

Sophie Idsinga

From: Andrew Brownsword <--->
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:36 AM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; Jason.Fisher@gov.bc.ca; Mike.Falkiner@gov.bc.ca; jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca; Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca; Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca; pam@pamgoldsmithjones.ca; john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca; andrew.weaver.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Bowen Island logging

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir or Madam,

It was just recently announced that BC Timber Sales is going forward with a process to begin large scale logging of approximately 28% of Bowen Island. This island is now home to approximately 4000 year-round residents, numerous businesses and attracts significant tourists on the basis of its lovely forested hiking trails and mountain slopes. Logging the island will dramatically impact residents, businesses and tourism. Removal of trees at a large scale will have a serious negative impact on the island's water and soil retention capacity, and Bowen already has a shortage of both soil and fresh water supplies. Residential wells will dry up or lose much capacity, the community water sources will be depleted more quickly and greater levels of surface contamination will occur. In addition the island is mountainous and it is well known how removal of forest will seriously increase the risk of landslides and erosion in general. Even trees which are not removed will suffer from the loss of their neighbours, leading to further damage. Most homes on Bowen, like mine, are located on slopes or at their base and therefore vulnerable to slope destabilization. Loss of forest will also badly damage the island's wildlife habitats, and the fauna have nowhere to go as this is an island. This will cause more conflict with residents and tourists, and greatly exacerbate problems we are already having with the skunk and racoon populations that have been introduced by pest control people illegally dumping these animals here to relocate them away from the city. There is also the aesthetic issue of logged regions which will be visible everywhere on the island, and the increased fire risk from the waste left behind and decreased moisture retention. The destruction will extend to the fish-bearing bodies of water and deplete that precious resource as well.

The actual process of logging will be similarly devastating. The island's roads are in poor enough condition already — hundreds of massive logging trucks will destroy them, never mind the terrifying prospect of huge fast moving trucks on narrow winding roads. I have encountered logging trucks on the road before, and they are accidents waiting to happen. There will also either be significantly increased ferry congestion, or large amounts of damage to shoreline areas where log booms are built up. Logging teams bring risks of damage, fire, injury and so forth. All of this puts pressure on the delicate infrastructure this island community has built up.

Bowen Island is a community that prides itself on being ecologically sensitive and aware. The entire population is outraged that logging on our island is even being considered, never mind that the process has already been put in motion. We are not going to accept this shortsighted and foolish initiative, particularly in a time when we have just elected a new government formed between the NDP and Green parties. It will have horrid and long lasting negative impacts on our community, financial situation, health and wellness. Bowen is a jewel within the beautiful prize that is Howe Sound. So close to Vancouver, and so able to be enjoyed by so many. To proceed with this plan is simply unconscionable. It must be stopped.

Andrew Brownsword
Bowen Island, BC