

January 31, 2020

Submission to the Independent Panel Review of Old Growth Management
Attention: Al Gorley, RPF and Garry Merkel, RPF
Submitted by Doug Fuller Woodlot 1671 Woodlot 0029

The forests surrounding Powell River are highly valued by our community. They are an integral part of the economy, the recreational activities, the cultural activities, and the area's identity. Logging and its supporting industries provide employment to many people in our community. The Woodlot Program provides a good balance for community needs in BC. Most Woodlots are located within the urban interface. Woodlot 1671 and Woodlot 0029 are good examples of how small tenures can have viable business, employing many people thru out the year. Outdoor recreation is extremely high on the Woodlots as well as gathering botanical forest products and mushroom picking.

One major concern for the Woodlots is the opening survey question which seems to be tailored to redefining "Old Growth". Our concern is that Old Growth will be redefined with a younger age criterion (such as the rumored 140 years old). This would have a devastating impact to the Woodlots, as increasing restrictions on the harvesting of older second growth stands (potential redefined as "old growth") would reduce the Woodlots viability and affect the local economy negatively.

The Woodlots have amazing second growth forest with most of our stands averaging 100 years old (78%) as identified in our latest forest inventory. The age class distribution for W1671 is currently unbalanced with a surplus of stands 81-100 years old. With our present sustainable harvest rate the component of mature timber will be reduced over time but will also carry over into older age classes. In 100 years' time, there will still be a significant portion of the Woodlot in age classes older than 120 years.

This older than age class will provide benefits to multiple values such as: increasing the amount of older serial forests and its associated habitat for wildlife and ecosystems, providing for a more attractive forest structure for recreational activities, providing for opportunities to grow higher value timber products with a higher percentage of clear wood produced.

If government continues to erode our working forest area (i.e. THLB) with all of the additional measures being proposed at this time (i.e. increasing OGMA requirements, establishing Ecosystem at Risk encumbrances for late serial forests, increasing Visual Quality Objectives, imposing static Wildlife Habitat Areas for dynamic wildlife species such as the Northern Goshawk), the economic viability of the small Woodlot will be questionable. Small communities need small business providing good paying jobs.

Regards,

Doug Fuller,

Woodlot 1671, Woodlot 0029

