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Tallina McRae
District Operations Technician
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)
550 Comox Rd
Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6

Via email: Tallina.McRae@gov.bc.ca

Hello Tallina,

I am writing as elected Chair of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) to alert you to two sites of potential concern on lands under MOTI jurisdiction on Denman Island. As the body responsible for land use regulation on Denman Island, and as a special-purpose governance body working with a *preserve and protect* mandate, we are asking your agency to look into these situations, determine if action is needed, and if so take appropriate steps.

1. At the foot of Cable Beach, previous alteration of the right-of-way by a private land-owner has diverted surface water into a constructed ditch that has created a rushing stream draining a brackish marsh directly into the ocean. This is significantly eroding the shoreline area and blocking access to the beach for walkers, bird-watchers, and other recreational users.

Local trustees (LTC elected officials) have received multiple calls and emails from constituents who have seen this popular beach access dramatically altered. Their concerns are mainly with respect to the long-term damage to the water quality and the geography of the shoreline ecosystem including the brackish marsh. Previously, when the land alteration first occurred, Islands Trust was in communication with MOTI about the situation. The LTC was subsequently informed that an investigation concluded that remediation was not recommended. However, the situation appears to be worsening and has raised continued concern from the public and professionals.

2. At the foot of Mable Road, a culvert draining to the ocean, parallel to the road, is blocked by driftwood and sand near the exit. The water is flowing out lateral to the North, causing significant erosion and promoting poor water quality. The LTC was told by a community member that this happens fairly regularly at this site during winter.

Recently, an island trustee and Islands Trust staff member visited the site and concluded that the situation is potentially problematic and could utilize a **GreenShores Approach** to improve the water quality, stream morphology, and the geography of beach ecosystems of this area. Link to **GreenShores Approach**: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/island-ecosystems/caring-for-my-shoreline/greenshores-approach/>

We respect MOTI jurisdiction over these sites and are providing this information with a hope that you will evaluate these situations and take action if deemed necessary, and report back to Islands Trust throughout this process.

The attached map may be useful in locating and understanding the sites.

Sincerely,



Sue Ellen Fast
Chair, Denman Island Local Trust Committee

cc: John Baldwin, Water Stewardship Officer, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, john.baldwin@gov.bc.ca
Denman Island Local Trust Committee, DenmanIslandLocalTrustCommittee@islandstrust.bc.ca