



Cowichan Valley Regional District

FOREST LAND BYLAW PROPOSAL – 2838, 2839, 2840, 2841, 2847, 2848

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our thoughts about your proposal to change the minimum lot sizes for your designated forest land areas. Several members of our organization live in the Cowichan Valley, and since this proposal fits in well with our overall forest stewardship objectives, we are expressing our interest and support.

It is heartening to see such an initiative being put forward for public debate. This recognizes the value and importance of greenspace to our society, particularly as our population continues to grow. We are supportive of taking the longterm perspective to landuse issues, to balance the need for lower and higher density settlement areas.

In some cities, older residential developments have been returned to a treed land state, in recognition of the need for a better balance. In Europe, there are many examples of smaller forest holdings contributing significantly to the economic, social and environmental health of communities.

Some of the benefits that can accrue from lower density lot sizes:

- Jobs in small-scale forestry and associated manufacturing.
- Protecting community culture and character.
- Lower costs for municipal services.
- Protecting future landuse options.
- Improvement in water protection, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity.
- A contribution to reducing the effects of global warming.

There will undoubtedly be many people watching your deliberations with significant interest. If we can provide any further information or ideas, please advise.

H. W. Drage, President
British Columbia Forests Society