

Old Growth Strategic Review Submission

1) What old-growth means to me and how I value it:

I greatly value primary old-growth forest in its diverse forms throughout BC's different climatic regimes, as it is actively serving many natural functions, including but not limited to the following:

- Valuable and even critical habitat for many plant and animal species, including microbes (biological diversity);
- Source of genetic diversity for plants and animals, including microbes;
- Source of potentially valuable medicines;
- Exceedingly complex natural laboratory for us to learn from;
- Fully functional, potent carbon sink for the potentially irreversible damage from the excess carbon we continue to recklessly dump into our global biosphere;
- A place for inspiration, renewal, first nation's cultural practices, awe, and a link to the past for everyone including those who will hopefully follow us;
- A final, slim chance for us to agree that "enough is enough" and to demonstrate that we actually care about the future.

2) My perspective on how old-growth is currently managed:

- Too much uninformed politics, too much old-school forestry as practiced by the likes of BC Timber Sales (get rid of "decadent" old-growth), too much conflict of interest, too much greed, and too little reliance on (or awareness of) progressive, evidence-based science;
- The ill-informed, BC government-backed, industrial-strength shooting of wolves from helicopters as a long-term solution to the extinction of mountain caribou, when what the caribou really need for their survival is an abundance of protected old-growth forest habitat, is a difficult poison pill to swallow;
- Insufficient protection of our unique BC Interior old-growth forests, which is intensifying the loss of grizzlies, mountain caribou, western screech-owls,

goshawks, as well as many other at-risk species which are associated with old-growth habitat.

3) How do I think old-growth could be managed more effectively in the future:

- Remove those in government (e.g. BC Timber Sales) who continue to stubbornly push for the obliteration of old-growth forest as our only economic solution for these uncommon, extraordinary forest ecosystems;
- Expeditiously transition BC's forest industry into meaningful long-term jobs in value-added manufacturing, while limiting forest harvesting to selected younger second- and third-growth;
- Fix the logging truck-size "ecosystem-based" loopholes which are permitting the destructive building of logging roads right through the middle of, and the cutting of, those old-growth forests with the best large western redcedars in the "protected" Southern Great Bear Rainforest (e.g. Interfor's logging on Gilford Island);

cf <https://thenarwhal.ca/the-great-bear-loophole-why-old-growth-is-still-logged-in-b-c-s-iconic-protected-rainforest/> (downloaded Nov. 29/19)

- Do not underestimate old-growth management area size needs, to ensure they are large enough to allow the greater ecosystem and its wildlife to flourish, while also including the necessary connectivity corridors and networks;
- Stop the wasteful practice of raw log exports.

Submitted by:

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