

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Your Invitation to Participate in BC's "Old Growth Strategic Review"
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 8:12:24 AM

From: Alan Waters <alanwaters@quesnelbc.com>
Sent: December 10, 2019 12:21 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Your Invitation to Participate in BC's "Old Growth Strategic Review"

Please consider these comments and pass them on to Gary Merkel and Al Gorley. As a professional forester with over 40 years of experience working for industry, the Forest Service, as a consultant and the holder of two woodlot licences, I believe I have a well-rounded perspective on most forest management issues, including old growth management.

These are my personal comments about old growth management areas which are based on my experience in Quesnel where many old growth management areas contain stands of veteran and overmature Douglas-fir trees that are being decimated by Douglas-fir bark beetles. Many old growth management areas also contain a small component of lodgepole pine trees that were killed by the mountain pine beetle and have either blown over or are leaning and hung up in the crowns of larger Douglas-fir trees. As president of the Quesnel Woodlot Association I am aware that there are OGMA's that are directly adjacent to or in close proximity to over 30 of the 60 woodlot licences in Quesnel.

In answer to your first question I place considerable value on the maintenance of live old growth trees in old growth management areas that are actually managed so they will be as resilient as possible against insects, fire, windstorms and other factors that would kill these old trees. Large old trees can be majestic on their own as well as providing unique habitats for birds, wildlife and other organisms.

In answer to your second question, I have not seen any on the ground management of OGMA's locally and have been frustrated in my attempts to try to minimize Douglas-fir bark beetle mortality in the two OGMA's that are directly adjacent to my wife's woodlot licence. The policy for OGMA's seems to be "Let Nature take its course and if the trees die and burn in a wildfire there will still be some ecological value in dead, burnt overmature trees." I believe there will be far more lasting ecological value if OGMA's were managed to try to keep the majority of old trees in each OGMA alive.

In answer to your third question, I am not optimistic that better management of OGMA's can be achieved without significant policy changes and possible funding from an environmental charity that is extremely interested in on the ground management of OGMA's.

I have attempted to minimize Douglas-fir bark beetle mortality in the OGMA's next to our WL by falling and harvesting over 115 trap trees in the woodlot licence in locations directly adjacent to the OGMA where Douglas-fir bark beetle attacked trees were present. I asked the Forest Service district office if they would fund me to place MCH, (the Douglas-fir beetle anti-aggregative pheromone), in the highly susceptible stands in the OGMA and they said they could not provide a direct award contract for such work and didn't have any budget for such a project.

For several years I have had good success using MCH to prevent Douglas-fir beetle attack on veteran Douglas-fir trees I had preserved as wildlife trees and in stands of mature Douglas-fir that I did not want to harvest that were in close proximity to Douglas-fir blowdown that was full of adult bark beetles that

were about to emerge. The Forest Service locally doesn't believe that MCH is all that effective but they often place their MCH in the woods using contractors and don't complete this work until after the Douglas-fir bark beetle flight has already started. In order to be most effective MCH must be placed in the woods before the bark beetle flight starts.

The trap trees were harvested in November and were successful in drawing most of the bark beetles out of the OGMA. A few trees were still attacked by bark beetles in the OGMA but permission to harvest them was denied. I asked again if it would be possible to obtain funding to place MCH in the highly susceptible stands in the OGMA but was refused.

The following year there was more Douglas-fir beetle attack on the woodlot licence area where the trap trees had been removed and just inside the OGMA where it is adjacent to the WL. I harvested the beetle infested timber on the WL and applied for a small scale salvage FLTC to harvest 0.36 ha in the OGMA. The FLTC was issued in late February which meant I had to plow snow on several km. of road to harvest the OGMA. At \$39/m³ stumpage the operation was certainly not profitable and I have since decided not to harvest more small scale salvage FLTC's at such ridiculous stumpage rates.

To be successful in maintaining OGMA values you need dedicated individuals who will carry out ongoing management on specific OGMA's on a long term contractual basis. The Forest Service doesn't seem to be able to get out of the office to orchestrate the work that needs to be done on an annual or periodic basis. As a woodlot licence holder I would have been interested in managing the 2 OGMA's next our WL if I could do it on an efficient contractual basis so that annual bark beetle probes, placement of MCH, fire risk reduction treatments and very careful harvesting at a fair stumpage rate could be done in a way that maintains old growth values.

OGMA's with an abundance of dead standing overmature trees and blowdown are an extreme fire hazard that often have poor access for rapid fire suppression. Veteran trees act as lightning rods and are often struck by lightning since they are the tallest trees on the landscape. I have seen several small fires ignited this way and many other veteran trees that have been struck by lightning (see attached photo). Under current policy these OGMA's are not a priority for fire risk reduction treatments for legitimate reasons.

A small scale harvesting contact that is competitively awarded to a select group of very skilled operators who are dedicated to carefully extracting dead and beetle infested trees in conjunction with fire risk reduction and bark beetle management treatments might be a way to maintain old growth values in OGMA's. Major licensees in our area don't seem to be interested in aggressive bark beetle management on a small scale basis or burning of winter harvesting debris that becomes infested with bark beetles, before the beetles emerge the next spring.

Please contact me if you would like to further discuss any of my comments.

Al Waters, RPF

From: Brian McNaughton [mailto:lone_tree@telus.net]

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 11:32 AM

To: FBCWA Members & Board <lone_tree@telus.net>

Subject: FW: Your Invitation to Participate in BC's "Old Growth Strategic Review"

The following email is an invitation for groups like the Federation and its member Associations to participate in the Old Growth Strategic Review. Tentative dates and locations are noted. If you or your Association is interested in participating, please submit an expression of interest using the live link near the

end of the email.

Brian

From: "Kachanoski, Steve B FLNR:EX" <Steve.Kachanoski@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019 at 9:44 AM
To:
Subject: Your Invitation to Participate in BC's "Old Growth Strategic Review"

Hi all...

Apologies for any cross postings for this, as I do recognize a few names in this list. For those folks in and around Nanaimo, sorry for the late notice on this. **The panel is planning on being in Nanaimo on Thursday, Oct 24th**. Hopefully you are able to find some time, but if not, the panel is flexible for other arrangements.

Your Invitation to Participate in BC's "Old Growth Strategic Review"

Garry Merkel, a professional forester and natural resource expert, and member of the Tahltan Nation, and **Al Gorley**, a professional forester and former chair of the Forest Practices Board have been appointed as an independent panel to engage with First Nations, industry, stakeholders and communities to hear perspectives on the ecological, economic, social and cultural importance of old-growth forests. Reporting back to government in spring 2020, their recommendations are expected to inform a new approach to old-growth management for British Columbia.

You're invited to participate in this strategic review by applying to meet with the independent panel to share your thoughts. Al and Garry are interested to hear:

- *What old growth means to you and how you value it*
- *Your perspective on how old growth is managed now*
- *How you think old growth could be managed more effectively in the future*

Subject to demand and availability, the panel expects to be in your area on the following dates.

- Oct 24/25 – South Central Van Island
- Oct 28-31 – Skeena / Nechako
- Nov 7/8 – North Vancouver Island
- Nov 12-15 – Thompson / Shuswap
- Nov 18 and 21 - Vancouver
- Dec 2/3 – Northeast BC
- Dec 4-6 – Vancouver / Sunshine Coast
- Dec 9 – Haida Gwaii
- Dec 12/13 – Vancouver / Victoria
- Dec 16 – Sea to Sky
- Dec 17-20 – Cariboo / Okanagan

Please express your interest in setting up a meeting with the panel by

completing an on-line expression of interest.

Every effort will be made to accommodate in-person meeting requests, however if a suitable time cannot be found, a meeting by phone may be offered.

Regards

Steve Kachanoski

Project Manager | **Old Growth Strategic Review**

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