

From: [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)
To: [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)
Subject: FW: Submission re the Old Growth Strategic Review
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 9:32:45 AM

From: Evelyn Feller <evefeller@gmail.com>
Sent: January 30, 2020 9:40 PM
To: FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Submission re the Old Growth Strategic Review

To the Old Growth Strategic Review Panel:

As an active mountaineer, sea kayaker, and ski mountaineer for the last 40 years in BC, I have witnessed the ongoing decline of BC's old growth forests. I acknowledge that since the 1980's when groups like SPEC, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society began to advocate for old growth forest protection, the government did take some steps to protect old growth forests in areas like the Stein, Clayquot Sound and more recently with the establishment of the Great Bear Rainforest. However this summer as I was paddling in the Rugged Point and Nuchatlitz areas, I was dismayed to see the continuing loss of forests and poor logging practices. Whole mountain tops were still being scalped, roads scarred the slopes and fish bearing streams were being filled with sediment and debris. As I drove to Zeballos there was very little continuous forest, only fragments here and there, Yes, there was replanting and new trees growing but qualitatively it will not be the same forest perhaps for over 1000 years. Maps of old growth cover on Vancouver Island particularly in the Tessium Creek and the Upper Tahsish show how fragmented and how little old growth is left. This pattern is repeated across BC.

Old growth forests are just not valuable to BC but globally valuable. Similar debates are occurring across the world. In the State of Victoria, Australia the government is planning to phase out old growth logging within the decade. Given the destruction now of many old growth areas due to the fires there, what is left is increasingly precious. BC's old growth forests are just as vulnerable to destruction by fires given what happened in 2017 and 2018 and should not continue to be logged. BC old growth forests are significant because:

1. They are extremely biodiverse providing habitat for an incredible range of species from wolves, bears and cougars to many important invertebrate species.
2. They are important in retaining and attracting moisture and reducing impacts from severe rainfall events.
3. They are important for recreation and tourism. Many people who visit the areas of old growth in BC that have been protected have a sense of wonder seeing these trees because of their age and size and also enjoy learning about the complexity of these forests.
4. We still have much to learn about these trees. While the book 'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Peter Wohlleben is written to educate the broader public about the life of trees it presents a very strong case for preserving forests where tree health is optimised.
5. Old growth forests are better carbon capturers than young forests and can be important in mitigating climate change.
6. Old growth forests can be more fire resistant and can retard the speed of fires.

There are many arguments for protecting BC's old growth forests. It is important to place a moratorium on the logging of these forests while the panel is deliberating. The equivalent of 34 soccer fields of old growth logging per day on Vancouver Island alone should be stopped. I know BC has worked on transition plans for the industry when the fall down became evident in the 1980's and 90s but transition from old growth logging to community forests and second growth must be accelerated.

Yours truly

Evelyn Feller (Richmond, B.C) BCMC member