

Burns Bog Operating Agreement

March 4, 2013
Regular Meeting of Delta Council



Background

- Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area – 5,000 acres of land purchased in 2004 by four levels of government.
- Management Agreement Signed in 2004 sets out general principles and says Delta and Metro Vancouver will negotiate a formal Operating Agreement

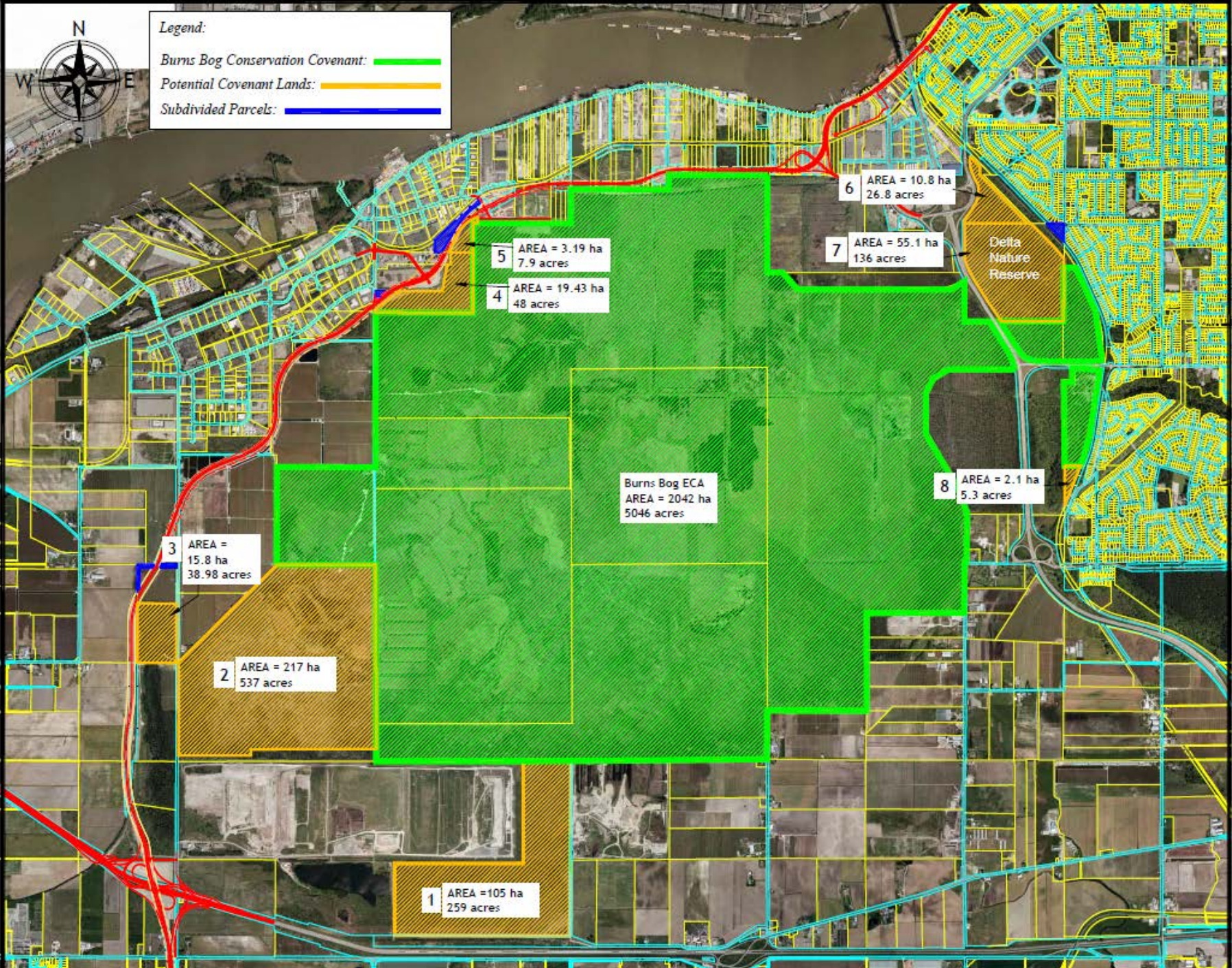
Council Direction

At the January 7, 2013 Regular Council Meeting Council directed staff to develop the necessary agreements to add approximately 1000 acres to the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area and to bring back an Operating Agreement for Council's consideration



Operating Agreement

- Addresses lands purchased in 2004
- Includes a provision for “Additional Local Government Land” which includes 1000 acres and any future additions.
- Allows for amendments to add parcel specific operating terms for additional local government land



Legend:
Burns Bog Conservation Covenant: —
Potential Covenant Lands: —
Subdivided Parcels: —



Burns Bog ECA
AREA = 2042 ha
5046 acres

Delta Nature Reserve

3
AREA =
15.8 ha
38.98 acres

2
AREA = 217 ha
537 acres

1
AREA = 105 ha
259 acres

5
AREA = 3.19 ha
7.9 acres

4
AREA = 19.43 ha
48 acres

6
AREA = 10.8 ha
26.8 acres

7
AREA = 55.1 ha
136 acres

8
AREA = 2.1 ha
5.3 acres

Operating Agreement

- Metro Vancouver's responsibilities include
 - Overall management responsibilities
 - Coordination and approval of projects, work plans
 - Site security, patrols, access permits
 - Development and management of scientific research and monitoring programs
 - Coordination of Scientific Advisory Panel
 - Development and coordination of a database for collection, storage and retrieval of scientific info

Operating Agreement

- Delta's responsibilities include
 - Management of the retention, storage and release of water from the bog to preserve and protect the features that are characteristic of a raised bog ecosystem
 - Development of wildfire control measures, including monitoring for wildfire and trespass
 - Provision and coordination of fire response and fire command services
 - Reserve right to publish communications materials

Provincial Land

- Metro Vancouver and the Province of BC have an Operating Agreement for the Provincial Land which is a parcel in the centre of Burns Bog owned by the Province
- The Local Government Operating Agreement provides authority to Delta to occupy and use the Provincial Land for performing the drainage and fire management services

Management Committee

- Operating Agreement also formalizes the requirement for a Burns Bog Management Committee
- Consists of senior Metro Vancouver and Delta staff appointed by the respective parties that will meet on a semi-annual basis

Delta Nature Reserve

- Included as “Additional Local Government Land” in the process of being transferred into joint ownership
- The only part of Burns Bog that is accessible to the public
- Will remain open to the public



Delta Nature Reserve

- It is recommended that a letter be sent to Metro Vancouver requesting that they work with the Burns Bog Conservation Society to develop an agreement that will set out the terms of the ongoing use of the Delta Nature Reserve by the Society.



Conclusion

- It is recommended that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Local Government Operating Agreement which will formalize ongoing operational responsibilities for Burns Bog and future additions to the Ecological Conservancy Area.

