

RECOMMENDATIONS

Asked what they would like to see happen to preserve aspects of Galiano's valued habitats, UP-CLOSE participants offered a wealth of innovative strategies:

EDUCATION: Public education about natural areas and their needs is critical for all ages. Understanding how natural ecosystems function helps people direct actions in ways that support nature. Access to a variety of natural places is important, but access to sensitive areas should be restricted. Suggested education initiatives included: signage about natural characteristics in parks, a natural areas brochure for Galiano, workshops and nature walks with local and off-island experts, children's education programs, a staffed Nature House at Montague Provincial Park and naturalist articles in local publications.

LAND STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is caring for the land so that healthy natural systems can be passed on to future generations. Suggestions for stewardship initiatives included using eco-friendly gardening and household products; removing invasive plants and planting native vegetation; publicizing local sources of organic foods, eco-friendly timber products and used clothing and household goods; maintaining existing public trails to provide access to natural spaces while minimizing negative impacts.

RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE USE: Using local resources responsibly means maintaining them for future generations. Initiatives included: engaging local merchants to carry local organic foods and locally milled and responsibly harvested wood products, and supporting those who do with your consumer dollar; offering education about how to use the resources found on private land in a sustainable manner.

LAND USE PLANNING AND LEGISLATION: Voluntary initiatives by individuals can benefit from public policy. Suggested initiatives included: maintaining Galiano Island's rural character and natural setting by supporting legislation that protects sensitive and rare natural areas; developing a conservation plan for the island based on local mapping and community participation; providing new landowners with information about how their property fits into the Galiano landscape as a whole.

Recommendations from the workshop, as well as the landscape classification, can be viewed in a comprehensive report that is available at the Galiano Conservancy Association library, located behind the Trincomali Bakery/Deli.



Photo: Laughlin Lake Bridge, Ken Millard

GALIANO FROM AFAR:

Nestled between two burgeoning urban centres, Vancouver and Victoria, Galiano Island has remained a small rural community, retaining much of its natural splendour. The island is home to majestic Douglas-fir forests, rare Garry oak woodlands, tranquil streams and lakes, and intricately-carved sandstone cliffs and shorelines. These natural areas, and the people who choose to make their homes within them, make Galiano one of the most remarkable places in Canada.

To explore nature's role in Galiano's unique character, the Galiano Conservancy Association launched a Landscape Classification Project to record island ecosystems - both modified and intact. Maps were produced and became tools for a series of UP-CLOSE Workshops about Galiano's ecosystems. Community participants learned about the science of these ecosystems, then set about determining what makes this island special to them.



Satellite Image: Galiano Island with the Fraser River plume, image produced by the Galiano Conservancy Association

WHY MAP GALIANO'S HABITATS?

Though Galiano is constantly changing, from subtle erosion to seasonal migrations to human works, an understanding of the effects of change helps us maintain what is important. Knowing the locations of wetlands, for example, helps us protect our sources of water during summer drought.

HOW WAS THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED?

In November 2003 over 125 residents and property owners viewed the Galiano Landscape Classification and provided information. Later, more than 40 participants attended five UP-CLOSE workshops to identify and discuss what makes Galiano ecosystems important.



Photo: Whaler Bay Log Dump, Brian Mitchell



HOW TO CONTACT US

Address: Galiano Conservancy Association
RR#1, Sturdies Bay Road
Galiano Island, B.C. V0N 1P0
Phone #: (250) 539-2424
Email: galiano_conservancy@gulfislands.com
Website: www.galianoconservancy.ca

Funding for this project was generously provided by:
The Bullitt Foundation
Wildlife Habitat Canada
The Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (Environment Canada)
The Georgia Basin Action Plan (Environment Canada)
VanCity Credit Union
The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
The Capital Regional District (Grant in Aid)
The Islands Trust
The Conservation Technology Support Program (in-kind)

GALIANO UP-CLOSE: ... what do you value?

GALIANO UP-CLOSE WORKSHOP SERIES: WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

UP-CLOSE workshop participants, over five weekends in February and March 2004, shared ideas about what was most important to them in Galiano's natural landscape. The values identified fell into six main categories:

1. Natural Resources: Natural Resource use was very important to workshop participants. Residents and property owners felt that collecting firewood, gathering foods and medicinal plants, harvesting trees for housing, eating locally harvested shellfish, etc. helped to identify them as islanders and to connect them to the land. Services provided by natural resources, such as clean water and air, were also highly valued.

2. Ecological: Natural areas on Galiano Island are valued as homes for animals and plants. Participants felt that preserving the quantity and diversity of life on Galiano was important and that the age of certain ecosystems was to be respected.

3. Spiritual / Aesthetic: Natural spaces are places where community members retreat for peace, quiet and privacy. They are sanctuaries for finding perspective when everyday pressures grow intense. Natural places also inspire creativity. They are the muse for visual arts, literature, philosophy and music and instill in many residents a feeling of mystery and awe.

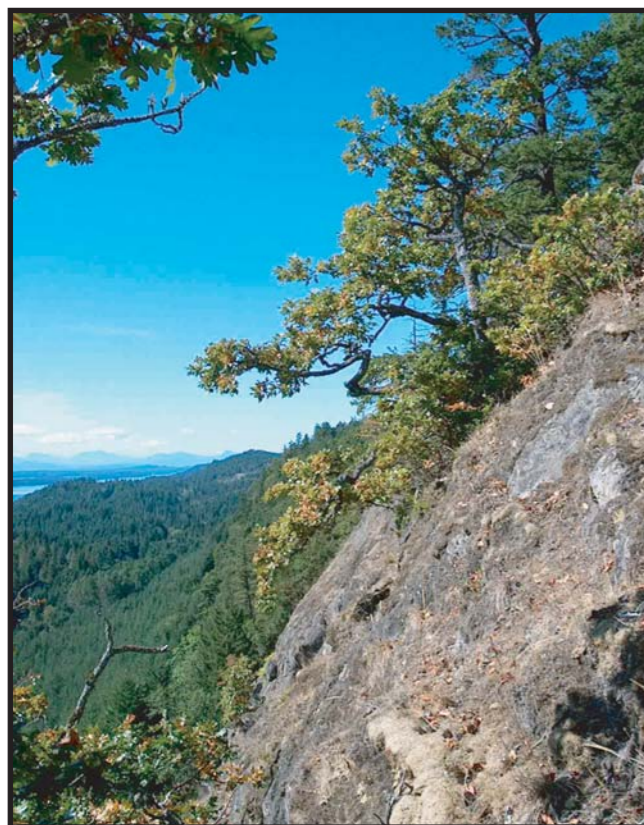
4. Educational: The natural world is an outdoor classroom for old and young. Here we encounter life's processes and observe how all living things, including human beings, are connected. Galiano's landscape is natural place to learn about making use of nature's products in a sustainable manner. Here too, young people can explore career choices that involve the outdoors.

5. Recreation: Access to recreation in natural areas is a priority to residents and property owners on Galiano Island. Forest trails, swimming beaches, places to kayak and sunny meadows to lounge in are all highly valued. Outdoor recreation helps islanders to keep their bodies healthy while enjoying the peace and tranquility of forests, meadows, shorelines and waterways.

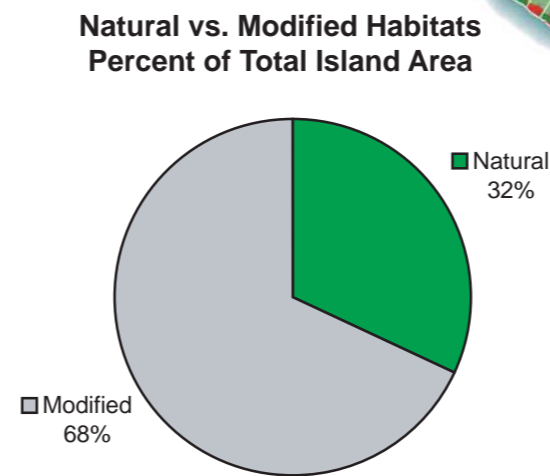
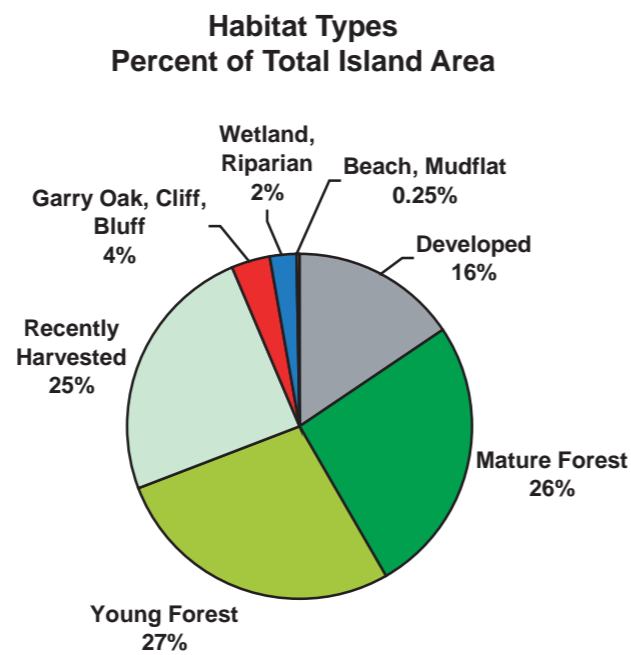
6. Historical / Cultural: For thousands of generations First Nations have been drawn to natural places on Galiano. The present Galiano community respects that history. Other cultures have also left their mark on the landscape. Natural areas are still important today as gathering places.



Map Date: June, 2004
Scale: 1 : 70,000
Projection: UTM NAD83 Zone 10
Rotation: 15 deg. counterclockwise



Galiano Island's south-facing cliff ecosystems support rare species such as the Garry oak pictured here.
Photo by Keith Erickson



Natural Habitats: Areas with little or no human development
Modified Habitats: Areas that have been significantly altered by human development or disturbance