

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Written comments
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 3:49:35 PM

From: Anthony Britneff <britneff@telus.net>
Sent: January 21, 2020 3:44 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Written comments

The term “old growth forest” means forest that:

- Has never been industrially logged.
- Contains trees that are 250 years old or older.
- Is structurally complex. It includes old living trees, standing dead snags, long-downed logs, a multi-layered canopy, canopy gaps that allow understory growth, and hummocky micro-topography.
- Is where the complexity creates many habitats that support diverse interacting communities of specialists and generalists, from a rich soil micro-fauna to unique canopy communities, from berry bushes to devil’s club, from marten to caribou.

Old growth forests are important because they:

- Support biodiversity;
- Provide habitat for wildlife and fish; and,
- Are non-renewable

Old growth forests are threatened by logging, by other industrial activity and by roads.

Provincial parks, land-use plans and defined old growth area on the landscape are all important in the protection of old growth forests.

Additionally, the protection of old growth forests in B.C. requires:

The protection of old growth forest in BC requires:

1. Legislated protection of our remaining old growth. This should start with an immediate moratorium on harvesting in the most endangered forests, which include the remaining productive, accessible stands of the inland temperate and spruce-fir rainforests. A science-based plan for the protection of all remaining primary forests in the interior should follow this moratorium.
2. A just transition away from the industrial harvest of our remaining old growth forest and towards community-based forestry focused exclusively on second-growth. A planned but rapid transition to a sustainable economy that focuses harvesting on areas previously logged must occur. Returning public forests back to communities would enable this transition and would serve human and natural communities better than the existing tenure system.

As for “professional reliance” in the protection of old growth one must remember that past reliance has caused our current predicament. It is foolish to rely on professionals who maintain status quo

while expecting them to protect our last old growth forests. Reliance on conservation groups, ecologists, biologists, elder and youth would be an improvement on the *status quo*.

Respectfully,

Anthony Britneff

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