

Date: March 7, 2013

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Prepared for: Huu-ay-aht First Nation (HFN)

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## **ISSUE**

Request for support for Species at Risk recovery plans

## **KEY POINTS**

Parks Canada had a special meeting with HFN to discuss species at risk recovery planning on February 14, 2013. The following points are being brought forward for consideration of Executive Chief and Council.

Parks Canada is seeking support from HFN on the posting of the draft Recovery Strategy for the Dromedary Jumping-slug by the end of March 2013.

## **Background:**

- Dromedary Jumping-slug is listed as Threatened under SARA
- Recovery strategies are science-based documents that outline the best available scientific information on a species. In the future, one or more action plans would be developed in collaboration with affected parties to outline specific activities to protect the species.
- Critical habitat for Dromedary Jumping-slug is found in two known areas adjacent to HFN's Treaty Settlement Lands:
  - Keeha Beach Trail in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Location 13 in the strategy document, see end of note for map). The Keeha Beach Trail goes through the critical habitat.
  - Private lands in Bamfield (Location 3 in the strategy document, see end of note for map).

## **Potential Impacts of Critical Habitat (key points are underlined):**

- Critical habitat will be protected on an on-going basis, unless the species is down-listed to Special Concern or removed from the list after re-assessment (note: that there is some probability that it will get downlisted in a few years time due to our success in finding new populations to offset perceived extinction risk).
- The type of protection mechanism depends on the land tenure. The critical habitat in the park would be automatically protected 180 days after the strategy is finalized.
- Dromedary Jumping-slug requires forested lands with an intact canopy and high levels of moisture to survive. Low impact activities can still be permitted within the critical habitat area, but higher-impact activities such as timber harvesting would not be (basically anything that would dry out the forest floor would be problematic).
- Activities likely to destroy critical habitat are listed under Table 2 (page 27) of the strategy. This table is included for your reference on the next page.
- Within the small critical habitat area on the Keeha Beach trail, any development that takes place would have to consider critical habitat requirements (noting that such consideration would be limited to just the critical habitat area).
- For example, any trail improvements would require planning to ensure they do not destroy habitat. The trail material used would be important (e.g., natural dirt would be preferable over gravel, though some types of gravel might be acceptable). Upgrades to the trail would likely be acceptable, as long as they are properly planned. However, removal of trees would not be permitted in this area as that would increase sunlight on the forest floor.
- Traditional uses would be able to continue in critical habitat areas, providing they do not alter the moisture on the forest floor.

- Any development plans in the area in the future would need to consider this species in an Environmental Assessment (though this would apply to any development in the park, not just the critical habitat).

## REQUEST

- Parks Canada Species at Risk scientists are seeking HFN Executive Chief and Council’s support for:
  - Completion and posting of the Dromedary Jumping-slug Recovery Strategy and protection of associated critical habitat

Please contact Ross Vennesland at (604) 666-4648 or email: [ross.vennesland@pc.gc.ca](mailto:ross.vennesland@pc.gc.ca) with questions.

**Table 2. Examples of activities likely to result in destruction of critical habitat.**

Activity likely to destroy critical habitat	Potential effect(s) on attributes at local scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and temporary loss of all local habitat types</li> <li>• Decrease in interior forest conditions</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat (increase in edge effects)</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development (e.g. building housing or golf courses over habitat)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and permanent loss of all local habitat types</li> <li>• Decrease in interior forest conditions</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat (increase in edge effects)</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineral or aggregate extraction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and temporary or permanent loss of all local habitat types</li> <li>• Decrease in interior forest conditions</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat (increase in edge effects)</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linear developments (e.g. roads, transmission lines)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and permanent loss of all local habitat types</li> <li>• Decrease in interior forest conditions</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat (increase in edge effects)</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational structures (e.g., wide walkways, large platforms, kiosks, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and permanent loss of all local habitat types</li> <li>• Conversion of soil to other substrates (e.g., gravel)</li> <li>• Fragmentation of habitat (increase in edge effects)</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of exotic or invasive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative changes to habitat functioning (e.g., exotic plants can impact availability of food sources)</li> <li>• Increase in competition or predation (e.g., exotic animals can compete for food sources or can increase mortality from predation)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of herbicides and other chemicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and temporary loss of habitat types</li> <li>• Negative changes to shade (decrease) and moisture levels (increase or decrease)</li> <li>• Impairment of habitat function (e.g., chemicals can act as a poison within the environment)</li> </ul>

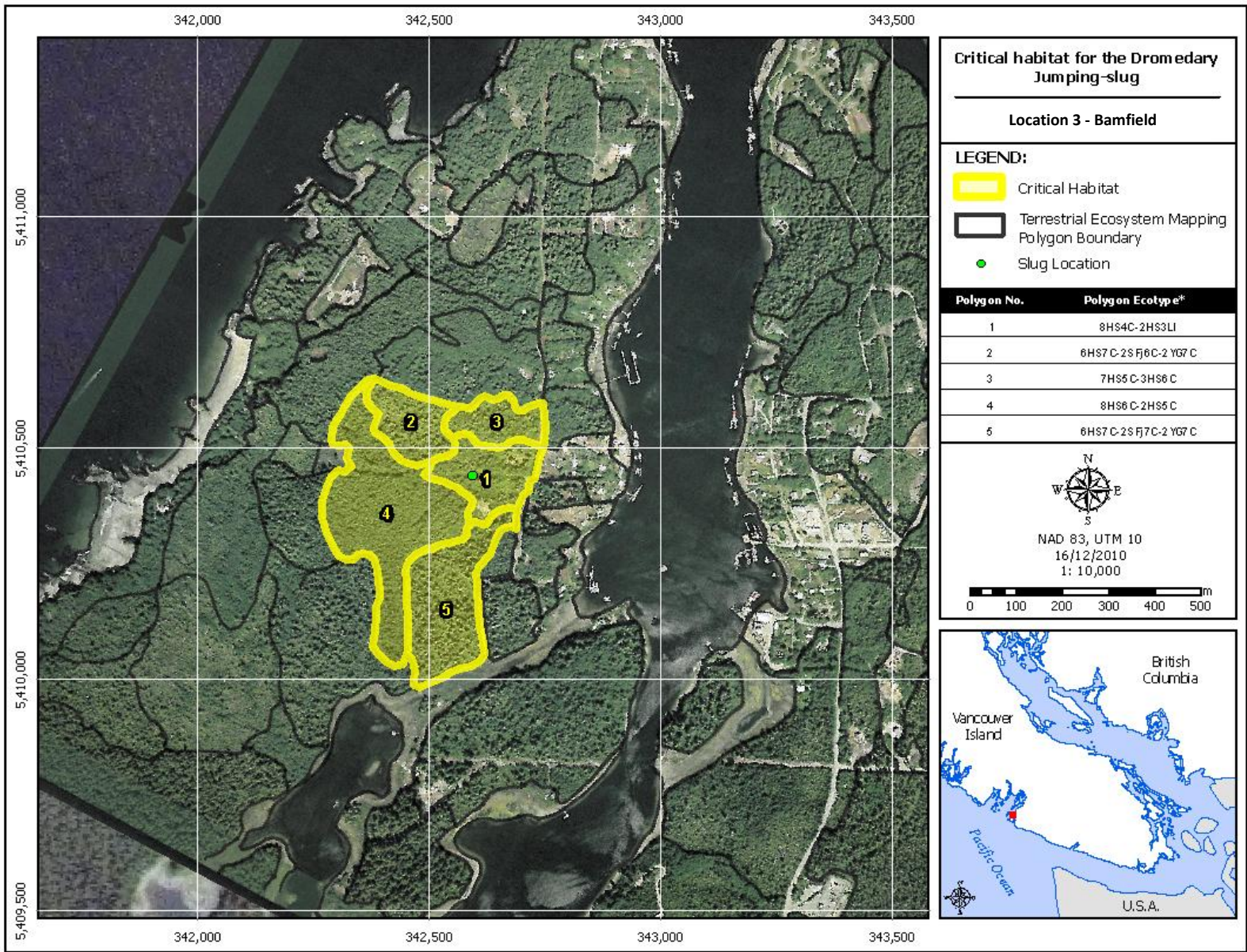


Figure 1. Area within which critical habitat for Dromedary Jumping-slug is found at Location 3, Bamfield. \*The numbered polygons depicted refer to the ecological units of habitat included in the identification.



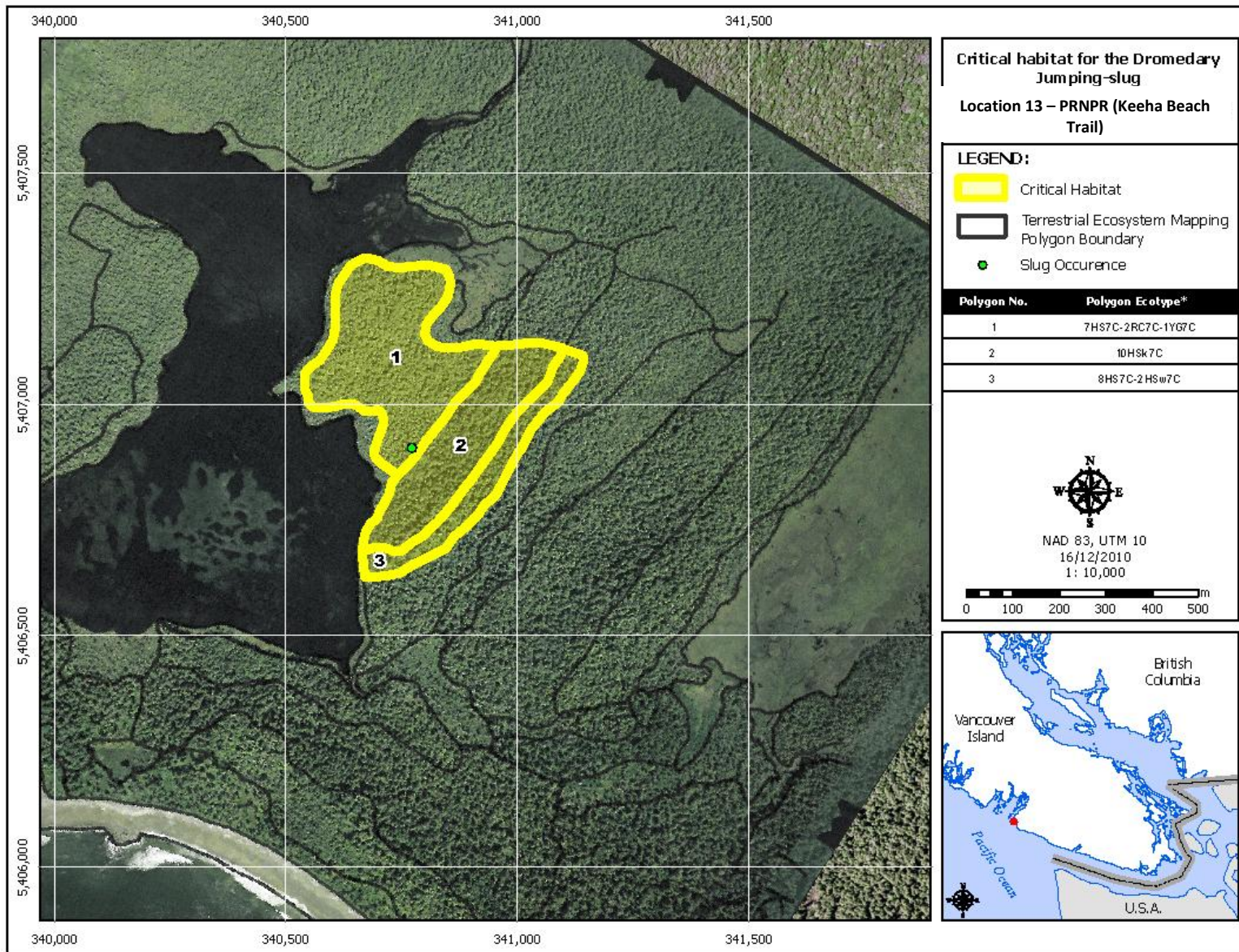


Figure 2. Area within which critical habitat for Dromedary Jumping-slug is found at Location 13, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (Keeha Beach Trail). \*The numbered polygons depicted refer to the ecological units of habitat included in the identification.