



October 23, 2013

Randal Lake
Environment Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
Pacific and Yukon Region
5421 Robertson Rd, RR1
Delta, BC V4K 3N2

Re: Letter of support for “Protection and Stewardship of Species at Risk and Their Habitat on Salt Spring 2014-2017”

Dear Mr. Lake:

Please accept this letter to confirm the support of BC Nature for the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's 2014-17 Habitat Stewardship Project. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has recently achieved three significant successes. In December of 2012, they received the gift of 92 acres of shoreline property containing Douglas fir and Arbutus forest, half of a large wetland, and a shoreline of relatively undisturbed coastal bluff where shallow soils support Garry Oak, Arbutus and associated species. In September of 2013 they purchased a 32.6 acre property surrounding half of Blackburn Lake – their 7th nature reserve. This property is significant for wildlife with over 90 documented bird species, winter habitat for juvenile Coho Salmon, and a dozen Species at Risk. As well, in March 2013 they protected 33.5 acres of Garry Oak meadow near the summit of Mt Tuam with a conservation covenant – a property with 22 documented species at risk.

BC Nature is a federation of local natural history groups and represents 52 local nature clubs throughout BC. Our local club is the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club.

We urge the Habitat Stewardship Program to award multi-year funding for the Salt Spring Island Conservancy 2014-17 Habitat Stewardship Project. With your support, the Conservancy can continue to raise awareness among Salt Spring landowners about species at risk and contribute to the protection of sensitive ecosystems through stewardship agreements, ecological restoration, conservation covenants and land acquisition.

Please contact me by calling 250-537-4121 if you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Neville".

John Neville,
President, BC Nature

