

Sidney Island Ecological Restoration Project

Safety and Communications Summary

[Details still to be confirmed are indicated with square brackets]

April, 2022

Updated January 2023

Prepared by Parks Canada

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. **Scope.** This document is meant to outline the key elements of safety planning and procedures associated with the fallow deer removal operation that are relevant to Sidney Islanders.
- 1.2. **Phase 1 Closures.** During days in which aerial shooting is scheduled, common property (including designated ‘interior’ roads and trails), covenants, and beaches below high-water line will be closed for safety purposes. Private lots, designated “outer” roads, the marina, the parking lot, and the workshop will not be included in closures, and non-project personnel will be able to use these areas.
- 1.3. **Phase 2 Closures.** Closed areas will be limited to common property, will be encircled in netting and indicated with signage. There will be beaches that will be closed temporarily when they are located within closures.
- 1.4. **Sallas Liaison.** A liaison person will be identified and incorporated into safety planning and operations. They will play a key role in communicating with Sidney Islanders and providing advice on safety and site specific matters.
- 1.5. **Communications prior to Operations.** 1-3 months in advance of Phase 1 and Phase 2, Owners will receive via email a detailed description outlining where and when work will take place. Owners will also receive via email, a link to a website that will outline the procedures that On-Owners should take to enhance safety. Prior to Operations, Owners and residents who will be on-island during Operations, will be asked to attend one of two webinars outlining activities to take place and safety procedures. There may also be exercises in advance of Phase 1 and Phase 2 to test safety procedures.
- 1.6. **Communications during Operations.** Prior to and during Operations, Owners will receive an email Advisory (the Weekly Operations Briefing) indicating closures and work locations for the coming week, as well as contact information for the Safety Officers and Communications Officer. The Weekly Operations Briefing will include a map detailing locations of closures. A Daily Action Plan Briefing will be sent to Owners on island [in the morning], on a daily basis. Owners will be able to directly contact an on-island Safety Officer for urgent or safety-related communications, and a Communications Officer for non-urgent communications. The safety officer will endeavor to keep a manifest of all people on island to account for all persons and ensure they are informed of operational activities.
- 1.7. **Security.** Project Personnel will be readily identifiable by either a Parks Canada uniform, orange camouflage, and/or a high-visibility vest. Access to any part of Sidney Island that is not for the purpose of carrying out the work will be limited to pre-identified areas. Project Personnel will be monitored by team leaders, who supervise no more than [3-8] individuals at a time. Project Personnel will not access a private lot without permission from the lot owner. Designated Project Personnel will have the ability to detect and intercept external trespassers if requested by Sallas, which could include engaging RCMP or Parks Canada Law Enforcement if necessary and appropriate.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. **Safety and Communications Summary (this document).** This document is meant to outline the key elements of safety planning and procedures associated with the fallow deer removal operation that are relevant to Sidney Islanders. It will be updated as necessary and shared with Owners in advance of fallow deer removal Operations.
- 2.2. **Communications Plan.** Prior to operations, the plan for communications with Sidney Islanders will be completed and tested, in collaboration with Sallas representatives.
- 2.3. **Operations Safety Plan.** The Operations Safety Plan is a comprehensive document that includes the identification and ranking of hazards, a risk and vulnerability assessment of project activities, a risk and vulnerability assessment of Owner activities, and risk control & mitigation strategies. It also includes emergency response procedures and standard operating guidelines for Project Personnel. The Operations Safety Plan will be updated regularly until the start of removal Operations and continuously reviewed and modified as necessary to ensure effectiveness during Operations.
- 2.4. **Access License Agreement.** For details about indemnity, operational area, trials, and descriptions of eradication activities, please refer to the Access License Agreement and associated appendices.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. **Sidney Islanders:** People who are or will be physically present on Sidney Island during Operations, including permanent or seasonal residents, visitors, guests, workers, and contractors unassociated with the Operation.
- 3.2. **Owners:** The community of people that own property on Sidney Island.
- 3.3. **Project Personnel:** Parks Canada Staff, contractors and sub-contractors associated with the project.
- 3.4. **Advisories:** Routine communications sent by Project Personnel to Sidney Islanders via email or SMS text. Advisories will be issued as necessary to provide updates on area closures, progress, and project activities.
- 3.5. **Emergency:** Any situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, or property, which requires an immediate intervention. Examples of Emergencies include but are not limited to: medical event; fire; emergency police event; hazardous substance release; or fall from height.
- 3.6. **Urgent Communications:** A scenario requiring Urgent Communication is a scenario in which Project Personnel or Sidney Islanders need to be made aware of something immediately, but for which Emergency Services (Ambulance, Police, Fire) do not need to be notified. Examples of Urgent scenarios include but are not limited to: missing/overdue person; suspicious person/activity; person inside a closed area; or damage to property.
- 3.7. **Closures:** Areas that are closed to all residents for a set period of time. Closures will be in place for areas where active removal Operations are taking place.
- 3.8. **Safety Procedures for Sidney Islanders:** Guidelines for Sidney Islanders to follow that ensure their safety and the safety of others.

3.9.**Operations:** Activities associated with the removal of fallow deer, including aerial operations, ground operations, and meat recovery.

3.10.**I Am Responding (IAR):** A web-based computer application used by Owners to activate the Sidney Island Emergency Response Team. This application requires users to register and maintain their current contact information. When activated by a user, it can send messages (phone, text and email) to pre-determined groups of users, such as fire response teams, emergency medical teams, utility response, or to notify residents in real time about any activities deemed appropriate.

4. **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

Project Personnel include Parks Canada Agency employees, contractors, and subcontractors. Only positions directly relevant to communications and safety planning are included here.

4.1.**Parks Canada Agency Employees**

4.1.1.Project Manager: Parks Canada staff member responsible for the project.

4.1.2.Safety Officer: [2] Parks Canada staff members whose role is to develop, implement, and audit safety procedures. The Safety Officer will be present on island during operations and will serve as an on-island point of contact for Sidney Islanders.

4.1.3.Communications Officer: [2] Parks Canada staff members who coordinate routine communications between Project Personnel and Sidney Islanders, including routine safety communications. The Communications Officer is also involved in external communications to media and the public.

4.2.**Sallas Liaison:** Participates in safety and operational planning. Assists with communication with Sidney Islanders. Is integrated into project command during operations.

4.3.**Consultants, Contractors, Subcontractors**

4.3.1.Senior Project Manger: Participates in project planning and reports to Parks Canada Project Manager.

4.3.2.Eradication Field Manager: Oversees and directs all field operations.

4.3.3.Eradication Team Leaders: Lead the aerial and ground eradication teams.

4.3.4.Helicopter Pilot and Engineer: Fly and maintain the helicopter.

4.3.5.Carcass Recovery Teams: Recover and field dress carcasses, and transports to storage location.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1.**Communications from Project Personnel to Sidney Islanders.**

5.1.1.What follows is a summary. A detailed communications plan will be developed in collaboration with Sallas representatives prior to operations. The communications plan will be tested prior to operations.

- 5.1.2. One-to-three (1-3) months in advance of each Phase 1 and Phase 2, Owners will receive via email a notice with a link directing them to a posting on the project website, describing proposed project activities and outlining where and when work will be taking place.
- 5.1.3. One-to-three (1-3) months in advance of each Phase 1 and Phase 2, Owners will receive via email a notice with a link to a posting on the project website containing the safety procedures for Owners document. This document will outline the procedures that Sidney Islanders should take to enhance safety, including how to identify closed areas and how to obtain more information.
- 5.1.4. Prior to Operations, Owners, residents, and contractors not associated with the project, who will be on Island during Operations, will be asked to attend one of two mandatory webinars. These webinars will outline the activities to take place as well as safety and communications procedures, and will provide the opportunity to answer or clarify any questions Owners may have. The first webinar would be scheduled [2] months in advance of Operations, and the second would be scheduled [2-3] weeks in advance of Operations.
- 5.1.5. Owners can determine how much information they want to receive based on their needs and whether they will be on island during Operations. People on-island during Operations or arriving to the island during Operations, including Owner's guests and contractors, will be asked to register [electronically] with the Communications Officer prior to Operations with the following information: their lot number(s); names of party; their primary contact information, and duration of stay. Sidney Islanders will be able to specify whether email or SMS Text is preferred, and the Communications Officer will manage this list of contact information. By registering with the Communications Officer, Sidney Islanders inform project personnel of their presence on island, and ensure that they can receive project communications or be contacted in the event of an emergency. Sidney Islanders will be asked to notify the Communications Officer when they depart the island.
- 5.1.6. Prior to and during Operations, signs notifying Sidney Islanders of project activities and requesting that they register with the Communications Officer will be posted at Miners Bay bulletin board, a bulletin board erected at the airfield, and at the gate between the national park reserve and Sallas lands. [Links to safety documents can be made available from signage via QR codes].
- 5.1.7. Closures will be communicated in advance via Weekly Operations Briefings. Closures will also be communicated via extensive signage on netting, gates, and sandwich boards, marking the area as closed. [It may be possible to upload closure information to the Avenza map that owners use regularly, and provide a link via QR code on signage].
- 5.1.8. Prior to and during Operations, Sidney Islanders will receive an email Advisory (the Weekly Operations Briefing) indicating closures and work locations for the coming week, as well as contact information for the Safety Officers and Communications Officer. A map will be included detailing locations of closures.
- 5.1.9. Additional Routine communications to Sidney Islanders will be communicated by email or SMS text according to the preference of the individual.
- 5.1.10. A Daily Briefing SMS text message will be sent to Sidney Islanders in the morning, on a daily basis. This reminder will include a link to the Weekly Operations Briefing, and is meant

to provide information to individuals who come and go throughout the week, who may have missed the Weekly Operations Briefing sent at the beginning of the week. It will also communicate any changes to the Weekly Operations Briefing.

- 5.1.11. Urgent Communications will be communicated with Sidney Islanders via SMS Text. Examples of Urgent scenarios include but are not limited to: missing/overdue person; suspicious person/activity; or person inside a closed area.
- 5.1.12. In the event of an emergency involving Project Personnel, Project Personnel will communicate directly with Emergency Services (RCMP, Ambulance, Coast Guard, Joint Rescue Command Centre, Sidney Island Emergency team, Jasper Dispatch) via Phone or VHF Radio, and Owners who need to know will be informed via SMS text.
- 5.1.13. In the event of a major disruption to the project such as a severe storm, heavy snowfall, or high winds that cause damage to communication infrastructure, Operations will be immediately suspended and the project team will conduct a damage assessment and determine the impact to Operations. Operations will not resume until it was safe to do so.

5.2. Communications from Non-Project Personnel to Project Personnel

- 5.2.1. Routine (non-urgent) communications can be directed to the Communications Officer, who will direct the information or query to the appropriate person.
- 5.2.2. Urgent communications should be directed to the Safety Officer. If the Safety Officer on call cannot be reached, the Communication Officer or Project Manager will be available. Examples of urgent communications include: people inside a closed area; dangerous conditions; safety concerns; damage to property, or damage to fencing.
- 5.2.3. In the event of an emergency, Sidney Islanders should follow the Sidney Island Emergency Manual Procedures. The Safety Officer will be incorporated into the IAR and will be updated if the Emergency Number is called, or if BC Emergency Health Services is coordinating a response to a 911 call on-island. The Safety Officer will inform Project Personnel immediately, in case they are in a position to assist.
- 5.2.4. In the event of a SIERP-related injury or near miss involving non-project personnel that has or could have occurred, or to communicate a SIERP-related safety concern, the Safety Officer should be notified immediately. The Safety Officer will assess the risk of ongoing Operations, and will shut down Operations if necessary. The Safety Officer will contact the reporting party and complete an incident or near miss investigation report documenting the details. When possible and appropriate (i.e., if the incident occurred on Sallas property), a designated Sallas representative will join the investigation. The Field Operations Manager and the Sallas representative will then be provided with the preliminary findings of the investigation. If the incident is serious, an Incident Report will be completed, and reviewed by Agency Staff.
- 5.2.5. Sidney Islanders with limited cell coverage can text or email the Safety Officer.
- 5.2.6. Any disputes, claims, losses, damage, or breaches of the Access License Agreement should be communicated in writing to the Sallas Strata Council, as provided for in section 13.1 of the Access License Agreement.

6. SECURITY

6.1. Access to Sallas Property

- 6.1.1. To notify the public of risk and deter public access to the Park Reserve and to Sallas Property, project signage (sandwich boards) will be placed at key access points. Signs will indicate that Eradication contractors are actively working in the area with firearms.
- 6.1.2. When deemed necessary during Operations, Project Personnel and Parks Canada Law Enforcement will contact and intercept vessels approaching Sidney Island. Vigilance will be maintained via visual observation from shore and via marine patrols. If Project Personnel are unable to deter uninvited members of the public from accessing Sidney Island, Law Enforcement will be notified and will respond. Individuals arriving by vessel or aircraft during Operations may be approached by the Safety Officer to communicate project activities and request that individuals register with the Communications Officer.
- 6.1.3. Project Personnel will be readily identifiable by either a Parks Canada uniform, orange camouflage, and/or a high-visibility vest.
- 6.1.4. Sidney Island will be a supervised workplace for all Project Personnel. Project Personnel are only authorized by Parks Canada to access the workplace for the purpose of performing the work for which they have been hired. Access to any part of Sidney Island that is not for the purpose of carrying out the work will be limited to pre-identified areas, including staging areas and designated rest & lunch locations. Project Personnel will be monitored by team leaders, who supervise no more than [3-8] individuals at a time. At the end of the workday, all project personnel will leave the community.
- 6.1.5. Project materials and supplies will be stored in a clean and secure fashion to prevent theft and vandalism.

6.2. Opposition/Interference

- 6.2.1. Prior to and during Operations, Parks Canada Law Enforcement will monitor social media for indications of protest or civil disobedience, and update RCMP if necessary. If the risk of interference increases, preventative actions such as increased personnel presence and/or a review and update of response plans will be implemented. Parks Canada Law Enforcement personnel in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve have direct experience intervening in protests during deployments in various National Parks. Parks Canada Law Enforcement will liaise with RCMP and coordinate a response to behaviour meant to disrupt or interfere with Operations. Incidents on Sallas Property are within the jurisdiction of RCMP, and Incidents within the Park Reserve are within the jurisdiction of Parks Canada Law Enforcement. In either case, RCMP and Parks Canada Law Enforcement will be in close communication with each other and coordinate a response as necessary.
- 6.2.2. If Sidney Islanders observe persons who are not readily identifiable as Project Personnel, they are encouraged to contact the Safety Officer, who will confirm whether the individual(s) in question are Project Personnel or not. If the individual(s) are not identified as Project Personnel and it is safe to do so, Parks Canada staff will approach the individual(s) to confirm identity and communicate private property/closures. If the individual(s) are not authorized

to be present and will not leave, Law Enforcement and/or RCMP may be notified. Both RCMP and Parks Canada Law Enforcement have vessels docked at the Parks Canada Sidney Operations Centre, and can mobilize relatively quickly if necessary.

- 6.2.3.If Sidney Islanders observe suspicious activity including individuals tampering or sabotaging Operations/equipment (e.g., netting, trail cameras), they are encouraged to report the activity to the Safety Officer, who may report the incident to RCMP.
- 6.2.4.If non-project personnel are purposefully disruptive of project activities, they will be engaged by the Safety Officer to explain the situation. If disruptive behaviour continues, Parks Canada Law Enforcement or RCMP may be engaged if necessary to determine a course of action.

7. REMOVAL OPERATIONS

7.1.Phase 1: Aerial Operations

- 7.1.1.Phase 1 consists of 5 days of aerial shooting from a helicopter and 5 days of ground operations, within the time window of November 2023 – March 2024. Aerial Operations are weather-dependant, so the aerial shooting would encompass 10 days over a period of 2-3 weeks. The exact period of 2-3 weeks that will encompass Aerial Operations will be determined at least 3 months prior to Operations. Please see Schedule D to the Access License Agreement for more details.
- 7.1.2.Sidney Islanders will be informed in advance of the days in which Operations may take place. Aerial Operations are dependant on weather and deer behaviour, and may take place at any point during scheduled days. During days in which aerial shooting is scheduled, common property (including designated ‘interior’ roads and trails), covenants, and beaches below high-water line will be closed for safety purposes. Private lots, designated “outer” roads, the marina, the parking lot, and the workshop will not be included in closures, and non-project personnel will be able to use these areas. Additional areas that must remain open to Sidney Islanders can be discussed during operational planning.
- 7.1.3.Dogs should be leashed or fenced-in on days when Aerial Operations are scheduled. Dog-owners may want to consider a high-vis vest for their dog. Designated “outer” roads and the airfield will be available for dog walking.
- 7.1.4.If Sidney Islanders foresee a need to access a closed area, they are asked to arrange this in advance of Aerial Operations with the Safety Officer. If Sidney Islanders need to access a closed area unexpectedly, they will need to contact the Safety Officer in advance of accessing the area and again when they have left the closed area.
- 7.1.5.If non-project personnel are planning to arrive on island via aircraft during Aerial Operations, they are requested to coordinate their arrival in advance with the Safety Officer.
- 7.1.6.If Sidney Islanders find themselves in a Closure, or see someone else in a Closure, they should contact the Safety Officer as soon as possible, instruct the individual to make themselves as visible as possible, and leave the area immediately. The Safety Officer will have a direct line of communication to the Aerial team.

- 7.1.7. Sidney Islanders will receive an Advisory if aerial shooting is not going to take place on a scheduled day.
- 7.1.8. Public safety is a priority during aerial shooting; the aerial marksman will never assume that an area is devoid of people or pets just because it is closed. They will never fire unless they are sure of their target and sure of what is behind it. There will be no aerial shooting towards Private Lots, buildings, infrastructure, the marina, airfield, workshop, or designated 'outer' roads.
- 7.1.9. Phase 1 safety procedures will be tested on site in advance of operations.

7.2. Phase 2: Ground Operations

- 7.2.1. Ground Operations (i.e., the removal of deer using fenced zones) will consist of 3-5 months, depending on access to private lots, during the period of October 2024 – March 2025. April 2025 has been designated as contingency time. During this phase, teams will use temporary netting to fence off portions of the island. Once fenced-off areas are established, teams of marksmen paired with professional hunting dogs systematically clear each area of deer. Please see Schedule D to the Access License Agreement for more details.
- 7.2.2. On private lots, where access is permitted by the property Owner, unarmed teams of 1-3 professional hunting dogs and 1-3 handlers will push deer from private lots into common property. No one will carry a loaded firearm or discharge a firearm on private lots.
- 7.2.3. When professional hunting dogs and handlers are on private lots, Sidney Islanders can be outside on their lots carrying out their regular activities. Sidney Islanders are requested to have their pet dogs on-leash if professional hunting dogs are present, to prevent potential altercations.
- 7.2.4. Permission to access individual private lots will be established well in advance of Operations, via Schedule E to the Access License Agreement: The Owner Indemnity Agreement. During Operations, Owners who have permitted access will receive a call or email several days in advance of activities on their lot. On the day of, the operational team will call, email, and/or knock on the door (depending on location and preference of the owner), to indicate their presence and confirm permission. When the team is finished on the lot, the owner will receive a call, email, or knock on the door to indicate that the operational team is exiting the lot.
- 7.2.5. During Phase 2, Sidney Islanders do not have to inform the Safety Officer of their day-to-day activities, as long as they do not enter the Closures. Sidney Islanders may use beaches, roads, and private lots as they normally would, but must stay out of Closures on common property and conservation covenants.
- 7.2.6. During Phase 2, pet dogs should remain on-leash or under control when outside, to ensure they do not get into a closed area or interfere with the professional hunting dogs. Closures will be limited to the active zone and zones behind the active zone, so much of the island will be available for dog walking at any given time. There will be beaches that will be closed when they are located within closures.

- 7.2.7. Closures will be communicated in the Weekly Operations Briefing, and a map of Closure areas will be distributed in advance of Operations. Closed areas will be encircled in netting and signage will indicate that the area is closed. To ensure their own safety, Sidney Islanders must not cross barriers or go under netting into closures.
- 7.2.8. Gates will be established for Sidney Islanders to pass through, so that Sidney Islanders can move about the island while fenced zones are being erected. Sidney Islanders must only cross a fence line if they use a gate. When a gate leads into an area that is Closed, the gate will have netting strung across it, and signage indicating that Sidney Islanders must not enter.
- 7.2.9. As each zone is cleared of deer, signage and fencing will come down and the zone will be open to Sidney Islanders.
- 7.2.10. Similar to current Sallas hunt rules, a marksman is not authorized to shoot unless they are certain that the bullet, over a wide margin of error, will strike land before exiting the closed area.
- 7.2.11. Phase 2 safety procedures will be tested on site in advance of Phase 2 operations.

8. FIREARMS -HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

All firearms handling, transportation, and storage is carried out with the highest degree of competency by professional marksmen, and will adhere to all legal requirements of the Firearms Act as a bare minimum and as outlined below.

8.1. Firearms Handling.

- 8.1.1. Firearms are always assumed to be loaded, and are always regarded as a potential danger.
- 8.1.2. Every time a marksman picks up a firearm, they must P.R.O.V.E. that it is not loaded:
 - Point the firearm in the safest possible direction
 - Remove all ammunition;
 - Observe the firing chamber to visually inspect for ammunition;
 - Verify the feeding path is clear of ammunition; and
 - Examine the bore for any obstructions.

8.2. Firearms Transportation (when not in use)

- 8.2.1. When a firearm is being transported by foot and active hunting is not taking place, the ammunition and magazine must be removed and the firearms carried in manner that controls the muzzle direction at all times.
- 8.2.2. When transporting firearms (i.e., not in use) in boats, vehicles, or aircraft, firearms are unloaded, trigger locked, stored in a locked sturdy non-transparent container, and the bolt is removed. Firearms are never left unattended.

8.3. Storage

- 8.3.1. No firearms will be stored on Sallas lands.

8.3.2. Firearms are trigger locked with the bolt removed and stored securely in a locked case or cabinet that cannot be easily moved or stored in a separate room that is difficult to break into. Ammunition is stored separate and apart from the firearm.

9. MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 9.1. A SIERP Communications Sub-Committee has been established to develop shared messaging and coordinate media responses amongst Project Partners (Parks Canada, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, Pauquachin First Nation, Islands Trust Conservancy, Province of BC, and Sallas).
- 9.2. Key messages have been and will continue to be developed and approved by the Communications Sub-Committee, which includes Sallas representatives.
- 9.3. While each Project Participant has a spokesperson identified who is prepared to speak to media regarding the project, there is no obligation to do so. Parks Canada expects to be the 'frontline' point of contact for all media interest, and will coordinate media responses.
- 9.4. Parks Canada has an External Relations team that is providing advice to the Communications Sub-Committee on messaging and recommended approaches to manage media interest.
- 9.5. If Sidney Islanders are approached by media, they are advised to direct all media enquiries to their community spokesperson.



Parks
Canada

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WEEKLY OPERATIONS BRIEFING – PHASE ONE

PARKS CANADA CONTACTS

Safety Officer	250-111-1111
Communications Officer	250-111-1111

JANUARY 10-17

PARK CLOSED

****Gulf Island National Park Reserve Lands on SIDNEY ISLAND are CLOSED****

This includes all road, trails, forested areas, shorelines, beaches, campgrounds and marine facilities.

SALLAS CLOSED AREAS

- All Common Property (see exceptions below)
- All Conservation Covenants
- All In-land Trails: [including these named trails]
- All in-land Roads: [names here]



Additional Information Available Here

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SAFETY OFFICER IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED TO ACCESS A CLOSED AREA.

SALLAS OPEN AREAS

- Airfield
- Marina
- Parking Lot
- Workshop
- Outer Roads: [Names here]

TO REGISTER WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Contact the Safety Officer at 250-111-1111 or email safetyofficer@pc.gc.ca

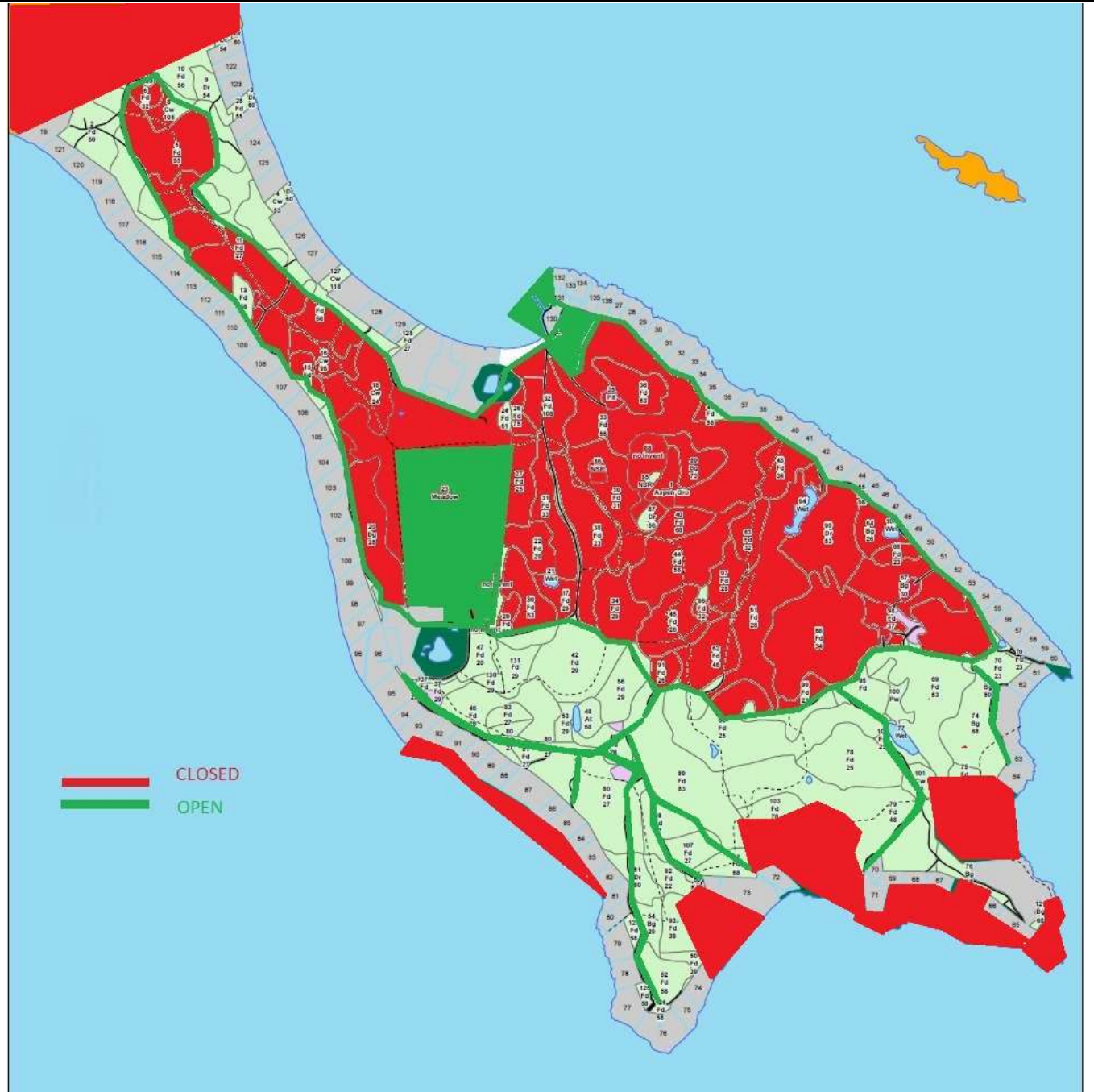
WEEKLY OPERATIONS BRIEFING – PHASE ONE

PARKS CANADA CONTACTS

Safety Officer 250-111-1111
Communications Officer 250-111-1111

JANUARY 10-17

CLOSURE MAP (HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE)



*Please note, this map is a hypothetical example to display what a closure map might look like. Please do not interpret it as a description of likely closure locations.