CRD

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November 27, 2024

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks
PO Box 9047 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Via email: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Davidson:

RE: REQUEST FOR SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR CONTROL OF INVASIVE FALLOW DEER ON THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I write urge the province to provide sustained funding to manage the escalating impact of invasive fallow deer populations decimating island environments and economies. As you may be aware, fallow deer have proliferated to such an extent that they are decimating local ecosystems, threatening native biodiversity, and impacting the economic stability of island communities.

The unchecked spread of these invasive deer has led to widespread environmental degradation, particularly in sensitive island ecosystems where native plant species and forests are being irreversibly damaged by overgrazing.

Without sustained financial support from the province, it will be extremely difficult to implement the long-term coordinated control measures needed to reduce fallow deer populations to manageable levels and prevent further environmental and economic damage. By investing in these efforts, the province would protect critical ecosystems and support the long-term economic viability of island communities that are being severely impacted by this invasive species.

The CRD Board respectfully requests your ministry prioritize the issue of invasive fallow deer and work with partners to develop a comprehensive and sustained management plan and funding model for their control. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your staff.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff McNeil-Smith

Cliff McNeil-Smith
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: CRD Board
        Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD