

HELP!!!! Bowen Island has been sucker punched!!

On June 14th, our Municipality received a letter from BC Timber Sales, informing us that they would like to “provide information and opportunities to develop...areas (on Bowen Island) for timber harvesting purposes.” (See attached letter.) The area they are proposing is 28% of our island and is 3 ½ times the size of Stanley Park. BCTS says they need to start writing their proposed plan by September 22 and complete it by early October. They have scheduled an Open House at Cates Hill on July 30th. This venue is not large enough to accommodate the hundreds of people that will be attending. And the short timeframe on an issue so vital to our community does not constitute meaningful consultation.

Bowen was not included in the active forest inventory of the previous Forestry Stewardship Plan. We are not sure why we are being considered now and are investigating this. Our short-term goal is to delay the process so that we have more time to educate ourselves and organize. Our long-term goal is to be removed from the inventory completely.

It is critical that we voice our opposition to these actions immediately. Below you will find the letter I sent to the various government, tourism, Islands Trust, etc. leaders. I also sent a copy to Enrique Sanchez of BC Timber Sales and the Bowen Island mayor and council for their records.

We have been advised that form letters and petitions are not as effective as personal letters that speak from your heart. Please take the time to compose such a letter and send it off to those that might be able to help us. We don't have much time. DO IT TODAY.

Thank you,

Sheree Johnson

Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations:
FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Jordan Sturdy, MLA: jordan.sturdy.mla@leg.bc.ca

Peter Luckham, Chair of Islands Trust: pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

John Horgan - Opposition Leader: John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Andrew Weaver, Green Party leader, Andrew.Weaver.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Harry Bains, NDP Forestry Critic, Harry.Bains.MLA@leg.bc.ca

George Heyman, NDP Environment Critic, George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca

[if !supportLists]- [endif]Marsha Walden, CEO Destination BC,

Marsha.Walden@DestinationBC.ca

Ty Speer, President & CEO, Tourism Vancouver, tspeer@tourismvancouver.com
Neal Carley, General Manager, Parks, Planning and Environment, Metro Vancouver, lcentre@metrovancover.org
Jason Fisher, Associate Deputy Minister, Forest Sector, FLNRO, jason.fisher@gov.bc.ca
Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, MP, West Vancouver, Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country, pam.goldsmith-jones@parl.gc.ca
· Enrique Sanchez, BC Timber Sales: Enrique.Sanchez@gov.bc.ca
· Mayor and Council, Bowen Island Municipality: mayorandcouncil@bimbc.ca

Community, Peaceful, Beautiful, Nature, Quiet. These are the top five words that residents and visitors used to describe Bowen Island in a 2014-15 survey for the Bowen Island Municipality Economic Development Committee.

In this survey, Bowen Island is described as a sanctuary, a haven, an oasis; a calming escape for lower mainlanders from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Over three-quarters of visitors come to hike in our forests. Almost half of visitors say they come to “do nothing in particular; just relax.”

When international visitors fly into Vancouver, they approach the province’s world-class city by first flying over Bowen Island, a natural jewel surrounded by the spectacular beauty of Howe Sound.

Recently, Bowen Islanders have been surprised and shocked with the prospect of having 28% of the island logged by British Columbia Timber Sales. The area under consideration is three and a half times the size of Stanley Park. This would be a devastating loss to a small community of 3600 that heavily depends on the beauty and peace of our natural setting to draw residents and visitors.

This logging plan would be bad for Bowen, bad for the lower mainland and bad for the province. The scar on the front door of Super, Natural British Columbia would be a visible travesty for the province. The damage to the brand and the economic value of an intact island ecosystem will not be matched by the meagre stumpage fees going to the province.

Islands, by their very nature, are unique and fragile eco-systems. And as such, need to be treated with great care. Please help us be excluded from the logging inventory. We believe our first step is to delay the process as we have not been given a reasonable consultation timeline by BC Timber Sales.

Thank you for your help,

Sheree Johnson
1259 Deer Walk
Bowen Island, BC V0N1G0

BOWEN **ISLAND**