



Trust Fund Board

Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Location: Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

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1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
3. CLOSED MEETING	
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7. NEW BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on February 7, 2017 at 10:00 am.

9. ADJOURNMENT

*Approximate time is provided for the convenience of the public only and is subject to change without notice



Trust Fund Board Minutes of Regular Meeting

Date: Monday, September 19, 2016
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Islands Trust Victoria Boardroom
200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC

Board Members Present
Tony Law, Chair
Ronald Bertrand
Kate-Louise Stamford (by teleconference)
Susan Morrison
Hoops Harrison

Staff Present
Jennifer Eliason, Islands Trust Fund Manager
Kate Emmings, Ecosystem Protection Specialist
Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist
Corlynn Strachan, Secretary
Crystal Oberg, Communications & Fundraising Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Law called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, welcomed the new appointed Trust Fund Board member, Hoops Harrison, and initiated introductions.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following agenda items were added under item 6.2 Items for Discussion:

- Item 6.2.2 Draft 2017 Trust Fund Board Meeting Dates
- Item 6.2.3 TFB Holding Property for Affordable Housing Purposes
- Item 6.2.4 Questions from TFB Member Stamford

Due to possible time constraints, agenda items under item 6.2 Items for Discussion were moved to discussion after item 6.4 Updates for Information.

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. CLOSED MEETING

The Trust Fund Board convened the closed portion of the meeting at 10:10 am and resumed in open meeting at 12:12 pm to Rise and Report.

TFB-2016-028

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, section 90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the Trust Fund Board; and that Jennifer Eliason, Kate Emmings, Nuala Murphy, Corlynn Strachan, and Crystal Oberg be invited to remain in the meeting.

CARRIED

4. RISE AND REPORT

The Trust Fund Board reported on the following items:

- The Trust Fund Board approved a conservation proposal to covenant approximately 2 hectares on Isabella Point, Salt Spring Island.
- The Trust Fund Board directed staff to proceed with the purchase of a 21-hectare property on Thetis Island.
- The Trust Fund Board approved a conservation proposal to covenant approximately 26 hectares on Reginald Hill, Salt Spring Island.
- The Trust Fund Board accepted the Islands Trust Fund Covenant Monitoring Report 2016.
- The Trust Fund Board will monitor but take no action regarding the conservation of Owl Island at this time.

5. MINUTES/COORDINATION

5.1 Minutes of Meetings/Resolutions without Meetings

5.1.1 Approval of the July 19, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

By general consent, the Trust Fund Board regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2016 were adopted.

5.2 Follow-up Action List

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Follow-up Action List for information.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 Items for Approval

- 6.1.1 Islands Trust Fund Nature Reserve and NAPTEP Monitoring Report 2016
The ITF Property Management Specialist reported “no significant issues were identified” but highlighted a few issues that will be followed up on by staff.

TFB-2016-029

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Trust Fund Board accept the “Islands Trust Fund Nature Reserve and NAPTEP Monitoring Report 2016”.

CARRIED

- 6.1.2 2017-2018 Budget Request

The ITF Manager reviewed the formula for estimating property management costs, emphasizing the need to request an increase to the property management budget to maintain current management levels.

TFB-2016-030

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that the Trust Fund Board request an increase of \$5,000 to the Property Management Budget in 2017-2018.

CARRIED

6.2 Items for Discussion/Direction

6.2.1 Process to Recognize First Nations Rights and Interests in Islands Trust Fund Policies, Key Documents and Communications

Member Morrison briefed Board members on three resolutions recently passed by the Executive Committee regarding First Nations reconciliation, and discussed a project charter that will be developed to guide this work. Board members identified that the Trust Fund Board should be part of the same project charter to ensure a consistent approach across the organization. Staff reported they are working with the Senior Intergovernmental Policy Analyst, Fiona MacRaild, on the management plans in progress to improve recognition of First Nations rights and interests in ITF's key documents.

6.2.2 Draft 2017 Trust Fund Board Meeting Dates

Board members reviewed the draft meeting dates. The dates noted below are preferred dates to be approved at the November Trust Fund Board meeting.

Tuesday, February 7

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday, May 30

Tuesday, July 18

Tuesday, September 26

Tuesday, November 21

6.2.3 Trust Fund Board Holding Property for Affordable Housing Purposes

Chair Law reported on a resolution of Trust Council asking all entities of the Islands Trust to consider their potential role in holding land for affordable housing. Board members agreed that the Trust Fund Board is no better suited to hold land for this purpose than any other entity of the Islands Trust. Board members discussed that while Islands Trust Fund staff have natural area management expertise, this is very different from residential property management, and that for the Trust Fund Board to become involved in affordable housing would require a complete revision of the Islands Trust Fund's mission, strategic planning documents and policies, as well as additional staffing. Board members also discussed that there may be unique projects that achieve both conservation and affordable housing goals through collaboration with other agencies.

Member Morrison will report to the Executive Committee on the discussion.

6.2.4 Questions from TFB Member Stamford

Board members did not discuss this item due to limited meeting time. Member Stamford agreed to coordinate with the ITF Manager to defer items to the November meeting agenda.

6.3 Correspondence

6.3.1 Trans Canada Trail/Salish Sea Marine Trail Email and Briefing

Board members accepted the letter for information and discussed a response letter from staff.

- 6.3.2 Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)
Response to CDFCP Steering Committee
Board members accepted the correspondence for information.

6.4 Updates for Information

6.4.1 Public Acquisitions Update

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Public Acquisitions Report for information.

6.4.2 Public Covenants Update

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Public Covenants Report for information.

6.4.3 Communication and Fundraising Report

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Communication and Fundraising Report for information.

6.4.4 Property Management Specialist Report

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Property Management Specialist Report for information.

6.4.5 Budget Report

The Trust Fund Board reviewed the Budget Report for information.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on November 22, 2016 at 10:00 am.

9. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

Tony Law, Chair

Certified Correct:

Corlynn Strachan, Secretary

Follow Up Action Report

Trust Fund Board

24-Sep-2010

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Staff to work with landowners to clarify wording of Cunningham Covenant regarding vegetation removal, while maintaining conservation as a priority.	Jennifer Eliason	30-Sep-2011	On Going

26-May-2011

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Staff to continue working with senior Islands Trust staff to find an opportunity to put forward a request to amend the Islands Trust Act to create the Islands Trust Conservancy.	Jennifer Eliason	30-Jun-2017	On Going

31-Mar-2015

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Staff to prepare possible revisions to the Trust Council Procedure 2.1.xxi Administration of the Crown Land Acquisition Initiative.	Jennifer Eliason	31-Dec-2016	On Going

20-Jul-2015

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Staff to consider referencing the CDFCP Conservation Strategy in the next Regional Conservation Plan.	Kate Emmings	01-Dec-2017	On Going

28-Sep-2015

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
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Follow Up Action Report

Seek injunction by submitting a Notice of Application re TFB-IC-2015-043	Jennifer Eliason Nuala Murphy	31-Dec-2015	On Going
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19-Jul-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Audited Financial Statements to be provided to Trust Council at December 2016 meeting	Jennifer Eliason	30-Nov-2016	On Going
September 2016 meeting of the Trust Fund Board include discussion of a possible process to incorporate recognition of First Nations rights and interests in Islands Trust Fund policies, key documents and communications.	Jennifer Eliason	19-Sep-2016	Done
Trust Fund Board requests the CAO of the Islands Trust to enable the Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor to provide advice to the Trust Fund Board on key elements of recognizing First Nations rights and interests in Islands Trust Fund policies, key documents and communications.	Russ Hotsenpiller Jennifer Eliason	19-Sep-2016	On Going

19-Sep-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Staff to proceed with purchase of 21-hectare property on Thetis Island.	Jennifer Eliason	31-Dec-2016	On Going
Staff to develop short slide show for use of staff and board to highlight 100 conservation properties	Crystal Oberg	22-Nov-2016	On Going
Staff to write to Salish Sea Marine Trail group to clarify that TFB conservation properties are not suitable for increased recreational use.	Jennifer Eliason	15-Oct-2016	Done
Trustee Morrison will convey to Executive Committee Trust Fund Board interest in being included in project charter to guide work towards First Nations reconciliation, to ensure consistent approach throughout organization	Susan Morrison	22-Nov-2016	On Going
Trustee Morrison will report to Executive Committee of TFB discussion regarding holding land for affordable housing.	Susan Morrison	22-Nov-2016	On Going

Follow Up Action Report

20-Sep-2016

Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Status
Trust Fund Board requests an increase of \$5,000 to the Property Management Budget in 2017-2018.	Jennifer Eliason	01-Oct-2016	Done



TRUST FUND BOARD REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE: November 2, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: 2017 Trust Fund Board Meeting Dates

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust Fund Board approves the 2017 Meeting Schedule, as attached.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: None

FINANCIAL: None

POLICY: None

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Approved meeting schedule will be posted to the website and relevant calendars.

BACKGROUND

REPORT/DOCUMENT: Proposed 2017 Trust Fund Board Meeting Schedule

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S): Meeting schedule

RELEVANT POLICY: [TFB Bylaw 1: A Bylaw to Regulate the Meetings of the Trust Fund Board](#)

DESIRED OUTCOME: Approved meeting schedule for 2017

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommended: As above

Alternatives: Approve as amended

Prepared By: Corlynn Strachan
ITF Secretary

Reviewed By: Jennifer Eliason
ITF Manager

2017 TRUST FUND BOARD MEETING DATES

February Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, February 7	Victoria	10:00 am – 2:30pm

April Meeting – Annual meeting with the Executive Committee

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, April 4	Victoria	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
Joint TFB/EC	Victoria	1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

May Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, May 30	Victoria	10:00 am – 12:30 pm

July Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, July 18	Victoria	10:00 am – 2:30 pm

September Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, September 26	Victoria	10:00 am – 2:30 pm

November Meeting

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Tuesday, November 21	Victoria	10:00 am – 2:30 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT 2017 DATES TO NOTE

Trust Council Meetings

March 14-16	Denman Island
June 20-22	Lasqueti Island
September 12-14	Gabriola Island
December 5-7	Victoria

FPC Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 17
Tuesday, February 28
Wednesday, May 24
Wednesday, August 23
Wednesday, October 18
Wednesday, November 15

Stat Holidays 2017

Monday, January 2
Monday, February 13
Friday, April 14
Monday, April 17
Monday, May 22
Monday, July 3
Tuesday, August 1
Monday, September 4
Monday, October 9
Monday, November 13
Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26

Executive Committee Meetings

Wednesday, January 18
Wednesday, February 8
Wednesday, March 1
Wednesday, April 5
Wednesday, April 26 9:30 am (Salt Spring Office)
Wednesday, May 17
Wednesday, June 7
Wednesday, July 12
Wednesday, August 2, 10:00 am (Gabriola Office)
Wednesday, August 30
Wednesday, October 4
Wednesday, October 25, 10:00 am (Gabriola Office)
Wednesday, November 8
Wednesday, November 22



TRUST FUND BOARD REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE: November 10, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Management Plan, Salt Spring Island

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust Fund Board approve the 2016 Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Management Plan.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: This management plan will guide the management of this property and assist staff in budgeting property management funds.

FINANCIAL: The property management budget is allocated each year depending on available funds and the work that is most needed, balanced between all TFB properties. Historically this nature reserve has required very little funds, due to limited public access and the efforts of a holistic approach by the Mount Tuam Special Management Area Team and the sharing of information and resources.

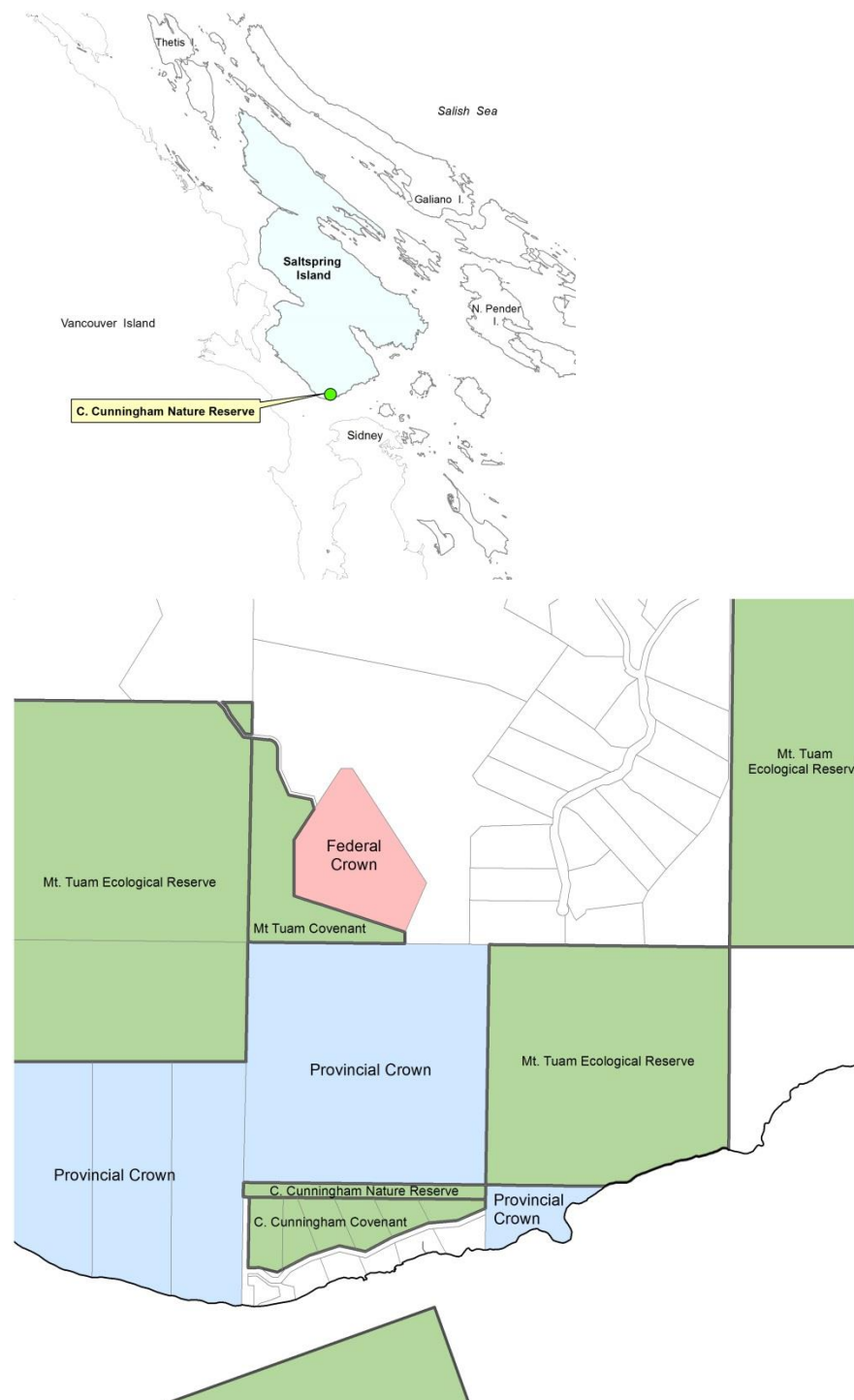
POLICY: Consistent with policy

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Staff will provide the final version of the management plan to the covenant holders, Salt Spring Island Conservancy and Habitat Acquisition Trust, for their final approval. The management plan will also be provided to TFB's property monitors and will be posted to the ITF website.

BACKGROUND

The Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectares (9.49 acres) area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. The Trust Fund Board have managed the property since it was donated in 1994 and this is the third revision of the plan. A Section 219 Conservation Covenant

and Section 218 Statutory Right of Way in favour of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) were registered on the reserve in 2014.



Islands Trust Fund policy (TFB 2.3) indicates that “The Board will prepare and approve a management plan for each property it acquires as a Nature Reserve. The Board will approve a management plan for its properties within one year of acquisition, and will update each management plan approximately every 10 years”. Islands Trust Fund management plans:

- Provide general and descriptive information on the property, including location, history, and land use;
- Set out the conservation goals and objectives for the property;
- Identify the property's ecological and/or cultural values and features;
- Describe the management issues associated with the property; and,
- Provide short, medium and long-term management recommendations (action items or tasks) on issues such as: invasive species management; species at risk protection; public access and safety; educational and research opportunities; and signage needs.

The ecological inventory that was used for the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Management Plan was completed by a local biologist on Salt Spring Island and it also made the basis of the ecological baseline report for the conservation covenant registered in 2014. Updates to the report have been made to allow for more recent discoveries on the reserve and for changes that have been made to the federal and provincial rankings of Species at Risk. The management plan will continue to take into consideration new findings in species and management techniques over the course of the lifetime of the plan. The plan has been reviewed by SSIC and HAT staff and will go to their Board of Directors for review and final approval when approved by the TFB.

The reserve is habitat to one known provincially-listed Species at Risk, blue-listed leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*). There were also four provincially-listed rare plant communities found, Douglas-fir/Arbutus (CDFmm02), Douglas-fir/Salal (CDFmm01), Garry Oak/Brome(CDFmm00) and Western Redcedar/ Douglas-fir/Oregon Beaked Moss (CDFmm05) which are all red listed.

The Islands Trust Fund objectives for the management of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve are to:

- Preserve the natural features and functions of the land;
- Protect and, where necessary and feasible, restore the plant and animal communities and ecological processes at the reserve;
- Permit only uses that do not significantly impair the natural condition of the reserve or its special features such as management of invasive species or monitoring to guide management actions;
- Support ongoing inventory, mapping and monitoring to guide management provided it does not interfere with Species at Risk protection.

Management Plan action items are measurable and achievable tasks that the ITF can complete to ensure that the protected area is managed in the best possible way. The following management action items are based on the public consultation and recommendations made in this management plan and listed in priority sequence, subject to available funding resources.

Immediate Actions (1-2 years)

1. Continue to conduct annual site visits to monitor covenant compliance and identify management concerns.
2. Continue to collaborate with Mount Tuam SMART to limit trespassing, maintain signs, communicate wildfire suppression preferences, identify

- unauthorized users, deliver public outreach and determine restoration and management protocols.
3. Continue to map and remove invasive species as funding allows.
 4. Install a sign at the southeast corner property boundary.
 5. Conduct Species at Risk inventories to inform management decisions as funding allows and seek out protection initiatives that have been developed for these species.

Short term Actions (3-5 years)

1. Support ongoing research to inform management provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.
2. Conduct monitoring for Species at Risk, invasive species and other management concerns subject to available resources.
3. Work with BC Hydro, Telus, and the Victoria Airport Authority to develop Best Management Practices for clearing utility line right of way to minimize negative impacts to Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve and the adjacent conservation covenants.

Long term Actions (5+ years)

1. Subject to funding, develop strategies to enhance and restore the habitat of the Garry Oak meadows.

REPORT/DOCUMENT: 2016_11_09_Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Management Plan_Final Draft

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S): Active and responsible management of TFB lands

RELEVANT POLICY: TFB 2.3 Acquisition and Management of Land Procedure 2.3.2 Management Preparations for ITF Properties and Property Interests

DESIRED OUTCOME: Clear management guidelines for TFB lands with site specific and site appropriate management planning.

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommended: As above.

Alternatives: That the Trust Fund Board approve the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Management Plan as amended.

Prepared By: Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist

Reviewed By: Jennifer Eliason
Manager, Islands Trust Fund

**Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve
Property Management Plan
Salt Spring Island**



Prepared by the



**Approved by
the Trust Fund Board, xxx, 2016
Resolution # TFB-201x-xx
Salt Spring Island Conservancy, xx, 2016, and
Habitat Acquisition Trust, xx, 2016**

i. Executive Summary

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectare (9.49 acre) area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. The reserve is on Mt. Tuam and is within the asserted traditional territory of 13 First Nations and 2 Treaty Groups. Coast Salish First Nations have had a presence on these lands for thousands of years¹.

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve was transferred to the Islands Trust Fund Board (TFB) in 1994 by the Cunningham family and associates after establishing a subdivision on their Cape Keppel property. A Section 219 Conservation Covenant and Section 218 Statutory Right of Way in favour of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) were registered on the reserve in 2014.

The reserve is part of a 400 hectare continuous area of protected and provincial land known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA). The SMA is being cooperatively managed by a multi-jurisdictional group known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team (SMART). Four provincially red-listed plant communities have been identified to date as well the blue-listed leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*).

The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) manages nature reserves and protected areas to ensure that ecological communities and native species are protected in perpetuity. The management vision for Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is to protect the unique ecological values in perpetuity in order to support a diverse range of native plants and animals. The current threats to this vision include off-road vehicle traffic, overgrazing, invasive species and conifer encroachment associated with fire suppression.

In order to achieve the management vision, the following actions are recommended as resources permit:

1. Conduct annual site visits to monitor covenant compliance and identify management concerns.
2. Work with BC Hydro, Telus, and the Victoria Airport Authority to develop Best Management Practices for managing the utility line right of way to minimize negative impacts to the reserve as well as the conservation covenants to the south of the reserve.

¹ The Trust Fund Board recognizes that the language commonly used to refer to land is disrespectful to First Nations. For example, notions of 'private' and 'Crown' land do not appropriately recognize aboriginal title and infer a belief in the concept of *terra nullius*, the idea that land was not owned prior to the assertion of European sovereignty. The Trust Fund Board acknowledges that *terra nullius* is a concept that doesn't apply to the Islands Trust Area and in the absence of more appropriate language, uses the terms 'private' and 'Crown' land to mean land that is currently managed by either private individuals/agencies or the government.

3. Develop strategies to managing invasive species in the Garry Oak meadows and in the utility line right of way
4. Support ongoing research to inform management, provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.

The action items will be addressed in priority sequence by Islands Trust Fund staff as resources permit.

ii. Tables, Lists and Maps

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Acknowledgements

The Islands Trust Fund acknowledges the vision and generosity of the Cunningham family, protecting this land as a nature reserve.

The Islands Trust Fund would like to thank Carrina Maslovat for providing the ecological inventory and management recommendations for the management plan.

1.0 Introduction

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectare (9.49 acre) area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. It is a long East-West strip that runs a steep course across the lower slopes of Mount Tuam directly above Cape Keppel. It includes about 0.32 ha of open rock outcrop and 3.52 ha of second-growth forest.

The reserve is owned by the Trust Fund Board who work with the covenant co-holders, Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) and Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) to manage the property in order to protect the unique ecological values of the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.

1.1. Islands Trust Fund (ITF) and the Trust Fund Board (TFB)

In 1974 the Province of British Columbia recognized the islands between Vancouver Island and the mainland as a special place within the province where the unique beauty, rural character and diverse ecosystems should be protected for future generations. Through the *Islands Trust Act*, the province established the Islands Trust, a local government, with the following mandate (known as the Object of the Islands Trust):

“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” (Islands Trust 2015).

In 1990, through the enactment of a section of *Islands Trust Act*, the ITF was established as a conservation land trust to assist in carrying out the “preserve and protect” mandate. Part 6 of the *Islands Trust Act* establishes the corporate status, responsibilities, and governance structure of the TFB. The TFB is one of fifteen corporate entities² charged to uphold the Object of the Islands Trust. It is responsible for the actions of the ITF and since 1990 has protected over 1,184 hectares (2,926 acres) of land as nature reserves and conservation covenants.

² The Corporate entities charged to uphold the Object of the Islands Trust include the Trust Council, twelve local trust committees, one island municipality and the TFB.

The vision of the ITF is that the islands and waters of the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound will be a vibrant tapestry of culture and ecology where humans live and work in harmony with the natural world. This special place will have a network of protected areas that preserve in perpetuity the native species and natural systems of the islands. Engaged residents and conservation partners will work together to protect large natural areas and key wildlife habitat. Viable ecosystems will flourish alongside healthy island communities.

The mission of the ITF is to protect special places by encouraging, undertaking and assisting in voluntary conservation initiatives within the Islands Trust Area. ITF Nature Reserves are managed to maintain, preserve and protect the natural features and values of ecosystems. This level of protection is similar to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area Category 1B: Wilderness area:

“large area of unmodified or slightly modified land and/or sea; retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed in order to preserve its natural condition” (Lockwood, 2006).

1.2 Purpose of Islands Trust Fund Management Plans

ITF management plans provide background information and set out the direction of property management as follows:

- Provide general and descriptive information on the property, including location, history, and land use;
- Set out the conservation goals and objectives for the property;
- Identify the property's ecological and/or cultural values and features;
- Describe the management issues associated with the property; and,
- Provide short, medium and long-term management recommendations (action items or tasks) on issues such as: Species at Risk protection; ecological restoration; public access; educational and research opportunities; invasive species management; and signage needs.

Once the management plan process is complete, the ITF will work to carry out the management actions or strategies identified in the plan, as resources allow. Following general practice and as outlined in the conservation covenant and statutory right of way, the ITF will revise the Management Plan every ten years.

1.3 Nature Reserve Purpose

The purpose of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is to:

- Preserve and protect the natural values of the forest and its connections to surrounding protected area;
- Protect populations of provincially blue-listed leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*) and the four rare plant communities identified to date, as well as any potential Species at Risk that may be discovered in future surveys;

- Allow natural succession of the reserve's ecosystems to occur unimpeded without human intervention, except in the case of wildfire or other exceptional situations where remediation is considered imperative; and,
- Protect the site in accordance with the objectives outlined in Section 1.4.

1.4 Nature Reserve Objectives

The Islands Trust Fund objectives for the management of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve are to:

- Preserve the natural features and functions of the land;
- Protect and, where necessary and feasible, restore the plant and animal communities and ecological processes at the reserve;
- Permit only uses that do not significantly impair the natural condition of the reserve or its special features such as management of invasive species or monitoring to guide management actions;
- Support ongoing inventory, mapping and monitoring to guide management provided it does not interfere with Species at Risk protection.

2.0 Property Information

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectare area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. This strip of land runs a steep course across the lower slopes of Mount Tuam directly above the northern boundary of the Strata Lots below (map in Figure 2). There is a right of way in favour of the Government of Canada through the eastern portion of the reserve for access to navigation equipment in the provincial Crown land to the north (map in Figure 4). The right of way also permits maintenance of utility lines. The reserve is within the asserted traditional territory of 13 Coast Salish First Nations.

2.1 Location

To reach the property from the B.C. Ferry dock in Fulford Harbour drive north on the Fulford Ganges Road to the head of Fulford Harbour then bear left up Isabella Point Road for about 4 km to Mountain Road on the right. From here it is approximately 6.5 km on a rough road to the terminus where a gate designates the private land, Strata Lot 1 (map in Figure 2). A walk straight uphill from here will reveal the eastern boundary of the reserve.

2.2 Legal Description

Parcel Identifier Number: 018-650-422

Lot B, Section 32, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP 58173

2.3 Local and Regional Context

The reserve is part of a 400 hectare continuous area of protected, federal and provincial land known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA). The SMA is being cooperatively managed by a multi-jurisdictional group known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team (SMART). As a whole, this area faces the same external threats including off-road vehicle traffic, overgrazing, and conifer encroachment associated with fire suppression.

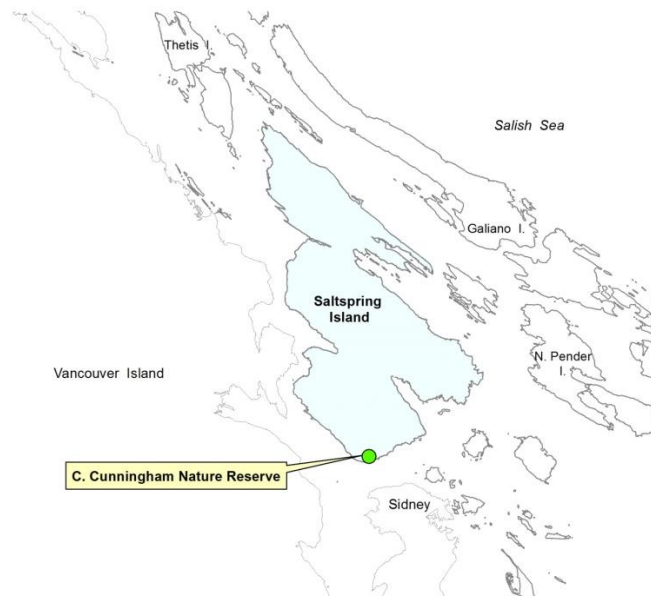


Figure 1. Location of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in relation to surrounding Gulf Islands



Figure 2. Location of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in relation to surrounding properties

2.4 Adjacent Land Use and Connectivity

The Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is part of the Mount Tuam Special Management Area (boundary shown in Figure 4). A group of adjacent property owners and other stakeholders, collectively known as the Mt. Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team (SMART), work collaboratively to manage the ecological values on Mount Tuam, including Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve. This group is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding as well as a Management and Restoration Plan (Maslovat 2011).



Figure 3. Location of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in relation to surrounding protected areas

Directly north and west of the reserve is provincial crown land. Federal Crown land at the top of Mount Tuam is administered by Transport Canada and leased to Nav Canada for the operation of navigation equipment. Nav Canada subleases the site to telecommunication corporations, Rogers and Telus, for communication towers and the Victoria Airport Authority operates aviation beacons on this land. A conservation covenant on privately owned land, known as the Mt. Tuam Protected Area, protects 13.4 hectares near the summit of Mount Tuam.

Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve (administered by BC Parks) is to the east and west of the nature reserve. Trust Fund Board also holds a conservation covenant on the six private lots to the south of the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve, noted as the C. Cunningham Covenant in Figure 3.

The SMA is defined as follows:

“A SMA is an area defined by ecological boundaries rather than property lines in order to allow efficient and appropriate ecologically based management.” (Maslovat 2011).

Mt. Tuam Special Management Area: Species at Risk and other features, October 2013

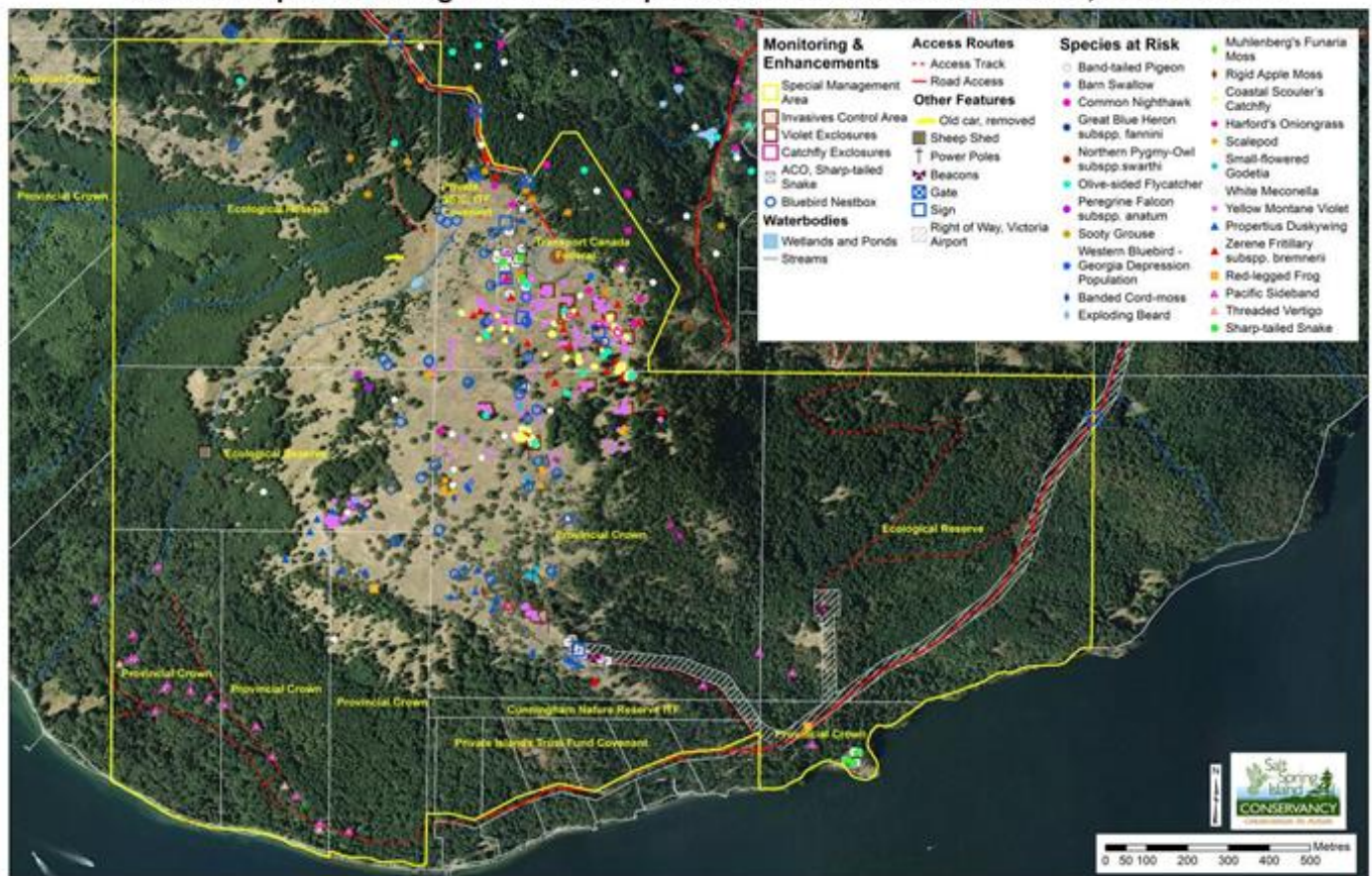


Figure 4. Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA), October 2013 Outline of SMA shown in yellow.

2.5 Site History

2.5.1 Pre-Contact

For over 10,000 years local First Nations have had an integral connection to the islands in the Trust area and the surrounding waters. “When the tide is out, the table is set” is an expression found in several of the local Indigenous languages that refers to one of many ways in which these resource-rich islands were used to feed and sustain their communities. There were places known for deer hunting, places for duck hunting, clam gardens that belonged to certain families, reef net fishing sites, special places for spiritual ceremonies, and so much more. The Island Trust Fund is committed to better understanding the First Nations’ connection to the land and water of the islands. Even though we are just beginning to understand the historical and current connection First Nations have with these islands, we are doing so with a sense of humility and sincerity in honouring those connections.

According to the BC Provincial Consultative Areas Database, Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is located within the asserted traditional territories of the following 13 First Nations and two treaty groups:

- Cowichan Tribes
- Halalt First Nation
- Lake Cowichan First Nation
- Lyackson First Nation
- Malahat First Nation
- Pauquachin First Nation
- Penelakut Tribe
- Semiahmoo First Nation
- Stz'uminus First Nation (Chemainus)
- Tsawwassen First Nation
- Tsartlip First Nation
- Tsawout First Nation
- Tseycum First Nation
- Te'Mexw Treaty Association
- Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group

It is likely that the site was used extensively by First Nations because Mount Tuam is known to be a significant place in terms of physical and spiritual power. Further communication is needed to better understand the traditional First Nation’s use of the reserve and the Mount Tuam area.

2.5.2 Previous Landowners

Mount Tuam first appears on a surveyor’s map in 1874 where it is described (along with adjacent Mount Bruce and Mount Sullivan) as “range of mountains 1000 to 2000 feet in

height suitable for sheep run” (Green, 1874). The area had a history of being used for free-ranging livestock until 2010 when adjacent landowners removed the majority of feral livestock (one feral goat and 45 sheep) from the open meadows on Mount Tuam. The few remaining sheep were removed in 2011.

The Cunningham family purchased the property which included what is now the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in 1979-1980 and used it as a recreational property. Prior to that time, it was owned by Bob Akerman, who ranged sheep on the open meadows of Mount Tuam.

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve was transferred to the Islands Trust Fund Board (TFB) in 1994 by the Cunningham family and associates after the completion of approval to establish a subdivision on their Cape Keppel property. Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve (Lot B) is approximately 15% of the original parcel, the remainder of which (Strata Lot A) was divided into Strata Lots 1-5, common property and a road link to each lot (map in Figure 2).

2.5.3 Forestry

From examining historic air photos, it is clear that the entire forested portion of the reserve, excluding Vegetation Type 3 (see Figure 6) was logged prior to 1953, probably at some time during the 1940s. Although a few isolated older Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees remain, the vast majority of the forest is younger and there are stumps throughout the area.

There is an unusual stand of pure Arbutus. The shade intolerant Arbutus may be replaced by Douglas-fir which is present as seedlings in the understory. Over time, the area will return to a mature Coastal Douglas-fir forest with some variation in dominant tree species depending on soil depth and moisture.

2.6 Undersurface Rights

Undersurface rights for Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve are not mentioned in the title.

2.7 Charges, Liens and Interests

2.7.1 Right of Way

A Right of Way was filed on the property on March 23, 1964 in favour of Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Land Title Office 1964). This Right of Way ensures access to a hazard beacon site north of the reserve. The Grantee may, “...enter into and upon the said parcel or tract of land for the purposes of constructing and maintaining an access road for the purposes of constructing and maintaining an access road through the aforesaid hazard beacon site and for the purposes of erecting power and/or telephone poles and lines and of keeping and maintaining them at all times in good condition and repair...”.

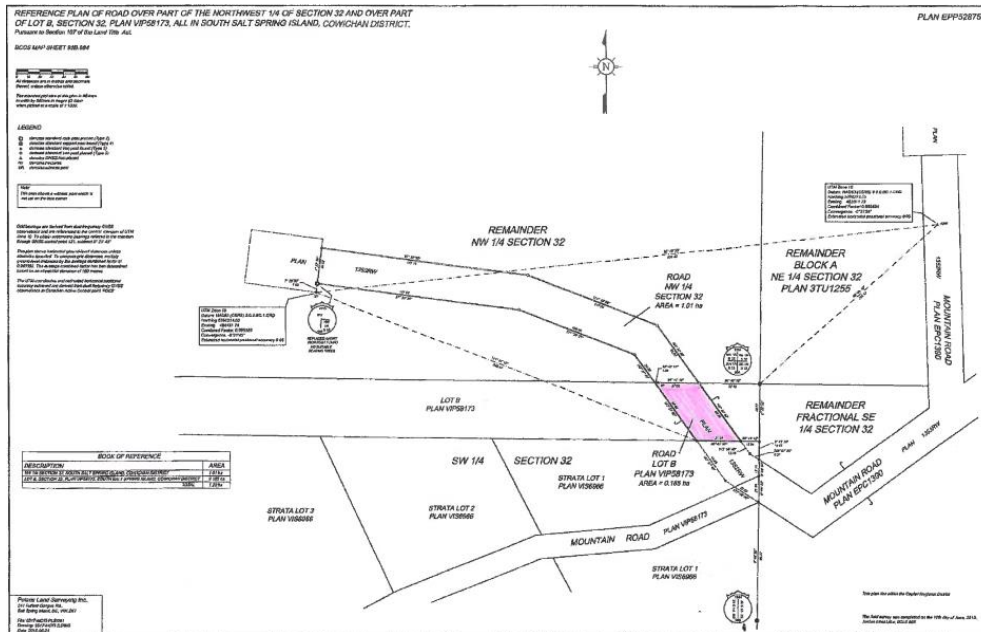


Figure 5. Survey of Right of Way over the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve

2.7.4 Conservation Covenant and Statutory Right of Way

A Section 219 Conservation Covenant and Section 218 Statutory Right of Way were registered on the Title on September 10th, 2014 in favor of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and Habitat Acquisition Trust (Land Title Office 2014). The general intent of the Agreement is:

- “a) to protect, preserve, conserve, maintain, enhance and, if applicable from time to time restore, the natural state of the Land and the Amenities as described in the Report; and*
- b) to prevent any occupation or use of the Land that will impair or interfere with the natural state of the Land or the Amenities as described in the (Baseline) Report”*

According to Section 4.2, the owner must not:

- “a) use or permit the use of the Land for an activity which:*
 - i. causes or allows silts, leachates, fills or other deleterious substances to be released into any watercourse on the Land;*
 - ii. causes the erosion of the Land to occur;*
 - iii. causes or facilitates the loss of soil on the Land;*
 - iv. alters or interferes with the hydrology of the Land, including by the diversion of natural drainage or flow of water in, on or through the Land;*
 - v. causes or allows fill, rubbish, ashes, garbage, waste or other material foreign to the Land to be deposited in, on or under the Land;*

- vi. *causes or allows any component of the Land, including soil, gravel or rock, to be disturbed, explored for, moved, removed from or deposited in or on the Land;*
 - vii. *causes or allows pesticides, including but not limited to herbicides, insecticides or fungicides, to be applied to or introduced on the Land; or*
 - viii. *causes or allows any indigenous flora on the Land to be cut down, removed defoliated or in any way tampered with;*
- b) use the Land or allow the use of the Land for hunting, fishing, or gathering, or for the grazing of domestic animals;*
- c) construct, build, affix or place on the Land any buildings, structures, fixtures or improvements of any kind;*
- d) lay out or construct any new roads or paths on the Land;*
- e) use or permit the use of motorized vehicles on the Land, other than emergency vehicles;*
- f) permit firearms of any kind to be discharges in, on or over the Land;*
- g) subdivide the Land by any means; and*
- h) lease or license the Land or any part thereof unless the lease or license is expressly made subject to the provisions of this Agreement and expressly entitles the Owner to terminate the lease and license if the tenant or licensee breaches any of the provisions of this Agreement."*

2.8 Official Community Plan

2.8.1 Zoning

In the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 434, Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is designated Ecological Reserve (ER) in the OCP and zoned Parks and Reserves 6 (PR6).

2.8.2 Trail and Public Access

An unauthorized trail is used by the public to access the reserve in the eastern portion of the properties that traverses from Mountain Road to the open meadows of Mount Tuam. Within the reserve this trail runs through the utility corridor. This is not a legal access: the legal access to the reserve is west of Strata Lot 6 (see map in Figure 2).

This unauthorized trail is unmarked and used infrequently by hikers and off-road vehicles. The trail is very steep and slippery in many sections because of the high amount of Arbutus

leaf litter in the area. This trail is poorly designed and does not follow contours- it goes straight up the hill and is vulnerable to erosion.

Creating a trail to the reserve via the legal access from Mountain Road is impractical because the access is very steep and narrow and it will be very difficult to build a sustainable trail that will not be subject to erosion. For this reason, a formal trail network is not recommended. Informal use of the reserve will be monitored over time and managed as necessary.

2.8.3 Building and Other Infrastructure

There are no buildings in the reserve. Structures include the utilities described below and there is a page wire and t-post fence along the western boundary of the utility corridor right of way. The fence is standing in some locations and flat on the ground in other locations.

2.8.4 Utilities

A distribution power line occurs in the utility corridor in the eastern portion of the Reserve. There is one power pole in the reserve (see map in Figure 4). An old power pole that was replaced remains on the ground.

3.0 Ecological Inventory

3.1 Ecological Significance

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve includes mixed second-growth forests within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone. Historically, there was about 260,000 hectares which would have been classified as CDFmm (Ministry of Natural Resource Operations 2011). Unfortunately, much of this habitat has been destroyed by urban development, agriculture or logging; less than 1% of old growth in the CDFmm remains (CDFCP 2013). The forested areas of the reserve are a mix of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) with some scattered Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and pockets of Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) and Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) on a steep, broad south facing slope. There is also a small portion of a Garry Oak rock outcrop dominated by mosses and herbaceous plants. There are a few very large veteran Douglas-fir and Arbutus trees as well as steep rocky cliffs within the reserve.

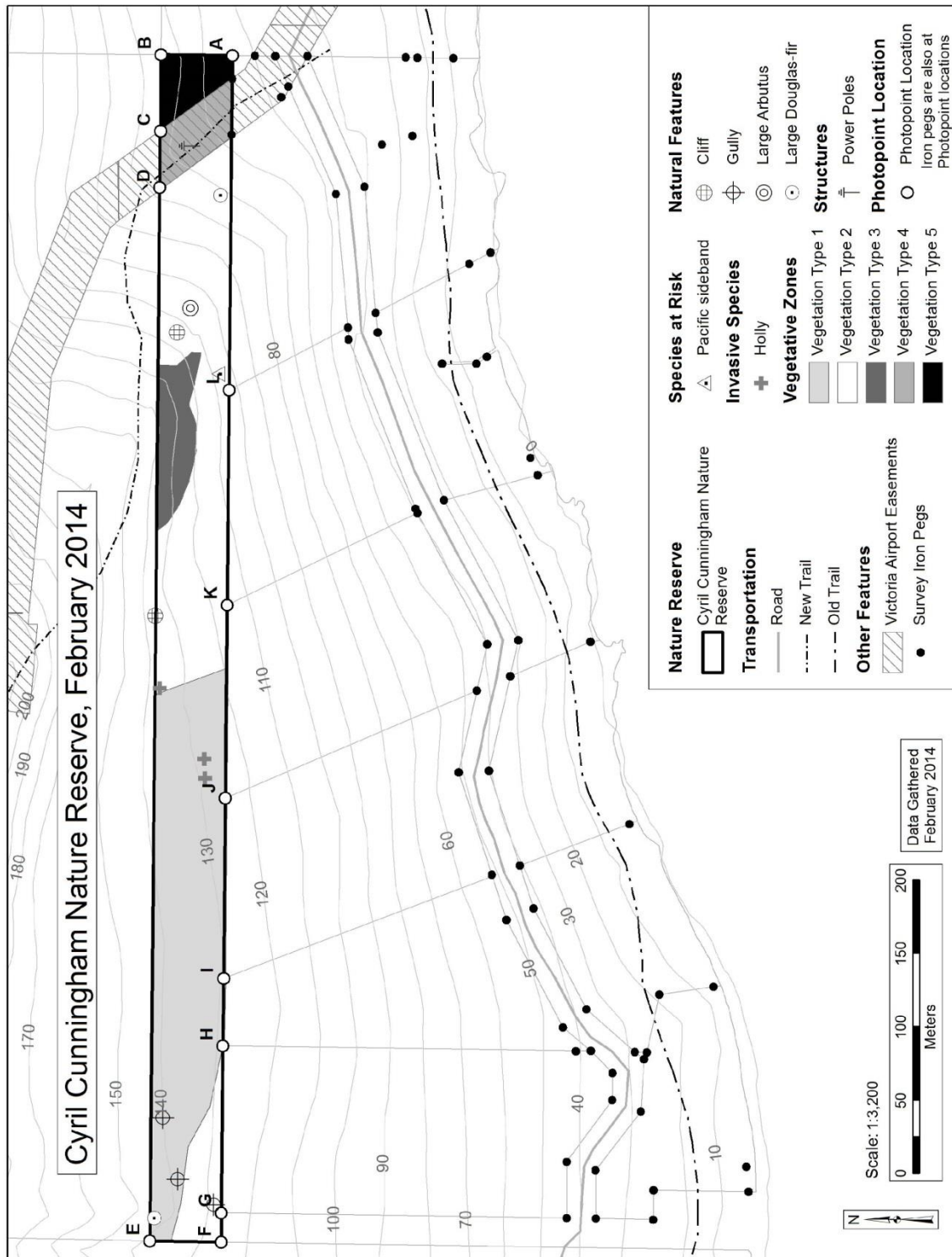


Figure 6. Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Vegetation types, Photopoints and Species at Risk

3.2 Climate

The rain shadow effect of the Olympic and Vancouver Island mountains and the moderating forces of the ocean are the dominant influences on the climate of Salt Spring Island. The island has a pattern of warm dry summers and mild wet winters.

The weather data from the closest station on Salt Spring Island is from Cusheon Lake. Climate normals from 1981 to 2010 at Cusheon Lake record an average of 169 frost free days per year with an average annual precipitation of 1071 mm. Almost 60% of the total annual precipitation falls during the winter months (November through February), with almost 9% falling as snow (Government of Canada 2016).

The months of December and January are the coldest, with daily average temperature of 2.4° and 2.8° Celsius, while July and August are the warmest months with mean temperatures of 16.1 and 16.2° Celsius (Government of Canada 2016). The combined effects of low precipitation, warm temperatures, and high number of sunshine hours often result in an annual moisture deficit on Salt Spring Island from mid-June to early October (Figure 7).

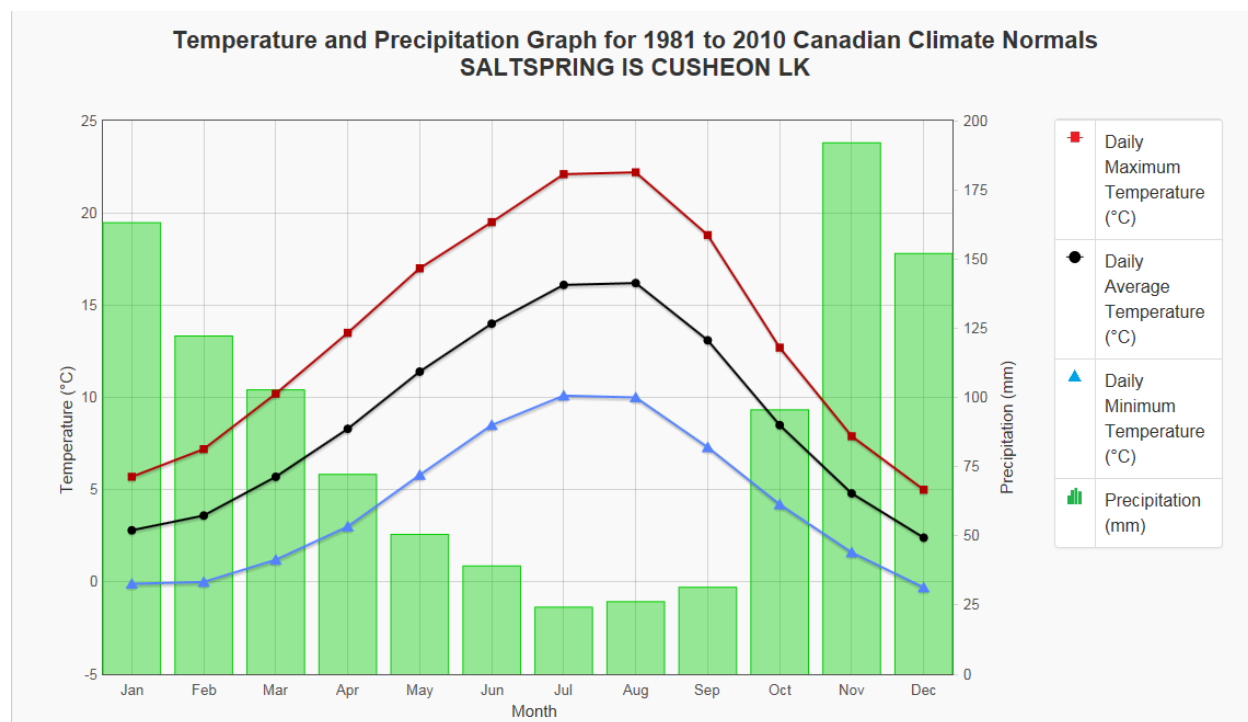


Figure 7. Temperature and Precipitation Normals (1981-2010) for Cusheon Lake Weather Station

3.3 Geology and Physiology

Salt Spring Island lies within the Nanaimo Basin, a large depression at the southern end of the Georgia Strait. Salt Spring Island is underlain predominantly by sedimentary rocks from the Nanaimo Group that date from the Upper Cretaceous and are composed of marine and

non-marine sediments deposited during five major periods (Van Vliet et al. 1987). On Mount Tuam and other areas south of the Fulford Valley, the bedrock is “Palaeozoic metamorphosed sedimentary rock belonging to the greywacke-argillite formation of the Sicker Group” (Van Vliet et al. 1987). Metamorphosed igneous and sedimentary rocks are more resistant to weathering than other rocks and have resulted in the high elevation mountains at the south end of Salt Spring Island (Van Vliet et al. 1987).

3.4 Hydrology

There are no water bodies on the reserve and the slope and well-drained soils result in no standing water.

3.5 Soils

According to the report, *Soils of the Gulf Islands of British Columbia: Volume 1* (Van Vliet et al. 1987), the soils in the Mount Tuam Protected Area are characterized by Rock-Musgrave (RO-MG). The dominant soil is rapid to well-drained and is described as:

“metamorphosed sedimentary bedrock exposed or covered by moss, or mineral soil less than 10 cm thick (Rock, 50-65%)”.

Greenwood and Mihalynuk (2011) classify Mount Tuam Protected Area soils as Mount Hall Gabbro sills (TrMg) and describe the soils as follows:

“Gabbro sills intrusive into Paleozoic strata. Tholeiitic basalt with conspicuous glomerophorphic texture (“Flower Gabbro”) especially along upper contacts. Similar textures have been observed in Karmutsen volcanic rocks. Local pockets of coarse grained hornblende pegmatite”.

3.6 Ecological Classification

Ecoprovince: Georgia Depression

Biogeoclimatic Units: The Reserve is situated within the Moist Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDFmm) Biogeoclimatic Zone. Historically, there were about 260,000 hectares which would have been classified as CDFmm (Ministry of Natural Resource Operations 2011). Unfortunately, much of this habitat has been destroyed by urban development, agriculture or logging: less than 1% of old growth in the CDFmm remains (CDFCP 2013).

3.7 Ecological Plant Communities

An inventory of biological features was conducted in the Reserve on February 5th and 7th and March 3rd, 2014. Five ecological communities were identified and classified by Carrina Maslovat using *A Field Guide for Site Identification and Interpretation for the Vancouver Forest Region* (Green and Klinka, 1994) and the Guide for Non-Forested and Sparsely

Vegetated Ecosystems of the CDFmm (Government of BC, n. d.). (map in Figure 6). These ecological communities are described below.

Table 1. Red-listed Plant Communities Identified in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve

Ecological Community	Provincial Rank
Douglas-fir/Arbutus (CDFmm02)	Red List
Douglas-fir/Salal (CDFmm01)	Red List
Garry Oak/Brome(CDFmm00)	Red List
Western Redcedar/ Douglas-fir/Oregon Beaked Moss (CDFmm05)	Red List

3.7.1 Vegetation Type 1

Vegetation Type 1 is the **WD:bdDA5 (CDFmm02)** Woodland: broadleaf, Douglas-fir/Arbutus, Structural Stage 5 (Young forest) ecosystem type.

Vegetation Type 1 is dominated by a second growth Douglas-fir – Arbutus (CDFmm02) forest. This forest is unusual for this site series because the trees are almost exclusively Arbutus with only a very few scattered Douglas-fir. Slopes are moderately steep to steep with a south aspect. Soils are moderate to shallow, very well-drained with a few small rocky outcrops. This is a moderately open canopy, mid slope woodland with almost exclusively Arbutus trees. There is very little understory vegetation and the forest floor is covered with Arbutus leaf litter.

Table 2. Description of Ecological Community 1

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & percent cover Arbutus (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>) (40%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) (3%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	Red-listed Plant Community 50-100 years 15-20m Up to 100cm 40-70 years 20m 25-60cm
Secondary Canopy Species & percent cover Arbutus (10%) Age (estimated) Height	10-50 years 10-15m

DBH	20-25cm
Total Canopy Cover	50-60%
Understory (species & percent cover) Shrubs, including trees <10 m Herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.	10% Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>), 5% Douglas-fir seedlings, <1% Grand Fir (<i>Abies grandis</i>), <1% Dull Oregon-grape (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>), <1% Orange Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>), <1% Foxglove* (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>), <1% Oregon Beaked-moss (<i>Eurhynchium oregonum</i>) Some scattered English Holly* (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) present. Species on rocky knolls include (% cover not taken): Common Vetch* (<i>Vicia sativa</i>), Blue Wildrye (<i>Elymus glaucus</i>), Wallace's Selaginella (<i>Selaginella wallacei</i>), Hedgehog Dogtail* (<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>), Dovefoot Geranium* (<i>Geranium molle</i>), Upright Hedge-parsley* (<i>Torilis arvense</i>), Small-flowered Woodlandstar (<i>Lithophragma parviflora</i>), Little Western Bittercress (<i>Cardamine oligosperma</i>), Wild Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>), Tarweed (<i>Madia</i> sp.), Great Mullein* (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>), Juniper Haircap Moss (<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>), and Rock-moss (<i>Racomitrium</i> sp.)
Observed rare/threatened species & locally uncommon species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	None likely
Special Features	Arbutus dominated forest. Large old Douglas-fir in northwest corner of covenant area (Photo in Appendix D). Series of steep gullies in the western portion of Vegetation Type.
Expected Changes	There are many small Douglas-fir seedlings in the understory. Eventually, the forest type may change to a Douglas-fir dominated forest as these seedlings mature and eventually shade out the Arbutus. Possibility of some limited erosion in steep gullies with heavy rainfall events. Erosion may lead to increased windthrow in these areas.
Disturbance History	Large Douglas-fir stumps throughout the Vegetation Type evidence of historic logging. Many of the stumps have fire scars, evidence of a wildfire at some point in the past.

*Indicates a non-native species

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat / Features	Large old Douglas-fir in northwest corner of Covenant Area provides avian perch sites and may have nesting cavities. Arbutus berries provide seasonal food for birds. Very limited diversity of understory vegetation.
Observed Species	Black-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>) scat, Pacific Wren (<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>) observed
Observed rare/threatened species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	Band-tailed Pigeon (<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>) Western Screech Owl (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>) Pacific Sideband Snail (<i>Monadenia fidelis</i>) (downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed in 2016)

3.7.2 Vegetation Type 2

Vegetation Type 2 is the **WD:mxDS5** (CDFmm01) Woodland: mixed, conifer and deciduous Douglas-fir/Salal, Structural Stage 5 (Young forest).

Vegetation Type 2 is dominated by a second growth Douglas-fir forest. The slopes are moderate to steep with a southern aspect. Soils are of moderate to shallow and well-drained. There are boulders and rocky cliff faces in the northern portion of this vegetation type where it borders Vegetation Type 3. This is a moderately open canopy, mid-lower slope woodland dominated by Arbutus and Douglas-fir with scattered Bigleaf Maple. There are some very large Arbutus and a few remnant Douglas-fir veterans that were not logged. There is a large amount of litter including leaves and coarse woody debris on the forest floor and the understory vegetation is sparse.

Table 3. Description of Ecological Community 2

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & percent cover Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) (35%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	Red-listed Plant Community 30-60 years (with a few old vets 100+ years) 15-20m 25-60cm (older trees up to 125cm DBH)
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Arbutus (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>) 20%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	30-60 years (with some old vets 100+ years) 15m 40-60cm (older trees up to 160cm DBH)
Secondary Canopy Species & percent cover Douglas-fir (5%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Bigleaf Maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>) (1%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Western Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>) (<1%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	15-20 years 10m 10-25cm 75-100 years 15-20m Up to 110cm 30-50 years 10m 30cm
Total Canopy Cover	60%
Understory (species & percent cover) Shrubs, including trees <10 m Herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.	2% Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>), 2% Dull Oregon-grape (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>), <1% Sword Fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>), <1% Hairy honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>), <1% Small-flowered Nemophila (<i>Nemophila parviflora</i>), <1% Oregon Beaked-moss (<i>Eurhynchium oregonum</i>).
Observed rare/threatened species & locally uncommon species	Uncommon species: Western Flowering Dogwood
Potential Other Species at Risk	None expected
Special Features	Cliff and rock outcrops Gully in western portion of Covenant Area Large old Douglas-fir trees Large old Arbutus
Expected Changes	Forest will gradually mature and become more complex as gaps open and trees age.
Disturbance History	Old Douglas-fir stumps throughout. Fire scars on the old stumps. Some scattered windthrow.

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat / Features	Large old Douglas-fir and old Arbutus provide perch sites and may have nesting cavities. Rocky outcrop may provide habitat for reptiles and
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	gastropods. Arbutus berries provide seasonal food for birds. Very limited diversity of understory vegetation.
Observed Species	Pacific wren (<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>), Red Squirrel (<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>), Black-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>) observed. Unidentified scat with shells, possibly Raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>) or River Otter (<i>Lontra canadensis</i>) Sapsucker holes (likely <i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>) in Arbutus trees
Observed rare/threatened species	Pacific Sideband Snail (<i>Monadenia fidelis</i>)) (downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed in 2016)
Potential Other Species at Risk	Western Screech Owl (<i>Megascops kennicottii kennicottii</i>) Band-tailed Pigeon (<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>) Sooty Grouse (<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>) (downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed in 2016) Peacock Vinyl lichen (<i>Leptogium polycarpum</i>)

3.7.3 Vegetation Type 3

Vegetation Type 3 is WD: bdQB5 (CDFmm00) Woodland: broadleaf Garry Oak/ Brome, Structural Stage 5 (Young Forest).

Vegetation Type 3 is an open, thin soil rocky outcrop with a few scattered young Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) trees. The understory consists of a diverse mix of species, predominantly grasses, a large number of which are non-native. Mosses are dominant in over rock outcrops. Soils are thin and nutrient poor. The site is south facing and occurs at the bottom of a very large open meadow.

Table 4. Description of Ecological Community 3

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & percent cover Garry Oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) (3%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Arbutus (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>) (1%) Age (estimated)	Red-listed Plant Community 20-50 years 8m 15-25cm 50-100 years
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Height DBH Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) (1%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	15m 40-90cm 15-20 years (Large veteran Douglas-fir much older) 10m 30cm (Older veteran Douglas-fir with 150cm DBH)
Total Canopy Cover	5%
Understory (species & percent cover) Shrubs, including trees <10 m Herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.	20% Sweet Vernalgrass* (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>), 10% Upright Hedge-parsley* (<i>Torilis arvense</i>), 10% Brome* (<i>Bromus</i> sp.), 5% Hedgehog Dogtail* (<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>), 5% Blue Wildrye (<i>Elymus glaucus</i>), 3% Great Mullein* (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>), 2% Dovefoot Geranium* (<i>Geranium molle</i>), 1% Roemer's Fescue (<i>Festuca roemerii</i>), 1% Hairy Cat's-ear* (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>), <1% Claytonia (<i>Claytonia</i> sp.), <1% Wallace's Selaginella (<i>Selaginella wallacei</i>), <1% California Brome (<i>Bromus sitchensis</i>), <1% Hairy Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>), <1% Long-stolon Sedge (<i>Carex inops</i>), <1% Pacific Sanicle (<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>), <1% Common Stork's-bill* (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>), <1% Broad-leaved Stonecrop (<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>), <1% Field Parsley Piert* (<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>), <1% Small-flowered Woodlandstar (<i>Lithophragma parviflora</i>), <1% Tall Oregon-grape (<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>), <1% White Triteleia (<i>Triteleia hyacinthina</i>) and thin-soil rock outcrops 40% with a cover of mosses including Juniper Haircap Moss (<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>), Rock-moss (<i>Racomitrium</i> sp.) and Dicranum (<i>Dicranum</i> sp.)
Observed rare/threatened species & locally uncommon species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	Small possibility of rare species associated with Garry Oak ecosystems. For example, Yellow Montane Violet (<i>Viola praemorsa</i> ssp. <i>praemorsa</i>) occurs on the property to the north and there is a slight possibility it may occur in the Covenant Area.
Special Features	Garry oak meadow on rock outcrop
Expected Changes	Soils are very thin and will likely prevent the conifer encroachment associated with fire suppression. However, some conifers may establish in the deeper soil pockets.

Disturbance History	Sheep were grazed in the open meadow areas of Mount Tuam, possibly as early as the late 1800s. Fire scars on large Douglas-fir veteran tree.
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*Indicates non-native species

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat / Features	Large Douglas-fir provides perch sites and may have cavities for nesting. Open grassy meadows provide habitat for small mammals such as voles. Open meadows provide good hunting sites for raptors.
Observed Species	Black-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>) scat observed
Observed rare/threatened species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	Propertius Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>), Sharp-tailed Snake (<i>Contia tenuis</i>)

3.7.4 Vegetation Type 4

Vegetation Type 4 is **WD: coYFDS5 (CDF mm01)** Woodland: conifer dominated, Douglas-fir/Salal, Structural Stage 5 (Young Forest)

Vegetation Type 4 is highly modified due to the regular tree and brush removal done to maintain the power lines through the utility corridor in the eastern part of the Covenant Area. Mature trees occur only at the edges of the corridor and are composed of a mix of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Arbutus (*Arbutus menziesii*) with younger Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) and Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). Slopes are moderately steep with a southern aspect. Soils are moderate, well-drained, and of poor to medium richness. This is an open, lower-slope site with a relatively diverse understory including a dense shrub cover. The herbaceous vegetation is dominated by non-native invasive forbs and grasses.

Table 5. Description of Ecological Community 4

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & percent cover Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) (20%) Age (estimated)	All mature trees occur at the edges of the vegetation type since the central corridor is regularly cleared to maintain the power line. 30-50 years
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Height DBH Arbutus <i>(Arbutus menziesii)</i> (3%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	20m 15-80cm 40-60 years 15m 30cm
Secondary Canopy Species & percent cover Western Redcedar <i>(Thuja plicata)</i> (2%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Red Alder (<i>Alnus rubra</i>) (1%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Bigleaf Maple <i>(Acer macrophyllum)</i> (1%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	20-60 years 15m 30-90cm 20-40 years 15m 40-60cm 20-40 years 15m 75cm
Total Canopy Cover	25%
Understory (species & percent cover) Shrubs, including trees <10 m Herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.	50% Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>), 10% Douglas-fir seedlings, 5% Dull Oregon-grape (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>), 3% Foxglove* (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>), 2% Western Redcedar seedlings, 2% Blue Wildrye (<i>Elymus glaucus</i>), 1% Sword Fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>), 1% Bull Thistle* (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), <1% Baldhip Rose (<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>), <1% California Brome (<i>Bromus carinatus</i>), <1% Orchard Grass* (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), <1% Pacific Sanicle (<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>), <1% Little Western Bittercress (<i>Cardamine oligosperma</i>), <1% Common Vetch* (<i>Vicia sativa</i>), <1% Common Stork's-bill* (<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>), <1% Tarweed (<i>Madia</i> sp.), <1% Hairy Cat's Ear* (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>), <1% Wall Lettuce* (<i>Mycelis muralis</i>), <1% Common Chickweed* (<i>Stellaria media</i>), <1% Yerba Buena (<i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>), <1% Oregon Beaked-moss (<i>Eurhynchium oreganum</i>)
Observed rare/threatened species	None

& locally uncommon species	
Potential Other Species at Risk	None likely
Special Features	Regularly cleared utility corridor
Expected Changes	Ongoing tree and shrub removal to maintain power line. There may be further future invasion of non-native species because of the regular disturbance. For example, there is currently no Scotch Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) and if allowed to establish, it will spread through this disturbed area.
Disturbance History	Regular tree and shrub removal through the central corridor for maintenance of power line. May be erosion along hiking trail due to steepness.

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat / Features	Open cleared area.
Observed Species	Pacific wren (<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>) observed, Black-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>) scat observed.
Observed rare/threatened species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	None likely

3.7.5 Vegetation Type 5

Vegetation Type 5 is WD: coYFRK5 (CDFmm05)

Woodland: conifer dominated, Western Redcedar/Douglas-fir/Oregon Beaked Moss, Structural Stage 5 (Young Forest)

Vegetation Type 5 is a conifer dominated, older second growth Western Redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest. Slopes are moderate with a southern aspect. Soils are well-drained, and of poor to medium richness. This is a moderately closed canopy, lower-slope forested site dominated by Western Redcedar and Douglas-fir with isolated Big-leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) trees. There is a relatively dense secondary canopy of Western Redcedar. The understory is very sparse.

Table 6. Description of Ecological Community 5

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & percent cover Western Redcedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>) (40%) Age (estimated)	Red-listed Ecological Community 50-75 years (some may be as old as 100 years)
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Height DBH Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) (15%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	15-25m 75-100cm 50-70 years 15-25m 30-60cm
Secondary Canopy Species & percent cover Red Alder (<i>Alnus rubra</i>) (2%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Western Redcedar (10%) Age (estimated) Height DBH Bigleaf Maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>) (2%) Age (estimated) Height DBH	 20-30 years 10m 50cm 10-20 years 7-10m 10-15cm 20-50 years 15m 40cm
Total Canopy Cover	70%
Understory (species & percent cover) Shrubs, including trees <10 m Herbs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.	There is very little understory with most of the groundcover consisting of needle fall from Western Redcedar. There is some scattered (1%) Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>) along the boundary of Vegetation Type 4.
Observed rare/threatened species & locally uncommon species	None observed
Potential Other Species at Risk	None likely
Special Features	None observed
Expected Changes	There is some self-thinning of the stand as some of smaller Western Redcedar trees in the understory are dying as they are shaded out. This may continue in the future. With ongoing brushing of the adjacent powerlines, there may be more windthrow with extreme climatic events.
Disturbance History	There are large Douglas-fir stumps from when the site was previously logged. There is some limited older windthrow of smaller trees.

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat / Features	
Observed Species	American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>) observed, Black-tailed Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>) scat observed
Observed rare/threatened species	None
Potential Other Species at Risk	Pacific Sideband (<i>Monadenia fidelis</i>) (downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed in 2016) Sooty Grouse (<i>Dendragapus fuliginosus</i>) (downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed in 2016) Threaded Vertigo (<i>Nearctula spp. 1</i>)

3.8 Wildlife Species

Many different wildlife species use Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve. Large old Douglas-fir and old Arbutus provide perch sites and may have cavities for nesting. Arbutus berries also provide seasonal food for birds. Open grassy meadows provide habitat for small mammals such as voles and good hunting sites for raptors. Rocky outcrop provide habitat for reptiles and gastropods, including Pacific Sideband (*Monadenia fidelis*) and potentially Sharp-tailed Snake (*Contia tenuis*).

Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*), Red Squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), and scat from North America River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) or possibly Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) were observed during the preparation of the baseline inventory. Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*), Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*) and American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) were observed as were sapsucker holes (likely Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*) in a number of the Arbutus trees.

3.9 Red and Blue Listed Species

Pacific Sideband Snail (*Monadenia fidelis*) was blue-listed at the time of the baseline inventory, in March 2014, and is documented as such in the conservation covenant, September 2014, but in 2016 was downgraded from blue listed to yellow listed. Biologist Laura Matthias identified leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*) in the reserve in 2016. A full survey looking specifically for Species at Risk has not yet been completed for the reserve so future findings are likely.



Photo 1. Leafless wintergreen (Photo L. Matthias)



Table 7. Species at Risk Identified to Date in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve

Species Common Name	Species Latin Name	Provincial Rank ³	COSEWIC Rank ⁴	SARA Status	Global
leafless wintergreen	<i>Pyrola aphylla</i>	Blue List (S2S3) 2015			Unranked, Global Rank not yet assessed

4.0 Threats

4.1 Non-native Invasive Species

There are a few invasive non-native shrubs in the reserve but they are currently few in number and do not appear to be spreading rapidly. There are three small isolated patches of English holly in Vegetation Type 2 (Figure 6). This invasive shrub is very difficult to control without herbicides because it readily re-sprouts from cut stems and can also produce shoots from the roots if the stem is cut. Cutting the stem results in vigorous new growth and control should only be started if it is possible to cut the regrowth regularly (i.e. once per week during the growing season) or remove the root mass. A possible tactic to kill holly is to severely fray the stem with an axe or other tool repeatedly over a few years.

There are large numbers of non-native grasses and forbs in both Vegetation Type 3 in the

³ BC Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC 2016)

⁴ Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (Government of Canada 2016b)

Garry Oak meadow and Vegetation Type 4 under the power lines in the utility corridor (see map in Figure 6).

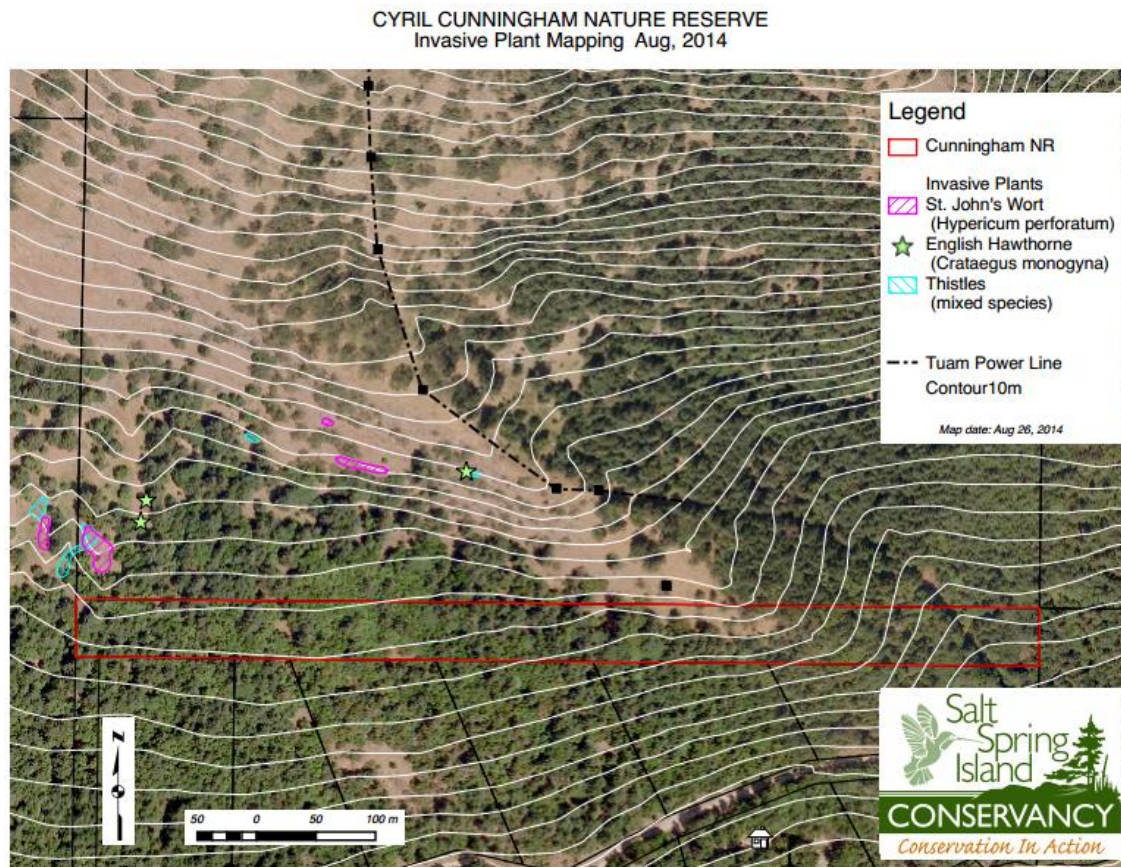


Figure 8. Invasive plant mapping Credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

To date, there are no effective management strategies for addressing invasive grasses and forbs and any potential management is very labour intensive. Research of ongoing studies as to how to better deal with these non-natives will be reviewed over the life of this plan.

There is currently no Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) on the reserve, even in the areas regularly disturbed in the utility corridor. There is a single isolated Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster sp.*) and Briar Rose (*Rosa eglanteria*) plant in the Cunningham Covenant to the south. Both of these invasive shrubs also resprout from cut stems. There is a small patch of Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) in the provincial crown property to the north which is cut annually by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy as funding allows (see map in Figure 8). There are also scattered English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) in the provincial Crown lands. There should be ongoing monitoring and management of priority invasive species to limit their spread into the reserve.

4.2 Off-road Vehicle Use

People on off-road trials bikes⁵ are known to traverse Mount Tuam from the summit to the bottom using the trail that cuts through the reserve under the power line in the utility corridor. It is not known if people on ATVs also use this trail, but their tracks have been observed at the summit of Mount Tuam. Off-road vehicle use not only increases erosion and damages plants and their habitat, but the soil disturbance also facilitates invasion by exotic species which compete with native species for water, nutrients, light and space. Off road use can also result in mortalities to wildlife and Species at Risk, such as Sharp-tailed Snakes, or ground-nesting Common Nighthawks.

4.3 Trails

Hikers do infrequently hike on Mount Tuam and access the open meadows further up the mountain via the trail through the reserve. This is an unofficial hiking trail used by the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club and neighbours who live in the Mountain Road area. This trail leads from Mountain Road through the open meadows to the summit of Mount Tuam. This trail is extremely steep and has not been designed to follow the contours. There is little evidence of impacts from the current level of use, but if use increases, erosion and an increase in invasive species may occur.

4.4 Overgrazing

Feral sheep were once common on Mount Tuam and historically would have grazed in the reserve. Sheep grazing may have started in the late 1800s. Bob Akerman (the owner prior to the Cunninghams) is reported to have had as many as 1000 sheep which he grazed in the open meadows of Mount Tuam (as stated in previous reserve management plan). In 2009, 45 sheep and 1 goat were removed from the upper meadows of Mount Tuam (Linton pers. comm. 2010). A small number of feral sheep (4 ewes and 3 lambs) were observed in the spring of 2011 (Maslovat pers. obs. 2011).

Although feral livestock have not been recently observed on Mount Tuam, there is still considerable grazing pressure from native Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*). Currently, levels of deer are extremely high because of recent declines in hunting, the eradication of predators and the fragmentation of habitat. There was much evidence of browsing in the reserve. Eastern Cottontail Rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) were first observed near the summit of Mount Tuam in 2012 and are expected to spread down the mountain to the reserve in the future. Their impact is unknown.

The greatest impact from overgrazing is to Vegetation Type 3 (see Figure 6). The feral sheep, which have been removed, may have shifted the vegetation of the reserve to those species that are less palatable to the sheep.

⁵ Trials bikes are lightweight, motorized bikes with soft tires. They are designed to go off road over obstacles.

4.5 Wildfire

Prior to European settlement, fires burned throughout Mount Tuam, as evidenced by fire scars on the few remaining older Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees and on stumps in the reserve. Although the fire return interval for Mount Tuam is not known, charcoal analysis suggests fires in Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) ecosystems occurred on average every 26 to 40 years prior to 1880 (Pellatt et al. 2007). This research would not capture low intensity fires set by First Nations (Pellatt et al. 2007). All fires have been actively suppressed since European settlement (Pellatt et al. 2007).

Naturally occurring fires have been actively suppressed for approximately a century on Salt Spring Island. Fire suppression in forested areas creates elevated fuel levels that are much higher than during pre-European contact. If fires do occur in the reserve they would likely be hotter than historic fires and may be more damaging than historic fires. Fire suppression coupled with livestock removal may allow conifer encroachment into the small open meadow area of Vegetation Type 3 (see Figure 6), altering light levels and changing biological structure. However, much of the meadow has extremely thin soils which will preclude conifer growth.

Human activity on Mount Tuam may also increase the risk of fire.

4.6 Utility Line Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of the utility lines removes established trees and shrubs. This process creates disturbance, facilitating the invasion by non-native species and alters the natural structure of the vegetation community.

4.7 Erosion

Some portions of the reserve are extremely steep and there is the potential for erosion to occur with extreme weather events that create windthrow or heavy rainfall. In particular, the deep gullies in the western portion of the reserve (Vegetation Type 1 and 2, Figure 6) and along the trail (Vegetation Type 4, Figure 6) may suffer from erosion. The cliffs below the grasslands may also be vulnerable to erosion. However, the area is well vegetated and there is little potential for erosion unless land use changes dramatically either on the reserve or upslope.

The most vulnerable location for erosion is next to the hiking trail which follows close to the utility corridor. The trail is a desired line route that does not follow the contours but goes straight up the hill. There is some erosion occurring in the Cunningham Covenant to the south where water flow has carried sediment downhill. Further erosion may occur on the trail bed and next to the trail, especially if use by hikers and/or off-road vehicles increases.

4.8 Expected Change over Time

In the Arbutus dominated forests, Douglas-fir seedlings may eventually overtop the shade-intolerant Arbutus. Barring any land use changes upslope, an increase in the number of invasive species or erosion over time is not expected.

5.0 Stakeholder Consultation

5.1 Adjacent Landowners

The Islands Trust Fund undertook a limited public consultation process as part of the development of this management plan. Eight adjacent landowners, within 100 metres of the nature reserve, were mailed a letter with an accompanying questionnaire (questionnaire included in Appendix G) to inform them that a revision of the existing management plan was in development for the reserve and to ask them to complete the questionnaire so that they could share their thoughts on the broad-scale management concerns of the reserve. Four neighbours replied with a complete questionnaire.

5.2 First Nations

A letter was sent to all of the 13 First Nations and two treaty groups who have asserted traditional territories that include Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve (letter included in Appendix H). The letter informed First Nations that a management plan was being prepared and asked for input related to broad-scale management concerns. At the date of the plan approval there has been one response from the Cowichan Tribes, but the Islands Trust Fund remains open to communication throughout the life of this management plan.

5.3 Conservation Partners

The members of the Special Management Area Resource Team (SMART) were invited to comment via questionnaire and at the June 1, 2016 meeting at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve facility. Three questionnaires were returned. The two holders of the conservation covenant, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and Habitat Acquisition Trust also responded to the questionnaire.

5.4 Summary of Consultation Results

The concerns and information highlighted in all the responses have been addressed in this plan. The questionnaires asked respondents what the top three “most important values nature reserves offer”, the results were:

1. Conservation for the sake of the intrinsic value of nature
2. Protection of habitat for at-risk species
3. Ecosystem services (e.g. clean water and air, erosion control, groundwater recharge, etc.)

The consultation process revealed that the community in general was concerned about the following management issues:

- Motorized vehicles
- Mountain bikes
- Horse use
- Invasive species invasion
- Fire
- Camping
- Collecting firewood
- Erosion
- Hunting

6.0 Management Plan

6.1 Vision

That the unique ecological values of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve will be protected in perpetuity in order to support a diverse range of native plants and animals.

6.2 Discussion

The purpose of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is to protect the ecological integrity of the land in accordance with the objectives of the ITF. Ongoing monitoring and management is required in order to ensure that ecosystems and species continue to remain protected from threats. All management activities within the protected area must consider the specific sensitivities of the Species at Risk and their habitat found to date on the property and any additional Species at Risk found in the future.

In this section several key areas of the management planning process are identified and recommendations are formulated to achieve the vision, purpose and objectives for Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.

6.3 Management of the Reserve

The management of the reserve will depend on a collaborative effort between the Islands Trust Fund and Salt Spring Island Conservancy and Habitat Acquisition Trust, co-holders of the conservation covenant on the reserve.

6.4 Permitted and Prohibited Uses

The sensitive natural features of the reserve include thin soil rock outcrops with delicate moss mats and meadow vegetation. These areas are easily disturbed by hikers and off-road vehicles. Other features such as older trees, gullies and rock cliffs are unlikely to be impacted by the current level of activities within the reserve. Wildfire is also a major concern with risk increasing with human use.

Recommended permitted uses include:

- Scientific research, provided permission is received from TFB and both covenant holders
- Activities associated with the management and monitoring of the property

The following activities by the public are prohibited:

- Use of motorized vehicles
- Bicycling
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Fires
- Forestry
- Livestock grazing
- Tree cutting
- Collection of plants or animals

6.5 Public Access

There is legal access to the reserve for the TFB and the covenant holders west of Strata Lot 6, but there is currently no public access to the reserve.

People do access the reserve via a trail in the eastern portion of the properties that traverses from Mountain Road to the open meadows of Mount Tuam, but this is not a legal access. Within the reserve the trail is within the utility corridor. This trail is unmarked and used infrequently by hikers and off-road vehicles. The trail is very steep and slippery in many sections because of the high amount of Arbutus leaf litter in the area. This trail is poorly designed and does not follow contours; it goes straight up the hill and is vulnerable to erosion.

Recommendation

Creating a trail to the reserve via the legal access from Mountain Road is impractical because the access is very steep and narrow and it will be very difficult to build a sustainable trail that will not be subject to erosion. For this reason, a formal trail network is not recommended. Informal use of reserve will be monitored over time and managed as necessary.

6.6 Signage

There is currently no signage on the reserve.

Recommendation

That ITF install a sign at the property boundary, on the southeast corner where anyone accessing the reserve from Mountain Road would see it, that identifies the property as a protected area and outlines prohibited uses of the reserve.

6.7 Protection initiatives for Sensitive Ecosystems and Species at Risk

The four red-listed plant communities, as well as the blue-listed leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*) identified in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve to date should be monitored closely with the proper management protocol considered from the most recent guidelines from federal and provincial authorities.

Recommendation

Monitor for evidence of feral sheep and the impacts of grazing by Black-tailed Deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus) and the potential spread of Eastern Cottontail Rabbits (Sylvilagus floridanus) into the reserve.

6.7.1 Mount Tuam Special Management Area

The open meadow habitat found on Mount Tuam allows both Species at Risk and the threats facing them to readily cross property lines. In 2009/2010, a group of landowners and stakeholders met to discuss strategies for limiting off-road vehicle use on Mount Tuam. This group expanded and led to the creation of Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA, see Figure 4), a 400 hectares (988 acres) area of continuous protected and provincial lands.

The SMA is managed cooperatively by the Mount Tuam Special Management Resource Team (SMART) which includes landowners, land managers and other stakeholders. This group has been actively involved in the following management activities that relate to the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.

- a. limiting prohibited activities including unauthorized access from hikers, off-road vehicles and campers,
- b. maintaining signage at the perimeter of the SMA,
- c. engaging First Nations to be part of the SMART,
- d. planning for future wildfire suppression, and
- e. developing ecological restoration protocols.

Recommendation

ITF should continue to work with Mount Tuam SMART on shared initiatives to aid in the management of reserve and Mount Tuam as a whole.

6.7.2 Non-native Invasive Species Removal

The distribution of invasive species in the reserve has been kept low to this point partially due to the work of partners from the SMART mapping the distribution and controlling invasive species in the surrounding lands. If work to control the spread of these species on adjacent properties were to cease the threat of infestation on the reserve increases drastically. There are currently invasive grasses and forbs in the Garry Oak meadows and utility corridor and if during the course of this plan a funding opportunity is available for an effective management strategy to remove these non-natives it will be considered.

Recommendation

ITF should develop a program to remove and control woody invasive plants on the reserve. Annual monitoring should assess the spread of existing invasive plants and any new invasions of into the reserve. ITF should also continue to engage with SMART to monitor and manage priority invasive species in the area.

6.7.3 Wildfire Planning

The responsible agency for fire suppression on Mount Tuam is the Cobble Hill Fire Station under the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The initial attack for fire suppression on Mount Tuam will be by air. Mount Tuam SMART has had several meetings with the Cobble Hill Fire Station to explain the sensitivities of the mountain and the high number of Species at Risk that may be impacted by fire suppression activities. Mount Tuam SMART has included Mount Tuam in the 2013 South Island Natural Resource District Fire Management Plan (FMP) which guides fire suppression efforts. Recommendations in the FMP include avoiding the use of salt water and fire retardants, minimizing the use of heavy equipment in meadow areas to minimize soil disturbance and avoiding cutting large Garry Oak trees.

Recommendation

ITF should continue to support the work that has gone into the FMP and the initiatives to protect the ecological values in the reserve.

6.7.4 Studies/inventories

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has done numerous plant, bird, gastropod, amphibian, reptile and invertebrate surveys throughout Mount Tuam. However, there have been few surveys in the reserve.

Recommendation

ITF should pursue further surveys for Species at Risk in order to guide management and support recovery of Species at Risk.

6.7.5 Leafless Wintergreen

To date, the only Species at Risk found in the reserve is the blue-listed leafless wintergreen (*Pyrola aphylla*). This species requires no special protection initiatives at this time.

Recommendation

ITF should monitor research for any new special protection initiatives or strategies to guide management of areas with leafless wintergreen during the life of this plan.

7.0 Action Items

Management Plan action items are measurable and achievable tasks that the ITF can complete to ensure that the protected area is managed in the best possible way. The

following management action items are based on the public consultation and recommendations made in this management plan and listed in priority sequence, subject to available funding resources.

7.1 Immediate Actions (1-2 years)

1. Continue to conduct annual site visits to monitor covenant compliance and identify management concerns.
2. Continue to collaborate with Mount Tuam SMART to limit trespassing, maintain signs, communicate wildfire suppression preferences, identify unauthorized users, deliver public outreach and determine restoration and management protocols.
3. Continue to map and remove invasive species as funding allows.
4. Install a sign at the southeast corner property boundary.
5. Conduct Species at Risk inventories to inform management decisions as funding allows and seek out protection initiatives that have been developed for these species.

7.2 Short term Actions (3-5 years)

1. Support ongoing research to inform management provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.
2. Conduct monitoring for Species at Risk, invasive species and other management concerns subject to available resources.
3. Work with BC Hydro, Telus, and the Victoria Airport Authority to develop Best Management Practices for clearing utility line right of way to minimize negative impacts to Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve and the adjacent conservation covenants.

7.3 Long term Actions (5+ years)

1. Subject to funding, develop strategies to enhance and restore the habitat of the Garry Oak meadows.

8.0 Conclusion

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is part of an important protected area network, the Mount Tuam Special Management Area that is managed in collaboration with a multi-jurisdictional group collectively working on common management issues. This SMA provides important habitat for a range of native species and many Species at Risk.

The ITF will act on the management action items identified in this plan to achieve the vision, objectives and purpose of the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve. Future management issues may lead to further action items that will be identified in work plans and in future revisions of this plan.

9.0 References

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix A Coordinates and Locations of Photopoints in the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve

(All photopoints are centered on survey iron pins)

Feature	Vegetation Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	Photo Aspect	Date	Comments
Stn. A	5	10U 464861	5396088	245°	23- FEB-14	Pin on southeast corner of CCNR. Orange flag from ground to cedar branch. Photo matched to 2013 monitoring photo.
Stn. B	5	10U 464862	5396137	170°	03-MAR-14	Photo taken from northeast corner of CCNR. Corner stake not found but small alder tree flagged with pink and orange at the correct location
Stn. C	4	10U 464810	5396137	240°	03-MAR-14	Photopoint at iron pin at north east boundary of power line utility corridor. Corner stake at base of large maple.
Stn. D	4 and 2	10U 464771	5396138	90 ° and 180°	03-MAR-14	Iron pin at north west boundary of power line utility corridor.
Stn. E	1	10U 464052	5396145			Corner pin not found- no photo taken
Stn. F	2	10U 464051	5396096	360°	03-MAR-14	Corner pin at southwest corner of CCNR- wooden stake in photo.
Stn. G	2	10U 464071	5396096	360°	03-MAR-14	Photo taken at northwest corner of Lot 6 and CCNR boundary. Small pink flag found on small Douglas-fir at correct location. Corner stake not found.
Stn. H	1	10U 464185	5396095	320°	23- FEB-14	Photopoint is boundary between Vegetation type 1 and 2. On pin at north corner of Lot 5 and 6 and CCNR boundary.
Stn. I	1	10U 464231	5396094	360°	03-MAR-14	On pin at north corner of Lot 4 and 5 and CCNR boundary- wooden corner stake in photo.
Stn. J	1	10U 464354	5396093	360°	03-MAR-14	On pin at north corner of Lot 3 and 4 and CCNR boundary- wooden corner stake in photo.

Stn. K	2	10U 464486	5396092	360°	03-MAR-14	On pin at north corner of Lot 2 and 3 and CCNR boundary- wooden corner stake in photo.
Stn. L	2	10U 464633	5396090	300°	03-MAR-14	On pin at north corner of Lot 1 and 2 and CCNR boundary.

Appendix B. Coordinates and Locations of Other Features in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve

Feature	Vegetation Type	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	Elevation	Date	Comments
Cliff	2	10U 464673	5396126	115 m	07- FEB-14	Cliff is continuous between points between vegetation Types #2 and #3
Cliff	2	10U 464480	5396141	131 m	07- FEB-14	
Large Douglas-fir	2	10U 464766	5396096	90 m	05- FEB-14	Three large fire-scarred trees
Large Douglas-fir	1	10U 464068	5396142	155 m	07- FEB-14	Single fire-scarred tree
Large Arbutus	2	10U 464690	5396117	111 m	07- FEB-14	Many large trees
Sideband Snail	2	10U 464645	5396098	104 m	07- FEB-14	
Holly	1	10U 464430	5396138	135 m	07- FEB-14	Invasive plant
Holly	1	10U 464382	5396108	126 m	07- FEB-14	Invasive plant
Holly	1	10U 464368	5396107	142 m	07- FEB-14	Invasive plant
Gully	1	10U 464136	5396136	158 m	07- FEB-14	Series of northeast to southwest gullies
Gully	1	10U 464094	5396126	139 m	07- FEB-14	
Gully	2	10U 464077	5396101	128 m	07- FEB-14	
Power pole	4	10U 464810	5396120	87 m	07- FEB-14	Power line continues from road at Cunningham Covenant to summit of Mount Tuam

Appendix C. Photographs of Photopoints in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve



Photo Station A. 245°.



Photo Station B. 170°. Note orange flag around trunk of small tree in background.



Photo Station C. 240°. Note power pole at left in photo and power line across the top.



Photo Station D. 90°. Note power line cable across center of photo.



Photo Station D. 180°.



Photo Station F. 360°. Note corner stake at bottom of photo.



Photo Station G. 360°. Note pink flag at top of photo taken to indicate corner pin.



Photo Station H. 320°.



Photo Station I. 360°. Note wooden stake in foreground.



Photo Station J. 360°. Note wooden stake in foreground.



Photo Station K. 360°. Note wooden stake in foreground.



Photo Station L. 300°.

Appendix D. Photographs of Significant Features in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve



Most easterly portion of cliff that demarcates Vegetation Type 3 and Vegetation Type 2.



Very large Arbutus trees in Vegetation Type 2.



Large veteran Douglas-fir in Northwest corner of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in Vegetation Type 1. Note fire scars on bark.



Large veteran Douglas-fir tree in middle of Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve in Vegetation Type 2. Note fire scars on bark.



Power lines utility corridor (taken from Cunningham Covenant) showing Vegetation Type 4.



Hiking trail in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.



Page wire and t-post fence.



Pacific Sideband Snail.

Appendix E. Photographs of Vegetation Types in Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve



Vegetation Type 1.



Vegetation Type 2.



Vegetation Type 3.



Vegetation Type 4.



Vegetation Type 5.

Appendix F. Public Consultation Letter

May 16, 2016

Dear «FullName»,

The Islands Trust Fund is updating the management plan for the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve on Salt Spring Island (PID 018-650-422, Lot B, Section 32, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP 58173) and would like your input.



The original management plan was written in 1995 with a revision in 2005 and it can be found on our website:

<http://www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca/media/10364/itfmgmtplancunningham.pdf>

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectare (9.49 acre) protected area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. It is a long east-west strip that runs a steep course across the lower slopes of Mount Tuam.

The Reserve was donated to the Trust Fund Board at the time of the Cape Keppel strata subdivision in 1994. The Islands Trust Fund works with the covenant co-holders, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) to monitor and manage the property in order to protect the unique ecological values. This property includes about 0.32 ha of open rock outcrop and 3.52 ha of second-growth forest.

The Reserve is part of a 400 hectare continuous protected area known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA). The SMA is being cooperatively managed by a multi-jurisdictional group known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team

(SMART). As a whole, this area faces the same external threats including off-road vehicle traffic, overgrazing, and conifer encroachment associated with fire suppression.

The current management for the Nature Reserve focuses on protecting the natural values of the property. Development of any kind, including disturbance to native vegetation, soils, and water flow, is prohibited. As well, public use and access are not encouraged. The updated plan will support ongoing species inventories, removing non-native invasive species and protecting all of the native plants and animals on the reserve.

In order to develop a good plan for the nature reserve, your input is requested. We would like to hear from the neighbours of the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve with your ideas and concerns regarding the long-term management of this special place. Please find enclosed a questionnaire that can be completed and either mailed or scanned to me by email.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider the management of this nature reserve. For more information, please contact me at the number or email below.

Yours sincerely,



Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist, Islands Trust Fund
Phone: 250-405-5193
Email: nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca

Appendix G. Public Consultation Questionnaire

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve Questionnaire

Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is 3.84 hectares in a long East-West strip on the south end of Salt Spring Island. It includes about 0.32 ha of open rock outcrop and 3.52 ha of second-growth forest within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone.

The Islands Trust Fund received the land as a donation in 1994 and the first management plan for the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve was written in 1995. The Islands Trust Fund's primary goal is to protect and nurture the sensitive ecosystems on this land. To do that, we revise our management plans approximately every 10 years to guide the management of the property and its features. We are asking you to help us develop this plan. Please share your thoughts on the protection and long-term management of the property.

1. Where do you live?

- ☐ South Salt Spring
- ☐ North Salt Spring
- ☐ Mid Salt Spring
- ☐ Off-island

2. How often do you visit Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve?

- ☐ Once a week or more
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Several times per year
- ☐ Once a year or less
- ☐ Never

3. What activities do you and/or your family enjoy when visiting Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve?

- ☐ Hiking/walking
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Other (please list)

4. Please list any wildlife and unique plant species you have seen at or near Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve?

5. What do you believe to be the most important values of nature reserves (choose three)

- ☐ Protection of habitat for at-risk species
- ☐ Ecosystem services (e.g. clean water and air, erosion control, groundwater recharge, etc)
- ☐ Recreational opportunities
- ☐ Education and research opportunities
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Aesthetic appeal
- ☐ Conservation for the sake of the intrinsic value of nature
- ☐ Other (please specify):

6. What activities do you believe are incompatible with the protection of natural features, and should not be allowed within the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve?

7. What do you feel could be the greatest threat to the health of this nature reserve, and should be the highest management priority for the Islands Trust Fund?

8. Please provide any other relevant information that will help us make the best management decisions for Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.

9. Please share with us any history you know about this property (or the south end of Salt Spring) or any knowledge you have about unique cultural or other special features on the property.

10. If you would like to receive updates from the Islands Trust Fund on this, and other conservation projects on the islands, please provide your name and email address:

Thank you for your time spent helping us plan the future of the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve.

Appendix H. Public Consultation First Nations Letter

May 13, 2016

Dear «Greeting»,

The Islands Trust Fund is updating the management plan for the Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve on Salt Spring Island (PID 018-650-422, Lot B, Section 32, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP 58173) and would like your input.



The original management plan was written in 1995 with a revision in 2005. Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve is a 3.84 hectare (9.49 acre) area on the south end of Salt Spring Island overlooking Satellite Channel and the Saanich Peninsula. It is a long East-West strip that runs a steep course across the lower slopes of Mount Tuam.

The Reserve was donated to the Trust Fund Board as part of a subdivision application in 1994. The Islands Trust Fund works with the covenant co-holders, Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) to manage the property in order to protect the unique ecological values. This property includes about 0.32 ha of open rock outcrop and 3.52 ha of second-growth forest.

The Reserve is part of a 400 hectare continuous protected area known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area (SMA). The SMA is being cooperatively managed by a multi-

jurisdictional group known as the Mount Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team (SMART). As a whole, this area faces the same external threats including off-road vehicle traffic, overgrazing, and conifer encroachment associated with fire suppression.

The current management for the Nature Reserve focuses on protecting the natural values of the property. Development of any kind, including disturbance to native vegetation, soils, and water flow, is prohibited. As well, public use and access are not encouraged. The updated plan will support ongoing species inventories, removing non-native invasive species and protecting all of the native plants and animals on the reserve.

As a First Nation with interests on Salt Spring Island, the Islands Trust Fund would like to involve you in the planning process for the management of this special property. We would be very interested in learning from you how our management plan and subsequent activities can acknowledge and respect the cultural significance and traditional use of this area.

We would welcome your input on the continued management of this protected area. If you would like to have more information or to meet to discuss, please contact Nuala Murphy, Islands Trust Fund, Property Management Specialist at the number below.

Thank you for your guidance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Murphy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist, Islands Trust Fund
Phone: 250-405-5193
Email: nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca



TRUST FUND BOARD REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE: November 10, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Management Plan, Gabriola Island

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust Fund Board approve the 2016 Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Management Plan.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: This management plan will guide the management of this property and assist staff in budgeting time and resources toward property management activities.

FINANCIAL: The management budget is allocated each year depending on available funds and the work that is most needed, balanced between all TFB properties. The actions outlined in the plan will not require funds over and above those available at this time.

POLICY: Consistent with policy

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Staff will provide the final version of the management plan to the volunteer warden and TFB's property monitors. The management plan will also be posted to the ITF website.

BACKGROUND

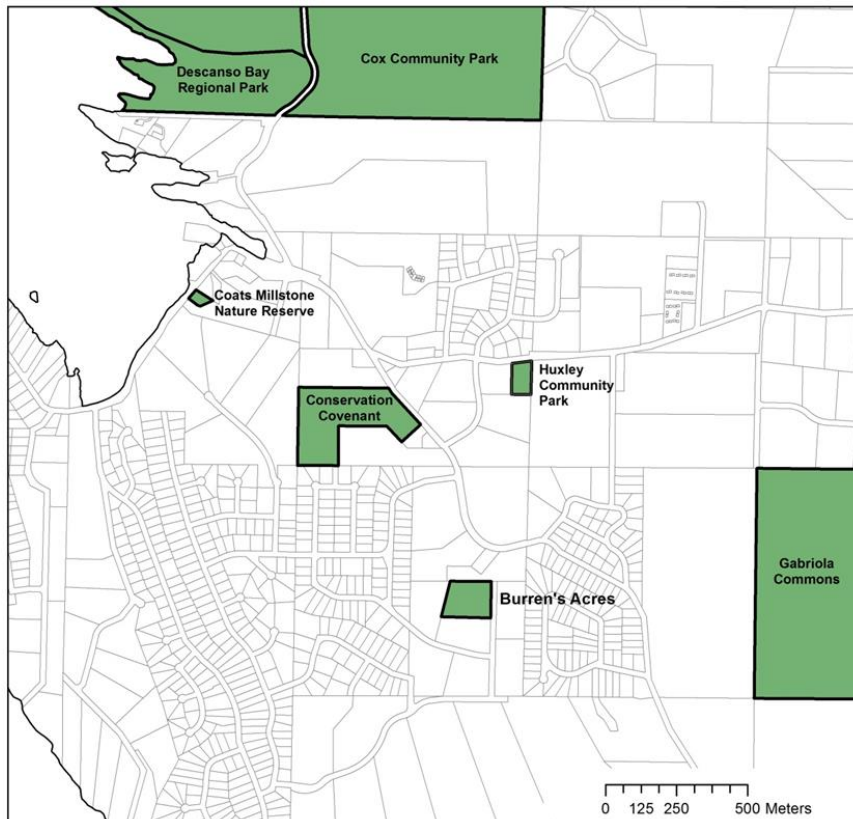
Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) protected area on the west side of Gabriola Island. The Trust Fund Board have managed the reserve since it was donated in 2013 and this is the first management plan that has been written to guide activities.

Islands Trust Fund policy (TFB 2.3) indicates that "The Board will prepare and approve a management plan for each property it acquires as a Nature Reserve. The Board will



Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Regional Location Map

April 2016



approve a management plan for its properties within one year of acquisition, and will update each management plan approximately every 10 years”.

Islands Trust Fund management plans:

- Provide general and descriptive information on the property, including location, history, and land use;
- Set out the conservation goals and objectives for the property;
- Identify the property's ecological and/or cultural values and features;
- Describe the management issues associated with the property; and,
- Provide short, medium and long-term management recommendations (action items or tasks) on issues such as: invasive species management; species at risk protection; public access and safety; educational and research opportunities; and signage needs.

The ecological inventory that was used for the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Management Plan was completed by Ursus Environmental in 2014. The management plan will continue to take into consideration new findings in species and management techniques over the course of the lifetime of the plan. There is currently no conservation covenant registered over the reserve.

The reserve is habitat to Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) which is a provincially blue listed Species at Risk and has a Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) rank of Special Concern. There were also two provincially-listed rare plant communities found, Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape (CDFmm/01) and Western redcedar – Indian-plum (CDFmm/13) which are red listed. A sensitive Herbaceous – Rock outcrop/Moss unit was also identified. An in-depth study looking specifically for Species at Risk has not been completed so more species of interest may be found in the future.

The Islands Trust Fund objectives for the management of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve are to:

- Preserve the natural features and functions of the land;
- Protect and, where necessary and feasible, restore the plant and animal communities and ecological processes at the site;
- Permit only uses that do not significantly impair the natural condition of the reserve or its special features such as management of invasive species or monitoring to guide management actions; and
- Support ongoing inventory, mapping and monitoring to guide management provided it does not interfere with Species at Risk protection.

Management Plan action items are measurable and achievable tasks that the ITF can complete to ensure that the protected area is managed in the best possible way. The following management action items are based on the public consultation and recommendations made in this management plan and listed in priority sequence, subject to available funding resources.

Immediate Actions (1-2 years)

1. Conduct annual monitoring to monitor covenant compliance and identify management concerns.
2. Develop an invasive species management work plan to guide management and monitoring of invasive species in the reserve.
3. Remove invasive non-native species as directed by the invasive species work plan.
4. Work to change the zoning from Large Rural Residential (RR) to a zoning that better reflects the permitted uses of a Trust Fund Board Nature Reserve.

Short term Actions (3-5 years)

1. Develop a landowner contact program with all landowners within a 1 km radius of the Sanctuary to provide information on the following:
 - a. encourage long-term conservation and protection of nearby properties;
 - b. inform landowners about the importance of the protected area and to make neighbours aware of the property boundaries of the protected area; and,
2. Ongoing invasive species management as guided by work plan developed under immediate actions.
3. Install a sign near to the driveway close to Conville Road to inform the public that the area is protected and to outline prohibited activities (including no public access) if any trespass issues occur.
4. Support research of rare species surveys to inform management provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.

Long term Actions (5+ years)

1. Develop long-term public education program to inform Gabriola residents about the importance and sensitivities of the property: key historical and ecological features namely: First Nation use, diatomite mining use and sensitive ecosystems/spring wildflowers.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local First Nations.

REPORT/DOCUMENT: 2016_11_3_Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Management Plan_Final Draft

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S): Active and responsible management of TFB lands.

RELEVANT POLICY: TFB 2.3 Acquisition and Management of Land Procedure 2.3.2 Management Preparations for ITF Properties and Property Interests

DESIRED OUTCOME: Clear management guidelines for TFB lands with site specific and site appropriate management planning.

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommended: As above.

Alternatives: That the Trust Fund Board approve the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Management Plan as amended.

Prepared By: Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist

Reviewed By: Jennifer Eliason
Manager, Islands Trust Fund

**Burren's Acres Nature Reserve
Property Management Plan
Gabriola Island**



Prepared by the



**Approved by
the Trust Fund Board, xxx
Resolution # TFB-201x-xx**

i. Executive Summary

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) protected area on the west side of Gabriola Island. The reserve is within the asserted traditional territory of eight First Nations and one Treaty Group. Coast Salish First Nations have had a presence on these lands for thousands of years¹.

Farmed in the late 1800s/early 1900s, it was then used for a brief period in the late 1930s and early 1940s for drying and transporting diatomaceous earth. In more recent decades, the property was logged, and related machinery and scrap metal was dumped on the land. The property was donated to the Trust Fund Board by Margaret Taylor in 2013. The donor owned and cared for this property from 2003 by removing a dense cover of invasive species and cleaning up the debris left by logging and industrial use.

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve includes roughly 0.4 hectares of rock outcrop and 1.6 hectares of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession. Two provincially red-listed vegetation communities have been identified on the reserve and there are sensitive herbaceous-rock outcrop ecosystems that are sensitive to disturbance.

The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) manages nature reserves and protected areas to ensure that ecological communities and native species are protected in perpetuity. The management vision for Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is to protect the unique ecological values in perpetuity in order to support a diverse range of native plants and animals. The current threats to this vision include trespass with motorized vehicles and encroachment by non-native invasive plants.

In order to achieve the management vision, the following actions are recommended as resources permit:

1. Conduct annual monitoring to identify management concerns.
2. Continue to have a volunteer warden to monitor the property and identify management concerns such as trespassing, invasives species encroachment and other issues.
3. Develop an invasive species management work plan to guide management and remove invasive non-native woody species as required.
4. Support research to inform management provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.

¹ The Trust Fund Board recognizes that the language commonly used to refer to land is disrespectful to First Nations. For example, notions of 'private' and 'Crown' land do not appropriately recognize aboriginal title and infer a belief in the concept of terra nullius, the idea that land was not owned prior to the assertion of European sovereignty. The Trust Fund Board acknowledges that terra nullius is a concept that doesn't apply to the Islands Trust Area and in the absence of more appropriate language, uses the terms 'private' and 'Crown' land to mean land that is currently managed by either private individuals/agencies or the government.

5. Develop a landowner contact program with all landowners within a 1 km radius of the reserve to provide information on conservation and protection of nearby properties and threats to the reserve.

The action items will be addressed in priority sequence by Islands Trust Fund staff as resources permit.

ii. Tables, Lists and Maps

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Acknowledgements

The Islands Trust Fund would like to thank Margaret Taylor for the generous donation of this property and her ongoing dedication to the restoration of this site through countless hours of clean up to repair the land from its industrial history and to remove the invasive species that had established there. Thanks also to Leigh Anne Milman for her dedication to the protection of this property.

Thank you to Joe Materi of Ursus Environmental for providing the ecological inventory and mapping for the management plan.

1.0 Introduction

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) area on the west side of Gabriola Island. It includes roughly 0.4 hectares of rock outcrop and 1.6 hectares of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession. The reserve is owned by the Trust Fund Board who will manage the property in order to protect its unique ecological values.

1.1. Islands Trust Fund (ITF) and the Trust Fund Board (TFB)

In 1974 the Province of British Columbia recognized the islands between Vancouver Island and the mainland as a special place within the province where the unique beauty, rural character and diverse ecosystems should be protected for future generations. Through the *Islands Trust Act*, the province established the Islands Trust, a local government, with the following mandate (known as the Object of the Islands Trust):

"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" (Islands Trust 2015).

In 1990, through the enactment of a section of *Islands Trust Act*, the ITF was established as a conservation land trust to assist in carrying out the "preserve and protect" mandate. Part 6 of the *Islands Trust Act* establishes the corporate status, responsibilities, and governance structure of the TFB. The TFB is one of fifteen corporate entities² charged to uphold the Object of the Islands Trust. It is responsible for the actions of the ITF and since 1990 has protected over 1,184 hectares (2926 acres) of land as nature reserves and conservation covenants.

The vision of the ITF is that the islands and waters of the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound will be a vibrant tapestry of culture and ecology where humans live and work in harmony

² The Corporate entities charged to uphold the Object of the Islands Trust include the Trust Council, twelve local trust committees, one island municipality and the TFB.

with the natural world. This special place will have a network of protected areas that preserve in perpetuity the native species and natural systems of the islands. Engaged residents and conservation partners will work together to protect large natural areas and key wildlife habitat. Viable ecosystems will flourish alongside healthy island communities.

The mission of the ITF is to protect special places by encouraging, undertaking and assisting in voluntary conservation initiatives within the Islands Trust Area. ITF Nature Reserves are managed to maintain, preserve and protect the natural features and values of ecosystems. This level of protection is similar to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected area Category 1B: Wilderness area:

“large area of unmodified or slightly modified land and/or sea; retaining its natural character and influence, without permanent or significant habitation, which is protected and managed in order to preserve its natural condition” (Lockwood, 2006).

1.2 Purpose of Islands Trust Fund Management Plans

ITF management plans provide background information and set out the direction of property management as follows:

- Provide general and descriptive information on the property, including location, history, and land use;
- Set out the conservation goals and objectives for the property;
- Identify the property's ecological and/or cultural values and features;
- Describe the management issues associated with the property; and,
- Provide short, medium and long-term management recommendations (action items or tasks) on issues such as: Species at Risk protection; ecological restoration; public access; educational and research opportunities; invasive species management; and signage needs.

Once the management plan process is complete, the ITF will work to carry out the management actions or strategies identified in the plan, as resources allow. Following general practice the ITF will revise the Management Plan every ten years.

1.3 Nature Reserve Purpose

The purpose of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is to:

- Preserve and protect the natural values of forest and rock outcrop;
- Protect populations of provincially blue-listed and COSEWIC ranked Special Concern Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) and two rare plant communities at risk and the sensitive herbaceous-rock outcrop ecosystems identified to date, as well as any potential Species at Risk that may be discovered in future surveys;
- Allow natural succession of the reserve's ecosystems to occur unimpeded without human intervention, except in the case of wildfire or other exceptional situations where remediation is considered imperative; and,

- Protect the site in accordance with the objectives outlined in Section 1.4.

1.4 Nature Reserve Objectives

The Islands Trust Fund objectives for the management of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve are to:

- Preserve the natural features and functions of the land;
- Protect and, where necessary and feasible, restore the plant and animal communities and ecological processes at the site;
- Permit only uses that do not significantly impair the natural condition of the reserve or its special features such as management of invasive species or monitoring to guide management actions; and
- Support ongoing inventory, mapping and monitoring to guide management provided it does not interfere with Species at Risk protection.

2.0 Property Information

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is 2.023 ha, including roughly 0.4 ha of rock outcrop and 1.6 ha of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession. The reserve is within the asserted traditional territory of eight Coast Salish First Nations.

2.1 Location

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is located on the west side of Gabriola Island. To reach the property from the B.C. Ferries terminal on Gabriola Island travel due south on North Road then continue straight onto South Road for 1.2 km. Turn right onto Dirkson Road and travel 0.2 km west on Dirkson. Follow the curve around Dirkson Road and continue to the south past Stephens Road for 0.2 km until Dirkson Road intersects with Berg Road. Turn left onto Berg Road and travel southeast for 0.4 km to its intersection with Conville Road. Turn left on Conville Road and travel north for 150 m. The property is accessed from a gated driveway on the left side of Conville Road. (Maps in Figures 1-3).

2.2 Legal Description

Parcel Identifier Number: 002-803-925

Lot 3, Section 12, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District, Plan 26561

2.3 Local and Regional Context

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is in an area of rural residential lots with lot sizes ranging from 1.1 to 4.4 hectares. The eastern boundary of the property abuts Conville Road and the remaining boundaries are adjacent to private lands (map in Figure 3).



Figure 1. Location of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve in relation to surrounding Gulf Islands



Figure 2. Location of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve on Gabriola

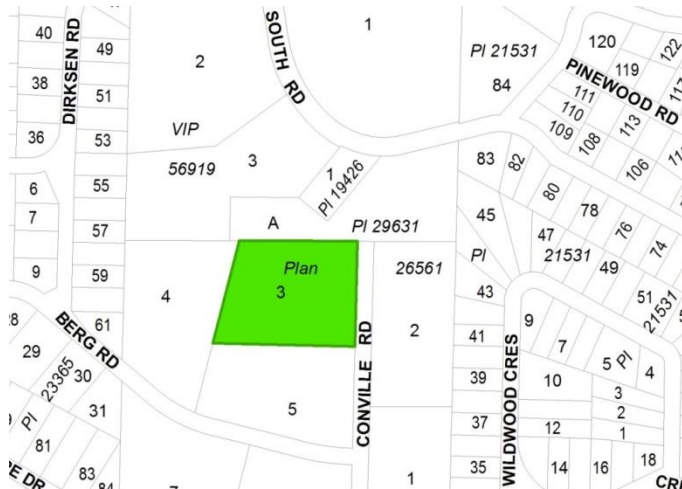


Figure 3. Surrounding Properties of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve

2.4 Adjacent Land Use and Connectivity

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is not immediately adjacent to any large protected areas on Gabriola Island (Figure 4), but it does provide a measure of habitat connectivity to patches of undeveloped forest lands to the south and east. In addition, the site is connected through contiguous forest to natural wetland areas south of Berg Road and northeast of Conville Road. The area's proximity to the B.C. Ferries Terminal and commercial centres has likely hastened the conversion of some properties in the neighbourhood to rural residential uses.

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve Regional Location Map

April 2016

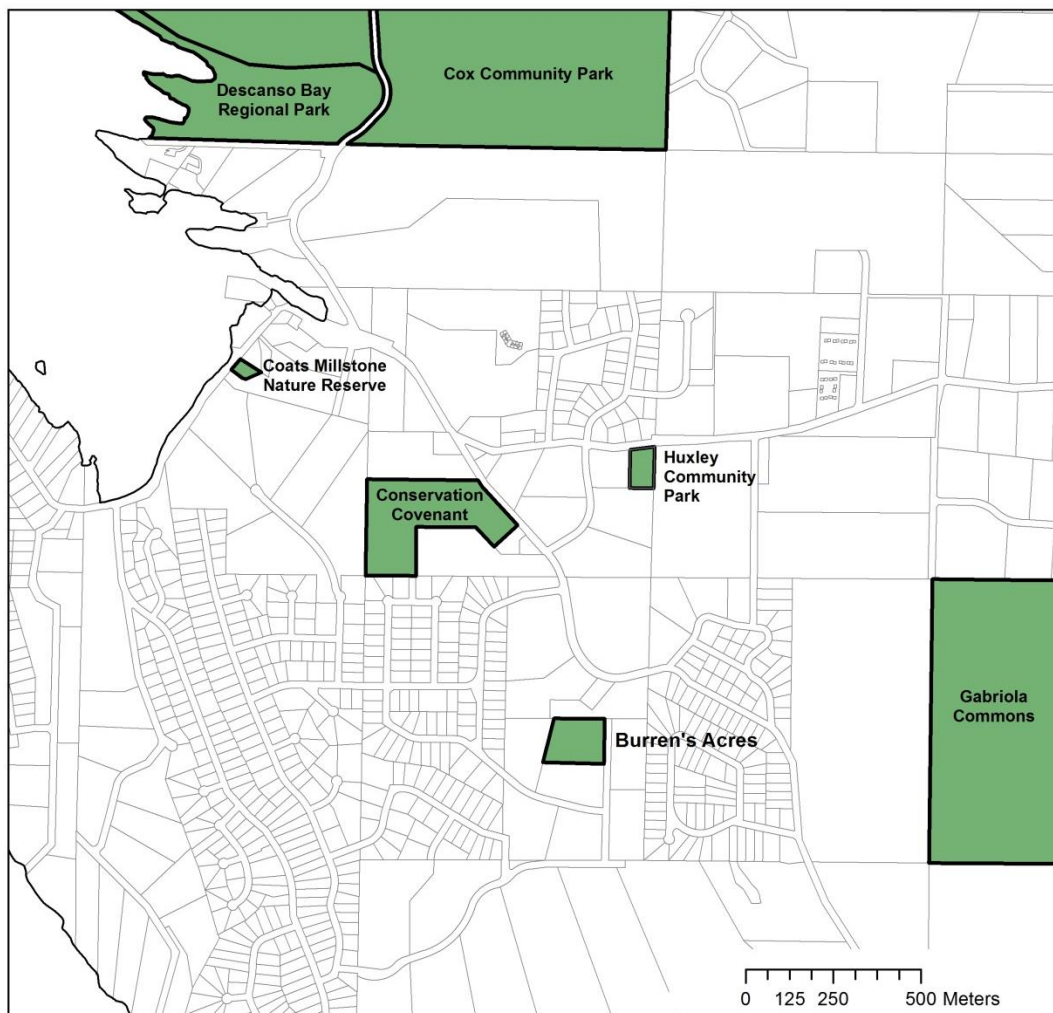


Figure 4. Location of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve in Relations to surrounding protected areas.

2.5 Site History

2.5.1 Pre-Contact

For over 10,000 years local First Nations have had an integral connection to the islands in the Trust area and the surrounding waters. “When the tide is out, the table is set” is an expression found in several of the local Indigenous languages that refers to one of many ways in which these resource-rich islands were used to feed and sustain their communities. There were places known for deer hunting, places for duck hunting, clam gardens that belonged to certain families, reef net fishing sites, special places for spiritual ceremonies,

and so much more. The Island Trust Fund is committed to better understanding the First Nations' connection to the land and water of the islands. Even though we are just beginning to understand the historical and current connection First Nations have with these islands, we are doing so with a sense of humility and sincerity in honouring those connections.

According to the BC Provincial Consultative Areas Database, Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is located within the asserted traditional territories of the following eight First Nations and one treaty group:

- Cowichan Tribes
- Halalt First Nation
- Lake Cowichan First Nation
- Lyackson First Nation
- Penelakut Tribe
- Semiahmoo First Nation
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Stz'uminus First Nation (Chemainus)
- Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group

Further communication is needed to better understand the traditional First Nation's use of the reserve and surrounding area.

2.5.2 Previous Landowners

The site was owned by the Rowan family for several decades. The family arrived on Gabriola in 1904, buying 160 acres from the Penberthy family who pre-empted it (settled and took ownership) in 1865 and farmed portions of it. Five acres of this land form Burren's Acres Nature Reserve (J. Gehlbach, 2010). The Rowan Family patriarch, James H. Rowan Sr., retired from coal mining and farmed his land until he died in 1929. The previous year, he had accidentally discovered the diatomaceous earth on his property.

One of James Rowan's sons, James H. Rowan Jr., returned to live on his parents' Gabriola acreage in the mid-1930s and became interested in developing a diatomite mine at a swamp on the acreage, known locally as "Dutchmen's Swamp" (just east of the present day Berg Road). The mine was operational between 1939 and the early 1940s. At that time, the reserve was used to transport and dry diatomaceous earth before it was placed in a nearby kiln (off the reserve) for further processing.

2.5.3 Forestry

In recent decades, the site was logged, and subsequently used as a dumping area for wood debris and machinery.

2.5.4 Conservation Efforts from 2003

When Margaret Taylor purchased the property in 2003, the site supported a dense cover of invasive Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), some of which required chainsaws to remove. Mossy rock outcrops were frequently disturbed by local all-terrain vehicle (ATV) users.

From 2003 to 2013, the former landowner removed most of the Scotch broom, much of the logging debris, and virtually all of the scrap metal. She also fenced the perimeter of the property and gated it, preventing ATV's from accessing the property. A small shed was installed in the central part of the site, and a small disturbed area in front of the shed was seeded to turf grass and a network of trails were created.

2.6 Undersurface Rights

Undersurface rights for Burren's Acres Nature Reserve are currently held in favour of William Henry White Stephenson, Registration Number: 162675G which also includes a separate Coal TSN Registration Number: DF43112.

2.7 Easements and Covenants

There is no Section 219 Conservation Covenant or Section 218 Statutory Right of Way registered at this time. There are also no other restrictive covenants or easements filed on title.

2.8 Official Community Plan

2.8.1 Zoning

In the Gabriola Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 166 Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is zoned Large Rural Residential (RR) which allows one single-dwelling residential unit per parcel with minimum parcel size of 2 hectares and the average parcel size shall be 4 hectares. At the earliest opportunity the zoning will be changed to better reflect the permitted uses of Trust Fund Board Nature Reserve.

2.8.2 Trail and Public Access

In 2003 the driveway off Conville Road was re-grading and a metal gate was installed (Photo 1) to discourage trespassing as well as 1.2 m high page-wire fencing around the perimeter of the site.



Photo 1. Metal gate on driveway off Conville Road (Photo: J. Materi)

A main trail roughly two metres in width extends about 120 metres across the property, from the driveway gate to the northwestern corner of the site (Figure 5). A network of informal trails, less than one metre in width, extends across the western and northern parts of the property. None of the trails on the site incorporate surface treatments, boardwalks, or culverts.

At this time the gate is kept locked with no public access.

2.8.3 Building and Other Infrastructure

The lone structure on the reserve is a wood frame garden shed measuring approximately 3.6 metres in length and 3.0 metres in width. It is located in the east-central part of the property (Figure 6). The shed was constructed in 2004 and is currently in good repair (see Appendix A for photo). There is a metal gate and 1.2 metre high page-wire fence around the perimeter of the reserve.

An abandoned groundwater well is located in the central part of the western property line. It has a metal plate capping the well-head (Photo 2).



Photo 2. Abandoned groundwater well (Photo: J. Materi)

2.8.4 Utilities

There are no utilities in Burren's Acres Nature Sanctuary.

3.0 Ecological Inventory

3.1 Ecological Significance

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve encompasses areas of dry upland forest, rock outcroppings, and a small area of moist forest within the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone (or CDF). The CDF Zone is poorly represented within protected areas of Gulf Islands, and is under considerable threat from residential and industrial development. The reserve features patches of intact mature forest across the southern and western parts of site, which possess desirable habitat characteristics such as large-diameter trees, wildlife trees, and multi-storied canopies. A sizeable area of rock outcrop in the northwestern part of the site provides an interesting contrast to adjacent forests, with mats of mosses, scattered lichens, and a diversity of spring wildflowers. The latter area has been slowly recovering from disturbance in recent decades, and includes areas capable of supporting endangered Garry Oak plant communities.

3.2 Climate

The rain shadow effect of the Olympic and Vancouver Island Mountains and the moderating forces of the ocean are the dominant influences on the climate. This subzone typically experiences warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The weather data from the Gabriola Island Weather station shows normals from 1981 to 2010 and record an average annual precipitation of 957 millimetres (mm). 56% of the total annual precipitation falls during the winter months (November through February), with only 3% falling as snow or an average of 34.7 mm a year (Government of Canada 2016).

The months of December and January are the coldest, with daily average temperature of 3.6° and 3.9° Celsius respectively, while July and August are the warmest months with mean temperatures of 17 and 16.9° Celsius (Government of Canada 2016). The combined effects of low precipitation, warm temperatures, and high number of sunshine hours often result in an annual moisture deficit on Gabriola Island from mid-June to early October (Figure 5).

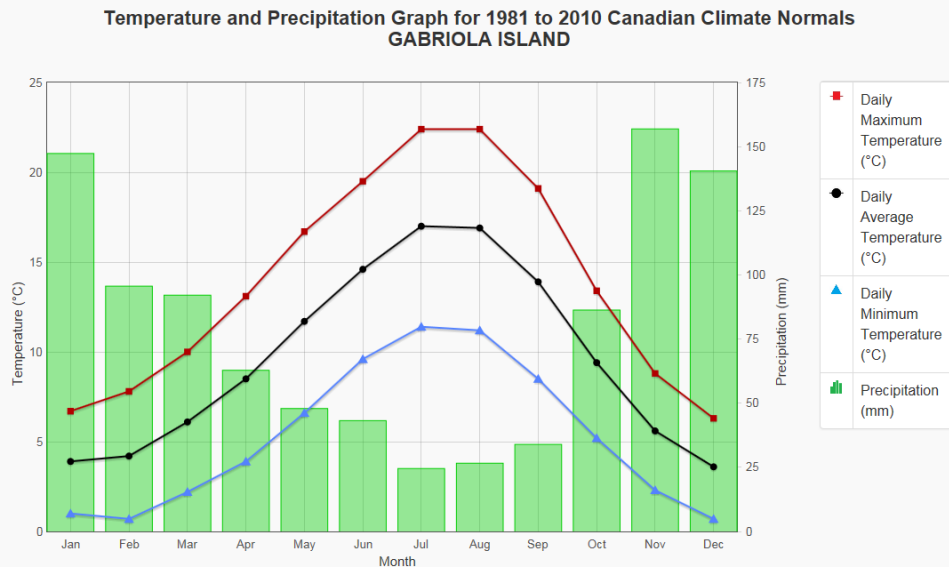


Figure 5. Temperature and Precipitation Normals (1981-2010) for Gabriola Island Weather Station

3.3 Geology and Physiology

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is underlain by the Gabriola Sandstone Formation, part of the Nanaimo Group, which formed 65 to 70 million years ago. (Van Vliet et al. 1990). Topography within the nature reserve is fairly subdued. The terrain slopes gently from a high point in the southwest (93 metre elevation) trending towards the northeast corner (76 metre elevation) for an overall grade of about 10 %. There is a small area of more steeply sloping terrain along the 80 metre contour in the eastern part of the property.

3.4 Hydrology

The majority of the property has well-draining soils and with the topography, especially the steep slope in the eastern part of the property, surface runoff collects relatively quickly in the northeast corner of the site following heavy rain events promoting the development of an uncommon vegetation type there, Western redcedar- Indian-plum plant community (see Figure 6). The bedrock outcroppings exhibit rapid drainage. In the winter there is standing water over the exposed sandstone bedrock of Vegetation Type 2.

3.5 Soils

The dominant soil type is Bellhouse, a relatively shallow sandy loam which is well-draining. There is a small portion of Rock, undifferentiated bedrock exposed or covered with moss or mineral soil less than 10cm thick, in the northwestern part of the reserve (Van Vliet et al. 1990).

3.6 Ecological Classification

Ecoprovince: Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is located in the Eastern Vancouver Island Ecoregion of the Georgia Depression. This ecoregion lies within a pronounced rain shadow provided by the neighbouring Vancouver Island Mountain Ranges.

Biogeoclimatic Units: The reserve is situated entirely within the Moist Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDFmm) Biogeoclimatic Zone. Historically, there were about 260,000 hectares which would have been classified as CDFmm (Ministry of Natural Resource Operations 2011). Unfortunately, much of this habitat has been destroyed by urban development, agriculture or logging: less than 1% of old growth in the CDFmm remains (CDFCP 2013). This subzone typically experiences warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters with periods of drought frequently encountered in late summer.

3.7 Ecological Plant Communities

No Rare Element Occurrences as documented on the Conservation Data Centre (CDC) online database were found on the reserve, and none of the vascular plants identified on the site to date match those on red or blue lists for the region. However, sensitive and endangered plant communities are indicated on other mapping covering the area. Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) mapping completed by Madrone Consulting shows a sensitive Mature Forest unit (part of SEI Polygon #50169) in the northeastern part of the reserve. Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping (TEM) for this area indicates a band of very young (i.e. pole –sapling stage) Douglas-fir - Salal forest extending across the central part of the site (part of TEM Polygon #50160), as well as a slightly older stand (i.e. young forest stage) of the same type occurring in the southwest corner of the reserve (part of TEM Polygon #50172). The Douglas-fir-Salal ecosystem type is provincially red-listed.

An inventory of biological features was conducted in the reserve by Ursus Environmental in early May of 2014. The field investigation confirmed the presence of forested ecosystems on the reserve that are provincially red-listed. The larger of these is the characteristic dry forest type for the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone (CDFmm/01), which is also listed among the highest priorities for protection under the Provincial Conservation Framework. This forest type presently occurs as mid-seral and mature successional stages within the site. The other red-listed ecosystem is a forest type that develops on areas with a strongly fluctuating groundwater table (CDFmm/13). It covers a very small area in the northeast corner of the reserve.

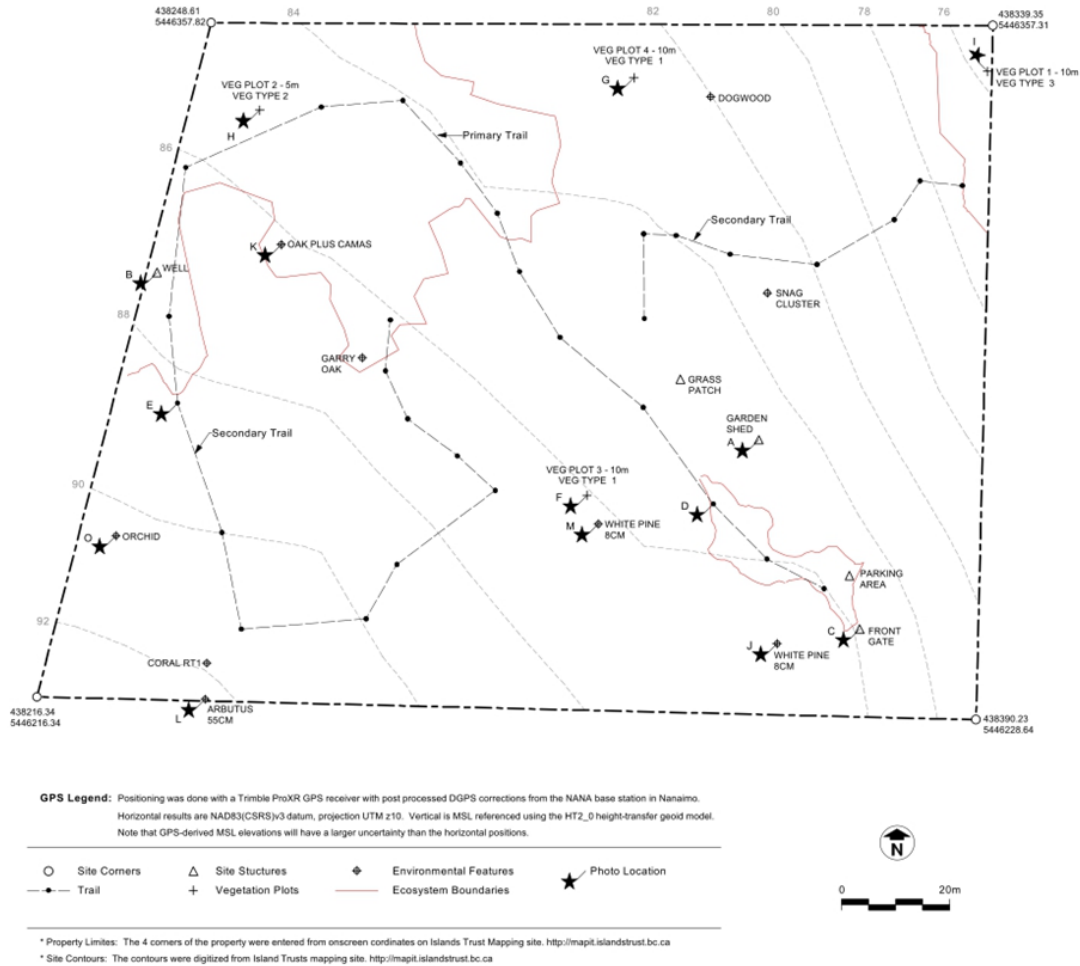
A third sensitive ecosystem type was identified in May of 2014, an Herbaceous – Rock outcrop/Moss unit. It does not appear in published SEI or TEM mapping covering the reserve, possibly because of its small area, but would undoubtedly be sensitive to disturbance due to its lack of soil.

As described in Table 1 below, two red-listed ecological communities were identified (see Map 1).

Table 1. Summary of Vegetation Types identified in Burren's Acres Nature Reserve

Ecological Community	Provincial Rank
Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape (CDFmm/01)	Red List
Western redcedar – Indian-plum (CDFmm/13)	Red List

Map of: Lot 3, Section 12, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District,
Plan 26561 Parcel Identifier 002-803-925



Burren's Acres Nature Reserve (Islands Trust)
1027 Conville Road, Gabriola Island

Drawn By: JET
Date: June, 2014

Figure 6. Map of Vegetation Types, Photopoints and Other Features

3.7.1 Ecological Community 1

Vegetation Type 1 is the **Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Mahonia nervosa*) ecosystem type. This is **RED LISTED** plant community (Site Association CDFmm/01) occurs as mature forest in the southwest and eastern parts of the reserve, and as older second-growth forest in the central part of the site. It features relatively shallow and nutrient-poor soils with a dry to very dry hydrological regime.

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & Percent Cover Age (estimated) Height (estimated) DBH Range (estimated)	Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) – 30% >60 yrs 23 m 25 - 35 cm
Secondary Canopy Species & Percent Cover Age (estimated) Height (estimated) DBH (estimated)	Western Redcedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>) –3% Arbutus (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>) - 2% <60 yrs 18 - 20 m 18 – 40 cm
Total Canopy Cover	35 %
Understory Species &percent cover Shrubs, including trees<10m Herbs, ferns and mosses	Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>) – 25% Ocean Spray (<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>)- 7% Juv. W. Redcedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>) - 12% Evergreen Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>) – 5% Dull Oregon Grape (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>) - 1% R. Huckleberry (<i>Vaccinium parviflorum</i>) - 1% Baldhip Rose (<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>) <1% Sword Fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>) - <1% Broad-leaved Starflower (<i>Trientalis latifolia</i>) - <1 % Pacific Sanicle (<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i>) - <1 % Unidentified Grasses - <1%
Rare/threatened & locally uncommon species	Scattered uncommon orchids occur off plot, including Fairyslipper (<i>Calypso bulbosa</i>), Twayblade (<i>Listera</i> sp.) and Coralroot (<i>Corallorhiza</i> spp.)
Special Features	Dry forest type
Expected Changes	Gradual decrease in Salal cover as sub-canopy trees mature.
Disturbance History	Past history of fire and logging; snow caused some trees to fall on forest edge.

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat/Features	Abundant browse and coarse woody debris; areas with good berry production potential; pockets of snags.
Observed Species	Birds: Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Spotted Towhee, Winter Wren, Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Mammals: Columbian black-tailed Deer (droppings & browse).
Rare/threatened & locally uncommon species	None observed

3.7.3 Ecological Community 2

Vegetation Type 2 is an **Herbaceous Rock Outcrop / Moss** ecosystem type. This is an unlisted but environmentally sensitive plant community situated in the northwest quadrant of the nature reserve. It is comprised predominantly of slow-growing mats of mosses growing over bedrock, along with a few grasses and lichens. There are a variety of spring wildflowers occurring in this ecosystem type, but it typically dries out rapidly over the summer.

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & Percent Cover	Not applicable
Secondary Canopy Species & Percent Cover	Not applicable
Total Canopy Cover	0 %
Understory Species & percent cover Shrubs, including trees <10m Herbs, ferns and mosses	Saskatoon (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>) <1% Nootka Rose (<i>Rosa nutkana</i>) <1% Sweet Vernalgrass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) – 8 % Small-flowered Blue-eyed Mary (<i>Collinsia parviflora</i>) – 2 % Common Camas (<i>Camassia quamash</i>) <1% Alaskan Saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga ferruginea</i>) <1 % Chickweed Monkey-flower (<i>Mimulus alsinoides</i>) <1% Unidentified grasses <1 % Hoary Rock Moss (<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>) – 30%

	Roadside Rock Moss (<i>Racomitrium canescens</i>) -10% Juniper Haircap Moss (<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>) -20% Unidentified mosses – 10% Lichens (<i>Cladonia</i> sp.) 1 %
Observed rare/threatened species and locally uncommon species	Garry oak (planted) and Meadow Death-camas Seen off-plot.
Special Features	Spring wildflowers; high floral diversity.
Expected Changes	Gradual increase in moss cover and depth over bedrock; increased cover by grasses and wildflowers.
Disturbance History	Logging, ATV disturbance.

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat/Features	Basking habitat for reptiles, open areas for aerial insectivores & raptors.
Observed Species	Birds: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Violet-green Swallow, Chipping Sparrow. Mammals: Columbian Black-tailed Deer
Rare/threatened species & locally uncommon species	None observed.

3.7.2 Ecological Community 3

Vegetation Type 3 is the **Western redcedar – Indian-plum** (*Thuja plicata* / *Oemlaria cerasiformis*) ecosystem type. This is a **RED LISTED** plant community (Site Association CDFmm/13) found as older second-growth forest in a small area in the northeastern part of the site. It develops on medium to very rich soils with a strongly fluctuating water table. In winter soils are frequently saturated in this ecosystem type, while in summer soils are merely fresh (i.e. neither moist nor dry).

FLORA

Main Canopy Species & Percent Cover Age (estimated) Height (estimated) DBH Range (estimated)	Western Redcedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>) –25% 40 yrs 27 m 30-60 cm
Secondary Canopy Species & Percent Cover Age (estimated) Height (estimated) DBH (estimated)	Red Alder (<i>Alnus rubra</i>) - 10% Grand Fir (<i>Abies grandis</i>) - 3% 30 yrs 18 – 22 m 7 – 32 cm
Total Canopy Cover	38 %

Understory Species & percent cover Shrubs, including trees <10m	Salmonberry (<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>) - 17% Red Elderberry (<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> ssp. <i>pubens</i>) - 2% Ocean Spray (<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>) - 2 % Dull Oregon Grape (<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>) - <1% Salal (<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>) – <1%
Herbs, ferns and mosses	Sword Fern (<i>Polystichum munitum</i>) - 15% Vanilla-leaf (<i>Achlys triphylla</i>) – 2% Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) -1% Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) - <1% Foamflower (<i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>) - <1% Lady Fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>) - <1% Spiny Wood Fern (<i>Dryopteris expansa</i>) - <1%
Rare/threatened and locally uncommon species	None observed
Special Features	Semi-open canopy; high floral diversity.
Expected Changes	Increased cover by ferns and increased girth of cedar, alder, and fir trees. Understory vegetation is largely shade-tolerant.
Disturbance History	Logging and wind-throw

FAUNA

Wildlife Habitat/Features	High browse and berry production; high structural diversity and abundant coarse woody debris.
Observed Species	Birds: Yellow Warbler, House Finch, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Rufous Hummingbird. White-crowner Sparrow. Mammals: Columbian Black-tailed Deer. Amphibians: Northern Pacific Treefrog
Rare/threatened & locally uncommon species	Band-tailed Pigeon (Blue listed)

3.8 Wildlife Species

Many different wildlife species use Burren's Acres Nature Reserve with basking habitat for reptiles as well as open areas for aerial insectivores and raptors. Northern Pacific Treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*) was observed during the preparation of the baseline report. Many bird species were identified including Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Spotted Towhee, Winter Wren, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Violet-green Swallow, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, House Finch, Rufous Hummingbird, White-crowner Sparrow and the blue-listed Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*).

Columbian Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) were observed and browse damage can be seen throughout the reserve.

3.9 Red and Blue Listed Species

Species Common Name	Species Latin Name	Provincial Rank ³	COSEWIC Rank ⁴	SARA Status
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Blue List S3S4B (2015) Vulnerable, Apparently Secure Breeding	Special Concern (2008)	Schedule 1 - Special Concern (2011)

4.0 Threats

Many of the most pressing threats to the ecological integrity of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve have been addressed by the previous landowner. Motorized access is restricted by fencing and a locked gate, and an intensive removal program of trash, logging debris and invasive plants was undertaken over the past decade. Nevertheless, there are several issues that should be considered in this Management Plan.

4.1 Invasive Species

Currently, invasive exotic plants occur very infrequently on the site. However, rapid colonization may occur among some species, making control difficult within a short time frame. Invasive non-native woody plant species are a threat to the diversity and reproductive success of native vegetation in the reserve.

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) has spread into the reserve and though removal has been constant over the last 10 years, it is an ongoing concern. It is spread mainly by seeds and the seeds have a tough coat that allows them to survive for up to 60 years; therefore once established, broom is very difficult to remove. The plant grows quickly, crowding out wildflower species and reducing open habitat favoured by native birds and butterflies. It can also produce dense, impenetrable thickets that impact Garry Oak woodlands and other sensitive ecosystems and limit the movement of large wildlife. The roots of the plant have a symbiotic relationship with the *Rhizobium* root bacteria that changes the soil, providing nitrogen, so that the plants can thrive in poor soil. This, in turn, creates favourable growing conditions for other non-native species, allowing them to accompany broom as it spreads across an area. Scotch broom also has a very high oil content making it extremely flammable.

4.2 Off-road Vehicle Use

Off-road vehicles frequently disturbed the mossy rock outcrops before the property was gated and fenced. This use has now been drastically reduced, but there has been damage to the gate which may have been caused by people getting heavy equipment over the gate. Off-road vehicle use not only damages plants and their habitat but the soil disturbance also

³ BC Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC 2016)

⁴ Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (Government of Canada 2016b)

facilitates invasion by exotic species which compete with native species for water, nutrients, light and space, and increases erosion.

4.3 Trails

Visitors do walk on the trails (Figure 6) in the reserve with key access through the metal gate with the volunteer warden. Users keep dogs under control or on leash, and use by dogs is avoided during bird nesting times. There are few impacts from the current level of use but if use increases, damage to the herbaceous rock outcrop and an increase in invasive species may occur.

4.4 Overgrazing

There is still considerable grazing pressure from native Black-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) with much evidence of browsing even within the fenced reserve. Currently, population levels of deer are extremely high on the island because of declines in hunting, the eradication of predators and the fragmentation of habitat.

4.5 Wildfire

Naturally occurring fires have been actively suppressed for approximately a century on Gabriola Island. Fire suppression in forested areas can create elevated fuel levels. If a fire did occur in the reserve, it may be hotter than historic fires and may be more damaging than historic fires. However the significant and continued removal of Scotch broom has reduced the fire risk for this property considerably.

4.8 Expected Change over Time

In the Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape plant community (Figure 6) there will be a gradual decrease in Salal cover as sub-canopy trees mature. In the Herbaceous Rock Outcrop / Moss areas there will be a gradual increase in moss cover and depth over bedrock with increased cover by grasses and wildflowers. In the small area of Western redcedar – Indian-plum an increase in cover by ferns and an increase girth of cedar, alder, and fir trees with the understory vegetation remaining as they are largely shade-tolerant.

5.0 Stakeholder Consultation

5.1 Adjacent Landowners

The Islands Trust Fund undertook a limited public consultation process as part of the development of this management plan. Seven adjacent landowners, within 100 metres of the nature reserve, were mailed a letter (Appendix B) to inform them that a management plan was in development for the reserve and to ask them to complete the questionnaire so that they could share their thoughts on the broad-scale management concerns of the reserve. Two neighbours replied.

5.2 First Nations

A letter was sent to all of the nine First Nations and one treaty group who have asserted traditional territories that include Burren's Acres Nature Reserve (letter included in Appendix D). The letter informed First Nations that a management plan was being prepared and asked for input related to broad-scale management concerns. At the date of the plan approval there has been no response from any of the First Nations, but the Islands Trust Fund remains open to communication throughout the life of this management plan.

5.3 Conservation Partners

The donor of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve acts as the volunteer warden of this property and holds a key to the gate. The donor, as well as those that have limited use or help maintain the reserve, were invited to comment via questionnaire (Appendix C). Eight questionnaires were returned.

5.4 Consultation Results

The concerns and information highlighted in all the responses have been addressed in this plan. The questionnaires asked respondents what the top three "most important values nature reserves offer", the results were:

1. Protection of habitat for at-risk species
2. Conservation for the sake of the intrinsic value of nature
3. Education and research opportunities

The consultation process revealed that the community in general was concerned about the following management issues:

- Invasive species invasion
- Motorized vehicles
- Mountain bikes
- Horse use
- Camping
- Overuse by human or dogs (affecting the flora or fauna, nesting times of birds)
- Fire
- Vandalism/Garbage dumping

6.0 Management Plan

6.1 Vision

That the unique ecological values of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve will be protected in perpetuity in order to support a diverse range of native plants and animals.

6.2 Discussion

The purpose of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is to protect the ecological integrity of the land in accordance with the objectives of the ITF. Ongoing monitoring and management is required in order to ensure that ecosystems and species continue to remain protected from threats. All management activities within the protected area must consider the specific sensitivities of the Species at Risk and their habitat found to date on the property and any additional Species at Risk found in the future.

In this section several key areas of the management planning process are identified and recommendations are formulated to achieve the vision, purpose and objectives for Burren's Acres Nature Reserve.

6.3 Management of the Sanctuary

The Trust Fund Board is the sole owner of the reserve and is responsible for the management activities. There is a volunteer warden who monitors the property on a frequent basis and identifies management concerns such as trespassing, invasive species infiltration and any other issues.

6.4 Permitted and Prohibited Uses

Due to the sensitive features found on Burren's Acres Nature Reserve, and the results of the public consultation, only activities associated with the management and monitoring of the property will be permitted.

The following activities by the public are prohibited:

- Public access
- Use of motorized vehicles
- Bicycling
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Fires
- Forestry
- Livestock grazing
- Trail development
- Tree cutting
- Collection of plants or animals

6.5 Public Access

As a small nature reserve possessing sensitive ecosystems, only supervised activities with a light footprint should be encouraged within Burren's Acres Nature Reserve. There are currently informal trails and the nature reserve can be thoroughly traversed on foot in an hour.

Recommendation

Unlimited public access will not be permitted on the reserve. The property will not be promoted or advertised in any way. Motorized vehicles have considerable potential to disturb rock outcrop vegetation, and will not be permitted.

6.6 Trails

The site currently possesses one primary (double-width) trail about 150 m in length. It is essentially level and extends diagonally from the gate in the southeast corner of the property to the fence line in the northwest corner of the property. A secondary single-width trail follows along the western fence line then turns back to the north, terminating at the rock outcrop. It is approximately 150 metres in total length. Another secondary trail (also single-width) extends from the grassed area near the centre of the reserve meandering eastward and downslope towards the northeast corner. It is less than 100 metres in total length.

The primary trail presents no safety issues, but without marking, even moderate use could lead to trampling of moss/wildflower meadows. The eastern secondary trail is currently very overgrown, presenting tripping hazards, and could be widened to one metre without impacting any areas of sensitive soils or vegetation. The western secondary trail is overgrown and crosses an area of seasonally-saturated soils at its lowest point.

Recommendation

The margins of the primary trail may be marked by rock piles at five metre intervals through the rock outcrop area if the area is seen to show signs of disturbance. The trails through mature and mid-seral forest can be maintained up to a maximum of one metre in width to facilitate safe movement around the reserve.

6.7 Signage

There is currently no signage on the site. The address is marked by Conville Road.

Recommendation

A sign near to the driveway close to Conville Road to inform the public that the area is protected and to outline prohibited activities (including no public access) could be installed if any issues arise from trespass.

6.8 Protection Initiatives for Sensitive Ecosystems and Species at Risk

6.8.2 Wildfire Planning

The Gabriola Volunteer Fire Department would be the first responders to any fire. The responsible agency for fire suppression on Gabriola is the Coastal Fire Centre located in Parksville, B.C. under the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO). Recommendations for ecosystem protection include avoiding the use of salt

water and fire retardants, minimizing the use of heavy equipment in meadow areas to minimize soil disturbance and avoiding cutting large Garry Oak trees.

Recommendation

ITF should work with FLNRO to help guide their fire management plans for the area by placing importance on the protection of the ecological values in the reserve.

6.8.3 Studies/inventories

There have been no surveys in the reserve other than the baseline inventory so further study at different times of years would be beneficial.

Recommendation

Further surveys for Species at Risk are recommended in order to guide management.

6.8.4 Band-tailed Pigeon

To date, the only Species at Risk found in the reserve is the blue-listed Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*). There is a status report created by COSEWIC (2008) to guide habitat conservation and stewardship.

Recommendation

ITF should incorporate research on special protection initiatives and strategies to guide management of areas with Band-tailed pigeon. To date minimizing the risk of habitat degradation and loss is the key action to be taken.

6.8.5 Ecological restoration potential.

Opportunities exist to improve forest regeneration in the southern part of the reserve and establish a threatened Garry Oak Woodland in the western part of the site. Ecological restoration has been used at numerous other sites on southern Vancouver Island with good success and low ecological and safety risks.

Recommendation

If funding allows, opportunity for restoration include:

- *selective thinning and fertilization of pole-sapling conifers to reduce competition and improve growth;*
- *caging any Garry Oak trees/seedlings to prevent deer browse*
- *establishing a small Garry Oak meadow along the fringes of the rock outcrop area, including preparation of a planting plan, plant selection and procurement, plant installation and periodic maintenance (especially watering).*

7.0 Action Items

Management Plan action items are measurable and achievable tasks that the ITF can complete to ensure that the protected area is managed in the best possible way. The following management action items are based on the public consultation and recommendations made in this management plan and listed in priority sequence, subject to available funding resources.

7.1 Immediate Actions (1-2 years)

1. Conduct annual monitoring to monitor covenant compliance and identify management concerns.
2. Develop an invasive species management work plan to guide management and monitoring of invasive species in the reserve.
3. Remove invasive non-native species as directed by the invasive species work plan.
4. Work to change the zoning from Large Rural Residential (RR) to a zoning that better reflects the permitted uses of a Trust Fund Board Nature Reserve.

7.2 Short term Actions (3-5 years)

1. Develop a landowner contact program with all landowners within a 1 km radius of the Sanctuary to provide information on the following:
 - a. encourage long-term conservation and protection of nearby properties;
 - b. inform landowners about the importance of the protected area and to make neighbours aware of the property boundaries of the protected area; and,
2. Ongoing invasive species management as guided by work plan developed under immediate actions.
3. Install a sign near to the driveway close to Conville Road to inform the public that the area is protected and to outline prohibited activities (including no public access) if any trespass issues occur.
4. Support research of rare species surveys to inform management provided it does not negatively impact sensitive species.

7.3 Long term Actions (5+ years)

1. Develop long-term public education program to inform Gabriola residents about the importance and sensitivities of the property: key historical and ecological features namely: First Nation use, diatomite mining use and sensitive ecosystems/spring wildflowers.
2. Strengthen partnerships with local First Nations.

8.0 Conclusion

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a small but important protected area which is surrounded by private land. It provides important habitat for a range of native species, two red-listed ecological communities, one blue-listed species, a sensitive Herbaceous – Rock outcrop/Moss ecosystem as well as historical cultural significance.

The ITF will act on the management action items identified in this plan to achieve the vision, objectives and purpose of the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve. Future management issues may lead to further action items that will be identified in work plans and in future revisions of this plan.

9.0 References

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Accessed August 2016

10.0 Appendices

Appendix A: Coordinates and Locations of Photo Stations in the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve

Photo Station #	Photo Station Location (UTM)	Photo #	Photo Direction	Comments
A	N-5446281 E-438350	A.1	SE	Garden shed in good repair in east-central part of the Subject Property.
B	N-5446312 E-438239	B.1	W	Abandoned well near western property line.
C	N-5446245 E-438369	C.1	NW	Locking metal gate at driveway off Conville Road.
D	N-5446269 E-438342	D.1	NW	Primary trail near entrance gate.
E	N-5446287 E-438242	E.1	S	Typical condition of secondary trails in western part of property.
F	N-5446270 E-438318	F.1	N	Vegetation Type 1 (mid-seral zonal CDFmm - Plot BA3).
G	N-544348 E-438327	G.1	N	Vegetation Type 1 (mature zonal CDFmm - Plot BA4).
H	N-5446342 E-438258	H.1	E	Vegetation Type 2 (Herbaceous rock outcrop/moss - Plot BA2).
I	N-5446349 E-438392	I.1	N	Vegetation Type 3 (mid-seral strongly fluctuating water table forest - Plot BA1).
J	N-5446243 E-438353	J.1	SE	Cluster of large “wooly” snags in the southeast part of the property provide perches for raptors and other bird life.
K	N-5446317 E-438262	K.1	W	Small planted Garry oak in northwest part of site could provide a focus for future ecosystem restoration.
L	N-5446231 E-438248	L.1	E	Mature Arbutus tree near the southern property line (55 cm DBH).
M	N-5446265 E-438320	M.1	E	Uncommon Western White Pine growing in the south-central part of the site (8 cm DBH).
N	N-5446344 E-438341	N.1	NE	Tri-stemmed White Flowering Dogwood in the central part of the Nature Reserve.
O	N-5446263 E-438231	O.1	E	Fairyslipper Orchid growing in a small enclosure in the southwestern part of the Subject Property.



Photo A.1



Photo B.1



Photo C.1



Photo D.1



Photo E.1



Photo F.1



Photo G.1



Photo H.1



Photo I.1



Photo J.1



Photo K.1



Photo L.1



Photo M.1



Photo N.1



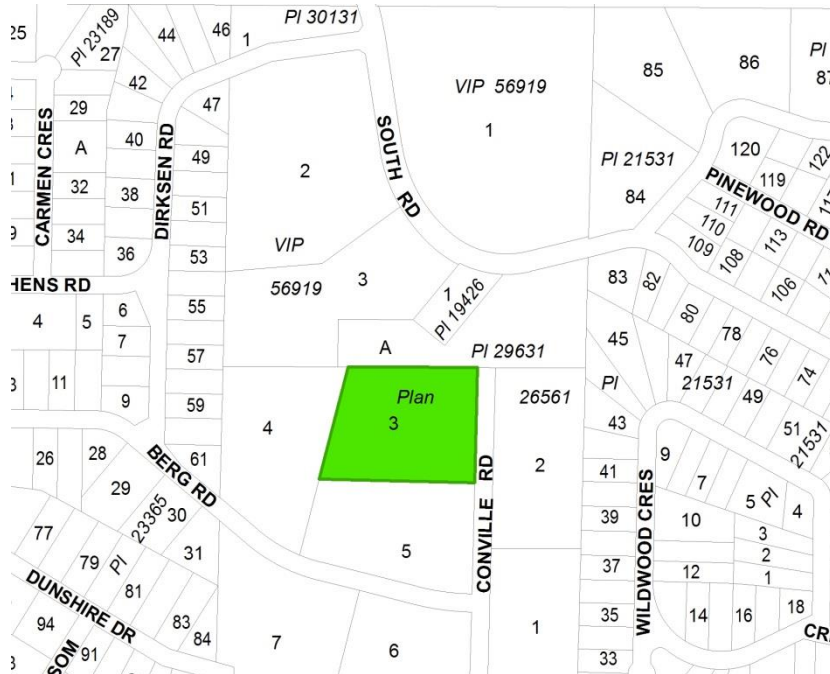
Photo O.1

Appendix B. Public Consultation Letter

May 16, 2016

Dear «FullName»,

The Islands Trust Fund is currently preparing a management plan for the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve, Gabriola Island (PID 002-803-925, Lot 3, Section 12, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District, Plan 26561) and would like your input.



Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) parcel of forested land located on Conville Road on the West side of Gabriola Island. The land was donated to the Trust Fund Board in 2013. This property includes roughly 0.4 hectares of rock outcrop and 1.6 hectares of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession.

Two Provincially Red listed vegetation communities have been identified on the Reserve: Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape and Western redcedar – Indian-plum. There are also sensitive herbaceous –rock outcrop ecosystems that are sensitive to disturbance. In the late 1930's and early 1940's the property was used to transport and dry diatomaceous earth from a nearby diatomite mine, before it was placed in a nearby kiln for further processing.

There are management concerns with the property including non-native invasive plants such as Scotch Broom and Daphne laureola which threaten the native plant communities. There have also been issues with trespass by motorized vehicles before it was fenced.

The Islands Trust Fund is developing a management plan that will describe the natural features of the reserve, identify potential threats and outline permitted uses and activities within the nature reserve. The focus of the management plan will be to protect the natural values of the property. This will include supporting ongoing species inventories, removing non-native invasive species and protecting all of the native plants and animals on the reserve.

In order to develop a good plan for the property, your input is requested. We would like to hear from the neighbours of the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve with your ideas and concerns regarding the long-term management of this special place. I can be reached via email or telephone (contact information below).

Many thanks for taking the time to consider the management of this nature reserve. If you would like to have more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Murphy'.

Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist, Islands Trust Fund
Phone: 250-405-5193
Email: nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca

Appendix C. Public Consultation Questionnaire

Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) area on the west side of Gabriola Island. It includes roughly 0.4 hectares of rock outcrop and 1.6 hectares of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession. The property has an interesting history of use including farming and the transporting and drying of diatomaceous earth, as well as logging and dumping.

The Islands Trust Fund received the land as a donation in 2013. The Islands Trust Fund's primary goal is to protect and nurture the sensitive ecosystems on this land. To do that, we are creating a plan that will guide how we manage the property and its features. We are asking you to help us develop this plan. Please share your thoughts on the protection and long-term management of the property.

1. Where do you live?

- ☐ West Gabriola
- ☐ East Gabriola
- ☐ Mid Gabriola
- ☐ Off-island

2. How often do you visit Burren's Acres Nature Reserve?

- ☐ Once a week or more
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Several times per year
- ☐ Once a year or less
- ☐ Never

3. What activities do you and/or your family enjoy when visiting Burren's Acres Nature Reserve?

- ☐ Hiking/walking
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Other (please list):

4. Please list any wildlife and unique plant species you have seen at or near Burren's Acres Nature Reserve.

5. What do you believe to be the most important values of nature reserves (choose three)

- ☐ Protection of habitat for at-risk species and/or sensitive ecosystems
- ☐ Ecosystem services (e.g. clean water and air, groundwater recharge, etc.)
- ☐ Recreational opportunities

- ☐ Education and research opportunities
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Aesthetic appeal
- ☐ Conservation for the sake of the intrinsic value of nature
- ☐ Other (please specify):

6. What activities do you believe are incompatible with the protection of natural features, and should not be allowed within the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve?

7. What do you feel could be the greatest threat to the health of this nature reserve, and should be the highest management priority for the Islands Trust Fund?

8. Please provide any other relevant information that will help us make the best management decisions for Burren's Acres Nature Reserve.

9. Please share with us any history you know about this property (or the west side of Gabriola) or any knowledge you have about unique cultural or other special features on the property.

10. If you would like to receive updates from the Islands Trust Fund on this and other conservation projects on the islands, please provide your name and email address:

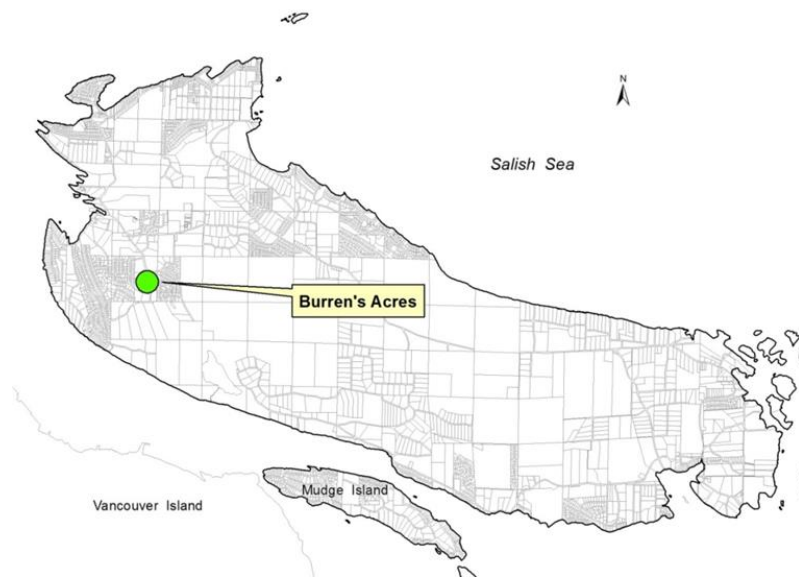
Thank you for your time spent helping us plan the future of Burren's Acres Nature Reserve.

Appendix D. Public Consultation First Nations Letter

May 16, 2016

Dear «REFERRALS_»,

The Islands Trust Fund is currently preparing a management plan for the Burren's Acres Nature Reserve, Gabriola Island (PID 002-803-925, Lot 3, Section 12, Gabriola Island, Nanaimo District, Plan 26561) and would like your input.



Burren's Acres Nature Reserve is a 2.023 hectare (5 acre) parcel of forested land located on Conville Road on the west side of Gabriola Island. The land was donated to the Trust Fund Board in 2013. This property includes roughly 0.4 hectares of rock outcrop and 1.6 hectares of forest representing the mid-seral and mature stages of forest succession.

Two Provincially Red listed vegetation communities have been identified on the Reserve: Douglas Fir / Dull Oregon Grape and Western redcedar – Indian-plum. There are also sensitive herbaceous –rock outcrop ecosystems that are sensitive to disturbance. In the late 1930's and early 1940's the property was used to transport and dry diatomaceous earth from a nearby diatomite mine, before it was placed in a nearby kiln for further processing.

There are management concerns with the property, including non-native invasive plants such as Scotch Broom and Daphne laureola, which threaten the native plant communities. There have also been issues with trespass by motorized vehicles before it was fenced.

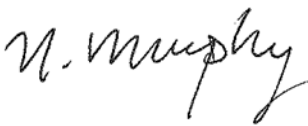
The Islands Trust Fund is developing a management plan that will describe the natural features of the reserve, identify potential threats and outline permitted uses and activities within the sanctuary. The focus of the management plan will be to protect the natural values of the property. This will include supporting ongoing species inventories, removing non-native invasive species and protecting all of the native plants and animals on the reserve.

As a First Nation with interests on Gabriola Island, the Islands Trust Fund would like to involve you in the planning process for the management of this special property and would be very interested in learning about the cultural significance or traditional use of the property or surrounding area.

We would welcome your input on the continued management of this protected area. If you would like to have more information or to meet to discuss, please contact Nuala Murphy, Islands Trust Fund Property Management Specialist at the number below.

Thank you for your guidance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Murphy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nuala Murphy
Property Management Specialist, Islands Trust Fund
Phone: 250-405-5193
Email: nmurphy@islandstrust.bc.ca



TRUST FUND BOARD REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE: November 14, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Seeking Provincial Support for Thetis Island Land Acquisition

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Trust Fund Board direct Chair Tony Law to write to both the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations seeking funding to complete the purchase of Fairyslipper Forest, Thetis Island.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

ORGANIZATIONAL: Requires only a small investment of time.

FINANCIAL: None.

POLICY: Staff will inform the CAO and Director of Trust Area Services about the TFB's plan to contact these Ministers.

IMPLEMENTATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Staff will work with Chair Law to draft the correspondence. The Executive Committee will be copied so they are aware of this government –to-government communication.

OTHER: Local MLA's could be copied as well to build awareness.

BACKGROUND

The Province of BC has identified coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) forest as a priority for conservation. In 2008 the Province released its Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Strategy. Along with the protection of an additional 1600 ha of CDF under a Land Use Order and completion of terrestrial ecosystem mapping for the zone, the strategy included a commitment to raise awareness and promote CDF stewardship to private land owners, local governments, and non-government organizations.

The Province also released a Five-Year Plan for Species at Risk in 2014, which encouraged private land stewardship and protection of habitat for species at risk.

There are currently no provincial grants available for land securement.

The Fairyslipper Forest campaign is in its final 7 months, and over \$200,000 remains to be raised. Building awareness and seeking funds at multiple levels of government is part of a broader fundraising strategy agreed upon by ITF and the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy.

REPORT/DOCUMENT: None.

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S): Government funding; land securement; fundraising

RELEVANT POLICY: TFB 3.3 Relationships with External Groups

DESIRED OUTCOME: Protection of coastal Douglas-fir forest and associated species at risk on Thetis Island.

RESPONSE OPTIONS

Recommended: As above.

Alternatives: Do not contact the Ministers of Environment and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding funding for land securement.

Prepared By: Jennifer Eliason, ITF Manager



ISLANDS TRUST BRIEFING

FROM: Executive Committee

Date: Nov. 4th 2016

SUBJECT: COUNCIL COMMITTEE INPUT TO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

DIRECTED TO: Local Planning Committee, Financial Planning Committee, Trust Programs Committee, Select Committee, Trust Fund Board

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:

Executive Committee is seeking input from all Council Committees and Trust Fund Board regarding amendments to the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan in time for December Trust Council. This input will affect current and future staff work programs as well as Trust Council's deliberations and public consultation about the proposed 2017/18 budget.

BACKGROUND:

During the September 2015 Trust Council meeting, Council adopted its [2014-2018 Strategic Plan](#) including details of activities and strategies to support the identified priorities. Council committees and Trust Fund Board have proceeded to carry out the assigned activities with varying degrees of success.

[Quarterly reports](#) keep Trust Council updated on progress. Staff is developing a database tool to allow Council and its committees to review progress in a format similar to that now used for follow-up-action lists.

In September 2016, Trust Council did a visioning exercise, partly guided by the results of an August 2016 [public opinion poll](#). The poll and the vision workshop [revealed](#) that preserving and protecting the natural environment remains a top priority and that there is an increasing need for attention to water, housing and First Nations. This Strategic Plan could benefit from greater alignment with those renewed priorities and provide greater clarity about which committees will sponsor which priorities. Recent learning about reconciliation with First Nations is strongly influencing staff recommendations about how to carry out previous strategic plan goals.

ATTACHMENT(S): List of TFB's strategic plan projects

AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

Each Council committee and Trust Fund Board is asked to review the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan and recommend amendments, additions, deletions and adjustments to timing, as well as potential budget needs.

The Executive Committee is seeking the following kinds of advice from Council committees:

- X Committee/TFB proposes the following changes to the 2014-18 strategic plan:
- X Committee/TFB has the capacity to sponsor the following three projects in 2017/18:
- X Committee/TFB proposes spending \$X in the 2017/18 budget year in order to carry out the three projects (specify whether this is to funded from work in progress from 2016/17, base funding or additional project funding)

FOLLOW-UP:

- After receiving input from Council committees and the Trust Fund Board, the Executive Committee will prepare a further draft of the Strategic Plan for Trust Council's consideration in December.
- In December, Trust Council will be asked to endorse those objectives, strategies, activities and measures that are identified in the plan for Fiscal Years 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- The activities and associated costs for 2017/18 will form part of the public consultation on the budget in February 2017.
- In March 2017, Trust Council will receive detailed information about the costs of carrying out proposed 2017/18 activities, as part of its final review of the budget.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Gordon
Director, Trust Area Services

REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

November 9, 2016

SUBMITTED BY: Executive Committee

REVIEWED BY: Russ Hotsenpiller
(Chief Administrative Officer)

OTHER REVIEW:

Trust Fund Board Strategic Plan Items 2014-2018

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES AND PHASES	WHO WOULD WORK ON IT?	IS FUNDING REQUIRED OR IN PLACE?	HOW WOULD WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	STATUS
1 PROTECT the natural environment of the Islands Trust Area	1.1 Encourage voluntary stewardship of the natural environment	<u>FY 2015/16 – 2018/19</u> T.1.1.1 Promote community participation in conservation through information sharing and education about private land stewardship options	TFB	Funded by base budget and grant funding	By whether the Islands Trust Fund is actively promoting its conservation programs at community events, in publications and online	Ongoing
		<u>FY 2014/15 - 2018/19</u> T.1.1.2 Support island-based land trusts with partnerships, funding and capacity building opportunities	TFB	Funded by base budget and donations	By the number of island conservation projects supported from private donations through the Opportunity Fund and the number of projects competed through partnerships	\$3,250 granted in 2016-17 to Lasqueti Conservancy, provided support to Gulf Islands Conservation Convention (Mar.2016) and LTABC Seminar Series (Nov. 2016)
		<u>FY 2018/19</u> T.1.1.3 Investigate collaborative opportunities for promoting voluntary stewardship options on mixed-use landscapes	TFB	Subject to future budget requests and grant funding	By the number of new collaborative projects promoting stewardship on mixed use landscapes	Due to start in 2016/17 2018/19?
		<u>FY 2014/15 – 2018/19</u> T.1.1.4 Monitor and manage existing conservation areas to maintain and enhance biodiversity	TFB	Funded by base budget	By the percentage of TFB properties being actively managed to enhance biodiversity	Ongoing
		<u>FY 2015/16 – 2016/17</u> T.1.1.5 Create a Property Management Strategy incorporating monitoring and management of species at risk, invasive species and ecological restoration	TFB	Funded by base budget	By whether the TFB approves a Property Management Strategy for implementation	In progress
	1.2 Expand Natural Areas Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) program to entire Islands Trust Area	<u>FY 2015/16</u> T.1.2.2 Finalize letter of understanding with BIM re NAPTEP	EC	Funded by base budget	By whether Trust Council and BIM have adopted a letter of understanding re NAPTEP	Complete
		<u>FY 2015/16 – 2016/17</u> T.1.2.3 Launch NAPTEP on Bowen Island	TFB	Funded by base budget	By whether TFB has launched NAPTEP on Bowen Island	Complete
		<u>FY 2014/15 – 2016/17</u> T.1.2.4 Support efforts by Land Trust Alliance of BC to expand a conservation tax exemption program province-wide	TFB	Funded by base budget	By whether the Province considers the implementation of a NAPTEP-like program	Letter of support provided to LTABC
	1.3 Protect fish habitat by implementing Riparian Areas Regulation	Please see Attachment 2 for more details about this strategy.				

Trust Fund Board Strategic Plan Items 2014-2018

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES AND PHASES	WHO WOULD WORK ON IT?		IS FUNDING REQUIRED OR IN PLACE?	HOW WOULD WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	STATUS
	1.4 Establish reliable, adequate and sustainable funding for the Islands Trust Fund	<u>FY 2015/16 – 2018/19</u> T.1.4.1 Seek legislative change regarding TFB corporate structure and name	EC	TFB	Funded by base budget	By whether EC/TFB have requested legislative changes re TFB corporate structure and name	ongoing
		<u>FY?</u> T.1.4.2 Develop and implement strategy to transition to new organizational name	TFB		Subject to future program budget	By whether TFB has implemented corporate status and name changes	Not started. Not due unless province makes the requested legislative changes
		<u>FY?</u> T.1.4.3 Review and launch long-term funding strategy	TFB		Subject to future program budget	By whether TFB has reviewed and launched long-term funding strategy	Not started. Not due unless province makes the requested legislative changes
	1.5 Protect high biodiversity areas identified in TFB's Regional Conservation Plan	<u>FY 2015/16 – 2018/19</u> T.1.5.1 Develop a land conservation strategy to protect high biodiversity areas (e.g. Coastal Douglas-fir)	TFB		Funded by base budget	By whether TFB has developed a land conservation strategy to protect high biodiversity areas	Strategy in development, project charter and outline approved
		<u>FY 2014/15 – 2018/19</u> T.1.5.2 Protect land with high biodiversity, through acquisition, donation, or conservation covenant	TFB		Partial funding through base budget; acquisitions funded by donations and external grants	By whether TFB has protected at least 200 hectares of high biodiversity land in the timeframe of the Regional Conservation Plan 2011-2017	119.1 priority hectares protected since 2011 (149.4 protected in total)
		<u>FY 2014/15 – 2017/18</u> T.1.5.3 Secure 20 hectares of conservation land on Thetis Island	TFB		Subject to external funding (grants and donations)	By whether a publically-accessible nature reserve is created on Thetis Island	\$273,000 grant received for Thetis land acquisition; Fairyslipper Forest campaign at 58%
		<u>FY 2014/15 – ?</u> T.1.5.4 Protect a parcel of Crown forest on Lasqueti Island through Sponsored Crown Grant Program	TFB		Subject to First Nations support and external funding	By whether an application to the Sponsored Crown Grant program has First Nations support, and is successful.	On hold pending further discussions with First Nations
	2. PRESERVE, PROTECT and ADVOCATE for coastal shorelines and marine areas within the Islands Trust Area	<u>FY 2015/16 – 2016/17</u> T.2.2.1 Complete mapping of forage fish habitat for major islands	TFB		Funded by base budget and external grants	By whether TFB has completed forage fish habitat mapping for major islands	Denman, Hornby, Thetis, N&S Pender, Gambier, Keats, Bowen complete. Lasqueti, Galiano, Salt Spring, Secretary, Wallace and Valdes in progress, but delayed
		<u>FY 2016/17 – 2017/18</u> T.2.2.2 Develop public outreach strategy including information about eelgrass and forage fish nearshore habitats to private landowners on selected islands	TFB		Funded by base budget	By whether TFB has provided information to private landowners	Due to start in December/January

Trust Fund Board Strategic Plan Items 2014-2018

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	ACTIVITIES AND PHASES	WHO WOULD WORK ON IT?		IS FUNDING REQUIRED OR IN PLACE?	HOW WOULD WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	STATUS
	2.2 Encourage Voluntary Stewardship of Nearshore Ecosystems	<u>FY 2015/16 –?</u> L.2.2.1 Support Green Shores for Homes Program on Thetis Island	Thetis LTC	TFB	Subject to budget	TBD	Thetis Island participated as a pilot community for the Green Shore for Homes Program from 2014-2016.



TRUST FUND BOARD BRIEFING

DATE: November 14, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Draft Trust Council Policy on First Nations Engagement Principles

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE:

The Executive Committee will be sponsoring a Request for Decision to Trust Council in December, seeking approval of a new First Nations Engagement Principles Policy. The draft is currently being circulated to committees and Trust Fund Board for review.

By adopting a First Nations engagement principles policy, a First Nations and public engagement project charter, and making related changes to the Strategic Plan, Trust Council will be establishing a strong foundation for sincere relationship-building with First Nations.

BACKGROUND:

After a few months of discussions with staff and trustees, the Executive Committee determined that to change the organizational approach to First Nations in a more permanent and meaningful way, a standard set of principles will help inform activities, language and relationship building for many years to come. When drafting the proposed principles, staff was informed by broader societal shifts in the Canadian context of reconciliation with First Nations, such as the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples in May 2016, the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the 2014 Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the case of the *Tsilhqot'in Nation vs. British Columbia*.

The attached policy is in draft form, and may be revised by council committees before submission to Trust Council. A project charter is also being developed to guide the implementation of the principles espoused in this policy across the organization.

ATTACHMENT(S): Draft Trust Council Policy 6.1.1 First Nations Engagement Principles Policy

AVAILABLE OPTIONS: Provided for information. The Trust Fund Board could provide comment to the Executive Committee via Trustee Morrison.

FOLLOW UP: Staff will provide an update at the first TFB meeting of 2017.

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Eliason, ITF Manager

6.1.i. Policy

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES POLICY

Trust Council: December 6-8, 2016

A: PURPOSE

1. To provide a framework for engaging and building relationships between Islands Trust and First Nations.
2. To find opportunities for collaboration and mutual support through its many organizational activities.
3. To initiate and maintain respectful relationships with First Nations communities.

B: BACKGROUND

1. In the Islands Trust Area, there is a high level of uncertainty regarding current and future First Nations ownership and management of the land base. As of November 2016, many things are in a state of flux because of evolving provincial, national and international recognition of Aboriginal Title.
1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is an international instrument adopted by the United Nations on September 13, 2007. It describes a minimum standard of rights for the “survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.” Additionally, Article 26 states that “Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired,” and it directs governments to recognize these territories. UNDRIP was endorsed by Canada in 2010 and officially adopted it in May 2016.
2. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued ‘Calls to Action’ to redress the legacy of residential schools and to advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. Several of these calls to action speak to the recognition of aboriginal rights over land. In particular, action 47 calls on all levels of government, including local governments, to “repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands... and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.” (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015).
3. In 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down a decision in the case of the *Tsilhqot’in Nation vs. British Columbia*. In that decision, the court concluded that the Tsilhqot’in Nation has Aboriginal title to over 1,750 square kilometers of their traditional lands, previously deemed Crown land. *Tsilhqot’in* also confirmed that where Aboriginal title has not been established, the Crown has a duty to consult with and accommodate First Nations with stated land claims. The trial judge also noted, although it is not a binding element of the decision, that the granting of fee simple interests by the Province does not and cannot extinguish Aboriginal title.

C: REFERENCES

1. *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*, United Nations, Sept.13, 2007.
2. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action*, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015.
3. *Tsilhqot’in Nation vs. British Columbia*, Supreme Court of Canada, 2014.

D: DEFINITIONS

“First Nations” refer to entities recognized by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development of Canada who have included the Trust Area, or a part of the Trust Area in the asserted traditional territory.

“Islands Trust” refers to all Islands Trust bodies including Trust Council, council committees, local trust committees and Trust Fund Board.

E: FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

1. Islands Trust is committed to becoming aware of what it does not know or understand about First Nations.
2. Islands Trust is committed to proving sincere desire for reconciliation
3. Islands Trust is committed to integrating, where possible, activities that support First Nations reconnecting with the Trust Area lands and waters

F: POLICY

1. The First Nations Engagement Principles in Section E:
 - a. underpin every activity of Islands Trust in order to have an enduring relationship with First Nations based on trust, honour and goodwill; and
 - b. are sequential and they speak of a way forward to acknowledge how profoundly First Nations have been ignored and disrespected, but these principles also point to a path forward that is genuine and sincere.
2. In committing to Principle E.1, Islands Trust should and Islands Trust municipalities are encouraged to:
 - a. commit to “listening and learning” about the history of First Nations’ connection to the land and waters;
 - b. commit to “listening and learning” about First Nations’ perspective on treaties, rights and title; and
 - c. commit to acknowledging that history, once it is understood.
3. In committing to Principle E.2, Islands Trust should and Islands Trust municipalities are encouraged to:
 - a. commit to acknowledging the inherent bias in the organization, which come from Canadian culture and assumptions and have conditioned non-Natives citizens to ignore and minimize their relationship with First Nations; and
 - b. commit to undertaking actions that reflect an effort to change societal attitudes and systems.
4. In committing to Principle E.3, Islands Trust should and Islands Trust municipalities are encouraged to:
 - a. commit to supporting, where possible, traditional gathering and harvesting activities;
 - b. commit to supporting, where possible, the integration of Traditional Knowledge into stewardship practices and policies; and
 - c. commit to supporting the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.



TRUST FUND BOARD BRIEFING

DATE: November 14, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Fairyslipper Forest Communications Plan - For Information

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE: The Fairyslipper Forest Communications Plan is a communication planning document to guide the work of Islands Trust Fund's staff to meet the Regional Conservation Plan Objective 4. *Because Thetis Island has no publicly accessible natural spaces, work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island.*

BACKGROUND:

Fairyslipper Forest is a three-year joint fundraising campaign to purchase 16-hecatres (40 acres) of imperiled Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems on lower Burchell Hill to protect and create the first publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island. Together, the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy, the Cowichan Land Trust and the Islands Trust Fund, aim to raise \$560K to acquire the property known as Fairyslipper Forest, conserving its forests for the appreciation and enjoyment of the Thetis Island community and for the ecological services contributed to both the island and the region.

The campaign publicly launched on September 9, 2014. To date, year one and year two funding goals are met. The final purchase amount of \$560,000 must be raised by June 4, 2017 to complete the purchase.

ATTACHMENT(S): Fairyslipper Forest Communications Plan

AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

- A) The Trust Fund Board receives the plan for information
- B) The Trust Fund Board provides suggestions or advice to staff on the direction of the plan

FOLLOW UP: TBD

PREPARED BY: Crystal Oberg

REVIEWED BY: Jennifer Eliason

Fairyslipper Forest Communications Plan

Table of Contents

1. Background
2. Goals
3. Key Messages
4. Audience
5. Tools and Timelines
6. Evaluation
7. Appendix
 - 7.1 Paid ads
 - 7.2 Fundraising Check-in

Background

Fairyslipper Forest is a three-year joint fundraising campaign to purchase lower Burchell Hill on Thetis Island, British Columbia to protect 16-hecatres (40 acres) of imperilled Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems and create the first publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island. Together, the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy, the Cowichan Land Trust and the Islands Trust Fund, aim to raise \$560K to acquire the property known as Fairyslipper Forest, conserving its forests for the appreciation and enjoyment of the Thetis Island community and for the ecological services contributed to both the island and the region.

The campaign publicly launched on September 9, 2014. To date, year one and year two funding goals are met. An additional \$280K must be raised between August 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017 to complete the purchase. The ITF and its partners have been encouraged to re-apply for the 2016 fall funding call from [Habitat Stewardship \(HSP\) for Species at Risk](#) for \$273K request in funding. Additional grant requests include \$50K from the [Sitka Foundation](#) and \$50K from [Mountain Equipment Coop](#), (spring 2016 funding call).

The Partners

ITF	The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) was established under the Islands Trust Act along with the Islands Trust. The Islands Trust Fund is a conservation land trust, protecting land through voluntary measures. The Island Trust Fund is a qualified donee under CRA's <i>Income Tax Act</i> . This means that donations are tax deductible for individuals and organizations. The Islands Trust Fund's operating expenses are paid for with tax revenue from the Islands Trust. All donations are allocated to acquiring and protecting land with the exception of a small percentage fee charged by PayPal for online donation processing. For proof of our status, see CRA Confirmation Qualified Donee Status Letter . Donations held in the Thetis Island Acquisition Fund.
ThINC	A British Columbia registered non-profit society, having society number S-0060157. Accepting pledges.

Cowichan Land Trust	Registered charity under the <i>Income Tax Act</i> , having registration number 895964856RR0001.
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Goals

Fundraising Goals:

The fundraising goals are (with year-end of June 4) to raise a total of \$560,000 to purchase Burchell Hill, Fairyslipper Forest on Thetis Island, BC, as follows:

- Year One: 25% or \$140,000 Actual - 33% - Pledges from Thetis Islanders
- Year Two: 50% or \$280,000 Actual - 50% - \$211,431 in pledges, ~\$1,999.66 in donations, \$40K in matching
- Year Three: 100% or \$560,000 Actual – 42% of final goal - \$211, 431 pledges, \$113,043.23 donations, \$50K from foundations and grants

Proposed Fundraising Updates/ Check-in Times (all partners):

Regular check-ins with all partners will ensure that we can adequately and timely report to the public and media on campaign goals and progress. Using the purchase price of \$560,000, regular cross reporting of pledges, donations and gifts will occur on: the first of the month (Oct – Jan), increasing to bi-monthly, 1st and 15th (Feb – April), and finally weekly (May-June).

October 1, 2016 Check-In:

An additional \$235,525.77 needs to be raised by the purchase agreement date of June 4, 2017.

ITF Communication Goals

- Create a strong and positive reputation for the Islands Trust Fund in the IT Area primarily and BC secondarily
- Engage and retain current supporters and partners (donors, conservancy partners, other levels of government, internal stakeholders) and foster relationships with expanded base of supporters (including First Nations)
- Enhance reputation and relations with the media
- Strengthen relationships with all levels of government including internal and external elected officials, municipalities, provincial and federal ministries and First Nations
- Build relationships with businesses and foundations to support fundraising and land conservation objectives
- Enhance internal engagement to streamline program and project delivery for staff and board members

Fairyslipper Forest Campaign Communication Goals

- To increase awareness and support of the Fairyslipper Forest campaign
- Increase donor support for Fairyslipper Forest
- Celebrate and share a 'good news' conservation success story

Key Messages

- Give the Gift of Nature - help purchase Thetis Island's first publicly accessible nature reserve.
- Fairyslipper Forest Nature Reserve, named after the fairyslipper orchid that dots the forest floor with its pink blossoms every spring.

- The 16-hectare lower Burchell Hill property has regionally important Douglas-fir forest, including provincially red-listed plant communities and sensitive ecosystems.
- The property has significant watershed value and offers recreational opportunities through its section of a popular trail to the summit of Burchell Hill.
- Once the Trust Fund Board acquires the property as a nature reserve, two local land trusts will jointly hold a conservation covenant to ensure its permanent protection. The terms of the covenant will allow only low impact recreational, scientific and educational activities on the land.

Messaging opportunities:

- First publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island
- First sea to forest green belt on Thetis
- New matching campaign, possibly with funds from Opportunity Fund
- Holiday campaigns and National Giving campaigns
- #Fairyslipper #FactFriday

Messaging Risks:

- Liability with people hiking on the land, if we are seen to be promoting it
- Timing of Moore Hill acquisition – not publicly accessible
- Buy –In, not achieving buy in for the campaign
- Donor fatigue – too many asks, or not enough asks at the right time
- Donor appreciation – make sure to acknowledge key donors

Audience

External

Primary audiences

1. Island Residents (owners and renters)

2. First Nations
3. Media in the Islands Trust area
4. Potential donors; those who live in/visit/love the islands
5. Owners of land with known conservation values
6. Past land donors
7. Current covenant landowners
8. Current cash donors
9. Off-island landowners (Canadian)
10. Off-island landowners (American)
11. Island conservancies
12. Professional peers
13. Island community groups and associations

Secondary audiences

14. Provincial and national media
15. Tourists
16. Foundations
17. Estate advisors, finance & tax planners, estate lawyers
18. Real estate professionals

Tertiary audiences

19. Government officials (local, regional, provincial, federal)
20. Members of Parliament, BC Members of the Legislative Assembly and their respective constituency offices

Internal

Primary audiences

21.Trustees

22.Islands Trust staff

Communications Timeline and Tools

Timeline – Major campaign milestones*

Jun 2016	July 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016
End of Year 2 – 50% funding goal	July 31 – Matching (up to \$40,000) campaign ends. Year 3 of campaign begins (need to raise \$90K)	HSP announcement - for Moore Hill purchase Purchase of Camp Columbia	HSP Funding call	Heron Newsletter – mid month – FS story	Heron Newsletter – publish MEC announcement #GivingTuesday campaign ThINC Fundraiser	Submit HSP application – Burchell Hill Holiday gift giving cards – direct mail
Jan 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	May 2017	Jun 2017	July 2017
Environmental Enhancement Fund New Year – Social Media campaign - resolve to protect nature	Valentine’s Day E-Cards, give the gift of flowers (wild FS flowers) – month long social media campaign with e-news	Spring MEC funding call – March 10	New budget - \$13,000 for Communications Social media campaign – spring flowers (shots of FS) – Possible on island fundraiser	MEC announcement Leave a Legacy Month – special glossy celebrating / targeting current legacy holders Major social media last month push for donors – fundraising goal	Major social media last month push for donors – fundraising goal June 4 -end of Year 3 – 100% funding goal	Follow up with donors and public – thanks!

			Paid ads			
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* Note: The listed major campaign milestones and funding announcements in this calendar are specific to the Islands Trust Fund staff to support RCP Objective 4. *Because Thetis Island has no publicly accessible natural spaces, work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island.* Additional communications, promotions and fundraising applications will be conducted by the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy and the Cowichan Land Trust. In addition to the listed fundraising and major campaigns, ITF staff will continue to identify paid and earned media opportunities to promote the Fairyslipper Forest campaign.

Communication Tools

Vehicle	Purpose	Frequency	Accountable	Audience
E-news	Inform and solicit donations	As needed; no more than 1 per month	Communications	Primary – internal and external
Newsletter	Educate and inform, create sense of community	Send electronically to e-news subscribers, publish on website, mail to key donors	Communications	Primary – internal
Social Media	Inform and solicit donations	Determined by specific campaigns – guided by social media plans	Communications	Primary – internal and external, secondary
Website	To provide a repository of information public can access at their convenience	Monthly review, updates as necessary. Campaign end (3 months) –increase to monthly, and weekly updates	Communications	Primary – internal and external, secondary, tertiary
News Release	To build broader support and awareness of the campaign	As needed – large campaign developments and key timelines	Communications	Primary – internal and external, secondary, tertiary
Special Reports	Provide TFB with campaign updates	Quarterly Trust Fund Board meetings	Manager, Communications	Primary – internal

Campaign Promotional Material	Promote awareness of the campaign	Update brochures and develop ad content as required	Communications	Primary – external, secondary
Calendar of Events – IT & ThINC	To coordinate social media and encourage attendance at our events	Bi-annually	Manager, Communications, ThINC	Primary – external (11. Island conservancies, ThINC)
Special Events	To provide a personal point of contact and build awareness of ITF in island communities	As required	Manager, Communications, TFB Members	Primary – internal and external, secondary, tertiary

Evaluation – Measuring Success

Success will be measured in monthly reports between ThINC and ITF and in reports to the Trust Fund Board. Metrics that will guide these reports include:

Media coverage - How much coverage received?

- Number of earned media and corresponding readership of publications
- Tone of the coverage (positive/negative)?
- Which media outlets the coverage is in, placement, key audiences
- Desired visuals?
- Did they pick up your key messages?
- Spokespeople accurately quoted?
- Mentions of initiative the focus of the coverage, or a side note?

Webpage Interactions - How many visitors saw the content?

- What pages visited, time spent on the page

- Did they hit specific landing pages?
- Bounce rate
- Conversion rate

Social media – how much engagement?

- Comments, shares, likes
- Contest participation
- Twitter followers and Facebook page likes

E-News and Heron Newsletter

- Track donations close to e-news and publications
- Open and click through rates

Appendix One: Advertising and Earned Media

Gulf Islands – Paid Media

Media	Information	One insertion	Two insertions
Island Tides	Circulation: 15,015 to households in Gulf islands published every second Thursday Deadline: Wednesday prior to week of publication Jan 20 for Jan 28 issue Feb.3 for Feb.11 issue Size: 5"x5" Contact:	\$362	\$724
Gulf Islands Driftwood	published Wednesdays (weekly) Deadline: Friday before 2 p.m. Jan.22 for Jan.27 issue Feb.5 for Feb. 10 issue Size: The 4.04" column (wide) by 5.5" inch (deep)	\$294.85	\$589.70
Gabriola Sounder	circulation 2,800 Deadline: Thursday noon for Tuesday issue (weekly) Jan. 21 for Jan. 26 issue Feb. 4 for Feb. 9 issue	\$222	\$444

	Size: 5" (wide) x8" (high)		
Bowen Island Undercurrent	Deadline: Monday by 4 p.m. for Friday issue (weekly) Jan. 25 for Jan. 29 issue Feb. 8 for Feb. 12 issue Size: 4"x7"	\$197	\$394
Grapevine	Circulation: 550 on Hornby, 670 on Denman Published every Thursday Deadline Monday noon. Jan. 25 for Jan. 28. Feb. 8 for Feb. 11 issue Size: 3 col inch x5 col inch" (7 1/8" x 5 7/8")	\$248.14	\$496.28
Online ads	Salt Spring Exchange \$420 for one month Size: 728x90 pixels		\$420
	Bowen Online \$30/week for 3 weeks (Jan 25-Feb 17. Ad starts day of art delivery) Size: 500x50 pixel		\$90

October 1, 2016 check-in

Total ThINC Pledges	\$211,431.00
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ThINC Land Acquisition Account	\$ 2,525.04
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Sitka Foundation (To CCLT/ThINC)	\$50,000.00
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ITF/ThINC Land Acquisition	\$ 57,263.00	(includes 40,439 from anonymous donor)
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Total Pledges and Donations	\$324,474.23
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Left to raise of total goal \$560,000-\$324,474.23 = \$235,525.77 (Public – communications plan target)

Or of purchase price \$550,000-\$324,474.23 = \$225,525.77



October 4, 2016

BC Marine Trails Network Association
Attn: John Kimantas
Via email: john@bcmarinetrails.org

Re: Salish Sea Marine Trail

The Trust Fund Board received your briefing document on the Salish Sea Marine Trail at their September 19th meeting, after it was forwarded to us by the Executive Committee of the Islands Trust.

The Trust Fund Board manages 26 nature reserves and 73 conservation covenants throughout the Salish Sea. These areas are all protected for the purpose of preserving ecological values, and are not suitable for increased recreational use. As you plan your route through the islands, please note that Trust Fund Board protected areas, and many other conservation properties protected by our land trust partners in the islands, are not appropriate for landing or camping. We could provide mapping of these protected areas, if that would be helpful.

Thank you for letting us know about your proposal. We appreciate your efforts to link the islands of the Salish Sea with a paddling route that connects to the Trans Canada Trail.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Eliason
Manager, Islands Trust Fund

Cc: Executive Committee

Jennifer Eliason

From: John Kimantas <john@bcmarinetrails.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2016 12:08 PM
To: Jennifer Eliason
Subject: Re: letter from Islands Trust Fund

Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for the response. Yes, it would certainly be helpful to provide mapping of these conservation covenants and nature reserves. We certainly don't want to intrude on other uses and designations. In fact, the intent of the presentation was to start the process of working together with Islands Trust to find appropriate locations, so there was never ambiguity about our intent to stay out of inappropriate locations. Rather, we can help the process by steering recreational use away from protected locations to those deemed appropriate.

The bottom line is with or without the marine trail more recreational use will come, and if designated locations aren't pinpointed you can probably envision where people will go, especially in the more remote regions where any beach is considered fair game. I think you'll find this the case for locations like the Winchelseas where even if designated nature reserve, recreational use of islands such as Southey and Maude are quite high. What we bring to the table is the opportunity to channel and direct people appropriately. We can also designate appropriate footprints. In fact, we are trying to formulate with Recreation Sites and Trails BC a new designation of site deemed "zero impact" where group size, length of stay and allowed activities are highly restricted so these sites are used for transit rather than destination camping. We are also introducing a marine trail user Code of Conduct accounting for this, as well as Leave No Trace ethics including care of intertidal biology. We're doing this because we love the coast as much as you do, and so we want to help preserve it just as much but through a different strategy, which is appropriate use at appropriate locations. We've seen wrecked and abused campsites and trust us, we hate it as much as you do. Through site assessments, stewardship and coastal cleanups we can actually help. One of the sites we were warned off from using in the Discovery Islands because of its sensitivity, the Chained Islands (the Strathcona Regional District vice-chair asked us to take it off our site inventory), well, we just help a cleanup and removed 1.47 tonnes of garbage from these islands -- and here we are being asked to stay away from it because of our possible negative impact! You can read the details of our recent cleanup initiatives on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BCMTN/>. You may have heard about the Gar-Barge, and we are heavily involved in that.

If you would like to have Islands Trust Fund listed as a stakeholder, we can provide you ongoing information about the marine trail creation process so you are full informed each step of the way.

Thanks for the consideration. Cheers, John Kimantas

On Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 11:35 AM, Jennifer Eliason <jeliason@islandstrust.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello John,

Please find a letter from the Islands Trust Fund attached.

Regards,

Jennifer Eliason

Manager, Islands Trust Fund

200-1627 Fort St. Victoria BC V8R 1H8

250-405-5191

Toll-free via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver (604) 660-2421, Elsewhere in BC call 1-800-663-7867



www.islandstrustfund.bc.ca

A Conservancy for Canada's Islands in the Salish Sea.

--

John Kimantas,
BC Marine Trails Network Association
250-244-6437



Public Acquisitions Update November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
CROWN LAND ACQUISITIONS		
FREE CROWN GRANTS		
Potential Free Crown Grant Application Proposal, Lasqueti (344.82 ha)	2005/08/15	It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Board to instruct staff to begin a Trust Area wide search for the 2007 Free Crown Grant application in the summer of 2006.
	2007/01/19	The search for the 2007 parcel is focussed on Lasqueti, with a community meeting scheduled for Feb 17.
	2007/03/05	The community meeting shortlisted the crown parcels and staff now need to research encumbrances on the top choices.
	2007/05/30	It was MOVED and SECONDED that the TFB recommend that the Islands Trust Council support the Trust Fund Board's application for a Free Crown Grant on Lasqueti Island, for the area known in the Crown Land Profile as Parcel B, north of Mount Trematon, subject to the support of the Powell River Regional District, consultation with the Sliammon First Nation, and subject to confirmation of funding for the property.
	2007/06/15	It was moved and seconded "That the Islands Trust Council support the Trust Fund Board's application for a Free Crown Grant on Lasqueti Island, subject to the support of the Powell River Regional District, subject to support from First Nations with a demonstrated interest in the property and subject to confirmation of funding for property management."
	2010/09/23	Staff confirmed that Sliammon haven't declared interests on Lasqueti & are at stage 6 of their treaty.
	2010/09/24	It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Trust Fund Board recommit its support for the application for a Free Crown Grant on Lasqueti Island, for the area known in the crown land profile as Parcel B, north of Mt Trematon, subject to the support of the Lasqueti Local Trust Committee, the Sliammon First Nation and the Powell River Regional District.
	2011/07/05	Correspondence sent to Sliammon, Qualicum, Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) and Sechelt First Nations.
	2014/02/12	Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy confirmed support for a Sponsored Crown Grant application, and agreed to assist and fundraise as required.
	2014/03/03	Letter of introduction and inquiry sent to Chief and Council of Qualicum First Nation.
	2014/04/10	Followed up with phone message and email to Qualicum First Nation.
	2014/06/10	Trustee Morrison visited Qualicum band office, spoke with staff and a councillor. Received positive response to an in-person meeting.
	2014/09/03	Staff emailed and phoned to request in-person meeting. Identified new council/Chief elected. Spoke with



Public Acquisitions Update November 22, 2016

		a councillor Sept 3, 2014. Interested in meeting, will phone back with possible dates.
	2014/10/02	Staff updated letter and emailed information again.
	2014/10/30	Message left for councillor Swanson.
	2015/04/07	Trustee Morrison stopped by band office and suggested a meeting.
	2015/04/28	Trustee Morrison stopped by band office and met with Chief Recalma.
	2015/06/08	Trustees Law and Morrison and ITF Manager met with Chief Recalma and Councillors Recalma and Swanson at the Qualicum Band office. The Chief and Council expressed an interest in visiting Lasqueiti, seeing some of the archaeological sites, including a fish weir and looking at the subject Crown land. Date set for July 16 th .
	2015/30/08	July trip cancelled by Chief due to other commitments. Attempting to reschedule for October.
	2016/02/16	Message left for Chief Recalma.
	2016/04/09	Trustee Morrison spoke with Councillor Swanson.
Pebble Beach Crown Land DL 60 and 66, Galiano (67.44 ha)	2007/05/30	ON HOLD It was MOVED and SECONDED that the board directs staff to undertake discussions with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group regarding the long term protection of the property, including the transfer of the property to the province if required for the treaty settlement.
	2007/05/30	ON HOLD It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Trust Fund Board recommend that the Islands Trust Council support the Trust Fund Board's application for a Free Crown Grant for DL 60 and a portion of DL 66 (the area known as Pebble Beach) on Galiano Island, subject to the support of the Galiano Local Trust Committee and the Capital Regional District, consultation with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, and subject to confirmation of funding for property management.
EXCEPTIONAL CROWN LAND CASES		
Section 21, Lot 1 (Beaver Pond)	2009/08/25	It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Chair of the Trust Fund Board write to Ian Atherton, Land Acquisition Officer, MOE, and Mike McCammon, Project Manager, Crown Lands and Resources, Integrated Land Management Bureau, requesting: a) that Lot 1, Section 21, Plan 35639, Denman Island (Beaver Pond) not be transferred to the MOE for inclusion in the proposed provincial park now under consideration for the north part of Denman Island, and b) that this lot be transferred to the TFB for inclusion in the Inner Island Nature Reserve, following consultation with the appropriate First Nations.
	2009/10/14	Reply letter received from Mike McCammon (ILMB) stating that Ian Atherton would be responding more fully to our inquiry and that Lot 1, Section 21 (Beaver Pond) is not available for disposition because of a <i>Land Act</i> reserve on behalf of the Ministry of Environment.

Public Acquisitions Update November 22, 2016

	2010/01/14	Ian Atherton confirmed that Lot 1, Section 21 (Beaver Pond) is not available for disposition because of a Section 17 <i>Land Act</i> reserve on behalf of the Ministry of Environment.
	2010/10/12	Lot 1, Sec. 21 has been transferred to Min. of Environment as part of North Denman Lands deal, to be included in a provincial park. Staff were advised that if TFB were to pursue transfer, the lot would need to be returned to Min. of Agriculture and Lands and then applied for under the Free Crown Grants Program.
	2010/11/27	DCA sent letter to Ian Atherton (MOE) requesting that discussion regarding the transfer of Lot 1 (Beaver Pond) to ITF resume immediately.
	2010/12/02	MOE (Ian Atherton) position is that property is best protected under Parks Act or Ecological Reserves Act. DCA could become manager. Transfer would require full Free Crown Grant application.
	2011/04/14	MOE, DCA, and ITF met to discuss options for Lot 1 (Beaver Pond)
	2011/06/22	Informed by MOE that Lot 1 will not be designated an Ecological Reserve, it will be a BC Park with special zoning to limit activities. Will consider a covenant held by ITF.
	2012/09/11	Draft covenant provided by MoE. Staff and TFB lawyer have provided comments back to MOE.
	2013/02/26	MOE says that they cannot accept covenant provided by ITF. MOE also confirms that they cannot register a covenant after the designation occurs, which is imminent. MOE asks ITF to instead consider a Collaboration Agreement, which is referred to in the Parks Act but has not been used before.
	2015/10/29	Met with BC Parks new acquisitions officer and discussed renewing this conversation.
	2016/01/15	Letter received from BC Parks, confirming they cannot register a covenant but would consider a Partnership Agreement. Staff will follow up to determine what this entails.
PUBLICLY CONSIDERED PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITIONS		
Valens Brook Nature Reserve addition (Hermanutz-Innes proposal) (Denman) 2.55 ha.	2014/09/18	It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Trust Fund Board accept the conservation proposal submitted by Henning Nielsen on behalf of Luise Hermanutz and David Innes, to transfer approximately 2.545 hectares of Lot 17, Plan 6404, Section 6 Denman Island, Nanaimo District, PID 005-851-122 to the TFB to be protected as a nature reserve.
Sandy Beach (Area E) (Keats) 3.3 ha.	2014/09/18	It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Trust Fund Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by the Convention of Baptist Churches of British Columbia to transfer Area E (Sandy Beach), approximately 3.3 hectares of DL 696, Group 1 NWD, Keats Island (PID: 014-385-694) to the Trust Fund Board for protection as a nature reserve.
	2015/03/02	Consultant has indicated that the landowners would like a covenant registered on the land at the time of transfer. ITF has approached Gambier Island Conservancy (GIC) and Sunshine Coast Conservation



Public Acquisitions Update November 22, 2016

		Association (SCCA). GIC has declined, but SCCA is potentially interested. Landowner currently seeking confirmation from Islands Trust and SCRD that transfer will count as park allocation for future subdivision approval; MOTI has confirmed.
	2015/05/07	SCCA agrees to hold covenant; suggests TLC as a co-holder as they have worked together before.
	2015/08/18	Draft conservation covenant provided to ITF staff for review.
	2015/08/26	Edits to covenant provided to applicant and covenant holders for review.
	2015/12/15	Comments on covenant draft received from TLC.
	2015/01/12	Covenant revised with TLC edits and returned to TLC and SCCA for comment. TLC is happy with the draft. SCCA has sent the covenant for legal review, still awaiting SCCA comments.
	2016/02/10	SCCA comments received.
	2016/03/04	ITF responded to SCCA edits. SCCA reviewing with lawyer.
	2016/04/11	Requested that landowner contract development of baseline report for covenant. Transfer not likely to occur until spring 2017.
	2016/06/05	SCCA comments received for covenant.
	2016/10/05	Draft 3 covenant sent to covenant holders for review. TLC and SCCA have agreed to the draft. Awaiting update from applicant on baseline and timeline for transfer from applicant.
Current Total TFB Acquisitions:		26

PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE
November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
NAPTEP COVENANTS		
<i>24 NAPTEP Covenants on title, 1 current application.</i>		
Swift Family Link Island NAPTEP Covenant Link Island ECOGIFT (Gabriola LTA) (approx. 19 ha)	2016/04/05	TFB-2016-011 It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Trust Fund Board approve Elizabeth Working Swift's proposal to covenant approximately 20 ha of the land described as "Section 25, Nanaimo District (Part of DeCourcy Group of Islands), Parcel Identifier 009-772-138" through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP).
	2016/04/07	Request sent to the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust inquiring about their willingness to co-hold covenant.
	2016/04/15	TFB decision letter sent to landowner.
	2016/05/26	Briefing received by Gabriola LTC.
	2016/05/27	Site visit with landowner and co-covenant holder. Co-covenant holder will send for board approval August 3.
	2016/06/16	Trust Council approves NAPTEP application.
	2016/07/13	Draft Covenant and Phase 2 letter sent to applicant for review.
	2016/10/26	Swift family has identified covenant boundaries and a residential area of approximately 2.5 ha. They have a surveyor in mind and are working on a contract. They are contemplating potential contractors for the baseline report and intend to apply to the Ecological Gifts Program.
REGULAR COVENANTS UPDATE		
<i>(49 regular covenants on title, 3 regular public covenants in progress, 4 in-camera covenants in progress.)</i>		
Brooks Point Covenant South Pender Island (1.17 ha, 6.02 ha if combined with surrounding covenants)	2014/03/23	It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Trust Fund Board agrees to hold a covenant on the 2010 addition to Brooks Point Regional Park, South Pender Island, subject to agreement on the terms of the covenant and a satisfactory baseline report, and directs staff to continue working with CRD Parks and partners to determine the best way to covenant the three protected areas at Gowlland and Brooks Points.
	2014/04/08	Staff provide CRD staff with a template covenant for review.
	2014/04/15	Staff met with partners to discuss combining covenants for the Brooks Point and Gowlland Point properties.
	2014/05/22	Covenant Draft 1 sent to PICA, Friends of Brooks Point, HAT and CRD.
	2014/08/01	CRD response to Covenant Draft 1 received.
	2014/08/19	ITF/HAT/PICA express concerns to CRD with respect to Management Plan approval and other selected clauses.
	2014/08/20	Baseline Report completed.
	2014/08/22	CRD respond to ITF/HAT/PICA concerns.

PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE
November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
	2014/09/17	ITF/HAT/PICA response sent to CRD. CRD staff have indicated they will respond after Nov 17, 2014.
	2014/10/08	Kate Emmings appointed to the Brooks Point Management Plan advisory group by the CRD.
	2014/10/16	ITF staff attended CRD Parks Open House for public review of the Brooks Point Management Plan update. Draft plan to be approved by CRD Parks Board Nov. 19 and by the CRD Board in December.
	2014/12/03	CRD submit revised covenant draft to ITF and HAT.
	2014/12/10	CRD Board approves revised Management Plan.
	2014/12/12	Covenant sent to legal counsel for review.
	2014/12/18	Covenant and comments sent to CRD.
	2015/07/29	Met with the CRD to discuss the covenant. There are several unresolved clauses.
	2015/08/28	Met with PICA and HAT to discuss unresolved clauses. Agreed that we were at an impasse and required more direction from PICA.
	2015/09/02	CRD returned a covenant draft for review, staff are concerned with several clauses, including the strength of restrictions and the enforcement mechanisms.
	2015/09/09	Staff provided a briefing to PICA requesting information about the type of covenant contemplated. Staff updated the CRD that a response to the covenant draft would be post-poned until further information is available from PICA. The PICA Board meets September 21.
	2015/09/24	Staff met with HAT, Friends of Brooks Point (Paul Petrie) and the CRD to discuss covenant concerns. CRD staff agreed to revise covenant and circulate
	2015/10/28	Staff met with HAT and CRD staff to review revised covenant draft and CRD will do further revision and circulate by mid-November. 17/12/2015 Update: CRD staff still working on revisions.
	2015/12/18	CRD Staff provided revised covenant.
	2016/01/25	ITF/HAT responded to CRD revisions. Awaiting further communications.
	2016/07/15	CRD Staff provide a revised version of the covenant for further review.
	2016/08/16	HAT/ITF/CRD staff meet to discuss CRD edits. HAT/ITF agree to add definition regarding the permitted activities and will forward legal edits. CRD to re-approach NCC and TLC regarding process for discharge of prior covenants.
Crystal Mountain Covenant Galiano Island	2014/10/30	Conservation Proposal received
	2014/11/24	TFB motion: That the Trust Fund Board approve the Crystal Mountain proposal to covenant approximately 18.3 ha of the lands described as: a) Lot 9, District Lot 90, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan 31200, PID # 000-851-035; and,

PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE
November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
(18.3 ha)		b) Lot A, District Lots 88 and 89, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP68079, PID # 024-351-041, subject to the successful negotiation of an endowment.
	2014/12/04	Letter to landowner advising of Board decision and next steps.
	2015/02/02	The applicant's rezoning application was considered by the Galiano LTC and the following motion was passed: That the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee direct staff to proceed with the application GL-RZ-2014.1 (Crystal Mountain) but before preparing draft bylaws address the following: (1) Submit a survey regarding the proposed building sites, accesses and Development Permit Areas and the location and size of all existing structures; (2) Indicate whether or not existing structures will be removed or will remain; (3) Indicate whether any of the proposed huts will have cooking facilities; (4) Indicate whether the outhouses will consist of composting toilets or another system; (5) Submit plans to implement the recommendations of the environmental assessment; (6) Consider an amendment to the application to transfer title of the proposed covenanted lands to an organization which has as it's primary objective the conservation of forest land; (7) Consider a plan that would cluster development in one building site not the 3 that have been proposed; (8) Provide the LTC with a copy of the 2 CRD covenants on the land regarding geotechnical issues and Riparian Area issues; and (9) Consider an agreement to stop construction until completion of the application and to stop advertising and conducting programs within structures that are not permitted under the zoning that presently exists on the land.
	2015/06/09	Galiano LTC has referred the application to an advisory planning committee. Landowner contacted staff to discuss transfer of a nature reserve instead of conservation covenant.
	2015/02/03	Landowners working through LTC process regarding rezoning. No decision yet.
	2016/03/17	LTC agreed to begin drafting bylaws allowing for rezoning with conservation covenant as a condition. Staff met with landowners to review covenant template. Site visit scheduled.
	2016/04/06	ITF Manager and Planner Stockdill visited site. Draft bylaws to be presented to LTC for consideration in early July. Draft covenant in circulation.
	2016/06/22	Received comments on covenant from landowner and subsequently discussed by phone. LTC to consider draft bylaw July 4 th .
	2016/09/08	Applicant still working through LTC process. Draft covenant sent to the TFB lawyer for review and comment.

PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE
November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
	2016/10/03	Next draft of covenant including TFB lawyer comments sent back to landowner. Landowner reviewing with lawyer.
Settlement Lands Denman Island (63.25 ha)	2015/11/17	TFB-2015-086 It was MOVED and SECONDED, that the Trust Fund Board approve the conservation proposal submitted by the Denman Conservancy Association for the two properties on Denman Island known as the Settlement Lands: PID 006-639-771, the east ½ of the north east ¼ of Section 21, Denman Island, Nanaimo District; and, PID 006-657-656, the west ½ of the north east ¼ of Section 21, Denman Island, Nanaimo District, except that part in Plan VIP78186, subject to the successful development of a mutually acceptable Management Plan for the lands.
	2015/11/19	Letter sent to applicant to advise of the TFB decision and requesting a meeting to discuss next steps in the management planning process.
	2015/12/10	Phone meeting with applicant to discuss next steps. Applicant will send a letter to the TFB regarding anticipated costs and timeline and a request for cost sharing on selected budget items.
	2016/01/25	Received correspondence requesting cost sharing for baseline, etc.
	2016/02/22	TFB-2016-003 It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Board approve the Denman Conservancy Association proposal to share covenant and management plan costs for the Settlement Lands (PID 006-639-771 & PID 006-657-656), Denman Island, according to the 'Settlement Land Conservation Covenant Cost-Sharing' document (January 2016, updated February 4, 2016), providing up to \$3,000.
	2016/04/04	Letter sent to DCA confirming details of cost sharing.
	2016/06/14	Covenant draft sent to DCA for review. DCA is negotiating BC Hydro Right of Way.
	2016/07/27	DCA covenant comments received.
	2016/09/09	Draft 2 covenant sent to DCA for comment.
	2016/09/19	Draft Baseline Report received. DCA and ITF staff discussing issues of education centre, trails & trail signage and current issues of cattle grazing and power line infrastructure.
ITF NATURE RESERVES WITH COVENANTS OUTSTANDING		
<i>(21 Nature Reserves have covenants, 5 Nature Reserves are without covenants, 2 covenants of potential TFB Nature Reserves in progress.)</i>		



ISLANDS TRUST FUND

PUBLIC COVENANTS UPDATE
November 22, 2016

Property Name and Island	Date (yyyy/mm/dd)	Notes
Proposed Sandy Beach Nature Reserve Keats Island (3.3 ha.)	2015/05/07	ITF staff are currently negotiating a conservation covenant concurrently with the Sandy Beach Conservation Proposal (see Acquisitions Updates).
Proposed Nature Reserve on Moore Hill Thetis Island (21.04 ha.)	2016/11/14	ITF staff have commenced negotiations with Thetis Island Nature Conservancy and Cowichan Community Land Trust on a covenant to be registered once the land transfers to TFB (see Confidential Acquisitions Updates).
Total	73 covenants registered	



TRUST FUND BOARD BRIEFING

DATE: November 8, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Communications and Fundraising Report

PUBLICITY

Date	RCP/FUAL Action Item	Activity/Event
Sept-Nov	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Social Media Update: Facebook: 217 Page Likes, (3 per cent increase), 237 people reached with most popular post (video-share-More good news for whale population recoveries, nature is so cool!) Twitter: 652 followers (1 per cent increase) Actions taken to increase engagement: Facebook: 12 posts (Sept-Nov) / 11 likes / 21 shares Twitter: 12 Tweets/ Re-tweets (Sept - Nov)
Sept-Nov	RCP Objective 4. Work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island	Fairyslipper Forest campaign: Social media outreach; completed Fairyslipper Forest final year communications plan; participate in Nov. 29 #GivingTuesdayCA campaign
Nov	RCP Objective 19.	Produced and distributed the Islands Trust Fund Heron Winter 2016-2017 newsletter
Sept-Oct	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Social media and website audit with feasibility complete
Nov	RCP Goal 6. Support and enhance the work of conservation partners working in Islands Trust area	E-News sent to Conservancies (21 contacts) to inform of funding sources and upcoming training opportunities and issue the Heron
Oct	RCP Goal 6. Support and enhance the work of conservation partners working in Islands Trust area	Attended Medicine Beach Interpretive sign celebration event with PICA Board members on Oct. 2

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Date	RCP/FUAL Action Item	Activity/Event
Sept-Oct	RCP Objective 4. Work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island	Reprint 250 Fairyslipper forest rack cards for ThINC fundraiser and year 3 promotions
Sept-Oct	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Website updates of links and pages - Home slide banners (3 new) - Director Hoops profile and picture - Updated ITF and IT Financials (audit results for 2016) - Heron Winter 2016-2017 issue
Nov	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Attended the Land Trust Alliance of B.C. Seminar Series in Victoria B.C. (2 days), displayed ITF promotional materials
Oct-Nov	RCP Goal 6. Support and enhance the work of conservation partners working in Islands Trust area	Compiled and supplied PICA with ITF brochures and promotional materials to distribute to Island Realtors, specifically Pender Islands realtors

UPCOMING COMMUNICATIONS

Date	RCP/FUAL Action Item	Activity/Event
Nov – Feb	Objective 4. Work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 ha. of publicly accessible nature reserve on Thetis Island	Fairyslipper Forest campaign: Social media outreach; Giving Tuesday (Nov.29); Holiday cards; e-news; Valentine's Day e-cards (explore)
Nov-Feb	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Finalize Island Trust Fund Board 100 th property communications (slideshow)
Nov	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Prepare new Hornby Island conservation covenant communications
Dec	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Distribute Christmas Cards to Donors
Dec-Feb	More active promotion of services ITF provides in the Trust Area	Support the TFB Board Chair in drafting personal communications to Conservancy partners
Nov-Feb	Incorporate recognition of First Nations rights and interests in ITF policies, key documents and communications.	Continue to support Trust Fund Board direction regarding improving recognition of First Nations rights and interests in key documents and communications

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Active Funds

Fund	Amount Raised (2016/17)	In Account
Opportunity Fund	\$4,799	\$29,340
Covenant Management and Defense Fund	\$2,008	\$38,948
Lasqueti Island Acquisition Fund	\$6.56	\$32,540
Gambier Island Acquisition Fund		\$116,682
Morrison Waxler Legacy Fund (Pender Covenant Fund)	\$3	\$20,060
Thetis Island Acquisition Fund	\$377,853*	\$550,050*

*includes funds secured for both Thetis Island acquisition projects

Other Fundraising Activity

Date	RCP/FUAL Action Item	Activity/Event
Jul - Sep	Objective 4. Work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island	Fairyslipper Forest campaign: Social media outreach, planning and execution of Year 3 grant applications, Giving Tuesday campaign (Nov. 29), employee matching funds, Holiday Card mail-out, Valentine's Day ecards
Nov-Dec	Objective 4. Work with partner organizations to acquire at least 20 hectares of publicly accessible natural park or nature reserve on Thetis Island	Research Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Environmental Enhancement Fund
Nov	RCP Goal 6. Support and enhance the work of conservation partners working in Islands Trust area	Apply to TD Friends of the Environment for Elder Cedar boardwalk

PREPARED BY: Crystal Oberg

REVIEWED BY: Jennifer Eliason



TRUST FUND BOARD BRIEFING

DATE: November 10, 2016

TO: Trust Fund Board

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 22, 2016

SUBJECT: November 2016 Property Management Report

Current Property Management Activities

ISLAND	PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION
All	All	Developing Property Management Strategy for RCP, outline will be brought to January TFB meeting
Bowen	David Otter Nature Reserve	Contract with Bowen Island Conservancy for remediation work including in site preparation and planting.
Bowen	Singing Woods Nature Reserve	Revision of the management plan to be completed by January 30, 2017
Gabriola	Burren's Acres Nature Reserve	Final Draft of the first management plan to TFB for approval
Gabriola	Elder Cedar Nature Reserve	Apply for funding to help cover costs of boardwalk around large western redcedar tree.
Galiano	Trincomali Nature Sanctuary	Restoration project of new planting and weeding last year's plantings
Lasqueti	3 TFB Nature Reserves	Species at Risk surveys on Lasqueti Nature Reserves are beginning and will be part of a 3 year project (partnership project, externally funded and managed)
Lasqueti	Kwel Nature Reserve	Revision of the management plan contracted out with plan to be complete by January 30, 2017 Clean up of garbage left on site was completed by Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy
Salt Spring	Cyril Cunningham Nature Reserve	Final Draft of the revised management plan to TFB for approval
Salt Spring	McFadden Nature Sanctuary	Removal and disposal of invasive species planned by March

In Progress Contracts and Proposed Contracts for 2016-2017

ISLAND	PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACTORS
All	All except: Horton Bayvaury, Owl's Call NAPTEP, Meadow Valley Covenant	Monitoring contract	Chris Ferris
Bowen	David Otter Nature Reserve	Restoration: site preparation and planting	Bowen Island Conservancy
Bowen	Fairy Fen Nature Reserve	Assess feasibility of building a viewing platform	Bowen Island Conservancy
Bowen	Singing Woods Nature Reserve	Revised Management Plan	Raincoast Applied Ecology
Denman	All 3 Denman Nature Reserves	Invasive species removal, restoration, planting and monitoring	Denman Island Conservancy
Gabriola	Elder Cedar Nature Reserve	Invasive plant removal, Trail and driveway maintenance	Gabriola Land & Trail Trust
Galiano	Trincomali Nature Sanctuary	Restoration	Habitat Acquisition Trust
Gambier	Long Bay Wetland	Restoration, planting and protecting tree seedlings	Gambier Island Conservancy
Lasqueti	Kwel Nature Reserve	Revised Management Plan	Doug Hopwood
Lasqueti	Mt. Trematon and John Osland and Kwel	Planting restoration at Mt. Trematon, cleaning Hooded Merganser boxes at John Osland, clean up of garbage at Kwel	Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy
Mayne	Horton Bayviary Nature Reserve	Monitoring contract and garbage removal	Mayne Island Conservancy
Pender	Medicine Beach Marsh Nature Sanctuary	Dogipot containers maintenance and waste collection	Pender Islands Conservancy Association
Salt Spring	McFadden Nature Sanctuary	Removal and disposal of invasive species	Salt Spring Island Conservancy

PREPARED BY: Nuala Murphy, Property Management Specialist

REVIEWED BY: Jennifer Eliason, ITF Manager

Trust Fund Board Budget Tracking 2016-2017

GL	Description	Budget	Revenue	Total Available	Spent	Remaining	% Remaining	Additional Committed Funds
50700-210	Admin Support Services	\$ 168,272		\$ 168,272	\$ 77,180	\$ 91,092		
54500-210	Communications	\$ 13,000		\$ 13,000	\$ 2,552.39	\$ 10,448	80%	\$ 4,972
56000-210	Contingency	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	100%	
61100-210	Board Honoraria	\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000	\$ 2,650	\$ 5,350	67%	
61200-210	Board Meeting Expense	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 5,763	\$ 4,237	42%	
61210-210	Board Training & Conferences	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,047	\$ 953	48%	
61300-210	Property Management	\$ 60,000		\$ 60,000	\$ 30,336	\$ 29,664	49%	\$ 29,200
61500-210	Conservation Planning / Land Securement	\$ 18,000		\$ 18,000	\$ 442	\$ 17,558	98%	\$ 3,630
63000-210	Legal	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ 2,004	\$ 12,996	87%	\$ 4,250
80300-210	Mobile Devices	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	\$ 916	\$ 584	39%	
81300-210	Training & Conferences	\$ 6,950		\$ 6,950	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,150	45%	
81305-210	Travel for Training	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	\$ 568	\$ 1,932	77%	
82300-210	Travel	\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000	\$ 2,620	\$ 1,380	34%	
		\$ 311,722	\$ -	\$ 311,722	\$ 129,877	\$ 181,845	58%	\$42,052
	Alton Maintenance Account	\$ 39,781	\$ 9,238	\$ 49,019	\$ 799	\$ 48,220		\$ 425
	Ruby Alton Endowment Fund	\$ 130,282						
	Opportunity Fund	\$ 34,501	\$ 4,799	\$ 39,300	\$ 6,460	\$ 32,840		\$ 3,500
	Covenant Mgmt and Defence Fund	\$ 36,940	\$ 2,008	\$ 38,948	\$0	\$ 38,948		
	Lasqueti Island Acq Fund	\$ 32,533	\$ 7	\$ 32,540	\$0	\$ 32,540		
	Gambier Island Acq Fund	\$115,173		\$ 116,682				
	Morrison Waxler Legacy Fund	\$ 20,057	\$ 3	\$ 20,060	\$0	\$ 20,060		
	Thetis Island Acq Fund	\$ 172,197	\$ 377,853	\$ 550,050	\$21	\$ 550,029		
	McFadden Creek	\$ 24,320	\$4	\$ 24,324	\$0	\$ 24,324		