

Support the Protection of DL 56 in the Linley Valley

NALT is calling on all members and supporters to voice your support for a provincial proposal that would protect District Lot 56 (the BC crown land in the Linley Valley). The DL 56 has been included in a recent BC Ministry of Forests and Range proposal to protect five crown properties in the Coastal Douglas fir ecosystem by providing them with ‘enhanced stewardship’—and you have until February 15th to send your comments to the Ministry in support of this proposal.

DL 56, a 260-acre block of crown land in the Linley Valley, is located directly east of the 145-acre Cottle Lake Park that was purchased by the City of Nanaimo in 2003 with the help of a \$500,000 fundraising campaign carried out by NALT, “If the province protects the block of crown land it will mean an area of more than 400 acres in the Linley Valley will be protected for its environmental values and for recreation,” said NALT Executive Director Gail Adrienne. “This is something that both NALT and the City have been hoping for and working towards for many years. It will give Nanaimo residents a legacy of green space that will be valued more and more in the years to come, much like Stanley Park in Vancouver.”

According Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC), of the five properties cited in the BC Ministry of Forests and Range proposal, three others are located in the RDN—in Nanoose, near Bowser and in the Little Qualicum watershed. A fifth property is located at Hurtado, north on the Sunshine Coast. Together, the properties total nearly 4,000 acres of Coastal Douglas fir ecosystem.

The Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem is considered among the top four most endangered ecosystems in Canada, with less than 1% of the original old growth left and about 50% of the entire ecosystem under pavement or agriculture. The ecosystem is characterized by a Mediterranean-like climate, featuring such trees as coastal Douglas fir, arbutus and Garry oak, and contains many species at risk.

A recent press release from WCWC applauds the Ministry’s move, and encourages the government to expand this wonderful initiative to include all remaining crown land parcels of Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem from Bowser to Sooke.

Bill Zinovich of the Integrated Land Management Bureau in Nanaimo told NALT that ‘enhanced stewardship’ on the properties means ‘no logging.’ The order from the Ministry allows up to five percent of the area of the properties to be disturbed, but only for access to address safety concerns. Letters can be mailed to: Bill Zinovich, Integrated Land Management Bureau, West Coast Service Centre, Suite 142, 2080 Labieux Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9 or emailed to: bill.zinovich@gov.bc.ca

“We urge everyone to send a letter endorsing the protection of DL 56 in the Linley Valley and the other four other properties in the proposal.” said Gail Adrienne “And, you may also want to support the call made by WCWC that the Ministry to extend this

initiative to include protection of all remaining crown land parcels of Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystem from Bowser to Sooke.”

For more information on the land use order that would protect the Linley Valley and the other Coastal Douglas fir areas, go to:

www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/legalobjectives/advertisedLUORs.html Remember, you only have until February 15th to make your thoughts known.