

OPSSRA No Dumping Sign Field Tour – February 4, 2016

Illegal dumping of domestic, hunting and building waste in our communities of Otter Point, Shirley, and Jordan River in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDF-EA) has been an on-going problem for a number of years. A number clean-up efforts have been conducted in the past by students at Edward Milne Secondary School and vigilant members of our communities, as well as many efforts made on the part of OPSRRA to raise greater attention to the problem with CRD.

In January (2016), OPSRRA was informed by the JDF-EA Director that CRD By-Law Services had twelve “No Dumping” signs available for posting at illegal dumping sites around our three communities. The signs, comprised of corrugated plastic boards (2' X 1.5 '), read as follows:



On the drizzly morning of Thursday, February 4, four members from the OPSRRA Board of Directors, including Marika Nagasaki, Debb Read Brenda Mark and Bill Dushenko conducted a field tour visit of known dumping areas in our communities. A priority list of eleven of the worst dumping sites and their locations were identified and photo-documented for these signs and are included in the two maps which follow.

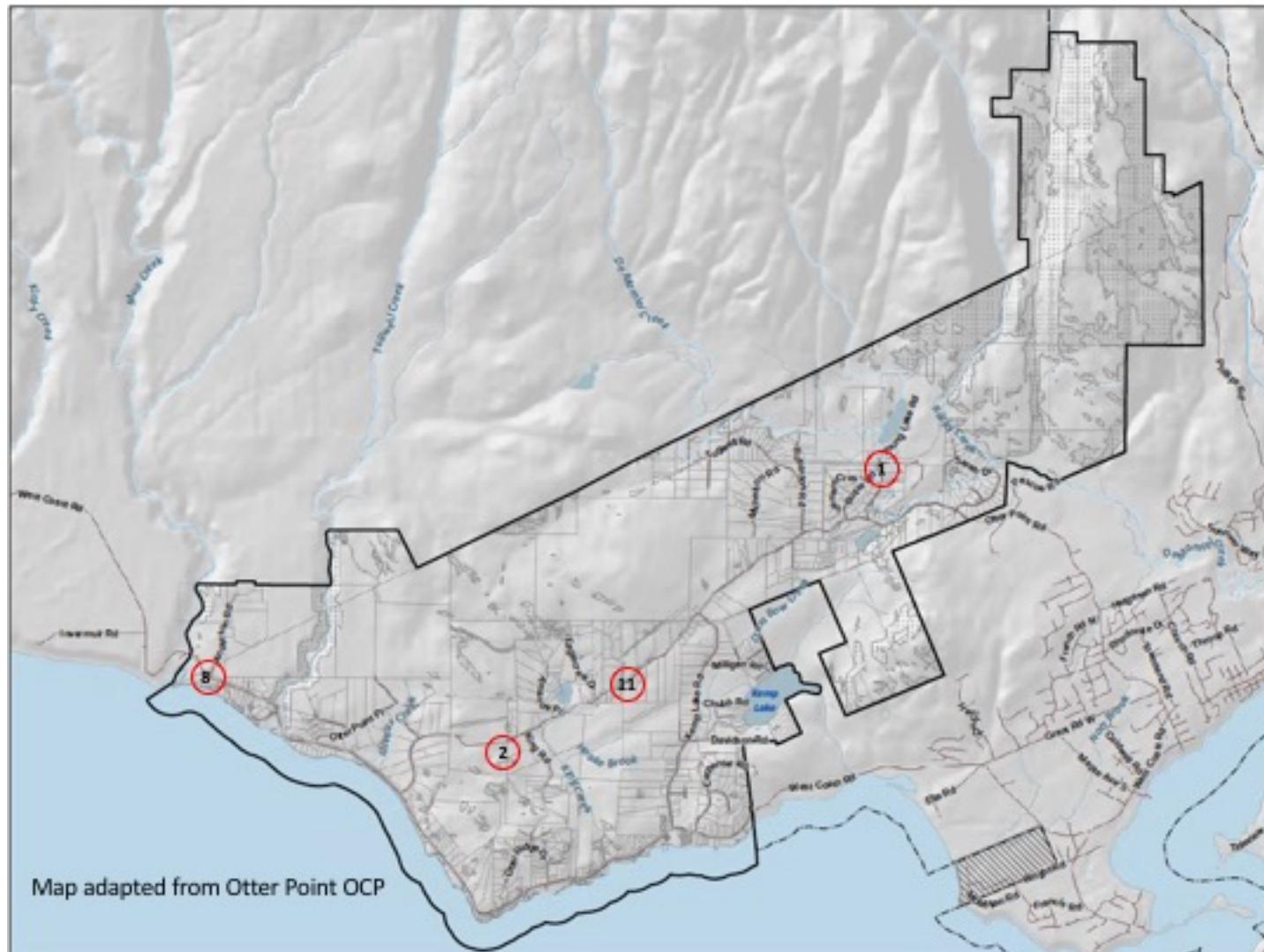


OPSRRA Board Members (left to right): Debb Read (Vice President), Bill Dushenko, Brenda Mark (Treasurer) and Marika Nagasaka (President)

The worst sites identified as priorities for signage included four sites in Otter Point, including Demamiel Creek along a private road running east of the five-way intersection of Butler, Poirier and Young Lake Roads; and seven sites in Shirley and Jordan River, including Muir Creek Bridge along West Coast Road (Shirley) and Fore Bay Road (Jordan River). An old, small CRD “no dumping” sign was also identified along the private road by Demamiel Creek in Otter Point which also required replacing.

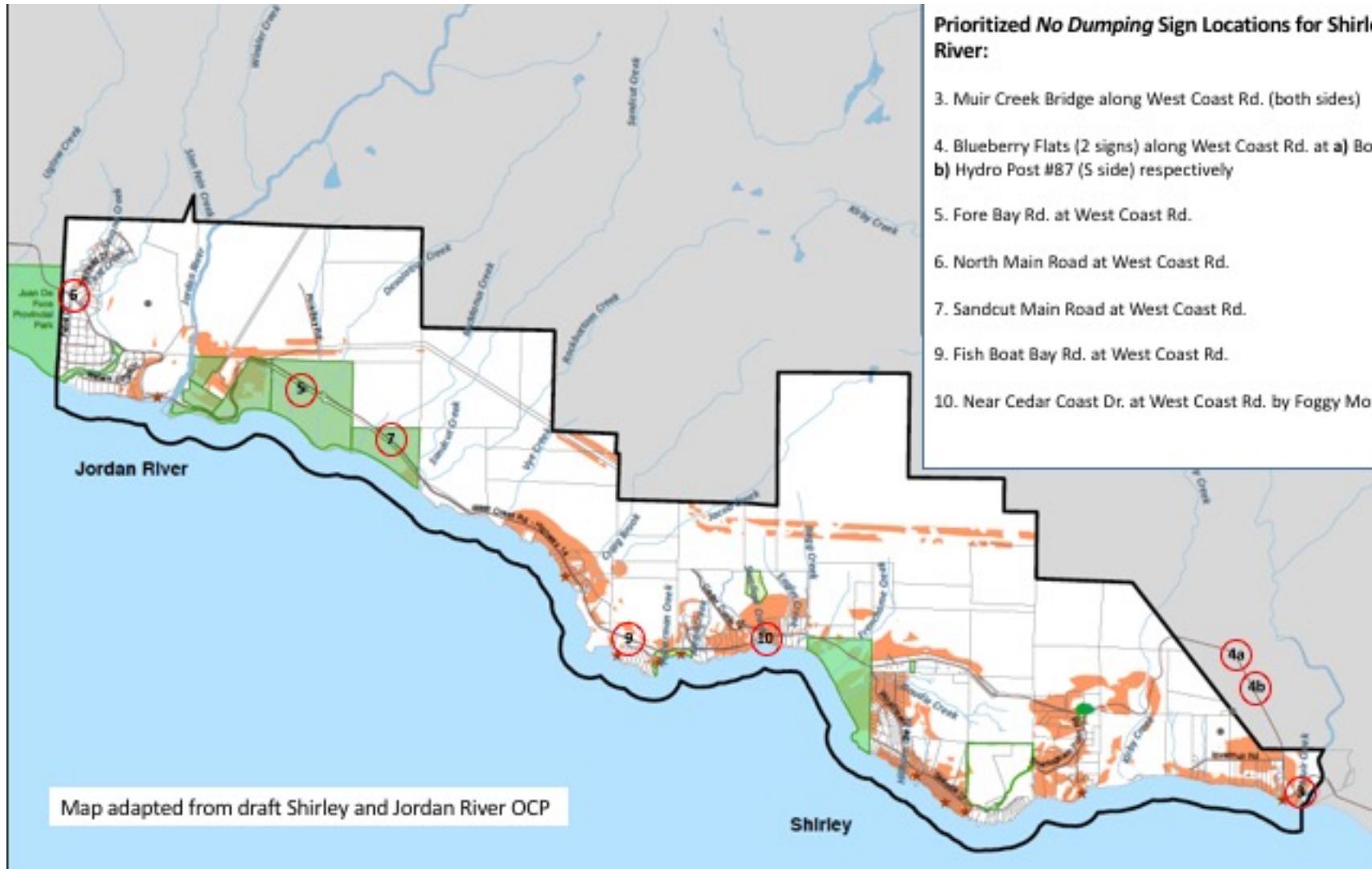


Abandoned mattresses at Cedar Coast Drive on West Coast Road.



Prioritized No Dumping Sign Locations for Otter Point:

1. Demamiel Creek: five-way intersection at Poirier Rd., Young's Lake Rd. and Butler Rd. (a 2nd old CRD no dumping sign needs replacing further down along private road east from intersection to Butler Place)
2. Otter Point Road at pullout near King Creek
3. Anderson Rd at West Coast Rd.
11. Farmer Rd. at Otter Pt. Rd.



Prioritized No Dumping Sign Locations for Shirley and Jordan River:

3. Muir Creek Bridge along West Coast Rd. (both sides)
4. Blueberry Flats (2 signs) along West Coast Rd. at a) Boyd Pit (N side) and b) Hydro Post #87 (S side) respectively
5. Fore Bay Rd. at West Coast Rd.
6. North Main Road at West Coast Rd.
7. Sandcut Main Road at West Coast Rd.
9. Fish Boat Bay Rd. at West Coast Rd.
10. Near Cedar Coast Dr. at West Coast Rd. by Foggy Mountain Forge.

Some of the refuge dumped at these sites included domestic waste (e.g., kitchen garbage, appliances, fixtures), commercial and building waste (e.g. wood, particle board, shavings and dry wall), and hunting waste (e.g., carcass and skeletal remains of a young bear kill, deer and other animals). Some photo examples are provided below.



Domestic waste including kitchen refuse, small household appliances and fixtures.



Young bear carcass at illegal dumping site at Blue Berry Flats

It was also clear at some illegal dumping sites that bears or other scavengers were attracted and had ripped open discarded garbage bags and other containers, and dragged this refuse further into the bush.



Domestic refuse foraged and scattered by scavengers.

OPSRRA contacted the CRD By-Law Services Officer with the information and arranged to have these signs posted at the designated location in our communities. On the morning of Friday February 12th, two OPSRRA Board Members (Debb Read and Bill Dushenko) accompanied Andrew Freer, a By-Law Officer with CRD, to guide and assist him with locating the sites and nailing the signs in place.



Andrew Freer (CRD By-law Officer), Bill Dushenko and Debb Read (OPSRRA Board)



Posting a new CRD “No Dumping” sign at Muir Creek Bridge



Old CRD “no dumping” sign by Damamiel Creek east of Young Lake Road

OPSRRA, as a community organization, has also been invited by the CRD Director to put in a request for grant funding to the CRD in order conduct a cleanup of some of these illegal dumping sites this spring. As your Board has limited resources, we are requesting that anyone who would like to become involved and help organize this cleanup event to send us by email at opsrra@gmail.com.

Other resources concerning illegal dumping and waste are also available including the following:

- *Sooke Illegal Garbage Disposal Watch* - a FaceBook page recently set up by Tara Alberti for identifying and reporting on illegal dumping activities in the area, as well as building education and awareness;
- Zero Waste Sooke (<http://zerowastesooke.ca>) – a community organization *dedicated to clean(er), green(er), wholly realistic dreams of a hometown region that reduces and manages its ecological footprint in the most practical and common sense ways possible*; and
- The CRD site on abandoned waste and illegal dumping (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/illegal-dumping>)

Some sage advice from one recent post in the *Sooke Illegal Garbage Disposal Watch* Facebook site...

Just a reminder to be very careful if you approach someone who is illegally dumping something. They KNOW that what they are doing is illegal, and they don't want to be caught doing it. Take photos and description of the plates and people before you approach them, if you decide to that, post that info and call the police or municipality immediately. If you speak to them, let them know that the police have already been notified with their description. Be cautious, I have been threatened by people that I have come across illegally dumping when I have been riding in the back woods.

As cautioned above, if you do come across some illegal dumping activities, please immediately call the **Sooke RCMP at 250-642-5241** (<http://sooke.ca/departments/protective-services/rcmp/>)

Together, through our combined efforts, we can help make our community environments cleaner and free from illegal dumping and abandoned waste! ☺