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Old Growth (OG) Strategy review, EIS submission



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- The main goal of an OG strategy needs to be to re-establish the abundant historic, natural distribution of OG; in other words: to grow OG again.
 - It requires a long-term commitment
 - Lower the AAC gradually but steadily over a long period (i.e. 50 yrs) to get well on the way of achieving natural levels of OG again while giving the industry a chance to adapt
 - The goal is not total preservation of OG forests (except for ecological reserves), but a more natural age class profile in perpetuity (as natural disturbance regimes would produce it) and achieved by logging at a slower rate than today
 - This will deliver strongly towards the goals of:
 - biodiversity protection and restoration
 - climate change mitigation
 - fire resistance
 - reconciliation with FN's
 - human health
 - diversification of the economy (ecotourism etc.)
 - Over time, more valuable logs from OG harvesting will again be available
- Set aside immediately at least 30% of the OG area which would naturally (close to historic level) exist per biogeoclimatic zone, subzone & variant. These areas are meant to be ecological reserves and “biodiversity lifeboats” and are to be excluded from any future logging; don’t substitute OG with OG recruitment areas for these “lifeboats” unless there is not enough OG remaining; any OG recruitment areas need to be chosen from mature forests first.
- If not enough OG is available on public land, protect it on private land with financial incentives or re-purchase it to bring it back into public ownership.
- When establishing these OG reserves, aim to establish connectivity at the same time.
- Long-standing low impact OG management as practiced at Wildwood is exempt from the OG reserve and logging exclusion - the oldest trees will never be cut at Wildwood (except for danger trees) and will always be abundant throughout.

Wildwood is located at
2929 Crane Rd.
Ladysmith, BC

Sincerely,
Peter Jungwirth, Co-chair
Ecoforestry Institute Society