

OLD-GROWTH FOREST REVIEW PANEL

Protecting BC's Old Growth Forests



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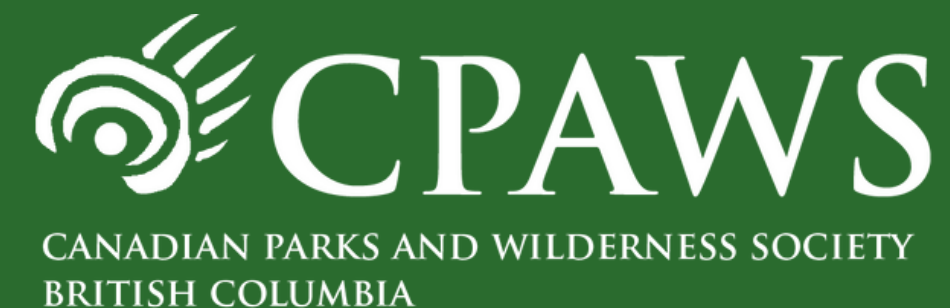
WHO WE ARE

Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society
- BC Chapter

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) has been working for the past 50+ years to protect public land, ocean and freshwater. We've played a lead role in protecting over half a million square kilometers.

The BC Chapter was founded in 1979. We continue to work with communities and governments across the province to gain significant protections.

Our mission is to ensure healthy and functioning ecosystems through protecting our wild spaces on land and in the ocean.



THE STATE OF BC CONSERVATION

Canada has committed to protect at least 17% of our land and freshwater by the end of 2020, and to substantially exceed this target in the long term as a cornerstone of safeguarding our natural heritage.



THE STATE OF BC CONSERVATION

BC has shown great leadership in nature protection, yet there is **strong evidence of the biodiversity crisis within our province**. From dwindling caribou herds to salmon runs going extinct.



THE STATE OF BC CONSERVATION

Old-growth forests are one of the most **under-represented ecosystems** in BC's protected area system. The new era of conservation presents an opportunity to preserve important and bio-diverse systems, while encouraging sustainable livelihoods in rural BC..

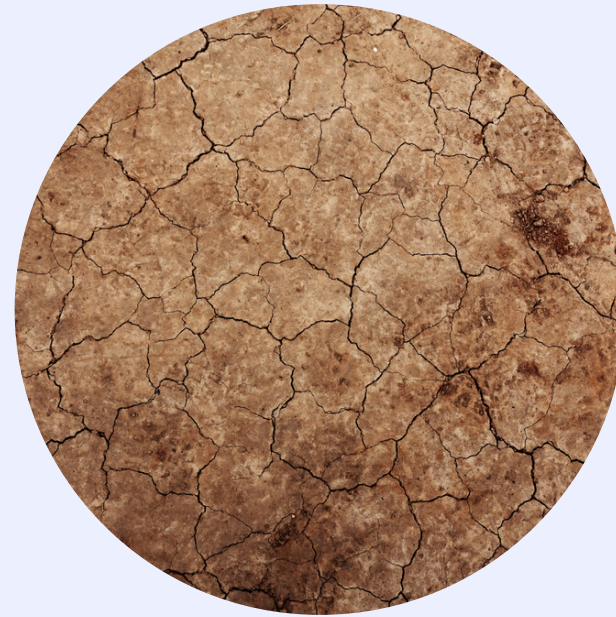


VALUES OF OLD-GROWTH FORESTS



BIODIVERSITY

Provide habitat for species at risk that are uniquely adapted to living in these systems - including mountain caribou in BC's Southern Rockies.



CLIMATE

Old-growth forests store carbon efficiently and protect from future impacts. Their protection is a key nature-based solution to climate change.



WATER

The provisioning of water and wild fish populations.

VALUES OF OLD-GROWTH FORESTS



ECOTOURISM

Provide world-class tourism opportunities and sustainable jobs.



CULTURE

These ancient trees are important to many First Nations cultures including Culturally Modified Trees.



HABITAT

Numerous species depend on old-growth for their food and shelter - such as Marbled Murrelets.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Industrial logging practices over the last 150+ years have resulted in over 75% of the original, productive old-growth forests being logged on BC's southern coast, including **well over 90% of the valley bottoms where the richest biodiversity and largest trees are found.**



CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The persistent logging of old-growth throughout BC continues to threaten vulnerable plant and animal species, **contributes heavily to the province's carbon emissions, degrades fresh water sources and wild fisheries.** Unsustainable logging practices adversely impacting the economy, communities, and cultures of First Nations whose unceded lands these are.



CURRENT MANAGEMENT

There is only **8%** of the original old-growth forests of the South Coast protected in parks, and out of this there is only **2.6%** that is highly productive valley-bottom old-growth. These statistics paint a different than the BC government's website which are tenfold these amounts.



CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Many of the designations which aim to protect old-growth outside of the protected area system have inadequate regulatory protections. These areas lack regulatory protections and may **permit incursions, boundary adjustments, salvage logging, and road building within them.** In addition, management decisions are often left to the forestry tenure holder, with little government oversight.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediately stop the destruction of old-growth forests

1. DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON OLD-GROWTH LOGGING

Phase out old-growth logging in the BC Timber Sales controlled lands.

Phase out old-growth logging in the Allowable Annual Cut.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. PROTECT ADDITIONAL ENDANGERED OLD-GROWTH FORESTS

Prioritizing Indigenous-led conservation projects, including financial support following models such as the Great Bear Rainforest to provide opportunities for transition away from old-growth logging.

Immediately begin conservation planning in areas of high priority including: areas that are more extensive and intact, have high cultural significance for First Nations, consist of rare forest types, are of high significance for wildlife and species at risk, are located in drinking watersheds of local communities, are particularly grand, and are of particular importance for recreation and tourism

Ensure **interim protection measures** are put in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improving accounting & monitoring systems

3. CREATE AN OLD-GROWTH PROTECTION ACT

Form an independent committee to develop and engage stakeholders in the path to creating this Act.

4. IMPLEMENT AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH

Which includes establishing legally-binding old-growth protection targets, based on the latest science, to sustain the long-term ecological integrity.

5. CLEAR AND TRANSPARENT ACCOUNTING

of current old-growth protections and retention targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Better management of existing tools

6. UPGRADES TO THE FOREST RESERVE NETWORK (OGMA'S)

Completion of and upgrades to the forest reserve network including Old-Growth Management Areas (OGMAs), Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs), Ungulate Winter Ranges, Visual Quality Objectives, Riparian Management Zones, and Recreation Areas.

Conversion of all non-legal reserves into legally binding ones and expand the system to protect additional endangered old-growth forests.



CONCLUSION

A NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTION

With proven natural solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises in hand, we have hope for a much brighter future for wildlife. Province-wide, there is a huge opportunity to capture high-biodiversity ecosystems.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION

CPAWS-BC and the conservation community working on old-growth continues to engage stakeholders including businesses, municipalities, and other key enterprises and can support the ongoing work to protect old-growth in BC.



THANK YOU

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