



18 October 2008

Mayor Lois Jackson and Council  
Corporation of Delta  
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent  
Delta, B.C. V4K 3E2

**Re: Burns Bog Covenant and approval of the South Fraser Perimeter Road Project**

BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) is writing in support of the position stated by the Burns Bog Conservation Society and the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee in their letter to Mayor and Council of 7 October 2008, **that Delta Municipality should initiate the dispute resolution process under Section 5 of the Conservation Covenant on Burns Bog.** The approval by federal and provincial governments of the South Fraser Perimeter Road project was raised at our last General Meeting and members are most concerned that the wildlife and future ecological integrity of Burns Bog have been put at serious risk by this development.

It was the understanding of our members, and taxpayers everywhere in BC, that the purchase of Burns Bog as an Ecological Conservancy Area by all levels of government and the citizens of Delta, would ensure protection of this important wildlife habitat. The Intent of the Conservation Covenant that was placed on the property states:

- (a) maintain in perpetuity a large contiguous undeveloped natural area for the purpose of protecting the flora and fauna that depend on the Bog;*
- (b) manage the Bog as a functional raised bog ecosystem as understood by the best science of the time;*
- (c) maintain the extent and integrity of the water mound and the peat that encloses it, and in particular the upper porous acrotelm upon which the persistence of the bog ecosystem depends; and*
- (d) prevent any occupation or use of the Bog that will impair or interfere with the current state of the Bog or the Amenities, except with respect to that area of the Bog, and those Amenities in respect of such area, over which a statutory right of way may be granted under section 6.1 (e)*  
*(Registered Covenant BW113705 Section 2.0)*

It is clearly against this Intent to place the road through habitat used by such Species at Risk as Pacific Water Shrew, Southern Red-backed Vole, Trowbridge's Shrew and Fraser Valley Sandhill Crane. It is deplorable that senior governments have allowed this to go ahead.

BC Nature strongly supports initiation of the dispute resolution provisions of Section 5 of the Burns Bog Conservation Covenant, and we urge Delta Council to put this in motion as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Bev Ramey  
President, BC Nature