



Denman Conservancy Association
P.O. Box 60, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

28 January 2020

Old Growth Strategic Review

Dear Panel Members,

We are writing on behalf of the Denman Conservancy Association (DCA), an organization of about 250 members based on Denman Island. DCA owns and/or manages some 240 hectares of conservation land on this island and holds Conservation covenants on 207 hectares. Among our staff, directors and members are scientists and professionals with knowledge and expertise relevant to this Review.

Our conclusions and recommendations below apply solely to Vancouver Island and adjacent islands, as this is the area of our knowledge and expertise and the area of concern to our organization.

DCA is strongly opposed to the continuation of logging the Old Growth forests on Vancouver Island, and recommends that the Province suspend this practise immediately. The Province should use science-based evidence to move our forest industry towards true sustainability that falls in line with our Aichi Biodiversity and Paris Agreement's climate targets, to which we are signatories. We are cognisant of the jobs that currently depend on the old-growth logging; we recommend that the Province bring in subsidies to move logging to a more sustainable future and support the loggers. The panel could study what the Western Australia government did to support loggers when they halted old growth logging in their state. British Columbia could glean important lessons from such a study.

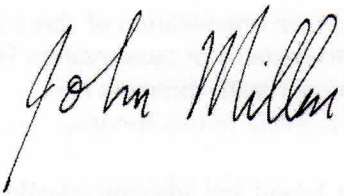
The remaining Old Growth forest stands are precious stores of biodiversity. – There are many scientific studies that show younger forests do not contain the amazing biodiversity stores of old forests. Our short rotation forests are virtually tree farms and in this age of biodiversity loss, especially of birds and mammals, we need to protect these ancient and irreplaceable forests. We cannot expect that commercial plantation forests will hold the diversity of species and genetic variation needed to cope with the forthcoming changes. Diversity is the key to adaption of forests to the unknown effects of the changes that are happening. Our observations of the regrowth of clear cut forest lands on Denman Island tells us that the full range of species in these forests only starts to return after many decades. We also now know that older forests sequester more carbon than younger forests; yet governments still cling to old outdated science that has been scientifically disproven. BC is increasing its carbon footprint with its many fossil fuel developments and needs to keep these forests on the landscape to help offset such

increases. By protecting them, we also increase our protected areas towards the target of 17% and hopefully, towards at least 20% as science suggests as a minimum.

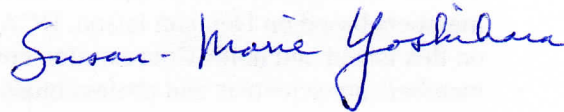
Retaining all of the remaining old growth forest on Vancouver Island is essential to preserving environmental, social, cultural and long-term economic values. It is inconceivable to us that the Province will allow the destruction of these extremely valuable remnants of our natural heritage for a small, short-term economic gain. Our Province needs to protect these old forests to better adapt and mitigate current and future climate change and to uphold our global commitments. Whether residents or tourists, we all feel the awe when we are in the presence of these giants – we need to ensure that we protect them in perpetuity.

As part of the findings of your Strategic Review, please recommend putting an immediate stop to logging Old Growth forests on Vancouver Island.

Yours sincerely,



Director, Denman Conservancy Association



Director, Denman Conservancy Association