

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Old Growth Strategic Review written submission
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2019 10:59:03 AM

From: robert@ajae.ca <robert@ajae.ca>
Sent: November 9, 2019 12:53 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Old Growth Strategic Review written submission

Dear Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,

The following is my response to government's request for input on the Old Growth Strategic Review.

1. What old growth means to you and how you value it.

Old growth should be conserved and special places preserved. The working forest should be protected for its economic value and that includes harvesting of old growth. I have worked in the BC forest industry for 30 years and have been affected adversely by misinformation regarding BC's management of old growth. I value old growth that special places must be preserved as they provide the blue-print for complex ecosystems that exist in old growth forests. Old growth forests provide many values to the public, many of which are not economic.

2. Your perspective on how old growth is managed now

Old growth is sustainably managed now because it considers environmental, social, cultural and economic interests together. Significant portions of old growth are protected from logging forever. The remaining old growth should be managed as part of sustainable forest management that considers equally economic, social and cultural interests.

3. Clearing up Misinformation about Old Growth and its label as a carbon sink.

Old growth is a carbon sink, yes, but an old growth forest does not sequester more carbon than a second growth stand. It's simple chemistry; trees absorb CO₂ and give off O₂. Where does the Carbon (C) go? It becomes the building structure of the tree and adds volume to the tree. Therefore, the forests that absorb the most CO₂ are the forests that are putting on the most volume, ie. growing the fastest. Forest inventory measurements tell us that Old Growth forests do not increase their volume, they have peaked and in many cases their volume (of merchantable wood) declines slightly with blow-down and disease. Fast growing 2nd growth stand on the other hand put on volume because they are absorbing much more CO₂.

Therefore, if we are to maximize the amount of carbon sequestration, we should be maximizing our sustainable harvest. We are far below our AAC today, especially on the coast

and restricting access to high economic value old growth because it's a carbon sink is misguided.

Managing a forest for its carbon sequestration alone, however, is also misguided. Ecosystems should never be managed for single objectives, otherwise disastrous results occur; we have several examples of this in our history (Wolves, Spotted Owl, etc).

Old Growth is a key part of the economy, environment, social, and cultural values. Each should have a share in it's continued conservation.

Regards,

Rob Schulz

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