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March 22, 2013

File No.: 5450-30; 0410-20

Via Email: Tim.Ennis@natureconservancy.ca

Tim Ennis, Chair
Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership Steering Committee

Dear Tim Ennis:

Re: Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership

As Chair of the Islands Trust Council, I'm writing to advise you that at its quarterly meeting in March 2013, the Islands Trust Council voted to endorse the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystem Conservation Partnership (CDFCP) Terms of Reference and Statement of Cooperation and directed me to sign the Statement of Cooperation on behalf of the Islands Trust.

The Islands Trust Council supports the CDFCP's goal of bringing governments, organizations and individuals together to collaboratively address ongoing threats to the conservation of Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems. This work would advance the following sections of the Islands Trust Policy Statement:

3.2.1 It is Trust Council's policy that

- *forest ecosystems in the Trust Area should be protected, and*
- *the remaining stands relatively undisturbed Coastal Douglas fir, Coastal Western Hemlock, Garry Oak and Arbutus should be preserved.*

3.2.3 Trust Council encourages government agencies, non-government organizations, property owners and occupiers to protect forested areas through voluntary donation, acquisition, conservation covenants and careful management.

We are hopeful that the CDFCP will promote shared stewardship and will identify conservation priorities, reduce duplication of effort, and result in shared resources and information.

We look forward to participating in the CDFCP and cooperating to protect the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone; home to the highest number of species and ecosystems at risk in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

cc: Islands Trust Executive Committee
Bowen Island Municipality
Darryn McConkey, Senior Ecosystem Biologist, Min. of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Islands Trust website

Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

STATEMENT OF COOPERATION for the COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP (CDFCP)

We believe that:

1) *biodiversity is a key component of Canada's national heritage.*

Both Canada and British Columbia have made international and national commitments to conserve biological diversity. Biodiversity includes all species and ecological communities and the interactions between them and has both inherent and economic values that justify its conservation. We are committed to preserving this rich component of our national heritage for future generations.

2) *the Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone is a unique and special place.*

The Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone (CDF zone) is unique and found almost exclusively in British Columbia. It is an area of extremely rich biological and ecological diversity and supports species and ecosystems that do not occur elsewhere in Canada. It has international significance because of its limited range in North America. This zone is also home to an increasing number of people drawn by the quality of life and the mildest climate in Canada. This area supports a wide range of agricultural, forestry, mining, recreation and tourism activities.

3) *the future integrity of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems is threatened.*

We will not take the future health of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems (CDFAE) for granted. Although the area's economic wealth has long been based on its abundant natural resources, population growth and associated human activities now threaten the natural environment which has made it so special and attractive. There are 43 Red and Blue-listed ecological communities in the CDF zone alone and 278 species at risk, of which 107 are listed by COSEWIC and 99 are listed under the federal Species At Risk Act (SARA) (BC CDC, 2012)

4) *it is not too late to secure the ecological integrity of the CDFAE for future generations.*

All the necessary elements of a Conservation Partnership are in place. Governments, non-government organizations, community groups and individuals are aware of the many conservation issues facing the CDFAE and recognize the need to preserve this special place. There is adequate scientific information to make informed decisions. We are strongly committed to cooperation and partnership for conservation of the CDFAE.

5) *protecting this special place is our shared responsibility.*

With this *Statement of Cooperation*, we are focusing the energies and efforts of an emerging Conservation Partnership so that we can make a coordinated contribution toward addressing the conservation issues facing the CDFAE. We wish to engage the considerable skills, energy and resources of our governments, ENGOs, community groups, educators, youth, workers, industry and business. We intend to work through cooperative mechanisms currently in place to inform and involve others. This will produce an open and transparent process of establishing priorities, identifying opportunities for effective cooperative action, and measuring progress. We will work with, and be guided by, existing conservation planning initiatives that affect conservation of the CDFAE.

6) *the Aboriginal peoples of the Coast play a special role in the future of the natural system.*

Through their long historical relationship with the lands and resources, the Aboriginal peoples of the CDFAE have acquired a special knowledge. To conserve and protect the area, we will work closely with the Aboriginal peoples of the CDFAE, so their unique perspective can contribute to our common efforts.

7) we will build on the progress made to date.

In our efforts to work closely together for the future of the CDFAE, we will build on the conservation activities and working relationships that have already been established in the area. Many programs and initiatives have protected portions of the landscape, implemented successful stewardship projects, created conservation plans, produced research results, and produced an array of informative publications.

We intend to work together to facilitate practical and effective conservation of the CDFAE

This *Statement of Cooperation* states our shared principles, goals and challenges. It provides a framework for collaboration on future initiatives through this Conservation Partnership, and will establish common priorities and a means to coordinate many of the initiatives already underway. We will be guided by our Terms of Reference, we will cooperate in an open and accountable manner, translate our commitments into actions, and monitor our progress. Research, monitoring and evaluation activities will provide new information and we are committed to considering and incorporating new information in our conservation approaches, priorities and management.

In working together towards the goals set out in this Statement of Cooperation, we welcome the ideas and efforts of all residents and organizations concerned about the future of the CDFAE. It is our intention to add new signatures to the Statement of Cooperation as new partners adopt the principles outlined in this document.

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Name
Position
Affiliation

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Name
Position
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