

What old growth means to you and how you value it

E - Ancient ecosystems, biodiversity, soil stability, isolated from human impact. Means a PC of nature is preserved, healthy air water and soil

J- Refuge habitat for a number of species that provides a source for restoring adjacent areas. It is much easier to expand an existing habitat than it is to rebuild something entirely new, or from a small island of habitat in the centre of a desert. Refuge habitat needs to be an appropriate size and configuration and exist over the long term.

H– Old Growth forest are a proper functioning ecosystem, attaining a great age without significant disturbance. Exhibiting, unique ecological features that include diverse tree-related structures, multi-layered canopies and canopy gaps, greatly varying tree heights and diameters, diverse tree species and classes and sizes of woody debris. Old Growth benefits, such as the maintenance of water purification, flood control, and nutrient cycling, which provide a diverse wildlife habit and increases the biodiversity of the forested ecosystem. Older trees are also more valuable for biodiversity than younger trees because they support a wider range of species within the intact ecological system.

Your perspective on how old growth is managed now

E-

It was managed better during the Forest Practices Code, is better managed in other areas of the province than in the Cariboo.

J- The premise is wrong - there should be an ironclad reason to say "yes" to logging in or around old growth areas, instead of government on the defensive finding reasons to say "no." Change it to park status if you have to.

Mountain cariboo, and their habitat, are protected by the Federal government through the Species at Risk Act. This species is facing extinction and the question must be asked "what are you doing to protect their habitat?" Which forest company and their supporters, wish to be internationally identified as the cause of their demise? Provincial forestry interests have no business compromising this species any further.

H- Not managed at all, no oversight.

Change Forest Stewardship plans (fsp)

These plans are not "Stewardship plans" they are business contracts.

Under Results and Strategies the line – The objective set by the government for is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests,

This needs to be changed or removed.

Too much waste – e.g - According to the provincial government database, Interfor, logged a little more than 493,000 cubic meters of wood in the North Island-Central Coast Natural Resource District, which includes the southern Great Bear Rainforest, in the first 10 months of 2019. During that same time period, the company reported leaving behind nearly 115,000 cubic meters of logs. So for every four trees logged and taken to market at least one tree was left behind to rot in the forest from which it was logged.

Stop using Cruise-based pricing – Sample plots are not an accurate measure of timber volume and quality. There is no reporting on how much waste is left behind because the waste is allegedly already paid for and built in to the up-front calculations. Companies are using obscure formulas for calculating the number and the value of the trees they log, a formula that is almost impossible to verify after the fact. Logging blocks may have much larger trees, more valuable trees aren't captured in the estimates of sample plots and the companies pay less stumpage on those trees. There is no independent auditing of what companies report.

Stop re-allocating OGMA's

? -Talking to a local and they mentioned that part of Block # 893(Tolko) , in the 1990's, was considered OGMA. This is what they were told by Forestry in Horsefly. Could this be true, if so, when/why would this have changed?

Answer - There were numerous updates to the Horsefly SRMP OGMA layer during the time there was an MOF office in Horsefly, between ~ 2000 and 2006 when the Horsefly SRMP was signed off. There have been no OGMA changes since then.

I dug into this for a couple of hours today. It looks like there was **an OGMA reconciliation conducted before 2003. What that means is that based on a timber supply review OGMA's were over-allocated in the Horsefly District so there was an exercise to reduce the size and placement of several OGMA's within each landscape unit.** The files are pretty old now and would require a special request to get the map of the previous OGMA's and what was changed. So with that being said, all the existing OGMA's that are shown on the map we provided you are the only ones that apply and have protections on them.

How you think old growth could be managed more effectively in the future

E- Clearer orders written by the government to protect these high value areas

J - "Old growth management area" is an oxymoron, like "sanitary landfill" and "borrow pit". It is a soothing term to convince taxpayers, old growth timber has a measure of protection, and there for industrial logging is safe.

Find a better term, and establish what the specific intention is behind it.

There are many issues besides how OGMAs should be managed. This is too narrow a focus. What is your mandate to look at those other things?

H

Old growth should NOT BE MANAGED, it should be left as is.

SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED in the Allowable Annual Cut (AAC)

ALL FISHERIES SENSITIVE WATERSHEDS SHOULD NOT BE IN AAC

Change rules, regulations and legislation

All future provincial policy changes, need to be implemented immediately

Increase oversight, audits, compliance and enforcement – more jobs

“More boots on the ground”

Do not use cruise base pricing use scaled based – more jobs, less waste, more accurate

Stop issuing cutting and road licenses in Cariboo Habitat.

De-activate all roads in a safe manner.

If logging needs to happen, only local, small scale loggers should selectively log. I believe , local people have more of an interest in doing a sustainable job. Not the large licensees, keeping local jobs.

Promote policies that support greater processing and value-added manufacturing of second-growth logs.

Bruce – The way it used to be.

Local economy flourished, the schools were full, new teachers came every year and got married and the gene pool got some input. There was more game, trappers loaded up and hunting guides were working full time. Quite frankly, I don't know if we can ever go that way again. This was a time when trucks took lumber out, not logs. Not the production that the mills have today. I believe that the corporations have destroyed the lumber industry, and years will be required to get it back. In the meantime we can plant new crops of forest, and maybe take a wood chipper in to make food for future growth. Restoring the land can provide a lot of work for these out of work truck drivers and loggers.

H – Thoughts

Give back the responsibility of logging and oversight to FLNRO

Chief Forester should have final say, not just “recommend”.

Unions used to be 40,000 strong, now down to about 7000.

Automation has killed jobs and rapidly increased the amount of logging done.

Old growth forests have carbon and cultural values

Go back to a type of 1994, forest practice code which had more stringent forestry regulations

Bring back, appurtenancy — the longstanding requirement that to log public timber, companies had to operate local mills. The removal was a complete betrayal of our social contract.

If protected and well-managed, Old Growth Forest will also support sustainable economic opportunities including commercial fisheries,

tourism, carbon offset projects, and non-timber forest products, in addition to their many social, cultural, and recreational values. A 2008 study showed that standing old-growth forests in the Fraser Timber Supply Area contribute more economically than if they were logged.

Share the wealth - Deregulation was compounded by the vast majority of timber licensees being consolidated into the hands of very few companies, which freely traded tenures to create regional monopolies.

The result is that the majority of public timber goes to large, centralized mega-mills cranking out cheap commodity lumber, while independent wood producers struggle to access the right logs for their mills

Independents and specialty manufacturers will have increasing difficulties accessing enough of the right logs to remain competitive, so these sectors will continue to shrink.”

Mega corporations are seeing the writing on the wall – Coca Cola regarding single use plastic. Our customers expect us to change. We pay for it now, change and save what is left or we will all pay for it later. This is with all industries, logging, fishing, mining.

This is the world we live in, this the world we must protect.

Woodland cariboo used to be all over the "Cariboo" and I can truthfully say I have never even seen one of them

We are now facing the extinction of these species - a serious matter that will attract international attention.

Do not take this lightly, **everyone who could have done something to save Woodland Cariboo and didn't will be pilloried, besides being prosecuted under the federal Species at Risk Act.**

Right now, each one of the forest operators in the "Cariboo" should be able to state what they are doing to protect this species and why they think this will be helpful.

And no, this won't be restricted to their current "refuge" area, it will be more widely applied over their historic range.

It is time for a review of the actual cut blocks in the manner that was done in the 1990's.

At that time, randomized blocks were selected for examination by fisheries, wildlife and soils scientists to determine the actual result compared to the plan.

My observation was that they were all fairly recent blocks, within 5 years or so, and a different result would be arrived at today with modern logging practices, and a longer free-growth period.

J

OGMA - an organization that cannot manage one little bit of timber cannot hope to manage a forest.

This is my issue - a profound loss of faith in the MOF that these kinds of questions are even asked.

When timber production changes to "fibre" production, this is not forestry, it is agriculture.

The regulations surrounding it must be agriculture-based when it is privatizing the land base and removing opportunity for others.

To this end, some provincial government politicians, and sometimes senior bureaucrats, use forestry as a way of doing just that. If it "just makes economic sense" to overbuild roads and bridges, not reforest some blocks, landings, etc. the public interest should be clarified by an independent change of players and more time. Too many back door interests are at work today. Forest company workers are sworn to work in the best interests of the shareholders of their company. Obviously they will petition government to change the rules in their shareholders' favour. **Only the provincial government of B.C. can change this.**

Edges are important for wildlife habitat, just as obstruction-free waterways are important for freshwater fish

If there is a serious commitment to protecting wildlife, make more edge habitat, and remove all stream obstructions. Then wait 30 years to see if it's been effective. Habitat fragmentation takes time and it is a gradual loss that has already happened substantially in the Horsefly.

There has been substantial public cost rebuilding Vancouver Island marmots and now Woodland Cariboo.