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November 18, 2013

File: 4920-30

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations  
7077 Duncan Street  
Powell River BC  
V8A 1W1

Attention: Mark E. Anderson, District Manager of Resource Operations – Sunshine Coast

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Re: New Community Woodlots on Gambier Island

Thank you for your initial responses to the public regarding the logging of the north east corner of the wilderness conservation zone.

As you are aware, there is significant concern among residents and landowners on Gambier Island about community woodlots which are about to be advertised for lease. A large part of the concern is due to the lack of community consultation required in this process, which leaves questions unanswered as to how the harvest is to be managed, and no proper avenue for the community to communicate their concerns.

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee requests that a consultation arrangement be established that is specific to the new Gambier woodlots, wherein consulting with the Islands Trust comprises a formal public consultation element. Such a consultation arrangement would be an avenue for community input that ensures appropriate lead time for residents and land owners to fully understand the impact of the woodlot licence. This request fits within the Gambier Island Official Community Plan advocacy policy 7.30 which states:

*“Provincial Ministries or Crown Corporations, including Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Energy and Mines and British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation are encouraged to enter into protocol agreements with the Islands Trust regarding consultation processes leading to the issue of any permits or tenures, other than mineral tenures, for lands within the Wilderness Conservation land use designation and to not issue such tenures or permits until such protocols have been established.”*

During the meeting held with the Gambier Island Conservancy on July 9, 2013, it was stated by the Sunshine Coast Forestry District that the responsibility for how and when community consultation occurs resides with the successful licensee once the tenure license is awarded. On this point, the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee requests that the Sunshine Coast Forest District provide leadership in this process by guiding successful bidders towards

establishing consultation protocols with the community. Offering an opportunity for input into the community woodlot management plan early in the process would help to allay fears that important ecological and recreational features have not been clearly identified by prospective leaseholders. It also provides confidence to the communities directly affected by the logging that there will be some consideration of their needs.

Given the lack of community input or over-riding management plans (i.e. LRMPs, SRMP's) for this woodlot tenure process, the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee is requesting that the premier ecological and recreational area of the Gambier Lake watershed and greater trail network that connects Gambier Lake be exempted from logging processes in any resultant forestry management plan. It also requests that a different marine log dump site be considered apart from the one proposed at Gambier Creek given its close proximity to residential and recreational areas. Residents of Elkins Point, Douglas Bay and Brigade Bay are understandably concerned about appropriate buffer zones between any logging and their properties, and therefore it is reasonable to request that this sort of information to be made available to the public prior to the awarding of the leases.

Finally, in the existing Letter of Understanding between the Islands Trust and the Ministry of Forests (concerning the establishment of Woodlots in the Islands Trust Area that respect the Object of the Islands Trust while supporting the local island forest economic base), it was agreed that "Islands Trust will be provided the opportunity for input into the criteria for evaluating applications for woodlot licences within the Islands Trust Area." As it is the mandate of the Islands Trust to preserve and protect unique island environments, the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee would like to draw special attention to the need to exclude any element occurrences of red-listed or blue-listed ecological communities from any woodlot license issued within the Gambier Crown Lands. We understand that these element occurrences can be extracted from the 2009 Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping that was conducted by Madrone Environmental Services on behalf of the Islands Trust and submitted to the Ecosystem Information Section of the Ministry of Environment in April, 2010.

The Gambier Island Local Trust Committee recognizes that the Sunshine Coast Forest District is working within its own ministry directives and we appreciate the effort you are taking to work with us. Please consider the value of meeting with the local trustees to collaborate on an arrangement for on-island public meetings in consideration of the concerns of the islanders.

Sincerely,



David Graham, Chair  
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Garry Nohr, SCRD Chair

Lee Turnbull, Area F Director SCRD

Nicholas Simmons, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Jordan Sturdy, MLA

✓ Brian Kukulies, Land & Resource Planning Officer – Resources Operations Sunshine Coast