



# **South Coast Conservation Program's Regional Dialogue on Land Use Planning for Species and Ecosystems at Risk**

**November 26th, 2013**

**Gibsons, BC**



# Agenda

**9:30 Welcome and Introductions**

**9:45** Overview of Species and Ecosystems at Risk in the South Coast.

**10:15** The Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and local governments – understanding responsibilities and obligations

**11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:15** SEAR projects on the Sunshine Coast: an update.

**11:45 Lunch (Provided)**



# Agenda

**12:45** Sensitive Ecosystems Planning: Coastal Douglas Fir as a regional focus.

**1:30** Species and Ecosystems at Risk and Local Governments – a provincial perspective (survey results from Provincial SEAR Symposium)

**2:00** Breakout Session: Species at Risk and land use planning on the Sunshine Coast - challenges and opportunities.

**3:20** Wrap up and next steps



# Provincial Symposium Summary

## ***Are there non-regulatory steps that the federal or provincial government should take to encourage SEAR conservation on private lands?***

- Provide advisory role for LG including adequate staff resources and a referral process for sites with SEAR high priority concerns
- Provide for purchase of ecological goods and services
- Tighten legislation. Create a registry for support to landowners that would put them in touch with scientists. Create reliable funding for NGO's who are providing these services.
- Provide fact sheets to assist LGs and private land owners with ID and provide other guidance materials
- Provide some funding to the SEAR LGWG or to LGs to develop incentive programs!
- Fund more research, education and communication work around the personal and public health benefits of nature



# Provincial Symposium Summary

## *What, in your opinion, is the greatest barrier to SEAR protection on local government and private lands?*

- Lack of knowledge, limited resources
- Private landowner awareness and understanding.
- Besides lack of legislation, it is knowledge about SEAR and the benefits protecting SEAR has for the community
- Just focusing on SAR;
- Lack of LG environmental staff and/or capacity; political will to take on some of the tools and incentives
- Lack of leadership to protect SEAR and knowledge of SEAR. There are no regulations that compel private land owners to limit development of critical habitat.
- We need buy in from private landowners, so the incentives need to be attractive. This will likely require funds and it's unpopular to raise taxes



# Provincial Symposium Summary

## *Priorities for the South Coast*

- **Public:** Community- based social marketing. Arrange focus groups to determine what resonates with the public, with a specific focus on youth.
- **Policy:** Embed SAR and other issues within larger Ecosystem Approach. Set spatial priorities within a community (i.e. public parks and usage tying in with public health and water quality issues). Pick solutions that provide multiple benefits.
- More tools for reaching and educating council members and senior staff.
- Look into establishing a Conservation Tax Fund.
- Ensuring Accountability of QEPs



# Provincial Symposium Summary

## *Priorities for the South Coast*

- Establishing Clearer Management Targets within OCPs- these need to be more specific
- Need a guidance document for how to implement the incentives piece. It needs to have more detail than the green bylaws toolkit, needs to be understandable by elected officials and needs to include a lot of case study examples.
- More knowledge from success stories; why did it work? why not?
- Need a workable model for paid ecosystems services. This is not only a good education piece because people can see and get involved with what they are paying for, its also provides political leverage.

