

Sophie Idsinga

From: David McCullum <---->
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:35 PM
To: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca; jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca; Mayor Council; pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca; Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Concerns about logging of Bowen Island

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the pending log harvest plans for the Crown land on Bowen Island. We are gravely concerned about the habitat, watershed, and community impacts of such plans, and are grateful to be consulted.

Five areas on Crown Lands are identified by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) for logging. All are on high ground, on each of the three “big bumps” of Bowen. Collectively they affect just about every part of Bowen.

The “Collins Mountain” BCTS block sits above Eagle Cliff, Hood Point and Grafton Bay, includes water supply watersheds for Hood Point, Eagle Cliff and Grafton Bay, and directly abuts Eagle Cliff residential areas and Crippen Park.

The “Mount Gardner North” BCTS block sits above Mt Gardner Road, Mt Gardner dock area, and Grafton Lake Valley, includes watersheds of Cove Bay and Endswell Farm areas and extensive recreational trails on Mt Gardner, and directly abuts Crippen Park.

The “Mount Gardner South” BCTS block sits above Bluewater, King Edward Bay, Bowen Bay, Sealeigh Park and Tunstall Bay, and includes Bluewater-Bowen Bay-King Edward Bay, and Tunstall Bay water supply watersheds and extensive recreational trails on Mt Gardner.

The “Radar Hill” BCTS block sits above Sunset, Fairweather, Cowan Point Estates, Cowan Point, Golf Course, and Josephine Ridge, and includes water supply watersheds for Josephine Lake and the Golf Course, completely surrounds Fairy Fen Islands Trust Fund Nature Reserve, and directly abuts residential properties at Josephine Lake, and Cowan Point Estates.

The “Cowan Point” BCTS block sits above Cowan Point Estates, Seymour Bay and the Golf Course, includes the headwaters of Lee Creek water supply. It directly abuts the Cowan Point Estates and Apodaca Mountain Ecological Reserve.

Industrial logging is common in coastal BC so it is not difficult to understand the potential impacts of this scale of logging on Bowen. Impacts are amplified because we are a small island with a myriad of land uses and environmental values that are not easily compatible with industrial logging. Many come to mind.

Any logging, and even the best logging, heavily damages the ecological functions of the cut forests. Wildlife habitat is lost. Recreational values can be compromised, or badly damaged. Road building intercepts natural runoff, focuses flow, increases erosion, and can lead to siltation in streams that affects water quality. Drinking water quality and stream habitat for fish and invertebrates can be damaged. Logging operations create noise, whether by road construction, cutting and yarding timber, or hauling, that impacts residents, visitors, recreationalists and tourism operators. Because all the proposed logging areas are on high and sloping ground, this noise will travel widely across the island. Likewise for visual impacts. Clear cuts create visual scars on landscape, and many of the logged areas will be visible from many parts

of the island, and nearby waters. Logging trucks will take space on the ferry, and sometimes that will be inconvenient for us. Our island brand, so much built around being a getaway and quiet place, is at risk.

Our community does not relish such impacts and I believe will rally to oppose any commercial log harvest. Commitment to our home runs very, very deep, and the Ministry would be well advised to look to areas of lesser struggle.

Regards,

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