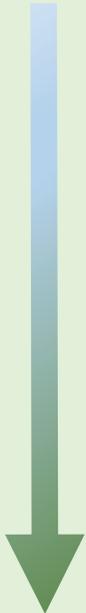


Forest Conservation Checklist

Level of commitment	Impact	Action
<p>Low</p>  <p>High</p>	<p>Moderate to high, immediate</p>	<p>Become a land steward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protect living trees ■ Leave standing dead trees (snags) and fallen trees to decay in place to provide shelter and food for wildlife ■ Become a citizen scientist—add your observations to a growing global database using the iNaturalist app, or keep a nature journal ■ Garden with native species ■ Keep cats indoors as much as possible ■ Control invasive species, like ivy, holly, daphne and broom ■ Restrict vehicle and livestock access into forests ■ Remember that fire is a natural and important part of forest ecosystems. Protect your home from fire through FireSmart home maintenance and by creating a 10-metre protective buffer of fire-resistant native plants. Help protect your community from fire by protecting old-growth forests: their high moisture-holding capacity makes them a natural fire break. ■ Leave large patches of natural forests intact
<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Potentially high, medium-term</p>	<p>Consider how your community can protect forests through inclusion of Environmental Development Permit Areas and conservation guidelines in your Official Community Plan.</p>
<p>High</p>	<p>High, long-term</p>	<p>Permanently protect your land with conservation covenant. A covenant is a voluntary, legal agreement between you and a conservancy that protects your land from development not just while you own and live on the land, but even after your property is sold or transferred to new owners. Covenants registered through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) are eligible for a 65% reduction in property taxes on the portion of land protected.</p>
<p>High</p>	<p>High, long-term</p>	<p>Donate land to the Islands Trust Conservancy or another conservation agency. The land will be permanently cared for and protected to achieve your conservation vision. If you donate land with significant ecological value, you may be eligible for additional capital gains tax exemptions through the federal Ecological Gifts Program.</p>

