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To: Honourable Doug Donaldson

Minister of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations

PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN 643

There are many reasons why Crown Lands on Bowen Island should not be included in Forest Stewardship Plan 643. In general, industrial scale logging is not appropriate in a small, rural community. Bowen Island residents and visitors from the mainland value the natural amenities that the island offers. Logging the areas designated in FSP 643 would cause irreversible damage to water supply, wildlife habitat and recreational areas. Specific areas of concern are related to the Islands Trust Mandate, the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy Plan and Bowen Island's Official Community Plan.

Islands Trust

Bowen Island is the only Municipality within the Islands Trust. The Islands Trust is a British Columbia Provincial Agency whose mandate is to "… preserve and protect the Trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally …". British Columbia Assets and Land Corporation is a Crown Corporation responsible for determining the " … best possible use of the land …". There is an agreement in place between the Islands Trust and B.C. Assets and Land Corporation to cooperate on the use and protection of Crown Land resources. Discussions on Crown Land Protocol Agreements between Islands Trust and B.C. Assets and Land Corporation, including consultation with Bowen Island Municipality, are ongoing at this time. It would be premature to make decisions on the status of Bowen lands before these talks are concluded. The Development Plan proposed by British Columbia Timber Sales, under the authority of British Columbia Ministry of Forests, totally contradicts the goals of these other B.C. agencies and negates any sense of "cooperation" within the Government of B.C.

Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy

Metro Vancouver has a very detailed strategy in place which designates preferred uses of land throughout the region. Bowen Island is included in this plan and is designated as "Non-Urban". The maps in the plan illustrating preferred land usage identify Bowen Island as "Rural" and "Agricultural" and recommends areas of "Conservation" and

"Recreation" usage with a Greenways Network throughout all areas. Ironically, the map delineating these crucial areas is shockingly similar to the maps provided by B.C. Timber Sales identifying proposed logging sites. Once again there is a disconnect – can the Province not communicate and cooperate with local government entities to ensure the best plan for all stakeholders?

Bowen Island Official Community Plan

Like all Municipalities in British Columbia, Bowen Island has an Official Community Plan. Included in the Bowen Island OCP Vision Statement is the concept of Bowen being a small community characterized by well protected natural ecosystems and green spaces. The OCP Goals include the preservation and protection of the Island's unique amenities and natural environment, and the establishment of a land use pattern which places high priority on environmental and social factors. Over the years many individuals and organizations have expended time and effort to establish multi-use trails throughout Bowen Island. The concept of networked greenways is embedded and illustrated in the OCP. It is crucial that these corridors for recreation, wildlife and low impact access to naturally beautiful areas be continued into Crown Land areas. Existing trails on Mount Gardner and other areas of Bowen are used and enjoyed by people from all over the Lower Mainland and beyond. Industrial scale logging will destroy existing trails, ruin views and negatively impact the ecosystem and watersheds for years to come.

In summary, Bowen Island should be removed entirely from the current Forest Stewardship Plan 643 and in perpetuity from any future Plans or Updates.

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