

POLICIES – FOREST LAND STEWARDSHIP (FLS)

The following policies are to address the transition between forestry lands and residential lands with an emphasis on forest conservation, selective logging, and clustered residential development.

Forest Conservation Area:

- Policy 1.27: Silviculture and forest conservation areas, amenities or environmentally sensitive areas shall be protected through conservation covenants that shall run with the land in perpetuity.
- Policy 1.28: Innovative and sustainable forestry practices that preserve biological diversity and forest ecosystems are required.
- Policy 1.29: Forestry uses shall be practiced so that they conserve greenways, trails, parks, environmentally sensitive areas and residential areas and minimize scenic and vegetation disturbances.
- Policy 1.30: Forest management plans shall utilize and promote environmentally sound logging and avoid clear cutting of the land.
- Policy 1.31: Private forest holders are encouraged to actively consult with the residents of Cortes Island from the early stage in the development of their forest management plans, and regarding the implementation of forest management plans.
- Policy 1.32: Where possible, forest management practice shall be oriented to encourage local economic benefit.

Residential Use and Conservation Area:

- Policy 1.33: A Section 219 Covenant (Land Title Act) precluding future subdivision shall be registered on the property.
- Policy 1.34: Residential development shall be clustered to maximize forest conservation areas, trails, greenways and parks.
- Policy 1.35: The setback distance for all tree clearing, vegetation removal and structures is 15.0 metres from all streams, wetlands, environmentally sensitive areas and parks.
- Policy 1.36: Rural Road Standards shall be utilized to ensure that the character of the Island is maintained.

Public Trails and Parkland:

- Policy 1.37: Trails and greenways shall form a continuous network of pathways throughout the designated lands.
- Policy 1.38: Trails and greenways shall be protected corridors of open space for land conservation and park planning by serving both recreational and conservation functions.
- Policy 1.39: Neighbourhood park areas, park lands, or money in lieu of park land dedication be secured by the Regional District at the time of plan development or subdivision, or where possible, at the discretion of the Approving Officer.
- Policy 1.40: Private forest holders are encouraged to provide public trail access.