

6041 Hyacinth Place
Duncan, B.C. V9L 3Y8
November 17, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion on the issue of the protection of old-growth forests in British Columbia, particularly on Vancouver Island.

At present, 79% of the original productive old-growth forests on B.C.'s southern coast have been logged including 90% of the valley bottoms where the largest trees grow. Only eight per cent of Vancouver island's original productive old growth forests are protected in parks and old-growth management areas. Despite this fact, Vancouver island marches ever closer to losing our last remaining productive old-growth forests.

Logging old growth forests is not in any way sustainable. It is a finite resource on Vancouver Island and most of it is already gone. These globally rare ecosystems support threatened species including wild salmon and keep our water and air clean. We must recognize that by destroying our forests, we are destroying our salmon and wildlife habitat along with great swaths of intact ecosystems.

With their ability to store more carbon than younger forests and buffer the impacts of extreme weather fluctuations, old growth forests are our greatest weapon and our strongest shield in the fight against the climate crisis.

Keeping old-growth forests standing is also critically important to protect Indigenous cultural values and make possible cultural tourism opportunities as an alternative to logging.

From a tourism perspective, protecting what remains of old old-growth forests on Vancouver Island and elsewhere in B.C. just makes really good economic and ecological sense. Left standing, these magnificent old-growth trees play a key role in sustaining B.C.'s "Super Natural" image and support the growth of communities and businesses offering unparalleled tourism opportunities.

It is vitally important that the B.C. Government protect the last remaining bits of temperate rainforests on Vancouver Island RIGHT NOW. - Many countries would give their eye teeth to have such a treasure trove of 1,000 year old trees. We must take a stand and not let these rare and ancient trees be logged. Indeed, old-growth forests are worth more standing than harvested.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on this important issue

Yours sincerely,

Denny Wagg

