



## SECHELT COMMUNITY PROJECTS INC.

NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2009

### THE COMMUNITY FOREST HIDDEN GROVE

Sechelt Community Projects Inc. (SCPI) Board of Directors, at the regular board meeting on January 8, 2009, discussed and endorsed a recommendation proposed by the Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) regarding Hidden Grove.

In 2006, SCPI recognized early the value of recreation along the urban interface and agreed to defer logging plans during the Probationary Period of five years in the Hidden Grove proposal located inside the District of Sechelt boundary.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was passed to extend our previous decision to "...manage the defined area of Hidden Grove inside the District of Sechelt boundaries for high recreational values during the life of the Community Forest tenure". This extends SCPI's current commitment beyond our probationary term to include the expected extended term of the Community Forest license.

CFAC's recommendation was based on public input and several presentations from Bob D'Arcy, Chairman of the Hidden Grove group.

SCPI Board members consider this decision a very positive step in managing a special portion of the Community Forest for its high recreational and bio-diversity values located next to Sechelt's boundary.

Established trails outside of Hidden Grove will be managed according to the guidelines contained in the Community Forest Operating Plan. This plan was developed as a result of the original application to the Ministry of Forests.

The Community Forest is just in its third year of operation of a five year probationary term. Fortunately, in 2007, operations were so successful that we were able to pay off all of the debts in 2008. SCPI is debt-free for the start of 2009, an accomplishment in itself. We have plans to make more contributions to the Lower Sunshine Coast as the economy improves and the lumber market strengthens.



## SECHELT COMMUNITY PROJECTS INC.

January 11, 2009

Mr. Robert D'Arcy, Chairman  
Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee  
Hidden Grove Legacy  
Sandy Hook Community Association  
c/o 5916 Skookumchuck Road  
Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A4

Dear Mr. D'Arcy:

This letter confirms our discussion Sunday, January 11, 2009 with respect to the designation of the Hidden Grove area as a high value recreation area along the Urban Interface.

Sechelt Community Projects Inc. (SCPI) recognizes that recreation is an important activity in our forests, especially along the urban interface bordering rural areas. Since the Community Forest tenure was awarded in May of 2006, SCPI staff has been assessing the chart areas with the help of public input through our Community Forest Advisory Committee. This is documented in our public meetings and reflected in our Community Forest Operating Plan, a public document and approved by the Board. In this plan, formulated by SCPI staff, proposed harvesting blocks were clearly identified outside of the Hidden Grove area which is considered for future harvesting.

The Board of Directors at a regular meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 discussed the Hidden Grove area which resulted in the following approved motion:

“On the basis of a CFAC recommendation, the SCPI Board, on January 8, 2009, approved a commitment to the community that the Hidden Grove area contained inside the District of Sechelt legal boundary will be managed for recreational values during the life of the Community Forest tenure. This extends SCPI’s previous commitment beyond the probationary term to include any extended term of the Community Forest license.”

With respect to Hidden Grove, our position with respect to this motion is itemized as follows and includes:

1. Map identifying the boundaries of the Hidden Grove Proposal that this motion refers to.
2. This designation is for forest management purposes and does not reduce the authority of SCPI as determined by the Community Forest tenure document.
3. This does not confer any decision making authority to the HG group over the CF tenure area.



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4. The motion recognizes only the area and trails inside the DoS boundaries.
5. This decision does not:
  - a. imply that SCPI will provide any funding for any activities in Hidden Grove.
  - b. support any withdrawals from the timber harvesting landbase without adequate compensation.
  - c. approve any activity to construct structures, infrastructure or to cut or remove trees from the designated area for any purpose.
  - d. imply any approval for any application to the Province for any activity or withdrawal of chart area that has or will be applied for by the HG group or others resulting in the removal of land from the Community Forest Tenure.
6. Any trees that may be removed for any activity are to be made available to SCPI for removal.
7. SCPI accepts no liability for any incident that happens in this area by users.
8. SCPI accepts no liability for damages or cost for any forest fire started by users.

SCPI expects that this designation for Hidden Grove will result in a positive and respectful relationship. SCPI will continue to manage the area outside the Hidden Grove for all values including timber as outlined in the Community Forest Operating Plan Guidelines which is available on our website ([www.sccf.ca](http://www.sccf.ca)).

### SECHELT COMMUNITY PROJECTS INC.

L. H. Pakulak  
Chairman, SCPI

Kevin W. Davie,  
Operations Manager