

**Municipality of North Cowichan  
Special Council  
ADDENDUM AGENDA**

Monday, February 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m.  
Electronically

**Pages**

**4. BUSINESS**

**4.1. North Cowichan Environmental Policy and Regulation Review**

**4.1.1. *Presentation - Environmental Policy Review***

*2 - 13*





# Municipality of North Cowichan Environmental Policy Review

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021



# Municipal Environmental Management



- Key components
- Management:
  - Public lands vs
  - Private property
- Implementation and resources

Sensitive terrestrial ecosystems



Marine Foreshore



Watercourses



Urban Trees





# Considerations in North Cowichan



- Sensitive ecosystems
- Municipal Forest Reserve
- Agricultural land
- Growth centres & industry



# Our Scope of Work



- Comprehensive bylaw/regulation review
  - 7 bylaws & DPAs central to North Cowichan's environmental management
- High-level policy gap analysis
  - 32 policies, bylaws and regulations





# Current Policies & Regulations



- North Cowichan has a strong foundation of policy
  - Development permit areas
  - Environmental setbacks
  - Natural hazards
  - Soil removal and deposit

DPA 2 - Marine Waterfront



DPA 3 - Natural Environment

Riparian Areas



Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory

Coastal Bluff (CB)

Terrestrial Herbaceous (HT)

Older Forest (OF)

Riparian (RI)

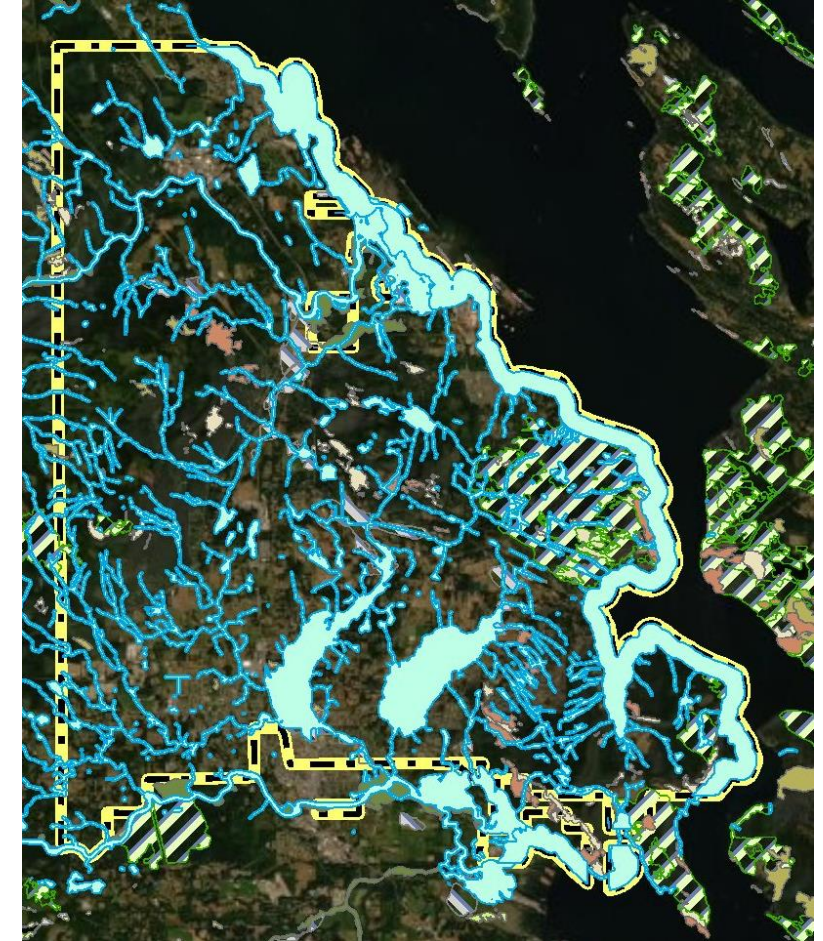
Sparsely Vegetated (SV)

Woodland (WD)

Wetland (WN)

Other (non-DPA) - Seasonally  
Flooded Agricultural Field (FS)

Other (non-DPA) - Second Growth  
Forest (SG)

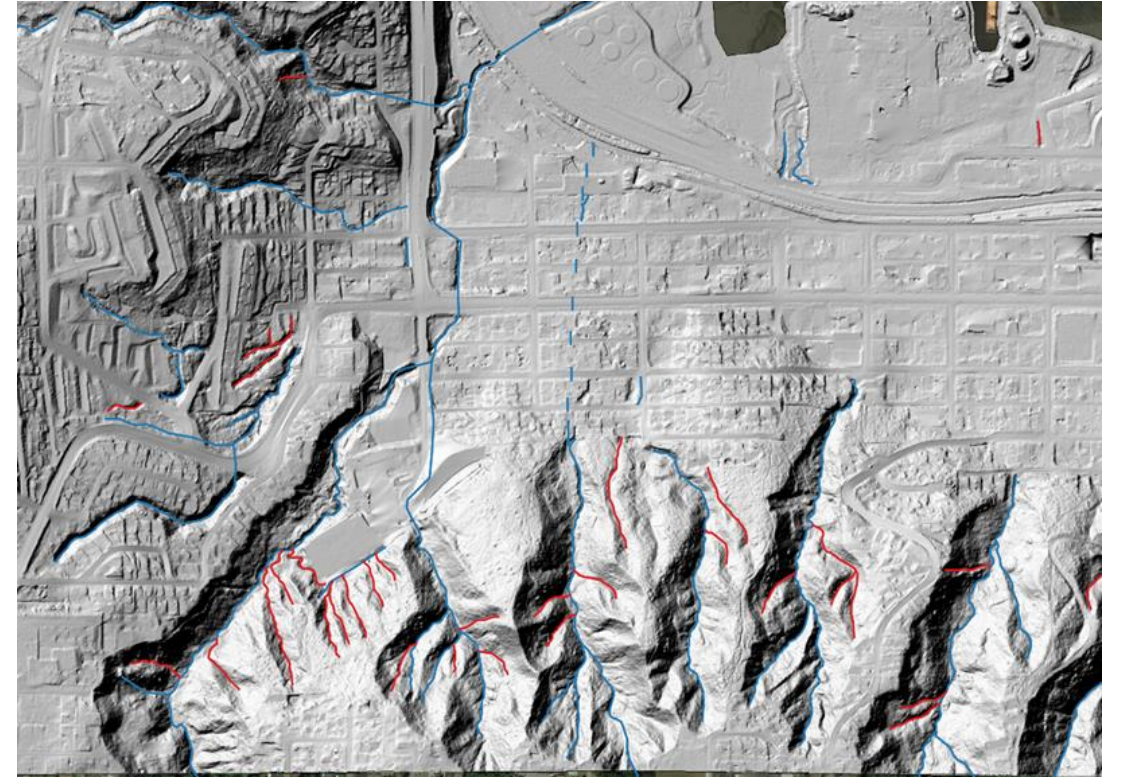


# Recommendations



## Policy improvements :

- Mapping of sensitive features
- Updated development permit guidelines
- Tree protection
- Enhance watercourse protection
- Legislative references & professional qualifications
- Restoration guidelines





# Opportunities for Leadership



- Invasive species management
- Landscape level protection & connectivity





# Opportunities for Leadership



- Land clearing pre-development & tree protection
- Public support & education, and enforcement





# Priorities for Implementation



- Short-term priorities
  - Update DPAs definitions, guidelines, legislative references & professional qualifications
  - Confirm community support for new or updated environmental policies





# Priority for Implementation



- Medium-term priorities
  - DPA Restoration guidelines
  - Watercourse protection review
  - Consider tree protection measures
  - Staffing/resourcing needs assessment
- Long-term
  - Missing policies





# Implementation & Resourcing



- Environmental leadership requires:
  - Higher-level policies with community-supported, clearly defined goals & performance standards
  - Sufficient staffing capacity & resourcing to implement and enforce policies







Questions?