



Ref: 206015

May 13, 2014

David Graham, Chair  
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee  
Islands Trust  
200 – 1627 Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8R 1H8

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- PLANNER
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Dear David Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2014 to Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, regarding woodlots on Gambier Island. I have been asked to respond on behalf of Minister Thomson.

This ministry is aware of the concerns raised by local residents and island representatives about the potential impact of forest management activities on recreation, biodiversity and visual quality objectives.

Ministry staff have been communicating with the Islands Trust and representatives of the public since the planning started in 2012 and will continue to review comments we receive. The Gambier Island Woodlots are part of the Provincial Woodlot Disposition Plan. The woodlots are established with an eye to promoting small scale forestry to the benefit of all British Columbians.

The Gambier woodlots are to be located in an area that is suitable for small-scale area based tenures and comply with the local Official Community Plan.

This ministry has received 12 applications (6 per woodlot). The review of these applications is expected to be complete by early June. Planning of forest management will start once the winning applications have been confirmed and it will usually take an additional several months.

The Gambier woodlots are to be located in an area that is suitable for small-scale area-based tenures. As you have mentioned, it complies with the local Official Community Plan. The Woodlot Licence Plan will address the management of riparian areas, recreation features, watersheds, visual quality and other resource values. This plan must be made available for public review and comment at which time community members can influence the management of the woodlot licences.

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