



Southern Interior Land Trust

April 22, 2020

Lot A DL 493 Habitat Direction Statement

The Southern Interior Land Trust (SILT) is working with its conservation partners to acquire Lot A of District Lot 493 east of Grand Forks, BC. This Habitat Direction Statement describes SILT's intentions for future management of the land should SILT successfully acquire it. A detailed property management plan will be written later.

Lot A DL 493 is 35 hectares (86 acres) of mostly open, south-facing bunchgrass grassland extending into bedrock outcrops and talus on its higher elevation northern boundary. The parcel is interspersed with a few small patches of deciduous shrub thickets. Deadhorse Creek, a small permanent stream crosses the property's southwest corner. Lot A DL 493 is just two kilometers (1.25 miles) from Grand Forks and has public access via Morrissey Creek Road. Lot A borders the western boundary of SILT's 109-hectare (270 acre) DL 492 Bighorn Grassland property.

Lot A DL 493 provides year-round habitat for a healthy population of 200-300 California bighorn sheep. The Grand Forks sheep herd (also called the Gilpin herd) has provided decades of hunting opportunity to resident and non-resident hunters, as well as excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. All bighorn sheep age and sex classes are commonly seen on Lot A. The property is also good quality spring range for both mule deer and white-tailed deer and is habitat for at least five federally listed species-at-risk.

SILT (www.siltrust.ca) has been acquiring productive gems and jewels of wildlife habitat for over 30 years and has a proven track record for responsible management of its lands. SILT's properties are managed for conservation in perpetuity. SILT conserves land for all living things—including people!

SILT encourages and maintains non-mechanized public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and nature appreciation on all its properties, provided it is safe, legal and protects the land's integrity. SILT believes this helps reward those who contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

Lot A DL 493 is undeveloped. Minor trespass by ATV users has caused minimal soil disturbance; the property and the grassland vegetation, though weedy, is in generally good condition. To maintain the integrity of the land for conservation, if acquired, unregulated ATV use will need to be addressed consistent with SILT's intentions for its adjacent DL 492 property. This will require educational outreach; collaboration with organized ATV users; fencing; signage; and targeted enforcement. We anticipate working with local groups to promote awareness and to mitigate off-road damage. As necessary, SILT will escalate actions to achieve responsible management of the land.

The grasslands in the area have had a long history of use by cattle. SILT acquires its properties for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat in perpetuity. SILT has no agreements with any party to graze cattle or other livestock on any of its properties. SILT has no intention of allowing the grazing of cattle or other livestock on Lot A DL 493.

SILT will develop more detailed management objectives in time, in collaboration with its conservation partners. SILT will never abnegate or delegate its responsibility to conservation of the land and its wildlife and habitat values.

Ross Everatt
President