A cross British Columbia many of our most endangered ecosystems are found on private lands. These include the Coastal Douglas-fir and Dry Maritime forests on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, with their Mediterranean-like climates, twisted arbutus trees on rocky outcrops, and extremely scarce ancient groves; dry ecosystems of BC’s southern interior, including the fragrant Ponderosa Pine forests, sage-filled grasslands, and semi-arid “pocket desert”; waterfowl-filled wetlands and rich deciduous forests in the Fraser Valley and along our largest rivers; and other magnificent but endangered ecosystems threatened by encroaching developments.

Across British Columbia many of our most endangered ecosystems are found on private lands. These include the Coastal Douglas-fir and Dry Maritime forests on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, with their Mediterranean-like climates, twisted arbutus trees on rocky outcrops, and extremely scarce ancient groves; dry ecosystems of BC’s southern interior, including the fragrant Ponderosa Pine forests, sage-filled grasslands, and semi-arid “pocket desert”; waterfowl-filled wetlands and rich deciduous forests in the Fraser Valley and along our largest rivers; and other magnificent but endangered ecosystems threatened by encroaching developments.

A provincial fund of at least $40 million per year is needed to purchase BC’s most endangered ecosystems on private lands to sustain wildlife, clean water, recreation and tourism.

What can I Do to Help Establish a BC PARK ACQUISITION FUND?

1. WRITE to PREMIER CHRISTY CLARK and OPPOSITION LEADER ADRIAN DIX (both at the Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 or email premier@gov.bc.ca and Adrian.dix@mla.leg.bc.ca):
   - Let them know:
     - You want the BC Liberal government and NDP opposition to commit to establishing a BC Park Acquisition Fund, similar to that of many Regional Districts, of $40 million per year to buy private lands for protection.
     - You want them to develop a new BC Old-Growth Strategy to protect BC’s endangered old-growth forests on public and private lands, as old-growth forests are vital for wildlife, tourism, clean water, wild salmon, the climate, and many First Nations cultures.
     - You expect them to commit to these new policies before the next BC election in May, 2013.

2. SIGN and CIRCULATE our PETITION at: www.BCParkFund.com

3. SUPPORT the ANCIENT FOREST ALLIANCE (AFA)!
   - Please DONATE
     - We are a young but highly effective conservation organization working to ensure the protection of our endangered old-growth forests and sustainable forestry jobs in BC. We greatly need funding to grow the strength of our campaigns! Please donate:
       - Online: www.AncientForestAlliance.org
       - By Phone with your VISA or MasterCard: 250-896-4007
       - By Mail (cheques payable to “Ancient Forest Alliance”)
         The Ancient Forest Alliance is a registered BC non-profit society (# 50056367). Donations are not tax-deductible.

A provincial fund of at least $40 million per year is needed to purchase BC’s most endangered ecosystems on private lands to sustain wildlife, clean water, recreation and tourism.
Old-Growth Forests Imminently Endangered on Private Lands!

Several of the most endangered old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast survive on the hundreds of thousands of hectares of corporate private lands owned by Island Timberlands and until recently, TimberWest, who sold their BC lands in 2011 to two public sector pension funds. Old-growth forests are vital for supporting endangered species, tourism, the climate, clean water and salmon, and many First Nations cultures. Time is of essence, as logging threatens to reduce many of these highly significant endangered forests into a sea of giant stumps very soon.

Island Timberlands in particular is aggressively moving to log many of its lands with the highest conservation and recreational values in 2012. Conservationists are calling on the company to back off from such plans, while at the same time calling on the BC government to help purchase the companies’ contentious private lands.

Some endangered forests on private lands include:

Cortes Island – Island Timberlands owns about 1000 hectares here including the Children's Forests, Whaleteem Common, and extremely rare Old-growth forests. In years past, the BC government designated funds for new park acquisition in the provincial budget; however, the funds have been inconsistent and simply too small.

It’s important to remember that the BC government’s annual budget is $40 billion/year. This means that a $40 million park acquisition fund constitutes only 0.1 % of 1/1000th of the provincial budget. Surely we can afford allocating 0.1% of all public funds to invest in protecting BC’s endangered ecosystems on private lands. In years past, the BC government has targeted $3 million per year and has been pivotal for protecting hundreds of thousands of hectares of old-growth forests and other endangered ecosystems on private lands. In years past, the BC government has targeted $3 million per year and has been pivotal for protecting hundreds of thousands of hectares of old-growth forests and other endangered ecosystems on private lands. The fund amounts to about $3 million per year and has been pivotal for protecting lands of high environmental and recreational values at Jordan River, the Sooke Hills, the Sooke Potholes, Thetis Lake, Mount Work, and Mount Maxwell on Salt Spring Island.

Now the BC government must do its part. With a provincial election coming up in May, 2013, it’s time both the BC Liberal government and the NDP opposition commit to a $40 million/year BC park acquisition fund. A major, secure fund to protect Beautiful British Columbia would be a win-win for everyone!

Private Lands must be Purchased

While private land trusts are vital for conservation, they simply don’t have the capacity to quickly raise the tens of millions of dollars needed each year to save all the significant private lands, given the often short timelines they have to exist. Only governments have such funds. Conservationists are calling on the BC Liberal government to establish a dedicated BC Park Acquisition Fund of at least $40 million each year, raising $400 million over 10 years, to purchase old-growth forests and other endangered ecosystems on private lands. In years past, the BC government has designated funds for new park acquisition in the provincial budget; however, the funds have been inconsistent and simply too small.

Many Regional Districts already have Park Acquisition Funds

A provincial park acquisition fund would be similar to the park acquisition funds that already exist among various Regional Districts. For example, in the Victoria region the Capital Regional District’s (CRD) Land Acquisition Fund has spent over $34 million dollars to purchase over 4500 hectares since its establishment in the year 2000. The fund amounts to about $3 million per year and has been pivotal for protecting lands of high environmental and recreational values at Jordan River, the Sooke Hills, the Sooke Potholes, Thetis Lake, Mount Work, and Mount Maxwell on Salt Spring Island.

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