

**From:** [FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX](#)  
**To:** [Old Growth Strategic Review](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Old Growth Strategic Review written submission  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 11:14:54 AM

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**From:** Gary Gentile <garygentile@air-crane.com>  
**Sent:** January 31, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** FLNR Old Growth BC FLNR:EX <Oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Old Growth Strategic Review written submission

Dear Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development,

The following is my response to government's request for input on the Old Growth Strategic Review.

**What old growth means to me and how you value it.**

I am General Manager of Canadian Air-Crane Ltd. a second-*generation* timber harvesting contractor that has been in business for 34 years providing aerial timber harvesting services to BC's coastal forest industry.

Our company harvests old growth timber from working forests on Vancouver Island and the south coast of the mainland. Most notably these work forests fall under TFL44 in the Port Alberni/Bamfield areas, TFL39 in the Campbell River/Sayward/Powell River areas, TFL19 in the Gold River/ Tahsis/Zeballos areas, TFL6 in the Port McNeill/Port Hardy/Port Alice areas, TFL37 in the Woss area, TL0744/ TSQ04/A19217 in the Squamish/Pemberton areas and TFL46 in the Lake Cowichan area.

Additionally, we harvest old growth timber from various First Nations treaty lands including the Huu-ay-aht First Nations in the Port Alberni/Bamfield areas, Tseshah First Nations in the Port Alberni area, Pacheedaht First Nations in the Port Alberni area, Ditidaht First Nations in the Nit Nat/Port Alberni area, Toquaht First Nations in the Ucluelet area, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in the Tofino area, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations in the Gold River/Tahsis areas, Ehattesaht First Nations in the Zeballos area and the Klahoose First Nations in the Campbell River/Toba Inlet/Powell River areas. Continued access to these working forests is critical to my company's future and success.

I value old growth timber harvesting because my company creates **40** local, stable, well-paid jobs in the areas mentioned above. These, jobs allow people to work close to where they live and be part of the local community. Our company has an annual payroll of **4.6 million dollars**. We contribute to the local economy and help make the communities mentioned above a place where people can live and work. Additionally, Canadian Air-Crane Ltd. buys locally from a variety of suppliers and businesses of which **55** are located in Campbell River, **40** are located

in Nanaimo, 38 are located in Port Alberni, 13 are located in Courtney/Comox, 11 are located in Port McNeill, 10 are located in Port Hardy, 9 located are in Ucluelet/Tofino, 9 are located are in Lake Cowichan/Duncan, 8 are located in Parksville and 3 are located in Gold River/Tahsis. Yearly our business injects 1.5 million dollars into the local economies of these and other communities located close to BC's working forests.

**My perspective on how old growth is managed now.**

I believe that our old growth is managed well under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations which manages our crown forests for different resource values that include recreation, soils, sustainable timber supply, wildlife, water, fish, biodiversity, visual landscapes and cultural resources. This makes it one of the most sustainably managed forest regions in the world.

Economically old growth working forests create jobs and is critical to the economy of the province. Our forests currently support 140,000 total jobs in BC through timber harvesting and manufacturing forest products. Harvesting coastal old growth represents almost half of the coastal harvest. Reductions of such would most certainly impact coastal forestry sector jobs.

**How I think old growth can be managed more effectively in the future?**

Before any bold changes to old growth policy or legislation are made, the government should look to see if there is indeed a problem that needs to be solved. I would support a comprehensive assessment of how the Land use planning (LUP) of the 1990's which established OGMA and other retention legislation to manage biodiversity have performed thus far. With that said, I do not support a wider application of ecosystem-based forest management practices beyond the Great Bear Rainforest.

Sincere Regards

*Gary Gentile*

**Gary Gentile** | General Manager

phone (604) 940-1715, ext. 106 | mobile (604) 454-8730

[garygentile@air-crane.com](mailto:garygentile@air-crane.com)

