

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOUNT GALIANO

DRAFT 4
March 1992

A. INTRODUCTION

1. BACKGROUND SUMMARY

a. General Description of Area

The Mount Galiano Nature Conservancy Area consists of approximately 200 acres of forest, steep cliffs, and rocky peaks. Containing the highest point on Galiano Island, these peaks give outstanding near views of Active Pass and Mayne Island and distant views of numerous and varied islands, including Vancouver Island. The views can also include its close neighbour, Mount Sutil, Mount Park on Mayne Island, and the distant snow capped peaks of the mainland, Vancouver Island, the Olympic peninsula and even Mount Baker. Encompassing various landscapes from thick forests to open meadows, the Mount Galiano Nature Conservancy Area is a prime example of the natural beauty and rich diversity of flora and fauna for which Galiano Island is known.

b. Rationale For and History of Acquisition

The Mount Galiano area has been a favorite and beloved place to hike, enjoy the vast panoramic views, study the biological diversity of plants, animals, and birds, meditate, and generally appreciate the natural wonders of Galiano Island. When MacMillan Bloedel put their lands up for sale in February 1991, many expressed concern that the Mount Galiano area should belong to the people of Galiano to be preserved in trust forever. A group of concerned citizens obtained an option on the property, the Galiano Club spearheaded a massive, whirlwind community-wide fundraising drive and through a lowering of the purchase price by MacMillan Bloedel, the option deadline was met and Mount Galiano was bought. This lovely and cherished area was then placed in a trust under the Galiano Club for its preservation and enjoyment by all future generations.

2. MANAGEMENT PLAN PURPOSE

As stated in paragraph 1 of the Mount Galiano Trust Agreement, the Galiano Club is *"To hold the lands solely and irrevocably as a nature conservancy area...for such recreational uses and enjoyment of the general public which do not disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation or animals and their habitat...in accordance with a continuing inventory and management plan endorsed and ratified from time to time at the annual general meeting and any extraordinary general meeting called for this specific purpose."* The Galiano Club formed a committee of directors and members to draft a management plan for the Mount Galiano property, to be presented to the Directors and members of the Club for approval at their Annual General Meeting. The purpose of the plan is to provide a framework for the management of this property. The plan contains documents relating to the property, inventories of the natural and cultural values (to be updated and expanded continuously), a statement of objectives, policy statements to guide the fulfilling of the objectives, and further statements on risk management, management responsibilities, management plan implementation and continuing monitoring of the property. The Plan will provide, in one place, all available information on the Mount Galiano property, plus objectives and policies to aid the Directors and their management committee in well informed and responsible management of their trust obligations.

B. THE MOUNT GALIANO PROPERTY

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

a. Legal Description (*Appendix A*)

District Lot 9, Galiano Island, Cowichan District.

b. Mount Galiano Trust Agreement (*Appendix B*)

"THIS DECLARATION OF TRUST made this 2nd day of May, 1991 BY AND ON BEHALF OF

THE GALIANO CLUB

a body corporate created under and by virtue of the societies act R.S.B.C. 1948 Ch.311, and having its office at Galiano Island, British Columbia, (hereinafter referred to as "the Trustee")

WHEREAS by transfer in Form A executed the day of May, 1991 and filed concurrently with this Declaration of Trust at the Land Title Office in Victoria, British Columbia, the Trustees and Transferee received in fee simple, all that certain parcel or tract of land situate on Galiano Island in the Province of British Columbia legally known and described as:

Parcel Identifier 004-976-240

District Lot 9

Galiano Island

Cowichan District

(hereinafter called the "lands")

AND WHEREAS The Galiano Club as Settlor and Trustee is desirous of holding the lands in perpetuity and preserving the same for the charitable purposes hereinafter set forth;

NOW THESE PRESENTS WITNESSETH that the Trustee doth hereby acknowledge, testify and declare that it doth stand possessed of the said lands as the registered owner thereof upon the Trusts hereinafter expressed, that is to say:

1. To hold the lands solely and irrevocably as a nature conservancy area* as defined under the Park Act Ch. 309, 1979, for such recreational uses and enjoyment of the general public which do not disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation or animals and their habitat, except as may be approved by the Directors of the Trustee in accordance with a continuing inventory and management plan endorsed and ratified from time to time at the annual general meeting and any extraordinary general meeting called for this specific purpose.
2. To set aside the sum of five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars and hold the same in Trust pursuant to the provisions of the Trustee Act R.S.B.C. 1979 [Appendix C] for the express and limited purpose of allocating and paying the interest earned therefrom for such administrative costs, rates, charges, taxes, or assessments which may be levied now or hereafter from time to time against the lands and to make available a financial report of the operation of this fund to the membership at the annual general meeting of Trustee.
3. To expend such further and other funds deemed necessary or advisable for the preservation and protection of the natural habitat of the lands from fire and other perils."

* "(N)ature conservancy area" means a roadless area, in a park or recreation area, retained in a natural condition for the preservation of its ecological environment and scenic features, and designated as a nature conservancy area under this Act". British Columbia, Park Act, Chapter 309, 1979, 1. Interpretation. (Appendix D)

c. Community Plan Policy (Appendix E)

1. "Ground cover and trees must be preserved to the extent necessary to maintain the natural beauty of the island, the ability of the soil to retain moisture and to prevent erosion of soil and soft rocks. Particular care must be taken to preserve sufficient land and water areas in their natural state to enable wildlife, plant life and marine life of the island to continue to exist and flourish." Galiano Island Official Community Plan By-Law No. 128, Section 1, 4.

2. "Advantage should be taken...for the preservation in perpetuity of selected areas for green belt, wilderness park, and ecological or wildlife reserves." Galiano Island Official Community Plan By-Law No. 128, Section 4, 4.

d. Zoning Description of Area (Appendix F)

District Lot 9 is zoned Forest 1 Zone.

"Forest 1 Zone (F1)

The general purpose of the Zone is to designate lands exclusively for forestry and related uses..." Galiano Island Trust Committee Bylaw No. 82 amending Bylaw No. 5 (the Galiano Island Zoning Bylaw) Section 13.

e. Tenures, Easements, Covenants (restrictions on property) (Appendices G1, G2, & G3)

f. Legal access

Legal access is available to District Lot 9 from Active Pass Drive at approximately 250 meters north of the southeast corner of District Lot 9.

C. OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROPERTY

1. CONSERVATION

The primary objective of the Mount Galiano Property is for conservation of the natural values of this special area held in Trust for the general public by The Galiano Club. As stated in the Trust Agreement the Trustees are "(t)o hold the lands solely and irrevocably as a nature conservancy area as defined under the Park Act Ch.309, 1979...", i.e. "a roadless area...retained in a natural condition for the preservation of its ecological environment and scenic features..." This objective will be met by maintenance and conservation of the natural ecological systems in their normal successional development. Policies will be instituted to protect these lands and ecosystems from activities which might "disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation or animals and their habitat."

2. RECREATION

The second objective of the Mount Galiano property will be to allow for low impact recreational use in keeping with the conservation objective.

3. EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The third objective for the Mount Galiano property will be to allow for low impact educational and scientific research use in keeping with the conservation objective.

D. DESCRIPTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

1. DESCRIPTION OF NATURAL VALUES

- a. Climate
- b. Scenic and recreation
- c. Geology, Landscape and soil
- d. Hydrology
- e. Vegetation
- f. Wildlife (*Appendices H1 & H2*)

2. DESCRIPTION OF CULTURAL VALUES OF SITE

E. NATURAL AND CULTURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT POLICIES

1. POLICIES FOR MOUNT GALIANO NATURE CONSERVANCY AREA

- a. As a general policy, there shall be no access to vehicles (including automobiles, bicycles, motorcycles) on Lot 9.
- b. No horses will be allowed on Lot 9.
- c. Access will be on foot only via a trail to be built completely within the legal boundaries of District Lot 9, commencing and ending at the access entry off Active Pass Drive.
- d. Any uses of the Mount Galiano Nature Conservancy Area which have the potential to "*disturb or interfere directly or indirectly with the soil, vegetation, or animals and their habitat*" shall be reviewed by the Management Committee. With the additional information available from the inventories, sensitive area studies and regular monitoring, each such use shall be considered in light of the Trust responsibilities for the "lands" and the conservation objective for this area.

2. ACTIONS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT PROTECTION

a. Trail

A carefully constructed trail commencing at the Active Pass Drive access, will be built to provide hiking access to the peaks of Mount Galiano. This trail will be built to provide a safe access for hikers while being built in such a manner as to protect soil, vegetation, animals and their habitats. (*Appendix I* is a map showing an approximation of the proposed trail location.)

b. Facilities

The only facility to be provided on the Mount Galiano property will be a small cleared area for a few cars at the beginning of the trail to provide parking exclusively for hikers while they use the trail.

c. Signage

Signs have been posted at the Active Pass Drive access and former entry area to state that these are not official designed trails and are to be used at the visitors own risk.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. LIABILITY

Appropriate signage will be designed and posted to warn anyone going on the property of the steep, rugged terrain and dangers of straying from the designated trail. There will also be a warning that they enter the property at their own risk.

2. FIRE

The Mount Galiano Management Committee of The Galiano Club will meet with appropriate personnel in the South Galiano Fire Department to formulate a Fire Management Plan for the protection of Mount Galiano against the dangers of wildfire. The Fire Management Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3. PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE AREAS

Through inventories of the Mount Galiano property, sensitive areas will be designated for special attention. Studies will be done of these areas and specific plans designed for their care and protection.

G. MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Management Planning

[Proposed changes to The Galiano Club Constitution (*Appendices J1 & J2*)]
"The Directors shall appoint two (2) directors to form a permanent committee to manage Bluffs Park and Mount Galiano according to Section 2, Paragraph (c) of the Constitution."
[According to the recommendations in J2]

b. Financial Responsibilities - Stewardship Fund

- 1) Insurance
- 2) Provision of Facilities
- 3) Signage and Other Information

c. Public Relations

2. Community Responsibilities

- a. Input to Plan
- b. Approval of Plan
- c. Volunteer Efforts to Carry Out Plan

H. MANAGEMENT PLAN PHASING AND IMPLEMENTATION

I. MONITORING (*Appendices K1 & K2 are sample monitoring forms*)

Appendices are available for viewing in binder labeled
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOUNT GALIANO