

Sophie Idsinga

From: betty morton <--->
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 8:07 PM
To: jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca
Cc: Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca
Subject: Bowen Island FSP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Jordan Sturdy, MLA

July 12, 2017

Re: Bowen Island FSP

I am writing to express my high level of concern regarding the Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)/BC Timber Sales (BCTS) intentions to log on Bowen. I understand that despite the fact that Bowen Island has not been part of a FSP in the past, a planning framework for logging is now in the consultation process. The timing (busy summer tourism season) and the minimal timeline and opportunity for input and feedback in no way constitutes what our Bowen community would consider responsible consultation.

Bowen Island is a very small ecosystem with a 3000 to 6000 population, (depending on the season), that depends on its forest ecosystems for replenishing its aquifers and providing water for the community, agriculture and the wild environment. We do not have “extra trees” available for logging in any form.

Being a Metro-Vancouver island community, we do not have a viable timber market. There is no wood industry or market to support logging so any harvest would need to be exported for processing. Even small scale log moving related to land development for subdivision and residential purposes creates a hardship for residents because logging trucks compete with commuters for ferry space. The impact of industrial logging on the ferry commuting public is untenable.

Bowen Island is currently a community in balance. We cut trees when we need to, our citizens are employed, we cherish and husband our wild environment to keep our community healthy and to engage our tourism industry. We welcome visitors from the mainland and the world to Bowen Island to walk softly on our tree lined trails, to marvel at our salmon spawn under the canopy of our forests and to restore minds and spirits in the sanctuary of our forested parks and nature reserves. Logging has no place here.

The five areas on Crown Lands identified by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) for logging are all on high ground where they affect every part of the island including its watersheds, wildlife corridors, parks, residential water sources and visual landscapes. Because Bowen is a small island, the conflicts with logging are amplified. Heavy damage from logging would include disruption of ecological functions, loss of wildlife habitat, compromising of recreational habitat, erosion and siltation that disrupts fish habitat and contaminates human drinking water sources, and noise that disturbs human communities and disrupts bird and animal reproduction. Industrial logging is clearly not compatible with Bowen Island values or systems.

Bowen Islanders are passionate conservators of their precious environment. They can be expected to protest respectfully, resist strongly, and obstruct with vengeance according to the need. There is miniscule financial

benefit to the government for logging on a small island such as Bowen and huge consequences for the health and well-being of the Metro Vancouver population, who have journeyed to our island for relaxation, recreation and rejuvenation since the Union Steamship days of the early 20th century. I urge you to consider the dissonance of even having a FSP for Bowen Island and work with islanders to create a different vision for how our forests can be nurtured rather than harvested.

Regards,

Betty Morton

---- Whitesails Drive, Bowen Island BC V0N 1G2