

6055 Lacon Road

Denman Island, BC, V0R 1T0

January 31, 2020

Old Growth Strategic Review Panel

Dear Panel members,

I am currently the vice-president for Comox Valley Naturalists Society (CVN) and a retired professor of ecology and evolution. I am writing this letter as a resident of BC and my comments don't necessarily reflect the views of CVN. However, the primary functions of the Society are "*to know nature, and keep it worth knowing*". CVN has about 200 members and offers monthly presentations at our meetings as well as frequent nature walks to educate our members and the general public about the rich biodiversity in our area. CVN is also active in many environmental activities that include wetland restoration and protection of sensitive ecosystems.

The Old Growth forests of BC (and elsewhere) are extremely valuable for maintaining high levels of plant and animal diversity not to mention the sequestering large amounts of carbon. It is very distressing to see how little Old Growth forest remains in southern BC. For example, maps of before and after logging show a dramatic graphic of this loss (<https://www.ancientforestalliance.org/learn-more/before-after-old-growth-maps/>). Therefore, it is obvious that the little remaining Old Growth forest in southern BC should be protected from any further logging. I would urge the review panel to make this recommendation in their report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Innes".

David J. Innes