

SUBMISSION TO THE OLD GROWTH STRATEGIC REVIEW

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Thank you for the opportunity to consider this positive message.

Last year I read a report that indicated old growth forests on Vancouver Island have greatly diminished and are still being logged in large areas; often against Provincial guidelines. The statistics were alarming. This intrigued me to the point I had to investigate so I travelled through lower mainland British Columbia and Vancouver Island looking for remaining old growth forests. :

The result of this journey was educational, informative and most importantly mentally and physically spectacular; Walking through the forest is like 'losing my mind and finding my soul' Breathing became easier, deeper and stronger, scents are enlightening; the forest becomes mystical; magical.

I returned to BC some time later with a mandate to understand the complexity of the forest from a scientific viewpoint and then try to comprehend the existing forest practices. This led to imagining that there could be ECONOMIC alternatives to the existing practices. In other words; view the forest as trees left standing rather than trees cut down. Some of the opportunities may/could be a combination of many business interests:

- FOREST THERAPY walks are increasing popular and in California are considered medical prescriptions.
- FOREST SCHOOLS are increasing making an appearance in modern school curriculum
- MOUNTAIN BIKING is enjoyed by all age groups
- HIKING - always a great outdoor activity and recently the BIG TREE REGISTRY has promoted hiking to view the 'giants' of the old growth forest.
- BURIAL GROUNDS will need Provincial guidelines adapted but what a wonderful example of conservation and 'return to nature' death wish. There has been a strong growth in the existing Burial Industry to create areas of regular cemeteries for 'green' burial plots. Forests of old growth would be a natural extension for this new market.
- Along with tourism comes restaurants, accommodation, rentals, transportation, etc.
- NIGHT WALKING with light and sound show adds evening entertainment.
- TOURISM would greatly increase from around the world if we had a mandate to keep the trees and forests intact.

These are just a few of the simple ideas that could help change the view of forest management: IE View the forest left standing, not cut down.

I did thumbnail economic modeling and discovered that if you cut the trees you give economic advantage for 1-3 years then the area becomes dormant for the next 50-80 years. If you leave the trees standing you create economic advantage for EACH AND EVERY YEAR for the next 50-80 years.

These ideas need GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. Why not set a department that could :

1. Develop a solid economic model for change of use of old growth forests (a model that would include workers from the existing forest industries. This would bring about a new conversation once the economics are determined. (Science is important but economics seems to drive the decision process)

2. This department could continue to help communities implement the plans for sustainability

It seems to me in my reading that the forest industry is important with political clout but cyclical and nearing the end of large old growth forests. WE NEED TO PROTECT WHAT IS LEFT for scientific and economic reasons...

The journey I took was amazing and fulfilling

I developed a 43 min. video that explains my position in more detail and would like to enter as evidence supporting the economic order of the forest.

FORESTS ... ALIVE on Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/385894444>)

Thank You

Barry Campbell