



File: 19720-20/W2068
19720-20/W2069
Cliff #204786

February 25, 2014

BY Email ruth.simons@futureofhowesound.org

Dear Ruth Simons:

Thank you for your email of February 9, 2014 outlining your concerns regarding woodlot license planning on Gambier Island. Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has asked me to respond.

I am aware of the concerns raised by local stakeholders. Gambier Island community members and representatives have expressed concerns to the Ministry about the potential impact of forest management on recreation, visual objectives and biodiversity values. As well there are recently questions raised about the safety aspects of logging operations. All these concerns will be considered during the next phase of the woodlot planning.

Regarding the forest resources on Gambier Island I can inform you that on issuance of the woodlot licences, the woodlot licensee must prepare a Woodlot Licence Plan describing how forest management will meet the objectives set by government with respect to forest resources. The 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.

The District Manager will consider the public comments and how these have been addressed by the woodlot licensee before making a decision on the Woodlot Licence Plan.

The safety of any future operations on these proposed woodlots is very important. A future licensee is expected to meet legislative requirements to ensure worker and public safety. The proposed woodlots on Gambier Island are part of an important Provincial initiative to increase the number of woodlots. Woodlots have the advantage of being small in scale and the associated forest management can therefore be more responsive to local needs.

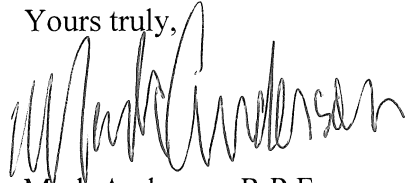
Page 1 of 2

Ruth Simons

The two proposed woodlots were advertised on the Official Notices site (<https://www23.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do>) on February 7, 2014 with deadline for applications April 9, 2014.

If you have further questions about woodlots and how these are managed please contact Brian Kukulies, Lands Officer (email: Brian.Kukulies@gov.bc.ca)

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Anderson".

Mark Anderson, R.P.F.
District Manager
Sunshine Coast Resource District