



The Corporation of Delta

Burns Bog International Designation

September 13, 2010



Ramsar Designation

- Burns Bog Management Plan sets out an action to investigate international designations and apply for designation if appropriate
- The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) called the "Ramsar Convention" is an intergovernmental treaty that guides member countries to plan for the sustainable management of wetlands in their territories
- Benefits include raising international profile and increased funding potential



Ramsar Designation

- Ramsar designation requires that a wetland be at least 1 of the following:
 - 1) Contains an example of a unique or rare natural wetland
 - 2) Supports vulnerable, endangered species or threatened ecological communities
 - 3) Supports plant/animal species important for maintaining biological diversity
 - 4) Supports plants/animals during critical development stages or provides refuge
 - 5) Supports 20,000 or more waterbirds
 - 6) Supports 1% of a population of waterbirds
 - 7) Supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish
 - 8) It is an important source of food, spawning ground, nursery or migration path for fish stocks
 - 9) Supports 1% of a non-avian wetland dependent species



Ramsar Designation

- Countries can nominate sites as a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance
- Application is vetted through Federal government and then on to the Ramsar Secretariat for consideration
- Significant background technical information in support of the application is required
- Letter of support from all land owners is required



Process to Date

- Metro Vancouver initially proposed pursuance of Ramsar designation at the March 26, 2010 Board Meeting
- With Council's support, Delta CAO George V. Harvie asked that this be delayed until such time as the potential to add as much as an additional 1000 acres of land are discussed and covenant partners are appropriately informed
- Delta has committed to adding additional lands to the covenant
- Delta has contacted the Provincial Government and the Federal Government to obtain partner concurrence



Meeting of Partner Agencies

- Meeting Held September 2, 2010
- Environment Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, Metro Vancouver and Delta
- Agreement of all parties that an application for Ramsar designation be pursued




Area Proposed to be Included

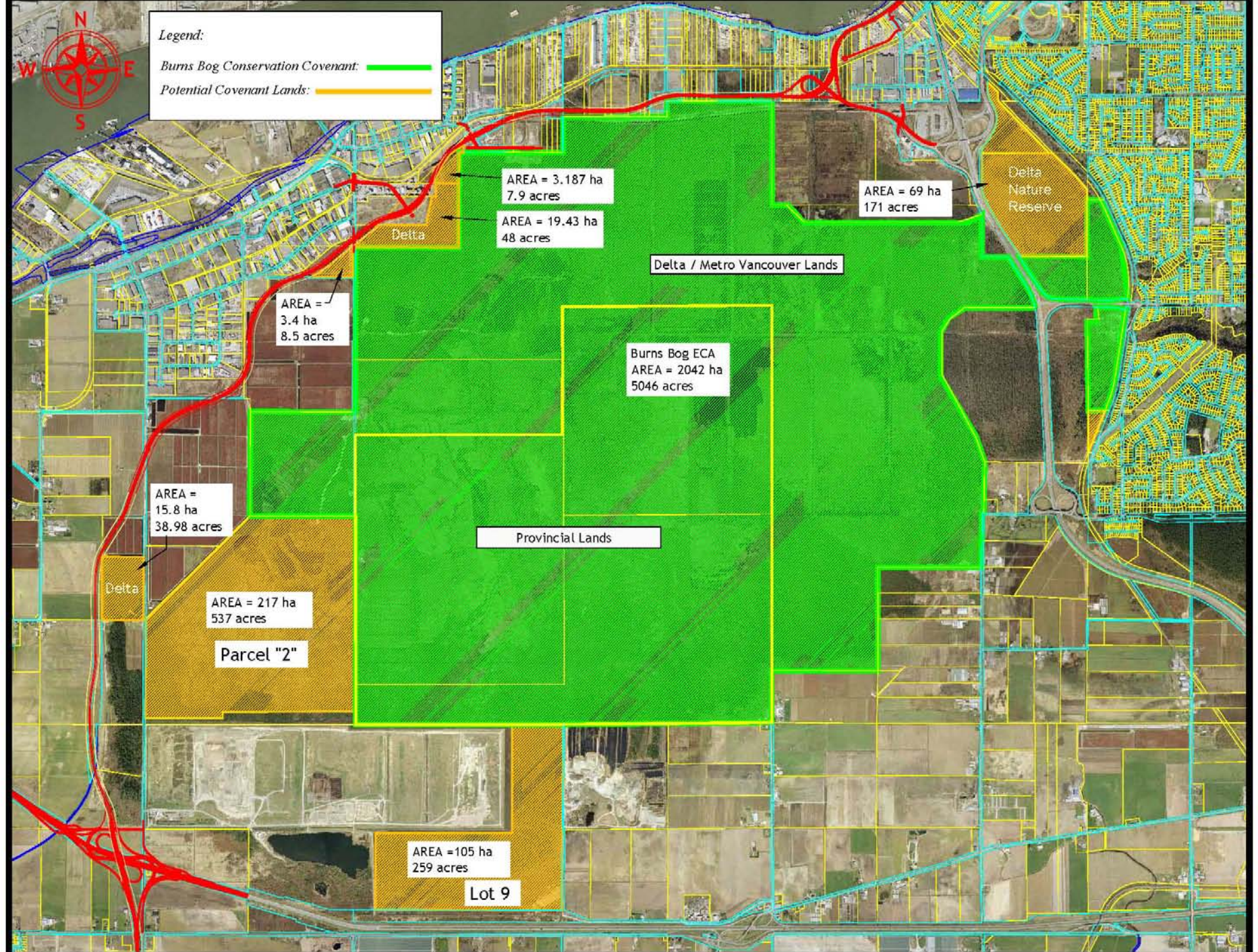
- Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area
- Delta owned land to be added to the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area
- Provincial Wildlife Management Areas in Fraser River Estuary
 - Recommend Delta consult with Richmond and Surrey
 - BC Ministry of Environment investigating further



Legend:

Burns Bog Conservation Covenant: 

Potential Covenant Lands: 



AREA = 3.187 ha
7.9 acres

AREA = 19.43 ha
48 acres

AREA = 69 ha
171 acres

AREA =
3.4 ha
8.5 acres

AREA =
15.8 ha
38.98 acres

AREA = 217 ha
537 acres

Parcel "2"

Burns Bog ECA
AREA = 2042 ha
5046 acres

Provincial Lands

AREA = 105 ha
259 acres

Lot 9

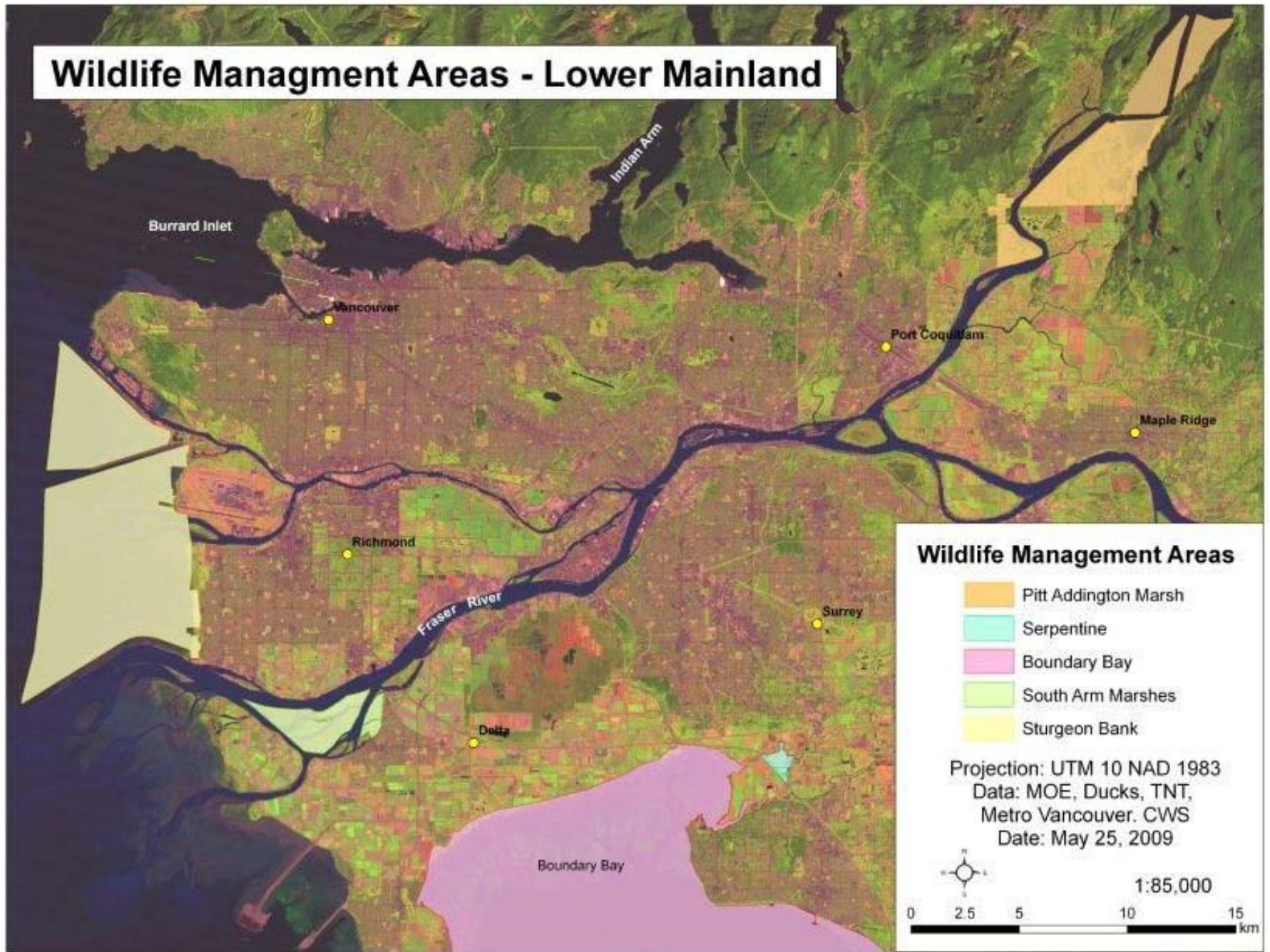
Delta Nature Reserve

Delta / Metro Vancouver Lands

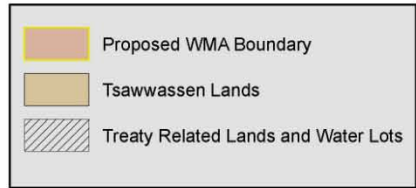
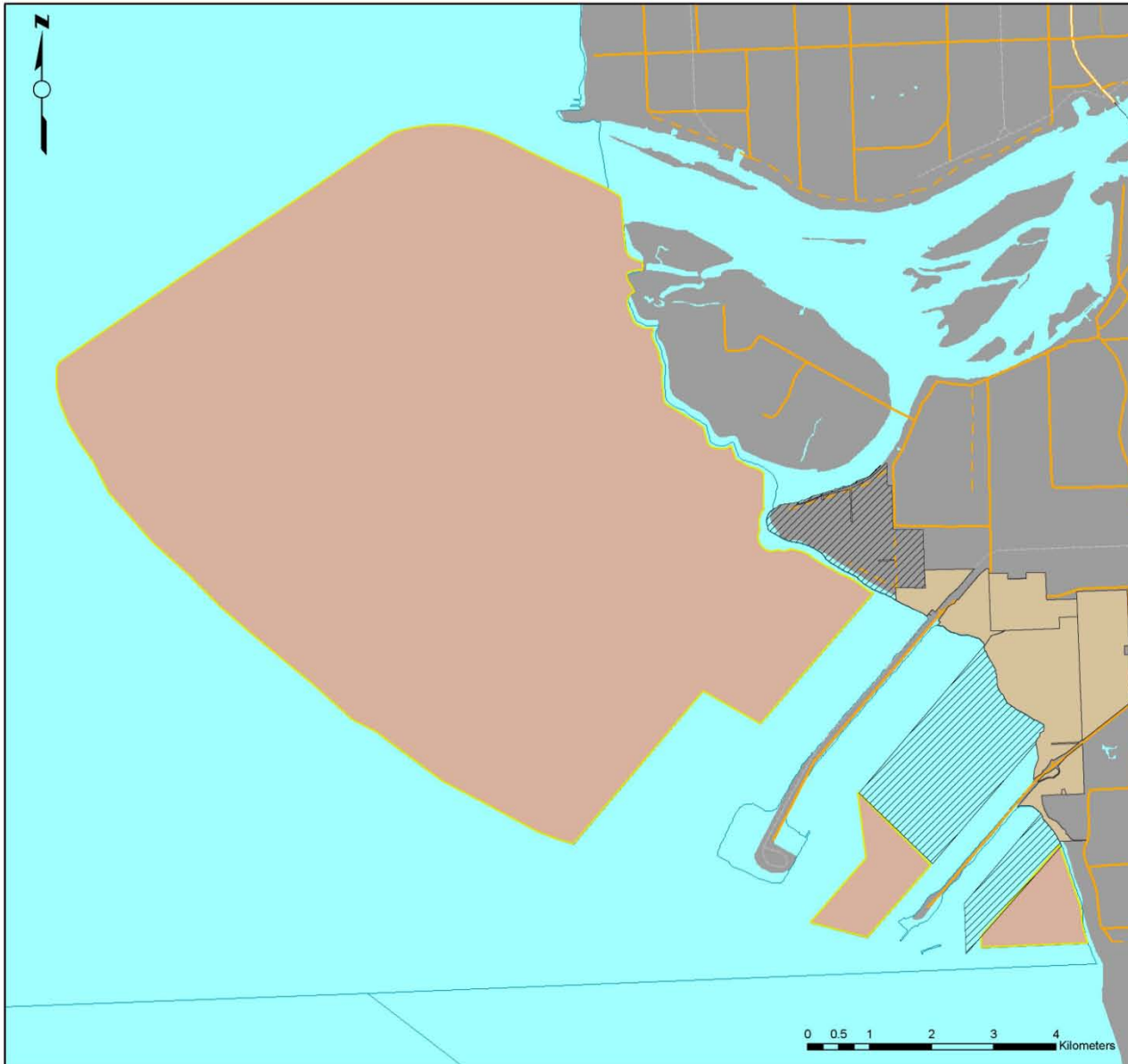
Delta

Delta

Wildlife Management Areas - Lower Mainland



Proposed Roberts Bank Wildlife Management Area





Recommendations

- THAT Mayor Lois E. Jackson write to Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Mayor Dianne Watts to seek support for the addition of the Provincial Wildlife Management Areas within the Cities of Richmond and Surrey for an application to designate Burns Bog and the surrounding Provincial Wildlife Management Areas as a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance.



Recommendations

THAT staff work with Environment Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, and Metro Vancouver to prepare a draft application for designating Burns Bog and the surrounding Provincial Wildlife Management Areas as a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance for Council's consideration.