

## **GAMBIER WOODLOT:- KEY FACTS AND PROCESS STATUS**

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### Woodlot Forest Management:

- Forestry operations on woodlots are generally small-scale in nature and the two woodlots proposed for Gambier Island will NOT become two large clearcuts.
- Forestry operations on the woodlots must be consistent with established objectives and approved plans such as the Howe Landscape Unit Plan and meet the legal requirements of the Forest and Range Practices Act and regulations.
- The Forest and Range Practices Act and regulations set objectives for 11 different values, including, biodiversity, recreation, water, visual quality, etc. will be managed.
- The Woodlot Management Plan is produced by the woodlot licensee and is used to determine broad management intent as well as to define the Allowable Annual Cut. The woodlot licensee must prepare and submit this plan before the woodlot licence is awarded.
- As well, before any timber harvesting can begin, the woodlot licensee must produce a Woodlot Licence Plan for approval by the ministry. This plan, in conjunction with the management plan, outlines how operations will occur on the woodlot for the objectives set out in the legislation. By law, the licensee must also make the Woodlot Lot Licence Plan available for public review and comment for at least 60 days and show how public concerns are addressed before submitting to the ministry for approval.

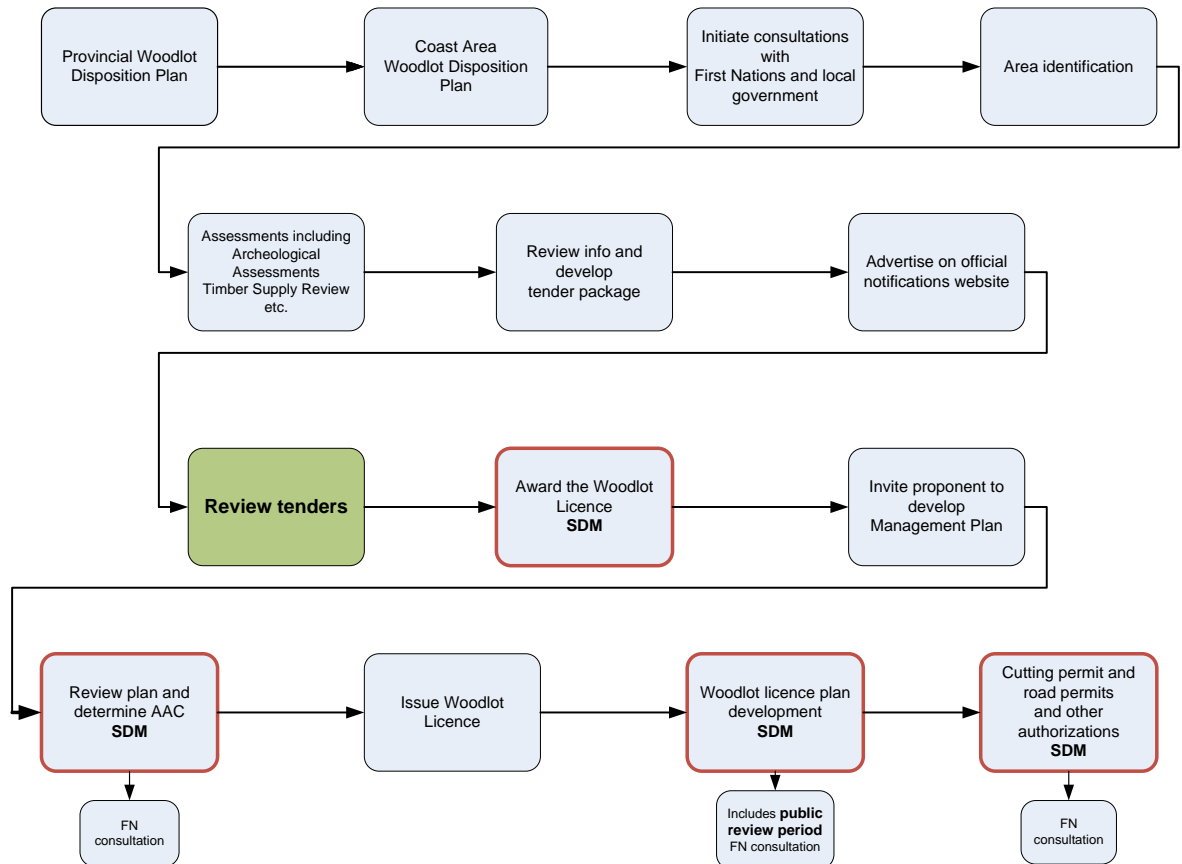
### Decision-making Process for Woodlots:

- defined by law (Forest Act and Forest and Range Practices Act)
- opportunity has been advertised on official notification website
- decisions on award, management plan and authorizations must be made by a Statutory Decision-Maker (SDM)

## Stage in the Process:

- we are now at the stage indicated by the green box on this flow chart:

### Competitive Woodlot Disposition Process



- selection underway; tenders cannot be amended

## Next Steps in Process:

- Woodlot award process which includes a decision selecting successful candidates and inviting the candidates to develop a management plan.
- Share the public input gathered regarding management of the woodlot with the woodlot holder. This information is to be considered when developing the woodlot management and woodlot licence plans.
- Hold a stakeholder forum to further inform forest management options and to the extent possible, address management concerns raised during the public information sharing process.
- Submission of Woodlot Management Plan and determine allowable annual cut for the woodlot licence.
- Formally offer woodlot licence.
- Woodlot Licence Plan development and decision (will include a public review of the plan).
- Issuance of permits and authorizations subject to above decisions.



Picture: Gambier Island small scale forestry

**Relationship with Provincial Woodlot Program:** The Coast Area woodlot disposition plan is part of a government commitment to expand the woodlot program by 150,000 m<sup>3</sup> by 2015. This plan identifies the establishment of two woodlots on Gambier Island as key objectives for the Sunshine Coast Natural Resource District (District).

**Overview of Gambier Island Woodlots:** The total area of the two woodlots is 1,326 ha or 29.1% of the total Crown land area (4,621 ha) or 19% of the total land area (6,900 ha) on Gambier Island. Both woodlots have an estimated annual allowable cut (AAC) of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. The estimated harvest rate equals to about five hectares per year per woodlot, which is less than 1% of the woodlot area. There is one existing woodlot on Gambier Island issued in 1989 and held by a resident of Gambier Island. This woodlot has an AAC of 2,675 m<sup>3</sup>/yr and an area of 402 ha (including schedule A private land).

**Consistency with Provincial Landscape Unit Plans:** Gambier Island is within the Howe Landscape Unit Plan, which was developed with public input. During the development of this landscape unit plan, Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) were established on Gambier Island outside the boundaries of these proposed woodlots.

**Consistency with Local Government Bylaws:** The woodlots are to be located in an area identified as Wilderness Conservation Land Use in the Gambier Island Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 73). One of the permitted uses in this designation includes the sustainable harvesting of trees including woodlot and community forest use. In addition, the Gambier Island Land Use Zoning Bylaw No. 86, 2004, identifies as Permitted Uses in these areas: “Woodlot use and timber harvesting use.” Furthermore, the area that would likely be used for log handling and storage for these woodlots has already been reserved under the *Land Act* and is zoned under the same bylaw as a Marine Log Storage Zone (W3) with the Permitted Uses including log storage and moorage accessory to log storage and transport operations.

**Letter of Understanding with Local Government:** A Letter of Understanding was signed between Islands Trust and the Ministry of Forests on June 21, 1999, on *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*. The Ministry has been following the review processes outlined in section 4.0 of this letter.

Since this Letter of Understanding was signed there have been changes to the woodlot application process which are outlined in the Woodlot Licence Regulation under the *Forest Act*. This resulted in Section 4.2 of the letter regarding the criteria for evaluating applications no longer being valid. When selecting a winning application only the following must be considered:

- Bonus offer
- Proximity of applicant’s personal residence to the Crown land portion of the woodlot licence

- Amount and distance from the woodlot of any private land that is proposed to be managed as part of the woodlot licence

**Consultation with First Nations:** The Ministry has been working with the First Nations to ensure government's fiduciary obligations are met. Also an Archeological Overview Assessment of the woodlots was completed in 2013.

**Consultation with Islands Trust and Community:** In addition to the public consultation that has been undertaken by Islands Trust in adopting their Official Community Plan for Gambier Island as well as the Zoning By-law, the Ministry has undertaken public consultation on the Howe Landscape Unit Plan including the establishment of Old Growth Management Areas on the Island. More recently in respect to the two woodlots, District staff have been working with community representatives and the Islands Trust to provide public information about the plan and the concept behind woodlot licences. In this regard, there has been written correspondence, telephone calls and meetings between District staff and community representatives. A Questions and Answers document was also developed between the District and Islands Trust. This document was posted on [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier.aspx](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier.aspx).

**Advertising of Woodlots:** The woodlots were advertised by the Province on the Official Notices site from February 7, 2014 to April 9, 2014. Twelve (12) applications were received (6 per woodlot).

**Woodlot Licence Program:** The woodlot licence program allows small scale forestry in rural-urban interface areas. The government has made a commitment to increase the number of woodlot licences throughout the province. Gambier Island was considered for woodlot licence opportunities because there is an area of unencumbered Crown land that was determined to be suitable for small scale forestry and the Official Community Plan and Land Use Zoning Bylaw provide for such use.

**Environmental Impact:** Environmental and cumulative impacts of woodlots on Gambier Island were considered by the Ministry through the Landscape Unit planning process. Site-specific planning of forest management will be undertaken as part of Woodlot Licence Plans once the winning applications have been confirmed; this step usually takes an additional several months and includes public consultation.

**Woodlot Licence Plan:** The Woodlot Licence Plan is intended to balance multiple resource values and 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 ministry's statutory decision maker will consider the public comments and how these have been addressed by the woodlot licensee before making a decision on the Woodlot Licence Plan.

**Economic Impact:** These two proposed woodlots will provide ongoing revenue to the Province in the form of stumpage, rent and the creation of direct and indirect economic activity and jobs.

**TABLE SUMMARY OF INTERESTS: GAMBIER WOODLOT DISPOSITION**

INTEREST	FLNR COMMENT
<p><b>Old Growth Management Areas:</b> Areas set aside from logging to preserve biodiversity associated with old-growth forests</p>	<p>OGMAs have recently been established for Howe Landscape Unit. The woodlot licensee is required to manage for wildlife tree retention.</p>
<p><b>Red Listed Plant Communities:</b> are set aside from logging</p>	<p>Red listed plant communities are represented throughout Gambier island and the Sunshine Coast, and are well represented in the islands protected areas and areas not suitable for logging.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Effects Assessment in Howe Sound:</b> Maintain environment, social and economic sustainability in the Howe Sound region</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area Timber Supply Review (completed in 2012) included an in-depth review of the impacts of forest harvesting on other resource values like recreation, biodiversity, old growth management, visual quality objectives, etc. In addition, due to their small size, woodlots have a minimal impact on the Howe Sound region compared to other types of uses like urban development or large scale industrial development.</p>
<p><b>Marine wildlife:</b> Maintain marine wildlife</p>	<p>The small scale of woodlot operations and riparian management requirements will result in very minimal to no impacts on the marine environment.</p>
<p><b>Water Quality:</b> Ensure water quality meets the standard for community watershed</p>	<p>High standards for forestry activities in watersheds are established under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)</i>.</p>
<p><b>Hiking Trails:</b> Ensure hiking opportunities on Gambier Island are available on trails that do not have a legal status under the Forest and Range Practices Act</p>	<p>A trail strategy is being developed in cooperation with the ministry's Recreation Sites and Trails staff. Woodlot licensees are generally interested in maintaining these opportunities for the local community.</p>
<p><b>Camping at Gambier Lake:</b> Ensure camping opportunities are available around Gambier Lake</p>	<p>FRPA requires management of lake riparian areas. Woodlot licensees are generally interested in maintaining these opportunities for the local community.</p>
<p><b>Youth camps:</b> Ensure recreational opportunities</p>	<p>The trail strategy being developed will contribute to this objective. In addition, FRPA requires management of lake riparian areas. Woodlot licensees are generally interested in maintaining these opportunities for the local community.</p>
<p><b>Beach Access for boaters and swimmers:</b> Ensure safe and enjoyable beach access is available near Douglas Bay</p>	<p>Timing of operations on the woodlots could prevent conflicts in use of the beach site. Licensees are generally interested in maintaining these opportunities for the local community.</p>

INTEREST	FLNR COMMENT
<b>Safety for boaters:</b> Ensure safe navigation near potential log storage area is available during boating season	Log storage sites in the water will be required to meet navigational standards to ensure public safety. The safety of the work sites is administered under the Workers Compensation Act and regulations
<b>Landscape visible from hiking trails:</b> Ensure forest management meets the Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs)	VQOs are managed through size and design of harvest areas. Licensees are required to reforest areas that are harvested. Planting usually occurs within two years of harvest operations.
<b>Landscape visible from the Sea to Sky corridor:</b> Ensure forest management meets the VQOs	Due to the small nature of woodlots the harvest areas are also small; visibility from the corridor will be minimal.
<b>Clear Cut logging:</b> Ensure sustainable logging practices	Silvicultural practices will include reforestation and forest health management (root rot, hemlock mistletoe) to ensure optimal growth rates.
<b>Timber quality:</b> Ensure timber quality is maintained or enhanced	The Timber Supply Review for the woodlots has been completed. The woodlots contain highly productive sites with high timber values. Silviculture practices will enhance timber quality.
<b>Real estate values:</b> Ensure real estate on Gambier Island maintains its value	This objective is principally addressed through the local community planning process which designates compatible land uses. The proposed woodlots are consistent with the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw. In addition the Province contributes to maintaining real estate values by managing Crown land for community values like recreation, visual quality, riparian, etc.
<b>Consultation with Islands Trust:</b> Ensure adequate consultation takes place	FLNR has been in contact and consulted with Islands Trust in accordance with the principles of the letter of understanding with the local government.
<b>Consultation with community members:</b> Ensure adequate consultation takes place	In addition to the opportunities for public input into the OCP and zoning by-law process, the public has also had an opportunity for input through the Howe Landscape Unit planning process and the Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Review. In addition, the public will have an opportunity to provide input on forest management at the Woodlot License planning stage.
<b>Island Values:</b> Ensure Gambier Island residents values are considered by forest manager	In addition to the opportunities afforded to the community to share their values through various planning processes (see above), community values related to land management on Crown land, like recreation, visual quality, riparian, etc. will also be addressed in the Woodlot Licence planning stage.

INTEREST	FLNR COMMENT
<b>Yacht Club membership:</b> Ensure Yacht Club membership does not decline	Land management practices on Crown land, like recreation, visual quality, reforestation, etc. contribute to maintaining the quality of the environment and community.
<b>Kayak opportunities:</b> Maintain access to camp sites and landing sites on Gambier Island	Protected areas and a UREP (Use, Recreation and Enjoyment of the Public reserve) are located in areas that allow for access from the waterfront. In addition, options regarding the timing of harvesting operations during shoulder and winter season would prevent conflicts during the summer season's kayak activities.
<b>Tailed frogs:</b> Ensure tailed frogs are adequately managed	Forestry planning will ensure no adverse impact on tailed frogs
<b>Quality of life:</b> Maintain a sense of stewardship of the island resources	Effective stewardship of the island resources has been advanced through community land use planning (OCP and Zoning By-law) and the province's Howe Landscape Unit planning. In addition, this interest is being addressed through land management of values on Crown land, like recreation, visual quality, riparian, etc.
<b>Monitoring Compliance:</b> Ensure licensee meets the objectives set out under legislation, regulation and license documents	Compliance and Enforcement inspections of the woodlots will be scheduled according to the risk level of the forestry operation. If any potential contraventions of the licence are observed, the public can phone the Ministry.
<b>Stand age and density adjacent to hiking trails:</b> Being able to see large well spaced trees from hiking trails	Hiking trails can be moved to areas that have desirable forest stand attributes. The woodlot licensee has options to manage areas next to trails with stand age and density in mind.
<b>Sedimentation as result of logging:</b> Sedimentation as result of logging of private land has left a moorage dock unusable	Strict requirements exist to minimize sedimentation and soil disturbance under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> . These restrictions apply to the woodlots.



# GAMBIER ISLAND WOODLOTS

Legend	
	W2068
	W2069
	W0039
	Private land (surface)
	UREP reserve
	Provincial Park



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Date: April 25, 2014



5 ha shape

