

Jonathan Armstrong RPF
199 Oregon Road
Campbell River, BC
V9W 8G9

Subject: BC Provincial Old Growth Strategic Review

Sent via email to: oldgrowthbc@gov.bc.ca

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on such an important topic for British Columbia's forest management. The management of old growth stands is a complex and there are strong opinions about it across the Province. I have worked in both the Interior and the Coast and have seen examples of world leading stewardship practices and examples where we could do better. Our forests are so diverse that there is no solution that makes sense for all regions of the Province.

On the coast a wide range of tools are used to manage forests of all age classes. Old Growth Management Areas, Wildlife Habitat, Visual Quality, Cultural Reserves and Terrain Management are just a few examples of stewardship objectives and policies that make up our forest management system. Areas reserved from harvesting under these objectives add to our overall forest stewardship system. The combination of all the forest management objectives and strategies that we employ on the coast, leave us with a crown forested landbase where we manage 30% for forestry and 70% is outside of the timber harvesting landbase.

Within the timber harvesting landbase, other stand level practices such as variable retention, big tree retention and others add up to a mosaic of forest conditions that contribute to ecosystem health. My view as a forest professional is that the forests on the coast are well managed. While there are always things that can be improved, I believe we lead the world in managing for multiple values on the land. I have been directly involved in the implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) on the Central Coast for more than 7 years. That experience has led me to the conclusion that while the complex system of biodiversity, wildlife and cultural regulations has been agreed to in the Central Coast, it is not a solution that would work for the rest of the coast.

I encourage you not to buy into large scale commitments like 'implementing ecosystem based management (EBM)' for the Coast. As you know, forestry in British Columbia is a heavily regulated and complex industry. We have a legislative and regulatory framework, that while it does have some holes or opportunities for improvement, is a comprehensive system that accounts for multiple values across the landbase today and into the future. Terms like EBM are just a name for a suite of policies. All forest management in BC considers the health of ecosystems in one way or another.

The well managed forests of coastal BC contribute to providing the people that live in this Province with a high standard of living that we've enjoyed for a long time. There are thousands of people who depend on the working forests. Please consider the facts of how these forests are managed when you are recommending changes to land use or regulations for the Province.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Armstrong RPF