

WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON OLD GROWTH FORESTS
NOVEMBER 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our opinion that to date the management of old growth forests has been ineffective. For decades we have seen forests logged/clearcut and replanted yet the public is told that it is still necessary to log old growth forests. If it's true that this is still necessary, then the forest industry is in a dire situation anyway, as the old growth will soon be gone. What then? The time is long overdue for investment in changing whatever in the process is necessary (mills, etc.) so that only second and third growth forests can be used to their full potential, without touching old growth. The planet is in crisis and action is required now.

In addition, we would like to make the following points:

- 1) So much attention has been given to the economic benefits of logging forests, old growth forests in particular (the value of the wood being much greater than second growth). What appears to take a back seat is the value of these forests to other less invasive economies, i.e. tourism. Having personally spent a November weekend in the town of Port Renfrew, staying in local accommodation, eating in local restaurants, the number of visitors witnessed at the Avatar Grove site was notable. During our visit to Avatar Grove we interacted with people from Quebec, Arizona, Mexico, and Eastern Europe. The main purpose of this visit was to see another area north of Avatar Grove aptly called Eden Grove currently marked for logging (as evidenced by flagging tape). When forests such as this are removed by logging their economic value ends after the wood is sold. Ancient rainforests such as this, left intact, can produce a large volume of spin-off in the tourism industry and local services forever. Value must be given to this economy.
- 2) The world recently watched while the Amazon rainforest burned, compounded by the continuance of clearcutting on a massive scale. This has been a disaster for the health of the entire planet. We in British Columbia hold a very special gem in the old growth forests that contribute to the better health of the planet, not to mention stability of hillsides, flowing of rivers, which in turn will help the fish, those that feed upon them, etc. It is important that these forests be cared for like the valuable contributor to planet health that they are. It is the responsibility of British Columbia to protect them.
- 3) In 2001 the world also watched in horror as the 6th Century Buddha statues of Bamyán, Afghanistan were torn apart by the Taliban. Many of our old growth trees were seedlings at the time these statues were built. How can we then continue to cut them down and see them gone forever like the Bamyán statues? Like the statues, they may be rebuilt/reforested, but they will never be the same.

Please note that we are both residents of Victoria, British Columbia. We also have a membership with the Ancient Forest Alliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns regarding the magnificent (living) old growth forests of British Columbia.

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