

February 26, 2025

File: 0220-20

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation  
PO Box 9354  
Unit 102 – 2957 Jutland Road  
Victoria BC V8T 5J9

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: "PENDER ISLAND WILDLIFE TREE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM"**

As the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Area Director, I am in support of an application submitted by Pender Islands Conservancy Association for funding through the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) Action Grant stream.

As a local government, the Capital Regional District (CRD) develops partnerships to facilitate and deliver projects and services to ensure a sustainable, livable, and vibrant capital region. The CRD works collaboratively with First Nations and all orders of governments, and has direct relationships with individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions, and communities that access regional utilities and services. Our communities strive to achieve exemplary environmental stewardship, a dynamic vibrant economy, and an inclusive, caring society. CRD service delivery in the SGI Electoral Area is often done by way of delegated authority to advisory commissions, made up of local island-based volunteers who deliver services on behalf of the CRD Board. The Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission is delegated administrative powers with respect to the development, maintenance, and operation of community parks and trails on Pender Island in the SGI Electoral Area.

The Pender Islands Conservancy is a community-based land trust dedicated to ecosystem protection, stewardship, and environmental education. Through their outreach programs on Pender Island, they engage with 15,000 participants annually; these programs play a key role in the success of their land stewardship and protection initiatives by establishing and enhancing individual connection to local ecosystems.

Through HCTF Action Grant funding, the Pender Conservancy aims to maintain or increase the availability of wildlife trees for tree-roosting, foraging, and nesting species in a highly fragmented Coastal Douglas-fir landscape that is under development pressure. This will be achieved in part through collaborative work on CRD recreation trails on Pender Island, in cooperation with the Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission. Retention of wildlife trees adjacent to trails, including existing veteran canopy trees as well as standing dead trees, and installation of interpretive signage describing the ecological values of these features, will help to educate residents and promote responsible stewardship of privately held lands in the SGI Electoral Area.



We are pleased to support this project as it will provide for local and community needs such as enhancement of environmental literacy, promotion of recreation and community engagement on CRD trails, and tangible environmental and biodiversity benefits that will enhance community resilience in the SGI Electoral Area.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Brent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul Brent  
CRD Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands