATTACHMENT(S):

No attachments. For reference, the 2018-2027 Regional Conservation Plan is available online [here](#).

FOLLOW-UP:

- Consider this briefing when establishing work program priorities
- Request planning advice on how to integrate conservation data and mapping resources when considering applications, projects, etc.
- Local trust committees/island municipalities wishing to create specific maps using conservation modeling (land prioritization based on multiple data sets) or ecosystem mapping should request assistance from ITC and GIS staff.

Prepared By: Jennifer Eliason, Islands Trust Conservancy Manager

Reviewed By/Date: Regional Planning Managers and Director of Local Planning Services/July 3, 2018
 Clare Frater, Director of Trust Area Services/July 9, 2018
 Islands Trust Conservancy Board/July 17, 2018